

## JHSSA DESCRIPTIVE LEVEL RECORD

**TITLE:** Calgary JCC fonds

**No.:** JCC

**DATE RANGE:** 1965-2019

**EXTENT:** 22.5 cm of textual records. – 19 textiles. – 3 VHS tapes

### **ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY**

Since pre-WWI, the Calgary Jewish community had a number of iterations of a community council, all of which concerned themselves with the establishment of a range of community institutions and organizations. Beginning in 1929, the focal point for many of these activities was the House of Israel community building on 18<sup>th</sup> Ave, but the overall organizational structure was inconsistent. Jewish Community Council of Calgary (later Calgary Jewish Federation) was “newly formed” in 1965, and one of their first projects was to develop a “structured program to serve the recreational and leisure time needs” of the community. After a series of meetings with the leadership of community centres in other cities, a Calgary workshop was held in April 1965. Under Community Council Executive Director Harry Shatz, an operational Standing Committee established and ran a “demonstration” program in the fall and winter of 1965/1966, with regular programming beginning in the fall of 1966. Many activities, which focused on children and teens, took place at the House of Israel. The facilities at a nearby Boys Club were rented for basketball, volleyball and other gym activities, while swimming lessons were held at a city-run pool in the district of Killarney.

By 1967 planning had begun for a new community centre, and in 1970 the Community Council purchased land at the corner of 14<sup>th</sup> St. and 90<sup>th</sup> Ave SW. With funding assistance from the Province of Alberta, the Calgary Jewish Centre – variously called the Jewish Centre, the Community Centre, the Centre, or the JCC – opened in June, 1979. The facility included meeting rooms, an auditorium, a gymnasium and a pool, as well as a chapel, a library, a youth lounge and a kosher café; a breezeway connected the JCC to an adjacent seniors’ apartment building (later the Bertha Gold Jewish Seniors Residence). A 1992 expansion added fitness facilities and an expanded daycare. The offices of Calgary Jewish Federation are located in the building, which also rents office space to several community organizations and services.

Promotional material often refers to the JCC, the “program and service arm of the Calgary Jewish Community Council” as a community living room. From its earliest inception, the facility has regularly hosted events and programs for – and with – a wide range of organizations, including Jewish Family Service, Canadian Mental Health Association, and the Canadian Red Cross. The JCC itself offers a wide range of cultural, commemorative and educational programs, and the auditorium and other spaces are frequently rented out for community events. In 2020, the facility was renamed Paperny Family JCC.

### **SCOPE AND CONTENT:**

The fonds consists of minutes, correspondence and reports regarding the Calgary JCC, as well as programming and publicity material.

The fonds has been arranged into the following series: Establishment; Programs; Events; Commemorative Events; Promotional Material; Schedules; Newsletters

**SOURCE OF TITLE:** title from content of fonds

**SOURCE OF ACQUISITION:** Calgary JCC; Rose Hallis; Ron and Barb Krell

**LANGUAGE:** some material is in Yiddish, see series

**ACCESS CONDITIONS:** no restrictions on access

**ACCRUALS:** further accruals expected though not scheduled

**RELATED GROUPS OF RECORDS:** JHSSA photo collection; House of Israel; Calgary Jewish Federation

**GENERAL NOTE:** Some information for the Admin Histories is taken from *A Joyful Harvest* (JHSSA 2007)

Some copies of Calgary JCC newsletters are available to researchers through the JHSSA Periodical Library.

Includes material from the following accessions: 2001-012, 2001-017, 2006-021, 2009-013, 2013-005, 2014-005

**Series Title:** Establishment

**No.:** .01

**Date Range:** 1965-1966, 1988, 2013-2016

**Extent:** 1.5cm of textual records

**SCOPE AND CONTENT:**

The series consists of correspondence and an "Observations and Recommendations" report regarding the establishment of structured recreational programs for Calgary's Jewish community, a proposal for the inaugural year of youth programming, and a 6-page document outlining the Calgary Jewish Community Centre's purpose and principles, including a weekly schedule & proposed budget. Also included are a 1988 Centre Board list, the Calgary JCC 2013 and 2016 Annual General Meeting booklets, and a logo-printed Calgary JCC envelope.

