

A Guide to the The Woman's Club of Loudoun, Inc., 1944-2002

The Woman's Club of Loudoun, Inc. 1944-2002
1944-2002

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History

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Descriptive Summary

Accession number

M 024

Language

English

Abstract

The collection contains the records of The Woman's Club of Loudoun, Inc. It includes histories, minutes, financial records, newsletters, and scrapbooks. There is a small amount of correspondence and some publications, both club produced and from other organizations.

Collector

The Woman's Club of Loudoun, Inc.

Extent

3 cu. ft., 3 oversized items

Repository

Thomas Balch Library

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Collection open for research.

Use Restrictions

Physical characteristics and conditions affect use of this material. Photocopying of fragile items not permitted.

Acquisition Information

The Woman's Club of Loudoun, Inc., Loudoun County, VA

Processing Information

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2004.0086, 2012.0104

Alternative Form Available

None

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Related Material

Northington, Etta Belle Walker. *A History of the Virginia Federation of Women's Clubs, 1907-1957*. Richmond: Virginia Federation of Women's Clubs, 1957. VREF367.9755.

Bibliography

A History of the Virginia Federation of Women's Clubs, 1907-1957

Other Finding Aid

None

Historical Information

A group of thirteen women met on 19 Jul 1944 at the home of Mrs. J. Shenton (Frances Billings) Lodge (ca. 1894) to discuss forming a club and joining the Virginia Federation of Women's Clubs (hereafter VFWC). VFWC, founded in 1907, served as a way to connect women's clubs in the state so that members could draw on one another's experience and promote civic works. The attendees of the first meeting worked with the VFWC to establish the club's objectives and structure.

The first meeting of The Woman's Club of Loudoun took place on 9 Sep 1944, and 55 women joined. A Board of Governors was appointed, and Mrs. Lodge elected as the club's first president. Acceptance of The Loudoun Woman's Club into the VFWC was announced at a meeting held 4 Nov 1944. In 1946, the club adopted the iris as its flower, and purple and gold as the club's colors. The club was incorporated in 1948. The Woman's Club of Loudoun, Inc. sponsored the creation of Junior Woman's Club of Loudoun in 1950, and over the years included it in activities and fundraisers. Membership in The Woman's Club peaked in 1954 at 142 and declined in the following decades. However, in 2004 the club was recognized at the District Meeting for its

recruiting efforts, with a membership standing at 59.

The club created seven departments to guide their activities: American Home, Fine Arts, Education, Citizenship, Welfare, War Service, and Red Cross. Over time some departments were added or eliminated, reflecting the changing interests of the club. Department chairmen developed a variety of programs and invited speakers to come to club events. Speakers ranged from a representative from the Norwegian Embassy to Luther H. Evans, Librarian of Congress. While many programs were for club members only, other events included guests and spouses, such as the annual picnic. Four committees were also formed at the first meeting: Hospitality, Publicity, Membership, and Registrar.

From the beginning, the arts were a strong area of interest. A music committee was established early in the history of the club, and music was an important part of its activities and programs. Programs included performances and talks by club members, as well as guest artists. The Arts Department sponsored art and writing contests in the local schools from 1945 through the 1960's, presenting awards at their annual meeting. Club members entered their own work in contests at the district meeting, which sent winners to the VFWC annual meetings. Local contests were started in 1969. The Arts Department also held workshops, organized tours, and brought in speakers.

In addition to enrichment activities for members, the club has lent support to the community. Overseen by the Ways and Means Committee, the club engaged in a variety of fundraising activities, such as card parties, fashion shows, bake sales and rummage sales to finance civic projects. From early on education and youth welfare have been of great interest to the club. The Education Department created a Student Loan Fund in 1945, intended to help students who wanted to have a teaching career. Other areas of interest include health and welfare, conservation, and community improvement projects.

Scope and Content

The collection contains the records of The Woman's Club of Loudoun, Inc. It includes histories, minutes, financial records, newsletters, and scrapbooks. There is a small amount of correspondence and some publications, both club produced and from other organizations.

Club histories were originally kept in three-ring binders, and have been filed in parts due to size. Minutes include board and general meetings. Some volumes contained inserted material such as correspondence, programs, and financial reports. Minutes were also originally in three-ring binders, and because of size have been broken down into smaller parts for filing. The 1986-1990 minutes, unlike others, were arranged in reverse chronological order. The 1996-2000 minutes include treasurer's and annual reports. There is also a duplicate set of minutes kept by Mrs. Arthur S. (Pearl Shreve) Jenkins (24 Sep 1891-14 Jul 1978), president from 1948-1951. These contain many inserts such as correspondence, notes, and newspaper clippings.

The collection also contains six scrapbooks. Two are scrapbooks put together by club presidents, which include photographs, cards, mementos, programs, and newspaper clippings. Four additional Club Scrapbooks contain correspondence, clippings, and reports. Two of these books are in very fragile condition.

