Rhea Salasche-Kaseff Papers
(K1144)

Collection Number: K1144

Collection Title: Rhea Salasche-Kaseff Papers

Dates: 1952

Creator: Beth Shalom Congregation


Collection Size: 0.01 cubic foot
(1 folder)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

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.

Restrictions on Use: The Donor has given and assigned to the University all rights of copyright, which the Donor has in the Materials and in such of the Donor’s works as may be found among any collections of Materials received by the University from others.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] Rhea Salasche-Kaseff Papers (K1144); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Kansas City].

Donor Information: The Rhea Salasche-Kaseff Papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Rhea Salasceh-Kaseff on October 22, 2004 (Accession No. KA1309).

Related Materials: Additional materials related to the Rhea Salasche-Kaseff Papers can be found in the following collections:

Congregation Beth Shalom Records (K0602)
Notes: This collection is associated with the Jewish Community Archives of Greater Kansas City.

Processed by: Processed by Whitney Heinzmann and intern, Rachel Hutchings, June 2019

Historical Note:

Congregation Beth Shalom developed in 1915 when a group of sixteen families withdrew from Keneseth Israel and formed their own congregation. Established in 1894, Keneseth Israel Congregation adhered to Orthodox Judaism and constructed the first Orthodox synagogue in Kansas City in 1902. Mirroring a nationwide schism, the congregation’s Orthodox traditions conflicted with Conservatism, a rising Jewish movement in the United States in the early 1900s. As a result of their doctrinal differences, sixteen families separated from Keneseth Israel and created Congregation Beth Shalom.

With a strong focus on religious education, Beth Shalom grew in membership and founded the Hebrew School in 1919. In 1924, Keneseth Israel and Beth Shalom merged to become Keneseth Israel-Beth Shalom. This reunification was caused by Keneseth Israel’s desire for financial support in the construction of a new synagogue at 3400 Paseo, Kansas City, Missouri. Along with a sanctuary, this building held a three story religious school. This school included a dozen classrooms, a library, a chapel, and administrative offices. Additionally, a series of remodels and additions were completed from 1933 to 1950 and lead to an additional seven classrooms.

After World War II, Beth Shalom’s educational programs expanded to include the Minda Library and a nursery school in 1949. In January 1962, Beth Shalom completed the religious school at their new building on 9400 Wornall Road, Kansas City, Missouri, and moved to the location in 1970. In 2019, Congregation Beth Shalom is located in Overland Park, Kansas, and offers numerous educational opportunities including Sunday school for all ages and Beth Shalom University on an annual basis.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into one folder.

Scope and Content Note:

The Rhea Salasche-Kaseff Papers contain one final edition for the school year of “The Comet.” Printed on May 25, 1952, this newsletter focuses on the Beth Shalom Sunday School in Kansas City, Missouri, and is two pages double sided. The last edition before summer break, “The Comet” covered topics such as club news, gossip, graduations, confirmations, and summer plans. The back page of this edition includes photographs of the synagogue’s eight classes.

Container List:

Box 001 f. 1 “The Comet,” 1952
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