

JHSSA DESCRIPTIVE LEVEL RECORD

TITLE: Calgary Jewish Academy fonds **No.:** CJA

DATE RANGE: 1920-2013, predominant 1958-1978

EXTENT: 142 cm of textual records. –1 sheet microfilm. –49 photos.–3 objects. –2 DVDs

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY:

Calgary Jewish Academy, often referred to as CJA, or Hebrew School, was created in 1986 by the merger of the Calgary Hebrew School (later known as the Charles Waterman Talmud Torah) founded in 1912, and the I.L. Peretz School, founded in 1927.

Jewish education in Calgary began in 1910, with 19 students in a one-room *cheder* -- religious school for boys -- on the House of Jacob synagogue site. In 1912, the Jewish residents of Calgary elected a Council (*Va'ad Hair*) to coordinate its religious and educational institutions; the education committee, chaired by Mr H. Cooper, promptly established a *talmud torah*, a Hebrew school. The principal was Rabbi Solomon Roubin, and the first teacher was Judah Shumiatcher. In 1913, with input from J. Diamond, S. Jaffe, B. Margolis and M. Olin, the after-school program, which provided Hebrew and Jewish (Yiddish) education to some 100 students, both boys and girls, separated from the synagogue. Funds were contributed by the community at large, both through direct appeals and by way of events like the Grand Ball that was held in February 1914, which raised over \$150 for the school. Various challenges, including the difficulty of engaging qualified staff, saw the school lapse for a few years, but by the end of WWI momentum had been restored, and in 1919 Mr. A.H. Goldberg was appointed chairman of a campaign to raise funds and re-vitalize the Talmud Torah.

The Calgary Hebrew School was first incorporated, under the “revised ordinances of the North West Territories”, in January 1920, and later that year a house was purchased on 6th Avenue E to accommodate the growing enrollment. The school was incorporated again in 1927, “with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta”. It was at this time that Yiddish was dropped from the curriculum, reflecting the generally religious and Zionist stance of many of its founders. This prompted the establishment of the I.L. Peretz School, a wholly separate entity, with a Yiddish-based focus perceived as both more secular and more political.

When the House of Israel building opened in 1930 as the centre for Calgary’s Jewish community, the Hebrew School, with its primarily after-school classes, became a major tenant; in the mid-1940s, correspondence used letterhead that read “The Amalgamated House of Israel and Calgary Hebrew School”. Rabbi Aron Horowitz’s principalship, which began in 1942, added Hebrew speaking clubs and a summer camp to the school’s offerings. In 1954 the Hebrew School became a full Jewish day school, offering classes from kindergarten through grade six. This initiative was led by Charles Waterman, president of the school, and Nate Safran, chairman of its board of education. The school also offered evening classes for both post-elementary-school children, and adults.

In 1958, with the community increasingly moving south of the inner city, Waterman played a major role in the decision to acquire land at 14th Street and 66th Ave SW (later Glenmore Trail), and the purpose-built Charles Waterman Talmud Torah opened in 1959, with 140 students. Additional classrooms and an auditorium were constructed during the 1960s, along with a gymnasium in 1970. A Junior High day

school program was established in 1968, and the school continued to offer evening classes. Enrollment grew to almost 400, and beginning in 1977, the school offered full-credit Hebrew classes for public high school students.

For most of its existence, the Talmud Torah was a private parochial school. In the 1970s, primarily due to changes in government education funding and structure, the school became a designated “alternative school” of the Calgary Public School Board, as did the I.L.Peretz School. When the alternative school program ended in 1984, both institutions became private schools associated with the Calgary Separate School Board.

The possibility of a merger of the Hebrew and Peretz Schools had been discussed – and dismissed – many times over the years. During the mid-1980s, two Peretz educators, Shimshon Heilik and Aron Eichler, were able to move their school away from its earlier radical roots, and the Hebrew School leaders moderated their Hebrew-only stance. This allowed the schools to reach a merger agreement in 1986, and Calgary Jewish Academy began classes in September 1987, in the Charles Waterman Talmud Torah building. Students and faculty were blended, and Hebrew and Yiddish continued to be taught, along with the full provincial curriculum.

