National Council of Jewish Women Records

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

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Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

2009

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Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2009

Finding aid URL: http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009037

Collection Summary

Title: National Council of Jewish Women Records
Span Dates: 1893-1989
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1940-1981)
ID No.: MSS61810
Creator: National Council of Jewish Women
Extent: 48,000 items; 216 containers; 91.8 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
Abstract: Organized in 1893 as the Council of Jewish Women with the primary goals of social reform and the promotion of Judaism among women; name changed in 1923 to the National Council of Jewish Women. Correspondence, memoranda, minutes, transcripts of proceedings, reports, reference material, official publications, printed matter, and other records chiefly documenting the organization's activities.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Personal Names
McCarthy, Joseph, 1908-1957.

Organizations
National Council of Jewish Women.
United Nations.

Subjects
Abortion.
Anti-communist movements--United States.
Child care.
Civil rights.
Commerce.
Consumers.
Economic assistance.
Education.
Emigration and immigration.
Equal rights amendments.
Food.
Housing.
Human rights.
International relations.
Jews--Social life and customs.
Jews--Soviet Union.
Juvenile delinquency.
Labor laws and legislation.
National health insurance.
Nuclear warfare.
Nutrition.
Older people.
Peace.
Sex discrimination.
Social problems.
Social service.
Women's rights.

Women--Employment.
World War, 1939-1945--Refugees.

Locations
Israel.

Administrative Information

Provenance:

The records of the national office of the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) were given to the Library of Congress by the council in 1984. Additions to the collection were received in 1985 through 1989.

Processing History:

The records of the National Council of Jewish Women were processed in 1986 and 1995. The finding aid was revised in 2009.

Additional Guides:

A description of the NCJW records appears in *Library of Congress Acquisitions: Manuscript Division, 1985*, pp. 34-36. The papers of NCJW founder, Hannah G. Solomon, are described in *Library of Congress Acquisitions: Manuscript Division, 1993*, pp. 18-26.

Transfers:

Motion pictures, projection slides, sound recordings, and a videocassette have been transferred to the Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division of the Library of Congress where they are identified as part of these records.

Related Material:

Related collections in the Manuscript Division include the papers of Hannah G. Solomon and the records of the National Council of Jewish Women, Washington, D.C. Office.

Copyright Status:

Copyright in the unpublished writings of National Council of Jewish Women in these records and in other collections in the custody of the Library of Congress is reserved. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division for further information.

Access and Restrictions:

The records of the National Council of Jewish Women are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation:

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, National Council of Jewish Women Records, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The records of the National Council of Jewish Women span the years 1893-1989, with the bulk dating from 1940 to 1981. The records are divided into two parts of three series each. Part I contains an Administrative File, 1914-1978; National Conventions File, 1893-1963; and Subject File, 1896-1981. Part II is arranged according to the same series, with similar and overlapping material, but spans different dates: Administrative File, 1946-1981; National Conventions File, 1965-1980; and Subject File, circa 1893-1989.

The National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) grew out of the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. In 1890 the fair's planners decided that a parliament of religions would be one of the international congresses held during the exposition. Chicago clubwoman and reformer Hannah Greenebaum Solomon was appointed head of the Jewish Women's Committee,

which sought to use the congress to educate Christians about Judaism and to promote international unity and tolerance. At the close of the congress, Solomon and her committee resolved that they would form a permanent organization, known as the NCJW, with two purposes. First, this new organization would keep Judaism alive by informing women of their religious duties and their role in rearing Jewish children. Secondly, its members would "take part as a large group in all that concerns the welfare of mankind," solving together growing social problems that were impossible for the individual to combat alone.

In three short years, by the time of its first triennial convention in 1896, the NCJW had more than four thousand members and fifty local sections. In the hundred years since its creation, the NCJW has grown to approximately one hundred thousand members and has established itself as one of the preeminent reform organizations of the twentieth century, actively involved in a wide variety of concerns: immigrant aid, opposition to the white slave trade, educational opportunities and vocational training for the blind and visually impaired, maternal and infant health care, establishment of child labor laws, religious education, opposition to anti-Semitism, international relief work, civil rights for blacks and women, and peace initiatives.

