

Young Women's Christian Association of Bellingham records, 1899-2007

Overview of the Collection

Creator	Young Women's Christian Association (Bellingham, Wash.)
Title	Young Women's Christian Association of Bellingham records
Dates	1899-2007 (inclusive) 1899 2008
Quantity	13.5 linear ft.
Collection Number	XOE_CPNWS0192ywcabellingham (collection)
Summary	The Young Women's Christian Association of Bellingham, Washington, officially formed in May 1907. The organization's mission is to provide housing and support for girls and women in crisis. The YWCA of Bellingham records span the dates 1906-1994 and are comprised of administrative, financial, and committee records, records related to YWCA programs and activities, photographs and scrapbooks, and newspaper clippings.
Repository	Western Washington University, Center for Pacific Northwest Studies Goltz-Murray Archives Building 808 25th St. Bellingham, WA 98225 Telephone: 360-650-7534 cpnws@wwu.edu
Access Restrictions	The collection is open to the public.
Languages	English.
Sponsor	Funding for preparing this finding aid was provided by a grant from the Washington State Legislature to the Washington Women's History Consortium.

Historical Note

The Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) of Bellingham was founded in 1907 in Bellingham, Washington. Following preliminary meetings in 1906, the Board of Directors held its first official meeting in May 1907. The YWCA mission was to provide housing and support for girls and women in crisis, as well as the necessary resources to help them become independent and successful. The YWCA of Bellingham echoed its national counterpart's mission statement: to develop empowered women and girls, and to combat racism.* Throughout its history, the YWCA of Bellingham has provided support for girls and women through various committees and clubs which focus on the economic, physical, and mental well-being of participants. In 2007, the YWCA of Bellingham celebrated its centennial anniversary. The occasion was commemorated through stories in local publications and an exhibit at the Whatcom Museum.

In its earliest days, members met in the Bellingham homes of the organization's leaders, then at various locales throughout the community. That remained the case until Charles X. Larrabee donated

a downtown Bellingham building for the YWCA of Bellingham in honor of his wife, Frances P. Larrabee, and their only daughter, Mary. Construction of the building was completed in 1915 and it was dedicated in March of that year.

The YWCA building is located on the corner of Maple and Forest streets and is still used as an active residence hall. It was designed by the Seattle-based architect, Carl F. Gould. Gould is also known in Bellingham for his design of Eden's Hall and the Wilson Library on the Western Washington University campus. Frances P. Larrabee was instrumental in the creation of the local organization and remained an active participant for many years.

Content Description

The Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) of Bellingham records span the dates 1906-1994, with the bulk of the materials dated circa 1912-1980. The collection contains administrative, financial, and committee records, records related to local YWCA programs and activities, photographs and scrapbooks, and newspaper clippings.

Administrative records date from 1912-2007 and include articles of incorporation, bylaws, and historical information about the organization. The bulk of administrative records comprise agendas and reports from annual meetings, minutes of the YWCA of Bellingham's Board of Directors, and reports of the General Secretary. The series also contains correspondence, membership materials, and abstracts of title reflecting YWCA real estate. Historical materials include papers documenting the YWCA building's placement on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979, as well as national and local (Bellingham) anniversary celebrations.

Financial records span the dates 1912-1978 and include auditor's reports, Finance Committee materials, reports regarding the Bellingham Community Chest, and information on grants, and fundraising endeavors.

Committee records date from 1912-1981 and document the interests and work of YWCA of Bellingham standing committees. Although the bulk of these records were generated by the Health Education and Traveler's Aid Committees, they also reflect the activities of the other committees active at the YWCA building. The collection contains materials produced by the Residence, Outreach and Educational, Female Support and Advocacy Committees and others.

Records related to YWCA of Bellingham programs and activities date from 1911-1977 and contain both reference materials and records generated by the local organization. These records document issues of concern for the YWCA of Bellingham including gun control, support for women offenders, and rape relief. Program materials also document the activities of local YWCA clubs including "Bun Club," "Y-Teens" and "Y-Wives."

