



Bloomfield family (Neri and Bernard Bloomfield, Evelyn Schachter) - Zionist activities

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Collection: Bloomfield family (Neri and Bernard Bloomfield, Evelyn Schachter) - Zionist activities

Description Level: Fonds

Material Format: textual record
moving images
graphic material

Physical Description: 1.6 metres of textual records. - 6 films. - Env. 30 photographs.

Scope and Content:

Textual records dating from 1918-2007, collected by Evelyn Bloomfield Schachter and her parents Bernard and Neri Bloomfield over the course of their long involvement in Montreal and international Jewish community activities, especially related to Israel and to Zionist organizations in Canada. Organizations represented in the collection include: Hadassah-Wizo (early involvement by Neri Bloomfield, and later by her daughter Evelyn), Canadian Zionist Federation, Israel Bonds, JNF, Histadrut-AMAL, Technion University, Canadian Friends of Hebrew University and other university support organizations, as well as Jerusalem 3000 and other projects related to hospitals and schools in Israel. Some family documents and images are also included in the collection, including the earliest dated material found here. There are a few oversize items, including 2 large rolled photographs of Histadrut conventions in New York (early 1950s), a smaller rolled photo of a Histadrut campaign dinner in Montreal in 1948, a large group photograph from Hadassah Wizo in Toronto (1957), a Jewish National Fund blueprint for the Bloomfield forest in Israel, and a 1970 Conservative Party election poster for Evelyn Bloomfield's brother Harry Bloomfield, during the campaign when he ran against Pierre Elliot Trudeau for the Mount Royal riding. There are 6 reels of 16 mm. film stock of film related to the Bloomfield family's Israel activities or film financing ventures, copied from the Bloomfield collection at the Public Archives of Canada (now LAC).

Date: 1918-2007.

Fonds No.: P0247

History Biographical:

Neri Bloomfield served as national president of the Canadian Zionist Federation. She was born in Bucharest, Romania, was educated in London, and immigrated to Canada in 1941. She was an active volunteer and effective leader and fundraiser in both the Jewish and non Jewish communities for many years. She was a member of the International Board of the Hebrew University, presided respectively over many Canadian organizations and campaigns. Mrs. Bloomfield was the youngest National President of Canadian Hadassah-Wizo (1972-76), the first woman to hold the position of National President of the Canadian Zionist Federation (1984-87), as well as the first female President of the Jewish National Fund of Canada (1988-91). She was also a member of the Board of Directors of Bank of Hapoalim (Canada); the only woman director in the Bank's history. She was actively involved with St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, Nova Scotia, where she was awarded an Honourary LL.D. (Doctor of Laws). She was a member of its International Board of Governors of the Hebrew University since 1971, and received an Honorary Ph.D. from there. She was also a member of the Board of Governors of the Technion. Her Canadian involvements included serving as President of the Lady Davis Research Institute of the Jewish General Hospital and serving as the Chair of the Canadian celebrations for Jerusalem 3000. (Source: jafi.org - The Jewish Agency for Israel.)

Bernard Manfred Bloomfield, business executive, community leader and philanthropist, was born in Montreal and educated at McGill University. He was president of Canadian Manufacturers Sales Company, Israel Continental Oil Co. Ltd., which drilled for oil in Israel from 1954 to 1967, and New Continental Oil Co. of Canada. He was Honorary Consul General, Republic of Korea from 1969 until his death. Bloomfield served on the boards of numerous Jewish organizations and institutions including the Canadian Association for Labour Israel and its Canadian Histadrut Campaign, Jewish National Fund of Canada, 1969-1974, Canadian Technion Society and the Lady Davis Medical Research Institute of the Jewish General Hospital. He was also active in Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University, Canada-Israel Maritime League, Jewish Immigrant Aid Services of Canada, and the Canada-Israel Chamber of Commerce in Israel. As president of the Eldee Foundation, established by Henrietta Davis, the first wife of Sir Mortimer B. Davis who founded Imperial Tobacco, Bernard and his brother Louis used the proceeds to build 16 of the 65 Amal vocational high schools in Israel. Bloomfield was a Governor of the Sir Mortimer B. Davis Jewish General Hospital, the Hebrew University, the Technion, St. Francis Xavier University and the Tel Aviv Museum. He was author of *Israel Diary*, 1950, an account of his first trip to Israel. He received numerous awards and honours for his community service. Source: National Library and Archives Canada bio, taken from *Canadian Who's Who*, 1984, p. 121. Evelyn Bloomfield Schachter, daughter of Bernard and Neri Bloomfield, is vice president of the Eldee Foundation. She is deeply involved in numerous Montreal Jewish organizations. Harry Bloomfield, born 1944, is Managing partner of the law firm of Bloomfield & Avocats, and is a philanthropist and businessman.

Notes:

Alpha-numeric designations :P13/08, MC 32.

Archival / Archival Descriptions

Genealogical:

Repository: Canadian Jewish Archives