

**The New York Public Library - Stephen A. Schwarzman Building
Manuscripts and Archives Division**

Guide to the

Donald S. Harrington papers

1936-2000 (bulk 1953-1982)

MssCol 1328

Compiled by Leslie Reyman, July 2009

Summary

Creator: Harrington, Donald Szantho

Title: Donald S. Harrington papers, 1936-2000 (bulk 1953-1982)

Size: 246.71 linear feet (289 boxes)

Source: Donated to New York Public Library by Donald S. Harrington

Abstract: Donald S. Harrington, 1914-2005, was the Minister of the Community Church of New York, a Unitarian Universalist congregation, from 1944-1982. He also served as president of the United World Federalists, and as chairman of the Liberal Party of New York, 1966-1982. His papers consist of correspondence, sermons and other writings, topical files, estate and financial papers, and miscellaneous printed material reflecting Harrington's religious and political activities.

Access: Advance notice required. Apply at <http://www.nypl.org/mssref>

Preferred citation: Donald S. Harrington Papers, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library.

Related collections

Charles Ellsworth Goodell Papers, 1950-1979. Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

Liberal Party of New York State Records, 1936-1975. Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

Norman Thomas papers, 1904-1967, bulk (1933-1967). Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

Creator history

Donald S. Harrington, 1914-2005, was the Minister of the Community Church of New York, a Unitarian Universalist congregation, from 1944-1982. He was born July 11, 1914 in Newton, Massachusetts and graduated from the University of Chicago. He was ordained in 1939, serving his first church, the People's Liberal Church on Chicago's South Side.

In 1939 he married fellow seminary student, Vilma Szantho. It was said that Vilma was the first woman ordained in Central Europe. The couple had two children; David, of Santa Fe, NM and Loni Hancock. Vilma died in 1982. Harrington remarried in 1984 to Aniko Szantho, Vilma's niece. Aniko was also an ordained Unitarian minister.

Harrington was among the founders of the American Committee for Africa, and was an early opponent of the Vietnam War. But he is also known for his ties to the Liberal Party of New York.

Through his involvement with the Liberal Party, he came in contact with many prominent politicians, including: John V. Lindsay, Charles E. Goodell, Jacob K. Javits, Hugh L. Carey and Mario M. Cuomo. In 1966 he was Franklin D. Roosevelt Jr.'s running mate for governor. In 1970 he briefly ran for Governor on the Liberal Party ticket, but deferred to the Democrat candidate, Arthur J. Goldberg. He was the Chairman of the Liberal Party, 1966-1982.

He was also the President of the United World Federalists. The movement brings together organizations and individuals which support the establishment of a global federal system. Many global institutions with plenary constitutional power would then be accountable to the citizens of the world. With international authority divided among these separate global agencies.

Harrington died September 16, 2005 in Romania, where he had been living.

Scope and content note

The collection consists of correspondence, estate and financial papers, and miscellaneous printed material reflecting Harrington's religious and political activities. General correspondence, 1936-1989, contains information concerning religious matters including the Community Church of New York and the Unitarian Universalist Association; and political affairs such as Harrington's work with the United World Federalists, the Liberal Party of New York and the New York State Constitutional Convention of 1967. Handwritten and typescript copies of his sermons are present along with the research materials used in their creation. Sermon topics include war, politics, poverty, segregation and race relations, sexuality/gender issues, and nuclear arms. The collection also contains estate and financial papers, and miscellaneous printed material including a topical file of print and near-print ephemera.

Arrangement

The Donald S. Harrington papers are organized into the following series:

- Series I: General correspondence, 1936-2000
- Series II: Sermons, 1939-1982
- Series III: Other writings, undated
- Series IV: Topical files, circa 1980-1982
- Series V: Memorials/Funerals, 1966-1980
- Series VI: Miscellaneous material, 1948-2000

Key terms

Subjects

Constitutional conventions -- New York (State)
Federal government
Unitarianism

Names

Community Church (New York, N.Y.)
Harrington, Donald Szanthe
Harrington, Vilma S.
Liberal Party of New York State
New York (State). Constitutional Convention (1967)
Unitarian Universalist Association
United World Federalists (U.S.)

