A Finding Aid to the
Cincinnati Community Hebrew Schools
(Cincinnati, Ohio) Records

Manuscript Collection No. 51
The roots of the Cincinnati Community Hebrew School may be traced to founding of the Talmud Torah Society on March 1, 1887, with the purpose of providing Orthodox religious instruction for poor Jewish children. Two teachers began instruction in rented rooms from the Mishnah Society on Court Street. In 1901, the Society expanded to offer a branch located on Providence Street with tuition fees for those who could pay while an Orthodox female Sabbath School began in 1902. Classes were conducted in Yiddish until 1904. Schools served both Jewish children whose parents joined synagogues as well as the unaffiliated.

In 1924, the Talmud Torah Society affiliated with the Jewish Bureau of Education. The Bureau had only recently been formed as a part of the United Jewish Social Agencies. Enrollment grew steadily for the next few decades. In 1943, a new Talmud Torah Association was formed to provide traditional education in Cincinnati and nearby Kentucky. In the late forties, Adath Israel, the largest and most affluent Conservative congregation in Cincinnati withdrew students from the Talmud Torah system forcing the schools to cut classes from five days to three days per week. This cutback, however, later made the Talmud Torah Association schools more popular. By 1950, the Talmud Torah had 300 students in Avondale, Price Hill, Newport and Cincinnati branches. The Talmud Torah Association chose to withdraw from their partnership with the Bureau of Jewish Education in 1952.

Beth Am (founded in 1948) merged with the Talmud Torah Association in 1953. They were supported by the Jewish Welfare Fund. Branches for the new Talmud Torah Association - Beth Am Institute now included 500 students in the Bond Hill, Avondale and Roselawn neighborhoods. In 1957, Golf Manor and Ohav Shalom merged with the Talmud Torah Association- Beth Am Institute and they took the name Cincinnati Community Hebrew Schools. In 1965, Northern Hills Synagogue and Congregation B'nai Tzedek joined CCHS. In 1966, the Hebrew Day Schools merged with Yavneh Day School, bringing Hebrew Day Schools into Cincinnati Community Hebrew Schools. In 1970, the CCHS reorganized, with the Cincinnati Community Hebrew Schools serving as an umbrella agency for afternoon branches in Ohav Shalom, Golf Manor, Northern Hills and the Yavneh Day School as their own division. Following the selling of their common property in 1975, these two institutions became completely separate.

In 1973, the Jewish Bureau of Education created "Standards and Criteria for Supplementary Community Hebrew Schools" which the Cincinnati Community Hebrew Schools followed in order to maintain their funding. The CCHS focused on providing Jewish education that appealed to both Reform and Orthodox Jews. One focus of the program was teaching the Hebrew language. The majority of students stayed with the program until their bar or bat mitzvah. While CCHS attempted to increase registration for older students through a variety of programs, this group remained a very small portion of the student registrations. Classes included a kindergarten level, two levels of primary classes, and Hebrew I-V. A nursery school class was later added. Although salaries remained consistently low, there was very small turnover among faculty at CCHS.

In 1981 CCHS opened an Eastern Branch and closed the Roselawn Branch due to shifting population. They were unable to achieve Federation minimum enrollments and closed the Eastern branch in 1982. All classes were subsequently located in the Northern Hills branch. In 1984, the CCHS merged once again to become officially part of the Jewish Bureau of Education (now part of the Jewish Federation of Cincinnati). Reorganization occurred and the Educational Director (Eli Greenfield) was replaced by a part-time principal (Lawrence Katz) who also worked at the Bureau of Jewish Education.

Enrollment steadily declined and by the late eighties only the Northern Hills branch remained open. On May 12, 1992, the Cincinnati Community Hebrew Schools dissolved with the assets being divided between the Bureau of Jewish Education and the Northern Hills Synagogue.
The Cincinnati Community Hebrew Schools Records describe the governance and activities of the schools between 1956-1992. The bulk of the materials date between 1970-1990. The collection contains minutes and administrative papers, financial reports, curriculum materials, faculty and student records.


Series F (Student Records) are restricted; permission to view must be obtained from the Director of the American Jewish Archives.

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Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the Cincinnati Community Hebrew Schools (Cincinnati, Ohio) Records and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-51. Cincinnati Community Hebrew Schools (Cincinnati, Ohio) Records. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

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Hebrew language / Jewish religious education / Jews -- Ohio -- Cincinnati
Cincinnati Community Hebrew Schools (Cincinnati, Ohio) / Jewish Federation of Cincinnati (Cincinnati, Ohio)
Minutes / Press releases / Scrapbooks

The series is grouped into: Board of Directors Minutes, Board of Directors Lists (1959-1991), Constitution and Bylaws, Table of Organization, School Enrollment, Temple Affiliation of Students, Miscellaneous Policies, Building Calendars and Mergers. The arrangement of all groups is chronological.

Box 1. Folder 1. Cincinnati Community Hebrew Schools Board of Directors meeting minutes, 1959-1966
Box 1. Folder 2. Cincinnati Community Hebrew Schools Board of Directors meeting minutes, 1967-1969
Box 1. Folder 3. Cincinnati Community Hebrew Schools Board of Directors meeting minutes, 1970-1972
Box 1. Folder 4. Cincinnati Community Hebrew Schools Board of Directors meeting minutes, 1975-1979
Box 1. Folder 5. Cincinnati Community Hebrew Schools Board of Directors meeting minutes, 1980-1985
Box 1. Folder 6. Cincinnati Community Hebrew Schools Board of Directors meeting minutes, 1986-1988
Box 1. Folder 7. Cincinnati Community Hebrew Schools Board of Directors meeting minutes, 1989-1992
Box 2. Folder 1. Education Committee minutes, 1966-1986
Box 2. Folder 2. Executive Committee minutes, 1963-1968
Box 2. Folder 5. Table of organization, 1985
Box 2. Folder 8. Miscellaneous policies. Includes Teacher Code of Code of Behavior, and report submitted about CCHS to a 1971 study, undated
Box 2. Folder 9. School and building calendars.
Box 2. Folder 11. 1984 merger. Contains correspondence, meeting minutes and legal documentation.


