

Collection #  
M 0906,  
OM 0444

## HASTEN HEBREW ACADEMY OF INDIANAPOLIS MATERIALS, 1971–2005

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Indiana Historical Society  
450 West Ohio Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

[www.indianahistory.org](http://www.indianahistory.org)

### COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF  
COLLECTION:

Manuscript Materials: 4 document cases, 1 oversized folder  
Visual Materials: 2 folders of photographs, 1 OVA folder of  
color photographs, and 1 panoramic color photograph in flat file  
storage

COLLECTION  
DATES:

1971–2005

PROVENANCE: Hasten Hebrew Academy of Indianapolis, August 2005

RESTRICTIONS: None

COPYRIGHT:

REPRODUCTION RIGHTS: Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.

ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: SC 2644 Rabbi Neustadt United Hebrew Schools Minute Book, 1900–1922

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2005.0338

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

## HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Hebrew Academy of Indianapolis opened its doors on September 7, 1971. Initial enrollment consisted of twenty students in kindergarten through first grade. Classes were held at B'nai Torah for the next five and a half years. In March 1977, after completion of a new school building, the Hebrew Academy moved to its current location at 6602 Hoover Road.

The opening of the Hebrew Academy of Indianapolis coincided with a national movement to re-establish Jewish day schools. U.S. Jewish day schools, which took the place of public schools, grew in popularity after World War II. Most students came from Orthodox homes. By the early 1950s the Conservative movement opened its own day schools, called the Solomon Schechter schools. Reform-sponsored schools did not emerge until the 1970s. The twenty year gap between the two demonstrated the ambivalence many felt about Jewish schools. For some the opening of separate schools for Jews smacked of ghettoization and segregation. Being able to attend public schools with children of different ethnicities, nationalities, and creeds symbolized American equality and opportunity.

Still support for Jewish day schools grew locally and nationally especially when it became evident that Jewish children lacked a basic knowledge of their history, language, and culture. The fear that Jewish identity and culture was at risk was further evidenced by reports of a high level of intermarriage. Armed threats against Israel (for instance the Six Day War) made parents wonder whether a Jewish education might indeed be necessary to preserve Jewish history and customs.

The Hebrew Academy of Indianapolis changed its name in 1996 to the Hasten Hebrew Academy of Indianapolis. The Hasten Hebrew Academy combines religious and secular instruction. In 1990, the Hebrew Academy received the U.S. Department of Education Excellence in Education Award, one of six schools in Indiana to receive the award. In 1991, the Hebrew Academy was awarded the "Jerusalem Pride" award. The "Jerusalem Pride" award is given to outstanding Jewish schools outside of Israel. Worldwide, only three schools were awarded the prestigious prize that year. In the fall of 1991 the Hebrew Academy of Indianapolis opened a high school, the first Jewish high school in Central Indiana. Eight students enrolled in the first year. The high school closed in 1992 due to lack of interest. Currently, HHAI goes up to 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

Sources:

Materials in collection.

Judith E. Endelman. *The Jewish Community in Indianapolis: 1849 to the Present*. F534 .I 55 E5 1984.

Judy Jenkins, current principal. Email interview 22 and 26 June 2007.

<http://www.hhai.org/index.htm> Accessed 11 June 2007.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Materials range in date from 1971 when the Hebrew Academy of Indianapolis was founded to 2005. Box 1 contains the constitution and by-laws, state accreditation documents, correspondence, newspaper clippings, Academy News publications, and miscellaneous papers. The miscellaneous documents include school calendars, programs, awards, and a mission statement.

Box 2 contains some of the HAI's yearbooks beginning with 1975 and ending with 2005. Copies of the yearbook during the years 1980–1981; 1984–1985; 1989–1990; 1991–1992; 1993–1994; 1994–1995; 1995–1996; 2001–2002 are missing.

Box 3–4 contain the annual HAI award Souvenir Journals beginning with 1972 and running through 2005. Missing years include 1973–1979; 1981; 1984.

An oversized manuscript folder contains a copy of a certificate of accreditation from 1999, a copy of a Blue Ribbon School Award from 1993–1994, a calendar from 1995 with student drawings, and a Torah Parade poster from 1996.

The visual materials include two oversized folders of color photographs. One folder has a panoramic group photo of students and the other folder contains an architectural rendering of the new school, a photograph of the new school building, and two photographs of students. Two smaller photographs included in the folder show the temporary home of the Hebrew Academy in 1971 and Dr. Raymond Stern, principal of the school from July 1982 through July 1997. The collection also contains two folders of black and white photographs of a Purim celebration from 1971 and the groundbreaking for the new building. The groundbreaking photographs are not dated.

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Oversize Color  
Photograph: Folder 1  
Flat File 1-o

Awards and Accreditation, 1993–1999

OM 0444, Folder 1

## **CATALOGING INFORMATION**

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog: <http://opac.indianahistory.org/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, M 0906).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.