A Finding Aid to the
Harold D. Hahn Papers

Manuscript Collection No. 86
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**Administrative Information**

**Biographical Sketch**

Harold D. Hahn was born on May 24, 1928 to Maurice and Katherine (Weitzman) Hahn. He was raised in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and received his early education in the public schools of that city. After his high school graduation, he entered Temple University from which he received the Bachelor of Science degree. During this same period, he attended the Gratz Hebrew College of Philadelphia, leaving to enter the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, where he served as President of the Student Association. The College-Institute awarded Dr. Hahn the Bachelor of Hebrew Letters Degree, the Master of Hebrew Letters Degree, and ordained him Rabbi in 1955. The College-Institute also awarded him the honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree in 1978.

Upon ordination, Dr. Hahn entered the United States Air Force as a chaplain, serving with the 12th Air Force in Germany and France, and later, with the 17th Air Force as Senior Jewish Chaplain for personnel from Casablanca to the Black Sea.

Completing his military service, Dr. Hahn served Temple Sholom in Broomall, Pennsylvania (1957-1960); Temple Beth El in Detroit as Associate Rabbi (1960-1964); and Ohef Sholom Temple in Norfolk, Virginia (1964-1969).

In 1969, Dr. Hahn was elected Senior Rabbi of K.K. Bene Israel/ Rockdale Temple of Cincinnati, Ohio. Founded in 1824, it is the oldest congregation west of the Alleghenies and one of the historic pulpits of Reform Judaism. Dr. Hahn served this congregation until his death in 1979.

Dr. Hahn was associated with many academic and community organizations throughout his distinguished career, including, Society of Biblical Literature and Exegesis; the Academy of Religion and Mental Health; Board of Governors of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion; member of its Executive Committee and Chairman of the Student Affairs Committee. Dr. Hahn was one of the editorial staff of the volume, Rabbinic Essays published by the Hebrew Union College Press.

Dr. Hahn also actively served in the following organizations: Board of the Synagogue Council of America, National Executive Committee of the American Jewish Committee in New York, Jewish Chautauqua Society, Anti-Defamation League, city wide Anti-Poverty program and Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati.

Dr. Hahn was especially active in the religious, educational and civic life of the general Cincinnati community, focusing on the field of inter-group understanding. He was married to Nancy (Cohen) Hahn, and had two daughters Melanie Ruth, and Barbara Marcia. He died on May 5, 1979 in Cincinnati, Ohio.

**Scope and Content**

Correspondence, sermons and miscellaneous items relating to Hahn's rabbinical activities, community involvement, professional activities, especially his association with Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, and personal activities. The papers deal mainly with Hahn's role as rabbi in the various congregations he served.

**Arrangement**

Organized into three (3) series: A. Correspondence, 1953-1979; B. Sermons, 194-1979; C. Miscellaneous.

**Terms of Access**

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Preferred Citation
Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the Harold D. Hahn Papers and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-86. Harold D. Hahn Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Provenance
Received from Congregation Bene Israel, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1980.

Processing Information

Index Terms

Subjects
Jews -- Ohio -- Cincinnati / Rabbis / Reform Judaism

Personal Names
Hahn, Harold D. (Harold Daniel), 1928-1979

Corporate Names
Congregation Bene Israel (Cincinnati, Ohio) / Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion

Media
Sermons

Series A. Correspondence, 1953-1979

Extent
6.8 linear feet (17 Hollinger boxes)

Arrangement
The series is divided into four (4) subseries: 1. Personal; 2. Organizations; 3. Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion; 4. Miscellaneous.

Subseries 1. Personal, 1959-1979, undated

Extent
4.4 linear feet (11 Hollinger boxes)

