Delaware Women's Conference records
1984-2010

Abstract: The Delaware Women's Conference records, which document the only all-volunteer women's conference in the United States, provide a record of an organization which sought to empower women of all ages, economic backgrounds, and lifestyles, to engage and to improve the status of all women.
Descriptive Summary

Identification:  MSS 677
Creator:  Delaware Women's Conference, Inc.
Title:  Delaware Women's Conference records
Inclusive Dates:  1984-2010
Extent:  11.5 linear feet and 3 oversize boxes (11 boxes)
Language:  Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Citation:  MSS 677, Delaware Women's Conference, Inc., Delaware Women's Conference records, Special Collections, University of Delaware Library, Newark, Delaware.

Shelving Summary:  Boxes 1-10: Shelved in SPEC MSS record center cartons; Box 11: Shelved in SPEC MSS oversize boxes (24 inches); Box 12: Shelved in SPEC MSS oversize boxes (20 inches); Box 13: Shelved in SPEC MSS oversize boxes (18 inches); Box 14: Shelved in SPEC MSS shoeboxes

Location:  Special Collections, University of Delaware Library Newark, Delaware 19717-5267 Phone: 302-831-2229 Fax: 302-831-6003 URL: http://www.lib.udel.edu/ud/spec/

Source:  Gift of Delaware Women's Conference, Inc. (Peggy Sacher), January 2014.


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Organizational Note

The Delaware Women's Conference, Inc., began in 1984 as a community placement of the Junior League of Wilmington to organize an annual statewide conference with the purpose of disseminating information of interest to women, was unique Delaware tradition created by all volunteers.

The Junior League developed the concept, provided the organization and volunteers, subsidized the costs, and was the corporate entity for the initial conference, and for three subsequent conferences. The Women's Center and the Delaware Commission for Women were also sponsors for the first conference. The League's direct financial contribution ended after the 1987 conference. In the early years of the conference, the YWCA of New Castle County was also a sponsor and over the years there were a number of corporate contributors, such as the DuPont Company and the United Way of Delaware, which provided scholarship money.

The Delaware Women's Conference, which was officially incorporated on February 14, 1989, was governed by a Board of Directors, comprising between seven and eleven members, who provided policy, trained chairs for the annual conference, conducted fundraising, and maintained links among the coalitions supporting the conference. A steering committee, composed of the annual conference chair, a treasurer, and persons designated by the conference chair, were responsible for planning, appointing subcommittees, executing, and evaluating each year's conference.

From 1984 to 2011, the Conference was a premier event for women in Delaware, featuring renown speakers, such as Bella Abzug, Betty Friedan, Gloria Steinem, White House correspondent Andrea Mitchell, U. S. Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, Vice-Presidential candidate Geraldine A. Ferraro, actress Rita Moreno, as well as writers Judith Viorst, Ntozake Shange, and Erica Jong. Workshops held during the conference were diverse, with offerings on family issues; career planning, workplace issues and skills; political discussions related to women's issues; personal development (spiritual practices, bereavement, journaling); and financial planning. Some years the conference included an art show, featuring local artists, or an international photography exhibition.

The Delaware Women's Conference was an unique annual Delaware tradition of women gathering with friends for workshops to explore wide ranging topics, to explore exhibitor's booths and the art show, to gather information and broaden horizons, to seek volunteer opportunities, and to network with other women.

In 2010, and again in 2012, the Delaware Women's Conference's annual event was cancelled, and the organization's official website has been discontinued.

Sources:
Organizational and historical information derived from the collection.
Scope and Content Note

The Delaware Women's Conference records, comprises 11.5 linear feet of publications, financial records, administrative records, photographs, media, artifacts, and correspondence of the only all-volunteer women's conference in the United States. The material which dates between 1984 and 2010, provide a record of an organization which sought to empower women of all ages, economic backgrounds and lifestyles, for their self development and to improve the status of all women.

The Delaware Women's Conference records provide a record of women's issues and interests over a twenty-eight year period, noted in the shifting themes reflected in the keynote speakers and the workshops that were offered. Researchers interested in women and gender studies, as well as feminist history and social policies, will be rewarded by exploring this collection.

