

## **Sally Roesch Wagner**

An organizer of Daughters of the American Revolution II, a group of women associated with California State University, Sacramento (then Sacramento State College) in 1968. DAR II was involved in direct action, such as a protest at a beauty pageant and bridal fair and organizing on campus. Out of this group the women's studies program at California State University, Sacramento, evolved, as well as a day care center. In 1969, Wagner taught her first women's studies course, Introduction to the Women's Movement. In the next few years, she developed others, including Women in Psychology; Mother, Woman, Person; Violence Against Women; The Politics of Female Sexuality; and Feminist Theory. "Battles with the administration were especially brutal," Wagner recalls. "We were perceived as dangerous, out of control women who presented a real threat to the stability of the college." Wagner participated in sit-ins and a month long occupation of the campus after Kent State and Jackson State (1970), and was part of an anti-war group, the 7:00 Coalition, which published a newspaper, The Capitol Outrage, out of her home. In 1971, Wagner served on the cultural affairs committee of the first International Women's Day celebration, helping to bring a number of speakers to campus. In the summer of 1973, Wagner met her mother's friend, Matilda Jewell Gage, whose grandmother, Matilda Joslyn Gage, had been an early suffragist. Fascinated by Gage's history, Wagner applied to the History of Consciousness Program at the University of California, Santa Cruz, to study the life of Gage, who had been part of the National Woman Suffrage Association leadership with Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Wagner graduated in 1978, one of the first two women in the country to receive doctorates for work in women's studies. Wagner founded the Matilda Joslyn Gage Foundation in Fayetteville, NY, to bring Gage back to memory. Wagner, who has two children, earned her B.A. (1969) and M.A. (1974) from California State University, Sacramento, and her Ph.D. from the University of California, Santa Cruz (1978).

Archives: Special Collections, California State University,  
Sacramento. (ABS)