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Guide to MS508 Fanny Zlabovsky-National Council of Jewish Women case files

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Guide to
MS508
Fanny Zlabovsky-National Council of Jewish Women
case files

Span Dates, 1922-1946
Bulk Dates, 1935-1940

45 inches (linear)

Processed by Susan Goodman Novick
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Donated by Mark Hutman in 2004.

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Sonnichsen Special Collections Department. The University of Texas at El Paso Library.

C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department
University of Texas at El Paso

Biographical Sketch

The National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW), founded in 1893 by social activist Hannah G. Solomon, is an organization which is dedicated to furthering human welfare, in the Jewish and general communities, locally, nationally, and internationally. One of the first activities of the organization was providing assistance with the large influx of immigrants to the United States beginning in the last decade of the nineteenth century. The NCJW formed the Department of Immigrant Aid in 1903 to assist and protect new arrivals to the country, especially women, and it formed the Port and Dock Department at the request of the federal government to help find homes and jobs for new immigrants. The organization assisted women arriving alone and provided a permanent immigration aid station on Ellis Island. In addition, a network of NCJW representatives assisting immigrant girls grew to cover over 300 cities.

During the early 1900s, a national effort arose which resulted in diverting Jewish immigrants from the Eastern seaboard to the West. Known as the Galveston Movement, this effort resulted in an influx of new immigrants to Texas. Immigrants from Europe were also entering into Mexico, then migrating northward, hoping to enter the United States at the border. Not aware of the stringent immigration laws, many had to remain in border cities such as Cd. Juárez to await the next step. In 1917, a group of 78 women formed an El Paso affiliate of the NCJW, and soon afterward organized a Committee for Service to the Foreign Born for the purpose of aiding European immigrants living in Cd. Juárez. As part of the Americanization process, volunteers conducted classes in English and government. The foreign born were assisted in finding jobs and a special field worker was employed to assist those in need of counseling.

Fanny Hutman Zlabovsky began her work as Field Worker for the Committee for Service to the Foreign Born in 1920. Born in Kiev on April 4, 1877, she immigrated to the United States in 1881, and was admitted to an orphanage in New Orleans in 1883. By 1900, she was living with her mother, Pauline Hutman, in San Antonio as a roomer in the household of Jacob Zlabovsky. On September 2, 1902, she married Frank Zlabovsky, a retail merchant in San Antonio, and they moved to El Paso in 1900 and built a house at 1016 Olive Street.

Mrs. Zlabovsky worked for the El Paso section of the NCJW until the early 1940s, and kept the case files on those immigrants on whose cases she worked. The Fanny Zlabovsky-National Council of Jewish Women Case Files include 239 case files that include correspondence in English and Yiddish with immigrants and their families as well as with officials at the national office of the NCJW, the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, and other national and international organizations that assisted immigrants in the 1920s to 1940s. In addition to these case files, there are other items of general correspondence and reports spanning from 1922 to 1941.

Series Description or Arrangement

The Fanny Zlabovsky-National Council of Jewish Women case files are arranged in two series:

Series I: Case Files, 1922-1946, 30 linear inches (6 boxes)

Arranged alphabetically (and chronologically in each folder), this series includes

correspondence and notes on individuals or families assisted by Fanny Zlabovsky in her role as Field Worker for the Committee on Service to the Foreign Born.

Series II: General Correspondence and Reports, 1922-1941, 3 linear inches (1/2 box)

Arranged chronologically, this series includes correspondence and reports from 1922 to 1941.

Fragile original documents, which have been copied and placed in the appropriate place in each case file, are arranged alphabetically in boxes 7, 8, and 9 (15 linear inches).

Scope and Content Notes

The Fanny Zlabovsky-National Council of Jewish Women case files collection is primarily composed of correspondence that Mrs. Zlabovsky wrote and received in her role as Field Worker for the Committee on Service to the Foreign Born.

