



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
David Lefkowitz, Sr. Papers**

Manuscript Collection No. 195



Collection Summary

Title	David Lefkowitz, Sr. Papers
Dates	1900-1952
Collection Number	MS-195
Repository	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator	Lefkowitz, David, 1875-1955
Extent	2.8 linear feet (7 Hollinger boxes)
Language of the Material	English, German, Hebrew, and Yiddish

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch

David Lefkowitz was born on 11 April 1875 in Eperies, Hungary. He emigrated from Hungary to the United States (ca. 1881) with his widowed mother and two brothers. Because of financial problems, he and one brother grew up in the Hebrew Orphan Asylum in New York City. To help pay for his schooling, he later worked for the Orphan Asylum. Lefkowitz earned a B.S. from the College of the City of New York in 1894, and the University of Cincinnati in 1899. Lefkowitz was ordained at Hebrew Union College in 1900.

Between 1900-1920, Lefkowitz was the rabbi at Temple B'nai Jeshurun in Dayton, Ohio. During his tenure the congregation grew from 82 families to over 300 families. Lefkowitz was also active in municipal issues such as government corruption and playground associations.

In 1920, temple president Herbert Marcus recruited Lefkowitz to Temple Emanu-El in Dallas Texas where he remained until his death. Lefkowitz became Rabbi Emeritus in 1947 but remained active in the congregation. His interests included social justice and Judaic-Christian relations. Working with his rabbinic successor Levi Olan, he published a book of his writings in 1952 entitled *Medicine for a Sick World*. He also taught at Southern Methodist University and led the local Community Chest Organization.

Lefkowitz was a strong supporter of Jewish organizations. He served as an officer in the World Union for Progressive Judaism in the 1930s, as well as the Central Conference of American Rabbis where he was president from 1929-1931. Lefkowitz was also active in the Texas Kallah, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the board of the Hebrew Union College.

David Lefkowitz married Sadie Braham of Cincinnati, Ohio in 1901. They had four children: Lewis, Henry, Helen and David Jr. David Jr. assisted his father at Temple Emanu-El from 1937-1940.

Scope and Content

Correspondence, addresses, minutes, reports, resolutions, photographs, sermons and writings concerning his tenure as president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis and his activities as rabbi of Temple Emanu-El in Dallas, Texas.

Arrangement

Arranged into three (3) series: A. Correspondence and Projects; B. Sermons and Writings; C. Nearprint.

Terms of Access

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Preferred Citation

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

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-195. David Lefkowitz, Sr. Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Provenance

Received from various donors.

Index Terms

Subjects	Jews -- Texas -- Dallas / Rabbis
Personal Names	Calisch, Edward N. (Edward Nathaniel), 1865-1946 / Cohon, Samuel Solomon, 1888-1959 / Freehof, Solomon Bennett, 1892-1990 / Lazaron, Morris S. (Morris Samuel), 1888-1979 / Lefkowitz, David, 1875-1955 / Levy, Felix A. (Felix Alexander), 1884-1963
Corporate Names	Central Conference of American Rabbis / Congregation B'nai Jeshurun (Dayton, Ohio) / League of Nations / Temple Emanu-El (Dallas, Tex.) / World Union for Progressive Judaism
Media	Photographs / Sermons

Series A. Correspondence and Project Files, 1929-1931

Extent 0.8 linear feet (2 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note The series primarily relates to Lefkowitz's presidency of the CCAR. Notable correspondents include: Cyrus Adler, Joseph L. Baron, Salo Baron, Henry Berkowitz, Jacob Billikopf, Ludwig Blau, Sol Bloom, Barnett Brickner, David Brown, Maurice Eisendrath, Harry Ettelson, William Fineshriber, Solomon Foster, Solomon Freehof, Nelson Glueck, James Heller, Ferdinand Isserman, George Alexander Kohut, Jacob Z. Lauterbach, Morris S. Lazaron, Jacob Rader Marcus, Isaac E. Marcuson, S. Felix Mendolsohn, Lily Montagu, Julian Morgenstern, Adolph Oko, David Phillipson, Joseph Rauch, Abba Hillel Silver, Felix Warburg, Stephen S. Wise, Louis Wolsey, George Zepin and Martin Zielonka. Reports and minutes are attached to pieces of correspondence.

