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Letha Dawson Scanzoni papers15490646

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Description is written in: English.

Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary

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New York, NY 10027

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URL: <https://library.columbia.edu/locations/burke.html>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary
Creator:	Scanzoni, Letha
Title:	Letha Dawson Scanzoni papers
ID:	15490646
Date [inclusive]:	1963 -- 2019
Physical Description:	7.25 linear feet 7.25 linear feet; 16 boxes and 2 oversized boxes
Physical Description:	2 units 2 website crawls
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	Letha Dawson Scanzoni is an evangelical feminist activist and writer specializing in topics of gender, marriage, sex education, theology, women's subordination, and lesbian and gay rights. She was a founding member of the Evangelical and Ecumenical Women's Caucus (EWC/EEWC) and editor of EEWC Update and the EEWC-CFT website from their inception to her retirement in 2013. The collection contains her research materials, publications, correspondence, and EWC/EEWC administrative and conference materials.

Preferred Citation

Item description, AWTS: Letha Dawson Scanzoni papers, 1963-2019, series #, box #, folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

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Biographical / Historical

Letha Dawson Scanzoni was born in Pittsburgh in 1935 to a mainline Protestant family. She grew in her faith throughout her childhood, experiencing a religious awakening in high school with an evangelical group that led her to a decision to dedicate her life to Christian ministry.

She originally attended Eastman School of Music at University of Rochester (1952-1954) before transferring to the Sacred Music program at the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago (1954-1956). From 1956-1983 she was married to sociologist John Scanzoni, with whom she co-wrote many academic, popular, and Christian articles and books on the sociology of gender, sexuality, and marriage. During this time she also wrote gospel tracts, bible study workbooks, and parenting articles for presses like Union Gospel Press, the Moody Bible Institute, and the American Sunday-School Union. She received her BA in Religious Studies from Indiana University (1972). In 1974, Dawson Scanzoni became one of the founding members of the Evangelical Women's Caucus, a feminist group that grew out of Evangelicals for Social Action. This coincided with the publication of a controversial book authored by Dawson Scanzoni and Nancy Hardesty, *All We're Meant to Be: A Biblical Approach to Women's Liberation*. At EWC national conferences from 1975-1986, she and other members pushed for lesbian inclusion in the organization and a gay rights platform, leading to a factionalization of the Caucus and the creation of the more socially conservative Christians for Biblical Equality in 1986. According to EWC/EEWC members, this conflict was precipitated by the publication of Scanzoni's *Is the Homosexual My Neighbor?* with Virginia Ray Mollenkott in 1978. She remained a dedicated member of EWC (later EEWC and EEWC-CFT) for forty years, organizing conferences, editing the periodical publication *Update*, and managing the website until her retirement in 2013. As of 2023, Scanzoni continues to occasionally write and speak about feminism, Christianity, and LGBTQ+ issues.

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Scope and Contents

The collection contains Scanzoni's research, publications, correspondence, and EWC/EEWC administrative and conference materials from the 1960s-2010s.

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Arrangement

This collection is arranged in 3 series: Series 1: Writings, 1963-2009; Series 2: Evangelical Women's Caucus, 1974-2017; Series 3: EEWC Update and EEWC Website Administration, 1984-2017.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary

3041 Broadway

New York, NY 10027

Telephone: (212) 851-5606

burke@library.columbia.edu

URL: <https://library.columbia.edu/locations/burke.html>

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Onsite storage.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Letha Dawson Scanzoni donated her records to the Archives of Women in Theological Scholarship in 2016. Material was added to the collection in 2018.

