

Helen Sauer Brown Papers ***1944-2002***

Creator: Helen Sauer Brown (1923-2016)

Extent: 0.5 linear feet (1 box)

Language: English

Repository: Women and Leadership Archives, Loyola University Chicago. Please contact WLArchives@luc.edu regarding use.

Administration Information

Access Restrictions: None.

Usage Restrictions: Copyright of materials created by Helen Sauer Brown was transferred to WLA September 28, 2000.

Preferred Citation: Identification of item, date, box #, folder #, Helen Sauer Brown Papers, Women and Leadership Archives, Loyola University Chicago.

Provenance: Helen Sauer Brown donated this collection on July 21, 1999 (WLA1999.14) and July 9, 2002 (WLA2002.24).

Processor: Adrienne Sage, 28 September 2000.

Processing Information: Finding aid updated January 2025.

Separations: Transferred to the Mundelein College Records: nineteen copies of *The Mundelein College Review*, 1940-1945; volumes 9, 10, & 11 of *Quest* poetry review.

See Also: Mundelein College Records, Women and Leadership Archives

Biographical History

Helen Sauer Brown was born Helen Irene Sauer on February 7, 1923 in Findlay, Ohio to parents Joseph Thomas (1897-1965) and Mary Sweeney Sauer (1898-1954). Shortly after her birth, her family moved to Cicero, Illinois. She attended high school at Nazareth Academy in La Grange, Illinois, and received her BA, magna cum laude, in Classics at Mundelein College, Chicago, in 1944. After marrying Thomas Brown (1923-2005) and raising nine children, Helen Sauer Brown returned to Mundelein College for her MA, summa cum laude, in Religious Studies, received in 1970. While a graduate student, she was named an Archdiocese of Chicago Cardinal Meyer Scholar. She served on the Mundelein College Board of Trustees from 1972 to 1979 and 1981 to 1991 and was president of the Alumnae Association from 1966-1967.

Brown dedicated her spare time to volunteerism within the community and church while raising her children. In 1967 she started teaching Religion at Nazareth Academy, where she remained for five years. She served as President of a religious education consulting service called Religious Education Services from 1972 to 1976, offering personnel and program development to local

churches, and conducting training programs for teachers of religion. As a pastoral minister, she coordinated church retreats and workshops and became a reader at St. Francis Xavier Church.

During the 1960s, Brown traveled to Washington, DC, as a peace activist, and to Springfield, Illinois as an organizer of the Equal Rights Amendment on behalf of the Illinois Catholic Women. Throughout her life, she has remained dedicated to peace, women's equality, and the teachings of the church.

In the mid-1970s, Helen Sauer Brown became a retail entrepreneur, owning and operating a home furnishings business in La Grange, Illinois. She held positions in several business organizations, including the first woman presidency of the West Suburban Chamber of Commerce, and received the Outstanding Working Woman of Illinois Award in 1993 for her accomplishments. The Community Family Service and Mental Health Association, for which Brown served as President of the Board, hired her as Director of Resource Development, a position she held through the mid-1990s. She was involved in the fund-raising of this organization as a certified fund-raising executive. In honor of her great lifetime achievements, she was named to "Who's Who in American Women" for 1997-1998.

Helen Sauer Brown passed away on March 24, 2016.

Scope and Content

The Helen Sauer Brown Papers consist of 0.5 linear feet (1 box) and span the years 1944-2002. Materials relate to Brown's family life, community activities, and graduate school writings. These papers are divided into two series based on Helen Sauer Brown's arrangement.

Series 1: Personal and Family Papers, 1944-2002, Box 1

This series includes photographs, wedding and anniversary mementos, award applications, statements on War Tax Resistance and the Equal Rights Amendment, and newspaper clippings. This series gives a good overview of the many activities she pursued throughout her life.

Series 2: Academic Papers, Master's Degree, 1969-1970, Box 1

This series contains papers, reports, exams, and class notes written by Helen Sauer Brown during her graduate studies at Mundelein College. Because she pursued Religious Studies for her master's degree, the papers within this series reveal many of her thoughts and ideas about religion.

Subjects:

Brown, Helen Sauer (1923-2016)
Brown, Thomas Sauer (1923-2005)
Nazareth Academy
Mundelein College
Peace Activist
Equal Rights Amendment
Illinois Catholic Women
West Suburban Chamber of Commerce
Cicero, IL
LaGrange, IL

Community Family Service and Mental Health Association
War Tax Resistance
Religious Studies

Box	Folder	Title	Dates
		<i>Helen Sauer Brown Papers 1944-2002</i>	
		Series 1: Personal and Family Papers, 1944-2002	
1	1	War Tax Resistance Statement	1972
1	2	Equal Rights Amendment Statement	1976
1	3	Thank-you letter from Carol Frances Jegen, BVM	1986
1	4	Notes, regarding Mundelein College Annual Fund	1988
1	5	<i>Who's Who of American Women</i>	1997-1998
1	6	Mother's Day Homily, given at St. Francis Xavier Parish	1994
1	7	Wedding Booklets from Sr. Mary Bernarda Welch, BVM	1944
1	8	Satin Wedding Missal Cover from Sr. Mary Donald McNeil, BVM	1944
1	9	Wedding Photo, Helen Sauer Brown	1944
1	10	Photo, "The Gay 19"- Mundelein College	1944
1	11	Tom Brown's WWII Story	1995
1	12	Tom and Helen Sauer Brown's 50 th Anniversary Papers: Liturgy, Homily, and Program Booklet	1994
1	13	Newspaper Articles about Helen Sauer Brown	1978, 1993
1	14	"The Oral Herstory of Helen Sauer Brown," by Katie Brown	1995
1	15	Outstanding Working Woman Award	1993
1	16	Women of Enterprise Award	1993
1	17	Flyer, "Day of Reflection for Working Women," Mundelein College	1981
1	18	Woman of the Century Award	2002
		Series 2: Academic Papers, Master's Degree, 1969-1970	
1	19	"A Study in White Racism"	1970
1	20	"The Diary of a Country Priest"	1970
1	21	"Précis of Book on the Art of Film"	1970
1	22	"Critique of Bergman"	1970
1	23	"Bureaucracy"	1969
1	24	"The Institutionalization of Religion" and Book Review	1969
1	25	Final Exam, Sociology of Religion	1969
1	26	"Reformation, Kant, Schleiermacher"	1969
1	27	"Augustine, Anselm, Aquinas"	1969
1	28	"Distinction Between Historical Jesus and Historical Christ"	1969

*Women and Leadership Archives
Loyola University Chicago*

1	29	“Summary of Reading: Gerhard Von Rad”	1970
1	30	“Theological Implications of the Linguistics in a Comparison of Genesis and the Prologue of the Gospel of St. John”	1970
1	31	Course: “Faith and Revelation”- Paper, Bibliography, and Notes	1969