Inventory of the
Entre Nous Bridge Club Papers, 1924 - 1994
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Descriptive Summary

Title: Entre Nous Bridge Club Papers,
Dates: 1924 - 1994
Creator: Entre Nous Bridge Club.
Abstract: The Entre Nous Bridge Club was founded May 27, 1924 in Charleston, South Carolina by sixteen women to play a card game known as Five Hundred. The group, with membership limited to sixteen, met monthly in members' homes. The club rotated officers yearly and hosted annual celebrations and special parties for their 40th, 50th, 60th, and 70th anniversaries. The club continues to this day (2006).

The Entre Nous Bridge Club Papers (1924-1994) consist of minute books; official and financial records; social event materials, and miscellaneous materials including correspondence and newspaper clippings. Of note are several mentions of group's involvement in protesting racial discrimination during World War II and financial support of the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) and Avery Normal Institute.

Extent: .25 linear feet (1 archival box)
Repository: Avery Research Center at the College of Charleston
Call Number: AMN 1025
Language of Material: Material in English

Historical Note

The Entre Nous Bridge Club (from the French phrase for "between us") was founded May 27, 1924 in Charleston, South Carolina by sixteen women to play a card game known as Five Hundred. (The organization was original known as "The Entre Nous Five Hundred Club.") They switched to playing contract bridge in the mid-1930s. The group, with membership limited to sixteen, met monthly in members' homes. The club rotated officers yearly and hosted annual celebrations and special parties for their 40th, 50th, 60th, and 70th anniversaries. The club continues to this day (2006). Significant families represented include the DeCostas, Seabrooks, Caffeys, Cornwells, Sanfords, and Huffs.

Collection Overview

The Entre Nous Bridge Club Papers (1924-1994) consist of minute books; official and financial records; social event materials, and miscellaneous materials including correspondence and newspaper clippings. Of note are several mentions of group's involvement in protesting racial discrimination during World War II and financial support of the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) and Avery Normal Institute.

Collection Arrangement

1. Administrative Material
2. Events
3. Financial Material

4. Miscellaneous Material

Restrictions

Access Restrictions

No restrictions.

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Subject Headings

African American women -- Societies and clubs -- South Carolina -- Charleston.

Avery Normal Institute.

Caffey family.

Card games.

Cornwell family.

DeCosta family.

Entre Nous Bridge Club (Charleston, S.C.) -- Records and correspondence.

Huff family.

Sanford family.

Seabrook family.

Young Women's Christian Associations. Charleston, S.C.

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Entre Nous Bridge Club Papers, Avery Research Center, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC, USA.

Processing Information

Processed by Jessica Lancia, June 2006
Encoded by Melissa Bronheim, July 2010

Edited by Melissa Bronheim, July 2010

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Detailed Description of the Collection

1. Administrative Material, 1924-1994

Box 1 Folder 1  Minute Book, 1924-1935

Includes sporadic meeting minutes discussing club matters such as election of officers, planning of annual and Christmas parties with details of menus and guest lists. Early entries detail club's purpose, establishes guidelines, and relates drafting of first constitution. With notes on collection of dues and annual club rolls. Constitutional amendment switches game played and club's name from Five Hundred to Auction Bridge and later Contract Bridge. With lists of club-incurred expenses such as prizes and floral offerings.

Box 1 Folder 2  Minute Book, 1940-1958

With sporadic meeting minutes with constitution reproduced in front of book. Includes discussions of matters such as constitutional amendments, planning annual parties, and collecting dues. Also mentions volunteering, making charity donations (such as to Avery Normal Institute) and protesting racial injustice (by sending a telegram to President Roosevelt and Federal Works Agency protesting discrimination against blacks in national defense program), as well joining the Negro Community Council. Includes financial reports, itemizing receipts and disbursements for such items such as charity and floral offerings. With club rolls.

Box 1 Folder 3  Minute Book, 1958-1985

With sporadic meeting minutes that include discussion of club matters such as constitutional amendments, planning annual 40th, 50th, and 60th anniversary parties, collecting dues, and discussing financial reports. Also mentions donations to Young Women's Christian Association, gifts to members, funeral offerings at death of members and their families, and attending of theater performances. With club rolls.

Box 1 Folder 4  Constitution, Loose Minutes, and Secretary Reports, 1942-1994

Also includes materials planning and reporting on anniversary celebrations

2. Events, 1961-1994

Box 1 Folder 5  Social Events Ephemera, 1961-1994

Includes invitations and menu proposals for annual parties and anniversary celebrations.


Box 1 Folder 6  Financial Materials, 1980-1984

Includes invoices for flowers and luncheon deposits, receipts for photographs and flowers, draft of financial report with charges for items such as roses, corsages, and wine; list of club dues and assessments.


Box 1 Folder 7  Miscellaneous Materials, 1982-1994
Includes two thank you notes, a Post and Courier newspaper clipping regarding club with related photo negatives, and informational leaflet listing past and present members of club.