

Italian Welfare League Addendum CMS.003A

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Center for Migration Studies

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Summary Information

Repository	Center for Migration Studies
Creator	Italian Welfare League.
Title	Italian Welfare League Addendum
Date [inclusive]	1922-2016
Extent	5.0 Linear feet 9 document boxes
Location	CMS.003A is housed at the Center for Migration Studies headquarters, 307 East 60th Street, Third Floor, New York, New York 10022.
Language	English
Language of Materials	Collection 003A is primarily in English, however there are newspaper clippings and documents written in Italian and Latin.
Abstract	<p>In 1920, a group of Italian-American women founded the Italian Welfare League to aid poor Italian immigrant families in New York City. The Welfare League aided newly arrived Italian immigrants at Ellis Island, and offered continued assistance at their office. This assistance was crucial in helping immigrants manage complicated restrictions, quotas, and policies that at the time were designed to control Italian immigration. As the issues facing the Italian-American community evolved, the organization expanded to fundraising through annual galas and luncheons such as the Autumn in New York fashion show or the Rose Petal Ball, and used these funds for the care of Italian-Americans in need. This collection contains Board and Presidential correspondence, event planning, and records of immigration cases.</p>

Preferred Citation

Center for Migration Studies of New York; Collection Name (Collection Number 003A); Box 1-9; Folder 1-129.

Biographical/Historical Note

For the history of the Italian Welfare League see collection #003.

Scope and Contents

CMS.003A is a second deposit of materials from the Italian Welfare League. This deposit complements the original and also extends it. In this deposit one finds minutes going back to the incorporation of the Italian Welfare League and continuing through the twenty-first century, with a big gap in the late 1930s and early 1940s, when the United States was at war with Italy and most Italian-American organizations disbanded or laid low. There are also financial documents and some photographs from the Italian Welfare League's earliest days. However, CMS.003A is most useful for coverage of the Italian Welfare League from 1970 to the early 1990s. The League changed its focus from Italian immigrant assistance to raising and distributing funds to Italian-American families, particularly those with special-needs children. This collection extensively documents their annual fundraising events, especially the development of the Autumn in New York luncheon. The collection also shows where the money went: to scholarships, to families who lost a member in 9/11, and to pay medical bills, especially innovative treatments not yet covered by insurance companies. CMS.003 and 003A together document the ongoing management of a not-for-profit. Press releases and photographs document the Italian Welfare League's self-presentation; four folders of clippings indicate how the organization was seen in its community. The collection has much to offer researchers of Italian-American history, women in history, child welfare, and the development of not-for-profit agencies.

Arrangement

Series I: Board of Directors

Series II: Minutes:

Series III: Presidential Correspondence

Series IV: Records of Pre-existing Organizations

Series V: Financial Records

Series VI: Press and Publicity

Series VII: Events

Series VIII: Miscellaneous

Series IX: Photographs

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Center for Migration Studies July 22, 2016

Conditions Governing Access

Open to researchers by appointment.

Conditions Governing Use

Copyright is owned by the Center for Migration Studies. Permission to publish materials must be requested before use.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

This collection was donated after 1987 from the Italian Welfare League headquarters.

Processing Information note

In 2016, this collection was entered into the Archivists' Toolkit in compliance with DACS. Folder titles in the container list online may vary from the the physical folder titles.

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note

CMS.003, Italian Welfare League Records

Controlled Access Headings

Geographic Name(s)

- Italian American Women |New York (State) |New York

Subject(s)

- Children |x Services for
- Emigration and immigration |z United States
- Immigrant families |x Services for |z United States.
- Italian Americans |x Economic conditions.

Board of Directors

Collection Inventory

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Membership Application	1	6
Membership Dues	1	7
Membership Lists	1	8
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Minutes 1922-2002		
	Box	Folder

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