Contents List

Box 1

Folder 1: Histories - Volume 1 (part 1 of 2), 1944-1960

Folder 2: Histories - Volume 1 (part 2 of 2), 1960-1970

Folder 3: Histories - Volume 2 (part 1 of 3), 1970-1980

Folder 4: Histories - Volume 2 (part 2 of 3), 1980-1988

Folder 5: Histories - Volume 2 (part 3 of 3), 1988-2000

Folder 6: Histories - "A History of the Woman's Club of Loudoun, Inc. V.F.W.C. and G.F.W.C., 1944-2004," ca. 2004

Folder 7: Yearbooks, 1946-1949

Folder 8: Yearbooks, 1949-1951

Folder 9: Yearbooks, 1951-1954

Folder 10: Yearbooks, 1954-1957

Folder 11: Yearbooks, 1957-1960

Folder 12: Yearbooks, 1960-1962

Folder 13: Yearbooks, 1962-1965

Folder 14: Yearbooks, 1965-1968

Folder 15: Yearbooks, 1972-1975

Box 2

Folder 1: Yearbooks, 1978-1983

Folder 2: Yearbooks, 1991-1992, 1997-1998

Folder 3: Certificate of Incorporation and Articles of Amendment, 1948, 1950, 1953, 1957

Folder 4: Constitution, ca. 1948

Folder 5: Constitution and By-Laws, 1969, n.d.

Folder 6: Standing Rules, Jan 1954

Folder 7: Minutes (part 1 of 3), Jan 1944-Dec 1945

Folder 8: Minutes (part 2 of 3), Jan 1946-Dec 1949

Folder 9: Minutes (part 3 of 3), Oct 1947-Jun 1950, Sep 1951

Folder 10: Minutes (part 1 of 3), Sep 1950-Dec 1951

Folder 11: Minutes (part 2 of 3), Jan 1952-Dec 1953

Folder 12: Minutes (part 3 of 3), Jan 1954-Jun 1955, Feb 1957

Folder 13: Minutes (part 1 of 3), Aug 1955-Dec 1956, n.d.

Folder 14: Minutes (part 2 of 3), Jan 1957-Dec 1958

Folder 15: Minutes (part 3 of 3), Jan 1959-Apr1961

Box 3

Folder 1: Minutes (General Meeting), 3 Nov 1962

Folder 2: Minutes (part 1 of 2), Jun 1968-Nov 1970

Folder 3: Minutes (part 2 of 2), Jan 1971-Jan 1974

Folder 4: Minutes (part 1 of 2), Feb 1974- Dec 1975

Folder 5: Minutes (part 2 of 2), Jan 1976-Mar 1978

Folder 6: Minutes (part 1 of 3), Mar 1978-Dec 1980

Folder 7: Minutes (part 2 of 3), Jan 1981-Mar 1984

Folder 8: Minutes (part 3 of 3), 1982-Jan 1984, n.d.

Folder 9: Minutes (part 1 of 4), Jan 1989-Mar 1990

Folder 10: Minutes (part 2 of 4), Jan-Dec 1988

Folder 11: Minutes (part 3 of 4), Jan-Dec 1987

Folder 12: Minutes (part 4 of 4), Mar-Dec 1986

Folder 13: Minutes (part 1 of 3), Mar 1990-Mar 1992

Box 4

Folder 1: Minutes (part 2 of 3), Apr 1992-Mar 1994

Folder 2: Minutes (part 3 of 3), Apr 1994-Mar 1996

Folder 3: Minutes (part 1 of 2), Apr 1996-Mar 1998

Folder 4: Minutes (part 2 of 2), Apr 1996-Mar 1998

Folder 5: Minutes (part 1 of 3), 1998-2000

Folder 6: Minutes (part 2 of 3), 1998-2000

Folder 7: Minutes (part 3 of 3), 1998-2000

Folder 8: Minutes (part 1 of 2), Mar 1990-Dec 1991

Folder 9: Minutes (part 2 of 2), Jan 1992-May 1993

Folder 10: Minutes - Duplicates (part 1 of 4), 1944-1948, 1960

Folder 11: Minutes - Duplicates (part 2 of 4), 1948-1950

Folder 12: Minutes - Duplicates (part 3 of 4), 1949-1950

Folder 13: Minutes - Duplicates (part 4 of 4), 1949-1951

Box 5

Folder 1: President's Records - delegate's pin, VFWC convention, 1-Apr-61

Folder 2: President's Records - Hecht Company Consumer Advisory Board members, Jan, Jul 1953

Folder 3: President's Records - Report of President, 2 Jun 1951

Folder 4: President's Records - Report to VFWC, 1983-2000

Folder 5: Secretary's Records - Minutes (part 1 of 5), 1998-2000

Folder 6: Secretary's Records - Treasurer's Report (part 2 of 5), 1998-2000

Folder 7: Secretary's Records - District Meeting Handouts (part 3 of 5), 1998-2000

