



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

---

**A Finding Aid to the  
H. Leonard Poller Papers**

**Manuscript Collection No. 655**



## Collection Summary

<b>Title</b>	H. Leonard Poller Papers
<b>Dates</b>	1960-1994
<b>Collection Number</b>	MS-655
<b>Repository</b>	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
<b>Creator</b>	Poller, H. Leonard, 1928-1998
<b>Extent</b>	7.6 linear feet (19 Hollinger boxes)
<b>Language of the Material</b>	English

## Administrative Information

<b>Biographical Sketch</b>	<p>H. Leonard Poller was born 5 November 1928 in Scranton, Pennsylvania. Poller received his B.H.L., M.A, and then rabbinic ordination from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in 1957. His graduate studies also included work at the Baltimore Hebrew College and the Bellevue/Montefiore Hospitals (for counseling). He went on to receive a honorary doctorate from HUC-JIR in 1982.</p> <p>Poller's first pulpit following graduation was Temple Oheb Shalom in Baltimore, Maryland. In 1964 he became rabbi at Temple Beth Shalom, Montreal, Canada. At this point he developed a strong interest in the linking of U.S. and Canadian Jewish lay and rabbinic communities. Poller left Canada in 1962 to take a position at Larchmont Temple, in Larchmont, New York where he remained until his retirement in 1994. While at Larchmont he was active in several New York based Jewish and interfaith organizations and led protests against a Larchmont sponsored creche scene. Poller was extremely active in rabbinic professional organizations. He served on executive boards for the Central Conference of American Rabbis, New York Association of Reform Rabbis, Synagogue Council of America, United Jewish Appeal and the World Union for Progressive Judaism. Poller was deeply committed to the work of the Central Conference of American Rabbis- serving on the Executive Board, and as a chairman of both the Liturgy and Publications Committee. Under his direction a major revision of the Gates of Prayer and Gates of Repentance was completed, as well as the publication of numerous new services. Poller stressed the proprieties of Jewish worship and felt that prayer should be used to motivate good deeds and not a "feel-good" ceremony.</p> <p>Poller married Priscilla Marks in 1957. They had three daughters - Judith, Sharon and Elyse. H. Leonard Poller died in Hillsdale, New York in 1998.</p>
<b>Scope and Content</b>	The collection describes the rabbinic and professional activities of H. Leonard Poller, who served at Temple Beth Shalom in Montreal Canada, and at Larchmont Temple in Larchmont, New York. Poller was active in the Central Conference of American Rabbis's liturgical issues. Also of interest is material relating to the Jonathan Pollard case.
<b>Arrangement</b>	Organized into four (4) series: A. Correspondence and Project Files; B. Liturgical Material; C. Sermons and Writings; D. Congregational Materials.
<b>Terms of Access</b>	The collection is open for use; no restrictions apply.
<b>Preferred Citation</b>	Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the H. Leonard Poller Papers and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:  [Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-655. H. Leonard Poller Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.
<b>Provenance</b>	Received from Priscilla Poller, Rye, N.Y., August 2000.
<b>Processing Information</b>	Processed by Melinda K. McMartin, April 2001.

## Index Terms

<b>Subjects</b>	Liturgies
<b>Personal Names</b>	Poller, H. Leonard, 1928-1998

**Corporate Names** Central Conference of American Rabbis / Larchmont Temple (Larchmont, N.Y.) / Temple Oheb Shalom (Montréal, Québec)

**Media** Photographs / Sermons

## **Series A. Correspondence and Project Files, 1960-1994**

**Extent** 1.8 linear feet (4.5 Hollinger boxes)

**Scope and Content Note** Materials include correspondence (with reports and other attachments) with rabbis and community leaders along with research material collected for lectures or projects. Of special interest is correspondence and annotated newsclippings related to Jonathan Pollard and the Larchmont, New York creche incident.