The photographs and scrapbooks span the dates 1910-1980, and include photographs of Charles X. Larrabee, donor of the YWCA building, and his wife, Frances P. Larrabee. Other photographs document YWCA of Bellingham activities and events, members and employees. A number of photographs also depict the exterior and interior of the YWCA building on Forest and Maple streets. Scrapbooks contain some photographs, but are primarily collections of newspaper clippings about organizational activities, gathered throughout the local branch's history. There are also scrapbooks from the "Girls Reserves," "Y-Teens," and "Y-Wives" Clubs.

Newspaper clippings span the dates 1906-1996 and document noteworthy YWCA of Bellingham activities, events, programs, and people.

YWCA Centennial and *One Hundred Years of Challenge and Change: Whatcom Women and the YWCA* materials were gathered during the preparation leading up to and culmination of both the 2007 centennial event and the subsequent publishing of Lynn Masland's book. These records consist of interviews and oral histories, photographs, publications, historical reference material, and research notes dating from 1899 to 2008. There are also digital copies of Masland's book on CD-R.

Use of the Collection

Preferred Citation

Young Women's Christian Association of Bellingham records, Center for Pacific Northwest Studies, Heritage Resources, Western Washington University, Bellingham WA 98225-9123.

Administrative Information

Arrangement

The Young Women's Christian Association of Bellingham records are organized according to the following series arrangement:

Series I. Administrative Records 1912-2007

Series II. Financial Records 1912-1968

Series III. Committee Records 1912-1981

Series IV. Programs and Activities 1911-1977

Series V. Photographs and Scrapbooks 1910-1980

Series VI. Newspaper Clippings 1906-1996

Series VII. YWCA Centennial and *One Hundred Years of Challenge and Change: Whatcom Women and the YWCA* materials 1899-2008

Acquisition Information

The records were donated by the YWCA of Bellingham in multiple installments first in 1979, then in 1989, and again in 2001 at which time a deed of gift was signed. Materials regarding the branch's centennial celebration were acquired in 2007.

Processing Note

Duplicates and non-archival materials were removed from the collection.

Bibliography

Murray, Keith. "The Origins of the Bellingham Y.W.C.A." in Howard J. Critchfield, ed. *Pacific Northwest: Essays in Honor of James W. Scott*. Bellingham, WA: Western Washington University (1993).

Detailed Description of the Collection

The following section contains a detailed listing of the materials in the collection.

Series I: Administrative Records, 1912-2007

Container(s)	Description	Dates
<i>Annual Meetings and Reports</i>		1913-1988
<i>Box/Folder</i>		
1/1	Report	1913-1914
1/2	Report	1914-1915
1/3	Report	1915-1916
1/4	Report	1929-1936
1/5	Program and Report	1936-1937
1/6	Program and Report	1937-1938
1/7	Program and Report	1938-1939
1/8	Program and Report	1939-1940
1/9	Program and Report	1940-1941
1/10	Program and Report	1941-1942
1/11	Program and Report	1942-1943
1/12	Program and Report	1945-1963
1/13	Program and Report	1964-1973,; 1979
1/14	Program and Report	1981
1/15	Program and Report	1982
1/16	Program	1983
1/17	Report	1984

Container(s)	Description	Dates
1/18	Report	1985
1/19	Report	1986
1/20	Report	1987-1988
<i>Box/Folder</i>		
2/1	Annual Narrative Reports	1950-1952
2/2	Articles of incorporation, bylaws, and constitution	circa 1908-1967
<i>Board of Directors materials</i>		1912-1981
<i>Box/Folder</i>		
2/3	General reference materials	circa 1912-1971
2/4	Board of Directors and committee members	circa 1906-1964
2/5	Board motions	1974-1979
2/6	Board responsibilities and training	circa 1978
2/7	Board retreat	1987
<i>Minutes</i>		1906-1994
<i>Box/Folder</i>		
2/8	Minutes	1906-1911
2/9	Minutes	1923-1925
2/10	Minutes	1929-1936
3/1	Minutes	1936-1943
3/2	Minutes	1943-1949
3/3	Minutes	1950-1953