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The fonds consists of correspondence, minutes, reports, brochures, yearbooks, student lists, financial documents, programs, supporter recognitions, books and dinnerware from Calgary Jewish Academy / Calgary Hebrew School / Charles Waterman Talmud Torah.

The fonds has been arranged into the following series: Governance; Minutes; Correspondence; Financial; Curriculum; Registration & Enrollment; Construction; Bulletins; Brochures; Events; Published Material; Recognitions; Books; Directories; Memorabilia; Western Association of Jewish Schools

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of fonds

PHYSICAL CONDITION: some fragile material; see series

SOURCE OF ACQUISITION: Calgary Jewish Academy; Ethel Allman; Arlein Chetner; Jack Edelson; Bertha Gold; Eiran Harris; Allan Gurevitch; Sheila Gurevitch; Rose Hallis; Cy & Mona Joffe; Yale Joffe; Max Lipsman; Izak Paul; Ted Riback; Ben Roginsky; Al Rubin; Pat Smolensky; Elliott Steinberg

LANGUAGE: some material in Hebrew, Yiddish; see series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access except one subseries, restricted until 2040

ASSOCIATED MATERIAL: Glenbow Museum

ACCRUALS NOTE: further accruals expected though not scheduled

RELATED GROUPS OF RECORDS: JHSSA Photo Collection; ILPeretz Institute; House of Israel; B’nai Brith Lodge; Calgary Jewish Federation

GENERAL NOTE: Some information for the Admin Histories is taken from *A Joyful Harvest* (JHSSA 2005)

The fonds includes material from the following accessions: 98-003, 98-012, 99-003, 99-004, 2001-017, 2002-018, 2003-007, 2003-010, 2003-015, 2003-019, 2004-010, 2006-006, 2006-011, 2007-002, 2007-005, 2009-005, 2009-008, 2010-002, 2011-001, 2013-003

Series Title: Governance

No.: .01

Date Range: 1920, 1927, 1958 [photocopied 1986], 1963-1969, 1978

Extent: 1cm of textual records

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of a copy of the 1920 Declaration of Incorporation, the "Act to Incorporate the Calgary Hebrew School (Assented to April 2, 1927)", a photocopy of the 1958 Transfer of Land from Charles Waterman to the Calgary Hebrew School, the 1963 and 1967 by-laws, and a 1976 "Draft Statement for the Operation of the Calgary Hebrew School". Also included are a 1969 "Proposed Policy Book", and a "Review of the Board of the Calgary Hebrew School" (1978).

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

Series Title: Minutes

No.: .02

Date Range: 1953-1984

Extent: 6cm of textual records

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of minutes and reports, including policy, school board, facility and insurance reports, regarding Calgary Jewish Academy / Calgary Hebrew School /Charles Waterman Talmud Torah. As received by the archives, the minutes sometimes include financial, curriculum, enrollment and Building Fund information, as well as material regarding the amalgamation of the Calgary Hebrew School /Talmud Torah and the I.L. Peretz School.

A photocopied set of minutes (1936-1939) is part of the reference section of the JHSSA Harry and Martha Cohen Library. The location of the original minutes is unknown.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

LANGUAGE NOTE: some material in Hebrew, Yiddish; some translations included

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

Series Title: Correspondence
Date Range: 1931, 1947-1978, 1983-1985
Extent: 11 cm of textual records

No.: .03

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of correspondence sent and received by Calgary Jewish Academy/ Calgary Hebrew School / Charles Waterman Talmud Torah, including blank stationery (18th Ave and Glenmore Tr locations), a copy of a 1931 letter written by the students [Yiddish], a survey request with a letter of support/introduction [Hebrew] from Rabbi Horowitz, as well as some financial and curriculum information that was attached to various letters. Also included are "Notes" written by former teacher Jacob Freedman, in 1960. Blank stationery has been placed by the archives at the beginning of the series.

