

# Feminism and Women's Advocacy Collection A&M 4668

Feminism and Women's Advocacy Collection  
1989-2022 and undated



## Title Statement

Feminism and Women's Advocacy Collection A&M 4668

**Author:** Staff of the West Virginia and Regional History Center

## Publication Statement

**Publisher:** West Virginia and Regional History Center

1549 University Ave.  
P.O. Box 6069  
Morgantown, WV 26506-6069  
Business Number: 304-293-3536  
wvrhcref@westvirginia.libanswers.com  
URL: <https://wvrhc.lib.wvu.edu>



## Profile Description

**Creation:** This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2025-08-30 08:16:33 -0400.

**Language Usage:** Description is written in: English, Latin script.

**Descriptive Rules:** Describing Archives: A Content Standard

## Descriptive Summary

### Unit ID

A&M 4668

### Unit ID

[Archival Resource Key](#)

### Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/7072

### Unit Date

1989-2022 and undated

### Language

English .

### Abstract

The collection contains a compilation of materials related to feminism and donated to the West Virginia and Regional History Center (WVRHC). It includes material from the West Virginia University (WVU) Female Equality Movement (FEM), March for Women's Equality and Women's Lives on 1989 April 09 in Washington, D.C., Marshall University's Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Gender in Appalachia, as well as two oral history interviews of Mildred Fizer and Shefa Nola Benoit.

### source

Kiger, Meredith E.

**Creator**

Marshall University. Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Gender in Appalachia

**Creator**

West Virginia University. West Virginia and Regional History Collection

**Extent**

0.54 Linear Feet 1 flat storage box 3 in.; 1 flat storage box, 1 in.; 1 document case, 2.5 in.

**Extent**

1.973 Gigabytes 1 .wav file, 1. mov file, and 2 .docx files

**Physical Location**

West Virginia and Regional History Center / West Virginia University / 1549 University Avenue / P.O. Box 6069 / Morgantown, WV 26506-6069 / Phone: 304-293-3536 / URL: <https://wvrhc.lib.wvu.edu/>

**Repository**

West Virginia and Regional History Center

## Administrative Information

**Conditions Governing Access**

No special access restriction applies.

Researchers may access born digital materials by requesting to view the materials in person by appointment or remotely by contacting the West Virginia & Regional History Center reference department at <https://westvirginia.libanswers.com/wvrhc>.

**Conditions Governing Use**

Permission to publish or reproduce is required from the copyright holder. For more information, please see the Permissions and Copyright page on the West Virginia and Regional History Center website.

**Immediate Source of Acquisition**

From Marshall University, Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Gender in Appalachia (CSEGA), 2002

From Meredith E. Kiger, 2022 March 02

Gift from Anna Rachel Terman, 2022 March 18

From Combs, Ethan and Moore, Elisabeth, 2022

**Preferred Citation**

[Description and date of item], [Box/folder number], Feminism and Women's Advocacy Collection, A&M 4668, West Virginia and Regional History Center, West Virginia University Libraries, Morgantown, West Virginia.

## Biographical / Historical

The Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Gender in Appalachia (CSEGA) is at Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia, and focused on promoting research on Appalachia's diversity. It was founded in 1996 and hosted its first conference at Marshall University in 2000. As of 2025, the CSEGA sponsors the Sarah Denman Faces of Appalachia Fellowship Award to support scholarship on gender and ethnicity in Appalachia.

The March for Women's Equality and Women's Lives was a mass gathering and march sponsored by the National Organization for Women (NOW) on 1989 April 09 in Washington, D.C. in response to Missouri anti-abortion laws pending in the Supreme Court and former President George H.W. Bush's administration aligning itself with the anti-abortion movement in calling for the reversal of Roe v. Wade. The march was attended by roughly 600,000 protestors from around the country, including activists from West Virginia.

The West Virginia University (WVU) Female Equality Movement (FEM) was a student organization formed prior to 1993 by WVU Center for Women's Studies (CWS) employee Mary Beth Garvin that focused on issuing affecting women on the WVU campus. It was best known for co-sponsoring the Take Back the Night events to raise awareness of sexual assault, domestic violence, and safety concerns on WVU campus. The organization was renamed the Gender Equality Movement (GEM) sometime prior to 2012. The organization has no official date of closure but its presence was significantly lessened by 2012.

Mildred Fizer was born in Culloden, West Virginia, in 1921 and is best known for her work with 4-H in her home state. She worked as the county 4-H agent in Cabbel County, West Virginia from 1946 to 1953 before moving on to serve as the Girls Club Agent at the state level until 1966. In 1966, Fizer became the head of the West Virginia Division of 4-H, making her the first woman to lead a division at the state level. She retired in 1978, whereupon she remained active in volunteer organizations in the Morgantown, West Virginia area.

Shefa Nola Benoit is the project coordinator for the Mountain Heritage Trails project in West Virginia. Mountain Heritage Trails, Inc. is a nonprofit based in Mathias, West Virginia and dedicated to preserving Appalachian culture and promoting community learning through folkways and local histories.

## Scope and Contents

The collection contains a compilation of materials related to feminism and donated to the West Virginia and Regional History Center (WVRHC).

The collection is a living collection and may continuously be added to as relevant materials are gifted, donated, or transferred to the WVRHC.

The collection is divided into two series:

Series 1. Artifacts and Papers

Series 2. Oral History Interviews

## Keywords

West Virginia Feminist Activist Collection

Women political activists

National Organization for Women (NOW)

West Virginia University - Student organizations.

Women's rights

Activism

4-H clubs -- West Virginia

Kiger, Meredith E.

Marshall University. Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Gender in Appalachia

## Description of Subordinate Components

### **Series 1. Artifacts and Papers**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/240375

**Unit Date** 1989-2022 and undated

### **West Virginia Feminist Equality Movement (FEM) Felt Banner for the 2004 March for Women's Lives**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/232228

**Unit Date** 2004

**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 1 (Item)

### **WV FEM Banner for the 2004 March for Women's Lives Styrofoam Panel**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/232229

**Unit Date** 2022

**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 2 (Item)

**March for Women's Equality and Women's Lives in Washington, D.C. Pin**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/232230

**Unit Date** 1989 April 09

**Mixed Materials** 2 (Box)

**Container** 1 (Item)

**Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Gender in Appalachia (CSEGA) - Conference**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/232231

**Unit Date** 2000 and undated

**Mixed Materials** 3 (Box)

**Container** 1 (Folder)

**Series 2. Oral History Interviews**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/238344

**Unit Date** 2021 September 10-2021 September 19 and undated

**Mildred Fizer Oral History Interview**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/240376

**Unit Date** 2021 September 19 and undated

**Shefa Nola Benoit Oral History Interview**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/240377

**Unit Date** 2021 September 10-2021 September 13