ABSTRACT
A grassroots organization based in Deerfield, Massachusetts, that trains and educates people locally and globally in matters relating to disarmament and nonviolence. In 1980, the Center organized the first successful attempt in the United States to get a nuclear weapons moratorium referendum on the ballot. Records include correspondence, campaign materials (resolutions, organizing committee records, legislative packets), program reports, newsletters, newsclickings, and posters.

ACCESS
The collection is open for research.

LANGUAGE:
English

BACKGROUND ON TRAPROCK PEACE CENTER
A grassroots organization based in Deerfield, Mass., the Traprock Peace Center has waged a long campaign to educate the public regionally and globally about peace and non-violence. The Center was founded in 1979 after the closure of the alternative Woolman Hill School on Woolman Hill, a retreat and (since 1982) conference center run by the Society of Friends. After considering various alternatives for what to do with the buildings, the school board reached consensus on establishing a center for education and training in non-violence, an effort to be coordinated by a long-time member of the War Resisters League, Beverly Woodward.

Beginning in 1979, a core group of peace activists began to meet to form what would become Traprock, including Randy Kehler, Frances Crowe, Gordon Faison, Pauline Bassett, and later, Meg Gage. To sharpen their focus, the core group turned their attention to the nuclear arms race, which they regarded as the “ultimate manifestation of violence” and the primary threat to peace in the world. During the early part of 1980, the Reagan era about to dawn, organization against the nuclear arms race began to coalesce, and Traprock helped lead the effort to place a referendum on a nuclear weapons moratorium on the ballot. That fall, even as Ronald Reagan swept into office, the nuclear freeze passed in all four districts in Western Massachusetts. Kehler and Crowe were significant national figures in the nuclear freeze movement in the 1980s, and many others at Traprock were vital supporters.

Even with the intense focus on the freeze, activists associated with Traprock soon began to tackle a wide range of issues in peace and social justice. Among the dozens of projects the Center has taken on over the years, it has been active in promoting public awareness of issues relating to nuclear power and nuclear energy, depleted uranium, the economic sanctions against Iraq and the Iraq wars, the “Star Wars” missile defense system, American intervention in Central America, and the growth of militarism in the United States.

CONTENTS OF COLLECTION
The records of the Traprock Peace Center document the Center’s efforts since its founding to train
and educate people locally and globally in matters relating to disarmament and nonviolence. The records include full documentation of the Center’s activities relating to the nuclear freeze referendum in 1980, including correspondence, campaign materials (resolutions, organizing committee records, legislative packets), program reports, newsletters, newsclippings, and posters.

A small portion of the overall collection is described here. The bulk of the collection was received in 2008 and these materials have not yet been processed, although they are open to research.

**Organization of the Collection**

This collection is organized into five series:

- **Series 1. Newsletter (1979-1985)**
- **Series 2. Correspondence (1979-1983)**
- **Series 4. Conferences and Summer Programs (1979-1983)**
- **Series 5. Clippings and Publicity (1979-1985)**

### Collection inventory

**Series 1: Newsletter**

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**Series 2: Correspondence**

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**Series 3: Campaigns and Projects**

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<td>Referendum Organizing Committee records: Lists</td>
<td>1980 April-Nov.</td>
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<td>Referendum Organizing Committee records: Mailings and press releases</td>
<td>1980 Nov.-1981 April</td>
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<td>1982 Referendum</td>
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Administrative information

Additions to the Collection

Approximately fifty boxes of material was added to the initial five box collection in 2008.

Provenance


Processing Information

Processed by Linda Seidman, January 1986.

Acknowledgments

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Cite as: Traprock Peace Center Records (MS 80). Special Collections and University Archives, University of Massachusetts Amherst Libraries.

Search terms

Subjects

- Antinuclear movement--Massachusetts--Deerfield--History--

Names

- Traprock Peace Center--Archives.
Sources.
- Deerfield (Mass.)--Social conditions--Sources.
- Nonviolence--Massachusetts--Deerfield--History--Sources.
- Nuclear disarmament--History--Sources.
- Pacifists--Massachusetts--Deerfield--Political activity --
  History--Sources.
- Political activists--Massachusetts--Deerfield--History--
  Sources.

GENRE TERMS
- Posters.