

## ***Women & Children First Records 1978-2009***

**Creator:** Linda Bubon, Ann Christophersen, and Bob Mallinger

**Extent:** 2.5 linear feet (3 boxes)

**Language:** English

**Repository:** Women and Leadership Archives, Loyola University Chicago

### **Administration Information**

**Access Restrictions:** None.

**Usage Restrictions:** Copyright for all materials is retained by the creators, with the exception of the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary interviews on videocassette. All copyright for these interviews was transferred to the Women and Leadership Archives.

**Preferred Citation:** Identification of item, date, box #, folder #, Women & Children First Records, Women and Leadership Archives, Loyola University Chicago.

**Provenance:** This collection was donated by Linda Bubon and Ann Christophersen of the Women & Children First bookstore. Material pertaining to lesbian issues that is included in this collection was donated to Women & Children First by Bob Mallinger (WLA2000.16). Additional materials were donated in 2001 (WLA2001.12), October 2009 (WLA2009.43) by Ann Christophersen and Linda Bubon, and December 4, 2009 (WLA2009.44) by Mary Ann Johnson.

**Processor:** Teresa Yoder, March 13, 2001; Aldona Salska, 2004. Updated by Elizabeth A. Myers, May 2007. Stephanie Fong, May 2011.

**Processing Information:** The original donation of Chicago Women Ephemera was incorporated as a series in this collection and the finding aid was updated by Laura Berfield, May 2025.

**Separations:** Less than 0.15 linear feet of duplicate material were removed.

### **Administrative History**

In 1979, Ann Christophersen and Linda Bubon founded Women & Children First, an independent bookstore specializing in works written by women for women and children, with the vision of “a store that would define ‘feminist’ inclusively, as encompassing the interests and lifestyles of women whether they were heterosexual or lesbian, partnered or single, family-centered, career-centered, or both; and no matter what ethnic, racial, or spiritual background they came from.” The philosophy underlying the Women & Children First (WCF) bookstore has two objectives: the first is to propagate women writers, the second is to create a community center where women could come and discuss topics that are relevant to them. Originally located in the Lincoln Park neighborhood of Chicago, the store moved to a larger site in 1984, and again in 1990 to a 3,500 square

foot space in Andersonville. Beyond stocking new and hard-to-find feminist titles, Women & Children First is also a resource center for the local and greater community and offered a variety of different programs each week, from author's visits to children's story time to book discussions.

### **Scope and Content**

The records from Women & Children First bookstore consist of 2.5 linear feet (3 boxes) of materials that span the years 1978 to 2009 and document the history and activity of the organization. The collection has been divided into four series and consists of organizational materials, newspaper and magazine articles, professional correspondence, drafts and scripts, event programs, posters, photographs, cassettes, and digital content. The collection is arranged alphabetically and the records within folders arranged chronologically where applicable. contact the director regarding access to digital content.

#### **Series 1: Organizational, 1980-2009, undated, Box 1-2**

Includes newspaper and magazine articles about Women & Children First, drafts, scripts, and articles written by Bubon for *Feminist Bookstore News* and WFMT, and bookstore promotional material. Other materials include professional correspondence, documents relating to bookstore-sponsored events including Hillary Clinton's visit in 1996 and the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration in 2004, newspaper articles about publishing and independent bookselling, awards ceremony brochures and programs, materials from other independent bookstores and of affiliate organizations.

#### **Series 2: Audiovisual, 1979-2009, undated, Box 1**

Consists of photographs and negatives, contact sheets and reproductions of digital content, an oral history interview with Bubon on audiocassette, three Mini DV Digital Video Cassettes from the organization's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary oral history project in 2009, and digital files of images, television interviews, and videos of WCF events.

#### **Series 3: Oversize, 1985-2007, undated, Box 3**

Contains newspaper and magazine articles, posters, a draft and proof copy of promotional material, and an autographed program.

#### **Series 4: Chicago Women Ephemera, 1978-1997, Boxes 2-3**

Consists of publications and ephemeral material relating mostly to lesbian communities in Chicago. These materials were collected by Bob Mallinger and donated to the Women & Children First bookstore. Oversize materials are housed in Box 3 but arranged intellectually in the containr list. This series is divided into three subseries arranged by subject and chronologically.

##### **Subseries 4.1: Publications, 1978-1985, Boxes 2-3**

This series includes publications on women's issues, such as ERA, sexual harassment, rape, homophobia, feminism, abused children, lesbians, National Organization for Women, women in music; it also includes an activity calendar with special emphasis on the lesbian community. This series is arranged chronologically.

**Subseries 4.2: Ephemera, 1978-1985, undated, Boxes 2-3**

Consists of such material as flyers, invitations, meeting schedules, news clippings and booklets. This material addresses such topics as music, health, sports, religion, poetry, conferences and events at Jane Addams Bookstore.

