

## Finding Aid for June Kleban Archival Collection

**Date range:** 1928-2015 and undated, bulk 1960s-2010s

**Finding aid created by:** Elizabeth Jones-Minsinger, April 2019

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**Extent:** 3.75 linear feet

### **Abstract:**

This collection consists primarily of materials collected by Arden and Ardentown resident June Kleban from her arrival in the villages in 1953 until the mid-2010s. The collection not only documents Kleban's deep involvement in village life, but also captures social, political, and artistic activities in the Ardens during this period.

**Accession number:** 2018.007.001

**Language:** Materials entirely in English

**Acquisition Information:** Gift of June Kleban

**Access Restrictions:** The collection is open for research.

**Conditions Governing Use:** Use of materials from this collection beyond the exceptions provided for in the Fair Use and Educational Use clauses of the U.S. Copyright Law may violate federal law. Permission to publish or reproduce is required from the copyright holder. Please contact Arden Craft Shop Museum, [ardencraftshopmuseum.com](http://ardencraftshopmuseum.com).

**Cite as:** [item], [folder number], June Kleban Collection, Arden Craft Shop Museum

### **Biographical Note:**

June Rieur Kleban was born in Flagtown, New Jersey, in 1923 and raised in Upper Montclair, New Jersey. A graduate of Montclair High School, she went on to attend what is now Douglas College, holding degrees in Agriculture and Library Science. As an undergraduate during World War II, she trained and worked on dairy farms as a volunteer with the Women's Land Army. After graduation, she worked as a research librarian at Rutgers University for Dr. Selman Waksman, and was in his employ when he was awarded the Nobel Prize in "Physiology or Medicine" in 1952.

June Rieur married Bernard Kleban in 1953 and settled in Arden, Delaware, where she

made her home for more than 65 years. She held other jobs and voluntary positions as a librarian including working at the Arden Library and her synagogue library. She later retired from many years working as a reference librarian at Delaware Technical and Community College. Kleban was a very active volunteer, supporter, and participant in the Ardens, particularly with the Arden Craft Shop Museum and the Arden Club, as well as with many other organizations including the League of Women Voters, Hadassah, Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Congregation, and the Delaware Humanities Forum. She was a great supporter of the arts and along with her husband, had a deep interest in art from Native American cultures, Asia, and local artists. She loved nature and adventure, and was an avid traveller into her 90s. Kleban was a musician, and spent many years leading the Arden Halloween Parade playing her accordion. She was also an enthusiastic local historian, and was always willing to share her wealth of knowledge with Arden School students, Arden Community Recreation Association (ACRA) participants, and the larger community of the Ardens.

June Kleban passed away in Ardentown, Delaware, on March 1, 2019.

**Scope and Content:**

This collection consists primarily of materials collected by Arden and Ardentown resident June Kleban from her arrival in the villages in 1953 until the mid-2010s. The collection not only documents Kleban's deep involvement in village life, but also captures social, political, and artistic activities in the Ardens during this period.

Although the collection contains only a small number of Kleban's personal papers, her research notes on the history of the Ardens and recollections of various village residents show her deep commitment to preserving community memory. Materials on the Arden Town Assembly, various village committees, and the Arden Trustees document the importance of strong, democratic participation to village governance. The collection is particularly rich in materials related to art, music, and theater in the Ardens. Many of the theater and concert programs feature annotations by Kleban, capturing her thoughts on various performances. The collection also highlights June Kleban's participation in numerous guilds, organizations, and community events, including the Merry-Go-Rounders, the Arden Community Recreation Association (ACRA), the Arden Dinner Guild, the Arden School, and the Over 80's Party. The materials document several local institutions and movements, including Arden Building and Loan, the Arden Craft Shop Museum, and the campaign to have the villages listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Finally, the collection contains newspaper clippings and other ephemera pertaining to various residents of the Ardens.

**Subjects:**

Arden (Del.)  
Ardentown (Del.)  
Theater  
Theaters--Delaware  
Arden Club (Arden, Del.)

**Container List:**

**Box 1**

**Series 1: Personal Papers, mostly undated**

F1: June Kleban notes, mostly undated

**Series 2: Village Governance, Committees, and Land Rents, 1965-2013 and undated**

F2: Arden Governance, 1967-2011 and undated

F3: Arden Trustees, 1987-2010 and undated

F4: Arden Leaseholders, 1983-1986

F5: Arden Town Assembly, 1965-1979

F6: Arden Town Assembly, 1980-1989

F7: Arden Town Assembly, 1990-1999 (1 of 3)

F8: Arden Town Assembly, 1990-1999 (2 of 3)

F9: Arden Town Assembly, 1990-1999 (3 of 3)

F10: Arden Town Assembly, 2000-2011 (1 of 3)

F11: Arden Town Assembly, 2000-2011 (2 of 3)

F12: Arden Town Assembly, 2000-2011 (3 of 3)

