

# NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN-- INDIANAPOLIS SECTION COLLECTION, 1915-1985

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**Collection #**  
**M 539**  
**OM 280**

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Processed by:  
Wilma Gibbs  
5 June 1995

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## USER INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 8 manuscript boxes and 2 oversized folders

COLLECTION DATES: Inclusive 1915-1985; Bulk 1982-1985

PROVENANCE: Shirley Herd, Indianapolis, Indiana, 13 June 1985

RESTRICTIONS: None

REPRODUCTION RIGHTS: Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the Indiana Historical Society.

RELATED HOLDINGS: None

ACCESSION NUMBER: 85.0622

NOTES: The National Council of Negro Women--Indianapolis Section was donated during the Black Women in the Middle West Project.

The Black Women in the Middle West Project was a collecting effort to gather primary source materials of African-American women in Illinois and Indiana. The project, spearheaded by Darlene Clark Hine and Patrick Bidelman at Purdue University, was conducted in three phases from 1977-1985. Project records are located at five repositories

within the two states including the Indiana Historical Society (IHS) [also houses the project's administrative records], Calumet Regional Archives, and the Northern Indiana Historical Society in Indiana and the Chicago Historical Society and the Illinois State Historical Society in Illinois. (Although the implementation phase of the project was from 1984-1985, several of the collections were donated to IHS in 1986).

Additional information about the project is contained in *The Black Women in the Middle West Project: A Comprehensive Resource Guide, Illinois and Indiana* (E185.6 .B53 1986), edited by Hine and Bidelman, et al. and Wilma L. Gibbs's article, "In Retrospect: The Black Women in the Middle West Project at the Indiana Historical Society," In *Indiana's African-American Heritage: Essays from Black History News & Notes* (E185.93 .I4 B52 1993).

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## HISTORICAL SKETCH

According to its constitution, the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW)--Indianapolis Section was established to promote unity of action among all women in matters affecting the educational, cultural, economic, social, and political life of the community; to collect, interpret, disseminate, and preserve information affecting women and girls; and to work for the complete elimination of any and all forms of discrimination and segregation based on race, religion, color, national origin, and sex. In 1979, members of the organization worked with Purdue University Professor and Vice-Provost, Darlene Clark Hine, to publish *When the Truth is Told: A History of Women's Culture and Community in Indiana, 1879-1950*.

The book was the impetus for the Black Women in the Middle West project, a collecting effort to gather photographs and manuscripts of African-American women in Illinois and Indiana during the 1980s.

Like its national organization founded by Mary McCloud Bethune in 1935, NCNW--Indianapolis Section performs many service activities. The organization has sponsored youth groups; a Mental Health Gift Lift; programs about weight control, alcoholism, voter registration, volunteerism, and self-awareness, a Newcomer Tea for all women new to the Indianapolis area, and annual black history observances. NCNW--Indianapolis Section has also completed service projects in conjunction with other organizations including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the United Negro College Fund.

Helen Clay is the current president of the organization. Past presidents include Shirley Herd and Amanda Strong.

Source: Materials in the collection.

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## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of 8 manuscript boxes and 2 oversized folders of materials related to the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW)--Indianapolis Section. Boxes 1 and 2 contain the organization's constitution and by-laws, agendas and minutes, reports, directories, brochures, programs, financial records, and yearbooks. Boxes 2-4 contain specific information about various Hoosier women, some of who are/were associated with the organization. The material is in the form of correspondence, newsclippings, programs, forms, and certificates. Women organizations that are listed with the National Council of Negro Women can pay \$15.00 annually and send three representatives to become recognized affiliates of the local organization. In boxes 5-7, there is material related to several Indianapolis institutions and organizations, many of which are affiliated with NCNW--Indianapolis Section. Box 8 contains an address file of the organization.

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## BOX AND FOLDER LISTING

**BOX 1: NATIONAL; INDIANAPOLIS SECTION****Folder:**

- 1: Membership application
- 2: Elections
- 3: 39th National Convention
- 4: 40th National Convention
- 5: Donor forms
- 6: Black Woman's Voice
- 7: Coalition of Volunteer Advocates
- 8: Finances
- 9: Indianapolis Section-Constitution and By-laws
- 10: Indianapolis Section-Minutes and Agendas 1975-1981, n.d.
- 11: Indianapolis Section-Correspondence-to Shirley Herd 1978-1985, n.d.
- 12: Indianapolis Section-Correspondence-from Shirley Herd 1978-1984, n.d.
- 13: Indianapolis Section-Correspondence-Darlene Clark Hine to Shirley Herd
- 14: Indianapolis Section-Correspondence-others 1970-1982, n.d.
- 15: Indianapolis Section-Reports
- 16: Indianapolis Section-Committees 1974-1982, n.d.
- 17: Indianapolis Section-Membership
- 18: Indianapolis Section-Program 1971-1983, n.d.
- 19: Indianapolis Section-Elections 1979-1982, n.d.

