

## Collection Summary

**ID Number:** CS 464

**Title:** Laura Johnston Kohl

**Extent:** 3 Boxes, 37 Folders

**Span Dates:** 1972-2017

**Language:** English

**Geographic Location:** San Francisco, CA; Georgetown, Guyana

**Abstract:** The Laura Johnston Kohl collection consists of newspaper articles, photographs, survivor reunions and some personal documents relating to the Peoples Temple.

**Historical Notes:** When 914 members of Peoples Temple and four visiting Americans died in Guyana, South America on November 18, 1978, Laura Johnston Kohl survived, one of only 87 who lived through the trauma. After attending Woodstock, and participating with the Black Panthers, Laura moved into Peoples Temple in California in 1970, and was an active and enthusiastic member until it ended. She moved to Guyana in March 1977. She lived her first year in Georgetown, purchasing supplies, then moved to Jonestown, a 24-hour boat ride away. She moved back into Georgetown in October 1978. Laura's survival was a fluke, based solely on her move back to Georgetown. It took twenty years for her to rebuild her life and have the determination to research this tragedy. The first ten years were spent in Synanon, and the next 10 were spent getting her bilingual teaching credentials and settling in with her family. After 20 years, she reunited with many other survivors to put the pieces together. In 2010, she published *Jonestown Survivor: An Insider's Look*. Laura is a writer, bilingual teacher, public speaker (Speakers' Bureau of The Jonestown Institute), a Quaker, and a presenter and board member of the Communal Studies Association. She contributes to the annual *Jonestown Report* published by the Jonestown Institute, and writes a monthly article for a local paper. She is helping set up a survivors' visit to Jonestown with a documentary crew.

## Selected Search Terms

**Subjects:** Peoples Temple; Jonestown Mass Suicide, Jonestown, Guyana, 1978; Jones, Jim, 1931-1978

## Administrative Information

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<b>Contents</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Container</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>Agricultural Reports and Jonestown Reports</b>	1977 - 2005	Box	1 Folder	1 Shelf
<b>Photographs [ ]: Paper Photos</b>	1978 - 2011	Box	1 Folder	2 Shelf
<b>Court Documentation, FBI Requests, and Plane Tickets</b>	1949 - 1980	Box	1 Folder	3 Shelf
<b>Film Documentation</b>	1978 - 2005	Box	1 Folder	4 Shelf
<b>Newspaper Articles</b>	1978 - 2014	Box	1 Folder	5 Shelf
<b>Thesis Papers</b>	2006 - 2012	Box	1 Folder	6 Shelf
<b>Memorial Tributes</b>	1978 - 2013	Box	1 Folder	7 Shelf
<b>Letters, Western Union Address Book</b>	1977 - 1980	Box	1 Folder	8 Shelf
<b>Correspondence</b>	2003 - 2006	Box	1 Folder	9 Shelf
<b>Magazines</b>	1972 - 2011	Box	1 Folder	10 Shelf
<b>Publications and Articles</b>	1972 - 2017	Box	1 Folder	11 Shelf
<b>Bus, Cards, Advertisements, Event Tickets, and Song Sheet</b>	1978 - 2014	Box	1 Folder	12 Shelf
<b>Events and Vendors</b>	2010 - 2013	Box	1 Folder	13 Shelf
<b>Book Research, Emails</b>	2009 - 2012	Box	1 Folder	14 Shelf
<b>Guyana Trip</b>	2014 - 2015	Box	1 Folder	15 Shelf
<b>Photographs [ ]: Emails and Photos</b>	1977 - 2007	Box	1 Folder	16 Shelf
<b>Publications Timeline</b>	1955 - 2011	Box	1 Folder	17 Shelf
<b>Personal Correspondence and Notes</b>	2013 - 2014	Box	1 Folder	18 Shelf
<b>Primary Source</b>	1977 - 1978	Box	1 Folder	19 Shelf
<b>Address lists of family</b>	n.d.	Box	1 Folder	20 Shelf
<b>Photographs [1-143]</b>	1978 - 2011	Box	1 Folder	21 Shelf
<b>Photographs [144-207]</b>	n.d.	Box	1 Folder	22 Shelf
<b>The Rev. Jim Jones: California, Guyana and After. Anonymous Film Archive #90 (DVD). Compilation of television programs and segments. This DVD Contains an Early Faith Healing in Los Angeles and over Three Hours of Documentary Footage</b>	n.d.	Box	1 Folder	23 Shelf
<b>Jonestown: The Life and Death of Peoples Temple. PBS Home Video, American Experience. (DVD)</b>	2007	Box	1 Folder	24 Shelf
<b>Serial Killer Culture. A John Borowski Show, Season 1. 2017 (DVD)</b>	2017	Box	1 Folder	25 Shelf
<b>CNN: November 17, 2003</b>	2003	Box	1 Folder	26 Shelf

<b>Jonestown</b>	n.d.	Box	1	Folder	27	Shelf
<b>Unknown VHS</b>	n.d.	Box	1	Folder	28	Shelf
<b>Unknown VHS</b>	n.d.	Box	1	Folder	29	Shelf
<b>Peoples Temple Network News Coverage 1978-2006 (DVD)</b>	n.d.	Box	1	Folder	30	Shelf
<b>Witness to Jonestown. MSNBC Films, Peacock Productions (DVD)</b>	2008	Box	1	Folder	31	Shelf
<b>Jonestown: Paradise Lost. Cineflix (DVD)</b>	2007	Box	1	Folder	32	Shelf
<b>The Final Report: Jonestown Tragedy. Towers Productions. (DVD)</b>	n.d.	Box	1	Folder	33	Shelf
<b>Photographs [ ]: CDs of Photos of Jonestown, Peoples Temple, Memorial Reunions. (Many Duplicates of Photographs; Audio and Video Interviews; Peoples Temple Choir)</b>	n.d.	Box	2	Folder	1	Shelf
<b>Photographs [ ]: Photos and Passport</b>	n.d.	Box	2	Folder	2	Shelf
<b>Jonestown Memorial Dedication Cemetery Booklet: May 29, 2011</b>	2011	Box	2	Folder	3	Shelf
<b>Laura Johnston Kohl's Photograph Scrapbook</b>	2007 - 2009	Box	3	Folder	1	Shelf