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Patricia Walker Shaw papers

Title: Patricia Walker Shaw papers
Collection No: MSS.109
Extent: 0.95 cubic feet
Inclusive Dates: 1954-1977

Abstract: The collection is composed of correspondence, photographs, newspaper clippings, magazine articles, journal articles, and reports related to the career of Patricia Walker Shaw at Universal Life Insurance Company, Memphis Light Gas and Water Board of Commissioners, and the Panel of American Women.

Access: Open to all researchers.
Language: English
Preferred Citation: Patricia Walker Shaw papers, Special Collections Department, University Libraries, University of Memphis.

Publication date: 2018 July
Biographical information

Patricia Walker Shaw, an insurance executive, was born in Little Rock, Arkansas, on July 26, 1939, to A. Maceo and Harriette Ish Walker. After graduation from Oakwood High School in Poughkeepsie, New York (a Quaker operated college preparatory school) in 1956, she enrolled at Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee and graduated cum laude receiving a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business Administration in 1961. She also attended the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business Administration in 1961. In 1962 she was granted a Teacher Certificate from the Graduate School of Education at Tennessee State University. She attended the University of Tennessee Graduate School of Social Work in 1966. Mrs. Shaw resided in Memphis with her husband Harold R. Shaw, Sr. and son Harold R. Shaw, Jr. She passed away June 30, 1985.

Mrs. Shaw was employed by Tri-State Bank of Memphis in 1958-1959 as an Accounting Trainee; by the Universal Life Insurance Company in 1961 as a clerk in the Underwriting Department; by the Illinois State Department of Public Welfare as a case worker in 1961-1962; by the Tennessee State Department of Public welfare as a welfare worker in the Division of Children Services in 1963-66; as a keypuncher verifier for Universal Life Insurance Company in 1966 and was promoted to Chief Clerk of the Lapse Division of the Data Processing Department in 1967. In 1970 she was promoted Supervisor of the Lapse Division of the Data Processing Department. She has received successive promotions at Universal Life, including Supervisor-Cashier in the Accounting Department in 1971, Assistant Vice President, Assistant Controller, Research Analyst in 1971, and the position of Vice President--Associate Controller in 1974.

Among her professional accomplishments, Mrs. Shaw has completed seven of the eight required courses leading to the professional designation of fellow of the Life Management Institute. She has completed the Dale Carnegie course in Human Relations and Effective Speaking. She is a member of the Memphis Home Office Underwriters Association. She was selected to participate on several special committees within the framework of Universal Life’s problem-solving policies and practices; and has completed two studies with regard to Mortality Rates and Diversification of Industrial Policy Portfolio.

Over and above her involvement in the field of life insurance, Mrs. Shaw is committed to community involvement. This commitment is manifested by her social and civic memberships. Her social memberships include Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; the United Sisters and Associates, Inc.; the Panel of American Women, Inc.; and Vice President of Links, Inc. Mrs. Shaw served on the Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce, to which she was elected in 1974. During that same year Mrs. Shaw became the first black woman on the Board of Commissioners of the Memphis Light, Gas, and Water Division. She was also a member of the Board of Directors of the Memphis Volunteer Placement Programs. Mrs. Shaw helped others as a member of Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church, People United to Save Humanity, the Young Women's Christian Association, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Mrs. Shaw has accepted many civic and social duties including the Business Advisory Council—Southwestern University, the Research Committee—National Insurance Association, the Advisory Council—University of Tennessee Center for the Health Sciences.
**Scope and contents**

The collection is divided into two series. Series 1 is Personal and Family. The first folder contains resumes and other biographical information relating specifically to Patricia Walker Shaw. The second folder contains family information. The third folder contains general correspondence, and invitations. Included in the general correspondence (folder three) are letters from M. E. Greener and Michael Grehl in regards to United Way campaigns, Patricia Walker Shaw’s acceptance into “Who’s Who Among Black Americans”, and a letter from Congressman Harold Ford explaining his voting record for the local Memphis business community and asking for voter input.

