

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Biographical Sketch	2
Scope and Content	3
Series Notes	4
Container List	5
SERIES I: RECOLLECTIONS OF FLYING OUT OF THE CLOSET	5
A: Text	5
B: Attachments	5
SERIES II: NEWSLETTERS/OTHER	6

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Chris Almvig moved to Kansas City after working at Tan-Tar-A Resort in Osage Beach, MO for a time. Finding it difficult to find someone to be with following her self-realization that she was in fact a Lesbian, Kansas City offered a new place to meet people and branch out. She began working for the Jewish Community Center as Director of 2 Art Galleries and the American Poetry Series, and soon had a supportive circle of friends. One of these friends, Priscilla Camp, leader of the Kansas City Women's Liberation Union, led Almvig to the world of the Women's Movement, where she immediately thrived. Hardship struck when Almvig got fired from her position at the JCC, despite a flawless performance record, simply because she was a Lesbian. While this led to many financial difficulties, it allowed her to focus more of her time towards the efforts of the Women's Movement. Almvig helped lead a Consciousness-Raising group at Park College, advocated her cause at the Democratic Mini Convention in Kansas City, and worked with people in a counseling capacity. In the summer of 1974 Almvig met Carol Bloom, a Public High School Teacher in New York City, and the two soon became very close. Right after Christmas, Almvig moved to NYC to be with Bloom, and stayed in the city for 25 years. After 13 years living in St. Petersburg, FL, she moved back to Kansas City.

Source:

Recollections of Flying out of the Closet: Lake of the Ozarks & Kansas City, 1972-1974, by Chris Almvig.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Chris Almvig Scrapbook was a gift of Chris Almvig in 2010. The centerpiece of this Scrapbook is a memoir entitled *Recollections of Flying out of the Closet*, in which Almvig chronicles the period in her life when she came out as a Lesbian and moved to Kansas City, where she became involved in the Women's Liberation Union and other advocacy groups. The memoir is accompanied by an addendum of "Attachments" – Poems, Essays, Articles, etc. – that provide more background into relevant people and events. The collection also contains newsletters and information from the Kansas City Women's Liberation Union, and flyers for Woman: Challenges and Choices Conference.

SERIES NOTES

SERIES I: RECOLLECTIONS OF FLYING OUT OF THE CLOSET

Contained in Box 1, Folders 1-2; Includes the full text of Almvig's memoir chronicling her coming out process and years living in Kansas City in the early 1970s, where she played an active role in the Women's Liberation Union. This work offers not only a compelling look into Almvig's personal journey, but also provides interesting insight into the joys, challenges, and idiosyncrasies of Lesbian life in Kansas City at that time. Accompanying this text are a series of "Attachments", consisting of articles, essays, poems, and other documents relating to the people and the events mentioned in *Recollections*.

SERIES II: NEWSLETTERS/OTHER

Contained in Box 1, Folder 3; Includes issues of the Kansas City Women's Liberation Union Newsletter (called *Women as Women as Women* by March 1974), a Statement of Principles of the Union, and two flyers for Woman: Challenges and Choices Conferences.

CONTAINER LIST

SERIES I: RECOLLECTIONS OF FLYING OUT OF THE CLOSET

Box	Folder	Description
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A: Text

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| 1 | 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Cover, with color photo of Almvig in front of Volkswagen Pop-Top Camper with "Kansas City Women's Liberation Union" printed on the side.- Title Page: <i>Recollections of Flying out of the Closet: Lake of the Ozarks & Kansas City, 1972-1974</i>, by Chris Almvig (a.k.a. Chris Kingsley), Written in May of 2010.- Printed, typed manuscript with color photos, 45 pp. |
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B: Attachments

