



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE  
**AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES**

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**A Finding Aid to the  
New Hope Congregation (Cincinnati, Ohio)  
Historical Collection**

**Manuscript Collection No. 766**

## Collection Summary

<b>Title</b>	New Hope Congregation (Cincinnati, Ohio) Historical Collection
<b>Dates</b>	1934-1984
<b>Collection Number</b>	MS-766
<b>Repository</b>	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
<b>Creator</b>	Kraut, Benny [Collector]
<b>Extent</b>	4.4 linear feet (11 Hollinger boxes)
<b>Language of the Material</b>	English, German, and Hebrew

## Administrative Information

**Scope and Content** The New Hope Congregation, Cincinnati, Ohio Historical Collection consists of notes, correspondence, meeting minutes, newsletters, programs, legal documents, biographical material, photographs, newspaper articles, transcripts of interviews, and audiocassette recordings of interviews. The collection was assembled by Benny Kraut when he researched his book *German-Jewish Orthodoxy in an Immigrant Synagogue: Cincinnati's New Hope Congregation and the Ambiguities of Ethnic Religion*.

Kraut intended to accomplish two things as the result of his research. First, by writing a history of New Hope Congregation and its auxiliary functions, he proposed to examine the extent to which New Hope was both typical and unique in comparison with other newly-created German-Jewish congregations of the 1930s and 1940s. Second, Kraut wished to analyze the historical dynamics and social processes at work in producing churches and synagogues at any time, the impact of the immigrant experience on ethnicity and religion, and the role of religious institutions as vehicles of acculturation. He foresaw the significance of the New Hope case study lying both in its detail and in its measured generalizations. The result of his study would, he hoped, be an enhanced understanding of major aspects of the experiences of German-Jewish immigrants of the 1930s. Happily, all of these goals were realized with the publication of Kraut's book in 1989.

The research material collected by Benny Kraut for his study of New Hope Congregation was accumulated during the 1980s, and was provided to him almost entirely by members of the congregation or their children. Because of the gap between the time when documents were written and the subsequent time when they were collected, there are lacunae in the board meeting minutes, in the congregation's various iterations of its newsletter, in congregational correspondence - in fact, in all the sets of documents brought together in this collection.

**Arrangement** Collection is arranged into five (5) series: A. Research Materials; B. Gate Club; C. New Hope Congregation; D. Interview Transcripts; E. Interviews.

**Terms of Access** The collection is open for use; no restrictions apply.

**Preferred Citation** Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the New Hope Congregation (Cincinnati, Ohio) Historical Collection and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-766. New Hope Congregation (Cincinnati, Ohio) Historical Collection. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

**Provenance** Received from Benny Kraut, Cincinnati, Ohio.

**Processing Information** Processed by Vicki Lipski, February 2009.

## Index Terms

<b>Subjects</b>	Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945) / Jews -- Ohio -- Cincinnati / Orthodox Judaism / Synagogues -- Ohio -- Cincinnati
<b>Personal Names</b>	Kraut, Benny
<b>Corporate Names</b>	New Hope Congregation (Cincinnati, Ohio)
<b>Media</b>	Minutes / Photographs

## **Series A. Research Materials, 1977-1984, undated**

**Extent** 0.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box)

**Scope and Content Note** Comprised mostly of Kraut's notes, although scholarly articles and a small amount of correspondence are also present. Kraut's proposal and project description can be found in this series.

### **Box and Folder Listing**

Box 1. Folder 1. Research material, 1977, 1981, 1983

Box 1. Folder 2. Research material, 1982-1983

Box 1. Folder 3. Research material, 1983

Box 1. Folder 4. Research material, 1983, undated

Box 1. Folder 5. Research material, 1983-1984

Box 1. Folder 6. Research material.

Box 1. Folder 7. Research material.

Box 1. Folder 8. Research material.

Box 1. Folder 9. Research material.

Box 1. Folder 10. Research material.

## **Series B. Gate Club, 1934-1953**

**Extent** 0.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box)

**Scope and Content Note** The Gate Club was an organization whose membership was made up of recent German-Jewish immigrants who settled in Cincinnati during the 1930s and 1940s. Gate Club members were frequently New Hope Congregation members. The purpose of the club was to help immigrants in adjusting to their new life in the United States, while at the same time offering a friendly and familiar ambience. A significant portion of the documents in this series are in German.