The first series, Case Files, 1922-1946, contains 239 case files of individuals and families. The countries of origin for the individuals include Argentina, Austria, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Mexico, Morocco, Nicaragua, Poland, Russia, Slovakia, Syria, Turkey, and Venezuela. The contents relate the process by which Mrs. Zlabovsky assisted immigrants and their families by obtaining affidavits and birth certificates, applying for immigration quotas, corresponding with consular officials in Mexico and abroad, and providing financial and social services assistance to immigrants who were living in Cd. Juárez. Several world-renowned scientists and academics were assisted by Mrs. Zlabovsky, and many changed their immigration status by staying overnight in Cd. Juárez. Included are letters from families of prospective immigrants with completed affidavits of support and correspondence with officials of national organizations helping to rescue European Jews (such as the Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society of America and the National Coordinating Committee for Aid to Refugees and Emigrants Coming from Germany). Also included is correspondence from other NCJW chapters throughout the country and letters written in Yiddish.

The second series, General Correspondence and Reports, 1922-1941, contains general correspondence and reports from the El Paso chapter of the NCJW to the national organization as well as updates from the national office on pending immigration and social services legislation. The reports provide information on health and education programs as well as statistics on how many trips were made to Cd. Juárez to distribute clothing and money and how many cases were pending or closed.

Provenance Statement

Mark Hutman donated the Fanny Zlabovsky- National Council of Jewish Women case files to the University of Texas at El Paso Library in 2004.

Literary Rights Statement

Permission to publish material from the Fanny Zlabovsky-National Council of Jewish Women case files must be obtained from the C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department, the University of Texas at El Paso Library. Citation should read, Fanny Zlabovsky-National Council of Jewish Women case files, MS508, C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department, the University of Texas at El Paso Library.

Notes to the Researcher

See also:

Mary Ann Plaut collection, MS540.

Fragile original documents, which have been copied and placed in the appropriate place in each case file, are arranged alphabetically in boxes 7, 8, and 9 (15 linear inches). Because these boxes contain duplicates, they were not added to the container list.

Container List

**Series I -
Case
Files**

Box	File	Last Name	First Name	Dates	Country of Origin	Comments
1	1	Abisoror	Leon	1930-1931	Morocco	deportation
1	2	Abrahamson	Ernest	1939-1940	Germany	academic and his fiancée (Edith Rodler)
1	3	Adler	Markus and Rosa	1937	?	visas
1	4	Alerhand	Masra	1938	Poland	refund of consular fee
1	5	Alonzo	Matilda	1943	?	marriage certificate (Frank Hinkle)
1	6	Altschuler	Gil	1943	?	information request
1	7	Aronowitz	Clara	1927-1935	Russia/Germany	bonded case
1	8	Aronstein	Georg	1938	Germany	affidavits [Kohlberg]
1	9	Ayala	Isabel Carmen	1935	?	birth certificate
1	10	Babad	Hirsch	1934	?	information request
1	11	Baron	Marcel	1937	Germany	voluntary departure
1	12	Barta	Emmanuel	1938-1940	Hungary	re Harmelin case
1	13	Bartnowski	Chaim	1936-1939	Poland	affidavits; Yiddish letters
1	14	Baum	Bernardo and	1942	?	visas
1	15	Beck	Helmut and Ruth	1937	Germany	change of status
1	16	Bekenstein	Mordechai	1932	Poland	affidavit [Simon Kahn]
1	17	Bendalin	Girses	1937-1938	Lithuania	affidavit [Bendalin, Goodman]
1	18	Bereck	Estelle	1938	?	transport to New York
1	19	Berg	Florence	1938	Germany	affidavit [Bernard Berg]
1	20	Berg	Lothar	1938	Germany	affidavit [Bernard Berg]
1	21	Blau	Mariette	1939	Austria	well-known scientist
1	22	Blaugrund	Emanuel/Maurice	1931-1932	Slovakia	quota number [Blaugrund]
1	23	Bloas/Bloy	Chaskiel and	1930-1932	Lithuania	quota number
1	24	Bloom/Ansenovitch	Morris	1931-1932	?	family history
1						
1						birth certificate; eventual
1	26	Borovsky	Bernard	1932	?	medical treatment
1	27	Bruhl	Fritz	1938	Germany	visitor's visa
1		Burstein				proof of citizenship;
1	29	Caminer	Curt	1940-1941	Germany	visa
1	30	Capomacchia	Margarite Marshon	1940	?	quota number
1						problems returning from
1	32	Castanada	Placido	1938	Mexico	marriage certificate
1	33	Cicourel	Nisson	1933	Turkey	divorce
1	34	Cohen	Minnie	1928	?	desertion

