



The Historical
Society of
Pennsylvania

Collection 3074

**Philadelphia Friendship Fete
Records**

1929-1982

2 boxes, 5 volumes, 1.7 lin. feet

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Processing Completed: February 2006

Restrictions: None

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Abstract

The Philadelphia Friendship Fete, the joint effort of various Philadelphia area women's organizations, began in 1929. Over seventy clubs attended the first Fete. The purpose of the group was to promote friendship among Philadelphia area women's clubs, to recognize and honor area women, nationally and internationally.

This collection contains Advisory Council minutes, scrapbooks and the Golden Chain of Friendship. Minute books begin in 1931 and end in 1982. Scrapbooks contain programs, publicity and photographs relating to the forty-four Friendship Fete luncheons which were held over the period from 1929 to 1982.

Background note

Originally called the Friendship Festival, the Philadelphia Friendship Fete began in the 1920's in New York City. The purpose of the group was to promote friendship among Philadelphia area women's clubs, to recognize and honor area women, nationally and internationally. There were enthusiasts in New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington. In 1929 the Soroptimist Club in Philadelphia began with its first Friendship dinner. Seventy-five clubs were part of this dinner. This later became a luncheon, due to practicality and expense. The Advisory Council, which met three to four times a year, was the governing body of this club. The council consisted of officers and delegates from the various clubs. Officer positions were rotated on a yearly basis, finally becoming permanent positions.

The Fame Award recipient was chosen by motion within Advisory Council meetings. Suggestions for recipients were received from the council and the hostess committee. The announcement was made at the luncheon, unless publicity of the recipient would increase ticket sales. Guest speakers and Fame Award recipients included Ethel Barrymore, Amelia Earhart, Norwegian crown Princess Martha, South Korean politician Louisa Yim, congresswoman Katherine O'Hay Grananhan, Julie Nixon Eisenhower, Baroness Maria Van Trapp, Shirley Temple Black, Abigail Van Buren, journalists Orien Reid and Lisa Thomas Laury.

Member clubs took turns as hostess of the yearly Fete, which was generally held in the spring. The hostess committee presented plans for the coming Fete to the Advisory Council. The hostess club would be responsible for all expenses, except the Fame Award. Expenditures for the event appear to be paid for from ticket sales. The Hostess club was also responsible for preserving items from the Fete in a "History Book."

The symbol of this group was the Golden Chain of Friendship. Each year a new link was added and inscribed with the name of the club sponsoring the luncheon. The link contains the number of the Fete, the name of the sponsoring club, the date, and the president's name of the sponsoring club at the time of the Fete. Buddendorf Jewlers appears to be the primary engraver. Each club in the chain paid dues for the insurance and additional expenses associated with the chain. The Chain of Friendship was displayed prominently in a center city location to publicize the luncheon. Locations for display included, Western Savings Bank, JD Caldwell & Company, and Wanamaker's Court.

By the mid 1960's there were over 1000 attendees. In fact, on one occasion they had to deny ticket requests. Luncheon locations include: Benjamin Franklin Hotel, Fairmount Hotel, Bellevue Stratford Hotel (first), Philadelphia Sheraton, Penn Athletic Club Ball Room, Mitten Hall, William Penn High School for Girls, and the Warwick Hotel. The last Friendship luncheon was held in 1982, due to the lack of clubs willing to host, or sponsor the Fete. The Advisory Council sponsored the last Fete.

Scope & content

The material in this collection includes minutes, scrapbooks and the Golden Chain of Friendship. The minutes cover 1931 to 1982. The scrapbooks, "history books", containing programs, publicity and pictures relating to the Friendship Fete luncheons which were held over the period from 1929 to 1982, forty-four in all. The Golden Chain of Friendship, containing a link added for each year the luncheon took place, was given by the club sponsoring the luncheon.

