A Finding Aid to the
Alexander Moshe Schindler Papers

Manuscript Collection No. 630
Collection Summary

Title
Alexander Moshe Schindler Papers

Dates

Collection Number
MS-630

Repository
The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives

Creator
Schindler, Alexander Moshe, 1925-2000

Extent
10.4 linear feet (26 Hollinger boxes)

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch
Alexander Moshe Schindler was born in 1925, in Munich, the son of Eliezer and Sali (Hoyda) Schindler. His family left Germany in 1932 to escape the Nazis and after brief stays in Italy and France, settled in the United States. Schindler attended the City College of New York but left school to fight in World War II. While in the service Schindler received the Bronze Star and a Purple Heart.

After the war Schindler returned to school and eventually studied for the rabbinate at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, where he was ordained in 1953. Following ordination Schindler served at Temple Emanuel in Worcester, Massachusetts while also heading the B’nai B’rith Hillel Foundation at Clark University in Worcester -- as well as serving at the Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

From 1963-1967 Schindler served as director of education of the Commission of Jewish Education of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the Central Conference of American Rabbis. In 1967 he was appointed vice-president of the UAHC and in June 1972 was selected to succeed Maurice N. Eisendrath as president. Schindler was inducted as president of the UAHC on November 12, 1973, remaining in this position until his retirement in 1996.

As president of the UAHC Schindler quickly became a leading voice in American Jewish life. He worked tirelessly advocating social justice, human rights, and liberal causes in both the Jewish and secular communities. A lifelong Zionist, Schindler worked closely with religious and political leaders as well as with members of the Israeli government on issues of peace, security, and Jewish rights in Israel and throughout the world.

Schindler served on numerous boards and committees throughout his career. From 1976-1978 Schindler served as chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, the first Reform Jewish leader to be elected to this position. In 1950 Schindler authored From Discrimination to Extermination, which examined anti-Jewish policies of the Nazi regime from 1933-1945. He was literary editor of The CCAR Journal and was also founding editor of Dimensions, a quarterly journal of Jewish thought.

In 1956 Schindler married Rhea Rosenblum. They had five children. Alexander M. Schindler died on November 15, 2000 at the age of 75.

Scope and Content
Alexander M. Schindler, throughout his life and career, was a leading voice in the issues and concerns of his time. A classic liberal, Schindler advocated for both Jewish and secular causes -- ranging from Israel, to the environment, gender and equality issues, civil rights, interfaith dialogue, gay rights, the peace movement, Soviet Jewry, and many others.

As a result of his advocacy and concern, this collection, while documenting the life and activities of Alexander M. Schindler, also contains contemporary perspective on many, if not most, of the key social and cultural issues facing American Jewry and American society from the 1960s to the 1990s.

The collection also reflects the organization and functioning of American Jewish life during this time, particularly relating to the American Reform Jewish movement and its institutions -- namely, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations -- as well as the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

Arrangement
This collection is arranged in three (3) series: A. Union of American Hebrew Congregations; B. Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations; C. Speeches and Eulogies.

Terms of Access
The collection is open for use; no restrictions apply.
Preferred Citation  
Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the Alexander Moshe Schindler Papers and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-630. Alexander Moshe Schindler Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Provenance  

Processing Information  
Processed by Kevin Proffitt, March 1999.

Index Terms

Personal Names  
Schindler, Alexander Moshe, 1925-2000

Corporate Names  
Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations / Union of American Hebrew Congregations

Media  
Sermons


Extent  
7.6 linear feet (19 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note  
Contains files pertaining to persons, issues, and organizations that Schindler and the UAHC dealt with during his presidency. Also included in this series are files pertaining to internal and organizational functions of the UAHC. A few materials in this series pre-date Schindler’s term as president, going back to the tenure of Maurice N. Eisendrath.

