

Be Ri 19
2010.004.004

Cipora Schwartz Papers

By Deborah Popowski
2024

Edited by Sarah Kiefer 2025
(based on original finding aid by Claire Santoro, 2013)

Ridgewood Public Library: Bolger Heritage Center

Descriptive Summary:

Creator: Cipora Schwartz, continuing additions from other sources and the Bolger Heritage Center Staff

Title: Cipora Schwartz Collection

Dates: 1966-1996 (bulk, 1968-1976)

Quantity: 5 linear ft (5 mss. boxes)

Abstract: Cipora O. Schwartz is a former Ridgewood resident and author who has had notable impact on the community's civic life. She served in key roles in various local advocacy organizations, most notably Citizens Park Association (CPA), Van Neste Park Restoration Committee, Ridgewood Association for Good Schools (R.A.G.S.), and Best in Education for Ridgewood (BRIDGE). Author of How to Run a School Board Campaign and Win (1982), she ran election campaigns for numerous Ridgewood Board of Education candidates and participated in the Democratic primary campaigns for U.S. Senate candidate Andy McGuire in 1977 and 1982. Also active in cultural life, Schwartz served as Production Manager of Young Ridgewood Sings, a non-profit program to augment music education for the Ridgewood schools and community. Other published writings include articles, pamphlets, and An American Jewish Odyssey: American Religious Freedom and the Nathan Barnert Memorial Temple (2007), a book-length history of Congregation B'nai Jeshurun, the oldest Jewish congregation in New Jersey of which she is a lifetime trustee. Schwartz's collected papers at the Bolger Heritage Center span from 1966 to 1996. The bulk of the collection consists of organizational records for the civic groups in which she was active, as well as records and materials related to the Ridgewood Board of Education campaigns she managed.

Collection No.: Be Ri 19

Language: English

Repository: Ridgewood Public Library: Bolger Heritage Center
Cipora O. Schwartz History (1934-)

Cipora Odentz Schwartz was born in Tel Aviv, British Palestine Mandate (now Israel), on July 13, 1934. As a young child, her family moved to the small village of Chitre, Panama, where they lived until their immigration to the United States in 1946. Schwartz studied fine arts at Columbia University and would go on to further studies in political science and public administration. In 1949, she married Philip C. Schwartz from Paterson, New Jersey.

Personal Names

Auchincloss, Katharine Lawrence (Laurie) (Mrs. Hugh) – CPA Co-Founder
Bradshaw, Mary (Mrs. Donald E.) – CPA
Clark, George W. – CPA, former Ridgewood Mayor
Clark, John E. – CPA, former BoE President
Earl, Donald B. (Don) – CPA Co-Founder, R.A.G.S. President
Gillespie, J. Stokes – West Side Kraft Corporation President
Hunter, Bob – BoE
Johnson, Philip M. – CPA
Kleiner, Robert – CPA
Kulp, J. Laurence (Larry) – CPA Co-Founder, BoE President
Macksoud, Edward J. – CPA
Maguire, Andy
Mueller, Suzanne C. (Mrs. Carl J.) – CPA, Ridgewood Library Trustee
Nelson, Mrs. John – CPA
Packard, William A. – CPA
Reinauer, B. Franklin (II) – CPA, former Ridgewood Mayor
Rodman, Charles G. – CPA
Roukema, Margaret (Marge) (Mrs. Richard W.) – CPA
Schell, Robert K. – Ridgewood Mayor
Schott, Frank – CPA
Schutt, Rose Marie – BoE
Schwartz, Cipora Odentz
Schwartz, Philip C.
Smith, Frank – BoE
Smith, Richard F. – CPA
Terhune, Ralph – West Side Presbyterian Church
Vandervoort, Peter – West Side Presbyterian Church
Walstrum, William – CPA
Wiepert, Frederick (Jr.) – CPA

Corporate Names

BRIDGE (Best in Education for Ridgewood)
Citizens Park Association of Ridgewood (Citizens Park or CPA)
Ridgewood Association for Good Schools (R.A.G.S.)