Folder 8: Secretary's Records - Miscellaneous (part 4 of 5) (see also OM 0004, Folder 1), 1998-2000

Folder 9: Secretary's Records - Newsletters (part 5 of 5), 1998-2000

Folder 10: Custodian's Records - Property Report, ca.1954

Folder 11: Financial Records - Treasurer's Reports, 1949-May 1953

Folder 12: Financial Records - Treasurer's Reports, Aug 1954-1956

Folder 13: Financial Records - Treasurer's Reports, 1956-1958

Folder 14: Financial Records - Treasurer's Reports, 1959-1960

Folder 15: Financial Records - Treasurer's Reports, 1961-1962

Folder 16: Financial Records - Treasurer's Reports, 1963-1964

Folder 17: Financial Records - Treasurer's Reports, 1965-1966

Folder 18: Financial Records - Treasurer's Reports (see also OM 0004, Folder 2), 1981-1984

Folder 19: Financial Records - Treasurer's Reports, 1986-1988

Folder 20: Financial Records - Treasurer's Reports, 1990-1992

Folder 21: Financial Records - Treasurer's Reports, 1993-1996

Folder 22: Financial Records - Receipts and Statements, 1982-1984, 1986-1988

Folder 23: Financial Records - Student Loan Fund, 1946, 1954

Folder 24: Financial Records - Student Loan Fund Passbook, 1965-1983

Box 6

Folder 1: Financial Records - Journal, 1951-1953

Folder 2: Financial Records - Journal, 1952-1953

Folder 3: Financial Records - Journal, 1953-1954

Folder 4: Financial Records - Journal, 1954-1959

Folder 5: Financial Records - Journal, 1961-1970

Folder 6: Financial Records - Journal, 1970-1980

Folder 7: Financial Records - Journal, 1972-2000

Folder 8: Financial Records - Journal, 1980-1995

Folder 9: Registration Book, 1967-1981

Box 7

Folder 1: Correspondence, 1950-1951, 1955-1956, 1959

Folder 2: Correspondence, 1962-1963, 1966, 1970-1971

Folder 3: Membership - Charter Members, 27-Apr-05

Folder 4: Membership - Member Roster, n.d.

Folder 5: Membership - Officers and Chairmen, 1990-1991

Folder 6: Honors and Awards - "Build a Better Community Program" application, 24 Mar 1949

Folder 7: Honors and Awards - Certificate of Merit, VFWC, "Sponsoring Music," 30-Apr-57

Folder 8: Honors and Awards - "Women's Club of Loudoun Day," 7-Apr-89

Folder 9: Photographs, n.d.

Folder 10: Photographs - Board of Supervisors' Proclamation, 1988-1989

Folder 11: Photographs, 11-Jun-05

Folder 12: Photographs, 12-Jun-05

Folder 13: Photographs, Mar 1990

Folder 14: Newsletters, 1990, 1992-1994

Folder 15: Newsletters, 1996-1998

Folder 16: Newsletters, 1999-2001

Folder 17: Publications - "Music George Washington Knew," n.d.

Folder 18: Publications - "A Profile of the Virginia Federation of Women's Clubs," n.d.

Folder 19: Publications - "The Woman's Club of Loudoun, Inc." (flyer), n.d.

Folder 20: Publications - "Interfaith Relief Newsletter" v1. no. 2, n.d.

Folder 21: Publications - "State Song of Virginia Federation of Women's Clubs," 20-May-37

Folder 22: Publications - "A Collect for Club Women," 26-Apr-05

Folder 23: Publications - "Sixty Years of Achievement: 1890-1950, General Federation of Women's Clubs," 3-May-05

Folder 24: Publications - "Program: Fifty-Sixth Annual Convention of the Virginia Federation of Women's Clubs," 1-Apr-63

Folder 25: Publications - "Virginia Clubwomen's Anthology," 1-Aug-67

Folder 26: Publications - "Invest in Your Future, Preserve Your Past, Thomas Balch Library, 1922-1992," 14-Jun-05

Folder 27: Clippings, 1944, 1954, 1957, 1966, 1983

Folder 28: Clippings, 1990-1991, 1998, 2001, 2002, n.d.

Folder 29: Miscellaneous, 1990-1994, n.d.

Box 8

President's Scrapbook (folders 1-66); see also OM 0004, Folder 3, 1992-1994

Box 9

President's Scrapbook (folders 1-105), 1994-1998

Box 10

Club Scrapbook, 1948-1949

Box 11

Club Scrapbook, 1950-1951

Box 12

Club Scrapbooks, 1951-1952; 1952-1953

Box OM 0004

Folder 1: Secretary's Records (see also Box 5, Folder 8), 22-Jun-05

Folder 2: Financial Records - Treasurer's Reports (see also Box 5, Folder 18), 1981-1984

Folder 3: President's Scrapbook, pg. 40 (see also Box 8, Folder 40), 1992-1994