
Guide to the National Council of Jewish Women Records, 1900-1980

Collection number: 80/5

Western Jewish History Center

Berkeley, California

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Descriptive Summary

Title: National Council of Jewish Women Records,

Date (inclusive): 1900-1980

Collection number: 80/5

Creator: National Council of Jewish Women

Extent: 11.5 linear feet + 1 oversize folder

Repository: The Western Jewish History Center.

Berkeley, California 94705

Language: English

Introduction

The San Francisco Section of the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) donated its records to WJHC in 1980. Processing was done by at least three archivists over a period of years and was completed in 1998.

Access

Collection is open for research by appointment only every Monday-Thursday, except for those Jewish and Federal holidays when it is closed.

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History

The San Francisco Section of the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) donated its records to WJHC in 1980. Processing was done by at least three archivists over a period of years and was completed in 1998.

In 1893, Hannah Solomon founded the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) in response to demeaning treatment by men at Chicago's Columbia Exposition. Seven years later, assisted by Sadie American, from NCJW's national office in New York, Hattie Hecht Sloss spearheaded the formation of the San Francisco Section which was dedicated to "the promotion of social betterment through work in the fields of peace, social legislation, social service, religion, education and service to the foreign born." (Charter, 1900).

"Following a principle to pioneer social welfare work, but never to duplicate, and to turn over projects to organizations better equipped financially to carry on," (Thirty Years of Achievement, 13/1) the Section initiated a wide variety of services, including the San Bruno Avenue Settlement, Americanization classes, assistance to immigrants as they arrived at San Francisco's docks, hearing testing and work with deaf people, and the Montefiore Senior Citizens Centers. The Section has always worked closely with other Jewish religious and civic groups and non-Jewish civic organizations such as the National Federation of Women's Clubs to provide these services. Other innovative programs include the Opportunity Shop, a retail outlet for home-produced products founded during the Depression, and the Thrift Shop, a resale store that generated profits for the Council's work. In addition to service to "unfortunates," NCJW was active in broader political action, civic education, and advocacy efforts.

Scope and Content

This collection documents the first 80 years of the San Francisco Section of the National Council of Jewish Women. There are fairly complete minutes of Board meetings from its inception to 1959. The collection contains a lot of material from the 1920s and '30s, particularly correspondence and scripts from plays written and performed by the Section. The collection contains scrapbooks that cover virtually the entire 80 years. Program files are a little more haphazard. Some activities are documented in detail, such as the immigrant resettlement case files, while others are more general or sparse despite the tremendous amount of work done (i.e. San Bruno settlement house).

Condition Report

Overall, the collection is in relatively good condition. Many of the scrapbooks are fragile and the 1909 cookbook is badly deteriorated with binding problems and crumbling paper.

Related Sources and Collections

For more information about the Montefiore Senior Center consult:

- Jewish Community Center (79A)
- NCJW Oakland (87/9) Scrapbook 1931-1934
- Oral History of Sylvia Stone

Series I: Board Of Directors, 1900-1971

Physical Description: 31 folders

Scope and Content Note

This series contains minutes from meetings of the executive board, the board of directors, general membership, general, regular, and annual. The terms for these bodies may have changed over the years. "Histories," 1928-1938 (6/7) contains annual summaries of the group's activities over the preceding year.

Series II: Annual Reports, 1901-1977

Physical Description: 15 folders

Scope and Content Note

This series contains booklets of the group's early accomplishments as well as annual reports from the president and various committees.

Series III: Program, 1902-1980

Physical Description: 53 folders

Scope and Content Note

This series contains files about the myriad activities in which the group was engaged. It includes its work with immigrants, the Opportunity Shop (a retail outlet for products made by poor women during the Depression), services for rural women, the Bargain Mart (a second-hand retail operation) and cultural and social events for its members. "Program Cards," 1916-1947 (10/12) contains programs of monthly membership meetings.

Series IV: Conferences & Conventions, 1923-1975

Physical Description: 18 folders

Scope and Content Note

This series contains information about the triennial conferences held by the national organization and the western region conventions.

