



Wa tan ye Club, (Service Foremost) Beloit, Wisconsin, 1953-1983

Accession #: 1992.16

Size: 1.0 linear ft

Condition: Fair to good

Donation date: Unknown

Donor: Unknown

Date Collection Committee approved: Unknown

Ownership: Beloit Historical Society

Prepared by: Leith A Rohr, Project Archivist for the Beloit Historical Society, December, 2020

FINDING AID

NATIONAL HISTORY

The National Association of Wa Tan Ye Clubs originated in Mason City, Iowa, in 1921 when eight business and professional women met for lunch and decided to form a women's service club similar to the Lions and Kiwanis. Wa Tan Ye of Indian origin, meaning "Service Foremost" was chosen as the name of the organization. Soon clubs were organized in other cities and in the spring of 1925, Wa Tan Ye became a National Women's Service Organization.

LOCAL HISTORY

The Beloit chapter of the Wa Tan Ye Club received its charter on October 29, 1953. The Beloit club is one of 39 in Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois and Wisconsin. Esther Loomis organized the group with 24 members. The club has entertained many district meetings and hosted the National Convention in October 1967. Wa Tan Ye stresses service and enrichment to the community as a whole with special emphasis on members serving their own community needs. Each year the Beloit Chapter of Wa Tan Ye offered a nursing scholarship and a campership for the Rock County Easter Seal Society Camp Waweek in Wisconsin Dells. Wa Tan Ye members have also been active in the Hospice Radiothon, Crime Stoppers, United Givers, Meals on Wheels, Beloit Hospital Auxiliary, Caritas and other civic organizations. Each year a Bingo party and Sing-Along is sponsored at Caravilla Retirement Home or the Carlyle Nursing home. Donations are raised through bake sales, garage sales, card parties and various other fundraising events.

SCOPE OF THE COLLECTION

The collection covers the time period of 1953-1983 the time the club was active in the community. There is a history scrapbook that covers the period of 1963 - 1983. The scrapbook contains a club history, programs, committees, newspaper clippings, style shows, Beloit chapter Officers, Association Officers, photographs, thank you cards, and fund drives information.

There are 15 yearbooks (1965-1982). These yearbooks contain lists of programs, club membership lists with addresses and phone numbers, committee member names, major activities, association officers, budgets and financials.

CONTAINER LIST

1992.16

CONTAINER	FOLDER	DATES	SUBJECT
23	5	1953-1983	Club Yearbooks
23	6	1981-1983	Newspaper Clippings
24		1963-1983	Club History Scrapbook