

Wilmington Historical Society
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Finding Aid for the
Rotary Anns of Wilmington Collection,
1946-2019, bulk 1971-1979

Collection Overview

Title: Rotary Anns of Wilmington Collection
Dates: 1946-2019
ID: RAW
Primary Creator: Rotary Anns of Wilmington
Extent: 2.42 linear feet
Arrangement: This collection is arranged at the collection level, alphabetically by topic.
Forms of Material: Documents, scrapbooks
Language of materials: English

Abstract

The Rotary Anns of Wilmington Collection documents the organization's social and philanthropic activities between 1946 and 2019. The collection consists of meeting minutes, thank you cards and letters, holiday cards, correspondence, flyers, contact lists, a guestbook, and two scrapbooks.

Administrative History

Chicago attorney, Paul Harris, formed the first Rotary Club in Chicago, Illinois on February 23, 1905. The National Association of Rotary Clubs in America, later known as Rotary International, was formed in 1910. Individuals were, and still are, admitted to local club membership according to a classification system based on business, professional, and institutional activity in the community. Although women were permitted to attend meetings, give speeches, receive awards, and form auxiliary organizations, the Rotary constitution excluded women from membership.

In 1914, the wives of Rotary Club members began to be referred to as “Rotary Anns”. As Rotary Clubs formed in cities across the United States, Rotary Anns groups evolved as auxiliaries, assisting in community programs and projects along with their corresponding Rotary Club chapters. The Wilmington Rotary Club was officially formed in February 1928.

The Wilmington Rotary Anns Club was formed in 1946. The organization’s first president was Pearl Small. The Club functioned as a social club and philanthropic organization with monthly lunch and dinner meetings held at local restaurants. Social activities included teas, musical programs, holiday parties, and educational lectures. The group sponsored school library toy loan programs, raised funds for hospitals, provided educational scholarships, and members served as volunteers for local health clinics. The Wilmington Rotary Anns Club dissolved in June 1979.

On May 4, 1987, the United States Supreme Court ruled that Rotary Clubs may not exclude women from membership on the basis of gender. In 1989, the Rotary International (RI) Council on Legislation voted to eliminate the requirement in the RI Constitution that membership in Rotary clubs be limited to men. Over the next several years, as many women became official Rotary Club members, Rotary Anns groups diminished, and eventually dissolved.

Scope and Contents

The Rotary Anns of Wilmington Collection documents the organization’s social and philanthropic activities between 1946 and 2019, with the bulk of material dated between 1971 and 1979. The collection consists of a small amount of paper records, including meeting minutes, thank you cards and letters, holiday cards, correspondence regarding community projects, flyers, contact lists, and a guestbook. Two scrapbooks, 1947-1958 and 1964-1979, contain photographs, membership rosters, and newspaper clippings regarding community events, baby and bridal showers, birthday parties, holiday parties, fashion shows, lectures and slide shows on travel and culture, and fundraising activities.

Subjects/Access Terms

Creators

Organization Names:

Rotary Anns of Wilmington, 1946-1979
Wilmington Rotary Club, 1928-

Subject Headings

Topical Terms:

Women--Societies and clubs

Geographical Locations:

Los Angeles County (Calif.)
Wilmington (Los Angeles, Calif.)

Documentary Forms:

Documents
Scrapbooks

Administrative Information

Processing Information: Holli Teltoe, 2022

Processing of this collection is made possible by generous donations from Marathon Petroleum Corporation, Wilmington Neighborhood Council, Fast Lane Transportation, I.L.W.U. Credit Union, and Russell and Laura Mohberg.

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Conditions Governing Access: The collection is open for research use.

Preferred Citation: Rotary Anns of Wilmington Collection. Wilmington Historical Society.

Acquisition: The source and date of acquisition is unknown.

Collection Contents

Box 1

Folder 1: Flyers, Minutes, Correspondence, 1971-1972

Folder 2: Guest Book, 1972-1979, 1984, 2019

Folder 3: Minutes, Correspondence, 1973

Folder 4: Minutes, Correspondence, 1974

Folder 5: Minutes, Newspaper Clippings, 1975

Folder 6: Minutes, Correspondence, Senior Awards Banquet Program, 1976

Folder 7: Minutes, Correspondence, 1977

Folder 8: Minutes, Correspondence, 1978

Folder 9: Minutes, Correspondence, Contact Lists, 1979

Box 2

Item 1: Scrapbook, 1946-1958

Box 3

Item 1: Scrapbook, 1960-1979

[end of box list]