DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY

Collection name: Louis Gdalman Papers (1943-1996)

Repository: Rush University Medical Center Archives

Creator: Gdalman, Louis (1910-1995)

Call Number: 4760

Language: English

Extent:
   Items: About 100 items
   Linear feet: 0.5

Abstract:

Pharmacist Louis Gdalman, 1910-1995, began his work as a pharmacist at St. Luke’s Hospital in 1930. He continued working at Presbyterian-St. Luke’s Hospital until his retirement in 1975. He is best remembered for his efforts in poison control. In 1962, Gdalman helped establish a Master Poison Information Center for Chicago. The papers of pharmacist Louis Gdalman include biographical material, correspondence, material from lectures and courses, clippings, awards, and miscellaneous material, 1943-1996. Correspondence includes letters between Gdalman and various universities and associations, primarily letters of gratitude to Gdalman for his lectures. Materials from lectures and courses given by Gdalman mostly relate to pharmacy and toxicology. Clippings and press releases feature Gdalman or his work in poison control. Miscellaneous material includes various items related to Gdalman and poison control, including invitations and programs.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Restrictions to access:
None

Usage Restrictions:
None

Acquisitions Information:
Includes material received from Kay Gdalman of Oakbrook Terrace, IL in 1993 (Acc. 1995-068). Also included in this collection is material from Gdalman’s vertical file.

Processing Information:
Preferred Citation:
[Identification of item], in the Louis Gdalman Papers, #4760, Rush University Medical Center Archives.

Copyright Notice:
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Subject Headings:
Gdalman, Louis
Chicago, Ill.
History of medicine. United States. Chicago (Ill.)
Pharmacy—History—United States.
Pharmacy—Organization and administration—United States
Poison control centers
Presbyterian-St. Luke’s Hospital
Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke’s Medical Center—History, 20th century
Rush University Medical Center—History, 20th century
St. Luke’s Hospital (Chicago, Ill.)
Toxicology

RELATED COLLECTIONS:
Oral history interview with Louis and Kay Gdalman (Acc. 1994-045)
Photographs of Louis Gdalman (RG 44000)

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:
Pharmacist Louis Gdalman, 1910-1995, graduated from the University of Illinois College of Pharmacy in 1930 and completed graduate work in chemistry at the University of Chicago in 1938. In 1930 he began his work as a pharmacist at St. Luke’s Hospital which merged with Presbyterian Hospital in 1956. He continued working at Presbyterian-St. Luke’s Hospital until his retirement in 1975. He is best remembered for his efforts in poison control. He first established a poison information service for the physicians and nurses working in the St. Luke’s emergency room, maintaining and expanding upon a library of information on the management of acute and chronic poisonings. In 1962, Gdalman, along with Joseph Christian of Mercy Hospital, established a Master Poison Information Center for Chicago, which would offer information to the public as well.

In 1967, Gdalman was named Hospital Pharmacist of the Year by the Illinois Council of Hospital Pharmacists. He was a charter member of the American Society of Hospital Pharmacists, the first hospital pharmacist to chair the State Pharmacy Board, and the only pharmacist elected a Fellow of the Institute of Medicine of Chicago. He was named emeritus professor of internal medicine and pharmacology at Rush University and as emeritus senior scientist at Presbyterian-St. Luke’s Hospital. During his career, he
Gdalman was married to Kathryn Gdalman, also known as Kay Gdalman, who graduated from St. Luke’s Hospital School of Nursing in 1940 and served as president of the St. Luke’s Alumni Association from 1957-1959. They had two children, Kathryn Gdalman Pomerantz and Louis Gdalman II, and four grandchildren. Gdalman died in his home in Oakbrook Terrace, Ill., 29 August 1995. He was 85 years old.

**COLLECTION OVERVIEW:**

The papers of pharmacist Louis Gdalman include biographical material, correspondence, material from lectures and courses, clippings, awards, and miscellaneous material, 1943-1996. Correspondence includes letters between Gdalman and various universities and associations, primarily letters of gratitude to Gdalman for his lectures. Materials from lectures and courses given by Gdalman mostly relate to pharmacy and toxicology. Clippings and press releases feature Gdalman or his work in poison control. Miscellaneous material includes various items related to Gdalman and poison control, including invitations and programs.

**ARRANGEMENT OF SERIES:**

2. Correspondence, 1947-1980
3. Lectures and Courses, 1943-1989 and undated
4. Clippings, 1957-1993 and undated

**ITEMS SEPARATED:**

None

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION:**

**Series 1. Biographical Information, 1967-1995 and undated**

12 items

Arrangement: chronological

Scope Content: Biographical material about Louis Gdalman, including obituaries, curriculum vitae, and an interview.

**BOX 1**

Biographical material about Gdalman, 1967-1995 and undated

**Series 2. Correspondence, 1947-1980**
48 items
Arrangement: chronological
Scope Content: Correspondence between Gdalman and various universities and associations, primarily letters of gratitude to Gdalman for his lectures.

**BOX 1 (continued)**

Letters to and from Gdalman, 1947-1980

**Series 3. Lectures and Courses, 1943-1989 and undated**
10 items
Arrangement: chronological
Scope Content: Materials from lectures and courses given by Gdalman about pharmacy and toxicology.

**BOX 1 (continued)**

“Chemistry,” given at Illinois Masonic Hospital, 1943-1944
“General Survey of Chemistry,” given at St. Luke’s Hospital School of Nursing, 1944-1953
“The Hospital Administrator and Pharmacist,” 1948
“Northwestern University School of Commerce Program in Hospital Administration,” 1954-1958
“Medication Technicians,” given at St. Luke’s Hospital, 1965-1966
“Institute on General Practice of Hospital Pharmacy,” given at the University of Illinois Medical Center, 1967
“Gdalman Toxicology Series,” 1987-1989
“Business and Pharmaceutical Developments Facing the Drug Field: How to Adjust to Them,” undated
“Pharmacy technicians and non-professional personnel,” undated
“The Hospital Pharmacy with a Futuristic Look,” undated

**Series 4. Clippings, 1957-1993 and undated**
32 items
Arrangement: chronological
Scope Content: Newspaper and magazine clippings, along with press releases that feature Gdalman or his work in poison control.

**BOX 1 (continued)**

Clippings about Gdalman and his work, 1957-1993 and undated

**Series 5. Awards, 1966, 1980**
2 items
Scope Content: Awards and honors given to Gdalman including an award from the Drug Information Association, 1966, and a proclamation from the State of Illinois, 1980.

BOX 1 (continued)

Awards, 1966, 1980

7 items
Scope Content: Various items related to Gdalman and poison control, including invitations and programs.

BOX 1 (continued)

Invitations, 1955-1975
Conference Programs, 1957-1960
Poison Control Center Timeline, 1980
“Taking a Stand Against Accidental Childhood Poisoning: The Founding of the Nation’s First Poison Control Center in Chicago” by Natalie Burda, Seventh Grader, 1996
Notes on Gdalman Party, possibly retirement party, undated