

News from The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives

Marcus Center Acquires the Archival Records of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations

In 1998 The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives acquired what promises to be one of its most important collections. Through the initiative and leadership of The Marcus Center's executive director, Dr. Gary P. Zola, and Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC) president, Rabbi Eric Yoffie, The Marcus Center reached agreement with the UAHC designating the American Jewish Archives (AJA) as the official archival repository for the records of the UAHC and its affiliated organizations, including the Women of Reform Judaism.

This agreement is a major breakthrough for the AJA, the UAHC, and the American Reform movement. The primary focus of the AJA is to be a national institution that documents all aspects and parameters of American Jewry. However, based on our affiliation with the Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion, a secondary focus for the AJA is to be a center for the study of liberal or Reform Judaism in the United States. Yet, until now, even though the AJA has worked closely with the UAHC for many years and houses the UAHC's records for the years 1873–1947 when the organization was headquartered in Cincinnati, there has been no official agreement between the two institutions guaranteeing the transfer of the union's archival records to The Marcus Center.

The agreement reached by Dr. Zola and Rabbi Yoffie provides for the ongoing placement of UAHC records into the AJA, thereby ensuring preservation of a comprehensive documentary record for the American Reform movement. As Dr. Zola has noted: "These acquisitions and our new relationship with the UAHC establishes The Marcus Center as the world's largest repository of the history of Judaism's Reform movement. The records of the Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion and the Central Conference of American Rabbis are all here. Now, with the addition of the UAHC and WRJ records, it will be very hard to research the history of liberal Judaism on this continent without coming to The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives."

Already transferred to Cincinnati as part of this agreement are the following collections: records of the Women for Reform Judaism (WRJ), including its largest regional affiliate, District Three; papers of UAHC presidents Maurice N. Eisendrath and Alexander M. Schindler; and microfilm copies of transcripts of UAHC executive board meetings.

Received with these materials is perhaps the most pleasant surprise of this new accession: a newly discovered photo archive containing approximately 5,000 images of rabbis, lay leaders, events, conferences, buildings, and functions of the UAHC and the Reform movement. This photographic collection, carefully compiled and maintained over the years by the UAHC's venerable and adored leader, Dr. Jane Evans, contains heretofore unseen images that provide an invaluable and irreplaceable visual history of the U.S. Reform movement in the twentieth century.

To date Marcus Center archivists have completed the arrangement and description of the WRJ and Schindler papers. These collections are now open and available for research. The WRJ papers document the myriad activities and interests of this important Reform women's organization from its founding in 1913 through 1998. Included in this rich collection are records and transcripts from the national biennial assemblies, extensive administrative and committee records, correspondence, memos, resolutions, and publications.

The Schindler collection contains personal and professional papers of Rabbi Schindler for the years 1961–96. These papers focus on Rabbi Schindler's career in the UAHC both before and during his presidency. Included as well are materials from Schindler's 1976–78 tenure as chair of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, the first Reform Jewish leader ever to hold this position. Copies of the finding aids to the WRJ and Schindler collections are available at The Marcus Center and through our website (<http://www.huc.edu/aja>).

As noted above, the agreement between the AJA and the UAHC allows for transcripts of the union's executive board meetings to be microfilmed, thereby permitting the original records to remain at the UAHC offices in New York while the microfilm copies will be available to researchers at the AJA and via interlibrary loan. Executive board meeting transcripts for the years 1924–73 have been filmed and are now available for research use. Additional UAHC transcripts and



*Rabbi H. A. Merfeld's confirmation class, Greenwood, Miss. ca. 1910.
(Women of Reform Judaism picture collection, no. 1. American Jewish Archives)*

records are scheduled for filming and will be made available to the public in the coming months and years.

Work on arranging and describing all the remaining UAHC materials is ongoing. Updates on future processing and microfilming of UAHC materials, along with notification of when these records will be ready for patron use, will be noted on The Marcus Center's website.

