

JHSSA DESCRIPTIVE LEVEL RECORD

TITLE: Calgary Jewish Federation fonds

No.: CJF

DATE RANGE: 1912-1914, 1956-2022

EXTENT: 45 cm of textual records. – 6 objects. – 7 DVDs. –4 VHS tapes

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY:

The formation of the first Calgary Jewish community council was reported in a *Morning Albertan* article in April, 1911, which stated that aim of “The United Jewish Association of Calgary” was “ ... to unite all Jewish male members for their mutual welfare ... ”. The officers listed were A Bell (President) J Polsky, (Vice-president); S Goldberg (Secretary), H Margolis (Treasurer) and E Geffen, Chair of the Executive Committee. A notebook kept from 1912-1914, presumed to be community ledger, contains information about a *va’ad ha’ir* (community council), a *va’ad ha’kashrut* (committee for the oversight of kosher meat), and a *cheder* (parochial, after-school instruction).

In 1929, the House of Israel Association was incorporated, with the following aims: to promote religious and charitable work; provide instruction in Hebrew and Yiddish language, literature and history; establish and maintain libraries; offer public meeting and educational space; to support the intellectual, physical, spiritual activities of the community’s youth. Community fundraising was conducted through “combined appeals”, wherein donations were made into a pool that was then distributed among the participating organizations, including the schools and community building. By the late 1950s, annual fundraising efforts were focused for distribution under the umbrella of United Jewish Appeal (UJA).

In 1952, the Joint Jewish Administrative Office (JJA) began operating out of the House of Israel community building, representing the Calgary Zionist Association, the Calgary Jewish Welfare Fund (later Jewish Family Service), Histadrut (a Zionist Labour Organization), and the House of Israel Association itself. JJA was re-established as the Calgary Jewish Community Council (CJCC), which adopted a constitution in 1956 and elected Jack Edelson as founding President. By 1962 the House of Israel board of directors was replaced with representatives of some 20 Calgary Jewish organizations, and under President Morris Hector, CJCC hired its first full-time Executive Director, Harry Shatz.

In 2011, Calgary Jewish Community Council became an office of the newly-formed Calgary Jewish Federation – commonly called Federation -- part of Jewish Federations of Canada-UIA. CJCC and Federation were formally amalgamated in 2018. Working closely with partner agencies, Calgary Jewish Federation encourages affiliation, Jewish education and engagement throughout the local community, supporting the Calgary JCC, cultural events, parochial day schools, camps and Jewish Family Service Calgary. Many programs are focused on the vulnerable members of the community, including the elderly, children and adults with disabilities, and those facing poverty and hunger. In addition, Federation acts as an advocate on behalf of the Jewish community on domestic and social policy issues, and on Canada’s support for Israel.

At various times Calgary Jewish Federation / Community Council has overseen many community committees and councils, such as the Calgary Rabbinical Council (which oversees kosher food supervision and the community *mikvah* (ritual bath), and consults with the Chevra Kadisha (burial society) and the lay Religious Affairs Committee), the Council for Jewish Education, and the Holocaust Education and Remembrance Committee, which – in addition to community-wide commemorative events -- began sponsoring an annual Holocaust Symposium for high school students in 1984.

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The fonds consists of minutes, correspondence, brochures and publicity material from Calgary Jewish Federation / Calgary Jewish Community Council.

The fonds has been arranged into the following series: Governance; Minutes; Correspondence; Membership; Rabbinical Council (Kashrut, Mikvah, Religious Affairs Committee); UJA (including Mazkaret Batya); Federation of Jewish Women's Organizations of Calgary; Education; Poverty; Chaplaincy; Holocaust Education and Programming; Events; Calgary Jewish Community Campus; Publications (Shalom Calgary); Newsletters

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of fonds

SOURCE OF ACQUISITION: Calgary Jewish Federation; Aron Eichler; Lesley Jacobson; Ted Riback; A & C Shapiro; also see series

LANGUAGE NOTE: some material in Hebrew, Yiddish, or German. see series.

