

Collection
M 0127
VC 0088
ART 0011

Loudoun County Extension Homemaker's Club Records
1926-1994

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Processed by
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Thomas Balch Library
208 W. Market Street
Leesburg, VA 20176

USER INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 2.5 cubic ft.

COLLECTION DATES: 1926-1994

PROVENANCE: Carolyn Grubb, Purcellville VA and Dorothy Martel, Middleburg, VA

ACCESS RESTRICTIONS: Collection open for research.

USE RESTRICTIONS: No physical characteristics affect use of this material.

REPRODUCTION RIGHTS: Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from Thomas Balch Library.

CITE AS: Loudoun County Extension Homemakers Club Records, 1926-1994 (M 0127), Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg, VA.

ALTERNATE FORMATS: None

OTHER FINDING AIDS: PastPerfect

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS: None

RELATED HOLDINGS: Loudoun County Fair Association 4-H Collection (VC 0017), Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg, VA, Home Interest Club Records, 1903-2013 (M 077), Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg, VA. A History of the Housekeeper's Club, Vertical File, Thomas Balch Library

ACCESSION NUMBERS: 2001.0005, 2009.0245

NOTES: Previously cataloged as NUCMC 30

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Loudoun County Extension Homemakers Club developed as an arm of the United States Department of Agriculture Extension Services [USDA]. Funded and overseen by a partnership of federal, state, and local governments, Extension Services were first established as a nationwide system in 1914 by the Smith-Lever Act. The Extension Services were designed to aid farmers by providing educational classes in homemaking to white farm women. The program quickly took off and by 1915, 335 home economics schools were held for 21,000 farm women all over the country. In 1936, a group of Extension homemakers met with the USDA in order to form the National Extension Homemakers Council to further promote educational efforts. Extension Homemakers clubs were segregated, leading many black communities to form their own clubs, such as the Housekeeper's Club formed in Aldie, Virginia in 1914.

Loudoun County home demonstrations were first organized by Grace Heyl (1901-1991), the county's Home Demonstration Agent, in 1923. By 1926, ten Extension Homemakers clubs were established in the county. In that same year, representatives of the existing Extension Clubs, a county agent, and a district representative all came together in order to create a Loudoun County Extension Homemakers Council. The council was composed of ten members and grew as the number of clubs in the county grew. By 1975 there were fifteen clubs and approximately 300 homemakers.

The Homemakers Club served as a place where women came together to learn sewing, quilting, cooking, housekeeping techniques, and various other homemaking skills; later the Club evolved. It became a source of discussion of gender roles, volunteer work, and of leadership among women. In 1994, every Loudoun County Extension Homemaker Club member was invited to attend a meeting to discuss the future of the club and voted to disband.

SOURCES

"African American History, Housekeeper's Club," Vertical File, Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg, VA.

Ancestry.com. *Virginia, Birth Records, 1912-2014, Delayed Birth Records, 1854-1911* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2015.

Loudoun County Extension Homemakers Club Records, (M 0127), Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg, VA.

Oregon State Library; Oregon Death Index 1931-1941; Reel Title: State of Oregon Death Index; Year Range: 1991-2000

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains the records of the Loudoun County Extension Homemakers Club. It includes minutes, newspaper clippings, scrapbooks, photographs, newsletters, correspondence, agendas, event pamphlets, recipes, attendance, speeches, information on club activities, as well as information on the history of the club.

The earliest records of the club's activities are in the form of minutes beginning in 1926 and ending in 1947. The minutes preserved by the Club are photocopies; the whereabouts of the original minutes are unknown. Minutes are arranged which each new year beginning in December and concluding in November. After 1985, only scattered minutes are available. Scrapbooks dating between 1961 and 1994 are included in this collection, and include photographs and ephemera as well as "Achievement Day" materials and yearbooks. "Achievement Day" was an annual event where club members celebrated their accomplishments and activities from the previous year. Loose items were removed from each scrapbook and foldered for better preservation of the materials.

