

JHSSA DESCRIPTIVE LEVEL RECORD

TITLE: Calgary Hadassah-WIZO fonds

No.: CHW

DATE RANGE: 1923-2020, predominant 1950-1980

EXTENT: 100cm of textual records. – 1 textile. – 7 objects

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY:

Calgary Hadassah-WIZO, often referred to locally as Hadassah, was formed in 1921, soon after the Canadian affiliation of two women's social-activist groups; one American (Hadassah) and one British (Women's International Zionist Organization (WIZO)). The founding group of women included Rose Rabinovitz, (later known as Mrs S Jaffe), who served as President for the first four years; Marcia Goldberg, the group's first Secretary; Gertie Markus, and Sara Shnitka.

The organization grew steadily, with a group of "younger women and girls" forming a Junior Chapter, Tel Hai, in 1928. Israel Chapter was formed in 1949 (first President, Leah Saltman), and in order to avoid duplication of efforts and services the Hadassah Council of Calgary was organized in 1953, providing overall direction of activities; Sabra Chapter, which would later divide into afternoon and evening branches, followed in 1954 (President Ida Eichler). In addition to their own meetings and projects, all city chapters participated in joint programming and activities. Since the 1950s Calgary Hadassah Council has published regular newsletters -- variously titled *Hadassah Council*, *Calgary Hadassah Council Bulletin*, *Hadassah-WIZO Council of Calgary Bulletin*, *Hadassah-WIZO Council of Calgary News Bulletin*, *Hadassah News*, *News*, *Hadassah-WIZO Hi-Way*, *The Hadassah-WIZO World*, *Hadassah-WIZO Happenings*, and *Calgary Hadassah-WIZO Highlights* -- for distribution to the members of all chapters.

In 1961, with its membership reaching several hundred, Calgary Chapter was divided into 4 distinct chapters: Calgary, Orah (Rose Hector), Henrietta Szold (Miriam Dvorkin) and Queen Esther (Esther Gorosh). Later that same year Aliyah Chapter (Lil Groberman) was formed, as was Kadima Chapter (Ruth Lancaster), which was made up of young working women. Eleanor Roosevelt Chapter followed in 1965 (Gail Himelfarb). At any one time, Calgary Hadassah-WIZO has had upwards of 12 chapters, including Atid, Aviv, Chevra, EJI, Golda Meir, Havarot, Lily Frank, Marcia Goldberg, Moms and Tots, Shamayim, Tel Hai, Tikvah, Yonah and Zahev. While their start dates are generally noted in the records, some are only known through mention in the Bulletins or other general documents, and inactive chapters were often not formally dissolved. Several members of Calgary Hadassah-WIZO have taken on roles in the larger organization over the years, both Regionally (Gertie Markus, Ruby Smolensky) and Nationally (Doreen Abugov, Lauren Bell, Ida Eichler, Marcia Goldberg, Sophie Kettner, Evgenya Knopov, Marilyn Libin, Sandy Martin, Sharon Sattin, Charna Shapiro, Ruth Ullman).

As a branch of a larger organization, the over-riding focus for Calgary Hadassah-WIZO's projects over the years has always been in the areas of health, education and welfare, particularly for Israeli women and youth of all backgrounds, regardless of race or religion. Fundraising for the various projects has taken many forms, including the catering and serving of suppers, event door admissions and small-cost raffles,

teas, card parties, theatrical revues, provincially-supported bingos and casinos, luncheons (including the very popular "Give or Get"), dime banks, donation cards, cookbooks, formal dinners and speakers, and a Food Zaar, which was a one-day event held from 1957-1959, selling handicrafts, 'White Elephant' items (gently used houseware) and traditional Jewish cooking and baking, as well as offering lunch and tea service. Two of the organizations longest-running fundraisers were the Medical Aid Tea and the Hadassah Bazaar.

The Medical Aid Tea began in 1945, with the specific goal of raising funds to purchase medical supplies that could be sent to Israel, where they were sorely needed. Calgary Hadassah members who were in the medical and allied professions, or whose husbands were, organized the first tea at the home of Ethel Libin, with Sybil Bercov acting as convenor. The following year, and until 1969, the tea was held at the home of Marcia Goldberg, and was often referred to as "Mrs. Goldberg's Tea". It was not unusual for upwards of 130 women to attend the event, which raised money by admission, raffle ticket sales and donations, with amounts ranging from \$891 in 1995, to over \$5000 throughout the 1980's. After 1969 various Hadassah members offered their homes for the tea, and in 1974, while still a city-wide event, its organization was taken over by Queen Esther chapter. In 1986 they were assisted by Aviv chapter, and from 1989 Aviv and Aliya chapters were the hostesses.

The single largest fundraiser organized by Calgary Hadassah-WIZO was the Hadassah Bazaar, first held in 1960 at the Mewata Armouries, on the pattern of Bazaars held in Toronto, Vancouver and Montreal. The event raised money for children, healthcare and women's organizations both locally and in Israel, through the sale of donated items, primarily used clothing and household goods, and foodstuffs made by the Hadassah women themselves. Each chapter took responsibility for its own booth or stand, and also contributed time and goods to the communal areas, like the bakery, dining areas and auction. The event quickly outgrew its original location, and in 1962, moved to the Big Four Building on the (Calgary) Stampede Grounds, where it remained for 25 years. Many thousands of people attended each year, and Hadassah members spent months organizing the donations, baking and cooking, using ingredient lists sufficient for 1600 cabbage rolls, or 3200 knishes. Funds raised by the Bazaar ranged from \$17,000 in 1966 to over \$87,000 in 1982. Despite its enormous success, 1985 was last year for the Hadassah Bazaar, as it was becoming increasingly difficult to organize and staff the mammoth event. It was replaced by Galleria, a higher-end affair that was held in 1986 and 1988, and subsequently by a number of smaller, though still highly-profitable events.

