



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
Abraham Friedland Papers
Manuscript Collection No. 741**

Collection Summary

Title	Abraham Friedland Papers
Dates	1927-1944
Collection Number	MS-741
Repository	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator	Friedland, Abraham Hyman, 1891-1939
Extent	3.6 linear feet (9 Hollinger boxes)
Language of the Material	English and Hebrew

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch

Abraham Friedland was born on July 1, 1892 near Vilna (Vilnius) in Lithuania. He and his parents, Moses Friedland and Leah Danishevsky Friedland, immigrated to the United States in 1907. Educated at Yeshiva College and Columbia University, Friedland founded the National Hebrew School (NHS) of New York, a Jewish school for girls, in 1910. During the ten years he spent as the school's director, Friedland developed a theory of Jewish education that placed great emphasis upon learning Hebrew and its literature. His list of "basic words" — words needed in order to gain a basic understanding of the Torah — was still in use decades later. The girls who attended NHS lived what they learned, since they boarded at the school. Abraham and his wife, Yonina, served as role models for their students, many of whom went on to become teachers of Hebrew themselves. Friedland was himself the father of a daughter, Aviva.

Beginning in 1921, he assumed the post of superintendent of Cleveland Hebrew Schools, and in 1924 he was appointed the first director of the Cleveland Bureau of Jewish Education. He was invited to become the Director of Education in Palestine in 1926, but his already deep commitment to the Jewish community in Cleveland caused him to decline the offer. Friedland's organizational involvement would have daunted anyone with less resolve: he was president of the regional Zionist Organization of America, president and member of the executive committee of the National Council of Jewish Education, and founder of the Jewish Youth League. A firm believer in Hebraic fluency, he was a long-time member and supporter of Histadruth Ivrit.

Friedland's love for the written word expressed itself most prolifically in his writing for children. His co-authors included Emanuel Gamoran and Solomon Goldman. One of his many goals for the improvement of Jewish education was the writing of more readable and interesting textbooks. He published the Hash'vil (Path) for children, developed the series Gilenu, or The Play Way to Hebrew, and wrote Sippurim Yafim (Beautiful Stories) for children to read for enjoyment. Never one to idle away the time, he also wrote three hundred folk songs, fifty articles about a visit to Palestine, and forty popular articles about Jewish poets and philosophers.

Cleveland was known for both the friendliness and activism of its Zionist community. This was due in large part to Abraham Friedland's ability to create "mishpacha" (family) wherever he was. Though his health took a turn for the worse during the middle of the 1930's, Friedland continued his active support for the nascent state of Israel. The last three years of Friedland's life were years of suffering for him, as he battled an undiagnosable, incurable disease that caused him terrible pain and debilitating fatigue. Even so, he continued his passionate interest in writing poetry in Hebrew, the third volume of which appeared shortly after his death in 1939.

Scope and Content

Consists of correspondence and unpublished songs, stories and poems for children.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged into four (4) series: A. Correspondence; B. Correspondence; C. Correspondence; D. Unpublished Children's Songs and Stories.

Terms of Access

The collection is open for use; no restrictions apply.

Preferred Citation

Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the Abraham Friedland Papers and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-741. Abraham Friedland Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Provenance

Received from the Bureau of Jewish Education, Cleveland, Ohio, 1958. Additional material was received from Aviva Polish, Evanston, Ill., 1990.

Processing Information Processed by Vicki Lipski, May 2007.

Index Terms

Subjects Children's stories / Jewish education
Personal Names Friedland, Abraham Hyman, 1891-1939
Corporate Names Bureau of Jewish education (Cleveland, Ohio) / Commission on Jewish Education / Histadruth Ivriyth of America / Zionist Organization of America

Series A. Correspondence, 1927-1940

Extent 2.4 linear feet (6 Hollinger boxes)

