



B'nai B'rith Youth Organization (BBYO) Records (K1440)

Collection Number: K1440

Collection Title: B'nai B'rith Youth Organization (BBYO) Records

Dates: 1964-2019

Creator: B'nai B'rith Youth Organization

Abstract: The B'nai B'rith Youth Organization Records contain materials related to various chapters of the organization in the Kansas City area. Items of interest include several chapters' beau and sweetheart dance books, programs for religious services, and awards presented to Kansas City Aleph Zadik Aleph chapters.

Collection Size: 2 cubic feet
(33 folders, 3 oversized awards)

Language: Collection materials are in English and Hebrew.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at kansascity@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

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Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *B'nai B'rith Youth Organization Records* (K1440); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Kansas City].

Donor Information: The records were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Amy Ravis Furey on August 3, 2023 (Accession No. KA2622).

Related Materials: Additional materials related to the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization Records can be found in the following collections:

B'nai B'rith Youth Organization (BBYO) Scrapbooks (K0657)

B'nai B'rith women St. Joseph, MO Chapter 276 (K0899)

B'nai B'rith Girls Council Scrapbook (K1269)

B'nai B'rith Women, Kansas City Chapter #158 Scrapbook (K1313)

Processed by: Processed by Molly Sloan, February 2024

Historical Note:

B'nai B'rith Youth Organization is an international, pluralistic Jewish youth group for high-school aged teenagers. The organization emphasizes its commitment to providing meaningful experiences to all Jewish teenagers regardless of background, denominational affiliation, socioeconomic status, ability, or identity.

BBYO is split by gender into two sibling organizations: Aleph Zadik Aleph (AZA) a high school fraternity, and B'nai B'rith Girls (BBG), a high school sorority. AZA and BBG have hundreds of chapters across the United States as well as in over 50 countries worldwide.

AZA was founded in 1923 in Omaha, Nebraska as an all-Jewish fraternity in an era when Jews were often forbidden from traditional fraternities. The group chose Abe Baboir as their first president and Nathan Mnookin as their first advisor. When Mnookin moved to Kansas City shortly after the establishment of the first AZA, it was left without an advisor. Sam Beber was selected to fill the role, and he accepted on the condition that AZA would not remain just in Omaha but would become an organization of Jewish fraternities across the country and the world. In 1924, the AZA established a Supreme Advisory Council overseeing all AZA chapters with Beber as President and Mnookin as Vice-President. The Omaha group became AZA #1, and a Kansas City group, under Mnookin's leadership, became AZA #2.

In 1925, the Jewish service organization B'nai B'rith adopted AZA as its main youth organization. Before long, a sister youth organization was in development. The first B'nai B'rith Girls chapter was formed in San Francisco, California by Rose Mauser.

Today, AZA and BBG chapters give young adults the opportunity to shape their own experiences, allowing them to elect their own peers as organization leaders and develop their own programming. Currently, over 70,000 teenagers are part of BBYO.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following 4 series:

Dance Books

BBYO Reunion Book

Religious Service Programs

Oversize

Scope and Content Note:

Dance Books

This series contains dance books commemorating various BBYO chapters' annual dances. Each book contains a written interview with each dance candidate, and many also feature personal

letters written by candidates to other group members. The series is divided into four events: Sweetheart Dances, Beau Dances, Matzo Ball Dances, and Bell of the Ball Dances. Folders are arranged chronologically.

BBYO Reunion Book

This series consists of a book commemorating a B'nai B'rith Youth Organization reunion event for several regional organization chapters in 1977.

Religious Service Programs

This series consists of programs and song books prepared for a variety of religious services. It is grouped by type and arranged chronologically.

Oversize

This series contains three Henry Monsky Chapter Achievement Awards presented to Kansas City AZA chapters. It is arranged chronologically.

Container List:

f. 1-16	Dance Books
Box 001	f. 1-6 Beau Dances, 1975-2010
	f. 7-13 Sweetheart Dances, 1978-2008
	f. 14 Matzo Ball Dances, 1997-2000
	f. 15-16 Bell of the Ball Dances, 1997-2019
f. 17	BBYO Reunion Book, 1977
f. 18-32	Religious Service Programs
	f. 18-21 Unidentified Services, 1970-2004, no date
	f. 22-24 Shabbat Services, 1973-2007, no date
	f. 25-27 Friday Evening Services, 1974-2007, no date
	f. 28-29 Havdalah Services, 1975-2002, no date
	f. 30-31 Song Books, 1976-2017, no date
	f. 32 Minyan Services, 1981-1987
f. 33	Oversize
Box 002	f. 33 Awards, 1964-1969

Index:

Index Term	Folder	Image
Aleph Zadik Aleph	7-16, 19, 22, 25, 33	
B'nai B'rith Girls	1-6, 18-19, 21-24, 27-28	
B'nai B'rith Youth Organization. Mid-America Region	22-23, 26, 28, 31	
Cleveland (Ohio)	22, 29	

Index Term	Folder	Image
Dances	1-16	
Havdalah	28-29	
Kansas City (Mo.)	7, 14, 16-17, 21-22, 24, 33	
Overland Park (Kan.)	14-16	
Philadelphia (Pa.)	27	
Shabbat	22-25, 29-30	