



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
Benjamin Gettler Papers**

Manuscript Collection No. 914



Collection Summary

Title	Benjamin Gettler Papers, 1965-2013
Collection Number	MS-914
Repository	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator	Gettler, Benjamin, 1925 - 2013
Extent	7.35 linear feet (14 Hollinger boxes and 1 oversize box)
Language of the Material	English, Hebrew, Russian, Turkish, and Uzbek

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch

Benjamin Gettler was born on September 16, 1925 in Louisville, Kentucky to Herbert and Gertrude Cohen Gettler. His parents were both born in pre-Mandate Palestine and immigrated to the United States in the 1920's.

Gettler studied economics at the University of Cincinnati and attended Harvard Law School. He was a partner with the law firms of Brown & Gettler and Gettler, Katz, & Buckley where he practiced labor law. He was a key figure in the development of Cincinnati's public transportation system and later served on the board of the Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority from 2003 to 2006. He also was a member of the Board of Trustees of the University of Cincinnati from 1993 to 2002 and chairman of the Board and president of the shoe and rubber manufacturing company, Vulcan Corporation.

Gettler was an active participant in national Jewish affairs and the local Cincinnati Jewish community. He was chairman of Bonds for Israel of Cincinnati in 1969. He was a member of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) where he supported foreign aid assistance to Israel. In 1985, Gettler aided in the creation of the National Jewish Coalition (later renamed the Republican Jewish Coalition) in support of Ronald Reagan's presidential campaign.

Gettler was involved with the Jewish Community Relations Council of Cincinnati (JCRC) in which he served as board member beginning in 1971 and served as president beginning in 1978. He fought against antisemitism and advocated for Jewish interests with local and national political leaders. He was one of the initial trustees of the Rockwern Charitable Day School which granted money to Yavneh Day School (Rockwern Academy), Cedar Village, local synagogues, and other Jewish community organizations. In addition, Gettler was a key figure in the establishment of The Jewish Foundation of Cincinnati in 1995. Among the organizations and activities the Foundation funded were missions to Israel for Jewish teens; Camp Livingston; Yavneh Day School; Cincinnati Hebrew Day School; Cedar Village; Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion; and the Jewish Community Relations Council of Cincinnati. Gettler was appointed to the Board of Trustees at the University of Cincinnati in 1994, eventually becoming Chairman of the Board and serving until 2003.

Toward the end of 1990, Gettler became active with the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs (JINSA), becoming chairman of the board in 1994, and later chairman of the Resolutions and Policy Committee. He oversaw the publication of JINSA reports, traveled to various countries on strategic diplomatic missions, and was influential in matters concerning the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty and nuclear weapons. After he retired from the Resolutions and Policy Committee in 1998, he continued participating in diplomatic trips with the organization. He remained actively involved with JINSA until his death in 2013.

Gettler was a key figure in the operation of The Jewish Hospital of Cincinnati. He was a trustee and later chairman of the hospital from 1978 to 1992; chairman of the Midwest Hospital Systems, Inc. from 1987 to 1990 and from 1992 to 1993; and trustee of the Health Alliance of Greater Cincinnati from 1995 to 1996 and then again in 2000 to 2003. He facilitated the 1994 merger of The Jewish Hospital and the Health Alliance of Greater Cincinnati, and the sale of The Jewish Hospital in 2010. He helped negotiate the establishment of the Jewish Foundation using funds generated from The Jewish Hospital in 1995 to support the local Jewish community. During his role as president and chairman of the Foundation, he worked with the University of Cincinnati to endow a Judaic Studies Chair in 1998 and provided funds for teenagers to visit Israel. He retired from the board in 2012.

Benjamin Gettler had four children: Jorian, Thomas, Gail, and Benjamin. He married Deliaan (Dee) Angel on March 3, 1972. Gettler passed away on June 4, 2013.

More information on Benjamin Gettler's life can be found on the University of Cincinnati's website <https://libapps.libraries.uc.edu/exhibits/benjamin-gettler/>

Adapted from Visible Footprints: The Life of Benjamin Gettler written by Benjamin Gettler and Michael Rapp, 2012.

Scope and Content

The Benjamin Gettler Papers captures the life and professional career of community leader Benjamin Gettler. The papers consist of his activities as president, chairman, and board member of local and national organizations. These include The Jewish Hospital, the Jewish Community Relations Council of Cincinnati, the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs, the University of Cincinnati, and other organizations. His papers also consist of correspondence, speeches, and initiatives undertaken to aid the local community and Israel.

For additional Benjamin Gettler material, please visit the University of Cincinnati <https://findingaids.libraries.uc.edu/repositories/5/resources/829>

Arrangement

This collection is arranged in five (5) series:

Series A. General, 1965-2013, undated

Series B. Jewish Community Relations Council (Cincinnati, Ohio), 1979-2011, undated

Series C. The Jewish Hospital, 1974-2010

Series D. Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs (Washington, D.C.), 1982-2013

Series E. Oversize Material and Material Culture, 1975-1998

Access Restrictions

Access restrictions apply.

Terms of Reproduction and Use

Folders 3/1, 3/3, 3/4, 5/1, 5/4, 5/6, 6/1, 6/9, 12/6, 13/7, 14/1, 14/2, and Series C. The Jewish Hospital are restricted to Gary P. Zola, current Executive Director, or legal counsel appointed by the AJA.

Preferred Citation

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

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-914, Benjamin Gettler Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Provenance

Received from Dee Gettler, the Gettler Family Foundation, Cincinnati, Ohio, 2018 October 24.

Accession No. 2018.212.

Index Terms

Subjects

Israel / Jewish hospitals / Jews -- Ohio -- Cincinnati / Lawyers / Philanthropists / Politics and government

Personal Names

Chabot, Steve / Gettler, Benjamin, 1925- / Gettler, Delia A. / Gramm, Phil / Portman, Robert J. (Robert Jones), 1955- / Rapp, Michael G. / Voinovich, George V., 1936-2016

Corporate Names

American Israel Public Affairs Committee / Health Alliance (Cincinnati, Ohio) / Jewish Community Relations Council (Cincinnati, Ohio) / Jewish Foundation of Cincinnati (Cincinnati, Ohio) / Jewish Hospitals, Inc. (Cincinnati, Ohio) / Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs (Washington, D.C.) / Republican Jewish Coalition / University of Cincinnati

Media

Photographs

Series A. General, 1965-2013

Extent 1. 6 linear feet (4 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note

Consists mostly of professional correspondence with political leaders, business colleagues, and letters to various magazine and newspaper editors. Also included in this series are his speeches, writings, and subject files on national Jewish organizations such as American Israel Public Affairs Committee, the United Jewish Appeal, the Jewish Federation of Cincinnati, and the Jewish Foundation of Cincinnati.

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically.

Box and Folder Listing

- Box 1. Folder 1. American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), 1993-1995
- Box 1. Folder 2. AIPAC, 1994-2011
- Box 1. Folder 3. AIPAC 1995 conference (Washington, D.C.), 1995 April-May
- Box 1. Folder 4. Boehner, John, 1998, 2004
- Box 1. Folder 5. Burns, Conrad, 1988-1998
- Box 1. Folder 6. Cedar Village 8 over 80 award, 2010-2011
- Box 1. Folder 7. Certificates and awards. General, 1965, 2005, 2012, undated
- Box 1. Folder 8. Chabot, Steve, 1997-2011
- Box 1. Folder 9. Davis, Geoff, 2003-2010
- Box 1. Folder 10. DeWine, Mike, 1999-2006
- Box 2. Folder 1. General correspondence. A—C, 1989-2012
- Box 2. Folder 2. General correspondence. D—E, 1994-2010
- Box 2. Folder 3. General correspondence. F—G, 1991-2012
- Box 2. Folder 4. General correspondence. H—I, 1992-2008
- Box 2. Folder 5. General correspondence. J—L [Contains photographs], 1982-2012
- Box 2. Folder 6. General correspondence. M—R, 1992-2013
- Box 2. Folder 7. General correspondence. S—Z, 1994-2012
- Box 2. Folder 8. General correspondence. Unidentified, 1973, 1980-2010, undated
- Box 2. Folder 9. Gramm, Phil, 1991-2001
- Box 2. Folder 10. Haverim, 1994-2004
- Box 3. Folder 1. Heiman, Gary [Restricted], 1992-2008
- Box 3. Folder 2. Jewish Agency Assembly, 1992 September-November
- Box 3. Folder 3. Jewish Federation of Cincinnati [Restricted], 2003-2011
- Box 3. Folder 4. Jewish Foundation [Restricted], 1995-1999, 2006
- Box 3. Folder 5. Letters to the editor, 1979-2008
- Box 3. Folder 6. Letters to the editor, 1983-2010, undated
- Box 3. Folder 7. McConnell, Mitch, 1994-2007
- Box 3. Folder 8. Miller, Abraham, 2002-2013
- Box 3. Folder 9. Miscellaneous, 1984-2013, undated
- Box 3. Folder 10. National Jewish Coalition, 1993-1995
- Box 3. Folder 11. National Jewish Coalition, 1995-1999
- Box 3. Folder 12. Portman, Robert J., 1998-2013, undated
- Box 4. Folder 1. Rapp, Michael G., 2001-2012
- Box 4. Folder 2. Speech notes, undated
- Box 4. Folder 3. Speeches, 1979-1993
- Box 4. Folder 4. Speeches, 1994-2010
- Box 4. Folder 5. Speeches, undated

Box 4. Folder 6. Union of Soviet Socialist Republics trip. [Includes photographs], 1981, 1986

Box 4. Folder 7. United Jewish Appeal/Jewish Agency for Israel, 1993-1995

Box 5. Folder 1. University of Cincinnati. [Restricted], 1998-2002, undated

Box 5. Folder 2. Voinovich, George V., 1999-2007

Box 5. Folder 3. Writings and notes, 1981-1993

Series B. Jewish Community Relations Council (Cincinnati, Ohio), 1979-2011

Extent .8 linear feet (2 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Contains board meeting minutes, organizational programs, and correspondence pertaining to the Jewish Community Relations Council of Cincinnati, of which Gettler served as president.

