HISTORICAL NOTE: The Maternity Center Association (MCA), known since 2005 as Childbirth Connection, has played a key role in improving maternal health and prenatal care in the United States. Its records reflect many of the major trends in 20th century American public health, nursing, childbirth, and philanthropy.

The Maternity Center Association emerged out of the ferment of US Progressive reform in the early 20th century. Progressive public health advocates were particularly concerned with the nation’s maternal and infant mortality rates, which remained considerably higher than in comparable European nations.

In 1915, New York City Health Commissioner Haven Emerson appointed a committee to investigate existing obstetrical conditions in Manhattan and to suggest improvements. The committee found that expectant mothers received little or no systematic prenatal care and suspected this lack of instruction was a primary cause of the city’s high infant mortality rate. The committee recommended establishing ten districts for maternity care, each with a center where expectant mothers could receive prenatal instruction and, if necessary, clinical care.

The first such center, established under the auspices of the Women’s City Club, opened in 1917. Its immediate success led to the founding of the Maternity Center Association of the City of New York in April 1918 with the aim of opening additional centers. The MCA’s Board of Directors was almost entirely female, while its Medical Board was almost entirely male – a feature of the organization that would persist into the 1970s. By 1920, MCA was operating thirty centers in Manhattan, each of which held classes for expectant mothers (and occasionally fathers), conducted prenatal clinics, and ran sewing classes. Its pamphlet, Routines, outlining MCA procedures was widely distributed and helped shape prenatal care nationwide.

As early as 1921, studies by Louis I. Dublin of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. had shown significantly lower maternal and infant mortality rates among MCA clients compared to the general rates in New York City. Closer study of the results indicated that even better outcomes could be expected if prenatal care was combined with care during and after delivery. At the same time, the MCA directors realized that other organizations were now capable of operating the maternity centers. The organization turned over its maternity centers to other agencies and concentrated its efforts on a pilot project at one Manhattan maternity center which combined all three phases of care for mothers.
This project’s quick success in improving maternity and infant mortality launched the organization in a different direction than was originally envisioned. While MCA would provide clinical care into the 1990s, its greatest influence on US maternity care and public health would be through education and advocacy.

During the 1920s, public health agencies from throughout the US and Canada sent their nurses to MCA for instruction in maternity nursing. Starting in 1929, MCA staff conducted workshops nationwide. In fact, over the decade 1929-1939, “more than half of all the public health nurses in the country attended these institutes, either in their own communities or New York City” (Maternity Center Association, 1918-1943, p. 24). These students made the methods and procedures of the MCA standard in US prenatal care.

Realizing that American prudishness about pregnancy was obstructing its efforts to educate the public about the need for improved maternity care, MCA launched several innovative national public relations campaigns in the 1920s and ‘30s, making full use of modern advertising methods. The most significant of these efforts was the “16,000 white carnations” campaign, with each flower standing for one of the 16,000 American women who died annually due to inadequate prenatal care. Launched to coincide with the relatively new Mother’s Day holiday, the campaign generated tremendous publicity for the cause of better maternity care.

MCA also commissioned Dr. Robert L. Dickinson and sculptor Abram Belskie to create life-size bas-reliefs of the stages of pregnancy from conception to birth for the 1939-1940 New York City’s World’s Fair. They were seen by nearly 2 million fairgoers and widely commended in the press. The Maternity Center Association later reproduced these sculptures photographically in its Birth Atlas (1940), which had international distribution and, as of 2008, was still in print.

MCA undertook another initiative in the 1930s that would have a significant long-term impact on the way American women experienced childbirth. The role of midwives in childbirth had been fiercely attacked by the social reform milieu out of which MCA originated. Medical professionals in particular had lobbied to drive them out of business. This opposition did not recognize, however, that midwives were the only alternative in medically underserved communities, especially in the South and West and among African-Americans generally.

The Maternity Center Association addressed this gap in American maternity care by establishing in 1931 the Lobenstine Clinic and School, the first in the country to educate “a new and uniquely American practitioner…the nurse-midwife” (Wertz, p. 217). It did so even though this effort cost it the support of several members of the medical board.

The seventy nurse-midwives Lobenstine graduated in its first decade of existence largely worked in rural areas lacking medical services. There they supervised midwives, offered prenatal care, and delivered infants. Others “obtained administrative positions in hospital obstetric services, where they made hospital birth more women and family centered”
Between 1941 and 1946, MCA operated another school at Tuskegee, AL, specifically to educate African-American midwives.

After 1945, declining maternal and infant mortality rates, increasing prosperity, and more widespread hospital insurance coverage, led MCA to shift its emphasis from surviving childbirth to making it a more satisfying experience for the entire family. As early as 1947, the organization gave impetus to the “natural childbirth” movement in the US by sponsoring the first American speaking tour of Grantly Dick Read, author of *Childbirth Without Fear*. The next year MCA cooperated with the Yale University Schools of Medicine and Nursing in a study of natural childbirth as applied in a modern American hospital. The results, published in 1950, found that natural childbirth led to shorter, more comfortable, and less fatiguing labor.

