

Buchanan College Club (Buchanan, Michigan) Records

repository: Local History Room, Buchanan District Library, Buchanan, MI
(<http://www.buchananlibrary.org/local-history-room>).

finding aid: Composed by Peter Lysy, December 2017.

extent: 10" (2 boxes).

history: The Buchanan College Club is an organization of college educated women whose purpose is "to work on the educational, civic, and social problems of the community" and to promote and facilitate the post-secondary education of Buchanan High School graduates. The Club provides interest-free education loans to BHS graduates and awards a merit based scholarship every year to a BHS senior at its annual Honors Banquet. Between 1928 and 1955 the Club made loans totaling over \$6,000; during the period 1952-2003, loans totaled \$164,900. Fund-raisers, dues, and the repayment of old loans generate funds for further loans and the annual scholarship. For several decades the Club held teas and similar social events to encourage girls to think about the idea of attending college. The Club subsequently broadened its focus to include both boy and girl students and has used the loan application process to counsel individuals (and sometimes their families) about college-readiness and planning for college.

The origin of the Club is somewhat obscure. In 1920 the Niles Branch of the Association of Collegiate Alumnae (now the AAUW) made an effort to enlist women from neighboring communities into its organization. Between 1922 and 1926 this branch was identified in several newspapers and journals by variations of the name "Niles-Buchanan College Club". The "Buchanan College Women's Club" is mentioned in newspapers several times in 1927. It officially became the "Buchanan College Club" the next year and has been known by that name ever since.

The Niles-Buchanan Club awarded "scholarships" to women attending college as early as 1922. It is not clear, however, if these scholarships were loans or outright grants. By 1927 the Buchanan organization was hosting fund-raisers to generate money for loans. Even if the Club was only formally organized when its constitution was adopted in November 1928, by February 1929 previously loaned money was due for payment, suggesting that lending activities had been taking place on for some time.

scope and content: The records of the Club consist primarily of minutes of regular meetings, 1928-1987, minutes of Executive Board meetings, 1957-1978, and Club Yearbooks, 1952/1953 - 2015/2016 (not complete). The Yearbooks include lists of officers, members, and committee assignments, as well as schedules of the year's meetings and programs. Scattered correspondence, mailings, subject files, and ephemera round out the records.

series: 1. Minute Books

folder: 1/1 Minute Book, 1928-1938
Includes two versions of the club's constitution (pages 1-4 and 100-102) and a record of receipts and disbursements, 1928-1934 (pages 50-55). Occasionally, a set of minutes includes a membership list.

folder: 1/2 Minute Book, 1938-1947
Includes annual membership rolls for 1939/1940 through 1946/1947 (pages 164-180).

folder: 1/3 Minute Book, 1947-1967
Includes a short list of the deceased members of the club (last page).

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series: 1. Minute Books (continued)
folder: 1/4 Minute Book, 1967-1987
folder: 1/5 Loose Papers Removed from Minute Books: Minutes, 1932, 1982
folder: 1/6 Loose Papers Removed from Minute Books: Financial Reports, 1981-1987
folder: 1/7 Loose Papers Removed from Minute Books: Miscellany, 1946,1979,1981,1986
folder: 1/8 Executive Board Minute Book, 1957-1963
folder: 1/9 Executive Board Minutes, 1963-1966
folder: 1/10 Executive Board Minute Book, 1966-1975
folder: 1/11 Executive Board Minute Book, 1975-1978

series: 2. Yearbooks
folder: 2/1 Yearbooks (Best Set), 1952/1953 - 1959/1960
folder: 2/2 Yearbooks (Best Set), 1960/1961 - 1969/1970
folder: 2/3 Yearbooks (Best Set), 1971/1972 - 1978/1979
folder: 2/4 Yearbooks (Best Set), 1982/1983 - 1984/1985 , 1989/1990
folder: 2/5 Yearbooks (Best Set), 1991/1992 - 1994/1995 , 1996/1997 - 1999/2000
folder: 2/6 Yearbooks (Best Set), 2000/2001 - 2006/2007 , 2009/2010
folder: 2/7 Yearbooks (Best Set), 2015/2016
folder: 2/8 Loose Papers Removed from Yearbooks, 1961/1962 - 2000/2001
folder: 2/9 Yearbooks (Duplicates), 1950s-1970s
Many contain annotations.
folder: 2/10 Yearbooks (duplicates), 1980s - 1990s
Many contain annotations.

series: 3. Files and Ephemera
folder: 2/11 Annual Report Materials for 2012/2013
folder: 2/12 Scholarship Committee / Loan Fund Reports, 1989-2003 (not complete)
folder: 2/13 Letters Received, 1980s-2010s
folder: 2/14 Letters Sent, 1950s-2000s
folder: 2/15 Mailings to Members, 1950s-1990s
folder: 2/16 Invitations to Become Members, 1950s(?) - 1980s(?)
folder: 2/17 Membership Survey, 1974 (February - March)
folder: 2/18 Lists of Officers, 1970s-1990s
folder: 2/19 Lists of Members, 1940s-1990s
folder: 2/20 Brochures, 2010s
folder: 2/21 Senior Honors Banquet Programs, 1970s - 2010s
folder: 2/22 Senior Honors Banquet Arrangements, 2014
folder: 2/23 Fund Raiser Event Programs, 1952-1954
folder: 2/24 Christmas Dance Records, 1982
folder: 2/25 Christmas Dance Records, 1983
folder: 2/26 Fund Raiser Event Flyers, 1990s , 2010s
folder: 2/27 Clippings and Miscellany, 1950s - 1990s
folder: 2/28 Clippings added by LHR Staff, 1920s-2010s
folder: 2/29 Photograph, nd