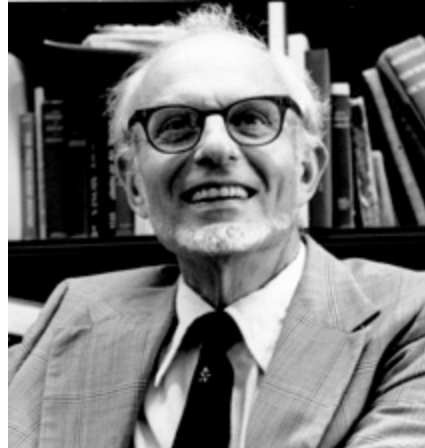




THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
Lou H. Silberman Papers**

Manuscript Collection No. 103



Collection Summary

Title	Lou H. Silberman Papers
Dates	1934-1972 (bulk 1940-1960)
Collection Number	MS-103
Repository	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator	Silberman, Lou H.
Extent	5.2 linear feet (13 Hollinger boxes)
Language of the Material	English

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch

Lou Hackett Silberman was born in San Francisco, California on June 23, 1914 to Lou Harry and Myrtle (Mueller) Silberman. He attended the University of California at Los Angeles from 1931 to 1933, then transferred to and graduated from the University of California at Berkeley in 1934 with an A.B. degree. Silberman then attended Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, Ohio, earning a B.H.L. degree in 1939, and M.H.L. degree and ordination as a rabbi in 1941, and a D.H.L. degree in 1943. Silberman later studied for a year at the University of Basel in 1959.

From 1941 to 1943, while he was working toward his D.H.L. degree, Silberman was an instructor of medieval Biblical exegesis at Hebrew Union College. Following the completion of his studies at HUC, Silberman moved to Dallas, Texas where he served as assistant rabbi at Temple Emanu-El until 1945. From Dallas he moved to Omaha, Nebraska to become rabbi at Temple Israel. He remained at Temple Israel until 1952 when he left the rabbinate to begin a new career in education as a professor of Jewish literature and thought at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee.

In 1955, Silberman was promoted from associate professor to the position of Hillel professor of Jewish literature and thought. Other offices Silberman held at Vanderbilt include, twice being director of graduate studies in the Biblical field, 1960-1965 and 1967-1969; and chairman of the department of religious studies, 1970-1977. Silberman was visiting professor at a number of colleges, including the Oriental Institute of the University of Vienna in 1965-1966; Carleton College in 1972; Emory University in 1973; and the University of Chicago Divinity School in 1978. He was a Rosenstiel fellow at Notre Dame University in 1972, a Touhy lecturer of interreligious studies at John Carroll University in 1973, and a visiting scholar at the Postgraduate Center of Hebrew Studies at Oxford University in 1978.

Silberman also belonged to the Society of Biblical Literature and Exegesis (president of the Southern section 1959-1960), the American Academy of Religion, the Central Conference of American rabbis, the Association for Jewish studies, and B'nai B'rith.

Silberman authored numerous publications dealing with such topics as the Dead Sea Scrolls, rabbinic literature, and contemporary theology. He contributed to the Encyclopedia Britannica, the Encyclopaedia Judaica and was an editorial advisor for the Encyclopedia International.

Silberman married Helen Sue Epstein on June 14, 1942. They had two children: Syrl Augusta and Deborah. Lou Silberman passed away on June 6, 2006 in Tucson, Arizona.

Scope and Content

Describes the career of Silberman as a rabbi and educator. Includes correspondence (primarily concerning the work of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the National Community Relations Advisory Council), sermons, prayers, notes, addresses, and notebooks.

Arrangement

Organized into two (2) series: A. Correspondence; B. Sermons, Addresses and Notes.

Terms of Access

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Preferred Citation	Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the Lou H. Silberman Papers and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows: [Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-103. Lou H. Silberman Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.
Provenance	Received from Lou H. Silberman, Nashville, Tenn., 1980; and the Silberman family, Arlington, Mass., 2006.
Processing Information	Processed by Kevin Proffitt, 1982. Additional processing by Elisa Ho, September 2011.

Index Terms

Subjects	Education / Jewish college teachers / Jewish educators / Jews -- Nebraska -- Omaha / Jews -- Tennessee -- Nashville / Jews -- Texas -- Dallas / Rabbis / Reform Judaism
Personal Names	Silberman, Lou H.
Corporate Names	Temple Emanu-El (Dallas, Tex.) / Temple Israel (Omaha, Neb.) / Union of American Hebrew Congregations / Vanderbilt University
Media	Prayers / Sermons

Series A. Correspondence, 1934-2005

Extent 1.8 linear feet (4.5 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Consists of correspondence and some clippings, newsletters, and reports.

