Overview of the Collection

Collection Title: Jones Family Memorabilia Collection
Dates: 1962-2002
Bulk Dates: 1965-1978
Identification: MS-0516
Creator: Jones Family
Physical Description: 0.42 linear ft
Language of Materials: English
Repository: Special Collections & University Archives
5500 Campanile Dr. MC 8050
San Diego, CA, 92182-8050
URL: http://library.sdsu.edu/scua
Email: scoref@rohan.sdsu.edu
Phone: 619-594-6791

Family History:
Jim Jones was born in Lynn, Indiana in 1931 to parents James and Lynetta Jones. He was a passionate reader, interested in a wide range of religious beliefs. Jim Jones married Marceline (Marcie) Mae Baldwin in 1949 and they moved to Indianapolis the following year. A charismatic preacher, Jones founded Peoples Temple in the 1950s, a church based on principles of biblical preaching, racial equality, and apostolic socialism. In 1965, he relocated his family and Peoples Temple to Ukiah, California. Jim and Marcie had one biological child, Stephan Gandhi, and also adopted seven more: Jimmy Jr., Stephanie, Lew Eric, Suzanne, Agnes Pauline, John Moss, and Timothy Glen. Jim referred to his children as his “rainbow family.”

The Jones family is memorable because of Jim Jones, his creation of Peoples Temple, and the tragedy that occurred in Jonestown, Guyana, on November 18th, 1978. Construction of the community formally known as the Peoples Temple Agricultural Project, but better known as Jonestown, began in 1974. The population reached its peak in 1977. Three of Jones’ sons (Stephan, Jim Jr., and Tim) survived the tragedy at Jonestown due to participation in a basketball tournament with the Guyanese national team in Georgetown.

Access Terms
This collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Geographic Name:
Jonestown (Guyana)

Personal Name:
Jones, Jim, 1931-1978

Topical Term:
Jonestown Mass Suicide, Jonestown, Guyana, 1978 -- Sources
Peoples Temple -- History -- Sources
Photograph albums

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Preferred Citation:
Identification of item, folder title, box number, Jonestown Family Memorabilia, Special Collections and University Archives, Library and Information Access, San Diego State University.

Related Materials:
Peoples Temple Collection, 1972-1990
Alternative Considerations of Jonestown and Peoples Temple, sponsored by the Department of Religious Studies at San Diego State University

Scope and Contents
The Jones Family Memorabilia Collection (1962-2002) contains photographs, correspondence, and school records collected by Stephan Jones. The collection consists chiefly of photographs originally housed in photo albums and scrapbooks. There are photos of the Jones family as well as of Jim Jones and his work with Peoples Temple. Notable family items include drawings by Stephan when he was young, a letter from his mother, photos of the family, and poetry written by his grandmother. The collection also includes photographs of Jim Jones in the context of working with Peoples Temple and the Peoples Temple Agricultural Project (Jonestown).

| Box 1, Folder 1 | Correspondence to Stephan, Drawing, Poetry by Lynetta Jones 1967-1977 |
| Box 1, Folder 2 | Loose Family Photos and General Photos 1966-1973 |
| Box 1, Folder 3 | Loose Photos of Jim Jones 1971-1974 |
| Box 1, Folder 4 | Loose Photos of Peoples Temple Agricultural Project (Jonestown) 1976-1978 |
| Box 1, Folder 5 | Photo Album: Congregations, Family, Jones Preaching, Louisiana, Unidentified Communities 1971-1974 |
| Box 1, Folder 6 | Photo Album: Congregations, Family, Jones Preaching, Louisiana, Unidentified Communities 1971-1974 |
| Box 1, Folder 7 | Scrapbook: Certificates, Commencement Program, Drawings, Family Photos, Progress Reports, School Portraits, Writings 1964-1985 |
| Box 1, Folder 8 | Scrapbook: Family Photos, News Clipping, Vacation Photos 1962-2002 |
| Box 1, Folder 9 | Stephan's Award Ribbons 1969-1973 |