The organization continued to employ the latest communications tools to spread its message, producing the first nationwide television show on childbirth (1954), as well as one of the first major educational films on family life and sex education, the Academy Award-nominated *From Generation to Generation* (1959).

MCA also expanded its work in educating nurse-midwives. In 1954 it helped found the American College of Nurse-Midwives. It partnered in 1955 with the Columbia University School of Nursing to establish a master’s program in nurse-midwifery at the School – the first clinical master’s program in an American nursing school.

In the 1960s, MCA conducted a survey of prenatal and maternity care in New York City’s municipal hospitals that revealed serious shortcomings and which led the city’s Health Commissioner to launch a major reform effort. The organization’s 50th anniversary conference on the future of maternity care produced a widely distributed report, *Prelude to Action* (1968), which again brought US deficiencies in prenatal and maternity care to public attention.

The revival of home birthing in the 1960s and ‘70s spurred MCA to meet this demand in a way that minimized risk to the mother while preserving the best qualities of at-home childbirth. In 1975 it opened an out-of-hospital childbearing center in New York City – only the second in the nation and the first in an urban setting. While much of the US medical profession expressed misgivings, the MCA center was immensely popular with expectant mothers. MCA later expanded this service to the medically underserved, low-income neighborhoods of the South Bronx and East New York. The organization was also instrumental in founding the National Association of Childbearing Centers in 1983.

In the 1990s, the Maternity Center Association decided to return to its original mission. It sold or closed its birthing centers and focused instead on a long-term program, called “Maternity Wise,” which promoted safe, effective and satisfying maternity care through research, education, and advocacy. Fruits of this approach have been the first national survey of American women’s childbirth experiences, *Listening to Mothers* (2002) and the first forum to explore the effects of September 11th on expectant mothers (2002).
In 2014, Childbirth Connection merged with the National Partnership for Women and Families located in Washington, D.C. Although a “core program” of the NPWF, Childbirth Connection is no longer an independent organization.


Scope and Content: The records of the Maternity Center Association date from 1907 to 2010, though the records bulk between 1918 and 1995. They document the administrations of General Directors Anne Stevens, 1918-1921, Nancy E. Cadmus, 1922-23; Hazel Corbin, 1923-1965; Vera Keane, 1965-1968; Ruth W. Lubic, 1970-1995; and Maureen Corry, 1995-2014. Included are minutes of boards and committees; correspondence of the General Directors and other staff members; records of the Lobenstine Clinic and School; records of the Childbearing Centers; records of educational and advocacy efforts; fundraising and public relations records; pamphlets and newspaper clippings; scrapbooks; posters; photographs; drawings; and film.

Each series and most sub-series are described separately.

Records Series 1: Central Files

Boxes 1-67

Central administrative records from 1918 to the mid-1980s. Included are minutes and correspondence of Annual Meetings, the Board of Trustees, and the Medical Board, as well as the correspondence of the General Directors. Every aspect of the Maternity Center Association’s administrative, financial, educational, and advocacy activities is documented here.

The records are arranged according to the central filing system created by MCA about 1921. They are organized in numerical order ranging from 100 to 900, with each general number (100, 300, etc.) having numerous sub-categories (110, 320). Most documents are marked with this identifying three-digit number in their upper left hand corner.

Begun while Nancy Cadmus was General Director, the filing system was maintained during the entire administration of her successor, Hazel Corbin (1923-1965). Although it began to break down during the tenure of Vera Keane (1965-1968), vestiges remained well into the administration of Ruth W. Lubic (1970-1995). In the early 1970s, the MCA
administration created another alphabetical subject file that now comprises Series 6. Researchers should be aware that for the transitional period of the 1970s-early 1980s, specific topics may be documented in both Series 1 and Series 6.

Major categories in the central files are as follows:

**100 Organization and Administration**
**Boxes 1-28**
Minutes of Annual Meetings (1919-1971, with gaps); correspondence and minutes of the Board of Trustees (1919-1925, 1971-1992); Medical Board correspondence (1919-1939) and minutes (1955-1979); records of conferences and seminars; financial and fundraising records, including those of theater benefits and charity events; staff correspondence; and annual reports (1918-1994).

**200 Auxiliaries**
**Boxes 28-29**
Records, 1923-1959, of the Lafayette Guild, which became the MCA auxiliary in 1923, and of the Lucky Star Guild, its junior auxiliary.

**300 Activities**
**Boxes 29-48**
Records of all aspects of MCA’s educational and advocacy work. Included are records of field work performed in New York City clinics and of books and movies created by the organization. There are copies of speeches and articles by staff members, as well as records of MCA lobbying of federal and state governments on matters affecting maternal health and infant care.

The MCA “Institutes” – nurses’ workshops given both in New York City and around the U.S., 1929-1948 – are extensively documented, and there are many records relating to its collaboration with other organizations on maternal health and childbirth issues.

Extensive records exist for the Maternity Center Association’s innovative Mother’s Day campaigns for better pre-natal care, 1929-1940, and also of its sponsorship of Dickinson and Belskie’s bas-reliefs of the stages of pregnancy, created for the 1939-1940 New York World’s Fair.

Records in File #360, “Outside Committee Work,” overlap with file #400, “Relations with Other Agencies.”

**400 Relations with Other Agencies**
**Boxes 49-62**
Correspondence and other records documenting MCA’s relations with a wide range of public health, nursing, welfare, and childcare organizations, both governmental and non-profit.
There is significant correspondence with the American Red Cross; American Social Hygiene Association; Children’s Bureau of the U.S. Labor Dept.; Council on Maternity Care; East Harlem Nursing and Health Service; Greater New York Fund; Metropolitan Life Insurance Co.; New York City Dept. of Health; New York State Depts. of Health and of Social Welfare; Parents’ Magazine; and the Welfare Council of New York City.

There are also records, 1921-1924, of the Manhattan Health Society, originally the Manhattanville Health Society, an early experiment to provide pre-paid health care for mothers and children in Manhattan which was undertaken in collaboration with the Henry Street Visiting Nurse Service and New York Diet Kitchen Association.

**500 Evaluations**

**Box 62**

Reports on the effectiveness of MCA’s work by Louis Dublin of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., 1919-1930; and endorsements of its work by others, 1920-1945.

**600 Memorials**

**Boxes 62-63**

Records of the Hazel Corbin Scholarship including committee minutes, scholarship applications, correspondence, and records to the main funder, the Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation, 1967-1979.

The Corbin Scholarship provided financial assistance to students enrolled in nurse-midwifery educational programs. It was named in honor of MCA General Director, Hazel Corbin.

**900 Miscellaneous Topics**

**Boxes 63-67**

Records of the Maternity Center Association’s significant work promoting midwifery and midwifery education in the U.S. Included are correspondence and other records of the Association for the Promotion & Standardization of Midwifery, 1920-1931, 1940-1949; the National League of Nursing Education’s Midwifery Committee, 1925-1932; and the American Association of Nurse-Midwives, 1932.

There is much documentation on MCA’s collaborative efforts to create nurse-midwife training programs at several medical centers including Booth Memorial Hospital (Philadelphia), Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center, Johns Hopkins Hospital, Kings County Hospital (Brooklyn), and the State University of New York Downstate Medical Center (Brooklyn).

Other records included here are the Board minutes of the Lobenstine Clinic and School, 1931-1961; and MCA efforts relating to birth control and marriage counseling.

**RECORDS SERIES 2: DEPT. OF PUBLIC INFORMATION**

**BOXES 67-80**
Records of this department which was responsible for public relations, publications, and educational materials, including film and television projects. They are largely from the tenure of Horace H. Hughes, Director, 1936-1970, and his successor, Martin Kelly.

Included are general correspondence relating to MCA newsletters such as *Briefs* and *Special Delivery*; drafts of books, pamphlets, and film and television scripts; newspaper and magazine clippings relating to MCA and maternal health issues; and records of MCA workshops and conferences. Extensive documentation exists for the organization’s pioneering film, *From Generation to Generation* (1959) and its *Birth Atlas* (1st edition, 1940).

**RECORDS SERIES 3: LOBENSTINE CLINIC AND SCHOOL**

**BOXES 80-106**

Records of the MCA’s Lobenstine Clinic and School including correspondence, reports, clinical records, student papers, and vertical files.

The correspondence includes substantial documentation relating to the American College of Nurse-Midwives, 1954-1972; the midwifery training program for African-American women which Lobenstine operated at the Tuskegee Institute in the 1940s; and the Yale-New Haven Hospital “rooming-in study” of the 1950s.

Vertical files on pregnancy, childbirth, midwifery education, and related topics make up the bulk of this series. These consist of newspaper, magazine, and scientific articles; pamphlets; flyers; and other ephemera, largely from the 1930s to the early 1960s.

Additional records include correspondence of Marion Strachan, director of the midwifery training program, 1958-1970; and registration and delivery books, 1932-1958. Minutes, incorporation papers, and other governance materials can be found in Series 1.

Founded in 1931, the Lobenstine Clinic and School was the first school in the US dedicated to the education of nurse-midwives. Originally a joint effort of MCA and the Association for the Promotion and Standardization of Midwifery, Inc., (itself largely comprised of MCA staff members) in 1935 it was completely merged into the Maternity Center Association. In 1942, the Berwind Free Maternity Clinic was acquired from the Cornell University Medical College and in 1947 all of Lobenstine’s activities were transferred there. In 1953, Lobenstine moved to the MCA headquarters on East 92nd Street.

The Maternity Center Association ended its home delivery service in 1958 and that same year the nurse-midwifery education program was transferred to Kings County Hospital in Brooklyn. There, the program was jointly operated by MCA and State University of New York Downstate Medical Center.

Hattie Hemschemeyer headed Lobenstine, 1931-1958. Marion Strachan directed its successor, the program at Kings County Hospital, 1958-1970.
**RECORDS SERIES 4: VERTICAL FILES**  
**BOXES 107-133**

Newspaper clippings, magazine articles, reprints from scientific journals, government reports, pamphlets, and ephemeral material on pregnancy, childbirth, parenthood, and childrearing in the broadest sense collected by the Maternity Center Association, presumably as a resource for its staff, board members, and students.

The material is arranged in two parallel A to Z sub-series, one called “Pamphlet Files” and the other “Library Clippings.” The Pamphlet Files, sub-series 4.1, date largely from the 1930s to the early 1960s; sub-series 4.2, Library Clippings, span from the early 1960s into the late 1980s.

**RECORDS SERIES 5: MIDWIFERY CONSULTATION SERVICE**  
**BOXES 133-136**

Correspondence, reports, questionnaires, and other records of this MCA project, 1970-1975, to improve U.S. maternity care through the expansion and utilization of nurse midwifery.

The Service was established with a grant from the Commonwealth Fund in 1971 and was directed by Marion Strachan, 1971-1974. MCA staff worked with hospitals and educational institutions interested in establishing nurse-midwifery services or educational programs. The Service made 16 site visits in 1971 and 21 in 1972. Between 1970 and 1974, the number of nurse-midwifery services and educational programs in the US grew from 26 to over 100. Of these, over half had received assistance from the Consultation Service in planning and curriculum design (*Special Delivery*, v. 6, no. 2, Autumn, 1975).

**RECORDS SERIES 6: GENERAL DIRECTORS’ RECORDS**  
**BOXES 137-220**

Records of the MCA General Directors, c.1965-1995, largely of the administrations of Vera Keane and Ruth W. Lubic. This series overlaps with Series 1, Central Files, for the 1965-1985 period, but appear to have been the primary files for the organization by the mid-1970s.

The bulk of the records were created by Ruth Watson Lubic, who took on the position of Director in 1970 and served until 1995, guiding the organization through some of the most tumultuous years of its existence. During her tenure, the MCA continued its national and international educational activities in the area of prenatal care and, in response to a resurgence of interest in home birth and “alternative” birthing methods, opened three Childbearing Centers (CbCs) in New York City. These centers were distinctive in that they provided a “home-like” environment, and medical services were provided by licensed nurse-midwives. Use of services provided by the centers was limited to women with low-risk pregnancies and, in the case of complications, the women were transferred to local hospitals.
In addition to her work at the MCA, Lubic was involved with numerous professional organizations in the areas of childbirth, nursing and nurse-midwifery and served as a consultant to or board member of several institutions. Most notable of these were the Frontier Nursing Service and Franklin County Hospital, both of which provided services to medically underserved communities in rural Kentucky. She was also active as a speaker, and maintained connections with childbirth organizations and professionals in numerous foreign countries, other states, and at colleges and universities. Finally, she was active in New York City and New York State politics as a lobbyist in support of issues relating to childbirth, alternative birth, reproductive rights, and nurse-midwifery.

The records in this series are arranged in sub-series:

Correspondence and other records on various topics related to the MCA, childbirth, midwifery, nurse-midwifery, and the administrative functioning of the MCA Childbearing Center (CbC) on the Upper East Side of Manhattan. Extensive records regarding issues related to the development of the first Childbearing Center, interactions with the New York City and New York State Health Departments, various nursing and obstetrical professional organizations, and CbC families. Arranged alphabetically; researchers should be aware that the records on the same subjects can be found in all three subject sub-series.

Correspondence and other records on various topics related to the MCA, childbirth, midwifery, and the administrative functioning of the MCA Childbearing Center (CbC) on the Upper East Side of Manhattan. Extensive records regarding interactions with the New York City and New York State Health Departments, various nursing and obstetrical professional organizations, CbC families and correspondence with the Frontier Nursing Service/Franklin County Hospital. Arranged alphabetically; overlaps chronologically and in content with Sub-series 1 and 3.

Correspondence and other records on various topics related to the MCA, childbirth, nurse-midwifery, and the administrative functioning of the MCA Childbearing Center on the Upper East Side of Manhattan. Extensive records regarding interactions with the New York City and New York State Health Departments, various nursing and obstetrical professional organizations, and Childbearing Center families. Arranged alphabetically; overlaps chronologically and in content with Sub-series 1 and 2.

**Sub-series 6.4: Countries, 1974-1996 (4 boxes, 1.33 cubic feet)**
Correspondence and other records on various topics related to the Ruth W. Lubic’s activities as a consultant and speaker outside the United States. Arranged alphabetically by country name; overlaps chronologically with Subject sub-series.
Sub-series 6.5: States, 1970-1992 (2 boxes, .66 cubic feet)
Correspondence and other records on various topics related to childbirth, midwifery, nurse-midwifery and Ruth W. Lubic’s activities as a consultant and speaker within the United States. Arranged alphabetically by state name; overlaps chronologically with Subject sub-series.

Sub-series 6.6: Universities, 1970-1996 (5 boxes, 1.66 cubic feet)
Correspondence and other records on various topics related to midwifery and nurse-midwifery education, and Ruth W. Lubic’s activities as a consultant and speaker at colleges and universities within the United States. Arranged alphabetically by name of school; overlaps chronologically with Subject sub-series.