Arrangement The correspondence is arranged by destination.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 1. New York, 1927-1931
Box 1. Folder 2. New York, 1932
Box 1. Folder 3. New York, 1933
Box 1. Folder 4. New York, 1934
Box 1. Folder 5. New York, 1934-1935
Box 1. Folder 6. New York, 1936
Box 2. Folder 1. New York, 1936-1937
Box 2. Folder 2. New York, 1937
Box 2. Folder 3. New York, 1936-1938
Box 2. Folder 4. New York, 1939
Box 2. Folder 5. Philadelphia, 1929-1934
Box 2. Folder 6. Philadelphia, 1935-1936
Box 2. Folder 7. Philadelphia, 1936-1939
Box 3. Folder 1. Cincinnati, 1927-1932
Box 3. Folder 2. Cincinnati, 1933-1934
Box 3. Folder 3. Cincinnati, 1935
Box 3. Folder 4. Cincinnati, 1936
Box 3. Folder 5. Cincinnati, 1937
Box 3. Folder 6. Cincinnati, 1938
Box 3. Folder 7. Cincinnati, 1939
Box 4. Folder 1. Boston, 1929-1932
Box 4. Folder 2. Boston, 1935-1939
Box 4. Folder 3. Chicago, 1928-1931
Box 4. Folder 4. Chicago, 1932-1934
Box 4. Folder 5. Chicago, 1935-1936
Box 4. Folder 6. Chicago, 1937

Box 4. Folder 7. Chicago, 1938-1939

Box 4. Folder 8. Chicago, 1939

Box 5. Folder 1. Akron, Ohio, 1930-1934

Box 5. Folder 2. Akron, Ohio, 1935-1937

Box 5. Folder 3. Baltimore, 1934-1938

Box 5. Folder 4. Buffalo, N.Y., 1930-1936

Box 5. Folder 5. Buffalo, N.Y., 1929-1934

Box 5. Folder 6. Buffalo, N.Y., 1937-1938

Box 5. Folder 7. Canada, 1937-1939

Box 5. Folder 8. Canton, Ohio, 1936

Box 5. Folder 9. Columbus, Ohio, 1929-1939

Box 5. Folder 10. Dayton, Ohio, 1932-1935

Box 5. Folder 11. Detroit, 1929-1935

Box 5. Folder 12. Detroit, 1936-1937

Box 5. Folder 13. Detroit, 1938-1939

Box 5. Folder 14. Harrisburg, Pa., 1935-1936

Box 5. Folder 15. Indianapolis, 1931

Box 5. Folder 16. Indianapolis, 1937-1939

Box 5. Folder 17. Los Angeles, Calif., 1935-1938

Box 5. Folder 18. Omaha, 1938

Box 5. Folder 19. Pittsburgh, 1930-1934

Box 5. Folder 20. Pittsburgh, 1937-1938

Box 5. Folder 21. St. Louis, 1935-1939

Box 5. Folder 22. Toledo, Ohio, 1934-1939

Box 5. Folder 23. Youngstown, Ohio, 1936-1937

Box 5. Folder 24. Youngstown, Ohio, 1938-1939

Box 6. Folder 1. Cleveland, 1934-1937

Box 6. Folder 2. Cleveland, 1935

Box 6. Folder 3. Cleveland, 1937

Box 6. Folder 4. Cleveland, 1938-1940

Box 6. Folder 5. Small Cities, 1929-1931

Box 6. Folder 6. Miscellaneous. Cleveland and Small Cities.

Box 6. Folder 7. Miscellaneous. Small Cities, 1937

Box 6. Folder 8. Miscellaneous, 1929-1938

Box 6. Folder 9. Miscellaneous, 1935-1936

Series B. Correspondence, 1930-1942

Extent 0.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box)

Arrangement The correspondence is arranged by organization recipient.

Box and Folder Listing

- Box 7. Folder 1. Avukah, 1935-1937
- Box 7. Folder 2. Bureau of Jewish Education, 1935-1938
- Box 7. Folder 3. Histadruth Ivrit, 1930-1931
- Box 7. Folder 4. Histadruth Ivrit, 1936
- Box 7. Folder 5. Histadruth Ivrit, 1938-1939
- Box 7. Folder 6. Histadruth Ivrit, 1939
- Box 7. Folder 7. Histadruth Ivrit, 1939
- Box 7. Folder 8. Histadruth Ivrit, 1939
- Box 7. Folder 9. Histadruth Ivrit Convention, 1939 February 2-5
- Box 7. Folder 10. Histadruth Ivrit, 1939-1942
- Box 7. Folder 11. National Council for Jewish Education, 1928-1938
- Box 7. Folder 12. Zionist Organization of America, 1937
- Box 7. Folder 13. Zionist Organization of America, 1938
- Box 7. Folder 14. Zionist Organization of America, 1939

Series C. Correspondence, 1930-1944

Extent 0.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box)

Arrangement The correspondence is arranged by correspondent, subject, or event.

