



BHC-MSS 0044
Guide to the Records of the Friday Evening Book Club
By Lisa Furchtgott
2019

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Friday Evening Book Club

Title: Records of the Friday Evening Book Club

Dates: 1899-1984

Quantity: 2 manuscript boxes

Abstract: This collection contains documents produced by the women-only, Bridgeport-based book club. These are primarily brief accounts of monthly meetings.

Language: English

Repository: Bridgeport History Center

Administrative History

Started in 1900, the Friday Evening Book Club declared its purpose to “promote intellectual and social culture among its members.” Over the next several decades, the group’s focus shifted from discussing books to arranging social gatherings, featuring speakers outlining personal experiences and hobbies, and to practicing philanthropy. Account books, meeting minutes, and histories mainly record attendance, dinner menus, and month-to-month budgets; they also show the club’s changing charity goals across the decades. Books are rarely mentioned. The group was dissolved in 1984, due to decline in membership.

Scope and Content Note

These two boxes include member-written histories of the club, constitutions, account books, annual-meeting programs, correspondence, and monthly minutes. There is particular weight given to the time period of the 1930s to the 1960s.

Arrangement note

Material is arranged by genre type and is composed of a single series.

Administrative information:

Provenance: The collection was donated by Marion B. Pardy, a former member, in 1984.

Preferred Citation

Records of the Friday Evening Book Club (BHC-MSS 0044), Bridgeport History Center.

Names and Subject Tracings

Corporate names

Friday Evening Book Club

Subject tracings

Book clubs (Discussion groups)--United States.
Bridgeport, Conn.

Detailed box and folder listing

Box 1

1. History of the club and club collect
2. Correspondence and constitution of club
3. Annual programs, 1929-1940
4. Annual programs, 1940-49
5. Annual programs, 1950-1962
6. Annual programs, 1966-1979
7. Account book, 1938-1952
8. Minutes and annual reports, 1899-1904
9. Minutes and annual reports, 1904-1914
10. Minutes and annual reports, 1914-1922
11. Minutes and annual reports, 1922-1931
12. Minutes and annual reports, 1931-1938

Box 2

1. Minutes and annual reports, 1938-1948
2. Minutes and annual reports, 1948-1955
3. Minutes and annual reports, 1958-1961
4. Minutes and annual reports of the Friday Evening Book Club, 1960-1962
5. Minutes and annual reports, 1961-1971
6. Minute book of the Friday Evening Book Club, 1971-1984