Hills Garden Club of Wellesley Collection
Wellesley Historical Society

Repository Identifier
mawelhs

Local Identifier
2016.24

Name and Location of Repository
The Wellesley Historical Society
229 Washington Street
Wellesley, MA 02481
(781) 235-6690
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Title
Hills Garden Club of Wellesley Collection, 1955 – 2015

Date
1955 – 2015

Extent
4 linear feet, 8 boxes

Name of Creator
The Hills Garden Club of Wellesley

Historical Note
The Hills Garden Club of Wellesley first met June 10, 1955, when a number of Wellesley women decided to start a garden club specifically for Wellesley Hills, separate from the Wellesley Garden Club. The group became a member of the Massachusetts Federation of Garden Clubs the following year. The club has a maximum number of 55 members at any given time.

From the start, the club conceived of its mission and vision as a horticultural and beautification project which would benefit Wellesley Hills. They settled on the Isaac Sprague Memorial Clock Tower and Elm Park as the initial focus of their efforts, which it has remained through the course of the club’s history. The club’s stated goal is “to create interest in the science and art of gardening and to stimulate the promotion of civic beauty through horticulture and conservation.”

Through the 1960s the club expanded its interests, particularly on the issue of conservation. They also joined the metro Garden Council during this era to contribute to the beautification of the Roxbury Project. Also during this era, the club established Art in Bloom as a prominent local fundraiser, and initiated participation in the Massachusetts Horticultural Society’s annual flower show.

Through the 1970s into the early 2000s, the club established garden tours, and committed further to conservation and ecology efforts. In addition to a focus on Elm Park, the club extended and expanded its outreach into the community, founding a garden therapy program at the now
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defunct Wiswall Hospital, designing a garden room at the Wellesley Community Center, and
initiating a children’s flower show at the Fells branch library.

Scope and Content Note
This collection contains materials created by or concerning the activities of the Hills Garden
Club of Wellesley. Club yearbooks contain lists of members, leadership positions, programing,
constitution, and by-laws. Meeting minutes and reports were compiled in binders and notebooks
by club members. Award applications and awards, press clippings, photographs, scrapbooks, and
programs detail some of the projects undertaken by the club.

Index Terms
Gardeners
Gardening
Gardening—Societies, etc.
Gardens
Hills Garden Club of Wellesley
Wellesley Hills (Mass.)

System of Arrangement
This collection is organized into ten series arranged by subject:
I. Yearbooks; 1956 – 2007
II. Organizational Documents; 1957 – 2004
III. Club History & Ephemera; 1955 – 2005, & undated
IV. Club Notebooks & Binders; 1955 – 1999
V. Awards & Award Applications; 1962 – 1983, & undated
VI. Events, Programs, & Projects; 1950 – 2015
VII. Scrapbooks & Photographs; 1955 – 2005
VIII. Correspondence; 1968, 1974, 1975, 2000, & undated
IX. Clippings; 1977 – 2015
X. Membership in Gardening Organizations; 1961 - 1990

Conditions Governing Access
The papers are open for research purposes by appointment only. Please contact the Wellesley
Historical Society for more information.
info@wellesleyhistoricalsociety.org
(781) 235-6690

Physical Access
Some of the materials are fragile.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use
Copyright restrictions may apply.

Languages and Scripts of the Material
English
Hills Garden Club of Wellesley Collection  
Wellesley Historical Society

Immediate Source of Acquisition
2016.24

Accruals
The Historical Society may add materials to the collection in the future.

Description
Processing of this collection was made possible through a grant from the Wellesley Community Preservation Committee.

DACS Finding Aid created by Taylor C. Kalloch & Alden Ludlow in June 2018.

Bibliography
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Container List

I. Yearbooks; 1956 – 2007

This series contains yearbooks of the Hills Garden Club of Wellesley. Each yearbook contains lists of members, leadership positions, programing, constitution, and by-laws.

Box 1
Folder 1: 1956 – 1957
Folder 2: 1957 – 1958
Folder 3: 1958 – 1959
Folder 4: 1959 – 1960
Folder 5: 1960 – 1961
Folder 7: 1962 – 1963
Folder 8: 1963 – 1964
Folder 9: 1964 – 1965
Folder 10: 1965 – 1966
Folder 11: 1966 – 1967
Folder 12: 1967 – 1968
Folder 15: 1970 – 1971
Folder 16: 1971 – 1972
Folder 17: 1972 – 1973
Folder 19: 1974 – 1975
Folder 20: 1975 – 1976
Folder 23: 1978 – 1979
Folder 26: 1985 – 1986
Folder 27: 1986 – 1987

Box 2
Folder 1: 1990 – 1991
Folder 3: 1992 – 1993
Folder 5: 1994 – 1995
Folder 7: 1996 – 1997
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Folder 8: 1997 – 1998
Folder 10: 1999 – 2000
Folder 12: 2001 – 2002
Folder 14: 2004 – 2005
Folder 15: 2006 – 2007

II. Organizational Documents; 1957 – 2004

This series contains documents concerning the organization of the club such as the constitution and by-laws.

Box 2

III. Club History & Ephemera; 1955 – 2005, & undated

This series contains both published and unpublished histories written about the club as well as ephemera such as examples of the club stationary.