**Subseries 4.3: Feminist Bookstore Catalogs, 1995-1997, Box 2**

Contains *Feminist Bookstore News* arranged chronologically

**Subjects:**

Andersonville (Chicago, Ill.)  
Bookstores, specialty  
Books for women by women  
Booksellers and bookselling--Illinois--Chicago--History--20th century.  
Independent bookstores--United States  
Lesbians  
Writers, Feminist  
Women authors  
Women entrepreneurs

Box	Folder	Title	Date
		<b><i>Women &amp; Children First Records, 1978-2009</i></b>	
		<b>Series 1: Organizational, 1980-2009, undated</b>	
1	1	Articles – Publishing and bookselling	1995-1997, undated
1	2	Articles – WCF	1986-1994, undated
1	3	Articles – WCF	1995-2009
1	4	Bubon, Linda	1985-2005, undated
1	5	Bubon, Linda – “Kids’ Lit” column	1996-1997, undated
1	6	Bubon, Linda – “Kids’ Lit” column	1997-1999
1	7	Bubon, Linda – WFMT articles	2001-2002, undated
1	8	Bubon, Linda – WFMT scripts	2001, undated
1	9	Christophersen, Ann	1995
1	10	Events – 25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	2004
1	11	Events – Hillary Clinton	1995-1996, undated
1	12	Events – Women’s Art panel discussion	1980
1	13	Events – Women’s Literature in Performance	1991, undated
1	14	Independent Booksellers of the Chicago Area (IBCA)	1996-1998, undated
1	15	Invoices	1997, undated
1	16	Material from other independent bookstores	undated
1	17	Programs from award ceremonies	1999-2000
1	18	WCF materials – About WCF	undated
1	19	WCF materials – Book Group selections	1994-2002, undated

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1	20	WCF materials – Book recommendations	2001, undated
1	21	WCF materials – Bookmarks	undated
1	22	WCF materials – Event flyers	1984-2009, undated
2	1	WCF materials – Programs	1989-1999, undated
2	2	Women’s Literature in Performance materials	1991
2	3	15 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event: Autographed program	1994
		<b>Series 2: Audiovisual, 1979-2009, undated</b>	
1	23	Photos – Promotional [photographs]	undated
1	24	Photos – <i>The Great Alaska Hustle</i> [photographs]	undated
1	25	Photos – WCF interior [photographs]	2009
1	26	Articles [photographs]	2000-2006
1	27	Photos [photographs]	1979-2005, undated
1	28	Bubon interview for Loyola oral history project [audiocassette]	undated
1	29	WCF 30 Years oral history project [3 Mini DV Digital Video Cassettes]	2009
--	--	Duplicates [digital files]	1985-2005, undated
--	--	Events [digital files]	1998-2005
--	--	Scanned content [digital files]	1979-2006, undated
--	--	TV spots [digital files]	1993-1999, undated
		<b>Series 3: Oversize, 1985-2007, undated</b>	
3	1	Full Circle: monuments to women in Chicago	1993
3	2	30 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary poster	2009
3	3	Articles	1985-2007
		<b>Series 4: Chicago Women Ephemera</b>	
		<b>Subseries 4.1: Publications, 1978-1985</b>	
3	4	<i>Women News for A Change</i>	1978
3	5	<i>Blazing Star</i>	1978-1979
3	6	<i>Catalyst: Chicago Womyn’s Paper</i>	1980
3	7	<i>Journey Womyn: The Catalyst</i>	1980-1981
2	4	<i>Lunatic Fringe: A Newsletter for Separatist, Anarchist, &amp; Radical Feminist Lesbians of Chicago</i>	1981
2	5	<i>Women Organizing: A Socialist Feminist Bulletin</i>	1981
3	8	<i>Sister Source</i>	1981-1982
3	9	<i>News Midwest</i>	1982
2	6	<i>Dyke Dates</i>	1983
2	7	<i>Women’s Music News</i>	1984
2	8	<i>Forté: A Bold New Direction in Music</i>	1984
2	9	<i>KinHeart Womyn’s News</i>	1984-1985
		<b>Series 4.2: Ephemera, 1978-1985, undated</b>	
2	10	Music	undated

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2	11	Health	undated
2	12	Poetry	undated
2	13	Religious/Spiritual	undated
2	14	Wisconsin Womyn's Land Co-op	undated
2	15	Women & Children First Bookstore	undated
2	16	Women's Conferences	1979-1982
2	17	Sports	1979-1983
2	18	National Music Festival	1980, 1984
2	19	National Conference on Gay and Lesbian Issues	1981
3	10	"The End of a Love Match" (Martina Navratilova and Riata Mae Brown article) <i>Chicago Sun Times</i> , September 2	1981
3	11	"'Personal Best': tracking a budding lioness" (Mariel Hemingway and Patrice Donnelly article), <i>Rolling Stone</i> , April 1	1982
2	20	Felsenthal, Carol "How Feminists Failed," <i>Chicago Magazine</i> p. 139-143	1982
2	21	Chimera, Inc. <i>Self Defense for Women</i>	1982
2	22	"Take Back the Night"	1982-1983
2	23	Jane Addams Bookstore	1982-1983
2	24	Lavender House Founding	1983
		<b>Subseries 4.3: Bookstore Catalogs, 1995-1997</b>	
2	25	<i>Feminist Bookstore News</i> [4 issues]	1995-1996
2	26	<i>Feminist Bookstore News</i> [3 issues]	1996-1997