

Ruth Dear Papers 1942-2011

Preliminary Finding Aid

Creator: Ruth Stamm Dear

Extent: 7.13 linear feet (9 boxes)

Language: English

Repository: Women and Leadership Archives, Loyola University Chicago. Please contact WLArchives@luc.edu regarding use.

Administration Information

Access Restrictions: None

Usage Restrictions: Copyright for materials created by Ruth Stamm Dear was transferred to the Women and Leadership Archives.

Preferred Citation: Identification of item, date, box #, folder #, Ruth Dear Papers, Women and Leadership Archives, Loyola University Chicago.

Provenance: Ruth Dear donated materials to the WLA in 2015 (WLA2015.08 & WLA2015.17). Additional materials were donated in 2018 by Rima Lunin Schultz (WLA2018.08) and by Dear's niece, Olive Karen Stamm (WLA2018.18).

Processing Information: This collection is unprocessed. Information in this preliminary finding aid was gathered through an initial inventory. Preliminary finding aid created in 2022. Inventory created in 2026.

Separations: None

Biographical History

Ruth Stamm was born January 16, 1914 in New York City to immigrant parents Anna and Simon Stamm. While attending Hunter College, she studied languages and was active in radical student movements. Through this activism, she met George Dear, a student at Princeton University. The couple moved to Chicago in 1937 and married the following year. Dear would live in the Chicago area for the rest of her life.

Dear came to identify as a Ghandi pacifist and took part in one-day strikes influenced by the Oxford Oath. Every Sunday, she joined a small group of peace activists to protest World War II in Chicago's Washington Park Open Forum in a court-ordered free speech area. Her social activism would continue throughout her life with activities focused on peace, racial equality, women's rights, and rights for older people.

Beginning in the 1950s, Dear was part of Circle Pines Center in Michigan, an organization and retreat center that promoted peace, social justice, environmental stewardship, and cooperation. She was active in the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), Women Strike for Peace, and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. In 1963, Dear visited the Soviet Union to attend the World Women's Congress and an international peace meeting with women from North Vietnam. She soon after joined the Chicago Area Draft Resisters (CADRE) and protested the Vietnam War.

Dear moved to Oak Park, Illinois in 1974, where she became active in the local chapter of the War Resisters League. She joined the Gray Panthers to fight for the rights of older Americans and hosted a weekly radio program covering topics related to ageism, women's health, and more. Other organizations in which she participated included Citizens for a Democratic Society, Women Mobilized for Change, and the Chicago Pledge of Resistance.

In 1987, at the age of 73, Dear was jailed while protesting militarism and nuclear proliferation at the Arlington Heights military base.

Dear wrote numerous articles published in the publication of the War Resisters League, *Nonviolent Activist Magazine*, formerly titled *WIN Magazine*. In 2001, she published a memoir, *You Can't Not Do It- The journal of an older activist*.

Dear died March 31, 2017, at the age of 103.

Scope and Content

The Ruth Dear Papers consists of 7.13 linear feet of materials and span the years 1942 to 2011. The bulk of the collection relates to Dear's social activism and the organizations and groups in which she participated. The collection also contains materials documenting Dear's trip to the Soviet Union in 1963. Materials include journals, notebooks, issues of *WIN Magazine*, books, news clippings, correspondence, newsletters, pamphlets, conference materials, speeches, postcards, and photographs.

Subjects:

Civil Rights
Gray Panthers
Humanism
Militarism
Oak Park
Women Mobilized for Change (WMC)

Box	Folder	Title	Dates
1	-	Issues of WIN Magazine: Peace & Freedom Through Nonviolent Actions	1966-1975
2	-	Issues of WIN Magazine: Peace & Freedom Through Nonviolent Actions	1976-1983
3	1	Afghanistan	2001-2003
3	2	Civil Rights Struggle [legal]	1963-1966
3	3	Barbara Deming [legal, photograph]	

