A Finding Aid to the
September 11 Sermon Collection

Manuscript Collection No. 674
Collection Summary

Title: September 11 Sermon Collection
Dates: 2001
Collection Number: MS-674
Repository: The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Extent: 0.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box)
Language of the Material: English

Administrative Information

Scope and Content
Following the events of September 11, 2001, Dr. Gary P. Zola, Executive Director of the American Jewish Archives, invited North American Reform rabbis to send to the AJA any sermons they might have delivered concerning the events of that day.

Dr. Zola’s goal was to gather and keep these sermons together as a collection in order to preserve a contemporary record of the thoughts and responses of the American Reform Jewish community at this time. Since the Jewish High Holy Days occurred shortly after September 11, many of these sermons were given on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. The majority of the sermons are in draft form, although a few have been published in synagogue bulletins or newsletters.

The strength of this collection is that these sermons were given in the immediate aftermath of the attacks, when the pain, fear and uncertainty resulting from what happened were at their strongest. These sermons reflect the tension and concern felt by all Americans as they strove to understand not only what happened, but why.

As time progresses and perspective is gained on the events of that day, it is hoped this collection will grow in value and be a treasured resource for those studying the chronology, ramifications, and consequences of this tragic day in American history.

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 September 11 Sermon Collection and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-674. September 11 Sermon Collection. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Processing Information

Index Terms

Subjects: Hurwitz, Daniel / Levine, Richard A. / Levitt, Jessica / