



The Urbana Free Library

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Monday Club, 1899-2007

Collection 181

Champaign County Historical Archives

Compiled by: Sawyer Magnus and Bradley Kane

Creator/Corporate name: Monday Club (Champaign, Illinois).

Inclusive Dates: 1899-2007.

Physical Description: 1 box, (1.5 linear feet).

Provenance:

The Monday Club Collection was donated to the Champaign County Historical Archives circa 2009.

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 beginning of the Monday Club dates to 1899, when five women who lived near 112 E. Green Street, Urbana, Illinois began to meet together. By 1902, the group, which now included seven women, met in the home of Florence Miller and organized themselves as the Harmony Club. A few years later, the name changed to the Monday Club, which referred to the fact that women usually washed and cleaned on Monday mornings and would bring sewing or mending with them to the meetings in the afternoons.

The first written constitution and yearbook were printed in the 1909-1910 season, and the main goal of the club was to promote the literary and social improvement of its members through programs and other opportunities. Dues for members were originally fifty cents, and membership was limited to thirty members, which was later decreased to twenty-five. Members needed to be nominated by two existing members of the legislative committee of the club. The committee would recommend a vote of the current members to determine the acceptance or rejection of the new member. Guest members, who were involved with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign as visiting professors and students, were also permitted for a short period of time before World War II and resumed in 1951.

Meetings were held twice a month, with one member hosting the event and another member preparing the program for each meeting. Many of the ideas for programs were obtained from the Bayview Reading Course Magazine and National Geographic Magazine. Topics varied widely and included a particular foreign country and its culture, American history and culture, religious studies, literature reviews, art, travelling, nature, poetry, antiques, and other personal interests. On occasion, plays, lectures, and music performances would be included in a program.

In addition to meetings, the Monday Club members participated in many charitable programs. During the World Wars, the club donated funds for war relief, and they contributed to the Red Cross. The club also assisted annually with the Champaign County Nursing Home by providing for the women who lived



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at the institution. Many other individuals and organizations also received some funding or other contributions from the Monday club.

Scope and Content Note:

The collection contains documents and photographs related to the Monday Club of Champaign, Illinois. Among these materials are brief histories of the club, copies of the constitution, membership lists, meeting minutes, treasurer's records, yearbooks, programs, clippings, correspondence, a list of Christmas songs used by the club, a scrapbook, and a wooden gavel used by the club.

The histories of the Monday Club discuss the founding of the club as well as early members and changes to the organization from 1899 to 1976. Constitutions for the club with revisions exist for 1932, 1950, 1953, 1979, 1982, 1984, 1987, 1992, and 1994. Membership lists, including new, full, and honorary members, exist from the founding of the group through 1979.

Meeting minutes chronicle the activities of the meetings of the club held every two weeks from 1912 to 1986 and 1993 to 1998, and treasurer's records focus primarily on dues of the members as well as occasional expenses from 1912 to 1998. The yearbooks and programs included a list of officers for the club, a schedule of events and hostesses, committee members, and general members for each year from 1909 to 1999 and assorted years through 2007.

The clippings primarily consist of member obituaries, and correspondence includes letters relating to resignations from the club due to relocation or health issues and proposing new members for the club. The scrapbook consists of materials from 1902 to 1987 including photographs, newspaper articles, member lists, and a copy of the constitution.

Arrangement:

The collection is arranged into five series: organization records; operating records; yearbooks and programs; correspondence, clippings, and scrapbooks; and miscellaneous record and items. The series are arranged and ordered based on the context of creation and importance to the organization. Records are organized chronologically at the folder level.

