Sarah's Circle records5907118

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on January 22, 2026.
Description is written in: English.

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

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Summary Information

Repository:	Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary
Creator:	Sarah's Circle
Title:	Sarah's Circle records
ID:	5907118
Date [inclusive]:	1989 -- 1996
Physical Description:	1.5 linear feet 1.5 linear feet; 3 boxes
Language of the Material:	English

Abstract: Sarah's Circle was a Catholic women's group founded in 1989 and based in Binghamton, New York; the group was dedicated to promoting the ordination of women in the Catholic Church. The collection contains member lists and biographies, meeting minutes and schedules, correspondence, newspaper articles, materials on worship services and theatre productions, information on conferences, VHS cassettes, and the organization's T-shirt.

Preferred Citation

Item description, AWTS: Sarah's Circle records, 1989-1996, box #, folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

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Biographical / Historical

Sarah's Circle was started in 1989 in response to "Called by Name", a campaign sponsored by the Diocese of Syracuse of the Catholic Church to encourage vocations to the priesthood. Several local women announced a public meeting for all women in the area who felt a call to be ordained. About 20 women attended the meeting, out of whom emerged a core membership of about 15. The name Sarah's Circle was derived from the matriarch of the Hebrew Scriptures, a woman who knew how to wait. Sarah's Circle consisted of both men and women, most of whom were born and raised in the Catholic Church, ranging from early 30's to late 70's. The members were dedicated to the full inclusion of women as ordained members of the Roman

Catholic Church. To further this end the group promoted alternative worship services, theater productions, letters of protest, and workshops to raise awareness on this issue. There were protests surrounding their activities, as well as accusations of heresy.

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Scope and Contents

This collection contains member lists, meeting minutes and schedules, correspondence, newspaper articles, worship services, material relating to theatre productions, information on conferences, member biographies, VHS cassettes, and the organization's T-shirt. Correspondence is from Yvonne Lucia-Readling, Patricia Donohue, and Rose Marie Noonan, among other members.

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Arrangement

This collection is arranged in rough chronological order.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

PDF converted to EAD and description updated by Leah Edelman. 2021-11-04

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Onsite storage.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Sarah's Circle records were donated to the Archives of Women in Theological Scholarship in 2003.

Processing Information

Folded materials were flattened. Newspapers and newspaper clippings were placed within acid free paper. Staples, rubber bands, and metal clips were removed and replaced with plastic clips. All materials were placed in acid-free folders and boxes. The finding aid was created by Margaret A. Laemmel in 2006, and edited by Leah Edelman in 2021.

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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Controlled Access Headings

- Sarah's Circle -- : Archives

Burke Library record group:

Archives of Women in Theological Scholarship (AWTS)

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Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Workshop information, 1989	box 1	folder 1
Member lists, minutes, meeting schedules, member circulars , circa 1989 -- 1995	box 1	folder 2
Correspondence: Yvonne Lucia-Readling, 1989 -- 1993	box 1	folder 3
Correspondence: Yvonne Lucia-Readling, 1994	box 1	folder 4
Heresy article and related correspondence, 1991	box 1	folder 5
Worship Services, 1991 -- 1994	box 1	folder 6
Worship Services, 1995 -- 1996	box 1	folder 7
Source materials for worship services: Stories, songs, outlines, scriptures, poems, prayers, litanies, circa 1989 -- 1995	box 1	folder 8
Called By Name: Peace and Justice Meeting, Controversy and letters responding , 1989	box 1	folder 9
Theatre productions: All That I Am; Roberta Nobelman's publicity;Correspondence with Sarah's Circle;Bulletins, programs, publicity , 1990	box 1	folder 10
Theater production: Mask and Mirrors: Photo; Roberta Nobelman, personal publicity;Mask and Mirrors Workshop;Sarah's Circle correspondence;Program mock-ups, programs, publicity notes & lists;Catholic Sun clipping; Newspaper clippings , 1991	box 1	folder 11
Extraordinary Women: Twenty Homilies by Roman Catholic Women: Letter describing publishing route, 1996	box 1	folder 12
Article: "Blessed is She Who Believes" by Patricia J. Raube-Wilson In Daughter's of Sarah, 1995	box 1	folder 13
75th Anniversary Commemoration of Women's Suffrage in America: Photos, Calendar of events, readings and songs, 1995	box 1	folder 14
Sister Rose Margaret Noonan, 60th Commemoration: Service sheet, clippings, related correspondence , 1993 -- 1995	box 1	folder 15
Woman's Ordination Conference (Episcopal):Registration forms, bulletins, programs, pamphlets, bumper stickers , 1994	box 1	folder 16
Newspaper articles re: Sarah's Circle, Solo Flight theater production, 1993 -- 1994	box 2	folder 1
Call to Action: Episcopal Conference: Patricia Donohue's correspondence, clippings and publicity , 1995	box 2	folder 2

Renewing Our Church: A National Directory published by Called to Action; Related correspondence , 1996	box 2	folder 3
List: Formation for Ministry candidates, 1993 -- 1994	box 2	folder 4
Theater Production: Solo Flight: Public assembly, permit, newspaper clippings, letters of reaction , 1993	box 2	folder 5
Solo Flight newspaper clippings re women's ordination in the Episcopal Church, circa 1993	box 2	folder 6
Letters and articles in reaction to the Pope's stand on position of women in the Church, 1989 -- 1994	box 2	folder 7
Biographies: Patricia Donohue, Rose Marie Noonan, Janet Rutkowski, Joanne Corey, circa 1996	box 2	folder 8
Catholic Sun clippings and issues, 1992 -- 1994	box 2	folder 9
National Catholic Reporter, 1994-06-07	box 2	folder 10
Catholic Sun clippings and issues, 1995	box 2	folder 11
Bulletins for campaigns and events, 1995	box 2	folder 12
Wounded Women: Praying for Healing, VHS cassette tape, 1995-05-14	box 3	folder 1
Newspaper clippings; Binghamton Press and Sun-Bulletin, re CBS broadcast, 1996	box 3	folder 2
Sarah's Circle, CBS broadcast, VHS cassette tape, 1996	box 3	folder 3
T-shirt with Sarah's Circle Logo and slogan "Can We Talk, 1995	box 3	folder 4