

# Esther Altshul Helfgott papers, 1970-2008

## Overview of the Collection

<b>Creator</b>	Helfgott, Esther Altshul
<b>Title</b>	Esther Altshul Helfgott papers
<b>Dates</b>	1970-2008 (inclusive) 1970 2008
<b>Quantity</b>	13.11 cubic feet
<b>Collection Number</b>	2675
<b>Summary</b>	Writings, correspondence, course materials, clippings, newsletters, ephemera, research files, and other papers of Esther Helfgott, a poet and Jewish feminist in Seattle, Washington
<b>Repository</b>	<a href="#">University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections</a> Special Collections University of Washington Libraries Box 352900 Seattle, WA 98195-2900 Telephone: 206-543-1929 Fax: 206-543-1931 <a href="mailto:speccoll@uw.edu">speccoll@uw.edu</a>
<b>Access Restrictions</b>	Open to all users, but access to portions of the collection is restricted. Contact Special Collections for details.
<b>Languages</b>	English

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## Biographical Note

Esther Altshul Helfgott was born in 1941 to parents Anna and Iser Helfgott. She received her Ph.D. in history from the University of Washington in 1994. While working on this degree, Helfgott also took classes in poetry and participated in poetry readings that were open to students at the University of Washington. It was this experience, along with her work teaching history at the University of Washington, women's history and journal writing at Seattle Community College, and poetry and other writing classes for North Seattle Community College's Senior Adult Education Program (and at other senior centers) that inspired Helfgott to begin the It's About Time Writer's Reading Series in 1989.

It's About Time provided a platform for anyone in the greater Seattle community to read their poetry or prose in front of an audience. Initially held at the Ravenna-Bryant Senior Center, the series later met at various different locations before finding its permanent home at the Ballard branch of the Seattle Public Library in 2007. The series was held twice a month for the first year, then became a monthly public event that featured different readers and a Writer's Craft talk in addition to an open mic portion.

Helfgott was married to Dr. Abe Schweid, whose battle with and death from Alzheimer's disease in 2010 inspired two of her books: *Dear Alzheimer's: A Caregiver's Diary & Poems* and *Listening to Mozart: Poems of Alzheimer's*. Helfgott is also the author of *The Homeless One: A Poem in Many Voices*, a doctoral dissertation on Jewish feminist poet Irena Klepfisz, and countless poems, articles, and essays.

## Content Description

Writings, correspondence, course materials, clippings, newsletters, ephemera, research files, and other papers related to Esther Helfgott's work with the It's About Time Writer's Reading Series, the women's movement, and Jewish feminism.

## Use of the Collection

### Restrictions on Use

Creator's literary rights not transferred to the University of Washington Libraries.

## Administrative Information

### Arrangement

Organized into 9 accessions.

Accession No. 2675-001, Esther Altshul Helfgott papers, 1970-1976

Accession No. 2675-002, Esther Altshul Helfgott papers,

Accession No. 2675-003, Esther Altshul Helfgott papers, 1970-1980

Accession No. 2675-004, Esther Altshul Helfgott papers, circa 1975-1990

Accession No. 2675-005, Esther Altshul Helfgott papers, circa 1989-1993

Accession No. 2675-006, Esther Altshul Helfgott papers, 1975-1992

Accession No. 2675-007, Esther Altshul Helfgott papers, 1997-1999

Accession No. 2675-008, Esther Altshul Helfgott papers, circa 1972-2000

Accession No. 2675-009, Esther Altshul Helfgott papers, 1977-2008

### Separated Materials

Material Described Separately:

[Anna Helfgott papers \(Mss Coll 6118\)](#)

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

### Accession No. 2675-001: Esther Altshul Helfgott papers, 1970-1976

.28 cubic foot

Scope and Content: Ephemera and bibliographies.

Includes Esther Helfgott activities in the women's movement in Columbus, Ohio and subsequently in Bellingham, Washington.

Restrictions on Access: Open to all users.

Restrictions on Use: Creator's literary rights not transferred to the University of Washington Libraries.

Acquisition Info: Donated by Esther Helfgott, 1/21/1977.

### **Accession No. 2675-002: Esther Altshul Helfgott papers,**

.28 cubic foot

Scope and Content: Ephemera on women's movement.

Restrictions on Access: Open to all users.

Restrictions on Use: Creator's literary rights not transferred to the University of Washington Libraries.

Acquisition Info: Donated by Esther Helfgott, 2/7/1978.

### **Accession No. 2675-003: Esther Altshul Helfgott papers, 1970-1980**

1.08 cubic feet

Scope and Content: Publications, clippings, subject files, bibliographies, ephemera.

Restrictions on Access: Open to all users.

