Guide to the Campus Records of the American Jewish University Archives (Institutional Records)

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Guide to the Campus Records of
the American Jewish University
Archives (Institutional Records)

Collection number: CaLaAJUL1_2

American Jewish University
Bel-Air, CA 90077

Date Completed:
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Descriptive Summary
Identifier/Call Number: CaLaAJUL1_2
Title: Campuses, American Jewish University Archives (Institutional Records)
Date (inclusive): 1948-2014 inclusive
Collector: American Jewish University; University of Judaism; Brandeis-Bardin Institute (Brandeis, Simi Valley, Calif.)
Repository: University Archives and Ostrow Library, American Jewish University
15600 Mulholland Dr.
Bel-Air, California 90077

Extent: 1 Box
Location: Physical files are housed at the Ostrow Library of the American Jewish University.
Abstract: The records in this series include materials related to the various campuses that have housed the University since 1948. The University's first year in 1947 took place in classrooms at Sinai Temple. Starting from 1948, the campuses included 612 South Ardmore Avenue, 6525 Sunset Blvd., and 15600 Mulholland Drive. Subseries in this collection include the South Ardmore Avenue Campus, Sunset Blvd. Campus, 15600 Mulholland Drive: The Familian Campus (FC), and the Brandeis-Bardin Campus.

Language: Materials are in English and Hebrew

Administrative Information
Access:
This collection is open for research with permission from the Ostrow Library staff. Contact the Archive (sivanst3@gmail.com) or the Library (library@aju.edu).

Accruals:
Additions to this collection may be transferred regularly.

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Preferred Citation:
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Acquisition Information:
Collected by various members of the American Jewish University.

Scope and Content:
The records in this series include materials related to the various campuses that have housed the University since 1948. The University's first year in 1947 took place in classrooms at Sinai Temple. Starting from 1948, the campuses included 612 South Ardmore Avenue, 6525 Sunset Blvd., and 15600 Mulholland Drive. Subseries in this collection include the South Ardmore Avenue Campus, Sunset Blvd. Campus, 15600 Mulholland Drive: The Familian Campus (FC), and the
Brandeis-Bardin Campus.
The American Jewish University Archive is a collection of documents, pamphlets, recordings, letters, publications, photographs, scrapbooks, and ephemera that document the history of the University of Judaism and the Brandeis-Bardin Institute which merged to become American Jewish University in 2007, depicting people, places and events at both campuses.

**Organization:**
The collection is organized in 4 sub-series.

**II. Campuses: 1948-2014**
- Subseries 1. South Ardmore Avenue Campus
- Subseries 2. Sunset Blvd. Campus
- Subseries 3. 15600 Mulholland Drive: The Familian Campus (FC)
- Subseries 4. Brandeis-Bardin Campus

**American Jewish University:**
The American Jewish University, with its Familian campus in Bel Air, California and Brandeis-Bardin campus in Simi Valley, California, is the outcome of the 2007 union of Brandeis-Bardin Institute (BBI) and the University of Judaism (UJ).

In 1947, the University of Judaism was founded in Los Angeles, the vision of Dr. Mordecai Kaplan, the author of Judaism as a Civilization, who advocated the creation of an educational institution incorporating diverse elements of Jewish civilization and culture under one roof. To carry out his dream, he received the support of the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York and the Bureau of Jewish Education of Los Angeles.

Six years earlier, BCI was founded by Dr. Shlomo Bardin to safeguard against assimilation of young American Jews by making “the great ethical heritage of Judaism” relevant to them. Brandeis Camp Institute was named to honor our nation’s first Jewish Supreme Court Justice, Louis D. Brandeis, who was instrumental as the visionary and primary funder of Dr. Bardin’s initial programmatic endeavor. BBI was located for brief periods of time in Amherst, NH, Winterdale, PA and Hendersonville, NC before finding its home in 1947 in Simi Valley.

For more information, please see our history page at the following link: [http://aboutus.aju.edu/default.aspx?id=4742](http://aboutus.aju.edu/default.aspx?id=4742).

