



National Society of Arts and Letters, Central Illinois Chapter,
1981-2017

Collection 175

Champaign County Historical Archives

Compiled by: Kevin Adams

Creator/Corporate name: National Society of Arts and Letters, Central Illinois Chapter

Inclusive Dates: 1981-2017, bulk 1990-2010

Physical Description: 4 boxes, 2 linear feet.

Provenance:

National Society of Arts and Letters, Champaign Chapter Collection was donated to the Champaign County Historical Archives in January 2018 and July 2018 by Nadja Alstetter.

Access:

The records are accessible to the public within applicable copyright restrictions and limited to use at the Champaign County Historical Archives of The Urbana Free Library.

Historical Note:

The Champaign-Urbana Chapter of the National Society of Arts and Letters was chartered in December of 1981. Primarily made up of women from the Champaign-Urbana area, the chapter was initially presided over by society presidents Duane Cultra and Dorothy Herwick. This chapter is one of 18 chapters that make up the National Society of Arts and Letters which was founded in 1944. The initial goal of the society was to provide young local artists with opportunities to compete with, and display, their work on a local level and potentially on a national level. The local chapter evolved into the Central Illinois Chapter as its membership expanded in the late 1980s, and continues to pursue its goals of supporting and providing platforms for local aspiring young artists.

Scope and Content Note:

This collection provides documentation of both national and the Central Illinois Chapter of the National Society of Arts and Letters membership, meetings (invitations, minutes, and member notes), financial reports, national newsletters, newspaper clippings, local and national competitions and awards ranging from 1981-2017. The collection includes a specially designated folder for the documentation of the achievements of Ollie Watts Davis, a national award winner turned honorary member of the Central Illinois Chapter.

Arrangement:

The collections flows from the Champaign Urbana Chapter's charter to its membership, to organization, to event planning, and into documentation of competitions and awards. Each grouping of Central Illinois Chapter materials is paired with its parallel national material documentation.

Separated Materials:

Champaign Urbana Chapter Newsletters and Central Illinois Chapter Newsletters were removed from the collection and placed in our Local Organizations Newsletter collections. Photographs were removed



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and placed in the “National Society of Arts and Letters” Photographs Envelope in the Local History Photographs series.

Subject Terms:

Women—Societies and Clubs
Arts and Letters
Competitions and Awards

Names:

Alstetter, Nadja
Cultra, Duane
Davis, Ollie Watts
Herwick, Dorothy
Park, Judy

Container List:

Box 1

Folder 1: Champaign Urbana Chapter Charter, 1981-1982
Folder 2: Central Illinois Chapter Membership, 1981-2017
Folder 3: Central Illinois Chapter Yearbook, 1998-2013
Folder 4: National Membership, 1990-2014
Folder 5: National Newsletters, 1983-2017
Folder 6: National Budget, 2002-2003
Folder 7: Central Illinois Chapter Budget, 1981-2010
Folder 8: Central Illinois Chapter Bylaws, 1991-2009
Folders 9-10: Central Illinois Chapter Meetings, 1981-2005

Box 2

Folder 1: Central Illinois Chapter Meetings, 2004-2014
Folder 2: Central Illinois Chapter Meeting Minutes, 1981-2005
Folder 3: Central Illinois Chapter Member Correspondence, 1995-2015
Folder 4: Central Illinois Chapter Travel Events, 1992, 1996
Folder 5: Central Illinois Chapter Arts in the Afternoon, 1986-2007
Folder 6: National Officer Election, 2004-2006
Folder 7: National Conventions, 1990-2002
Folder 8: National Society of Arts and Letters Brochures, 1986-2015
Folder 9: 60th Anniversary Convention General Planning, 2004
Folder 10: 60th Anniversary Convention Committee Meeting, 2004
Folder 11: 60th Anniversary Convention Budget, 2004
Folder 12: 60th Anniversary Convention Invitations, 2004

Box 3

Folder 1: 60th Anniversary Convention Gala Dinner, 2004



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Folder 2: 60th Anniversary Convention Recognitions, 2004
Folders 3-4: The Record, 1981-2009 [National Society for Arts and Letters Magazine]
Folders 5: Accomplishments of Ollie Watts Davis, 1987-2008
Folders 6-7: Central Illinois Chapter Competition Awards, 1982-2010
Folders 8-9: Central Illinois Chapter Competitions, 1982-2014
Folders 10: National Competition Awards, 1982-2006

Box 4

Folder 1: National Competition Awards, 2011-2014
Folders 2-4: National Competitions, 1983-2005
Folder 5-6: National Drama Competition, 1997-1999
Folder 7: National Ballet Competition, 2000
Folder 8: National Voice Competition. 2008
Folder 9: Central Illinois Chapter Theater Lyrics, undated
Folder 10: Newspaper Clippings 1982-2017