Series 2 is Subject Files, and the folders are divided according to papers relating to Mrs. Shaw's business and civic activities. This series contains items related to educational programs, items for Shaw’s time on the Memphis Light, Gas, and Water Board of Commissioners, NEoMark materials, Panel of American Women items, items relating to United Nations’ “Zionism Equals Racism” Resolution and the response from the National Conference of Christians and Jews, the manuscript for Brock Peter’s biography, and Mrs. Shaw's activities with the Universal Life Insurance Company including correspondence relating to advertising, sales, and public service. Series 2 continues in Box 2 with more Universal Life Insurance Company related materials. This includes a 1954 African American magazine featuring Beale Street. Folder four contains photographs of Patricia Walker Shaw. Folder five contains newspaper clippings relating to Patricia Walker Shaw in Memphis, as well as featuring Universal Life Insurance Company’s meeting in Charlottesville, VA. The oversized folder contains a number of newspapers, an organizational chart for Memphis Light, Gas, and Water, and an actuary table used by Universal Life Insurance Company.

**Subjects**

Businesspeople, Black—Memphis
Life Insurance—Memphis
Minority Businesswomen—Memphis
Shaw, Patricia Walker
Universal Life Insurance Company—Memphis
Inventory

Box 1

Series 1: Personal & Family

Folder 1- Resumes and Biographical Information

Resume for Patricia Walker Shaw. (three copies)
Resume for Patricia Walker Shaw. (two copies)
Letter from H. A. Gilliam Sr. to Patricia Walker Shaw re: promotion to Assistant Vice President—Assistant Controller, 1971 February 8.
Letter from Patricia Walker Shaw to Ronald James re: recommendation of Joyce M. Blackmon, 1977 July 12; Recommendation form to Patricia Walker Shaw from Ronald James, 1977 July 9.
Contact information listing names and addresses
Appointment to Board/Commission form, 1973 September 12. (two copies)
Kansas Insurance Department form, undated.
Letter of recommendation for Patricia Walker Shaw by unknown, undated. (three copies)
Biographical data for Texas Insurance Department form, undated.
Letter to Hollins F. Price from Patricia Walker Shaw re: copies of resume, 1976 May 25.
Letter from Patricia Walker Shaw to Dr. Price Rivers re: recommendation of Marion H. Whitson, 1976 May 3.
Letter from Larry Lloyd re: Young Life in Memphis, undated.
Letter from Patricia Walker Shaw to Vicky Thomas re: pictures, 1976 November 10.
Medicare record for A. M. Walker Sr. at Baptist Memorial Hospital, 1976 June 11.
List of states for licensing and employment procedures for insurance agents, undated.

Folder 2- Magazines, Etc. with Family Background

Universal Life Insurance Company quarterly The Ulico, 20, No. 3, 1971 Fall.
Letter from Harper Cooper to Harold Shaw Sr. re: congratulations, undated; Newspaper clipping, Harold Shaw Sr. as Fraternity Man of the Year, undated. (two copies)
LeMoyne-Owen College commencement program 1976 April 16-17.

Folder 3- General Correspondence

Universal Life Insurance Company Luncheon program, 1974 May 29.
Letter from J. W. Hubbard to Patricia Walker Shaw re: response to letter from Patricia Walker Shaw, 1974 March 1.
“We miss you smiling” inscribed note, undated; Attached business card for Elouise J. Booker.
Card from Robert Clark to Patricia Walker Shaw re: congratulations, undated; Card from
James H. Badeene? to Patricia Walker Shaw re: congratulations, undated; Card from Jep to Patricia Walker Shaw re: congratulations, 1973 October 8.

Letter from S. W. Fry to Patricia Walker Shaw re: contribution to the City of Hope National Medical Center, 1976 November 16.

Note from William C. Matney re: “Who’s Who Among Black Americans”; Letter from William C. Matney to Patricia Walker Shaw re: Shaw’s biography, 1974 October 24.

Note from H. John Alex to Patricia Walker Shaw re: correspondence with Ray R. Stewart; Letter from H. John Alex to Ray R. Stewart re: advertising in Black Enterprise.


Letter from Harold Ford to Patricia Walker Shaw re: voting record, 1976 March 15.


Card from Peking Restaurant, Memphis, TN to Patricia Walker Shaw re: Happy Holidays, undated; Menu for New Year’s Eve party at Peking Restaurant, undated.

Memphis Heart Association Inc. letter from Johnetta Walker Kelso, 1977 February 18.

Letter from Harrel C. Moore to Patricia Walker Shaw re: For Sale-Shopping Center, 1977 January 12.

Letter from Louis A. Cooper and Stanley Cooper re: corporate catering services, undated; Attached menu from Cooper’s Restaurant, undated.

Letter from Donna Sue Munsey to Patricia Walker Shaw re: judge position, 1976 June 8.

Series 2: Subject Files

Folder 4- Educational Programs and Ideas


Handwritten note with unidentifiable content on the back and front.

