

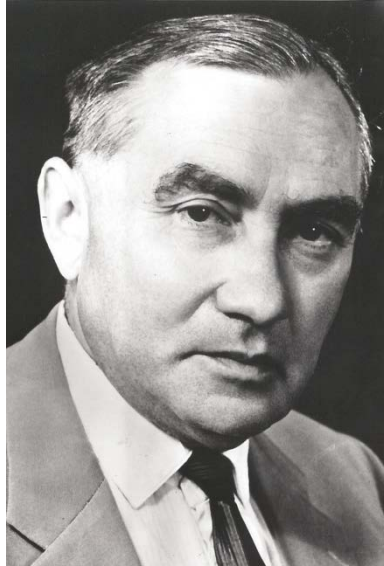


THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE  
**AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES**

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**A Finding Aid to the  
Moses Cyrus Weiler Papers**

**Manuscript Collection No. 215**



## Collection Summary

<b>Title</b>	Moses Cyrus Weiler Papers
<b>Dates</b>	1926-2000, bulk dates 1947-1988
<b>Collection Number</b>	MS-215
<b>Repository</b>	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
<b>Creator</b>	Weiler, Moses Cyrus, 1907-2000
<b>Extent</b>	1.6 linear feet (4 Hollinger boxes)
<b>Language of the Material</b>	Afrikaans, English, French, Hebrew, Yiddish

## Administrative Information

### Biographical Sketch

Moses Cyrus Weiler was born on March 23, 1907 in Riga, Latvia, the son of Rabbi Zalman Weiler and Hannah Horowitz. In 1924, he immigrated with his family to Mandatory Palestine, where his father started a chocolate factory and imported Brazilian coffee beans. He attended Herzliya Hebrew Gymnasium, the first Jewish high school, and in 1926 he received a scholarship from Cyrus Adler to study at Dropsie College in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Following Adler's advice to study in a smaller university to become more Americanized, he transferred to the University of Delaware shortly afterwards. He graduated from there in 1929. He was ordained a rabbi at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1933. Shortly after his graduation, he was sent to Johannesburg, South Africa to establish a Reform congregation there. They initially met in the Freemasons' Hall, but in 1936 Temple Israel was officially opened. He also established a Hebrew school and a Sisterhood for the congregation. In 1945, he founded a school in Alexandria Township, the M.C. Weiler School, which was named after him. He was named honorary life president of the Southern African Union for Progressive Judaism and honorary life chairman of its Central Ecclesiastical Board. He was also part of the South African Zionist Federation and the Executive of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies. By the time he resigned as chief minister of the Johannesburg United Jewish Progressive Congregation in 1957, there were approximately 10,000 Progressive Jews in South Africa, spread out across thirteen congregations in nine cities. He went to Israel in 1958 and spent two years studying at the Institute of Jewish Studies at Hebrew University while residing at kibbutz Usha in the Galilee. In 1960, he was named administrative committee chairman of Beit Hatfutsot, which later became ANU – Museum of the Jewish People. In 1962, he was appointed personal advisor to the chairman of the board of directors of the Jewish National Fund. Over the years, he made multiple international tours on behalf of the Jewish National Fund and the United Jewish Appeal. In 1973, he became senior lecturer in Rabbinics at the HUC-JIR Jerusalem campus. He was also vice president of the World Union for Progressive Judaism and the representative of the Israel Council of Progressive Rabbis to the Central Conference of American Rabbis. He was a founder of Kehillat Mevakshei Derech, an independent congregation, and served as its rabbi for many years.

In 1942, Weiler married Una Gelman of Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. They had six children: Daniel, Adam, Gideon, Aronah, Joseph, and Benjamin. Their sons Adam and Gideon were killed fighting in the 1970 War of Attrition and the 1973 Yom Kippur War respectively. Weiler died on December 4, 2000.

### Scope and Content

This collection documents Weiler's career with the Reform movement in South Africa and Israel. The bulk of the collection consists of his correspondence, newspaper clippings by and about him and his family, records from organizations he was involved in, a biography in Hebrew, an oral history transcript in English, and photographs.

