



BHC-MSS 0239

Guide to the Papers of H. Parker Lansdale III October 2022

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Lansdale, H. Parker, III

Title: Papers of H. Parker Lansdale III

Dates: 1898-1982

Quantity: 7 linear feet

Abstract: Dr. Herbert Parker Lansdale III, known as H. Parker Lansdale or simply Parker, was born in Worcester, Maine in 1923 and died in 2006 in Milford, Connecticut. From the 1960s into the 1980s, he played an active part in Bridgeport's push for greater access to equity, education, and creating nonprofit social support networks to improve the community. He received a degree from Yale Divinity School after graduating from Oberlin College and eventually ended up working with many of the great social service and education organizations active in Bridgeport, CT, in the 1960s-1980s.

Language: English

Repository: Bridgeport History Center

Biographical History:

Dr. Herbert Parker Lansdale III, known as H. Parker Lansdale or simply Parker, was born in Worcester, Maine in 1923 and died in 2006 in Milford, Connecticut, in 2006. From the 1960s into the 1980s, he was an active part of Bridgeport's push for greater access to equity, education, and creating nonprofit social support networks to improve the community.

Lansdale's sense of service came from his family. Both his father and grandfather spent their lives working for various iterations of the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA). In particular, his father, H. Parker Lansdale II, was a key part of the YMCA in Greece, moving the family there when Parker was two years old. Growing up in Thessaloniki with his brother Bruce was instructive, as the area included Protestant, Greek Orthodox, and Jewish community members. Parker would later cite this inter-faith harmony as a key part of his own approach to building understanding and community across both faith and racial based lines.

Lansdale himself was an ordained Presbyterian minister, who after attending Oberlin for undergraduate education received a degree from Yale Divinity School. He was posted to various YMCAs along the east coast of the United States. He began working at Bridgeport's Y in 1961. He quickly became a part of the civic and nonprofit social service scene. In addition to the Y, he was an active part of the United Way, Action for Bridgeport Community Development, the Bridgeport Area Foundation, and most crucially, the Higher Education Center for Urban Studies (HECUS),

H.E.C.U.S., or the Higher Education Center for Urban Studies, began in 1968 as a consortium of Fairfield County colleges and universities. The original founding members were the Bridgeport

Engineering Institute, Fairfield University, Housatonic Community College, Sacred Heart University, and the University of Bridgeport, although the group later expanded to include Norwalk Community College, Norwalk State Technical College, the University of Connecticut Stamford, and Western Connecticut State College. The goal of HECUS was for academic institutions to collaborate with local communities to develop programs, study local needs, and implement real change. It also worked to reach out to low income and minority students to help get them through college.

This was a natural outgrowth of other investments in urban areas, such as the Model Cities program that sought to respond to city-based concerns like urban renewal, responses to violence, and housing. Likewise, this meant that programs like the Urban Youth Corp. were meant not only to provide support for local governments, but encourage those who worked in the program to take on government or social work related jobs in order to continue the work. The Urban Youth Corp. was one of the greatest successes of the organization, running until HECUS had to close down in 1977.

The 1970s also saw H.E.C.U.S. add programs to meet the needs of the community that it served. In 1972 it created Vets of H.E.C.U.S., a special branch meant to serve the educational and community needs of returning Vietnam soldiers. Originally focused mostly on education, it evolved to provide support for housing, drug and alcohol abuse, and psychological support. While H.E.C.U.S. was able to meet many of its goals, including the publication of reports studying urban problems and providing solutions, addressing community needs through partners and through programs like the Urban Youth Corp., and more, financial issues forced the organization's closure in early 1977. Taken along with the records of the Urban Coalition and records relating to the Model Cities program, the records of H.E.C.U.S. demonstrate the post-Civil Rights era landscape in Bridgeport.

H. Parker Lansdale was also active with Bridgeport Rotary, Park City Hospital, Connecticut Health Plan, and many more organizations. In his personal life he married Elizabeth Ann Maccollum in 1945. He retired in 1983.

Bibliography

H. Parker Lansdale, Biographical files. Bridgeport History Center, Bridgeport Public Library.

See also

Records of the Higher Education Center for Urban Studies (BHC-MSS 0160), Bridgeport History Center, Bridgeport Public Library.

