



**YORK UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS**

**Inventory of the  
Ruth Morris fonds**

**Inventory #F0461**

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## F0461 - Ruth Morris fonds

**Fonds/Collection Number:** F0461

**Title:** Ruth Morris fonds

**Dates:** 1939-2001

**Extent:** 1 m of textual records  
ca. 40 photographs  
2 audio cassettes

**Biographical Sketch/  
Administrative History:** Ruth Rittenhouse Morris, Quaker, professor and social activist, was born on 12 December 1933 in the United States. She received her BA from Oberlin College, Ohio, in Music and Sociology (1956) and her MA in sociology from University of Illinois (1958). She then received her MSW (1959) and PhD (1963) from the University of Michigan. Morris advocated strongly for the case of abolishing prisons in favor of alternative justice systems. Morris' activist work began as a reaction against the Vietnam war, racism and poverty. Morris moved to Canada in 1968 and began focusing on penal justice issues and saw the current system as an incarnation of racism and classicism present in society. A former York University sociology instructor, she proposed a 'transformative' justice system and founded "Rittenhouse: a new vision", an agency dedicated to bringing about transformation justice in our criminal justice system. Morris developed a bail program for prisoners and founded Toronto's first bail residence as well as a half-way house for ex-offenders. In addition to many achievements, Morris launched a community project to improve banking services to disadvantaged persons, a drop-in centre for street people and a multi-cultural conflict resolution centre. Some of her published books include 'Penal Abolition: The Practical Choice'(2000), 'Street People Speak'(1987) and 'Crumbling Walls: Why Prisons Fail' (1989). Among many other honours and awards, Ruth Morris was awarded the Order of Canada on May 30, 2001, shortly before her death on September 17, 2001.

**Scope and Content:** Fonds consists of materials relating to Morris' personal and professional life as a social activist, advocate for prison abolition, writer and lecturer including pamphlets, notes, drafts of articles and books written by her, monographs, published and unpublished articles, photos, clippings, personal and professional correspondence as well as volumes of Morris' detailed diaries.

**Restrictions on  
Access and Use:** No restrictions on access.

**Finding Aid:** File list available.

**URL of Finding Aid:** <http://archivesfa.library.yorku.ca/fonds/ON00370-f0000461.htm>

**Accruals:** The fonds comprises the following accession: 2004-008. No further accruals are expected.

**Immediate source of  
acquisition:** Donated by husband Ray Morris in 2004.

**Provenance Access Points:** Morris, Ruth, 1933-

Date of creation: 2004/04/23

Date of last revision: 2004/11/02

File:	Title:	Date(s):	Note:
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**Call Number: 2004-008/001**

(1)	Jane-Finch: Corner of 100 Lands	1998	
(2)	Spiritual Autobiography	1939-1953, 1971	1 of 2
(3)	Spiritual Autobiography	1939-1953, 1971	2 of 2
(4)	Published Articles	1965-2000	
(5)	Unpublished Talks and Articles	1976-1992	1 of 2
(6)	Unpublished Talks and Articles	1976-1992	2 of 2
(7)	Unpublished Talks and Articles	1992-2000	1 of 2
(8)	Unpublished Talks and Articles	1992-2000	2 of 2

**Call Number: 2004-008/002**

(1)	Conflict Resolution & Mediation Course Notes	1984-1994	
(2)	Grassroots Training Com'TV Development	1992-1994	
(3)	Reports on Trips	1976-1999	1 of 2
(4)	Reports on Trips	1976-1999	2 of 2
(5)	Camps Farthest Out -Talks, Creative Writing	1959-1999	1 of 2
(6)	Camps Farthest Out -Talks, Creative Writing	1959-1999	2 of 2
(7)	Clippings, Features	1986, 1994-1995	
(8)	Social Work & Administration Talks	1976-1986	
(9)	ICOPA [International Conference On Prison Abolition] Materials & Talks	1983-2000	

**Call Number: 2004-008/003**

(1)	Honours, Awards	1992, 2000-2001	
(2)	Tributes	[1998-2003]	1 of 2
(3)	Tributes	[1998-2003]	2 of 2
(4)	Misc. Talks and Materials	1977	
(5)	Creative Religious Writing (except Camps Farthest Out)	1949-2001	
(6)	Christmas Letters	1967-2001	
(7)	Letters seeking reconciliation, letters to victims of crime	1978-1996	
(8)	John Howard society firing and inquest	1987-2001	

**Call Number: 2004-008/004**

(1)	Ontario NDP Gov't re: justice policy & others	1976-2001	
(2)	Letters to People on bail or released from prison or concerning justice policy	1976-1999	1 of 2
(3)	Letters to People on bail or released from prison or concerning justice policy	1976-1999	2 of 2
(4)	Mike Martin and his Parents, bailee "The risk of loving"	1976-1989	1 of 2
(5)	Mike Martin and his Parents, bailee "The risk of loving"	1976-1989	2 of 2

File:	Title:	Date(s):	Note:
(6)	Fictional Writing	ca. 1956-1993	
(7)	Niece Coralee's Death: "Journey to Joy" Material	1961	
(8)	Support letters dealing with cancer	1978-2001	
(9)	Bail Programme Firing	1980-1999	1 of 2
(10)	Bail Programme Firing	1980-1999	2 of 2