The materials provide a complete picture of Advisory Council activities as well as materials generated by each luncheon. The minutes are only from the Advisory Council. Hostess committee minutes are not included, however, letters, reports and financial statements from hostess committees are included with the minutes and in the history book.

Organizations who hosted the Fete were: Soroptimist Club of Philadelphia, Philadelphia Club of Advertising Women, Philadelphia Dietetic Association, Temple University Women's Club, Alumni Association of William Penn High School for Girls, Business and Professional Woman's Club, Advisory Council of Friendship Fetes, Altrusa Club of Philadelphia, Business and Professional Women's Club, Sentry, Women's Traffic Club of Philadelphia, Women's Insurance Society of Philadelphia, Quota Club of Philadelphia, Philadelphia Credit Women's Club, Area 1, Pennsylvania Nurse Association, Zonta Club

of Philadelphia, Fashion Group of Philadelphia, Women in Graphic Arts, Soroptimist club of Old York Road, William Penn Desk and Derrick Club, Philadelphia Credit Women's Club, Soropimist Club of Main Line, Musical Club of Philadelphia, YWCA of Philadelphia, Business and Professional Women's Club of Norristown, The Soroptimist International Clubs of Bucks County-Germantown-Chestnut Hill- Indian Rock-Lower Bucks-Old York Road- Southampton-Huntingdon Valley, Energy Education Forum for Women, and Women for Greater Philadelphia.

Separation report

None.

Subjects

Bindrim, Doris

Clair, Ruth

Bellevue Stratford Hotel

Benjamin Franklin Hotel

Buddendorf Jewelers

Fairmount Hotel

Quota Club of Philadelphia

Soroptimist International

Warwick Hotel

William Penn High School for Girls

Business networks

Businesswomen-Pennsylvania-Philadelphia

Female friendship

Luncheons

Menus

Philadelphia (Pa.) Social life and customs

Women insurance agents

Women--Social life and customs 20th century.

Women--Social Networks

Administrative Information

Restrictions

The collection is open for research.

Acquisition information

Gift of Doris E. Bindrim, Chairperson of the Advisory Council, Philadelphia Friendship Fetes, 1982

Accession number. 82:40

Preferred citation

Cite as: [Indicate cited item or series here], Philadelphia Friendship Fete (Collection 3074), The Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

Processing note

Processed by Shamele Jordon, February 2006.

Box and folder listing

Folder title	Date	Box	Folder
Overview of the group	n.d.	1	1
Suggested Procedures	n.d.	1	1
Advisory Council Minutes	1931 – Mar 1936	1	2
Advisory Council Minutes	Apr 1936 – 1939	1	3
Advisory Council Minutes	1941 – Aug 1942	1	4
Advisory Council Minutes	Sep 1942 –1950	1	5
Advisory Council Minutes	1951 - 1959	1	6
Advisory Council Minutes	1960 - Jun 1963	1	7
Advisory Council Minutes	Aug 1963 – May 1965	1	8
Advisory Council Minutes	Oct 1965 – Apr 1969	1	9
Advisory Council Minutes	May 1969 – 1971	1	10
Advisory Council Minutes	1972 – 1973	1	11
Advisory Council Minutes	1974 – Jun 1975	1	12
Advisory Council Minutes	Sep 1975 – 1976	1	13
Advisory Council Minutes	1977 – Jan 1980	1	14
Advisory Council Minutes	Jun 1980 – 1982	1	15
Chain description, Suggested procedures	1972-1982	1	16
Banking papers	1969-1975	1	17
Suggested Rules of Procedure	1963 –1971	1	18
Scrapbook	1929 - 1957	Vol. 1	n/a
Scrapbook	1958 – 1963	Vol. 2	n/a
Scrapbook	1964 – 1969	Vol. 3	n/a
Scrapbook	1970 – 1977	Vol. 4	n/a
Scrapbook	1978 – 1982	Vol. 5	n/a
Items from scrapbook 1978-1982	1982	1	19
Newspaper clippings from scrapbook 1978-1982	1982	1	20