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

ASSOCIATED RECORDS: Glenbow Museum

ACCRUALS: further accruals expected though not scheduled

RELATED GROUPS OF RECORDS: House of Israel; Calgary JCC; JHSSA Local Jewish Press collection

GENERAL NOTE: Some information for the Admin Histories is taken from *A Joyful Harvest*;

CJF website accessed Feb 2018

Some copies of Calgary Jewish Federation / Calgary Jewish Community Council newsletters are available to researchers through the JHSSA Periodical Library.

Includes material from the following accessions: 99-011, 2000-005, 2003-023, 2005-012, 2006-019, 2006-021, 2007-011, 2007-019, 2001-008, 2005-013, 2010-011, 2011-002, 2011-006

Series Title: Governance

No.: .01

Date Range: 1956, 1969, 2001, 2008

Extent: 1cm of textual records

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of the 1956 "Constitution and By-Laws of Calgary Jewish Community Council", a 1969 outline of the Community Relations Committee, a 2001 Operational Review, and a 2008 summary of CJCC Governance changes.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

Series Title: Minutes

No.: .02

Date Range: 1912-1914, 1960-1995, 2010-2022, predominant 1965-1969

Extent: 9 cm of textual records

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of minutes and reports from Board, Committee and Annual General Meetings of Calgary Jewish Community Council, some of which include financial reports. Also included is a list of Calgary Jewish Community Council Presidents, 1956-1995.

The 1912-1914 notebook (Hebrew/ Yiddish / German), presumed to be a community ledger, contains financial records for *va'ad ha'ir* (community council) and the *va'ad ha'kashrut* (council for the oversight of kosher meat) as well as financial and enrollment information (names and fees) for a *cheder* (parochial, after-school instruction), and lists of community members.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

LANGUAGE NOTE: some material in Hebrew/Yiddish/German

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

Series Title: Correspondence

No.: .03

Date Range: 1966-1975, 1983-1989, 2006-2007

Extent: .5cm of textual records

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of correspondence sent by Calgary Jewish Community Council, blank stationery, and a 1966 mailing list.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

Series Title: Membership

No.: .04

Date Range: [196-], 1978-1988, 2001

Extent: 3.5cm of textual records

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of an application form for organizational membership, lists of member organization appointees, a registration form for "Jewish Education in Calgary", and a blank Calgary Jewish Community Council "Survey of Jewish Youth Activity". Also included is the 6-part "2001 Census Analysis Series: Jewish Community of Calgary".

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

Series Title: Rabbinical Council

No.: .05

Date Range: 1956, 1981-2005

Extent: 5cm of textual records. –5 objects

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of minutes, reports, invoices and policy statements regarding the functions of the Calgary Rabbinical Council of the CJCC, including public information material regarding kashrut in Calgary. Also included is correspondence and invoices regarding the kosher poultry plant, along with 5 *plumbas* [metal tags attached to certified-kosher poultry]. The poultry plant property was sold in 1980.

The series has been arranged into the following sub-series: Minutes (including Statements of Principle); Correspondence (including blank stationery); Kashrut (including Poultry Plant); Mikvah; Chevra Kadisha; Religious Affairs Committee

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

SOURCE OF ACQUISITION: Calgary Jewish Federation; Leo Sheftel

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

Series Title: United Jewish Appeal

No.: .06

Date Range: 1959-2009, 2017-2022

Extent: 4.5cm of textual records. –2 objects. – 2 DVD

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY:

United Jewish Appeal (UJA) was established in 1939 as a North American umbrella Jewish philanthropic organization, supporting Jewish individuals and communities in Europe and Palestine, as well as the United States and Canada.