**Arrangement** The series is arranged alphabetically.

### **Box and Folder Listing**

- Box 1. Folder 1. Albert Einstein Library, 1981-1990
- Box 1. Folder 2. Allmond, Warren, 1970-1971
- Box 1. Folder 3. Baskin, Bernard, 1962-1971
- Box 1. Folder 4. Better, Cliff and Sandra, 1968-1969, undated
- Box 1. Folder 5. Bloomstone, Bernard, 1970-1971
- Box 1. Folder 6. Blumberg, Herman, 1960-1989
- Box 1. Folder 7. Bronstein, Herbert, 1970
- Box 1. Folder 8. Buckley, James L., 1973-1975
- Box 1. Folder 9. Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR) conventions, 1987-1989
- Box 1. Folder 10. CCAR. Jews in Arab Lands Committee, 1973-1974
- Box 1. Folder 11. CCAR. Membership manual, 1980
- Box 1. Folder 12. Cornish, Howard L., 1961
- Box 1. Folder 13. Creche Incident. Responses to Mayor. Larchmont, N.Y., 1975
- Box 1. Folder 14. Creche Incident. Larchmont, N.Y., 1975-1979
- Box 1. Folder 15. Creche Incident. Larchmont, N.Y., 1980
- Box 1. Folder 16. Creche Incident. Newsclippings. Larchmont, N.Y., 1974-1977
- Box 1. Folder 17. Davis, Daniel, 1961-1970
- Box 1. Folder 18. Della Pergola, Luciano, 1966, undated
- Box 2. Folder 1. Ethiopian Jews, 1982-1985
- Box 2. Folder 2. Fordham University. Contemporary Jewish Thought course, 1978, undated
- Box 2. Folder 3. Fordham University. Rabbinic Thought course, 1980-1982
- Box 2. Folder 4. General correspondence. A-C.
- Box 2. Folder 5. General correspondence. D-Z.
- Box 2. Folder 6. Gerber, Janet, 1977
- Box 2. Folder 7. Geshar Foundation, 1976
- Box 2. Folder 8. Glueck, Nelson, 1960-1970
- Box 2. Folder 9. Goodhart, Morris, 1962-1964

Box 2. Folder 10. Gottschalk, Alfred, 1973-1993

Box 2. Folder 11. Handguns, 1981-1994

Box 2. Folder 12. Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. Jerusalem Campus, 1986

Box 2. Folder 13. HUC-JIR Task Force on Curriculum, 1986-1987

Box 2. Folder 14. Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, 1976-1978

Box 2. Folder 15. Holocaust- television special, 1978

Box 2. Folder 16. Javits, Jacob, 1973-1977

Box 2. Folder 17. Kaplan, Louis, 1962-1965

Box 2. Folder 18. Kennedy, Timothy, 1963

Box 3. Folder 1. Kibbutz Yahel. Israel, 1976-1983

Box 3. Folder 2. Kibbutz Yahel. Israel, 1984-1988

Box 3. Folder 3. Lawrence, Gunther and Leah, 1962-1964

Box 3. Folder 4. Lowey, Nita, 1993

Box 3. Folder 5. Mamaroneck-Harrison-Larchmont-Rye Clergy Association. Mahalary, 1973-1985