The heart of this collection is a series (Series I) of notebooks maintained by Conference chairs and committee chairs, which document the process of planning, executing, and evaluating each year's conference. These notebooks contain all the information pertinent to each conference, and served as working manual for how to organize each year's event. In addition to notebooks kept by the President, there are notebooks by some committee chairs, such as chair of the art show, as well as notebooks labeled “Master notebook.”

These notebooks contain a wealth of information about the implementation of each annual conference. The notebooks include minutes of all meetings, conference programs, financial information, contracts, correspondence, agendas, publicity, program planning, information on special events and the art show, budgets, historical information on previous conferences (including evaluations and demographics), lists of Board members, bylaws, and final reports. There are also additional files which compliment (and occasionally duplicate) the information available in the notebooks. These files and the notebooks were collected and maintained by Delaware Women's Conference Historian Peggy Sacher.

As a supplement to the notebooks the collection offers substantial administrative files (Series II.) which include historical information, including bylaws and certificate of incorporation; files of minutes to Board of Directors meetings; files of evaluations and demographic information for each year's conference attendees; some financial records; as well as samples of the publications generated by the Delaware Women's Conference, such as the annual program, publicity pieces, and occasional posters.

Series III contains significant photographic documentation of the annual conference event. Photograph albums were created for many of the years and loose photographs were collected from various organizers of the annual event. The records also include two oversized photographic collages, and two videocassette recordings. The collection concludes with samples of the conference ephemera and artifacts (Series IV), such as mugs, jewelry, t-shirts, and tote bags; all of which were available for purchase during the events.
Selected Search Terms

**Personal Names**


Friedan, Betty.

Steinem, Gloria.

Mitchell, Andrea.

Chisholm, Shirley, 1924-2005.

Ferraro, Geraldine.

Moreno, Rita.

Viorst, Judith.

Shange, Ntozake.

Jong, Erica.

**Corporate Names**

Delaware Women's Conference, Inc.

Young Women's Christian Association (Wilmington, De.)

E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Company.

**Topical Terms**

Women in community organization--Delaware--History--20th century.

Women in community organization--Delaware--History--21st century.

Women in the professions--United States--History--20th century.

Women in the professions--United States--History--21st century.

Women--Delaware--History--20th century.

Women--Delaware--History--21st century.

Women's rights--United States--History--20th century.

Women's rights--United States--History--21st century.
Voluntarism--Delaware--History--20th century.
Voluntarism--Delaware--History--21st century.

**Geographic Names**

Delaware--History--20th century.
Delaware--History--21st century.

**Form/Genre Terms**

Correspondence.
Posters.
Collages (visual works)
Photographs.
Programs (documents)
Minutes (administrative records)
Financial records.
Demographics.
Evaluations.
Clippings (information artifacts)
Certificates.
Bylaws (administrative records)
Articles of incorporation.
Printed ephemera.
Artifacts (object genre)
Videocassettes.
Reports.

**Personal Contributors**

Sacher, Peggy.
Corporate Contributors

Junior League of Wilmington, Delaware.
Arrangement

I. Conference notebooks and files, 1984-2010

II. Administrative files, 1984-2008
   I.A. Historical files, 1984-2000
   I.B. Minutes of meetings, 1984-2002
   I.C. Demographic files, 1987-1998
   I.D. Evaluations, 1993-2004
   I.F. Publications, 1984-2008

III. Photographs and videocassette recordings, 1984-2004

IV. Conference ephemera and artifacts, 1995-2002
Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I. Conference notebooks and files, 1984-2010

The Delaware Women's Conference (DWC) was an all volunteer organization and many of the files were maintained by the Conference President and committee chairs, frequently in notebooks created each year. There were also master notebooks and additional files which were eventually collected and maintained by Conference Historian Peggy Sacher. These notebooks contain a wealth of information about the planning of the annual conferences. Notebooks include minutes of all meetings, programs, financial information, contracts, correspondence, agendas, publicity, program planning, information on special events and the art show, budgets, historical information on previous conferences (including evaluations and demographics), lists of Board members, bylaws, and final reports.

1984 Notebook, 1984 [Box 1 F1]

File, 1986 [Box 1 F2]

File, 1987 [Box 1 F3]

Women's Conference Community Impact Aware Application, 1987 [Box 1 F4]

1988 Notebook Part 1, 1988 [Box 1 F5]


1989 Notebook Part 1, 1989 [Box 1 F7]

1989 Notebook Part 2, 1989 [Box 1 F8]

1990 DWC Notebook Part 1, 1990 [Box 1 F9]

1990 DWC Notebook Part 2, 1990 [Box 1 F10]


1991 Notebook Part 2, 1991 [Box 1 F12]


1993 Notebook Part 1, 1993 [Box 2 F16]

1993 Notebook Part 2, 1993 [Box 2 F17]
1993 Notebook Part 3 , 1993 [Box 2 F18]

File , 1993 [Box 2 F19]


1994 Notebook Part 2 , 1994 [Box 2 F21]

1994 Notebook Part 3 , 1994 [Box 2 F22]

1994 Notebook #2 Part 1 , 1994 [Box 2 F23]

1994 Notebook #2 Part 2 , 1994 [Box 2 F24]

File , 1994 [Box 2 F25]

Anniversary Sub Committee , 1994 [Box 3 F26]

Women’s Conference , 1994 [Box 3 F27]

Women’s Conference , 1994 [Box 3 F28]

Women’s Conference Sign Ups , 1994 [Box 3 F29]

Women’s Conference Expenses , 1994 [Box 3 F30]

Women’s Conference , 1994 [Box 3 F31]

Brochures , 1993-1994 [Box 3 F32]

1995 Notebook , 1995 [Box 3 F33]

Art Show Part 1 , 1995 [Box 3 F34]

Art Show Part 2 , 1995 [Box 3 F35]

1996 Notebook Part 1 , 1996 [Box 3 F36]

1996 Notebook Part 2 , 1996 [Box 3 F37]

Files and computer disks 1996 , 1996 [Box 3 F38]

"Friendship" Photos Art Show , 1996 [Box 3 F39]

Celebrating our Friendships Proofs , 1996 [Box 3 F40]
Celebrating our Friendships Books, 1996 [Box 3 F41]

1997 Notebook Part 1, 1997 [Box 3 F42]

1997 Notebook Part 2, 1997 [Box 3 F43]

Women's Conference Brochure, 1998 [Box 4 F44]

Women's Conference Board and Minutes, 1998 [Box 4 F45]

Women's Conference Strategic Plan, 1998 [Box 4 F46]

Women's Conference Steering Committee, 1998 [Box 4 F47]

Speakers, 1998 [Box 4 F48]

Women's Conference Finances, 1998 [Box 4 F49]

Women's Conference Evaluations and Demographics, 1998 [Box 4 F50]

Women's Conference Art Exhibits, 1998 [Box 4 F51]

Women's Conference: PR, Programs, Registration, Committee Report, 1998 [Box 4 F52]

Women's Conference Clippings, 1998 [Box 4 F53]

File, 1998 [Box 4 F54]

Women's Conference: Chair Report, 1999 [Box 4 F55]

DWC Board and Manual, 1998-1999 [Box 4 F56]

DWC Steering Committee, 1999 [Box 4 F57]

Speaker, 1999 [Box 4 F58]

DWC Finances, 1999 [Box 4 F59]

File, 1999 [Box 4 F60]

DWC Folder Contents, 1999 [Box 4 F61]

DWC Emergency Plan, 1999 [Box 4 F62]

DWC Evaluation, 1999 [Box 4 F63]
Series I.

DWC Correspondence and Clippings, 1999 [Box 4 F64]

DWC Correspondence and Clippings, 1999 [Box 4 F65]

2000 Notebook Part 1, 2000 [Box 4 F66]

2000 Notebook Part 2, 2000 [Box 4 F67]

DWC Brochure and Chairman's Report, 2000 [Box 4 F68]

Women's Conference Board of Directors and Procedures Manual, 2000 [Box 4 F69]

DWC Steering Committee, 2000 [Box 4 F70]

DWC Finances, 2000 [Box 4 F71]

DWC Speaker Contract, 2000 [Box 4 F72]

DWC Day of Conference: Speeches, Seating, 2000 [Box 4 F73]

DWC Art Show, 2000 [Box 4 F74]

DWC Brochure and Distribution, 2000 [Box 4 F75]

DWC Evaluations, 2000 [Box 4 F76]

DWC Exhibits, 2000 [Box 4 F77]

DWC Program, 2000 [Box 4 F78]

DWC Conference Folder, 2000 [Box 4 F79]

DWC Publicity and Clippings, 2000 [Box 4 F80]

DWC Mailing List, 1998-2000 [Box 4 F81]

DWC Sample Folder for Steering Committee, 1998-2000 [Box 4 F82]

Site Committee Files (Theresa Leefers), 2000-2002 [Box 4 F83]

BD President Conference Info Notebook Part 1, 2000-2002 [Box 5 F84]

BD President Conference Info Notebook Part 2, 2000-2002 [Box 5 F85]

BD President Conference Info Notebook Part 3, 2000-2002 [Box 5 F86]
Series I.

File, 2001 [Box 5 F87]

Brochure/Book Sales, 2000 [Box 5 F88]

File, 2002 [Box 5 F89]

File, 2003 [Box 5 F90]

File, 2003 [Box 5 F91]

Clippings, 2003 [Box 5 F92]

File, 2004 [Box 5 F93]

File, 2004 [Box 5 F94]

File, 2004 [Box 5 F95]

Delaware Tributes, 2004 [Box 5 F96]

File, 2005 [Box 5 F97]

File, 2006 [Box 6 F98]

File, 2007 [Box 6 F99]

File, 2008 [Box 6 F100]

File, 2010 [Box 6 F101]

Delaware's Women's Conferences Part 1, 1994-2002 [Box 6 F102]

Delaware's Women's Conferences Part 2, 1994-2002 [Box 6 F103]

Delaware's Women's Conferences Part 3, 1994-2002 [Box 6 F104]

"Master Notebook" Part 1, 1984-2004 [Box 6 F105]

"Master Notebook" Part 2, 1984-2004 [Box 6 F106]

President BD/Directors Notebook Part 1, 1988-1999 [Box 6 F107]

President BD/Directors Notebook Part 2, 1988-1999 [Box 6 F108]

Series II. Administrative files

Includes files related to administration of the organization. Note that administrative information is also available in the files and notebooks in Series I.

Subseries II.A. Historical files, 1984-2000

Includes historical information and key documents related to formation of the Delaware Women's Conference, including certificate of incorporation, bylaws, strategic planning, and anniversary celebrations.

- Historical, 1984-2000 [Box 6 F110]
- Certificate of Incorporation, 1994-1995 [Box 6 F111]
- Anniversary 1994, 1994 [Box 6 F112]
- Bylaws, 1989-1996 [Box 6 F113]
- DWC Blank Stationary, 1994-1997 [Box 6 F114]
- DWC Chair Final Reports, 1993, 1996 [Box 6 F115]
- Conference Summary Chart, 1984-2000 [Box 6 F116]
- DWC Guidelines, 1996 [Box 6 F117]
- Historical Society Guidelines [Box 6 F118]
- Junior League Separates, 1989 [Box 6 F119]
- DWC Past Years, 1994-1998 [Box 6 F120]
- DWC Strategic Plan, 1997-1999 [Box 6 F121]
- DWC Steering Committee and Board, 1995-1999 [Box 6 F122]

Subseries II.B. Minutes of meetings, 1984-2002

Sets of minutes to the planning and evaluation meetings held by the Conference Board.

- DWC Minutes Index and Directory, 1988-1996 [Box 7 F123]
- DWC Minutes- Extra Copies, 1984-1995 [Box 7 F124]
- Hildegarde Weldin- Minutes Files, 1991-2002 [Box 7 F125]
Subseries II.C. Demographics files, 1987-1998

Includes the forms completed by registrants and summaries, sometimes related to the evaluations.

- Demographic Info, 1987-1997 [Box 7 F126]
- DWC Demographic Info, 1987-1998 [Box 7 F127]
- Demographics Part 1 of 2, 1992 [Box 7 F128]
- Demographics Part 2 of 2, 1992 [Box 7 F129]
- Demographics Part 1, 1992 [Box 7 F130]
- Demographics Part 2, 1992 [Box 7 F131]
- Demographics, 1996 [Box 7 F132]
- Demographics, 1996 [Box 7 F133]

Subseries II.D. Conference evaluations, 1993-2004

Actual evaluations completed by conference attendees and summaries of the information.

