A Finding Aid to the
David Lefkowitz, Jr. Papers

Manuscript Collection No. 650
## Collection Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>David Lefkowitz, Jr. Papers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dates</td>
<td>1930-1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collection Number</td>
<td>MS-650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repository</td>
<td>The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creator</td>
<td>Lefkowitz, David, 1911-1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extent</td>
<td>12.8 linear feet (32 Hollinger boxes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language of the Material</td>
<td>English, Hebrew, and Spanish</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Administrative Information

### Biographical Sketch
David Lefkowitz, Jr. was born in Dayton, Ohio, in 1911 to Rabbi David Lefkowitz, Sr. who moved the family to Dallas, Texas, in 1920. He attended both the University of Texas and Southern Methodist University before entering the University of Cincinnati, from which he graduated in 1932. He received his rabbinical training from the Hebrew Union College, from which he was ordained in 1937.

Rabbi Lefkowitz' first pulpit assignment was as assistant rabbi to his father at Temple Emanu-El in Dallas, the first instance in the American rabbinate where father and son served the same congregation. In 1940, he was called to the pulpit of B’nai Zion congregation in Shreveport, Louisiana to serve as associate rabbi to then Senior Rabbi Abram Brill. Lefkowitz attained the post of senior rabbi upon Brill’s retirement in January 1941, and retained that position until his retirement in 1972. He continued to serve his congregation as Rabbi Emeritus until his death in 1999.

Lefkowitz served as a chaplain in the United States Air Force from 1943 through 1946. During that time, he served both at home and in Europe, where he helped homeless Jews in the various centers for displaced persons. He continued his military activity as a reservist and a member of many military organizations, such as the National Sojourners and the American Legion, for which he served as National Chaplain in 1950.

Lefkowitz was active in many aspects of the Reform movement. He served on various commissions of the CCAR, was a life member and founder of both the National Federation of Temple Youth (NFTY), and the Southern Federation of Temple Youth (SOFTY), and finally served as the president of the National Organization of Retired Reform Rabbis (NAORRR) from 1988-1990.

In addition to his military and rabbinical activities, Lefkowitz also served as instructor to local universities, was active on many boards and commissions, national and local, and all manner of civic work. He died in Shreveport, Louisiana in 1999.

### Scope and Content
The David Lefkowitz Jr. Papers consists of correspondence, nearprint, photographs, sermons and writings of David Lefkowitz Jr. Material relates both to his rabbinical career and his chaplaincy career.

### Arrangement
Organized into four (4) series: A. Writings; B. Rabbinic/Congregational Activities; C. Correspondence/Projects; D. Nearprint.

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

### Preferred Citation
Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the David Lefkowitz, Jr. Papers and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-650. David Lefkowitz, Jr. Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

### Provenance
Received from Leona Lefkowitz, Shreveport, La., August 1999.

### Processing Information
Processed by Yair D. Robinson, August 2000.

### Index Terms

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Subjects</th>
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<td>Jewish youth / Jews -- Louisiana -- Shreveport / Jews -- Texas -- Dallas / Military chaplains / Rabbis</td>
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</table>
Personal Names  Lefkowitz, David, 1911-1999

Corporate Names  American Legion / Central Conference of American Rabbis / Congregation B’nai Zion (Shreveport, La.) / Southern Federation of Temple Youth / Temple Emanu-El (Dallas, Tex.)

Media  Photographs / Sermons

**Series A. Writings, 1937-1990**

**Extent**  5.2 linear feet (13 Hollinger boxes)

**Arrangement**  The series is divided into two (2) subseries: 1. Sermons; 2. Other Writings.

**Subseries 1. Sermons, 1937-1985**

**Extent**  3.2 linear feet (8 Hollinger boxes)

**Scope and Content Note**  The subseries covers Lefkowitz’s sermonic material, organized by the weekly portion and/or holiday, when applicable.

**Arrangement**  Sermons are organized by the weekly Torah portion as determined by the Jewish Calendar Cycle, and by holiday/category. They are ordered chronologically within their folders.

