

Helen Sauer Brown Papers, 1944-1998

Creator: Brown, Helen Sauer (1923-)

Extent: .5 linear ft.

Location:

Processor: Adrienne Sage, 28 September 2000

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions: None

Usage Restrictions: Copyright of materials created by Helen Sauer Brown was transferred to WLA 28 September 2000.

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Provenance: Helen Sauer Brown donated this collection to the Women and Leadership Archives of the Ann Ida Gannon, BVM, Center for Women and Leadership on July 21, 1999.

Separations: Transferred to the Mundelein College Archives: 19 copies of *The Mundelein College Review*, 1940-1945; volumes 9, 10, & 11 of *Quest* poetry review.

See Also: Mundelein College Archives

Biographical Information

Helen Sauer Brown was born Helen Irene Sauer on February 7, 1923 in Findley, Ohio to parents Joseph Thomas and Mary Sweeney Sauer. Shortly after her birth, her family moved to Cicero, Illinois. She attended high school at Nazareth Academy in La Grange, Illinois, and received her B.A., magna cum laude, in Classics at Mundelein College, Chicago, in 1944. After marrying Thomas Brown and raising nine children, Helen Sauer Brown returned to Mundelein College for her M.A., summa cum laude, in Religious Studies, received in 1970. While a graduate student, she was named an Archdiocese of Chicago Cardinal Meyer Scholar. She served on the Mundelein College Board of Trustees from 1972 to 1979 and 1981 to 1991, and was president of the Alumnae Association from 1966-67.

Ms. Brown dedicated her spare time to volunteerism within the community and church while raising her children. In 1967 she started teaching Religion at Nazareth Academy, where she remained for five years. She served as President of a religious education consulting service called Religious Education Services from 1972 to 1976, offering personnel and program development to local churches, and conducting training programs for teachers of religion. As a pastoral minister, she coordinated church retreats and workshops, and became a reader at St. Francis Xavier Church.

During the 1960s, Ms. Brown traveled to Washington, D.C., as a peace activist, and to Springfield, Illinois as an organizer of the Equal Rights Amendment on behalf of the Illinois Catholic Women. Throughout her life, she has remained dedicated to peace, women's equality, and the teachings of the church.

In the mid-1970s, Helen Sauer Brown became a retail entrepreneur, owning and operating a home furnishings business in La Grange, Illinois. She held positions in several business organizations, including the first woman presidency of the West Suburban Chamber of Commerce, and received the Outstanding Working Woman of Illinois Award in 1993 for her accomplishments. The Community Family Service and Mental Health Association, for which Ms. Brown served as President of the Board, hired her as Director of Resource Development, a position she held through the mid-1990s. She was involved in the fund-raising of this organization as a certified fund-raising executive. In honor of her great lifetime achievements, she was named to “Who’s Who in American Women” for 1997-8. Helen Sauer Brown has exemplified a commitment to family, work, community, and church throughout her life of service.

Series Listing

These papers are divided into two series based on Helen Sauer Brown’s arrangement.

Series 1, Personal and Family Papers, 1944-1998, Box 1, includes photographs, wedding and anniversary mementos, award applications, statements on War Tax Resistance and the Equal Rights Amendment, and newspaper clippings. This series gives a good overview of the many activities she pursued throughout her life.

Series 2, Academic Papers, Master’s Degree, 1969-1970, Box 1, contains papers, reports, exams, and class notes written by Helen Sauer Brown during her graduate studies at Mundelein College. Because she pursued Religious Studies for her Master’s degree, the papers within this series reveal many of her thoughts and ideas about religion.

