

## **GARRETT PARK WOMEN'S CLUB**

A Guide to the Collection in Garrett Park Town Archives

Prepared 10/30/2019

Updated 05/27/2020

GARRETT PARK TOWN ARCHIVES

4600 Waverly Avenue  
Garrett Park, MD 20896

(301) 942-3035

[Archives@GarrettParkMD.gov](mailto:Archives@GarrettParkMD.gov)

**TITLE OF COLLECTION**

Garrett Park Women's Club

**REFERENCE NUMBER(S)**

2019.0007

**DATES OF CREATION**

1926–2016

**HISTORICAL/ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

In 1913, Mrs. Jessie Ross Thomson<sup>1</sup>, who resided in a Victorian house on Kenilworth Avenue, was joined by seven other women to join the Civic Study Club of Garrett Park. The preamble of an undated copy of the club's constitution states: "We women of Garrett Park, Maryland, realizing the need of concerted effort in the duties and privileges of citizenship, hereby agree to form a club with the object of promoting the civic welfare of our community."

The club's founder, Thomson, came to Garrett Park in the early 1900s, following her divorce from her husband, who was in the U.S. Navy. Thomson was active in the women's suffrage movement and served as president of the Montgomery County Just Government League, which later became the Women's Suffrage League of Montgomery County. In 1914, the Civic Study Club joined the Montgomery County, Maryland State, and General Federations of Woman's Clubs. Thomson was also active in the Federations, serving as state president in 1918. Unfortunately, we don't know much about the Civic Study Club during its early years. Materials in our collection begin in 1926.

In 1947, the club was renamed the Woman's Club<sup>2</sup> of Garrett Park, and its constitution was amended to include "contributing and promoting charitable and education activities; increasing interest in literature and art; and generally enriching the lives of our women." The club remains active today. Since at least the 1940s, the club has sponsored numerous town activities and events, including bazaars and fairs; concerts and recitals; a Sunday at Four series, featuring guest speakers and musical events; Attic-in-the-Street; house and garden tours; progressive dinners; and more. The club also championed establishing a community center and renovations to the Town Hall. In addition, it supports the Betsy White Fund, which provides financial assistance to town residents experiencing difficult periods in their lives.

**EXTENT**

2 cubic feet: 3 legal size boxes, 1 flat photo box

---

<sup>1</sup> Some historical records show "Thompson"; however, it appears from census records and later historical records pertaining to Thomson's sons that the correct spelling is without the "p."

<sup>2</sup> Later documents show it as the "Women's Club," using the plural form of woman.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT**

The Women's Club Collection contains documents and records dating from 1926 to 2016 (non-inclusive) and comprises general, but brief, information on the creation of the club and membership over the years. The bulk of the collection is about events and activities sponsored and/or supported by the club from the 1940s and later. The collection includes handwritten and typed meeting minutes, correspondence, flyers and announcements, event programs, and photographs.

The collection is organized into three series: (I) History and Background, (II) Minutes and Financials, and (III) Events and Activities.

## **BOX DESCRIPTIONS**

### **Series I. History and Background, 1926–2018 (non-inclusive) (0.25 cubic feet)**

This series includes historical and background information on the formation of the women's club, including its constitution and by-laws, lists of members, and involvement as part of the Montgomery County Federation of Women's Clubs. This series also includes general correspondence and informational materials on the activities of the women's club.

### **Series II. Minutes and Financials, 1924–2007 (0.5 cubic feet)**

This series includes handwritten and typed minutes from women's club meetings. Up until about 1952, minutes were recorded in bound books. This series also includes treasurer reports, budgets, and other financial records for the club.

### **Series III. Events and Activities, 1947–2016 (1.25 cubic feet)**

This series features the various events, activities, and causes of the women's club throughout the years. It includes planning materials, advertising and flyers, event programs, and photographs. It also includes materials on the role of the women's club in supporting Garrett Park's town hall and community center and background information on the Betsy White Fund.

## **LANGUAGE**

English

## **CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS**

This collection is open for research.