*Women and Leadership Archives
Loyola University Chicago*

3	4	Another Mother [for Peace]	
3	5	Arlington [Heights] Action 8/22/1987	
3	6	Arms Bazaar Rosemont 2/19/1979 1978 Rich Source of Orgz'G [legal]	
3	7	Beaver 55 [legal]	
3	8	Chicago & National Corporations: Vietnam War	
3	9	Chicago 15 Research Materials [?] [legal]	
3	10	CDS '67 [Citizens for a Democratic Society] carded [legal]	1967
3	11	Cuba [legal]	
3	12	Feminist Against Militarism Conference September 1981 [legal]	
3	13	Draft Counseling + Conscientious Objectors Vietnam [legal, fragile]	
3	14	[Feminism and Nonviolence]	
3	15	[loose: Bat Mitzvah, news clipping, 2010]	2010
3	16	Dovetales? [by Ruth Dear] [water damage, fragile]	1974
3	17	Humanism [legal]	
3	18	Interviews of Ruth Dear	
3	19	MCMC [Midwest Committee for Military Counseling] + Draft Counseling	
3	20	Metro/West Suburban Peace Coalition (and writings by Ruth Dear for it)	1999
3	21	Israel/Palestine	
3	22	Iraq/M.E. [Middle East]	
3	23	Judaism/Zionism	
3	24	Kosovola/US/NATO War Sources	
3	25	Mississippi Trip: Marjory Collins acct. July 1964	
3	26	Radiation – Fallout (source material for 1995) Test-Ban treaty [legal]	
3	27	Reading Lists	
3	28	Resist/Draft [legal]	
3	29	Rock Island Arsenal June 4, 1984	
3	30	TUC- Options Group (re: Rev. Michelle Bentley + Congregation Meeting [legal]	
3	31	T-Ban [Test Ban Treaty] + Arms Control [legal]	
3	32	WRL [War Resisters League] Michigan Conference + material on N.V. (women, racism, etc.)	1970
3	33	WMC [Women mobilized for Change] [legal]	
3	34	WIN	
3	35	Women and the Draft/Militarism	
3	36	WIL [Women's International League for Peace and Freedom] BULL [bulletins?] and material [legal]	
3	37	WSP [Women Strike for Peace] miscellaneous [legal]	

*Women and Leadership Archives
Loyola University Chicago*

3	38	TUC and Peace Notes	
3	39	Women and Labor et al	
3	40	Book: Ruth Dear Intro, extra articles	
3	41	Miscellaneous Repros [recollections?] (for book)	
3	42	H.E.L.P. prevention [?] [HELP for Imprisoned War Objectors]	
3	43	Hiroshima/Nagasaki [legal]	
3	44	Haiti	
3	45	Older Women and Health	
3	46	HUAC [House Un-American Activities Committee] and WFP/WSP [legal]	
3	47	Health: Gray Panthers, NHS [National Health Service]	
3	48	Haggadahs	
3	49	GP AMA [American Medical Association] action	1974
3	50	Health: Single Payer	
3	51	Gray Panther brochures	
4	1	GP [Gray Panthers] Publicity	
4	2	Greenham/Anti-Nuke	1983
4	3	GT Movements VN	
4	4	Chicago Gray Panthers newsletters 1974-75, 1977	
4	5	Gray Panthers National Convention 10/1977	
4	6	Gray Panthers 1 st National Conference (Chicago) Oct. 1975	
4	7	Government Repression and Civil Rights [legal]	
4	8	Vivian Gurnick: women's liberation (Village Voice)	1969
4	9	"Four of Us"	1971
4	10	Free Street Theatre/Too: Scripts (older people actors)	
4	11	Carded source material [legal]	1985-1989
4	12	NOW [National Organization for Women] awards and interviews	1990
4	13	Partial Recalls	1980-1981
4	14	Carded source material [legal]	1975-1979
4	15	[reviews]	
4	16	"SHALOM" review and talk [?]	
4	17	Personal notes, Personal Reflections and Reactions miscellaneous	
4	18	Letters to editors etc.	
4	19	Talks, workshops 1960-1979 [legal] [dates inaccurate]	
4	20	Talks, workshops 1990- [legal] [dates inaccurate]	
4	21	Moscow WIDF Conference photos, etc. [curling photographs, legal]	1963
4	22	[WIN]	[1970-1972]
4	23	WMC [Women Mobilized for Change] and Spare Rib [legal]	
4	24	Journey Womyn March [Ruth Dear on cover]	1980
4	25	Ruth – TUC Connection [Third Unitarian Church]	
4	26	[Index cards: writings, talks, etc.] [1 of 3]	
4	27	[Index cards: writings, talks, etc.] [2 of 3]	

