



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

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**A Finding Aid to the  
Edward L. Israel Papers**

**Manuscript Collection No. 119**



## Collection Summary

<b>Title</b>	Edward L. Israel Papers
<b>Dates</b>	1913-1970
<b>Collection Number</b>	MS-119
<b>Repository</b>	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
<b>Creator</b>	Israel, Edward Leopold, 1896-1941
<b>Extent</b>	3.4 linear feet (6 Hollinger boxes, 1 oversize box)
<b>Language of the Material</b>	English

## Administrative Information

### Biographical Sketch

Edward L. Israel, rabbi, social justice activist and labor Zionist, was born in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1896 to Charles and Emma (Linz) Israel. He was educated at Harvard University and received a Bachelor's degree from the University of Cincinnati in 1917 as well as a Bachelor of Hebrew Letters from the Hebrew Union College where he was also ordained as a rabbi.

Upon ordination Israel became the rabbi of B'rith Sholom Congregation in Springfield, Illinois in 1919-1920, and from 1920-1923 he served as rabbi of the Washington Avenue Temple in Evansville, Indiana. In 1923, he was called to become senior rabbi of Har Sinai of Baltimore, Maryland. He remained in that post until his retirement in 1941, a few months before his death. Following retirement, he was called to serve as executive director of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

Israel consistently was a strong supporter of labor and served as a one-man arbitrator in the men's clothing industry in arguments with the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America. He was selected by both the employers and the union for the settling of disputes. A well-known liberal, Israel resigned in 1940 from the advisory committee of the American Youth Congress, and about four years earlier resigned from the national executive board of the American League for Peace and Democracy. He charged both groups with having fallen into communist hands.

Israel was the chairman of the Synagogue Council of America and an active member of the Central Conference of American Rabbis as well as the chair of its Commission on Social Justice from 1923-1933. He was also a member of the executive committee of the World Jewish Congress, the executive boards of the National Public Housing Conference, the National Housing Commission and the National Religion and Labor Foundation. Israel was also on the administrative committee of the Zionist Organization of America, executive committee of the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation, national co-chairman of the United Services Organization, and a member of the Hebrew Union College Board of Governors. Many other organizations of religious or civic purposes had received his aid as a committee member or official.

In 1919, Israel married Amelia Dryer of Cincinnati. They had two sons, Charles and Edward L. Israel, Jr.

Edward L. Israel died suddenly on October 19, 1941 just after he was installed as the executive director of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

### Scope and Content

The Edward L. Israel papers contain the correspondence, sermons, addresses, and personal items of Edward L. Israel, a rabbi, Zionist and social activist. The bulk of the correspondence is in regard to his work as a social activist and rabbi, mostly from the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. Also included are newspaper clippings of Israel's career and his diaries from the 1930s. Box X-210 contains a wealth of photographs from all periods of Israel's life which, combined with his diaries, provides a full picture of his life. Other personal items include his wife Amelia's bride book and his son Edward L. Israel, Jr's baby book. Abraham I. Shinedling's memoir is also an important part of this collection.

### Access Restrictions

Box 1, Folders 9 and 10 are restricted; permission of Charles E. Israel required for access.

### 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.

<b>Preferred Citation</b>	Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the Edward L. Israel Papers and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:  [Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-119. Edward L. Israel Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.
<b>Provenance</b>	Received from Charles E. Israel and Edward L. Israel, Jr., through Haim Asa, 1982.
<b>Processing Information</b>	Processed by Kevin Proffitt. Additional processing by Christine Crandall, July 2002.

## Index Terms

<b>Subjects</b>	Jews -- Maryland -- Baltimore / Rabbis
<b>Personal Names</b>	Israel, Edward L., 1896-1941
<b>Corporate Names</b>	Har Sinai Congregation (Baltimore, Md.) / Union of American Hebrew Congregations
<b>Media</b>	Diaries / Photographs / Sermons

