



Guide to the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. Triangle Branch Records, 1939-2025

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Table of Contents

Summary	3
Background	4
Arrangement	5
Administrative Information	6
Related Materials	7
Names and Subjects	7
Collection Inventory	8
Administrative Materials	8
Subject Files	10
Publications	13
Photographs	13
Scrapbooks	14
Audiovisual Materials	15

Summary

Collection Title:

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. Triangle Branch records, 1939-2025

Creator:

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. Triangle Branch

Source:

Sallie Bingham Center for Women's History and Culture

Abstract:

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), Triangle Branch is a local chapter of a peace advocacy organization. The Triangle Branch was founded in 1935 as the Chapel Hill Branch, twenty years after the international WILPF organization was established. Collection contains administrative materials, subject files, publications, and other items that document the branch's and its chairpersons' activities, advocacy, and interests, particularly their pacifist, anti-nuclear, and human rights activism. Acquired as part of the Sallie Bingham Center for Women's History and Culture.

Extent:

8 Linear Feet (7 boxes)

Language:

Materials in English

Collection ID:

RL.01395

Permalink:

<https://idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/m19m7x>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. Triangle Branch Records, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Background

Scope and Content

Collection contains administrative materials, subject files, publications, photographs, scrapbooks, and audiovisual materials that document the history, activities, advocacy, and interests of Triangle WILPF and its chairpersons, especially Charlotte Adams and Vivian Plonsey. Materials range in date from 1939 to 2025, although the bulk of the collection dates from the 1980s to the 2000s. Topics represented in the collection include disarmament and the anti-nuclear movement; human rights; women's rights; racial, economic, and environmental justice; U.S. wars in Vietnam, Afghanistan, and Iraq; and U.S. foreign policy. Organizations represented throughout the collection include WILPF, Orange County Peace Coalition, Physicians for Social Responsibility, Peace Action Education Fund, NATO, and many others.

Administrative materials consist of chronological files, correspondence, meeting minutes, newsletters, and program-specific files that detail Triangle WILPF's history, operation, and community organizing. Series also contains informational literature, correspondence, and event materials from other chapters of WILPF, including the U.S. Section and the international body of WILPF. The activities of Charlotte Adams, Vivian Plonsey, and other WILPF chairs are represented throughout the administrative materials. Triangle WILPF's regular activities such as peace vigils, demonstrations and protests, and legislative advocacy are documented throughout the Administrative Materials and the Subject Files.

Subject files constitute the largest part of the collection and represent the breadth and intersectional nature of Triangle WILPF's interests and advocacy efforts. Materials include correspondence (particularly with U.S. presidents and congressmen), meeting minutes, notes, newsletters and publications, informational literature, flyers, clippings, and other related items. Topics in the subject files range greatly but have a focus on nuclear disarmament, nuclear treaties, U.S. wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, and other armed conflicts. Vivian Plonsey's activities on behalf of WILPF and the Orange County Peace Coalition are strongly represented in this series.

Publications consist primarily of those published by WILPF, which include the International Peace Update, Pax et libertas, and Peace and Freedom. A few publications from other organizations are also in this series; other publications of a less substantial nature can be found in the Subject Files series.

Photographs depict Triangle WILPF members and events, especially those in the 1970s and 1980s.

Scrapbooks contain photographs, newspaper clippings, and other materials that document the Triangle chapter's history and activities. Additionally, one scrapbook commemorates Charlotte Adams and her activism.

Collections also contains a small number of audiovisual materials (VHS, CDs, and audiocassettes), which include an interview with Charlotte Adams, the chapter's founder, and several items related to nuclear disarmament and U.S. foreign policy.

