

Finding aid for the East Side Ladies Literary Club papers Collection 032

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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1987
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Summary Information

Repository	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
Title	East Side Ladies Literary Club papers
Date [inclusive]	1894-2004
Extent	2.9 Linear feet Seven boxes
Language	English
Abstract	<p>The East Side Ladies Literary Club was one of several women's groups formed for the purpose of encouraging literary and social culture. The papers contain documents of the organization from 1894-2004, although the club may have stopped meeting by the year 2000. Included are incomplete holdings of minute books, account books, membership records, yearbooks, the original gavel used by the organization and history and news clippings. Also received with the later materials of the East Side Ladies Literary Club are a few documents for the Kent County Women's Club, circa 1980-1993, and the Santa Claus Girls of the Grand Rapids Women's Clubs, 1991-1994. Little is known about the Kent County Women's Club, which appears to have disbanded. See Collection 180, the Santa Claus Girls Collection, for more information on that organization.</p>

Biographical/Historical note

On January 12, 1894, 23 ladies met at the home of Mrs. Cogswell on East Street to discuss the possible formation of a ladies literary society. After studying the organization of the Bay View Reading Circle and the South End Literary Society, the ladies began the action by holding officer elections, writing a constitution and planning future meetings. Cogswell was elected the first President of the newly formed East Side Ladies Literary Club (ESLLC) and the constitution was approved on January 23, 1894.

In 1896 the ESLLC became federated under the Grand Rapids Federation of Women's Clubs as one of that organization's twelve original member clubs. The ESLLC gained state federation in 1899 and again in 1934 after a brief hiatus.

The ESLLC's original purpose was for the development of literary and social culture among its members. They undertook mental improvement, study of the vital interests of the day and benevolent work within their sphere. Throughout its existence the club held a membership level of twenty to just over fifty ladies. In later years, the club functioned primarily as a social society, limiting its charitable work to only a few projects per year.

Also found in this collection are documents for the Kent County Women's Club. Little is known about this club, or how the documents of that organization came to be included with those of ESLLC. It appears that the Kent County Women's Club disbanded sometime in the 1980's, while the ESLLC continued to meet until around the year 2000.

Scope and Contents note

Basic documents of an organization are found here for the East Side Ladies Literary Club, including some generations of by-laws, a long run of minutes from the club's inception until 1984, incomplete membership and attendance records, financial information from 1935 to 2004, and year books for 1902/1903 to 1978/1979, incomplete.

No written or visual information on the clubs activities is found, such as photographs or stories, except for a few isolated newspaper clippings. The scrapbooks often kept by such organizations are missing for this collection.

A bank book from the Convention Account of the Grand Rapids Federation of Women's Clubs, 1948 is the only previous evidence of the club's wider participation in this city wide joint organization. Added with the 2005.060 gift are records of the Kent County Women's Club, from ca. 1880 to 1994.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department 1987

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

East Side Ladies Literary Club, accession numbers 1986.012, 2005.060

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note

Several other collections in the archives contain women's club or Ladies Literary Club materials, and may contain items specifically related to the East Side Ladies Literary Club:

Coll. 20 Grand Rapids Federation of Women's Clubs Records Coll. 103 Grand Rapids Woman's Club Records Coll. 275 Ladies Literary Club Collection Coll. 180 Santa Claus Girls Collection

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- East Side Ladies Literary Club (Grand Rapids, Mich.).
- Kent County Women's Club (Kent County, Mich.).
- Santa Claus Girls (Kent County, Mich.).

Geographic Name(s)

- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History

Subject(s)

- Women -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids -- History
- Women -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids -- Societies and clubs

History & General information

Collection Inventory

History & General information		
	Box	
Miscellaneous Clippings / History, 1986.012 3 clippings	4	
2005.060 clippings, ephemera, references to additional clippings	4	
Constitution and By Laws, 2005.060	4	
Minutes		
	Box	Folder
1894-Jun 1896	1	1
Oct 1896-Feb 13, 1900	1	2
Feb 20, 1900-Jan. 2, 1906	1	3
Jan 9, 1906-Apr 5, 1910	1	4
Apr 12, 1910-Dec 9, 1913	1	5
Dec 16, 1913-Oct 24, 1916	1	6

Membership.