Remaining 1998 New Acquisitions

The UAHC and affiliated records were not the only significant collections garnered by the AJA in 1998. Following are descriptions of other important accessions added to our holdings during the past year.

PERSONAL PAPERS

Budner, Lawrence H. Papers. 1988–98. 300 pp.

Lawrence H. Budner is a retired banker and resident of Dallas, Texas, who has compiled one of the largest private collections of Theodore Roosevelt papers and memorabilia in the world. This small portion of that collection consists of correspondence and other materials relating to Budner's involvement with the Theodore Roosevelt Association, which was founded in 1919 "to perpetuate the memory of Theodore Roosevelt for the benefit of the people of the United States of America and the world."

Received from Sheldon Zimmerman, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1998.

Mann, Miriam Sivitz. Papers. 1941–93. 4.4 linear feet.

The personal papers of Miriam Sivitz Mann consist of correspondence, research notes on the Middle East and Jewish-Arab relations, writings, biographical materials, and photographs. Miriam Sivitz Mann (1910–97) was a resident of Cincinnati, Ohio. A noted speaker and author, she was active in local and national communal affairs including the Community Relations Council of Cincinnati, the Labor Zionist Alliance, Pioneer Women, and the Union of Jewish Women of South Africa.

Received from Blessing Sivitz, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1998.

Marx, Otto. Papers. 1917. 50 pp.

This collection consists of speeches and miscellaneous other documents pertaining to Marx's activities selling war bonds during the First World War. Otto Marx (1869–1963) was a banker and department

store executive in Birmingham, Alabama.

Received from Audrey Skirball Kenis, Los Angeles, California, 1998.

Mielziner, Moses. Letter. August 31, 1897. 2 pp.

Original letter, in German, with typed English translation, from Mielziner to fellow scholar Adolph Schwarz concerning talmudic study. Moses Mielziner (1828–1903) was a rabbi and talmudist who served on the faculty of Hebrew Union College, including a tenure as acting president of the college from 1900 to 1903 following the death of Isaac Mayer Wise.

Received from Michael A. Meyer, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1998.

Sivitz, Moses Simon. Papers. 1898–1936. 75 pp.

Collection of papers, letters, articles, and biographical material concerning Moses Simon Sivitz (1854–1936), detailing his career as an Orthodox rabbi and communal leader in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Received from Arthur R. Sivitz, Pittsburgh, Pa., 1998.

Zimmerman, Sheldon. Papers and speeches. 1996–97. 1 vol. and 2 videocassettes.

Three items pertaining to Rabbi Sheldon Zimmerman, president of Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion:

- Transcript of a July 15, 1997, meeting of Rabbi Zimmerman, Rabbi Richard G. Hirsch, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and others concerning conversions to Judaism in Israel.
- Videotape of the ceremony inaugurating Rabbi Zimmerman as the seventh president of HUC–JIR, October 31, 1996.
- Videotape of a speech delivered by Rabbi Zimmerman at the sixty-fourth biennial meeting of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, Dallas, Texas, October 30, 1997.

Received from Sheldon Zimmerman, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1998.

ORGANIZATIONAL RECORDS

Chebra Kadisha B'nai Abraham (New York, N.Y.). Records. 1866–1963. 1 ledger.

Burial permits for the Bayside Cemetery of Chebra Kadisha B'nai Abraham.

Received from Charles Metzner, Woodstock, New York, 1998.

Hillel Jewish Student Center (Cincinnati, Ohio). Records. 1990–98.

9 vols.

Yearly publicity records, 1990–98, containing newspaper clippings, press releases, and other materials documenting the activities of the University of Cincinnati Hillel Jewish Student Center and its executive director, Rabbi Abie I. Ingber.

Received from Abie I. Ingber, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1998.

Montefiore Mutual Benefit Society (Cincinnati, Ohio). Records. 1892–1903. 1 vol.