**Arrangement** Records are arranged alphabetically, then chronologically within folders.

### **Box and Folder Listing**

Box 2. Folder 1. Board meeting minutes, 1943-1949

Box 2. Folder 2. Correspondence, 1941-1946

Box 2. Folder 3. Correspondence, 1947-1950

Box 2. Folder 4. Events, 1944-1953

Box 2. Folder 5. German-language documents, 1941-1949

Box 2. Folder 6. Jewish Center, 1943-1949

Box 2. Folder 7. Jewish Community Council, 1934, 1946-1948

Box 2. Folder 8. Membership, 1941-1948

Box 2. Folder 9. Newspaper clippings, circa 1940s

Box 2. Folder 10. Packages for servicemen, 1943-1945

## **Series C. New Hope Congregation, 1939-1983, undated**

**Extent** 1.6 linear feet (4 Hollinger boxes)

**Scope and Content Note** The records in this series offer the researcher a window on the history of the congregation. In particular, one gains a sense of what was most important to this German-Jewish community in the way of religious observance. Leaders of the congregation and their contributions to it are well documented. This series also contains a good deal that is written in German.

**Arrangement** Records are arranged alphabetically, then chronologically within folders.

### **Box and Folder Listing**

Box 3. Folder 1. Anniversaries. 25th, 30th, 35th, 40th, 1964, 1969, 1974, 1979

Box 3. Folder 2. Board meeting and General meeting minutes [German and English], 1939-1941

Box 3. Folder 3. Board meeting and General meeting minutes [German and English], 1942-1944

Box 3. Folder 4. General meeting minutes [German]. Constitution, 1941-1970

Box 3. Folder 5. Board meeting minutes [early years in German], 1945-1949

Box 3. Folder 6. Board meeting minutes, 1951-1959

Box 3. Folder 7. Board meeting minutes, 1960-1966

Box 3. Folder 8. Cemetery, Purchase of land for, 1939, 1941-1942, 1949-1950, 1952-1953

Box 3. Folder 9. Correspondence, 1945-1947

Box 3. Folder 10. Correspondence, 1948-1960

Box 4. Folder 1. Correspondence, 1960-1967

Box 4. Folder 2. Correspondence, 1967-1968

Box 4. Folder 3. Correspondence, 1969-1973

Box 4. Folder 4. Customs of the congregation [German and English].

Box 4. Folder 5. Dedication of synagogue, 1950

Box 4. Folder 6. Dedication of synagogue, 1959

Box 4. Folder 7. Education, Adult and Youth.

Box 4. Folder 8. Events, 1965-1983, undated

Box 4. Folder 9. Executive Committee correspondence, general meeting minutes, 1957-1979

Box 4. Folder 10. Member records, expired.

Box 4. Folder 11. Member records. A-H.

Box 4. Folder 12. Member records. I-R.

Box 4. Folder 13. Member records. S-Z.

Box 4. Folder 14. Membership lists, 1944-1981

Box 5. Folder 1. New Hope Congregation building, Purchase of land for, 1950, 1957-1959

Box 5. Folder 2. New Hope newsletters, 1945-1975

Box 5. Folder 3. Newspaper articles, 1944-1945

Box 5. Folder 4. Night letter to President Johnson regarding Israel and the UN, undated

Box 5. Folder 5. Photographs, 1959-1983

Box 5. Folder 6. Photographs. Displaced persons, undated

Box 5. Folder 7. Plays [German].

Box 5. Folder 8. Plays.

Box 6. Folder 1. Rabenstein, Rabbi Manfred, 1942-1982, undated

Box 6. Folder 2. Services, High Holy Days, 1943-1981

Box 6. Folder 3. Sisterhood constitution, 1968

Box 6. Folder 3. Sisterhood meeting minutes and correspondence, 1941-1948

Box 6. Folder 3. Sisterhood bulletin [German and English], 1961-1969, undated

Box 6. Folder 4. Site map, proposed building, 1956

Box 6. Folder 5. Miscellaneous.