A few abbreviations are used over the course of this collection. Loudoun County is abbreviated to "LoCo" and Extension Homemakers is has been abbreviated to "E.H." This is an open collection and additional material may be received.

CONTAINER LIST

Box 1:

- Folder 1: Loudoun County Extension Homemaker's Club History 1976-1977, 1985, 1987, 1992, 1994
- Folder 2: Minutes 1926-1947
- Folder 3: Minutes 1948-1949
- Folder 4: Minutes 1949-1950
- Folder 5: Minutes 1950-1951
- Folder 6: Minutes 1951-1952
- Folder 7: Minutes 1952-1953
- Folder 8: Minutes 1953-1955
- Folder 9: Minutes 1955-1959
- Folder 10: Minutes 1959-1962
- Folder 11: Minutes 1962-1963
- Folder 12: Minutes 1964-1965
- Folder 13: Minutes 1965-1969
- Folder 14: Minutes 1970-1974

Box 2:

- Folder 1: Minutes 1975-1978
- Folder 2: Minutes 1978-1981
- Folder 3: Minutes 1982-1985
- Folder 4: Minutes and other materials, 1992
- Folder 5: Loudoun County Extension Homemakers Public Relations Report 1987
- Folder 6: Loudoun County Extension Homemakers Club's Newsletter: Focus 1978-1981
- Folder 7: Loudoun County Extension Homemakers Club's Newsletter: Focus 1982-1989
- Folder 8: Loudoun County Extension Homemakers Newsletter: Focus 1983-1984, 1989-1993
- Folder 9: Copy of Loudoun County Extension Homemakers "Watson Club" 1961, 1976-1977
- Folder 10: Items Removed from Scrapbook Loudoun County Extension Homemakers "Watson Club" 1961, 1976-1977
- Folder 11: Copy of Loudoun Extension Homemakers Scrapbook 1976-1980
- Folder 12: Items Removed from Scrapbook: Loudoun County Extension Homemakers 1976-1980
- Folder 13: Items Removed from Scrapbook: Loudoun County Extension Homemakers Scrapbook 1978, 1988-1994

Box 3:

- Scrapbook 1: Loudoun County Extension Homemakers 1974-1978
- Scrapbook 2: Watson 1976-1978
- Scrapbook 3: Loudoun Extension Homemakers Scrapbook 1976-1980
- Scrapbook 4: Watson Scrapbook 1979-1982, 1987
- Scrapbook 5: Loudoun Extension Homemakers Scrapbook 1980-1987
- Scrapbook 6: Loudoun County Extension Homemakers Scrapbook 1988-1994

VC 0088**Box 4:**

- Folder 1: Photographs Removed from: Loudoun County Extension Homemakers Club History 1976-1977, 1985, 1987, 1992, 1994 (vc_0088_0001)
- Folder 2: Photographs Removed from: Loudoun County Extension Homemakers Public Relations Report 1987 (vc_0088_0002-vc_0011_0007)

- Folder 3: Photographs Removed from Scrapbook: Loudoun County Extension Homemakers "Watson Club" 1961, 1976-1977 1 of 2 (vc_0088_0008-vc_0088_0016)
- Folder 4: Photographs Removed from Scrapbook: Loudoun County Extension Homemakers "Watson Club" 1961, 1976-1977 2 of 2 (vc_0088_17-vc_0088_0023)
- Folder 5: Photographs Removed from Scrapbook: Loudoun County Extension Homemakers 1976-1980 1 of 2 (vc_0088_0024-vc_0088_0025)
- Folder 6: Photographs Removed from Scrapbook: Loudoun County Extension Homemakers 1976-1980 2 of 2 (vc_0088_0026-vc_0088_0029)

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Box 5:

- Item 1: Loudoun County Home Demonstration Club's Gavel, 1971
- Item 2: National Extension Homemakers Council President's Pin