*Women and Leadership Archives
Loyola University Chicago*

4	28	[Index cards: writings, talks, etc.] [3 of 3]	
4	29	[World Congress of Women Moscow: filmstrip] [1 of 2]	
4	30	[World Congress of Women Moscow: filmstrip] [2 of 2]	
4	31	[VHS tape: Women Mobilized for Change and book: <i>You Can't Not Do It</i> by Ruth Dear]	
4	32	"Housing Integration: Municipal Strategies" Thesis by Kathryn Ann Divine	
4	33	Material for packet [Oak Park] [legal]	
5	1	VMA selections [Village Manager Association]	
5	2	[loose items: Oak Park] [legal]	
5	3	Ideology VMA	
5	4	Oak Park	
5	5	Economic Development	1973
5	6	[loose items: Oak Park]	
5	7	List of Boards and Commissions Village of Oak Park	1984
5	8	Rima [Lunin Schultz] In Fact list (ad) Jean	
5	9	Screening list	1984
5	10	PTA PTO Council lists	
5	11	Parking	1977
5	12	[Condensed Interim Report on the Equity Assurance Plan]	1976
5	13	VMA Executive Board Minutes	
5	14	[Binder: Village Manager Association of Oak Park]	
5	15	[Binder: Oak Park President press coverage] [1 of 2]	1989
6	1	[Binder: Oak Park President press coverage] [2 of 2]	1989
6	2	Carded source material	1980-1984
6	3	Carded source material, uncarded source material '90s	
6	4	GP-NL 1978, '80, '92 [Gray Panthers newsletters edited by Ruth Dear]	
6	5	Writings 1970s	
6	6	Carded source materials [fragile]	1970-1974
6	7	Writings 1960s [+ chronos?]	
6	8	"You Can't Not Do It: Perspectives of an Older Activist" by Ruth Dear	1990
6	9	[loose items] [fragile] [1 of 2]	
7	1	[loose items] [fragile] [2 of 2]	
7	2	East Timor (my writings also MWs PC) [?]	
7	3	[loose documents: Oak Park]	
7	4	Women Mobilized for Change (WMC)	
7	5	Circle Pines Center	
7	6	CADRE (Chicago Area Draft Resisters)	
7	7	Dear – writings	
7	8	Chicago WSP/Chicago Women for Peace including HUAC	1962-1963

*Women and Leadership Archives
Loyola University Chicago*

7	9	Hyde Park Cooperative Society, Hyde Park Co-op Federal Credit Union	
7	10	Women Strike for Peace National Information Clearing House	
7	11	Moscow trip	1963
7	12	Marjory Collins, "WSP links fight for peace and Negro rights," <i>National Guardian</i> June 20, 1963	
7	13	[notebook]	
7	14	[4 composition notebooks] [water damage]	
8	1	Violence Against Women	
8	2	[loose items] [1 of 2]	
8	3	[loose items] [2 of 2]	
8	4	OWL [Older Women's League]	
8	5	9/11 [September 11 th , 2001]	
8	6	[Vietnam protests November 13, 14, 15, 16, 1969]	
8	7	Oak Park Peace Coalitions [legal]	
8	8	Organizing for future	
8	9	Jane [abortion] choice/1973 Voices article	
8	10	Ruth: miscellaneous writings, talks, etc.	
8	11	Geriatric Retreats Talks (university of Chicago Medical Center)	1995-1996
8	12	Quote from Sacco-Vanzetti poster	
8	13	Reviews by Ruth Dear	
8	14	Peace Notes TUC/NL	
8	15	Interviews	
8	16	Women	
8	17	M.E. [Islam/Israel]	
8	18	[loose items] [legal]	
8	19	Nukes	
8	20	Talk, workshops	1980-1989
8	21	[loose items]	
8	22	[SJCS (Secular Jewish Community and School)]	
8	23	Folkshul 4 th Grade	
8	24	Secular Jewish Curriculum	
8	25	Folkshul Curriculum 5 th Grade	
8	26	[loose: education/Bible publications]	
8	27	Sunday School 5 + 6 grade class October 17, 2010	
8	28	[loose: Secular Jewish School] [1 of 2]	
8	29	[loose: Secular Jewish School] [2 of 2]	
8	30	Folkshul Second Grade Making Time	
8	31	Michelle Brode, Fourth Grade Curriculum	2007-2008
8	32	Folkshul First Grade: Living Our Values	
8	33	Secular School First-Second grade teacher	
8	34	Folkshul Grade 6	
8	35	Adult Education Victor Mirelman Oct. 3, 2010	

