

**S0446 United Nations Association Of The USA  
St. Louis Section (1954- )  
Records, 1955-1986  
155 Folders, 2 Tapes**

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Mrs. Genevieve Nelson donated the records of the American Association of the United Nations to the Western Historical Manuscripts Collection at the University of Missouri-St. Louis on February 19, 1979. The Greater St. Louis Chapter of the United Nations Association donated additional records on May 27 and November 24, 1986.

The American Association for the United Nations began in 1945 to promote international peace and justice through the educational activities of the United Nations. The Greater St. Louis Chapter affiliated with the national organization in the early 1950s. The Ethical Society of St. Louis had organized a similar discussion group in 1947. Officers of the 1954 U.N. St. Louis Chapter included Paul Rava, President; Carroll E. Nelson, Treasurer; Edna Gellhorn, Chair of the Membership Committee; and Joan Traylor, acting Executive Secretary.

In 1965, the St. Louis Chapter sponsored the first annual Midwest Model United Nations Convention held at Washington University. More than 400 students from 13 states represented U.N. member countries in a reproduction of an actual U.N. session.

The Greater St. Louis Chapter of the American Association of the United Nations changed its name to the St. Louis Chapter of the United Nations Association of the USA in 1965. The Chapter sponsored the first annual St. Louis Area Model United Nations for high school students similar to the MMUN for college students.

James S. McDonnell, president of McDonnell-Douglas Corporation, received the first International Cooperation award issued by the St. Louis Chapter at its annual dinner in 1965, proclaimed by president Johnson as International Cooperation Year. The Chapter continued to present the award whenever an individual exemplified the spirit of international cooperation. James S. McDonnell also was elected to the national board of directors at the UNA-USA's first biennial convention in New York later that year.

In 1956, the Chapter participated in a U.S. Foreign Policy series entitled "Great Decisions", sponsored by the Foreign Policy Association through the University of Missouri-St. Louis' Continuing Education-Extension Program. The St. Louis UNA-USA Chapter and the Greater St. Louis Council for Social Studies sponsored a series of workshops for teachers entitled "Teaching World Affairs" in 1967. Teachers received in-service credit for attending workshops designed to familiarize them with the U.N. A permanent center for the sale of UNICEF cards, calendars, and handmade items from around the world, opened in Webster Groves later that year. Money generated from sales at the United Nations International

Children's Emergency Fund shop went to provide equipment, food and medicine to maternal and child welfare centers.

The 1968 International Year for Human Rights marked the 20th anniversary of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights. The St. Louis Chapter asked its members to write senators urging them to ratify the human rights conventions condemning genocide, forced labor, slavery, and endorsing political rights for women. The Chapter also participated in the "Saint Louis Conference on China" designed to give a greater understanding of policy alternatives facing the U.S. In 1969, the St. Louis Chapter held an open house commemorating Universal Children's Day. It served food from countries around the world and sold The Cookbook of the United Nations.

The St. Louis Chapter became one of the largest in the nation when membership grew to 800 in 1970. In the early 1970s, the St. Louis Chapter accepted contributions for the relief of Pakistani refugees and earmarked funds from UNICEF-related revenues to aid drought stricken parts of Africa. To broaden public understanding of problems of population and world hunger, the St. Louis Chapter sponsored a "Community Conference on Food and Population in 1975 with over 800 people attending.

The St. Louis U.N. Resource Center became the headquarters of the St. Louis International Women's Year Planning Committee after the United Nations designated 1975 as International Women's Year. The St. Louis International Women's Day Celebration held at the downtown YWCA opened the first city-wide event celebrating IWY with lectures and workshops on women's health and status around the world. In September, the St. Louis Women's Fair brought women together for a weekend from 60 area organizations and 40 craft groups in an effort to encourage support and communication. Booths exhibiting women's art, careers, and work in volunteer organizations, lined the De Mun area in Clayton.

