STEPHANIE ORTOLEVA

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Processed by
Jenny Holly
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Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
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Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org
COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 3 manuscript boxes; 2 cassette tapes.

COLLECTION DATES: 1993–99

PROVENANCE: Stephanie Ortoleva, Washington, D.C.

RESTRICTIONS: None

COPYRIGHT:

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:


ACCESSION NUMBER: 2003.0039

NOTES:
**BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

Stephanie Ortoleva is a well-known attorney and women's rights activist. She received her JD from Hofstra University School of Law in New York in 1976. During her time in Indianapolis, she held office as President of the Indiana chapter for the National Organization for Women (NOW) from June 1996–June 1999. Her work with Indiana NOW involved issues related to hiring practices, sexual harassment, pay equity, abortion rights, same-sex marriage, women's healthcare access, discrimination due to sexual orientation, and teen pregnancy, among others.

In 1996, she appeared on *Paul Irwin's Indiana Today* on WICR, University Of Indianapolis radio to discuss Susan B. Anthony and women's suffrage. Her commentary was well-received. WICR received letters from listeners asking for more content pertaining to women's issues. It was after this that WICR offered Ortoleva a twice-monthly, thirty minute program entitled, *Womankind*. *Womankind* was topical in nature. Each episode featured a different topic related to contemporary women's issues, women's history, and women in arts and music. She frequently interviewed individuals relevant to an episode topic.

After leaving the Indiana chapter of NOW and *Womankind*, Ortoleva has had a successful career as an activist and lawyer. She served as an Attorney and Human Rights Officer at the U.S. Department of State and during this time she participated in the United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities. In 2009, Ortoleva was awarded the prestigious U.S. Department of State Franklin Award for outstanding work on human rights matters. She is the founder and current president of Women Enabled (http://WomenEnabled.org). This organization advocates for women's rights, human rights, and particularly, the rights of disabled women.

Sources:

Materials in Collection

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains three series related to Stephanie Ortoleva's tenure as President of the Indiana chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW) and her radio program, *Womankind* on WICR University of Indianapolis radio.

**Series One:** The first series relates to Ortoleva's work on University of Indianapolis radio (WICR)'s program, *Womankind*. This series includes correspondence, promotional materials and research materials. Within the correspondence folders are letters with WICR's general manager on the formation of the program, "fan mail" regarding the show, and station discrepancy reports. This series also includes fliers and promotional materials created by WICR. Following correspondence and promotional materials are episode research files. The episode topic files reflect Ortoleva's original arrangement and contain materials ranging from letters, research documents, interview questions, and magazines. Although *Womankind* ran from 1996–99, Ortoleva did not date the individual episode reference files. These files are followed by Copyright Permission Requests pertaining to *Womankind* and newspaper clippings about the show.

**Series Two:** The second series relates to Ortoleva's work as the Director the Indiana chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW). This series is organized reverse chronologically from 1999–93. This maintains the organizational system created by Ortoleva. Within this series are documents on projects both national and local. The series begins with projects related to the national NOW. These national projects include the NOW Media Institute and information on the Fight the Right march in San Francisco, California, 1996. The bulk of this series, however, pertains to Ortoleva's work as director of Indiana branch of NOW. Documents range from 1993–99 (bulk 1995–99) and consist of fliers, newspaper clippings, correspondence, and conference materials. Newspaper clippings in this series range from opinion pieces written by Ortoleva herself, clippings profiling the work of Indiana NOW, and clippings related to women's issues in Indianapolis. Document topics include teen pregnancy, abortion rights, sexual orientation discrimination, sexual harassment, same-sex marriage, hiring policies, and pay equity.

**Series Three:** The third series contains miscellaneous items including blank stationary, promotional materials for the National Women's Music Festival, and a two cassette tape transcript of *Ms.* magazine.
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Series 3: Miscellaneous

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Miscellaneous promotional materials for the National Women's Music Festival, 1996

Cassette Tapes, Transcript of Ms. magazine Mar.- Apr. 1996
CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog:
   http://opac.indianahistory.org/

2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.

3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.

4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, M 1166).

5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.