Jewish Home for the Aged Records
34 linear feet (3 SB, 22 MB, 5 OS)
1907-1993 (bulk 1960-1990)

Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI

Accession Number: UR001697

Creator: Jewish Home for the Aged, previously Jewish Old Folks Home

Acquisition: Deposited by the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit in 2014.

Language: Material entirely in English.

Access: Collection is open for research, with the exception of one restricted box.

Use: Refer to the Walter P. Reuther Library Rules for Use of Archival Materials. Restrictions: Researchers may encounter records of a sensitive nature – personnel files, case records and those involving investigations, legal and other private matters. Privacy laws and restrictions imposed by the Library prohibit the use of names and other personal information which might identify an individual, except with written permission from the Director and/or the donor.

Notes: Citation style: “Leonard N. Simons Jewish Community Archives, Jewish Home for the Aged Records, Box [#], Folder [#], Walter P. Reuther Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University”

Related Material: Jewish Community Archives at the Reuther Library, including Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit Records and Jewish Apartments and Services Records

PLEASE NOTE: Material in this collection has been arranged by series ONLY. Folders are arranged alphabetically within each series; we have provided an inventory based on their original order. Subjects may be dispersed throughout several boxes.
Abstract

On June 10, 1907, members of the Anshe Chesed Shel Emeth, a Jewish burial society in Detroit, established the Jewish Old Folks Home to provide housing for the homeless and for those who could no longer maintain their own homes and wished to live in a facility that observed kashrut, the Jewish dietary laws. A house was purchased at Brush and Winder streets in Detroit. In 1915 the organization moved to larger quarters at Brush and Edmund streets, in the heart of that era’s Jewish community.

In 1931 the Jewish Old Folks Home affiliated with the Jewish Welfare Federation, and in 1933 its name was changed to the Jewish Home for the Aged. In 1937 a state-of-the-art facility was built on Petoskey Street in Detroit. Ira Sonneblick, a nationally known gerontologist, served as director. Services expanded to include sophisticated physical and occupational therapy and recreational opportunities. When medical needs increased, the Home developed an infirmary and ambulatory services.

As Detroit’s Jewish population moved northwest, Borman Hall, a modern facility that included housing for married couples, opened in 1968 on Seven Mile Road and Sutherland Street. In 1971, Prentis Manor, an existing nursing home in Southfield, was acquired. These facilities became full-scale nursing homes. Facilities for the more independent elderly were also needed. The Fleischman Residence, on the grounds of the Jewish Community Center in West Bloomfield, accommodated this group of people.

Beginning in the mid 1980s, financial and management difficulties plagued the Home. The cost of running a full-service nursing facility escalated, and problems arose with nursing care. In 1995, the Jewish Home for the Aged relinquished its ability to provide skilled nursing care and sold Borman Hall and Prentis Manor.

The majority of records in this collection were amassed by Jack Schon during his tenure as a board member and president of the Home. In Series 2, they were identified as his personal papers, although the entire collection appears to have been generated during his term of service. This collection includes correspondence, minutes, reports, agendas, manuals, and scrapbooks covering the creation and operation of the Jewish Home for the Aged facilities, with an emphasis on events that occurred in the 1980s. An extensive set of photographs from the Home are housed at the Leonard N. Simons Jewish Community Archives at the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

Important Subjects:
  Housing
  Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit
  Nursing homes
  Senior centers

Series 1: History and Administration, 1930-1993
Administrative and board documents and correspondence, reports, committee minutes, financial documents and material relating to real estate and building issues.

Series 2: Administration and Scrapbooks, 1907-1993
Correspondence, minutes, reports, agendas, manuals, and scrapbooks covering the creation and operation of the Jewish Home for the Aged facilities, with an emphasis on
events that occurred in the 1980s. Box 30 contains information cards on individual residents and is restricted.

Arrangement
The collection is arranged into 2 series: Series 1 (Boxes 1-14); Series 2 (Boxes 15-30). Folders in each series are listed alphabetically by folder title.