Processing Information

When the Burke Library acquired Scanzoni's papers, an attempt was made to maintain the original order she imposed throughout the course of her life as well as the order of the All We're Meant to Be materials that were pre-organized by archivist Ruth Tonkiss Cameron. Folded materials were flattened. Staples, rubber bands, and metal clips were removed and replaced with plastic clips. All materials were placed in acid-free folders and boxes. The collection of The Sunday-School Times and The Sunday Times ranging from 1964-1966 was deaccessioned for inclusion in the Burke Library Periodicals Collection. Included printed books authored by Scanzoni [deaccessioned books] were deaccessioned for inclusion in the Burke Library Collection. Duplicate copies of materials throughout the collection were deaccessioned and shredded. During the original accessioning process in 2016, a shipping box containing a megaphone ordered by library staff was accidentally included in the accessioned lot of eight shipping boxes and one record carton from Scanzoni. The megaphone and box were deaccessioned from the collection during processing. This collection was processed and finding aid created by graduate intern Kit Hermanson under the supervision of Leah Edelman in 2023.

Conditions Governing Use

Some material in this collection may be protected by copyright and other rights. Information concerning copyright, fair use, and reproduction requests can be consulted at Columbia's Copyright Advisory Office.

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Related Materials

Related Materials

AWTS: Nancy A. Hardesty papers, circa 1960 -- 2002, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Related Materials

AWTS: Evangelical and Ecumenical Women's Caucus-Christian Feminism Today Records, circa 1949 -- 2012, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Evangelicalism -- United States -- History
- Feminism -- Religious aspects -- Christianity
- Scanzoni, Letha -- : Archives
- Evangelical & Ecumenical Women's Caucus

Burke Library record group:

Archives of Women in Theological Scholarship (AWTS)

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Collection Inventory

Series 1: Writings, 1963 -- 2006

Physical Description: 4.5 linear feet 4.5 linear feet; 10 boxes and 2 oversized boxes

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This series is open for research.

Arrangement

This series is arranged chronologically by publication.

Scope and Contents

This series contains Scanzoni's research, drafts, publications, and writing-related correspondence from 1963-2009. Materials cover a variety of writing formats, including newspaper articles, gospel tracts, bible study workbooks, sociology textbook entries, journal articles, and full-length manuscripts.

Title/Description	Instances	
Moody Press Correspondence, 1963 -- 1964	box 1	folder 1
The Sunday-School Times, 1963 -- 1967	box 1	folder 2
The Sunday-School Times Correspondence, 1964 -- 1969	box 1	folder 3
Union Gospel Press: Bible Class, 1967 -- 1969	box 1	folder 4
Union Gospel Press: Bible Class, 1970 -- 1971	box 1	folder 5
Union Gospel Press: Bible Class, 1973 -- 1974	box 1	folder 6
Union Gospel Press Correspondence, 1968 -- 1972	box 1	folder 7
American Sunday-School Union Workbooks, 1969	box 1	folder 8
Scripture Press Correspondence, 1967 -- 1970	box 2	folder 1
Scripture Press Correspondence, 1970 -- 1971	box 2	folder 2
Sex Education Research, #1, circa 1965 -- 1970	box 2	folder 3
Sex Education Research, #2, circa 1965 -- 1971	box 2	folder 4
David C. Cook Foundation Senior High Lessons, 1973 -- 1974	box 2	folder 5
POWER/Line Papers, 1970	box 2	folder 6
Frederick Ungar Publishing Co. Correspondence, 1978 -- 1981	box 3	folder 1
Anita Bryant Research, circa 1978 -- 1980	box 3	folder 2

