JUD MS 03 Macabee Club Archives Finding Aid

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Administrative Information

Provenance: The Macabee Club Archives were donated by Bruce Levinsky.

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Historical Sketch

Macabee Club was a club of Jewish high school students in Portland from 1955 to the 1970s. A selective organization, this Jewish fraternity based its yearly program on religious participation, social affairs, athletic activities, and community service. The club had a cabinet of president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, warden, and chaplain who were voted upon annually, while new members were voted into the club throughout the year. The club had at least one adult advisor. The club was associated with several other Jewish groups in the community, including Mu Sigma Fraternity and Iota Phi Sorority. Weekly meetings were generally called to order at members' homes and discussed orders of business from potential new members, club sports coats, and disciplinary measures to fundraising efforts and future events and activities. Fundraising efforts took the form of paper drives throughout the school year. The club’s social affairs included several dances, a spring formal, and excursions for members such as mountain climbing and trips to Boston to see the Celtics. The club also participated in many athletic events as well as sponsoring tournaments and sports teams. According to the official Macabee Club Objectives, “At all times sportsmanship and fine play are encouraged. These contests inspire much healthy spirit within the Club.” In addition to social and athletic events, the club participated in community service, directing their efforts into projects such as the Pride Training School for Retarded Children, the Blind Classroom Building Fund, the Center Day Camp Athletic Fund, Pineland Hospital, and the Greater Portland Mentally Retarded Children Fund. The club also encouraged religious participation with services following many of the weekly meetings, in addition to recommended attendance at the programs of the Brotherhood and the United Synagogue Youth. The club self-published several newsletters and booklets, including “The Hammer,” “The Peeping Tom,” and “The Damned Macabee,” that recount the efforts of the group and individual members throughout the year.

The material of the Macabee Archives is filled with a sense of serious commitment to brotherhood but is also infused with much humor, reflected in the sentiments of sophomore editorialist for “The Damned Macabee” (1967) Stephen Hirshon who wrote, “Having a good time, by the way, is the main purpose of the club, despite what the Formal Book says.”
Description of the Archives

The Archives contains organizational records of the group. The materials range from weekly meeting minutes and newsletters to programs for the club’s annual spring formal. The material reflects their serious commitment but is infused with many humorous anecdotes reflecting the camaraderie between members.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
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<th>Description</th>
<th>Date(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Macabee Notes, weekly minutes by Ron Drogin (1955-56), Louis Bornstein (1956-57) and Glenn Jacobson (1968-69). Includes attendance. In bound record book</td>
<td>1955-69</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>Macabee Notes, weekly minutes by Secretary Tony Rich.</td>
<td>1959 Sep 13-1960</td>
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<td>Also contains Macabee Club 1959-1960 Annual Report, membership list, and attendance. Originally compiled in a binder</td>
<td>22-May</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<td>Macabee Notes, weekly minutes by Chick Levine (1964-65) and Jim Freundlich (1965-66). Also includes memberships list and attendance. In composition notebook</td>
<td>1964-66</td>
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</tbody>
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9 Booklet, "Macabee Ledger," swearing-in of members 1959-72

10 Membership list w/ addresses undated


12 Programs, Spring Formal 1964 May 9, 1965

13 Programs, Spring Formal (1968, 3 c.) 1968 May 25, 1970 May 23

14 Poster, Dance 1967 Sep 9

15 Newsletter, "The Hammer" undated

16 Newsletter, "The Peeping Tom" vol. 1, no. 1 1968 Nov

17 Booklet, "The Damn Macabee" 1967-68 year in review (3c.) 1968


19 Loose pages 1-8, "The Damn Macabee" 1967-68 (multi c.) [1968]


21 Poem, "The Macabee Bible" undated

22 Thank-you notes. Certificate of Appreciation, "Trees for Israel" undated