**Call Number: 2004-008/005**

(1)	Family Letters	1954-1975	
(2)	Family Letters: Ritt Robin (Ruth's brothers & sister), Crew Robin (Ruth's Mother's side of family)	1976-1978	1 of 3
(3)	Family Letters: Ritt Robin (Ruth's brothers & sister), Crew Robin (Ruth's Mother's side of family)	1976-1978	2 of 3
(4)	Family Letters: Ritt Robin (Ruth's brothers & sister), Crew Robin (Ruth's Mother's side of family)	1976-1978	3 of 3
(5)	Family letters	1979-1990	1 of 3
(6)	Family letters	1979-1990	2 of 3
(7)	Family letters	1979-1990	3 of 3

**Call Number: 2004-008/006**

(1)	Family letters	1991-2001	1 of 4
(2)	Family letters	1991-2001	2 of 4
(3)	Family letters	1991-2001	3 of 4
(4)	Family letters	1991-2001	4 of 4
(5)	Group Homes	1984	
(6)	Rittenhouse Materials	2000-2001	
(7)	Transcending Traumas, 1st draft	2001	
(8)	Transcending Traumas, 1st draft	2001	
(9)	Transcending Trauma, 2nd draft	2001	
(10)	Media advocacy talks	1995	
(11)	Anti-poverty materials for Listen, Ontario follow-up	1967, 1987-2000	

**Call Number: 2004-008/007**

(1)	University Degree Certificates	1956, 1961, 1963	
(2)	Bail Program Diary	1979-1983	
(3)	Diary	1983-1990	
(4)	Diary	1990-1993	

**Call Number: 2004-008/008**

(1)	Diary	1994-1996	
(2)	Diary	1996-1997	
(3)	Diary	1997-1999	

File:	Title:	Date(s):	Note:
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**Call Number: 2004-008/009**

(1)	Diary	Jan. 2000-Mar. 2001	
(2)	Diary	Nov. 2000-Aug. 2001	
(3)	Account Book	1977-1991	
(4)	Publications	June 1994-2000	
(5)	Toronto Star Article "What's behind the John Howard Feud"	April 21, 1990	
(6)	Photograph album	2000	
(7)	Audio cassette "kissing our lepers"	1990	

<b>File:</b>	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Date(s):</b>	<b>Note:</b>
<b><u>Call Number: 2006-005/001</u></b>			
(1)	Diary : our trip to Scandinavia	August 16, 1982 - September 9, 1982	Title based on contents of file.
(2)	Photographs	1939-2001	1 or 2 Title based on contents of file. Photograph key available.
(3)	Photographs	1975-2000	2 of 2 Title based on contents of file. Photograph key available.
(4)	Newsclipping and J. S. Woodward Award programme	1990-2000	Title based on contents of file.

File:	Title:	Date(s):	Note:
<b><u>Call Number: 2007-001/001</u></b>			
(1)	Stories of transformative justice : part I : revised manuscript	January 2000	
(2)	Stories of transformative justice : part II : revised manuscript	January 2000	
(3)	Stories of transformative justice : part III : revised manuscript	January 2000	
(4)	Stories of transformative justice : page proofs	March 17, 2000	1 of 2
(5)	Stories of transformative justice : page proofs	March 17, 2000	2 of 2
(6)	Stories of transformative justice : page proofs	April 6, 2000	1 of 2
(7)	Stories of transformative justice : page proofs	April 6, 2000	2 of 2
(8)	Stories of transformative justice : book plan, corrections	March-April 2000	
(9)	Stories of transformative justice : proofs	April 2000	1 of 2
<b><u>Call Number: 2007-001/002</u></b>			
(1)	Stories of transformative justice : proofs	April 2000	2 of 2
(2)	Stories of transformative justice : cover art		
(3)	Transcending trauma : manuscript edits	July 2001	1 of 2
(4)	Transcending trauma : manuscript edits	July 2001	2 of 2
(5)	Transcending trauma : manuscript edits	August 2001	
(6)	Transcending trauma : Ruth Bradley-St-Cyr's edit		1 of 2
(7)	Transcending trauma : Ruth Bradley-St-Cyr's edit		2 of 2
(8)	Transcending trauma : RBSC's edit		
<b><u>Call Number: 2007-001/003</u></b>			
(1)	Transcending trauma : David Bernardis' copy edit		1 of 2
(2)	Transcending trauma : David Bernardis' copy edit		2 of 2
(3)	Transcending trauma : first page proofs	2003	1 of 2
(4)	Transcending trauma : first page proofs	2003	2 of 2
(5)	Transcending trauma : second page proofs	2003	1 of 2
(6)	Transcending trauma : second page proofs	2003	2 of 2
(7)	Transcending trauma : second page proof corrections	2003	
(8)	Transcending trauma : third page proofs	2003	1 of 2
(9)	Transcending trauma : third page proofs	2003	2 of 2
(10)	Transcending trauma : third page proofs corrections	2004	
<b><u>Call Number: 2007-001/004</u></b>			
(1)	Transcending trauma : correspondence, reviews	1998-2005	1 of 2
(2)	Transcending trauma : correspondence, reviews	1998-2005	2 of 2
(3)	Transcending trauma : cover art, bookmarks	2005	

<b>File:</b>	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Date(s):</b>	<b>Note:</b>
(4)	Transcending trauma : monograph	2005	2 copies