Guide to the Congregation Ahavas Chesed Records

Descriptive Summary:

Creator: Congregation Ahavas Chesed

Title: Congregation Ahavas Chesed Records

Dates: 1923-1989 (bulk 1955-1983)

Quantity: 8.5 linear feet

Abstract: Minutes, ledgers, yearbooks, and booklets.

Accession: 96-09-302 ; 302-1996

Organizational History:

Congregation Ahavas Chesed was organized in 1894 by a group of Russian and Polish descent who were accustomed to practicing Orthodox Jewry. The Congregation, in 1952, affiliated with the Jewish Conservative Movement. Some of the groups established by the Congregation include the Ladies Aid Society, launched in 1908 but renamed Ahavas Chesed Sisterhood in 1954; the Jewish Progressive Club in 1930; the Men's Club and a branch of the United Synagogue Youth, both in 1953.

Scope and Contents:

Records include the Congregation's constitution and by-laws, board meeting minutes, financial statements, insurance records, audits, building fund ledgers, bulletins and yearbooks, membership information, material related to a recovered Holocaust Torah, synagogue booklets, documents pertaining to the Congregation's 100th anniversary, miscellaneous deeds and various publications. Also included are correspondence and notes of Rabbi Stanley Gerstein. In addition, there are papers associated with several Jewish organizations, including Sisterhood yearbooks, Chevra Kaddish, the Jewish Progressive Club, and United Synagogue Youth. Related Material: Whitlock, Rita S. *A Family Album: The Family of Congregation Ahavas Chesed, 1894-1994 (5655-5755)*. Mobile: Corporate Resource Associates, 1994.

Access Restrictions:

This material is open to research.

Preferred Citation:

Ahavas Chesed Records, The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library, University of South Alabama, Mobile, AL.

Content List:

Box 1

1. 100th Anniversary Book, copy
2. 100th Anniversary Photos
3. 100th Anniversary Letters, copies of
3A. Governor Jim Folsom Proclamation & Remarks, copy
3B. Mayor Mike Dow Proclamation, copy
4. Synagogue Booklets
5. Chevra Kaddish
6. Rabbi Gerstein Notes, 1982
7. 100th Anniverary Newspaper Articles
8. Miscellaneous
9. Miscellaneous Letters
10. Invitations
11. Constitution, Bylaws, Ritual Committee
12. Newspaper Articles
13. Sisterhood
14. Plots, Plans
15. Martyr's File
16. Miscellaneous Deeds
17. History
18. United Synagogue Youth
19. Cemetery

Box 2

1. Hadassah Yearbook
2. Rabbi Stanley Gerstein Correspondence
3. Miscellaneous Correspondence
4. Mitzvah Luncheon, 1966

5. Membership
6. Jewish Progressive Club
7. Old Stuff/Mysteries/Yiddish
8. Holocaust Torah
9. Board of Education/Sunday School
10. Scripts United Synagogue Youth/Sisterhood; Confirmation Exercises, Rabbi's Notes & Programs; Sisterhood Yearbooks, 1954-1982

Box 3

Sisterhood Yearbooks, 1983-1996
Congregation Yearbooks, 1953-1958
Board of Directors' Minutes, 1949, 1951
Congregation Minutes, 1932-1935
Funeral Notes, 1964-1969; Other Congregational Items
Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, 1955-1972
Board Meeting Minutes, 1923, 1938-1942

Box 4

Minutes (Various Notebooks), 1938-1942, 1944-1949, 1951-1954, 1966, 1970-1977, 1980-1985

Box 5

Congregation Bulletins (please note: volume sequence numbers changed in the 1970s; volumes/numbers were frequently wrong; the number of issues per year also varied.)

Vol. 1 - 1952 (only no. 1)
Vol. 1 - 1946 (only nos. 4, 6)
Vol. 1 - 1958 (only nos. 1, 2)
Vol. 3 - 1948 (only no. 6)
Vol. 4 - 1954-1955 (missing nos. 1, 2)
Vol. 5 - 1955-1956 (complete)
Vol. 6 - 1956-1957 (missing no. 1-3, 4-37)
Vol. 7 - (missing all)
Vol. 8 - 1958-1959 (complete)
Vol. 9 - 1959-1960 (missing no. 3)
Vol. 10 - 1960-1961 (complete)
Vol. 11 - 1961-1962 (missing no. 14)
Vol. 12 - 1962-1963 (complete)
Vol. 13 - 1963-1964 (complete)
Vol. 14 - 1964-1965 (complete)
Vol. 15 - 1965-1966 (missing no. 16)
Vol. 16 - 1966-1967 (complete)
Vol. 17 - 1967-1968 (missing no. 1)
Vol. 18 - 1968-1969 (complete)
Vol. 19 - 1969-1970 (complete)
Vol. 20 - 1970-1971 (complete)
Vol. 21 - 1971-1972 (complete)
Vol. 22 - 1972-1973 (missing no. 34)
Vol. 23 - 1973-1974 (missing nos. 22-24, 42, 45)