Sub-series 6.7: Co-Op Birth Center Network, 1977-1982 (2.5 boxes, .80 cubic foot)
Correspondence between Ruth W. Lubic and Kitty Ernst as well as between Kitty Ernst and others regarding the ongoing business of the Co-Op Birth Center Network. The CBCN appears to have been run out of Ernst’s home in Pennsylvania, though Lubic had a supervisory role. Arranged alphabetically; overlaps chronologically with Subject sub-series.

Sub-series 6.8: Ruth W. Lubic Doctoral Papers, 1974-79 (.5 box, .15 cubic feet)
Copy of Lubic’s dissertation and references on the topic of the process of setting up an alternative birthing center, specifically, to setting up the first CbC on the Upper East Side.

Records Series 7: Childbearing Centers
Boxes 221-258

Correspondence, staff meeting minutes, policy and procedure manuals, activity and fundraising reports, statistics, flyers and ephemera, and other administrative files from the Maternity Center Association’s Childbearing Centers. There were three centers: one at the MCA headquarters on East 92nd St. in Manhattan, which opened in 1975; one located in the Morris Heights neighborhood of the Bronx, which opened in 1988; and one located in East New York neighborhood of Brooklyn, which opened in 1994.

Much relating to the planning and operations of the Centers may be found in the General Directors’ records (Series 6). No actual birth records are included in this series; they remain in the possession of Childbirth Connection.

While all three centers enjoyed a certain amount of success, the rising costs of malpractice insurance had a negative impact on their operations. The centers in Manhattan and the Bronx merged with affiliated hospitals and/or closed by 1995, and responsibility for the Brooklyn center was turned over to the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation.

Records are arranged in sub-series:
Sub-series 7.1 Childbearing Center of the Upper East Side (CbC I), 1973-1993
(7 boxes, 2.33 cubic feet)
Staff meeting minutes, policy and procedure manuals and other administrative records of
the Childbearing Center (CbC) located on the Upper East Side of Manhattan, 1975 to 1995.

Sub-series 7.2 CbC I Statistics, 1975-1993 (5 boxes, 1.66)
Weekly and monthly statistics, including births and transfers, from the CbC located on
the Upper East Side.

Sub-series 7.3 Miriam Kaparow Study, 1968-1973 (2 boxes, .66 cubic feet)
Interview forms and notes, correspondence and manuscript fragments related to a
childbirth study conducted at the MCA by Miriam Kaparow.

Sub-series 7.4 Public Relations 1967-1996 (4 boxes, 1.33 cubic feet)
Memos, legislative and other correspondence, publicity plans and grant
materials from
both the Morris Heights office and
the main CbC office on the Upper East Side.

Sub-series 7.5 Orientation Sheets, 1986 (.5 box, .15 cubic feet)
“First contact” questionnaires completed by prospective patients at the CbC I, or by MCA
staff, if the prospective patient was requesting an appointment via the telephone; contains
personal medical information.

Sub-series 7.6 Care Survey Forms, 1990 (.5 box, .15 cubic feet)
Surveys distributed to MCA patients who had delivered their child either at the MCA or
at a back-up hospital, requesting commentary on their experience; contains personal
medical information.

Sub-series 7.7 Expansion Research/Other Birth Centers, 1980-1995 (3 boxes, 1 cubic
foot)
Correspondence and other records relating to exploratory research performed by staff at
the main MCA CbC regarding expansion into other neighborhoods in the City of New
York. Extensive records of a proposed CbC on the Lower East Side of Manhattan, which
was to be run in conjunction with the North East Neighborhood Association (NENA),
now known as the Ryan-NENA Community Health Center. Arranged alphabetically;
overlaps chronologically with Subject sub-series.

Sub-series 7.8 Childbearing Center of Morris Heights (CbC II/IV), 1975-1995 (11
boxes, 3.66 cubic feet)
Administrative records, including transfer statistics, of the Childbearing Center (CbC)
located in the Morris Heights neighborhood of the Bronx, 1986 to 1991. It include
neighborhood demographics, as well as information about the founding, construction and
ongoing funding struggles of the organization. Researchers should be aware that the CbC
of Morris Heights is referred to as both CbC II and CbC IV in the records, due to
concurrent expansion activities. When the proposed CbC on the Lower East Side of
Manhattan (also referred to as CbC II) did not come to fruition, the Morris Heights
facility moved into the no. 2 slot. Arranged alphabetically; overlaps chronologically and in subject matter with the Subject sub-series 6.1-3

Sub-series 7.9 Childbearing Center of East New York (CbC III) 1985-1996 (5 boxes, 1.65 cubic foot)
Memos, staff meeting minutes, construction documents and correspondence from the Childbearing Center (CbC) located in the East New York neighborhood of Brooklyn. Included are neighborhood demographics as well as information about the development of the center and its activities. Arranged alphabetically; overlaps chronologically with Subject sub-series.

Sub-series 7.10 Birth Center Network, 1978-1995 (2 boxes,.66 cubic feet)
Correspondence and promotional literature from institutions in a birth center network in the tri-state area.

