

PARENT RECORD: Congregation House of Jacob

Sous-fonds title: David and Tibeale Halpern Akiva Academy sous-fonds

No.: HJM-AA

DATE RANGE: 1981-2017

EXTENT: 19.5cm of textual records

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY:

David and Tibeale Halpern Akiva Academy was established as Akiva Academy in 1980. Generally referred to as Akiva Academy, the school began with a single kindergarten class and a mission to provide “excellence in education: commitment to Torah values”. Rabbi Peter Hayman, then spiritual leader of Congregation House of Jacob-Mikveh Israel, served as the principal and Carl Bond was president. Space was rented at Bel-Aire School, and by 1982, when Rabbi Baruch Hilsenrath became Principal, the school had grown to 55 students in 4 grade levels. In 1997 Akiva Academy added a full Junior High (grades 7-9) class.

By 1986 Akiva Academy had signed a lease with the Calgary Board of Education and moved to an unused school building on Haddon Road in the city’s southwest, sharing the building with Calgary Preparatory School until 1989. It was originally hoped that construction on the land purchased by Congregation House of Jacob-Mikveh Israel in 1984 would include a school building, but that plan never materialized. In 2001 the decision was made to purchase the Haddon Road building, which was renamed The Israel Koschitzky Family Torah Learning Centre in honour of the foundation which provided the school with a permanent home. In 2019, a significant donation from siblings Shelley Zimmerman, Nelson Halpern and Jackie Halpern, in memory of their parents David and Tibeale, resulted in the re-naming of the school.

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The sous-fonds consists of minutes, financial statements, by-laws, correspondence, program and publicity material relating to the activities of Akiva Academy.

The sous-fonds has been arranged into the following series: Governance; Minutes & Reports; Correspondence; Proposed Building; Events.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of sous-fonds

SOURCE OF ACQUISITION: Milton Bogoch, Jay Joffee, Yannai Segal

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

RELATED GROUPS OF RECORDS: Congregation House of Jacob fonds; JHSSA photo collection

GENERAL NOTE: Includes material from the following accessions: 2000-007; 2001-020, 2002-013, 2005-007

Sous-fonds series title: Governance

No.: HJM-AA .01

Date Range: 1984-1995

Extent: .5cm of textual records

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of an annotated undated copy of the Akiva Academy by-laws, the signed 1984 contract between Akiva Academy and Rabbi Hilsenrath, a copy of Congregation House of Jacob-Mikveh Israel By-law No. 13 "Forming the Akiva Academy Board of Education" (1990), and a 1995 draft of the school's Subsidy Policy.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

Sous-fonds series title: Minutes & Reports

No.: HJM-AA.02

Date Range: 1981-2002

Extent: 5cm of textual records

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of minutes and reports from Akiva Academy Board of Directors, Executive and Annual General meetings, including audited and informal financial statements and reports interfiled chronologically. Also included are a 2000 Feasibility Study assessing support for a permanent campus, and the 2001 recommendation of the Akiva Capital Campaign Committee.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

Sous-fonds series title: Correspondence

No.: HJM-AA.03

Date Range: 1984-1994

Extent: 1cm of textual records

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of correspondence sent to and received by Akiva Academy, including parent communications and 2 school brochures (1981, 1989).

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

Sous-fonds series title: Proposed Building

No.: HJM-AA.04

Date Range: 1992-1994

Extent: 4cm of textual records

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of “fundraising fact sheets”, architectural proposals and correspondence regarding the unsuccessful efforts to obtain city permission to erect a school beside the existing House of Jacob-Mikveh Israel synagogue building. Also included are copies of documents submitted to the City of Calgary Development Appeal Board.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

Sous-fonds series title: Events

No.: HJM-AA.05

Date Range: 1986-2017

Extent: 9cm of textual records

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of programs and informational material from Akiva Academy events, including graduations (1987, 1997, 2000, 2001), Chanuka concerts and fundraisers (auctions, bingos, raffles, dinners). Also included is information regarding the “Continuity of the Precious Legacy in Alberta” campaign, which raised funds specifically for the Akiva Academy library.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access