



# Diann L. Neu papers

## Finding Aid

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This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on September 15, 2025.

Description is written in: English (Latin).

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Sophia Smith Collection of Women's History

Neilson Library

7 Neilson Drive

Northampton, MA 01063

[specialcollections@smith.edu](mailto:specialcollections@smith.edu)

URL:

<https://libraries.smith.edu/special-collections/about/sophia-smith-collection-womens-history>

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## Summary Information

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**Repository:** Sophia Smith Collection of Women's History

**Creator** Neu, Diann L.

**Source** Neu, Diann L.

**Title:** Diann L. Neu papers

**ID:** SSC-MS-00532

**ID [aspace\_uri]:** /repositories/2/resources/842

**Date [inclusive]:** 1977 - 2011

**Physical Description:** 6.937 linear feet (7 containers)

**Physical Description:** 54.48 Gigabytes

**Language of the Material:** English

**Abstract:**

Theologian; Feminist; Psychotherapist. Papers document Neu's education in theology; her work and activism re: articulating and advocating radical new forms of feminist theology, and in re-defining the role of women in the church; her participation in numerous conferences about women in the church; and materials pertaining to her two books, *Return Blessings: Ecofeminist Blessings Renewing the Earth* (2002) and *Women's Rites: Feminist Liturgies for Life's Journeys* (2003). Types of material include correspondence, interviews, lecture notes, minutes, sermons, speeches, transcripts, writings, slides, and audiovisual material.

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**Preferred**

**Citation:** Please use the following format when citing materials from this collection:

Diann L. Neu Papers, Sophia Smith Collection, Smith College, Northampton, Mass.

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## Biographical / Historical

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Diann L. Neu was born in 1948. She earned her Masters in Clinical Social Work from The

Catholic University of America, her Master of Sacred Theology degree from The Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley, and her Doctor of Ministry in International Feminist Theology from the San Francisco Theological Seminary. Trained in liturgy and spirituality, she has done extensive work in designing liturgies for national and international conferences as well as for her own women-church base community in the Washington, DC area. In 1983, Neu and her partner, Mary E. Hunt, founded the Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics, and Ritual (WATER) in Silver Spring, MD. In private practice as a psychotherapist, as well as in her affiliation with WATER, she counsels women and men from widely divergent backgrounds in individual, couple, and group sessions. Neu lectures and conducts workshops throughout the United States, in Latin America and Europe, and has published numerous books of rituals and articles on the subject of feminist approaches to liturgy, spirituality, and therapy. She has received many awards for her work and is the author of two books, *Women's Rites: Feminist Liturgies for Life's Journey* (2002) and *Return Blessings: Ecofeminist Liturgies Renewing the Earth* (2003). Her publications from WATERworks Press are *Peace Liturgies*; *Gathered at Sophia's Table: A Feminist Peace Seder*; *Women-Church Sourcebook*; *Women of Fire: A Pentecost Event*; *Women and the Gospel Traditions*; *Women-Church Celebrations*; *A Seder of the Sisters of Sarah*; *Miriam's Sisters Rejoice*; and *Together at Freedom's Table*.

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## Scope and Contents

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The Diann L. Neu Papers consist of information about Neu's education, including her M.A. thesis and Ph.D. dissertation in theology; her work and activism re: articulating and advocating radical new forms of feminist theology, and in re-defining the role of women in the church; materials documenting her participation in numerous conferences about women in the church; and materials pertaining to her two books, *Return Blessings: Ecofeminist Blessings Renewing the Earth* (2002) and *Women's Rites: Feminist Liturgies for Life's Journeys* (2003). Neu's efforts to define and promulgate a feminist, woman-oriented perspective in Christian liturgy are particularly well-documented. Types of material include correspondence, email, interviews, lecture notes, agendas, minutes, sermons, speeches, transcripts, writings, and slides. there is also a significant amount of audiovisual material documenting interviews, lectures, and sermons by Neu.

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## Arrangement

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This collection has been added to over time in multiple "accessions." An accession is a group of materials received from the same source at approximately the same time.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

[specialcollections@smith.edu](mailto:specialcollections@smith.edu)

URL:

<https://libraries.smith.edu/special-collections/about/sophia-smith-collection-womens-history>

Sophia Smith Collection of Women's History

Neilson Library

7 Neilson Drive

Northampton, MA 01063

## **Revision Description**

This resource was modified by the ArchivesSpace Preprocessor developed by the Harvard Library (<https://github.com/harvard-library/archivesspace-preprocessor>)

This record was migrated from InMagic DB Textworks to ArchivesSpace.

Description added for born-digital content.

Content description added from accession inventories

## **Conditions Governing Access**

This collection is open for research use without restriction beyond the standard terms and conditions of Smith College Special Collections.

## **Conditions Governing Use**

Materials in this collection may be governed by copyright. For reproductions of materials that are governed by fair use as defined under U. S. Copyright Law, no permission to cite or publish is required. Researchers are responsible for determining who may hold materials' copyrights and obtaining approval from them. Researchers do not need anything further from Smith College Special Collections to move forward with their use.

## **Immediate Source of Acquisition**

The papers were donated to the Sophia Smith Collection by Diann L. Neu in 2005 and 2012.

## **Processing Information**

Processed by Burd Schlessinger in 2005.

The contents of computer media in this collection has been copied to networked storage for preservation and access; the original directory and file structure was retained and file lists were created. Some floppy disks were unable to be copied. See the log files linked in the container list for more details.