Although there are few records extant for the council's early years, the NCJW records richly document the organization's activities from the 1920s onward, particularly since World War II. Throughout this period, the NCJW maintained an active interest in the aged, child care, consumer issues, education, employment, food and nutrition, foreign assistance, housing, immigration, Israel, Jewish life and culture, juvenile delinquency, national health insurance, social welfare, trade, the United Nations, women's rights, and other issues. Special concerns emerged in each decade: atomic warfare, European refugees, postwar price controls, and the establishment of the United Nations during the 1940s; the council's Freedom Campaign against McCarthyism in the 1950s; civil rights and sex discrimination during the 1960s; and abortion rights, human rights, and Soviet Jewry during the 1970s.

A board of directors and an executive committee govern the NCJW and maintain national headquarters in New York City. National committees assist in the administration of council programs and receive technical support and expertise from professionally staffed departments based at council headquarters in New York. Members vote on council policies and resolutions at national conventions, which have been held every two years since 1953 and every three years before then.

The two Administrative File series contain minutes of meetings of the organization's national board of directors and executive board (later executive committee). The National Convention Files include transcripts of proceedings, memoranda, and reports for most of the council's national conferences. These records reveal the aims of the council and its efforts to sponsor programs in education, social action, and community service for youth, the elderly, and women. Information on regional conferences and district conventions may be found in the Subject File series under the heading "National Council of Jewish Women."

Both series of subject files document the council's advocacy of legislative initiatives affecting social welfare, constitutional rights, civil liberties, and equality for women. Significant files include those on labor, international relations and peace, assistance to war refugees, and the United Nations. The two Subject File series also include the official statements and policies of the council, press releases, and various national council publications, including newsletters, program monographs, catalogs, brochures, training manuals, and handbooks.

Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in six series:

- Part I: Administrative File, 1914-1978
- Part I: National Conventions File, 1893-1963
- Part I: Subject File, 1896-1981
- Part II: Administrative File, 1946-1981
- Part II: National Conventions File, 1965-1980
- Part II: Subject File, circa 1893-1989

Description of Series

Container	*Series*
BOX I:1-33	**Part I: Administrative File, 1914-1978** Minutes of meetings of the national and executive boards of directors with related notes, memoranda, and reports. Arranged chronologically by year and separated therein by executive and national boards.
BOX I:34-71	**Part I: National Conventions File, 1893-1963** Correspondence, notes, memoranda, transcripts of proceedings, reports, and other material related to the council's national conferences. Arranged chronologically by year in two groups: National Council of Jewish Women and National Council of Jewish Juniors. Information on regional conferences may be found in the Subject File under the heading "National Council of Jewish Women."
BOX I:72-162	**Part I: Subject File, 1896-1981** Correspondence, notes, memoranda, reports, general reference materials, clippings, printed matter, official publications, and press releases related to the council's activities. Arranged alphabetically by topic, committee, program, or organization.
BOX II:1-5	**Part II: Administrative File, 1946-1981** Minutes of meetings of the national and executive boards of directors with related notes, memoranda, and reports. Arranged chronologically by year and separated therein by executive and national boards.
BOX II:5-15	**Part II: National Conventions File, 1965-1980** Correspondence, notes, memoranda, transcripts of proceedings, reports, and other material related to the council's national conferences. Arranged chronologically in two groups: National Council of Jewish Women and National Council of Jewish Councilettes. Information on district conventions and regional conferences may be found in the Subject File under the heading "National Council of Jewish Women."
BOX II:16-54	**Part II: Subject File, circa 1893-1989** Correspondence, notes, memoranda, reports, general reference materials, clippings, printed matter, official publications, and press releases related to the council's activities. Arranged alphabetically by topic, committee, program, or organization.

Container List

Container	*Contents*
BOX I:1-33	**Part I: Administrative File, 1914-1978**
	Minutes of meetings of the national and executive boards of directors with related notes, memoranda, and reports.
	Arranged chronologically by year and separated therein by executive and national boards.
BOX I: 1	Minutes of meetings of the national and executive boards
	1914
	(2 folders)
BOX I: 2	1916-1921
	(4 folders)
BOX I: 3	1926
	1927
	(1 folder)
BOX I: 4	(1 folder)
	1928
	(1 folder)
BOX I: 5	(2 folders)
BOX I: 6	1929
	(2 folders)
BOX I: 7	1930
	1931
	(1 folder)
BOX I: 8	(1 folder)
BOX I: 9	1935-1937
	(5 folders)
	1938
	(2 folders)
BOX I: 10	(1 folder)
	1939-1940
	(4 folders)
	1941
	(2 folders)
BOX I: 11	(1 folder)
	1942-1943
	(4 folders)
	1944
	(2 folders)
BOX I: 12	(1 folder)
	1945
	(3 folders)
	1946
	(1 folder)
BOX I: 13	(1 folder)

