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AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
Harold D. Hahn Papers**

Manuscript Collection No. 86



Collection Summary

Title	Harold D. Hahn Papers
Dates	1953-1979 (bulk 1960-1979)
Collection Number	MS-86
Repository	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator	Hahn, Harold D., 1928-1979
Extent	8 linear feet (20 Hollinger boxes)
Language of the Material	English

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 Ohel 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.

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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.

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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.

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Series 3. Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, 1960-1979, undated

Extent 0.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box)

Box and Folder Listing

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Box 16. Folder 8. HUC-JIR, Centennial, 1973-1976

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Series 4. Miscellaneous, 1960-1979, undated

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.

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Box 17. Folder 25. Soviet Jewry, 1967-1978
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Box 17. Folder 30. Youth Group, 1965-1966

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.

Subseries 1. Shabbat, 1961-1976

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.

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Box 18. Folder 2. American Life. "A New Nation of Immigrants", 1965
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Box 18. Folder 2. American Life. "The Poverty of Liberalism", 1968

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Box 18. Folder 2. American Life. "The Short Unhappy Life of the Great Society", 1966

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Box 18. Folder 3. American Politics. "Some Advice for the President", 1964

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Box 18. Folder 3. American Politics. "The Poor Peoples March", 1968

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Box 18. Folder 4. Anti-Semitism. "Some Plain Talk About Negro Anti-Semitism", 1969

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Box 18. Folder 7. College. "Morality on the College Campus Today", 1967

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Box 18. Folder 10. Israel and the Politics of the Middle East. "The Children of the Dream", 1969

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. "A Treaty of Peace", 1975

Box 18. Folder 10. Israel and the Politics of the Middle East. "Twenty Difficult Years", 1968

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Box 18. Folder 13. Jewish Ideas. "Unitarians, All", 1967

Box 18. Folder 13. Jewish Ideas. "What I Believe About Life After Death", 1964

Box 18. Folder 13. Jewish Ideas. "Why the Sword Comes into the World", 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 16. Prejudice and Discrimination. "What's Being Done About Discrimination?", 1969

Box 18. Folder 17. Reform Judaism. "Why Jews Join Reform Congregations", 1967

Box 18. Folder 18. Rockdale Temple. "An Introduction to Rockdale Temple", 1971

Box 18. Folder 19. Self-hating Jews. "The Jews in the Ku Klux Klan", 1967

Box 18. Folder 20. Soviet Jewry. "Jews in the Soviet Union", 1970

Box 18. Folder 20. Soviet Jewry. "Report from Brussels", 1976

Box 18. Folder 20. Soviet Jewry. "The Silent Millions", 1970

Box 18. Folder 21. Torah. "This is Torah", 1968

Box 18. Folder 22. Vietnam. "Choose Your Favorite War", 1967

Box 18. Folder 22. Vietnam. "From Nuremburg to Saigon", 1969

Box 18. Folder 23. World Politics. "DeGaulle's Jewish Problem - and Ours", 1968

Box 18. Folder 23. World Politics. "The Greatest Barbarian in the World Today", 1965

Box 18. Folder 23. World Politics. "Living in a Revolutionary Age", 1967

Subseries 2. High Holiday, 1964-1978, undated

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 2. Faith. Yom Kippur, 1971

Box 19. Folder 2. Faith. Yom Kippur, 1973

Box 19. Folder 2. Faith. Rosh Hashanah, 1974

Box 19. Folder 2. Faith. Yom Kippur, 1974

Box 19. Folder 2. Faith. Yom Kippur, 1975

Box 19. Folder 2. Faith. Rosh Hashanah, 1976

Box 19. Folder 2. Faith. Rosh Hashanah, 1976

Box 19. Folder 2. Faith. Yom Kippur, 1976

Box 19. Folder 3. God. Rosh Hashanah, 1967

Box 19. Folder 3. God. Rosh Hashanah, 1975

Box 19. Folder 4. Holocaust. Rosh Hashanah, 1972

Box 19. Folder 4. Holocaust. Rosh Hashanah, 1972

Box 19. Folder 4. Holocaust. Yom Kippur, 1976

Box 19. Folder 5. Israel. Rosh Hashanah, 1974

Box 19. Folder 5. Israel. Rosh Hashanah, 1977

Box 19. Folder 6. Jewish Identity. Yom Kippur, 1967

Box 19. Folder 6. Jewish Identity. Rosh Hashanah, 1973

Box 19. Folder 6. Jewish Identity. Rosh Hashanah, 1975

Box 19. Folder 6. Jewish Identity. Yom Kippur, 1977

Box 19. Folder 6. Jewish Identity. Rosh Hashanah, 1978

Box 19. Folder 7. Movie and book reviews, undated

Box 19. Folder 8. Politics. Rosh Hashanah, 1974

Box 19. Folder 9. Prayer. Yom Kippur, 1978

Box 19. Folder 10. Rosh Hashanah, 1973

Box 19. Folder 10. Society. Yom Kippur, 1973

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 1. Book Review Series. My Autobiography, Charlie Chaplin, 1964

Box 20. Folder 1. Book Review Series. A Moveable Feast, Ernest Hemingway, 1965

Box 20. Folder 1. Book Review Series. Julian, Gore Vidal, 1965

Box 20. Folder 1. Book Review Series. Saturday the Rabbi Went Hungry, Harry Kemelman, 1967

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. Hanukah Service, 1966

Box 20. Folder 3. Special Services. Israel Crisis Service.

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 3. Special Services. Sukkot Services, 1969

Box 20. Folder 3. Special Services. Soviet Jewry Service, undated

Box 20. Folder 4. Talks. Brandeis University installation, 1966

Box 20. Folder 4. Talks. Israel Bonds speech, undated

Box 20. Folder 4. Talks. J.C.R.C. annual meeting, 1978

Box 20. Folder 4. Talks. Khazars, 1977

Box 20. Folder 4. Talks. Leeser, Isaac, undated

Box 20. Folder 4. Talks. Liquor, 1968

Box 20. Folder 4. Talks. Rearing Children of Goodwill, undated

Box 20. Folder 4. Talks. Responsibility, undated

Box 20. Folder 4. Talks. Shintoism, 1962

Box 20. Folder 4. Talks. Taoism, 1962

Box 20. Folder 5. Miscellaneous.



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MS-86: Harold D. Hahn Papers

Subject Tracings

Note: The following list of subjects is a selective index to many of 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 Congress 12/8

American Life 18/2

American Politics 18/3

Anti-Defamation League 12/9

Anti-Semitism 18/4

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Begin, Menachem 1/6

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Borowitz, Eugene B. 1/11

Brandeis University 20/4

Carter, Jimmy 212

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