



THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MISSOURI RESEARCH CENTER-KANSAS CITY

K1196

Sol E. Margolin (1915-1996) Papers

[Jewish Community Archives]

1959-1980

.3 cubic foot

Margolin was executive director of the Jewish Community Center and civic leader in the community. Includes photographs, programs, newspaper articles, original art, and memorabilia relating to the Jewish Community Center of Kansas City.

BIOGRAPHY:

Sol E. Margolin (1915-1996) was born and reared in St. Louis, Missouri. He obtained his B.S. (1936) and M.A. (1937) degrees in psychology from Washington University in St. Louis. He was married to Ruth Margolin, the Donor of this collection, and the father of their three children: Michael, Bruce, and Beth.

He taught psychology at Washington University, and taught psychology and social work at Harris Teacher's College for seven years. He was a social worker for Council House. In 1943, he developed a suburban extension recreation program in St. Louis, and then moved to Louisville, Kentucky to become program director of its Jewish Community Center and to teach psychology at the University of Louisville.

He came to Kansas City in 1949 as director of education and the School of Jewish Studies at the Jewish Community Center. He was promoted to assistant director of the Center and became its executive director in 1958 in time to oversee the construction and completion of the new facilities at 82nd and Holmes. Considered an innovator in community programming, Margolin served as executive director of the Jewish Community Center until his retirement in October 1979. As director, he led development of the Center's many excellent cultural programs, expanding the Center's services to people of all ages and faiths, including the American Poets Series, the Resident Theater stage productions, and the Coffee Concert Series, and worked with dozens upon dozens of committees to create and maintain the Center's programs and facilities. He was instrumental in working with the New Americans of the Center to erect the

Kansas City Monument to the Victims of the Holocaust, the first such memorial of its kind in the United States.

After his service to the Jewish Community Center, Margolin was director of the Kansas City office of the Jewish National Fund from 1982-1989, and the development director for the Chabad House from 1989 to his death in 1996.

During his long public service career, Margolin was chairman of many civic and program committees, including serving as chairman of the United Campaign Executives (1966-1967). He received the ninth annual Man of the Year award by the Heart of America chapter of B'nai B'rith, and was awarded the 30th Anniversary of Israel Award (1978).

He was a member of B'nai B'rith, the Congregation Ohev Shalom and its Minyanaires, the Speakers Bureau of United Funds, the National Association of Social Workers, National Jewish Center Workers, Sigma Xi honorary fraternity, Lions, The National Association of Social Workers, and the American Psychological Association.

PROVENANCE:

This gift was received from Ruth Margolin as accession KA1614 on February 17, 2008.

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PREFERRED CITATION:

Specific item; folder number; *Sol E. Margolin (1915-1996) Papers (K1196)*; The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-KC].

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DESCRIPTION:

This collection consists of photographs, programs, newspaper articles, original art, and a framed proclamation by Kansas City Mayor Ilus W. Davis in

recognition of the fiftieth anniversary of the Jewish Community Center of Kansas City.

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INVENTORY:

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| Folder 1 | Photographs. Contains six black and white photographs (8" x 10") of groups at the Jewish Community Center during the 1950s-1960s, including visitors Mrs. Eddie Jacobson, President Harry S. Truman and David Eli Lilienthal, and of the building itself. |
| Folder 2 | 1961 Jewish Community Center Dedication Services Program. |
| Folder 3 | 2002 Kansas City Jewish Film Festival. Program and evaluation form. |

OVERSIZE ITEMS

Flat Box 001

Laminated newspaper articles, framed awards, and original artwork:

"Anniversary for "The Center" – For a Half Century, Many-Faceted Leadership." *The Kansas City Times*, December 24, 1964.

"Center memories: JCC history to be published in 2000." *The Kansas City Jewish Chronicle*, December 25, 1998.

"You are all cordially invited to a testimonial dinner honoring Sol E. Margolin in recognition of 30 years of dedicated and devoted service to the J.C.C." *The Kansas City Jewish Chronicle*, April 18, 1980.