Box and Folder Listing

- Box 8. Folder 1. Baratz Books, 1939 April
- Box 8. Folder 2. Dr. De Sauze. Foreign Language Department Board of Education, 1938
- Box 8. Folder 3. Educational dinner, 1935
- Box 8. Folder 4. Emanuel, Ben Zion, 1938
- Box 8. Folder 5. Letters of introduction and recommendation, 1935-1939
- Box 8. Folder 6. Schub, Joseph, 1944
- Box 8. Folder 7. Shiminowitz celebration, 1937 March
- Box 8. Folder 8. Romance of a People. Cleveland, 1934
- Box 8. Folder 9. Teachers' conference, 1934-1939
- Box 8. Folder 10. Telegrams, 1935-1940
- Box 8. Folder 11. Zohar Dramatic Studio. Cleveland, 1930

Series D. Unpublished Children's Songs and Stories, undated

Extent 0.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box)

Box and Folder Listing

Box 8. Folder 12. Unpublished children's songs and stories [Hebrew].

Box 8. Folder 13. Unpublished children's songs and stories [Hebrew].

Box 9. Folder 1. Unpublished children's songs and stories [Hebrew].

Box 9. Folder 2. Unpublished children's songs and stories [Hebrew].

Box 9. Folder 3. Unpublished children's songs and stories [Hebrew].

Box 9. Folder 4. Unpublished children's songs and stories [Hebrew].

Box 9. Folder 5. Unpublished children's songs and stories [Hebrew].

Box 9. Folder 6. Unpublished children's songs and stories [Hebrew].

Box 9. Folder 7. Unpublished children's songs and stories [Hebrew].

Box 9. Folder 8. Unpublished children's songs and stories [Hebrew].



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Subject Tracings

Note: The following list of subjects is a selective index to many of the topics and individuals in the Abraham Friedland Papers. It is selective in that it only attempts to draw attention to the more significant items in the collection. It does not attempt to list every subject or individual nor does it try to indicate all places that a listed subject or individual appears in the collection. When used in conjunction with the Box and Folder List, the Subject Tracings should help the researcher locate topics. References are to boxes and folders: e.g., 2/5 means Box 2, Folder 5.

Anshe Emet Synagogue, Chicago	4/3, 4/4, 4/6, 4/7, 5/4, 6/3
Associated Talmud Torahs of Philadelphia	2/5, 2/6, 2/7
Avukah, American Student Zionist Federation	1/5, 2/6, 7/1
Board of Jewish Education	1/3, 1/4, 1/6, 4/6, 4/7
Brickner, Barnett	6/1, 6/3
Bureau of Jewish Education	1/2, 1/3, 1/4, 3/2, 3/4, 3/5, 3/6, 3/7, 4/2, 4/3, 4/4, 4/5, 5/13
College of Jewish Studies	4/4, 4/5, 4/6, 4/7, 7/8
Commission on Jewish Education	1/3, 1/4, 3/2, 3/4, 3/5, 3/6, 3/7
Euclid Ave. Temple	6/1, 6/2, 6/3
Federation of Hebrew Teachers of America	2/4, 4/6
Gamoran, Emanuel	3/2
Goldman, Solomon	4/3, 4/4, 4/6, 4/7, 5/4, 6/3
Golub, Jacob S.	3/2, 5/14
Hadoar	1/1, 1/3, 1/4, 2/1, 2/3
Histadruth Ivrit	7/7, 7/9
Jewish Frontier	1/6, 2/2
Jewish National Fund of America	1/6, 2/2, 2/3, 4/6, 6/5
Jewish Publication Society of America	2/5
National Council for Jewish Education	1/3, 1/4, 3/4, 3/6, 7/11
National Council of Jewish Women	1/3, 1/4, 1/5, 1/6
National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods	3/2, 3/4
National Labor Committee	1/3, 1/4, 1/5, 1/6, 2/2
Young Judaea/Judaeen League	1/1, 2/2, 2/3, 3/2