Anita Bryant Research: At Any Cost Manuscript, circa 1978 -- 1980	box 3	folder 3
Virginia Molenkott Research, #1, circa 1978 -- 1980	box 3	folder 4
Virginia Molenkott Research, #2, circa 1978 -- 1980	box 3	folder 5
Virginia Molenkott Research, #3, circa 1978 -- 1980	box 3	folder 6
Drafts and Manuscripts for American Women Writers (1981), 1980	box 3	folder 7
Manuscript 1st ed All We're Meant to Be. Chapters 1-6, 1973	box 4	folder 1
Manuscript 1st ed All We're Meant to Be. Chapters 7-11, 1973	box 4	folder 2
All We're Meant to Be- 1st Paperback and Study Guide, 1975	box 4	folder 3
Study Guide for 1st Paperback Edition, 1975	box 4	folder 4
All We're Meant to Be 2nd Edition - Correspondence, Draft, 1985	box 4	folder 5
All We're Meant to Be 2nd Edition - Draft, 1985	box 4	folder 6
All We're Meant to Be 2nd Edition - Draft, 1985	box 4	folder 7
Nancy Hardesty Writings, circa 1972	box 5	folder 1
Related Article Copies, 1974 -- 2011	box 5	folder 2
Christian Women's Liberation - Draft 1, circa 1968 -- 1973	box 5	folder 3
Manuscript for Evaluation - 1, circa 1968 -- 1973	box 5	folder 4
Manuscript for Evaluation - 2, circa 1968 -- 1973	box 5	folder 5
Manuscript for Evaluation - 3, circa 1968 -- 1973	box 5	folder 6
Reviews of Books by Letha Dawson Scanzoni, 1977	box 5	folder 7
All We're Meant to Be - Listings by Publishers and News, circa 1975	box 5	folder 8
All We're Meant to Be, 1986 edition Galley Proofs, 1986	box 6	
Scope and Contents		
Oversized galley proofs of 1986 edition of All We're Meant to Be published by Abington Press.		
Sexuality (1984) Research, circa 1981 -- 1984	box 7	

Scope and Contents

An accordian folder containing research for Scanzoni's Sexuality (1984) published by Westminster Press. Research is separated by topic and chapter.

Westminster Press Correspondence, 1982 -- 1984	box 8	folder 1
Westminster Press Financial Correspondence, 1984 -- 1995	box 8	folder 2
Sexuality Research and Chapter 1 Draft, circa 1981 -- 1984	box 8	folder 3
Sexuality Draft, circa 1981 -- 1984	box 8	folder 4
Sexuality Permissions and Publicity, 1983 -- 1984	box 8	folder 5
Sexuality Page Proofs, 1984	box 8	folder 6
Sex is a Parent Affair, History and Reviews, 1974 -- 1983	box 9	folder 1
Publisher Correspondence, 1970 -- 1973	box 9	folder 2
Bantam Books Correspondence, 1980 -- 1984	box 9	folder 3
Sex is a Parent Affair Draft, #1, circa 1973	box 9	folder 4
Sex is a Parent Affair Draft, #2, circa 1974	box 9	folder 5
Sex is a Parent Affair Workshop Transcript, 1973-11 -- 1973-12	box 17	folder 1
Criticism of What God Has Joined Together (2004), 2003 -- 2011	box 10	folder 1
Harper's Publishing Correspondence, 2004 -- 2005	box 10	folder 2
Myers and Scanzoni Articles on What God Has Joined Together, 2005 -- 2009	box 10	folder 3
What God Has Joined Together Events, 2005	box 10	folder 4
What God Has Joined Together Correspondence, 2004	box 10	folder 5
What God Has Joined Together Paperback Correspondence, 2006	box 10	folder 6
What God Has Joined Together Draft edited by James Brownson, 2004	box 10	folder 7
What God Has Joined Together Draft edited by Steven Hoogerwerf, 2004	box 10	folder 8
What God Has Joined Together Draft edited by Nancy Hardesty, 2004	box 10	folder 9
Dave Myers Correspondence, 2004 -- 2005	box 10	folder 10
What God Has Joined Together Media and Publicity, 2004 -- 2005	box 10	folder 11
What God Has Joined Together Positive Reviews, 2005 -- 2006	box 10	folder 12

What God Has Joined Together Edits by Eric Brandt, 2004	box 11	folder 1
Gay Marriage and Civil Union Research, 2004	box 11	folder 2
Friends Comments on What God Has Joined Together, 2003 -- 2005	box 11	folder 3
What God Has Joined Together, Chapter 7 Draft, 2004 -- 2007	box 11	folder 4
"Contemporary Challenges for Religion and the Family from a Protestant Woman's Point of View", 1988		

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Series 2: Evangelical Women's Caucus (EWC/EEWC), 1974 -- 2017

Physical Description: 2 linear feet 2 linear feet; 4 boxes

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This series is open for research.

Arrangement

This series is arranged chronologically by event date.