Series V: Publications & Publicity, 1903-1977

Physical Description: 16 folders

Scope and Content Note

This series contains newsletters, bulletins, pamphlets, brochures, and booklets published by the national office, the San Francisco section and its divisions, such as the Evening Branch. There are also files concerning the organization's attempts to get press coverage and the resulting news clippings.

Series VI: Anniversaries, 1925-1975

Physical Description: 8 folders

Scope and Content Note

This series contains files relating to anniversary events held by the San Francisco Section and the national organization.

Series VII: Plays & Pageants, 1921-1947

Physical Description: 20 folders

Scope and Content Note

This series contains 19 scripts written and performed by NCJW members.

Series VIII: Photographs, 1935-1975

Physical Description: 9 folders

Scope and Content Note

This series is comprised of photographs of NCJW activities. For preservation, some were removed from scrapbooks. There may be a few photographs elsewhere in the collection.

Series IX: Miscellaneous, 1909-1982

Physical Description: 4 folders

Scope and Content Note

This series contains a 1909 Council Cookbook that the San Francisco section published. It is in deteriorated condition. The "Office Manual" seems to have been added to the collection after it was accessioned in 1980 but contains valuable organizational information. Lastly, there is a file of awards and certificates presented to NCJW over the years.

Series X: Correspondence, 1923-1940

Physical Description: 27 folders

Scope and Content Note

The bulk of correspondence in the collection dates from 1924 to 1931. It is not known what its original order was. The first part of this series is arranged chronologically by year, however, it has not been ordered chronologically within each year. "1926" is arranged alphabetically by recipient or sender. There are also some subject files at the end of the series.

Series XI: Scrapbooks

Physical Description: 20 folders + 7 oversize boxes

Scope and Content Note

The NCJW San Francisco section kept scrapbooks of their activities. Some of the material has been removed from its original housing for preservation. The remaining scrapbooks are fragile. Most photographs have been removed, particularly from "self-stick" scrapbooks, and are in the Photographs series.

Descriptive Guide

Box-folder 1/0

Descriptive Guide

Board Of Directors

Box-folder 1/1	Constitution & By-laws 1934-1957
Box-folder 1/2	General & Board Meeting Minutes 1900-1906
Box-folder 1/3	Minute Book Materials 1900-1906
Box-folder 1/4	Board Meeting Minutes 1906-1912
Box-folder 1/5	General Meeting Minutes 1906-1912
Box-folder 1/6	Board Meeting Minutes 1912-1915
Box-folder 1/7	General Meeting Minutes 1912-1914
Box-folder 2/1	General Meeting Minutes 1914-1918
Box-folder 2/2	General Meeting Minutes 1918-1923
Box-folder 2/3	Executive Board Meeting Minutes 1915-1920
Box-folder 2/4	Executive Board Meeting Minutes 1920-1923
Box-folder 3/1	General & Board Meeting Minutes 1923-1928
Box-folder 3/2	General & Board Meeting Minutes 1923-1924
Box-folder 3/3	General & Board Meeting Minutes 1928-1932
Box-folder 3/4	General & Board Meeting Minutes 1932-1937
Box-folder 4/1	General & Board Meeting Minutes 1937-1945
Box-folder 4/2	General & Board Meeting Minutes 1945-1949
Box-folder 4/3	General & Board Meeting Minutes 1949-1950
Box-folder 5/1	General & Board Meeting Minutes 1949-1953
Box-folder 5/2	General & Board Meeting Minutes 1953-1956
Box-folder 5/3	General & Board Meeting Minutes 1956-1959
Box-folder 6/1	General & Board Meeting Minutes 1959-1964
Box-folder 6/2	General & Board Meeting Minutes 1967-1971
Box-folder 6/3	Corresponding Secretary's Record 1918-1923
Box-folder 6/4	Corresponding & Recording Secretary 1925
Box-folder 6/5	Treasurer's Report 1924-1927
Box-folder 6/6	Nominations Committee 1925
Box-folder 6/7	Histories 1928-1938