The series is arranged chronologically and includes one sub-series, "Sensitive", which is restricted until 2040.

1931-June 1970; July 1970-June 1978; July 1983-June 1985

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

LANGUAGE NOTE: some material in Hebrew, Yiddish; some translations included

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access, except "Sensitive" subseries, restricted until 2040.

Series Title: Financial
Date Range: 1938-1990; predominant 1963-1979
Extent: 18cm of textual records

No.: .04

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of correspondence, ledgers (including loose pages), budgets, salary and tuition lists, balance sheets and financial statements for Calgary Jewish Academy / Calgary Hebrew School / Charles Waterman Talmud Torah, as well as blank cheques from the Calgary Hebrew School Religious and Operating Accounts [post-1960], order forms for the (Helman) library, and miscellaneous receipts.

Also included are a property appraisal (for Mr. S. Spier), documents regarding an estimated land evaluation (Jenny Belzberg) and 1957 "Transfer of Land" from Charles Waterman to the Calgary Hebrew School. These items have been placed by the archives at the beginning of the "Operating" folder.

The series has been arranged into the following subseries: Ledgers; Operating (includes Charles Waterman Fund, Education Fund); State of Israel Bonds; Building Fund; "Friends of Calgary Jewish Academy Trust"; Library; Receipts. There are no records from 1974.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

Series Title: Curriculum
Date Range: 1951-1954, [196-]-1974
Extent: 1cm of textual records

No.: .05

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of correspondence and reports on curriculum development for Calgary Jewish Academy /Calgary Hebrew School/ Charles Waterman Talmud Torah, including the 1968 establishment of a Junior High day school program. Also included is a report card, and a Certificate of Honour.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

Series Title: Registration and Enrollment
Date Range: 1942, 1951-1973
Extent: 4cm of textual records

No.: .06

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of registration forms, enrollment lists and numbers, student and parent contact information, and tuition information (including payments) for Calgary Jewish Academy / Calgary Hebrew School /Charles Waterman Talmud Torah. Also included is the 1953 letterhead of the "Youth Movement of the Calgary Hebrew School".

Undated material has been placed by the archives at the beginning of the series.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

Series Title: Construction
Date Range: 1959-1971
Extent: 2cm of textual records

No.: .07

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of correspondence, plans and technical information regarding the construction of the Calgary Jewish Academy / Calgary Hebrew School /Charles Waterman Talmud Torah school building, and various subsequent renovation and additions.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

Series Title: Bulletins

No.: .08

Date Range: 1955, 1960-1969, 1980, 1985

Extent: 2cm of textual records

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of information bulletins produced and distributed by Calgary Jewish Academy / Calgary Hebrew School /Charles Waterman Talmud Torah. The series is incomplete.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

Series Title: Brochures

No.: .09

Date Range: 1969-1978, 2008

Extent: 1cm of textual records

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of draft text, brochures and publicity material for Calgary Jewish Academy / Calgary Hebrew School /Charles Waterman Talmud Torah, including school histories and "Philosophy"s.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

Series Title: Events

No.: .10

Date Range: 1934, 1947-1955, 1964-1975, 1989-1990, 2003-2013

Extent: 5cm of textual records. -1 sheet microfilm. -49 photos. -2 DVDs

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of pamphlets, programs and invitations for graduations, anniversary celebrations, student performances and other events put on by Calgary Jewish Academy / Calgary Hebrew School /Charles Waterman Talmud Torah, as well as the 1970 ground breaking event for the new building. Also included are recordings of student performances.

The series has been arranged into the following subseries: 1934-2013; Graduations; Waterman 85th Album 1964 [pages removed from the album by the archives for preservation reasons; Ground breaking 1970; History Album 1990.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

GENERAL NOTE: The 1947 graduation program is on a microfilm sheet.

The 1955 graduation program was printed as "Closing Exercises" Bulletin.

The school's 50th anniversary is commemorated in the 1963 yearbook.

The pages of the Waterman 85th Album were removed from the original binder by the archives, for preservation purposes.

