A Finding Aid to the
International Association of Jewish Vocational Services Records

Manuscript Collection No. 774
Collection Summary

Title
International Association of Jewish Vocational Services Records

Dates
1939-2009

Collection Number
MS-774

Repository
The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives

Creator
International Association of Jewish Vocational Services
Jewish Vocational Service
National Association of Jewish Vocational Services

Extent
1.2 linear feet (3 Hollinger boxes)

Language of the Material
English

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch
The International Association of Jewish Vocational Services (IAJVS) was founded in 1939 as the Jewish Occupational Service. The original focus was employment services for WWII veterans and later included assistance for persecuted Jewish immigrants. The IAJVS has expanded its programs to include educational, rehabilitation, and home/community based services.

In 1938, the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds invited a number of national Jewish organizations to a conference on occupational adjustment. Because of this conference, the Jewish Occupational Council (JOC) was organized to help other agencies carry out their vocational programs on a more effective basis. When the agency opened up its doors in 1939, it dealt with the problems of mass unemployment and severe discrimination against Jews in employment. The advent of World War II placed the JOC in a position of assisting the Jewish vocational services (JVS) in mobilizing Jewish labor potential for war production. The United States War Manpower Commission delegated authority through the JOC to the local JVS to carry out various provisions of its employment stabilization program. At the same time, JOC provided the staff services for the Coordinating Committee of Jewish Organizations Dealing with Employment Discrimination in War Industries, which cleared complaints and acted as a liaison agent between Jewish organizations and governmental agencies. As the war ended, the JOC helped local Jewish communities adapt their services to the challenges of peacetime. The influx of veterans seeking vocational guidance, job placement, and rehabilitation services during the post-war period placed great demands upon the JVS. The clearinghouse functions of the JOC were used to assist member agencies to share their knowledge and experience with aptitude tests and counseling techniques to meet the vocational needs of returning service members. At the same time, the large-scale immigration of displaced persons placed a great challenge upon the JVS. The JOC continued its mission and expanded their services to include rehabilitation programs for handicapped workers and more educational programs. In 1975, the JOC began a self-study resulting in a new constitution and bylaws and in 1976, the JOC changed their name to the National Association of Jewish Vocational Services to reflect the broader nature of their activities. When their scope of activities expanded to include Canada and Israel, the "National"; was later changed to "International".

-- Adapted from A Brief History of the Jewish Occupational Council and An Analysis of Recent Trends in the Jewish Vocational Service Fund and The Jewish Occupational Council, Box 1, File 3.

International Association of Jewish Vocational Services Records. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Scope and Content
Records documenting the career management, skills training, rehabilitation programs, and history of the International Association of Jewish Vocational Services (formerly Jewish Occupational Service). Records include administrative records, minutes, reports, conference programs, project files, and photographs.

The International Association of Jewish Vocational Services (IAJVS) is an organization founded in 1939 to provide occupational assistance to Jews. Originally designed for Jews in the United States, the program focused on returning World War II veterans and later on assisting Jews persecuted in other countries. The IAJVS also holds educational programs, rehabilitation services, and home and community based services. The IAJVS records include their constitution and bylaws, minutes from the Board of Governors and Executive Committee, reports, conference programs, project files, and photographs. Minutes document administrative actions and oversight functions of the IAJVS. Project files include notes, correspondence, and reports on internships for Jews, work with emigres, and an aging workforce.

Arrangement
This collection is arranged in four (4) series: A. Administration; B. Conferences; C. Projects; D. Photographs.
Terms of Access
The collection is open for use; no restrictions apply.

Preferred Citation
Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the International Association of Jewish Vocational Services Records and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-774. International Association of Jewish Vocational Services Records. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Provenance
Received from Genie Cohen, Philadelphia, Pa., July 2009.

Processing Information
Processed by Nathan Tallman, February 2010.

Index Terms

Subjects
Jews -- Services for / Jews -- United States / Occupations / Vocational guidance

Corporate Names
International Association of Jewish Vocational Services

Media
Photographs

Series A. Administration, 1939-2007

Extent
0.6 linear feet (1.5 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note
Includes constitution and bylaws, historical accounts, minutes from the IAJVS founding in 1939 to 1989, some promotional materials, reports authored by the IAJVS and other administrative documents. Minutes reflect meetings of the Board of Governors, Executive Committee, and other committees and often include reports.

Arrangement
This series is arranged in alphabetical order by format.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 1. Certificates of incorporation, 1972-1976
Box 1. Folder 2. Constitution and bylaws, 1948, 1956-1959
Box 1. Folder 3. Histories, circa 1960, 1988, undated
Box 1. Folder 4. Minutes, 1939-1949
Box 1. Folder 5. Minutes [bound volume], 1940-1943
Box 1. Folder 6. Minutes, 1950-1959
Box 2. Folder 4. Promotional materials, 2007, undated
Box 2. Folder 7. Reports. Contributions of Jews to the American Economy, 1954

Extent 0.3 linear feet (0.75 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note Includes programs from select annual conferences. Later conferences were held jointly with American Jewish Vocational Service Professionals.

Arrangement Conferences are arranged chronologically and identified by their title, if available.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 2. Folder 10. Serving the Jewish Community in the 'Great Society': An Assessment of Current Vocational Trends, 1965
Box 2. Folder 14. The Future is Ours, 2000
Box 3. Folder 1. Our Working Future: Bringing Together Executive and Professional Staff from North America, Israel, and Argentina, 2004
Box 3. Folder 2. The Maturing Workforce: Not Business as Usual, 2006

Series C. Projects, 1975-1984

Extent 0.2 linear feet (0.5 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note Includes files on special projects the IAJVS was involved with or organized. The Barriers to Employability for Handicapped People project was a grant funded and spearheaded by another organization that the NAJVS Executive Director was involved with. The Project VOICE file includes transcriptions of interviews with emigres from Chicago.

Arrangement Project files are arranged alphabetically.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 3. Folder 6. JOIN: Jewish Occupational Interns, 1974
Box 3. Folder 8. RETAIN: Re-Employment of The Aged in Industry, 1975
Box 3. Folder 9. VOICE: Vocational Outreach In Communities with Emigres, 1981

Series D. Photographs, 1968-1980

Extent 0.1 linear feet (0.25 Hollinger box)
Scope and Content Note  Includes snapshots taken at conferences and related social functions, "Executive Suite" seminar/symposia, and other events. On the back of many photographs, the event and sometimes persons are identified. Most photographs are black-and-white, but some are in color. Negatives accompany a few sets.

Arrangement  Photographs are arranged alphabetically.

Box and Folder Listing