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**H09-1685.** American Association of University Women (AAUW), Holland Branch. Records, 1938-2008. 3.00 linear ft.

**Abstract**

The Holland branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) was organized in September 1938 by twenty-three women who elected Mrs. James Warner as president. Membership consists of women holding degrees from approved universities and colleges. By 1949, membership had grown to seventy, partly due to Hope College alumnae being approved for AAUW membership. The organization has been involved in many local activities, including providing scholarships for college students, holding an annual book sale for the public, and promoting the RIF (Reading Is Fundamental) program in area elementary schools. Collection includes minutes, newsletters, yearbooks, treasurer’s reports, RIF records, pamphlets, and scrapbooks with newspaper clippings and photographs from 1938-2000.

**Accession No:** H09-1685  
**Provenance:** AAUW, Holland Branch  
**Donor:** AAUW, Barbara Schipper  
**Photographs:** 39 images (Box 1)  
**Processed by:** Elaine Bruins, April 2009

**History**

The Holland Branch of AAUW was organized in September 1938 by twenty-three women interested in focusing on local issues. Mrs. James Warner was elected president, and the organization quickly grew. By 1949, seventy women belonged and Hope College was approved for alumnae to become members. The club hosted the state convention in 1947. A scholarship fund was established in 1950, and the first used book sale to raise money for the fund was held in 1951. The book sale continues to be an important community project. AAUW also has been active in promoting the RIF (Reading Is Fundamental) program in the community since 1973. The members meet monthly and study political, women’s rights, and educational issues, as well as other topics of interest. Gerald R. Ford was the speaker at the November 1949 meeting.

**Scope and Content**

The collection in Box 1 is arranged alphabetically and includes minutes, newsletters, yearbooks, treasurer’s reports, RIF records, and pamphlets. Box 2 contains 6 scrapbooks with newspaper clippings and photographs from 1938-2000.

**Container List**

**Box 1**

Applications and Awards for 5-Star Branch Status, 1994-1999  
American Association of University Women (AAUW), Holland Branch
H09-1685

Charter and By-Laws, 1979, 1997-1998
History
  Local AAUW Organization, 1938-1978
  National AAUW Organization, 1881-1996
History Trunk, 1996
Membership Roster, 1979
Minutes, 1981-2001
Newsletter, 1984-2001
Officers, 2002
Pamphlets
  “The Ladies Repository,” March 1863
  “The Lily,” 1852
  “Michigan Women’s Suffrage, A Political History,” 1995
  “Missing the Sea,” Carol Haerdink, 1997
Play, “Archives Escapees” by Sandra Hansen, 1997
Policy Sheet, 1971-1973
President’s Records, 2004-2005
President’s Reports, 1953-1998
RIF—Reading is Fundamental, 1973-2001
Scrapbook, 1938-2000
Strategic Plan Review, January, 1998
Tape, “Archives Escapees,” 1997
Treasurer’s Reports, 1979-2001
A Woman’s Declaration of Independence, 1848

Box 2

Newspaper clippings, n.d.
Scrapbooks (copies included), 1954-2000 (10 folders)