<https://ctdigitalarchive.org/islandora/object/110002%3A21630>

Scope and Content note:

The vast majority of the collection is focused on the various organizations that Lansdale devoted his time to, especially in the 1970s. These include the Higher Education Center for Urban Studies, the YMCA both in Bridgeport and on a national level, working with the State of Connecticut on block grants and the negotiated investment strategy, the United Way, and numerous smaller nonprofit social service and civic organizations. As a result of his work, there are numerous awards and citations in the collection, mostly in the form of plaques.

There is a small volume of person and family papers placed in series I of the collection, although most of those materials are also related to his work life. Some material is focused on his wife, Elizabeth Ann Maccollum.

Arrangement note:

The collection is arranged into four series. The first contains personal and family papers, generally grouped together. Lansdale's material comes first, followed by that of his wife, then his son, then other family members and related material. Series II, Organizational commitments, focus on major nonprofit social service organizations that Lansdale played a significant leadership role in and featured a large volume of material at time of processing. Files are arranged alphabetically by organization name.

In the case of the organizational commitment files, there are rarely specific records related to traditional organization material types such as board minutes, correspondence, and so on, that would demand subseries. Lansdale rarely specified these divisions and simply placed all documents into folders with the group's name. The original order of these individual folders have been maintained.

Series III contains subject files arranged alphabetically, and series IV contains awards and citations arranged chronologically.

Administrative information:

Provenance: WIP

Preferred Citation:

Papers of H. Parker Lansdale III (BHC-MSS 0239), Bridgeport History Center, Bridgeport Public Library.

Names and Subject Tracings

Personal names

Lansdale, H. Parker, III

Corporate names

Higher Education Center for Urban Studies (HECUS)

United Way of Coastal Fairfield County

Action for Bridgeport Community Development (ABCD)

Subject tracings

Nonprofit organizations

Social Service

Connecticut

Community health services—Connecticut

Detailed box/folder listing

Series I, Personal material

Box 1

1. H. Parker Lansdale III, 1979-1982
2. H. Parker Lansdale III, 1983
3. H. Parker Lansdale III, 1983
4. Speeches/articles, undated
5. H. Parker and Lansdale III and Dottie, personal, 1977

6. Lansdale, Dotty Dechamps, 1964-1983
7. H. Parker Lansdale Jr. (II), 1964-1972
8. H. Parker Lansdale Jr. (II), 1964-1972
9. 256 Broad Street, home, 1975-1977
10. Lansdale, Bruce M., 1975-1976
11. Lansdale, family, 1951-1972
12. Lansdale, Florida, 1978-1982
13. Commencement programs, 1950s, 1972
14. Goodspeed, Harrison and Hueber, 1976-1978

Series II, Organizations

15. Higher Education Center for Urban Studies (HECUS), 1976-1982
16. HECUS, 1976-1982
17. HECUS, 1976-1982
18. HECUS, 1976-1982
19. HECUS, 1976-1982
20. Close out, 1978-1982
21. Publication list, 1977-1978
22. HECUS staff, Allen, Clara, 1977
23. HECUS staff, Arroyo, Lucy, 1973
24. HECUS staff, Armistead, William, 1975
25. HECUS staff, Bravo, Lynn Elizabeth, undated
26. HECUS staff, Buxton, Sidney, undated
27. HECUS staff, Castello, Reinaldo, 1974
28. HECUS staff, Davenport, Wayne, 1974
29. HECUS staff, Dejesus, Oscar, 1972
30. HECUS staff, Delgado, Frank, 1979
31. HECUS staff, Harris, Victoria 1972
32. HECUS staff, Kinney, Gail, 1971-1975
33. HECUS staff, Langston, John, 1974-1976
34. HECUS staff, Luna, Wilson, 1975-1976
35. HECUS staff, Manduca, Albert M., 1974
36. HECUS staff, Michelle, Donaldo, 1977
37. HECUS staff, Nelson, Alfred, 1975
38. HECUS staff, Purvis, Rosa, 1974
39. HECUS staff, Rainey, Mary Ann, 1972
40. HECUS staff, Robinson, Isiah, 1976-1977
41. HECUS staff, Schine, Joan, 1974
42. HECUS staff, Special services staff termination letters and materials, 1076
43. HECUS staff, Sharkoor, Abdul Tariq [Todd, Thomas], 1976-1977
44. HECUS staff, Tyson, Mileage W., 1975-1977
45. HECUS staff, Stokes. Cortez B., 1977
46. HECUS staff, Watz, Lila Philips, 1971
47. HECUS staff, Velez, Eunice, 197
48. Vitae, general, 1969-1978
49. Vets of HECUS, 1977-1978