Ridgewood Board of Education
Van Neste Park Restoration Committee
Young Ridgewood Sings

Subject Headings:
[add]

Scope and Content Note:

The collection measures 5 linear feet. The entire collection spans the years 1966 to 1996. The types of documents within the collection consist of manuscript notes, correspondence, meeting notes, meeting agendas, newsletters, program information, pamphlets, campaign materials, donor and contact lists newspaper clippings, blueprints, and photographs.

The collection has three (3) series: *Parks and Community Spaces Advocacy*; *Youth and Education Advocacy*; and *U.S. Senate Campaigns*. Within these three series are several subseries (see Arrangement Note below). The *Parks and Community Spaces Advocacy* series contains information relating to Cipora Schwartz's involvement in two local organizing efforts: the Citizens Park Association [CPA] and the Van Neste Park Restoration Committee. The *Youth and Education Advocacy* series contains information relating to Schwartz's work as a campaign consultant for school board candidates and to her involvement in three Ridgewood organizations: the Ridgewood Association for Good Schools (R.A.G.S.), Best in Education for Ridgewood (BRIDGE), and Young Ridgewood Sings. The *U.S. Senate Campaigns* series contains materials relating to her work supporting Andy Maguire's 1978 and 1982 campaigns for the U.S. Senate.

Arrangement Note:

The records of the Cipora Schwartz collection are arranged in the following three series and corresponding subseries:

- I. *Parks and Community Spaces Advocacy*, 1966-1996
 - A. Citizens Park Association, 1966-1986
 - B. Van Neste Park Restoration Committee, 1992-1996
- II. *Youth and Education Advocacy*, 1960-1982
 - A. Board of Education, 1967-1982
 - B. R.A.G.S.: Ridgewood Association for Good Schools, 1960-1973
 - C. BRIDGE: A Citizen's Action Committee, 1973-1975
 - D. Young Ridgewood Sings, 1963-1975, bulk 1971-1973
- III. *U.S. Senate Campaigns*, 1977-1982

Related Materials

For additional information and collections relating to Cipora Schwartz and the organizations whose activities are documented in this collection see:

LOCAL HISTORY REF 974.924 SCH – *An American Jewish Odyssey: American Religious Freedoms and the Nathan Barnert Memorial Temple* by Cipora O. Schwartz (2007)
LHA 379.1531 SCH RIDGEWOOD AUTHOR – *How to Run a School Board Campaign and Win* by Cipora O. Schwartz (c1982)

Be Ri 2.2 – Citizens Park

Be Ri 5 – West Side Presbyterian Church

- Including [2019.014.601](#)

Be Ri 35 David F. Bolger & the Bolger Foundation

- [Finding Aid](#)
- Series II.g.iv Lester Stable, 1977-1982
 - Box 1, Folder 27 Lester Stable, 1977-1982
- Series II.g.vi: Memorial Park at Van Neste Square, 2010
 - Box 2, Folder 21 Van Neste – Newspapers, 2000

Be Ri 2.2 Stable (Art Gallery)

Be Ri 2.2 Maple Park / Lester Stable

Be Ri 2.2 Maple Park 1993 [2009.007.001]

Be Ri 7.1 259 (No) Maple Ave “The Stable” [Rescue and renovation from the files of Ellie Gruber]

Be Ri 2.2 Van Neste

Be Ri 2.2 Van Neste Square

Be Ri 7.1 Van Neste Square

Be Ri 7.1 Van Neste Square - Opera House

Administrative Information:

Preferred Citation

Ridgewood Public Library: Bolger Heritage Center (Be Ri 19)

Container List:

This container list provides the title of the folders that are organized in the collection and their locations in the numbered boxes.

I. Parks and Community Spaces Advocacy, 1966-1996

Arrangement: Materials are arranged by topic or format. Within individual folders, materials are organized chronologically where date is known.

