



The New York Public Library
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,
Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

Hatzaad Harishon records

1962-1972

Sc MG 576

Summary

Creator: Hatzaad Harishon (Organization : New York, N.Y.)

Title: Hatzaad Harishon records

Date: 1962-1972

Size: 1.83 linear feet (3 boxes)

Source: Gift of Rabbi Hailu Paris, in conjunction with Zakor: The Israelite History and Archives Project, July 1995.

Abstract: Hatzaad Harishon ("The First Step") was formed in New York City in 1964, by Yaakov Gladstone, a white Jewish Hebrew teacher, with the aim of bridging the gap between Black and white Jews of America. Its members adhered to the concept of Klal Yisrael ("the unity of the world's Jewish community") and rejected any ideology which was separatist and did not place Israel as the spiritual and national center of the Jewish people. Open to all Jews regardless of race, members of the adult organization met monthly and offered programs covering a wide range of topics and concerns. The organization sponsored Hatzaad Harishon's Youth/Young Adults, an activities group for young people ages 16-20. This group first came together as an Israeli dance troupe for the children of the adult members. The dance group was the fundraising and primary public relations arm of the youth group, and received media attention for its performances of Israeli folk dances. The organization dissolved in the late 1970s due to internal turmoil and the resignation of Yaakov Gladstone as vice president. The Hatzaad Harishon records consist of the correspondence of Yaakov Gladstone with other Jewish organizations; files about Hatzaad Harishon's youth activities and programs; and minutes of youth meetings. Also included are membership lists, files on fundraising benefits, and membership meeting notebooks. There is also scholarship and educational material, including information about yeshivot; program files and printed material related to other Jewish organizations associated with Hatzaad Harishon; and the mission statement and incorporation papers. Of interest is correspondence pertaining to Black Jews in Ethiopia and Philadelphia, and the Association of Black and White Jews, also located in Philadelphia.

Preferred citation: [Item], Hatzaad Harishon records, Sc MG 576, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Accessioned by Chandra Buie, July 1996, and Janice Quinter, October 2005.

Separated Materials:

Transferred to the Photographs and Prints Division: photographs

Creator History

Hatzaad Harishon ("The First Step") was formed in New York City in 1964, by Yaakov Gladstone, a white Jewish Hebrew teacher, with the aim of bridging the gap between Black and white Jews of America. Its members adhered to the concept of Klal Yisrael ("the unity of the world's Jewish community") and rejected any ideology which was separatist and did not place Israel as the spiritual and national center of the Jewish people. Open to all Jews regardless of race, members of the adult organization met monthly and offered programs covering a wide range of topics and concerns. The organization sponsored Hatzaad Harishon's Youth/Young Adults, an activities group for young people ages 16-20. This group first came together as an Israeli dance troupe for the children of the adult members. The dance group was the fundraising and primary public relations arm of the youth group, and received media attention for its performances of Israeli folk dances. The organization dissolved in the late 1970s due to internal turmoil and the resignation of Yaakov Gladstone as vice president.

Scope and Content Note

The Hatzaad Harishon records consist of the correspondence of Yaakov Gladstone with other Jewish organizations; files about Hatzaad Harishon's youth activities and programs; and minutes of youth meetings. Also included are membership lists, files on fundraising benefits, and membership meeting notebooks. There is also scholarship and educational material, including information about yeshivot; program files and printed material related to other Jewish organizations associated with Hatzaad Harishon; and the mission statement and incorporation papers. Of interest is correspondence pertaining to Black Jews in Ethiopia and Philadelphia, and the Association of Black and White Jews, also located in Philadelphia.

Arrangement: Arranged into 4 series: (1) Hatzaad Harishon (general); (2) Youth and young adults (programming); (3) Other organizations; and (4) Printed matter.

Key Terms

Subjects

African American Jews
African Americans -- Education
African Americans -- Religion.
Jewish religious schools
Judaism -- Customs and practices

Names

Gladstone, Yaakov
Association of Black and White Jews (Philadelphia, Pa.)
Hatzaad Harishon (Organization : New York, N.Y.)

Container List

- Hatzaad Harishon 1962-1972
 - b. 1 f. 1 Incorporation and statement of purpose 1966
 - b. 1 f. 2 Executive Meetings, minutes and agendas 1969-1971
 - Correspondence
 - b. 1 f. 3-5 1967-1972
 - b. 1 f. 6-7 Outgoing 1965-1970
 - b. 1 f. 8 Office lease 1970-1972
 - b. 1 f. 9 African Jews 1971
 - b. 1 f. 10 Information requested 1969-1970
 - b. 2 f. 1 Office finance 1967-1969
 - b. 2 f. 2 Financial records 1962-1972
 - b. 2 f. 3 Biographies of officers 1970
 - b. 2 f. 4 Press releases and publicity 1970-1972
 - b. 2 f. 5 Housing rental information 1970
 - b. 2 f. 6 Notices to members 1968-1970
 - b. 2 f. 7 Membership list and dues paid
 - b. 2 f. 8 Membership information 1967-1970
 - b. 2 f. 9 Meetings and workshops 1967-1971
 - b. 2 f. 10 Inmate Outreach Program 1966-1970
 - b. 2 f. 11-14 Annual benefit 1965-1972
 - b. 2 f. 15-16 "Bulletin" newsletter and other printed matter 1966-1970
 - Youth and young adults 1964-1971
 - b. 2 f. 17-19 Activities and minutes 1964-1969
 - b. 2 f. 20 Camp Hatikvah 1968-1969
 - b. 2 f. 21 Youth Group Dance Program 1968-1969
 - Education
 - b. 2 f. 22 Black Jewish education, scholarships, and programs 1966-1970
 - b. 2 f. 23 Educational material 1965-1970
 - b. 2 f. 24 Instructors 1968-1971
 - b. 2 f. 25 Scholarship applications 1969-1970
 - b. 2 f. 26 Student attendee lists and schools attended 1968-1970
 - b. 2 f. 27 Tutors 1968-1970
 - b. 2 f. 28 Yeshiva responses 1969-1970
 - b. 2 f. 29 Financial records 1966-1967
 - b. 2 f. 30 Hillel weekend 1969
 - b. 2 f. 31 Israel Dance Festival 1967-1970
 - b. 2 f. 32 Teen list
 - b. 2 f. 33-34 Youth Group 1967-1970
 - Other organizations 1965-1972

Other organizations (cont.)

- b. 2 f. 35 Association of Black and White Jews 1969-1970
- b. 2 f. 36 Black Heritage Association 1971
- b. 2 f. 37 Federation of Jewish Philanthropies/Commission on Synagogue Relations
1965-1969
- b. 2 f. 38 Philadelphia files 1970-1972
- b. 2 f. 39 United Synagogue of America 1965-1969
- b. 2 f. 40 Zionist Organization of America 1965-1970

Printed matter 1966-1971

- b. 3 f. 1 "Near East" reports newsletter 1967-1969
- b. 3 f. 2 Miscellaneous newsletters and drafts 1968-1971
- b. 3 f. 3 News clippings 1967-1970
- b. 3 f. 4 Miscellaneous 1966-1968