"Sol Margolin Interviewed." *The Squire's Other Paper*, April 24, 1980.

Program. The Jewish Community Center and The New American Club honoring Sol E. Margolin with the 30th Anniversary of Israel Award. September 17, 1978.

"Where Things Get Done Because Sol Lets Things Happen." *The Kansas City Star*, July 7, 1974.

Nine articles (1961-1974) about Sol Margolin and The Jewish Community Center:

- "Center's Presidents to be Feted at Dinner on July 18th." *The Kansas City Jewish Chronicle*, July 9, 1965.

- Photograph and caption “Among those honored by The Jewish Community Center last Sunday night at dinner at the Muehlebach Hotel...” *The Kansas City Jewish Chronicle*, July 23, 1965.
- “Takes Funds Helm in Executive Unit: Sol Margolin to a Chairmen’s Post in United Campaign Effort.” May 27, 1966.
- “Sol E. Margolin Named Man of the Year by H. of A. Chapter, B’nai B’rith Women.”
- “A Fine New Jewish Center for the Community.” *The Kansas City Times*, May 29, 1961.
- Photograph and caption “Strengthening Health and Welfare Services to the community...”
- “Dinner Honors Margolin.” *The Kansas City Star*, July 15, 1974.
- “Women’s Guild Donates \$4,000 to Center Projects.”
- “Record Crowd Attends Poetry Lecture as Jewish Center is Picketed.” An article about protests when poet Langston Hughes spoke at The Jewish Community Center.

“New Season on New Stage for the Resident Theater.” *The Kansas City Star*, October 7, 1962.

Five *Kansas City Jewish Chronicle* articles (November 13, 1964) about The Jewish Community Center on its fiftieth anniversary:

- “And the Stars Still Shine at the Resident Theatre.”
- “Salute to the Jewish Community Center!”
- “The Jewish Community Center: 50 Golden Years.”
- The Board of Directors and Officers of the Jewish Community Center, on the opening of the new Jewish Community Center, with an open letter from Sol E. Margolin and Dr. Edward A. Devins.
- “They Make the Jewish Community Center Tick.”

Advertisement. “A Dream Come True with the Day of Dedication of the New Jewish Community Center.” *Kansas City Jewish Chronicle*, May 26, 1961.

Three *Kansas City Jewish Chronicle* articles (May 26, 1961) about the new Jewish Community Center:

- “A New Era of Center Service to Individual and Community” by Sol E. Margolin.
- “The New Jewish Center – A Great Achievement.”
- “A Project-Sharing That Made a Dream Come True” by Dr. Edward A. Devins.

Announcement by the Jewish National Fund of Kansas City of the Albert Einstein Forest in Lahov, Israel. March 14, 1979.

Announcement that a grove of 1,000 trees has been planted in the Albert Einstein Forest in Lahov, Israel in honor of Sol E. Margolin for his services to the Jewish National Fund of Kansas City and the Jewish Community of Kansas City. Not dated.

Award. "Sol E. Margolin in deepest appreciation of your many years of devoted service and inspirational leadership to our club. You will always be lovingly remembered. The New American Club of the Jewish Community Center, April 27, 1980. Wooden and metal plaque.

Sculpture. A framed sculpture model by Maurice Newman, 1898-1977, of his aluminum memorial sculpture to the Jewish martyrs in Warsaw Poland. The full-scale 1963 sculpture is installed in front of the Jewish Community Center in Kansas City, Missouri. Wooden model, painted silver, in brown wooden frame. 17 3/8" x 14 3/8"

This item is wrapped separately in acid-free paper and scrap cardboard:

Proclamation, signed by Kansas City, Missouri mayor Ilus W. Davis, in recognition of the fiftieth anniversary of the Jewish Community Center, October 19, 1964. Includes photographs of Davis presenting Dr. Edward A. Devins (J.C.C. President) and Sol E. Margolin (J.C.C. Executive Director) with medals. Glass and wooden frame, 21 1/2" x 3/4" x 23".