Dues book, 1892–1903, listing members of the beneficent and burial society. Founded in 1871, the society was created "to assist members during sickness, and to provide burial for members . . . and to do any other acts of charity that the funds of the Society may permit."

Received from the Bureau of Jewish Education, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1998.

New York Board of Rabbis. Survey and report. 1998. 57 pp.

A 1998 survey of rabbinic interdenominational cooperation throughout the United States, conducted by the New York Board of Rabbis.

Received from Alfred Gottschalk, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1998.

Scholars' Conference on American Jewish History. Records. 1997–98. .2 linear feet.

Correspondence, publicity, session proposals, programs, and working papers pertaining to the planning and organization of the Third Scholars' Conference on American Jewish History. Chaired by HUC–JIR faculty member Dr. Karla Goldman and sponsored by The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives and the American Jewish Historical Society, the conference was held on the Cincinnati campus of Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion, June 10–12, 1998.

Received from Karla Goldman, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1998.

Union of American Hebrew Congregations. Service. June 6, 1998. 1 videocassette.

Videorecording, with printed program, of service decommissioning the old offices of the UAHC, located at 838 Fifth Avenue in New York City, in preparation for the UAHC's move to a new location, June 6, 1998.

Received from the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, New York, N.Y., 1998.

United Roumanian Hebrew Association (Cincinnati, Ohio). Consti-

tution. 1910. 16 pp.

Constitution and bylaws, written in Yiddish.

Received from Abie I. Ingber, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1998.

World Union for Progressive Judaism. Records. 1986–95. 44 sound recordings.

Audiocassette recordings of selected meetings and sessions of the World Union for Progressive Judaism:

- Twenty-third International Conference proceedings, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, 1986.
- Twenty-fifth International Conference proceedings, London, England, 1990.
- Executive board meeting, New York, September 15, 1992.
- Various board meetings, plenums, and luncheons of the WUPJ, 1989–95.

Received from the World Union for Progressive Judaism, 1995.

BIOGRAPHIES, MEMOIRS, AND ORAL HISTORIES

Bluestone, Naomi Ruth. Memoir. 1997. 119 pp.

A Memoir of My Mother, Miriam Bluestone, 1908–1996, written by Naomi Ruth Bluestone. Describes the life of Miriam Bluestone (1908–96), with focus on her childhood in New York City and subsequent life in Delaware as a community leader and activist. Includes discussion of Bluestone's role in the founding of the Academy of Lifelong Learning at the University of Delaware.

Received from Naomi Ruth Bluestone, Barnstead, New Hampshire, 1998.

Eisendrath, Maurice Nathan. Oral history interview. 1972. 1 sound recording.

Audiocassette of oral history interview with Maurice N. Eisendrath (1902–73), president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations from 1943 to 1973. Conducted by Rabbi Daniel Syme, the interview focuses on Eisendrath's life and work in the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. Also includes discussion of Reform Judaism in the United States along with the UAHC's relations with the Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion.

Received from the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, New York, N.Y., 1998.

Segel, Arnold L. Diary. 1941–46. 84 pp.

A memoir entitled *A Soldier's Journal: January 1941–January 1946*. Arnold L. Segel is a Boston-area resident who, upon completing his surgical residency in 1941, immediately entered the U.S. Army as a physician. This is a diary of Segel's experiences as a doctor during World War II.

Received from Bernard H. Mehlman, Boston, Massachusetts, 1998.

Shuster, Aaron. Autobiography. 1969. 37 pp.

The life story of Aaron Shuster. Born in Rumania in 1888, Shuster immigrated to Canada in 1924. This memoir gives a vivid and personal retelling of Shuster's childhood in Rumania, his efforts to resettle in another country, and his family life in Canada.

Received from William Leffler, Kennebunkport, Maine, 1998.

Wacholder, Ben Zion. Lecture. 1998. 1 sound recording.

