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Swedish-American Archives of Greater Chicago
Manuscript Collection #42
United Nordic Folk Dancers of America League Records, 1932-1957

ABSTRACT: The records of the United Nordic Folk Dancers of America League consist of officers' correspondence, membership and financial records, a 20th anniversary publication, and materials on the League's public programs. The collection also includes the organization's newsletter, the United Nordic Folk Dancers of America *Herald*, dating from the years 1938-1957. The *Herald* offers information about the activities of the League, as well as descriptions of various member groups' activities.

HISTORY: Inspired by the positive audience response at the George Washington Bicentennial Festival in Chicago (1932), Swedish, Norwegian and Danish folk dancers decided to form one League, uniting their individual dance groups under an umbrella organization. The first official meeting of the United Nordic Folk Dancers of America League was held on August 22, 1932. The executive board, composed of two people from each nationality, was charged with establishing the rules and purpose of the group. The stated purpose of the organization was to promote Scandinavian Folk Dancing in the United States and to create a feeling of "good neighbors" between the Scandinavian countries. The decided intent of the League was to "annually bring together all the allied clubs in the form of a Folk Dance Exhibition, Election of officers, and a Banquet." By the 1940's, the board was meeting once a month and the entire League was meeting for a party in March, a picnic in August, and a convention in November. Along with these gatherings, they performed at a variety of cultural festivals around the Midwest. The League also published a newsletter, the *Herald*, which kept members updated on the activities of the various clubs in the group.

ACCESS RESTRICTIONS: There are no access restrictions on the materials, and the collection is open to all members of the public. However, the researcher assumes full responsibility for conforming with the laws of libel, privacy, and copyright that may be involved in the use of this collection.

CONTAINER LIST:

BOX	FOLDER	FOLDER TITLE	SPAN DATES
1	1	Bylaws and Rules/Regulations	1932
1	2	Clippings	1932-1933
1	3	Correspondence	1932-1935
1	4	Correspondence	1936-1937
1	5	Correspondence	1938-1939
1	6	Correspondence	1940-1941

1	7	Correspondence	1942-1946
1	8	Correspondence	1947-1949
1	9	Correspondence	1950-1952
1	10	Correspondence, Danish Consulates	March-April 1950
1	11	Correspondence, Norwegian Consulates	March-April 1950
1	12	Correspondence, Swedish Consulates	November 1949-June 1950
1	13	Correspondence	1953-1955
1	14	Finance	November 1952-March 1957
1	15	Guest Book	c. 1935
1	16	Historical information	c. 1933
1	17	Membership information	n.d.
1	18	Membership information, “Vital Statistics”	1939-1955
1	19	Minutes, Executive Committee	1945, 1953, 1954
2	1	*Picturization of Selected Folk-Dances*	n.d.
2	2	Programs	1932-1950
2	3	20th Anniversary Program	1952
2	4	*United Nordic Folk Dancers Herald*, Newsletter	1938-1946
2	5	*United Nordic Folk Dancers Herald*, Newsletter	1947-1953, 1957