**The Bel and Jack M. Ostrow Academic Library:**
The Ostrow Library, is designed to meet the needs of the University’s faculty and students, as well as scholars conducting research in all fields of Jewish culture and civilization. Members of the general public are also invited to use the Library’s materials for personal enrichment and enjoyment. With approximately 110,000 print volumes, the library’s collections have grown consistently through endowments, gifts of major private collections and an ongoing acquisition program.

**The Burton Sperber Memorial Jewish Community Library of Los Angeles:**
The Burton Sperber Jewish Community Library at American Jewish University now serves as the official Jewish Community Library of Los Angeles. This new library succeeds the original Peter M. Kahn Jewish Community Library that was formerly housed at the Los Angeles Jewish Federation. Dedicated by his family in memory of noted Los Angeles philanthropist and landscape developer Burton Sperber, this library welcomes the entire Los Angeles Jewish community to enjoy its state-of-the-art facility including regularly scheduled programs for children and families as well as author and other literary encounters.

**The Lowy-Winkler Family Rare Book Center:**
The Lowy-Winkler Family Rare Book Center, a gift of Peter and Janine Lowy, is home to the Maslan Bible Collection. This unusual assemblage of exceptional volumes includes approximately 4,000 Bibles, some dating back almost to the inception of the printing press. This collection also features bible translations representing most of the written languages of the world, as well as the Kalman-Friedman Collection of Italian Judaica.

**The University Archives:**
The University Archives of the American Jewish University is a collection of documents, pamphlets, recordings, letters, publications, photographs, scrapbooks, and ephemera that document the history of the University of Judaism and the Brandeis-Bardin Institute which merged to become American Jewish University in 2007, depicting people, places and events at both campuses.

**Photograph and Digital Archive:**
The American Jewish University Digital Archive includes photographs, scrapbooks, and ephemera that document the history of the University of Judaism and the Brandeis-Bardin Institute which merged to become American Jewish University in 2007, depicting people, places and events at both campuses. These photographs include great Jewish thinkers who founded AJU and were involved with its growth over the years. The creation of both
institutions was made possible by philanthropists to whom we owe the building of University of Judaism and the Brandeis-Bardin Institute.

**Audio-Visual Archive:**

The American Jewish University Audio-Visual Archive is a collection of audio-visual records of lectures, shows, and events taking place at or produced by the American Jewish University (formerly University of Judaism and Brandeis-Bardin Institute) over the years.

**Louis Shub Documentation Center:**

The Louis Shub Documentation Center at the American Jewish University is a collection of thousands of articles from various newspapers and periodicals covering a range of subjects. Gathered by Dr. Shub, the former library director of the University of Judaism, the collection was used by students to research subjects such as Israeli and Jewish figures, Foreign Policy, Global Jewish Communities, Israel, the Middle East and many other issues and subjects. The importance of this collection is the juxtaposing of articles from major papers with those of small local papers both covering the same event. The finding aid to the collection can be viewed at: [http://www.oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/c85h7jcf/](http://www.oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/c85h7jcf/)

**Subjects:**

**Note**

(Library of Congress Subject Headings)

**Personal and Corporate Names:**

American Jewish University

Brandeis-Bardin Institute (Brandeis, Simi Valley, Calif.)

University of Judaism

Camp Ramah.

Women's League for Conservative Judaism

United Synagogue of America.

Jewish Theological Seminary of America.

National Women's League

University Women of the University of Judaism

Sinai Temple (Los Angeles, Calif.)

Shub, Louis

Lieber, David L.

Greenberg, Simon, 1901-

Wexler, Robert

Turner, Justin G.

Figelman, Julius, 1895-1980

Heschel, Abraham Joshua, 1907-1972

Kohn, Jacob, 1881-1968

Swig, Benjamin Harrison, 1893-1980

Pressman, Jacob;

Kaplan, Mordecai Menahem, 1881-1983

Finkelstein, Louis, 1895-1991

Levine, Sid

Wise, Aaron M.

Vorspan, Max

Zemach, Benjamin

Helfman, Max

Warren, Earl, 1891-1974

Eisenshtat, Sidney, 1914-2005

Gindi, Elie M.

