

Karen Brodine Papers, 1913-2015 (bulk 1970-1987)

Collection number: GLC 191

Extent: 4.5 cubic feet (5 boxes)

Abstract: Journals, files, photographs, correspondence, and writing of American lesbian feminist poet Karen Brodine.

Location: Stored onsite (L65)

Access: Collection is unprocessed but open for research. Photographs are available during San Francisco Historical Photo desk hours: Tuesdays 1-5 pm, Thursdays 1-5 pm, and Saturdays 10-noon and 1-5 pm.

Publication rights: copyright is transferred to SFPL. SFPL may allow use of Karen Brodine's work for educational and literary purposes that respect her wishes, spirit, and general political viewpoint. Please note that a few poems are marked "Do not publish." Handwritten journals should not be published but may be quoted.

Language of Materials: English

Preferred citation: [identification of item], Karen Brodine Papers (GLC 191), LGBTQIA Center, San Francisco Public Library

Provenance: Donated by Helen Gilbert, August 25, 2015

Biographical Note: Karen Brodine (1947-1987) was a feminist poet, activist, and teacher. She was born in Seattle, Washington, on June 14, 1947, the daughter of Val Daniel (a music teacher) and Mary (a music teacher; maiden name, Pierce) Brodine. She graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, with a B.A. in 1972, and from San Francisco State University, with an M.A. in 1974. Her published work includes: *Slow Juggling* (poems), Berkeley Poets Cooperative, 1975; *Making the Park*, Kelsey St. Press (Berkeley, CA), 1976, with Patricia Dienstfrey, Marina La Palma, Laura Moriarty, and Rena Rosenwasser; *Illegal Assembly* (poems), Hanging Loose Press, 1980; and, *Woman Sitting at the Machine*, *Thinking* (poems), introduction by Merle Woo, Freedom Socialist Publications, 1987. She was an instructor in creative writing at San Francisco State University from 1975-81; a typesetter and writer, 1981-87; an assistant editor of the *American Journal of Human Genetics* at University of California, San Francisco from 1987 on. She died of cancer on October 18, 1987.

Scope and content: Journals, files, photographs, correspondence, writing, and copies of poetry publications. Some of the early journals and notebooks include notes on dances and choreography; other notebooks concern teaching. Correspondence files often address

specific publications and submissions. Named correspondents include Merle Woo, Nellie Wong, Meridel LeSueur, and Helen Gilbert. There is a little family correspondence which includes letters between Brodine's parents (1913+). There are several drafts of "Woman Sitting at the Machine, Thinking."

Arrangement: unarranged.

Box 1: Notebooks

Notebook. "Journey #1," March-July 1970

Notebook. #2 "Progression; Word Procession; Firm Stand," July 1970-February 1971

Notebook. Winter 1970-1971

Notebook. "Safe and Dangerous Places," "Summer Dance," 1971

Notebook. "Record / Personal Account Book," February 1971-January 1972

Notebook. January 25-March 25, 1972

Notebook. March-May 1972

Notebook. August-October 1972

Notebook. October-December 1972

Notebook. "Dance—Joints," "Seven Songs," undated

Notebook. "Dance. Dwinelle Circle. Costumes for Door and A Sigh, Lavender With Socks,"
undated

Notebook. "Nov. 1973," October 30, 1973-February [1974]

Notebook. "Carrying Notebook," February 19, 1974-April [1974]

Notebook. August 12, 1974-August 1975

Notebook. "Walking Backwards; Eyes Closed; Seeing Red," September-November 1974

Notebook. November 10, 1974-February 3, [1975]

Notebook. May 1975

Notebook. "Information Book," November-December 1975

Notebook. "The Dark Notebook," October 1976?

Notebook. Diary, December 1976-1977

Notebook. June-December 1977

Notebook. January 1978

Notebook. January-December 1978 (legal sized in Box 2)

Notebook. June 1980-February 1981

Notebook. October 28, 1981-October 1983

Box 1: Notebooks (continued)

Notebook. October 1983-May 1984

Notebook. "The Seattle Trip," May 1984-March 1985

Notebook. San Francisco/Los Angeles, March 1985

Notebook. March-June 1985

Notebook. Second Seattle Summer Book, June 1985-October 1986

Notebook. Medical questions, diet, pertaining to breast cancer, October-November 1986

Notebook. Note-a-Date monthly calendar, 1987

Notebook. Medical notes, April-May 1987

Notebook. September 1987. Contains one poem.

Notebook. Teaching, and other notes

Box 2: Manuscript materials (writing); Books and periodicals

Notebook. January-December 1978 (legal sized in Box 2)

Notebook. Mother-Grandmother Dreams and Poems.