Arrangement Arranged alphabetically.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 5. Folder 4. Antisemitism and internal communications. [Restricted], 1998-2006

Box 5. Folder 5. Board meetings, 1981-2007

Box 5. Folder 6. Bortz, Neil. [Restricted], 2002-2004

Box 5. Folder 7. Committee, Executive, 1993-1995

Box 5. Folder 8. Committee, Strategic Planning Core, 1993

Box 5. Folder 9. Committees, miscellaneous, 1993-2008, undated

Box 5. Folder 10. Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR), 2006-2007

Box 6. Folder 1. Director applications. [Restricted], 2002-2003

Box 6. Folder 2. Election. United States President, 2008

Box 6. Folder 3. General correspondence, 1993-2011, undated

Box 6. Folder 4. Jaffe, Brian, 2007-2010

Box 6. Folder 5. Lecture by Brigitte Gabriel, 2006-2007

Box 6. Folder 6. Luncheon. Peace of the City, 2000

Box 6. Folder 7. Middle East Task Force, 1997

Box 6. Folder 8. Miscellaneous, 1979-2008

Box 6. Folder 9. Rapp, Michael G. [Restricted], 2002-2006

Box 6. Folder 10. Reception. Phil Gramm, 1993 April

Series C. The Jewish Hospital, 1974-2010

Extent 2.4 linear feet (6 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Files documenting Gettler's roles with The Jewish Hospital Health Alliance of Greater Cincinnati, the Health Alliance of Greater Cincinnati, and The Jewish Hospital and its sale.

Arrangement	This series is arranged into three subseries.
Access Restrictions	Access restrictions apply.
Terms of Reproduction and Use	The entirety of Series C is restricted.

Subseries 1. The Jewish Hospital, 1974-2010

Extent 1.2 linear feet (3 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Contains material related to Gettler's involvement with The Jewish Hospital of Cincinnati as board member and chairman. Also included are documents pertaining to the merger of The Jewish Hospital with the Health Alliance of Greater Cincinnati and the sale of The Jewish Hospital.

Arrangement Arranged alphabetically

Box and Folder Listing

- Box 7. Folder 1. Agreement. Warren Falberg [Restricted], 1989-1997
- Box 7. Folder 2. Articles of incorporation [Restricted], 1974-2010
- Box 7. Folder 3. Certificate of need law. Correspondence [Restricted], 1994-1995
- Box 7. Folder 4. Certificate of need law. General [Restricted], 1995-1997
- Box 7. Folder 5. Certificate of need law. Statutes [Restricted], 1995-1996
- Box 7. Folder 6. The Christ Hospital [Restricted], 1994, 2008
- Box 7. Folder 7. Financial reports [Restricted], 1993-1998
- Box 7. Folder 8. General correspondence [Restricted], 1994
- Box 8. Folder 1. General correspondence [Restricted], 1995
- Box 8. Folder 2. General correspondence [Restricted], 1996-1997
- Box 8. Folder 3. Investments [Restricted], 1994-1997
- Box 8. Folder 4. Jewish Health System, Inc. [Restricted], 2003-2010
- Box 8. Folder 5. Mason Montgomery Road property [Restricted], 1992-1993
- Box 8. Folder 6. Mercy Health [Restricted], 2009-2010
- Box 8. Folder 7. Miscellaneous [Restricted], 1994-1996, 2009
- Box 8. Folder 8. Regulations [Restricted], 1990-1991
- Box 8. Folder 9. Retirement plan [Restricted], 1994-1995
- Box 8. Folder 10. St. Elizabeth Healthcare [Restricted], 1994 October
- Box 8. Folder 11. Sale. Agreements and contracts [Restricted], 2009-2010
- Box 9. Folder 1. Sale. Board of Trustees [Restricted], 2010
- Box 9. Folder 2. Sale. General [Restricted], 2009-2010
- Box 9. Folder 3. Sale. Publicity [Restricted], 2009
- Box 9. Folder 4. Sale. William Friedlander [Restricted], 2009
- Box 9. Folder 5. University of Cincinnati Board of Trustees correspondence [Restricted], 1983-2009
- Box 9. Folder 6. Wright, Creighton B. [Restricted], 1995 August-October

Subseries 2. The Jewish Hospital Health Alliance of Greater Cincinnati, 1995-2008

Extent .4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note Consists of material related to The Jewish Hospital Health Alliance of Greater Cincinnati and the operations of the health network. This includes negotiations, agreements, financial reports, and other files.

