A Finding Aid to the Alan D. Bennett Papers. 1937-2010.

Manuscript Collection No. 874

Creator: Bennett, Alan D.

The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository: The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator: Bennett, Alan D.
Title: Alan D. Bennett Papers
Dates: 1937-2010
Quantity: 8.0 linear feet (8 record cartons)
Abstract: Contains records of Bennett's career in Jewish education, mainly consisting of writings, publications, and correspondence along with some sermons, addresses, minutes, and research materials.
Collection Number: MS-874
Language: Collection material in English.

Biographical Sketch

Alan D. Bennett was born on February 15, 1927 and grew up in the Bronx. He attended the prestigious Bronx High School of Science. He served in the U.S. Navy's medical corps, then received his bachelor's degree from the City College of New York, and later a master's degree from the University of Minnesota.

He moved to Cleveland in 1967 to serve as education director at the Anshe Chesed Fairmount Temple in 1967. He was appointed the executive vice president of Cleveland's Bureau of Jewish Education in 1978, only the second Reform educator ever to head a major central agency. There, he created a department of synagogue service, inaugurated the special education department, expanded the Ratner Media and Technology Center, developed an Israel programs department and renovated the Bureau of Jewish Education building.

During his career, he had published more than 200 articles and teacher guides used in both Jewish and Christian schools. He served as the executive vice president of the Cleveland Bureau of Jewish Education for 15 years. He also was the author of "Vision and Will," a 50-year history of the National Association of Temple Educators, which was published in 2005.

Bennett's devotion to Jewish education also was manifested in trips he led to Israel. From 1968 to 1984, Bennett and his wife Florence organized high school and teacher groups on Israel study programs. In 1997, an award was named for him at the Jewish Education Center of Cleveland, -- the Alan D. Bennett Staff Development Award for Israel Study.


Scope and Content Note

Contains records of Bennett's career in Jewish education, mainly consisting of writings, publications, and correspondence along with some sermons, addresses, minutes, and research materials. These records highlight his involvement with Anshe Chesed Fairmount Temple (Cleveland, Ohio), the Bureau of Jewish Education (Cleveland, Ohio), and the National Association of Temple Educators, among other organizations dedicated to Jewish education.
Arrangement Note

This collection is arranged in a single series.

Restrictions

Terms of Access

The collection is open for use; no restrictions apply.

Terms of Reproduction and Use

Copyright restrictions may apply. Authorization to publish, quote, or reproduce, with exceptions for fair use, may be obtained through the American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio. Please address queries to the Executive Director of the American Jewish Archives. For more information, see the American Jewish Archives copyright information webpage.

Related Material

Related Collections

Other AJA collections related to Alan D. Bennett may be found in the AJA Online Catalog.

Separated Material

Temple Emanuel bulletins and Mt. Zion Hebrew Congregation Bulletins (1955-1961) were sent to Klau Library.

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the Alan D. Bennett Papers and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-874. Alan D. Bennett Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Provenance

The Alan D. Bennett Papers were received from Daniel Bennett, Denver, Colo. in August, 2012.

Processing Information

Processed by Michelle Wirth Detroit, September, 2012.

This collection was arranged and described according to minimal-processing standards. Funding, in part, for the arrangement and description of this collection was provided by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

Accruals and Additions

No further accruals are expected to this collection.

Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the AJA Online Catalog.

American Association for Jewish Education.

Bennett, Alan D.

Bureau of Jewish Education (Cleveland, Ohio)
Center for Jewish Education.
Jewish education
Jewish Education Service of North America.
Jews -- Ohio -- Cleveland.
National Association of Temple Educators.
Box Folder Listing

Series A. Papers. 1937-2010.

1 1 Writings and notes. 1957-1999.
1 3 Miscellaneous Activities. 1952-2005.
1 5 Sermons - Torah Commentary. 1956-2006.
2 1 Addresses: Education. 1950s-1990s.
2 2 Published writings. 1946-1959.
2 3 Published writings. 1960-1969.
2 6 Published writings. 1975-1976.
2 7 Published writings. 1977-1979.
2 8 Published writings. 1980-1989.
2 10 Published writings. 1995-1998.
2 12 Published writings. 2008.
3 5 Jewish Education Service of North America (JESNA)/"Agenda". 1990s.
3 7 Center for Jewish Education (CJE) Reports. 1990-1993.
3 8 University of Minnesota. 1945-1949.
3 9 Zoology - University of Minnesota. 1948.
3 10 Thesis. 1951.
3 14 Cleveland. 1967.
   [Includes Mt. Zion - Emanuel - Fairmount - Bureau of Jewish Education - Hires - Job Descriptions - Negotiations - Searches.]
4 3 Jewish Chautauqua Society. 1957-1960.
   [Includes work - Addresses - Letters - Press. Includes letter from Hubert H. Humphrey, 1960.]
4 8 The Governor's First Conference on Rehabilitation. May 26, 1960.
4 9 In Appreciation scrapbook. May 1963.
4 15 COMMUNITIES - America Cleveland. Undated.
5 1 Reform Judaism's Confirmation Debate. 1960-1978.
5 4 Keeping Posted/Reform Judaism. 1980s-1990s.
5 8 Israel and American Jewry - 1967 and Beyond. Undated.
5 12 Association of Reform Zionists of America (ARZA) - Reg’l. Adm. 1993-1998.
5 13 Association of Reform Zionists of America (ARZA) - National. 1995-1998.
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<tr>
<th>Page</th>
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<td>Reform Judaism Curricula. 1950-1976; Undated.</td>
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<td>Israel Today Revision. 1980.</td>
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<td>[Unpublished; not required in new UAHC curriculum]</td>
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<td>6 18</td>
<td>Miscellaneous General. Undated.</td>
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<td>6 23</td>
<td>Correspondence re: publications. 2005-2010.</td>
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<td>Libbie. 2006-2010.</td>
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<td>Founding Conference + No. 2. 1956.</td>
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<td>Inter-organizational. 1955-2002.</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous Correspondence. 1963-2010.</td>
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<td>Name Change. 1988-1990.</td>
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<td>7 18</td>
<td>Mid-West Region. 1955.</td>
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8 2 Programs. 1955-1965.
8 6 Programs. 2004.