Container	*Contents*
BOX I: 14	1947
	(5 folders)
BOX I: 15	1948
	(7 folders)
BOX I: 16	1949
	(3 folders)
	1950
	(4 folders)
BOX I: 17	(1 folder)
	1951
	(5 folders)
BOX I: 18	(1 folder)
	1952
	(3 folders)
	1953
	(2 folders)
BOX I: 19	(5 folders)
	1954
	(1 folder)
BOX I: 20	(4 folders)
	1955
	(3 folders)
BOX I: 21	(1 folder)
	1956
	(4 folders)
BOX I: 22	(7 folders)
BOX I: 23	1957
	(3 folders)
	1958
	(3 folders)
BOX I: 24	(3 folders)
	1959
	(3 folders)
BOX I: 25	(2 folders)
	1960
	(4 folders)
BOX I: 26	(1 folder)
	1961
	(5 folders)
BOX I: 27	1962
	(7 folders)
BOX I: 28	1963
	1964
	(2 folders)
BOX I: 29	(2 folders)
	1965
	1966
	(1 folder)

Container	*Contents*
BOX I: 30	(1 folder)
	1967-1970
	(4 folders)
BOX I: 31	1971-1973
	(5 folders)
	1974
	(2 folders)
BOX I: 32	(1 folder)
	1975-1976
	(6 folders)
BOX I: 33	1977-1978
	(6 folders)
BOX I:34-71	**Part I: National Conventions File, 1893-1963**
	Correspondence, notes, memoranda, transcripts of proceedings, reports, and other material related to the council's national conferences.
	Arranged chronologically by year in two groups: National Council of Jewish Women and National Council of Jewish Juniors. Information on regional conferences may be found in the Subject File under the heading "National Council of Jewish Women."
BOX I: 34	National Council of Jewish Women
	1893
	1895 (NCJW papers read at the triennial convention of the National Council of Women of the United States)
	1896
	(2 folders)
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BOX I: 35	1917
	(5 folders)
	1920
BOX I: 36	1923
	(2 folders)
	1926
	(2 folders)
BOX I: 37	1930
	(2 folders)
	1932
	(2 folders)
BOX I: 38	(3 folders)
BOX I: 39	1935
	(2 folders)
	1938
	(1 folder)
BOX I: 40	(5 folders)
BOX I: 41	1940
	(2 folders)
BOX I: 42	(1 folder)

Container	*Contents*
	1943
	(1 folder)
BOX I: 43	(5 folders)
BOX I: 44	1946
	(4 folders)
BOX I: 45	(3 folders)
	1948 "Large Section Institutes"
BOX I: 46	1948 "Special Meeting"
	1949
	(2 folders)
BOX I: 47	(3 folders)
BOX I: 48	(3 folders)
	1953
	(1 folder)
BOX I: 49	(5 folders)
BOX I: 50	(5 folders)
BOX I: 51	1955
	(4 folders)
BOX I: 52	(6 folders)
BOX I: 53	(2 folders)
	1957
	(3 folders)
BOX I: 54	(5 folders)
BOX I: 55	(1 folder)
BOX I: 56	1959
	(2 folders)
BOX I: 57	(5 folders)
BOX I: 58	(5 folders)
BOX I: 59	(5 folders)
BOX I: 60	(4 folders)
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	(2 folders)
BOX I: 61	(4 folders)
BOX I: 62	(4 folders)
BOX I: 63	(5 folders)
BOX I: 64	(8 folders)
BOX I: 65	1963
	(5 folders)
BOX I: 66	(8 folders)
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	1923
	1925
	1927
	1929
	1933
	1935
	1937

Container	*Contents*
	1939
	(1 folder)
BOX I: 69	(1 folder)
	1941
	(1 folder)
BOX I: 70	(3 folders)
	1943
	(1 folder)
BOX I: 71	(2 folders)
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	(2 folders)
BOX I:72-162	**Part I: Subject File, 1896-1981**
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	Wiretapping, 1954-1968
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	(2 folders)
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	(5 folders)
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BOX I: 77	(4 folders)
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Container	*Contents*
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	(2 folders)
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	Spotlight, 1950-1953
	State legislation highlights, 1939-1945
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	Aging
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	(1 folder)
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	Mental health, 1945-1969

