

**The Ludlow Community Association Collection  
1954-2010**

**Location:** Local History Collection  
Shaker Heights Public Library  
Shaker Heights, Ohio 44120

**Processing Information:**

This collection was processed by David Wemer as part of a Senior Project for Shaker Heights High School in June 2010. Finding aid written by David Wemer in June 2010.

**Size:** 2 linear feet

**Access:** This collection is open for research use.

**Restrictions on Use and Copyright Information:**

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**Preferred citation:**

*Item title, date (if known), item or folder number, folder title, Local History Collection, Shaker Heights Public Library.*

**Provenance and Acquisition:**

Parts of this collection were donated to the Shaker Heights Public Library by former Ludlow Community Association President Kenneth Kovach in 2008. Additional parts of this collection were given to the Library by Ludlow resident and activist Pat Mazoh with the assistance of Kathryn Kay in 2008.

**Arrangement:**

Material is arranged alphabetically by series, sub-series, and folder title, and then chronologically when appropriate.

**Historical Note:**

The Ludlow Community Association (L.C.A.) and the Ludlow Company Inc. were founded in 1959 in the Ludlow neighborhood, which surrounds the Ludlow Elementary School and includes parts of both Shaker Heights and Cleveland, Ohio. The

L.C.A.'s mission was to maintain stable racial integration and property values of the Ludlow neighborhood.

In the years prior to the formation of the L.C.A., conditions in Cleveland prompted some African-American residents seeking economic and educational opportunities to purchase homes in Shaker Heights, particularly in the more affordable Ludlow neighborhood. In response, some white Ludlow residents, encouraged by "blockbusting" real estate agents, moved out of the Ludlow area. The first meeting of the L.C.A. was called following the fire bombing of the garage of prominent African-American lawyer and new Ludlow resident John Pegg. The Association was formed to maintain racial integration in Ludlow by encouraging whites to move into Ludlow and assisting them in obtaining financing.

With the help of financing from the Ludlow Company, the L.C.A. gave loans to many home-seeking white families with school-age children in order to ensure that the Ludlow neighborhood and school remained integrated. L.C.A. members held open houses and cookouts to expose would-be residents to the "Ludlow" style of life and to debunk the myths of racial integration. The L.C.A. promoted the beauty and convenience of the Ludlow neighborhood as well as the excellence of the Ludlow School in local newspapers in order to draw white families to the area. However, the goal of racial integration also meant that the L.C.A. needed to discourage African-American buyers from purchasing in Ludlow, lest the African-American population become too large in Ludlow to establish effective integration. This strategy of the L.C.A. drew criticism and affected many African-American L.C.A. members who in working for the ideal of racial integration, were forced to deny African-American buyers from purchasing in Ludlow. The L.C.A. Housing Program, however, did encourage African-American homebuyers to purchase homes in other mostly White neighborhoods of Shaker but success was minimal as most of the homes proved too costly.

The L.C.A. held many events to further the cause of racial integration in Shaker Heights and around the country. The L.C.A. hosted fundraisers with well-known entertainers such as Nancy Wilson and the 5<sup>th</sup> Dimension and Ella Fitzgerald. L.C.A. Open Houses also drew African and European envoys to Ludlow. Hawaiian Governor John Burns spoke at a L.C.A. event in 1964.

During the 1970s and early 1980s, the Ludlow neighborhood was recognized as a model community for racial integration around the nation. Numerous publications and politicians praised the efforts of the L.C.A. in providing a successful example of racial harmony. In Shaker Heights, other community associations were formed inspired by the L.C.A. model. The promotion of racial integration became a policy of the City of Shaker Heights with the formation of the Shaker Housing Office, modeled after the L.C.A.'s Housing program. The Shaker Housing Office's goal was to promote the purchasing of homes in mostly African-American south Shaker neighborhoods including Ludlow, Moreland and Lomond by white residents and the settling of African-Americans in the mostly White north Shaker neighborhoods of Boulevard, Onaway, Fernway Malvern and Mercer. The practices of the Shaker Housing Office, however, came under fire from both the L.C.A. and the public as allegations of racism were made because of perceived inequalities of the treatment of African-American and White potential home buyers.

In 1987, the Ludlow Elementary School was closed during the re-alignment of the Shaker Heights City School District. (The school was transformed into a day treatment

center for the Positive Education Program) In 2007, the L.C.A. celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and today continues to address and respond to issues such as violence and economic uncertainty that affects the Ludlow neighborhood.