1	35	Cohen	Walter and Bertha	1938	Germany	affidavits
1	36	Cohen	Yetta	1935	?	transport to Chicago
1	37	Cremer	Fritz	1938	Germany	affidavits
1	38	Cwi	Leopold	1937	Poland	affidavits
1	39	Cytryn	Abraham	1936-1939	Poland	Yiddish letters; quota and visa
1	40	Czapski	Gunter	1937	Germany	quota number
1	41	D'Ancona	Ezio Levi	1940	Italy	academic; change of status
1	42	Dannenbaum	Franz	1936-1937	Germany	affidavit [Edwin Wisburn]
1	43	de Anda	Sebastian	1938	United States	birth certificate
1	44	Deutsch	Leo	1938	Germany	transit to Mexico City
1	45	Dimitzstein	Sara	1933	Poland	affidavits
1	46	Herz	S.	1938-1939		Germany
1	47	Herzenberg	Alfred (friends of)	1938		Germany
1	48	Himmel	Jacqueline	1934		?
1	49	Hirsch	Rosa	1938		Germany
1	50	Hirschbahn	Max	1939		Germany
1	51	Hoffman		1940		Germany
1	52	Horn	Hildegard and	1938-1940		Germany
1	53	Idovicius	Iselis	1931		Lithuania
1	54	Israel	Espera	1929		?
1	55	Jacobowitz	Esther	1929-1930		?
2	1	Elegante	Paris	1939	?	affidavits; Yiddish letters
2	2	Emanuel	Hans and Susie	1938	Germany	adoption
2	3	Fainkujen	Isaac	1941-1943	?	visa
2	4	Feldman	Sara	1936-1937	Lithuania	affidavit [Simon Kahn]
2	5	Filurina	Rosa	1928-1929	Russia	desertion
2	6	Fischer	Arthur	1938	?	travel visa
2	7	Fisher	Howard	1937	Germany	change of status
2	8	Flashner	Nathan	1937	Poland	return to Mexico
2	9	Fleischman	Al (brother of)	1931-1932	Lithuania?	affidavits
2	10	Fleischman		1928	?	sending money to wife
2	11	Fliesser	Werner	1937	Germany	change of status
2	12	Freise	Elfride	1937	Germany	change of status
2	13	Fridberg	Horst Harry	1936-1937	Germany	change of status
2	14	Froeschel	George	1937	Austria	Screen writer (Mrs. Miniver); quota number
2	15	Fruehauf	George	1938	?	change of status
2	16	Gail	Alan (wife of)	1937	Germany	affidavits
2	17	Garakauskas	Moses	1935	Lithuania	passport renewal
2	18	Gechter	Jaime	1934-1938	?	border crossing card
2	19	Gechter	Sule	1929-1938	Lithuania	Birth certificate, Yiddish letter
2	20	Glogau	Erna	1937	Germany	change of status
2	21	Goldberg	Abraham	1939	?	citizenship inquiry
2	22	Goldfinger	Michel	1931-1941	Poland	affidavits
2	23	Goldman	Jacob	1930-1931	?	border crossing card