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| 1 | 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- [Margit Lasker] Short bio of Lasker by Almvig, with personal recollections (1 p.), and Newspaper Clipping, "Vigil Eases Trauma of Illness" from The Kansas City Star (photocopy), February 25, 1977.- [Newspaper Clipping] "Sexual Morality Called Personal" from The Kansas City Star (photocopy), date unknown.- [Newspaper Clipping] "Sexual Identity: Shock Treatment" from U-News (photocopy), date unknown.- [Paula Mariedaughter] Short bio of Mariedaughter and brief description of her quilting projects (1 p.).- [Edie McClurg] Two Writings by McClurg: "Medium or Mediocre?", and "First Woman President Vote 2/05/08" (2 pp.).- [Brochure] "The Last Minority", distributed at Democratic Mini Convention (2 pp.).- [Newspaper Clipping] "Double Burden Explained" from The Kansas City Star, September 20, 1974.- [Elaine Nobel] "Elaine Nobel Recalls Pioneering Politics", Interview by Larry Nichols, Published October 18, 2007 (2 pp.).- [Periodical Excerpt] Cover of Entertainment Guide, Fall 1990.- [Poems] "A Toast for Le Schwing", August 1974, by Almvig (Photocopy of handwritten manuscript), and "Farewell to Our Friend", August 1974 by Almvig (Photocopy of typed manuscript) (3 pp.).- [Article] "The Woman Identified Woman" by "Radicalesbians" (4 pp.).- [Graphics] "Sisterhood is Blooming", "Lesbian Pride", "In Celebration of Amazons" (3 pp.).- [Advertisements] Color photocopy of various postings about events held by Almvig and the Women's Liberation Union. |
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Box	Folder	Description
(1	2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- [Poems] “Five Poems for Carol—Whom I Saw Five Times” by Priscilla Camp (Photocopy of typed manuscript), and “For Carol Bloom”, August 1974, by Almvig (Photocopy of typed manuscript) (2 pp.).- [Essays] “Just Me” by Almvig (Photocopy of typed manuscript), “Friendly Feminists go Underground” by Almvig (Photocopy of typed manuscript), “Building a Revolution?” by Almvig (Photocopy), “Women’s Center Relocates” by Almvig (Photocopy of typed manuscript), “Coming Out (of Jail That is)” by Almvig (Photocopy of typed manuscript), “...Collective” by Almvig (Photocopy of typed manuscript), and “Woman’s Work is Never Done.....!” by “Paula” (Photocopy) (6 pp.).- [Poems] “Here is the hinge of history...” by Priscilla Camp (Photocopy of typed manuscript), “Sweet Inspiration” by Almvig (Photocopy of typed manuscript), “Out of Context” by Almvig (Photocopy of typed Manuscript), “Labels, Shmabels” by Almvig (Photocopy of handwritten manuscript), and “Ostrich” by Almvig (Photocopy of handwritten manuscript) (w/ photos of Feminist protesters, 4 pp.).- [Article] “The Early Years: The Lawrence Gay Liberation Front” and “1970s: Gay Services of Kansas”, from <i>Queers & Allies</i> – KUpedia, printed from online source (2 pp.).- [Essays] “Theatre as a Feminist Art” by “Cindy” (Photocopy), and “Woman II Conference Says it All” by Almvig (Photocopy) (w/ Anne Richmond Quote, 2 pp.).- [Cartoon] “Chris Comix” by Kate Kasten (Photocopy of pencil drawings) (4 pp.).

SERIES II: NEWSLETTERS/OTHER

Box	Folder	Description
1	3	<p><u>Newsletter of the Women’s Liberation Union</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- September/October 1973, Volume 3, Number 4, 19 pp.- January/February 1974, Volume 4, Number 1, 15 pp. <p><u>Women as Women as Women (Kansas City Women’s Liberation Union Newsletter)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- March/April 1974, 23 pp.- May/June 1974, 27 pp.- July/August 1974, 27 pp.- December 1974, 27 pp.- March/April 1975, 27 pp.- May/June 1975, 27 pp. <p><u>Other</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Statement of Principles: Kansas City Women’s Liberation Union (Revised August 20, 1973), printed, typed manuscript, 1 p.- [Flyer] Woman: Challenges and Choices II.- [Flyer] Woman: Challenges and Choices III.