

# *In Sisterhood:* The Women's Movement in Pittsburgh



*an oral history multimedia project*

## **Executive Summary**

Pittsburgh has a long history of producing entrepreneurs, philanthropists, artists, and musicians. What is less well known is that the region was also the birthplace of some influential leaders of the women's movement and was home to several pioneering feminist organizations during the latter part of the 1900s. **In Sisterhood: The Women's Movement in Pittsburgh** is an oral history and multimedia project designed to promote a deeper understanding and appreciation of this inspiring aspect of the region's history and to highlight how progress was achieved through the hard work and determination of a diverse group of local grassroots activists. A related project, called **Bridge Builders**, explores the synergistic nexus between the civil rights and women's movements in Pittsburgh during the 1960s and 1970s.



Photo from Brenda Frazier's collection



Photo by Dino DiStefano

Our collection of oral histories, recorded on digital video to capture participants' expressions as well as their gestures, will be donated to the University of Pittsburgh Library Archive where they will be available to scholars as well as the general public interested in regional and national history, when the project is completed. Our multimedia exhibits, suitable for installations in galleries, museums, universities and public spaces, feature a portrait gallery of the diverse group of local activists, videos about successful efforts to break down barriers to equality, period photos and ephemera.

Patricia Ulbrich, Ph.D. is director and producer. She is a progressive social scientist, film student and visiting scholar in women studies at the University of

Pittsburgh. For more than three decades, Dr. Ulbrich's research has focused women's issues, including how individuals' race, class and gender shape their life chances. She co-founded the Women and Girls Foundation of Southwest Pennsylvania and serves on the board of Pittsburgh Action Against Rape. Other team members include: Dino DiStefano, sound recordist and documentary photographer; Mia Boccella Hartle, videographer and editor; Two Girls Working, multimedia artists; and Jenny Wolsk Bain, webmaster.



Photo by Dino DiStefano