A Finding Aid to the
Kivie Kaplan Papers

Manuscript Collection No. 26
### Collection Summary

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Kivie Kaplan Papers</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dates</td>
<td>1948-1975 (bulk 1966-1975)</td>
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<td>Collection Number</td>
<td>MS-26</td>
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<td>Repository</td>
<td>The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives</td>
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<tr>
<td>Creator</td>
<td>Kaplan, Kivie, 1904-1975</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extent</td>
<td>7.6 linear feet (19 Hollinger boxes)</td>
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<td>Language of the Material</td>
<td>English</td>
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### Administrative Information

#### Biographical Sketch

Kivie Kaplan was born on April 1, 1904 in Boston, Massachusetts. He was the youngest of three sons of Benjamin and Celia (Solomont) Kaplan. He attended English High School and Bryant and Stratton School in Boston. In 1924, Kivie Kaplan and his brothers, Joseph and Archie, took over their father's leather businesses. The businesses run by the Kaplans were models of management-labor cooperation. The employees participated in a profit-sharing program which paid out several million dollars over the years. Suggestions from employees were encouraged and rewarded. Everyone in the plants, including the executives, ate in the same dining room and was provided free lunches. Kaplan successfully helped run the tanneries until 1962 when he retired to devote all of his time to philanthropic work.

He had joined the N.A.A.C.P. in 1932 and was elected to the National Board in 1954. He was also the National Chairman of the N.A.A.C.P. Life Membership Committee and active on life memberships dramatically increased from a few hundred to several hundred thousand. In 1966, he was elected as President of the N.A.A.C.P. and held that post until his death. As President of the N.A.A.C.P., Kaplan actively worked to make the organization successful. He spoke throughout the United States on its behalf and sought financial contributions wherever he could. Kaplan was trustee of two black colleges: Lincoln University in Pennsylvania and Tougaloo College in Mississippi.

Kivie Kaplan was also involved in Jewish affairs and was a member of the Board of Trustees of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (U.A.H.C.). He was a member of the U.A.H.C.'s Executive Committee as well as its Social Action Commission. He contributed large sums of money to the Jewish Memorial Hospital in Boston and Brandeis University. The Religious Action Center of U.A.H.C. in Washington, DC was built with money donated by Kaplan and his wife, Emily.

Kaplan received numerous awards and honorary degrees. Among these were the Amistad Award of the American Missionary Association, the Men of Vision Award from the Bonds for Israel Committee, and honorary degrees from Wilberforce University, Wilberforce, Ohio, Hebrew Union College, and Lincoln University in Pennsylvania.

In 1925, Kivie Kaplan married Emily Rogers. They had three children, Sylvia (Grossman), Jean (Green), and Edward. Kivie Kaplan died on May 5, 1975.

#### Scope and Content

Covers Kivie Kaplan's career and activities in business, the NAACP, and many Jewish organizations. The collection includes correspondence, memoranda, press releases, photographs, newscippings, and miscellaneous items.

Original correspondence with Jackie Robinson, 1967-1969, located in Rare Documents file.

#### Arrangement

Organized into six (6) series: A. Correspondence, 1962-1975; B. Jewish Organizations and Activities, 1961-1975; C. NAACP; D. Iconographic materials; E. Newscippings; F. Miscellaneous.

#### Terms of Access

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Preferred Citation

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

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-26. Kivie Kaplan Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Provenance

Received from Kivie Kaplan, Washington, D.C., 1966-1975.

Processing Information

Processed by Kathleen McIntyre, March 1977.

Index Terms

Subjects

African Americans -- Relations with Jews / Civil rights / Jewish businesspeople / Jews -- Massachusetts -- Boston

Personal Names


Corporate Names

B’nai B’rith. Anti-defamation League / National Association for the Advancement of Colored People / Union of American Hebrew Congregations

Media

Photographs / Rare Documents

Series A. Correspondence, 1962-1975

Extent

5.8 linear feet (14.5 Hollinger boxes)

Arrangement

The Series is divided into two (2) subseries: 1. General; 2. Personal.

Subseries 1. General

Extent

5.6 linear feet (14 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note

Some notable correspondents are Roy Wilkins and Edward B. Muse of the N.A.A.C.P. and Alexander Schindler of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

Arrangement

The subseries is arranged alphabetically by the name of the correspondent.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 1. A-Al, General.
Box 1. Folder 2. An-Ax, General.
Box 1. Folder 3. B-Bec, General.
Box 1. Folder 5. Beh-Bet, General.
Box 1. Folder 9. Bi-Bo, General.
Box 1. Folder 15. Braiterman, Marvin, 1968-1973
Box 2. Folder 3. Brown, James, Jr., 1969-1974
Box 2. Folder 9. Ca, General.
Box 2. Folder 10. Ch-Coh, General.
Box 2. Folder 15. Current, Gloster B., 1972-1975
Box 3. Folder 1. Davidson, Jerome K., 1966-1974
Box 3. Folder 5. E, General.
Box 3. Folder 10. Evers, Charles, 1966-1971
Box 3. Folder 11. F-Fi, General.
Box 3. Folder 16. Fl-Fu, General.
Box 4. Folder 5. Gl-Goo, General.
Box 4. Folder 10. Gor-Gree, General.
Box 5. Folder 1. Gottschalk, Alfred, 1972-1974
Box 5. Folder 2. Greg-Gu, General.
Box 5. Folder 5. Ha, General.
Box 5. Folder 7. He, General.
Box 5. Folder 8. Hershaf, Alex, 1967-1974
Box 6. Folder 1. I, General.
Box 6. Folder 2. Inbal, Shimshon, 1972-1974
Box 7. Folder 3. La-Le, General.
Box 7. Folder 4. Lawrence, Gunther, 1966-1969, undated
Box 7. Folder 7. Li-Lu, General.
Box 11. Folder 1. Rosenzweig, Efraim M., 1969-1975
Box 11. Folder 2. Roxborough, Mildred Bon, 1964-1975
Box 11. Folder 4. Sa-Sca, General.
Box 11. Folder 5. Sacher, Abram L., 1959-1973
Box 12. Folder 1. Si-SI, General.
Box 12. Folder 7. Silverman, William B., 1972
Box 12. Folder 10. Silverman, William B., 1975, undated
Box 12. Folder 11. Sm-Sr, General.
Box 12. Folder 12. Smadbeck, Justine, 1969
Box 13. Folder 1. St-Sy, General.

