



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE  
**AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES**

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**A Finding Aid to the  
David Lefkowitz, Jr. Papers  
Manuscript Collection No. 650**

## Collection Summary

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

## Administrative Information

<b>Biographical Sketch</b>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<b>Scope and Content</b>	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.
<b>Arrangement</b>	Organized into four (4) series: A. Writings; B. Rabbinic/Congregational Activities; C. Correspondence/Projects; D. Nearprint.
<b>Terms of Access</b>	The collection is open for use; no restrictions apply.
<b>Preferred Citation</b>	<p>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:</p> <p>[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-650. David Lefkowitz, Jr. Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.</p>
<b>Provenance</b>	Received from Leona Lefkowitz, Shreveport, La., August 1999.
<b>Processing Information</b>	Processed by Yair D. Robinson, August 2000.

## Index Terms

<b>Subjects</b>	Jewish youth / Jews -- Louisiana -- Shreveport / Jews -- Texas -- Dallas / Military chaplains / Rabbis
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**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 1. Bereshit, 1937-1970  
Box 1. Folder 2. Noach, 1937-1970  
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 2. Va-Yeshev, 1937-1970  
Box 2. Folder 3. Miketz, 1937-1970  
Box 2. Folder 4. Vayigash, 1937-1971  
Box 2. Folder 5. Va-yechi, 1937-1971  
Box 2. Folder 6. Shemot, 1937-1972  
Box 2. Folder 7. Va-era, 1937-1972  
Box 3. Folder 1. Bo, 1937-1972  
Box 3. Folder 2. Beshallach, 1937-1971  
Box 3. Folder 3. Yitro, 1937-1971  
Box 3. Folder 4. Mishpatim, 1937-1971  
Box 3. Folder 5. Terumah, 1937-1970  
Box 3. Folder 6. Tetzaveh, 1937-1978

Box 3. Folder 7. Ki Tisah, 1937-1972

Box 3. Folder 8. Va-yikahel, 1937-1974

Box 3. Folder 9. Pekudei, 1937-1976

Box 4. Folder 1. Va-Yikra, 1937-1971

Box 4. Folder 2. Tzav, 1937-1971

Box 4. Folder 3. Shemini, 1937-1974

Box 4. Folder 4. Tazriah, 1937-1970

Box 4. Folder 5. Metsorah, 1937-1971

Box 4. Folder 6. Acharei Mot, 1937-1974

Box 4. Folder 7. Kedoshim, 1937-1972

Box 4. Folder 8. Emor, 1937-1972

Box 4. Folder 9. B'har Sinai, 1937-1972

Box 4. Folder 10. B'chukotai, 1937-1962

Box 5. Folder 1. BeMidbar, 1937-1972

Box 5. Folder 2. Nasoh, 1937-1968

Box 5. Folder 3. Be-Ha'alotcha, 1937-1982

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 13. Armistice (Veterans) Day sermons, 1937-1960

Box 5. Folder 14. Chanukah sermons, 1937-1966

Box 5. Folder 15. Chaplaincy sermons, 1943-1944

Box 5. Folder 16. Consecration sermons, 1959-1970

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 6. Folder 6. Sukkot sermons, 1937-1971

Box 7. Folder 1. Rosh Hashanah evening, 1937-1984

Box 7. Folder 2. Rosh Hashanah morning, 1937-1982

- Box 7. Folder 3. Shabbat Shuvah, 1937-1972
- Box 8. Folder 1. Yom Kippur evening, 1937-1982
- Box 8. Folder 2. Yom Kippur Children's sermons, 1937-1972
- Box 8. Folder 3. Yom Kippur Memorial sermons, 1937-1984
- Box 8. Folder 4. Yom Kippur morning, 1937-1982

## **Subseries 2. Other Writings, 1937-1990**

**Extent** 2 linear feet (5 Hollinger boxes)

**Scope and Content Note** Contains a variety of material, 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 2. Addresses, Various.
- Box 9. Folder 3. Assorted lectures, 1940-1949
- Box 9. Folder 4. Assorted lectures, 1950-1959
- Box 9. Folder 5. Assorted lectures, 1960-1969
- Box 9. Folder 6. Assorted lectures, 1970-1979
- Box 10. Folder 1. Benedictions and invocations.
- Box 10. Folder 2. Book reviews.
- Box 10. Folder 3. Centenary College, 1957-1979
- Box 10. Folder 4. Centenary College, 1980-1988
- Box 10. Folder 5. Comparative Religion (LSU).
- Box 10. Folder 6. Creative Liturgy.
- 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 5. Miscellaneous writings, 1964-1967
- Box 11. Folder 6. Miscellaneous writings, 1970-1978
- Box 11. Folder 7. Miscellaneous writings, 1980-1990
- Box 11. Folder 8. Miscellaneous writings, undated
- Box 12. Folder 1. Notes and rough drafts.
- Box 12. Folder 2. Notes and rough drafts.
- Box 12. Folder 3. Notes and rough drafts.

