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Collection 5
Zonta Club of Trenton, 1955-1984

By Kate McGuire
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Summary Information

Creator: Zonta Club of Trenton, N.J.

Dates: 1955-1984

Quantity: 2 manuscript boxes

Abstract: The Zonta Club of Trenton is still in existence as the Zonta Club of Mercer/Trenton and is the custodian of the main body of the Club's administrative records. The materials held by Trentoniana may have been donated by a member of the Zonta Club or were part of another donated collection(s). There is no record of how Trentoniana obtained the collection.

According to the Club's current website <<https://zontatrenton.org>>: "the Zonta Club of Trenton/Mercer is a service organization of successful professionals from all walks of life working together to improve the status of women and girls."

The Club is part of Zonta International, District 3, Area 2. Zonta members volunteer time, talents and provide resources to local and international service projects, as well as to scholarship and award programs aimed at furthering women's education, leadership and youth development.

Administrative History (through 1969)

The following information is taken from the "Factual Outline History of the Zonta Club of Trenton, 1931-1969." This history notes that the original minute book of the club was permanently mislaid, so early details of the Club's history are "sparse".

The charter dinner of the Zonta Club of Trenton was held on April 25, 1931 with 17 members in attendance. The charter was presented to the Trenton Club by Zonta International President, Helen W. Cleveland.

The first project of the newly chartered club was “Milk for Babies”. In 1932, the Club entertained Amelia Earhart, a fellow Zontian, at Trenton’s Hotel Hildebrecht.

Members attended and participated in district and regional conferences and were supportive of women’s health issues as well as the proposed Equal Rights Amendment which was endorsed by Zonta International. The Trenton club held card parties and bazaars and sponsored entertainment events to raise money for its service projects, including a Women’s Cancer Drive and a Vocational Guidance Project at Trenton High School.

One of the Club’s early achievements was the establishment of the Visiting Nurse Association in Trenton. In 1935, the Club’s publication, the “Zontagram” was introduced.

During WWII, Zonta Club members became involved in the war effort, serving on boards and committees including the Red Cross, Civil Defense, and the USO. During the 1950s, membership in the Trenton club reached 80 women and a scholarship fund was created. In 1959, Trenton Zonta sponsored three new clubs: the Morristown, New Brunswick (2nd) and Somerset Area Clubs and Trenton membership totaled 100, the largest in District III.

During the 1960s, the Club helped to start the new Mercer County Council for Senior Citizens, adopted a Visiting Homemaker Service and continued to contribute to various local service organizations.

Scope and Content Note

The bulk of these materials comprises copies of the club’s publication, the “Zontagram” from 1954-1976. Other materials include meeting and event programs, membership and committee rosters, bylaws, a bound “Factual Outline History” of the club from 1931-1969, and assorted ephemera such as miscellaneous programs and souvenirs from various events.

Processing Notes

The materials were reviewed, sorted and placed in new acid-free folders and manuscript boxes.

Series Description

Series 1. Zontagrams (1954-1976)

The Zontagram is the monthly publication of the Zonta Trenton Club and contains information about upcoming meetings and events as well as details about past meetings including committee reports and announcements.

Series 2. Miscellaneous Materials and Programs

This series includes handwritten notes, conference, convention and meeting programs, Past Presidents Club events, meeting agendas, committee lists and materials and undated programs. Most of the materials are from the 1960s and 1970s.

Container List

Box 1	Folder 1	Zontagrams (1954-1955)
	Folder 2	Zontagrams (1956-1957)
	Folder 3	Zontagrams (1958-1959)
	Folder 4	Zontagrams (1960-1961)
	Folder 5	Zontagrams (1962-1963)
	Folder 6	Zontagrams (1964-1965)
	Folder 7	Zontagrams (1966-1967)
	Folder 8	Zontagrams (1968-1969)
	Folder 9	Zontagrams (1970-1971)
	Folder 10	Zontagrams (1972-1973)
	Folder 11	Zontagrams (1974-1976)
Box 2	Folder 1	Factual Outline History of the Zonta Club of Trenton - 2 copies
	Folder 2	Past Presidents Club materials (1960s-1970s)
	Folder 3	Committee assignments, roster (1973), programs (1962, 1970s, 1984)
	Folder 4	Misc. club materials (1960s, 1970s)
	Folder 5	Conference and Convention programs and materials (1960s-1970s)
	Folder 6	Poem from February event (n.d.)
	Folder 7	Misc. Zonta-related materials, mostly undated; a handwritten poem possibly written by charter member Katherine Sullivan for Mary Messle (1939)
	Folder 8	Handbook for new members (1971)