## **Series D. Interview Transcripts, 1978-1982**

**Extent** 2 linear feet (5 Hollinger boxes)

**Scope and Content Note** While it is apparent that Dr. Kraut's case study was not intended to be a study of the Holocaust, the historic event known as the Holocaust is what caused these German Jews to come to the United States when they did. The personal tragedies of New Hope members are related in these extensive interviews, along with often-sweet stories of happy childhoods and fond memories of good times.

**Arrangement** The series is arranged alphabetically.

### **Box and Folder Listing**

Box 7. Folder 1. Unknown, 1978 December 6

Box 7. Folder 2. Abraham, Ella, 1981 August 11

Box 7. Folder 3. Bamberger, Else, undated

Box 7. Folder 4. Bernheim, Hanna, 1980 December 15

Box 7. Folder 5. Bernheim, John, 1981 January 19

Box 7. Folder 6. Bonem, Doris, 1980 December 11

Box 7. Folder 7. Burger, Dorothea May (Mrs. Max), 1981 January 30

Box 7. Folder 8. Coppel, Ronald, 1981 May 2

Box 7. Folder 9. Coppel, Werner, 1981 March 3

Box 7. Folder 10. Deutsch, Siegfried, 1981 March 18

Box 7. Folder 11. DeWald, Alice, 1981 July 20

Box 7. Folder 12. DeWald, Oscar, 1981 August 1

Box 7. Folder 13. Docter, Doris, 1982 April 1

Box 7. Folder 14. Doctor, Bernard, 1982 July 7

Box 7. Folder 15. Eichelberg, Hugo, 1982 March 1

Box 8. Folder 1. Falk, Dr. John, 1981 February 22  
Box 8. Folder 2. Feder, Marian, 1981 February 18  
Box 8. Folder 3. Feige, Lisolette and Rudolf, undated  
Box 8. Folder 4. Frankel, Ernst, 1982 June 10  
Box 8. Folder 5. Freudenthal, Susan, February 16?  
Box 8. Folder 6. Friedeman, Inge, 1981 March  
Box 8. Folder 7. Friedenberg, Emmy, 1981 March 25  
Box 8. Folder 8. Geisel, Albert, 1981 April 28  
Box 8. Folder 9. Goldberg, Inge, 1981 March 30  
Box 8. Folder 10. Gray, Mr. and Mrs., 1981 February 28  
Box 9. Folder 1. Haas, Adolph, 1980 December 10  
Box 9. Folder 2. Haas, Henry, 1980 December  
Box 9. Folder 3. Hart, Henny, 1980 December 22  
Box 9. Folder 4. Hattenbach, Walter, 1982 July 24  
Box 9. Folder 5. Heiman, Paul, 1982 May 25  
Box 9. Folder 6. Hertzman, Madeline, 1980 December  
Box 9. Folder 7. Kaelter, Else, 1982 May 5  
Box 9. Folder 8. Kahn, Else, 1982 April 20  
Box 9. Folder 9. Kahn, Ernest, 1982 March 31  
Box 9. Folder 10. Kahn, John, 1982 February 7  
Box 9. Folder 11. Kahn, Ralph, 1982 March 24  
Box 9. Folder 12. Knapp, Judy Ann, 1981 January 30  
Box 9. Folder 13. Koplowitz, Ruth, 1980 December 25  
Box 9. Folder 14. Kramer, Leo, 1980 December 12  
Box 9. Folder 15. Kropfeld, Ruth, undated  
Box 9. Folder 16. Kwiatek, Lottie, January 7, ?  
Box 10. Folder 1. Lahm, Barbara, 1981 April 23  
Box 10. Folder 2. Leiter, Lotte, 1981 September 23  
Box 10. Folder 3. Lichtenberg, Hilda, 1981 January 15  
Box 10. Folder 4. Maier, Irma, 1982 January 7  
Box 10. Folder 5. Margolis, Bea, 1982 July 29  
Box 10. Folder 6. Megel, Ellie, undated  
Box 10. Folder 7. Mosse, Henry, 1981 June 1  
Box 10. Folder 8. Mott, Jeanette, 1980 November 18  
Box 10. Folder 9. Neiger, James, undated  
Box 10. Folder 10. Oppenheimer, Jules, undated  
Box 10. Folder 11. Peerless, Miriam, 1981 September 16  
Box 10. Folder 12. Pressman, Marianne, 1982 July 15  
Box 10. Folder 13. Raunheim, Lotte, 1981 April 1