Records Series 8: Scrapbooks
24 volumes in housed in 4 boxes, and 6 flat boxes

Volumes containing newspaper and magazine clippings about the activities of the Maternity Center Association and on maternity care in general, largely 1918-1946, though there is one volume from 1968. In addition, there are two volumes of MCA forms, publications, and publicity materials, 1919-1932, 1937-1946.

Of particular interest are the ten volumes relating to the 1931 Mother’s Day publicity campaign, “16,000 Carnations.” Included are newspaper and magazine articles from across the U.S. and letters received by MCA in response to the campaign.

Records Series 9: MCA Publications
8 boxes, 1 flat box, and 1 carton

A comprehensive, though incomplete, set of Maternity Center Association publications, 1920s-1980s. They are arranged alphabetically either by title (for books and periodicals) or by topic (for pamphlets and ephemera). Included are runs of such periodicals as Briefs and Special Delivery; annual reports; a wide range of educational materials; and popular publications such as A Baby is Born (first edition, 1957).

Records Series 10: Oversize, Non-Print, and Separated Materials
1 document box, 1 banker’s box, 2 flat boxes, 6 oversize folders

Photographs; audiotapes; a cash book; educational poster sets; advertising posters for the Mother’s Day campaigns (1930s) and the MCA Childbearing Centers (1970s-80s); and anatomical drawings by Eve Schuchardt, 1950s. In addition there is material documenting the film, From Generation to Generation, produced by MCA in 1959: one volume of sketches for the film, and a large box of storyboards and cells.
Records Series 11: Accession #2016.004
Boxes 259-262

Miscellaneous records received in 2016 from Childbirth Connection (formerly Maternity Center Association) after its merger with the National Partnership for Women and Families in 2014. Included are general historical materials, photographs, conference transcripts, various reports produced by the organization, and legal documents. Apart from the photos which date from the 1930s to the 2000s, the bulk of the material dates from circa 1990-2010.

Access: Copyright is retained by the National Partnership for Women and Families, the successor organization to the Maternity Center Association/Childbirth Connection.

Permission to use illustrations from the records must be obtained from the National Partnership for Women and Families.

Permission to publish from the records under the terms of the U.S. copyright law’s Fair Use provisions may be obtained in writing from the Head, Archives & Special Collections.

Delivery and registration records of the Lobenstine Clinic and School in Series 3, and Sub-series 7.1 and 7.2 contain Protected Health Information (PHI) as defined by the US Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA); access is allowed only under the terms of Archives and Special Collections’ Access Policy to Records Containing Protected Health Information.

Language: English, Spanish.


Removals: Nine cans of film relating to the MCA movie, From Generation to Generation – consisting of three cans marked “A roll,” three cans marked “B roll” and 3 cans marked “Trk. Neg.” – were donated to the Historical Audiovisuals Collection of the History of Medicine Division of the U.S. National Library of Medicine in 2011.

Cite as: Maternity Center Association Records, Archives & Special Collections, Columbia University Health Sciences Library.

Subjects

Belskie, Abram, 1907-.
Dick-Read, Grantly, 1890-1959.
Hemschemeyer, Hattie.
Lubic, Ruth Watson.
Strachan, Marion.
American College of Nurse-Midwives.
Association for the Promotion and Standardization of Midwifery, Inc.
Lobenstine Clinic and School.
Maternity Center Association (New York, N.Y.)
Birthing centers – New York (State) – New York.
Childbirth at home – United States – 20th century.
Maternal health services – United States.
Maternity nursing – United States.
Midwifery – Education – United States.
Mother’s Day.
Natural childbirth.
Public health nursing – United States.
Social service publicity.
Labor.
Pregnancy.
Childbirth Connection.
Drawings.
Photographs.
Posters.
Scrapbooks.
Box 1

SERIES 1: CENTRAL FILES

100 ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION

110 Early History/Old Documents

1  *The Alumnae News*, New York Hospital Training School for Nurses, 1918  
   (photocopy)
2  Association for Standardization & Promotion of Midwifery, 1928-1935
3  Development of a Maternity Service Program for New York City, 1917-1918
4  Early grant application, 1928
5  Early history of the Maternity Center Association
6  File Headings
7  Maternal Mortality, 1926-1935
8  Maternity Institutes: Outline
9  Memorials for Ralph Lobenstine, M.D.
10 Office Staff, 1971
11 Oral History of Elizabeth Arnold, R.N.
12 “Reimbursement for Nursing Practice” by Ruth W. Lubic
13 Report of the Committee on Nursing Education, Rockefeller Foundation, 1919-1920
14 Report from the Sheppard Towner Committee, 1922
15 Special Investigation for the WCC Labor Committee, 1918?
16 A Wider Outlook on Obstetrics, MCA-Yale
17 Women’s City Club
18 “The Work of the Maternity Center Association,” by Anne A. Stevens, 1919

120 By-Laws, Incorporation, Seal

19 Incorporation Certificates, 1935
20 Lobenstine Clinic: By-laws and Minutes, 1931-1933
21 Lobenstine Clinic: Incorporation, 1931-1934
22 Lobenstine Clinic: Tax Status, 1930-1939
23 By-laws
24 By-laws: Correspondence, 1964-1965