**BOX 2: INDIANAPOLIS SECTION; INDIVIDUALS (A-D)****Folder**

- 1: Indianapolis Section-Directory 1976-1977
- 2: Indianapolis Section-Publicity 1982
- 3: Indianapolis Section-Newsletters 1979-1984, n.d.
- 4: Indianapolis Section-Brochures
- 5: Indianapolis Section-Yearbooks 1978-1981
- 6: Indianapolis Section-State activities 1980

- 7: Indianapolis Section-Black Women Middle West Project-Receipts
- 8: Indianapolis Section-Black Women Middle West Project-Photos
- 9: Indianapolis Section-Mary McLeod Bethune
- 10: Indianapolis Section-Careers Unlimited
- 11: Indianapolis Section-Finances
- 12: Indianapolis Section-Book orders
- 13: Indianapolis Section-Tickets
- 14: Indianapolis Section-Receipts
- 15: Indianapolis Section-Stationary
- 16: Indianapolis Section-Photographs
- 17: Indianapolis Section-Clippings 1976-1983, n.d.
- 18: Other sections
- 19: Black Women's History Project-Questionnaires
- 20: Juanite Watkins Alexander
- 21: Sue Artis
- 22: Emma Baker
- 23: Crystal Leora Ballard
- 24: Henrine Ward Banks
- 25: Verna Luemma (Davis) Banks
- 26: Mrs. Ernest Battles
- 27: Louise Terry Battles
- 28: Ruth Hamlin Bell
- 29: Rosemarie Gore-Bigbee
- 30: Geraldine H. Bradford
- 31: Billie Breaux
- 32: Alice Glover Brokenburr
- 33: Beatrice Brown
- 34: Cherry Brown
- 35: Dorothy Brown

36: Juanita White Brown

37: Alfreda Buckner

38: Mary Ellen Cable

39: Otelia Champion

40: Olivia Cole

41: Harriette Bailey Conn

42: Mattie Coney

43: Jeffrey Cox

44: Veanie Dawson

45: Virtea Downey

46: Shirley Graham Dubois

47: Oleatha Duvall

**BOX 3: INDIVIDUALS (E-I)  
Folder**

1: Pauline Eans

2: Anne Edwards

3: Elizabeth Enix

4:( OM 280) Elizabeth Enix (folder 1)

5: Flora B. Evans

6: Grace Wilson Evans

7: Shirley Richardson Evans

8: Bernice Fraction

9: Floyd Quartet

10: Nancy Gaddie

11: Flo Garvin

12: Mrs. Henri Gibson

13: (OM 280) Mrs. Henri Gibson (folder 2)

14: Lillian Goens-Correspondence

15: Lillian Goens-Programs

- 16: Lillian Goens-National Council of Negro Women
- 17: Lillian Goens-Federation of Associated Clubs
- 18: Lillian Goens-Republicans
- 19: Lillian Goens-Barnes United Methodist Church
- 20: Lillian Goens-United Methodist Women
- 21: Lillian Goens-Finances
- 22: Lillian Goens-Clippings
- 23: Naomi T. Gray
- 24: Teresa Greenwood
- 25: Nola Griffin
- 26: Ernestine Arrabelle (Standard) Grundy
- 27: Rita Guynn
- 28: Phyllis Hall
- 29: Sarah Virginia Hampton
- 30: Mamie Haskins
- 31: Shirley Herd-Correspondence 1976-1985, n.d.
- 32: Shirley Herd-Personal
- 33: Shirley Herd-Transcript
- 34: Shirley Herd-Certificates
- 35: Shirley Herd-The "her" Dimension
- 36: Martha Hill
- 37: Darlene Clark Hine
- 38: Lulah Roxie Hodge
- 39: Tommie Beatrice Holland
- 40: Mrs. Millard Hughes
- 41: Louise Ingram

**BOX 4: INDIVIDUALS (J-W); SCRAPBOOK  
Folder**

- 1: Jessie Jacobs

- 2: Emma O. Johnson
- 3: Ada Abrams Jones
- 4: Harriet Clark Kelly
- 5: Nettie Scott King
- 6: Ethel Kuykendall
- 7: Janet Langhart
- 8: Anna Bell Lewis
- 9: Flora Bell Lewis (Evans)
- 10: Mother Mary Lively
- 11: Daisy R. Lloyd
- 12: Lucretia Lawson Love
- 13: Millie Hoffman Lyda
- 14: Bertha McDonald
- 15: Ella B. Meriwether
- 16: Ellen Thomas Merriweather
- 17: Mayme White Miller
- 18: Marieta Taylor-Morrison
- 19: Emarita Murphy
- 20: Maenell H. Newsome
- 21: Dr. Hattie Rose Williams Olateru-Olagbegi
- 22: Marjorie C. Parker
- 23: Blanch Patterson
- 24: June Evelyn Payne
- 25: Zellie M. Peoples (Mrs. R.H.)
- 26: Clara M. Phillips
- 27: Faye H. Price
- 28: Zerah Priestly
- 29: Roselyn Richardson

