## **SEIU District 925 Collection**

## Records, 1973-2004

## 15 linear feet

Accession #1805 OCLC #

The records of Service Employees International Union (SEIU) District 925 were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs by Debbie Schneider, Karen Nussbaum and other District 925 members between February of 2003 and June of 2004 and were opened for research in June of 2004.

SEIU District 925 was formed in March of 1981 when Karen Nussbaum's Working Women joined forces with SEIU in a national campaign to organize office workers. Working Women had been formed in 1977 out of a network of affiliated groups that had been advocating for women office workers since the founding of Boston 9to5 by Nussbaum and Ellen Cassedy in 1972. It soon became apparent, however, that without a strong collective bargaining agent, women office workers would never achieve the wages, rights and respect they deserved.

Boston 9to5 had affiliated with SEIU in 1975 to create Local 925, the first autonomous union for office workers to grow from the emerging working women's movement, so a partnership between the labor and women's movements had already been forged. Local 925's president, Jackie Ruff, became District 925's executive director in charge of its organizing campaign, while Karen Nussbaum assumed dual leadership roles in District 925 and Working Women, which later changed its name to 9to5, National Association of Working Women. When Nussbaum took charge of the Women's Bureau in the U.S. Department of Labor in 1993, she was succeeded by Ohio regional director and national organizing coordinator, Debbie Schneider.

In launching District 925, SEIU signaled its recognition of the growing presence of women in the workforce and of clerical work as the single largest sector in that workforce. To meet the needs of both these constituencies, the International simultaneously announced the creation of its Clerical Division, later called the Office Worker Division.

For twenty years, until its restructuring and merger with other SEIU locals in 2001, District 925 successfully organized thousands of librarians, college and university support staff, day care and local government workers and other office, technical and professional employees in hard-fought campaigns primarily in Massachusetts, Ohio and Washington. Along with 9to5, it lobbied for equal pay, affirmative action, child care, office health and safety and against age discrimination.

The SEIU District 925 Collection contains correspondence, reports, job and wage surveys, minutes, annual meeting material, contracts, newsletters, flyers, mailings and other campaign literature, membership brochures, publications on issues of concern to clerical workers and working women generally, Karen Nussbaum's speeches and media coverage related to the organization and activities of 9to5/Working Women and its chapters and District 925. Particularly well documented are organizing and contract campaigns at Boston, Brandeis and Kent State Universities and the Universities of Cincinnati and Washington. The collection is a rich source of documentation on the intersection of the women's and trade union movements in the 1970's and 80's.

Related material may be found in the records of 9to5, National Association of Working Women at the Schlesinger Library, Harvard University.

## Important correspondents in the collection:

Betty Arenth

Ellen Bravo

Cindia Cameron

Ellen Cassedy

Kim Cook

Nancy Cross

Carol Edelson

Theresa El-Amin

John Geagan

Andrea Gunderson

Dorothy Hayden

Anne Hill

Tom Hoffman

Laura Kenny

Bonnie Ladin

Dorine Levasseur

Sam Luciano

Judith McCullough

Debbie Niehoff

Karen Nussbaum

Maureen O'Donnell

Jackie Ruff

Cheryl Schaffer

Debbie Schneider

Casey Sharpe

Andy Stern

John Sweeney

Diane Teichert

Rose Trump

Maureen Watson

Bob Welsh

# Important subjects in the collection:

9to5

Brandeis Library Union

Childcare Union Project

Classified Staff Association of the University of Washington

Collective bargaining--White collar workers--United States

Electronic monitoring in the workplace--United States

Equal pay for equal work--United States

Equitable Life Assurance Society

## Important subjects (cont'd)

Feminism--United States

Karen Nussbaum

Kent State University Organizing Committee

SEIU Local 925 (Boston)

SEIU Office Worker Division

Sex discrimination in employment

Sex role in the work environment

Sexual harassment

Trade-unions and child care--United States

Trade-unions--Organizing--Massachusetts

Trade-unions--Organizing--Ohio

Trade-unions--Organizing--Ohio-Cleveland

Trade-unions--Organizing--Washington

Video display terminals--health aspects

White collar workers--United States

White collar workers--Effect of technological innovations on--United States

White collar workers--Health and hygiene--United States

White collar workers--Labor unions--United States

White collar workers--Salaries, etc.--United States

Women--Employment--United States

Women in the labor movement--United States

Women in trade-unions--United States

Women labor leaders--United States

Women's rights--United States

Working class women--United States

Working Women

#### **Contents**

# 15 storage boxes

## Series I, 9to5/Working Women Files, 1973-1995, Boxes 1-3:

Correspondence, reports, minutes, media coverage, organizing and contract campaign literature and other publications related to the activities of the national headquarters and local chapters of the organization. All Working Women affiliates conducted health and safety, job discrimination and wage surveys, held workshops and public forums on issues of concern to women office workers and lobbied and campaigned against banks' and other institutions' low wages and discriminatory behavior toward their employees. The files are arranged alphabetically and, then, chronologically.

## Series II, District 925 National Office Files, 1980-2001, Boxes 3-7:

Correspondence, reports, executive board and staff meeting minutes, financial records, media coverage, campaign literature and other publications related to the activities of the national headquarters and its officers. Included are files related to SEIU's Office Worker Division, which Karen Nussbaum chaired.

## Series III, District 925 Regional Office Files, 1975-2001, Boxes 7-13:

Correspondence, reports, meeting minutes, media coverage and literature related to organizing campaigns and contract negotiations, primarily in the Boston area (Local 925), Ohio and Washington (Classified Staff Association). Files are arranged alphabetically within each region, beginning with the east. Some Boston Local 925 material predates its merger with District 925 in 1983.

