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Guide to the Soroptimist International of Schenectady Records, 1953-2007 (2008.111)

Creator: Soroptimist International of Schenectady

Accession Number: 2008.111

Extent: 3.2 cubic feet (4 boxes)

Source: JoAnne Voris Rafalik, President, 17 November 2008.

Inclusive Dates: 1953-2007

Access: Access to this collection is unrestricted.

Abstract: The collection comprises records of Soroptimist International of Schenectady.

Scope and Content Note:

The collection comprises records of Soroptimist International of Schenectady. Records include meeting minutes of board meetings and general/business meetings, copies of the organization's Soroptigram newsletter, membership rosters and board member lists, event programs, files related to the Friendship Link connections between the organization and Soroptimist clubs in the Netherlands, Japan, and France, scrapbooks, awards, newspaper clippings, and photographs.

Organization History:

Soroptimist International of Schenectady is a non-profit organization affiliated with the world's largest women's classified service organization, Soroptimist International. Founded in 1921, Soroptimist International is a volunteer service organization for business and professional women who work to improve the lives of women and girls in local communities and throughout the world. The word "Soroptimist" was coined by combining the Latin words *soror* (sister) and *optimus* (best), which the organization uses as the basis for its slogan, "best for women."

Soroptimist International of Schenectady began meeting in 1953 and was officially chartered on January 14, 1954. The organization began with 23 charter members: Erna Meess Cinque, Genevieve Y. Clark, Marie Christine DeLorenzo, Marian D. Francis, Dorothea F. Godfrey, Marion G. Halpin, Beatrice E. Hocking, Sara K. Laurence, Bernadette McKernan, Isabelle S. Miller, Alice V. Neil, Ann E. O'Brien, Mary S. Pratt, Elizabeth W. Schurig, Frances R. Silverman, Margaret A. Smith, Dorothy G. Spira, Mary

F. Tessier, Daphne J. Volkers, Jane Whamer, Glee Leete White, E. Lenore White, and Margaret Wyatt. For over half a century, Soroptimist International of Schenectady has supported women and children's projects in the community and donated funds to local organizations as well as organizations around the world. In addition to service-oriented projects, the organization also sponsors programs where speakers conduct presentations about a variety of topics to the organization's members.

Condition Note:

Most of the materials in the collection are in good condition. Some correspondence in the collection is on thin paper and should be handled with care. Some newspaper clippings are torn and fragile and should be handled with care.

Finding Aid Created By/Date: Melissa Tacke, 21 July 2011

Item/Box/Folder Listing:

Box	Folder	Folder Title
1	1	Annual Reports – 1955-1957
1	2	Awards and Certificates – 1979-2005 [for oversized, see box 4]
1	3	Basic information – 1995-2004
1	4	Budget – 1956-1988
1	5	By-laws and plans – ca. 2000
1	6	Charter members – 1953-1954
1	7	Charter papers – 1953-1954
1	8	Correspondence – 1956-1962
1	9	Correspondence – 1971-1978, 2003-2004
1	10	Deceased members – 2004, 2007
1	11	Event programs – 1950s
1	12	Event programs – 1960s
1	13	Event programs – 1980s
1	14	Event programs – 1990s
1	15	Event programs – 2000s
1	16	Friendship Links – France – 1973-1988
1	17	Friendship Links – General information – 1961-2001
1	18	Friendship Links – Japan – 1990-1998
1	19	Friendship Links – Japan – 2000-2005
1	20	Friendship Links – Netherlands – 1960-1979
1	21	Friendship Links – Netherlands – 1980-2004
1	22	Handbook – ca. 1993
1	23	Highway information – n.d.
1	24	Membership rosters – 1977-2003
1	25	Minutes – Board meetings – 1954-1957
1	26	Minutes – Board meetings – 1958-1961
1	27	Minutes – Board meetings – 1962-1968
1	28	Minutes – Board meetings – 1969-1974

1	29	Minutes – Board meetings – 1975-1984
1	30	Minutes – Business meetings – 1953-1954
1	31	Minutes – Business meetings – 1955-1957
1	32	Minutes – Business meetings – 1958-1961
1	33	Minutes – Business meetings – 1962-1968
2	1	Minutes – Business meetings – 1969-1971
2	2	Minutes – Business meetings – 1972-1984
2	3	Miscellaneous – 1957-2007
2	4	Nominating Committee – 1955-1964
2	5	Officers / Board Lists / Meeting attendance – 1954-1977
2	6	Photographs – 1954-1961 & n.d.
3	1	Publications – Soroptigram – 1954-1957
3	2	Publications – Soroptigram – 1958-1961
2	7	Publications – Soroptigram – 1971-1979
2	8	Publications – Soroptigram – 1980-1986
2	9	Publications – Soroptigram – 1987-1989
2	10	Publications – Soroptigram – 1990-1991
2	11	Publications – Soroptigram – 1992-1994
2	12	Publications – Soroptigram – 1995-1996
3	3	Publications – Soroptopics [Albany newsletter] – 1953-1961, 1977-1978
2	13	Publications – “Who is She?” – n.d.
2	14	Publicity [newspaper clippings] – 1955-2004
2	15	Treasurer’s Report – 1954-1957
2	16	Treasurer’s Report – 1958-1959
2	17	Treasurer’s Report – 1960-1969
2	18	Treasurer’s Report – 1970-1987
4	N/A	Scrapbook – 1955-1960 [oversized – wrapped in tissue]
4	N/A	Scrapbook – 1962-1979
4	N/A	Scrapbook – 1980-1986
4	N/A	Scrapbook – 1987-1998