References:

"History of the Ludlow Community Association." *Ludlow Community Association - Welcome*. Web. 02 June 2010. <<http://www.ludlowcommunity.org/history-main.htm>>.

Richter, Cynthia M. *Integrating The Suburban Dream: Shaker Heights, Ohio*. PhD Dissertation, University of Minnesota, 1999.

**Scope and Content:**

The Ludlow Community Association Collection consists of correspondence, newsletters, reports, newspaper clippings, photographs and other Ludlow Community Association (L.C.A.) material from the founding of the L.C.A. in 1957 until the present. The majority of the collection originates from the donations of Ludlow resident and activist Pat Mazoh and Ludlow Community Association President 1981-1982 Kenneth Kovach.

The Ludlow Community Association Collection includes substantial correspondence to and from the L.C.A., as well as L.C.A. Presidents William Insull, Alan Gressel, William Percy, Bernard Isaacs, Ronald Spetrino, and Kenneth Kovach; internal publicity and reporting of the L.C.A. in an assortment of *Ludlow News*, *Notes and Neighbors*, *Ludlow News* and *Ludlow Link* newsletters; external publications in the newspapers the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, the *Cleveland Press* and the *Sun Press* and other journals and periodicals in the years 1959-1984; various documents on the day-to-day activities of the L.C.A. including minutes, memoranda, constitutions, reports, budgets, and meeting notes; community outreach material such as handouts, booklets, and binders on fundraising concerts and L.C.A. events; and documents pertaining to the L.C.A.'s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration and recent activities

**Ludlow Community Association Collection  
Contents List**

**Series:** Community Associations

**Sub-series:** Ludlow

**Folder Titles:** 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 2007  
Annual Reports 1965-1980  
Autograph Books 1977-1978  
Binder, "Ella Fitzgerald," 1967  
Binder, "Nancy Wilson and the 5th Dimension,"  
1968  
Binder, "Look into Ludlow," circa 1964-1974  
Binder, "The Ludlow Community Association,"  
circa 1966-1974  
Booklets and Programs 1954-1973 and undated  
Budgets and Financial Statements 1963-1981  
Clippings 1959-1969  
Clippings 1970-1979  
Clippings 1980-1984  
Clippings 2000-present  
Clippings undated  
Constitution and Lease Documents 1965-1984  
Correspondence – General 1961-1982 and undated  
Correspondence – L.C.A. 1959-1968  
Correspondence – L.C.A. 1981-1984  
Correspondence – L.C.A. 2000-Present  
Correspondence – L.C.A. undated  
Correspondence – Ludlow Company Inc. 1968-  
1969  
Correspondence – Presidents 1963-1980 and  
undated  
Correspondence – Presidents – Alan Gressell 1964-  
1965  
Correspondence – Presidents – William Insull 1968-  
1969  
Correspondence – Presidents – Bernard Isaacs  
1960-1966  
Correspondence – Presidents – Kenneth Kovach  
1980-1983  
Correspondence – Presidents – William Percy 1964  
Correspondence – Presidents – Ronald Spetrino  
1964-1968  
Fliers and Handouts 1963-1986 and undated

Fliers and Handouts 2000-Present  
Handbooks 1979-1981  
History 1964  
Housing Data 1961 and undated  
Meeting Notes 1960-1966  
Meeting Notes Kenneth Kovach 1980-1982  
Membership and Residency Lists 1962-1984 and undated  
Memoranda 1981-1982  
Minutes – L.C.A. Executive Board Meeting, 1963-1968  
Minutes – L.C.A. Executive Board Meeting, 1980-1982  
Minutes and Speeches 1960-1984  
Minutes 2000-Present  
Newsletters – 1960-1968 (*Ludlow News, Notes, and Neighbors*)  
Newsletters – 1968-1982 (*Ludlow News*)  
Newsletters – 1992-present (*L.C.A. Newsletter* and *Ludlow Link*)  
Newsletters – external, 1964-1983  
Reports- 1960-1969  
Reports- 1970-1983 and undated  
Reports- “Ludlow Life” 1982  
Reports- “Shaker Square Garden Apartments: Architectural and Market Study,” December 1981  
Proclamations, 1984 and undated