Peoples Work: "Women In Defiance: International Women's Poetry" (International Women's Day Celebration sponsored by Radical Women & The Freedom Socialist Party, poems read by Karen Brodine, Numa P. Albornoz & Sukey Durham); "Karen" by Edgar Poma"; Poem sent from Helen Gilbert to Karen, 1985; Merle Woo speech presented at the Saturday Plenary session "Common Causes: Uncommon Coalitions" of the 1985 National Women's Studies Association Conference; "Yellow Woman Speaks" by Merle Woo, 1981; "Strike" by Giaconda Belli; etc.

Merle Woo, 1980-1981. Writing and correspondence: The Subversive; The First Pebble; For International Women's Day, 1981; Proceed at Your Own Risk. Chapter One excerpt; What Makes the Difference: A Review of Illegal Assembly by Karen Brodine; For Chol Soo Lee; A Concealed Weapon: A Dramatic Monologue, 1980.

Nellie Wong, 1980-1985. Multi-Issue Feminism: Food for the Soul, 1980; Journal entries, 1977; correspondence, 1981; Opening remarks before the International Women's Day Conference: "Working Women: We Can Shut This Country Down," 1980; On Celebrating the New Year, 1981; The Night That Clara Won, 1982; Sexism and Racism in the Left, Feminist & Lesbian/Gay Movements, 1981; clippings, etc. about Mitsuye and Nellie; Kitty Tsui to The Black Scholar, 1981; Chrysanthemums and Ox Tail Stew; correspondence with Lenore, etc.

Letters to My Mother, 1913-1981. Letters from her father [David M. Pierce] to Mary Pierce; last will and testament of Harriet Miller Pierce (Karen's grandmother), 1969; David M. Pierce estate, 1946; marriage certificate for Voltaire Brodine and Mary Pierce, 1946; obituary for Mary Brodine, 1981; copy of Mary Brodine and Voltaire Brodine divorce decree; letter from Mary's brother Jim, 1940; certificate of birth for [Harriet] Miller, 1894; document regarding loyalty of Harriet M. Pierce; Don Magnuson, Member of Congress to Mrs. V.D. Brodine regarding meeting of the House Committee on Un-American Activities, 1955; etc.

Teenage and early 20s writing.

Teaching writing—Notes.

Woman Sitting at the Machine, Thinking, July 3, 1987 "original"

Woman Sitting at the Machine, Thinking, July 3, 1987 "HG [Helen Gilbert] copy"

Woman Sitting at the Machine, Thinking, undated [spiral bound]

Box 2: Manuscript materials (writing); Books and periodicals (continued)

Extra Copies "These poems (extra copies) pretty much all published somewhere"

Clausen, Jan. *A Movement of Poets: Thoughts on Poetry and Feminism* (Brooklyn, New York: The Print Center, 1982). Annotated by Karen Brodine, with a letter from Carol to Nellie, July 3, 1985.

Lonidier, Lynn. *Clitoris Lost* (Boyce Hot Springs: Manroot Press, 1989). Marked with references to Karen Brodine, Lynn Lonidier's cousin

Seattle Public Library. "Meet the Authors," Spring 1985

Correspondence regarding *Woman Sitting at the Machine, Thinking*, 1987: Helen Gilbert, Meridel Le Sueur, Clara Fraser, Joanna Russ, Barbara Smith, Mitsuye Yamada, Rozwell Spafford. Includes book design.

Reviews of *Woman Sitting at the Machine, Thinking*, 1990-1994. Includes some reviews of earlier work.

Red Letter Press files. Correspondence with Helen [Gilbert], Clara, Tom Boot (Freedom Socialist Party, National Office), Adrienne Weller (Portland Radical Women), Guerry [Hoddersen], Linda Averill (Seattle Radical Women Organizer), Kathleen M. Reyes, Martha Roth (*Hurricane Alice*), Portland Poetry Festival, 1985-1991, 2005-2015

FSP Files [Freedom Socialist Party]. "Giving Criticism Arms" by Karen Brodine (1982); Letter from Karen Brodine to Guerry [Hoddersen], 1987; poem "Casino Window" by Brodine (1987); letter from Karen Brodine to Clara, 1987; "Poetry—In Revolutionary Motion: An Evening of Poetry & Politics" flyer (1982); "Three Feminist poets" flyer (1986); obituary for Brodine, memorial, etc.]

Publications folder #1: *The Disability Rag* (March/April 1993) 3 copies; *Buttons 2* (Spring 1973) as Karen Daley; *Working Classics*, volume 2, number 1, 2 copies; *Eddy* (Winter 75-76) *About Dance*, 2 copies, with "Mock Orange" typescript enclosed.