*Women and Leadership Archives
Loyola University Chicago*

8	36	Folkshul is not Neutral to God	
8	37	Folkshul Grade 7	
8	38	Folkshul of Philadelphia: Curriculum Grades Pre-K through 9 th 7/5/2010	
8	39	Folkshul Curriculum Third Grade	
8	40	Folkshul	
8	41	Seth and Gilbert [binder]	
9	1	Ruth Dear 12/1/92-4/11/93 [journal, composition notebook]	
9	2	Ruth Dear 4/12/93-8/4/93 [journal, composition notebook]	
9	3	Ruth Dear 6/3/91-12/9/91 [journal, composition notebook]	
9	4	Ruth Dear 12/12/91-6/3/92 [journal, composition notebook]	
9	5	Ruth Dear 6/12/92-11/30/92 [journal, composition notebook]	
9	6	R. Dear Journal 2/12/00-12/12/01 [journal, composition notebook]	
9	7	R. Dear 4/2/99-2/4/00 [journal, composition notebook]	
9	8	R. Dear 6/24/98-3/29/99 [journal, composition notebook]	
9	9	Ruth Dear 11/28/90-5/20/91 [journal, composition notebook]	
9	10	R. Dear 11/14/96-5/6/97 [journal, composition notebook]	
9	11	R. Dear 12/24/95-6/13/96 [journal, composition notebook]	
9	12	R. Dear 6/15/96-11/13/96 [journal, composition notebook]	
9	13	R. Dear 5/7/97-11/11/97 [journal, composition notebook]	
9	14	R. Dear 11/15/97-6/22/98 [journal, composition notebook]	
9	15	Ruth Dear 2/3/03-12/31/06 [journal, composition notebook]	
9	16	Ruth Dear 12/15/01-6/30/03 [journal, composition notebook]	
9	17	"Insights & Reflections" notebooks, 2010-2011	
9	18	Nature Notes notes from gdn [garden] designs (org'g [?] fn Earth Day/92) '71-'76 [small spiral notebook]	
9	19	[small binder]	
9	20	Personal Diary [small notebook]	1985-1987
9	21	Ruth Dear 5/13/1987-3/15/89 [journal, small notebook]	
9	22	Ruth Dear 8/30/89-11/26/90 [journal, small notebook]	
9	23	Ruth Dear Yugoslavia 5/16/88-6/4/88 [journal, small notebook]	
9	24	Ruth Dear Eldenhortel [?] to B.I. 7/30/86-8/22/86 [travel journal, small notebook]	
9	25	[loose small notebook pages of notes, stapled]	1980-1982
9	26	Cairo U. F. [audiocassette]	1972
9	27	Women Against Militarism Conf. 12-4-80 [audiocassette]	
9	28	MC - YWCA 3/7/?	
9	29	PM 12/2 Cmr [?] W. Mrs. Fowler [?] (Cairo) [audiocassette]	
9	30	Cairo U. F. [audiocassette] 12/2/72	
9	31	Ruth Dear [VHS tape] 4/28/99	
9	32	Ruth Dear correspondence [photographs]	
9	33	Ruth Dear correspondence	1998

*Women and Leadership Archives
Loyola University Chicago*

9	34	Typed copies of interviews, etc. [legal]	
9	35	Moscow trip notes [Congress of Women]	
9	36	[loose items: Moscow trip]	
9	37	Copies of Ruth's letters [see cover for details]	
9	38	Moscow trip [legal, photographs]	1963
9	39	WIDF Moscow Conf. - pix, passes, etc. [photographs]	
9	40	Journal Carbons of First Draft [1 of 2]	
9	41	Journal Carbons of First Draft [2 of 2]	
9	42	WINs W. [?] Ruth's Writings [1 of 2] [see photocopy of sticky note on box]	1968-1972
9	43	WINs W. [?] Ruth's Writings [2 of 2] [legal, photograph]	1968-1972