

# Ellen Jaffe fonds

Compiled by Erwin Wodarczak (2021)

University of British Columbia Archives



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## Fonds Description

**Ellen Jaffe fonds.** – 1996-2001.

1 file folder of textual records.

1 bound volume.

### Biographical Sketch

Ellen Jaffe is a writer and poet who grew up in the United States and eventually emigrated to Canada. She was born in New York City in 1945 into an Ashkenazi Jewish family, and began writing in childhood. She received a B.A. in English from Wellesley College; studied theatre and education in New York, where she was active in the anti-Vietnam War movement; and studied psychotherapy in the United Kingdom. She moved to Canada in 1979, becoming a citizen in 1993. Living in Hamilton for many years, Jaffe moved to Toronto in 2018. She has published a young adult novel, three poetry collections, several short plays, and the non-fiction *Writing Your Way: Creating a Personal Journal*, and has been published widely in poetry journals and anthologies. Jaffe has also given writing workshops and organized literary festivals in Hamilton. In her workshops and in her book *Writing Your Way*, Jaffe encourages people to write in their own voices and tell their own stories – to have, in Jane Rule’s words, “a speaking presence”. The commonalities between Jaffe and Rule – that they are both writers born in the United States who later emigrated to Canada – are part of what drew them together.

### Scope and Content

Fonds consists mainly of correspondence between Ellen Jaffe and Jane Rule, written between 1996 and 2001. The first series follows a letter Jaffe wrote to Rule in appreciation of the TVO film *Fiction and Other Truths* about her life and work. The rest of the letters deal with Jaffe asking to use quotes from the film in her book *Writing Your Way*, and about her visiting Rule on Galiano Island in 2001 to give her a copy of the book. The folder also includes a copy of Jaffe’s book, with the quotes from Jane Rule book-marked.

### Notes

Researchers are strongly advised to check with the University Archives regarding permission to publish or otherwise use materials from this fonds.

Stored with University Archives’ vertical files at VF 116.

Donated by Ellen Jaffe in May 2021.

Biographical sketch based on information provided by Ellen Jaffe. For additional biographical information included in the fonds' accession file, contact the University Archives.