



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

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**A Finding Aid to the  
Henry Cohen Papers**

**Manuscript Collection No. 664**

## Collection Summary

<b>Title</b>	Henry Cohen Papers
<b>Dates</b>	1964-1993
<b>Collection Number</b>	MS-664
<b>Repository</b>	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
<b>Creator</b>	Cohen, Henry, 1927
<b>Extent</b>	0.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box)
<b>Language of the Material</b>	English

## Administrative Information

### Biographical Sketch

Henry Cohen was born in 1927 in Houston, Texas, into a family of Reform rabbis. After graduating from the University of Texas, he was ordained at the Hebrew Union College in 1953. He was an army chaplain and served as assistant rabbi in Great Neck, New York, where he met his wife, Edna. They moved to Champaign-Urbana, Illinois where Henry served a "town and gown" congregation and received a Masters Degree in the Philosophy of Education.

Cohen then moved to Beth David Reform Congregation in Gladwyne, Pennsylvania in 1964, where he remained until becoming rabbi emeritus in 1993. He initiated a bi-cultural Black-Jewish nursery school and was chairman of the Jewish Coalition for Peace. In 1974, he was part of a group of interfaith clergy who visited Lebanon, Jordan and Israel. In 1986 he and his wife visited the Soviet Union where they met with refuseniks (Soviet Jewish citizens denied permission to emigrate).

Rabbi Cohen has written several books, including *Why Judaism?*; *What's Special About Judaism?*; and a biography of his grandfather, *Kindler of Souls: Rabbi Henry Cohen of Texas*. His most recent work is *Charley Braunstein and Jewish Tradition*, which teaches Jewish themes using characters that are a take-off of the Charles Schultz's Charlie Brown cartoons.

--Adapted from <http://www.bdavid.org/about/staff>. Accessed March 23, 2012.

### Scope and Content

Consists primarily of sermons written by Cohen for High Holy Day services throughout his career at Beth David Reform Congregation in Gladwyne, Pennsylvania. Also included are other writings and articles, along with a limited amount of correspondence related to his writings.

### Arrangement

The collection is arranged in one (1) series: A. General.

### Terms of Access

The collection is open for use; no restrictions apply.

### Preferred Citation

Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the Henry Cohen Papers and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-664. Henry Cohen Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

### Provenance

Received from Henry Cohen, Gladwyne, Pa., February 2007.

### Processing Information

Processed by Michelle Wirth Detroit, March 2012.

This collection was arranged and described according to minimal-processing standards. Funding, in part, for the arrangement and description of this collection was provided by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

## Index Terms

<b>Subjects</b>	High Holidays / Jews -- Pennsylvania -- Gladwyne / Rabbis / Synagogues -- Pennsylvania -- Gladwyne
<b>Personal Names</b>	Cohen, Henry, 1927-
<b>Corporate Names</b>	Beth David Reform Congregation (Gladwyne, Pa.)
<b>Media</b>	Sermons

## **Series A. General, 1964-1993**

**Arrangement** Material is arranged topically.

### **Box and Folder Listing**

Box 1. Folder 1. Correspondence, 1963

Box 1. Folder 2. Sermons, Kol Nidre, 1964-1992

Box 1. Folder 3. Sermons, Yom Kippur morning, 1964-1991

Box 1. Folder 4. Sermons, Yizkor, 1964-1991

Box 1. Folder 5. Sermons, Erev Rosh Hashanah, 1964-1988

Box 1. Folder 6. Sermons, Rosh Hashanah morning, 1964-1993

Box 1. Folder 7. Sermons, miscellaneous, 1968-1974, undated

Box 1. Folder 8. Writings.