Arrangement The series is arranged alphabetically by name.

Box and Folder Listing

- Box 1. Folder 1. A, General.
- Box 1. Folder 2. B, General.
- Box 1. Folder 3. C, General.
- Box 1. Folder 4. Central Conference of American Rabbis.
- Box 1. Folder 5. D-E, General.
- Box 1. Folder 6. F, General.
- Box 1. Folder 7. G, General.
- Box 1. Folder 8. H, General.
- Box 1. Folder 9. I-K, General.
- Box 1. Folder 10. L, General.
- Box 2. Folder 1. Mad-Marc.
- Box 2. Folder 2. Marg-Mo.
- Box 2. Folder 3. N, General.
- Box 2. Folder 4. O-P, General.
- Box 2. Folder 5. R, General.
- Box 2. Folder 6. S, General.
- Box 2. Folder 7. T-V, General.
- Box 2. Folder 8. W, General.

Box 2. Folder 9. World Union for Progressive Judaism, 1929-1931

Box 2. Folder 10. Z, General.

Series B. Sermons and Writings, 1900-1952

Extent 1.8 linear feet (4.5 Hollinger boxes)

Arrangement Individual sermons are arranged alphabetically by title. A partial listing of sermons from 1900-1913 are in the first folder.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 3. Folder 1. Articles.

Box 3. Folder 2. Sermon lists, 1907-1913

Box 3. Folder 3. Sermons, A-Ae.

Box 3. Folder 4. Sermons, Af-Am.

Box 3. Folder 5. Sermons, An-Az.

Box 3. Folder 6. Sermons, B, General.

Box 3. Folder 7. Sermons, C-Ch.

Box 3. Folder 8. Sermons, Ci-Cz.

Box 3. Folder 9. Sermons, D, General.

Box 3. Folder 10. Dedication sermons.

Box 4. Folder 1. Sermons, E, General.

Box 4. Folder 2. Sermons, F, General.

Box 4. Folder 3. Sermons, G, General.

Box 4. Folder 4. Sermons, H, General.

Box 4. Folder 5. Sermons, I, General.

Box 4. Folder 6. Installation sermons.

Box 4. Folder 7. Sermons, J, General.

Box 4. Folder 8. Sermons, K, General.

Box 4. Folder 9. Sermons, L, General.

Box 5. Folder 1. Sermons, Ma-Mn.

Box 5. Folder 2. Sermons, Mo-Mz.

Box 5. Folder 3. Sermons, N, General.

Box 5. Folder 4. Sermons, O, General.

Box 5. Folder 5. Sermons, P-Pl.

Box 5. Folder 6. Sermons, Pm-Q.

Box 5. Folder 7. Sermons, R.

Box 6. Folder 1. Sermons, S-Sn.

Box 6. Folder 2. Sermons, So.

Box 6. Folder 3. Sermons, Sp-Sz.

Box 6. Folder 4. Sermons, T.

Box 6. Folder 5. Sermons, U.
Box 6. Folder 6. Sermons, V.
Box 6. Folder 7. Sermons, W-Wg.
Box 6. Folder 8. Sermons, Wh.
Box 6. Folder 9. Sermons, Wi-Wz.
Box 6. Folder 10. Sermons, X-Z, General.
Box 7. Folder 1. Unidentified sermons.
Box 7. Folder 2. Sermon fragments.
Box 7. Folder 3. Manuscript compilation of sermons, 1915-1948
Box 7. Folder 4. Rabbinic thesis, "Place of the Zohar in Jewish Mysticism."

Series C. Nearprint, 1925-1955

Extent 0.2 linear feet (0.5 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note Contains nearprint articles about Lefkowitz and photographs.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 7. Folder 5. Nearprint, 1929-1955
Box 7. Folder 6. Photographs, 1940, undated