Arrangement Correspondence is arranged alphabetically by the name of the person or organization. Letters are arranged chronologically within each folder.

Box and Folder Listing

- Box 1. Folder 1. B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation, 1967-1968
- Box 1. Folder 2. C-W, General.
- Box 1. Folder 3. Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR), 1950-1972, undated
- Box 1. Folder 4. CCAR. Commission on Theology, 1960-1961, undated
- Box 1. Folder 5. CCAR. Liturgy Committee, 1948, 1950
- Box 1. Folder 6. Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds. Committee on College Youth and Faculty Programs, 1967-1972
- Box 1. Folder 7. Dallas, Tex. - Temple Emanu-El, 1943-1944
- Box 1. Folder 8. Hebrew Union College, 1934-1942
- Box 1. Folder 9. Hebrew Union College [newsletters and plays], 1936-1939
- Box 1. Folder 10. Morgenstern, Julian, 1943-1952, undated
- Box 1. Folder 11. National Community Relations Advisory Council (NCRAC), 1960-1961
- Box 1. Folder 12. NCRAC, 1964
- Box 2. Folder 1. NCRAC, 1965
- Box 2. Folder 2. NCRAC, 1966 March-June
- Box 2. Folder 3. NCRAC, 1966 July-September
- Box 2. Folder 4. NCRAC, 1966 October-December
- Box 2. Folder 5. NCRAC, 1967 January-September

Box 2. Folder 6. NCRAC, 1967 October-December
Box 2. Folder 7. NCRAC [Marvin Schick], 1967
Box 2. Folder 8. NCRAC, 1968 January-March
Box 3. Folder 1. NCRAC, 1968 April-August
Box 3. Folder 2. NCRAC, 1968 September-December
Box 3. Folder 3. NCRAC, 1969 January-April
Box 3. Folder 4. NCRAC, 1969 May-December
Box 3. Folder 5. NCRAC, 1970
Box 3. Folder 6. NCRAC, 1971
Box 3. Folder 7. Omaha, Neb. Temple Israel, 1945-1951
Box 3. Folder 8. Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC), 1943-1955
Box 4. Folder 1. UAHC. American Jewish Cavalcade, 1947-1948
Box 4. Folder 2. UAHC. Biennial, 1969-1970
Box 4. Folder 3. UAHC. Commission on Synagogue Music, 1944-1955
Box 13. Folder 1-8. Correspondence, 1943-2005, undated

Series B. Sermons, Addresses and Notes, 1937-1966

Extent 3.4 linear feet (8.5 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Consists of sermons, addresses, prayers, notes, bar mitzvah speeches, life cycles, addresses, notebooks and miscellaneous items. The notebooks are from Silberman's student years at Hebrew Union College.

Arrangement Arranged alphabetically. Notebooks are arranged alphabetically according to the labels given them by Silberman.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 4. Folder 4. A.
Box 4. Folder 5. B.
Box 4. Folder 6. C.
Box 4. Folder 7. D-E.
Box 4. Folder 8. F.
Box 4. Folder 9. G.
Box 4. Folder 10. H.
Box 4. Folder 11. I.
Box 4. Folder 12. J-K.
Box 5. Folder 1. L-M.
Box 5. Folder 2. N-O.
Box 5. Folder 3. P-Q.
Box 5. Folder 4. R.
Box 5. Folder 5. S.

Box 5. Folder 6. T.

Box 5. Folder 7. U-W.

Box 5. Folder 8. Y-Z.

Box 6. Folder 1. Untitled sermons, 1938-1952, undated

Box 6. Folder 2. Untitled sermons, undated

Box 6. Folder 3. Bar mitzvah speeches, 1944-1945, undated

Box 6. Folder 4. Life cycle addresses, 1940-1960, undated

Box 6. Folder 5. Notes.

Box 6. Folder 6. Prayers.

Box 6. Folder 7. Miscellaneous, 1937-1966, undated

Box 6. Folder Theology IV notes, undated

Box 7. Folder Notebooks.

Box 7. Folder 1. Notes [miscellaneous].

Box 7. Folder 2. Notes [miscellaneous].

Box 8. Folder 1-13. Sermons, addresses and notes. A-D.

Box 9. Folder 1-12. Sermons, addresses and notes. E-L.

Box 10. Folder 1-14. Sermons, addresses and notes. L-Pi.

Box 11. Folder 1-23. Sermons, addresses and notes. Pi-Z.

Box 12. Folder 1-13. Teaching material.