Container(s)	Description	Dates
4/1	Minutes	1958-1970
4/2	Minutes	1970
4/3	Minutes	1971
4/4	Minutes	1972
4/5	Minutes	1973
4/6	Minutes	1974
4/7	Minutes	1975
4/8	Minutes	1976
5/1	Minutes	1976-1979
5/2	Minutes	1979-1980
5/3	Minutes	1981-1982
5/4	Minutes	1983-1984
5/5	Minutes	1985
5/6	Minutes	1986
5/7	Minutes	1987
5/8	Minutes	1988
5/9	Minutes	1989
5/10	Minutes	1990
5/11	Minutes	1991
5/12	Minutes	1992
6/1	Minutes	1993

Container(s)	Description	Dates
6/2	Minutes	1994
<i>Box/Folder</i>		
6/3	Cabinet minutes	1948-1955
<i>Correspondence</i>		1915-1978
<i>Box/Folder</i>		
6/4	Greeting cards	circa 1915
6/5	General	circa 1916-1923
6/6	General	circa 1941-1977
6/7	General	circa 1977
6/8	National Board	circa 1915-1925
6/9	National Board	1977-1978
6/10	Regional Board	1915
6/11	Regional Board	1915-1924
<i>Box/Folder</i>		
6/12	Equipment and supplies advertisements	circa 1915-1921
<i>General Secretary Reports</i>		1911-1943
<i>Box/Folder</i>		
6/13	Reports	1911-1916
6/14	Report	1913
7/1	Report	1914
7/2	Report	1915

Container(s)	Description	Dates
7/3	Reports	1916-1923
7/4	Report	1924
7/5	Report	1935
7/6	Report	1936
7/8	Reports	1937-1938
7/9	Report	1941
7/10	Report	1942
7/11	Report	1943
<i>Box/Folder</i>		
7/12	Group work reports	1941-1943
<i>Informational and historical materials</i>		1924-1976
<i>Box/Folder</i>		
7/13	General reference materials	circa 1924-1973
7/14	Nomination to the National Historic Register	1976 February
<i>Box/Folder</i>		
7/15	Long-range planning	circa 1969-1978
<i>Membership</i>		1912-1976
<i>Box/Folder</i>		
7/16	Membership dues	1958-1964
7/17	Membership materials	1912-1924
8/1	Membership materials	1942-1948

Container(s)	Description	Dates
8/2	Membership materials	1976
<i>National Reports</i>		1935-1943
Box/Folder		
8/3	Report	1935
8/4	Report	1936
8/5	Report	1937
8/6	Report	1938
8/7	Report	1939
8/8	Reports	1940-1943
Box/Folder		
8/9	President's Reports	1936, ; 1939
<i>Property - Abstracts of Title</i>		1912-1926
Box/Folder		
8/10	Lot 1 in Block 80, Town of New Whatcom	1914
8/11	Lot 2 in Block 80, Town of New Whatcom	1914
8/12	Lot 3 in Block 80, Town of New Whatcom	1926
8/13	Rear 12 feet of Block 81, Town of New Whatcom	1912
Box/Folder		
8/14	Staff contracts	1941-1948
8/15	Staff to Staff - official newsletter for staff of YWCA	circa 1974-1978
8/16	Student YWCA	1974

Container(s)	Description	Dates
8/17	50th Anniversary Jubilee	1916
8/18	100th Anniversary of the Bellingham YWCA, includes information about the Whatcom Museum exhibit	2007

Series II: Financial Records, 1912-1978

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
9/1	General reference materials	circa 1920s-1970s
<i>Auditor's Reports</i>		1929-1945
Box/Folder		
9/2	Reports	1929-1942
9/3	Report	1945
Box/Folder		
9/4	Charitable organizations	circa 1915-1920
<i>Community Chest</i>		1943-1964
Box/Folder		
9/5	Monthly reports	1943-1945
9/6	Monthly reports	1956-1958
9/7	Monthly reports	1959-1960
9/8	Monthly reports	1961-1964
<i>Finance Committee</i>		1912-1978
Box/Folder		

