A Finding Aid to the
Association of Orthodox Jewish Teachers of the New York City Public Schools Records

Manuscript Collection No. 719
Collection Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Association of Orthodox Jewish Teachers of the New York City Public Schools Records</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dates</td>
<td>1963-2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collection Number</td>
<td>MS-719</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repository</td>
<td>The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creator</td>
<td>Association of Orthodox Jewish Teachers of the New York City Public Schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extent</td>
<td>4.8 linear feet (12 Hollinger boxes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language of the Material</td>
<td>English and Hebrew</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch

Professional Orthodox Jewish teachers “having found that the viewpoint of Orthodox Jewish personnel working for the New York City school system have not been represented by any existing organization” founded the Association of Orthodox Jewish Teachers of the New York City Public Schools, “whose policy it will be to abide by the decisions of the leading orthodox Torah authorities in all matters which may be of a religious nature.”

Founded in 1963, the purpose of the AOJT was:

- To promote the welfare of the Orthodox Jewish personnel employed by the New York City School system.
- To encourage, assist, and defend the religious practices of the Jewish personnel employed by the New York City school system.
- To act as spokesman for Orthodox Jewish teachers in matters relating to religious observance and upon any occasion deemed necessary.
- To provide a forum for the exchange of cultural, social, and professional affairs of the Association of Orthodox Jewish Teachers.
- To provide guidance and assistance towards the orientation and recruitment of new and future Orthodox Jewish teachers.
- To promote an atmosphere of religious and racial understanding among all teachers and their students regardless of race, religion, or natural origin, and to help safeguard the rights of all children in the pursuit of their religious observances.
- To cooperate with other organizations in order to achieve mutual understanding and fulfillment of their objectives.

The AOJT sponsored many activities designed to benefit its membership. Its Political Action committee sought to limit school activities during Shabbat, and to allow teachers to more easily take time off for Jewish holidays such as Yom Kippur. They also sought to guard their membership against employment discrimination, which led the AOJT to vigorously support the “merit” system of education hiring, instead of an “affirmative action or “quota” system that would consider race and ethnicity a factor in to promote diversity in New York Public Schools.

Aside from these political activities, the AOJT also sponsored numerous social and professional programs. Its Social committee supported local activities, such as ice skating, while the Tours committee organized vacations to Florida and Israel; the AOJT even attempted to buy land in Israel so Orthodox teachers could make aliyah and settle near each other.

The AOJT also sponsored professional education conferences that members could attend and still keep Shomer Shabbat. For students, the AOJT organized Akiva culture clubs in the public schools. In some schools these clubs had more than 100 students, while other clubs were less successful and had as low as five members.

Scope and Content

The records of the Association of Orthodox Jewish Teachers of the New York City Public Schools span the years 1963-2003, though the bulk of materials fall within the years 1971-1975. The records include meeting minutes, correspondence in regards to the activities of the AOJT, publications and circulars, reports, travel plans and documents, and nearprint.

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 Association of Orthodox Jewish Teachers of the New York City Public Schools Records and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #, MS-719. Association of Orthodox Jewish Teachers of the New York City Public Schools Records. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Provenance
Received from the Association of Orthodox Jewish Teachers, New York, N.Y., December 2002.

Processing Information
Processed by David Greenberg, July 2005.

Index Terms

Subjects
Education / Jews -- New York (State) -- New York / Orthodox Judaism

Corporate Names
Association of Orthodox Jewish Teachers of the New York City Public Schools

Media
Minutes

Series A. General, 1963-2003

Scope and Content Note
Contains information about the Akiva clubs organized by the AOJT, information about community relations, plans for dinners and conventions, plans and accounts of trips to Florida and Israel, political actions and social activities organized, and minutes and letters sent by the Executive committee.

