

International Institute of Metropolitan Detroit Collection

Records, 1919-1981

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In 1911, the national board of the YWCA established the first International Institute branch in New York City to assist the growing number of immigrant women. Eight years later, in 1919, the Detroit branch opened at Witherell and Adams. In 1935, the Detroit Institute combined with the Women's Industrial Branch of the YWCA with headquarters on East Grand Boulevard. The Detroit Institute's affiliation with the YWCA ended in 1945, when it incorporated as the International Institute of Metropolitan Detroit, an independent, non-profit, non-sectarian agency. In 1951, the International Institute moved to a building it had constructed on Kirby at John R.

The purpose of the International Institute is to promote the welfare, education, and social integration of immigrant and minority peoples, both permanent residents and visitors. Just as the Institute offers services to immigrants and minority groups that help them adjust to American culture and customs, obtain citizenship and employment, and improve community services in ethnic neighborhoods, it also promotes understanding of the histories, folk arts and crafts and contributions of people of different cultural backgrounds among the larger metropolitan community.

The papers of the International Institute of Metropolitan Detroit consist of minutes, correspondence, reports, financial records, clippings, newsletters, pamphlets and other publications reflecting the activities of the Institute during its affiliation with the YWCA and after its incorporation as an independent agency in 1945. During this time, the Institute offered a variety of programs, including language and citizenship classes, dances, concerts, folk festivals, and the Old World Market. The papers also reflect the Institute's work with particular groups like Japanese war brides, war refugees, Polish- and Lebanese-Americans, and others living in established ethnic communities in the Detroit area, its effort to educate metropolitan Detroiters about foreign cultures, and its campaign to fund the construction of the Kirby building.

RESEARCHERS USING THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF METROPOLITAN DETROIT COLLECTION ARE REQUIRED TO SIGN A RESTRICTED USE STATEMENT AND MAY NOT CITE ANY NAMES APPEARING IN CASE RECORDS.

PLEASE NOTE: Folders are computer-arranged alphabetically in this finding aid, but may actually be dispersed throughout several boxes in the collection. Note carefully the box number for each folder heading.

Important subjects in the collection:

Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services (ACCESS)
American Council for Nationalities Service
American Federation of International Institutes
Emigration and immigration law--United States

Important subjects (cont'd):

Ethnic art
Ethnic folklore
Ethnic performing arts
Immigrants--Michigan--Detroit
International Seamen's Service
Japanese Americans--Evacuation and relocation, 1942-1945
Michigan Commission on Displaced Persons and Refugees
Michigan Commission on Immigration
Old World Market
Refugees--Vietnam
Social work with immigrants
War brides
World War, 1939-1945--Refugees
Young Women's Christian Association International Institute Branches

Important correspondents in the collection:

Roy Adelberg
Edith Alvord
Robin Bahr
Mary Ball
Judith Brown
Florence Cassidy
Laura Gogola
Edna Jellinek
Margaret Montgomery
Alice Sickels
Brian John Smith
Ben Snyder
Pamela Rosso Stotz
Renee Van Dewater

Non-manuscript material:

A number of photographs, films and scrapbooks have been placed in the Archives Audiovisual Collection and several issues of the International Institute newsletter have been transferred to the Archives Library.

Box-folder	Folder heading
8-12	ACCESS (Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services), 1977
3-30	ACNS (American Council for Nationalities Service), 1954-69
14-1 thru 2	ACNS; corres., national conventions, 1958-61
3-5 thru 8	ACNS; <i>Interpreter Releases</i> , 1961-64
16-22 thru 23	ACNS; <i>Interpreter Releases</i> , 1966-67
17-1 thru 8	ACNS; <i>Interpreter Releases</i> , 1968-73
14-5	ACNS; members list, 1956-66
13-22 thru 23	ACNS; National Convention, 1968
1-9 thru 11	ACNS; National Convention, Regional Conferences, 1962-68
9-12	ACNS; press releases, 1957-60
14-20	ACNS; newsletters, 1958-59
20-24	ACNS; orientation manual, 1963
12-28	Acquisitions Committee, 1960-66
22-6	Administrative material, misc., 1963-80
7-9	Advertising Committee, 1955
12-27	Advisory Committee, 1962-70
7-12 thru 15	AFII (American Federation of International Institutes); conventions, 1948-57
22-7	AFII; Board of Directors minutes, 1953-58
9-7	AFII; Board of Directors minutes, corres., convention material, 1948-50
7-20	AFII; Committee on Membership, Standards, and Eligibility, 1958
7-21	AFII; Committee on Uniform Reports, 1954-56
7-16	AFII; Common Council for American Unity corres., 1945-53
20-5	AFII; corres., 1949
7-17 thru 18	AFII; corres., 1951-53
14-6	AFII; corres., 1954-58
9-8	AFII; corres., bulletins, 1944-47
7-19	AFII; Fund Raising Committee report for National Budget Review Committee, 1954
7-22	AFII; national office study questionnaire, 1953-54
8-37 thru 38	AFII; newsletters, 1953-57
13-28	AFII; reports, 1955, 1957
9-6	AFII; "Special Information Bulletin," "National Office News," 1944-50
5-22	African Americans, 1946-63
1-1	African puppetry, 1979
6-38	Africans, 1959-64
13-15	Agency Project Committee, 1959-62
8-27	Albanian community, 1977

