

MGH Service League

Records, 1952-1998

AC 11

1.2 c.f. in 4 containers
(3 document boxes and ½ document box)
Accession number: 1998-7

Processed: 1999-2000
By Jessica Steytler and Jeff Mifflin

ACQUISITION: The files came to the MGH Archives and Special Collections as part of an accession consisting primarily of Ladies Visiting Committee files transferred by Lucy Burr, Chair of the LVC, in 1998.

ACCESS: Portions of the collection are restricted in accordance with access policies of the Massachusetts General Hospital. Consult the Archivist and Curator of Special Collections for further information.

COPYRIGHT: Requests to publish materials from the collection should be directed to the Archivist and Curator of Special Collections.

Agency History

In 1950 the Ladies Visiting Committee at MGH suggested to wives of staff physicians that they could provide a valuable service to foreign professionals visiting the MGH by helping them locate and secure suitable housing, acclimating them to unfamiliar conditions in the United States, and easing their cultural or linguistic isolation. The resulting organization called itself the MGH Staff Wives Association. By the 1960s the organization had expanded the scope of its activities to include aid to those who were not foreign visitors. In 1961 it changed its name to the MGH Service League. The association/league has performed different services for the hospital at different times, such as creating a network of sympathetic landlords and real estate agents, a furniture loan service, and legal consultation services. It has organized dances, parties, picnics, teas, etc., for families of residents and interns as well as for international visitors. MGH Night at the Pops, Chapel Concerts, Ether Day celebrations, information desks, a Reception Center, and arranging invitations for foreign visitors for holiday meals in American homes have been among the other activities performed.

The Service League and the Ladies Visiting Committee jointly operated a Coffee Shop at the MGH for a number of years starting in 1964.

Contents Note

The collection does contain any materials documenting the activities of the Staff Wives Association before 1952. Specific activities of the Association are documented by a number of files relating to those activities in the mid-to-late 1950s, e.g., the Hospitality Committee, the Reception Center, and the Furniture Exchange. Early Annual Reports are a good source for the years after 1953. Treasurer's files contain information about the variety of activities and expenditures over the years.

The collection contains many lists of members and officers for the Staff Wives association and its successor, the Service League. Activities of the organization are well documented after 1961. General sources include minutes for Annual Meetings, Annual Reports, *Bulletins*, and President's correspondence. More specific activities are documented by folders dedicated to that activity, e.g., Chapel Concerts, furniture, Hospitality Committee, tickets, Service Awards, etc.

The Service League had close ties over the years with the MGH Ladies Visiting Committee. Researchers may also be interested in consulting AC 3, Ladies Visiting Committee, Records, ca. 1900-1997.

Box and Folder List:

b. 1

Annual Luncheon, 1962-1992

Annual Meeting (as Staff Wives Association), 1956

Annual Meeting, 1961

Annual Meeting, 1962-1964

Annual Meeting, 1965

Annual Meeting, 1966

Annual Meeting, 1967

Annual Meeting, 1968

Annual Meeting, 1969

Annual Meeting, 1970

Annual Meeting, 1971

Annual Meeting, 1973

Annual Meeting, 1974

Annual Meeting, 1975

Annual Meeting, 1976

Annual Meeting, 1977

Annual Meeting, 1978

Annual Meeting, 1979

Annual Meeting, 1980

Annual Meeting, 1981

Annual Meeting, 1982

Annual Meeting, 1984

Annual Meeting, 1985

Annual Meeting, 1986

Annual Meeting, 1988

Annual Meeting, 1989

Annual Meeting, 1990

Annual Meeting, 1991

Annual Meeting, 1992

Annual Meeting, 1993

Annual Reports, 1953-1993

Board Meetings, minutes, 1990-1995

Bulletin, 1962-1992

By-laws and legal questions, 1955-1984

b. 2

Chapel Committee, 1965-1969

Chapel Concert procedures, 1968-1990

Chapel Concerts, programs and reports, 1962-1994

Chapel correspondence, 1976-1995

Chapel notes and correspondence, 1998

Chapel programs, 1988-1998

Day Book, 1955-1956

Directory, 1967-1992

Discontinued projects, 1964-1993

Duties of Officers and Chairmen, 1962-1985

Furniture Exchange, 1956-1994

History, 1955-1992

b. 3

Hospitality Committee, 1955-1994

House Staff, housing, 1979-1991

Housing Committee, 1959-1993

Membership, 1957-1995

Memorial Funds, 1988-1991

Musicians, information and publicity, ca. 1998

Officers and Committee Chairmen, lists, 1952-1995

Photographs, events and activities, n.d.

President's incoming correspondence, 1957-1990

President's outgoing correspondence, 1955-1981

Reception Center, 1955-1981

Reception Center, 1982-1995

b. 4

Service Award pins, 1972-1994

Special projects, 1956-1982

Staff Wives Association, first check book, 1953-1956

Tickets, 1958-1994

Treasurer, 1952-1995

