

JHSSA DESCRIPTIVE LEVEL RECORD

TITLE: Congregation House of Jacob-Mikveh Israel fonds **No.:** HJM

DATE RANGE: 1981-2022

EXTENT: 76cm of textual records. --1 object. --4 textiles. --1 VHS tape. -- 1 DVD

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY:

Congregation House of Jacob-Mikveh Israel, often referred to as HOJ-MI, became an entity in 1984. A move to revitalize Calgary's original Orthodox congregation, Congregation House of Jacob, had resulted in extensive changes to the original constitution, including clauses specifying that the practices of the Congregation were to accord with "the tenets of Traditional Orthodox Judaism", and that female members would be allowed to participate in all voting. In addition, a resolution was passed to relocate the synagogue to the deeper south west quadrant of the city. Some documents, particularly those related to fundraising activities for the new congregation's synagogue building, were written on Congregation House of Jacob-Mikveh Israel letterhead prior to its establishment.

The new congregation incorporated the cornerstone from the 1911 House of Jacob synagogue into their building, and in some of their early unofficial documents refer to themselves as Congregation House of Jacob. They became the parent organization for Akiva Academy, re-named the David and Tibeale Halpern Akiva Academy in 2019.

HOJ-MI supports youth participation through National Council of Synagogue Youth (NCSY) (grade9 through high school youth group) and, when interest supports it, Machon (grade9 through high school study group), and has an active Sisterhood which hosts a wide range of events, including an annual Stampede Breakfast.

Congregational fundraisers have included Welcome and Farewell events (primarily for clergy), an 80th Anniversary Dinner (1989); an Annual Gala Dinner (inaugurated in 1995), golf tournaments, concerts, vehicle and other raffles, bingos and provincial casinos. HOJ-MI volunteers participated in the International Food Fair held at Olympic Plaza during the 1988 Winter Olympics, stocking and running the "Kosher Kiosk" food booth. The booth was set up again the following year as part of Calgary Winterfest. A soft-cover book detailing the congregation's history was published in 2009, in conjunction with HOJ-MI's Centennial celebration.

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The fonds consists of by-laws, minutes, financial statements, membership lists, rabbinical contracts, land purchase documents, correspondence, construction reports, ritual guides, programmes and publicity material, a ceremonial coin, commemorative book and newsletters.

The fonds has been arranged into one subs-fonds, Akiva Academy, and the following series: Governance; Minutes; Correspondence; Financial; Ritual & Clergy; Membership; Building; Sisterhood; Events; Newsletters, Textiles.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of fonds

SOURCE OF ACQUISITION: Congregation House of Israel-Mikveh Israel; Barb Joffee;
Agi Romer Segal; Herb Rosenberg

LANGUAGE: some records in Russian

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

FINDING AIDS: item lists available for some series

ACCRUALS: further accruals expected though not scheduled

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

GENERAL NOTE: Some material pre-dates the formal establishment of Congregation House of Jacob-Mikveh Israel.

Includes material from the following accessions: 2000-007, 2001-020, 2002-013, 2004-018,
2004-019, 2004-020, 2004-021, 2005-007, 2007-019

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

No.: HJM-AA

DATE RANGE: 1981-2022

EXTENT: 20cm of textual records. – 1DVD

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 un-used 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: 1986-2022

Extent: 10cm of textual records. –1 DVD

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), and a DVD of the school’s 30th anniversary celebrations. 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

Series Title: Governance

No.: HJM .01

Date Range: 1983, 1984, 2000

Extent: 1cm of textual records

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of a (rejected) by-law draft from 1983, as well as copies of the Certificate of Amendment and other documents, including by-laws, registered with the Alberta government for Congregation House of Jacob-Mikveh Israel. Also included is an unsigned 2000 version of "Bylaw Number Thirteen" regarding Akiva Academy.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

Series Title: Minutes

No.: HJM.02

Date Range: 1983-2002

Extent: 13cm of textual records

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of board and AGM minutes, treasurer's and rabbi's reports from Congregation House of Jacob-Mikveh Israel, arranged chronologically by the archives. The series is presumed to be incomplete. A HOJ-MI by-law requires that the AGM be held within 90 days of Passover; while most are held in May or June, they have been as early as April or as late as July.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

Series Title: Correspondence

No.: HJM.03

Date Range: 1984-2001

Extent: 1cm of textual records. -1 object

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of correspondence received and sent by Congregation House of Jacob-Mikveh Israel, as well as a blank bookplate, letterhead, and 2 poster forms (31cm x23cm, 28cm x35cm). Also included is a ceremonial coin in a wooden case, received in appreciation from the State of Israel Campaign, 1993.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

Series Title: Financial

No.: HJM.04

Date Range: 1984-1999

Extent: 1cm of textual records

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of a 1984 letter containing recommendations regarding the auditing process for Congregation House of Jacob-Mikveh Israel and Akiva Academy, as well as audited financial statements for Congregation House of Jacob-Mikveh Israel for 1985, 1989, 1991, 1992, 1997 and 1999.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

Series Title: Ritual & Clergy

No.: HJM .05

Date Range: 1984-2008

Extent: 3cm of textual records

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of minutes, correspondence, memos, contracts and procedural guides regarding the ritual structure of Congregation House of Jacob-Mikveh Israel.

