



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE  
**AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES**

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**A Finding Aid to the  
George Zepin Papers**

**Manuscript Collection No. 50**



## Collection Summary

<b>Title</b>	George Zepin Papers
<b>Dates</b>	1914-1961
<b>Collection Number</b>	MS-50
<b>Repository</b>	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
<b>Creator</b>	Zepin, George, 1878-1963
<b>Extent</b>	1.6 linear feet (4 Hollinger boxes)
<b>Language of the Material</b>	English

## Administrative Information

### Biographical Sketch

George Zepin was born in Kiev, Russia on June 8, 1878, the son of Otto and Hannah Zepin. He was brought to the United States in 1882. In 1900 he graduated from the University of Cincinnati and was ordained at the Hebrew Union College.

Zepin began his rabbinical career by serving as a rabbi in Kalamazoo, Michigan from 1900 to 1903. In 1903 he was appointed to the newly-created position of Field Secretary of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC). In this capacity, Zepin traveled throughout the United States bringing Reform Judaism and the UAHC to small towns and bringing information about American Jews and Jewish congregations to the UAHC. In 1905 Zepin was appointed as the first director of the UAHC Department of Synagogue and School Extension. He resigned from this position in 1906 and then spent one year as superintendent of the Jewish Social Agencies in Chicago and one year as rabbi of Congregation Beth El in Fort Worth, Texas. While in Fort Worth he also served as Commissioner of Charities for the city. In 1910 Zepin was re-appointed Director of the Department of Synagogue and School Extension. He maintained this position until 1917, when he became the secretary of the UAHC.

As UAHC secretary Zepin was a constructive worker in the fields of Jewish religion and Jewish social service. He played a vital role both in the development of the UAHC and its Department of Synagogue and School Extension. He founded, wholly or in part, many of the UAHC departments and affiliates, such as the National Federation of Temple Brotherhoods and the National Federation of Temple Youth. Zepin served for a number of years as the Executive Secretary of the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods and the National Federation of Temple Brotherhoods.

In 1941 Zepin resigned as secretary of the UAHC. He was then appointed Honorary Secretary of the Union as well as secretary of the UAHC-CCAR Joint Committee on Rabbinical Pensions. In 1942 Hebrew Union College awarded Zepin the honorary degree of doctor of divinity.

In 1914 Zepin married Laura Lehman. Laura Zepin died in 1955. George Zepin died in 1963.

### Scope and Content

The collection outlines Zepin's career as a rabbi and as secretary of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. The bulk of the collection consists of sermons and addresses.

### Arrangement

Organized into two (2) series: A. General, 1914-1961; B. Sermons and Addresses.

### Terms of Access

The collection is open for use; no restrictions apply.

### Terms of Reproduction and Use

This collection has been placed in the permanent care, custody, and control of the American Jewish Archives (AJA) by the donors of the collection. Questions concerning rights to use or publish materials from the collection should be addressed to the Executive Director of the AJA. For more information, see the American Jewish Archives copyright information webpage.

### Preferred Citation

Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the George Zepin Papers and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-50. George Zepin Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

### Provenance

Received from the George Zepin estate, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1964.

## Processing Information

Processed by M. Carolyn Dellenbach, January 1979.

## Index Terms

**Subjects** Jews -- Ohio -- Cincinnati / Rabbis  
**Personal Names** Zepin, George, 1878-1963  
**Corporate Names** Union of American Hebrew Congregations  
**Media** Sermons

### Series A. General, 1914-1961

**Extent** 0.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box)

**Scope and Content Note** Consists of correspondence, biographical articles, a file concerning the UAHC-CCAR pension plan, outlines for articles, notes Zepin kept on many of his readings and miscellaneous material. Much of this material concerns Zepin's career after he resigned from the position of UAHC secretary in 1941.

#### Box and Folder Listing

- Box 1. Folder 1. Correspondence and personal memorabilia, 1914-1961
- Box 1. Folder 2. Biographical information and newspaper clippings, 1915-1947
- Box 1. Folder 3. Nearprint and addresses concerning the joint Central Conference of American Rabbis-Union of American Hebrew Congregations pension plan.
- Box 1. Folder 4-8. Notes, outlines for articles and miscellaneous material.
- Box 2. Folder 1. Union of American Hebrew Congregations, 1921-1936, undated

### Series B. Sermons and Addresses

**Extent** 1.2 linear feet (3 Hollinger boxes)

**Scope and Content Note** Contains transcripts, manuscripts, and outlines for many of Zepin's sermons and addresses. Many are presentations to children's groups, which demonstrate Zepin's interest in children and religious education. Other sermons and addresses reflect Zepin's concern with modern life, the Jewish synagogue, and American Judaism.

#### Arrangement

The sermons and addresses are alphabetically arranged by title.

#### Box and Folder Listing

- Box 2. Folder 2. Itinerary for several of Zepin's speaking tours, 1926-1947
- Box 2. Folder 3. Sermons and addresses, A-B.
- Box 2. Folder 4. Sermons and addresses, C-Da.
- Box 2. Folder 5. Sermons and addresses, De-Fr.
- Box 2. Folder 6. Funeral sermons and prayers.
- Box 2. Folder 7. Sermons and addresses, Fu-H.
- Box 2. Folder 8. Sermons and addresses, I.
- Box 3. Folder 1. Sermons and addresses, Ja-Je.
- Box 3. Folder 2. Sermons and addresses, Jo-L.

Box 3. Folder 3. Sermons and addresses, Ma-Marriage sermons and prayers.

Box 3. Folder 4. Sermons and addresses, Mat-Mi.

Box 3. Folder 5. Sermons and addresses, Mo-On L.

Box 3. Folder 6. Sermons and addresses, On T-Po.

Box 3. Folder 7. Sermons and addresses, Prayers, benedictions and invocations.

Box 3. Folder 8. Sermons and addresses, Pre-Rel.

Box 4. Folder 1. Sermons and addresses, Remarks.

Box 4. Folder 2. Sermons and addresses, Se-So.

Box 4. Folder 3. Sermons and addresses, St-Th.

Box 4. Folder 4. Sermons and addresses, Ti-Ty.

Box 4. Folder 5. Sermons and addresses, U.

Box 4. Folder 6. Sermons and addresses, V-We.

Box 4. Folder 7. Sermons and addresses, Wha.

Box 4. Folder 8. Sermons and addresses, Whe-Y.

Box 4. Folder 9. Sermons and addresses, untitled.