

WOMEN at the CENTER

Sallie Bingham Center for Women's History and Culture
David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University

Issue 33, Spring 2018

Emma Goldman Papers Now Online

Few anarchists have gained as much mainstream recognition as Emma Goldman, an iconic figure in labor organizing, feminist history, and prison abolition. The Bingham Center acquired a sizable collection of Goldman's papers as part of the larger Lisa Unger Baskin Collection, a transformative collection documenting the history of women at work.

Dating from 1909 to 1940, the Emma Goldman Papers reflect radical community labor amidst state repression, the financial instability of writers



Emma Goldman, c. 1930s

and activists, and a tumultuous political landscape. Goldman's presence remains apparent today.

These papers illuminate a historical understanding that reaches beyond her as an individual. In addition to providing an intimate picture of her financial, political, and social lives, this collection also reveals the relational network that constituted anarchist organizing and publishing of her time.

With over 300 letters, the collection includes both the revolutionary and quotidian aspects of the rela-

Inside this issue:

Emma Goldman Papers Now Online 1, 2

YWCA: The First Multicultural Women's Organization 1, 2

Collection Highlight: Joan Little 2

Mary Lily Research Grant Recipients, 2018-2019 3

Spring Instruction 3

The Change of Life: Menopause Exhibit 4

YWCA: The First Multicultural Women's Organization

Contributed by Heather McGowan, Graduate Intern

The Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) of Durham was founded in 1920 and served the larger Durham community from the 1920s until the 1970s. The Harriet Tubman branch of the Durham YWCA served the African-American community in particular and, through collaboration with the Central branch, fostered integration in a radically segregated Durham. In the 1970s, the YWCA became the home of the Durham Women's Health Co-op and the Durham

Rape Crisis Center, which operated out of the YWCA Women's Center. These organizations were central to reform movements throughout Durham, from women's health and childcare to fair wages and civil rights.

The YWCA of Durham records reflect both the administrative history of the YWCA, as well as the programs, projects, social events, and community outreach that formed the backbone of the organization. For example, a series of scrapbooks, put together by Y Teen groups, program participants, and residents of the YWCA's

(Continued on page 2)

**Collection
Highlight:
Joan Little**



**Joan Little with
attorney Jerry Paul**

The Joan Little Collection, 1973-75, documents the story of an African-American woman from North Carolina who was acquitted of killing a white prison guard who had sexually assaulted her. Her case became a national cause célèbre that united activists around the issues of women's rights, civil rights, and prisoner's rights. In addition to material related to her trial, the collection includes poetry written by Little while incarcerated, including "I Am Somebody."

These Papers were recently given additional description to improve access to this important collection.

Collection guide:
[library.duke.edu/
rubenstein/findingaids/
littlejoan](http://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/findingaids/littlejoan)

Emma Goldman Papers *continued from page 1*

tionships between Goldman and her comrades, including Alexander "Sascha" Berkman, Eugene Debs, Alexander Schapiro, and Thomas Keell. The collection also features published material, handwritten articles from Errico Malatesta and Emma Goldman, photographs, ephemera, and more.

This collection of Goldman papers has been in the hands of a private collector until recently, and it is now being opened to the public for the first time. The day-to-day correspondence may be the most striking

element of the collection, given its familiar nature: whether asking to borrow money, lamenting poor book sales, or mutually gathering hope, these letters reflect struggle. For those who continue to fight for social change, there is a solidarity to be found in these shared material and emotional conditions.

The Emma Goldman Papers are available for on-site use in Rubenstein's reading room and online within the Duke Libraries' Digital Collections.

Digitized Collection: repository.duke.edu/dc/goldmanemma

YWCA *continued from page 1*



YWCA campers enjoy a swim during a summer camp program

boarding houses captures the strength of the YWCA community. The broader impact of the YWCA is evident in their range of programming, especially the clubs they hosted, from PMS and Single Mothers groups to a "Matrons Club." The YWCA's impact is also reflected in administrative and financial materials that tell the story of the Y's work to serve the people of Durham that needed a safe place to build community for themselves and their families.

The Center holds two related collec-

tion of papers from people who were involved with the women's health initiatives with the YWCA, including Gilna Nance, who was director and co-founder of the Durham Women's Center at the YWCA in the 1970s, and Dr. Margery Sved, who worked with the Durham Women's Health Cooperative.

With improved description and organization of this rich collection, we hope researchers will continue to discover more about the strong traditions of community activism and engagement in Durham, NC.

Mary Lily Research Grant Recipients 2018-2019

The Bingham Center is pleased to announce the recipients of this year's Mary Lily Research Grants. These grants support the work of students, scholars, and independent researchers who will travel to Duke to use the Bingham Center's collections. We gratefully acknowledge our faculty reader, Kimberly Lamm, Associate Professor in the Program of Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies, who continues to contribute valuable insights to our review and selection process.

Chiara Amoretti, Ph.D. candidate, English, University of Bristol, for dissertation research on feminist revisions to Christian narratives in the work of 20th century women writers Mina Loy, Kathy Acker, and Maggie Nelson.

Alison Bazylnski, Ph.D. candidate, American Studies, College of William & Mary, for a dissertation project, "Fabric Makes the Woman: A Cultural History of Textiles, 1920-1945."