**Box and Folder Listing**

- Box 1. Folder 3. Lech Lecha, 1937-1974
- Box 1. Folder 4. Vayera, 1937-1968
- Box 1. Folder 5. Chayae Sarah, 1937-1969
- Box 1. Folder 6. Toledot, 1937-1975
- Box 1. Folder 7. Vayetze, 1937-1971
- Box 2. Folder 1. Vayishlach, 1937-1971
- Box 2. Folder 3. Va-yechi, 1937-1971
- Box 2. Folder 4. Shemot, 1937-1972
- Box 2. Folder 5. Yitro, 1937-1971
- Box 3. Folder 1. Bo, 1937-1972
- Box 3. Folder 2. Beshallach, 1937-1971
- Box 3. Folder 3. Tetzaveh, 1937-1978
Box 3. Folder 8. Va-yikahel, 1937-1974
Box 4. Folder 2. Tzav, 1937-1971
Box 5. Folder 1. BeMidbar, 1937-1972
Box 5. Folder 4. Shelach Lecha, 1937-1976
Box 5. Folder 5. Chukat, 1937-1985
Box 5. Folder 6. Balak, 1943-1944
Box 5. Folder 7. Pinchas, 1974
Box 5. Folder 8. Matot, 1937-1944
Box 5. Folder 9. Ki Tetze, 1944
Box 5. Folder 10. Ki Tavo, 1937-1948
Box 5. Folder 11. Nitzavim, 1937-1942
Box 5. Folder 12. Ha'azinu, 1937-1965
Box 5. Folder 15. Chaplaincy sermons, 1943-1944
Box 5. Folder 17. Miscellaneous sermons, 1937-1980
Box 5. Folder 18. Miscellaneous sermons (delivered by others), 1965-1969
Box 6. Folder 1. Passover sermons, 1937-1968
Box 6. Folder 2. Purim sermons, 1937-1941
Box 6. Folder 3. Sermonettes, undated
Box 6. Folder 4. Sermon ideas/drafts, 1937, undated
Box 6. Folder 5. Shavuot sermons, 1937-1961
Box 7. Folder 1. Rosh Hashanah evening, 1937-1984
Box 7. Folder 2. Rosh Hashanah morning, 1937-1982
Subseries 2. Other Writings, 1937-1990

Extent 2 linear feet (5 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Contains a variety of materiel, such as lectures, benedictions, and radio addresses.

Arrangement The subseries is arranged alphabetically by topic and chronologically within folders.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 9. Folder 1. Americana Lectures Institute, 1942
Box 9. Folder 3. Assorted lectures, 1940-1949
Box 10. Folder 1. Benedictions and invocations.
Box 10. Folder 2. Book reviews.
Box 10. Folder 3. Centenary College, 1957-1979
Box 10. Folder 5. Comparative Religion (LSU).
Box 10. Folder 7. Educational material.
Box 10. Folder 8. Graduation addresses.
Box 10. Folder 9. High Holiday material.
Box 11. Folder 1. HUC material.
Box 11. Folder 2. Mishnah/Midrash assorted material.
Box 11. Folder 3. Miscellaneous writings, 1937-1948
Box 11. Folder 4. Miscellaneous writings, 1950-1959
Box 11. Folder 8. Miscellaneous writings, undated
Box 12. Folder 1. Notes and rough drafts.
Box 12. Folder 2. Notes and rough drafts.
Series B. Rabbinic/Congregational Activities, 1937-1992

Extent 4.4 linear feet (11 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Contains documentation from Lefkowitz’s activities as a congregational rabbi in Dallas and Shreveport, as well as his activities as Rabbi Emeritus. Materials include adult/youth course material, records for youth organizations (particularly the Southern Federation for Temple Youth) and congregant records such as marriage and funeral records.

