A Finding Aid to the
Swig Camp Institute Records

Manuscript Collection No. 671
Collection Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Swig Camp Institute Records</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dates</td>
<td>1964, 1967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collection Number</td>
<td>MS-671</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repository</td>
<td>The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creator</td>
<td>Swig Camp Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extent</td>
<td>0.8 linear feet (2 Hollinger boxes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language of the Material</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch

The Swig Camp Institute, sponsored by the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, is one of the oldest Reform Jewish camps in the United States. It is part of the "Camp Institutes for Living Judaism" that bring spiritual and cultural programming to Jewish youth. The brainchild of a handful of rabbis from the Pacific Association of Reform Rabbis, the camp opened in 1947 in the Santa Cruz mountains. Originally named Camp Saratoga, the camp was renamed after Benjamin H. Swig in the early 1960s, following the donation that allowed the camp to grow and flourish.

The early campers came for two to three week sessions to share Jewish experiences, learn about Jewish history and culture. They also learned about nature and other typical camping experiences. Later programs had a more structured aspect such as Solel, which focuses on learning the Hebrew language. Other programs were run in conjunction with national organizations such as the National Federation of Temple Youth.

In October 1999, an anonymous donor gave 2 million dollars for the renovation of the camp. It currently operates in cooperation with Camp Newton, which was opened by the UAHC in Santa Rosa, California in 1996. It is one of 12 camps operated by the UAHC, serving 12,000 Jewish youth every summer.

Camp Swig is located nine miles north of Saratoga on 200 acres of forested land. The camp currently focuses on programming for teenagers. Camp Newton offers programs for kindergarten students through twelfth grade. Both camps run several concurrent sessions which enroll hundreds of Jewish youth.

Scope and Content

The Swig Camp Institute is sponsored by the Union of American Hebrew Congregation and consists of Camp Saratoga and Camp Newman. The records come from Camp Saratoga and includes administrative records, correspondence, program, publications, and services.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in one (1) series: A. General.

Terms of Access

The collection is open for use; no restrictions apply.
Preferred Citation

Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the Swig Camp Institute Records and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-671. Swig Camp Institute Records. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Provenance

Received from Ronald Klotz, Zionsville, Ind., July 2001.

Processing Information


Index Terms

Subjects
Camping / Jewish camps / Jewish youth

Corporate Names
Union of American Hebrew Congregations

Series A. General, 1964, 1967

Arrangement
The material is arranged alphabetically.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 1. Activities, 1964
Box 1. Folder 2. Administrative records (rosters, schedules, forms), 1964
Box 1. Folder 3. Administrative records (rosters, schedules, forms), 1967
Box 1. Folder 4. Correspondence, application forms, 1967
Box 1. Folder 5. Counselors in training program, 1967
Box 1. Folder 7. Music program, 1967
Box 1. Folder 8. Northern Federation of Temple Youth. Hagigah, 1964
Box 1. Folder 10. Program; source material, 1964
Box 1. Folder 11. Program; source material, 1967
Box 1. Folder 12. Publications, 1964
Box 1. Folder 13. Publications, 1967
Box 1. Folder 14. Services, 1964
Box 1. Folder 15. Services, 1967
Box 1. Folder 16. Solel, 1967
Box 2. Folder 1. Teachers Institute, 1964, 1967
Box 2. Folder 2. Western Regional Leadership Institute, 1964
Box 2. Folder 3. Western Regional Leadership Institute, 1967