Box 6

Vol. 24 - 1974-1975 (missing nos. 3, 9-12, 16, 18)
Vol. 25 - 1975-1976 (missing nos. 22-25, 27, 31-33)
Vol. ?? - 1976-1977 (missing various nos.)
Vol. 22 - 1977-1978 (missing nos. 5-9, 14-16, 30, 32)
Vol. 1 - 1978-1979 (missing no. 22)
Vol. 2 - 1979-1980 (missing nos. 3, 18)
Vol. 3 - 1980-1981 (missing nos. 1, 3, 5, 9)
Vol. 4 - 1981-1981 (missing no. 3)
Vol. 4 - 1982-1983 (complete)
Vol. 4 - 1983-1983 (complete)
Vol. 5 - 1983-1983 (complete)
Vol. 6 - 1985 (complete)
Vol. 7 - 1986 (complete)
Vol. 8 - 1986-1987 (missing nos. 4, 10)
Vol. 9 - 1987-1988 (missing no. 4)
Vol. 10 - 1989 (complete)
Vol. 11 - 1990 (complete)
Vol. 12 - 1991 (complete)
Building Fund Ledger
Honors Book
Audit - Sept. 30, 1965 (and loose material)
Audit - Sept. 30, 1966

Box 7

Membership Information - Aug. 19, 1985 (loose material)
Financial Data
Audit - 1967 (unmarked folder)
Audit - Sept. 30, 1967
Dues Receivable, 1967-1968 (loose material)
Financial Statements, Affiliated Organizations, March 1970
Audit - Oct. 1, 1969-Sept. 30, 1970
Building Fund
Audit - Sept. 30, 1972
Budget, 1973-1974 (loose material)
Audit - Sept. 30, 1974
First National Bank Safety Deposit Box 3245 (loose)
Bank Reconciliation, 1978-1979 (loose)
Audit, Cemetery Fund - Sept. 30, 1979
Audit - Sept. 30, 1979
Audit, Cemetery Fund - Sept. 30, 1980
Audit - Sept. 30, 1980
Synagogue Minutes - 1980-1981
Financial Statements - Sept. 30, 1981
Financial Statements - Sept. 30, 1982 (and loose material)

Financial Statements - Sept. 30, 1982 & 1983 (loose)
Financial Statements & Accountant's Compilation Report - Sept. 30, 1983 & 1984
Board Minutes - Nov. 15, 1982 & Oct. 18, 1982; Annual Congregation Meeting Minutes - Apr. 11, 1982; History and Apr. 24, 1983; Apr. 8, 1984
90th Anniversary Bills, 1984
Maintenance & Repair, 1982 & 1983; Congregation Bills, 1984-1986
Financial Statements & Accountant's Compilation Report, Cemetery Fund - Sept. 30, 1984
Financial Statements & Accountant's Compilation Report, Cemetery Fund - Sept. 30, 1985
Financial Statements & Accountant's Compilation Reports - Sept. 30, 1985 & Sept. 30, 1986
Religious Supplies/Expenses
Copier Supplies/Service
Financial Statements - Mar., Apr. 1988; Invoice & Statement of "Received from Sam Siegal May 7, 1987" (loose)
Rabbi Michael Goldberg, Atlanta
Insurance
Financial Statements & Accountant's Compilation Reports - Sept. 30, 1988 & 1989
General Fund, Reviewed Financial Statements - June 30, 1982
Check Stubs - July 15, 1965-July 28, 1988

Box 8

Sisterhood Account, 1955
Oversized Scrapbooks:
Golden Book of Life Sisterhood, 1958-1965

Box 9

Oversized Scrapbooks:
Sisterhood, 1967
Sisterhood, 1965-1967
Scrapbook, 1947-1948