

Create a Legacy for the Community

The Society's collections document Jewish life in Washington, D.C., and the Maryland and northern Virginia suburbs, serving as the basis for original exhibitions, publications, and educational programs.

You take an important step toward preserving your precious family heirlooms and mementos when you donate them to the Society — and you keep the memories that they contain.

The Society is the only local Jewish organization with professional archivists on staff — they will monitor the proper handling, storage, and use of your materials, as well as provide access to researchers. Our archivists are happy to consult with you about donating materials to the archives and can be contacted at info@jhsgw.org or (202) 789-0900.

WE COLLECT A VARIETY OF MATERIAL INCLUDING:

Organizational records

documenting local Jewish communal organizations and synagogues.

- meeting minutes and agendas
- reports
- event programs
- correspondence
- speeches
- flyers
- newsletters
- histories
- membership directories

Business records

- photographs
- memorabilia
- business cards
- correspondence
- promotional materials
- reports
- records of local Jewish-owned businesses

Personal and family papers

- diaries
- invitations
- speeches
- certificates
- correspondence
- scrapbooks
- family trees
- immigration documents
- oral histories
- memoirs

Photographs

Depictions of Jewish life and culture in Washington area

Judaica

Ceremonial and ritual objects used in Jewish homes or synagogues in the greater Washington area

We generally cannot accept the following for our archives:

- Books (including prayerbooks)
- Newspapers, magazines, journals, and clippings
- Tax or financial documents
- Plaques and awards
- Art (unless it has a special connection to the Washington, D.C. area)
- Posterboard displays



Image: JHSGW Collections: (clockwise from top left) Circumcision gown, gift of Amy N.B. Goldstein; YMHA Review, gift of Leo B. Kagan; Abraham family portrait, gift of Natalie Munitz; Drug Fair jingle tape, gift of Stuart and Milton Elsberg; Bettie Dreifus and Henry Baum's *ketubah* (marriage contract), gift of Martin Baum and Evelyn Conn; Harry's Meat Market receipt book, gift of Ruth and Vivian Weinstein; Cantor William and Jennie Tash's wedding portrait, gift of Hymen Tash.