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11-3	American Day, 1945-52
14-13 thru 14	American Immigration and Citizenship Conference, 1968-70
6-37	American Indians, 1948-64
20-22	American Indians, 1979-80
8-18	American Youth Hostels, 1976
7-10	Americanism; Governor's Americanization Commission (Michigan), 1950
3-15	Americanization Committee of Detroit; annual reports, 1927-30
3-14	Anniversary (21st) party, 1940
12-9	Anniversary Ball, 1970
13-17	Annual meeting, 1977
6-69	Annual meeting minutes, 1931-44
3-2	Annual meeting programs, 1946-60
12-20 thru 21	Annual meetings, 1964-78
22-12 thru 15	Annual meetings and reports, 1944-79
7-26 thru 28	Annual meetings and reports, 1945-55
12-17 thru 19	Annual reports, departmental and general, 1960-70
4-25	"Arab World In Perspective," 1978-79
6-35	Argentinians, 1962
18-21	Armenians, 1917-45
18-16	Armenians, 1938-44
3-18	Art Museum project, 1926-27
21-35	Auditor's report, 1973
22-10 thru 11	Auxiliary Committee; meetings, correspondence, 1950-52
6-34	Balkan Folk Ensemble, 1959
6-51	Baltic Nations, 1953-62
13-41	Baseball; Global World Series, 1956
18-17	Belgians, 1941-44
6-49 thru 50	Belgians, 1944-63
20-30	Bilingual education, 1975-76
7-29	Board of Directors; agendas and notices, 1953-55
7-37	Board of Directors; corres., 1945-53
13-31	Board of Directors; corres., 1956-60
13-8	Board of Directors; member list, 1944-69
22-16 thru 25	Board of Directors; minutes, meeting materials, 1944-53
23-1 thru 24	Board of Directors; minutes, meeting materials, 1954-80
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12-25 thru 26	Board of Directors, Members Council, committees; misc., 1958-63, 1977-78

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18-7	Boys' Club, 1967
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7-31	Budget hearings, 1945-58
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7-33	Building foundation stone, 1951
17-11	Building Fund, 1946-49
20-3	Building Fund; campaign, 1946
15-37	Building Fund; campaign, 1946-49
3-1	Building Fund; campaign publicity, 1949
9-9	Building Fund Committee, 1950-52
16-1 thru 18	Building Fund Committee; corres., reports, clippings, League of 1000, 1946-51
14-22	Building Fund; contributions, 1949-58
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10-7	Building Furnishings Fund Committee, 1950-51
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14-16	Chicago Consultation on Ethnicity, 1969
6-32	Chileans, 1952
18-13	China, 1922-43
6-31	Chinese, 1946-66
8-26	Chinese Americans, Association of, 1976-77
21-19	Chinese program, "Exploring: The Chinese Way," 1980
4-20	Christmas program, 1977
7-41	Citizenship class, 1954-55
7-40	Citizenship manual, 1953
20-10	Citizenship project, 1945-48
7-39	Citizenship promotion, 1950-55
9-1 thru 5	Clippings, <i>Detroit Free Press</i> , 1941-44
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8-1	Clippings, misc., 1920s-1930s
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20-12	Clippings, misc., 1947-51
21-6	Clippings, misc., 1971-80
12-7	Clippings, newsletters, misc., 1968-75
8-2 thru 4	Clippings, programs, misc., 1958-63
11-34	Coordinating Council on Human Relations, 1977
6-28	Colombians, 1952
13-12	Committee appointments, 1961-69
10-18	Committees list, 1951-55
13-5	Committees list, 1975-76
7-23	Common Council for American Unity; corres., 1953-58
10-24	Common Ground, 1945-46
1-38	Community projects; parades, fairs, 1960-64
6-29	Congolese, 1963
13-2 thru 3	Contributions, 1952-67
18-8	Correspondence, misc., 1946-66
2-1	Correspondence, misc., 1948-58
12-38 thru 40	Correspondence, misc., 1976-78
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14-25	Corsi, Edward; articles, speeches, 1955-57