## **USING THIS COLLECTION**

Records in this collection are available primarily in hardcopy form only. With the exception of some photographs, they have not been digitized. To request use of this collection, please contact the Town Archivist to arrange a visit.

The preferred citation for materials from this collection is:

Garrett Park Town Archives, Garrett Park, MD. "Garrett Park Women's Club."  
Box number and Box name. Folder title.

The right of access to material does not imply the right of publication. Permission for reprinting, reproduction, or extensive quotation from this collection must be obtained through written application, stating the use to be made of the material. The reader bears the responsibility for any possible infringement of copyright laws in the publication of such material.

## **PROVENANCE**

Found in collection as multiple artificial collections. It appears materials were acquired by the archive over a period of years from former members of the Women's Club and other townspeople.

## **PROCESSING PROCEDURES**

We consolidated four artificial collections to create this collection. General processing procedures included arranging and organizing documents in series, as well as disposing of duplicate materials and discarding non-archival binders, metal clips, rubber bands, and other supplies. Unless otherwise indicated, we arranged records in folders in forward chronological order, with undated records appearing at the end of the folder.

## **RELATED COLLECTIONS**

- House and Garden Tours
- Garrett Players Collection
- Town Hall Collection

## **ARCHIVES STAFF & FINDING AID AUTHOR**

Town Archivist Claire McDonald, MLIS, processed this collection and prepared the finding aid.

## BOX INVENTORY

### **Box 1**

#### **Series I: History and Background**

Correspondence, 1926–2018 (non-inclusive)  
Federations of Women's Clubs, 1930–1957  
Member Lists, 1932–1996 (non-inclusive)  
Constitution and Bylaws for Garrett Park Club, 1938; 1957; 2007  
Informational Book, ca. 1982–1983  
Historical Information, n.d.  
Miscellaneous Memorabilia, n.d.

#### **Series II: Minutes and Financials**

Receipts and Expense Book, 1924–1935  
Civic Study Club Minutes Book, 1926–1934  
Dues and Sales Book, 1928–1930  
Civic Study Club Minutes Book, 1934–1941  
Civic Study Club Minutes Book, 1941–1946

### **Box 2**

#### ***(Series II, Minutes and Financials, cont.)***

Civic Study Club/Woman's Club Minute Book, 1946–1952  
Meeting Announcements, 1950–2009 (non-inclusive)  
Meeting Minutes and Treasurer Reports, 1952–1959  
Meeting Minutes and Treasurer Reports, 1960–1969  
Meeting Minutes, 1970–1974  
Meeting Minutes and Treasurer Reports, 1982–1989  
Meeting Minutes, 1991–1996  
Meeting Minutes and Treasurer Reports, 1999–2000; 2007–2011  
Undated Minutes and Notes, n.d.

#### **Series III: Events and Activities**

Cookbooks (2 Folders), 1947; 1954; 1968; 1981

### **Box 3**

#### ***(Series III: Events and Activities, cont.)***

Community Center, 1948–1950  
Garrett Park Bazaar, 1953–1968  
Holiday Events, 1956–2010 (non-inclusive)  
Other Events and Sales, 1956–2014 (non-inclusive)  
Event Guest Book, 1958–1960  
Concerts and Recitals, 1958–2013 (non-inclusive)  
News Articles, 1960; 2004; 2009  
Town Hall, 1967–1969; 1979; 1990  
Sunday-at-Four Series, 1968–1971  
Betsy White Fund, 1969–2013 (non-inclusive)  
"Never Too Late" Play, ca. 1977  
"The Three Million Dollar Lunch" Play, ca. 1977

House and Garden Tours, 1980–1990 (non-inclusive)  
Attic-in-the-Street, 1981–2014 (non-inclusive)  
Newcomer Events, 1987–1991  
Classes, 1988–1989; n.d.  
List of Events, 1991–1998; 2011  
Book Club; 2000–2004  
Progressive Dinners, 1996; 2006–2010  
Porches and Patios, 2012–2016  
Women of Garrett Park Survey, n.d.

**Box 4**

***(Series III: Events and Activities, cont.)***

Photographs of various events  
Women's Club Notecards