



The New York Public Library
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,
Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

Girl Friends, Inc. records

1939 - 2004

Sc MG 415

Summary

Creator: Girl Friends, Inc.

Title: Girl Friends, Inc. records

Date: 1939 - 2004

Size: 2 linear feet (Four archival boxes and one small flat box)

Source: Received from Girl Friends, Inc. in 1991-1992, 1998, 2001, and 2003.

Abstract: Girl Friends, Inc. is a social club that was established in 1927 in New York City to maintain friendship among its members. This collection consists of material documenting the activities of twenty-three out of the forty-two chapters of the Girl Friends, Inc.

Conditions Governing Access:

Minutes are closed for fifty years dating from the date of creation.

Preferred citation: [Item], Girl Friends, Inc. records, Sc MG 415, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Accessioned by B. Robinson, Paula Williams, and Janice Quinter in 1992, 2001, and 2003.

Creator History

The first group of the Girl Friends, Inc. social club was established in 1927 in New York City to maintain friendship among its members. In 1928, a Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Chapter was organized and in 1933, Baltimore, Maryland and New Jersey were authorized to establish chapters. At this time a national constitution was drawn up, rules for membership established, and plans made for annual conclaves. On September 23, 1938, the Girl Friends Inc. was incorporated. Eunice Shreeves, first president of the original New York City Chapter was named National President.

As of 2017, the Girl Friends, Inc. has grown to encompass over 1800 women in 47 chapters. The organization conducts charitable projects, contributes annually to selected charities, and bestows awards. Their annual publications include the *President's News*, *Friendship Letter*, *Chatterbox*, a convention/meeting release, and a quinquennial directory.

Scope and Content Note

This collection consists of material documenting the activities of twenty-three out of the forty-two chapters of the Girl Friends, Inc. Documents include historical information, membership lists, biographical sketches, resumes, programs, fundraising and philanthropic activities material, invitations, newsletters, National Conclave publications, correspondence, honors and awards certificates, obituaries, and memorabilia. Each of the forty-two chapters is represented by at least a history and a roster of members.

Key Terms

Subjects

African American women -- Societies and clubs

African Americans -- Charities

Associations, institutions, etc -- Membership, African American

Charities -- United States

Women in charitable work -- United States

Names

Girl Friends, Inc.

Container List

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- b. 1 f. 2 Albany, New York 2002
- b. 1 f. 3 Atlanta, Georgia 2002
- b. 1 f. 4 Baltimore, Maryland
- b. 1 f. 5 Birmingham, Alabama 2002
- b. 1 f. 6 Boston, Massachusetts 1976 - 2002
- b. 1 f. 7-9 Brooklyn, New York 1960 - 2002
Folders 8-9 include information on Shirley C. Walker.
- b. 1 f. 10 Buffalo, New York 2002
- b. 1 f. 11 California 1991 - 2002
- b. 1 f. 12 Charlotte, North Carolina 1985 - 2002
- b. 1 f. 13 Chicago, Illinois 1956 - 2002
- b. 2 f. 1 Cincinnati, Ohio 2002
- b. 2 f. 2 Cleveland, Ohio 2002
- b. 2 f. 3 Columbia, South Carolina 2002
- b. 2 f. 4 Columbus, Ohio 2002
- b. 2 f. 5 Dallas, Texas 2002
- b. 2 f. 6 Detroit, Michigan ca. 1963 - 2002
- b. 2 f. 7 Durham, North Carolina 1972 - 2002
- b. 2 f. 8 Fairfield County (formerly Bridgeport), Connecticut 1950 - 2002
- b. 2 f. 9 Greenville, South Carolina 2002
- b. 2 f. 10 Houston, Texas 1975 - 2002
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- b. 2 f. 14 Milwaukee, Wisconsin 2002
- b. 2 f. 15 Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota 2002
- b. 2 f. 16 Nashville, Tennessee 1990 - 2002
- b. 2 f. 17 New Haven, Connecticut 1963 - 2002
- b. 2 f. 18 New Orleans, Louisiana 2002
- b. 2 f. 19 Newport News, Virginia 1985 - 2002
- b. 2 f. 20 New York, New York 1987 - 2002
- b. 2 f. 21 Norfolk, Virginia 1988
- b. 2 f. 22 Orlando, Florida 1990 - 2002
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- b. 2 f. 24 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 2002
- b. 2 f. 25 Potomac, Maryland
- b. 2 f. 26 Richmond, Virginia 1990 - 2002
- b. 2 f. 27 Roanoke, Virginia 1948 - 2002

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- b. 2 f. 28 St. Louis, Missouri 1988 - 2002
- b. 2 f. 29 Toledo, Ohio 2002
- b. 2 f. 30 Trenton, New Jersey 2002
- b. 2 f. 31 Washington, D.C 1952 - 1991
- b. 3 f. 1 Bay River cluster, Northern California undated
- b. 3 f. 2-5 Springfield, Massachusetts 1968 - 1990
- b. 4 f. 1 Historical information
- b. 4 f. 2 Programs and invitations
- b. 4 f. 3 Letters 1972 - 1975
- b. 4 f. 4 Girl Friends, Inc. hymn
- b. 4 f. 5 Freedom Farm Corp 1990
- b. 4 f. 6-8 Printed matter 1930s - 1950s
- b. 4 f. 9 Miscellaneous
- Financial records
- b. 4 f. 10 Bank statements and cancelled checks 1971 - 1975
- b. 4 f. 11 Deposits 1972 - 1976
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- b. 4 f. 13 Account ledger 1959 - 1975
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- Event printed matter
- b. 5 f. 1 "Let the Good Times Roll", 50th Annual Conclave, New Orleans 1985
- b. 5 f. 2 51st Annual Conclave, Houston, Texas 1986 May 22 - 25
- b. 5 f. 3 Third Annual Reunion 1989 August 25 - 27
- b. 5 f. 4 National Membership Directory 1994