Annual Reports

Box-folder 7/1	Annual Calendars 1905-1915
Box-folder 7/2	Annual Report 1901-1911
Box-folder 7/3	Annual Report 1942-1947
Box-folder 7/4	President's Report 1926-1969, n.d.
Box-folder 7/5	President's Report 1975-1977
Box-folder 7/6	Committee Reports 1924-1927
Box-folder 7/7	Committee Reports 1929-1930
Box-folder 7/8	Committee Reports 1930-1931
Box-folder 7/9	Committee Reports 1946-1949, n.d.
Box-folder 7/10	Committee Reports 1963-1966
Box-folder 7/11	Committee Reports 1966-1970
Box-folder 7/12	Social Welfare Committee 1912-1922
Box-folder 7/13	Social Welfare Committee 1922-1925
Box-folder 7/14	Social Welfare Committee 1925-1926
Box-folder 7/15	Special Reports 1924-1926

Program

Box-folder 8/1 **Art Exhibit 1970**
 Box-folder 8/2 **Bargain Mart 1952-1957**
 Box-folder 8/3 **Bargain Mart 1958-1966**
 Box-folder 8/4 **Board of Education Meeting 1929**
 Box-folder 8/5 **Council House Canteen 1945-1946**
 Box-folder 8/6 **Committee Lists 1924, n.d.**
 Box-folder 8/7 **Evening Branch Board Meeting Minutes 1947-1954**
 Box-folder 8/8 **Evening Branch Board Meeting Minutes 1954-1958**
 Box-folder 8/9 **Evening Branch Meeting Minutes 1938-1941, 1950**
 Box-folder 8/10 **Extension Committee 192?**
 Box-folder 8/11 **Foreign Language Information Service 1929**
 Box-folder 8/12 **Friendly Visitors Meeting Minutes 1950-1954**
 Box-folder 8/13 **Girls Club Projects 1962-1965**
 Box-folder 8/14 **Golden Gate National Exposition 1940**
 Box-folder 8/15 **Hebrew Free Loan Association 1929**
 Box-folder 8/16 **Hebrew Sheltering & Immigrant Aid n.d**
 Box-folder 9/1 **Housing Committee Minutes 1972**
 Box-folder 9/2 **Foreign Born, Service to (correspondence A-B) 1929-1931**
 Box-folder 9/3 **Foreign Born, Service to (correspondence C-H) 1929-1931**
 Box-folder 9/4 **Foreign Born, Service to (correspondence I-M) 1929-1931**
 Box-folder 9/5 **Foreign Born, Service to (correspondence N-Z) 1929-1931**
 Box-folder 9/6 **Foreign Born, Service to (correspondence, misc.) 1929-1931**
 Box-folder 9/7 **Immigrant Aid 1926, 1942**
 Box-folder 9/8 **Immigrant Aid: Port & Farm Field Work 1923-1925**
 Box-folder 9/9 **Immigrant Aid Monthly Reports 1926-1929**
 Box-folder 9/10 **"Junior Councilor" 1928-1940, n.d.**
 Box-folder 9/11 **Juniors 1924-1940, n.d.**
 Box-folder 9/12 **Law & Legislation 1925-1927**
 Box-folder 9/13 **Luncheons & Teas 1925, 1927**
 Box-folder 9/14 **Meeting Announcements 1902-1944, n.d.**
 Box-folder 10/1 **Membership 1925-1927, n.d.**
 Box-folder 10/2 **Motor Corps 1925, n.d.**
 Box-folder 10/3 **Naturalization Records 1950**
 Box-folder 10/4 **Non-Partisan Roundtable 1942**
 Box-folder 10/5 **"Oppenheim Pictures" 1930**
 Box-folder 10/6 **Opportunity Shop By-laws 1936**
 Box-folder 10/7 **Opportunity Shop Meetings 1932-1936**
 Box-folder 10/8 **Opportunity Shop Meetings 1937-1940**
 Box-folder 10/9 **Opportunity Shop Meetings 1941-1942**
 Box-folder 10/10 **Peace & Arbitration 1926-1927, n.d.**
 Box-folder 10/11 **Petaluma Letters 1924-1926**
 Box-folder 10/12 **Program Cards 1916-1947**
 Box-folder 10/13 **Programs, Miscellaneous 1924-1926**
 Box-folder 10/14 **Programs, Miscellaneous 1926-1969**
 Box-folder 11/1 **Rap Room Reports 1975-1980**
 Box-folder 11/2 **Report, Sidney Hook 194?**
 Box-folder 11/3 **Rural & Farm Reports 1924-1925, n.d.**
 Box-folder 11/4 **Rural & Farm Reports 1925**
 Box-folder 11/5 **Religion Committee 192?-1926**
 Box-folder 11/6 **Sections, Other 1938, n.d.**
 Box-folder 11/7 **Social Welfare 1925-1926**
 Box-folder 11/8 **Southwest Branch Meetings 1947**
 Box-folder 11/9 **Thrift Shop n.d.**