30: Senovia Robinson  
31: Nellie B. Rogers  
32: Bertha Ross  
33: Patricia Russell  
34: Sallie W. Stewart  
35: Yetteva Teresa Stiggars Sanders  
36: Hessie and Bessie Siler  
37: Barbara Sizemore  
38: Mary Southern  
39: Sister Demetria (Catherine Smith)  
40: Osma Sprulock  
41: Lillian Stevenson  
42: Sallie Wyatt Stewart  
43: Mary Stokes  
44: Frances Stout  
45: Cassie Swarn  
46: Jocelyn Tandy  
47: Nellie Taylor  
48: Willa Thomas  
49: Francesca Thompson  
50: Alice D. Tinsley  
51: Mamie L. Townsend  
52: Bessie Turner  
53: Mary Van Buren  
54: Mary Venerable  
55: Hattie Hodge Wadsworth  
56: Phyllis Wheatley Waters  
57: Judy Waugh  
58: Jesse White



59: Betty Wilson

60: Emma Wilson

61: Florabelle Wilson

62: Stella Woodall

63: Naomi Wortham

64: Scrapbook-musicians

**BOX 5: CLIPPINGS; ORGANIZATIONS (A-N)  
Folder**

1: Clippings 1915-1984, nd.d

2: Organizations

3: Alpha Home

4: Alpha Kappa Alpha

5: Alpha Sigma Philos

6: J. Bailey Company

7: Bethel Home for Happy Children-Korea

8: Debonaire Civic Club

9: Delta Sigma Theta

10: Federation of Associated Clubs

11: Flamingo Club

12: Freetown Village

13: Four Leaf Clover Club

14: Girls Club of America

15: Happy Gardener's Club

16: Harrison County

17: Indiana Association of Business Communicators

18: Indiana Federation of Colored Women's Clubs

19: Indiana State Symphony Society

20: Indianapolis Music Promoters

21: International Girl Aid League

- 22: International Welcoming Committee
- 23: Lewis Business College
- 24: Lockfield Gardens
- 25: Methodist Churches
- 26: National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
- 27: National Association for the Advancement of Colored People-Miami County
- 28: Northwest Civic Association

**BOX 6: ORGANIZATIONS (O-T)  
Folder**

- 1: Old Settlers Social and Civic Club
- 2: Phyllis Wheatley Home
- 3: Rain or Shine Club
- 4: Republican Party
- 5: St. Pierre Ruffin Club
- 6: School of Christian Mission
- 7: Sigma Gamma Rho
- 8: Society of American Archivists
- 9: Three Sistes Nursing Home, Inc.
- 10: Top Ladies of Distinction-Correspondence 1981-1985, n.d.
- 11: Top Ladies of Distinction-Agendas 1984-1985, n.d.
- 12: Top Ladies of Distinction-Constitution; Protocol
- 13: Top Ladies of Distinction-Officers
- 14: Top Ladies of Distinction-Committees
- 15: Top Ladies of Distinction-"Status of Women" Committee 1981-1982, n.d.
- 16: Top Ladies of Distinctio -Top Teens 1985, n.d.
- 17: Top Ladies of Distinction-Activities 1984-1985, n.d.
- 18: Top Ladies of Distinction-Cotton Ball
- 19: Top Ladies of Distinction-Membership
- 20: Top Ladies of Distinction-Newsletters 1984-1985

- 21: Top Ladies of Distinction-Other Chapters
- 22: Top Ladies of Distinction-The Crown Paper
- 23: Top Ladies of Distinction-Certificate
- 24: Top Ladies of Distinction-Finances 1983-1984
- 25: Top Ladies of Distinction-Clippings

**BOX 7: ORGANIZATIONS (T-W); MISCELLANEOUS Folder**

- 1: Twelve of Us
- 2: United Auto Workers
- 3: United Negro College Fund
- 4: Volunteer Action Center
- 5: The Women's Council
- 6: Woman's Improvement Club
- 7: Programs-Churches
- 8: Programs-Miscellaneous
- 9: Miscellaneous Correspondence
- 10: Walk Along With Us
- 11: Walk Along With Us
- 12: Miscellaneous Receipts

**BOX 8: ADDRESSES Folder**

- 1: Addresses (A-G)
- 2: Addresses (H-M)
- 3: Addresses (N-W)
- 4: Addresses (A-M)
- 5: Addresses (Mc-W)

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**CATALOGUING INFORMATION**

MAIN ENTRY: National Council of Negro Women. Indianapolis Section

SUBJECT ENTRIES: National Council of Negro Women. Indianapolis Section

Black Women in the Middle West Project

Top Ladies of Distinction

Goens, Lillian Marie, d. 1984

Herd, Shirley M.

Afro-American women--Indiana--Indianapolis--Societies and clubs

Women--Indiana--Indianapolis--Societies and clubs

Afro-Americans--Indiana--Indianapolis--Social conditions

Clubs--Indiana--Indianapolis

Civil rights--Indiana--Indianapolis

END