50. Mental health study (state), 1979-1982
51. Mental health study (state), 1979-1982

Box 2

1. Mental health study (state), 1979-1982
2. Negotiated Investment Strategy and task force on block grants, 1980-1983
3. Negotiated Investment Strategy and task force on block grants, 1980-1983
4. Negotiated Investment Strategy and task force on block grants, 1980-1983
5. Negotiated Investment Strategy and task force on block grants, 1980-1983
6. Negotiated Investment Strategy and task force on block grants, 1980-1983
7. Negotiated Investment Strategy and task force on block grants, 1980-1983
8. Negotiated Investment Strategy and task force on block grants, 1980-1983
9. Negotiated Investment Strategy and task force on block grants, 1980-1983
10. Negotiated Investment Strategy and task force on block grants, 1980-1983
11. Negotiated Investment Strategy and task force on block grants, 1980-1983
12. United Way, 1976-1982
13. United Way, 1976-1982
14. United Way, 1976-1982
15. United Way, 1976-1982
16. United Way, 1976-1982
17. United Way, 1976-1982
18. United Way, 1976-1982
19. United Way, 1976-1982
20. YMCA, Bi-regional advisory committee, for NY management services center, 1977-1978
21. YMCA, Greater Bridgeport, 1962-1979
22. YMCA, Greater Bridgeport, 1962-1979
23. YMCA, Greek, 1978-1979
24. YMCA, historic library, 1971-1976
25. YMCA, international division, 1978-1981
26. YMCA, international division, 1978-1981

Box 3

1. YMCA, international division, 1978-1981
2. YMCA, international division, 1978-1981
3. YMCA, international division, 1978-1981
4. YMCA, international division, 1978-1981
5. YMCA, international division, 1978-1981
6. YMCA, National board training committee, 1976
7. YMCA, National board of YMCAs of the USA, 1979-1981
8. YMCA, Northeast region, 1975-1978
9. YMCA, operating ratios, 1977
10. YMCA, perspective article, 1977
11. YMA, purpose, 1977

12. YMCA, related data, 1977-1981
13. YMCA, research and development, 1977-1981
14. YMCA, research and development, 1977-1981
15. YMCA, tri-state regional planning committee, 1974-1976

Series III, Subject files

16. Academy of Certified Professional Directors, 1973-1981
17. Academy of Certified Professional Directors, 1973-1981
18. Academy of Certified Professional Directors, 1973-1981
19. Adolescent pregnancy program, 1982
20. Bannow foundation, 1971-1972
21. Bridgeport, undated
22. Ambulatory task force, 1979-190
23. Area agency on aging, 1979-1982
24. Architecture, 1974
25. Bridgeport Area Foundation, 1975-1980
26. Bridgeport Area Foundation, 1975-1980
27. Bridgeport Area Foundation, 1975-1980
28. Bridgeport Area Foundation, 1975-1980
29. Bridgeport Economic Development Administration, 1976-1978
30. Bridgeport Economic Development Administration, 1976-1978

Box 4

1. Bridgeport Economic Development Administration, 1976-1978
2. Bridgeport Economic Development Administration, 1976-1978
3. Channel 43, Bridgeport, 1979
4. Christ-Janer, Dr. Arland F., 1981-982
5. Clifford, Arthur, 1975
6. Coastal area management program, 1980
7. Connecticut Energy Corp., 1982
8. Connecticut Health Plan, 1975-1980
9. Connecticut Health Plan, 1975-1980
10. Connecticut Health Plan, 1975-1980
11. Connecticut Institute of Health, Manpower, and Resource, Inc., 1977
12. Correspondence, 1975-1982
13. Correspondence, 1975-1982
14. Correspondence, 1975-1982
15. Council for Institutional Leadership, 1978-1982
16. Council for Institutional Leadership, 1978-1982
17. Council of Presidents, undated
18. Department on Aging, 1980-1983
19. Dialog [interfaith], 1963-1968
20. Disarmament and development, 1978
21. Dodd, Christopher, 1980-1981

