

Anne B. Turpeau Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the
Library of Congress

Prepared by Nan Thompson Ernst with the
assistance of Patricia Craig and Susie H.
Moody



Manuscript Division, Library of
Congress

Washington, D.C.

2010

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Finding aid encoded by Library of
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Finding aid URL: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms011048>

Collection Summary

Title: Anne B. Turpeau Papers

Span Dates: 1915-1986

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1960-1986)

ID No.: MSS62023

Creator: Turpeau, Anne B. (Anne Brock), 1924-

Extent: 20,000 items; 59 containers; 24 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Abstract: Social activist. Correspondence, memoranda, writings, speeches, studies, reports, project proposals, organizational minutes and agenda, conference and committee records, legal documents, appointment calendars and notebooks, biographical records, Brock and Turpeau families papers, press releases and statements, newspaper clippings, printed material, and other papers relating to Turpeau's public service and activism on behalf of civil rights, community development, and women's rights.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People

Brock family.

Turpeau family.

Turpeau, Anne B. (Anne Brock), 1924-

Organizations

Black Women's Agenda.

D.C. International Women's Year Coordinating Committee.

District of Columbia. Commission for Women.

National Council of Negro Women.

National Women's Conference.

Organization of Black Activist Women.

United States. Delegation to the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women:

Equality, Development, and Peace, 1980, Copenhagen, Denmark.

Washington Urban League.

Washington Women's Forum.

Subjects

African American women--Societies and clubs

Civil rights--Washington (D.C.)

Civil rights.

Community development--Washington (D.C.)

Community development.

Crime prevention.

Housing.

International Women's Decade, 1976-1985.

Occupational training.

Public utilities.

Urban renewal.

Women's rights--Washington (D.C.)

Women's rights.

Women--International cooperation.

Women--Societies and clubs

Occupations

Social activist

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Anne B. Turpeau, social activist, were given to the Library of Congress by Turpeau in 1986.

Processing History

The Turpeau Papers were processed in 1995. The finding aid was revised in 2010.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Anne B. Turpeau is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Anne B. Turpeau are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Anne B. Turpeau Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1924, Mar. 6	Born, Anne Stuart Brock, Institute, W. Va.
1944	B.S. degree in education, West Virginia State College, Institute, W.Va.
1944-1945	Graduate studies as a Rosenwald Fellow, School of Journalism, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio
1946	Married Michel M. Turpeau
1962	M.A. degree in African Studies, Howard University, Washington, D.C.
1968-1969	Director, Neighborhood Development Center, Washington Urban League, Washington, D.C.
1969-1972	Associate director, Washington Urban League, Washington, D.C.
1972-1974	Community affairs director, District of Columbia Bicentennial Commission
1976-1979	Chair, District of Columbia Commission for Women

1977-1978	Chair, District of Columbia International Women's Year Coordinating Committee
1977	Head, District of Columbia delegation, National Women's Conference, Houston, Tex.
1978-1983	Cochair, Continuing Committee of the National Women's Conference
1980	Member, United States delegation, United Nations Decade for Women, World Conference, Copenhagen, Denmark

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Anne Brock Turpeau (1924-) span the years 1915-1986, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1960-1986. The collection includes correspondence and memoranda, appointment calendars and notebooks, family and biographical records, speeches, writings, organizational minutes and agenda, studies, project proposals, conference and committee records, legal documents, reports, press releases and statements, newspaper clippings, and other printed matter relating to Turpeau's public service career and activism on behalf of women's rights, civil rights, and community development. The papers are arranged in three series: [Professional File](#), [Organizations File](#), and [Miscellany](#).

The [Professional File](#) documents Turpeau's employment, political appointments, private consultancies, and public speaking and writing career. Files from her early work in public relations, teaching, and contract writing serve as a background to her later administrative positions. Turpeau worked with the Washington Urban League in Washington, D.C., from 1965 to 1972. Papers from her tenure as Neighborhood Development Center director and later as associate director of the Washington office feature urban renewal projects, housing assistance, job training, crime prevention, and the legal battle over utility company deposits. In the mid-1970s, the emphasis of Turpeau's work shifted to women's rights. Her service as chair of the District of Columbia Commission on Women is documented in this series, along with her work as chair of the District of Columbia International Women's Year (IWY) Coordinating Committee. The IWY Coordinating Committee was responsible for holding a "state" meeting to elect representatives to the 1977 National Conference on Women in Houston, Texas, and to draft a local plan of action. Turpeau was elected head of the D.C. delegation and records of its participation in the National Conference for Women are included with other IWY Coordinating Committee records. Her appointment calendars and notebooks concern aspects of daily work, but also include sporadic notes on conferences and meetings or for letters, speeches, and writings.

