

Finding Aid to the Janice F. Jorgensen papers, 1963-1968

Collection Overview

Creator: Jorgensen, Janice F., 1946-

Dates: 1963-1968

Extent: 0.63 linear feet (2 boxes)

Language: English, Spanish

Abstract:

Janice F. Jorgensen served as a Peace Corps volunteer in the Dominican Republic between 1966 and 1968. This collection contains materials documenting Jorgensen's Peace Corps application acceptance in 1962, her training and preparation, as well as her time in the Dominican Republic as a volunteer.

Preferred Citation: [item], Janice F. Jorgensen papers, American University Archives & Special Collections, Washington, D.C.

Custodial History

This collection was donated to the AU Archives & Special Collections in February 2023 as part of the Peace Corps Community Archive by Janice F. Jorgensen.

Processing Information

Collection was processed by JJ Kresky, Peace Corps Community Archive Student Fellow. Completed in October 2024. During processing the original order was maintained as much as possible using donor provided documentation.

Related Materials

Related materials at AU Archives & Special Collections include other collections donated to the Peace Corps Community Archives.

Related materials at other institutions include the oral history: Jorgensen, Janice, interview by Randolph A. Adams. February 15, 2023, Peace Corps: The Returned Peace Corps Volunteer Oral History Project, Louie B. Nunn Center for Oral History, University of Kentucky Libraries.

<https://kentuckyoralhistory.org/ark:/16417/xt714rzv68mh5>

Collection Access & Use Information

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research use.

Conditions Governing Use

To the extent that they own copyright, the donor has assigned the copyright of this collection to American University. Contact AU Archives & Special Collections and Archives for more information.

Administrative Information

Finding Aid Date: 2024-10

Finding Aid Author: Finding aid created by JJ Kresky, October 2024.

Description Rules: Finding aid prepared using Describing Archives: A Content Standard.

Language of Description: English

Collection Description

Biographical Note

Janice F. Jorgensen was born 1946 in Gustine, California and attended Gustine High School. She later studied at the University of the Pacific and at Seattle University. Jorgensen first applied to the Peace Corps in 1962 in the same year that the Peace Corps spread their area of activity to the Dominican Republic. Jorgensen, who was 16 years old at the time she applied, was initially denied due to her young age. After several years, she was accepted into the Dominican Republic program as a Peace Corps Volunteer (PCV). She served in the Dominican Republic with Training Group 18 between 1966 and 1968.

The group met in Philadelphia before traveling to Puerto Rico for training at Camp Crozier. Jorgensen was one of only two single women serving in her group at the time. During her service, Jorgensen volunteered in the communities of Santiago and Amina where she assisted with rural community development and Family Planning. During her service she held the position of “Promotora social” within the Office of Community Development (OCD) where she acted as a community organizer in the Valverde-Mao area.

After completing her service in the Peace Corps, Jorgensen worked in business, and continued to contribute to conservation, international development, and other volunteer opportunities. This collection documents her experiences during her Peace Corps service in the late 1960s, however Jorgensen came out as lesbian later in her working adult life. Between 1997-2002, she served as a Country Director (CD) for the Peace Corps. While considering the position, Jorgensen requested an assignment in an LGBT+ friendly host country. She was assigned to Panama where she lived with her partner for five years. In 2003 Jorgensen continued her work with the Peace Corps as an expert consultant in Timor Leste. In 2005 Jorgensen became the Membership Director for the Friends of the Dominican Republic, an organization of current and former PCVs.

Collection Scope and Content Note

This collection documents Janice F. Jorgensen’s service in the Peace Corps between 1966 and 1968. The collection also includes information involving her initial application to the Peace Corps in 1962 and her appointment to the Dominican Republic in 1966. A significant portion of the items in the collection were created by the Peace Corps to train volunteers and give instruction. Promotional materials created by Dominican Republic organizations like the Oficina Del Desarrollo were used to promote both the Peace

Corps and tourism within the Dominican Republic. Materials documenting Jorgensen’s personal experience are also included in this collection. These items include newspaper clippings, correspondence and letters about her involvement in the Peace Corps, and Jorgensen’s personal calendar books. Formats are mainly textual and include correspondence, training ephemera, post cards, maps, pamphlets, reports, calendar books, and collected publications from 1966-1968.

Arrangement

The Janice F. Jorgensen collection is arranged as an inventory largely following the original order provided by the collection creator.

Collection Contents

Box Number	Folder Number	Folder Title
1	1	Training Materials Received in Arecibo, Puerto Rico, 1966
1	2	Personal Peace Corps Correspondence, 1963-1966
1	3	Conference Report and Map from John Smith, undated
1	4	Newspaper Articles by Janice F. Jorgensen, 1967
1	5	Peace Corps Reports, 1966-1968
1	6	Description of Volunteer Service, 1966-1968
1	7	Oficina De Desarrollo Materials, 1966
1	8	Maps and Tourism Pamphlets of Dominica Republic, 1963-1967
1	9	Peace Corps Magazine, 1963
1	10	Family Correspondence, 1966 (folder 1 of 2)
1	11	Family Correspondence, 1966 (folder 2 of 2)
1	12	Family Correspondence, 1967 (folder 1 of 2)
1	13	Family Correspondence, 1967 (folder 2 of 2)
2	1	Family Correspondence, 1968 (folder 1 of 2)
2	2	Family Correspondence, 1968 (folder 2 of 2)
2	3	Newspaper Clippings, 1967-1968
2	4	Postcards, undated
2	5	Calendar Book, 1966
2	6	Calendar Book, 1967
2	7	Calendar Book, 1968