



University of Victoria Archives

AR471

Niela Miller fonds

1. Fonds-level description

Title

Niela Miller fonds

Dates

1983-2009

Extent

13 cm, 98 photographs, 4 videocassettes

Biographical sketch

Niela Miller, BA, MS Ed, LCSW, LMHC, is a now-retired humanistic counsellor. She was a social worker through the 1970s before focusing on gender-related issues in the 1980s. She first attended Fantasia Fair, a crossdressing and transsexual conference in Massachusetts, in 1982 and has hosted dozens of workshops at the Fair since that time. Miller founded and operated PeopleSystems Potential in Action, a private counselling, consulting, and training firm. Specializing in Gestalt therapy, Miller worked with many individuals, families, and organizations in offering support and addressing issues surrounding gender identity. By the 1990s, Miller had become known in the transgender community for her empowering workshops and seminars at gender conferences throughout the US. Miller's book, *Counseling in Genderland*, was published in 1996 and was cited as the first educational book focussed on gender identity for counsellors.

Scope and content

Fonds reflects Niela Miller's public involvement in transgender education and counseling of the trans community and "gender identity explorers." Miller's work, focused primarily in the United States, is represented here in the records of her workshops, presentations, and publications. The fonds consists of correspondence, notes, photographs, publications and reviews, brochures, graphic materials, audiocassettes, and other materials.

Notes

Gift of Niela Miller, August 2012.

2. Structure

Series 1. Workshops and presentations. 1983-2009. 1 cm of textual records.

Series consists of the records related to Miller's presentations on gender identity at conferences, seminars, and workshops and the related positions she held as a workshop leader and keynote speaker. Content includes descriptions and resources for workshops, report on past workshops, transition stories from group members and past clients, stories told during presentations, notes from presentations, and summaries of Miller's experience as a counselor for gender related topics.

File 1. Correspondence. 1997, 1998. >1cm of textual records.

File consists of correspondence received by Miller during her involvement in the transgender community. Content consists of emails and letters from participants in Miller's workshops and presentations.

Series 2. Publications and clippings. 1990-2001. 2 cm of textual records.

Series consists of published material written by Miller, the majority of which is related to her first book in 1996 entitled *Counseling in Genderland*. Series includes a copy of *Counseling in Genderland* and brochures advertising the book, reviews of the publication, articles by Miller for Tapestry, and newspaper clippings concerning Miller's work.

Series 3. Photographs. 1990-2001. 98 photographs, 1 postcard.

Series consists of photographs related to Miller's involvement with the transgender and cross-dressing community. Records include colour and black and white photographs. Photographs include images of Fantasia Fair, cruises, and dinners with gender identity explorers. Photographs comprising file 1.3.3 remain attached to photo album pages due to adhesion of the page to the back of the photographs.

Series 4. Audio-visual. 1992-1995. 4 VHS tapes.

Series consists of audio-visual materials related to Miller's presentations, workshops, and involvement with the transgender community. Records include seminars and presentations by Miller as well as other presentations and events during various Fantasia Fairs.

3. Inventory

Accession 2012-22

Box 1

1.1 Correspondence – 1983-2009

- “The Tall Ships” – 1990 (addendum: 1998)
- Description of Workshop for Counselors – undated
- Short Biography & Gender Resume for Niela Miller 1982-1999 – undated
- Short Biography & Gender Resume for Niela Miller 1983-2009 – undated
- Notes for Gender Talk ABHS, Acton, MA –2006 – (3 copies)
- Notes for Talk at First Church Unitarian in Littleton, MA – 2003
- Feminine Toolkit – undated – (2 copies)
- Emails to Niela Miller from Kathleen Kawa and April Anne Nicole – undated
- A Woman’s Heart: Workshop by Niela Miller – Fantasia Fair – 2004
- Niela Miller Lecture Schedule & Synopsis – Fantasia Fair – 2005
- Notes for Feminine Toolkit Workshop – Fantasia Fair – 2005
- Notes for Feminine Toolkit & Woman’s Heart Workshops – undated
- Descriptions of Fantasia Fair Workshops – undated
- “Wives’ Workshop” Report – Fantasia Fair – 1983
- Thank You Letter to Niela Miller from Eliot Community Human Services, Inc. – 1997
- Thank You Letter to Niela Miller from Veterans Administration (David Haskell) – 1989
- Thank You Letter to Niela Miller from Veterans Administration (Rivkah Lindenfeld) 1989
- Transgender Presentation Notes (Counselor Educators in Second Life) – undated
- “How Easily He Forgets” by Katherine Hawkins for “A Circle of Women” – 1993
- “My Transsexual Father” by Stephen Vinay Gunther – 2006
- Questions for Resolution in Counseling – undated
- Notes for Transgender Day of Remembrance Talk in Second Life – 2009

Articles – 1996-2001

- “Counseling in Genderland” Review – AHP Perspectives – 1996
- Untitled – 2001
- “Counseling and the Married Crossdresser” – Tapestry – 1996
- “On Being a Woman” – Tapestry Journal – undated
- “I Dreamed There Was an Emperor, Antony...” – undated
- “Abolishing Guilty Secrets” – Tapestry Journal – undated
- Untitled – AHP Perspectives – undated

Newspaper Clippings – 1990

- “Teaching About Gender Identity is on the Agenda for Niela Miller” – 1996

-Book notes "Counseling in Genderland" Synopsis – undated

Brochures

-"Counseling in Genderland" – undated – (2 copies)

1.2 Counseling in Genderland: A Guide for You and Your Transgendered Client – by Niela Miller, 1996

1.3 Photographs

-Fantasia Fair – 1982-2002 (99 photos)

1.4 Videos -- VHS

1.4.1 Gender Identity – Jane Thomas (Jenny S.) – undated

1.4.2 Fantasia Fair – Kane-Miller Colloquium (1992) & Miller Luncheon Seminar (1995)

1.4.3 Fantasia Fair – Kane-Miller Colloquium (1992) & Miller Seminar (1995) & The Power of the Mainstream (undated)

1.4.4 Gender Service – First Parish in Bedford – Rev. John Gibbons & Niela Miller – 1993