

JHSSA DESCRIPTIVE LEVEL RECORD

TITLE: Beth Israel Players fonds

No.: BIP

DATE RANGE: 1972 -1986

EXTENT: 3.5cm of textual records. – 6 objects. –1 USB stick

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY:

Beth Israel Players was an amateur theatre company established in 1970 by Rabbi Louis Schechter and his wife Rivka, and Bill and Zelda Dean. Harry Finnegan originally oversaw set and costume design, and overall organization was handled by Donna Riback Grunberg.

The first production, “Tevye and his Daughters”, was mounted in March 1971, with minimal set and production values. Funds were raised through ticket sales and the sale of program advertisements, and proceeds from subsequent productions were used to purchase supplies and equipment, including lighting stands, curtains and risers. In addition, the company sometimes received municipal and provincial funding.

Beth Israel Players, sometimes referred to as Bippies, mounted at least one production every year – and sometimes as many as three -- until 1986. Their final production was “They’re Playing our Song”, in November 1986, after which the organization folded and its assets were liquidated. As of 2019, there were two Beth Israel Players financial awards offered at the University of Calgary, administered through the Calgary Foundation.

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The collection consists of ticket stubs, programs and handbills, a “Beth Israel Players” sign, a t-shirt from *From Broadway with Love*, and four props (a laminated “face-frame” held by the members of the Lollipop Guild in *The Wizard of Oz*, a metal hurricane lamp used in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* [?]; a triangular felt flag “Middlebury”, 10”x20”[production unknown]; a felt fleur-de-lis pennant, 29”x40” [production unknown]). Also included is a chronological list of Beth Israel Players productions, and a USB stick with recordings of the Beth Israel Players’ productions of *The Pajama Game* and *The Boyfriend*, both taped by Ron & Tony Barron.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of collection

SOURCE OF ACQUISITION: unknown donor(s); Lila Mydlarski; USB stick from Gerry Barron

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

ASSOCIATED MATERIAL: Glenbow Museum

ACCRUALS: no further accruals expected

RELATED GROUPS OF RECORDS: JHSSA Photo Collection