Box 3. Folder 6. Mamaroneck High School. Hebrew course, 1972-1975

Box 3. Folder 7. McCoy, Lowell G., 1964-1965

Box 3. Folder 8. Moynihan, Daniel, 1976-1977

Box 3. Folder 9. New York Association of Reform Rabbis (NYARR), 1974-1985

Box 3. Folder 10. NYARR, 1986-1987 June

Box 3. Folder 11. NYARR, 1987 July-1994

Box 4. Folder 1. Orlinsky, Harry, 1960-1964

Box 4. Folder 2. Orlinsky, Walter S., 1961-1965

Box 4. Folder 3. Photographs, undated

Box 4. Folder 4. Pollard, Jonathan, 1987-1990 May

Box 4. Folder 5. Pollard, Jonathan, 1990 June-1991 June

Box 4. Folder 6. Pollard, Jonathan, 1991 July-December

Box 4. Folder 7. Pollard, Jonathan, 1992 January-June

Box 4. Folder 8. Pollard, Jonathan, 1992 July-December

Box 4. Folder 9. Pollard, Jonathan, 1993-1994

Box 4. Folder 10. Poller, Bertha, 1966

Box 4. Folder 11. Reid, Ogden, 1973-1974

Box 4. Folder 12. Rosenbaum, Phillip. Includes poetry, 1963-1966

Box 4. Folder 13. Scheuer, Richard, 1982-1991

Box 4. Folder 14. Smith, Hedrick, 1976-1977

Box 5. Folder 1. Spanish Embassy, 1986-1988

Box 5. Folder 2. Speaking engagements, 1973-1994

Box 5. Folder 3. Synagogue Council of America, 1984-1988

Box 5. Folder 4. Synagogue Council of America, 1989-1992

- Box 5. Folder 5. Synagogue Council of America, 1993
- Box 5. Folder 6. Torah Corps, 1973-1980
- Box 5. Folder 7. Union of American Hebrew Congregations, 1973-1982
- Box 5. Folder 8. University Judaism courses, 1967-1979, undated
- Box 5. Folder 9. Wolfe, Harry, 1961-1967, undated
- Box 5. Folder 10. World Union for Progressive Judaism, 1973-1980
- Box 5. Folder 11. Zionist Organization of America, 1982-1988

## **Series B. Liturgical Material, 1970-1994**

**Extent** 1.4 linear feet (3.5 Hollinger boxes)

**Scope and Content Note** Materials include minutes and correspondence relating to Pollar's interest in Reform Jewish liturgy and the appropriate CCAR committees. The series also contains correspondence and drafts of specific manuscripts published by the CCAR.

**Arrangement** The series is arranged alphabetically.

### **Box and Folder Listing**

- Box 5. Folder 12. AIDS service, 1989
- Box 5. Folder 13. Birkat Hal'vanah.
- Box 5. Folder 14. Blessings of Gratitude, 1987-1990
- Box 5. Folder 15. Beit Berl Liturgical Conference. Israel, 1988
- Box 5. Folder 16. CCAR. Havurah Task Force, 1979-1983
- Box 6. Folder 1. CCAR. Liturgy Committee. Correspondence; minutes, 1984-1987
- Box 6. Folder 2. CCAR. Liturgy Committee, 1988-1989
- Box 6. Folder 3. CCAR. Liturgy Committee, 1990-1992
- Box 6. Folder 4. CCAR. Liturgy Committee, 1993-1994
- Box 6. Folder 5. CCAR. Publications Committee, 1987-1991
- Box 6. Folder 6. CCAR. Siddur Group, 1990-1992
- Box 6. Folder 7. Chanukah Book, 1986-1990
- Box 6. Folder 8. Children's Liturgy, 1986-1988 June
- Box 6. Folder 9. Children's Liturgy, 1988 July-1990
- Box 6. Folder 10. Children's Liturgy, 1992-1993
- Box 6. Folder 11. Committee on Religious Life, 1988-1989
- Box 7. Folder 1. Ethiopian Jews Service, 1988
- Box 7. Folder 2. Five Scrolls, 1985
- Box 7. Folder 3. Gates of Healing, 1970-1985
- Box 7. Folder 4. Gates of Healing, 1988-1991
- Box 7. Folder 5. Gates of Prayer, 1972-1989
- Box 7. Folder 6. Gates of Repentance, 1987-1988
- Box 7. Folder 7. Gates of Shabbat, 1985-1988

Box 7. Folder 8. Gates of Shabbat, 1989  
Box 7. Folder 9. Gates of Shabbat, 1990  
Box 7. Folder 10. Gates of Wonder, 1989-1990  
Box 8. Folder 1. Haggadah for Children, 1985-1994  
Box 8. Folder 2. Haggadah coloring book, 1991  
Box 8. Folder 3. Interim Sabbath prayerbook, 1990  
Box 8. Folder 4. Kristallnacht service, 1990  
Box 8. Folder 5. Liturgical Conference. South Bend, Ind., 1985  
Box 8. Folder 6. Liturgy and sexist language, 1987-1989  
Box 8. Folder 7. New Blessings on Performing Mitzvot, 1991  
Box 8. Folder 8. Quabbabat Shabbat, undated  
Box 8. Folder 9. Rabbi's Manual. Correspondence, 1985-1994  
Box 8. Folder 10. Rabbi's Manual. Manuscript.  
Box 8. Folder 11. Russian-Hebrew Haggadah, 1990  
Box 8. Folder 12. Sha-arei HaDerech. Translators Prayerbook, 1988  
Box 8. Folder 13. Shaari Musar, 1984  
Box 8. Folder 14. Shoa Volume, 1987-1988  
Box 8. Folder 15. Tu B'Shevat, 1987-1988  
Box 8. Folder 16. U-vene Yerushalyim (Israel's 40th Anniversary), 1987  
Box 8. Folder 17. Wedding liturgy, 1990

