This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri-St. Louis. If you would like more information, please contact us at stlouis@shsmo.org.

Introduction

Personal papers documenting the education, work, hobbies, and life and death of Sharon Leslie (Smith) Pedersen (1943-2017). Pedersen, a Kirkwood, Missouri resident and mother of four, worked as a high school English teacher and librarian, public librarian, and Peace Corps educator in China. She earned degrees in English, Philosophy, Education, History, Library Science, and Creative Writing from the University of Missouri and University of Colorado. Throughout her life she was an avid outdoorsman, master gardener, and was an active member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, International Folk Dance Association of St. Louis, Ethical Society of St. Louis, Wild Ones Native Plant Society, and Washington University Woman's Club. Papers include genealogy and family history; photographs; educational, work, and volunteer papers; correspondence; journals; and essays. Of note are a series of journals spanning 2014-2016 in which she daily recounted her struggle with acute myeloid leukemia. She passed away from the illness on January 15, 2017.

Donor Information

This gift was received from Sharon Pedersen as accession SA1157.01 in April 2015, and as accession SA1157.02 in November 2016. An addition was made as accession SA1157.03 on August 8, 2017 by Lexine Pranschke on behalf of Sharon Pedersen.

Box List

Box 1
Genealogy and family history
Highschool Yearbook
2 childhood photograph albums
2 wedding photograph albums
Children’s baby books
Children’s stories

Box 2
Genealogy and family history
Legal Proof folder
Ration Book with photographs
Religion
Religion and Excommunication
Therapy
60th Birthday
Box 3
Genealogy and family history
   Oscar funeral 2002
   September 2009 Norway binder with digital arkivet documents, photos
   Norway Journal
   Dee funeral 2012
   Steel Pennies childhood memoir essays, 1-17
   Adult memoir essays, 18-31

Box 4
Correspondence, 1975-1997

Box 5
MA-Ed, University of Colorado, Denver, 1986
   Class notes
   Thesis research
MLS, University of Missouri-Columbia, 1990
   Thesis research

Box 6
Jobs
   Mailing lists
   Directories
   Christmas letters

Box 7
North County Technical High School
   School librarian papers

Box 8
North County Technical High School
   Promo videos
   Photographs

Box 9
MFA, University of Missouri-St. Louis, 2001
   Essays
   Photographs
   Eby/Alumax 1996
   Smiths/MSDTunnel, 2001
   Jake 1918, 2009

Box 10
Mormon Women
Sandy Goold Sclarow
Ruth Stephens
Wanda Pedersen
Exponent issues

Box 11
971 Morehouse Lane
  House purchases
  Gardening
  Easement
Creekside Place
  Home Improvements

Box 12
Webber Creek Farm 2001-2013
  Essays
  Photographs

Box 13
Divorce, 2004-2005
  Amato

Box 14
Peace Corps China
  Application, 2004
  Medical Reports
  Farewell Party
  Service handbooks
  Chinese cookbook

Box 15
Peace Corps China
  Service Journals 2005-2006
  Mandarin study materials
  Expense books

Box 16
Peace Corps China
  Beibei, 9-2005
  Student lists
  Student papers
  Chongqing hospital stay
  Med Sep
  Return visit China, 5-2006

Box 17
Peace Corps China
   Emails, 2006
   Chinese essays
   Peace Corps Recruiter, Washington University 2010-2011

**Box 18**
Peace Corps China
   China student emails, 2006

**Box 19**
Peace Corps China
   Chinese student emails 2006-2015
   Mandarin teacher Zhou Yuxing, Chengdu
   Gu Quianping
   Qiang Naining
   Washington University International Women friend Gong Wenping

**Box 20**
Peace Corps China
   2 large photo albums, 2005-2006
   1 small binder 2013
   Chengdu, Chongqing, Beibei maps
   Chinese culture papers

**Box 21**
Health Records, 1985-2013

**Box 22**
Emails, 2010 - 2015

**Box 23**
Hundred Species Yard, 2007-2016
   Papers

**Box 24**
Hundred Species Yard, 2007-2016
   Garden Photo Binders
   2013 CD: Powder Valley Native Plant Conference presentation

**Box 25**
Leukemia / Hospice
   Acute myeloid leukemia diagnosis, May 2014
   Hospice papers
   Decomposition notebooks (daily journals 2014-2016)

**Box 26**
Emails, cards 2014-2015
Seventy first Birthday Garden Party
   Catering, invitation, emails, cards

Box 27
Emails, 2005-2016
Suzanne Doyle – Life Review Notes, UMSL

Box 28
Caringbridge essays 1-110, May 2014-October 2016
Retreat accommodations literature
Retreat journals
Contributions (from small bequest, Delila Smith 2013)
International Women birthday cards 2006-2007

Box 29
Photographs

Box 30
Miscellaneous papers
   Emails, 2016
   Journals
   Letters from China, 2005
   Resumes and Transcripts
Photographs

Box 31
Miscellaneous papers
   Photo albums
   Pledges and Contributions
   Ethical Society
   Obituary and funeral information
Photo Albums
Bags (2)