



# Canadian Jewish Heritage Network



## Samuel Caplan Family fonds

<https://www.cjhn.ca/en/permalink/cjhn80339>

Collection: Samuel Caplan family fonds

Description Level: Fonds

Material Format: multiple media

Physical Description: multiple media

## Scope and Content:

Fonds consists of Caspar Caplan's 1914 list of Ottawa families and addresses; correspondence, 1930's; records outlining Sam Caplan's leadership role with the Jewish Community Council of Ottawa, 1952-1953; the Synagogue and Jewish Community Centre, 1952 - 1953; President of the Adath Jeshurun Congregation, 1952 - 1954; large collection of community souvenir programs and invitations, 1900 - 1950; news clippings; a book entitled "Caplan's in the the capital: a history of C. Caplan Limited & the Caplan Family of Ottawa, 1890 - 1999"; a Caplan family tree (descendants of Yankel-Herschel Caplan b. 1850); oral history taped interview, 1977; b&w and colour photographs; Marcia Caplan's typewriter portraits and correspondence relating to her typewriter portraits. Souvenir Programs and invitations include: Stag parties of Dave Bilsky, 1928; Cecil Slonemsky, 1929; Harold Pearl, 1931; Gordon Caplan, 1932; Sam Caplan, 1936 and Hyman Horlick, 1936; Myer Caplan marriage to Mary Levin, 1911; Samuel Caplan marriage to Marcia Clarice Singer, 1936; Birthday of Sam Caplan, date unknown; Bar Mitzah of Jesse Hyman Abelson, 1905; Silver Wedding anniversary of Mr. & Mrs. J. Holzman, 1916; Wedding of Libbie Silver to Lyon Cohen, Montreal, 1900; Wedding of Betsy Kert to Ben Benovitch (Benwick), 1901; Wedding of Jennie Freiman to Max Epstein, Hamilton, 1907; Wedding of Lillian Bilsky to Archibald J. Freiman, 1903; Wedding of Myer Caplan to Mary Levin, 1911; Wedding of Susan Sugarman to Samuel Katz, 1910; Wedding of Sophie Loeb to Samuel Edelson, King Edward Institute, 1915; Wedding of Mildred Markson to Nathan Bilsky, 1914; Wedding of Sophie Cooper to Sidney Miller, 1912; Wedding of Rebecca Shapiro to Gabriel Cohen, 1919; Souvenir Booklets include: Banquet and Presentation to Mr. Samuel Berger by his Ottawa friends on his departure for Osgoode Hall, September 12, 1922; Ottawa Hebrew Benefit Society Memorial Service, September 22, 1935; Ottawa Jewish Community Council Introduction Rabbi William Margolis, October 31, 1937; Annual father and son session of the Hanoar Study and Breakfast Club, May 23, 1943; Funeral of Archibald Jacob Freiman, 1944; Annual Tea, Lady Members of the Ottawa Hebrew Free Loan Association, Talmud Torah Hall, February 11, 1945; installation of Rabbi Simon L. Eckstein, Sunday, December 7, 1952; Memorial Service, Dr. Chaim Weizmann, First President of Israel, December 10, 1952; Synagogue and Jewish Community Centre of Ottawa Dedication, November 2, 1952; Special Coronation Service in honour of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, June 2, 1953; Testimonial Dinner in honour of the Honourable Abraham H. Lieff, Q.C. President of the Agudath Israel Synagogue, 1953; Testimonial Banquet honouring Reverend Joseph Rabin upon his Silver Jubilee of service to Congregation Adath Jeshurun, March 7, 1954; Ottawa Vaad Ha'Ir Annual Memorial Service, September 19, 1954; B'nai B'rith Ottawa Lodge, No. 885 Presents its 1967 Citation Award Dinner honouring Dr. Samuel Mirsky as Citizen of the year 1966, March 1, 1967; Israel week in Ottawa, 23rd Anniversary, anniversary Sabbath, Sunday, May 2, 1971; Negev Dinner in tribute to Dr. Samuel Mirsky, December 10, 1972; Testimonial dinner in tribute to Louis Rasminsky on his retirement as Governor of the Bank of Canada, February 11, 1973; Negev Dinner in honour of Jacob Gordon, November 18, 1973; Negev Dinner in tribute to Dr. Samuel Mirsky, December 10, 1972; 25th Anniversary of Israel's Independence, May 6, 1973; Service of dedication of Temple Israel, Ottawa, October 26, 1975; Music and Theatre Programs include: Queen Esther given by the Girls' Herzl Zion Society, St. Patrick's Hall, February 22, 1915; First Annual "Y" Vaudeville Show, directed by Abe Lieff, January 28, 1923; The Galvinizer, November 25, 1929; Young People's League presents Haman's Trial at King Edward Institute, March 4, 1931; The Y. M. H. A.'s sixth annual minstrel show "We're in the army now," February 21 - 23, 1931, Montreal; Young Judea of Ottawa presents the Eighth Annual Concert at the Little Theatre, May 5, 1932; Ottawa Drama Club presents "Dulcy" at the Little Theatre, April 14, 15, and 16, 1932; Young People's League presents "The Butter and Egg Man" at the Little Theatre, March 11, 1933; Young People's League of the synagogues of Ottawa present "A Bachelor's Honeymoon" at the Little Theatre, February 24, year unknown; H. Y. M. A. of Young Judea present a dance and floor show at the Talmud Torah Hall, March 29, 1936; Young People's League: Purim Party: Yiddishe Mountaineers at the Talmud Torah Hall, March 8, 1947; United Sisterhoods of Ottawa present Uncle Tom's Community Centre: a musical comedy written by Sol Max and Abraham H. Lieff, December, 20, 1952; Ottawa Philharmonic Orchestra, conductor Eugene Kash, Capital Theatre, Season 1952 - 1953; Israeli Forum presents Three American Rabbis at the Jewish Community Centre, February 8, 1953;