Container(s)	Description	Dates
9/9	Committee materials	1912-1915
9/10	Committee materials	circa 1915
9/11	Committee materials	1916-1917
9/12	Committee materials	1918-1919
9/13	Committee materials	1920-1922
9/14	Committee materials	1923-1924
9/15	Committee materials	1926-1929
9/16	Committee materials	circa 1956-1978

Box/Folder

10/1	Financial aid and fundraising	circa 1967-1976
10/2	Financial campaigns	1919-1923
10/3	Grants	circa 1970s
10/4	Secretarial Retirement Fund	1924
10/5	Warrants and deeds	circa 1914-1944

Series III: Committee Records, 1912-1981

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
10/6	General reference materials	circa 1980s
10/7	Business Girls Committee	1940-1941
10/8	Business and Industry Committee	1916-1933
10/9	Cafeteria Committee	circa 1914-1923

Container(s)	Description	Dates
10/10	City Committee	1912
10/11	Exchange Committee	circa 1915
10/12	Fair Employment Committee	1915
10/13	Foreign Committee	circa 1915-1925
10/14	Girls Work Committee	1914-1916
10/15	Goals Committee	undated
	<i>Health Education Committee</i>	1929-1942
<i>Box/Folder</i>		
10/16	Report	1929
10/17	Report	1930
10/18	Report	1931
10/19	Report	1932
10/20	Reports	1931-1933
10/21	Report	1935
11/1	Report	1936
11/2	Report	1937
11/3	Report	1937-1938
11/4	Report	1938-1939
11/5	Reports	1939-1941
11/6	Report	1941-1942
<i>Box/Folder</i>		

Container(s)	Description	Dates
11/7	History and Heritage Committee	circa 1950s
	House Committee	1912-1931
Box/Folder		
11/8	House Committee	1912-1916
11/9	House Committee	1917-1931
Box/Folder		
11/10	Investment Committee	1975-1976
11/11	Leisure Services Committee	1977-1978
11/12	Memorial Committee	1975
11/13	Nominating Committee	1978
11/14	Nursery Committee	1978
11/15	Options Committee	1975-1976
11/16	Personnel Committee	circa 1973-1978
11/17	Physical Education Committee	undated
11/18	Plant and Equipment Committee	1976-1977
11/19-11/20	Program Planning Committee	circa 1970s
11/21	Publicity Committee	1915-1916
12/1	Religious Work Committee	1912-1922
12/2-12/3	Residence Committee	1975-1976
12/4	Social Committee	1912-1922
	Traveler's Aid Committee	1912-1951

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
12/5	Certificate	1917 November 15
12/6	Minutes and reports	1912-1951
12/7	Minutes and reports	1913
12/8	Minutes and reports	1915-1921
12/9	Minutes and reports	1915-1922
13/1	Minutes and reports	1916-1917
13/2	Minutes and reports	1916-1919
13/3	Minutes and reports	1918-1920
13/4	Minutes and reports	1939-1940

Box/Folder

13/5	Ways and Means Committee	undated
13/6	Youth Committee	1977-1978

Series IV: Programs and Activities, 1911-1977

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
13/7	Outline of programs	1975 May 6
13/8	Affirmative Action	circa 1970s
13/9-13/10	Bun Club	1953-1954
13/11	Camp Lummi	circa 1934-1938

Container(s)	Description	Dates
13/12	Camp Shuksan	1941
13/13	Clubs	circa 1915-1924
14/1	Community survey	1938
14/2	Comprehensive Health Planning Council	circa 1970s
Employment		1911-1975
Box/Folder		
14/3	Employment for Women	circa 1911-1915
14/4	Employment Security Department and CETA	1975
14/5	Equal employment	circa 1954
Girl Reserves		1926-1948
Box/Folder		
14/6	Minutes	1944-1948
14/7	Songbook	1926
Box/Folder		
14/8	Gun control	1973-1974
14/9	Heritage and history	1977
14/10	International Women's Year	1975
14/11	"One Imperative: Eliminate Racism"	1970-1975
14/12-14/13	Rape relief	circa 1970s
14/14	Single Parents support group	circa 1977
14/15	Student Standard Clubs	1914-1923

