



BHC-MSS 0052
Guide to the Records of Les Treize Inc.
By Meg Rinn, August 2019

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Les Treize Inc.

Title: Records of Les Treize Inc.

Dates: 1984-2011 [bulk 1989-1992]

Quantity: ½ manuscript, 1 oversize box (1.88 linear feet)

Abstract: In 1947, 13 women founded Les Treize Inc. in order to support higher education for African Americans. Les Treize helps to fund African American high school students' secondary education, be it college, technical school, or business school. The material within focuses primarily on the organization in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

Language: English

Repository: Bridgeport History Center

Administrative History”

Les Treize (lit. "thirteen" in French) was founded in 1947 by thirteen women, all of whom were business and other professionals, in order to establish a scholarship fund for African American students in the Bridgeport area seeking higher education in college, business school, or technical school. The impetus for the organization was due to the increase of Bridgeport's African American population during the World War II years, as the city was an industrial hub for the war effort.

The first scholarship was \$100, and it was awarded to Elaine Garner in 1947. This \$100 has since become thousands to African American students in the Bridgeport and Greater Bridgeport area. In addition to scholarships, Les Treize supported a Sweetheart Ball in the 1960s and 1970s, helping to provide further connections within Bridgeport's African American community.

1992 saw Les Treize turn its funds to the Greater Bridgeport Area Foundation for further investment purposes. This has allowed the organization to further grow its funds and offer larger and a wider variety of scholarship. When the Greater Bridgeport Area Foundation became the Fairfield County Community Foundation, Les Treize moved with them.

The organization was honored in 2011 by Omega Psi Phi fraternity for their 64 years of supporting African American scholars in the Bridgeport area. This mission is one that Les Treize continues to carry out to this day.

Scope and Content note:

Material arrived in a single binder with additional material placed in the binder pockets, along with the awards. All material remains in original order, and most of the content relates to by-laws and donations for the time periods described.

The material from 2011 is drawn from recognition conferred to the organization by Omega Psi Phi

fraternity, an African American fraternity.

Administrative information:

Provenance:

Donation from Les Treize Inc. Originally accession 2012.04

Preferred Citation:

Records of Les Treize Inc. (BHC-MSS 0052.) Bridgeport History Center.

Names and Subject Tracings

Corporate names

Les Treize Inc. (Bridgeport, Conn.).

Subject tracings

African Americans

Educational organizations

Organizations & Clubs

Detailed box and folder listing

Box 1

1. Contents of organizational binder, 1984
2. Contents of organizational binder, 1989-192
3. Contents of binder pockets, 1989-2008
4. Celebration of excellent award plaque from Omega Psi Phi fraternity, 2011

Box 2

1. Scroll of honor award from Omega Psi Phi fraternity, 2011
2. Public leadership citation from Treasurer for the State of Connecticut, 2011 in recognition of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, 2011