Box 2
Folder 17: Club Stationary; undated
Folder 19: Manuscripts Regarding Club History; undated

IV. Club Notebooks & Binders; 1955 – 1999

This series contains materials which were compiled in notebooks for binders by club members as a means of record keeping. The bulk of each of the notebooks or binders is comprised of meeting minutes and reports.

Box 2
Folder 21: Club Materials; 1955 – 1956

Box 3
Folder 1: Club Materials; 1958 – 1961
Folder 2: Club Materials, #1 of 2; 1961 – 1965
Folder 3: Club Materials, #2 of 2; 1961 – 1965
Folder 4: Club Materials; 1965 – 1967
Folder 5: Club Materials; 1967 – 1970

Box 4
Folder 1: Club Materials; 1970 – 1971
Folder 2: Club Materials; 1972 – 1977
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Folder 3: Conservation Committee Materials; 1963 – 1982
Folder 4: Horticulture Materials, #1 of 2; 1956 – 1972
Folder 5: Horticulture Materials, #2 of 2; 1956 – 1972
Folder 6: Nominating Committee Materials; 1990s
Folder 7: Treasurer Materials; 1987 – 1988

V. Awards & Award Applications; 1962 – 1983, & undated

This series contains awards won by the club for exhibits and service projects. Also included in this series are the applications for service and project awards which were submitted by the club for consideration, mainly by state gardening organizations.

Box 5
Folder 2: Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, Inc. & Sears, Roebuck, & Co. Civic Beautification Program, Clock Tower Park; 1965
Folder 3: Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, Inc. & Sears, Roebuck, & Co. Civic Beautification Program, Elm Park (Containing Clock Tower Planting); 1967
Folder 4: Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, Inc. & Sears, Roebuck, & Co. Civic Beautification Program, Elm Park (Containing Clock Tower Planting); 1968
Folder 5: Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, Inc. Civic Projects Award, Installation of a Sprinkling System; 1972
Folder 6: Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, Inc., Design for Ecology in Wellesley for Consideration for Public Relations Award; 1970
Folder 7: Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, Inc., Garden Therapy at Newton Wellesley Hospital for Consideration for Garden Therapy Award; 1983
Folder 8: Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, Inc., The Mildred Parker Conversation Award; 1974
Folder 9: Governor’s Citation of Excellency, Design in Ecology for Wellesley; 1971
Folder 11: Sears, Roebuck, & Co. Bay State Civic Beautification Contest, Clock Tower Park; 1962

Archives Oversize Box 15
Folder 1: Massachusetts Horticultural Society New England Spring Flower Show Ribbon; 2000

VI. Events, Programs, & Projects; 1950 – 2015

This series contains materials related to the events, programs, and projects of the club. Events of note include Art in Bloom, Into the Garden/Beyond the Garden Gate, New England Flower Show exhibits, and club anniversaries.
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Box 5
Folder 13: Flower Show Tickets & Tags; c. 1975
Folder 14: Hills Garden Club 50th Birthday Celebration; 2005
Folder 15: Hills Garden Club of Wellesley presents “Beyond the Garden Gate…”; June 15, 2004

Box 6
Folder 1: Hills Garden Club of Wellesley presents “Into the Garden…” A Tour of 5 Private Gardens; June 10, 2008
Folder 2: Hills Garden Club of Wellesley’s “Beyond the Garden Gate”; June 9, 2015
Folder 3: Hunnewell Garden for Massachusetts Horticulture Society Show; 1975
Folder 4: New England Regional Environmental Conference Materials; November 1971
Folder 5: Plant Name Tags from Flower Show; undated
Folder 7: Programs; 1950s
Folder 8: Programs; 1960s
Folder 9: Programs; 1970s
Folder 10: Roxbury Project; 1961

Box 7
Folder 1: Scripts for Talks; 1973 & 1974
Folder 2: “Treasured Gardens of The Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts”; 2014

VII. Scrapbooks & Photographs; 1955 – 2005

This series contains scrapbooks and photographs documenting club events, meetings, projects, and exhibits.

Box 7
Folder 3: Annual Meeting & Flower Show Photographs; 1998
Folder 4: Civic Beautification Scrapbook; 1965
Folder 5: Elm Park Scrapbook; 1991 – 1996
Folder 6: English Flower Festival Photographs; 2002
Folder 7: Exhibit at New England Flower Show Scrapbook; 2000
Folder 8: Loose Scrapbook Pages; 1973, 1974, 1975, 1977, & undated

Box 8
Folder 1: Untitled Scrapbook; 2000 – 2005
VIII. Correspondence; 1968, 1974, 1975, 2000, & undated

This series contains both inter-club correspondence as well as correspondence between the club and outside individuals and organizations.

Box 8
Folder 2: Correspondence; 1968, 1974, 1975, 2000, & undated

IX. Clippings; 1977 – 2015

This series contains newspaper and other press clippings concerning the club.

Box 8

X. Membership in Gardening Organizations; 1961 – 1990

This series contains materials regarding the Hills Garden Club of Wellesley’s membership and participation in larger local and state wide gardening organizations.

Box 8
Folder 5: Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, Inc. Materials; 1981 – 1982
Folder 6: Leadership Guides from the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts Inc.; 1965 & 1981