

Guide to the Faces of Bangor (Jewish Community)
Widows, Orphans, and Wounded Soldiers of Israel Fund

Local History~Special Collections
Bangor Public Library
Bangor, Maine

SUMMARY INFORMATION:

Collection Title: Faces of Bangor (Jewish Collection)
Widows, Orphans, and Wounded Soldiers of Israel Fund

Date of Collection: 1975-2002

Box number:

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION:

Provenance: Gift of Norman Minsky, 2006

Processor: Elizabeth A. Stevens

Access Restrictions: No restrictions

Preferred Citation: Faces of Bangor (Jewish Collection), Widows Orphans and Wounded Soldiers of Israel Fund, Special Collections, Bangor Public Library

Copyright: Contact department for copyright information

For Additional Information:

Local History~Special Collections Department
Bangor Public Library
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BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:

Bessie Motiuk (1887-1977) always dedicated herself to the support of a cause. While other women spent their time and energy on domestic duties, Motiuk demonstrated an unfashionable, liberated attitude that compelled her into the public sphere in support of the Jewish community. From her home in Canada, she worked tirelessly to secure her

relatives escape out of Europe during World War II. When Israel became a nation in 1948, Motiuk fervently raised funds for the young country through the sale of Israel Bonds. Donors were rewarded for their contribution with her blessing, "and may you live to be 120." The "Widows, Orphans, and Wounded Soldiers of Israel Fund" that she established in response to the first Arab-Israeli War, represented the pinnacle of her lifelong activism. Even in her final weeks from a nursing home bed, Motiuk spent all that she had left to give in support of this important mission. Though seemingly confined, she managed to arrange to have a telephone placed next to her bed, so that she could call supporters to raise needed funds for this her cause. This remarkable woman personified the selflessness that she demanded of others. Even when her family sent money for her own personal use over the years, Bessie Motiuk gave substantially all that she owned over to the "widows, orphans and wounded soldiers of Israel."

CONTENTS:

Contains a biographical sketch, diplomatic correspondence, bank statements, and financial correspondence pertaining to the "Widows, Orphans, and Wounded Soldiers Fund."

ARRANGEMENT:

The collection has been arranged chronologically by diplomatic correspondence, and in financial statements/correspondence.

FINDING AID:

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| Folder 1 | Biographical sketch, 1 item.
Correspondence dated July 30, 1975-October 5, 1977, 6 items.
(8 Dec. 1975 to Bessie Motiuk from Ephraim Katzir, President of Israel)
(5 Oct. 1977 to Norman Minsky from Ephraim Katzir, President of Israel) |
| Folder 2 | Correspondence dated May 9, 1978-July 15, 1981, 8 items. |
| Folder 3 | Correspondence dated May 14, 1982-July 24, 1985, 5 items. |
| Folder 4 | Correspondence dated June 23, 1987-July 18, 1988, 4 items. |
| Folder 5 | Correspondence dated September 6, 1989-October 25, 1990, 4 items. |
| Folder 6 | Correspondence dated January 29, 1992-March 7, 1993, 5 items. |
| Folder 7 | Correspondence dated July 8, 1993-December 4, 2002, 4 items. |
| Folder 8 | Financial documents dated 1975-2002. |