

Ruthie & Bill Katz Archives @ NSCI

Welcome to the Ruthie & Bill Katz Archives at NSCI! The Archives was established in 2003 to preserve the history of NSCI and to document the presence of Reform Judaism on the North Shore of Chicago. As such, it is used not only by members of our congregation but by researchers and scholars world-wide. On May 7, 2009 the Archives was dedicated in honor of Ruthie and Bill Katz for their years of active commitment to documenting the story of the congregation. Bill's parents, Sigmund and Florence, along with his Uncle Herman and Aunt Edna, were among the founding members of the congregation who wisely anticipated the need for a Jewish community in the Chicago suburbs. When both Ruthie and Bill passed away in 2011, the congregation's 90th Anniversary year, their children, Ellen and Stan, decided to honor their parents by establishing the Ruthie and Bill Katz Archives Fund. This thoughtful gesture ensures that the archives can fulfill its mission to preserve, educate and make accessible congregational history now and into the future.

The Archives houses the entire span of the congregation's history from the earliest meetings discussing its viability. It consists of documents, books, photographs, slides, negatives, films, artwork, audio recordings, videotapes, blueprints, DVDs, electronic documents and manuscripts, all of which pertain to various organizational records and events of NSCI. In words and photos, the minutes and activities of the Temple Board, Men's and Women's Committees, the Religious School and Youth Group as well as trips, guest speakers, Rabbis' sermons and congregational membership records are all there. Our ongoing projects are organizing all our assets for greater access and creating a database that will include every item in our collection. We maintain a showcase in Crown Hall of various items in the Archives and share some of the stories in our records in the monthly Temple bulletin.

What we are looking for:

We are always searching for written and photographic materials pertaining to NSCI. Congregational and religious school activities, youth group, member and life cycle events held at the synagogue are all of interest. If you have any items, we would like the opportunity to look at them and make copies for the Archives. We are always willing to review materials that members wish to donate.

Services that we provide:

We preserve congregational history, document current events, provide research assistance to staff, members and outside scholars; create exhibits; make educational presentations and maintain a working relationship with the American Jewish Archives and Glencoe Historical Society.

The Archives are operated our Archivist Merle A. Branner and Ellen (Katz) Block is her volunteer assistant. We welcome anyone who has an interest in our NSCI history and wishes to help.

For further information, please e-mail us archives@nsci.org or call (847) 835-0724 x 675.

preserve

1. to keep alive or in existence; make lasting: *to preserve our liberties as free citizens.*
2. to keep safe from harm or injury; protect or spare.
3. to keep up; maintain: *to preserve historical monument*

conserve

1. to prevent injury, decay, waste, or loss of: *Conserve your strength for the race.*
2. to use or manage (natural resources) wisely; preserve; save:
Conserve the woodlands.