Series Title: Published Material

No.: .11

Date Range: 1945-1965, 1971-1972, 1977-1995

Extent: 9 cm of textual records

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of yearbooks and student writings published by Calgary Jewish Academy / Calgary Hebrew School /Charles Waterman Talmud Torah.

The series has been arranged into the following subseries: Student Writings; Yearbooks

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

LANGUAGE NOTE: some material in Hebrew, no translation

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

GENERAL NOTE: the 1945 volume is titled "Yearbook", but is a compilation of student and other writing.

Series Title: Recognitions

No.: .12

Date Range: 1961-1971

Extent: 4cm of textual records

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of correspondence, order forms, designs and lists relating to various recognitions awarded by Calgary Jewish Academy / Calgary Hebrew School /Charles Waterman Talmud Torah, including 5 "Golden Book" certificates (3 inscribed, 2 blank).

The series has been arranged into the following subseries: Bronze Plaques; Golden Book

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

Series Title: Books

No.: .13

Date Range: 1911, 1919, 1929

Extent: 4cm of textual records

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of 3 volumes that were part of the Calgary Jewish Academy / Calgary Hebrew School /Charles Waterman Talmud Torah library collection.

“Beth Hasefer” (Hebrew Publishing Company, New York, 1911), 6”x 9” x ½” : Hebrew language textbook including Yiddish and English translations. An English stamp on the front cover and on page 63 reads “Property of the Calgary Hebrew School”.

Black cloth-bound volume (Warsaw 1919), 5”x 6½”x ¼” : contains 2 children’s readers. The first page of the first reader has an oval Hebrew stamp that reads “*Talmud Torah Shraga Gringer Library Calgary / book 114*”. The title page of the second reader is stamped but not numbered. [Shraga Grinker was an early member of the Calgary Jewish community]

“*Mavo HaTalmud*” (Vilna 1929), 5¾”x 8 ½”x ¼” : [Introduction to Talmud]. “Stan Miller” is handwritten on the inside front cover, “Property of Calgary Hebrew School” is handwritten in English and Hebrew on the verso of the title page.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

CONDITION: “Beth Hasefer”: pages torn & detached from binding; spine torn almost top to bottom

Children’s readers: pages torn

“*Mavo HaTalmud*”: pages detached from binding

LANGUAGE NOTE: some material in Hebrew and Yiddish

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

Series Title: Directories

No.: .14

Date Range: 1959-2011/2012

Extent: 70cm of textual records

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of Calgary Jewish Community directories, initially published by the *Mooter Farein* (mother’s club) of I.L.Peretz school. The coil-bound directories, which contain listings of the names and addresses of individuals and organizations within the Calgary Jewish community, also include advertisements from local businesses. It was published annually from 1959 to 2010/2011, with the Parent Association of Calgary Jewish Academy taking over in 1987, following the merger of the Hebrew and Peretz schools. No directories were published in 2013/14 or 2014/15

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

GENERAL NOTE: the series is missing the following volumes: 1960, 1962, 1968, 1994, 1995, 2001, 2012/13, 2015/16.

Series Title: Memorabilia

No.: .15

Date Range: [196-], [197-], 2019

Extent: 2cm textual records. --3 objects

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of a cream-coloured, gold-rimmed ceramic coffee cup and 8" plate. The cup has 2 blue stamps: "CHS" on one side and a menorah on the other. The plate has 3 blue stamps: "CHS" near the outer rim, a menorah in the centre, and the following on the bottom: Hycroft Canada /Medicine Hat Alberta / 22KGold. Also included is a "community cookbook" published in 2019. And a wool "Calgary Hebrew School" crest.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

Series Title: Western Association of Jewish Schools

No.: .16

Date Range: 1971

Extent: 1cm of textual records

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

The Western Association of Jewish Schools was created in March 1971, " ... to perpetuate, strengthen and enhance Jewish commitment and identity, and to raise the level and quality of formal Jewish education ...". Both the Calgary Hebrew School and I.L.Peretz School were members of the association.

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of meeting minutes and resolutions from March and April 1971.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access