Arrangement Arranged alphabetically.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 9. Folder 7. Agreement. Operating [Restricted], 1998-2001

Box 10. Folder 1. Agreements [Restricted], 1995-1996

Box 10. Folder 2. General correspondence [Restricted], 1995-1996

Box 10. Folder 3. Health Alliance of Greater Cincinnati financial reports [Restricted], 2000-2001

Box 10. Folder 4. Jewish Health System, Inc. financial reports [Restricted], 1995-1996

Box 10. Folder 5. Meetings [Restricted], 2000 March, June

Box 10. Folder 6. Miscellaneous [Restricted], 1997-2000

Box 10. Folder 7. Negotiations [Restricted], 1995

Box 10. Folder 8. Negotiations [Restricted], 2007

Box 11. Folder 1. Negotiations [Restricted], 2008

Subseries 3. Health Alliance of Greater Cincinnati, 1994-2009

Extent .8 linear feet (2 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Consists of material related to the Health Alliance of Greater Cincinnati and its relationship with The Jewish Hospital. Also included in this subseries are correspondence files, board meeting minutes, educational programs, negotiations, and financial reports.

Arrangement Arranged alphabetically.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 11. Folder 2. Board of Trustees correspondence [Restricted], 2000-2001

Box 11. Folder 3. Code of regulations [Restricted], 1995-1999

Box 11. Folder 5. Financial reports [Restricted], 1994-1995

Box 11. Folder 4. General correspondence [Restricted], 1997-2002

Box 11. Folder 6. Graduate Medical Education planning proposal [Restricted], 2000

Box 11. Folder 7. Jewish Health System, Inc. tax filings [Restricted], 1994-1995

Box 11. Folder 8. Meetings [Restricted], 1995

Box 11. Folder 9. Miscellaneous [Restricted], 1999-2001, undated

- Box 11. Folder 10. Negotiations [Restricted], 2008 April-August
- Box 11. Folder 11. Negotiations [Restricted], 2008 August-September
- Box 12. Folder 1. Negotiations [Restricted], 2008 September
- Box 12. Folder 2. Negotiations [Restricted], 2008 October
- Box 12. Folder 3. Negotiations [Restricted], 2008 November-December
- Box 12. Folder 4. Negotiations [Restricted], 2009 November-December

Series D. Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs (Washington, D.C.) (JINSA), 1982-2013

Extent .8 linear feet (2 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Consists of documents highlighting Gettler's service as chairman of the board for JINSA, including correspondence, speeches, and research. Much of this series focuses on his trips to India, Israel, Turkey, Uzbekistan, and Ethiopia as a representative of JINSA in an effort to strengthen the defense of Israel.

Arrangement This series is arranged alphabetically

Box and Folder Listing

- Box 12. Folder 5. Board meeting, 2005 June
- Box 12. Folder 6. Donations [Restricted], 1997
- Box 12. Folder 7. General correspondence, 1994-2009
- Box 13. Folder 1. General correspondence, 2010-2013
- Box 13. Folder 2. Ethiopia trip, 1998-1999
- Box 13. Folder 3. India trip. [Contains photographs], 1993-2003
- Box 13. Folder 4. Israel. Golan Heights and trips. [Contains photograph], 1994-2002
- Box 13. Folder 5. Miscellaneous, 1996-1998
- Box 13. Folder 6. Reports. (Newsletters), 2000-2002
- Box 13. Folder 7. Turkey. [Restricted], 1993-1996
- Box 14. Folder 1. Turkey. [Restricted], 1997 January-March
- Box 14. Folder 2. Turkey. [Restricted], 1997 April-December
- Box 14. Folder 3. Turkey, 1998-2004, undated
- Box 14. Folder 4. U.S.S. Kentucky submarine, 1993
- Box 14. Folder 5. Uzbekistan trip, 1997-2002, undated

Series E. Oversize Material and Material Culture, 1975-1998

Extent 1.75 linear feet (1 oversized box)

Scope and Content Note Consists of a scrapbook awarded to Gettler by the Jewish Federation of Cincinnati, a tallit, tie, and oversized awards.

Arrangement Arranged alphabetically.

Box and Folder Listing

Box X-558. Folder 1. Awards, 1975, 1998

Box X-558. Folder 2. Jewish Federation of Cincinnati scrapbook, 1990-1991

Box X-558. Folder 3. Tallit, undated

Box X-558. Folder 4. Tie, undated