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Interfaith Pilgrimage of the Middle Passage Records

1975-2006 (*Bulk:* 1997-1999)

6 boxes (6.5 linear feet)

Call no.: MS 758



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Organized at the New England Peace Pagoda in Leverett, Mass., the Interfaith Pilgrimage of the Middle Passage was a twelve-month walk through the eastern United States, the Caribbean, Brazil, West Africa, and South Africa in 1998-1999, reversing the direction of the Middle Passage symbolically and geographically. A "living prayer of the heart, mind, and body for the sons and daughters of the African Diaspora," the Pilgrimage was intended by the participants to contribute to a process of healing the wounds inflicted by hundreds of years of slavery and racial oppression. Along the way, participants visited sites associated with the history of slavery, from slaves' quarters in Virginia to stations on the Underground Railroad and villages that had been raided in Africa, offering prayers for those who had suffered under slavery and commemorating the dignity of those held in bondage and those who resisted.

Chronicling the course of the Interfaith Pilgrimage of the Middle Passage from conception to conclusion, this collection contains a rich textual and visual record of a spiritual approach to addressing the legacy of slavery in the Americas. The collection includes the range of materials collected by participants during the Pilgrimage, including lists of reading materials, information on the sites visited, a handful of mementoes and souvenirs, some correspondence, and notes and photographs taken along the way.

Background on Interfaith Pilgrimage of the Middle Passage

Conceived and organized by a Buddhist nun based at the New England Peace Pagoda in Leverett, Mass., Sister Clare Carter, and a performance artist and activist, Ingrid Askew, the Interfaith Pilgrimage of the Middle Passage was a year-long walk from the eastern United States to Africa, reversing the direction of the Middle Passage symbolically and geographically. A "living prayer of the heart, mind, and body for the sons and daughters of the African Diaspora," the Pilgrimage was intended by the participants to contribute to a process of healing the wounds inflicted by hundreds of years of slavery and racial oppression. Intellectually and spiritually, it would acknowledge the painful legacy of slavery as an issue affecting not just black African Americans but also white European Americans and would be a way to draw whites into the cultural conversation about race and racism. Traveling mostly on foot, the pilgrims would visit sites associated with the history of slavery, offering prayers and connecting with local residents. The organizers put together an advisory board that included scholars, religious leaders, politicians, activists, and artists, and while it was mostly drawn from the western Massachusetts community, Bishop Desmond Tutu served as honorary chair. In addition, the organizers and pilgrims made and relied on local connections as they planned the walk as well as during the walk itself.

The journey began in Massachusetts on May 30, 1998, and continued down the east coast. Passing through more than 200 U.S. cities, the pilgrims arrived in Louisiana. From New Orleans they traveled by boat through the Caribbean, finally crossing the Atlantic Ocean to arrive in western Africa. The Interfaith Pilgrimage of the Middle Passage pilgrimage ended in Cape Town, South Africa, on June 12, 1999. The diverse group of pilgrims included ten who traveled the whole route, and hundreds more sharing part of the journey, from a day or a few days to weeks or months.

Scope of collection

The materials in this collection document the Interfaith Pilgrimage of the Middle Passage from its earliest planning stages, through the journey itself, to its aftermath, a record of the hope and vision for transformation that inspired and sustained it, as well as financial and organizational challenges. The bulk of the collection is directly related to the pilgrimage, but some material is connected to Peace Pagoda in Leverett or to individuals involved in the pilgrimage. There is also material about similar or related events, organizations, and journeys, speaking to the organizers' awareness of the global nature and broad reach of their endeavor.

Series descriptions

Series 1. Pilgrimage

1975-2006

Materials concerning the planning of the pilgrimage--both before the start of the pilgrimage and while it was under way--as well as the pilgrimage itself and its aftermath comprise this series. They include correspondence, proposals, research materials, fundraising, publicity, and outreach materials, notes, mailing lists, lists of participants, information for walkers, itineraries, and files on each stop on the route. The files in the latter subgroup are arranged to reflect the order of the pilgrimage itinerary.

Series 2. Photographs and memorabilia

1997-1999

The photographs and photograph albums in this series were apparently taken or assembled by various pilgrims. Also here is an assortment of mementoes, mostly received or collected along the way, including gifts from local residents or local government offices.