Bergman, Martin
Jospe, Erwin
Alexander, Hanan A., 1953-
Bradley, Tom, 1917-1998
Dorff, Elliot N.
Cohen, Gerson D. (Gerson David), 1924-
Dortort, David
Goodhill, Victor, 1911-
Gordis, David M.
Schulweis, Harold M.
Glass, Judith
Ray, Eric
Krems, Nathan
Ackerman, Walter I.
Kahn, Peter M., 1878- [from old catalog]
Gordis, Robert, 1908-
Wolfson, Ron
Cohen, Aryeh
Oppenheim, Lois Hecht
Schary, Dore
Zevit, Ziony
Familian, Isadore
Seewack, Benjamin
Ostrow, Jack
Ostrow, Bel
Easton, Harold

Subjects and Indexing Terms

General Subjects:
Judaism.
Zionism and Judaism.
Israel.
Education.
College presidents.
Jewish college presidents
Rabbis.
Philanthropists
Scholars.
Art.
Patrons of education
Board of directors--United States.
College administrators
Libraries.
Jewish artists
Jewish college teachers
Authors.
Faculty, University
Women.
Musicians
College campuses.
Guide to the Campus Records of the American Jewish University Archives (Institutional Records)
| Box 10, folder 2 | A: **Memorandums and Correspondences 1954-1975**  
Scope and Content Note  
Includes a memorandum of a conversation between Milton Sperling and Simon Greenberg (1954-07-08), and cafeteria conditions agreements and memos between the University and Ahuva Suberi. |
| Box 10, folder 2 | B: **Minutes of Meeting of House Committee 1966**  
Scope and Content Note  
| Box 10, folder 2 | C: **News Clippings 1958-1979** |
| Box 10 | Subseries: 3:  
**15600 Mulholland Drive: The Familian Campus (FC)1966-2014**  
Physical Description: 1 Box  
Scope and Content Note  
This subseries contains materials related to the Familian campus in Bel Air at 15600 Mulholland Drive. It includes records related to construction of the campus, the Building Committee, the Greater University of Judaism Committee, various buildings on campus, dedications and events held.  
**Historical Note:** American Jewish University’s home since 1977, the Familian Campus is set atop a rustic mountain range, and spread over 27-acres in one of Los Angeles’ most desirable neighborhoods. Master-planned by Sidney Eisenshtat, this unique location offers impressive panoramic views of the San Fernando Valley.  
| A: **Construction1966-1983**  
Physical Description: 2 Folders  
| Box 10, folder 3 | 1: **Office of Zoning Administration, Correspondence1966-1981**  
| Box 10, folder 4 | 2: **Addendums and Agreements 1976-1983**  
| Box 10, folder 5 | B: **Building Committee1966-1978**  
Abstract: Contains materials related to the Building Committee, under the chairmanship of Matthew Berman, which was in charge of seeking prospective sites and acquisition of the new campus. Members include Jack Gindi, Isadore Familian, Frank Horny, Abraham Spiegel, Justin Turner, Milton Whitebrook, Arthur Whizin, Max Zimmer, Max Vorspan, David Lieber, Nathan Krems, Jerry Fine, Jack Ostrow, and more. |
| Box 10, folder 5 | 1: **Member Lists**  
| Box 10, folder 5 | 2: **Meeting Minutes 1966-1967**  
| Box 10, folder 5 | 3: **Correspondence 1967-1977**  
| Box 10, folder 5 | 4: **Budgets1967-1973**  
| Box 10, folder 5 | 5: **News Clippings1966-1978**  
| Box 10, folder 5 | 6: **Site Plan**  
| Box 10, folder 5 | C: **The Greater University of Judaism Committee1970-1977**  
Physical Description: 1 Folder  
Scope and Content Note  
Box 10, folder 6  
1: **Campaigning Materials 1975**  
Scope and Content Note  
Includes a letter from Benjamin Seewack; Samuel Fryer Administration Building Funding Opportunities Booklet; The Gifts: A Handbook for Volunteers; and a booklet for Opportunities for Funding Educational Programs Endowments and Facilities in the First Building to be Constructed on the New University Campus.