Series 1
Box 1
3. Administrative Council; minutes, memos, schedules, lists, 1990-1991
4. Admissions committee; correspondence, reports, 1958-1960
5. Admissions information, 1990-1992
6. Advanced directives, 1990
9. Annual meeting minutes, speeches, 1961-1963

Box 2
7. Apartment project; correspondence, forms, reports, 1968-69
8. Auxiliary constitution, 1985-91
9. Board leadership & development memos, 1990-91
10. Board committees; lists, memos, 1990-91
11-12. Board of Directors; lists, policies, correspondence, minutes, 1972-73
16. Status report and recommended actions, 1993

Box 3
1-6. Board meeting agendas, correspondence, 1979-1983

Box 4
8. Board member photos, undated

Box 5
1. Board of Trustees manual, 1982
2. Boys Clubs correspondence, leases, 1949-1967
7. Building plans, 1953
8. Bylaws, constitution, 1930s-1967
Box 6
1. Capital Needs Committee reports, minutes, correspondence, 1968-1973
2. Charts, 1990
3. Clinical services meeting minutes, 1991-1992
4. Committee on Resident Care reports, minutes, 1987-1991
6. Connecting corridor building plans, 1944-1950

Box 7
2. Corporate management minutes, agendas, 1991
3. CPR, clippings, surveys, reports, 1988-1989
4. Dedication-LeVine Memorial, correspondence, invitation, 1955
5. Dedication correspondence, invitation, 1967
8. Department of Parks correspondence, licenses, 1948
13. Ernst and Ernst correspondence, report, 1978

Box 8
1-4. Executive Committee correspondence, agendas, minutes, announcements, 1985-1991
5. Executive Team memos, minutes, agendas, 1988-1990

Box 9
1. Funds; correspondence, reports, 1958-1971
2. Financial reports, 1961-1962
5. Golden Book inscriptions, undated
7. Health Department deficiencies, forms, reports, 1992-1993
8. Health Department correspondence, memos, 1988

Box 10
1. Health Department, correspondence, memos, 1989-1991
2. History papers, circa 1973-1974
4. Implementation: Committee on Housing for the Elderly correspondence, memos, 1966-1969
5. Investigation, reports, correspondence, 1990-1992
6. Joint Study Committee correspondence, 1969-1971
7. JHA Services, articles of incorporation, 1988
11. Mason Realty correspondence, contracts, 1949-1962
12. McQuade Realty correspondence, contracts, 1936-1961

Box 11
1. Medical, pharmaceutical, therapeutics, correspondence, memos, minutes, 1987-1991
2. Medical sub-committee minutes, correspondence, 1959-1966
5. Memorial room assignment lists, 1961
7. Memorial: Aaron Mendelson Trust, correspondence, list, 1958
11. New building correspondence, 1974-1990

Box 12
1-2. New building memos, reports, studies, 1991
4. Nominating Committee reports, nominees, 1986-1992
5. Nursing correspondence, reports, 1988-1989
6-7. Nutrition program correspondence, reports, 1973-1975
8. Office of Civil Rights correspondence, 1992
9. Older Americans Month memos, 1988
11. Physicians’ meeting minutes, 1990-1992
12. Plaque designation lists, 1972

Box 13
2. Program and building committee memos, reports, 1990-1991
4. Program Committee minutes, correspondence, 1991-1992
5. Property, Lawton sale deeds, 1939
6. Rehabilitation, reports, correspondence, 1990-1992
7. Religion memo, 1992
9. Resident Committee minutes, reports, 1986-1992
10. Restraints correspondence, 1991
11. Review, correspondence, reports, 1984-1990
12. Safety, correspondence, reports, 1985-1990

Box 14
1. Scabies information, 1988-1989
4. Senior management memos, reports, 1992
5. Sinai correspondence, contract, 1975-1990
6. Staff committee lists, 1986
7. Strategic planning clipping, 1988
10. Wetsman bylaws, correspondence, deeds, 1936-1939
11-12. General deeds, reports, memos, brochures, 1930-1960

Series 2
Box 15
1. Accident and incident reports, 1991-1992
3. Administrative restructuring memos, 1991
5. Alternatives Committee minutes, report, 1992
6. Alzheimer’s Care Unit report, 1991
8. Auxiliary memo, 1991
9. Beitman, Max R., award speech, 1993
10. Benefactors memos, 1992

