



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
Clarence E. Israel Papers**

Manuscript Collection No. 662



Collection Summary

Title	Clarence E. Israel Papers
Dates	1953-1985
Collection Number	MS-662
Repository	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator	Israel, Clarence E., 1909-1991
Extent	0.8 linear feet (2 Hollinger boxes)
Language of the Material	English

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch	<p>Clarence E. (Mike) Israel was born in 1901 in Birmingham, Alabama. His childhood in the segregated South heavily influenced his later determination to become a highly respected social activist in Cincinnati, Ohio as an adult.</p> <p>Israel graduated from Purdue University in 1922 with a degree in agriculture. Shortly thereafter he became involved in marketing instead. In the early 1930s, when he arrived in Cincinnati, he rose through the ranks of Fashion Frocks, a women's clothing manufacturer in Cincinnati's Northside neighborhood. He retired as vice-president of the company. But Israel's lasting influence continues in the volunteer work that he did for the Jewish people of Cincinnati, and for the minority population of the entire state of Ohio.</p> <p>Israel wore two hats in the Jewish community. The first was his involvement in the Jewish Community Center (JCC), beginning in 1932. Under the auspices of the JCC, he founded The Forum in 1934. The Forum was a year-round lecture series that promoted civil rights and civil liberties. The Forum is notable because of the high caliber speakers it was able to bring to Cincinnati. Throughout its nearly 40 year history, The Forum hosted such speakers as Justice Thurgood Marshall of the Supreme Court, author and lecturer Norman Cousins, the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., and two-time Nobel Prize winner Linus Pauling.</p> <p>In addition to his work with the JCC, Israel served as president of the Cincinnati chapter of the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC). Israel also served as vice president of the national governing board of the JCRC.</p> <p>Israel's social activism was not limited to working on behalf of fellow Jews. He labored for 14 years as one of several leaders on a statewide committee that was tasked with writing fair employment legislation for the state of Ohio. The state passed the committee's draft in 1960.</p> <p>Finally, Israel served as the founding chairman of the Cincinnati Committee for Civic Responsibility (CCCR). The CCCR was established in the early fall of 1964 to combat right-wing extremist groups that were attempting to influence the electorate prior to the 1964 presidential election. The CCCR remained in existence through 1966.</p> <p>Israel passed away on 1 July 1991. He was survived by two sons and a daughter.</p>
Scope and Content	<p>The collection consists of Clarence E. Israel's documents relating principally to the Cincinnati Committee for Civic Responsibility, the Cincinnati branch of the Jewish Community Relations Council, the drafting of the state of Ohio's Fair Employment Practices Act, and the papers of the Cincinnati Jewish Community Center's Forum program</p>
Arrangement	<p>Organized into two (2) series: A. Committee for Civic Responsibility Records; B. Organizational/Activities Files.</p>
Terms of Access	<p>The collection is open for use; no restrictions apply.</p>
Preferred Citation	<p>Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the Clarence E. Israel Papers and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:</p> <p>[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-662. Clarence E. Israel Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.</p>
Provenance	<p>Received from Clarence E. Israel, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1977, and Michael Rapp, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1992.</p>

Processing Information Processed by Jeff Brown, July 2002.

Index Terms

Subjects African Americans -- Relations with Jews / Jews -- Ohio -- Cincinnati / Jews -- Politics and government
Personal Names Israel, Clarence E., 1909-1991
Corporate Names Jewish Community Center of Cincinnati / Jewish Community Relations Council (Cincinnati, Ohio)

Series A. Committee for Civic Responsibility Records, 1964-1967

Extent 0.2 linear feet (0.5 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note Consists of material relating to business and membership of the Committee. It includes correspondence, minutes and press releases including information about the change in the Committee's leadership.

Arrangement The series is arranged alphabetically by topic and chronologically within each topic.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 1. Advertisements, 1964
Box 1. Folder 2. Citron, Abe. Departure, 1966
Box 1. Folder 3. Correspondence, 1964-1965 April
Box 1. Folder 4. Correspondence, 1965 May-December
Box 1. Folder 5. Correspondence, 1966-1967
Box 1. Folder 6. Financial records, 1964-1965
Box 1. Folder 7. Membership lists, 1964-1966, undated
Box 1. Folder 8. Minutes, reports, 1964-1967
Box 1. Folder 9. Press releases about creation, 1964

Series B. Organizational/Activities Files, 1953-1985

Extent 0.6 linear feet (1.5 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Consists of material relating to the activities of the other organizations in which Israel was involved in his career. The material is comprised primarily of correspondence. Most activities relate to either the Jewish Community Center or the Jewish Community Relations Committee.

Arrangement The series is arranged alphabetically by topic and chronologically within each topic.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 10. Awards, 1957-1985
Box 1. Folder 11. Cincinnati Public Schools report on values, 1958
Box 1. Folder 12. Committee of 150 on Political Morality, 1953
Box 1. Folder 13. Correspondence, 1952-1970
Box 2. Folder 1. Jewish Community Center (Cincinnati, Ohio) Forum. Correspondence, 1965-1978

Box 2. Folder 2. Jewish Community Center (Cincinnati, Ohio) Forum. Minutes; reports, 1953-1973

Box 2. Folder 3. Jewish Community Relations Council (Cincinnati, Ohio), 1962-1966

Box 2. Folder 4. Jewish Community Relations Council (Cincinnati, Ohio) Fair Employment Practices Committee, 1958-1959

Box 2. Folder 5. Jewish Community Relations Council (Cincinnati, Ohio) Fair Employment Practices Committee, 1965

Box 2. Folder 6. Jewish Community Relations Council (Cincinnati, Ohio) Fair Employment Practices Committee, undated

Box 2. Folder 7. Let Freedom Ring press releases, 1965-1970

Box 2. Folder 8. Miscellaneous materials, 1964-1973, undated

Box 2. Folder 9. Newspaper clippings, 1962-1973

Box 2. Folder 10. Public appearances, biography, 1966

Box 2. Folder 11. Sermons, manuscripts, undated

Box 2. Folder 12. Union of American Hebrew Congregations articles, 1965