Series 3. Clippings and publications

1986-2000

The clippings are mainly of published articles and stories about the pilgrimage from a range of sources. The assortment of full publications are mostly single or select issues of periodicals, containing articles about the pilgrimage or of interest to the pilgrims.

Inventory

Series 1. Pilgrimage

1975-2006

Correspondence, general
ca.1991-1999

Box 1:

Correspondence, general
1994-1997

Box 1:

Correspondence, general
ca.1997

Box 1:

Correspondence, general
1998

Box 1:

Correspondence, general
1999 March

Box 1:

Correspondence, general
1999

Box 1:

Correspondence, general
1998-1999

Box 1:

Correspondence, general: pre-walk planning
1994-1998

Box 1:

Correspondence, general: contacts to call
1997 Jan-1998 June

Box 1:

Correspondence, general: incoming
1998 Jan-June

Box 1:

Correspondence, general: incoming
1998 July-Dec

Box 1:

Correspondence, general: incoming
1999

Box 1:

Correspondence, general: incoming
1999

Box 1:

Correspondence, general: incoming
undated

Box 1:

Correspondence, general; notes
1998 May-July

Box 1:

Correspondence, general: "on the road"
ca.1998

Box 1:

Correspondence, general: outgoing; newsletters
1999 Feb-2001 Aug

Box 1:

Correspondence, general: updates
1998 April-Aug

Box 1:

Correspondence, general: updates
1999 Jan-Feb

Box 1:

Correspondence, general: updates
1999 April-Nov

Box 1:

Correspondence, planning: Africa
1997-1999

Box 1:

Correspondence, planning: Africa
1998-1999

Box 1:

Correspondence, planning: Africa--Benin contact
1999 March-April

Box 1:

Correspondence, planning: Africa--Reifel, Robert
1999 May

Box 1:

Correspondence, planning: Africa--South Africa, Cape Town
1999 July

Box 1:

Correspondence, planning: community organizers
ca.1998

Box 1:

Correspondence: Alvord, Rev., prayers for
1999 May

Box 1:

Correspondence: Askew, Ingrid, birthday
1999

Box 1:

Correspondence: Carstens, Kenneth
1993-1997

Box 1:

Correspondence: children
1998 Sept

Box 1:

Correspondence: Fihankra Project
1998 March-April

Box 1:

Correspondence: Tutu, Bishop Desmond
1997-1999

Box 1:

Correspondence: U. S. Senators
1998 July

Box 1:

Correspondence: "unfinished business"
1998-1999

Box 1:

Correspondence: retreat
2000 Feb-March

Box 1:

Fundraising
ca.1997-2000

Box 1:

Fundraising: appeals
ca.1997-1998

Box 1:

Fundraising: donor lists
1997-1998

Box 1:

Fundraising: Gospel requiem
1996

Box 6:

Fundraising: ledger

ca.1998-1999

Box 1:

Fundraising: T-shirt order form, fliers

ca.1998-1999

Box 1:

Planning: address lists

ca.1998

Box 1:

Planning: address lists, AFSC

1998 Feb-May

Box 1:

Planning: address lists, churches

1995

Box 1:

Planning: address lists, clergy

1996 Sept

Box 1:

Planning: address lists, from database

ca.1998

Box 1:

Planning: addresses, business card file

ca.1998

Box 1:

Planning: advisory board

1997-1998

Box 1:

Planning: African ambassadors

1998 Feb-March

Box 1:

Planning: calendars

1998

Box 1:

Planning: calendars

1998

Box 1:

Planning: contact lists

ca.1998 June

Box 1:

Planning: early stage notes and research

1983-1995

Box 1:

Planning: early stage notes and research

1995-1997

Box 1:

Planning: early stage notes and research

1996-1997

Box 1:

Planning: early stage notes and research, planning events

1996

Box 1:

Planning: proposal and research

1993-1994

Box 1:

Planning: proposal and research

1994

Box 1:

Planning: notes

1993-1997

Box 1:

