

The New York Public Library
Manuscripts and Archives Section

BREATHE AGAIN (Bay Ridge Ecological Action
Towards a Healthier Environment.)
Records, 1971-1974

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Main Entry: Breathe Again (Bay Ridge Ecological Action Towards A Healthier Environment).

Title and Inclusive Dates: Records, 1971-1974.

Size: .08 Linear Feet (1/2AB)

Access: No restrictions; collection in good condition.

Source: Gift of Robert Adamski July 31, 1990.

Historical Statement: Breathe Again (Bay Ridge Ecological Action Towards a Healthier Environment), was a small grassroots environmentally concerned citizen's group located in and acting within Bay Ridge, Brooklyn. The group's primary goal was to alert individuals to recycling, waste disposal and clean air issues within their community.

Description: Records of Breathe Again include membership lists and minutes inclusive from January, 1971-April, 1972, as well as publicity releases, photographs, and notices of the group's activities. General correspondence includes letters to and from Jacob Javits, James Buckley, Robert F. Kelly and Pete Seeger. From 1972 until 1974 minutes and correspondence reflect that Breathe Again's activities were picked up and continued by the Brooklyn Environmental Coalition.

Historical Statement

Breathe Again was a small environmentally concerned citizen's group located in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn. It was active from January, 1971 until around April, 1972. "Breathe" is an acronym for Bay Ridge Ecological Action Towards a Healthier Environment. This group was part of a larger organization called the Brooklyn Environmental Coalition which acted as an umbrella for several smaller community groups. The smaller groups held their own meetings, and kept their own minutes and membership records. They sent a representative to the umbrella organization's meetings or functions.

Breathe Again concentrated its efforts on waste disposal, recycling of tins and paper and improving bicycle paths in the Bay Ridge neighborhood. In an attempt to make the individual citizen aware of his or her communities environmental problems, members publicized their activities through local newspapers. The group's monthly meetings were open to anyone who wished to attend and become active. They participated, as a group, in Earth Day, 1970.

Breathe's membership remained low throughout their two year's existence. Meetings ceased in April, 1972. Correspondence continues with the Brooklyn Environmental Coalition between interested members and citizens until 1974. It is assumed that Breathe Again was absorbed by the larger group by that date.

Scope and Content

Included in the records of Breathe Again are minutes of from January, 1971 until April, 1972. There are names and addresses of the membership and a mailing list of other environmental agencies. There is correspondence between group members and letters to other environmental groups. The most lively of these are written to and received from Breathe Again's umbrella organization, Brooklyn Environmental Coalition.

Breathe Again members wrote letters to senators and congressmen advocating ecological awareness. Specifically, there are suggestions of government agencies use of recycled paper and a campaign to restore a community bicycle path. There are, in the collection, photographs of waste sites which were taken by members.

Breathe's membership included an editor of the local newspaper, The Home Reporter and Sunset News. There are many publicity releases from this publication and others which report of the group's activities. There is one issue of Live for Life, a publication of the Brooklyn Environmental Coalition.

There is no definitive ending to Breathe Again after its last meeting of April, 1972. The organization called Brooklyn Environmental Coalition continues to report its own activities until June, 1974.

Arrangement Note

There was little logic to the order of the collection as it was received. It has been rearranged in two series: Minutes, reports, announcements and membership lists; and general files (chronological.)

Condition Note

The collection was found to be in good condition. With the exception of newsprint, these records needed little conservation. Newspaper clippings have been photocopied onto acid-free paper, and the originals discarded.

Related collections in the Manuscripts and Archives Section

Citizens for a Quieter City Records
Environmental Action Coalition Records
National Association for Audubon Societies Records
Outdoor Cleanliness Association Records

Container List

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	1	Minutes; objectives of organization; membership and mailing lists; records and announcements.	January 1971 - April, 1972.
1	2	General files; letters to members; photographs; letters to congressmen.	January 1971 - Dec . 1971.
1	3	General files; letters from Brooklyn Environmental Coalition.	January 1972 - June , 1974.