

JHSSA DESCRIPTIVE LEVEL RECORD

TITLE: Shaarey Tzedec Congregation fonds **No.:** STC

DATE RANGE: 1958-1986 (predominant 1958-1960)

EXTENT: 24.5cm of textual records. –3 objects. –2 DVDs. –1 VHS

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY:

Shaarey Tzedec Congregation was formed in 1958, in order to provide the Calgary Jewish community with a “modern Orthodox” style of worship. On the northern part of the land parcel owned by the House of Israel Association on Centre St South between 17th and 18th Avenues, they built a synagogue, renowned for its architecture, that was completed in time for the High Holy Day services in 1959. The founding members included Jacob B. Barron, who laid the ceremonial cornerstone of the building, and Leo Sheftel, the congregation’s first president. Other members of the first executive were Louis Belzberg, William Polsky and Jack Conn (Vice-Presidents), D.A. Dvorkin (Treasurer), and Sam Shlafmitz (Recording and Financial Secretary).

The congregation grew steadily, and was, for many years, the largest in the city. Significant parts of the religious services were conducted in English, and except for a divider in a few front rows, the large sanctuary had no *mechitza* (partition) separating men and women. Rabbi Leonard Buchen was the first of several clergy, including Rabbi Lewis Ginsburg and Rabbi Abraham Postone. The active Sisterhood was initially led by Sybil Bercov, and a Men’s Club was developed under the guidance of Murray Robins.

In 1986, Shaarey Tzedec Congregation amalgamated with Beth Israel Congregation to form the Beth Tzedec Congregation. The synagogue building was subsequently sold.

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The fonds consists of meeting notes and notices, correspondence, membership information, architect’s plans and renderings, event memorabilia and newsletters from the Shaarey Tzedec Congregation, as well as “personalized” ceramic dishes.

The fonds has been arranged into the following series: Organizational; Ritual; Membership; Shaarey Tzedec Sisterhood; Building and Construction; Events; Bulletins; Ceramics.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of fonds

SOURCE OF ACQUISITION: Beth Tzedec Heritage Collection, Jeff Eichler, Sheila Sheftel Gurevitch, Harriet Libin, Harold Lipton, Ben Roginsky, Archie and Charna Shapiro

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

ASSOCIATED RECORDS: Glenbow Museum, Beth Tzedec Congregation fonds; Canadian Architectural Archives

ACCRUALS: no further accruals expected

RELATED GROUPS OF RECORDS: Beth Israel Congregation fonds; JHSSA photo collection

GENERAL NOTE: Includes material from the following accessions: 99-011, 99-014, 2002-001, 2002-023, 2006-010, 2009-004, 2015-002

Series Title: Organizational

No.: 01

Date Range: 1958-1961, 1984-1986

Extent: 1cm of textual records

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of an unsigned copy of the 1958 agreement between Shaarey Tzedec Congregation and House of Israel Association, a 1960 letter from the Financial Secretary of Shaarey Tzedec Congregation, early meeting notices, minutes and congregational stationery. Also included are meeting notes (1958), minutes (1984), letters to congregants (1985) and undated speech notes regarding amalgamation with Beth Israel Congregation, and a copy of a 1984 "Study on the Feasibility of Merging our two Synagogues".

The series has been arranged into the following sub-series: 1958-1986; Merger

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

Series Title: Ritual

No.: 02

Date Range: 1959-1961, 1978, 1986

Extent: 1cm of textual records. -1 DVD

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of a 1959 meeting notice regarding the hiring of a rabbi, correspondence regarding the hiring of a cantor and the purchase of prayer books; information regarding the purchase of ritual items; notices and printed material regarding services and educational programs offered by the Shaarey Tzedec Congregation; 1986 letter regarding the establishment of a Ritual committee. Also included is a recording of part of the 1960 Hoshana Raba service, transferred from other [unknown]media, date of transfer unknown.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

Series Title: Membership

No.: 03

Date Range: 1958-1960, 1974, 1985

Extent: 1cm of textual records

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of a 1959 membership campaign brochure and correspondence regarding membership, as well as non-member seat holder, membership and executive lists from the Shaarey Tzedec Congregation. Also included is a 1974 mailing regarding the Morris Fasman Daily Chapel.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

Series Title: Shaarey Tzedec Sisterhood

No.: 04

Date Range: 1959-1970, 1980

Extent: 1cm of textual records

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of a Golden Book Certificate for “Helen Lipton as President of Sisterhood May 1966-1967”, a Life Membership Certificate for Mrs. Gitel Kuczynski, material regarding Shaarey Tzedec Sisterhood events (including a 1-page Shaarey Tzedec Bulletin), and a copy of the *Plain ‘n Fancy* cookbook, compiled and published by the Sisterhood.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

Series Title: Building and Construction

No.: 05

Date Range: 1958-1959

Extent: 1cm of textual records.

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of correspondence and invoices regarding the construction of the Shaarey Tzedec Synagogue building, as well as a “seating layout”.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

Series Title: Events

No.: 06

Date Range: 1960-1967, 1985

Extent: 2cm of textual records. –1 object. –1 DVD

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of the following material from the Dedication ceremony for the Shaarey Tzedec Congregation synagogue building: Banquet menu and program, President’s speech, correspondence sent after the event, and a DVD of the event, copied (date unknown) from the original 16mm film.

Also included are 2 mock-ups and a final program from the Holy Ark (*Aron Kodesh*) dedication, programs from other Shaarey Tzedec Congregation dedication ceremonies, a skullcap and programs from the 1985 Silver Anniversary Sabbath and Gala, and a flyer and program for “Centennial Capers”.

The series has been arranged into the following sub-series: Building Dedication; Sefer Torah Dedication, Memorial Tablet Dedication, Holy Ark (*Aron Kodesh*) Dedication, Centennial Capers.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

Series Title: Bulletins

No.: 07

Date Range: 1960-1986 (predominant 1960-1970)

Extent: 17cm of textual records

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of copies of the Shaarey Tzedec Congregation *Bulletin*, which appears to have had varying publication frequencies including quarterly, monthly, bi-weekly and weekly. The series is presumed to be incomplete; a list of included issues is available.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

Series Title: Ceramics

No.: 08

Date Range: [196-]

Extent: 2 objects

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of 2 light blue serving bowls, 22cm diameter / 5.5cm deep. Each bowl has a visible gold stamp that says "Shaarey Tzedec" beneath a 7-branch menorah, and a "Hycroft Canada" stamp on the underside.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access