22. Dresch, Stephen, 1976-1977
23. Energy steering committee, 1981
24. Experimental learning center, Springfield College, 1974-1977
25. Experimental learning center, Springfield College, 1974-1977
26. Experimental learning center, Springfield College, 1974-1977
27. Experimental learning center, Springfield College, 1974-1977
28. Future prospects, 1976-1978
29. General Electric foundation, 1970-1975
30. German Marshall fund of the USA, 1979
31. Greater Bridgeport emergency fuel committee, undated
32. Greater Bridgeport regional planning agency, 1976-1977
33. Health systems agency, 1980-1982
34. Higher education material, 1979
35. Hospice, 1979-1980
36. Housatonic Community College, 1981-1982
37. Independent sector, 1981
38. Interdistrict council, public schools, 1976-1982
39. Interfaith clergy, 1977-1978
40. Interfaith tribute to Lansdale, 1972
41. Intergroup committee, 1976-1979
42. Intergroup committee, 1976-1979
43. Intergroup committee, 1976-1979

Box 5

1. Juvenile delinquency, 1955
2. Legislature, State of Connecticut, 1978-1982
3. Liturgical Musical festival, 1976-1978
4. Manning, President Thurston, 1973-1977
5. Manpower report, 1976-1977
6. Material for book, 1956-1968
7. Mayor's conference remarks, 1982
8. McManus, Michael, 1976-1977
9. McManus, Michael, 1976-1977
10. Miscellaneous, 1960s-1980s
11. Miscellaneous, 1960s-1980s
12. Miscellaneous, 1960s-1980s
13. Morton, Margaret, 1982
14. Neighborhood housing services, 1975-1978
15. Oberlin College, 1977-1979
16. Oberlin College, 1977-1979
17. Oberlin College, 1977-1979
18. Park City Hospital, 1977-1979
19. Park City Hospital, 1977-1979
20. Park City Hospital, 1977-1979
21. Park City Hospital, 1977-1979
22. Park City Hospital, 1977-1979

23. Peace education task force, 1979
24. People's Savings Bank, undated
25. Presby of Southern New England, 1976-1982
26. Presby of Southern New England, 1976-1982
27. Project OWN, 1977-1978
28. Records to University of Bridgeport, 1978
29. References (letters of), 1974-1977
30. References, 1978-1982
31. Regional plan association, 1978
32. Rotary. 1978-1982
33. Rotary Housing Corporation, 1970-1978
34. Rotary Housing Corporation, 1970-1978
35. Royal bank of Canada, 1973-1978
36. Sacred Heart University, 1981
37. Springfield Masters Program, 1980
38. Rudkin foundation, 1972-1973
39. Southwestern Connecticut Agency on Aging, 1977-1978
40. Southwest Connecticut Health Systems Agency, 1978-1980

Box 6

1. Streets for people, 1979
2. United States government, 1980-1981
3. University of Bridgeport/Housatonic Community College, 1977-1978
4. University of Bridgeport, 1978-1982
5. University of Bridgeport, 1978-1982
6. Urban observatory, 1977-1979
7. Victim symposium, 1978
8. Yale University, undated

Series IV, Awards and citations

9. Awards and citations, 1960s-1980s
10. Awards and citations, 1960s-1980s
11. Awards and citations, 1960s-1980s
12. Awards and citations, 1960s-1980s
13. State of Israel bonds, 1972
14. Connecticut Valley Americanism Award, 1974
15. SWCAA board president, 1980-1982
16. YMCA international division, 1982
17. Bridgeport Consumer Advisory Council, 1983
18. Hall Neighborhood House, 1983
19. Action for Bridgeport Community Development, undated

Box 7

Rotary club president plaque, 1967

Professional social worker certificate, National Association of Social Workers, undated

Kolbe Cathedral High School, 1982
Outstanding Citizen, Civitan Club, 1968
Edward J. Kocahn Citizenship Award, YMCA and HECUS, 1973

Box 8

13 Tandy floppy disks, all labeled correspondence, 1988-1994
Tape cassette, Inter-t[?], 1982
Israel liberated medal, undated
Connecticut Energy Corporation CNE original listing medal, July 29, 1982
Southern Connecticut Gas Company Morris Heirs No. 1, 10-16-76

Paris item, 1955
Park City Hospital fifty years of service medal, 1974

Flat file D, drawer 7 folder 8
Certificates and citations, undated