Restrictions on Use: Creator's literary rights not transferred to the University of Washington Libraries.

Acquisition Info: Donated by Esther Helfgott, 12/29/1982.

### **Accession No. 2675-004: Esther Altshul Helfgott papers, circa 1975-1990**

2.00 cubic feet (2 boxes)

Scope and Content: Writings, newsletters, bibliographies, ephemera.

The papers consist primarily of ephemera on women, Jewish women, and Jews in Seattle. One writing describes Seattle Council of Jewish Women, 1900-1910.

Restrictions on Access: Open to all users.

Restrictions on Use: Creator's literary rights not transferred to the University of Washington Libraries.

Acquisition Info: Donated by Esther Helfgott, 1/28/1993.

### **Accession No. 2675-005: Esther Altshul Helfgott papers, circa 1989-1993**

1.63 cubic feet (3 boxes)

Scope and Content: Writings, especially about her feelings during therapy.

Restrictions on Access: Access restricted: For terms of access, contact Special Collections.

Restrictions on Use: Creator's literary rights not transferred to the University of Washington Libraries.

Acquisition Info: Donated by Esther Altshul Helfgott, 3/21/1995.

### **Accession No. 2675-006: Esther Altshul Helfgott papers, 1975-1992**

1.42 cubic feet (2 boxes)

Esther Altshul Helfgott papers, 1970-2008

<http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv37374>

Scope and Content: Bibliographies, subject files, theses and dissertations of others. Papers document Helfgott's research interest in Jewish feminism.

Restrictions on Access: Open to all users.

Restrictions on Use: Creator's literary rights not transferred to the University of Washington Libraries.

Acquisition Info: Donated by Esther Altshul Helfgott, 8/15/1997.

### **Accession No. 2675-007: Esther Altshul Helfgott papers, 1997-1999**

1.63 cubic feet (3 boxes)

Scope and Content: Family correspondence and personal documents, class materials from courses she took at the University of Washington in the 1980's, correspondence with fellow feminists, and publications which include her writings and announcements of her classes and readings. Letters from students in her writing classes, flyers for classes, and publications in which her work has appeared. Also includes a run of the Seattle newsletter, *Wordscape*.

Restrictions on Access: Open to all users.

Restrictions on Use: Creator's literary rights not transferred to the University of Washington Libraries.

Acquisition Info: Donated by Esther Helfgott, 7/25/2000.

### **Accession No. 2675-008: Esther Altshul Helfgott papers, circa 1972-2000 (bulk 1983-2000)**

2.00 cubic feet (2 boxes)

Scope and Content: Writings including teaching and student materials, correspondence, clippings, curriculum vitae, and other materials.

Restrictions on Access: Open to all users.

Restrictions on Use: Creator's literary rights not transferred to the University of Washington Libraries.

Acquisition Info: Donated by Esther Helfgott, 9/4/2003.

### **Accession No. 2675-009: Esther Altshul Helfgott papers, 1977-2008**

2.79 cubic feet (3 boxes)

Scope and Content: Papers related to the It's About Time Writer's Reading Series, which was organized and operated by Esther Helfgott. Includes newsletters, publicity materials, and writings by and correspondence with participants in the reading series. Related to these papers is correspondence with, writings by, and memorial materials for Seattle poet Crysta Casey.

Esther Helfgott's personal papers are also included in this accession. Includes personal and professional correspondence, writings, papers related to her involvement with the Seattle Jewish community, and research related to her dissertation work on Jewish feminist poet Irena Klepfisz, as well as other research on Edith Buxbaum.

Restrictions on Access: Access restricted: For terms of access, contact Special Collections.

Restrictions on Use: Creator's literary rights not transferred to the University of Washington Libraries.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box	Accession	
1	2675-009 It's About Time Writers' Reading Series	1990-2007
1-2	2675-009 Correspondence <u>Restrictions on Access:</u> Restricted.	1977-2007
2	2675-009 Crysta Casey memorial materials	1990-2008
2	2675-009 Academic Writings and Presentations	1970s-1990s
2	2675-009 Seattle Jewish organizations	1980s-1990s
2-3	2675-009 Dissertation research on Irena Klepfisz and Jewish Feminism	1970s-1990s

## Names and Subjects

### Subject Terms :

Feminism--Religious aspects--Judaism--Research  
Feminism--United States  
History--Study and teaching--Washington (State)--Seattle  
Jewish women--Washington (State)--Seattle  
Personal Papers/Corporate Records (University of Washington)  
Women's rights--United States

### Personal Names :

Helfgott, Esther Altshul 1941---Archives  
Klepfisz, Irene

2007 (Last modified: 1/31/2020)



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