Molly Brookfield, Ph. D. candidate, History and Women's Studies, University of Michigan, for a dissertation project, "Watching the Girls Go By: Citizenship and Sexual Harassment in the American Street, 1850-1980."

Donna Drucker, professor, Language Research Center, Technische Universität Darmstadt, for a book chapter in *Beyond the Pill: Non-Hormonal Contraception for Women in the Twentieth-Century United States*.

Elizabeth Kinnamon, Ph. D. candidate, Gender and Women's Studies, University of Arizona, for a dissertation project, "Feminist Consciousness Raising as a Technique of Attention, 1960-1980."

Rachel Miller, Ph.D. candidate, English, Ohio State University, for a dissertation project, "Immaterial Girls: Bedroom Culture and the Ephemeral Archive in the 1990s."

Amanda Mixon, Ph.D. candidate, English, University of California-Irvine, for a

dissertation project, "Queerer, My God, to Thee: Twentieth-Century White Southern Lesbian Writers and Anti-Racist Praxis." This grant is sponsored by the Duke Program in Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies.

Allison Schwartz, Ph.D. candidate, History, University of Minnesota, for a dissertation project, "Banking on a Woman's Worth: Personhood and the New Patriarchy of Debt, 1968-2008."

Virginia Thomas, Ph.D. candidate, American Studies, Brown University, for a dissertation project, "Queer Albums: Regions of Intimacy, Time, and Race in the U.S. South."

Harry H. Harkins Jr. T'73 Travel Grants

The Rubenstein Library now provides grants to researchers whose work would benefit from access to our gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and queer history collections. The grants are named in honor of Harry H. Harkins, Jr. T'73 for his generous support of this program and ongoing support of LGBTQ history and sexuality studies collections in the Duke University Libraries. This program is separately funded from the Mary Lily Grants.

Eric Denby, Ph.D. candidate, History, University of Illinois, for a dissertation project, "Gay Youth Organizing from 1965-1985."

Adrian Kane, Ph.D. candidate, History, University of Washington, for a dissertation project, "Narrating Sex: Transitional Bodies and Expertise in the British Empire and Commonwealth, 1918-1975."

library.duke.edu/rubenstein/ingham/grants

Fall Instruction

Archival Appraisal
UNC School of Information & Library Science

Gender & Popular Culture
Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies

Introduction to Creative Writing
English

Men, Women, and Sports
History

Publishing and Marketing Pop Fiction
Literature

Reading Transgender
Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies

Stories for Social Change
Theater Studies

Pop Art in the Americas and Museums-Anti-Museums
Visual Arts

Sexual Health
House course

Trivial Pursuits
Literature

Women's Medicine in Western History
Writing

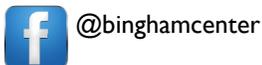
DUKE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Sallie Bingham Center for
Women's History and Culture

David M. Rubenstein
Rare Book & Manuscript Library
Box 90185
Duke University
Durham, NC 27708-0185

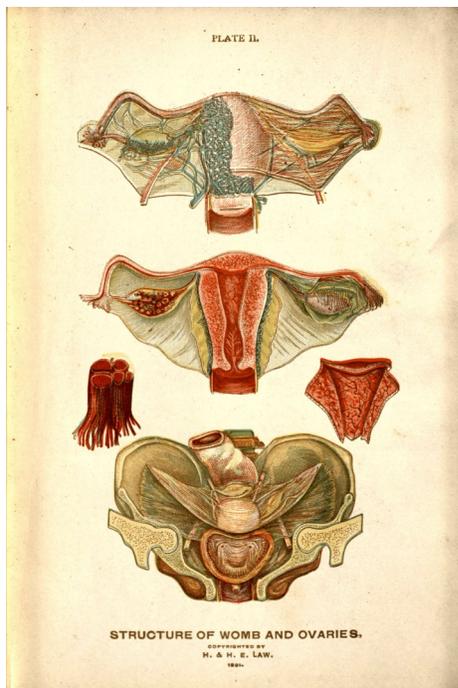
Laura Micham, Merle Hoffman Director
Kelly Wooten, Research Services and
Collection Development Librarian
Megan Lewis, Technical Services Archivist

919-660-5967 • special-collections@duke.edu
library.duke.edu/rubenstein/bingham



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Durham, NC
Permit No. 60

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



The Viavi gynecological plates: designed to educate mothers and daughters concerning diseases of the uterine organs, Herbert E. Law, 1891

The Change of Life: Menopause and Our Changing Perspectives

“I’m going to pull menopause out into the open, remove the cobwebs, clean it off, and look at it.”

—Rosetta Reitz

Erin Rutherford, Josiah Charles Trent Intern for the History of Medicine, selected items that trace changing perspectives on menopause from early proponents who labelled it a debilitating disease to the women who have reclaimed it as an empowering transition. The exhibit makes visible the experience of menopause, dispels myths, and encourages public conversation about a topic that has, for too long, been considered taboo. On display through July 14, 2018, in the Josiah Charles Trent History of Medicine Room in the Biddle Suite.

Please join us for a dramatic reading of texts from this exhibit, from the historical to the hysterical: “The Menopause Monologues” will be held on Wednesday, May 23, at 3:00 p.m. in the Holsti-Anderson Family Assembly Room (Rubenstein 153).

<http://bit.ly/MenopauseExhibit>