By the late 1950s, UJA had been adopted by the Calgary Jewish community. Operating as the fund-raising arm of Calgary Jewish Federation / Community Council, [Calgary] UJA supports many community agencies and activities, such as Jewish Family Service Calgary, Calgary JCC, local parochial day schools, summer camps, and community educational initiatives. Monies are raised through various endeavours, such as gala dinners and concerts, in addition to the annual telephone solicitation drive, which attempts to reach every member of the local Jewish community.

The UJA Women's Division was launched in the early 1960s with the support of the Federation of Calgary Jewish Women's Organizations, who began holding an annual UJA luncheon in 1963. Beginning in the late 1970s, UJA's top female philanthropists have been recognized as "Lions of Judah".

[Calgary] UJA has also supported a wide range of charitable projects in Israel and around the world, including the re-settlement of Soviet Jewish immigrants during the 1970s. Emergency UJA campaigns, chaired by Maurice Paperny, followed the Six-Day War in 1967 and the Yom Kippur War in 1973. Long-term projects in Israel have included the 1987 Calgary Jewish community twinning with Mazkeret Batia in central Israel, and several community missions led there by Frank and Sophie Kettner, UJA and community leaders. "Partnership 2Gether" focused Calgary UJA support to the region of the Galilee Panhandle in northern Israel.

While remaining part of the founding organization, [Calgary] UJA continued to operate as "UJA" even after North American UJA merged with United Israel Appeal Inc and the Council of Jewish Federations in 1999 to form the United Jewish Communities, later The Jewish Federations of North America. From that time, the transfer of funds for overseas projects was handled by United Israel Appeal, which had come into existence in the 1920s as the fundraising arm of the Zionist movement.

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of correspondence, pledge cards, event programs and publicity material, mailings, clippings, and a "2000-2001 Budget Allocation" document for Calgary United Jewish Appeal. Also included are booklets for the 1991 and 1992 tours to Mazkeret Batia and the 1995 "Alberta Mission to Israel", as well as promotional material (booklet, postcards, municipal crest) for Mazkeret Batia. Material from a 1972 scrapbook has been removed by the archives for preservation reasons, and placed in folders in its original order. Some material has been trimmed by the archives to reduce / remove glue residue.

The series has been arranged into the following sub-series: 1959-2017; Israel; United Israel Appeal.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

SOURCE OF ACQUISITION: Calgary Jewish Federation; Lesley Jacobson; Sheila Gurevitch, E & R Rosen

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

Series Title: Federation of Jewish Women's Organizations

No.: 07

Date Range: 1964-1966

Extent: 1.5cm of textual records

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of minutes and correspondence from the Federation of Jewish Women's Organizations of Calgary. The Federation, created in 1962, included as many as five Hadassah chapters, three National Council of Jewish Women chapters and three Pioneer Women chapters, as well as the I.L.Peretz and Calgary Talmud Torah schools, and Beth Israel and Shaarey Tzedec synagogue Sisterhoods. Under founding president Clarice Chodak, the group launched the Women's Division of UJA, and through its annual conference (sometimes called Operation Open Mind) established the Opportunity School, which offered leadership training through such courses as public speaking and parliamentary procedure. The Federation compiled a directory for newcomers, which described each organization in the Jewish community.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

Series Title: Education

No.: 08

Date Range: 1974, [2000-2010?]

Extent: 1 file folder of textual records

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of brochures and handbills for various Calgary Jewish Federation / Calgary Jewish Community Council education initiatives, including the Council for Jewish Education (CJEd) and The Florence Melton Adult Mini-School, as well as the Israel 101 lecture series. Also included is a program from a 2006 UJA National Women's Leadership Conference, co-sponsored by Calgary Jewish Community Council, and a 1974 "Tuition Fee Scale for Jewish Education in Calgary".

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

Series Title: Poverty

No.: 09

Date Range: 2002-2005

Extent: 1 file folder of textual records

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of brochures and information regarding Calgary Jewish Federation / Calgary Jewish Community Council poverty initiatives, including *Kupat Tzedakah* (charity fund). Also included is a blank 2005 Calgary Jewish Community Council "Survey on Poverty".