Name terms:

Harmony Club
Miller, Florence
Monday Club
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Subjects Terms:

American culture
Clubs
Clubs—Champaign—History; Women – Societies and clubs



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Culture

Religion—Study and teaching

United States—History

Women—Champaign—Societies and clubs—History

Women—Urbana—Societies and clubs—History

Container List:

Box 1

Series 1: Organizational Records

Folder 1: History of the Monday Club, 1899-1993

Folder 2: Constitution and Bylaws, 1932-1994

Folder 3: Membership Lists; including honorary members, 1909-1999

Series 2: Operating Records

Volume 1: Meeting Minutes and Treasurer's Record, October 1912-May 1917

Volume 2: Meeting Minutes and Treasurer's Record, October 1917-May 1922

Volume 3: Meeting Minutes and Treasurer's Record, October 1922-October 1925

Volume 4: Meeting Minutes, October 1925-May 1933

Volume 5: Meeting Minutes, October 1933-May 1941

Volume 6: Meeting Minutes, October 1941-April 1956

Volume 7: Meeting Minutes and Membership Lists, October 1956-May 1968

Volume 8: Meeting Minutes, October 1968-May 1974

Volume 9: Meeting Minutes, October 1974-March 1982

Volume 10: Meeting Minutes, April 1982-May 1986

Volume 11: Meeting Minutes, May 1993-November 1998

Volume 12: Treasurer's Record, 1925-1939

Volume 13: Treasurer's Record, 1940-1985

Volume 14: Treasurer's Record, 1985-1998

Series 3: Yearbooks and Programs

Folder 4: Yearbooks, 1909-1966

Folder 5: Yearbooks, 1968-1985

Folder 6: Yearbooks, 1985-1999

Folder 7: Yearbooks and calendars, 1990-2007

Folder 8: Spring Luncheon Programs, 1998

Volume 15: Monday Club Programs, 1909-1966

Box 2

Series 4: Correspondence, Clippings, and Scrapbooks

Folder 9: Correspondence, 1974-1998

Folder 10: Clippings and Funeral Pamphlets, 1967-1992

Folder 11: Monday Club Scrapbook pages, 1902-1987



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Collection 181

Series 5: Miscellaneous Records and items

Folder 12: Dorothy M. O'Donnell 100th Birthday Photos and Cards, 1993

Folder 13: Christmas Carols, undated

Gavel in individual box, undated

Newspaper clippings and other non-bound items within Monday Club Collection bound volumes

- Volume 1- none
- Volume 2- page 77 has two newspaper clippings; both glued
- Volume 3- none
- Volume 4- pages 191, 194 and 228 all have separate notes attached. The one on 194 stabled, the other two paper clipped. 228 is a typed bylaw.
- Volume 5- pages 49 and 96 both have handwritten notes attached. The one on 49 is taped, while the one on 96 is stapled.
- Volume 6- none
- Volume 7- fifteen total items, details below
 - Page 6- contains one typed note and two newspaper clippings; all glued
 - Page 23- Has two newspaper clippings; both glued
 - Page 57- Has one newspaper clipping; glued
 - Page 58- Has one newspaper clipping and one wedding invitation; both glued
 - Page 107- Has one newspaper clipping; glued
 - Page 126- Has one handwritten note; glued
 - Page 127- Has one newspaper clipping; glued
 - Page 142- Has one newspaper clipping; glued
 - Page 239- Has one newspaper clipping; glued
 - Page 254- Has one newspaper clipping; glued
 - Page 270- Has one handwritten note; glued
- Volume 8- eight total items, detailed below
 - Page 24- Has two newspaper clippings; both taped
 - Page 54- Has two newspaper clippings; both glued
 - Page 115- Has one newspaper clipping; taped
 - Page 116- Has one newspaper clipping; taped
 - Page 120- Has one newspaper clipping; glued
 - Page 121- Has one newspaper clipping; glued
- Volume 9- none
- Volume 10- page 43 has one typed note; glued
- Volume 11- Does not have page numbers, put I will list dates below
 - November 1, 1993- Has one newspaper clipping; taped



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- May 2, 1994- Has one newspaper clipping; tapped
- November 7, 1994- Has one business card, is less likely to get lost inside book
- May 6, 1996- One handwritten note; taped
- Volume 12- none
- Volume 13- There is one loose handwritten note between pages 24/25; page 43 has one typed note; taped

(Any newspaper clippings that were loose or could be removed safely and easily from the bound volumes have been photocopied and are not included in the above list but are present in same folder as their respective volume.)