A St. Louis U.N. Reform Committee formed in 1977 in keeping with a national effort to make the U.N. more effective in peaceably resolving conflicts outside the jurisdiction of national governments. The St. Louis Chapter and the World Federalist Association sponsored the first U.N. Reform National Convention at Maryville College in June 1977. Efforts to pass U.N. Reform legislation continued both nationally and locally in 1978.

The St. Louis Chapter sponsored a six-week lecture series in 1978 to increase its membership's understanding of global issues facing the U.N. Dr. John G. Stoessinger, a noted teacher and writer on U.N. Reform, lectured on differences between the Nixon and Carter administration's foreign policies. The Chapter and the National Board of the UNA also established "The Annual James S. McDonnell Lecture in the United Nations Studies for St. Louis Area Youth" in 1978. These lectures, held at different area schools, enabled the school to bring its students into close contact with a speaker on international affairs. The first annual U.N. Folk and Sport Festival featuring international food, music, and dancers took place at Tower Grove Park in October.

The U.N. General Assembly declared 1979 International Year of the Child. The U.S. Committee for UNICEF exhibited a special collection of paintings and drawings from children around the world entitled "Pictures from a Small Planet" at the Loretto Hilton Center Gallery at Webster College. Also in observance of IYC, the St. Louis Chapter sponsored an

essay/poetry contest for primary and secondary school students.

Annual activities of the St. Louis Chapter have included observation of U.N. anniversary week, and "Trick or Treat for UNICEF." The Chapter's annual dinner has featured a prominent speaker on the U.N., and an annual statewide high school essay contest awards prizes to the top two essays on the United Nations. The St. Louis Chapter also has published a quarterly newsletter and maintained a speaker's bureau.

The St. Louis section of the UNA continued its efforts to promote international cooperation through the educational activities of the UN in the late 1970s and early 1980s. It established a Cambodian Relief Fund in 1979 to help bring food and medicine to the Cambodian people. The Chapter also proclaimed December 1979 Cambodian Relief month. In 1980, the St. Louis Chapter also supported Afghanistan Relief Week. It sold Afghan cultural articles at the International Gift Shop and donated part of the proceeds to the Afghanistan Relief Committee to help the Afghan refugees in Pakistan.

Also in 1980, Dr. Harry James Cargas, professor of Literature and Language at Webster College, received the St. Louis Chapter's Human Rights Award for his work to promote greater understanding of the Holocaust. Carlos Fuentes, noted novelist and diplomat from Mexico, spoke on human rights from a multi-cultural perspective at the Human Rights Award dinner.

In October 1980 the St. Louis Chapter dedicated its UN Day Program to the memory of James S. McDonnell, founder and chairperson of the board of the McDonnell Douglas Corporation, who died in August of that year. As former United Nations Association National Chairperson and Honorary Chair of the St. Louis Chapter, McDonnell supported research into ways to improve the U.N.'s effectiveness.

The U.N. General Assembly declared 1981 the International Year For Disabled Persons. The St. Louis Chapter, along with Paraguard and the Easter Seal Society conducted a conference entitled "Independent Living: An Affirmation of Human Rights." The conference acknowledged the rights of disabled persons, and informed St. Louisans of the many possibilities for enriching the lives of the disabled.

Max J. Starkloff, International Year For Disabled Persons chairperson, received the Chapter's Human Rights Award in 1981 for his work to increase awareness of the capacity of disabled persons to lead full and productive lives.

In 1982, the St. Louis Chapter joined with other local environmental groups in sponsoring a natural resources conference entitled "Global 2000." Biological scientists Paul and Anne Ehrlich discussed the projected loss of one-fifth of the world's plant and animal species in the next twenty years.

The United Nations International Women's Decade ended in 1985. The St. Louis Chapter, along with local women's organizations, sponsored a conference in April to examine the advancement of women world-wide in the areas of peace, equality, and justice during this decade and in the future.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT**

The collection is divided into six series: 1) Administrative 1954-1978 (folders 1-34); 2) Activities, 1955-1979 (folders 35-80); 3) Photographs and Slides, 1960s-1979 (#s 9373-9412, folders 81-86) 4) Administrative Addenda, 1974-1986 (folders 87-109); 5) Activities Addenda, 1975-1985 (folders 110-154); 6) Photographs and Tapes Addenda, 1975-1984 (#s 10530-10536, folder 155).

