

Caroline Canafax papers, 1943-2001

Overview of the Collection

Creator	Canafax, Caroline
Title	Caroline Canafax papers
Dates	1943-2001 (inclusive) 1943 2001
Quantity	1.21 cubic feet (2 boxes)
Collection Number	5272 (Accession No. 5272-001)
Summary	Papers of a Seattle, Washington peace activist
Repository	University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections Special Collections University of Washington Libraries Box 352900 Seattle, WA 98195-2900 Telephone: 206-543-1929 Fax: 206-543-1931 speccoll@uw.edu
Access Restrictions	Open to all users.
Languages	English, Chinese, French
Sponsor	Funding for encoding this finding aid was partially provided through a grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities

Biographical Note

Caroline Isabel Canafax is a Seattle peace activist. She was born and raised in Seattle, Washington. Her parents, Meyer A. and Jane Dinkelspiel Newberger, were prominent members of the Seattle Jewish community. Canafax received her B.A. in sociology in 1943 and her M.A. in education, with a speciality in early childhood special education, in 1958 from the University of Washington. In the 1960s Canafax was hired to teach in the Head Start Program, and went on to teach elementary education for more than 20 years in the Seattle area. She married Leo Canafax in the late 1940s, and had two children and four granddaughters.

Canafax's strong political convictions caused problems for her budding teaching career when she was blacklisted during the McCarthy witch hunts of the 1950s and 1960s. Undeterred, she participated in several organizations and movements, most notably as a key member of the Seattle Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, for which she served as international vice-president and editor of the *Pacific Vision* newsletter. Canafax also rallied support for the Committee to Free Morton Sobell, an organization dedicated to freeing Morton Sobell from his 30-year sentence for atomic espionage in 1953 in collaboration with Julius and Ethel Rosenberg. Canafax also participated in Seattle Women Act for Peace and the Abe Keller Peace Education Fund, toured Europe to advocate for peace, and wrote newspaper editorials on the subject.

Content Description

Papers of Caroline Canafax include correspondence, speeches, newspaper clippings, and two photographs, as well as several editions of the *Pacific Vision* newsletter, papers related to the Christians for Disarmament tour of Denmark and West Germany, along with a taped commentary regarding her experiences on the tour; miscellaneous items related to the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom; and drafts and notes for the Abe Keller Peace Education Fund. Of particular interest are papers related to the McCarthy-era Rosenberg-Sobell espionage case and the resulting activist movement to free Morton Sobell from prison. These papers include correspondence with both the national and Seattle Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell, press releases, writings, memoranda, reports, resolutions, worksheets, newspaper clippings and a photograph. Other major correspondents in the papers include Helen Sobell and John Caughlan, an attorney and civil rights leader in Seattle.

Use of the Collection

Restrictions on Use

Creator's literary rights transferred to the University of Washington Libraries.

Administrative Information

Arrangement

Arranged in 4 series:

- Personal papers, 1943-2000

- Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Seattle Branch records, 1962-2001

- Abe Keller Peace Education Fund records, 1998-1999

- Seattle Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell records, 1952-1988

Acquisition Information

Donated by Caroline Canafax in 2001.

Processing Note

Processed by A. Sinclair Lindsey in 2005.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Personal Papers, 1943-2000

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
1/1	General Correspondence	1983, 1995, 1997
1/2	Speeches and Writings	1987-2000, undated
1/3-4	Speeches and Writings of Others Authors include Dr. Giovanni Costigan and the Honorable John Main Coffee.	1943-1998
1/5	Conference Papers: Pacific Networking Conference, Vancouver, British Columbia	1994
1/6	Newsletters	1955-1998
1/7	Photographs Contains one photograph of Caroline Canafax, and one printed color image of Canafax in a group.	undated
Subject Files		
Box/Folder		
1/8	Koppel, Anci	2000, undated
1/9	Kurose, Aki	1997-2000, undated
1/10	Shallit, Claire Robinson	1998, undated
Box/Folder		
1/11	Drawing	
1/12	Ephemera	1948-1998, undated
1/13	Clippings	1956-1983, undated

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Seattle Branch Records, 1962-2001

Container(s)	Description	Dates
<i>Box/Folder</i>		
1/14	General Correspondence	1983, 1990, 1997
1/15	Speeches and Writings	1983, undated
	Newsletters	
<i>Box/Folder</i>		
1/16-18	<i>Pacific Vision</i>	1988, 1992-1999, 2001
1/19	Women's International League for Peace and Freedom	1993-2001
<i>Box/Folder</i>		
1/20	Conferences and Conventions	1999
	Subject Files	
<i>Box/Folder</i>		
1/21a	Christians for Disarmament Tour of Denmark	1983
1/21b	Christians for Disarmament Tour of Denmark--Tape Recorded Commentary	1983
1/22	Seattle Women Act for Peace	1962, undated
<i>Box/Folder</i>		
1/23	Ephemera	1983, 1993, undated
1/24	Clippings	1996

Abe Keller Peace Education Fund Records, 1998-1999

Box-folder1/25

Contains minutes, correspondence, ephemera, articles of incorporation, writings, committee lists and related material.

Seattle Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell Records, 1952-1988

Container(s)	Description	Dates
	Incoming Letters	
Box/Folder		
1/26	Alman, David (Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell)	1955-1956, undated
1/27	Bay Area Council of Sobell Committees	1958, undated
1/28	Harap, Evelyn	1962-1969
1/29	Jacobs, Theodore	1955-1961, undated
1/30	Meeropal, Michael and Robert	undated
1/31	National Committee to Reopen the Rosenberg Case	1974-1982, undated
1/32-33	Sobell, Helen	1955-1969, undated
1/34	Miscellaneous	1953-1967
Box/Folder		
1/35	Outgoing Letters	1958-1975
1/36	General Correspondence of John Caughlan	1957-1958
1/37	Memoranda	1954-1967, undated

Container(s)	Description	Dates
1/38	Reports	1955-1962, undated
1/39-41	Speeches and Writings of Others	1953-1966, undated
1/42	Pamphlets and Reprints	1956-1964, undated
1/43	Notes	undated
	Newsletters	
Box/Folder		
1/44	Rosenberg-Sobell	1954-1975
1/45	Miscellaneous	1953-1988
Box/Folder		
1/46	Financial Records	1957-1968
1/47-48	Press Releases: Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell	1952-1963, undated
1/49	Petitions	1958, undated
1/50	Schedules and Itineraries of Morton and Helen Sobell and others	undated
1/51	Resolutions	undated
1/52-53	Court Papers	1955, undated
1/54	Worksheets	1956-1958, undated
1/55	Photograph One 8" x 10" photograph of Helen Sobell placing flowers at the grave of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg.	undated

Container(s)	Description	Dates
2/1-3	Ephemera	1953-1978, undated
2/4-5	Clippings	1956-1988
2/6	Miscellany	undated

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Disarmament--Societies, etc
Pacifists--Washington (State)--Seattle--Archives

Personal Names :

Canafax, Caroline--Archives
Sobell, Helen
Sobell, Morton

Form or Genre Terms :

Audiotapes
Minutes

Occupations :

Pacificists

Other Creators :

Corporate Names :

Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell
(creator)
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. Seattle Branch
(creator)

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Personal Papers/Corporate Records (University of Washington)

2005 (Last modified: 4/12/2018)



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