2	24	Goldschmidt	Alfons	1934-1935	Germany	well-known economist; non-quota visa
2	25	Goldwein	Louis	1939	Germany	immigration to Mexico
2	26	Gorska	Necha	1931	?	arranging marriage
2	27	Gottdinner	Esther	1928-1930	Hungary?	visa extension
2	28	Gratch		1921	?	divorce
2	29	Greenberg	Maria	1936-1937	?	unpaid bills; Yiddish letter
2	30	Greenberg	Max	1934	?	case update
2	31	Gross	Eugene	1938	Hungary	quota number
2	32	Grosz	Alexander	1938	Hungary	quota number
2	33	Groth	Ilse	1937-1938	Germany	change of status
2	34	Grynberg	Jacob	1937	Poland	affidavits
2	35	Guralnick	Sam	1938-1940	Russia	affidavits
2	36	Gurevitch	Z.	1933-1934	Lithuania	Lithuanian letters
2	37	Gurfinkiel	Max	1941	Poland	Yiddish letters
2	38	Gutierrez	Mena Adelina	1929-1940	Mexico	marriage certificate
2	39	Hamburger	Simon	1937	Germany	change of status
2	40	Hara	Marcus	1929-1932	Syria	quota number
2	41	Harmelin		1939	Austria	legal payments
2	42	Hausmann	Alois-Oswald	1937	Germany	change of status
2	43	Hefter	Zaya	1929	Poland	passport
2	44	Heilbut	Kurt	1939	?	affidavit
2	45	Heller	Abraham	1937		Russia
2	46	Herz	S.	1938-1939		Germany
2	47	Herzenberg	Alfred (friends of)	1938		Germany
2	48	Himmel	Jacqueline	1934		?
2	49	Hirsch	Rosa	1938		Germany
2	50	Hirschbahn	Max	1939		Germany
2	51	Hoffman		1940		Germany
2	52	Horn	Hildegard and	1938-1940		Germany
2	53	Idovicius	Iselis	1931		Lithuania
2	54	Israel	Espera	1929		?
2	55	Jacobowitz	Esther	1929-1930		?
3	1	Joel	William and Anna	1932		?
3	2	Jones	Ida Goetz	1940-1941		Latvia/Russia
3	3	Kagan	Rebecca	1936-1946		Lithuania
3	4	Kaimski	Elfriede	1938-1940		Germany/Poland
3	5	Kaiser	Margarete	1938		Germany
3	6	Kallmannsohn	Israel	1936-1938		Germany
3	7	Kamberg	Lube Klebenov	1931-1934		Latvia
3	8	Kaplan	Benjamin	1931		?

3	9	Kaplan	Harris	1931-1933		Poland?
3	10	Kaplan	Ruth	1929-1930		Lithuania
3	11	Karasick	William	1931		Russia
3	12	Karkowsky	Moses	1936		?
3	13	Karokowsky	Salomon and	1942		Russia
3	14	Karolyi	Magdalena	1931		Hungary
3	15	Karpel	Hans	1937		Germany
3	16	Katz	Gabriele	1937		Germany
3	17	Kaufman	Suzi	1937		Germany
3	18	King	Ben (relative of)	1939		Poland
3	19	Kinsky	Bruno	1937		Germany
3	20	Kirman	Aria	1939-1940		Russia
3	21	Klassen	Isaac	1936-1938	Canada	Canadian Mennonites
3	22	Klemperer	Wolfgang (relative	1938	Austria	well-known aerodynamicist
3	23	Klonigheim	Klara	1937	Germany	affidavit [Mathias]
3	24	Kogan	Zieskel and Chana	1939-1940	Russia	Yiddish letters
3	25	Kopolowitch	Fruma	1927	?	stranded in Mexico
3	26	Kotlarchyk	Esther	1938	Poland	affidavit
3	27	Kotowska	Sara	1938	Poland	naturalization petition [Simon Kahn]
3	28	Kuntz	Joaquin	1942-1944	Romania	border crossing card
3	29	Lebins	Dora	1936-1937	Lithuania	affidavits [Bendalin]
3	30	Lehmann	Richard	1938-1939	Germany	affidavits
3	31	Leiter	Bruno	1938	Germany	stateless person
3	32	Lepa	Molly	1930	?	detained at bridge
3	33	Leplin	Isaac Borisovich	1928	?	bond matter
3	34	Levine	Sarah/Selma	1931-1932	?	looking for woman
3	35	Libnik	Frieda and	1931	Poland	quota number
3	36	Lichter	Abram	1931	Lithuania	passport extension
3	37	Lieberg	Julius	1938	Germany	searching for relatives
3	38	Lipman	Boris	1932-1936	Poland	affidavit; Yiddish letters
3	39	Loewenberg	Richard	1936	Germany	affidavit [Edwin Wisbrun]
3	40	Loewenheim	Trude (nee Kahn)	1936-1941	Germany	visa
3	41	Loewenthal	Horst	1937	Germany	change of status
3	42	Lowenheim	Leonard &	1937	Germany	change of status
3	43	Maglinker (Mogul)	Israel	1928	Lithuania	passport renewal
3	44	Maislin	Salomon	1939	?	medical treatment
3	45	Mandelberg-Brodman	Solomon	1939	?	visa extension; Yiddish letter
3	46	Margolis	Aaron	1937-1943	Russia	affidavits; Yiddish letters
3	47	Martyn	Pauline	1931-1932	Austria	non-quota visa
3	48	Mata	Mrs.	1937	?	going to Mexico City
3	49	Matza	Anna	1931	?	verification of arrival in U.S.
3	50	Mendelsohn	Sara	1937	Lithuania	affidavits