Box 10. Folder 14. Rothfeld, Edmond, 1981 May 17  
Box 10. Folder 15. Rothschild, Hilda, undated  
Box 11. Folder 1. Schaal, Lillie, 1981 June 19  
Box 11. Folder 2. Seelig, Mrs. Alfred, 1981 February 12  
Box 11. Folder 3. Spiegel, Anne, 1981 May 12  
Box 11. Folder 4. Sternweikler, Rudy, 1981 May 14  
Box 11. Folder 5. Straus, John and Marga, 1981 January 19  
Box 11. Folder 6. Susskind, Eugenia, April 13, ?  
Box 11. Folder 7. Swenty, Fred, 1980 December 11  
Box 11. Folder 8. Tauber, Ruth, May 14, ?  
Box 11. Folder 9. Tattmar, Paula, June 26, ?  
Box 11. Folder 10. Weisbacher, Kurt, 1982 May 11  
Box 11. Folder 11. Weiser, Rocky, 1981 April 21  
Box 11. Folder 12. Wise, Richard, 1981 January 12  
Box 11. Folder 13. Wohl, Rosie, 1981 January 6  
Box 11. Folder 14. Wolf, Henny, 1981 March 24  
Box 11. Folder 15. Wolf, Herbert, 1981 May 12  
Box 11. Folder 16. Wolf, Ursula, 1981 February 6  
Box 11. Folder 17. Summaries of interviews.  
Box 11. Folder 18. Kraut indexes.

## **Series E. Interviews, 1982-1984, undated**

**Scope and Content Note** The recordings in this series include interviews with Harold Silberman, Leo Teitz, Ruth Kaplowitz, Eugenia Susskind, Rabbi Manfred Rabenstein and others on the subject of the New Hope Congregation. One of the tapes, though not an interview, is of particular interest. It is a lecture delivered by Benny Kraut at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati titled "Ambiguities of an Ethnic Immigrant Synagogue: New Hope Congregation."

### **Box and Folder Listing**

Item C-4537. Silberman, Harold, 1983 July 4  
Item C-4538. Petuchowski, Jacob. First of two tapes, 1983 March 7  
Item C-4539. Petuchowski, Jacob. Second of two tapes, 1983 March 7  
Item C-4540. Koplowitz, Ruth, 1983 February 16  
Item C-4541. Koplowitz, Ruth. Regarding play written in 1940, 1983 March 5  
Item C-4542. Susskind, Eugenia, 1983 July 4  
Item C-4543. Kahn, Ernst, 1983 March 15  
Item C-4544. Kahn, Ernst, 1983 June 30  
Item C-4545. Rabenstein, Manfred, 1983 March 7  
Item C-4546. Susskind, Stuart, 1983 July 8  
Item C-4547. Cohen, Getzel (?), 1983 June 14

Item C-4548. Scheibe, Edith, 1983 July 7

Item C-4549. Tidich, Rabbi, 1983 June 30

Item C-4550. Teitz, undated

Item C-4551. Teitz, Questions for Dr. Eric.

Item C-4552. Schottenfels, Gerry. First of two tapes, 1983 February 16

Item C-4553. Schottenfels, Gerry. Second of two tapes, 1983 February 16

Item C-4554. Unknown, 1982 June 7

Item C-4555. Rabenstein, Bene, undated

Item C-4556. Kraut, Benny. Lecture, Hebrew Union College. "Ambiguities of an Ethnic Immigrant Synagogue: New Hope Congregation.", 1983 April 20

Item C-4557. Rabenstein, Arno, 1984 March 4

Item C-4558. Appel, Les, 1983 July 7

Item C-4559. Rabenstein, Arno, 1984 May 3

Item C-4560. Teitz, Ms (?), 1983 July 3