### **Series C. Sermons and Writings, 1960-1994**

**Extent** 4 linear feet (10 Hollinger boxes)

**Scope and Content Note** A partial index to the sermons from 1973-1988 are available at the front of the series.

**Arrangement** Sermons are filed first, arranged alphabetically, followed by speeches/articles.

#### **Box and Folder Listing**

Box 9. Folder 1. Index to sermons, 1973-1988  
Box 9. Folder 2. Numbered sermons.  
Box 9. Folder 3. Sermons. A - Al.  
Box 9. Folder 4. Sermons. An - Arab.  
Box 9. Folder 5. Sermons. Arc-Az.  
Box 9. Folder 6. Sermons. Ba - Bl.  
Box 9. Folder 7. Sermons. Bo-Bz.  
Box 9. Folder 8. Sermons. Ca-Cd.  
Box 9. Folder 9. Sermons. Ce-Ch.  
Box 10. Folder 1. Sermons. Cl-Cr.  
Box 10. Folder 2. Sermons. Confirmation.

Box 10. Folder 3. Sermons. Consecration.  
Box 10. Folder 4. Sermons. Da - De.  
Box 10. Folder 5. Sermons. Di.  
Box 10. Folder 6. Sermons. Do- Dz.  
Box 10. Folder 7. Sermons. E.  
Box 10. Folder 8. Sermons. Fa - Fe.  
Box 10. Folder 9. Sermons. Fi- Fo.  
Box 10. Folder 10. Sermons. Fr - Fz.  
Box 10. Folder 11. Sermons. Ga - Gh.  
Box 11. Folder 1. Sermons. Go.  
Box 11. Folder 2. Sermons. Gr- Gy.  
Box 11. Folder 3. Sermons. Ha.  
Box 11. Folder 4. Sermons. Hannukah.  
Box 11. Folder 5. Sermons. He.  
Box 11. Folder 6. Sermons. Hi - Holocaust.  
Box 11. Folder 7. Sermons. Hon - Hope.  
Box 11. Folder 8. Sermons. How - Hy.  
Box 11. Folder 9. Sermons. I - Im.  
Box 11. Folder 10. Sermons. In.  
Box 11. Folder 11. Sermons. Is - Iz.  
Box 12. Folder 1. Sermons. Ja- Jewish.  
Box 12. Folder 2. Sermons. Jews- Judaism.  
Box 12. Folder 3. Sermons. Jun - Ke.  
Box 12. Folder 4. Sermons. Ki - Kz.  
Box 12. Folder 5. Sermons. L - Li.  
Box 12. Folder 6. Sermons. Lo - Lz.  
Box 12. Folder 7. Sermons. Ma - Mar.  
Box 13. Folder 1. Sermons. Mas - Mi.  
Box 13. Folder 2. Sermons. Mo.  
Box 13. Folder 3. Sermons. Mu - Mz.  
Box 13. Folder 4. Sermons. Na.  
Box 13. Folder 5. Sermons. Ne.  
Box 13. Folder 6. Sermons. Ni - Nz.  
Box 13. Folder 7. Sermons. Oa - Or.  
Box 13. Folder 8. Sermons. Ou - Oz.  
Box 13. Folder 9. Sermons. Pa - Pe.  
Box 13. Folder 10. Sermons. Pesach.  
Box 14. Folder 1. Sermons. Ph - Po.  
Box 14. Folder 2. Sermons. Pr.

Box 14. Folder 3. Sermons. Pu - Q.

Box 14. Folder 4. Sermons. Purim.

Box 14. Folder 5. Sermons. Rabbi.

Box 14. Folder 6. Sermons. Rac - Rec.

Box 14. Folder 7. Sermons. Red - Reh.

Box 14. Folder 8. Sermons. Rel-Res.

Box 14. Folder 9. Sermons. Ret-Ri.