Planning: notes
ca.1998
Box 1:
Planning: notes
ca.1998-1999
Box 1:
Planning: notes--notebooks
ca.1998
Box 1:
Planning: notes--notebooks
ca.1998
Box 1:
Planning: notes--notebook
undated
Box 1:
Planning: notes--notebook
undated
Box 1:
Planning: notes--notebook
undated
Box 1:
Planning: notes--"precious scraps"
1997-1998
Box 1:
Planning: organizing committee materials
ca.1998 May-July
Box 2:
Planning: organizing and orientation
1998
Box 2:
Planning: research
1997
Box 2:
Planning: research
ca.1997-1998
Box 2:
Planning: research--Africa
ca.1993-1997
Box 2:
Planning: research--Africa
ca.1993-1997
Box 2:
Planning: research--Africa
ca.1993-1997
Box 2:
Planning: research--Boston Globe op-ed articles
1997
Box 2:
Planning: research--hate violence
1995
Box 2:
Planning: research--related articles
1981-1993
Box 2:
Planning: research--slave trade
1994, 1998
Box 2:
Planning: research--slave trade (exhibit)
1996

Box 2:
Planning: research--slavery
1997-1998

Box 2:
Planning: research--underground railroad
undated

Box 2:
Planning: research--walks
undated

Box 2:
Planning: research--"Willie Lynch"
undated

Box 2:
Planning: "specialized documents"
1997 Dec-1998 June

Box 2:
People: Feelings, Tom
1995-1996

Box 2:
People: MacDonald, Rev. Timothy
1997 Oct

Box 2:
People: Tutu, Bishop Desmond
1997 Aug

Box 2:
People: Williams, Teresa
1999 Jan

Box 2:
Pilgrimage: announcements
ca.1997-1999

Box 2:
Pilgrimage: announcements
ca.1997-1999

Box 2:
Pilgrimage: articles
1998-1999

Box 2:
Pilgrimage: articles (packet)
1998 May-1999 Feb

Box 2:
Pilgrimage: certificates, participation
1999 June

Box 2:
Pilgrimage: certificates, testimony of gratitude
ca.1999 June

Box 2:
Pilgrimage: collaborations
ca.1998

Box 2:
Pilgrimage: forms
ca.1998

Box 2:
Pilgrimage: forms--registration, questionnaire
1998

Box 2:
Pilgrimage: Hampshire College students
1998 Oct-1999 Jan

Box 2:
Pilgrimage: handouts

1997-1999

Box 2:

Pilgrimage: information packet

ca.1997-1998

Box 2:

Pilgrimage: inquiry sheets

ca.1998 April-Aug

Box 2:

Pilgrimage: inquiry sheets--families/parents/friends

1998

Box 2:

Pilgrimage: inquiry sheets--media/PR

1998

Box 2:

Pilgrimage: notes on dynamics, organizing

ca.1998 July

Box 2:

Pilgrimage: notes on "spiritual council"

ca.1998-1999

Box 2:

Pilgrimage: notes on "workshop/white folks (yeshi)"

ca.1999

Box 2:

Pilgrimage: opening ceremonies

1998 May

Box 2:

Pilgrimage: prayers

ca.1995-1998

Box 2:

Pilgrimage: prayers, writings

ca.1997-1999

Box 2:

Pilgrimage: reading lists

ca.1997-1998

Box 2:

Pilgrimage: register (notebook)

ca.1998 June

Box 2:

Pilgrimage: registered pilgrims' emergency information

1998-1999

Box 2:

Pilgrimage: report, final

ca.1999

Box 2:

Pilgrimage: route--"daily itinerary/words from Elaine"

1998-1999

Box 2:

Pilgrimage: route--maps

ca.1998-1999

Box 2:

Pilgrimage: route--maps (printed)

1998

Box 2:

Pilgrimage: route--schedules, U.S.

1998

Box 2:

Pilgrimage: route--schedules, Africa

1999

Box 2:

Pilgrimage: route--places: Massachusetts

1998 June

Box 2:

Pilgrimage: route--places: Rhode Island

1998 June

Box 2:

Pilgrimage: route--places: Connecticut

1998 May-Aug

Box 2:

Pilgrimage: route--places: New York

1998

Box 2:

Pilgrimage: route--places: New York

1998

Box 2:

Pilgrimage: route--places: New Jersey

1997 May-1998 June

Box 2:

Pilgrimage: route--places: Pennsylvania

1998 May-June

Box 2:

Pilgrimage: route--places: Delaware

1998

Box 2:

Pilgrimage: route--places: Washington, D.C.