Subjects

Brown, Helen Sauer
Sauer, Joseph Thomas
Sauer, Mary Sweeney
Nazareth Academy
Mundelein College
Peace Activist
Equal Rights Amendment
Illinois Catholic Women
West Suburban Chamber of Commerce
Cicero, IL
LaGrange, IL
Community Family Service and Mental Health Association
War Tax Resistance
Religious Studies

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Loyola University Chicago

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Series 1: Personal and Family Papers, 1944-1998			
1	1	War Tax Resistance Statement,	1972
1	2	Equal Rights Amendment Statement, Written for a national rally in Springfield, Illinois, in which Brown represented the Illinois Catholic Women organization	1976
1	3	Thank-you letter from Carol Frances Jegen, BVM, Regards Peace Studies at Mundelein College. Carol Frances Jegen was a Professor of Graduate Programs in Religious Studies at Mundelein College.	1986
1	4	Notes, regarding Mundelein College Annual Fund, Includes a form letter for soliciting donations, and lists of Mundelein graduates who are potential donors	1988
1	5	<i>Who's Who of American Women</i> - Certificate and Biographical Data Form	1997-1998
1	6	Mother's Day Homily, Given by Helen Sauer Brown at St. Francis Xavier Parish	1994
1	7	Wedding Booklets from Sr. Mary Bernarda, BVM, Used at the Brown's wedding. Sr. Bernarda was Dean of Mundelein College, CA. 1930-1957.	1944
1	8	Satin Wedding Missal Cover from Sr. Mary Donald, BVM, Used at the Brown's wedding. Sr. Donald was Chair of the Classics Department at Mundelein College, and leader of the Liturgical Movement to reform Vatican II.	1944
1	9	Wedding Photo, Helen Sauer Brown,	1944
1	10	Photo, "The Gay 19"- Mundelein College	1944
1	11	Tom Brown's WWII Story, Details Mr. Brown's experience of his plane being shot down by Yugoslavian soldiers and his captivity by them. Based on a tape recording, made for the Brown's 50 th family commemoration.	1995
1	12	Tom and Helen Sauer Brown's 50 th Anniversary Papers: Liturgy, Homily, and Program Booklet,	1994
1	13	Newspaper Articles about Sauer Brown, Announce her receipt of the Outstanding Working Woman Award, and her appointment to the Lyons Township Mental Health Commission	1978, 1993
1	14	"The Oral Herstory of Helen Sauer Brown," by Katie Brown, Written for a class at Boston College by Sauer Brown's granddaughter	1995
1	15	Outstanding Working Woman Award: Application, Recommendations, Acceptance Speech,	1993
1	16	Women of Enterprise Award: Application,	1993
1	17	Flyer, "Day of Reflection for Working Women," Mundelein College, Workshop facilitated by Helen Sauer Brown and others	1981
Series 2: Academic Papers, Master's Degree, 1969-1970			
1	18	"A Study In White Racism," Professor: Sister Mary De Cock, BVM	1970
1	19	"The Diary of a Country Priest," Course: Film Communications, Professor: Sister M. Sullivan, BVM	1970

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1	20	“Précis of Book on the Art of Film,” Course: Modes of Film Communication, Professor: Sister Mary Sullivan, BVM	1970
1	21	“Critique of Bergman,” Course: Modes of Film Communication, Professor: Sister Mary Sullivan, BVM	1970
1	22	“Bureaucracy,” Course: Sociology of Religion 543, Professors: Dr. Russell Barta and Dr. Eloise Thomas	1969
1	23	“The Institutionalization of Religion,” and Book Review, Course: Sociology of Religion 543, Professors: Dr. Russell Barta and Dr. Eloise Thomas	1969
1	24	Final Exam, Sociology of Religion, Professors: Dr. Russell Barta and Dr. Eloise Thomas	1969
1	25	“Reformation, Kant, Schleiermacher,” Course: Theological Method 521, Professor: Sister Anne Carr, BVM	1969
1	26	“Augustine, Anselm, Aquinas,” Course: Theological Method, Professor: Sister Anne Carr, BVM	1969
1	27	“Distinction Between Historical Jesus and Historical Christ,” Course: New Testament, Professor: Marilyn Chapin Massey	1969
1	28	“Summary of Reading: Gerhard Von Rad” Course: Biblical Imagery, Professor: Marilyn C. Massey	1970
1	29	“Theological Implications of the Linguistics in a Comparison of Genesis and the Prologue of the Gospel of St. John,” Course: The Christ Question, Professor: Sister Carol Frances Jegen, BVM	1970
1	30	Course: “Faith and Revelation”- Paper, Bibliography, and Notes, Professor: Dr. Mary Ellen Muckenhirn	1969