3	51	Mendoza	Luis	1936	?	stranded in L.A.; parents in Cd. Juárez
3	52	Milner/Milicov	Jake	1932	Poland	legal entry status
4	1	Moguel	Julian	1936	Lithuania	desertion case
4	2	Mogul	Victor	1929	Lithuania	sick, died
4	3	Mourad	Nousin	1943	?	border crossing card
4	4	Mueller	Anna	1938-1941	Germany	[Nordhaus, Schuster]
4	5	Nathan	Ella	1936	Russia	social services
4	6	Neufeldt	Elsie	1935	?	dental bill
4	7	Neugarten	Max	1938	Germany	affidavit [Edwin Wisbrun]
4	8	Nuernberg	Herbert	1937-1938	Germany	quota number
4	9	Odenwald	Robert	1937	Germany	change of status
4	10	Oppenheimer	Fritz	1938	Germany	affidavit
4	11	Oppenheimer	Alfred	1937	Germany	change of status
4	12	Ovaida	Robert	1934	?	burial of child
4	13	Ovidia/Ovadia	Avidor	1934-1938	Turkey	passport renewal
4	14	Perl	Aaron and Josef	1937-1939	Poland	affidavits
4	15	Philipowski	Max	1930	Poland	affidavits
4	16	Philipowsky	Julia	1936-1937	Lithuania	affidavits [Henry Kellen's first wife]
4	17	Pinchuk	Rafael and Sara	1941	Lithuania	affidavits
4	18	Polachek	Otto	1931	Argentina	case update
4	19	Pomeranz	Ethel	1936-1937	?	stranded in El Paso
4	20	Praes	Jacobo	1930	Venezuela	birth certificate
4	21	Proskauer	Hans	1939	?	case update
4	22	Pupkowicz	Gdalia	1939-1941	Poland	affidavit; Yiddish letters
4	23	Rabinowitz	Moise/Boris/Sarah	1929-1932	Russia	sad case; Yiddish letters
4	24	Ramras	Brandel, Nathan,	1938	Russia	birth certificates
4	25	Reisel	Emil	1935-1939	Poland/Nicaragua	affidavits [Gladstein, Rosen]
4	26	Rivas	Carmen	1931	?	reuniting family
4	27	Robinowitz (Roberts)	Isidor	1940-1942	Denmark	affidavits; establishing citizenship
4	28	Robinson	Louis	1937-1938	Lithuania	birth certificate for visa
4	29	Rom	Mary	1931-1938	Lithuania	affidavits and financial assistance
4	30	Romberg	Herman	1938	Germany	affidavits [Mathias]
4	31	Rosen	Barusch Juda	1938	Poland	adoption
4	32	Rosen	Lazar	1933	Germany	follow up to settling in El Paso [Rosen]
4	33	Rosenberg	Bernard	1938	Germany	affidavits [Aronstein]
4	34	Rosenfeld	Hyman	1938-1939	Russia	affidavits
4	35	Rosenfeld/Romer	Ernest	1938	Austria	affidavit
4	36	Rosenthal	Recha	1937-1938	?	information on location
4	37	Rotburd	H.	1930	?	affidavits
4	38	Rothenberg	Leon	1929	?	affidavit; Yiddish letters