Calgary Hadassah-WIZO continues to support a wide range of projects including schools and hospitals, childcare facilities and playgrounds, colleges, scholarships and women's centres, both locally and in Israel. Some local projects and programming are undertaken as part of the organization's larger initiatives, such as the Youth Aliya project, one of Calgary Hadassah's longest running commitments. Their involvement with this project began in 1936, as the organization helped rescue Jewish children from Nazi Germany, resettling them in Hadassah-funded schools and residences in Israel. Post-war and into the 21st century, Youth Aliyah has continued to reach out to at-risk youth in Israel and around the world, often bringing in high-profile speakers and celebrities for its main annual event.

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The fonds consists of minutes, financial statements and information, membership lists, correspondence, programming notes, cookbooks, event planning and publicity materials relating to the organization and activities of Calgary Hadassah-WIZO.

The fonds has been arranged into the following series: Council; Chapters; Joint Activities; Newsletters.

NOTES:

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of fonds

SOURCE OF ACQUISITION: Calgary Hadassah-WIZO; also see individual series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

ACCRUALS: further accruals expected though not scheduled

FINDING AIDS: item lists available for some series

RELATED GROUPS OF RECORDS: JHSSA Photo Collection; Medicine Hat Collection; Lethbridge Collection

ASSOCIATED RECORDS: Glenbow Museum, Henry and Marcia Goldberg fonds

GENERAL NOTE: Includes material from the following accessions: 98-009; 99-011; 2000-015; 2001-007; 2002-020; 2003-013; 2003-024; 2004-001; 2008-015; 2011-004; 2013-001

Series Title: Council

No.: .01

Date Range: 1942-2003, 2017

Extent: 23cm of textual records. –1 object

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of minutes, financial statements and correspondence regarding the operations and activities of the Calgary Hadassah Council, as well as organization histories (including the 2017 publication *One Hundred Years of Canadian Hadassah-WIZO Through Calgary Eyes* and its accompanying magnifier/bookmark) and a copy of the 1977 Constitution. The series also contains reports and material from Regional, National and International conferences, including a copy of the 1942 "Souvenir Book & Shopper's Guide", and a cookbook compiled for the 2008 National Convention which was held in Calgary.

The series has been arranged into the following sub-series: Financial Statements; Minutes; Histories; Regional and National.

NOTES:

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

SOURCE OF ACQUISITION: Calgary Hadassah-WIZO

Series Title: Joint Activities

No.: .02

Date Range: 1949-1994, 2007-2020

Extent: 22cm of textual records. – 1 textile. –2 objects.

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of planning notes, post-program reports, and publicity material regarding the joint activities of Calgary Hadassah-WIZO, and includes a “Hadassah Bazaar” pin, a tablecloth embroidered with the names of those who made a donation of \$5 or more to the “Cloth of Gold” project, a small display board with dime banks attached to it, and a guest book and publicity material from the organization’s 100th anniversary celebration.

The series has been arranged into the following sub-series: Other Projects & Programs; Bazaar; Food Zaar; Medical Aid Tea, Youth Aliya. Some Bazaar material has been removed from its original scrapbook binders for conservation reasons, with sample pages scanned for preservation.

NOTES:

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

SOURCE OF ACQUISITION: Calgary Hadassah-WIZO; Dave Dworkin (Youth Aliya scripts); Ida Horwitz (tablecloth); Curly Gurevitch (Youth Aliyah program and script)

FINDING AIDS: item list available

Series Title: Chapters

No.: .03

Date Range: 1923-2020

Extent: 23cm of textual records. – 1 object.

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of minutes, membership lists, and a donation-card binder (Aliyah Chapter), as well as governance, programming and fundraising information, relating to the operations of Calgary Hadassah-WIZO’s individual chapters. Also included is a cookbook (Eleanor Roosevelt Chapter), a scrapbook (Sabra Chapter), one rubber stamp (Queen Esther Chapter), and a “Resignation from Spinsterhood” created and signed by the Tel Hai (Hadassah Juniors) Chapter and presented to a member before her marriage.

The series has been arranged into the following sub-series: Aliyah, Calgary, Eleanor Roosevelt, Henrietta Szold, Israel, Marcia Goldberg, Orah, Queen Esther, Sabra, Tel Hai, Tikva, and Other, which includes Aviv, Lily Frank, and Yonah.

NOTES:

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

SOURCE OF ACQUISITION: Calgary Hadassah-WIZO; Miriam Dvorkin, Jeanette Manuseweiz Finkelstein, Ruth Sherwood; Leah Saltman, Lil Zimmerman

Series Title: Newsletters

No.: .04

Date Range: 1969-2005, 2007, 2009, 2012

Extent: 32cm of textual records

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of bulletins published by Calgary Hadassah-WIZO.

NOTES:

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

SOURCE OF ACQUISITION: Calgary Hadassah-WIZO

FINDING AIDS: item list available

Series Title: Memorabilia

No.: .05

Date Range: [195x-200x]

Extent: 3 objects

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of commemorative items from Calgary Hadassah-WIZO, including a blue and white ceramic ashtray (9" diameter, gold-painted rim and "Leah Saltman Calgary-Hadassah" also painted in gold), and 2 oblong pillows, one adorned with 22 commemorative pins, the other with 14. Included are Life Member pins, as well as those acknowledging general membership and organizational events.

NOTES:

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

SOURCE OF ACQUISITION: Calgary Hadassah-WIZO; Ida Eichler; Leah Saltman