Arrangement
The correspondence is arranged alphabetically by the name of the person or organization.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 1. A, General.
Box 1. Folder 2. Armstrong, Neil, 1971
Box 1. Folder 3. Asher, Joseph, 1965-1975
Box 1. Folder 4. Ba-Be, General.
Box 1. Folder 8. Bi-Bo, General.
Box 1. Folder 13. Brickner, Balfour, 1969
Box 2. Folder 1. Ca-Cl, General.
Box 2. Folder 2. Carter, Jimmy, 1978
Box 2. Folder 3. Cog-Coh, General.
Box 2. Folder 5. Cohn, Edward P., 1972-1978
Box 2. Folder 6. Colaw, Emerson, 1972-1977
Box 2. Folder 7. Da-Do, General.
Box 2. Folder 8. Dayan, Moshe, 1977
Box 2. Folder 10. Dr-Du, General.
Box 2. Folder 15. Eichorn, David Max, 1968-1973
Box 3. Folder 1. Fa-Fl, General.
Box 3. Folder 6. Fo-Fu, General.
Box 3. Folder 13. GA-GI, General.
Box 3. Folder 15. Gilligan, John, 1974
Box 3. Folder 17. Glenn, John, 1978
Box 3. Folder 18. Go, General.
Box 3. Folder 22. Gr-Gu, General.
Box 4. Folder 1. Ha, General.
Box 4. Folder 3. He, General.
Box 4. Folder 5. Herman, Erwin L., 1974
Box 4. Folder 17. Janowski, Max, 1974-1975
Box 5. Folder 1. Kab-Kan, General.
Box 5. Folder 2. Kaelter, Wolli, 1976
Box 5. Folder 15. Kranz, Philip N., 1974-1976
Box 6. Folder 1. La, General.
Box 6. Folder 2. Landman, Nathan M., 1974-1976
Box 7. Folder 20. Rubin, Alvan D., 1974-1978
Box 7. Folder 21. Rudd, Myron, 1977
Box 8. Folder 1. Sa, General.
Box 8. Folder 5. Schaalman, Herman E., 1976
Box 8. Folder 10. Se-Si, General.
Box 8. Folder 15. Shur, Bonia, 1974-1978
Box 10. Folder 1. Ta, General.
Box 10. Folder 2. Taft, Charles, 1973
Subseries 2. Organizations, 1958-1979, undated

Extent 1.6 linear feet (4 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note The bulk of this material deals with the professional and routine aspects of Hahn's rabbinate.

Arrangement These letters are arranged alphabetically by correspondent or organization.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 12. Folder 2. Academy of Religion and Mental Health, 1961
Box 14. Folder 15. Ohio Conference of the United Church of Christ, 1975
Box 14. Folder 17. Pastoral Services, 1977
Box 14. Folder 22. Ruppin Institute, 1969, 1974
Box 15. Folder 2. Southeastern Tidewater Opportunity Project, 1965-1969
Box 15. Folder 5. Technion, 1972
Box 15. Folder 6. Temple Beth Sholom (Broomall), 1958
Box 15. Folder 7. Temple Beth Sholom (Middletown), 1973
Box 15. Folder 10. Tidewater Virginia Association for Mental Health, 1969
Box 15. Folder 15. United Jewish Federation of Norfolk, 1966-1972
Box 15. Folder 16. United Methodist Church, 1975
Box 15. Folder 22. Virginia Wesleyan College, 1966
Series 3. Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, 1960-1979, undated

Extent 0.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box)

Box and Folder Listing

Box 16. Folder 1. HUC-JIR, General.
Box 16. Folder 2. HUC-JIR, General.
Box 16. Folder 3. HUC-JIR, General.
Box 16. Folder 6. HUC-JIR, Alumni Chair, 1974-1977
Box 16. Folder 7. HUC-JIR, Board of Governors, 1962-1978


Extent 0.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note Contains material not relating directly to Hahn's professional or private life. The bulk of this material refers to vacations, and special programs contemplated by Hahn.

Arrangement The subseries is alphabetically arranged.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 17. Folder 7. Ecumenicalism.
Box 17. Folder 8. Genocide, 1974
Box 17. Folder 10. Interfaith Tours, 1970
Box 17. Folder 11. Israel Programs, 1974-1978
Series B. Sermons, 1961-1978, undated

Extent  0.8 linear feet (2 Hollinger boxes)

Arrangement

The series is arranged in two (2) subseries 1. Shabbat; 2. High Holiday.


Extent  0.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note  The vast majority of the sermons were delivered at Temple Ohef Sholom, Norfolk Virginia (1964-1969) and at K.K. Bene Israel-Rockdale Temple (1969-1979).