Arrangement  
The series is arranged alphabetically by subject, organization, or correspondent.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 1. Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome [AIDS], 1988-1994
Box 1. Folder 6. American Jewish Congress, 1984-1990
Box 2. Folder 1. American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, 1995-1996
Box 2. Folder 2. American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee [International Development Program], 1989-1990
Box 2. Folder 6. Apartheid, 1985-1990
Box 2. Folder 10. Camps [miscellaneous], 1982-1992
Box 3. Folder 1. Center for Foreign Policy Development, 1986
Box 3. Folder 2. Center for Learning and Leadership, 1988-1989
Box 3. Folder 3. Civil rights [March on Washington], 1983
Box 3. Folder 5. Clergy and Laity Concerned, 1985
Box 3. Folder 8. Communications Committee, 1985-1993
Box 3. Folder 11. Cults, Committee on, 1983-1993
Box 4. Folder 2. Disabled, Committee on, 1982-1988
Box 4. Folder 3. Drug and alcohol abuse, Committee on, 1990-1993
Box 4. Folder 4. East German mission, 1989
Box 4. Folder 5. East-West accord, 1984
Box 4. Folder 7. Ethics Committee, 1988
Box 5. Folder 3. Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion Gottschalk, Alfred, 1972-1993
Box 5. Folder 7. Interreligious Presidents Advisory Committee on Interreligious Affairs, 1986-1995
Box 5. Folder 8. Israel, 1992-1995
Box 5. Folder 9-10. Israel Camp [Budget and enrollment], 1966-1983
Box 6. Folder 1-3. Israel Camp [Program, publicity, staff, miscellaneous], 1965-1989
Box 7. Folder 1. Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture [Committee on the Holocaust], 1975-1978
Box 7. Folder 2. Memorial resolutions undated.
Box 8. Folder 1. National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, 1985-1992
Box 10. Folder 4. Outreach [Canadian council], 1979-1990
Box 10. Folder 5. Outreach [Children], 1982-1985
Box 10. Folder 8. Outreach [Facilitators/Special meetings], 1979-1983
Box 10. Folder 9. Outreach [Foreign countries], 1979-1985
Box 10. Folder 11. Outreach [Intermarriage], 1985-1994
Box 11. Folder 1. Outreach [Mid-Atlantic council], 1979-1990
Box 11. Folder 2. Outreach [Midwest council], 1979-1993
Box 11. Folder 4. Outreach [New Jersey/Hudson Valley], 1979-1989
Box 11. Folder 6. Outreach [Northeast council], 1979-1990
Box 11. Folder 7. Outreach [Northern California/Pacific Northwest], 1979-1990
Box 11. Folder 8. Outreach [Pacific Southwest], 1979-1993
Box 11. Folder 10. Outreach [Policy], 1993
Box 12. Folder 1. Outreach [Southeast/South Florida], 1979-1983
Box 12. Folder 2. Outreach [Southwest council], 1979-1986
Box 12. Folder 5. Polish project [Art and artifacts], 1982-1983
Box 13. Folder 2. Reform communities in Israel, 1984-1995
Box 15. Folder 1. Task Force on Religious Commitment, 1983-1986
Box 15. Folder 3. Task Force on Youth Suicide Yad Tikvah, 1984-1995
Box 15. Folder 4. Terrorism, 1986
Box 15. Folder 5. Transcontinental music, 1976-1994
Box 16. Folder 4. United States Interreligious Committee for Peace, 1974
Box 16. Folder 5. Vatican Judaica art exhibit, 1987
Box 17. Folder 1. Waldheim, Kurt [subject], 1986
Box 17. Folder 2. Wallenberg, Raoul - International Society, 1991
Series B. Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, 1962-1996

Extent 1.6 linear feet (4 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, as described in the Encyclopaedia Judaica, was organized in 1955 "out of a growing concern for unified action by major American Jewish organizations to help strengthen peace and stability in the Middle East." Today, the Conference has approximately 25 member organizations and has expanded its mission to increase communication and cooperative action for the Jewish people in Israel and the world over. Alexander Schindler served as chair of the Conference from 1976-1978. The series spans the years 1962-1996, but the bulk of the series contains files during Schindler's term as chair.

Arrangement The series is arranged alphabetically by subject, organization or correspondent.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 20. Folder 3. American Jewish Research Institute, 1979
Box 20. Folder 5. Arms control, 1977
Box 20. Folder 6. Austria, 1976-1978
Box 20. Folder 8. Brown, George S., 1976
Box 20. Folder 11. Discretionary fund, 1976
Box 20. Folder 13. Editorials, 1976
Box 21. Folder 9. Israel [Comprehensive Communications Plan], 1978
Box 22. Folder 1. Israel [Comprehensive Communications Plan], 1978
Box 22. Folder 2. Israel [Government Investment Authority], 1978
Box 22. Folder 3. Israel [30th anniversary], 1978
Box 22. Folder 5. Mexico, 1976-1977
Box 22. Folder 8. Personnel search, 1976
Box 22. Folder 12. Sisco, Joseph, 1976
Box 22. Folder 13. South America, 1978
Box 23. Folder 1. State Department, 1977-1979
Box 23. Folder 4. Task force proposals, 1976
Box 23. Folder 7. World Organization of Jews from Arab Countries, 1977-1978
Box 23. Folder 8. World Sephardi Federation, 1977-1978

**Series C. Speeches and Eulogies, 1967-1996**

**Extent** 1.2 linear feet (3 Hollinger boxes)

**Scope and Content Note** Consists of speeches given by Schindler.

**Arrangement** The speeches are arranged chronologically.

**Box and Folder Listing**

Box 25. Folder 1-5. Speeches, 1989-1993