Conferences & Conventions

Box-folder 11/10 **Triennial Convention 1923**
Box-folder 11/11 **Triennial Convention 1926-1935**
Box-folder 11/12 **Triennial Convention 1938-1946**
Box-folder 11/13 **Triennial Convention 1949**
Box-folder 11/14 **Triennial Convention 1975**
Box-folder 11/15 **Western Interstate Conference 1922**
Box-folder 11/16 **Western Interstate Conference 1930-1936**
Box-folder 11/17 **Western Interstate Conference 1940**
Box-folder 11/18 **Western Interstate Conference 1949-1952**

Publications & Publicity

Box-folder 12/1	"Bulletin" 1936-1963
Box-folder 12/2	Newsletters, Evening Branch 1939-1951
Box-folder 12/3	"Council Woman" 1948-1951, 1965
Box-folder 12/4	Publications, National Office 1929-1977
Box-folder 12/5	Publications, Other Organizations 1938, 1948, n.d.
Box-folder 12/6	"Club Woman's Magazine 1910
Box-folder 12/7	News Clippings 1903
Box-folder 12/8	Publicity 1924-1925
Box-folder 12/9	Publicity 1926
Box-folder 12/10	Publicity 1925-1927
Box-folder 12/11	Press Releases 1930-1931
Box-folder 12/12	News Clippings 1942-1952
Box-folder 12/13	Publicity 1951-1959
Box-folder 12/14	Publicity 1956-1961
Box-folder 12/15	News Clippings 1971-1972
Box-folder 12/16	News Clippings 1975-1976

Anniversaries

Box-folder 13/1	San Francisco Section 1925-1930
Box-folder 13/2	San Francisco Section, Golden 1949-1950
Box-folder 13/3	Golden Anniversary Book 1950
Box-folder 13/4	"A Night With the Stars 1951
Box-folder 13/5	San Francisco Section, Diamond 1975
Box-folder 13/6	Los Angeles Section, Golden 1959
Box-folder 13/7	National NCJW 75th Anniversary 1968
Box-folder 13/8	National NCJW 80th Anniversary 1973

Plays & Pageants

Box-folder 13/9 "New Laughs for Old" 1921
Box-folder 13/10 "Three Percent or At Ellis Island" 1922
Box-folder 13/11 "The Tracing of the Ten Lost Tribes 1925
Box-folder 13/12 "One to Nineteen or Council Lends a Hand 1926
Box-folder 13/13 "Grandmother Shows Us How 1927
Box-folder 13/14 "By Advice of Council" 1929
Box-folder 13/15 "Twenty Years of Sisterhood Achievement" 1931
Box-folder 13/16 "San Francisco Section, NCJW" 1932
Box-folder 13/17 "The Jewish Woman in America" 1935
Box-folder 13/18 "Values" 1936
Box-folder 13/19 "Becoming a Citizen 1937
Box-folder 13/20 "This is my Faith" 1947
Box-folder 13/21 "1918 Episode" n.d.
Box-folder 14/1 "Johnny's Holiday" n.d.
Box-folder 14/2 "Selling the Council" n.d.
Box-folder 14/3 "Spell of the Spanish Shawl n.d.
Box-folder 14/4 "They Enter Canaan n.d.
Box-folder 14/5 "You Win" n.d.
Box-folder 14/6 "When Council Rises" n.d.
Box-folder 14/7 Unidentified Scripts n.d.

Photographs

Additional Note

See Also Boxes 23, 24 & 26

Box-folder 14/8	Photos, assorted 1935-1936
Box-folder 14/9	Photos, assorted 194?-1971
Box-folder 14/10	Photos from Scrapbook, May 28-Oct 5 1971
Box-folder 14/11	Photos from Scrapbook, Aug 13-Nov 24 1971-1972
Box-folder 14/12	Photos from Scrapbook, Jan 12-June 29 1973
Box-folder 14/13	Photos from Scrapbook, Sept 24-May 10 1973-1974
Box-folder 14/14	Photos, assorted 1974-1975
Box-folder 14/15	Board Members 1950
Box-folder 14/16	Golden Anniversary Book 1950

Miscellaneous

Box-folder 14/14	Certificates 1945-1980
Box-folder 14/15	Savings Account Passbook 1931-1942
Box-folder 14/16	Office Manual 1982
Box-folder 14/17	Cookbook 1909

Correspondence

Box-folder 15/1	General 1923
Box-folder 15/2	General 1924
Box-folder 15/3	General 1924
Box-folder 15/4	General 1925
Box-folder 15/5	General 1925
Box-folder 15/6	General 1925
Box-folder 15/7	General 1925
Box-folder 16/1	General 1926
Box-folder 16/2	General 1926
Box-folder 16/3	A-G 1926
Box-folder 16/4	H-R 1926
Box-folder 16/5	S-Z 1926
Box-folder 16/6	A-M 1927
Box-folder 16/7	N-Z 1927
Box-folder 16/8	General 1929
Box-folder 16/9	General 1930
Box-folder 16/10	General 1931
Box-folder 17/1	Angel Island 1929-1931
Box-folder 17/2	Far Eastern Jewish Central Information 1929-1931
Box-folder 17/3	New Year's Cards n.d.
Box-folder 17/4	Immigrant Aid, Department of 1929
Box-folder 17/5	Immigrant Aid, Department of 1930
Box-folder 17/6	Immigrant Aid, Department of 1931
Box-folder 17/7	National Council on Naturalization 1930-1940
Box-folder 17/8	NCJW, Los Angeles 1930
Box-folder 17/9	Thank-yous 1925-1928
Box-folder 17/10	Various n.d.

Scrapbooks

Box-folder 18/1 **General 1904-1929**
Box-folder 18/2 **General 1919-1924**
Box-folder 18/3 **General 1924-1929**
Box-folder 18/4 **General 1928-1935**
Box-folder 18/5 **General 1936**
Box-folder 19/1 **General 1935-1936**
Box-folder 19/2 **General 1935-1938**
Box-folder 19/3 **Canteen 1944-1945**
Box-folder 19/4 **Deaf, Committee to Aid the 1946-1948**
Box-folder 20/1 **Blind, Aid to 1947-1956**
Box-folder 20/2 **General 1956-1958**
Box-folder 20/3 **Montefiore Senior Center 1951-1959**
Box-folder 20/4 **Montefiore Senior Center 1959-1966**
Box-folder 20/5 **Peninsula #1 1958**
Box-folder 21/1 **Peninsula #2 1958-1959**
Box-folder 21/2 **Camping Trip 1964**
Box-folder 21/3 **75th Anniversary 1968**
Box-folder 21/4 **January - June 1973**
Box-folder 21/5 **September - May 1973-1974**
Box-folder 22/1 **Scrapbook 1974-1975**
Box-folder 22/2 **Duplicates from Collection**
 Empty Binders
Box-folder 23/1 **Scrapbook Pages 1940, n.d**
 Scrapbook 1952-1958
 Certificate 1965
 Photo, Golden Gate Park 1975
Box-folder 24 **Glass Lantern Slides n.d.**
 Montefiore Center Scrapbook 1955-1962
 Scrapbook 1968-1971
Box-folder 25 **Scrapbook 1939-1947**
Box-folder 26 **Photo, Western Interstate Conference 1927**
Box-folder 26 **Council Amateur Theatre Service Scrapbook 1965-1967**
Box-folder 27 **Scrapbook 1937-1939**
 Scrapbook 1948-1949
Box-folder 28 **Opportunity Shop Scrapbook 1932-1941**
 Scrapbook 1936-1937
 Scrapbook 1959-1971
Box-folder 29 **Economic Audit 1930**
 Ship's Log 1947
 Council House Sign-in Book 1944-1945