



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
Swig Camp Institute Records
Manuscript Collection No. 671**

Collection Summary

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

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. 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 1950s, 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 Processed by Melinda K. McMartin, November 2001.

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 6. Maccabia. "Our Jewish World.", 1964

Box 1. Folder 7. Music program, 1967

Box 1. Folder 8. Northern Federation of Temple Youth. Hagigah, 1964

Box 1. Folder 9. Northern Federation of Temple Youth. Hagigah, 1967

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