Scope and Contents

This series contains materials related to Scanzoni's involvement in the activities of the Evangelical Women's Caucus (EWC), renamed the Evangelical and Ecumenical Women's Caucus (EEWC), since its inception. The bulk of the series is material related to EWC/EEWC conference planning and attendance, including many materials for the years in which Scanzoni served as planning committee chair, 1980 and 1996. Personal correspondence with other EWC/EEWC members is contained in this collection.

Title/Description	Instances	
Evangelicals for Social Action Thanksgiving Workshop, 1974	box 12	folder 1
Evangelicals for Social Action, 1975 Conference, 1975	box 12	folder 2
EWC First National Conference, 1975	box 12	folder 3
1978 EWC Conference, Binder Contents, 1978	box 12	folder 4
1978 EWC Conference, General, 1978	box 12	folder 5
1978 EWC Conference, Scanzoni Workshops, 1978	box 12	folder 6
1980 Conference Speaker Invitations, 1979 -- 1980	box 12	folder 7
1980 Conference Invited Speaker Responses, 1979 -- 1980	box 12	folder 8
Theodora Gordon Hall Correspondence, 1979 -- 1980	box 12	folder 9
1980 Conference Publicity, 1979 -- 1980	box 12	folder 10

1980 Conference Finances and Admin, 1979 -- 1980	box 12	folder 11
1980 Conference Workshop Schedule Materials, 1980	box 12	folder 12
1980 Conference Activity Responses, 1980	box 12	folder 13
1980 Conference Workshop Descriptions, 1980	box 12	folder 14
1980 Conference Speaker Bio and Workshop Descriptinons, Correspondence, and Notes, 1980	box 13	folder 1
1980 Conference Attendee Folder Contents, 1980	box 13	folder 2
1980 Conference Correspondence, General, 1979 -- 1980	box 13	folder 3
1980 Conference Speaker Correspondence, 1979 -- 1980	box 13	folder 4
Victoria Booth Demarest Correspondence and Writing, 1979 -- 1980	box 13	folder 5
1980 Conference Thank You Notes, 1980	box 13	folder 6
Post-Conference Correspondence, 1980	box 13	folder 7
Thank You Scroll for Letha Scanzoni, 1980	box 18	
EWC Conferences General, 1981 -- 1984	box 13	folder 8
1988 EWCI Conference Attendee Materials, 1988	box 13	folder 9
EWC/EEWC Conferences General, 1990 -- 1992	box 13	folder 10
1996 EEWC Conference Attendee Materials, 1996	box 14	folder 1
1996 EEWC Conference Correspondence - Post-Conference, 1996	box 14	folder 2
1996 EEWC Confrence Correspondence - Vendors and Publicity, 1995 -- 1996	box 14	folder 3
1996 EEWC Conference Correspondence - Workshops and Speakers, 1995 -- 1996	box 14	folder 4
1996 EEWC Conference Correspondence - Registration, 1995 -- 1996	box 14	folder 5
1996 EEWC Conference Logo Floppy Disk and Correspondence, 1995	box 14	folder 6
2006 EEWC Conference Finances, 2006	box 14	folder 7
EEWC Conferences General, 2000 -- 2014	box 14	folder 8
National Evangelical Women's Caucus Bylaws, 1978	box 14	folder 9
EWC National Council, 1978 -- 1979	box 14	folder 10
EWC National/Executive Council, 1979 -- 1984	box 14	folder 11
EEWC Executive Council, 1995 -- 1996	box 14	folder 12
EEWC Executive Council, 2000 -- 2012	box 14	folder 13