F13: Arden Civic Committee, 1972-2006

F14: Arden Community Planning Committee, 2000-2006 and undated

F15: Arden Safety Committee, 1977-2013 and undated

F16: Ardentown Governance, 1992-2011

**Series 3: Arden Publications, 1974-2000 and undated**

F17: Arden Publications, 1974-2000 and undated

F18: Arden Page, 1993-1996

**Series 4: Ardens Arts, Music, and Theater, 1940-2015 and undated**

F19: Arden Art and Artists, 1940-2013 and undated

F20: Arden Arts Assessment, 1997

F21: Dance, 1987-2006 and undated

F22: Music, 1958-2015 and undated

F23: Arden Gild Hall Music and Arden Concert Guild, 1998-2015 and undated

**Box 2**

**Series 4: Ardens Arts, Music and Theater, 1940-2015 and undated (continued)**

F24: ACRA Theater, 1983-2003 and undated  
F25: Arden Club Theatre, 1974-2008  
F26: Arden Players Guild, 1962-1989 and undated  
F27: Candlelight Music Dinner Theatre, 1975-2000 and undated  
F28: New Candlelight Theatre, 2004-2011 and undated  
F29: The Highway Ensemble, 1982-1987 and undated  
F30: Moonlight Theater, 1998-2000  
F31: Robin Hood Theatre, 1954-1957 and undated  
F32: Shakespeare Guild, 1996-2012 and undated  
F33: Shakespeare Guild, Young Actors Workshop, 2004-2013 and undated  
F34: Other Arden Theater, 1969-2009 and undated  
F35: The Brecks Mill Cronies, 1965-1976 and undated  
F36: Other Local Theater and Events, 1958-2008 and undated

**Series 5: Arden Club and Guilds, 1928-2015 and undated**

F37: Arden Club, 1980-2008 and undated  
F38: Arden Club Calendar, 1945, 1953-1991  
F39: Arden Club Calendar, 1992-2000  
F40: Arden Club Calendar, 2001-2013  
F41: Arden Dinner Guild, 1987-2009 and undated  
F42: Arden Library, 1980-2008 and undated  
F43: Ardensingers, ca. 1960-1977  
F44: Ardensingers, 1981-1999  
F45: Ardensingers, 2000-2005  
F46: Ardensingers, 2006-2015 and undated

**Box 3**

**Series 5: Arden Club and Guilds, 1928-2015 and undated (continued)**

F47: Georgist Guild, 1928-2010 and undated  
F48: Merry-Go-Rounders, 1977-2006 and undated  
F49: Merry-Go-Rounders, Scholarship Committee, 1994-2003 and undated  
F50: Arden Poetry Guild, 2014  
F51: Scholars Guild, 2012-2014 and undated  
F52: Swimming Guild and Pool, 1986-2006 and undated

**Series 6: Other Organizations and Community Activities, 2003-2013**

F53: Arden Dreamers, 2003-2004  
F54: Haiti Initiative, 2010-2013

**Series 7: Arden Community Recreation Association (ACRA), 1966-2015 and undated**

F55: ACRA, 1966-1994  
F56: ACRA, 1995-2015 and undated

F57: ACRA Directory, 1975-1994

F58: ACRA Directory, 1996-2006

F59: ACRA Children's Bags, undated

**Series 8: Events, 1955-2014 and undated**

F60: Arden Fair, 1955-2013 and undated

F61: Arden Fair Book Booth, 1998-2008 and undated

F62: Over 80's Party, 2000-2014 and undated

F63: Arden Centennial, 2000

F64: Other Events, 1992-2012 and undated

**Series 9: Arden School, 1964-2005 and undated**

F65: Arden School, 1964-2005 and undated

F66: Arden School Children Papers, 1968

**Series 10: Institutions and Buildings, 1954-2014 and undated**

F67: Arden Archives and Arden Craft Shop Museum, 1990-2014 and undated

F68: Arden Craft Shop Museum, Inc., 2001-2010

F69: Arden Building and Loan, 1961-2011 and undated

F70: Buzz Ware Village Center, 1995-2010 and undated

F71: Gild Hall (Building), 1996-2012

F72: Arden Businesses, 1954-2009 and undated

F73: Arden Real Estate, 1990-2012 and undated

**Box 4**

**Series 11: History of the Ardens, 1980-2009 and undated**

F74: National Register of Historic Places, 2000-2002

F75: Historic Marker, 1994 and undated

F76: Oral Histories, 1980-2009 and undated

F77: Arden History, General, undated

**Series 12: Environment, Traffic, and Zoning, 1969-2013 and undated**

F78: Environment, 1996-2013 and undated

F79: Stream Watch, 1986

F80: Roads and Traffic, 1969-2007 and undated

F81: Avery Property, 1997-2003 and undated

**Series 13: Ardens media, 1968-2016 and undated**

F82: Articles on the Ardens, 1968-2016 and undated

F83: Delaware Cougar Sighting, 1995-1996, 2000, 2015 and undated

**Series 14: Residents, ca. 1950s-2010s**

F84: Scott and Helen Nearing, 1971-1983 and undated

F85: Frank Harrison, 1998 and undated

F86: Harry Themal columns, 1990s-2010s and undated

F87: Bill Frank columns, 1955-1989 and undated

F88: News columns by other residents, 1988-2003

F89: Residents, ca. 1970s-2010s (1 of 3)

F90: Residents, ca. 1970s-2010s (2 of 3)

F91: Residents, ca. 1970s-2010s (3 of 3)

F92: Obituaries, 1980s-2010s