130 Legal Opinions

25 Lobenstine Clinic incorporation & tax-exempt status, 1947-1963

Box 2

1  MCA Tax Exempt Status & Challenges, 1948-1968
2  Berwind Clinic: Tax-exempt status, 1947-1949
140 Minutes, Reports, Opinions

141 Association Meetings/Conferences/Seminars

Minutes, Annual Meeting
3 Feb 4, 1919
4 Feb 3, 1920
5 Feb 3, 1921
6 Feb 7, 1922
7 Feb 6, 1923
8 Feb 5, 1924
9 Feb 4, 1925
10 Jan 28, 1926
11 Feb 24, 1927
12 Jan 28, 1928
13 Jan 21, 1929
14 Jan 30, 1930
15 Jan 22, 1931
16 Jan 14, 1932
17 Jan 18, 1933
18 Jan 18, 1934
19 Jan 13, 1935
20 Jan 18, 1936
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7 MCA: Amended Charter, 1962
8 MCA-Bellevue: Resolutions, 1929
9 MCA: Suggestions for Programs: An Outline, 1970
10 Carolyn Conant Van Blarcom correspondence, 1925
11 Midwifery
12 Correspondence, 1961-1966
13 Definition, 1948-49
14 Education: Report by Dr. Rice, 1928
15 Historical Accounts
16 Midwives’ Institute (UK), 1929
17 “Midwives of New York,” article, 1907
18 Midwives’ Report, 1923-1929
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5 Progress in Midwifery Education, 1934-1942
6 Questionnaires on Midwifery Training for Public Health Nurses: Responses, 1923
7 State University of New York (SUNY) Downstate Medical Center (Brooklyn)
7 Agreement & Narrative, 1964-1965
8 Course catalogue, 1961-1965
9 Bulletin, 1971-72
10 Guide for Evaluating Supplemental Clinical Programs for Graduate Professional Nurses, 1963
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17 Marriage Consultation Service, 1951
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20 1958-1959
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2. American College of Nurse-Midwives: Misc. educational materials, 1960s-70s
4. Annual Reports, MCA, c. 1970s-1990s
5. A Peek into the Future: drafts, 1963
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12. Correspondence, 1958-1963
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3. *Mrs. King Has a Baby* [comic book]
5. Commonwealth Fund: Clippings, 1971
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7. Community Based Nurse-Midwifery Education Program: Minutes, Nov. 17, 1987
8. Corbin, Hazel: Clippings, 1940-1960
11. Elliott, Mrs. John, Jr.: Election as President, June, 14, 1964
14. First International Congress of Psychosomatic Medicine & Maternity, July 1962

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<td><em>Having a Baby</em>: Curriculum guide for teachers, 1951</td>
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<td><em>Having a Baby</em>: Slide show, 1956-1959</td>
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<td><em>How Does Your Baby Grow?</em> Correspondence, 1941-1960</td>
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<td>Johnson &amp; Johnson Film: <em>Baths &amp; Babies</em>, 1965</td>
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<td>Keane, Vera: Announcement as new Director, MCA, May 1965</td>
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<td>Workgroup 1: Transcript</td>
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Maternity Center Association (MCA) Cards

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<td>MCA Symposium, “Out of Hospital Childbearing Units,” November 1977</td>
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<td>Marketing Committee, 1990-1991</td>
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<td><em>McCall’s Magazine</em>: Response to article, 1962</td>
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<td><em>Meeting the Child Bearing Needs of Families in a Changing World</em>: Reviews,</td>
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<td>correspondence re report, 1962</td>
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<td><em>Meeting the Child Bearing Needs of Families in a Changing World</em> [report],</td>
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Midwife: With Women [Film]: Flyer & questionnaire, undated
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<td>Master List of Nurse-Midwives, November 1963</td>
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<td>Publications, reports, 1962-1972</td>
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<td>American Committee on Maternal Welfare: Board of Directors, Minutes, Dec. 11-15, 1952</td>
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<td>American Nurses’ Association: Statement on midwifery, 1967</td>
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<td>Anemia: Class paper, 1952</td>
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<td>“Bacterial Pneumonia of the New-Born,” class paper, 1959</td>
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<td>Bennett, Dr. Angela: Faculty, 1957-1967</td>
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<td>Berwind Branch: Procedure Manual, rev. 1953</td>
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<td>Berwind Free Maternity Clinic: “Instructions,” c. 1923</td>
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<td>“The Field Practice Period in the University Public Health Nursing Program of Study: Final Report,” 1948</td>
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<td>Horace H. Hughes, 1965</td>
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<td>Marquette University: Feasibility Study, Graduate Nurse-Midwifery Program, 1969</td>
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<td>Marriage Counseling: Pamphlets &amp; articles, 1940s-1950s</td>
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<td>“A Brief Look at Maternity Center’s Past - A Peak into the Future,” paper by Hazel Corbin, 1964</td>
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**Scrapbook Flat Box 1**  
Scrapbooks, 1919-1923 (3 v.)

**Scrapbook Flat Box 2**  
Scrapbooks, 1924-1933 (2 v.)

**Scrapbook Flat Box 3**  
Scrapbook, 1933 (1 v.)  
Clippings, 1918 (1 folder)  
“Old Records, Pamphlets,” 1919-1923 (1 v.)