- Conference Evaluations, 1993 [Box 7 F134]
- Conference Surveys, 1994 [Box 7 F135]
- Conference Evaluations, 1998-2004 [Box 7 F137]


Includes reports of income and expenses, year end reports, bank statements, receipts, most of which is from 1986-2001.

- DWC Finances- End of Year Reports, 1986-2001 [Box 7 F139]
- DWC Merrill Lynch Statements, 1992-1997 [Box 7 F140]
- DWC Bank Statements, 1999, 2000, 2001 [Box 7 F141]
- DWC Income, 2000 [Box 8 F142]
DWC Expenses , 2000 [Box 8 F143]

DWC Credit Card Receipts , 2000-2001 [Box 8 F144]

DWC Credit Card Contracts , 2000-2001 [Box 8 F145]

DWC Income , 2001 [Box 8 F146]

DWC Income , 2001 [Box 8 F147]

DWC Income , 2001 [Box 8 F148]

DWC Income , 2001 [Box 8 F149]

DWC Income , 2001 [Box 8 F150]

DWC Income , 2001 [Box 8 F151]

DWC Income , 2001 [Box 8 F152]

DWC Income , 2001 [Box 8 F153]

DWC Income , 2001 [Box 8 F154]


DWC Paid Bills , 2001 [Box 8 F156]

**Subseries II.F. Publications , 1984-2008**

Includes conference programs, announcements, books and posters.

Publications , 1984 [Box 8 F157]

Publications , 1986 [Box 8 F158]

Publications , 1987 [Box 8 F159]

Publications , 1988 [Box 8 F160]

Publications , 1989 [Box 8 F161]

Publications , 1990 [Box 8 F162]

Publications , 1991 [Box 8 F163]
Publications, 1992 [Box 8 F164]
Publications, 1993 [Box 8 F165]
Publications, 1994 [Box 8 F166]
Publications, 1995 [Box 8 F167]
Publications, 1996 [Box 8 F168]
Publications, 1997 [Box 8 F169]
Publications, 1998 [Box 8 F170]
Publications, 1999 [Box 8 F171]
Publications, 2000 [Box 8 F172]
Publications, 2001 [Box 8 F173]
Publications, 2002 [Box 8 F174]
Publications, 2003 [Box 8 F175]
Publications, 2004 [Box 8 F176]
Publications, 2005 [Box 8 F177]
Publications, 2006 [Box 8 F178]
Publications, 2007 [Box 8 F179]
Publications, 2008 [Box 8 F180]

Series III. Photographs and videos, 1984-2004

Includes photograph albums and files of loose photographs arranged chronologically by conference year and videocassette tape recording which have been removed to the Media Section.

Photographs, 1986 [Box 8 F181]

DWC Photographs, 1986 [Box 9 F182]

Photograph album, 1987 [Box 9 F183]
Series III.

Photograph album, 1988 [Box 9 F184]

Photograph album, 1989 [Box 9 F185]

Photograph album, 1993 [Box 9 F186]

Photographs, 1994 [Box 9 F187]

Photographs, 1994 [Box 9 F188]

Photographs, 1994 [Box 9 F189]

Press Speakers- Photographs, 1984-1994 [Box 9 F190]

Photograph album, 1994 [Box 9 F191]

Photograph album, 1996 [Box 10 F192]

Photograph album, 2001 [Box 10 F193]

Photographs, 1998 [Box 10 F194]

Photograph album, 2001 [Box 10 F195]

Photograph album, 2001 [Box 10 F196]

Photographs, 1992, 1996 [Box 10 F197]

Photographs, 1997 [Box 10 F198]

Photographs, 2003 [Box 10 F199]

Photographs, 2004 [Box 10 F200]

Video cassette recording, 1988 [Box 10 F201]

Video cassette recording, 1996 [Box 10 F202]

Series IV. Conference ephemera and artifacts, 1995-2002

Includes t-shirts, mugs, jewelry and badges.

Badges, undated [Box 10 F203]

T-shirts, 1995-2002 [Box 11]
Series IV.

8 items

Tote bags, 1997-2001 [Box 12]

4 items

Mugs, 1998-2002 [Box 14]

4 items