## **Processing Information**

Between September 2022 and February 2023, Smith College Special Collections renumbered many boxes to eliminate duplicate numbers within collections in order to improve researcher experience. The following changes were made in this collection: Accession 2005-S-0071, Boxes

1-5 renumbered as Boxes 3-7

## Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements

This collection contains materials received from the donor in digital form that are not currently available online. Please consult with Special Collections staff to request access to this digital content.

## Other Finding Aids

One or more content listings to individual accessions in this collection are available for download. Links can be found in the description of the individual accessions.

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## Related Materials

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Associated material in the [Mary E. Hunt Papers](#) and the [Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics and Ritual Records](#), Sophia Smith Collection.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Agendas (administrative records)
- CD-ROMs
- Computer media
- Correspondence
- DVD-Video discs
- Ecofeminism -- Religious aspects
- Electronic mail
- Feminist spirituality
- Feminist theology
- Interviews
- Lectures
- Lesbianism -- Religious aspects -- Christianity
- Lesbians -- United States
- Liturgics -- United States
- Minutes (administrative records)
- Notes
- Religions -- Study and teaching
- Sermons
- Slides
- Speeches.
- Theses
- Transcripts
- Typescripts
- Videotapes
- Women and religion
- Women and religion

- Women in Christianity
- Writings
- audiotapes
- electronic records (digital records)
- lecture notes
- Hunt, Mary E.
- Neu, Diann L.
- Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics, and Ritual

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## Collection Inventory

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Title/Description	Instances
<b>Accession 2005-S-0071, 1977 - 2004</b>	
Title/Description	Instances
<u>Identifier</u> Accession 2005-S-0071	

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Writings- Books- Return Blessings (2002) and Women's Rites (2003): typescripts, and related correspondence and financial information, 2001 - 2002

box 3

Language English

of

Materials

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Conferences re: women and the church: correspondence, agendas, minutes, printed materials, notes, and financial information, 1982 - 2004

box 4

Language English

of

Materials

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Writings- Ph.D. dissertation (San Francisco Theological Seminary): typescript, and related correspondence, 2002

box 5

Language English

of

Materials

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Writings- M.A. thesis (Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley): typescripts and related correspondence, 1980

box 5

Language English

of

Materials

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Writings- Feminist liturgies: correspondence, 1982 - 2000

box 5

Language English

of

Materials

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Women's Ordination Conference: correspondence, agendas, minutes, 1995

box 5

Language English

of

Materials

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Education: applications, transcripts, and letters of recommendation, 1977 - 1980

box 5

Language English

of

Materials

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Professional activities: teaching: "Feminist Liturgy and Ritual": syllabus, essays, notes, and related correspondence, 1986

box 5

Language English

of

Materials

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Lectures and speeches: notes, 1983 - 2001

box 5

Language English

of

Materials

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## Woman Church Liturgies and WATER files, 1983 - 1993

box 6

Physical Characteristics This content was received from the donor in digital form and is not currently available online.

Technical Requirements Please consult with Special Collections staff to request access. Please note that Special Collections may not be able to provide the required software to read all files.

Other Finding Aids See the attached log for a list of media copied. More detailed digital file lists are available upon request.

Processing Information The contents of 61 of 96 disks were copied to networked storage for preservation and access; and file lists were created. 31 disks could not be imaged, but we were able to copy files. 4 disks were corrupted, no files recovered. See attached log file for more information.

Physical Description 96 items (96 5.25" floppy disks)

Physical Description 0.28 Gigabytes

Digital Object [https://drive.google.com/open?id=1sr3-WiWM9KLWrv8VGIG\\_DlPwIBp2EE4](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1sr3-WiWM9KLWrv8VGIG_DlPwIBp2EE4)

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Diann L. Neu liturgies, 1986 - 2003

box 6

Physical Characteristics This content was received from the donor in digital form and is not currently available online.

Technical Requirements Please consult with Special Collections staff to request access. Please note that Special Collections may not be able to provide the required software to read all files.

Other Finding Aids See attached file list for a detailed list of contents.

Processing Information The contents of 97 of 100 disks was copied to networked storage for preservation and access; and file lists were created. 3 disks were unreadable. See attached log file for more information.

Physical Description 100 items (100 3.5" floppy disks)

Physical Description 54.2 Gigabytes

Digital Object <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1P4DAjv0WYPV7QVDOBfukJhF9pCSDDeB2KoP6rk2YBNzY>

Digital Object <https://drive.google.com/open?id=18WoVsMqWhz-w1y2F66NkwYzF94goNI6x>

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Interviews, lectures, sermons, and speeches by Neu and Mary E. Hunt (including audiotapes of the WATER newsletter, WATERwheel): audiotapes, videocassettes, CDs, slides, and diskettes, 1983 - 2003

Language English box 6  
of box 7  
Materials

**Accession 2012-S-0015, 1977 - 2011****Title/Description****Instances**Identifier Accession 2012-S-0015Other A more detailed listing of what is  
Finding included in this group of materialsAids is available in this downloadabledocument: [inventory to accession](#)[2012-S-0015](#).**Articles and Chapters, 1977 - 1996**

box 1

Language EnglishofMaterials**Conferences workshops, teaching, Program Retreats, 1977 - 1996**

box 1

Language EnglishofMaterials**Liturgies, 1977 - 1996**

box 1

Language EnglishofMaterials**Reprints, 1977 - 1996**

box 1

Language EnglishofMaterials**Articles and Chapters, 1997 - 2011**

box 2

Language EnglishofMaterials

Conferences workshops, teaching, Program Retreats, 1997 - 2011

box 2

Language English  
of  
Materials

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Liturgies, 1997 - 2011

box 2

Language English  
of  
Materials

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Reprints, 1997 - 2011

box 2

Language English  
of  
Materials