Audiocassette recording of a lecture given by Dr. Ben Zion Wacholder at Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion, Cincinnati, Ohio. Entitled, "Dr. Wacholder Remembers," this talk relates personal anecdotes, scholarly research, and memories of a life and career as a professor of Talmud and rabbinics at HUC–JIR.

Received from Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1998.

COMMUNITY HISTORIES

Laroff, Harold L. Synagogue history. 1997. 50 pp.

Temple Beth El: The First 50 Years, 1947–1997, a history of the Spring Valley, New York, synagogue. Compiled and written by Harold L. Laroff and published in conjunction with the fiftieth anniversary of Temple Beth El.

Received from Harold L. Laroff, Spring Valley, New York, 1998.

Marks, Anita S. Community history. 1998. 78 pp.

Clifton Cemetery: 1848 through 1998; 150 Years of Burials at 730 (Old) Ludlow Avenue. A history of one of the oldest Jewish cemeteries in Cincinnati, Ohio. Extracted and compiled by Anita S. Marks for the Cincinnati United Jewish Cemeteries and the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Cincinnati. Contains burial lists and a cemetery map.

Received from Anita S. Marks, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1998.

Rothschild, Walter L. Community history. 1998. 203 pp.

A History of the Jewish Community of Aruba. A study of the Jewish community on the island from the eighteenth century to the present,

written by Walter L. Rothschild. Includes a history of Congregation Beth Israel, Oranjestad.

Received from Walter L. Rothschild, Berlin, Germany, 1998.

Weinberg, Elizabeth. Community history. 1998. 250 pp.

Hoosier Israelites on the Ohio: A History of Madison's Indiana Jews. A history of the Madison, Indiana, Jewish community written by Elizabeth Weinberg. Includes photographs, newsclippings, and reminiscences of local residents.

Received from Eileen Baitcher, Fort Wayne, Ind., 1998.

GENEALOGIES

The Marcus Center has one of the largest collections of Jewish genealogies in the world. Each year dozens of new family trees and histories are added to this collection. The items listed here are a sampling of this year's acquisitions.

Albert, David Weil. Family genealogy. 1998. 61 pp.

The Grostein Family: A Genealogy of Jewish Pioneers in Idaho. Written and compiled by David Weil Albert.

Received from David Weil Albert, New York, N.Y., 1998.

Eshkolot, Zeev. Family genealogy. 1998. 1 vol.

The Eskeles Genealogy. Collected, commented upon, and edited by Zeev Eshkolot. Includes a short history of the Jews in Ashkenaz (Germany) by Ruth Eitan.

Received from Carol Appel, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1998.

Fregger, Stephan. Family genealogy. 1998. 98 pp.

The Fregger and Fox Families from Ovruch and Belka in the Ukraine: Genealogy from 1822 to 1997. A genealogy of two Jewish families from the Ukraine whose members first immigrated to Omaha, Nebraska in 1893.

Received from Stephan Fregger, Tallahassee, Fla., 1998.

Loeb, Leo. Family genealogy. 1998. 21 pp.

Family genealogy and history for the Mayer family of Louisiana; also includes a genealogy for the Stiffel family of Chicago, Ill.

Received from Leo Loeb, Louisville, Ky., 1998.

Lubke, Fran Loeb. Family genealogy. 1997. 156 pp.

From Rhein-Hessen, Germany to Chicago: Loeb Footprints in Time, 1765-1997. Traces the ancestors and descendants of Jakob and Ester Loeb. The family migrated from Rhein-Hessen to Chicago in the 1850s.

Received from Fran Loeb Lubke, Brookfield, Wis., 1998.

Rosenman, Jeanbelle. Family genealogy. 1997. 130 pp.

The Falstein-Korman Family Tree: From Nemirov, Ukraine to the World. Compiled and researched by Jeanbelle Rosenman.

Received from Jeanbelle Rosenman, San Carlos, Calif., 1998.