1998

Box 2:

Pilgrimage: route--places: U.S. south (from Virginia to Georgia)

1998 July-Aug

Box 2:

Pilgrimage: route--places: Virginia

ca.1998 July

Box 2:

Pilgrimage: route--places: North Carolina

1998

Box 2:

Pilgrimage: route--places: North Carolina

1989-1998

Box 2:

Pilgrimage: route--places: North Carolina

1998

Box 2:

Pilgrimage: route--places: North Carolina

1998

Box 2:

Pilgrimage: route--places: South Carolina

1998 Aug

Box 2:

Pilgrimage: route--places: South Carolina

ca.1998

Box 2:

Pilgrimage: route--places: Georgia

ca.1997-1998

Box 2:

Pilgrimage: route--places: Georgia

1998 Sept

Box 2:

Pilgrimage: route--places: Alabama

1997-1998

Box 3:

Pilgrimage: route--places: Alabama
1997-1998

Box 3:

Pilgrimage: route--places: Mississippi
1997-1998

Box 3:

Pilgrimage: route--places: Louisiana
1998 Oct-Nov

Box 3:

Pilgrimage: route--places: Louisiana
1998

Box 3:

Pilgrimage: route--places: Louisiana (New Orleans workshop)
1998 Oct-Nov

Box 3:

Pilgrimage: route--places: Caribbean region
1998 Aug-Sept

Box 3:

Pilgrimage: route--places: Jamaica
1998 June-Dec

Box 3:

Pilgrimage: route--places: Cuba
1998 Nov

Box 3:

Pilgrimage: route--places: Haiti
1997-1999

Box 3:

Pilgrimage: route--places: Puerto Rico
ca.1998-1999

Box 3:

Pilgrimage: route--places: Africa
1994-1995

Box 3:

Pilgrimage: route--places: Africa
1997-1999

Box 3:

Pilgrimage: route--places: Africa (issues)
1997-1999

Box 3:

Pilgrimage: route--places: Africa
1998-2000

Box 3:

Pilgrimage: route--places: Gambia, The
1997

Box 3:

Pilgrimage: route--places: Ghana
1997-1999

Box 3:

Pilgrimage: route--places: Togo
ca.1998-1999

Box 3:

Pilgrimage: route--places: Benin
1999

Box 3:

Pilgrimage: route--places: Nigeria
1997

Box 3:

Pilgrimage: route--places: South Africa

1981-1999

Box 3:

Pilgrimage: route--places: South Africa

1994-1998

Box 3:

Pilgrimage: route--places: South Africa

1993-2000

Box 3:

Pilgrimage: route--places: South Africa

1999 May-June

Box 3:

Pilgrimage: route--places: South Africa (Gospel Requiem)

1998 May-1999 June

Box 3:

Pilgrimage: route--places: South Africa (Cape Town closing ceremony)

1999 June

Box 3:

Pilgrimage: route--places: South Africa (Robben Island)

ca.1999

Box 3:

Pilgrimage: route--places: South Africa (slave lodge at Cape Town)

1999-2000

Box 3:

Pilgrimage: walker forms, handouts

1997 Jan-1998 July

Box 3:

Pilgrimage: walker orientation and registration information

1998

Box 3:

Pilgrimage: walker registrations

1998-1999

Box 3:

Pilgrimage: walkers, Africa

1998 March-July

Box 3:

Pilgrimage: walkers, day

1998 June-Sept

Box 3:

Pilgrimage: walkers--organizer file

1998 Aug-Sept

Box 3:

Pilgrimage: website

1998 March-June

Box 3:

Pilgrimage: organizing binder--contacts

1998-1999

Box 3:

Pilgrimage: organizing binder--itinerary

1998-1999

Box 3:

Printed materials: brochures

ca.1997

Box 3:

Printed materials: brochures and disk

ca.1998

Box 3:

Printed materials: fliers

ca.1997-1998

Box 3:

Printed materials: fliers

ca.1997-1998

Box 3:

Printed materials: mailers

ca.1998

Box 3:

Printed materials: stationery

ca.1998

Box 3:

Printed materials: stationery

ca.1998

Box 3:

Printed materials: stationery

ca.1998

Box 3:

Retreat: addresses

2000

Box 3:

Retreat: addresses

2000

Box 4:

Related organizations/events: African Faith and Justice Network

1997-1999

Box 4:

Related organizations/events: Cambodian Buddhist Temple Society

ca.1999

Box 4:

Related organizations/events: Jubilee 2000

ca.1998

Box 4:

Related organizations/events: Juneteenth

1993-1997

Box 4:

Related organizations/events: Leverett Peace Pagoda

ca.1994-1999

Box 4:

Related organizations/events: Middle Passage (exhibit, voyage)

ca.1997-1998

Box 4:

Related organizations/events: Middle Passage monument

1995 Dec

Box 4:

Related organizations/events: Middle Passage-inspired

1999 July

Box 4:

Related organizations/events: "other world event announcements during pre-walk planning"

1997-1999

Box 4:

Related organizations/events: "other world event announcements during pre-walk planning"

1997-1999

Box 4:

Related organizations/events: Parliament of World Religions

ca.1999

Box 4:

Related organizations/events: Prayer Vigil for Earth

1999 Sept

Box 4:

Related organizations/events: slave trade exhibits

ca.1994

Box 4:
Related organizations/events: Spirit Walkers
2006

Box 4:
Related organizations/events: brochures, fliers
ca.1995-2000

Box 4:
Related organizations/events: brochures, fliers
ca.1997-1999

Box 4:
Related organizations/events: brochures, fliers
ca.1998

Box 4:
Related people: writings, print materials
1994-1999

Box 4:
Related topics: Christianity
undated

Box 4:
Related topics: Islam
undated

Box 4:
Writings: Carter, Clare, notebook
undated

Box 4:
Writings: Douglass, Jim
1998 Jan

Box 4:
Writings: Guruji
ca.1975-1984

Box 4:
Writings: Rahman, Aishah
1999

Box 4:
Writings: Smith, Gregory-Dean
2000

Box 4:
Writings: Smith, Gregory-Dean
2000

Box 4:
Writings: various
ca.1997-1999

Box 4:
Series 2. Photographs and memorabilia
1997-1999

Photographs: Leverett Peace Pagoda
1997

Box 4:
Photographs: Pilgrimage opening ceremony
1998

Box 4:
Photographs: New Jersey
1998

Box 4:
Photographs: Georgia
1998

Box 4:
Photographs: Alabama
1998

Box 4:

Photographs: Cuba

1998

Box 4:

Photographs: Africa

1999

Box 4:

Photograph album: Africa, Senegal

1999

Box 4:

Photographs

1998-1999

Box 4:

Photographs

1998-1999

Box 4:

Photographs

1998-1999

Box 4:

Scrapbook

ca.1999

Box 4:

Artwork

undated

Box 4:

Artwork

undated

Box 4:

Artwork: children

undated

Box 6:

Artwork: watercolors, Nwoyoke, Ann (copies)

1998 Nov

Box 4:

Badges for walkers

1998

Box 4:

Badges for walkers, day

1998-1999

Box 4:

Badges for walkers, made by children

ca.1998

Box 4:

Booklet: Gomez, Tradicion y modernidad en la obra de Oscar Fernandez Morera (dedication copies)

1998 Nov

Box 4:

Booklet: Goree: the island and the historical museum (dedication copy)

1999 Feb

Box 4:

Certificates, proclamations: Massachusetts

1998 May-June

Box 4:

Certificates, proclamations

1997/1998

Box 4:

Certificates, proclamations

1998 August-October

Box 6:

Certificates, proclamations: plaque

1998 September

Box 6:

Flag: Richmond, Virginia

1998

Box 4:

Key: Selma, Alabama

1998

Box 6:

Mementoes

ca.1998-1999

Box 4:

Mementoes

ca.1998-1999

Box 4:

Mementoes: buttons, keyrings

ca.1998-1999

Box 6:

Postcards, blank: Africa

undated

Box 4:

Postcards, blank: artworks

undated

Box 4:

Postcards, blank: Caribbean Islands

undated

Box 4:

Postcards, blank: portraits

undated

Box 4:

Postcards, blank: United States

undated

Box 4:

Posters: African holocausts (2 copies)

1994

Map case:

Signs: New Jersey

1998

Box 4:

Statuette: Happy Hill peace award (William C. Sims Recreation Center, Winston-Salem, NC)

1998

Box 6:

Series 3. Clippings and publications

1986-2000

Clippings

1997 Dec-1998 June

Box 4:

Clippings

1998 July-Oct

Box 4:

Clippings

1998 Aug-Oct

Box 5:

Clippings

1998 Oct

Box 5:

Clippings

1998 Oct-Nov

Box 5:

Clippings

1998 May-Dec
Box 5:
Clippings (other topics)
1994-1998, undated
Box 5:
ARA (Anti-racist action) news
1998 Jan
Box 5:
Africa recovery
1998 July
Box 5:
Always in season
1999
Box 5:
Askew, Irma L., Share my world
1997
Box 5:
Birthrights
2000
Box 5:
Boston Globe Magazine, the
1988 June 12-19
Box 6:
Catharsis
1997 July-Dec
Box 5:
Catholic worker, the
1998 Jan-April
Box 5:
Council spirit, the
1998 Aug
Box 5:
Cuba journal: 7th friendship caravan to Cuba
1997 May
Box 5:
Daughtry, Rev. Herbert: Effectual prayer; A seed planted in stone
1996-1997
Box 5:
Debt cutter's handbook, the
1996
Box 5:
Famous black quotations
1986
Box 5:
Fellowship
1997 Jan-Feb
Box 5:
For a change
1998 Aug-Sept
Box 5:
Freedomways
1999 March-April
Box 5:
Glue: the South End community magazine
1998 July-Aug
Box 6:
Handbook for nonviolent action
1991 Jan
Box 5:

IFCO news; Intelligence report

1996, 1998

Box 5:

Journey of European dissent, the

1997 May, Nov

Box 5:

Koute pale li ekri

1996

Box 5:

Modern Buddhism

1998 May

Box 5:

Newswatch (Nigeria)

1999 May

Box 5:

Peace Matters

1999 Jan-Feb

Box 5:

Peace Pagoda News

1995

Box 5:

Peacework

1993 Dec-1997 Dec

Box 5:

Peacework

1998 May-Aug

Box 5:

Peacework

1999 Dec-1999 June

Box 5:

Real McCoy, the: pages from history

1998 April-June

Box 6:

Revue officielle de l'Assemblée Nationale (Togo)

ca.1997

Box 5:

Sister to sister/S2S

1998

Box 5:

Sojourners

1993 Dec, 1997 March-June

Box 5:

Sojourners

1998 May-Aug

Box 5:

Sojourners: America's original sin

1995

Box 5:

Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) national magazine: convention issue

1998 June-Aug

Box 5:

Speak out!

1995-1996

Box 5:

Turning Wheel

1999

Box 5:

UNESCO publications

1998 Dec-1999 Jan

Box 5:
United Nations publications
1998 Nov-1999 April

Box 5:
University of Massachusetts Amherst publications
1996-1997

Box 5:
Witness, the
1995 June

Box 5:
Witness, the
1997 Nov-Dec

Box 5:

Administrative information

Access

The collection is open for research.

Provenance

Gift of Ingrid Askew, November 2012.

Processing Information

Processed by Sam Arthur and Caroline J. White, April 2018.

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English

Copyright and Use (More information)

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Search terms

Subjects

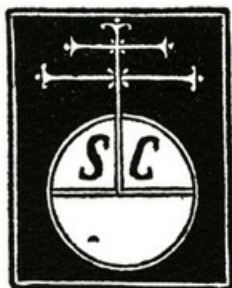
Africa
Pilgrims and pilgrimages
Slavery--History
Tutu, Desmond
United States
West Indies

Contributors

Interfaith Pilgrimage of the Middle Passage **[main entry]**

Genres and formats

Photographs



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