



THOMAS & KATHERINE DETRE LIBRARY & ARCHIVES TREASURES

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A Tradition of Giving: The Story of Jewish Philanthropy in Pittsburgh —An online exhibition

In 1916, Anna Spiegel Reingold and her friend, Sarah Rosenberg Norwick, posed for a photograph during an assembly for the Young People's Zionist League. Dressed in white and wearing the league's uniform cap, the young women were part of an active Zionist movement in Pittsburgh that engaged many of the city's Jewish youth and raised money and awareness for a Jewish homeland in Palestine. Anna Spiegel Reingold's daughter, Bunny Morris, saved that photo and recently donated it to the Rauh Jewish Archives at the Heinz History Center, where it will be included in www.jewishhistoryhmc.org, a new online exhibition.

This website draws from the photos, personal papers, and records of businesses, organizations, and synagogues, all of which have been collected by the Rauh Jewish Archives since it was founded in 1989. Its mission it is to collect, preserve, and make accessible the documentary history of the Jews of this region. These collections range in size and scope, from more than 200 linear feet of records of the United Jewish Federation of Pittsburgh to small family collections such as that of the Reingold family, of which Anna Spiegel Reingold's photograph is a part.

For more than a year, the Rauh Jewish Archives staff has surveyed the collections, identified and digitized archival material, written captions, and organized the content

in chronological order. This digital timeline exhibit tells how the Jewish tradition of *tzedakah*, of giving to help others, shaped the community's response in meeting the changing needs of Jews in Pittsburgh and in Jewish communities in other parts of the world. The website showcases more than 400 digitized archival photos and documents as well as excerpts from oral histories. The site also includes a chronology of events in Western Pennsylvania and throughout the world, creating a broader context for the story.

Visitors to the website will learn that the Young People's Zionist League began meeting in 1916, the same year Anna Spiegel Reingold's photograph was taken. While World War I raged in Europe, this was a time of labor unrest in Pittsburgh. The Hebrew Institute opened in Pittsburgh's Hill District that year to provide supplemental Jewish education to immigrant children, and a local chapter of Hadassah, a women's Zionist organization, was organized. Photographs and documents from these organizations are featured on the website.

For those interested in learning more about the Young Peoples' Zionist League, the Hebrew Institute, Hadassah, or many of the other institutions and organizations featured on the website, there are finding aids (descriptions) of related archival collections at the Heinz History Center included on their pages. Throughout the website, items from

Anna Spiegel Reingold and Sarah Rosenberg Norwick at an assembly for the Young People's Zionist League, 1916.

HHC L&A, Rauh Jewish Archives, Reingold Family Photographs.



various collections are brought together to further the narrative. As visitors navigate the exhibit, they will become aware of the depth and breadth of the Rauh Jewish Archives.

Designed as a resource for research, the website also serves as a portal to other institutions and websites that hold local Jewish materials such as the *Pittsburgh Jewish Newspaper Project*; *Pittsburgh and Beyond: The Experience of the Jewish Community*; *Historic Pittsburgh*; Rodef Shalom Congregation Archives; the University of Pittsburgh Archives Service Center; the American Jewish Archives; and the Library of Congress. An education page

will host curriculum materials for teaching the history of the Pittsburgh Jewish community to students from upper elementary through high school. All Rauh Jewish Archives collections are available in the reading room of the Library and Archives at the Heinz History Center.

The website was underwritten by the J. Samuel and Rose Y. Cox Foundation through PNC Charitable Trust, the Simon Hafner Charitable Foundation through PNC Charitable Trust, and the Heinz History Center. www.jewishhistoryhchc.org.

The Library & Archives collects materials related to the history and culture of Western Pennsylvania. The Reading Room, located on the sixth floor of the Heinz History Center, is open Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Search the L&A catalog at <http://207.67.203.74/S92015Staff/OPAC/Index.asp>.



A teacher reads to a kindergarten class at the Hebrew Institute, c.1955.

HHC L&A, Rauh Jewish Archives, Hebrew Institute of Pittsburgh Photographs, MSP512_B001_F002_110.

Members of Hadassah and other Zionist women march in Pittsburgh, 1918, to celebrate the end of World War I.

HHC L&A, Rauh Jewish Archives, Corinne Azen Krause Photographs.