Special formats

Sermons

Occupations

Clergy
Political activists

Places

New York (State) -- Politics and government --
1951-
United States -- Religion -- 1901-1945
United States -- Religion -- 1945-

Container list

Series I: General correspondence, 1936-2000

Correspondence to and from Donald Harrington, 1936-2000. The majority of the correspondence illustrates the life of a minister and his congregation: birth, death, marriage, sermons, committees, events in the church, and outside events that the church was involved with. There are also topical issues that the correspondent was asked to get involved with, including political issues. Also included are scattered financial materials.

Among some of the people that the correspondence reflect include; Dr. Wirt A. Warren, Paul Blanchard, Dr. Edwin Borchard, L.J. Botwin, Kathleen Cleveland, Maurice A. Dawkins, Katherine Dovacs Dohanos, Dr. Robert Burns Dunn, Dr. Frederick May Eliot, James T. Farrell, Noel H. Field, John T. Flynn, Alexander Gabriel, Dr. Eugene Gonda, Charlotte S. Gross, Miriam Gold, George Gordon, William Green, Rudolph Halley, John Haynes Holmes, Harry Paxton Howard, Rev. Clarence V. Howell, Homer Jack, James Avery Joyce, Samuel Krompsh, Jack and Grais Laws, John Lindsay, Milton Mayer, Charles McCormick, Dr. Rev. Dale DeWitt, George E. Moesel, Dominick F. Pachella, Victor J. Papenek, Dr. Daniel A. Poling, Mrs. Henriette Posner, Blossom Reich, Ralph C. Roper, A. William Saar, Edward Santon, Harold S. Sloan, Norman Thomas, Linscott Tyler,

Some of the organizations in the correspondence series include: All Nations Fellowship Alliance, American Unitarian Association, Antioch College , Committee of Inquiry into Forced Labor, Community Hostel, Constitutional Convention 1948, Fellowship of Reconciliation, Friends of Democracy, Friends of Russian Freedom, India Society of America , Institute of International Relations, Institute on Intercontinental Studies, Japan International Christian University, League of Women Voters, Murray Hill Association NYC, National Film Cooperative, Peoples Liberal Church of Chicago, United Commission on World Order, United Service Committee, United World Federalists, Worker's Defense League and others.

- b.1 1936-1943
- 1944-1946
- b.1 A-G
- b.2 H-U
- b.3 V-Z
- 1947-1950
- b.3 A-F
- b.4 G-O
- b.5 P-V
- b.6 W-Z
- 1950-1951
- b.6 A-P
- b.7 Q-Z
- A-Y, 1951-1952
- 1952-1953
- b.8 A-U
- b.8A V-W and A-B
- Community Church
- b.9 ca., 1946-1950
- b.10 ca., 1951-1953

Series I: General correspondence (cont.)

1953-1954

b.11 A-Q

b.12 R-Z

1954-1955

b.13 A-Ha

b.14 Hi-Z

1955-1956

b.14 A-Ad

b.15 Ae-Fo

b.16 Fr-Mi

b.17 Mo-U

b.18 V-Z

1957-1959

b.19 C-J

b.20 L-U

1959-1960

b.20 A-American Conference

b.21 American Unitarian-Fi

b.22 M

b.23 Mc-Sh

b.24 So-Z

b.25 1956-1959

1960-1961

b.26 Aua-Hum

b.27 Hud-UUA

b.28 V-Z

b.97 M-R

b.98 S-Z

1961-1962

b.28 A-Af

b.29 Ai-I

b.30 J-So

b.31 So-Z

1962-1963

b.31 A-Con

b.32 Con-G

b.33 H-R

b.34 S-Un

b.35 Un-Z

Series I: General correspondence (cont.)

1963-1964

- b.35 A-Fr
- b.36 Fu-M
- b.37 N-UUA
- b.38 UUA-Z

1964-1965

- b.39 A-C
- b.40 D-L
- b.41 M-Sane
- b.42 Sch-Va
- b.43 Vi-Z

1965-1966

- b.43 A-Co
- b.44 Com-He
- b.45 Hi-O
- b.46 P-United
- b.47 United-Z

1966-1967

- b.47 A-Com
- b.48 Conv-K
- b.49 L-R
- b.50 S-Z

1967-1968

- b.51 A-C
- b.52 Com-Mi
- b.53 Mo-V
- b.54 W-Z

1968-1969

- b.54 A-B
- b.55 C
- b.56 D-K
- b.57 L-Q
- b.58 R-U
- b.59 V-Z

1969-1970

- b.59 A-B
- b.60 A-Com. Church
- b.61 Com. Church -I
- b.62 J-N

Series I: General correspondence (cont.)

