

Yale University Library  
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

# Guide to the Bill Callison Collection of Peace and Freedom Party of California Papers

WA MSS S-4544



Sarah Lerner

April 2023

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New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** WA MSS S-4544

**CREATOR:** Callison, Bill, 1941-2008

**TITLE:** Bill Callison collection of Peace and Freedom Party of California papers

**DATES:** 1968-2004

**BULK DATES:** 1974-1995

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 2.58 linear feet (4 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English (Latin script)

**SUMMARY:** Professional papers of Bill Callison comprised of correspondence, policy documents, membership lists, memoranda, flyers, promotional material, and newspaper clippings documenting the Peace and Freedom Party of California, 1968-2004, bulk 1974-1995. The material documents the administrative, organizing, and electoral activities of the political party, as well as its approach to local, state, national, and global issues. Most of the collection relates to Alameda County and Contra Costa County.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.bcallison>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.bcallison>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to [beinecke.images@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box  
f. folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Boston Rare Maps on the Frederick W. and Carrie S. Beinecke Fund for Western Americana, 2022.

## Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

The Bill Callison Collection of Peace and Freedom Party of California Papers is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

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## Preferred Citation

Bill Callison Collection of Peace and Freedom Party of California Papers. Yale Collection of Western Americana, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

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## Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

These materials have been arranged and described according to national and local standards. For more information, please refer to the Beinecke Manuscript Unit Processing Manual.

Folder titles assigned by Bill Callison have been retained. Supplied titles for folders received without labels are in brackets.

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## William A. "Bill" Callison (1941-2008)

William A. "Bill" Callison (1941-2008) was born in Bremerton, Washington, to Robert Callison and Ardis Zalesky Callison. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from Stanford University in 1963 and a Master of Arts in Far East Studies from the University of California, Berkeley in 1965. He lived in the San Francisco Bay Area in California where he worked as an electronic technician.

In 1967, during the Vietnam War, Callison was the founding editor of *The Bond*, the first antiwar newspaper for soldiers. He became active with the Peace and Freedom Party of California beginning in 1974 and served as Chair of its Contra Costa County branch from approximately 2000 to 2008. In 2008, he ran for United States Congress 7th Congressional District of California.

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## Peace and Freedom Party

The Peace and Freedom Party (PFP), which grew out of the civil rights and anti-war movements, organized in 1967 June and achieved ballot status in California in 1968 January under the California Secretary of State Report of Registration. After 1968, PFP affiliates in most states dissolved primarily because of ballot access restrictions. The California party, however, continued to maintain enough registered voters to hold on to its ballot status and continued to contest local elections throughout the 1970s and the 1980s.

## **Scope and Contents**

Professional papers of Bill Callison comprised of correspondence, policy documents, membership lists, memoranda, flyers, promotional material, and newspaper clippings documenting the Peace and Freedom Party of California, 1968-2004, bulk 1974-1995.

The material documents the administrative, organizing, and electoral activities of the political party, as well as its approach to local, state, national, and global issues. Most of the collection relates to Alameda County and Contra Costa County.

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## **Arrangement**

Arranged chronologically.

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## Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 1	Unanswered Mail--National	1968
b. 1, f. 2-4	Loose Papers	1972-1991
b. 1, f. 5-8	Alameda County PFP	1974-1976
b. 1, f. 9-10	People's Party S[t.] L[ouis] Convention	1975 August 25-31
b. 1, f. 11-12	Calif PFP	1975-1995
b. 1, f. 13	S.F. Chapter PFP	1975-1977
b. 1, f. 14-15	East Bay PFP	1975-1977
b. 2, f. 16-18	12th AD Campaign	1976
b. 2, f. 19	Originals	1976-1977
b. 2, f. 20-22	Peace & Freedom Party	1978-2003
b. 2, f. 23	PFP Local Leaflet	1980
b. 2, f. 24-26	PFP 1986 Campaign	1986
b. 2, f. 27-31	[Loose papers]	1988-1995
b. 2, f. 32	Peace & Freedom 6/90	1990-1995
b. 3, f. 33-35	Originals	1990-1995
b. 3, f. 36	[Papers relating to Gerald Horne's nomination]	1992
b. 3, f. 37	Caucus	1994
b. 4, f. 38	[Poster for Kevin Akin for Congress, 44th District]	2004

## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Geographic Names**

Alameda County (Calif.)  
California -- Politics and government -- 20th  
Century  
California -- Social life and customs -- 20th  
Century  
Contra Costa County (Calif.)

### **Subjects**

Political activists -- United States  
Political parties -- California  
Socialist parties -- California

### **Corporate Bodies**

Peace and Freedom Party (Calif.)  
Peace and Freedom Party (U.S.)

### **Acquired From**

Boston Rare Maps , bookseller