

Green, Karen Nu Koppelle scrapbook

Karen Green's Nu Koppelle Scrapbook
1974-1975

Title Statement

Green, Karen Nu Koppelle scrapbookKaren Green's Nu Koppelle scrapbook MSS 16838

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Descriptive Summary

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Unit ID

[Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID

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Unit Date

1974-1975

Mixed Materials [X032762417]

1 (Flat_Box)

Language

English

source

Langdon Manor Books

Extent

.375 Cubic Feet 1 flat box 12"X18"X3"

Repository

Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research use.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

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Biographical / Historical

Lambda Kappa Mu Sorority, Inc., was founded on January 19, 1937, by Florence K. Norman and a group of twenty-five college-educated women, who were engaged in various professions and businesses. They met at the Upper Manhattan Branch of the YMCA in New York City to lay the groundwork to establish a National Sorority of African American business and professional women. Lambda Kappa Mu established the Kopelles youth program in 1962 and according to its website it "strives to build leadership skills in young women by promoting good citizenship, cultural enlightenment and academic achievement."

Florence K. Williamson-Norman, born in Macon County, Kentucky, attended public schools in the area. She attained her higher education at Howard University, Jennifer Business Institute, and the University of Hawaii. She taught at Fessenden School in Florida and also served as Dean of Students there. At the same time, she served as Secretary to Dr. Carter G. Woodson, President of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History.

During her early years, she saw the plight of Kentucky sharecroppers. This experience of seeing their struggles moved her to assume responsibility for two girls of sharecropper families. This commitment illustrated her efforts to improve life for all African American women. As part of these efforts, she established the Washington Business Institute (Washington, D.C.) for African American girls at a time when the United States provided little support for educating African Americans, least of all for girls. She also founded the Flushing (Queens) Citizen's Association in the neighborhood where she lived at the time. This group helped families living in the neighborhood to work together to improve their lives.

Source: Lambda Kappa Mu Sorority history on their website. A Sisterhood of Business and Professional Women Accessed 5/22/2024. <https://lkmsorority.org/about/history.php>

Content Description

This collection contains a scrapbook documenting one year of service of the Nu Kopelles, a youth group based in Queens, New York, sponsored by the African American professional and business women's sorority Lambda Kappa Mu. The scrapbook is dedicated to their youth coordinator, Elizabeth Lockett, and the opening title page, written in ink, identifies the club officers: President Karyn Greene, Vice President Jackie Chamaco, Secretary Yvonne Stallworth, and Treasurer Sheila Blake. This scrapbook shows the many accomplishments of the Nu chapter of the Kopelles in 1975 and includes forty-five photographs, including forty-one color snapshots, with notes captioning the page. Events documented include the girls volunteering with Geraldo Rivera's One-to-One volunteer program, holiday visits to residents at the Irwin Nursing Home, and several luncheons. Some photographs show the girls dressed up, where the Kopelles "exhibited their talents in fashion modeling, dance choreography, music, song, and scholarship." The scrapbook also contains a list of the Kopelles' fundraising efforts and a flyer for a car wash.

Of note is the appearance of Mala Waldron who appears in a photo which showed the girls singing around a piano and pointed out that "The pianist is the composer." Waldron is now a successful jazz pianist, composer and educator with an award-winning 2006 album and numerous international tours and festivals under belt.

Lambda Kappa Mu was founded in 1937 by Florence K. Norman, who taught at the historic Fessenden school in Florida and served as secretary to Dr. Carter G. Woodson. Lambda Kappa Mu established the Kopelles youth program in 1962 to build leadership skills in young women.

Keywords

African American teenagers

African American fraternal organizations

History of Childhood, Parenting and Family Building (UVA)

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