Publications folder #2: *Contact II* (Winter 1987); *Feminist Poetics: A Consideration of the Female Construction of Language* (San Francisco, 1984); *Special Report from Out and About/The Women's Coalition to STOP the Green River Murders*, issue #89, 2 copies; *Off Our Backs: a Women's News Journal*, volume 3, number 2 (October 1972); *Womyn's Press* (January/February 1988).

Box 2: Manuscript materials (writing); Books and periodicals (continued)

Publications folder #3: Home Planet News, volume 4, number 3 (1983); Crab Creek Review (Winter 1988), 2 copies; Gay Tide, number 20 (September 1978); Waves: The Sound Alternative, volume 2, issue 8 (August 1987); Radical Women, Internal Discussion Bulletin, volume 1, number 1 (June 18, 1979); Synapse (University of California, San Francisco), volume 31, number 30 "The Literary Issue" (May 28, 1987) 2 copies; Hurricane Alice: a Feminist Review, volume 3, number 3 (1986); Seattle Gay News, volume 16, number 13 (March 31, 1989); American Poetry Archive News, volume 1 (Winter 1984); HOW (ever), volume 4, number 3 (January 1988) dedicated to Brodine; Introspect (Bothell High School magazine) 2 issues, Brodine co-editor.

Box 3: Files, Manuscripts

Old journal. Nell's letter, send to other WWV members, to Constance and to Judith, etc., 1979

Typed journal

"Ice Water" poems [by Brodine?]

Binder #1 transcribed poems

Binder #2 transcribed poems "April-August"

Sketches and journals from when Karen was going through chemotherapy, 1986-1987

Photographs from Val. Includes childhood photos and newspapers articles about Karen. Also family, Emily Woo Yamasaki, Merle Woo,

Photographs Val Brodine gave Heidi, 1940s-1984. Primarily photos of Val Brodine, some family. Includes article about Val Brodine and communal farming. Photos of Mexico, Italy.

Photographs.

My Speeches, Articles, 1979-1985. Includes letter from Helen Gilbert.

Fighting Words Program. "Fighting Words: the Writings of Karen Brodine"

Manuscript send off and replies, 1986-1987

Contest deadlines, 1986-1988

Correspondence from Meridel Le Sueur, 1985-1987, undated

Letters from SF/Oakland, 1984-1985. Merle Woo, Roanne, Meridel [Le Sueur], Constance, Nellie Wong, Emily, Doug, Edgar.

Images/Poetry Flash article, 1987. San Francisco Chronicle; Steve [Abbott]; Roanne; Moises, RW/FSP; Bob; Kass.

Published letters, 1986, undated. Poetry Flash (undated) and San Francisco Chronicle (1986).

Second Wave. Volume 5, Number 3 (summer/fall 1979); letter to editors, 1980; copy of letters regarding Brodine article "The Politics of Women Writing," 1981; Volume 5, number 2 (Summer/Fall 1978); letter to Second Wave from Catherine Avril.

National Writers Union, 1986

Nell's writing, 1983-1985. Notes. "Socialist Feminism: Our Bridge to Freedom" by Nellie Wong; Minneapolis Weekend Report at The Great Midwestern Bookshow.

Sentinel article: "Second Glance: Chatting with Radical Women" by Steve Abbott (February 20, 1987).

Box 3: Files, Manuscripts (continued)

Original poster poem. "Language The Most Basic" and "The Piano with Wings"

Woman Sitting at the Machine, Thinking...and other poems by Karen Brodine (Radical Women Publications, August 1984).

Nell's Reading—organizing, 1987. Nellie Wong

Writing workshop, 1987. Tom, Merle, Nell, Ro.

Current Journal, 1980-1986. Typescripts and flyers.

Women Writers Speech, 1986. Women Writers: Telling the Truth from All Its Sides; The Politics of Women Writing. Revolutionary Women Writers: Their Passion, Their Politics, Their Art by Nellie Wong.

Day to Day journal [writing]

Writing—old journal

[Writing by Brodine] Manila folder

Send-Off info. Correspondence and other responses regarding submissions for publication, 1977-1987: Crab Creek Review, Susan Sherman (IKON Press); Marie Harris and Kathleen Aguerro; Mildred Jesse (Backbone); Judi Friedman; Martha Courtot; Michael Mayo (Seismograph Publications); Michael Cuddihy; Nancy Bereano (Firebrand); Sandra Martz; Peg Cruikshank; Kim Painter (Common Lives/Lesbian Lives); Joyce Morgenroth; Margie Erhart (Common Lives/Lesbian Lives); Maurice Kenny (Contact II); Martha Roth (Hurricane Alice); Judi Friedman and Kenny Fries (Beaux-Arts Press); Sheila Block (Fireweed); Bumbershoot; M.; Nellie Way; Rachel da Silva (Seal Press); Alcatraz;

Meridel Le Sueur, 1981-1983.