The [Organizations File](#) documents Turpeau's numerous associations with civic and professional groups, especially during the 1970s and 1980s. Her organizational work is most often related to women's issues and women's rights initiatives. She was a founding member of the Organization of Black Activist Women and the Washington Women's Forum and a charter member of the Black Women's Agenda. Records for these organizations are included in this series.

Much of Turpeau's work on women's issues revolved around the United Nations Decade for Women, 1975-1985. Earliest documentation related to the United Nations Decade for Women is found in records from the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) in the [Organizations File](#). Turpeau worked with the NCNW to develop seminars for an international group who met to discuss problems faced by women in economically undeveloped areas of the world, including a panel discussion at the first United Nations Conference on Women in Mexico City in 1975. After the 1977 National Women's Conference, Turpeau was elected cochair of a Continuing Committee, the group established to promote the conference's national plan of action to improve the status of women.

Records from the Continuing Committee of the Nation Women's Conference document Turpeau's most extensive work with a national women's organization. As cochair, Turpeau was appointed to the United States delegation to the 1980 United Nations Decade for Women World Conference in Copenhagen. Files relate to Turpeau's work with the United States Secretariat in preliminary regional conferences and as an active member of the Copenhagen delegation. Her appointment calendars and notebooks for 1980 in the [Professional File](#) also contain many references to the Copenhagen conference. Turpeau attended the closing meetings of the conference in Nairobi, 1985, as a private citizen. Files for this meeting are less extensive.

The [Miscellany](#) series contains scattered personal and family records along with a few topical files. The personal papers provide an indication of the achievements and history of the Brock and Turpeau families. Ann Turpeau's parents, both of whom were graduated from colleges in Georgia, were on the faculty of West Virginia State College in Institute, West Virginia. Her father, George Brock, was a graduate of Morehouse College, and her mother, Anne Blocker, was a Spelman College alumna. The Turpeau family migrated from Louisiana to Cincinnati, Ohio, where her father-in-law, David Dewitt Turpeau, was a distinguished Methodist minister and five-term Republican state senator.

Arrangement of the Papers

The collection is arranged in three series:

- [Professional File, circa 1940-1986](#)
- [Organizations File, 1963-1986](#)
- [Miscellany, 1915-1986](#)

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-32	<u>Professional File, circa 1940-1986</u> Correspondence, memoranda, reports, studies, proposals, programs, newspaper clippings, printed matter, address books, appointment calendars and notebooks, legal documents, lists, writings, and speeches. Arranged alphabetically by type of material or subject. The employment and project file is arranged chronologically to reflect Turpeau's career history.
BOX 32-57	<u>Organizations File, 1963-1986</u> Correspondence, memoranda, minutes, agenda, membership and funding records, newsletters, reports, proposals, conference papers, press releases and statements, newspaper clippings and printed matter. Arranged alphabetically by name of organization or conference sponsor and thereunder by type of material or subject.
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Container List

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Miscellany, 1915-1986
Personal and topical files, including award certificates, church records,
correspondence, family papers, financial and school records,
biographical material, reports, and printed matter.
Arranged alphabetically by type of material or subject.
- BOX 57
Personal file
Award certificates, 1959-1962, 1972-1984, undated
Church records
Miscellaneous activities, 1955-1956, 1976-1986, undated
Mt. Zion United Methodist Church, Washington, D.C., 1975-1986,
undated
(2 folders)
- BOX 58
Correspondence, 1955-1985, undated
(2 folders)
Family papers, 1915-1920, 1967-1984, undated
Financial records, 1955-1972, undated
Georgetown Community Festival, Washington, D.C., 1973-1981, undated
Job applications, 1956-1963, 1981-1984, undated
Lists and addresses, 1947-1956, undated
NAACP West African Heritage Tour, 1975-1976, undated
Resumes and related records, 1947, 1957-1983, undated
"Reunion '78," alumnae reunion weekend, Spelman College, Atlanta, Ga.,
1978
School records
Howard University, Washington, D.C., 1961-1967, 1978-1984, undated
Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, 1944-1945,
1957-1962, undated
West Virginia State College, Institute, W. Va., 1941-1984, undated
Sorority records, 1944, 1954-1962, 1976-1982, undated
(3 folders)
Wedding, 1946
- BOX 59
Topical file
African-American studies, 1978, undated
District of Columbia self government, 1972-1982, undated
Presidential election campaigns, 1979-1980
Women in planning, 1973-1984, undated