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

Manuscript Collection No. 766
Collection Summary

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

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

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 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
Box 2. Folder 11. Refugee agencies, 1943-1950

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 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 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 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 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 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 3. Sisterhood meeting minutes and correspondence, 1941-1948
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 7. Burger, Dorothea May (Mrs. Max), 1981 January 30
Box 7. Folder 10. Deutsch, Siegfried, 1981 March 18
Box 7. Folder 12. DeWald, Oscar, 1981 August 1
Box 7. Folder 13. Docter, Doris, 1982 April 1
Box 7. Folder 15. Eichelberg, Hugo, 1982 March 1
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-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