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6-27	Cubans, 1960-67
20-25	Cultural Arts, 1980-81
6-26	Cyprus, 1964
18-19	Czechoslovaks, 1933-43
10-27	Deportation orders, U.S. Justice Department, 1953-54
14-4	Detroit Adventure, 1959-63
4-21	Detroit Adventure, 1978-79
20-27	Detroit Adventure, 1979
14-7	Detroit Adventure; corres., 1958-61
4-12	Detroit; census and housing data, 1970
10-32	Detroit Golden Jubilee, 1946
3-20	<i>Detroit News</i> project, 1937-38
10-33 thru 34	Detroit's 250th Anniversary, 1951
1-31	Dinner Club minutes, 1961-62
13-35	Displaced Persons and Refugees, Michigan Commission on, 1956-60
20-11	Displaced Persons, Michigan Commission on, 1949-50
10-28 thru 31	Displaced Persons, Michigan Commission on; resettlement, 1945-55
6-25	Dominican Republic, 1953
6-47	Dutch, 1947-53
15-11	Dutch immigration, 1956
14-8	East European Fund, Inc., 1952-54
15-10	Easter radio script, 1949
6-46	Eastern Orthodox churches and communities, 1959-61
6-45	Ecuadorians, 1953
14-12	Education, 1957-61
1-39	Educational Committee projects, 1960
5-10	Egyptian show, 1977
6-44	Egyptians, 1959-63
6-42	El Salvadorans, 1952
2-5 thru 15	Employment applications, 1967-70
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8-30	English/Culture Task Force; minutes, etc., 1976
5-11	Eskimo, Canadian, 1970s
6-41	Estonians, 1953-58
6-40	Ethiopians, 1961

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5-7	Ethnic wedding cakes; clipping, 1965
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8-5 thru 7	Executive Committee; meeting materials, 1965-71
12-23	Executive Committee; meetings, 1975, 1978
13-11	Executive Committee; minutes, corres., 1964-69
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15-25	Family picnic, 1957-59
7-8	Family Services, Group Work and Recreation; study for UCS, 1953
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3-21	Festival of Nations, 1939
6-23	Filipinos, 1952-64
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10-20	Finance Committee, 1948-53
12-1	Finance Committee, 1956-68
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18-20	Finns, 1926-42
3-19	First Generation Americans, Commission on; report, 1930
8-14	First Generation Americans, Commission on; report, National Conference on International Institutes, 1930
21-15	Flag presentation, 1979
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20-14	Hall of Nations; exhibit ("Objects of Faith"), 1980
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15-3	Human Relations Workshop, Wayne State University, 1958
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5-18	Hungary, 1964-78
6-8	Iceland, 1963
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7-5	Immigration laws and regulations, 1945-49
7-6	Immigration legislation, 1946-47, 1964
17-9	Immigration manual, 1948
15-5	Immigration, Michigan Commission on, 1956-60
11-21	Immigration, Michigan Committee on, 1952-55
13-18	Immigration seminars and conferences, 1978
2-3	Immigration statistics, 1956
4-3	Immigration to U.S.; article in <i>Social Work Today</i> , 1939
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8-24	Indian Center, Detroit, 1976
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1-24	Inter American Center, 1943-44
11-16	Inter-department cooperation, 1952-59
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8-29	International Gourmet Dinner, 1972
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3-13	International Institute; survey to establish, 1925-26

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20-2	Sickels, Alice; miscellaneous, 1949-52
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11-9	Syrian-Lebanese Committee; minutes, corres., 1947
6-24	Syrians, 1946-60
4-27	Talk and Tour program, 1970-72
13-7	Talk and Tour program, 1971-74
20-15	Talk and Tour program; corres., 1975-76
15-8	Theater, 1947-57
1-8	Transition Committee; minutes, corres., 1944-45
1-12	Travelers Aid Society of Metropolitan Chicago; annual report, 1967
4-18	UCS (United Community Services), 1973-78
1-7	UCS Citizens' Survey Follow-Up Committee, 1953-54

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6-57	Uruguayans, 1953
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10-14 thru 16	Volunteer Committee, 1950-59
13-4	Volunteers, 1961-75
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7-11	Volunteers of International Institute; meeting proceedings, 1951
20-6	War brides, 1945-47
8-11	Welfare and immigrants, 1977
6-55	Welsh, 1960-63
6-54	Wends, 1951
6-53	West Indians, 1957
1-29	Women immigrants; <i>Quarterly Bulletin for International Institutes, Foreign Communities Departments, and Others Working with Women and Girls of Foreign Background</i> , 1936
3-29	Women's Americanization Committee of Detroit; minutes, 1917
9-11	Woodall information dinner, 1952
13-26	World Study Council of Detroit, 1945-46
15-14	World War II internees, 1952
8-21	Your Heritage House, 1975
5-13	Yugoslavia, n.d.

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6-68	YWCA National Board; bulletins, 1924
7-1	YWCA National Board; questionnaire, 1943-45
3-31	YWCA National Office; news packets for International Institutes, 1931-34
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