

MS 2522 Birmingham Jewish Youth Council, 1826-1997

Administrative History

The Birmingham Jewish Youth Council was set up in 1945 to act as a co-ordinating body for the various Jewish youth groups then active in Birmingham. The Hebrew Congregation Yearbook for that year notes that 'towards the end of 1945 it was considered necessary to set up a co-ordinating body for all [youth] groups, in order to provide a common platform from which they could act together on certain projects'. Minutes of Youth Council meetings in 1952 list the following affiliated societies: Junior Maccabi, Habonim, Young Maccabi, Jewish Centre, Young Israel, University Jewish Society, Study Groupers, and Senior Maccabi. According to the 1955 Yearbook, the Council co-ordinates the efforts of Youth Groups in the city, arranges an annual Oratory contest, whose winner is awarded the Ivan Shortt Trophy, and organizes inter-functions, seminars, conferences, and dances and a bi-annual Drama Festival. In October 1952, a building for youth societies, the Cotton Youth Institute, was opened. However, the societies found it too expensive to maintain, and 'the Institute' was taken over by the Frederick Jacombs Sports Lodge and the Eva Bloom Lodge no 64 in 1957.

In 1951, the officers of the Council are listed as: Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Oratory Officer, Relief Officer, Sports Officer, and Onegim Officer. The Executive, according to the minutes of the election of a new Executive on 11 March 1959, was made up of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer, and Secretary. The Council received annual grants from the Birmingham Jewish Representative Council and the Jewish Recorder, which were spent on neshafim, communal festival gatherings for youth. Creator of the material:
Birmingham Jewish Youth Council

The collection has been arranged as follows:
Chronological order

The only surviving records of the Youth Council are two volumes of minutes. There are also brief reports about its activities in the Congregation Yearbooks from 1945 onwards. The archive deposited by the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation contains material from a number of Jewish organizations. Most of the material relates to Singers Hill Synagogue, but there is also a small collection of records from the New Synagogue, Park Road, which merged with Singers Hill in 1997. The archive also contains records of the Birmingham Jewish Arts Society (MS 2520), Birmingham Youth Council (MS 2522), Young Israel Council (MS 2523), Birmingham Shechita Board (MS 2529) and Birmingham Hebrew Educational Aid Society (MS 2539), and the personal papers of the historian Zoe Josephs (MS 2524). The personal papers of Dorothy Gillman (MS 2525) and Constance Davis (MS 2526) were also deposited by the Congregation.

Other collections held by Birmingham City Archives which may be of interest include Birmingham and District War Refugees Fund (MS 652), which includes minute books, registration forms, and correspondence, and may include information about Jewish refugees; records of Henry Yeoville Thomason (MS 1460), which include architectural drawings of Singers Hill Synagogue; personal papers of CB Lander (1904-1989), including family papers about naturalization, Jewish friends, and Jewish affairs and history (MS 1515); microfilms of minutes of the Birmingham Hebrew Philanthropic Society, the Birmingham Hebrew Educational Aid and Clothing Society, the Ladies Benevolent Board, and the Board of Guardians (MS 1678); and papers of Dr Carl Chinn (MS 1902), which include material about the Jewish community in Birmingham, including some autobiographies.

Birmingham Central Library Local Studies and History holds material about the Jewish community including a set of Birmingham Hebrew Congregation Yearbooks, 1913-1971; an Order of Service held to celebrate the opening of the Birmingham Hebrew School at St Luke's Rd, Edgbaston, May 1, 1932.

Access: Open.

Copyright: With depositor.

MS 2522/1 Minutes of Birmingham Jewish Youth Council meetings 1826-1997
Creator of material: Birmingham Jewish Youth Council.

Minutes of meetings of the Birmingham Jewish Youth Council, 19 November 1950 -13 December 1956. The minutes include meetings of the full Youth Council, the Executive of the Youth Council and of Annual General Meetings. There are also lists of people representing organizations affiliated to the Youth Council.

Access: Open. Condition: Good.

Copyright: With depositor.

Extent: 1 File

MS 2522/2 Minutes of Birmingham Jewish Youth Council meetings 1826-1997
Creator of material: Birmingham Jewish Youth Council.

Minutes of Annual General Meetings, meetings of the Executive, and of the full Council.

Access: Open. Condition: Good.

Copyright: With depositor.

Extent: 1 File