The administrative series provides an overview of the St. Louis Chapter's organizational structures. It contains bylaws, financial reports, membership and committee lists. The series also includes board of directors meeting minutes, and correspondence and newsclippings on anti-U.N. groups (folders 26 and 34).

The bulk of the collection, the activities series, documents the annual activities of the Chapter, including U.N. Week, the Midwest Model United Nations Convention, "Trick or Treat for UNICEF," and the Chapter's annual dinner. This series also documents International Women's Year, the International Year of the Child, UNICEF gift shop activities, U.N. Reform efforts, and speakers, conferences, and workshops held throughout the group's history. Included in this series are the chapter's newsletters which document, among its history, the Chapter's various office locations.

The photographs and slides series document International Women's Year and the St. Louis Women's Fair activities including the signing of the proclamation for IWY in 1975 and U.N. Day in 1963. This series also documents the U.N. Folk and Sport Festival in 1978.

The addenda's administrative series includes meeting minutes, an application to the Arts and Education Council of Greater St. Louis, correspondence on St. Louis UNA Center building renovation, programming ideas, and treasurer's reports. It also includes a folder on past president Mary T. Hall's Globe-Democrat Woman of Achievement Award in 1979 and one folder on the World Community Center in St. Louis which the St. Louis UNA Chapter helped found in 1974.

Series 5 documents the annual activities of the Chapter including speakers and activities at annual dinner, UN Anniversaries, Human Rights Award ceremonies, and the James S. McDonnell Lectures For St. Louis Youth. This series also documents the St. Louis Chapter's conference celebrating the end of the UN International Decade For Women.

The photographs and tapes addenda's Series VI contains photographs of Human Rights Award recipients and Supervisor McNary and Mayor Conway signing proclamations for Cambodian Relief Month and Afghanistan Relief Week. Two tapes document a speech given by James Grant on world hunger at the 1984 McDonnell Lectureship For Youth.

## **SERIES DESCRIPTION**

### **SERIES 1 - ADMINISTRATIVE, 1954-1978, FOLDERS 1-34**

Arranged alphabetically. Includes annual reports, budgets, lists of the board of directors action, correspondence, and meeting minutes; financial statements, membership lists and mailings; letterhead; insurance and tax forms; and newsclippings on harassment and anti-UN

groups.

**SERIES 2 - ACTIVITIES, 1955-1979, FOLDERS 35-80**

Arranged alphabetically. Contains correspondence, memos, press releases, flyers, meeting minutes, reports on U.N. Reform, invitations to annual dinners, lists of UN activities, proclamations for U.N. Day, International Women's Year and International Year of the Child, addresses, newsclippings, and newsletters.

**SERIES 3 - PHOTOGRAPHS AND SLIDES, 1960s-1979, FOLDERS 81-82**

Contains photographs 446.1-446.58

**SERIES 4 - ADMINISTRATIVE ADDENDA, 1974-1986, FOLDERS 87-109**

Arranged alphabetically. Contains meeting minutes, correspondence, financial statements, job descriptions and resumes, membership lists, memos, press releases, and a World Community Center brochure and bylaws.

**SERIES 5 - ACTIVITIES ADDENDA, 1975-1985, FOLDERS 110-154**

Arranged alphabetically. Contains correspondence, memos, press releases, flyers, meeting minutes, invitations to annual dinners, luncheons and conferences. Also contains proclamations for International Year For Disabled Persons, Cambodian Relief Month, Afghanistan Relief Week, and Human Rights Day. Includes speeches, newsletters and newsclippings.