### Arrangement

This collection is arranged in one (1) series:

Series A. General

### Terms of Access

The collection is open for use; no restrictions apply

**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.

**Preferred Citation** Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the Moses Cyrus Weiler Papers and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-215. Moses Cyrus Weiler Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

**Provenance** The Moses Cyrus Weiler Papers were received from Moses Cyrus Weiler from 1952 to around 1997.

**Processing Information** Processed by AJA staff. Reprocessed with accruals by Jacob Heisler, December 2023.

#### Index Terms

**Subjects** Ben-Avi, Naftali / Glaser, Joseph B., 1925-1994 / Gottschalk, Alfred, 1930-2009 / Halevy, Erna / Hirsch, Richard G., 1926-2021 / Jankes, Jack / Kahan, Brenda / Kahan, Nadia / Klein, Michael N. / Marcus, Jacob Rader, 1896-1995 / Salomon, Abram, 1912-1976 / Schindler, Alexander Moshe, 1925-2000 / Segal, Abraham / Weiler, Moses Cyrus, 1907-2000 / Hebrew Reali School (Haifa, Israel) / Jewish National Fund / Jewish National Fund of Australia / Kehillat Mevakshei Derech (Jerusalem) / Temple Israel (Johannesburg, South Africa) / United Jewish Appeal / United Jewish Reform Congregation of Johannesburg / Jews -- South Africa -- Johannesburg / Jews -- Israel / Rabbis

**Media** Photographs

#### **Series A. General, 1926-2000, undated**

**Extent** 1.6 linear feet (4 Hollinger boxes)

**Scope and Content Note** This series documents Weiler's rabbinic career in South Africa and Israel. The bulk of the series consists of his correspondence, newspaper clippings by and about him and his family, records from organizations he was involved in, a biography in Hebrew, an oral history transcript in English, and photographs.

**Arrangement** This series is arranged alphabetically.

#### **Box and Folder Listing**

Box 1. Folder 1. Biography, 1986

Box 1. Folder 2. Clippings and miscellaneous, 1926-1950

Box 1. Folder 3. Clippings and miscellaneous, 1951-1952

Box 1. Folder 4. Clippings and miscellaneous, 1953-1955

Box 1. Folder 5. Clippings and miscellaneous, 1956-1959

Box 1. Folder 6. Clippings and miscellaneous, 1961-1967

Box 1. Folder 7. Clippings and miscellaneous, 1968

Box 1. Folder 8. Clippings and miscellaneous, 1969

Box 2. Folder 1. Clippings and miscellaneous, 1970

Box 2. Folder 2. Clippings and miscellaneous, 1971

Box 2. Folder 3. Clippings and miscellaneous, 1972

Box 2. Folder 4. Clippings and miscellaneous, 1973-1980

Box 2. Folder 5. Clippings and miscellaneous, 1981

Box 2. Folder 6. Clippings and miscellaneous, 1982

Box 2. Folder 7. Clippings and miscellaneous, 1983

Box 2. Folder 8. Clippings and miscellaneous, 1984-1988

Box 3. Folder 1. Clippings and miscellaneous, 1989-1993, 2000

Box 3. Folder 2. Clippings and miscellaneous, Undated

Box 3. Folder 3. Correspondence. A-G, 1956-1995, undated

Box 3. Folder 4. Correspondence. Abraham Segal, 1972-1973

Box 3. Folder 8. Correspondence. Brenda Kahan, 1983-1985

Box 3. Folder 7. Correspondence. Alfred Gottschalk, 1973-1995

Box 3. Folder 5. Correspondence. Abram Salomon, 1971-1973

Box 3. Folder 6. Correspondence. Alexander M. Schindler, 1971, 1983-1986

Box 3. Folder 9. Correspondence. Erna Halevy, 1981-1991

Box 3. Folder 10. Correspondence. H-M, 1933-1995

Box 3. Folder 11. Correspondence. Hebrew Reali School, 1982-1992

Box 3. Folder 12. Correspondence. Jack Jankes, 1972, 1980-1981

Box 3. Folder 13. Correspondence. Jacob Rader Marcus, 1952, 1982-1992

Box 3. Folder 14. Correspondence. Jewish National Fund of Australia and New Zealand, 1966-1867

Box 3. Folder 15. Correspondence. Joseph B. Glaser, 1971-1991

Box 3. Folder 16. Correspondence. Michael N. Klein, 1981-1995

Box 3. Folder 17. Correspondence. N-S, 1952-1997, undated

Box 4. Folder 1. Correspondence. Nadia Kahan, 1986-1994

Box 4. Folder 2. Correspondence. Naftali Ben-Avi, 1983-1992

Box 4. Folder 3. Correspondence. Richard Hirsch, 1970-1992

Box 4. Folder 4. Correspondence. T-Z, 1943-1995, undated

Box 4. Folder 5. Curriculum vitae, 1951-1982

Box 4. Folder 6. Oral history transcript, 1982

Box 4. Folder 7. Photographs, 1974-1978, undated

Box 4. Folder 8. South African Union for Progressive Judaism. Golden Jubilee Conference, 1981

Box 4. Folder 9. South African Union for Progressive Judaism. Guide of Practice, 1947-1951

Box 4. Folder 10. Temple Israel (Johannesburg, South Africa). Visit and bombing, 1983

Box 4. Folder 11. United Jewish Appeal. American tour, 1960

Box 4. Folder 12. United Jewish Reform Congregation of Johannesburg. Twenty-first anniversary, 1954