
Guide to the Delphian Study Club Records

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Collection number: MSS-2010-1-12



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Encoded by:

Aurelia Giusti

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Delphian Study Club Records

Dates: 1931-2011

Collection number: MSS-2010-1-12

Creator: Delphian Club

Collection Size: 2 boxes, 1.5 linear feet

Repository: San José State University. Library.

San José, California 95192-0028

Abstract: The Delphian Study Club Records (1931-2011) document the San Jose Delphian Club's history and activities. The Delphian Study Club originally formed as a chapter of the Delphian Society, which was founded in Chicago around 1910 to promote education of women in the arts, literature, and history. The San Jose Delphian Study Club was founded in 1931. The first name of this women's club was the Alpha Chi Chapter. The goal of the club was to promote education, personal improvement and social progress. In 1947, the Alpha Chi Chapter split from the National Organization to form a separate autonomous organization, which they renamed the Delphian Study Club. This collection is arranged into two series: Series I. Minutes Records and Meeting Reports, 1931-2010; Series II. Programs, 1957-2011.

Physical location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.

Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access

The collection is open for research.

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Preferred Citation

Delphian Study Club Records, MSS-2010-1-12, San José State University Library Special Collections & Archives.

Project Information

This finding aid was created as part of the Survey and Cataloging Project, a two-year San José State University Library grant project funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. The project began in 2008. The Project Director is Danelle Moon. The Project Archivist is Erin Louthen.

Processing Information

Collection processed by Aurelia Giusti. Finding aid EAD encoded by Aurelia Giusti. Reviewed by Danelle Moon.

Organizational History

The Delphian Society formed in Chicago around 1910 to promote women's education in the arts, literature and history. Following the formation of the society, several chapters formed across the U.S., including a local chapter in San Jose.

On January 30, 1931, the San Jose chapter received their Charter from the national organization and at that time the seventy-nine members named their branch the Alpha Chi Chapter. The goal of the members was to promote higher education, personal improvement, and social progress. The Delphian Study Club, a women's book club, offered specific courses in the humanities. The members were required to purchase the complete set of books though the meetings were non-scholarly. As part of their membership, the women were required to present what they learned during their assigned readings and were encouraged to speak briefly from direct knowledge and understanding rather than reciting a prepared speech. The Delphian Society published several volumes of books containing an outline of human knowledge from ancient history, literature, drama, art, modern literature, poetry, and music.

In 1947, the Alpha Chi Chapter split from the National Organization to form a separate autonomous organization, which they renamed the Delphian Study Club. This split allowed the women the ability to charter their own study course based on subjects of interest and speakers of their choice.

The Presidents of Delphian Study Club (1942-1985) include: Alice Fuller 1942, Thelma Carter 1950, Helen Miller 1960, Beth Leese 1955, Bobbie Powell 1954, Gladys Scarborough 1964, Hazel Lambrecht 1962, Eileen Murphy 1963, Norma Spalding 1975, Fuji Takaichi 1966, Tody Dahleen 1967, Kay Schilla 1964, Frances Lenz 1978, Marcia Vosti 1973, Sadye Lewis 1981, Helen Hughes 1977, Marion Rumbolz 1976, Diane McLaughin 1979-1986, Carol Johnson 1981, Jacqui Smith 1982-1983, Geraldine Payne 1984-1985.

Bibliography

The Delphian Society. The Delphian Society. Chigaco : Topical Outlines, 1928. [on line] San José [The Delphian Society](#)

Related Material

The YWCA of Silicon Valley Records, MSS-2006-01-01, San José State University Library, Special Collections and Archives.

National Organization for Women, San José/South Bay chapter, MSS-2008-03-02, San José State University Library Special Collections & Archives.

League of Women Voters, San José/Santa Clara chapter Records, MSS-2006-09-01, San José State University Library Special Collections and Archives.

Scope and Content of Collection

The Delphian Study Club Records (1931-2011) document the San Jose Delphian Club's history and activities. The Delphian Study Club originally formed as a chapter of the Delphian Society, which was founded in Chicago around 1910 to promote education of women in the arts, literature, and history.

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Arrangement

This collection is arranged into two series: Series I. Minutes Records and Meeting Reports, 1931-2010; Series II. Programs, 1957-2011.

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Women -- Education (Higher) -- 20th Century

Women's studies -- California -- San José

Women -- California -- San José -- Societies and clubs

Series 1: Minutes and meeting reports 1931-2010

Physical Description: 1 box

Series Scope and Content Summary

The materials in this series document the history and the activities of the Delphian Study Club. Society formed in 1931. The first name of this women's club was the Alpha Chi Chapter, a chapter of the national society. The records consist of meeting minutes, handwritten notebooks, photographs, and newspapers. The meeting reports provide some documentation on club social activities such as picnics and parties, as well as including revisions to their club constitution. The minute reports for the year 1995 can be found in the folder 13, which also contains treasurer reports from 1993-1994. Folders 14 and 15 consist of photographs, notes and meeting reports.

Arrangement

This series is arranged chronologically by date.

Box 1 Folder 1-16

Minutes reports/Meeting Reports 1931-2010

Series 2: Programs 1957-2011

Physical Description: 1 box

Series Scope and Content Summary

This series consists of club programs, which highlight the diversity of study subjects that include: ancient history, literature (Montaigne, Steinbeck, Turgenev, Shakespeare, etc.), music (classicism, romanticism, Opera, Wagner, Brahms, etc.), art, philosophy (Epicurus, Descartes, Spinoza, etc.), poetry (Milton, Whitman, etc.). A few of the speakers include Margie Gray, Fuji Takaichi, Dr. Jeanne Elliott, Toddy Dahleen, and Stella George. Note that programs are missing for the years 1960, 1964-1967, 1969.

Arrangement

This series is arranged chronologically by year.

Box 2 17-22

Programs 1957-2011