4	39	Sadowsky	Joseph	1938-1940	Russia	birth certificate
4	40	Safdie	Jack	1933	Syria	affidavits
4	41	Saltzman	Maurycy	1938-1939	Poland	affidavit; Yiddish letters
4	42	Sandberg	Richard	1938	Germany	Calisher; affidavits
5	1	Saposnikov	Wolf	1932	Russia	affidavits
5	2	Satosanicos	Sarah	1929	?	living in Cd. Juárez
5	3	Schildman	Berta	1938	Germany	affidavit [Kohlberg]
5	4	Schimelfarb	Jacob	1937-1939	?	extension of stay; Yiddish letters
5	5	Schmerman	Noah	1938	Poland/Brazil	visa application
5	6	Schneider	Genochas	1932	?	affidavits
5	7	Schwartz	Aaron	1928-1929	?	passport renewal
5	8	Schwartz	Mayer	1938-1939	Hungary	bringing in 38 family members [A. Schwartz]
5	9	Seeling	Annemarie	1939	Germany	affidavits
5	10	Seligman	Ruth	1938	Germany	quota number
5	11	Selowsky	Heins	1937	Germany	affidavits
5	12	Seton	Julia	1938	?	adoption case
5	13	Sheinfeld	Solomon	1936-1937	Russia	temporary visa to see son in Delaware
5	14	Shensul	Ruth	1939	?	information request
5	15	Soel	David	1930-1931	?	financial assistance
5	16	Sohn	Fritz	1937	?	change of status
5	17	Sosnowski	Elisa	1929	Poland	passport extension
5	18/19	Steifel	Josef	1939-1940	Germany	visas (2 files)
5	20	Stern	Heinrich	1937-1938	Germany	affidavits
5	21	Stern	Rebecca and	1937-1938	?	medical treatment
5	22	Suchovesky	Menaze	1937-1940	Poland	affidavits; Yiddish letters
5	23	Tankenoff	Meyer and Sarah	1929-1930	?	marriage problems
5	24	Tatalias	Matheos and	1931-1932	Greece	quota number
5	25	Tolias	Theodora	1930	Turkey	quota number
5	26	Tolmanský	Joe	?	?	detained
5	27	Ullman	Frederick	1936	Germany	change of status; affidavits
5	28	Wagner	Fritz	1938	Germany	quota number
5	29	Waissman	Julio	1939-1940	Russia	birth certificate
5	30	Wasser	Sara	1937	?	whereabouts of daughter; Yiddish letter
5	31	Weichselbaum	Simon	1930-1931	Poland	quota number
5		Weigel/Hoffm				
5	33	Weil	Herman	1938	Germany	looking for relative
5	34	Weiner	Rose Henig	1930-1932	Hungary/Russia	deportation (prostitute); border crossing card
5	35	Weinstein	George	1930	?	birth certificate
5	36	Weissberg	Abraham	1942	Poland	Sigmund Rosen; visitor's visa
5	37	Wolf	Ernest	1935-1936	Germany	quota number; great thank you note
5	38	Wolfes	Felix	1940	Germany	transit visa

5	39	Wolff	Reinhold	1936-1937	Germany	academic; attorney; permanent visa
5	40	Wortmann	Lothar and Anita	1937	Germany	permanent visa
5	41	Yosilovsky	Isaac	1931	?	letter to Mexico City re person
6	1	Zickhardt	Herbert	1936	Germany	taking to interior of Mexico
6	2	Zielonikwiat	Srul Syman,	1939-1941	Poland	citizenship status
6	3	Zlotnikow	Nathan	1929-1930	Russia	divorce
6	4	Zuchoweizki	Menasse	1938	Poland	passport renewal
6						
6						
6						

Series II – General Correspondence and Reports

Box	File	Folder Title	Date			
6	5	Correspondence	1922			
6	6	Correspondence	1924			
6	7	Correspondence	1926			
6	8	Correspondence	1927			
6	9	Correspondence	1929			
6	10	Correspondence	1930			
6	11	Correspondence	1931			
6	12	Correspondence	1932			
6	13	Correspondence	1933			
6	14	Correspondence	1934			
6	15	Correspondence	1935			
6	16	Correspondence	1936			
6	17	Correspondence	1937			
6	18	Correspondence	1938			
6	19	Correspondence	1939			
6	20	Correspondence	1941			
6	21	Correspondence	undated			