**Scrapbook Flat Box 4**  
“Appeals & Publicity,” 1924-1926, 1932-1935 (2 v.)

**Scrapbook Flat Box 5**  
“Appeals and Publicity,” 1944-1946 (1 v.)  
Scrapbook, Newsclippings, 1968 (1 v.)

**Scrapbook Flat Box 6**  
Scrapbook of MCA publications (mostly *Briefs*), 1937-1946 (1 v.)

**Series 9: MCA Publications**

**Publications Box 1**

1  AIDS
2-7  *Briefs*, Nov.-Dec. 1937, 1939, 1941-1957 [with gaps]

**Publications Box 2**

1-5  *Briefs*, 1958-1969

**Publications Box 3**

1-5  *Briefs*, 1970-1979

**Publications Box 4**

3  Childbearing Centers: General
4  Child Development
5  Education: General
6  For Educators

**Publications Box 5**

1  Fundraising/Development
2  MCA, General
Publications Box 6

1. Parental Education: General

Publications Box 7

1. Parental Education: “Preparation for Childbearing,” French & Spanish versions
2. Pregnancy

Publications Box 8

2. Stork Facts, 1947-1950
3-6. Annual Reports, 1918-1991 [many gaps]
7. “Six Years in Review, 1930-1935”
8. Maternity Center Association, 1918-1943 [2 copies]

Publications Box 9

Loose in box:

A Baby is Born: The Picture Story of Everyman’s Beginning with Captions in English, French and Spanish, 1st ed., 1957

A Baby is Born: The Picture Story of Everyman’s Beginning with Captions in English, French and Spanish, 2nd ed., 1960 [6 copies]

A Baby is Born: The Picture Story of Everyman’s Beginning, 3rd ed., 1964


Maternity Handbook for Pregnant Mothers and Expectant Fathers, 1932

Prelude to Action: The Next Twenty Years in Maternity Care, 1969

Prelude to Action II: Reforming Maternity Care, 1995

Maternity Care in Ferment: Conflicting Issues, 1980

Publications Flat Box 1

Maternity Care in Pictures: A Portfolio of 31 Teaching Charts Showing Safe Maternity Care, 1939. 3 copies: one in original portfolio case; one in binder; one loose, (loose copy incomplete)

SERIES 10: OVERSIZE, NON-PRINT, AND SEPARATED MATERIALS

Photo Box 1

1 Delivery of child with midwife, undated, but c.1960 (10 items)
2 Elliot, Mrs. John, Jr.: portrait photo, c.1964
3 Pre-natal examination? 1965 (3 items)
4 Contact sheets and negatives, undated, but c.1960s

Loose in box: 2 audiotapes, unidentified, 1968

Map Case 1-1

In four oversize folders:

Childbearing Center statistics, 1975-1990

In one oversize folder:

Blueprints, various dates, 3 sheets

Map Case 2-6

In one oversize folder:

“Maternity Center Association. Benefit Concert by Pablo Casals and Susan Metcalfe Casals at Aeolian Hall, April 20 [1920] at 3p.m.” 14” x 10”

Poster Set, “Soon There Will Be 3,” 1946. Numbered 1-17 [missing #3]. 16 items, 22” x 17”. Photos by Erich Kasten, design by Fred Tobey.

Poster Set, “Mother Was a Baby in ’22,” no date [c. late 1940s]. Numbered 1-8. 8 items, 22” x 17”


Poster: “The Maternity Center Association’s Childbearing Center,” no date, [c.1975?]. 1 item, 17.5” x 13.5”. Text in English and Spanish.

Poster: “A Brand New Service for Expectant Mothers: The Childbearing Center of Morris Heights,” no date. 17” x 13”.

Car Card [?]: “A Mother’s Day Message,” 1931. 11” x 21” FRAGILE

Non-Print Flat Box 1: Anatomical drawings by Eve Schuchardt [unorganized]

Non-Print Flat Box 2: 1 volume of storyboard sketches for film, From Generation to Generation [identified by the early discarded title, Patterns of Nature]

Banker’s Box: Storyboards and cells for From Generation to Generation [unorganized]

Cash Book, Aug. 1921-Dec. 1923 (shelved separately)

**Series 11: Accession #2016.004**

**Box 259**

- Historical materials
  1. General, 1980s-1990s
  2. “Birth of a Baby” [movie], undated
  3. Board of Directors/Staff: Lists, 1980s, 2004
  4. 85th Anniversary Gala Timeline, 2003
  8. Childbearing Centers: Client lists, 1990s [RESTRICTED]
  9. 85th Anniversary Gala, 2003: Program
   90th Anniversary Symposium, 2009
  11. General, 2007-2008
  12. Transcripts of talks
  14. Articles and reports, 1989-2010

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Box 262

1  Symposium, April 2-3, 2009: 3 CDs
2  Mortgages, insurance policies, deeds of sale and other legal documents, 1931-1996

Loose in box:

Housed in Map Case 2, drawer 6: