

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE/ARRANGEMENT

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This collection includes materials from the Young Men's Hebrew Association (Y.M.H.A.) of Washington, the JCC of Washington, which is now the Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington, the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, the DC Jewish Community Center and the Prince George's Jewish Community Center spanning from 1911 to 2003.

The bulk of the collection comes from the now-named Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington, spanning from 1925 to 2003. The JCCGW moved to Montrose Road in 1969, following the migration of the Jewish community out of the city. Here, they increased their fundraising, membership and programming aimed towards various age and interest groups. Topics for the collection include Y.M.H.A.'s efforts to bring local Jewish men together in the early 20th century, the building of the first DC Jewish Community Center at 16 and Q in 1925 and its use; its relocation to Rockville and the formation of the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia as the Jewish community moved into the suburbs; and the late 20th century revitalization of Jewish life in the capital with the formation of the DC Jewish Community Center, which is now housed at the 16 & Q. Highlights include original copies of President Coolidge's address at the cornerstone laying of 16 & Q, the original scrapbook of Y.M.H.A. co-founder Moe Offenbergs consisting of newsletters and programs from 1918-1923, and a 16-page *Washington Jewish Week* special supplement about the Washington, DC Jewish Community Center moving into 16 & Q in 1997.

Arrangement

The collection is divided into seven series, as described below:

Series I: Y.M.H.A.: The Young Men's Hebrew Association of Washington, DC was formed in 1912 to bring together young Jewish men of different backgrounds. During that time they put on dances and plays, advocated for Eastern European Jewry and contributed to the local war effort for World War I. Included in the series are a 1918 postcard from Paris, three theater programs for the 1919 production of "Disraeli," a bound book from Moe Offenbergs, including copies of the Y.M.H.A. Review and clippings.

Series II: Jewish Community Center of Washington at 16 & Q: Washington's first Jewish Community Center opened within sight of the White House in 1926. Local Jews raised the money to construct the building with extensive fundraising campaigns, and President Coolidge spoke at the laying of the first cornerstone. Once moved in, the JCC formed several committees to discuss use of the building for

athletic, artistic and educational purposes. Included in the series are a 1920s fundraising brochure, booklets from the 1925 building dedication with text of Coolidge's address, a 1936 membership list, a National Jewish Welfare Board 1947 study of the JCC, a 1967-8 program endowment committee report, programs and catalogs spanning from the 1920s to 1950s, JCC newsletters from 1949-1964, and 25th anniversary scripts, speeches and clippings.

Series III: The Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington: As the Jewish community largely moved to the Maryland suburbs in the middle of the 20th century, the JCC relocated to Rockville in 1969, renaming itself the Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington. Operations expanded, and the JCCGW offered extensive programs for different age groups, as well as in the arts and athletic fields. JCCGW also increased its membership and fundraising efforts. Included in the series are reports detailing the decision to move to Rockville, membership statistics from 1969-72, a 1971 flyer for the Soviet Jewry Freedom Bus, Kidbits newsletters for preschoolers from 1970-81, programs from the 1974 Shtetl Life Fair, 1980-5 staff organization charts, *Washington Post* and *Washington Jewish Week* clippings documenting President Reagan's Hanukkah visit to the JCCGW in 1983 and a 1987-8 Bethesda-Chevy Chase Jewish community group membership list.

Series IV: The Washington District of Columbia Jewish Community Center: In the latter half of the 20th century as more people started to move back into Washington, DC, a new group of Jews raised money to buy 16 & Q back from the city. Prior to moving into 16 & Q, however, the DCJCC was already hosting classes, plays, art exhibits and film festivals throughout the 1980s and 1990s. Included in this series are a list of the names and contact information for the 1982-3 steering committee, annual reports from 1986-8, programs for DCJCC art, film, theater and book programs from 1982-97, and several *Washington Jewish Week* articles about the history and repurchase of the building at 16 & Q, including a 16-page supplement when it officially opened in 1997.

Series V: The Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia: In the early 1970s the JCCGW opened a Northern Virginia extension in Fairfax for Jews in that area. By 1978 the JCCNV had separated from the JCCGW to be an independent organization. It offered similar programming in culture, recreation and education for various age groups. Included in this series are the annual report and contact list for board and committee members for the Northern Virginia Extension in 1971-2, a 1972 report on the organization's goals and achievements, programming materials from 1970-84, programs from 1984-86 from the Alexandria-based Jewish annual event Fair in the Square, and variety of different newsletters from 1971 to 2001.

Series VI: Prince George's Jewish Community Center: The collection also includes a few documents from the Prince George's Jewish Community Center, including a 1955 write-up of a newly-formed Prince George's County Jewish Community Center women's group, a February 1982 letter from the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington concerning transferring responsibility of working with the group to the JCCGW, and a June 1982 newsletter.

Series VII: Scrapbooks