Letter from Walter L. Walker to Patricia Walker Shaw re: A New Vision and a New Will for Memphis, 1975 May 20.

Letter from Patricia Walker Shaw to Mr. Alissandratos re: support for expanded budget, 1976 May 12; Letter from Mr. Alissandratos to Patricia Walker Shaw re: her May 12, 1976 letter, 1976 May 13.

Memorandum from Walter L. Walker President to Patricia Walker Shaw re: President’s Roundtable, 1976 May 28.

Letter from Walker L. Walker to Patricia Walker Shaw re: speaking to students, 1974 October 21.

Memphis Board of Education building map; Board of Education street map, undated. Memphis City Schools Board of Education notice, undated.

Letter from David L. Bourns to Patricia Walker Shaw re: Challenge ’76 fundraiser, 1976 October 1.

Letter from Ruthie C. Strong to Patricia Walker Shaw re: Vocational Technical Career Day, 1977 January 27; ‘Clerical and Sales’ occupation list, 1977 March 3; Occupational Clusters, undated; Recommended Consultants list, undated.

Note from David Bourns to Patricia Walker Shaw re: grant, 1977 April 1; News release
Oakwood School, 1977 April 3.
Hand written responses for Cooperative Urban Project Opening Session, undated.
Letter from Walter L. Walker to Patricia Walker Shaw re: President’s Roundtable, 1976 April 22.
Letter from Walter L. Walker to Patricia Walker Shaw re: President’s Roundtable, 1977 May 10.
Unknown author, Untitled, article discussing violent crime, undated.

Folder 5- Memphis Light Gas and Water Board of Commissioners

Letter from William C. Boyd to Patricia Walker Shaw re: service to the Board of Commissioners, 1973 September 23; Oath of office for Patricia Walker Shaw’s appointment to the Board of Commissioners, 1973 September 26, 1973; Letter from Wyeth Chandler to Patricia Walker Shaw re: nominating Shaw to the of the Board of Commissioners, 1973 September 10; Letter from Patricia Walker Shaw to the Universal Life Insurance Company family re: thank you, undated.
Memo from Jean Pashby to Patricia Walker Shaw re: resume for her prospectus, 1976 August 27; Prospectus, undated.
Citizen Participation Process information packet, undated.
Memphis Light Gas and Water, Connection, 12, Number 12, 1974 February.

Folder 6- NEoMark

NEoMark Image Development Consultants booklet, undated.
NEoMark United Sisters and Associates information packet 1972, January 2.
Preliminary Special Promotion Campaign Proposal for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Memphis Branch, 1975 June.

Folder 7- Panel of American Women Booklets

Panel of America Women booklet, undated. (missing section 1 and section 3)

Folder 8- Panel of American Women Booklets II


Folder 9- Panel of American Women

Panel of American Women Kansas City School Workshop Instructions, undated.
“Strategies of Persuasion”, undated.
Memphis Community Relations Committee (MCRC) “A Study of the Memphis and Shelby County Food Stamp Program”, 1972 October 22.
Beck, Armin & Katy Armin. “All They Do Is Run Away”, Civil Rights Digest, 1972 August.
Letter from Harold Krelstein to Patricia Walker Shaw re: community needs, 1975 October 1
Panel of American Women adopted budget for 9/1/75-8/31/76.
Letter from Patricia Walker Shaw re: integrated optional/alternative schools, 1976 May 5.
Letter from Dr. Jackie Kimbrough to Patricia Walker Shaw re: school desegregation, 1976 October 29.
Ethnicity and Race packet, undated.
Four pages of handwritten notes discussing various topics, undated.
Advisory-Steering Committee for Women in Business Conference address list, undated.
The Community Relations Commission of Memphis “Working for You!”, undated. (two copies)
Letter from Patricia Walker Shaw to fellow panelists re: Panel Workshop, 1977 March 15.
Letter from Patricia Walker Shaw to Panel of American Women Board of Directors re: replacement for the position of Project Director, 1977 March 22.
Letter from Brooks Ramsey and Happy Jones to Patricia Walker Shaw re: Synamics seminar, undated.


Memorandum from Harry E. Moore to Memphis Clergymen re: Zionism, undated;
Letter from Patricia Walker Shaw to Anne Shafer re: enclosed materials, undated; Note re: Jewish panelist, undated; Note re: guidelines for panel discussions, undated.