Container(s)	Description	Dates
14/16	Swimming	circa 1950s
14/15	U.S.O. minutes	circa 1941-1942
15/1	Vietnam Wives	1967
15/2	Widows/Widowers support group	1975-1977
15/3	Women offenders	circa 1970s
15/4	Women's organizations	circa 1970s
15/5	Women's Press	1916-1925
Oversize Folder		
OV/1	World Fellowship Project	1945
Box/Folder		
15/6	Y's Buys Shop	undated
	Y-teens	1946-1967
Box/Folder		
15/7	General reference materials	circa 1958
15/8	Minutes	1946-1950
15/9	Minutes	1954-1967
Box/Folder		
15/10	Y Wives	circa 1933-1969

Series V: Photographs and Scrapbooks, 1910-1980

Container(s)	Description	Dates
	<i>Photographs</i>	circa 1908-1980
<i>Box/Folder</i>		
15/11	Banquet with Malaysian visitors	circa 1980
15/11	Camp OLGA	1924
15/13	Charles X. and Frances Larrabee	circa 1914
16/1	Children	circa 1910-1975
16/2	Drawing of Carl F. Gould, architect of the Bellingham YWCA building	circa 1927
16/3	Eleanor Roosevelt with baby Franklin (credit Franklin D. Roosevelt Library)	1914
16/4	General	circa 1915-1925
16/5	General	circa 1920-1975
16/6	General	circa 1940s
16/7-16/11	General	circa 1970s-1980s
16/12	Groups	circa 1911-1931
16/13	Negatives	circa 1920s-1970s
16/14	Proof sheets	circa 1980s
16/15	Slides	undated
16/16	Swimming pool	circa 1920s
16/17	Western Washington University	circa 1909-1920
16/18	Y-Teens	circa 1960s

Container(s)	Description	Dates
16/19	YWCA building	circa 1908-1919
	<i>Oversize Photographs</i>	circa 1920-1946
Oversize Folder		
OV/2	Annual Regional Conference	1946 March 26
OV/3	Girl Reserves conference	1923
OV/4	Girl Reserves	undated
OV/5	Mother-Daughter banquet	circa 1920
	<i>Scrapbooks</i>	1910-1985
Box/Folder		
17/1	Bun Club	1953
Oversize Folder		
OV/6	Girls Reserves	circa 1920s-1930s
Box/Folder		
17/2	Girl Reserves	1941-1945
17/3	Girl Reserves	1945-1946
17/4	Newsletters	circa 1912
17/5	Publicity and program materials	1941-1943
17/6	Teas	circa 1959-1965
18/1	Y-Teens	circa 1920s
18/2	Y-Teens	1947

Container(s)	Description	Dates
18/3	Y-Teens	1948
18/4	Y-Teens	1957-1958
18/5-18/6	Y-Teens	1958-1959
18/7	Y-Teens	1960-1965
18/8	Y-Teens	1967-1968

Series VI: Newspaper clippings, 1906-1996

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
19/1	Newspaper clippings	1910-1913
19/2	Newspaper clippings	1914-1923
19/3	Newspaper clippings	1915;; 1920;; 1964
19/4	Newspaper clippings	1924-1941
19/5	Newspaper clippings	circa 1930s
20/1	Newspaper clippings	1941
20/2	Newspaper clippings	1941-1946
20/3	Newspaper clippings	1947-1949
20/4	Newspaper clippings	1950-1953
21/1	Newspaper clippings	1953-1955
21/2	Newspaper clippings	1956-1961
21/3	Newspaper clippings	1961-1965

Container(s)	Description	Dates
22/1	Newspaper clippings	1966-1972
22/2	Newspaper clippings	1981-1985
23/1	Newspaper clippings	1906
23/2	Newspaper clippings	1924-1926
23/3	Newspaper clippings	1945;; 1957
23/4	Newspaper clippings	1960-1968
23/5	Newspaper clippings	1971-1996
23/6	Newspaper clippings and other mixed material	circa 1914-1973

Series VII: YWCA Centennial and *One Hundred Years of Challenge and Change: Whatcom Women and the YWCA* materials, 1899-2008

