



ArchivesSpace

Finding aid to the International Association of Rebekah Assemblies materials Collection 461

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Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections
Department

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Summary Information

Repository:	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
Creator:	International Association of Rebekah Assemblies
Source - dnr:	Linda Stoepker
Source:	Then and Now Genealogical Library
Title:	International Association of Rebekah Assemblies materials
ID:	Collection 461
Date [inclusive]:	1937-1976
Physical Description:	.5 Linear Feet One standard box
Physical Description:	Fair
Abstract:	International Association of Rebekah Assemblies materials focuses on the rules and governance of the Rebekah Lodges in Michigan during the middle of the twentieth century. The majority of materials are organizational publications regarding the function of the organization; constitutions, bylaws, rules of order, and a charge book. Additional materials are the report of officers, meeting programs, and legislation. Also included is handmade ephemera.

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Biographical / Historical

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.) was established in 1819 in Baltimore by Thomas Wildey who was chartered by the British Manchester Unity and separated in 1842 as a social works organization. The I.O.O.F established the Rebekah Degree in 1851 as an honorary award for the wives and daughters of Odd Fellow members who did good works and upheld the purpose and mission of the I.O.O.F. They were called Rebekahs after the biblical Rebekah (Rebecca). The I.O.O.F. and the Rebekas both pledge "to visit the sick, relieve the distressed, bury the dead and educate the orphan."

These early Daughters of Rebekah had no lodge system of their own and operated in an informal and local manner. On September 25, 1868, the I.O.O.F. voted to establish Degree Lodges of the Daughters of Rebekah, mirroring the existing lodges for their male counterparts. The Daughters were given the right to elect their own officers, charge for initiation fees, collect dues and undertake charitable and benevolent activities. The name was changed to "Degree of Rebekah" in 1874 and their creed was also established, "I am a Rebekah. I believe in the Fatherhood of God, the brotherhood of man and the sisterhood of

women. I believe in the watch-words of our Order - Friendship, Love, and Truth. Friendship - is like a golden chain that ties our hearts together. Love - is one of our most precious gifts, the more you give, the more you receive. Truth - is the standard by which we value people. It is the foundation of our Society. I believe that my main concern should be my God, my family, and my friends. Then I should reach out to my community and the world. For in God's eyes, we are all brothers and sisters. I am a Rebekah!" Originally, only the female family members of already established Odd Fellows could become a "Daughter of Rebekah" but in 1894 membership opened to all single white women over 18. But by 1923, there were over a million members. Only white women could join 1972.

Today, Odd Fellow and Rebekah lodges in the United States allow female and male members, but while both females and males may hold an Odd Fellow office, only females may hold the highest Rebekah offices. In Europe and Cuba, however, the I.O.O.F. and the Rebekah Lodges are still segregated by sex. Today there are tens of thousands of Rebekas at 1,849 Rebekah Lodges located in the United States, Canada, Cuba, Chile, Hawaii, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Uruguay, Venezuela, and in Europe such as Estonia, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Norway, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland.

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Content Description

By-laws, rules of order, report of officers, event programs and other ephemera related to the International Association of Rebekah Assemblies, an arm of the International Order of Odd Fellows.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

2017.017; donor: Linda Stoecker and the Then and Now Genealogical Library, 2017.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Linda Stoecker
- Then and Now Genealogical Library

Collection Inventory

Constitution and Rules, 1937-1968

Date [inclusive]: 1937-1968

Title/Description	Instances	
By-laws and Rules of Order , 1930 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1930	Box 1	Folder 1
Constitution and Guidebook , 1937 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1937	Box 1	Folder 2
By-laws and Rules of Order , 1946 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1946	Box 1	Folder 3
Constitution and Guidebook , 1946 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1946	Box 1	Folder 4
Constitution and Guidebook , 1949 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1949	Box 1	Folder 5
Constitution and By-laws , 1952 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1952	Box 1	Folder 6
Constitution and Guidebook, 1954 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1954	Box 1	Folder 7
1955 Legislation , 1955 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1955	Box 1	Folder 8
Charge Book of a Rebekah Lodge, 1968 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1968	Box 1	Folder 9

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Reports of Officers, 1971-1976

Date [inclusive]: 1971-1976

Title/Description	Instances	
Report of Officers of the Rebekah Assembly , 1971 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1971	Box 1	Folder 10
Report of Officers , 1976 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1976	Box 1	Folder 11

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Programs, 1948-1976

Date [inclusive]: 1948-1976

Title/Description	Instances	
Allegan County Annual District 29 Sessions Programs, 1948-1970 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1948-1970	Box 1	Folder 12
Official Souvenir Program, 1963 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1963	Box 1	folder 13
Official Souvenir Program , 1969 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1969	Box 1	folder 14
Official Souvenir Program , 1971 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1971	Box 1	Folder 15
Official Souvenir Program , 1974 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1974	Box 1	folder 16
Official Souvenir Program , 1976 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1976	Box 1	Folder 17

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Ephemera, 1949-1976

Date [inclusive]: 1949-1976

Title/Description	Instances	
Public Installation Victor Rebekah Lodge #358, 1949-1961 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1949-1961	Box 1	Folder 18
Handwritten notes on meeting procedures, 1950	Box 1	Folder 20

Date [inclusive]: 1950

Handmade Ephemera , 1950

Box 1

Folder 21

Date [inclusive]: 1950

District 29 Visitations, 1975-1976

Box 1

Folder 19

Date [inclusive]: 1975-1976

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