



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
Amos: The National Jewish Partnership for
Social Justice Records**

Manuscript Collection No. 701

Collection Summary

Title	Amos : The National Jewish Partnership for Social Justice Records
Dates	1991-2002 (bulk 1998-2002)
Collection Number	MS-701
Repository	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator	Amos : the national Jewish partnership for social justice Fein, Leonard J.
Extent	2.8 linear feet (7 Hollinger boxes)
Language of the Material	English

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch

Named for the Biblical prophet Amos who taught social justice, the Amos project took as its mission as being "dedicated to renewing and extending the Jewish community's devotion to social justice." Further, Amos was "designed to be a catalyst and consultant to the Jewish community on social justice engagement." The leader of this group and the inspiration behind the movement that became Amos, Leonard Fein of Boston, wrote the following rationale for the Amos project:

Amos seeks to transform American Jewish culture with the end in view that the pursuit of justice be - and be seen as - among its central commitments. Amos is based on the conviction that America's Jews are capable of and responsible for changing the world for the better, and that acceptance of that responsibility and exercise of that capability will nurture Jewish values, secure Jewish interests, help ensure the Jewish identity of coming generations - and, in fact, help mend the world.

The Amos partnership sought "to elevate the place of social justice on the Jewish communal agenda" in three ways: (1) Promoting the culture of social justice, (2) Capacity building, (3) Catalyzing action.

Amos focused its work on consultation, training and coalition building. Its goal was to form "productive alliances with others within and beyond the Jewish community and in sustaining action over time." Another goal was to serve "as a convener and facilitator for coalitions within the Jewish community focused on social justice. Amos works to identify common interests and build effective campaigns."

Organizations who worked with or partnered with the Amos coalition included the Jewish

Council for Public Affairs, the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, and the Jewish

Reconstructionist Federation, among others. Among its accomplishments, Amos conducted a

National Survey on Social Justice & American Jews, which revealed that a majority of American Jews believe social justice is more important than religious observance in creating Jewish identity. Amos also advocated for issues such as voting rights and worked in support of Jewish communal service programs.

Ultimately, Amos was confronted by many problems, internal and external, that forced it to disband on September 30, 2002. Throughout its brief history Amos strove "to help the Jewish community more effectively pursue its call to help create a just world."

Scope and Content

The records reflect the history and activities of this social justice organization from its first conceptualization as an idea to its launch as an active organization and, ultimately, to its disbanding in 2002. The records reveal the careful and deliberate planning that went into the creation and organization of Amos as well as the work that went into defining Amos and its place in contemporary American Jewish life. The records also document the society's activities in social justice - activities which focused on consultation, training and coalition building.

Amos made full use of electronic and internet technology in its efforts to be a progressive, fluid organization in tune with modern trends in communication, education, and marketing. Included with the physical files of Amos are three CD-ROM discs containing additional records and data, including a version of their website.

The records of Amos are strong in two major areas: 1) they provide a look into the work of Jewish social justice in late 20th/early 21st century America and 2) they stand as a case study for the creation, operation and maintenance of a social service organization. The records of Amos show both the birth and the demise of such a group and, in this way, can be instructive as a documentary record of the challenges present in contemporary American Jewish organizational life.

Arrangement	The collection is arranged in two (2) series: A. Administration; B. Programs.
Terms of Access	The collection is open for use; no restrictions apply.
Preferred Citation	Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the Amos : The National Jewish Partnership for Social Justice Records and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows: [Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-701. Amos : The National Jewish Partnership for Social Justice Records. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.
Provenance	Received from Steven Windmueller and the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Los Angeles, Calif., 2003.
Processing Information	Processed by Kevin Proffitt, September 2003.

Index Terms

Subjects	Social Justice
Personal Names	Fein, Leonard J.
Corporate Names	Amos : the national Jewish partnership for social justice

Series A. Administration, 1991-2002

Extent 1.8 linear feet (4.5 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note The first discussions about the organization which became Amos began in the early 1990s. The files in Series A show the extended - and detailed - planning that went into the organization's creation. Series A contains extensive files on administration, budget, fundraising, marketing, strategic planning, personnel, and governance. Of particular note are the organizing conference files. These files reveal the efforts that went into defining the structure, mission and organization of Amos together with the creation of an administrative and financial environment in which the organization could operate.

Arrangement The series is arranged alphabetically.

