

Wellesley Garden Club Collection
Wellesley Historical Society

Repository Identifier

mawelhs

Local Identifier

2019.03

Name and Location of Repository

The Wellesley Historical Society
229 Washington Street
Wellesley, MA 02481
(781) 235-6690
www.wellesleyhistoricalsociety.org

Title

Wellesley Garden Club Collection

Date

1937-1998, bulk 1980-1998

Extent

1.5 linear feet, 2 document boxes, plus one custom index card box

Name of Creator

The Wellesley Garden Club

Historical Note

The Wellesley Garden Club was founded in 1929; it is the oldest garden club in Wellesley, and one of the oldest in the country in continuous operation. Their focus is on the science of horticulture and the art of gardening, with the goal of “the advancement of gardening, the development of home grounds, and further beautification of the town” (Bylaws).

The club is still extant, and members participate in a number of area horticultural events including the Museum of Fine Arts “Art in Bloom” annual show, as well as a “Mini Art in Bloom” event at the Wellesley Community Center.

Scope and Content Note

This collection contains materials almost entirely related to the business of the Wellesley Garden Club Membership Committee. The bulk of the collection consists of membership applications and supporting application correspondence, as well as other correspondence, from 1981 to 1998. The collection also contains three notebooks containing membership committee work within the context of executive board business. There is also a box of index card records which acted as a membership database; the cards mostly date from the 1970s into the 1980s, but the box also contains legacy records going back to the 1940s.

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System of Arrangement

The collection is organized into four series. Materials in Series I have been ordered by membership application year, though many materials accompanying the applications pre- and post- date the actual application date; they include reference and recommendation letters. Materials in Series II have been organized by year, and by month within each folder; there are two folders of undated correspondence, and two folders of “change in status” correspondence which are unsorted. The Series III special box of membership index cards has been left in the order in which it was donated, with blank cards and dividers removed. Series IV contains ephemera: one photograph, several name badges, and three membership booklets.

- I. Membership Applications with Related Correspondence
- II. Correspondence
- III. Membership Committee Records, Notes, and Reports
- IV. Ephemera

Library of Congress Index Terms

Community gardens
Flower arrangement
Flower gardening
Gardeners
Gardening—Social aspects
Gardening—Societies etc
Horticulture
Landscape gardening
Private clubs
Wellesley (Mass.)

Conditions Governing Access

The Collection is 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

Immediate Source of Acquisition

N/A

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Accruals

The Historical Society is expected to add materials to this collection in the future.

Related Materials

2017.27 [1957-1958 membership booklet, added to this collection]

2016.17 [two booklets as above, different years, added to this collection]

2014.19 [photo scrapbook on Historical Society garden, in smaller Clubs & Organizations box]

Description

DACS-compliant Finding Aid created in May 2019 by Alden Ludlow. Processing of this collection was made possible through a grant from the Wellesley Community Preservation Committee.

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Container List

I. Membership Applications with Related Correspondence

This series contains applications for membership and related correspondence; the correspondence includes nomination letters, letters of recommendation, membership acceptance notes, and other materials. Materials have been organized by application date year; note that some supporting correspondence may pre- or post-date the actual application date.

Box 1

Folder 1:	1981
Folder 2:	1982
Folder 3:	1983
Folder 4:	1984
Folder 5:	1985
Folder 6:	1986
Folder 7:	1987
Folder 8:	1988
Folder 9:	1989
Folder 10:	1990
Folder 11:	1991
Folder 12:	1992
Folder 13:	1993
Folder 14:	1994
Folder 15:	1995

Box 2

Folder 1:	1996
Folder 2:	1997
Folder 3:	1998

II. Correspondence

This series contains correspondence relating to Club membership. Types of letters include application support materials, membership acceptance notes, and correspondence relating to changes in membership status (for example, from active to sustaining membership, or resignation from the club).

Box 2

Folder 4:	1982-1989
Folder 5:	1990-1998
Folder 6:	Change in Membership Status, 1981-1998
Folder 7:	Resignation from Club Membership, 1983-1997
Folder 8:	Undated, c.1980s

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Folder 9: Undated, c.1990s

III. Membership Committee Records, Notes, and Reports

This series contains materials relating to the business work of the club, particularly the Membership Committee.

Box 2

Folder 10: Committee Reports and Notes, c.1960s-1990s

Folder 11: Record Books, 1937-1944, 1945-1951, and 1980-1989

Custom Archives Box 3

Records: Membership Index Cards

IV. Ephemera

This series contains one photograph of Helen Gautochi, who chaired the membership committee during the era of most of these records. There are also three membership booklets from 1957-1958, 1968-1969, and 1969-1970; and several member badges worn at club events.

Box 2

Folder 12: Ephemera