Summary: The materials in this series contain information on the Citizens Park Association (CPA) and the Van Neste Park Restoration Committee. The CPA was formed in 1968 by a group of residents seeking to expand public park land on the west side of Ridgewood. As the CPA's secretary and one of its core officers, Schwartz played an integral role in the organization's ultimate success at raising sufficient private funds to purchase from the West Side Presbyterian Church a 4.5 acre portion of the Kraft property at the intersection of Godwin Avenue and Monroe Street, which CPA then deeded to the Village to be used as a park in perpetuity. The CPA remained in existence even after achieving this primary goal and was involved in other efforts, including the restoration of Lester Stable (1976-1980). Decades following her CPA advocacy, Schwartz applied her fundraising expertise to the restoration and improvement of Van Neste Park by serving on the Van Neste Park Restoration Committee, an organization formed in 1990 by local residents in partnership with town merchants and village officials. The folders contain legal documents, organizational bylaws, plans, maps, blueprints, sketches, photographs, news clippings, published materials such as newsletters, event programs, and fundraising letters, and internal organizational records, such as correspondence, meeting minutes, member and donor lists.

A. Citizens Park Association, 1966-1986

Box	Folder	
1	1	Legal documents, 1968-1985
1	2	Bylaws, 1968
1	3	Meeting records, 1968-1984
1	4	Meeting records (compilations), 1968-1976
1	5	Correspondence, 1968-1986
1	6	Plans, maps, and photos, 1968-1977

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1	7	Ceremonies, 1969-1971
1	8	Press coverage, 1968-1979, bulk 1968
1	9	Fundraising materials and press coverage, circa 1968
1	10	Donor lists, 1967-1968
1	11	Fund drive, 1968
1	12	Fund drive, 1969-1973

Box	Folder	
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2	1	Plaque discussions and correspondence, 1968-1971
2	2	Plaque design, 1966-1971
2	3	Plaque donor names and correspondence, 1969 (A-H)
2	4	Plaque donor names and correspondence, 1969 (J-Z), 1971

B. Van Neste Park Restoration Committee, 1992-1996

Box	Folder	
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2	5	Committee records, 1992
2	6	Committee records, 1993-1996
2	7	Promotional and fundraising materials, 1993-1995
2	8	Drawings of named gift opportunities, 1992-1993

II. YOUTH AND EDUCATION ADVOCACY, 1960-1982

Arrangement: Materials are arranged by topic or format. Within individual folders, materials are usually arranged chronologically where date is known.

Summary: The materials in this series contains information on the Board of Education, specifically the expansion efforts, school reports, school studies and committees and various campaigns by board members. The folders contain reports, correspondence, newsletters, notes, and marketing materials.

A. Board of Education, 1967-1982

Box	Folder	
3	1	Ridgewood school expansion efforts, 1967-1968, 1971-1973
3	2	Ridgewood school reports, 1971-1978
3	3	Year-round school studies and committee, 1971-1972
3	4	Board of Education election procedures, 1968-1982
3	5	"How to Run a School Board Campaign and Win" book materials, undated
3	6	J. Laurence Kulp campaign, 1972
3	7	Bob Hunter campaign, 1974
3	8	Frank Smith campaigns, 1974, 1977
3	9	Rose Marie Schutt campaign, 1976

B. R.A.G.S. (Ridgewood Association for Good Schools), 1960-1973

Box	Folder	
4	1	Brochures and Alumni Information Committee, 1960-c1969
4	2	Internal records, 1966-1973
4	3	College correspondence (general; A-G), 1960-1961
4	4	College correspondence (H-Q), 1960-1961

4	5	College correspondence (R-Z), 1960-1961
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C. “BRIDGE” (Best in Education for Ridgewood), 1973-1975

Box	Folder	
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4	6	BRIDGE, 1973
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4	7	BRIDGE, 1974-1975
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D. Young Ridgewood Sings, 1963-1975, bulk 1971-1973

Box	Folder	
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5	1	Organizational records, 1963-1975
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5	2	Performance programs and tickets, 1972-1973
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III. U.S. Senate Campaigns, 1977-1982

Arrangement: Materials are arranged in chronological order.

Summary: The materials in this series contains campaign documentation for Senator Andy MaGuire. The materials consist of correspondence and reports.

Box	Folder	
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5	3	Andy Maguire Senate 1978 campaign, 1977-1978
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5	4	Andy Maguire Senate 1982 campaign, 1982
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5	5	Committee on the Deficit, Andy Maguire Senate 1982 campaign, 1982
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