7-2016

A Guide to the Gold Circle Collection

Nova Southeastern University, Archives

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A Guide to the Gold Circle Collection
Finding aid created by Michele Gibney
Nova Southeastern University Archives
July 2016

I. Descriptive Summary
Provenance: Nova Southeastern University, Alvin Sherman Library, NSU Archives
Title: Gold Circle Collection (1979-2007)
Abstract: Administrative records of the women’s fundraising group, Gold Circle, at Nova Southeastern University
Extent: 3 boxes

II. Biographical Sketch
The Gold Circle of Nova University was established in 1979 to raise scholarship money for deserving students. It was an offshoot of the Royal Dames of Nova University. At one of their earliest meetings, July 18, 1979, there was a member list of 18 confirmed – Midge Clark, Betty Mayhue Waters, Mary McCahill, Nan Farquhar, JoAnne S. Waldheim, Shirley B. Fischler, Toni M. Paoli, Margaret M. Schulten, Dr. Ruth L. Schmidt, Helena Jacksen, Alice John Rogers, Donna Casto, Jan Schaaf, Renee LaBonte, Fern Mayhue, Mary Leila Bishop Bernice LaBonte, and Millicent Steele. Many of these women were donors or the wives of administrative staff, board members or faculty of NSU. By the end, they had over 300 members and had raised over $1.2 million for NSU.

The ladies of the Gold Circle hosted a variety of events for themselves such as garden lunches, teas, faculty presentations, fashion shows, field trips, and campus tours. They also organized large functions to which a number of individuals would be invited such as the annual Rolls Royce motorcade.

Member dues and money from their events was used for the NSU scholarships for deserving students.


While the Gold Circle materials continue to Millicent Steele’s Pillar Luncheon in 2007, there is very limited material between 2001 and 2007 held in the NSU Archives.

III. Scope and Content
The majority of the collection consists of correspondence and minutes related to member and board meetings that occurred multiple times each year. Additional materials consist of programming documentation for the wide variety of events put on by and for the members of the Gold Circle to raise interest and funds for the fledgling university. There are a number of sorted and unsorted photographs and negatives. The collection also includes 3 VHS tapes (copied to DVDs, also included) which consist of promotional recruitment ads for Gold Circle membership and footage of the 2004 Flower Festival. Other miscellaneous items include administrative documentation, blank stationary, budget information, and a bumper sticker.

IV. Access or Use Restrictions
Archival collections are closed to the public. Permission must be obtained from the current NSU Archivist and the Vice President for Information Services and University Librarian. Certain files are restricted to protect identities of former staff and/or students.