1969-1970 (cont.)

b.63 O-V

b.64 W-Z

1970-1971

b.64 A-Com

b.65 Community Church-K

b.66 L-P

b.67 Q-Z

b.68 United World Federalists

b.69-70 Liberal Party, 1971

New York State Constitutional Convention, 1967

b.71 A-He

b.72 Hea-Speeches

b.73 T-Z and Doolittle Papers

1971 Sep -1972 Aug

b.75 A-Community Church

b.76 D-K

b.77 L-S

b.78 T-Z

1972 Sep-1973 Aug

b.79 A-Community Church

b.80 Community News-I

b.81 K-R

b.82 S-Z

1973 Aug-1974 Aug

b.83 A-Commi

b.84 Commu-I

b.85 J-Res

b.86 Res-Z

1974 Sep-1975 Aug

b.87 A-C

b.88 D-N

b.89 O-Ua

b.90 Un-Z

1975 Sep-1976 Aug

b.91 A-E

b.92 F-Q

b.93 R-Z

1977-1978

b.94 A-Community Church

Series I: General correspondence (cont.)

1977-1978 (cont.)

- b.95 Community Church-M
- b.96 N-Unitarian Universalist Association
- b.97 UUA-Z

Social Action Committee of the Community Church

- b.99 A-L
- b.100 M-W
- b.101 Minutes,, 1956-1976

1978 Sep-1979 Aug

- b.102 A-De
- b.103 Di-L
- b.104 M-U
- b.105 U-Z

1979 Sep-1980 Aug

- b.105 A-C
- b.106 C
- b.107 C-N
- b.108 O-Z

1980 Sep-1981 Aug

- b.109 A-C
- b.110 C-M
- b.111 M-U
- b.112 U-Z

1981 Sep-1982 Aug

- b.112 A-C
- b.113 C-G
- b.114 G-N
- b.115 N-U
- b.116 U-Z

1982 Sep-1983 Jun

- b.124 A-H
- b.125 H
- b.126 I-Z

1976, Sep-1977 Aug

- b.127 A-C
- b.128 D-Minn
- b.129 Mit-T
- b.130 U-Z

1984-1985

- b.131 A-H

Series I: General correspondence (cont.)

1984-1985 (cont.)

b.132 I-S

b.133 T-Z

b.134-135 Liberal Party correspondence, 1982-1985

1983-1984

b.136 A-G

b.137 H-O

b.138 P-W

b.139 W-Z and estate and financial papers

1985-1986

b.140 A-C

b.139 C-F

b.141 D-P

b.142 L-P

1986-1988

b.144 A-G

b.145 H-S

b.146 S-W

b.147 W-Z

1989

b.148 A-H

b.149 I-T

b.150 T-Z

b.190 1992-2001

Series II: Sermons, 1939-1982

Sermons preached by Donald Harrington, 1939-1982. Each folder contains hand-written copy and typed copy of scripts, notes used in preparation of writing and the church service bulletin. Sermons do not follow the common lectionary.

Sermons from 1939-1949 have the following topics: fear, revolution, Hitler, prayer, poisonous gas, democracy, children, war, the Bible, marriage, R. Tagore, materialism, science and religion, India, Europe and Russia, Japan, free enterprise, education, nuclear bombs, socialized medicine, the Soviet Union, FDR memorial, social security, atomic age, labor unions and pacifists.

Sermons from 1950-1959 have the following topics: economic crisis, Israel, China, prayer, money, motherhood, race relations, Passover, changing sex roles, bombs, salvation, Soviet Union, xxThe Seven Story Mountainxx, sin, Eisenhower, the Cold War, the United Nations, taoism, welfare state, alcoholism, Buddhism, communists, Korea, mental health, Eastern religion, science and religion, creation, truth, Bible, raditation, peace, marriage, freedom, racial integration, India, the Dead Sea Scrolls, forgiveness, Suez crisis, liberals, Pope Pius XII, American Indians, and Soviet/American relations.

