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Judi Buchman Papers Collection 524

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Prepared by Jamie Wasilchenko

Grand Rapids History Center

Grand Rapids Public Library

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Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

Business Number: 616-988-5497

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URL: <https://www.grpl.org/history/>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Grand Rapids History Center
Title:	Judi Buchman papers
ID:	Collection 524
Date [bulk]:	1986-2021
Physical Description:	.8 Linear Feet 2 boxes
Language of the Material:	English .
Material Specific Details:	The collection includes physical material as well as born-digital materials sent by email from Judi's partner Richa. There are physical reference copies of some of the born-digital material.
Abstract:	The Judi Buchman Collection details the life work of a Grand Rapids, MI, social justice activist and educator. As a member of the Society of Friends (Quakers), Judi Buchman worked toward numerous causes, including education, homelessness, support for sexual assault survivors, conflict resolution, and global peace. Their papers cover their involvement with the Institute for Global Peace and the Mayor's Justice 2000 Task Force. The material includes newsletters and calendars, meeting minutes and notes, articles, sheet music, correspondence, and more. The majority of the documents that have known dates span from approximately 1986 to 2020.

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Biographical / Historical

Judith "Judi" Buchman (1948–2021) was raised in Pemberville, Ohio, and graduated from Bowling Green State University with a degree in Education. After a year of teaching in a public school, Judi moved to Grand Rapids, MI, and lived in several cooperative households. Judi worked for 15 years as a teacher at Climbing Tree School, which later reorganized as New Branches Charter Academy.

Judi was a member of the Grand Rapids Society of Friends (more commonly known as Quakers) and a lifelong peace activist. They were a staunch opponent of the Vietnam War and lived below the income level that required that they pay federal taxes to fund the war.

Judi supported and wrote for several local alternative publications, including *The Root*, *New River Free Press*, *Equity*, and *The FUNdamentalist*. They also co-wrote a chapter in the book *Downwardly Mobile for Conscience Sake* with their life partner, Richa. Judi became a volunteer with several social organizations, including Circles of Peace and what would become God's Kitchen, the YWCA sexual assault support group, and the Creative Response to Conflict International. Judi was also a key point person for the Global Resources Committee of the Institute for Global Education.

Judi moved to Well House, a homeless shelter, about 1995, eventually working there on staff and later becoming the director. In 2000, Judi was part of the Grand Rapids Mayor's Justice 2000 Task Force, which made policy change recommendations to the City of Grand Rapids to foster societal equality and promote community improvement.

Judi died in 2021 and was survived by their life partner Richa, who donated the material within this collection. The information in this summary came from Judi's obituary, which was written by Richa.

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Scope and Contents

The bulk of Judi Buchman's papers are related to their various social justice causes. The collection offers a glimpse into alternative social movements within the Grand Rapids area in the late 20th century. The collection presents a case study of a leader within these social movements by providing the context and background on the spiritual beliefs that informed Judi's work. The collection includes a folder of correspondence, articles, stories, and poems by and about Judi. There are also copies of the Institute for Global Education's Global Resources Committee newsletter, event calendars, newspaper clippings, original photos, and teaching resources between 1986–2000.

The collection also contains minutes, correspondence, reports, final recommendations, and more related to Judi's involvement with the Mayor's Justice 2000 Talk Force. The collection has papers on spiritual practices and Quaker values, including articles on social justice, prayer, mindfulness, meditation, active listening, and pacifism. This section includes a handbook for the Grand Rapids Friends Meetings. There is sheet music that Judi used in workshops, mostly child-friendly songs about peace, friendship, etc. Some were written by Carol Johnson, a good friend of Judi's who also lived in Grand Rapids. Finally, there are digital materials such as photographs of Judi and a transcript of Judi's memorial service.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Donated by Judi's partner, Richa; 2022.053

Processing Information

This collection came to the library in seven binders, organized by Judi. The papers were moved from binders to folders but otherwise left in Judi's original arrangement. It should be noted that Judi frequently printed documents on recycled paper, so the back side of many of the documents may have material that is not relevant to the front or to the collection as a whole.

Existence and Location of Originals

Digital materials are available upon request to staff. Directions for staff: Files can be found under the History_Centerdigitalarchive drive in the folder labeled "Coll. 524". Please do not share directly from the drive itself, but rather download a copy to share.

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for researcher use. Donor would like digital material readily accessible. Digital material may be copied and shared upon request to staff.

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Related Materials

Related Materials

Judi co-wrote a chapter in the book *Downwardly Mobile for Conscience Sake* with their life partner, Richa. Some other writings by or references to Judi Buchman appear in *The Grand Rapids Press*, *New River Free Press* (Archival Collection #500), *Root* (Archival Collection #256), and *Equity*.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History
- Quakers
- Society of Friends
- Social Justice
- Social Movements

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Correspondence, articles, stories, and poems, 1987-2021	Box 1	Folder 1
Institute for Global Education, 1986-2005	Box 1	Folder 2-6
Mayor's Justice 2000 Task Force, 1997-2004	Box 1	Folder 7-8
Spiritual development, 1980-2021	Box 2	Folder 1-7
Sheet music, 1980-2021	Box 2	Folder 8-11
Reference copies of digital materials, including photos of Judi Buchman	Box 2	Folder 12
Digital photos of Judi Buchman - TIFF and JPG format		
Digital documents of Judi Buchman's memorial transcript, Richa's autobiography, Annie Ruth Longstreet's memoir, and January 2004 copy of Justicemakers		