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**Young Women's Christian Association of Brooklyn**  
**Accession #2011-001**



<b>Dates</b>	Inclusive dates: 1888-2011
<b>Extent</b>	Approximately 230 boxes Archival materials in mixed formats
<b>Creator</b>	Young Women's Christian Association of Brooklyn
<b>Physical Access</b>	Papers are currently <b>closed</b> for research.
<b>Technical Access</b>	Multimedia subgroup requires special equipment for viewing, some of which is not available onsite. Please contact Brooklyn College Library Archives and Special Collections with questions.
<b>Copyright</b>	Copyright retained by YWCA.
<b>Languages</b>	English
<b>Finding Aid</b>	The guide is available in-house and online.

<b>Acquisition/Appraisal</b>	This collection was donated to Brooklyn College in 2011 by the Brooklyn YWCA.
<b>Conservation</b>	Many Minutes, scrapbooks, and photographs within the collection suffer from embrittlement or mold accumulation. Further action is needed to ensure the preservation of these materials.
<b>Description Control</b>	Finding aid content adheres to that prescribed by <i>Describing Archives: Content Standard</i> . Finding aid written by Steven Calco, 2013.
<b>Preferred Citation</b>	Item, folder title, box number, Young Women's Christian Association of Brooklyn, Brooklyn College Archives and Special Collections, Brooklyn College Library
<b>Related Materials</b>	Related materials may be found at Smith College Archives: YWCA of the U.S.A. Records, 1860-2002
<b>Subject Headings</b>	Adolescence--United States--History--20th century. African Americans--Civil rights--History--20th century. Race relations--United States--History. Women--Employment--History. Women--Suffrage--New York (State)--New York. Working class women--United States--History--20th century. World War, 1914-1918--War work--Young Women's Christian Association. World War, 1939-1945--Women--United States. Young Women's Christian Association (Brooklyn, N.Y.)

## Collection Outline

### Sub-Group I: Scrapbooks

Series 1: Scrapbooks

### Sub-Group II: Photographs

Series 2: Photographs / Negatives / Slides

### Subgroup III Multimedia

Series 3: Videocassette / Audiocassettes

### Sub-Group IV: Minutes

Series 4: Branch and Departmental Minutes

### Sub-Group V: Financial Records

Series 5: Payroll

Series 6: Receipts and Disbursements

Series 7: Financial Ledgers

Series 8: Audits

Series 9: Fundraising Records

### Sub-Group VI: YWCA Reports

Series 10: Annual Reports

Series 11: Branch Reports

### Sub-Group VII: Central Branch Construction Records

Series 12: Central Branch Construction Records

### Sub-Group VIII: Ephemera

Series 13: Ephemera

## Series Statements

### Sub-Group I: Scrapbooks, 1898-1979

#### Series 1: Scrapbooks

This series contains scrapbooks detailing the history of the Brooklyn YWCA through newspaper clippings, photographs, programs, correspondence, and a wide variety of print materials. The scrapbooks are arranged chronologically and span the years 1898-1979.

The Brooklyn YWCA scrapbooks were in very poor condition when they were donated to the Brooklyn College Archives due to embrittlement, water damage, and mold accumulation. In order to stabilize the deterioration of the scrapbooks, Brooklyn College's Conservator Slava Polishchuk took several steps to minimize the physical handling of these brittle materials. First, the original scrapbooks were photographed in their entirety to maintain the scrapbook's original order. When possible, each document that was pinned or glued to the pages was carefully removed and all items were encapsulated into protective Mylar sleeves. These items along with the original scrapbook binding were placed in a hand-made archival box constructed by Mr. Polishchuk. The materials and intense labor needed to preserve five scrapbooks was made possible by generous donations from Mary Hughes, Dan Allen, Sandra Abramson, Margarete Tropnas, and David Lee.

Each scrapbook within this series represents a pivotal time in YWCA history. The 1898 scrapbook contains printed material from the inception of the organization. Items within the scrapbook represent the Brooklyn YWCA's activities regarding social and educational programs geared toward female factory workers and immigrants as well as their tireless advocacy for women's suffrage and fair working conditions in the city. The 1930s scrapbooks highlight the branches of the YWCA that developed to support women within different Brooklyn neighborhoods including the Ashland Branch that helped support African American women and the International Branch which supported immigrant women.

The scrapbooks from the 1910s and 1940s offer a glimpse into the Brooklyn YWCA's war efforts. Scrapbooks from the late 1910s highlight the Brooklyn YWCA's involvement in the United War Work Campaign by catering to soldiers at Hostess Houses, knitting surgical dressings and clothing for soldiers overseas, recruiting war workers, and highlighting the YWCA's fundraising efforts for the war. The organization nationwide was able to raise fifteen million dollars for the war campaign by 1918. The 1940s scrapbooks highlight the Brooklyn YWCA's war efforts during WWII. Through programs, one can see how the YWCA gave members the opportunity to take courses in first aid and nutrition with the Red Cross as well as volunteer with the United Service Organization. Clippings also show the 'Work for Victory' program, which encouraged African American women within the Ashland Branch to speak against discrimination and "win equality in the war for world freedom." Administrative Secretary Edward Strong of the American Youth Congress spoke to a group of African American women proclaiming that "the great historic hour of Negro women has struck. Conditions are now more favorable for breaking down discrimination than ever in the United States." The WWII era scrapbooks highlight the YWCA's fight for civil rights and racial integration. The organization officially attained racial integration on March 4, 1943.

The 1960 and 1970s scrapbooks highlight the YWCA's fight for women's rights and how the organization provided educational and emotional support for women in need. Much of the information within the 1960s scrapbook centers around the YWCA's educational programs including Twilight Classes aimed at women who worked during the day, high school equivalency classes, and nursing school classes. By the 1970s, the Brooklyn YWCA provided support services for women who were victims of violence, dealing with poverty and unemployment, and suffering from stress and anxiety. Flyers within these scrapbooks also depict the YWCA's role in the women's rights movement. One flyer from the 1972 YWCA annual meeting at the Central Branch depicts guest speaker Rep. Shirley Chisolm speaking about the state of women's rights fifty-six years after women's right to vote.

## Container List

### Sub-Group I: Scrapbooks, 1899-1979

Series 1: Scrapbooks

Box 1-3

Scrapbook 1898-1915 (Conservation of this item was achieved through a generous donation from Mary Hughes)

Box 4

Scrapbook 1935-1936 (Conservation of this item was achieved through a generous donation from Dan Allen)

Box 5

Scrapbook 1941-1949 (Conservation of this item was achieved through a generous donation from Sandra Abramson)

Box 6

Scrapbook 1960-1963 (Conservation of this item was achieved through a generous donation from Margarete Tropnas)

Box 7

Scrapbook 1970s (Conservation of this item was achieved through a generous donation from David Lee)