A Finding Aid to the
Theodore Tannenwald, Jr. Papers

Manuscript Collection No. 640
Collection Summary

Title Theodore Tannenwald Jr. Papers
Dates 1953-1998
Collection Number MS-640
Repository The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator Tannenwald, Theodore, 1916-1999
Extent 4 linear feet (10 Hollinger boxes)
Language of the Material English

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch

Admitted to the bar in 1939, he joined the New York law firm of Weil, Gotshal and Manges as an associate in 1939. He became a full partner in 1947 and practiced law in New York and Washington until he was appointed a judge on the United States Tax Court by President Lyndon Johnson in 1965.

Tannenwald’s private law practice was interspersed with several leaves of absence for government service. During World War II, he served in the Department of State overseas as a special consultant to the Secretary of war; from 1946 to 1949, he was a part-time consultant to Secretary of Defense, James Forrestal; from 1950 to 1953, he was closely associated with W. Averell Harriman, serving first as counsel when Harriman was special assistant for foreign affairs to President Truman and as chief of staff when Harriman became Director for Mutual Security in 1951. His relationship with Harriman continued on an informal, consultant basis from 1954 to 1958, when Harriman was Governor of New York. Also during the 1950's, Tannenwald served in an advisory capacity to the Government of Israel.

Appointed to President Kennedy’s Task Force on Foreign Assistance in 1961, he served as Special Assistant to the Secretary of State where he represented the administration in guiding the foreign aid program through Congress.

In 1981, Tannenwald was elected to a two-year term as chief judge for the United States Tax Court, having served on the court since 1965. In 1983 he retired and took senior status, but continued to keep a substantial docket and fill in as chief judge.

Beginning in 1958 until his death, Tannenwald served in many capacities, including chairman, on the Board of Governors of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. He also chaired the Israel Committee of the American Jewish Committee and served on the organization’s National Executive Board and Board of Governors.

Tannenwald’s academic accomplishments included lecturing at George Washington University, the University of Miami Law School, and the University of San Diego Law School where he was Distinguished Adjunct Professor. He held honorary degrees from the University of Cincinnati and the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.

Theodore Tannenwald, Jr. was married to Selma (Pete) Peterfreund Tannenwald and they had two sons, Peter and Robert. He died on January 20, 1999.

Scope and Content
Papers consist of correspondence, memos, reports, committee records, articles and addresses, nearprint, and clippings reflecting Tannenwald’s service as a consultant and advisor to the Israeli government, his involvement with the Israel Committee of the American Jewish Committee, and his service on the Board of Governors of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. There is also a small amount of material dealing with his work as a judge on the U.S. Tax Court.

Arrangement
The collection is arranged into four (4) series as follows: A. Government of Israel; B. American Jewish Committee; C. Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion; D. United States Tax Court.

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

Preferred Citation
Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the Theodore Tannenwald, Jr. Papers and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:
Provenance
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Processing Information
Processed by Dorothy Smith, February 2000.

Index Terms
Subjects
Israel -- Politics and government

Corporate Names
American Jewish Committee / Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion

Series A. Government of Israel, 1953-1962

Extent
1.2 linear feet (3 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note
Consists of correspondence and subject files pertaining to Judge Tannenwald's service as a consultant and advisor to the Government of Israel in the 1950s in matters dealing with economic development and U.S. foreign aid. The material in this series includes correspondence with the office of the Israeli Prime Minister, the Israeli ambassador to the United States, Abba Eban, as well as officials in the Eisenhower administration, the Congress, and the corporate world.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 1. Correspondence, 1953
Box 1. Folder 2. Correspondence, 1954
Box 1. Folder 3. Correspondence, 1955
Box 1. Folder 4. Correspondence, 1956
Box 1. Folder 5. Correspondence, 1957-1958
Box 1. Folder 6. Correspondence, 1959-1962
Box 2. Folder 1. Trip to Israel, 1954
Box 2. Folder 2. Israel housing project, 1957
Box 2. Folder 3. Development loan fund agreement., 1959
Box 2. Folder 4. Surplus commodities, 1953-1958
Box 2. Folder 5. Hadassah food program, undated
Box 2. Folder 7. Middle East, 1953-1955
Box 2. Folder 8. Oil, 1954-1955
Box 2. Folder 9. Governor Harriman's address, 1956
Box 2. Folder 10. Statement: Ambassador Abba Eban, 1955
Box 2. Folder 11. Loan agreement, 1954
Box 2. Folder 14. Foreign registration, 1953-1956
Box 3. Folder 1. Border incidents, 1956
Series B. American Jewish Committee, 1963-1969