Sermons from 1960-1969 include the following topics: New York State Constitutional Convention, seperation of church and state, hippies, Martin Luther King Jr. memorial service, Israel, Robert F. Kennedy, god vs. evil, the Cold War, Black Power, love and marriage, The Great Society, judgement and forgiveness, sex, urbanization, freedom and responsibility, abortion, the John Birch Society, Parents Without Partners, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Bob Dylan and Folk Music, the Cuban Crisis, Tagore, Berlin Crisis, science and religion, Wm. Shakespere, moral dilemas, American Jews, being born again, Vatican Council, prayer, salvation, Red China and the United Nations, faith vs. belief, Channukah, peace, Albert Schweitzer, Buddhism.

Sermons from 1970-1979 deal with the following topics: friendship, letter writing, democracy, sin, racial integration, American Indians, Japan, China, Korea, Israel, women's liberation, World Peace, United Nations support, elections, Vietnam, homosexuality, good vs. evil, President Nixon and Watergate, President Nixon and detente, God within, racism, saving New York City, meditation, the world economy, religion and science, freedom and morality, death, South Africa, Bible, Black Spirituality, trade unions, Black History, American Indians, Rev. Jim Jones, World Peace.

Sermons from 1980-1984 topics include: liberal religion, Olympics, born again, American Indian, prayer, Moral Crisis, Blacks and other minorities, freedom, peace, Black achievement, election, resurrection, nuclear holocaust, Church vs. State, Central America.

- b.153 1939 Sep 10 - 1943 Jun
- b.154 1943 Sep 12 - 1948 Dec
- b.155 1949 Jan 2 - 1952 Aug 3
- b.156 1952 Sep 28 - 1955 Jun 5
- b.157 1955 Jun 12 - 1957 Dec 31
- b.158 1958 Jan 5 - 1959 Sep 27

Series II: Sermons (cont.)

- b.159 1959 Oct 4 - 1961 Apr 2
- b.160 1961 Apr 2 - 1962 Oct 28
- b.161 1962 Nov 11 - 1964 Apr 19
- b.162 1964 Apr 26 - 1965 Oct 24
- b.163 1965 Nov 7 - 1967 Feb 5
- b.164 1967 May 7 - 1968 June 15
- b.165 1968 Oct 20 - 1969 Dec 21
- b.166 1970 Jan 4 - 1970 Dec 20
- b.166 1971
- b.167 1972 Jan 2 - 1973 May 27
- b.168 1973 Jun 10 - 1974 May 30
- b.169 1974 Jun 16 - 1975 Sep 21
- b.170 1975 Sep 26 - 1976 Jul 11
- b.171 1976 Sep 26 - 1978 Jan 29
- b.172 1978 Feb 3 - 1979 Jul 11
- b.173 1979 Sep 2 - 1981 Jul 5
- b.174 1981 Sep 20 - 1984 May 20

b.175-176a **Series III: Other writings, undated**

Other writings by Donald Harrington. It includes lectures, essays, manuscripts and book and drama reviews. Lectures were given at both political and church-related functions, in addition to addresses made at college campuses. Essays were submitted for publication to various places. Manuscripts are included of books that were proposed to be published. It is unclear whether they were published or not. Book reviews were submitted to various church-related publications. Notes for classes taught are also a part of this series.

Series IV: Topical files, circa 1980-1982

Topical files of things that interested Harrington. Mostly clippings from newspapers, with portions of text underlined with comments. There are also brochures, pamphlets and various other memorabilia. As an example here is a brief list of some topics: John Stienbeck, sterilization, Starr King School, Space Shuttle, students, Sugar Act Amendments, 1971 (South Africa), summer, the Supreme Court. The topics vary widely.

- b.117 A-B
- b.118 B-C
- b.119 C-G
- b.120 G-I
- b.121 I-K
- b.122 L-M
- b.123 M-P
- b.151 A-I
- b.152 J-T
- b.177 Abbott, Francis Ellingwood - Bird watching
- b.178 Birmingham girls' statues - Communal living in NYC

Series IV: Topical files (cont.)

- b.179 Communes - Fellowship
- b.180 Fellowships - Holmes Library
- b.181 Indian Dancer - Meditation
- b.182 Memorial Day - Quakers
- b.183 Quotes - Rustin, Bayard
- b.184 Sabbath - Socialism
- b.185 Solzhenitsyn, Aleksander --Thanatology
- b.186 Thanksgiving - United Church of Christ
- b.187 United Nations - World Association of Federalists

Series V: Memorials/Funerals, 1966-1980

Memorials and funerals preached by Harrington, 1966-1980. Sermon, obit, bulletin and notes from the families of the deceased are included. They are sorted chronologically.