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

Series Title: Chaplaincy

No.: 10

Date Range: [201-]

Extent: 2 documents

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of brochure and calling card for the Calgary *Bikur Cholim* ("visiting the sick") Committee of Calgary Jewish Federation.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

Series Title: Holocaust Education & Programming

No.: 11

Date Range: 1981-2022

Extent: 9cm of textual records. – 3VHS tapes

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of brochures and handbills for various Calgary Jewish Federation / Calgary Jewish Community Council Holocaust programs and education initiatives, as well as the contents of a 2006 March of the Living Student Delegation participant binder, including songbook. The 2005 Adult March of the Living was featured in that year's Kristallnacht commemoration. Also included are VHS tapes of the 1989 Holocaust Symposium, and of the 2003 "Yo HaShoah Report".

The series has been arranged into the following subseries: March of the Living; Yom HaShoah; Kristallnacht; 1981- (includes Asper Foundation); Symposium

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

SOURCE OF ACQUISITION: Calgary Jewish Federation; SJ Kerr-Lapsley; Stuart & Elaine Myron

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

Series Title: Events

No.: 12

Date Range: 1966-1967, 1985-2017

Extent: 2.5cm of textual records. –5 DVDs. – 1 VHS

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of handbills, brochures, programs and planning material from Calgary Jewish Federation / Calgary Jewish Community Council events and initiatives, including a 1967 concert by Danny Kaye (held at the Calgary Jubilee Auditorium). Also included is a VHS tape of “Playing for Time” [Calgary Jewish Theatre 1996], and 5 DVDs, transferred from VHS tapes, recording the following Calgary JCC and Calgary Jewish Federation / Calgary Jewish Community Council events: Nitzanim Dance Troupe (May 1985); Yom Ha’Atzmaut (1988); Jewish Community Choir (May 1993); Thanks to Scandinavia (1993); A Rosen by Any Other Name [Calgary Jewish Theatre] (December 1994)

The series has been arranged into the following sub-series: Disaster Relief; Israel (includes Itzhak Rabin Memorial); Camp; 1966-2017

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

SOURCE OF ACQUISITION: Calgary Jewish Federation; Ben Roginsky

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

Series Title: Calgary Jewish Community Campus

No.: 13

Date Range: 2002

Extent: 2 documents

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of brochure and mailings for the Calgary Jewish Community Council Campus Capital Campaign.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

Series Title: Publications

No.: 14

Date Range: 1977, 1981, 2008-2011

Extent: 2.5 cm of textual records

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of community resource books published by Calgary Jewish Federation, including “Shalom Calgary: The Joy of Doing Jewish”, “Shalom: Welcome to Calgary” (1981), “Shalom” (1977).

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

Series Title: Newsletters

No.: 15

Date Range: 1962-1980, 1992-1993, 2000-2005

Extent: 10cm of textual records

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of newsletters produced by Calgary Jewish Community Council / Calgary Jewish Federation. One of the iterations, *Calgary Jewish News* (1962-1985), served somewhat as a community newspaper.

The series has been arranged chronologically: *Calgary Community Council Bulletin* (March? 1962); *Calgary Jewish News* (1962-1980); *Dor L'Dor* (1987-1995); *Report to the Community* (Jan? 2000); *Pomegranate* (Nov 2000, July 2005). *Pomegranate* became an online publication, *e-Pom*, in 2014, and there is a Federation / *Pomegranate* section regularly included in the *Jewish Free Press*.

All iterations are presumed incomplete. A more complete set of photocopied *Calgary Jewish News* issues (1962-1985) is available to researchers through the JHSSA office.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

SOURCE OF ACQUISITION: Calgary Jewish Federation; Lesley Jacobson; unknown donors

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access