Folder 11- Biography of Brock Peters


Folder 12- Universal Life Insurance Company

Universal Life Insurance Company flier “Crank Up Meeting” 1973 February 15. (seven copies)
Guest List for “Crank Up Meeting”, 1973 February 15.
Transcript of Patricia Walker Shaw’s speech for “Crank Up Meeting”, 1973 February 15.
Letter from Patricia Walker Shaw to Eugene Williams re: his February 19, 1973 letter, 1973
Letter from Le Duckworth to Patricia Walker Shaw re: Big BREAK (Businesswomen Receiving Education and Knowledge), 1977 March 2; Attached copy of curriculum and program.
Letter from H. A. Gilliam Jr. to Patricia Walker Shaw re: thank you, 1977 March 10.
Letter from Le Duckworth to Patricia Walker Shaw re: Conference, 1977 May 5.
Letter from Patricia Walker Shaw to Charles A. Davis re: Mr. Webb, 1977 June 21; Letter from Charles A. Davis to Patricia Walker Shaw re: James Webb, 1977 June 14.
Letter from Rand Corporation to Patricia Walker Shaw re: desegregation, 1977 June 22.
Letter from Reber F. Clark Jr. to Patricia Walker Shaw re: $3 million group insurance with the Kellogg Company, 1977 July 18.

Box 2

Folder 1- Universal Life Insurance Company (Magazines, Pamphlets, Brochures)
  Universal Life Insurance Company 51st Annual Statement 1975.

Folder 2- Universal Life Insurance Company (Forms, Company Studies, Audits)
  Managers Self-Rating chart, undated
  OS1 Actuary Table from “An Analysis of Mortality Trends 1955-1970”, undated.
  “A Report for Internal Auditing of Underwriting Department Procedures”, undated.
  “A Report for Internal Auditing of Claims Department Procedures”, undated.
  “A Report for Internal Auditing of Records Department Procedures”, undated.
  Election Form for Survivor Annuity Coverage for Married Employees, undated.
  Election Form for the Joint and Survivor Annuity, undated.
  Committees Form with duties and responsibilities for each committee, undated.

Folder 3- Magazines
  Fairfield Bay Community Club postcard, Business Reply Mail for recommendation for guest privileges, undated. (two copies)
Fairfield Bay Community Club Goodwill Ambassador mailing form, undated.
“Fairfield Bay has more fun than the sun can shine on”, undated. (two copies)
Young Life International, “Make it happen here”, undated. (two copies)
“Countdown at Kusini” program, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, 1976 April 10.
Dillon, Tom. “Advertising is a reflection of our right to free speech” Broadcasting Magazine, 1976 July 12.
Tannenbaum, Robert & Warren H. Schmidt. “How to Choose a Leadership Pattern”,
Unknown author, “How to Cause a Depression”, undated.

Folder 4- Photographs
Harold Shaw Sr., Patricia Walker Shaw, Mrs. Winfield Dunn, and Governor Winfield Dunn (left to right) with inscribed note from Winfield Dunn, undated.

-Brown Folder-
Handwritten note “Thanks for the use of this. Call me. Frances”, undated.
Patricia Walker Shaw and unidentified man, undated.
50th Anniversary Celebration (left) F. M. Harnell Assistant Vice President, and Patricia Walker Shaw Assistant Vice President, 1973 March 23.
Patricia Walker Shaw (seated bottom left) and unidentified women, undated.
Receipt from Mark Stansbury Photography to Patricia Walker Shaw, 1975 October 30.
Harold Shaw Sr., Patricia Walker Shaw, and three unidentified people (left to right) at buffet table, undated.
Patricia Walker Shaw (3rd row, middle) and unidentified women, undated.

Folder 5- Newspaper Clippings
"Memphis Mayor Names Black Woman to Utility Board”, undated. (four copies)
“Pan-Hellenic Honorees” Greek of the Year awards, with picture of Harold Shaw Sr. by
Withers Photo, 1969 February 1.
Picture of Harold Shaw Sr. and Patricia Walker Shaw by Vernon Matthews, Harold Shaw Sr. named Alpha Phi Alpha Man of the Year, Commercial Appeal, 1969 May 24. (two copies)
Picture of Odell Horton, Mr. And Mrs. Bill Weathers, Patricia Walker Shaw, and Harold Shaw Sr. at Universal Life Insurance Company banquet, undated.
Forward Times, 17, No. 9, 1976 March 13: “The Black Church: 100 Years”; Belton, Earl.
“Heiress Patricia Walker Shaw Seasoned”; Advertisement for announcement for Dr. J. E. Walker Memorial Month; Advertisement for Universal Life Insurance Company.