The series has been arranged into the following sub-series: Policy & Procedures (including Kitchen/Kashrut, Simchas, Rental Agreements); Rabbis (including outlines of expectations); Religious Committee; Services (High Holidays, Daily Minyans, Other).

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

Series Title: Membership

No.: HJM.06

Date Range: 1983-2010

Extent: 2cm of textual records

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of membership lists, letters, a congregation history, planning notes for membership drives, completed member surveys and brochures from Congregation House of Jacob-Mikveh Israel.

The series has been arranged into the following sub-series: Membership Lists; Membership Drives (including surveys and brochures).

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

Series Title: Building

No.: HJM .07

Date Range: 1983-1996 c/b 1984

Extent: 11cm of textual records

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of correspondence and architectural plans (including a bound copy of the architect's specifications) regarding the 1985 construction of Congregation House of Jacob-Mikveh Israel Synagogue, as well as insurance appraisals from 1989 and 1992, and 1996 correspondence regarding proposed further development. The series also includes lists, log sheets, correspondence and publicity material regarding the Congregation House of Jacob-Mikveh Israel Building Fund, and copies of agreements and correspondence with the City of Calgary regarding the purchase of the synagogue property, including certified copies of the Certificates of title and Caveats.

The series has been arranged into the following sub-series: Construction; Building Fund (including Micah Peled); Land Purchase; Insurance Appraisals.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

Series Title: Sisterhood

No.: HJM.08

Date Range: 1986-2004

Extent: 8.5 cm of textual records

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of minutes, reports, planning notes (including recipes) and publicity material regarding the activities of Congregation House of Jacob-Mikveh Israel Sisterhood. Also included is planning and other material regarding the Tablecloth Project, a multi-year Sisterhood fundraiser, and photocopied pages from a donations ledger.

The series has been arranged chronologically within the following sub-series: Minutes & Reports; Opening Events; Closing Events; Chanukah Program; Purim Program; BBQ; Stampede Breakfast; Tablecloth Project; [One-time] Events (includes cookbook).

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

Series Title: Events

No.: HJM.09

Date Range: 1983-2022

Extent: 9.5cm of textual records. –1 VHS tape

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of programs, planning notes and publicity material for fundraising and social events and projects, educational programs and youth activities (NCSY, Machon) hosted by Congregation House of Jacob-Mikveh Israel. Also included is a copy of *The House that Jacob Built: Congregation House of Jacob-Mikveh Israel Centennial commemorative Book*, a handwritten Russian flyer for a Simchas Torah celebration, and a VHS tape of the 80th anniversary dinner.

The series has been arranged chronologically within the following sub-series: Building Dedication; Educational Programs (including Shabbatons); Gala Dinners (including 80th Anniversary, Centennial events and Commemorative Book); NCSY /Machon; Other; Tribute Events.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

LANGUAGE: some records in Russian

FINDING AIDS: item list available

Series Title: Newsletters

No.: HJM .10

Date Range: 1984-2009

Extent: 6cm of textual records

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of copies of the *Voice of Jacob* newsletter published several times a year by Congregation House of Jacob-Mikveh Israel for distribution to the entire membership. The series is presumed to be incomplete.

Also included is a template regarding *Voice of Jacob* advertising prices, and samples (May 16, 1998; Dec 30, 2000) of the *HOJMI Minyan Report*, a brief newsletter available each week at the synagogue.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

FINDING AIDS: item list available

Series Title: Textiles

No.: HJM .11

Date Range: 1912, [1958?], 1961, 1999

Extent: 4 objects

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of the following textiles used by House of Jacob-Mikveh: deep-red velvet Ark curtain (43"x76") with fringed valance, inscribed in Hebrew with yellow embroidery "*donated by the woman Rachel daughter of Yaakov Serot[?] 1912*"; green velvet Ark curtain (58"x86") with separate fringed valance, inscribed in Hebrew with gold metallic embroidery "*in memory of Yoel and Leah Shapiro ...*" [late 1950's]; deep-red velvet, fringed Torah reading table cover (48"x36"), inscribed in Hebrew with yellow embroidery "*donation of Peretz and Rivka Block to Congregation Beit Yaakov 1961*"; white velvet Chupah [wedding canopy], inscribed in English with gold embroidery "In honour of Eliot and Minnie Zuckier on their 50th anniversary / with love and admiration from their children and grandchildren June 26, 1999".

The table cover was used by the congregation until the 1990s, the green velvet Ark curtain until c2000, and the Chupah until 2004.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

PHYSICAL CONDITION: fringe of Serot Ark curtain is torn at left edge; Chupah is stained at wooden post-block corners.

CONSERVATION: Ark curtains have metal rings; chuppah has metal rings, as well as glued-on coloured gemstones, and wooden corner-post blocks

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access