Container	*Contents*
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	Physically handicapped, 1952-1960
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	Migrants, 1942-1961
	Minimum wage, 1945-1966
	President's Commission on the Employment of the Handicapped, 1963-1968
	Social Security benefits, 1950-1964
	Status of women, Labor Department, 1946-1966
	Youth employment
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	(1 folder)
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	World's Fair Youth Pavilion, 1962-1963
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	Council section charter samples
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	Leslie's Weekly, 19 Nov. 1896
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	Reconciliation of NCJW and representatives of disaffected sections, 1915
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	(3 folders)
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	Citizenship day, 1944-1954
	Council day/week, 1937-1959
	(3 folders)
BOX I: 108	(5 folders)
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	Ellis Island (Anna Kaufman Memorial), 1950-1954
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	(2 folders)

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	(2 folders)
	Schools for Community Action, 1962-1965
	(1 folder)
BOX I: 129	State legislation manuals, 1956-1963
	Voting, 1960-1962
BOX I: 130	Washington Institute on Public Affairs, 1960-1964
	(2 folders)
	Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), "A Half Century of Social Action," 1961-1967
BOX I: 131	Public relations
	Broadcast, Mary McBride, 1953
	Manuals, 1943-1957
	(2 folders)
	Press releases
	1950-1957
	(2 folders)
BOX I: 132	(5 folders)
BOX I: 133	(1 folder)
	Publications
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	(4 folders)
	AIDS, 1955-1958
	(3 folders)
BOX I: 134	(6 folders)
BOX I: 135	(1 folder)
	The Branch, 1951-1953
	Council in the News, 1958-1960
	Council Woman
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	(2 folders)
BOX I: 136	1928-1951
	(4 folders)
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	(5 folders)
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	Newsletter
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BOX I: 139	1936-1939
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	(2 folders)
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BOX I: 145	Nongovernmental organizations, 1950-1965
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BOX I: 150	(7 folders)
BOX I: 151	"Windows on Day Care" survey, 1968-1970
	(9 folders)
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BOX I: 153	(6 folders)
BOX I: 154	(10 folders)
BOX I: 155	(5 folders)
BOX I: 156	(9 folders)
BOX I: 157	(10 folders)
BOX I: 158	(7 folders)
BOX I: 159	(7 folders)
BOX I: 160	(8 folders)
BOX I: 161	(13 folders)
BOX I: 162	(11 folders)
	Women's Auxiliary Corps, 1943
BOX II:1-5	**Part II: Administrative File, 1946-1981**
	Minutes of meetings of the national and executive boards of directors with related notes, memoranda, and reports.
	Arranged chronologically by year and separated therein by executive and national boards.
BOX II: 1	Minutes of meetings of the national and executive boards
	1946
	(4 folders)
	1965
	(2 folders)

Container	*Contents*
BOX II: 2	1966-1968
	(8 folders)
BOX II: 3	1969-1973
	(10 folders)
BOX II: 4	1974-1979
	(12 folders)
	1980-1981
	(4 folders)
BOX II:5-15	**Part II: National Conventions File, 1965-1980**
	Correspondence, notes, memoranda, transcripts of proceedings, reports, and other material related to the council's national conferences.
	Arranged chronologically in two groups: National Council of Jewish Women and National Council of Jewish Councilettes. Information on district conventions and regional conferences may be found in the Subject File under the heading "National Council of Jewish Women."
BOX II: 5	National Council of Jewish Women
	1965
	(3 folders)
BOX II: 6	(3 folders)
	1967
	(2 folders)
BOX II: 7	(3 folders)
BOX II: 8	1969
	(7 folders)
BOX II: 9	1971
	(4 folders)
BOX II: 10	(5 folders)
BOX II: 11	1973
	(6 folders)
BOX II: 12	(1 folder)
	1975
	(3 folders)
	1977
	(3 folders)
BOX II: 13	(5 folders)
	1979
	(1 folder)
BOX II: 14	(5 folders)
BOX II: 15	National Council of Jewish Councilettes, 1972-1980
	(7 folders)
BOX II:16-54	**Part II: Subject File, circa 1893-1989**
	Correspondence, notes, memoranda, reports, general reference materials, clippings, printed matter, official publications, and press releases related to the council's activities.
	Arranged alphabetically by topic, committee, program, or organization.
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	Women in Community Service (WICS), 1964-1979
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BOX II: 21	General, 1943-1980
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BOX II: 22	Overseas scholarship program, 1947-1965
	Equal Rights Amendment, 1977-1980
	Foreign countries
	General, 1966-1981
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	(2 folders)
BOX II: 23	(1 folder)
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	Foreign policy
	Arms sales, 1978-1981
	General, 1965-1979
	Middle East peace negotiations, 1978-1979
	Gun control, 1968-1980
BOX II: 24	Health
	Aging

