



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
Samuel H. Goldenson Papers
Manuscript Collection No. 81**



Collection Summary

Title	Samuel H. Goldenson Papers
Dates	1890-1953
Collection Number	MS-81
Repository	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator	Goldenson, Samuel Harry, 1878-1962
Extent	2 linear feet (5 Hollinger boxes)
Language of the Material	English

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch

Samuel Harry Goldenson was born in Kalvaria, Poland on March 26, 1878. He was brought to the United States by his parents in 1890. He married Claudia V. Myar and had three children - Evelyn Beatrice (Mrs. Naaman Glick), Robert Myar, and William Lee. He received the rabbinical degree from the Hebrew Union College and his A.B. degree from the University of Cincinnati, both in 1904; he later received from Columbia University the degrees of A.M. (1914) and Ph.D. (1917). In 1925 the Hebrew Union College bestowed on him the honorary degree of D.H.L. for "deepening the philosophic content of Judaism."

Goldenson was rabbi of Congregation Adath Israel, Lexington, Kentucky (1904-06), and of Congregation Beth Emeth, Albany, New York (1906-18). In 1918 Goldenson moved to Temple Rodef Shalom, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania where he established a national reputation. In 1934 he was appointed senior rabbi of Temple Emanu-El, New York City, also serving as president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis (1933-35). Becoming rabbi emeritus in 1947, he devoted the last years of his career to preaching in small communities under the auspices of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

While in Albany and Pittsburgh, Goldenson was active in many campaigns for civic reform and social justice. His preachings from the pulpit reflect the moral and universalistic outlook of the prophets of Israel and stress the ideals of personal goodness as a preliminary step toward the solution of the larger problems of human society. Throughout his ministry he consistently upheld the democratic implications of Judaism within and without the congregation. He showed little sympathy with Jewish nationalism and the revived interest in synagogal ceremony. Shortly after coming to Pittsburgh, he introduced the unassigned seating system in his congregation, and ultimately received support of influential members who originally opposed his plan. His colleagues in the Jewish ministry regarded him as a "rabbi's rabbi." Many of his important sermons have been published.

Samuel H. Goldenson died on August 31, 1962.

Scope and Content

The Samuel H. Goldenson Papers consist of sermons, addresses and other writings. This collection is contained within a single series. This series contains Goldenson's sermons, 1909-1948, arranged in chronological order. There are also scrapbooks containing newspaper clippings about Goldenson as well as correspondence to and from Goldenson. This collection also contains one folder each of sermon outlines, monographs, radio addresses, lecture notes, prayers, eulogies, invocations and miscellaneous addresses.

The appendix and the first page in box 3 folder 3 give an alphabetical list of the contents of each folder. There is also a CD available with scans of some material and photographs of and relating to Goldenson.

Terms of Access

The collection is open for use; no restrictions apply.

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Preferred Citation

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

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-81. Samuel H. Goldenson Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

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Index Terms

Subjects Jews -- New York (State) -- New York / Rabbis / Reform Judaism

Personal Names Goldenson, Samuel H. (Samuel Harry), 1878-1962

Media Sermons

Series A. General, 1890-1953

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 1. Sermons, 1918 February 24, 1919 February 16-1919 December 28

Box 1. Folder 2. Sermons, 1920-1921

Box 1. Folder 3. Sermons, 1922-1923

Box 1. Folder 4. Sermons, 1924-1925

Box 2. Folder 1. Sermons, 1926-1927

Box 2. Folder 2. Sermons, 1928-1929

Box 2. Folder 3. Sermons, 1930-1931, 1933

Box 2. Folder 4. Sermons, 1934-1939

Box 2. Folder 5. Sermons, 1940-1941

Box 3. Folder 1. Scrapbook. Introduction and correspondence, 1890-1953

Box 3. Folder 2. Scrapbook. Central Conference of American Rabbis, Interfaith activities, Union of American Hebrew Congregations correspondence, retirement from Temple Emanu El, Hebrew Union College lectureship, history of Temple Emanu El, 1934-1954

Box 3. Folder 3. Sermons, prayers, addresses and notes, 1909-1948

Box 4. Folder 1. Scrapbook. Newspaper clippings, Temple Beth Emeth, Albany, N.Y., 1906-1918

Box 4. Folder 2. Scrapbook. Newspaper clippings, Temple Rodef Shalom, Pittsburgh, Pa., 1918-1934

Box 4. Folder 3. Scrapbook. Newspaper clippings, Temple Rodef Shalom, Pittsburgh, Pa. and Temple Emanu El, New York City, N.Y.

Box 5. Folder 1. Sermon outlines, 1926, 1927, 1934-1940

Box 5. Folder 2. Monographs, undated

Box 5. Folder 3. Radio addresses, 1931, 1934, 1936, 1940, 1944

Box 5. Folder 4. Lecture notes, 1938-1939, 1947

Box 5. Folder 5. Miscellaneous, 1904, 1929-1947

Box CD-76. Documents.



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Appendix

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- "The American Flag in the Year 1918"
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"Liberty and Responsibility"

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"America and Lincoln - The Debt of Each to The Other"
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