Box and Folder Listing

- Box 1. Folder 1. Amos Project (background), 1991-1999
- Box 1. Folder 2. Amos Project (Raybin Associates Consultants), 1997
- Box 1. Folder 3. Amos Organizing Conference, 1998-1999
- Box 1. Folder 4. Amos Organizing Conference, 1998-1999
- Box 1. Folder 5. Amos Organizing documents, 1995-1997
- Box 1. Folder 6. Amos Organizing documents, 1997-1998
- Box 2. Folder 1. Amos Organizing proposals, 1996-1998
- Box 2. Folder 2. Amos Launch, 2001
- Box 2. Folder 3. Amos Launch (photographs), 2001
- Box 2. Folder 4. Booth, Heather, 1999
- Box 2. Folder 5. Budget/finances, 1998-2001
- Box 2. Folder 6. Bylaws, 1999
- Box 2. Folder 7. Chronological file, 2001-2002

Box 2. Folder 8. Executive Board (background), 1999
Box 2. Folder 9. Executive Board, 1998-2000
Box 3. Folder 1. Executive Board, 2001-2002
Box 3. Folder 2. Fundraising, 2000-2001
Box 3. Folder 3. Fundraising (Nathan Cummings Foundation), 1998-1999
Box 3. Folder 4. Fundraising (Nathan Cummings Foundation), 2001-2002
Box 3. Folder 5. Fundraising (various foundations), 1998-2002
Box 3. Folder 6. Marketing/media (press lists).
Box 3. Folder 7. Marketing proposals, 1998-2000
Box 3. Folder 8. Mission statement drafts, 2000, undated
Box 4. Folder 1. Nominating Committee, 1999
Box 4. Folder 2. Nominating Committee, 1999
Box 4. Folder 3. Nominating Committee (Board development), 1999
Box 4. Folder 4. Personnel Committee, 2001
Box 4. Folder 5. Program Committee, 2001-2002
Box 4. Folder 6. Steering Committee, 1998-1999
Box 4. Folder 7. Strategic Planning, 1999
Box 5. Folder 1. Survey Committee, 2000-2001
Box 5. Folder 2. Technical support, 1999
Box 5. Folder 3. Transition (Executive Director), 2001 February
Box 5. Folder 4. Website planning, 2001

Series B. Programs, 1994-2002

Extent 1 linear foot (2.5 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note The series focuses on Amos's efforts at social justice advocacy. These include files on alliance building with other institutions and schools such as the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and the New Jewish Agenda. Another major initiative of Amos was its National Survey of Social Justice & American Jews, which revealed that a majority of American Jews believed social justice was more important than religious observance in developing and maintaining Jewish identity. Series B also contains files on voting rights, social justice and the synagogue, and Jewish communal service programs.

Arrangement The series is arranged alphabetically.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 5. Folder 5. Amos Training conference, 1998-1999
Box 5. Folder 6. Amos Training conference, 1998-1999
Box 5. Folder 7. Choosing an issue, undated
Box 5. Folder 8. Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life, 1996, 2002
Box 5. Folder 9. Fein, Leonard (Smashing Idols and Other Prescriptions for Jewish Continuity), 1994

Box 5. Folder 10. Focus group notes, 2000

Box 5. Folder 11. Focus group training (Boston, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, New York), 2000

Box 6. Folder 1. Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (Los Angeles, Calif.) project, 2002

Box 6. Folder 2. Hillel proposals, undated

Box 6. Folder 3. Jewish communal service programs, undated

Box 6. Folder 4. Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA), 1999

Box 6. Folder 5. JCPA, 2000-2001

Box 6. Folder 6. JCPA (Report), 2001

Box 6. Folder 7. Jewish social justice listserv, 1999

Box 6. Folder 8. Jewish Theological Seminary of America, 1999-2001

Box 6. Folder 9. National Survey on Social Justice & American Jews, 2001

Box 6. Folder 10. New Jewish Agenda, 1998

Box 6. Folder 11. Project seminar notes, 1999

Box 6. Folder 12. Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, 2001

Box 6. Folder 13. Sh'ma article ("Institutional rebirth"), 1999

Box 7. Folder 1. Social action practitioner questionnaire, 1998

Box 7. Folder 2. Social justice training papers, 1998-2000

Box 7. Folder 3. Structures that integrate social action, undated

Box 7. Folder 4. Synagogue social justice working group, undated

Box 7. Folder 5. Voting rights, 2000-2001

Box 7. Folder 6. Miscellaneous correspondence, 1998-2002

Box 7. Folder 7. Brochures.

Item CD-79 to CD-81. Amos website (Yitzhak Santis, designer); Amos computer files, 1998-2002