**SERIES 6 - PHOTOGRAPHS AND TAPES ADDENDA, 1975-1984, FOLDER 155, #s 10530 - 10536, TAPES 863-864**

Arranged chronologically. Folders 155 photographs have been moved to folders 81-82

**FOLDER LIST**

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1. Annual Reports to National Office, 1967-1970, 1980
2. Board of Directors Actions, 1965, 1970, 1971
3. Board of Directors Minutes, 1954-1956
4. Board of Directors Minutes, 1957-1959
5. Board of Directors Minutes, 1960-1962
6. Board of Directors Minutes, 1963-1965
7. Board of Directors Minutes, 1966-1968
8. Board of Directors Minutes, 1969-1971
9. Board of Directors Minutes, 1972-1975
10. Board of Directors Minutes, 1976
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12. Board of Directors Minutes, 1978

13. Board of Directors Officers and Committee Members Lists, 1955-1969
14. Board of Directors Officers and Committee Members Lists, 1970-1979
15. Bylaws, 1958-1978

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16. Housing, 1967-1969
17. Library, 1965-1977
18. Special Events, 1966
19. Volunteer, 1968-1978

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20. Board of Directors, 1965-1977
21. Carp, Larry (Pres.), 1963-1965
22. Frawley, Mary (Sec.), 1957-1969
23. Gellhorn, Edna, 1957-1968
24. Harrassment of St. Louis UNA Office, 1969
25. Income Tax Exemption Forms, 1964-1977
26. Insurance forms, 1963-1976
27. Letterhead, 1956-1968
28. Membership Lists and Mailings, 1963-1971
29. Membership Lists and Mailings, 1977-1978
30. National Office, 1965-1979
31. Plessner, Kal R., (pres.), 1966-1969
32. Treasurer's Reports, 1954-1974
33. Treasurer's Reports, 1975-1978
34. United Nations Information Council of Missouri, 1966

**BOX 2 (45648)**

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35. Anniversary of the United Nations, 1957, 1960
36. Anniversary of the United Nations, 1965-1966
37. Anniversary of the United Nations, 1967-1968
38. Anniversary of the United Nations, 1969, 1970
39. Anniversary of the United Nations, 1973
40. Anniversary of the United Nations, 1974-1975
41. Anniversary of the United Nations, 1977-1978
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43. Annual Dinner Committee Lists, 1965
44. Annual Dinner Correspondence, 1965
45. Annual Dinner Honorary Chairmanship Correspondence, 1965
46. Annual Dinner Finances, 1965
47. Annual Dinner Follow Up and Yous, 1965
48. Annual Dinner, 1966-1978
49. Community Conference on Food and Population, 1974-1975
50. Community Conference on Food and Population, Education Material, 1976-1977
51. Community Conference on Food and Population, Eductional Material, 1976-1977
52. Human Rights Day - 11th Anniversary, Dec. 10, 1959-1976
53. International Children's Art Contest, 1978-1979
54. International Women's Day (March 8, 1975), 1974-1975

55. International Women's Year Newsletter, January-March, 1975
56. International Women's Year Planning, 1975
57. International Women's Year, St. Louis Women's Fair, September 13-14, 1975
58. International Year of the Child, Children of the Eighties Conference, December 7, 1979
59. International Year of the Child, Essay and Poetry Contest, 1979 and Music for UNICEF Proposal, 1979
60. International Year of the Child, Pictures From a Small Planet - Art Exhibit, 1977-1979
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66. Newsletters, 1977-1978
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68. Speakers and Conferences, 1958-1969
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70. Speakers and Conferences: Richard Gardner Luncheon, March 1, 1976
71. Speakers and Conferences: Richard Gardner Speech, March 1, 1976
72. Speakers and Conferences, 1976-1977
73. Speakers and Conferences: John Stoessinger, September 22-24, 1978
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75. Trick or Treat for UNICEF, 1967-1974
76. United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), 1969-1979
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78. United Nations Reform Meeting, 1977-1979
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- 146. Re-thinking National Security Conference, 1981
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