Arrangement Materials are arranged alphabetically by topic and chronologically within the folder.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 14. Folder 1. Adult Education lectures/notes.
Box 14. Folder 6. Confirmation class, 1938-1940
Box 14. Folder 7. Confirmation class, 1942
Box 14. Folder 8. Confirmation class, 1942
Box 15. Folder 1. Confirmation class, 1955
Box 15. Folder 2. Confirmation class, 1956-1957
Box 15. Folder 3. Confirmation class, 1958-1959
Box 15. Folder 4. Confirmation class, 1960-1961
Box 15. Folder 5. Confirmation class, 1962
Box 15. Folder 6. Confirmation class, 1963-1965
Box 15. Folder 7. Confirmation class, 1967-1968
Box 15. Folder 9. Confirmation class, 1971-1972
Box 16. Folder 1. Confirmation class lecture notes.
Box 16. Folder 2. Confirmation Class: Comparative Religion.
Box 24. Folder 1. Study Series (Bible).
Box 24. Folder 2. Study Series (Comparative Religion).
Box 24. Folder 4. Study Series (Pre-Sunday School Mothers).
Box 24. Folder 5. Study Series (Responza).
Box 24. Folder 7. Study Series (Sisterhood/Temple Youth Group).
Box 24. Folder 8. Study Series (Spanish Inquisition).
Box 24. Folder 10. Study Series (Talmud).
Box 24. Folder 11. Study Series (Torah).
Box 24. Folder 13. Weddings, 1944-1959

Series C. Correspondence/Projects, 1930-1995

Extent 2.4 linear feet (6 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Contains correspondence and documentation covering a wide range of projects and activities. Topics of note include Lefkowitz's activity in the U.S. Air Force, the American Legion, NAORRR, correspondence with a congregation in Nigeria, a letter of commendation from the Vatican, and personal correspondence.

Arrangement The series is arranged alphabetically by topic/name. Correspondence is filed chronologically within topics.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 25. Folder 1. American Committee for Judaism (ACJ) correspondence, 1942-1949
Box 25. Folder 2. American Committee for Judaism (ACJ) correspondence, 1950
Box 25. Folder 3. American Committee for Judaism (ACJ) correspondence, 1951-1954
Box 25. Folder 4. American Legion, 1943-1950
Box 25. Folder 5. American Legion, 1951
Box 25. Folder 6. American Legion, 1952-1956
Box 25. Folder 7. American Legion, undated
Box 26. Folder 1. Auxiliary chaplaincy.
Box 26. Folder 4. Chaplaincy records, undated
Box 26. Folder 5. Congratulatory correspondence, 1950
Box 27. Folder 1. Military correspondence, 1953-1964
Box 27. Folder 2. Military correspondence, 1966-1972
Box 27. Folder 3. Military correspondence, undated
Box 27. Folder 4. Military documentation, 1943-1944
Box 27. Folder 5. Military documentation, 1945-1946
Box 27. Folder 6. Military documentation, 1947-1949
Box 28. Folder 5. Military orders/reports, 1945
Box 29. Folder 5-6. Nigerian correspondence.
Box 30. Folder 1. Personal correspondence, 1930-1949
Box 30. Folder 2. Personal correspondence, 1950-1959
Box 30. Folder 4. Prayer in schools.
Box 30. Folder 5. Red Cross.
Box 30. Folder 7. Sisterhood.

**Series D. Nearprint, 1937-1989**

**Extent** 0.8 linear feet (2 Hollinger boxes)

**Scope and Content Note** Includes SOFTY yearbooks, brochures and pamphlets, his chaplain ensign, and various certificates and awards.

**Arrangement** The series is arranged alphabetically by topic.

**Box and Folder Listing**

Box 31. Folder 1. Brochures.
Box 31. Folder 2. Certificates.
Box 31. Folder 3. Clippings, Civilian.
Box 31. Folder 5. Legal.
Box 31. Folder 7. Miscellaneous.
Box 31. Folder 8. Oversized items.
Box 32. Folder 1. Photographs, Civilian.
Box 32. Folder 2. Photographs, Military.
Box 32. Folder 3. SOFTY yearbooks.