



NEWS

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AJA Receives Important Records of the International Association of Jewish Vocational Services



Records valuable to researchers in the fields of occupational and vocational services

CINCINNATI, OH:---The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives—located on the Cincinnati campus of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion— is pleased to announce the opening of records of the International Association of Jewish Vocational Services (IAJVS). Donated by Genie Cohen, Executive Director of IAJVS, the IAJVS records are now available in The Barrows-Loebelson Family Reading Room at the Jacob Rader Marcus Center in Cincinnati, Ohio.

A finding aid is available in the Reading Room and online at <http://www.americanjewisharchives.org/aja/FindingAids/iajvs.html>.

Founded in 1939 as the Jewish Occupational Council (JOC), the IAJVS was created when the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds called upon the Jewish community to respond to high levels of Jewish unemployment during the Great Depression.

Following World War II, the JOC expanded its work to help Jewish soldiers re-enter the workforce upon their return from war. In later years, the organization began to assist Jews who were being persecuted in other countries while also conducting educational programs, rehabilitation services, and home and community based services for émigrés and handicapped persons, among others.

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Today, the IAJVS (renamed in 1976) links 28 health and human service agencies in the United States, Canada, and Israel.

The IAJVS records document the organization's administrative activities, annual conferences, and special projects from its beginnings to the current day. The IAJVS records include constitutions and bylaws, minutes from the Board of Governors and Executive Committee, miscellaneous reports, conference programs, project files, and photographs. Minutes document administrative actions and oversight functions of the IAJVS. Project files include notes, correspondence, internship reports, as well as files on IAJVS's work with émigrés, and an aging workforce.

One of the highlights in the collection is a pamphlet titled, *Contributions of Jews to the American Economy* by Walter Duckat. Published by the JOC in 1954 in concert with the celebration of the American Jewish Tercentenary (1654-1954), Duckat briefly describes three centuries of Jewish economic and social life in the U.S. while examining the impact Jews have had on manufacturing, trade unions, commerce, transportation and communication, agriculture, entertainment, and science and technology in the United States.

The records of the IAJVS are a valuable resource for those studying the role and impact of Jews in the workplace and the major professions, as well as for persons interested in the larger fields of occupational and vocational services.

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The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives, founded in 1947 by its namesake on the Cincinnati, Ohio, campus of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, is committed to preserving a documentary heritage of the religious, organizational, economic, cultural, personal, social and family life of American Jewry. The Marcus Center contains over 15,000 linear feet of archives, manuscripts, nearprint materials, photographs, audio and videotapes, microfilm, and genealogical materials