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## **Guide to the Fine Arts Department Records, Academic Departments and Schools, American Jewish University Archives (Institutional Records)**

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## Fine Arts Department, Academic Departments and Schools, American Jewish University Archives (Institutional Records)

### Collection number: CaLaAJUL1\_8

American Jewish University  
Bel-Air, CA 90077

Date Completed:

2014

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American Jewish University Archives

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### Descriptive Summary

**Identifier/Call Number:** CaLaAJUL1\_8

**Title:** Fine Arts Department, Academic Departments and Schools, American Jewish University Archives (Institutional Records)

**Date (inclusive):** 1953-1960 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 Folder (Box 16)

**Location:** Physical files are housed at the Ostrow Library of the American Jewish University.

**Abstract:** The records in this series contain materials related to the Fine Arts Department and Committee, while it was under the School of Education and the University Institute, and before it became the School of Fine Arts.

**Language:** Materials are in English and Hebrew

### Administrative Information

#### Access:

This collection is open for research with permission from the Ostrow Library staff. Some materials may be restricted. Contact the Archive (sivanst3@gmail.com) or the Library (library@aju.edu).

#### Accruals:

Additions to this collection may be transferred regularly.

#### Rights:

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#### Preferred Citation:

[Identification of item], Fine Arts Department, Academic Departments and Schools, Guide to the American Jewish University Archive, American Jewish University, Bel-Air, CA 90077.

#### Acquisition Information:

Collected by various members of the American Jewish University.

#### Scope and Content:

The records in this series contain materials related to the Fine Arts Department and Committee, while it was under the School of Education and the University Institute, and before it became the School of Fine Arts.

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

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Institute which merged to become American Jewish University in 2007, depicting people, places and events at both campuses.

**Organization:**

The collection is part of Series 5: Academic Departments and Schools. It is organized in 4 sub-series.

V. Academic Departments and Schools: 1947-2014

4. Fine Arts Department 1953-1960

Subseries 1. Promotional Materials

Subseries 2. Drama Department and the Theatre Arts Committee

Subseries 3. The Music Department and Committee

Subseries 4. News Clippings

**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> .

**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.

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**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/>

**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.  
Fligelman, 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-

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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.

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1. Promotional Materials 1954-1960

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Box 16

**Subseries: 5.4:**

**Fine Arts Department 1953-1960**

**Physical Description:** 1 Folder

**Related Materials:** For materials on the **School of Fine Arts (1961-1972)**, see Box 16.

**Related Materials:** For materials on the **Fine Arts Program (1973-)**, see Box 15.

**Related Materials:** For materials on the **Museum**, see Box 22.

**Scope and Content Note**

This subseries contains materials related to the Fine Arts Department and Committee, while it was under the **School of Education** and the **University Institute**, and before it became the **School of Fine Arts**.

**Variant Names:** Fine Arts Program; Fine Arts Committee.

**Biography/Organization History**

**Historical Note:** From 1949, originally under the School of Education and the University Institute, the Fine Arts Department/Program offered courses in drama, dance, music, and annually presented public performances utilizing the creative talents of Jewish artists and writers. It was first headed by Benjamin Zemach, and Max Helfman joined in the early 60s and later became the Dean of the School of Fine Arts. At the Ardmore Campus and the Sunset Campus, Zemach directed a theater and dance company that put on many successful shows. In 1953, for example, the University's Production and the Concert of Jewish Music attracted a total audience of 3,000 people and was hailed by public and critic alike. The **Fine Arts Committee** (also known as the Museum and Art Committee by 1960) sponsored public presentations, the Art Gallery, the Museum, and more. From 1958 it was chaired by Mrs. Rose (Maurice) Turner. There was also a **Theatre Arts Committee** (Chaired by Mrs. Samuel P. Shapiro, co-chair Mrs. Max Laemmle, and under the guidance of Benjamin Zemach), and the **Music Committee** (Founded in 1959, Chairman Mr. Edward Robbins and co-chair Mrs. Felix Selner). In 1961, this department became the **School of Fine Arts**.

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Box 16, folder 1

1. **Promotional Materials 1954-1960**

**Scope and Content Note**

Includes a pamphlet for "Courses in Dance, Drama and Music" during the 1954-1955 semester. Also includes a report and description on the Fine Arts Department and its Committees and programs by Samuel Dinin, 1960-02.

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Box 16, folder 1

2. **Drama Department and the Theatre Arts Committee 1953-1960**

**Scope and Content Note**

Includes promotional material for the "Three One-Act Plays", directed by Benjamin Zemach, Sets by Moi Solotaroff, and music by Gershon Kingsley on 1953-01-18. The plays included "Pioneer From Peoria" by Alan Marcus, "The Grand Prize" by Sholem Aleichem, and "Pity for the Blind" by Alan Marcus. Other materials include news clippings on "Jewish Life as Mirrored in the Arts", Three Theatre Arts Productions by Benjamin Zemach in 1960 and other productions.

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Box 16, folder 1

3. **The Music Department and Committee 1960** 

**Additional Location:** (Poster in Oversized Materials)

**Scope and Content Note**

Includes materials on the Ernest Bloch Music Festival Concerts (1960) including news clippings and a Poster. The festival included three Memorial Concerts under the musical direction of Maurice Goldman.

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Box 16, folder 1

**4. News Clippings1960**

**Scope and Content Note**

Includes general news clippings regarding the Fine Arts Department, with titles such as "UJ Expands Drama and Music Department Work" and more.