Box 10, folder 6  
1. **Invitation to Convocation inaugrating the program of the Greater University of Judaism 1970-12-13**  
2. **30th Anniversary Dinner, Dore Schary Speaker 1977**  
3. **Invitation to Celebration of Three Generations and Groundbreaking of the new Administration Building 1980-03-30**

Box 10, folder 6  
3: **News Clippings 1970-1977**

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D: **Campus Buildings 1978-2014**

Scope and Content Note  
Includes materials related to various buildings on the Familian Campus, including Bergman Chapel, Samuel A. Fryer Administration Building, the Residence Halls, and the Mikveh.

Box 10, folder 7  
1: **Bergman Chapel 1978-1994**  
Scope and Content Note  
Includes the records of the Chapel Committee, chaired by Milton Whitebook, floor plans by Joseph Young, and a 1994 news release about High Holy Days services.

Box 10, folder 8  
2: **Samuel A. Fryer Administration Building 1978**  
Scope and Content Note  
Includes News Clippings.

Box 10, folder 9-10  
3: **Residence Halls 1981-2014**  

a. **Building Correspondence 1981-05-18**  
Scope and Content Note  
Correspondence between David Lieber and City Council.

b. **Promotional Materials**  
Scope and Content Note  
Housing and Residential Life Brochures, Gift Opportunities and Endowment Booklet.

c. **News Releases and Clippings 1990-11**  
Scope and Content Note  
News releases and clippings. Subjects include Joyce and Melvin Eisenberg-Keefer's gift to name residence hall.

d. **Housing and Residence Life Department 1985-2014**  
1. **Residence Life Handbooks and Calendars 1986-1999**  
3. **Campus Safety Pamphlet 2014**

Box 10, folder 10  
4: **The Mikveh 1988**  
Scope and Content Note  
News Clippings.
D: **Dedications1968-1987**

Physical Description: 5 Folders

Scope and Content Note
Includes materials related to dedications of various buildings on the Familian Campus, including groundbreaking ceremonies, dedications of the Fingerhut Academic Building, the Synagogue, the Ziegler Administration Building, and more.

Box 10, folder 12

1: **Photographs Taken of Guests at New Site1968-04-07**

Scope and Content Note
Guest List

2: **Groundbreaking Ceremonies and 23rd Commencement Exercises1973-06-03**

Location: Please see University Events and Ceremonies--Commencement and Class Day Ceremonies--1973 Groundbreaking Ceremony and 23rd Commencement (Box 11, folder 6)

Box 10, folder 13

3: **Preview Dedications on UJ Campus, Temple Beth El1977-07-22**

Scope and Content Note
News Clippings.

Box 10, folder 13

4: **Dedication of the Familian Campus and Consecration of the Fingerhut Academic Building on the Gindi Plaza1977-10-16**

a. Invitation, Program, and Program Drafts
b. Committee and Participant Lists
c. Rabbi David Gordis notes and program
d. Correspondence 1977-09

Scope and Content Note
From/To David Gordis, Max Vorspan, and Emanuel Forster.

e. News Clippings
f. Oversized Materials 1977-10-12

Location: Location: (Oversized Material)
Scope and Content Note
Resolution Certificate, Commending the UJ, by Herschel Rosenthal, California State Assembly

Box 10, folder 14

5: **A Day of Dedication1978-12-17;**

Scope and Content Note
Program and News Clippings.

6: **Groundbreaking of the New Administration Building1980-03-30;**

Location: Greater University of Judaism Committee Folder (Box 10, folder 6)

Box 10, folder 14

7: **Dedication of the Synagogue1981-05-17;**

Scope and Content Note
Program, Schedule, and Correspondence from Max Vorspan to various participants.

Box 10, folder 15

8: **Dedication of the Ruth and Allen Ziegler Administration Building1982-03-28**

Scope and Content Note
Invitation, Program, Certificates, and Photographs.
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