Box 16
1. Budget requests, 1992
7. Cultural and Education Benefit Committee report, correspondence, 1991
8. Donations, bequests, gifts correspondence, 1992
10. Family Forum correspondence, 1991

Box 17
1. Fleischman Pavilion feasibility study, 1991
2. Fleischman Residence Task Force memos, minutes, 1992
3. Geriatric Center reports, minutes, 1991
4. Grant draw down memos, 1991
5. Health and Human Services memos, 1992
6. Insurance correspondence, 1991
7. Jewish Federation Makor Planning Committee correspondence, brochures, 1990
8. Jewish Federation correspondence, 1992
9. Leadership-Development correspondence, memos, minutes, 1990-1992
11. Licensing review correspondence, reports, 1991-1992
12. Maple-Drake facility correspondence, agreement, 1991
13. Medicaid memo, 1992
14. Medicare summary, 1992

Box 18
1. Nursing Home Options Committee memos, reports, mission, 1992
2. Operation committee agendas, memos, 1992-1993
3. Organizational restructuring action plans, 1992
4. Personal Care Plus correspondence, 1992
6. Plan of closure, 1993
7. Prentis Manor report, survey, 1992
11. Program to Assure Quality Care plan, 1991-1992

Box 19
1. Quarterly reports, 1991-1992
2. Rabbinical involvement in Home correspondence, 1991
4. Salome’s Club reports, agendas, correspondence, 1991
5. Search Committee correspondence, memos, 1992
6. Service master contract, 1992
7. Sinai Hospital correspondence, memos, 1991
8-10. State survey-Borman, correspondence, memos, 1992

Box 20
1. Task Force reports, 1980s
2. Therapeutic Activities Task Force minutes, 1991
3. Union matters, analysis on Borman, 1992
4. UJF report of Strategic Planning Committee, 1992
5. Waiting List memos, 1991
7. Wexner Heritage Village correspondence, memos, 1991
8-10. Statements, memos, correspondence, newsletters, resolutions, 1980s-1992

Box 21
1. Building improvements report, 1947
2. Committee on Housing for the Elderly, proposed apartment project, Baltimore, 1964-1966
3. Committee on Housing for the Elderly, Federation, 1966
5. Committee on Housing for the Elderly, Pittsburgh, 1961, 1965-1966
7. Drug preparation notebook, 1936
11. Implementation Committee Housing for the Elderly, 1967
12. Residents’ written material, Joseph Shapiro, 1984
14. Services for aging Jewish clients, Cleveland, 1964-1966
15. Supplement-Jewish News, JHA, Detroit, 1907-1982
16. Welcome packet, undated

Box 22
1. Petoskey, agreement of sale, 1971
2. Petoskey, Burnett documents, 1972
3-4. Petoskey, closing documents, 1972, 1974
5. Petoskey; correspondence, 1971-1976
6. Petoskey, insurance, 1972
7. Petoskey, mortgage, 1974
8. Petoskey, residence pamphlet, undated
9. Petoskey, sale documents, 1971
Box 23 (unfolded)
Scrapbook, 1948-52

Box 24 (unfolded)
Scrapbook, 1976-80
Scrapbook, 1980-84

Box 25 (unfolded)
Scrapbook, 1983-86
Building specifications, c.1965

Box 26 (unfolded)
Scrapbook, 1953-1964
Scrapbook, 1987-1990

Box 27 (unfolded)
Resolution, 1926
Membership card, undated
Donation card, undated
Literature, undated
Newspaper clippings, 1982

Box 28
Minutes and financial reports, bound volume, 1920-1924
Minutes, Book II, notebook, 1943 May-1949 June
Minutes, Book III, notebook, 1949 June-1955 September
Committee minutes, notebook, 1954 February-1959 August
Minutes, Book V, notebook, 1960 October-1964 February

Box 29
Minutes, Book VI, notebook, 1964 February-1969 June
Minutes, Book VIII, notebook, 1976 November-1984 December
[Minutes], Book IX, notebook, 1985 January-1988 May

Box 30 (unfolded) **RESTRICTED**
Index cards, residents’ information, alphabetical, various dates
Contains sensitive materials—Refer to use restrictions on page one