EEWC Executive Council Meeting, 2007-07-27 -- 2007-07-29	box 14	folder 14
EWC/EEWC Regional Newsletters, 1977 -- 2001	box 14	folder 15
EWC Mass Mail and Newsletter, 1983 -- 1985	box 14	folder 16
EEWC Promotional Plastic Tote Bag, circa 2001	box 15	folder 1
EWC/EEWC Promotional Materials and Letterhead, 1979 -- 2002	box 15	folder 2
EWC Promotional Material Design Correspondence, 1997 -- 2000	box 15	folder 3
Will of Victoria Booth Demarest, 1983	box 15	folder 4
Correspondence with Sharon Billing, 1995 -- 1996	box 15	folder 5
Kaye Cooke Study of CBE and EEWC, 1997	box 15	folder 6
Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics, and Ritual (WATER) Correspondence, 1996	box 15	folder 7
Daughters of Sarah Publications, 1996	box 15	folder 8
Personal Correspondence, 1979 -- 1982	box 15	folder 9
Personal Correspondence, 1990 -- 1999	box 15	folder 10
Personal Correspondence, 2000 -- 2008	box 15	folder 11

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Series 3: EEWC Update and Website Administration, 1984 -- 2019

Physical Description: 0.75 linear feet 0.75 linear feet; 2 boxes

Physical Description: 2 units 2 website crawls

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This series is open for research.

Arrangement

This series is arranged by format and then chronologically.

Scope and Contents

This series contains correspondence and administrative records relating to Scanzoni's editing and management of EWC/EEWC's periodical Update beginning in [date] and the EEWC website (www.eewc.com) from its launch in 1996 to 2013. This collection also provides access to webcrawls of Scanzoni's personal website, Letha's Calling, and several Christian feminist blogs she co-wrote with other EEWC members.

Title/Description

Instances

Issues of Update, 1987 -- 1995	box 15	folder 12
Update Administration, 1984 -- 2002	box 15	folder 13
Update and Website Articles, 1998 -- 2004	box 15	folder 14
"Web Explorations", 2004 -- 2008	box 15	folder 15
EWC Name Change Correspondence and Articles, 1988	box 15	folder 16
"An Urgent Heart and Heart Letter to Our Members from Letha Scanzoni", 2015 -- 2016	box 15	folder 17
EEWC Website Launch, 1998	box 16	folder 1
EEWC Website Administration, 1998 -- 2000	box 16	folder 2
EEWC Website Administration, 2001 -- 2003	box 16	folder 3
EEWC Website Administration, 2004 -- 2009	box 16	folder 4

72-27 Blog, 2008 -- 2011

Scope and Contents

72-27 was a blog Letha Dawson Scanzoni wrote at age 72 with Kimberly B. George aged 27. It features cross-generational dialogue on topics in Christian feminism. The blog was active between 2008 and 2011 on www.eewc.com. Please see: <https://wayback.archive-it.org/19393/20230621021820/https://eewc.com/72-27-index-posts/>

Fem Faith Blog, 2013 -- 2013

Scope and Contents

FemFaith was a Christian feminist dialogue blog written by Letha Dawson Scanzoni, Kendra Weddle, and Melanie Springer Mock between 2012 and 2013. Posts explore evangelical history, feminist praxis, and community formation. Please see <https://wayback.archive-it.org/19393/20230621021456/https://eewc.com/about-femfaith/>

"An Interview with Letha Dawson Scanzoni" by Janene Cates Putman, 2019

Scope and Contents

This archived interview from www.eewc.com by Janene Cates Putnam explores Letha Dawson Scanzoni's memories of the early years of EEWC and a short account of her childhood and religious experiences. Please see <https://wayback.archive-it.org/19393/20230621163332/https://eewc.com/an-interview-with-letha-dawson-scanzoni/>

Letha's Calling, 2009 -- 2019

Scope and Contents

Letha's Calling is Letha Dawson Scanzoni's personal website, featuring her bibliography, links to various projects she has participated in online, and a blog recounting her memories and thoughts as a Christian feminist. The last post as of 2023 commemorates Nancy Hardesty's death in 2011, but she has stated that she plans to continue writing posts in the future. Please see https://wayback.archive-it.org/19393/*/https://lethadawsonscanzoni.com/

Scope and Contents

For "Contemporary Challenges for Religion and the Family from a Protestant Woman's Point of View" by Scanzoni, which is hosted on a separate domain,, please see <https://wayback.archive-it.org/19393/20230707152134/https://rsc.byu.edu/religion-family-connection/contemporary-challenges-religion-family-protestant-womans-point-view/>

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