Date: 1900 - 1975

Fonds No.: I0213

History Biographical:

Samuel (Sam) Caplan (b. 1898 - d. 1983 in Ottawa) was the son of Caspar Caplan and Dora Roston. He had two brothers, Gordon Caplan and David Caplan, and three sisters, Miriam (M. Wershof), Lessie (E. Roston) and Lillian (L. Wolfe). Sam began working within the family's retail business, C. Caplan Limited (Caplan's), as a teenager and married Marcia Clarice Singer of Montreal in August 1936. Caplan's was first opened in 1897 by Casper Caplan and moved to Rideau Street in 1916. By the time Caplan's expanded to a department store on Rideau Street, Sam was the Secretary-Treasurer. Caplan's purchased Shaffer's Limited in 1967, and closed two decades later on July 28, 1984. as the store was facing declining sales and increased competition from the Rideau Centre Shopping mall. Sam was affiliated with the Ottawa Hebrew Benevolent Society all his adult life. He was a charter member of B'nai B'rith Ottawa Lodge and a life long member of Adath Jeshurun Congregation. He served as Adath Jeshurun's president between 1951 and 1956 and led negotiation talks which facilitated the merger with Agudath Achim and the creation of Congregation Beth Shalom. Sam died in 1983, just one year before Caplan's closed. Marcia Caplan was a noted bridge player, being the second Jewish female Life Master in Ottawa. Between 1935 and 1952, Marcia Caplan created a series of portraits of leading world personages using a typewriter. Marcia died in Ottawa in 2003.

Acquisition Source: 1. Sam Caplan donated most of the fonds. 2. Further accrual of a letter donated by Aaron Bernstein, 1997. 3. Further accruals of 11 photographs : b&w, and some news clippings donated by George Caplan, July 2000.

Custodial History: Mrs. Manuel Gluck (Joan Caplan) donated 8 photographs in October, 2009.

Notes:

Marcia Caplan's typed portraits were displayed by the Ottawa Jewish Historical Society at Arts Alive in 1984

Archival / Archival Descriptions

Genealogical:

Repository: Ottawa Jewish Archives