Biographical/Historical

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) is an international peace advocacy organization founded in 1915. Charlotte Adams founded the Chapel Hill Branch of WILPF in 1935. Since its establishment, the branch has used several names interchangeably. It officially changed its name to the Triangle Branch in 2002, and as of 2025 it is variously known as the Triangle NC Chapter, Triangle Branch, Triangle WILPF, WILPF Triangle, and Triangle Area WILPF. The Triangle Branch's particular focus areas are peace, human rights, environmental justice, and labor, and it is a member of the Orange County Peace Coalition, the Orange County Community Remembrance (OCCR) Coalition, Frackfree NC, and Concentrated Animal Feedings Operation (CAFO) Roundtable. Triangle WILPF participates in legislative advocacy, demonstrations, peace vigils, and other events to further their goals. Former chairpersons of Triangle WILPF include Charlotte Adams, Dee Gamble, Vivian Plonsey, Anne Ivey, Lori Hoyt, and Martha Drake.

Source: Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Triangle Branch website (accessed December 12, 2025).

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

Arranged into series: Administrative Materials, Subject Files, Publications, Photographs, Scrapbooks, and Audiovisual Materials.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

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URL: <https://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/>

Access Restrictions

Access note. Some materials in this collection are original audiovisual items that need to be reformatted before use. Contact Research Services for access.

Use Restrictions

The copyright interests in this collection have not been transferred to Duke University. For more information, consult the copyright section of the Regulations and Procedures of the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

Acquisition Information

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Triangle Branch Records were received by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library as a gift in 1999-2005 and 2025.

Processing Information

Processed by Alexandra Krensky and Megan E. Lewis, Nov 2010

Encoded by Alexandra Krensky and Megan E. Lewis, Nov 2010

Accession 2025-0096 added and collection reprocessed by Leah Tams, December 2025. The Printed Materials series was removed and processed into other extant series such as Administrative Materials, Subject Files, and Publications. Collection description significantly enhanced.

Accessions described in this collection guide: 1999-0315, 2000-0074, 2000-0288, 2001-0150, 2004-0073, 2005-0034, 2025-0096.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Related Materials

Related Material

Researchers may also be interested in the following collections at the Rubenstein Library:

Martha Drake papers.

Triangle Raging Grannies records.

Woman's Peace Party collection.

Ruth Zalph papers.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Names and Subjects

- Women -- North Carolina -- Research Triangle -- Societies and clubs
- Nuclear nonproliferation
- Disarmament
- Nuclear arms control
- Antinuclear movement
- Peace movements -- United States
- Women and peace
- Women in community organization
- Women pacifists -- North Carolina -- Research Triangle
- United States -- Foreign relations
- Human Rights
- Lobbying -- United States
- Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. Chapel Hill Branch
- Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
- Adams, Charlotte, 1902-2005
- Plonsey, Vivian, 1924-2011
- Orange County Peace Coalition (N.C.)
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization
- Physicians for Social Responsibility (U.S.)
- Peace Action Education Fund

- Sallie Bingham Center for Women's History and Culture

Collection Inventory

Administrative Materials, 1939-2025

Arranged alphabetically. Where possible, materials are arranged chronologically within files.

Scope and Contents

Series consists of chronological files, correspondence, meeting minutes, newsletters, and program-specific files that detail Triangle WILPF's history and operation. The chronological files are composed largely of monthly newsletters and meeting minutes; a small amount of minutes and newsletters exist outside of the chronological files. Chapter correspondence is not extensive and includes some correspondence with elected officials, primarily Congressman David Price, Senator John Edwards, and Presidents George W. Bush and Bill Clinton; additional correspondence with elected officials can be found throughout the Subject Files series. Series also contains informational literature, correspondence, and event materials from other chapters of WILPF, including the U.S. Section and the international body of WILPF. The activities of Charlotte Adams, Vivian Plonsey, and other WILPF chairs are represented throughout the administrative materials. Triangle WILPF's regular activities such as peace vigils, participation in protests, and legislative advocacy are documented throughout this series, as well as in the Subject Files. Additional administrative materials such as correspondence, meeting minutes, and notes, can be found throughout the Subject Files series.

