

JHSSA DESCRIPTIVE LEVEL RECORD

TITLE: Na'amat Canada-Calgary fonds

No.: PWN

DATE RANGE: 1944-1950, 1960-1962, 1980, 2007

EXTENT: 3 cm of textual records

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY:

Na'amat Canada-Calgary is part of an international women's Zionist group that was founded in 1925 as The Women's Organization for the Pioneer Women of Palestine, commonly referred to as Pioneer Women.

An extant women's Yiddish-speaking club was inspired by Channa Belkin, with the assistance of Sarah Engle, to become the Calgary chapter of Pioneer Women in 1934. The group's first presidents included Ruth Joffe, Jennie Bulshin, Rose Cohen and Leah Kelson.

Members held a variety of social events to raise funds for immigrant aid and education projects in Palestine and, later, Israel, sometimes joining forces with other Zionist groups. During WWII, they engaged in local war-effort projects with the Red Cross. Pioneer Women Calgary also worked locally on behalf of abused women, raising additional funds through the publication of an annual New Year's Greetings booklet.

Pioneer Women officially became known as Na'amat – an acronym for *Nashim Ovdot U'mitnadvot* ("women working and volunteering") – in the 1980s. Fund raising events have included bingos, casinos, movie sing-a-longs and concerts, which support non-sectarian social, educational and advocacy services in Israel, as well as the Child Rescue Fund, first established in 1943. The group has also co-sponsored events in support of Jewish Family Service Calgary, and since 1998 has run the School Supplies for Kids program, providing supply-filled backpacks to Calgary children living in local shelters.

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The fonds consists of a donation receipt (1944), 2 New Year's Greetings booklets, a *Western "Harvest Conference"* program, a Western Region yearbook, a Canada Pioneer Women newsletter, and a handbill for a Na'amat Calgary fundraising event.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of fonds

SOURCE OF ACQUISITION: Clara Herscu; Dinah Spindel

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

ACCRUALS: further accruals expected though not scheduled

RELATED GROUPS OF RECORDS: JHSSA Zionism Collection; JHSSA Photo Collection; Calgary Jewish Federation (UJA, Events); Calgary JCC (Yom Hazikaron); Calgary Zionist Association (Agudas Zion); Calgary Zionist Council; Calgary Zionist Federation; Calgary Zionist Organization; Hadassah-WIZO; Histadrut; Jewish National Fund; Mizrahi Women; Sharon Zionist Club; State of Israel Bonds; Calgary Young Judaea

GENERAL NOTE: includes material from the following accessions: 99-010; 2000-013

Some information for the Admin Histories is taken from *A Joyful Harvest* cJHSSA 2005, and from the Na'amat Canada website, accessed July 2018