V. Contents List

Box 1

- Minutes, 7/18/1979
- Photos, Paoli’s House, 9/25/1979
- Negatives, Paoli’s House, 9/25/1979
- Negatives – Christmas Luncheon Meeting, 12/1979
- Photos – Christmas Luncheon Meeting, 12/1979
- Negatives - meeting at Parker Building, 1980
- Photos - meeting at Parker Building, 1980
- Photos – Golden Girls Party at Steele’s, 5/31/1980
- Negatives – Golden Girls Party at Steele’s, 5/31/1980
- Negatives – Meeting, 10/28/1980
- Photos – Meeting, 10/28/1980
- Negatives – Tennis Tournament, May 1981
- Photos – Tennis Tournament, May 1981
- Photos – Bonwit Teller, West Palm Beach, October 1981
- Negatives – Bonwit Teller, West Palm Beach, October 1981
- Photos – Meeting at Steele’s, 11/5/1981
- Photo development – meeting at Steele’s, 11/5/1981
- Negatives – Meeting at Steele’s, 11/5/1981
- Tennis Tournaments, 1982–1983
- Photos – Rolling Hills and tour of campus, 1/1983
- Disc (photos) – Rolling Hills and tour of campus, 1/1983
- Negatives – Rolling Hills, 2/1983
- Photos – Rolling Hills, 2/1983
- Luncheon, 10/4/1983
- Luncheon, 11/21/1983
- Luncheon, 1/1/1984
- Press Release, 1/18/1984
- Modeling lessons, 1/24/1984
- Rolls Royce Motorcade, 2/12/1984
- Photos – Flower Festival Luncheon, 2/24/1984
- Flower Festival, Feb – April 1984
- Spring Flower Festival - book, 4/7/1984
- Flower Festival stationary, 4/1984
• Photos – Flower Festival (campus), 4/7/1984
• Fragrance Luncheon, 11/16/1984
• Photos, Luncheon at Ina Reed’s, 12/9/1984
• Budget, 1984-1985
• Scholarship Awards Party, 1/13/1985
• Nieman Marcus Event, 2/9/1985
• Rolls Royce-Rolls Bentley Motorcade, 3/3/1985
• Minutes, 4/3/1985
• Spring Flower Festival – book, 4/13/1985
• Spring Flower Festival, 4/13/1985
• Minutes, 5/22/1985
• Minutes, 6/11/1985
• Photos – Saks Fifth Avenue Fashion Show, 9/17/1985
• Saks Fifth Avenue Fashion Show, 9/17/1985
• Nova University Meeting, 10/10/1985
• Oktoberfest Event, 10/24/1985
• Intracoastal Yacht Cruise, 11/25/1985
• Rolls Royce-Rolls Bentley Motorcade, 2/16/1986
• Photos – Saks Fifth Avenue Fashion Show, 2/28/1986
• Saks Fifth Avenue Fashion Show, 2/28/1986
• Law Center event, 3/17/1986
• Minutes, 4/16/1986
• Neiman Marcus event, 6/2/1986
• Minutes, 9/23/1986
• Photos – Fashion and Furs event, 11/21/1986
• Fashion and Furs event, 11/21/1986
• Distinguished Faculty Seminars, 1986-1987
• Coral Springs Symposium, general, 1986-1987
• Minutes, 1/21/1987
• Minutes, 4/27/1987
• Minutes, 9/30/1987
• Saks Fifth Avenue Fashion Show, 10/8/1987
• Minutes, 1/20/1988
• Minutes, 5/11/1988
• News Clippings, Nova University Forums, Vladimir Posner, 10/11/1988
• Nova University Forums, Vladimir Posner, 10/11/1988
• Photos – Nova University Forums, Vladimir Posner, 10/11/1988
• Minutes, 10/20/1988
• Saks Fifth Avenue event, 10/26/1988
• Minutes, 10/4/1989
• Minutes, 1/20/1989
- Minutes, 2/20/1990
- Minutes, 4/20/1990
- Minutes, 10/4/1990
- Nieman Marcus event, 10/14/1990
- Saks Fifth Avenue Luncheon, 10/31/1990
- Minutes, 1/23/1991
- Law School meeting, 4/18/1991
- Minutes, 6/5/1991
- Minutes, 10/17/1991
- Minutes, 11/6/1991
- Woman’s Auxiliary Unit, 6/10/1991
- Antique World plans, c. 1991-1992
- Newspaper clippings, 1991-1993
- Administrative, 1991-2000
- Photos – 1992 Member Meeting, 1992
- Gala of Antiques Show (1 of 2), 1992
- Gala of Antiques Show (2 of 2), 1992
- Minutes, 2/13/1992
- Rolls Royce/Bentley Motorcade, 3/8/1992
- Joan Rivers luncheon, 4/3/1992
- Member meeting, 4/21/1992
- Minutes, 5/5/1992
- Minutes, 10/9/1992
- Neiman Marcus Catalog Caper, 11/14/1992
- Heritage House event, 1993
- Minutes, 2/12/1993
- Robin Leach events, 3/26-28/1993
- Photos – Celebrity Weekend committee, 3/26-28/1993
- Minutes, Feldman’s, 5/12/1993
- Minutes, 4/7/1993
- Minutes, 4/21/1993
- Newspaper clippings, 1994
- Brochures, c. 1994
- Correspondence 1995
- Budget, 1995
- Classic Car Concourse d’Elegance, 1995
- Rolls Royce / Exotic Cat Motorcade, 3/26/1995
- Member meeting, 4/26/1995
- Board meeting, 5/18/1995
A Guide to the Gold Circle Collection
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- Board meeting, 6/28/1995
- Board meeting, 8/14/1995
- Saks Fifth Avenue event, 9/6/1995
- Photos - Saks Fifth Avenue event, 9/6/1995
- Board meeting, 10/11/1995
- Photos – meeting, Ovid Lewis’s, 10/19/1995
- Member meeting, Ovid Lewis’s, 10/19/1995
- 1995 By-Laws