Container(s)	Description	Dates
<i>Box/Folder</i>		
23/7	Christman, Beth - material on Lydia Place	2008
23/8	Fahey, Susan - <i>A Quiet Regional of the Mind: The Aftermath Club of Bellingham, 1896-1990</i>	1994 August
23/9	Hall of Fame/Legacy awards	2008
23/10	"Highlight and Hallmarks of YWCA History" - timeline of Power Point show	circa 2008
<i>Interviews and Oral Histories</i>		2007-2008
Audio Recordings		
<i>Box/Folder</i>		
23/11	Blair, Karen	2008 March 16

Container(s)	Description	Dates
23/12	Chevalier, Geneil	2007 May 14
23/13	Culjat, Dorothy	2008 July 20
24/1	Eco-Action Group	2008
24/2	Foster, Julie	2008 June 26
24/3	Page, Roseanna Stilwell	2008 June 3
24/4	Richards, Alice	2008 August 11
24/5	Robinson, Mary	2008 April 29
24/6	Spanel, Harriet	2008 July 18
Box/Folder		
24/7	Eco-Action interview transcript and related material	2009
24/8	Notes on interviews and interviewees	circa 2006-2008
24/9	Transcripts	2007-2008
Masland, Lynn		2007-2008
Box/Folder		
24/10	Talks on YWCA history	circa 2007-2008
24/11	Text for museum exhibit and presentation	circa 2007-2008
Box/Folder		
24/12	Media coverage of YWCA Centennial and book launch	2007-2008
24/13	Murray, Keith - "The Origins of the Bellingham Y.W.C.A." (excerpt from Howard J. Critchfield, ed., <i>Pacific Northwest: Essays in Honor of James W. Scott</i>)	undated
One Hundred Years of Challenge and Change: Whatcom Women and the YWCA		2008

Container(s)	Description	Dates
<i>Box/Folder</i>		
24/14	Digital copies on CD-R	circa 2008
24/15	Drafts	circa 2008
24/16	Production invoices	2008
<i>Photographs</i>		2007-2008
<i>Box/Folder</i>		
24/17	Photocopies of historic images from CPNWS, WWU Special Collections, and the Whatcom Museum	circa 2007-2008
24/18	Photo permissions forms	circa 2007-2008
24/19	Photo source lists	circa 2007-2008
<i>Research</i>		1899-2008
<i>Box/Folder</i>		
24/20-24/29	Chronological	circa 1890s-2008
24/30	Miscellaneous research material	circa 2007-2008
24/31	Museum copy	circa 1941-1982
24/32	Normal School	1899-
<i>Box/Folder</i>		
24/33	Richards, Alice material	2008
24/34	Roebuck, Randy - "Bellingham YWCA: Our Heritage - Vignettes, 1907-1979"	1979
24/35	Washington Historical Commission grant materials	circa 2007-2008
24/36	YWCA - National Branch	2008

Container(s)	Description	Dates
24/37	YWCA Past Presidents list	1907-1989

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Community centers--Washington (State)--Bellingham--History--Sources.
 Community education--Washington (State)--Bellingham--History--Sources.
 Female offenders--Washington (State)--Bellingham--History--Sources.
 Gun control--Washington (State)--Bellingham--History--Sources.
 Women in community organization--Washington (State)--Bellingham--History--Sources.
 Women social reformers--Washington (State)--Bellingham--History--Sources.
 Women--Employment--Washington (State)--Bellingham--History--Sources.
 Women's rights--Washington (State)--Bellingham--History--Sources.
 Women's shelters--Washington (State)--Bellingham--History--Sources.
 Women--Societies and Clubs--Washington (State)--Bellingham--History--Sources.
 Women--Washington (State)--Bellingham--History--Sources.
 Youth centers--Washington (State)--Bellingham--History--Sources.
 Youth--Washington (State)--Bellingham--History--Sources.

Corporate Names :

Young Women's Christian Association (Bellingham, Wash.)
 (creator)

Geographical Names :

Bellingham (Wash.)--History--Sources.

Finding aid prepared by Rozlind Koester.
 2007