- Box 12. Folder 4. Passing Thoughts for The Temple, 1950-1975
- Box 12. Folder 5. Patriotic addresses/editorials, 1940-1946
- Box 12. Folder 6. PTA lectures.
- Box 13. Folder 1. Radio addresses, 1937-1939
- Box 13. Folder 2. Radio addresses, 1940-1943
- Box 13. Folder 3. Radio addresses, 1944-1949
- Box 13. Folder 4. Radio addresses, undated
- Box 13. Folder 5. Sabbath Morning Bible Lectures, 1947-1971

## **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 2. Advanced Hebrew course.
- Box 14. Folder 3. Bar/bat mitzvah material.
- Box 14. Folder 4. B'nai Brith.
- Box 14. Folder 5. Chanukah.
- Box 14. Folder 6. Confirmation class, 1938-1940
- Box 14. Folder 7. Confirmation class, 1942
- Box 14. Folder 8. Confirmation class, 1942
- Box 14. Folder 9. Confirmation class, 1948-1950
- Box 14. Folder 10. Confirmation class, 1952-1954
- 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 8. Confirmation class, 1969-1970
- 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 16. Folder 3. Eulogies, 1938-1949

Box 16. Folder 4. Eulogies, 1950-1959

Box 16. Folder 5. Eulogies, 1960-1964

Box 16. Folder 6. Eulogies, 1965-1969

Box 16. Folder 7. Eulogies, 1970-1989

Box 16. Folder 8. Eulogies, undated

Box 17. Folder 1. Instillation services.

Box 17. Folder 2. Junior Congregation: Temple Emanu-El, 1937-1938

Box 17. Folder 3. Pre-Confirmand Service, 1948 June 12

Box 17. Folder 4. PTA, 1938-1939

Box 17. Folder 5. Records of death, 1937-1949

Box 17. Folder 6. Records of death, 1950-1952

Box 17. Folder 7. Records of death, 1953-1954

Box 17. Folder 8. Records of death, 1955-1957

Box 17. Folder 9. Records of death, 1958-1959

Box 18. Folder 1. Records of death, 1960-1962

Box 18. Folder 2. Records of death, 1963-1964

Box 18. Folder 3. Records of death, 1965-1967

Box 18. Folder 4. Records of death, 1968-1970

Box 18. Folder 5. Records of death, 1971-1973

Box 18. Folder 6. Records of death, 1974-1976

Box 18. Folder 7. Records of death, 1980-1989

Box 18. Folder 8. Records of death, undated

Box 19. Folder 1. Southern Federation of Temple Youth, 1938

Box 19. Folder 2. Southern Federation of Temple Youth, 1953-1956

Box 19. Folder 3. Southern Federation of Temple Youth, 1957-1958

Box 19. Folder 4-5. Southern Federation of Temple Youth, 1959

Box 20. Folder 1-2. Southern Federation of Temple Youth, 1960

Box 20. Folder 3. Southern Federation of Temple Youth, 1960

Box 21. Folder 1. Southern Federation of Temple Youth, 1961

Box 21. Folder 2. Southern Federation of Temple Youth, 1962

Box 21. Folder 3. Southern Federation of Temple Youth, 1963

Box 22. Folder 1. Southern Federation of Temple Youth, 1964-1965

Box 22. Folder 2. Southern Federation of Temple Youth, 1966

Box 22. Folder 3. Southern Federation of Temple Youth, 1967

Box 22. Folder 4. Southern Federation of Temple Youth, 1968-1970

Box 22. Folder 5. Southern Federation of Temple Youth correspondence, 1950-1961

Box 23. Folder 1. Southern Federation of Temple Youth correspondence, 1961-1968

Box 23. Folder 2. Southern Federation of Temple Youth, undated

Box 23. Folder 3. Southern Federation of Temple Youth. Yom Kippur services.

Box 24. Folder 1. Study Series (Bible).

Box 24. Folder 2. Study Series (Comparative Religion).

Box 24. Folder 3. Study Series (Holidays).

Box 24. Folder 4. Study Series (Pre-Sunday School Mothers).

Box 24. Folder 5. Study Series (Responza).

Box 24. Folder 6. Study Series (Sisterhood).

Box 24. Folder 7. Study Series (Sisterhood/Temple Youth Group).

Box 24. Folder 8. Study Series (Spanish Inquisition).

Box 24. Folder 9. Study Series (Story of Judaism).

Box 24. Folder 10. Study Series (Talmud).

Box 24. Folder 11. Study Series (Torah).

Box 24. Folder 12. Study Series (Where Judaism Differed).

Box 24. Folder 13. Weddings, 1944-1959

Box 24. Folder 14. Weddings, 1960-1992

## **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 2. B'nai Brith.

Box 26. Folder 3. Boy Scouts.

Box 26. Folder 4. Chaplaincy records, undated

Box 26. Folder 5. Congratulatory correspondence, 1950

Box 26. Folder 6. Masonic activities.



Box 26. Folder 7. Military correspondence, 1943-1946  
Box 26. Folder 8. Military correspondence, 1948-1949  
Box 26. Folder 9. Military correspondence, 1950-1952  
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 1. Military documentation, 1950-1954  
Box 28. Folder 2. Military documentation, 1964-1995  
Box 28. Folder 3. Military Order of the World Wars correspondence.  
Box 28. Folder 4. Military Order of the World Wars documentation, 1952  
Box 28. Folder 5. Military orders/reports, 1945  
Box 28. Folder 6. Military writings.  
Box 29. Folder 1. National Organization of Retired Reform Rabbis (NAORRR).  
Box 29. Folder 2. National Organization of Retired Reform Rabbis correspondence.  
Box 29. Folder 3. National Brotherhood Week.  
Box 29. Folder 4. National Sojourners.  
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 3. Personal correspondence, 1961-1991  
Box 30. Folder 4. Prayer in schools.  
Box 30. Folder 5. Red Cross.  
Box 30. Folder 6. Religious School. Correspondence.  
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 4. Clippings, Military.

Box 31. Folder 5. Legal.

Box 31. Folder 6. Memoirs.

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.