Box 2

- Day Tours, 1995-1996
- Newspaper Clippings, 1995-1996
- Member Meeting, 1/11/1996
- Day at the Races, 1/21/1996
- Member Meeting, 3/21/1996
- Correspondence, 3/21/1996
- Harriett Casdin-Silver event, 4/11/1996
- Member Meeting, 5/1/1996
- Photos – Member Meeting, 5/1/1996
- Member Meeting, 5/8/1996
- Member Meeting, 5/16/1996
- Photos, Member Meeting, Lewis Home, 10/10/1996
- Luncheon, Clare Lewis home, 10/10/1996
- Graham Kerr event, 11/19/1996
- Board Meeting, 12/5/1996
- Newspaper Clippings, 1996-1998
- Correspondence, 1996-1997
- Day Tours, 1996-1997
- Photos – Member Meeting, tour of HPD, 1/9/1997
- Member Meeting, 1/9/1997
- Gerry Spence event, 1/14/1997
- Day at the Races, 1/19/1997
- Member Meeting, Ina Reed’s, 3/13/1997
- Photos – Member Meeting, Ina Reed’s, 3/13/1997
- School of Business and Entrepreneurship event, 4/15/1997
- Member Meeting, Gundlach’s, 5/15/1997
- Photos – Member Meeting, Gundlach’s, 5/15/1997
• Board Meeting, Ina Reed’s, 10/1/1997
• Photos - Board Meeting, Ina Reed’s, 10/1/1997
• Member Meeting, Lewis home, 10/6/1997
• Day Tours, 1997-1998
• Member Luncheon, Mary Garber’s, 1/8/1998
• Photos – Member Luncheon, Mary Garber’s, 1/8/1998
• Day at the Races, 1/18/1998
• Board Meeting, 3/17/1998
• Member Meeting, 5/14/1998
• Member Meeting, 10/15/1998
• Member Meeting, 10/16/1998
• Author Luncheon, 11/14/1998
• Correspondence – President’s Associates Fund, 1997-1999
• Membership – President’s Associates Fund, 1997-2000
• Budget, 1998
• Day at the Races, 1/18/1998
• Minutes, 10/15/1998
• Celebration of Excellence, 11/6/1998
• Correspondence, 1998-1999
• Donations to Gold Circle Fund, 1998-1999
• Donations to President’s Associates Fund (1 of 2)
• Donations to President’s Associates Fund (2 of 2)
• Snowflake Ball, 1999
• Style and Substance Luncheon, 11/4/1999
• Photos – Day at the Races, 1/17/1999
• Garden Party, 2/28/1999
• NSU Library Groundbreaking, 3/30/1999
• Golden Heart Gala, 4/23/1999
• Photos – Member Meeting, 5/30/1999
• Member Meeting, 5/30/1999
• Oceanographer for a Day, 6/5/1999
• Summer Cooking Class Event, 8/11/1999
• Alumni Reception, 9/28/1999
• Member Meeting, 10/13/1999
• Meeting and Luncheon – Tower Club, 10/13/1999
• Celebration of Excellence, 12/2/1999
• Newspaper Clippings, 1999-2001
• Entrepreneur Hall of Fame, 1999-2001
• Event Schedules, 1999-2000
• Scholarship Contributions, 1999-2000
• Donations to Gold Circle Fund (1 of 2), 1999-2000
A Guide to the Gold Circle Collection
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- Donations to Gold Circle Fund (2 of 2), 1999-2000
- Brochure, c. 2000
- NSU Brochures, 2000
- Administrative documents – President’s Associates Fund, 2000
- Donations to President’s Associates Fund, 2000
- Silversea Cruises, 2000
- Member Meeting, 1/6/2000

Box 3

- Day at the Races, 1/16/2000
- Champagne Brunch, 3/8/00
- Member meeting, 3/23/2000
- Luncheon Forum, 4/12/2000
- West Palm Beach Student Service Center event, 5/18/2000
- Member meeting, 5/18/2000
- Crayons to Computers, 6/6/2000
- Voices for Children, 9/24/2000
- Nova Singers, 10/26/2000
- Silversea Cruise, 11/8-25/2000
- Donations to Gold Circle Fund, 2000-2001
- Correspondence, 2000-2001
- Day at the Races, 1/21/01
- Celebration of Excellence, 1/25/2001
- Member meeting, 3/8/2001
- Scholarship Thank you letter, 9/8/06
- Donations Correspondence, 2006-2007
- Pillar Luncheon for Millicent Steele, 10/29/07
- NSU Forums, Sally Jesse Raphael, n.d.
- Newspaper clippings, unsorted
- Memberships (folder 1 of 2)
- Memberships (folder 2 of 2)
- Stationary, blank
- Photos – Member portraits, n.d.
- Negatives – Member portraits, n.d.
- Photos – unknown event, n.d.
- Photos – unknown event, n.d.
- Ephemera, n.d.
- Event (unknown) table seating chart, n.d.
Spring Celebrity Festival, n.d.
Correspondence, n.d.
Circle of Friends, n.d.
VHS – Gold Circle (promo ads)
VHS – Gold Circle (recruitment/promo ads)
VHS – Fete de Fleur 2004, raw video
DVD – Gold Circle Recruitment videos (copy of the 2 VHS tapes)
DVD – Gold Circle 2004 Fete de Fleur Raw Footage (copy of the VHS tape)
Small box (inside box 3) of photos, unsorted, n.d.