Arrangement
Records are arranged alphabetically by topic, then by date.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 1. Akiva Clubs, 1971
Box 1. Folder 2. Akiva Clubs, 1972
Box 1. Folder 3. Akiva Clubs, 1973
Box 1. Folder 4. Akiva Clubs, 1975
Box 1. Folder 5. Akiva Clubs, 1976
Box 1. Folder 6. Akiva Clubs Scholarship, 1972
Box 1. Folder 7. Annual dinner, 1966
Box 1. Folder 8. Annual dinner, 1967
Box 1. Folder 10. Annual dinner, 1971
Box 1. Folder 11. Annual dinner, 1973
Box 1. Folder 12. Annual dinner, 1974
Box 1. Folder 13. Annual dinner, 1975
Box 2. Folder 1. Annual dinner, 1976
Box 2. Folder 2. Annual dinner, 1977
Box 2. Folder 3. Annual dinner booklet, 2003
Box 2. Folder 4. Annual dinner correspondence, 1971
Box 2. Folder 5. Annual dinner correspondence, 1973
Box 2. Folder 6. Anti-Semitism, 1968
Box 2. Folder 7. AOTJ Education Institute, 1975
Box 2. Folder 8. Association of Orthodox Jewish Scientists, 1973
Box 2. Folder 9. Association of Orthodox Jewish Scientists convention, 1976
Box 3. Folder 1. Board of Education, 1973
Box 3. Folder 2. Board of Education, 1976
Box 3. Folder 5. Community relations, 1973
Box 3. Folder 6. Community relations, 1975
Box 3. Folder 7. Community School Board, 1973
Box 3. Folder 8. Community School Board, 1975
Box 3. Folder 9. Constitution and proposed revisions, 1963
Box 3. Folder 10. Constitution, 1964
Box 3. Folder 11. Convention, 1966
Box 3. Folder 13. Convention, 1971
Box 4. Folder 1. Convention, 1972
Box 4. Folder 2. Convention, 1973
Box 4. Folder 3. Convention, 1975
Box 4. Folder 4. Convention, 1976
Box 4. Folder 5. Convention, 1977
Box 4. Folder 7. Convention correspondence, 1971
Box 4. Folder 8. Convention correspondence, 1972
Box 4. Folder 10. Correspondence, 1968
Box 4. Folder 11. Correspondence, 1973
Box 4. Folder 12. Correspondence, 1974
Box 5. Folder 1. Correspondence, 1975
Box 5. Folder 2. Correspondence, 1976 January-June
Box 5. Folder 3. Correspondence, 1976 July-December
Box 5. Folder 5. Correspondence received, 1971
Box 5. Folder 6. Correspondence received, 1972
Box 5. Folder 7. Correspondence sent, 1971
Box 5. Folder 8. Correspondence sent by Dr. Melvin Hyman, 1976
Box 5. Folder 9. Correspondence. Membership, 1963
Box 8. Folder 2. Israel trip, 1971
Box 8. Folder 3. Israel trip 1, 1972
Box 8. Folder 4. Israel trip 2, 1972
Box 8. Folder 5. Israel trip, 1973
Box 8. Folder 6. Israel trip, 1975
Box 8. Folder 7. Israel trip correspondence, 1972
Box 8. Folder 8. Jewish Studies, 1971
Box 10. Folder 1. Minutes. Executive Board, 1976
Box 10. Folder 2. Minutes. Executive Board and other committees, 1975
Box 10. Folder 5. National Council of Young Israel, 1966
Box 10. Folder 7. Newsletter, 1976
Box 10. Folder 8. Political action, 1967
Box 10. Folder 10. Political action, 1971
Box 10. Folder 11. Political action, 1972
Box 11. Folder 1. Political action, 1973
Box 11. Folder 3. Professional conference, 1972
Box 11. Folder 4. Professional conference, 1973
Box 11. Folder 5. Publicity, 1965
Box 11. Folder 6. Publicity, 1966
Box 11. Folder 7. Publicity, 1967
Box 11. Folder 8. Publicity, 1968
Box 11. Folder 9. Publicity, 1971
Box 11. Folder 10. Publicity, 1972
Box 11. Folder 11. Publicity, 1973
Box 11. Folder 12. Queens Jewish Community Council, 1976
Box 12. Folder 1. Sabbath problems, 1966
Box 12. Folder 2. Sabbath problems, 1968
Box 12. Folder 4. School representatives, undated
Box 12. Folder 5. School representatives, 1964
Box 12. Folder 7. Singles and Social, 1967
Box 12. Folder 8. Singles and Social, 1973
Box 12. Folder 9. Singles and Social, 1976
Box 12. Folder 10. Survey questionnaire, 1965
Box 12. Folder 12. Torah Conference, 1976
Box 12. Folder 14. Torah Umesorah, 1971
Box 12. Folder 15. Tours, 1973
Box 12. Folder 16. United Federation of Teachers, 1967
Box 12. Folder 17. Wacholder, Shirley, Memorial Fund.