Back from the Brink campaign, 1998-2001	Box 1
Chapter history, 1998-1999	Box 1
Chronological files, 1939-1942	Box 1
Chronological files, 1951-1975	Box 1
Chronological files, 1950s-1970s	Box 1
Chronological files, 1981-1983	Box 1
Chronological files, 1987-2001	Box 1
Chronological files, 2002-2005	Box 1

Clippings of/by WILPF members, 1990s-2000s	Box 1
Correspondence, 1950-1981	Box 1
Correspondence, 1998-2004	Box 1
Correspondence with elected officials, 1990, 1998-2003	Box 1
Disarm: Dismantling the the War Economy campaign, 2000-2001	Box 1
Events, 1990s-2000s	Box 1
George and Dee Gamble files, 1980s	Box 1
Great Day Peace Train, 1995	Box 1
Informational literature, 1970s-1990s	Box 1
Legislative bulletins, 1970s	Box 1
Membership and mailers, 1970s-2003	Box 1
Minutes notebook, 1966-1980	Box 1
Minutes, 1980-1983	Box 1
Newsletter, 2016, 2019	Box 1
Nuclear disarmament conference calls, 1999-2000	Box 1
Organizing how-tos, 1992	Box 1
Program work, 1990s-2000s	Box 1
Processing Information: Title retained from original folder.	
Publicity, 1998-2002	Box 1
Processing Information: Title retained from original folder.	
Region III Biennial, 1986 September	Box 1

Siphra Rolland files, 1979-1981	Box 1
Stop the Arms Race (STAR) campaign, 1982-1983	Box 1
Treasurer's reports and finances, 2000-2004	Box 1
Vivian Plonsey files, 2003 February	Box 1
WILPF: International, 1971-2004	Box 1
WILPF: Other chapters, 1995-1999	Box 1
WILPF: U.S. Section, 1967-2004	Box 2

Physical Description: 3 folders

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Chapel Hill Branch website, 2012-2022, 2025. (online item available)

Digital Object: [Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Chapel Hill Branch website](#)

Digital Object: [Women's International League for Peace and Freedom - Triangle](#)

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Subject Files, 1966-2003

Arranged alphabetically.

Scope and Contents

Subject files constitute the largest part of the collection and represent the breadth and intersectional nature of Triangle WILPF's interests and advocacy. Materials date mostly from the 1990s and early 2000s and include correspondence (particularly with U.S. presidents and congresspersons), meeting minutes, notes, newsletters and publications, informational literature, flyers, clippings, and other related items. Topics in the subject files range greatly but have a focus on nuclear disarmament, nuclear treaties, U.S. wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, and other armed conflicts. The nuclear disarmament subject files also contain materials about general (non-nuclear) disarmament. Many of the topics overlap, so related materials to each topic can be found throughout the rest of the subject files. Organizations represented throughout the subject files include WILPF, Orange County Peace Coalition, Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR), Raging Grannies, Peace Action Education Fund, Council for a Livable World, Center for Defense Information, Ploughshares Fund, the United Nations, NATO, and many others.

Vivian Plonsey's activities on behalf of WILPF and the Orange County Peace Coalition are strongly represented in this series. Most of the correspondence, notes, and meeting minutes throughout the subject files are Plonsey's. The subject files also reflect the activities of other Triangle WILPF chairpersons and members, including Charlotte Adams, Anne Ivey, Lori Hoyt, and Ruth Zalph. Triangle WILPF's activities documented in this series include peace vigils, participation in protests, and legislative advocacy. Additional documentation of these activities can be found throughout the Administrative Materials.

