



The Urbana Free Library

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Woman's Club of Champaign-Urbana
Records, 1898-2020

Collection 342

Champaign County Historical Archives

Compiled by: Sherrie Bowser

Creator Name: Woman's Club of Champaign-Urbana

Inclusive Dates: 1898-2020, bulk 1990-2019

Physical Description: 2 boxes, (1.0 linear ft.)

Language: English

Provenance:

The Woman's Club of Champaign-Urbana records were donated to the Champaign County Historical Archives in 2009, October 2021, and April 2022.

Access:

These 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 Woman's Club of Champaign-Urbana (WCCU) was founded December 7, 1897, and was in operation until it voted to disband in February 2020. The club held its last meeting June 2020. Over its 120 years of service, the club was very active in the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) at the county, state, and national levels.

Like many of the other women's clubs formed in the late-1800s, the Woman's Club of Champaign-Urbana was mainly a social club that focused on liberal arts such as history and literature. Their early yearbooks listed Household Economics, Education, Philanthropy, Literature, Art, Music, and the Drama as the standing departments. Club members developed study programs, presentations, and performances for each meeting. The 1906 yearbook shows that members presented cooking demonstrations, discussed Shakespeare's plays, researched child labor and state corrective institutions.

The Woman's Club of Champaign-Urbana spawned additional women's groups such as the Champaign Woman's Club (May 1924), Champaign-Urbana Junior Woman's Club (1931), the Community Woman's Club (1957), and Past President's Club (1962).

Service orientated the club donated thousands of dollars and hours to the local community providing books, clothing, food, and money to the Crisis Nursery, Women's Connection, Eastern Illinois Foodbank, Healthy Beginnings, South Side School, local nursing homes, etc. The club also had a special connection to the Illiana Veterans Home in Danville, escorting patients to Sunday services, hosting birthday parties, and organizing outings.

The club's final president, Judy Farney, sums up the club experience, "[o]f course, the biggest benefit of belonging to the GFWC-WCCU was meeting all the wonderful women."



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Scope and Content Note:

This collection contains compiled club histories, program booklets, and yearbooks of the Woman's Club of Champaign-Urbana (WCCU). It also contains information about the GFWC Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs which the WCCU was an active member.

Arrangement:

The collection is divided into two series: Woman's Club of Champaign-Urbana and GFWC/GFWC Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs. Within each series the contents are arranged alphabetically by folder title.

Related Material:

"Woman's Club of Champaign-Urbana" Photographs Envelope

"The Voice of WCCU," Local Organizations Newsletters Collection. Published by The Woman's Club of Champaign-Urbana.

Woman's Club of Champaign-Urbana" Courier Article Titles Listing

Subject Terms:

Clubs

Women -- Societies and clubs.

Name Terms:

Farney, Judy

Woman's Club of Champaign-Urbana

GFWC Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs

General Federation of Women's Clubs

Container List

Box 1

Series 1: Woman's Club of Champaign-Urbana, 1898-2020

Folder 1: Charities, 2012-2020

Folder 2: Club history, 1987; 1997; 2021

Folder 3: Disbandment of Club, 2020

Folder 4: GFWC Reports and Support Documentation, 2015-2018; undated

Folder 5: Membership, 1991-2020

Folder 6: Orientation materials, 2014 and undated

Folder 7: Program booklets, 1946, 1999-2003, undated

Folder 8: Samples of Newsletters and President Letters, 2016-2019

Folder 9: Women's Club at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Membership Directory, 2002-2003

Folder 10: Yearbooks, 1898; 1902; 1905; 1909



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Folder 11: Yearbooks, 1911-1929, incomplete
Folder 12: Yearbooks, 1930-1947, incomplete
Folder 13: Yearbooks, 1953-1954; 1977; 1992-1999, incomplete
Folder 14: Yearbooks, 2000-2020

Box 2

Series 2: GFWC/GFWC Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs, 1946-2019

Folder 1: GFWC Brochures, 2006; 2009; 2018; and undated
Folder 2: GFGW/GFGW Illinois Ephemera
Folders 3-4: GFWC Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs, 2004-2019 (2 folders)
Folder 5: GFWC Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs, Awards, 2008-2019
Folder 6: GFWC Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs, History, 2008
Folder 7: GFWC Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs, 19th District, Board Meeting Minutes, 1999-2005
Folder 8: GFWC Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs, 19th District, Programs, 1946; 2006-2018