## Series A. General, 1913-1970

### Box and Folder Listing

- Box 1. Folder 1. A-J, General.
- Box 1. Folder 2. Har Sinai Congregation (Baltimore, Md.), 1923-1942
- Box 1. Folder 3. Brandeis, Louis D., 1935, 1940
- Box 1. Folder 4. Hebrew Union College, 1919
- Box 1. Folder 5. Israel, Amelia (wife), 1919
- Box 1. Folder 6. Israel, Amelia (wife), 1942-1949, undated
- Box 1. Folder 7. Israel, Amelia (wife). Interview regarding husband, undated
- Box 1. Folder 8. Israel, Charles and Emma (parents), 1932-1941, undated
- Box 1. Folder 9-10. Israel, Charles E. (son), 1941-1949, 1961
- Box 1. Folder 11. Israel, Charles E. (son), 1924, 1939-1949
- Box 1. Folder 12. Jewish Welfare Board. Chaplaincy, 1918-1919
- Box 1. Folder 13. L-S, General.
- Box 1. Folder 14. Landsburgh, Sidney, 1937
- Box 1. Folder 15. Philipson, David, 1918-1923
- Box 1. Folder 16. Schulman, Samuel, 1935-1936
- Box 2. Folder 1. T-Z, General.
- Box 2. Folder 2. Union of American Hebrew Congregations, 1941
- Box 2. Folder 3. Union of American Hebrew Congregations. Congratulatory letters, A-B, 1941
- Box 2. Folder 4. Union of American Hebrew Congregations. Congratulatory letters, C-E, 1941
- Box 2. Folder 5. Union of American Hebrew Congregations. Congratulatory letters, F-G, 1941
- Box 2. Folder 6. Union of American Hebrew Congregations. Congratulatory letters, H-K, 1941
- Box 2. Folder 7. Union of American Hebrew Congregations. Congratulatory letters, L-M, 1941

Box 2. Folder 8. Union of American Hebrew Congregations. Congratulatory letters, N-R, 1941

Box 2. Folder 9. Union of American Hebrew Congregations. Congratulatory letters, S-T, 1941

Box 2. Folder 10. Union of American Hebrew Congregations. Congratulatory letters, U-Z, 1941

Box 2. Folder 11. Union of American Hebrew Congregations. Congratulatory letters, unidentified, 1941

Box 2. Folder 12. Wise, Stephen S., 1934-1936

Box 2. Folder 13. Unidentified correspondence, 1916-1941, undated

Box 2. Folder 14. Letters of Condolence, A-E, 1941-1942

Box 2. Folder 15. Letters of Condolence, F-K, 1941-1942

Box 3. Folder 1. Letters of Condolence, L-R, 1941-1942

Box 3. Folder 2. Letters of Condolence, S-Z, unidentified, 1941-1942

Box 3. Folder 3. Memoir (by Abraham Shinedling), 1970

Box 3. Folder 4. Memorials, 1941

Box 3. Folder 4. Memorials, 1941

Box 3. Folder 5. Memorials, 1942-1949, 1955

Box 3. Folder 6. Memorials, undated

Box 3. Folder 7. Memorials, undated

Box 3. Folder 8. Obituaries, 1941

Box 3. Folder 9. Prayers, 1919, undated

Box 3. Folder 10. Sermons and addresses, A-B.

Box 3. Folder 11. Sermons and addresses, C-E.

Box 4. Folder 1. Sermons and addresses, F-I.

Box 4. Folder 2. Sermons and addresses, J-L.

Box 4. Folder 3. Sermons and addresses, M-N.

Box 4. Folder 4. Sermons and addresses, O-Q.

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

Box 4. Folder 6. Sermons and addresses, S.

Box 4. Folder 7. Sermons and addresses, T-U.

Box 4. Folder 8. Sermons and addresses, V-Z.

Box 4. Folder 9. Sermons and addresses, Untitled, 1920-1941

Box 4. Folder 10. Sermons and addresses, Untitled, undated

Box 4. Folder 11. Sermons and addresses, Untitled fragments, undated

Box 5. Folder 1. Accounting register, 1938-1943

Box 5. Folder 2. Accounting register, 1944-1948

Box 5. Folder 3. Accounting register, 1946

Box 5. Folder 4. Accounting register, 1947

Box 5. Folder 5. Baby book. Edward L. Israel, Jr., 1924

Box 5. Folder 6. Bride's book, 1919

Box 5. Folder 7. Clippings.

Box 5. Folder 8. Clippings.

Box 5. Folder 9. Clippings.

Box 6. Folder 1. Diaries, 1930, 1935, undated

Box 6. Folder 2. Har Sinai Congregation (Baltimore, Md.) yearbook, 1842-1942

Box 6. Folder 3. Harvard University. Exams books, 1916

Box 6. Folder 4. Life cycle functions.

Box 6. Folder 5. Miscellaneous, 1926-1944, undated

Box 6. Folder 6. Prayerbooks, 1917, 1919

Box 6. Folder 7. Woodward High School (Cincinnati, Ohio) yearbook, 1913

Box X-210. Folder Awards, memorials, photographs.