

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

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