The series has been arranged into the following sub-series: 1965 - ; Annual General Meetings

**SOURCE OF TITLE:** title from content of series

**ACCESS CONDITIONS:** no restrictions on access

**Series Title:** Programs

**No.:** .02

**Date Range:** 1986-1992, 2007-2011

**Extent:** 7cm of textual records. -3 VHS tapes

**SCOPE AND CONTENT:**

The series consists of minutes, correspondence, planning and promotional material for Calgary JCC programs, including the information/interview program "The Voice of Yiddish Calgary", Adult Education, JCC Maccabi Games, Seniors' and other programs, as well as the library, day care and exercise facilities. Also included is blank letterhead for the "Jewish Centre Activities Committee", and 3 VHS tapes of "The Voice of Yiddish Calgary".

The series has been arranged into the following sub-series: 1986-2011; Seniors; Adult Education; JCC Maccabi Games. Undated material has been placed by the archives at the front of the file.

**SOURCE OF TITLE:** title from content of series

**ACCESS CONDITIONS:** no restrictions on access

**LANGUAGE:** some material is in Yiddish

**OTHER FORMATS:** "Voice of Yiddish Calgary" is available on DVD through the JHSSA Lending Library.

**Series Title:** Events

**No.:** .03

**Date Range:** 1967, 1979, 1989-2019

**Extent:** 3.5cm of textual records. – 19 textiles

**SCOPE AND CONTENT:**

The series consists of correspondence, organizational and promotional material for one-time and annual Calgary JCC events, including the book fair and fundraising Sports Dinner, and the 2018 unveiling of the new "Veterans Wall of Honour". Also included are T-shirts from various community organizations and events, collected for a display called The Clothesline Project, a commemorative book from a 2013 event called Shalom/Salam, and annotated posters from a production of "Lies My Father Told Me".

The series has been arranged into the following sub-series: 1967- ; Clothesline Project / Shalom Salam; Book Fair (1987-1991)

**SOURCE OF TITLE:** title from content of series

**ACCESS CONDITIONS:** no restrictions on access

**Series Title:** Commemorative Events

**No.:** .04

**Date Range:** 1988-2016

**Extent:** 1cm of textual records

**SCOPE AND CONTENT:**

The series consists of programs and publicity material for community-wide commemorative events, put on by Calgary JCC. These events, sometimes held at the Beth Tzedec Synagogue or other locations, include Yom Hazikaron (Israeli Remembrance Day) and Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israeli Independence Day), as well as events organized by the Holocaust Education Committee. Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) programs were organized by the Centre until c2006[?], and then taken on by Calgary Jewish Community Council / Calgary Jewish Federation. Also included is material from a 1988 memorial to the athletes killed in Munich at the 1988 Winter Olympics, and a 1993 "Thanks to Scandinavia".

**SOURCE OF TITLE:** title from content of series

**ACCESS CONDITIONS:** no restrictions on access

**RELATED RECORDS:** Calgary Jewish Federation / "Holocaust Education and Programming"

**Series Title:** Promotional Material  
**Date Range:** 1979-2000  
**Extent:** 1cm of textual records

**No.:** .05

**SCOPE AND CONTENT:**

The series consists of non-program-specific material from Calgary JCC, including brochures and press releases, as well as blank demographic and member survey forms.

**SOURCE OF TITLE:** title from content of series

**ACCESS CONDITIONS:** no restrictions on access

**Series Title:** Schedules  
**Date Range:** 1984-2003, 2011  
**Extent:** 5.5cm of textual records

**No.:** .06

**SCOPE AND CONTENT:**

The series consists of schedule and activity information for Calgary JCC. The series is incomplete.

The series has been arranged into the following sub-series: General; Summer / Camp

**SOURCE OF TITLE:** title from content of series

**ACCESS CONDITIONS:** no restrictions on access

**Series Title:** Newsletters  
**Date Range:** 1983-1997, 2002-2004  
**Extent:** 2 cm of textual records

**No.:** .07

**SCOPE AND CONTENT:**

The series consists of newsletters produced by Calgary JCC, variously called *Centre Life*, *On Centre*, *The Centre Line*, and *Chai Lights*. The series is incomplete.

**SOURCE OF TITLE:** title from content of series

**ACCESS CONDITIONS:** no restrictions on access