FSP—to do—KB. "Song for San Francisco" by Brodine (1985); "Accepting Spring"

Letters to the Editor, 1985-1987. Kathleen M. Reyes, KOMO-TV (Seattle, Washington); The Alliance (Portland, Oregon); Plexus (San Francisco, California).

Send Off. Contributor agreement and correspondence for Women and Cancer anthology edited by Debra J. Connors, 1987.

Box 3: Files, Manuscripts (continued)

Where to send—Current. Includes: “Women Writers: Telling The Truth From All Its Sides” by Brodine (1986); *Poets & Writers Magazine*, volume 15, issue 3, May/June 1987; *Words to the Wise: a writer’s guide to feminist and lesbian periodicals & publishers* by Andrea Fleck Clardy (Firebrand Sparks Pamphlet #1); *The 1986 Directory of Literary Magazines* (Prepared by The Coordinating Council of Literary Magazines); *A Book of One’s Own: Guide to Self-Publishing* by Christine Leslie Johnson and Arny Christine Straayer (Metis Press, 1979); *Contact II* (New York, 1986); *Small Press Review*, volume 19, number 3, issue 170 (March 1987).

Book: *Let Me Die Before I Wake: Hemlock’s book of self-discovery* by Derek Humphry
[photocopy]

White Quilt

Box 4: Files, Manuscripts

Notebook. Teaching, September 1977 extension class

Notebook. April-May 1981

Notebook. October-December 1986

Notebook. Dances, music, undated

Loose poems and journal pages

Resume, writing blurbs

Extra copies [of poems]

Correspondence, 1986-1987, 1992. Tom, Susan, Sue, Meridel Le Sueur, Clara Fraser, Constance, Sandra Martz, Eldon, Helen Gilbert, Nellie Wong.

Notebook. Old Stuff. "In the Elbow of the City" includes binder with 2 photos glued on.

Flyers for readings, newspaper story on car crash

Binder #3, 1973-1974 typed poems

Blank greeting cards, Women Writers Union letterhead

Loose papers [medical notes, banking, Laser-Set Users]

Box 5: Books, periodicals and manuscripts

If I Had A Hammer: Women's Work in Poetry, Fiction, and Photographs. Edited by Sandra Martz. (Watsonville, California: Papier-Mache Press, 1990). 2 copies.

For A Living: The Poetry of Work. Edited by Nicholas Coles and Peter Oresick. (Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1995)

Ferraro, Kathleen. *Women's Lives*. (Boston: Pearson, 2009)

American Working-Class Literature: An Anthology. Edited by Nicholas Coles and Janet Zandy. (New York, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007)

Onthebus: A New Literary Magazine. Double Issue 8 and 9, Volume 3, Number 2 and Volume 4, Number 1. (Los Angeles: Bombshelter Press). Contains review of Brodine's *Woman Sitting at the Machine, Thinking*.

Berkeley Poets Cooperative Anthology, 1970-1980. (Berkeley, California: Berkeley Poets Workshop and Press, 1980)

Berkeley Poets Cooperative 6 (Berkeley, California: Berkeley Poets Workshop and Press, 1973)

Berkeley Poets Cooperative 9 (Berkeley, California: Berkeley Poets Workshop and Press, 1975)

Berkeley Poets Cooperative, Number 8 (Berkeley, California: Berkeley Poets Workshop and Press, 1974)

Ironwood 9. Editor, Michael Cuddihy (Tucson, Arizona: Ironwood Press, 1977). 2 copies.

Ironwood 14. Editor, Michael Cuddihy (Tucson, Arizona: Ironwood Press, 1979)

United States: An Anthology of Political Poetry. Fred Thaballa, editor. (San Francisco: Buffalo Books, 1976)

Montemora 3, Spring 1977. (New York)

Hanging Loose 41, Winter 1981-1982 (Brooklyn, N.Y.: The Print Center)

Hanging Loose 40, Fall 1981 (Brooklyn, N.Y.: The Print Center). 2 copies.

