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# The Royal Dames

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## “The Royal Dames”

An Essay by NSU Archivist Robert Bogorff

The Royal Dames was formed when the Life Sciences Center was incorporated into Nova University’s academic framework. In 1972, because of a contribution by Leo Goodwin, Sr. the cancer research laboratory was re-named the Leo Goodwin Institute for Cancer Research.

The Royal Dames was originally a very selective organization in that its membership would not exceed 100 persons. Its members were women chosen to reflect a broad spectrum of talent and leadership. Members of the Royal Dames pledge \$2500 for life membership, payable over a period of ten years.

Mrs. Theresa Castro (Castro Convertible Sofas) was the moving force behind the organization. She was a philanthropist-a full time one-who gave of her time as well as her material resources. She had a genuine enthusiasm for life, for others and her willingness to give most generously of her time and money for a multitude of causes.

During the Memorial Holiday weekend, Mr. and Mrs. Castro would annually, invite the Royal Dames and their families to the Castro’s ranch in Ocala, Florida.

The Tiara Ball, sponsored by the Royal Dames of Nova University for the benefit of cancer research at Nova became an annual event and a social landmark. The yearly event was held at the Cathedral Dining Room of the Boca Raton Hotel and Club.

Through their combined efforts, each year, the Royal Dames contributed substantially to the advancement of cancer research at Nova University.