Overview of the Collection

Collection Title: Greater Los Angeles Press Club Collection
Dates: 1948-1999
Identification: URB/GLAPC
Creator: Greater Los Angeles Press Club
Physical Description: 9.67 linear feet
Language of Materials: English
Repository: Urban Archives

Abstract: The Greater Los Angeles Press Club was formed following World War II. The Club operated a café and cocktail lounge for their members from 1960 through the 1980s, but as interest in gathering there waned, offices were leased instead. During the early 1970s the Press Club actively defended freedom of the press and the rights of newsmen, protesting the arrest of journalist William Farr. The collection consists of newsletters and administrative files generated by the Greater Los Angeles Press Club, which document such events as the arrest of journalist William Farr during the Charles Manson trial in the early 1970s, correspondence regarding numerous First Amendment issues, and the club's annual Headliner Awards ceremony.

Historical Note:
Founded just after 1900, the Los Angeles Press Club was initially located at 327 South Hill Street where it served as a gathering spot for local journalists. The club shut down during the Great Depression, but following World War II the Greater Los Angeles Press Club was formed: "On September 24, 1946, newsmen from the surviving four daily newspapers founded the Greater Los Angeles Press Club. Since Los Angeles Press Club was taken by a nightclub we became the Greater...The nightclub is no longer around and we have repossessed [sic] our real name." The Club operated a café and cocktail lounge for their members from 1960 through the 1980s, but as interest in gathering there waned, offices were leased instead. During the early 1970s, the Press Club actively defended freedom of the press and the rights of newsmen, protesting the arrest of journalist William Farr. The club's president during this period was Dick Turpin (1919-2010), who spent 41 years with the Los Angeles Times, was a longtime board member of the GLPC, and was part of Watts Riot coverage team that won a Pulitzer Prize.
In the late 1990s, club president Bill Rosendahl recruited young working journalists to the club, many of whom he was able to persuade to run for the elected Board of Directors, and in subsequent years membership revived.
The Greater Los Angeles Press Club has sponsored numerous seminars, Town Hall gatherings, and social events featuring prominent figures in politics, culture, and the film industry. The Club has launched outreach efforts to international, minority, freelance, and gay journalists, and its International Journalists Caucus is rapidly expanding. "One of the club's most serious missions is to persuade local governments to obey existing California laws by opening up public meetings and public documents to journalists and the public. The club is directing this effort via its Sunshine Coalition, which has already achieved moderate success in educating the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to stop violating the Brown Act, the state's open meeting law."
In 2003, the GLAPC was granted non-profit status, reflecting their efforts to provide public service events, and in 2005 they moved to an office above the Steve Allen Theater.

Genre/Form of Material:
Paper records
Photographic material
Publications

Accruals:
2010

Processing Information:
April Feldman and Jackie Zak, February 2010

Conditions Governing Use:
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**Conditions Governing Access:**
The collection is open for research use.

**Preferred Citation:**
For information about citing items in this collection consult the appropriate style manual, or see the Citing Archival Materials guide.

**Agness M. Underwood Collection**

**Arrangement of Materials:**
Series I: Administrative Files, 1948-1999
Series II: Annual Publication, 1957-1993
Series III: Monthly Newsletter, 1953-1999

**Scope and Contents**
The records of the Greater Los Angeles Press Club primarily consist of newsletters from the 1950s through the 1980s. In addition to these newsletters, the collection also includes office documents related to the arrest of journalist William Farr, following his refusal to reveal his source of information regarding the ongoing Charles Manson trial in the early 1970s, as well as correspondence between the Press Club and its members dealing with First Amendment issues: free press, the right of the people to know, and the rights of newsman to protect their sources. There is also correspondence pertaining to the Press Club’s annual Headliner Awards ceremony. The collection is arranged into three series: Administrative Files (1948-1999), Annual Publication (1957-1993), and Monthly Newsletter (1953-1999).

**Series I: Administrative Files, 1948-1999**
- Box 1, Folder 1: Farr, William: Articles and Correspondence, August 1972-1974 April 16
- Box 1, Folder 2: Farr, William: Articles and Newspaper Clippings, 1972 June 30-1974 April 17
- Box 1, Folder 3: Free Press: Articles and Correspondence, 1972 August 17-1973 March 16
- Box 1, Folder 4: Free Press: Articles and Newspaper Clippings, 1970 March 26-1973 January 10
- Box 1, Folder 5: Headliner: Correspondence and Programs, 1972 November 1-1973 November 29
- Box 1, Folder 6: Press Club: Correspondence, 1972 July 27-1999 December 27
- Flat File Cabinet 4, Folder 1: Photo, 1st Anniversary Luncheon, June 14, 1948
- Flat File Cabinet 4, Folder 2: Photo, Funeral Procession
- Flat File Cabinet 4, Folder 3: Photo, Leo the Lion, ca. December 1974

**Series II: Annual Publication, 1957-1993**
- Box 1, Folder 8: 8 Ball Final, 1957
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Series III: Monthly Newsletter, 1953-1999

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