Arrangement  Sermons are arranged alphabetically by subject.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 18. Folder 1. Aging. "What do I do now?".
Box 18. Folder 2. American Life. "Dear Mr. President", 1973
Box 18. Folder 3. American Politics. "What We May Expect from the New President", 1976
Box 18. Folder 6. Christian-Jewish Relations. "Tis the Season to be Jolly", 1968
Box 18. Folder 7. College. "Suicide on Campus", 1966
Box 18. Folder 8. God and Prayer. "Rabbi,Teach Me How to Pray", 1965
Box 18. Folder 10. Israel and the Politics of the Middle East. "Are We All Zionists?", 1975
Box 18. Folder 10. Israel and the Politics of the Middle East. "Israel Among the Nations", 1967
Box 18. Folder 10. Israel and the Politics of the Middle East. "Israel and the Nations", 1967
Box 18. Folder 10. Israel and the Politics of the Middle East. "One Land and One People", 1969
Box 18. Folder 10. Israel and the Politics of the Middle East. "Twenty Difficult Years", 1968
Box 18. Folder 10. Israel and the Politics of the Middle East. "Will the Arabs Destroy America?", 1974
Box 18. Folder 13. Jewish Ideas. "Ideas that Shape the Jewish Mind", 1967
Box 18. Folder 14. Martin Luther King. "In Memoriam-Martin Luther King, Jr.", 1968
Box 18. Folder 15. Movie and Book Reviews. "The Exorcist".
Box 18. Folder 15. Movie and Book Reviews. "Heaven Help Us".
Box 18. Folder 15. Movie and Book Reviews. "The Passover Plot".
Box 18. Folder 15. Movie and Book Reviews. "The Source".
Box 18. Folder 21. Torah. "This is Torah", 1968

Extent 0.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note The vast majority of the sermons were delivered at Temple Ohel Sholom, Norfolk, Virginia, (1964-1969) and at K.K. Bene Israel-Rockdale Temple (1969-1979).

Arrangement Sermons are arranged alphabetically by subject.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 19. Folder 1. Ethics. Yom Kippur, 1964
Box 19. Folder 1. Ethics. Yom Kippur, 1975
Box 19. Folder 5. Israel. Rosh Hashanah, 1974
Box 19. Folder 7. Movie and book reviews, undated
Series C. Miscellaneous, 1962-1978, undated

Extent 0.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note Contains various introductions, book reviews, special services, and talks delivered by Hahn, primarily at the K.K. Bene Israel-Rockdale Temple.

Arrangement Material is arranged alphabetically by subject.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 20. Folder 2. Introductions. Eban, Abba, 1974
Box 20. Folder 2. Introductions. Lelyveld, Arthur, undated
Box 20. Folder 2. Introductions. Montagu, Ashley, 1975
Box 20. Folder 3. Special Services. Marriage Ceremony of Carol Weston, undated
Box 20. Folder 3. Special Services. Poor People Service, undated
Box 20. Folder 4. Talks. Israel Bonds speech, undated
Box 20. Folder 4. Talks. Leeser, Isaac, undated
Box 20. Folder 4. Talks. Rearing Children of Goodwill, undated
Box 20. Folder 4. Talks. Responsibility, undated
Box 20. Folder 5. Miscellaneous.
Subject Tracings

Note: The following list of subjects is a selective index to many of the people and subjects in the HAROLD D. HAHN PAPERS. It is selective in that it only attempts to draw attention to the more significant items in the collection. When used in conjunction with the Box and Folder List, the Subject Tracings should help the researcher locate topics. References are to boxes and folders: e.g. 1/5 means Box 1 Folder 5.

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American Jewish Committee 12/17
American Jewish Congress 12/8
American Life 18/2
American Politics 18/3
Anti-Defamation League 12/9
Anti-Semitism 18/4

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Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Fund 12/21

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Eisendrath, Maurice 2/16
Ethics 19/1

Faith 19/2
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Herzog, Chaim 4/2
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Holocaust 19/4
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Israel (special services) 20/3

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Jacobs, Walter 4/8
Janowsky, Max 4/9
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Jewish Destiny (sermons) 18/12
Jewish Ideas (sermons) 18/13
Jewish Identity (sermons) 19/6

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King, Martin Luther, Jr. 18/14
Klau, D.W. 5/4
Klein, Michael 5/6
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Lazaron, Morris S. 6/5
Lelyveld, Arthur J. 6/6, 2011
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Menitoff, Paul J. 6/10
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Reform Judaism (sermons) 18/17
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