**Extent** 0.8 linear feet (2 Hollinger boxes)

**Scope and Content Note** Budget files include the report made to the Jewish Federation, requests for the revision of the budget, and supporting materials for creating the budget.

**Arrangement** The series is grouped into: Budget Files, Monthly/Quarterly Reports, Other Reports, Audits and Quarterly FICA Reports. The arrangement within each group is chronological.

**Box and Folder Listing**

Box 3. Folder 8. Budget files, 1972-1973
Box 3. Folder 10. Budget files, 1974-1975
Series C. Correspondence, 1959-1962

Extent 1.6 linear feet (4 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note General Correspondence is a mixed ingoing/outgoing correspondence file for the President of the CCHS Board, the Educational Director/Principal and the Office Manager. It includes congratulatory letters for students bar/bat mitzvahs and condolence letters in addition to office related activities. The Board Correspondence is divided by the member's name. Much of this correspondence with the Jewish Bureau of Education and includes information about CCHS board members' participation in the Federation. It includes limited amounts of Federation Board minutes.

Arrangement The series is grouped into: General Correspondence, Board of Directors (1959-1985), Faculty Correspondence, and Yavneh - CCHS Correspondence. Each group is arranged chronologically.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 5. Folder 1. Correspondence, 1968-80
Box 5. Folder 2. Correspondence, 1981 July-December
Box 5. Folder 3. Correspondence, 1982 January-June
Box 5. Folder 4. Correspondence, 1982 July-December
Box 5. Folder 5. Correspondence, 1983
Box 5. Folder 6. Correspondence, 1984 January-June
Box 5. Folder 7. Correspondence, 1984 July-December
Box 5. Folder 8. Correspondence, 1985 January-June
Box 5. Folder 9. Correspondence, 1985 July-December
Box 6. Folder 1. Correspondence, 1986 January-June
Series D. Curriculum/Activities, 1958-1992

Extent  0.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note  Topics include holidays, educational topics such as prayer, programs such as the Russian Teen Class, and projects of the CCHS. Important file folders include the Curriculum Guides (1980-1991) and two miscellaneous folders (pre-1964 merger and 1964-1992). The miscellaneous folders contain programs, letters, home and publication materials.

Arrangement  The series is arranged alphabetically by topic.

Box and Folder Listing

Series E. Employee Records, 1958-1992

Extent 0.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box)

Arrangement The series is grouped into: Faculty/Staff Lists, Staff Files, Faculty Handbook, Teacher's Meetings, and Teacher's Contracts/Salaries. Staff files are filed alphabetically by employee name and include correspondence, contracts, evaluations and applications. The other groups are arranged chronologically.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 10. Folder 1. Staff Lists. Includes assignments and contact information, 1969-1991
Series F. Student Records, 1956-1992

Extent 2.8 linear feet (7 Hollinger boxes)

Arrangement The series is grouped into: student registrations, student payroll cards, classroom lists, student cumulative records, student progress reports, student discipline reports, scholarship records, and achievement tests. Student registrations, payroll cards, student progress reports and student discipline reports are arranged alphabetically within a chronological arrangement. Other groupings within this series are arranged chronologically.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 11. Folder 3. Registration. Northern Hills Branch, 1974-1975
Box 11. Folder 4. Registration. Roselawn Branch, 1974-1975
Box 14. Folder Student tuition payment cards. Arranged alphabetically by last name within the school year. Information includes contact information, parent names, Hebrew names and payment schedules of tuition including PTA dues, 1970-1986
Box 15. Folder 1. Student tuition payment cards, 1987
Box 15. Folder 2. Student tuition payment cards, 1988-1989
Box 15. Folder 3. Student tuition payment cards, 1989-1990
Box 15. Folder 5. Student tuition payment cards. High School, 1960s, undated
Box 15. Folder 6. Student lists by class/level. Includes name, contact information and birthdays, 1956-1984
Box 15. Folder 7. Student lists by class/level, 1985-1992
Box 16. Folder 1. Cumulative records. Northern Hills Branch. A-C. Includes contact and family information, Jewish educational history, classes taken, grades and comments by instructors.
Box 17. Folder 6. Jewish Education Service of America Achievement Tests. CCHS students names and scores, 1984
Box 17. Folder 7. Scholarships. Scholarship application forms for 1973-1979. Also the amounts and number of scholarships given out, prepared for the Jewish Federation, 1973-1989
Box 17. Folder 8. List of CCHS graduates, 1982-1986

Access Restrictions This series is restricted. Please contact the Executive Director of the American Jewish Archives concerning access.


Extent 0.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box)

Arrangement Arranged alphabetically into the following categories: American Israelite Press Releases, CCHS Community Calender, Jewish Education in the 1960s, Media newspaper clippings, Miscellaneous Brochures, Newspapers produced by Roselawn students, Photos, and Student Scrapbooks.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 18. Folder 1. CCHS community calendar, 1980-1985
Box 18. Folder 2. CCHS community calendar, 1986-1992
Box 18. Folder 5. Miscellaneous CCHS brochures, undated
Box 18. Folder 7. Photographs and negatives, undated
Box 18. Folder 8. Student newspaper, Roselawn Branch, 1972-1973
Box 18. Folder 9. Student scrapbooks, 1974-1984
Box 18. Folder 10. Student scrapbooks, 1985-1992