Oct 31, 1916-Nov 4, 1919	2	1
Nov 18, 1919-Dec 19, 1922	2	2
1923-1925	2	3
1926-1931, 1936-Jun 1937	2	4
Oct 1937-Apr 1940	2	5
Oct 1940-Jun 1945	2	6
Oct 1945-Mar 1948	2	7
Oct 1948-Oct 1952	3	1
Oct 1952-Sept. 1956	3	2
Sept 1956-1965	3	3
		Box
Dec. 7, 1965 to May 1, 1984 (2005.060)		3
Membership.		

Box

Account Books (Box 5, 2005.060)

1935/36 to 1963/64. See the "Dues" payment stubs in Box 6 for more membership information 1977-1986.

6

Account Books (Box 5, 2005.060)**Box Folder**

1935/36 – 1956/57

5 1

1957/58 – 1967/68

5 2

1967/68 - 2000

5 3

Miscellaneous accounting notes, 1994-2003

5 4

Box

Bank Books, bank account reports and checks, receipt stubs. 1975-2003 (unprocessed)

6

Calendars/Yearbooks/Directories**Box Folder**

1902/03 (00.[3665].1)

4 1

1903/04

4 1

1904/05

4 1

1905/06

4 1

Calendars/Yearbooks/Directories

1906/07	4	1
1907/08	4	1
1908/09	4	1
1909/10	4	1
1910/11	4	1
1911/12	4	1
1912/1913 (00.[3665].11)	4	1
1926/1927 (00.[3665].12)	4	2
1934	4	2
1935	4	2
1936	4	2
1937 (00.[3665].16)	4	2
1938 (00.[3665].17)	4	2
1939	4	2

Calendars/Yearbooks/Directories

1940 (00.[3665].19)	4	2
1934/1935, 41st year (00.[3666].1)	4	3
191935/1936, 42nd year (00.[3666].2)	4	3
1936/1937 (00.[3665].20)	4	3
1937/1938	4	3
1938/1939 (00.[3665].21)	4	3
1941/42	4	4
1948/49	4	4
1941/42 (00.[3672].1)	4	5
1942/43	4	5
1943/44	4	5
1956/57 (00.[3672].4)	4	5
1964/1965 (2005.060)	4	6
1966/1967	4	6

Realia

1967/1968	4	6
1968/1969	4	6
1969/1970	4	6
1970/1971 (2005.060)	4	7
1971/1972	4	7
1972/1973	4	7
1973/1974	4	7
1974/1975	4	7
1975/1976	4	7
1976/1977	4	7
1977/1978	4	7
		Box
1978/1979 (2, 2005.060)		4
Realia		
		Box

Miscellaneous

Original Club Gavel		4
Miscellaneous		
A. Miscellaneous Documents		
	Box	Folder
[1918] Charter Story. [14 sheets] Regarding proposed Grand Rapids city charter amendments in 1918.	3	5
B. Other Women's Clubs		
		Box
June 1924 List of member. West Side Ladies Literary Club		3
Grand Rapids Federation of Women's Clubs. Convention Account bank booklet, 1948. People's National Bank.		3
Kent County Women's Club Documents, 1980-1994		3
	Box	Folder
Meeting materials.	7	1
		Box
Directory		2
	Box	Folder

Santa Claus Girls miscellaneous materials. (Grand Rapids Women's Clubs).

ByLaws	2	3
Minutes / Convention / Executive	2	4
Treasurer's Reports	2	5
Accounts, 1980-1993.	7	6
		Box
Navy check book.		7
	Box	Folder
Conventions	7	7
Meeting Banquet Facilities	7	8
Miscellaneous correspondence & records, 1988-1991. [Suzanne Johnson]	7	9
Santa Claus Girls miscellaneous materials. (Grand Rapids Women's Clubs).		
	Box	Folder
Constitution.	7	10
1991/1992 Directory	7	10
1992/1993 "Grand Rapids Women's Clubs. 'The Santa Claus Girls'"	7	10

Santa Claus Girls miscellaneous materials. (Grand Rapids Women's Clubs).

1993/1994 "Grand Rapids Women's Clubs. 'The Santa Claus Girls'"

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