Hanging Loose 32, Spring 1978 (Brooklyn, N.Y.: Just Hanging Around Press)

Hanging Loose 33, Summer 1978 (Brooklyn, N.Y.: The Print Center)

Shameless Hussy Review. Leap Leap (San Lorenzo, California: Shameless Hussy Press)

IKON, Second Series Number 8 Journeys, Winter/Spring 1987-1988 (New York)

Room: A Women's Literary Journal, Number Seven (San Francisco, 1982)

Room: A Women's Literary Journal, Volume 1, Number 1 (San Francisco, 1976)

Box 5: Books, periodicals and manuscripts (continued)

Lesbian Poetry: An Anthology. Edited by Elly Bulkin and Joan Larkin. (Watertown, Mass.: Persephone Press, 1981)

Fireweed: A Feminist Quarterly. Issue 19. Theory. Summer/Fall 1984. (Toronto)

Making the Park (Berkeley, Calif.: Kelsey St. Press, 1976). 2 copies

Sailing the Road Clear. Issue 6, May 1978. Edited by Jane Creighton and Susan Jordan. (Old Mystic, Conn.)

Ergo! The Bumbershoot Literary Magazine. Edited by Judith Roche. (1988). 3 copies.

Crab Creek Review: Anniversary Anthology. Edited by Linda Clifton and Carol Orlock. (Seattle, Washington: Crab Creek Review Association, 1994). 3 copies.

Transfer Fifty: A Magazine of Creative Writing at San Francisco State University. Commemorative Issue. Fall 1985. Edited by Richard Holeton (San Francisco: San Francisco State University, 1985)

Berkeley Poets Cooperative, Number 7 (Berkeley, Calif., 1974)

The Greenfield Review, Volume 11, numbers 1 and 2, Summer/Fall 1983 (New York)

Not For Women Only: Social Work Practice for a Feminist Future. Mary Bricker-Jenkins and Nancy R. Hooyman, editors. (Silver Spring, Maryland: National Association of Social Workers, 1986)

An Ear to the Ground: An Anthology of Contemporary American Poetry. Edited by Marie Harris and Kathleen Aguero. (Athens and London: The University of Georgia Press, 1989)

Montemora 2, Summer 1976. (New York)

PEN: the Literary Magazine of the University of Utah, volume 55, Number 1, Autumn 66

Backbone: A Journal of Women's Literature, Number 4. (Seattle, Washington, 1987). 2 copies

Brodine, Karen. *Illegal Assembly* (Brooklyn, New York: Hanging Loose Press, 1980). 3 copies

Brodine, Karen. *Slow Juggling: poems* (Berkeley, Calif.: Berkeley Poets' Cooperative, 1975). 3 copies

Brodine, Karen. *Work Week* (Berkeley, Calif.: Kelsey St. Press, 1977). 2 copies

Sweat: Independent Labor Magazine of North America, Number 1, Summer 1997. (San Francisco)

New Lesbian Writing: An Anthology. Edited by Margaret Cruikshank. (San Francisco: Grey Fox Press, 1984)

Box 5: Books, periodicals and manuscripts (continued)

- Cargo 2: This Issue Featuring Writing From Lesbian Perspectives*. (BlackWattle Press, 1989)
- Common Lives / Lesbian Lives: A Lesbian Feminist Quarterly*, Number 4, Summer 1982. (Iowa City, Iowa)
- Poets on: Working*, Volume 5, Number 2, Summer 1981. Ruth Daigon, Editor. (Chaplin, Connecticut)
- Tripwire: a journal of poetics*, Issue Number 4 "Work," Winter 2000-2001. Edited by Yedda Morrison and David Buuck. (San Francisco). 2 copies
- Earth's Daughters: A Feminist Arts Periodical* 5/6, Fall 1975. (Buffalo, New York)
- To Come To Light: Perspectives on Chronic Illness in Modern Literature*. Edited by Amy Bonomi. (Seattle, Washington: Whit Press, 2002). 2 copies
- Brodine, Karen. *Woman Sitting at the Machine, Thinking* (Seattle, Washington: Red Letter Press, 1990). 2 copies
- Hair-raising* (Berkeley, Calif.: Kelsey St. Press, 1976). 2 copies
- Poetry from Violence: San Francisco Conference on Violence Against Women* (San Francisco: Lighthouse, 1976). 2 copies
- When I Am An Old Woman I Shall Wear Purple: An Anthology of Short Stories and Poetry*. Edited by Sandra Martz. (Manhattan Beach, California: Papier-Mache Press, 1987).
- Bridges: A Journal for Jewish Feminists and Our Friends*, Volume 2, Number 2, Fall 1991. (Seattle, Washington).
- Transfer*, Fall 1974. (San Francisco: Associated Students of San Francisco State University)
- Durham, Sukey. *Convictions*. ([San Francisco]: Sukey Durham, 1977)