



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
George Vida Papers**

Manuscript Collection No. 620


Rabbi George Vida

Collection Summary

Title	George Vida Papers
Dates	1939-1989
Collection Number	MS-620
Repository	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator	Vida, George, 1906-1989
Extent	0.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box)
Language of the Material	English

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch George Vida was born on July 31, 1906 and ordained as a rabbi in 1937. By 1939 he had found refuge from the Nazis by emigrating with his wife, Amy Vida, and children from Czechoslovakia to the United States. In 1940, Vida received his U.S. citizenship.

From 1943-1961, Vida served in the United States Army as a chaplain. During his military career he traveled in Europe -- England, Scotland, Belgium, and Germany. While in Europe he was devoted to helping those who had suffered by the hands of the Nazis. His work within the DP camps is documented in his book, *From Doom to Dawn: A Jewish Chaplain's Story of Displaced Persons*, published in 1962.

Little documentation was found describing Vida's life after he retired from the Army in 1961. During most of the 1960s he was active in the Rockville, Maryland area, especially at Beth Tikva, Rockville-Wheaton Synagogue. From 1971-1989 he was active in the Berkeley, California area. By 1981 he was serving as one of the rabbis and scholars-in-residence for Temple Beth El in Berkeley. Also by 1981 the Rabbi George Vida Library of Temple Beth El, described as one of the finest congregational libraries in the area, had been named in his honor.

George Vida died on July 24, 1989.

Scope and Content Birth certificates signed by Rabbi Vida; and records of circumcisions, marriages and one funeral performed by Rabbi Vida at military and civilian locations in the United States and Germany.

Arrangement The collection is arranged in one (1) series: A. General.

Terms of Access The collection is open for use; no restrictions apply.

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

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder # . MS-620. George Vida Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Provenance Received from Gary Tishoff, Berkeley, Calif., March 1991.

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Index Terms

Subjects Circumcision

Media Birth certificates / Marriage records

Series A. General, 1939-1989

Scope and Content Note The first folder documents births and circumcisions of Jewish children at Fort Lee, Virginia, and at several locations in Germany from 1951-1961; at Rockville, Maryland from 1962-1968; and at Berkeley, California from 1975-1989.

The next two folders document marriages performed by Vida from 1939 to 1980. The folder

Rabbi Vida labeled "Weddings performed in U.S." contains records of marriages performed from 1944-1950 in the states of New York, New Jersey, Missouri (St. Louis), and Pennsylvania (Philadelphia). The folder Vida labeled "Marriages" contains records of marriages performed from 1944-1980 in Missouri (Ft. Leonard Wood), Germany, Virginia (Ft. Lee, Richmond), New York, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and California.

The last folder contains the record of a funeral held in Berlin, Germany for a British soldier, Reuben Silver, on April 17, 1961.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 1. Birth and circumcision records, 1951-1989

Box 1. Folder 2. Weddings performed in U.S., 1939-1950

Box 1. Folder 3. Marriages, 1944-1980

Box 1. Folder 4. Funeral (Berlin, Germany), 1961 April 17