Extent 1.2 linear feet (3 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note The series relates to Tannenwald's work with the American Jewish Committee (AJC) where he served on the Board of Governors and as chair of the Israel Committee. The series consists mostly of correspondence but also includes reports, subject files, and nearprint covering such subjects as the Arab Boycott, the American Jewish community and Israel, the 1967 War, economic ties between Israel and the U.S., U.S. relations in the Middle East, the AJC delegations to South America and Israel, and refugees.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 4. Folder 1. Correspondence, 1963 January-April
Box 4. Folder 2. Correspondence, 1963 May-December
Box 4. Folder 3. Correspondence, 1964
Box 4. Folder 4. Correspondence, 1965
Box 4. Folder 5. Correspondence, 1968
Box 4. Folder 6. Correspondence, 1969 January-April
Box 5. Folder 1. Correspondence, 1969 May-August
Box 5. Folder 2. Correspondence, 1969 September-December
Box 5. Folder 3. Correspondence, 1970-1971
Box 5. Folder 5. German scientists to Egypt, 1962-1963
Box 5. Folder 6. Statement on the Middle East, 1963
Box 5. Folder 7. State Department and Israel, 1966-1969
Box 6. Folder 1. Arab boycott, 1964-1965
Box 6. Folder 2. Reports, 1958-1962

Series C. Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, 1957-1998

Extent 1.2 linear feet (3 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Contains correspondence, nearprint, clippings, addresses, and committee files pertaining to Tannenwald's activities on the Board of Governors of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion for nearly 40 years. Included is material on long-range and strategic planning, the HUC Cultural Center, the establishment of the Jerusalem campus, honorary degrees, and fund-raising.
Box and Folder Listing

Box 7. Folder 1. Correspondence, 1957-1979
Box 7. Folder 2. Correspondence, 1979-1985
Box 7. Folder 3. Correspondence, 1886-1988
Box 7. Folder 4. Correspondence, 1989-1993
Box 7. Folder 5. Correspondence, 1994-1998
Box 7. Folder 7. Executive Committee, 1990-1995
Box 8. Folder 1. HUC Cultural Center, 1994
Box 8. Folder 2. Communications Audit & Public Relations recommendations, 1988
Box 8. Folder 4. Long-range Planning Committee, 1977-1993
Box 8. Folder 5. Strategic Planning Committee, 1994
Box 8. Folder 6. Miscellaneous, 1973
Box 9. Folder 4. UAHC Taskforce on HUC Campuses, 1990
Box 9. Folder 5. UAHC Taskforce on HUC Campuses, 1991

Series D. United States Tax Court, 1973-1990

Extent 0.2 linear feet (0.5 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note The series pertains to Tannenwald’s work as a judge on the United States Tax Court and includes a small amount of correspondence and nearprint as well as a selection of his articles and addresses on tax law.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 10. Folder 1. Correspondence, 1979-1990
Box 10. Folder 2. American Bar Association Distinguished Service Award, 1998
Box 10. Folder 3. Articles and addresses, 1964-1979
Box 10. Folder 4. Articles and addresses, 1980-1995

Series E. Speeches, 1952-1998

Extent 0.2 linear feet (0.5 Hollinger box)
Box and Folder Listing

Box 10. Folder 6. Mutual Security Program address, 1952