WHAT IS THE SHAVZIN-CARSCH COLLECTION?
It is a major collection of historically significant books of Jewish content written for children and teens. The collection is named for Bess Shavzin and Judith Carsch, who served consecutively as Wise Temple’s librarians for 49 years—from 1950 until 1999.

WHY IS THE SHAVZIN-CARSCH COLLECTION IMPORTANT?
While there are many special collections of children’s literature highlighting the experiences of varied cultures, locales, and time periods, the Shavzin-Carsch Collection is unique in its focus on children’s literature of Jewish content. Teachers, librarians, and researchers interested in historical trends in Jewish children’s literature on subjects such as immigration to America, the Holocaust, family life, religious teachings, acculturation and identity, Israel, prejudice and anti-Semitism, or in the works of particular authors and illustrators, or in changing styles of writing and illustration for children, will find the materials in the Shavzin-Carsch Collection to be valuable sources.

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE COLLECTION?
Books of Jewish content for children and teens, written in or translated into English, published from the late 19th century into the 1960s, make up this collection. These materials include textbooks and educational material published for students in Jewish religious schools.

WHO MAY USE THE COLLECTION?
The Collection is open to all researchers, with the caveat that its use is confined to the main reading room of the Ralph and Julia Cohen Library of the Isaac M. Wise Temple, Cincinnati, Ohio. The Cohen Library is one of the largest synagogue libraries in North America. It contains over 21,000 items in all areas of Judaica. Hundreds of new titles are added each year.

The holdings of the collection can be viewed at the www.wisetemple.org website by clicking on the Ralph and Julia Cohen Library tab, then on the Shavzin-Carsch Collection link.