

JHSSA DESCRIPTIVE LEVEL RECORD

TITLE: Hebrew Ladies Aid fonds

No.: HLA

DATE RANGE: 1928-1930

EXTENT: 2cm of textual records

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY:

The Hebrew Ladies Aid, also called the Ladies' Aid Society, was the first Jewish charitable organization in Calgary. It was established in 1906, with a Mrs A. Suratt [may be "Serot"] serving as President. Funds were raised through dances, teas and raffles, as well as through the collection of membership dues. In its early years the group was particularly devoted to the settlement of new immigrants, but its scope expanded as the community grew. Members were involved with the establishment of the Hebrew School and synagogue, collected funds for war relief, worked in a soup kitchen during the influenza epidemic of 1918, and occasionally provided small interest-free loans. Donations were also made to other organizations, including the Canadian Tuberculosis Association.

In 1928, the Hebrew Ladies Aid records book notes a donation of \$5 to National Council of [Jewish] Women, which had been established in Calgary some years earlier. Much of the work of the two groups overlapped, and an amalgamation of the groups was considered by Hebrew Ladies Aid, but voted down in 1929. In January 1930 it was decided that "the books of the Hebrew Ladies Aid be audited and turned into the Relief Society ... ", with the future activities of the organization undecided.

The Calgary Jewish Relief Society, which was established before the Depression, was one of several other local Jewish organizations that were also involved in charitable work during the active years of Hebrew Ladies Aid. Another was the Jewish Calgary Benevolent Society, which was primarily a woman's organization founded in 1916 to aid the needy and the sick.

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The fonds consists of a "Records" book containing minutes of Hebrew Ladies Aid meetings, 1928-1930, as well as two receipts (\$45 each) for the music and hall rental (AL Azhar Temple) for the March 1929 Purim Dance.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of fonds

SOURCE OF ACQUISITION: estate of Charna and Archie Shapiro

CUSTODIAL HISTORY: unknown

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

GENERAL NOTE: Some information for the Admin History is taken from *The Jew in Canada*, Arthur D Hart