Admiral Carroll, 2000	Box 2
Afghanistan, 2001-2002	Box 2
Physical Description: 3 folders	
Agricultural workers, 1998-2003	Box 2
American Friends Service Committee, 1966-1973, 1995	Box 2
Bush administration, 2001 August	Box 2
Cassini space probe, 1997-1999	Box 2
Central America and Cuba, 1986-2002	Box 2
Charlotte Adams, 1975-2001	Box 2
Children's rights, circa 1999	Box 2
Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, 1998-2000	Box 2
Criticisms of WILPF, 1999	Box 2
De-alerting, 2000-2001	Box 2
Directory of North Carolina women's organizations, 1996	Box 2
Doris "Granny D" Haddock, 2000	Box 2
Economic human rights and welfare, 1970s-1990s	Box 2
"Foreign Policy in the Age of Nuclear Weapons", 2000	Box 2
FCC, 2003	Box 2

Gulf War, 1991	Box 2
Health care, 1998-2003	Box 2
International Criminal Court, 1998, 2003	Box 2
International Women's Year, 1975	Box 2
Iraq, 1998-2003	Box 2
Physical Description: 5 folders	
Iraq, 1998-2003	Box 3
Israel and Palestine, 1982, 2001-2003	Box 3
Kosovo and Yugoslavia, 1999	Box 3
Landmines, 1996-1999	Box 3
LEAP: Peace Action project, 2000-2001	Box 3
Legislative advocacy, 1973, 1997-1998	Box 3
Mt. Olive boycotts, 2001	Box 3
NC WARN, 2001-2003	Box 3
Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), 1997-2000	Box 3
Physical Description: 4 folders	
Nuclear disarmament, 1961-1965	Box 3
Nuclear disarmament, 1970s-1980s	Box 3
Nuclear disarmament, 1996-2003	Box 3
Physical Description: 9 folders	
Nuclear disarmament, 1996-2003	Box 4
Physical Description: 3 folders	
Orange County Peace Coalition, 1998-2001	Box 4
Prison reform, 1970s, 1998-2000	Box 4
Racism and white supremacy, 1970s	Box 4

Transnational Foundation for Peace and Future Research, 1999-2001	Box 4
U.S. Army School of the Americas (SOA), 1997-1999	Box 4
Vietnam War, 1970s	Box 4

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Publications, 1971-2002

Arranged alphabetically.

Scope and Contents

Publications consist primarily of those published by WILPF, which include the International Peace Update, Pax et libertas, and Peace and Freedom. A few publications from other organizations are also in this series; other publications of a less substantial nature can be found throughout the Subject Files series.

The Defense Monitor, 1996-2001	Box 4
Friends Committee on National Legislation Newsletter, 1997-2001	Box 4
International Peace Update, 1997-1999	Box 4
Pax et libertas, 1971-1973	Box 4
Peace and Freedom, 1971-1973	Box 4
Peace and Freedom, 1974-1998	Box 4
Peace and Freedom, 1999-2000	Box 4
Peace and Freedom, 2000-2002	Box 4
PSR Monitor and PSR Reports, 1996-1999	Box 4
Resist, 1997-2000	Box 4

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Photographs, 1970s-2003

Arranged alphabetically.

Scope and Contents

Photographs constitute a small portion of the collection and depict Triangle WILPF members and events. Materials date largely from the 1970s and 1980s, and some items are photographic negatives or slides. Additional copies of some photographs can also be found in the collection's scrapbooks. The scrapbooks also contain photographs that are not in this series.

Admiral Carroll, 1999-2000	Box 4
Applechill Festival slides, 1984 May	Box 4
Art for World Friendship exhibit, 1957 May	Box 4
Charlotte Adams and unknown event, circa 1980s, 2002	Box 4
"The Encampment", 1983 October	Box 4
First International Women's Year meeting, 1975	Box 4
International Women's Day, circa 1978	Box 4
July 4th celebration in Carrboro, N.C., 1997	Box 4
Mrs. Hall and art pupils, 1958 May	Box 4
People's Channel studio, Chapel Hill, 2003	Box 4
Picnic and Charlotte Adams' home, 1984 June	Box 4
Regional meeting, 1986 September	Box 4
Ribbon 'Round the Legislature negatives, 1985	Box 4
Sadie Hughley, circa 1980s	Box 4
Unknown events, circa 1970s-1980s	Box 4

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scrapbooks, 1955-1992

Arranged chronologically.