Box 14. Folder 10. Sermons. Ro- Sc.

Box 14. Folder 11. Sermons. Rosh Hashonah, 1966-1975

Box 15. Folder 1. Sermons. Rosh Hashonah, 1976-1977

Box 15. Folder 2. Sermons. Rosh Hashonah, 1978-1980

Box 15. Folder 3. Sermons. Rosh Hashonah, 1981-1982

Box 15. Folder 4. Sermons. Rosh Hashonah, 1983-1987

Box 15. Folder 5. Sermons. Rosh Hashonah, 1988-1993

Box 15. Folder 6. Sermons. Se.

Box 15. Folder 7. Sermons. Selihot.

Box 16. Folder 1. Sermons. Sh.

Box 16. Folder 2. Sermons. Si - Sm.

Box 16. Folder 3. Sermons. So - Sti.

Box 16. Folder 4. Sermons. Str - Stu.

Box 16. Folder 5. Sermons. Su - Sz.

Box 16. Folder 6. Sermons. Sukkot.

Box 16. Folder 7. Sermons. Ta.

Box 16. Folder 8. Sermons. Te.

Box 16. Folder 9. Sermons. Th.

Box 16. Folder 10. Sermons. Ti- Tr.

Box 16. Folder 11. Sermons. U.

Box 17. Folder 1. Sermons. V.

Box 17. Folder 2. Sermons. Wa - We.

Box 17. Folder 3. Sermons. Wha.

Box 17. Folder 4. Sermons. Whe - Why.

Box 17. Folder 5. Sermons. Wi - Wis.

Box 17. Folder 6. Sermons. Wit - Wu.

Box 17. Folder 7. Sermons. Y-Z.

Box 17. Folder 8. Yom Ha'atma'ut.

Box 17. Folder 9. Yom HaShoah.

Box 18. Folder 1. Yom Kippur, 1966-1972

Box 18. Folder 2. Yom Kippur, 1975-1976

Box 18. Folder 3. Yom Kippur, 1977-1979



Box 18. Folder 4. Yom Kippur, 1980-1982

Box 18. Folder 5. Yom Kippur, 1983-1993

Box 18. Folder 6. Untitled sermons, 1964-1986, undated

Box 18. Folder 7. Speeches, 1976-1991

## **Series D. Congregational Materials, 1961-1992**

**Extent** 0.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box)

**Scope and Content Note** Contains materials relating to H. Leonard Poller's pulpits at Congregation Oheb Shalom (Baltimore, Md.), Temple Beth Shalom (Montreal, Quebec), and Larchmont Temple (Larchmont, N.Y.).

**Arrangement** The series is arranged chronologically. Within each congregation, the materials are arranged alphabetically by topic.

### **Box and Folder Listing**

Box 19. Folder 1. Congregation Oheb Shalom (Baltimore, Md.) Cemetery Committee, 1963

Box 19. Folder 2. Congregation Oheb Shalom. Coordinating Committee, 1959-1965

Box 19. Folder 3. Temple Beth Shalom (Montreal, Quebec), 1962-1965

Box 19. Folder 4. Temple Beth Shalom. Executive Committee minutes, 1965-1968

Box 19. Folder 5. Temple Beth Shalom. Religious School, 1961-1963

Box 19. Folder 6. Larchmont Temple. Larchmont, New York. 30th Anniversary, 1978

Box 19. Folder 7. Larchmont Temple. American Jewish History course, 1990

Box 19. Folder 8. Larchmont Temple. Havurah, 1974-1985

Box 19. Folder 9. Larchmont Temple. Havurah, 1986-1988

Box 19. Folder 10. Larchmont Temple. Jewish Mysticism course, 1987-1988

Box 19. Folder 11. Larchmont Temple. Outreach program, 1982-1990

Box 19. Folder 12. Larchmont Temple. Pastoral Aides program, 1980-1981

Box 19. Folder 13. Larchmont Temple. Pastoral Aides program, 1982-1987, undated

Box 19. Folder 14. Larchmont Temple. Pesach Haggadah course, 1989

Box 19. Folder 15. Larchmont Temple. Sacred Cities course, 1988

Box 19. Folder 16. Larchmont Temple. Sephardic Jewish Poets course, 1992