Extent 0.2 linear feet (0.5 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note Correspondence from members of the Kaplan family and others.

Arrangement Family correspondence is arranged alphabetically with the rest arranged chronologically.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 15. Folder 7. Personal correspondence, 1966-1969
Box 15. Folder 8. Personal correspondence, 1970
Series B. Jewish Organizations and Activities, 1961-1975

Extent 0.6 linear feet (1.5 Hollinger boxes)

Arrangement


Extent 0.2 linear feet (0.5 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note Contains minutes, reports, memoranda, press releases and miscellaneous material.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 15. Folder 12. Minutes of the Board of Trustees, 1970-1974
Box 15. Folder 13. Reports to the Board of Trustees, 1972-1974


Extent 0.2 linear feet (0.5 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note Contains minutes, reports, memoranda, press releases and miscellaneous material as well as material from the Career and Counseling Services and the Anti-Defamation League.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 16. Folder 2. Career and Counseling Services [minutes, memoranda, press releases, nearprint, miscellaneous], 1972-1974, undated

Scope and Content Note  Consists of material from other Jewish organizations such as the Council of Black and White Rabbis and the Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 16. Folder 8. Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism [minutes, memoranda], 1970-1975
Box 16. Folder 9. Congregation Adath Israel (Boston, Mass.) Board of Trustees meetings, 1970-1971
Box 16. Folder 11. Israel Commission [memoranda, minutes reports], 1974, undated
Box 16. Folder 12. Reform Jewish Appeal memoranda, 1975
Box 16. Folder 13. Religious Action Center (Washington, D.C.) [correspondence supporting or rejecting the establishment of a Religious Action Center, newsclippings], 1961
Box 16. Folder 14. Religious Action Center (Washington, D.C.) [correspondence supporting or rejecting the establishment of a Religious Action Center, newsclippings], 1961
Box 16. Folder 15. Scrapbook of the dedication of the Emily & Kivie Kaplan Family Lobby, 1966
Box 16. Folder 16. Miscellaneous material on Israel.

Series C. National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), 1963-1975, undated

Extent  0.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box)

Arrangement

The series is divided into two (2) subseries: 1. General; 2. Miscellaneous.


Extent  0.27 linear feet (2/3 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note  The subseries is made up of minutes, memoranda, press releases, committee reports and nearprint material.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 17. Folder 1. Annual conventions (63rd-66th), 1972-1975
Box 17. Folder 2. Awards and citations, 1963-1972
Box 17. Folder 3. Board of Directors meetings minutes, 1971-1974

Extent  0.13 linear feet (1/3 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note  The subseries contains records of Tougaloo College and appeals for aid from the N.A.A.C.P.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 17. Folder 16. Tougaloo College (Mississippi) reports, 1974-1975
Box 17. Folder 17. Williams, Robert Anthony [appeals for aid from the N.A.A.C.P], 1971-1974
Box 17. Folder 18. Miscellaneous.

Series D. Iconographic Material, 1940, 1954, undated

Extent  0.53 linear feet (1 1/3 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note  Contains material covering all facets of Kivie Kaplan's life. There are family portraits and pictures as well as photographs relating to Kaplan's businesses, to Jewish organizations and to the N.A.A.C.P.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 17. Folder 20. Emily Kaplan, portraits.
Box 18. Folder 1. Kaplan family, portraits.
Box 18. Folder 2. Kaplan family, pictures.
Series E. Newscloppings

Extent 0.13 linear feet (1/3 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note Contains clippings dealing with Kaplan's business affairs, with Jewish organizations, the N.A.A.C.P., and miscellaneous items.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 19. Folder 6. Jewish organizations and activities.
Box 19. Folder 7. N.A.A.C.P.

Series F. Miscellaneous, 1972-1974, undated

Extent 0.14 linear feet (1/3 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note Contains awards and citations, biographical material and nearprint material.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 19. Folder 10. Miscellaneous awards and citations.
Subject Tracings

Note: This list represents a selective guide to the significant subjects and correspondents dealt with in the KIVIE KAPLAN PAPERS. References are to boxes and folders, i.e. 1/7 = Box 1, Folder 7. This list must be used in conjunction with the Box and Folder List in the inventory.

Abernathy, Ralph David 1/1
Abram, Morris B. 1/1
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Allon, Yigal 1/1, 18/16
Amistad Research Center 5/9
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Axelrad, Albert S. 1/2

Baar, Emil 1/3
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B’nai B’rith-Vocational Service 3/13, 14, 10/13
Brickman, Dorothy 1/14
Bunche, Ralph J. 19/1

Carolina Israelite 4/9
Chavez, Caesar E. 2/10
Clergy and Laymen Concerned About Vietnam 3/14

Davis, Ossie 2/16
Davis, Ralph 2/16

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Feingold, S. Norman 18/16

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<td>Hatcher, Richard Gordon</td>
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