Scope and Contents

Scrapbooks contain photographs, newspaper clippings, and other materials that document the Triangle chapter's history and activities. Additionally, one scrapbook commemorates Charlotte Adams and her activism.

Scrapbook, 1955-1956 Box 4

Scrapbook, 1950s-1980s Box 7

Scope and Contents

Compiled by Dee Gamble. Scrapbook consists mostly of clippings and photographs.

Scrapbook, 1964 April-1965 June Box 6

Scrapbook (disbound), 1967-1970 Box 4

Processing Information:

Scrapbook disbound by processor.

Scrapbook commemorating Charlotte Adams, 1992 Box 6

Scope and Contents

Contains materials dating from the 1970s to the 1990s commemorating Adams' activism.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Audiovisual Materials, 1984-2000

Arranged alphabetically.

Access Restrictions:

Access note. Series contains original audiovisual items that need to be reformatted before use. Contact Research Services for access.

Scope and Contents

Audiovisual materials consist of a small amount of VHSes, CDs, and audiocassettes. These materials include an interview with Charlotte Adams, the chapter's founder, and several items related to nuclear disarmament and U.S.

foreign policy. The CDs in this series are transfers of content from the VHSes and audiocassettes.

Asheville Speak Out "Budget Cuts and Human Heads", 1987

Box 5 > Video-cassette
RL01395-VHS-0001

Back from the Brink: End the Nuclear Threat Now, 1999 December 01

Box 5 > Video-cassette
RL01395-VHS-0002

Back from the Brink: End the Nuclear Threat Now (duplicating master), 1999 December 01

Box 5 > Cd RL01395-CD-0001

Banning the Bomb: The 2000 Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, 2000

Box 5 > Video-cassette
RL01395-VHS-0003

Interview with Charlotte Adams, 1999 August 11

Box 5 > Audio-cassette
RL01395-CS-0001

Scope and Contents

Interviewed by Cristina Favretto.

Interview with Charlotte Adams (duplicating master), 1999 August 11

Box 5 > Cd RL01395-CD-0004,
RL01395-CD-0005

Physical Description: 2 cdrs

Scope and Contents

Interviewed by Cristina Favretto, transfer from audiocassette.

Interview with Charlotte Adams (use copy), 2000 August 11

Box 5 > Cd RL01395-CD-0002,
RL01395-CD-0003

Physical Description: 2 cdrs

Scope and Contents

Interviewed by Cristina Favretto, transfer from audiocassette.

"My County 'Tis...Thy Shame I Sing":
Condemnation of U.S. policy in Nicaragua, circa
1986

Box 5 > Audio-cassette
RL01395-CS-0002

Scope and Contents

Paid for by Witness for Peace. Soloist: Jill Levis. Producer/writer: Bill Cleary.

Preventing Nuclear War: First Essential Step,
circa 1987

Box 5 > Video-cassette
RL01395-VHS-0004

Scope and Contents

Narrated by Paul Newman.

"'Tis...Thy Shame I Sing": Condemnation of U.S.
policy in Nicaragua (duplicating master), circa
1986

Box 5 > Cd RL01395-CD-0006

Scope and Contents

Transfer from audiocassette.

"'Tis...Thy Shame I Sing": Condemnation of U.S.
policy in Nicaragua (use copy), circa 1986

Box 5 > Cd RL01395-CD-0007

Unlabeled audiocassette, circa 1980s-1990s

Box 5 > Audio-cassette
RL01395-CS-0003

US vs. USSR: Who's Ahead?; The Military
Budget: Dollars and Defense; Rickover on
Defense; and El Salvador: What's at Stake?,
1984

Box 5 > Video-cassette
RL01395-VHS-0005

Scope and Contents

Parts 1-4 in a series. Congressional Video Service.

Vivian Plonsey, Tan Schwab, Martha Drake,
circa 1980s-1990s

Box 5 > Audio-cassette
RL01395-CS-0004

WILPF on KRON-TV SF, 1986 February

Box 5 > Video-cassette
RL01395-VHS-0006

[Return to Table of Contents](#)