Container	*Contents*
	General, 1959-1981
	(7 folders)
BOX II: 25	White House Conference on Aging, 1971, 1981
	Day care/child care, 1943-1989
	General, 1940-1979
	(2 folders)
BOX II: 26	Health, Education and Welfare, Department of, 1968-1980
	Hunger, 1966-1980
	Housing, 1963-1980
	Immigration, 1945-1980
	Intergroup (race) relations, 1975-1980
	International Council of Jewish Women
	Conventions, 1969-1981
	(3 folders)
BOX II: 27	(1 folder)
	Links Around the World, 1978-1982
	Newsletters, 1979-1982
	International Women's Year Commission, 1974-1978
	Jewish culture, 1968-1980
	(3 folders)
BOX II: 28	Juvenile delinquency, 1967-1980
	(2 folders)
	Labor
	General, 1964-1975
	National Organization for Children and Youth, 1966-1976
	National Affairs Department, 1970-1979
	(2 folders)
BOX II: 29	(7 folders)
BOX II: 30	(1 folder)
	National Council of Jewish Women
	Condolences, 1979-1982
	Directories, 1965-1978
	District conventions (formerly regional conferences)
	1968
	(1 folder)
BOX II: 31	(1 folder)
	1970
	(2 folders)
	1972
	(2 folders)
BOX II: 32	1974
	(2 folders)
	1976
	(3 folders)
BOX II: 33	1978
	(3 folders)
	1980
	(3 folders)

Container	*Contents*
BOX II: 34	1982
	(4 folders)
	Historical background information, circa 1893-circa 1950
	(2 folders)
BOX II: 35	Projects
	Council Sabbath, 1965-1974
	Council Week, 1968-1979
	(2 folders)
BOX II: 36	Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel, 1949-1978
	Marcus Conference, 1977-1981
	(2 folders)
	Research Institute for Innovation in Education
	General, 1970-1977
	U.S.-Israel Education Colloquia, 1976-1979
	(2 folders)
BOX II: 37	Resolutions, bylaws, and policies, 1963-1983
	(2 folders)
	Statements and testimonies
	1965-1967
	(2 folders)
BOX II: 38	1968-1973
	(3 folders)
BOX II: 39	1974-1977
	(4 folders)
BOX II: 40	1978-1980
	(3 folders)
	Surveys and internal audits (Bureau of Jewish Social Research), 1926
BOX II: 41	National Overseas Committee, 1951-1967
	(6 folders)
BOX II: 42	(7 folders)
BOX II: 43	(3 folders)
	Outside organization representation, 1943-1982
	(2 folders)
BOX II: 44	(5 folders)
BOX II: 45	(5 folders)
BOX II: 46	(2 folders)
	Peace and disarmament, 1965-1978
	Press releases, 1975-1982
	(4 folders)
BOX II: 47	Publications
	Across the Nation, 1965-1967
	Action Alert, 1975-1980
	The Bulletin, 1916
	Council Hotline, 1969-1974
	Council in Action, 1966-1967
	Council Leader, 1958-1967
	(3 folders)
	Council News, 1968-1971

Container	*Contents*
	Council Platform, 1961-1967
BOX II: 48	*Council Woman/NCJW Journal*, 1965-1980
	(4 folders)
	Memos from the National President, 1972-1974
	(2 folders)
BOX II: 49	*NACS Newsletter*, 1979-1982
	New Horizons, 1958-1966
	(3 folders)
	Notes from National, 1974-1980
	(3 folders)
BOX II: 50	(1 folder)
	Washington Newsletter, 1969-1980
	(5 folders)
BOX II: 51	Soviet Jewry, 1965-1980
	(3 folders)
	Summit conferences, Israel, 1971-1978
	(3 folders)
BOX II: 52	United Nations, 1965-1978
	(5 folders)
BOX II: 53	(2 folders)
	United States government, 1975-1980
	White House Conference on Children and Youth
	1960
	(2 folders)
	1970
BOX II: 54	White House Conference on Families, 1980
	Women's issues
	General, 1966-1980
	(2 folders)
	Mid-Decade World Conference, 1980-1981
	Status of women, 1965-1973