

Collection #
M 1182
OM 0596

BUREAU OF JEWISH EDUCATION RECORDS, 1900-2012

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Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 5 Manuscript Boxes; 4 Oversized Manuscript Folders; 6 Color Photograph Boxes; 8 Albums, PAB (color); 8 35 mm. Color Slide Boxes; 2 boxes photographs; 1 OVA folder photographs. 2 bins 35 mm. negatives.

COLLECTION DATES: 1900-2012

PROVENANCE: Sheila Greenwald, Indianapolis, Indiana, 2013

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: M 1183 Bureau of Jewish Education Addition, 1958-2013

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2013.0033

NOTES: This forms part of the Indiana Jewish Historical Society Collection.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Bureau of Jewish Education was founded in 1910, by Rabbi I.E. Neustadt under the name, United Hebrew Schools. Rabbi Neustadt's envisioned to build a communal Hebrew School to employ the latest techniques in Hebrew education for all students in Indianapolis and the surrounding area.

After Rabbi Neustadt's death in 1913, the Hebrew school was renamed Rabbi Neustadt United Hebrew School. For the next ten years the south side building was maintained. In 1923, Early Childhood Education classes were offered becoming the first Jewish early childhood program in the city.

With the Jewish community progressing and developing the Rabbi Neustadt United Hebrew School was transformed into the Jewish Education Association. A second school branch was created on the North side to accommodate the migration of Jewish families moving farther north. At first the North side branch was located at an Orthodox Congregation basement but then was quickly moved to the Jewish Community Center on 23rd & Meridian St.

In the fall of 1928, a Hebrew kindergarten was created. In 1930, the first graduation was held for eight pupils that had completed a six-year elementary Hebrew education.

The North side branched stayed at the Jewish Community Center until October of 1942. In fall of 1942, the North side branch moved to the Conservative Congregation, Beth El-Zedecky.

The South side branch and the North side branch both focused on being more than an education institution. Extracurricular activities that met at the Jewish Education Association were, but not limited to: children's clubs; Young Judea; reading clubs; discussion groups.

In 1971, The Jewish Education Association moved both branches to a new facility at 6711 Hoover road on a newly built Jewish Community Campus. In 1980, the J.E.A changed its name to the Bureau of Jewish Education. The B.J.E housed one of the first modern language labs in the state of Indiana; added an extensive library with the largest collection of Judaic resources in the state of Indiana; added adult learning classes; became a Holocaust education resource for the state of Indiana.

The Bureau of Jewish Education continues today with ever expanding programs and resources to meet the needs of the community.

Sources:

Bureau of Jewish Education. <http://www.B.J.E.indy.gov/about/history/>

Materials in the collection.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Bureau of Jewish Education collection consists of five document cases, two half-size document cases, one quarter-size document case, six large banquet flat file boxes, seven medium size flat file boxes, four medium size color photograph boxes, and eight color slide boxes. The collection has been divided into five series.

Series 1: Founding Years: Rabbi Neustadt's United Hebrew Schools, 1900-1942

Series 1, Founding Years: Rabbi Neustadt's United Hebrew Schools, 1900-1942, contain materials about the founding years and the Hebrew School held on the south-side of Indianapolis. Materials include transcript copy on the establishment of the Hebrew School, transcript copy of the decision to move the location of the Hebrew School and a scrapbook of newspaper clippings from various newspapers in Indianapolis.

Series 2: Jewish Education Association, 1942-1980

Series 2, Jewish Education Association, 1942-1980, contain materials involving all aspects of the operations of the Jewish Education Association. Materials include documents, newspaper clippings, programs, color slides, photographs and board meeting notes.

Series 3: Bureau of Jewish Education 1981-Present

Series 3, Bureau of Jewish Education 1981-Present, contain materials involving the Hebrew school, kindergarten, pre-school and camp. Materials include documents, newspaper clippings, programs, financials, color slides, photographs and board meeting notes.

Series 4: Jewish Newspapers and Magazines

Series 4, Jewish Newspapers and Magazines, contain select newspaper and magazines that include articles about the Bureau of Jewish Education. Publications include *Federation World*, *The Jewish Welfare Federation*, *The Indiana Jewish Chronicle*, *National Jewish Post and Opinion*, *The Jewish Post & Opinion: Indiana Edition*, and *Torah Orah*.

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