A Finding Aid to the

Solomon Andhil Fineberg Papers

Manuscript Collection No. 149
### Collection Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Solomon Andhil Fineberg Papers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dates</td>
<td>1914-1984</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collection Number</td>
<td>MS-149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repository</td>
<td>The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creator</td>
<td>Fineberg, Solomon Andhil, 1896-1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extent</td>
<td>2.8 linear feet (7 Hollinger boxes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language of the Material</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Administrative Information

#### Biographical Sketch

Solomon Andhil Fineberg was born on November 29, 1896, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He studied at the University of Cincinnati, graduating in 1917 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. After a stint in the U.S. Marine Corps (from 1917-1919) during World War I (later he was designated as the National Chaplain for the Jewish War Veterans), Fineberg returned to Cincinnati to study at Hebrew Union College. He was ordained a rabbi in 1920 and received a Doctor of Divinity degree in 1958 from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. In 1932 he was awarded a Ph.D. from Columbia University.

After ordination Fineberg accepted the pulpit at Temple Beth El in Niagara Falls, N.Y., remaining there from 1920 to 1924. In 1925 he was assistant rabbi of Rodef Shalom in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. From 1926-1929 he served at the Jewish Community Center at White Plains, N.Y. From 1929-1937 he was rabbi at Sinai Temple in Mount Vernon, N.Y. Rabbi Fineberg also served Temple Judea, Manhasset, N.Y., and Temple Emanu El of Westchester in Harrison, N.Y., in their earliest years.

In 1939 Fineberg joined the staff of the American Jewish Committee (AJC) as national community relations director. He was a pioneer in Jewish community relations and in developing techniques for combatting anti-Semitism. He was known among professional colleagues as "the Dean of Jewish Community Relations." From 1950-1954 Fineberg served as president of the national association of Jewish Community Relations Workers. After retiring from the AJC in 1964 Fineberg continued to further human relations efforts as a consultant to the president and director of the Commitment to Brotherhood program of the National Conference of Christians and Jews until 1981.

Fineberg was also the author of five books and many articles and was a prolific lecturer. The majority of his writings dealt with conquering anti-Semitism and prejudice. One of his books, Overcoming Anti-Semitism (1943) was considered a standard work on that subject and won him the Annisfield-Wolf Literary Award in 1945. His other books included Punishment Without Crime (1949), describing techniques for preventing prejudice and strengthening positive human relations; Checkmate for Rabble-rousers and Deflating the Professional Bigot, in which he promotes the "quarantine treatment" to deal with mass protestors such as Gerald L.K. Smith and George Lincoln Rockwell; and The Rosenberg Case, discussing the evidence against the spies.

In 1925 Fineberg married Hilda Cohen of Baltimore, Maryland. Solomon Andhil Fineberg died in February 1990 at the age of 93.

#### Scope and Content

The Solomon Andhil Fineberg papers describe the career of Solomon Andhil Fineberg as an organizational executive for the American Jewish Committee with interests in promoting human relations and preventing anti-Semitism and prejudice. The collection includes correspondence, reports, writings, and an oral history transcript.

#### Arrangement

This collection is arranged in three (3) series: A. Correspondence and Reports, 1939-1984; B. Oral History Transcript, 1974; C. Writings, 1914-1984.

#### 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 Solomon Andhil Fineberg Papers and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-149. Solomon Andhil Fineberg Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Provenance

Received from Solomon Andhil Fineberg, Mt. Vernon, N.Y., 1973-1974. Additional materials were received from the Jewish Museum of Maryland in 2000 and 2010.

Processing Information

Processed by Kevin Proffitt. Additional processing by Michelle Wirth Detroit, December 2011.

Index Terms

Subjects
Jews -- New York (State) -- New York / Rabbis

Personal Names
Fineberg, Solomon Andhil, 1896-1990

Corporate Names
American Jewish Committee

Media
Oral histories

Series A. Correspondence and Reports, 1939-1984

Extent
2 linear feet (5 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note
Consists of correspondence and reports. The majority of the materials in this series pertain to Fineberg's work for the American Jewish Committee, but also includes materials concerning his activities with other organizations associated with Jewish community relations.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 1. All-American Conference to Combat Communism, 1951-1973, undated
Box 1. Folder 4. American Jewish Committee. Anti-Semitic canards, 1939-1963, undated
Box 1. Folder 5. American Jewish Committee. Anti-Semitic vandalism, 1951-1960
Box 1. Folder 7. American Jewish Committee. Committee on Communism, 1947-1964, undated
Box 1. Folder 8. American Jewish Committee. Community Service Department, 1947-1974
Box 2. Folder 2. American Jewish Committee. Germany, 1951-1973
Box 2. Folder 5-6. American Jewish Committee. MacIver Report, 1951-1953, undated
Box 2. Folder 10. American Jewish Committee. Quarantine - group libel laws, 1947-1972
Box 3. Folder 1. American Jewish Committee. Quarantine - Jewish War Veterans, 1953-1972
Box 3. Folder 5. American Jewish Committee. Quarantine - Smith, Gerald L. K., 1944-1972
Box 3. Folder 7. American Jewish Committee. Research reports, 1959
Box 4. Folder 7. American League Against Communism, 1949-1972, undated
Box 6. Folder 10. Miscellaneous, 1943-1959

Series B. Oral History Interview, 1974

Extent 0.2 linear feet (0.5 Hollinger box)

Box and Folder Listing

Box 5. Folder 1-2. Oral history interview, 1974

Series C. Writings, 1914-1984 (bulk 1949-1954)

Extent 0.6 linear feet (1.5 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Consists of correspondence and reviews pertaining to two of Fineberg's books, Punishment Without Crime and The Rosenberg Case - Fact and Fiction. Along with press releases and addresses, and papers and course work from Fineberg's years at the University of Cincinnati.
Box and Folder Listing

Box 5. Folder 3. Punishment Without Crime. Correspondence and reviews, 1949-1951, 1972, and undated

Box 5. Folder 4. The Rosenberg Case - Fact and Fiction. Correspondence and reviews, 1953-1954, 1973

Box 7. Folder 1. The Rosenberg Case - Fact and Fiction. Correspondence and miscellaneous, 1950-1984

Box 7. Folder 2. The Rosenberg Case - Fact and Fiction. Correspondence: Lehrman, Nathaniel, 1983

Box 7. Folder 3. Press releases and addresses, 1926-1979

Box 7. Folder 4. University of Cincinnati papers and course work, 1914-1916

Box 7. Folder 5. Autobiographical writings, undated