



The Swans Club





In 1960, Bobby Whitehead and Shirley Foster formed the Swan's Club and Debutante Program to promote self-improvement of Black youth and their own community.

Marcella “Susie” Pruitt reminisces how the Swans worked alongside the Home of Neighborly services, held extravagant gatherings and fundraisers.



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We had to use our expertise as young ladies and go out and request funds from friends, neighbors, businesses, all different types and the ads that we sold were on inside the book when it was.

-Jeanette Rhuebottom

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The Debutantes were adorned in white formal attire, taught to speak for themselves and give back to their community.

Former Debutantes proclaim the program as a cherished rite of passage into their community and the world.



Jeanette Rheubottom recalls the Deb. Program as: "Once you get the girls that want to be Debs., it's like one big happy family really. We work together."

Sources

Jeanette Rheubottom Oral History

Marcella "Susie" Oral History

<https://theswans1960.com/about>



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