- b.188 1966-1976
- b.189 1977-1980

Series VI: Miscellaneous material, 1948-2000

This includes the following: financial material, estate information, photographs, printed material from various organizations, various correspondence, lawsuits and court cases that Harrington was involved with, information about the Community Church, Unitarian Universalist Association and the World Federalists Association.

The financial material contains bank account information, insurance, stock purchases and retirement accounts and income tax returns. The estate information of Vilma S. Harrington, who died in 1982, contains bank accounts, medical information, income tax returns and correspondence with lawyers. There is also estate information of non-family members. Many parishioners in Harrington's church named him as their executor.

Harrington was also involved in various law suits over the years and some of this material is included. In some of these cases Harrington is a defendant, in others, he is a witness.

Both the Community Church and UUA material concerns information about those organizations. It is mostly published newsletters, magazines, bulletins and other material used in the running of the organizations.

- b.74 American Committee on Africa (Minutes, 1953-1964, pamphlets)
- b.74 Africa publications, undated
- b.74 United World Federalists, New York Metropolitan Committee, undated (3-ring binder)
- b.74 Scrapbook-Kathleen Cleveland artwork, undated
- b.74 John Dewey records, 1952-1953
- b.74 Gould Farm general information, 1959
- b.74 United Word Federalists, minutes, 1948-1956
- b.143 Financial material
contains bank accounts, income tax returns, legal services, stock information, and estates from people outside the family

Series VI: Miscellaneous material (cont.)

- b.143 Estate papers of Vilma S. Harrington, 1982-1984
contains medical records, bank accounts, tax records and materials from lawyers
- b.190 f.1-11 Correspondence, 1992-2000
- b.190 f.12 Arrowhead Cove Association, 2000
- b.190 f.13 Beck, Dr. Hubert Park, 1977-1979
- b.190 f.14 Calendars, 1998-1999
- b.190 f.15 Hancock, Loni, circa 1982
- b.190 f.16 Hungarian language material, undated
- b.190 f.17 Photographs, undated
- b.190 f.18 Reiss, Robert, court documents, 1969-1999
The Community Church of New York, 1952-2000
- b.190 f.19 Development study, 1983
- b.190 f.20 Bruce Southworth sermons, 1998-2000
- b.190 f.21 Newsletter, bulletins, 1999
- b.190 f.22 Agenda, membership, undated
- b.190 f.23 Cynthia Morehouse memorial, 2000, July 22
- b.190 f.24 Minister's Corner, 1952-1953 (photocopies, with essays)
- b.190 f.25 Sermon briefs, 1952-1955
- b.190 f.26 The Transylvanian Village, 1998 (Essay by D. Harrington)
Unitarian Universalists Association, 1999-2000
- b.191 f.1 General information, circa 2000
- b.191 f.2 Church services-national, 1992-1999
- b.191 f.3 UUMA News, 1998-1999
- b.191 f.4 UU Partner Church Council, 1996-1997
- b.191 f.5 Collegium, 2000
- b.191 f.6 European Unitarian Universalists, 1996-2001
- b.191 f.7 First Unitarian Church, Hobart, Indiana, 1973-1974
- b.191 f.8 First Universalist Church of Southold, 2000
- b.191 f.9 Fulfilling the Promise: A Congregational Resource, 1998
- b.191 f.10 Guidebook for U.U. Partner Churches, 1992
- b.191 f.11 Meadville-Lombard Theological School, 2000
- b.191 f.12 North Fork Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 1997-2000
- b.191 f.13 Partner Church News,, 1996-2000
- b.191 f.14 Process Theology Network Newsletter, 1997-1999
- b.191 f.15 UU Retired Ministers and Partners Association, 1998-2000
- b.191 f.16 The Unitarian Church of All Souls,, 1996-1998
- b.191 f.17 Unitarian Universalist Historical Society, 2000
- b.191 f.18 The UU Leader, 1999
- b.191 f.19 The Unitarian Universalist Voice, 1995-1999

Series VI: Miscellaneous material (cont.)

b.191 f.20 World Federalist Association, 1998-1999