## Series IV, Contracts, 1983-2001, Boxes 13-14:

Collective bargaining agreements between District 925 affiliates and employers. Files are arranged alphabetically.

# Series V, Karen Nussbaum: Articles, Speeches, Testimony, 1976-2002, Boxes 14-15:

Files are arranged alphabetically.

## Non-manuscript material:

A number of photographs, posters, buttons, bumper stickers, audio and videotapes and other memorabilia received with the records have been placed in the Archives Audiovisual Collection. Copies of 9to5: The Working Woman's Guide to Office Survival

by Karen Nussbaum (1983) and *The Job/Family Challenge: A 9to5 Guide* by Ellen Bravo (1995) have been transferred to the Archives Library.

# Series I 9to5/Working Women Files, 1973-1995 Boxes 1-3

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- 5. Chapters; Rhode Island Working Women, 1978-83
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- 2. Publications; "Working Women Make History: A History Curriculum for Working Women," 1983
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- 65-66. Watertown, Town of, 1989-94
- 67. Waukegan, Ill., City of, 1983-86
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# Series V Karen Nussbaum: Articles, Speeches, Testimony, 1976-2002 Boxes 14-15

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- 10. Speech; "Alternative Work Patterns in Small Business," Work & Family Conference (Washington, D.C.), 30 Mar 1987
- 11. Speech; "The Automated Office," MacNeil/Lehrer Report panel discussion, Jul 1980
- 12. Speech; BELLCORE (Bell Communications Research), 10 Dec 1987
- 13. Speech; California Union Women Summer School (Santa Cruz), 14 Jul 2002
- 14. Speech; "Changing Family, Changing Workplace," seminar co-sponsored with Center for a New Democracy (n.p.), 25 Apr 1986
- 15. Speech; child care, HHS (Washington, D.C.), 28 Sep 1995
- 16. Speech; Child Care Conference, Dayton CLC, 15 Nov 2001
- 17. Speech; Cleveland City Club, 1995
- 18. Speech; "Closing the Wage Gap," Jobs and the Economy Conference/New England Foundations, 13 Dec 1995
- 19. Speech; CLUW Convention, 5 Oct 2001
- 20. Speech; Columbia University Teach-In with the Labor Movement (New York City), 4 Oct 1996
- 21. Speech; "Computer Monitoring: A Threat to the Right to Privacy?," Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility Conference (Washington, D.C.), 20 Oct 1989
- 22. Speech; "Computer-Based Surveillance of Individuals," CPSR Conference (San Francisco), 7 Mar 1991
- 23. Speech; "Corporate Takeover of Women's Lives," Public Eye on Davos (New York City), 1 Feb 2002
- 24. Speech; CSEA Clerical Conference (Sacramento), 16 Apr 1988
- 25. Speech; "Employee Privacy, Monitoring and the New Technology," National Academy of Arbitrators (Vancouver), 3 Jun 1988
- 26. Speech; Equal Employment Advisory Council (Chicago), 12 Oct 1995
- 27. Speech; Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing), Sep 1995
- 28. Speech; Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing)—ILAB symposium on forced labor, 29 Sep 1995
- 29. Speech; Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing)—pre-conference in Louisville, 23 Sep 1994
- 30. Speech; "Future of Working Women's Movement," women's magazines breakfast (n.p.), 18 Oct 1988
- 31. Speech; Garment Workers Conference (New York City), 11 Mar 1994
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- 36. Speech; "A Labor Perspective: Workers' Expectations and Views," BELLCORE VDT Safety Seminar (Cleveland), 6 May 1988
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- 38. Speech; "Mitigating Health and Safety Hazards," panel presentation, (n.p.), Dec 1988
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- 40. Speech; Neighborhood Funders (Atlanta), 21 Apr 1996
- 41. Speech; "The New Workforce and Job Redesign," CAEL (San Diego), 8 Nov 1991
- 42. Speech; "Part-Time and Temporary Workers," CLUW Conference (Detroit), 6 May 1987
- 43. Speech; "Power," University of Cincinnati Leadership Conference, 4 Feb 1989
- 44. Speech; Rainbow Convention (Washington, D.C.), 7 Jun 1991
- 45. Speech; SEIU Women's Conference (Chicago), 19 Sep 1989
- 46. Speech; "Sexual Harassment," Stouffer Management Conference (Cleveland), 25 Feb 1992
- 47. Speech; "Shattering Traditions in Non-Traditional Fields: Can the Civilian Sector Match the Military?," Hire a Vet: She's a Good Investment Conference (n.p.), 8 Dec 1993
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- 49. Speech; Solutions for the New Workforce Conference, 28 Sep 1987
- 50. Speech; "Solutions for the New Workforce," John Hancock, 20 Oct 1987
- 51. Speech; Summer School, Midwest Women's (n.p.), Jul 2001
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- 58. Speech; Women's Bureau 75th Anniversary, 20 May 1995
- 59. Speech; Women's Equality Day (Kansas City), 26 Aug 1993
- 60. Speech; Women's Equality Day (Princeton), 27 Aug 1993
- 61. Speech; Women's History Month, Department of Labor, 23 Mar 1994
- 62. Speech; "Work and Family," SEIU Forum (Washington, D.C.), 24 Jun 1987
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- 65. Speech; "Working Women Count!," Connecticut Women's Summit, 25 Mar 1995
- 66. Speech; Working Women Count Honor Roll (n.p.), 1995
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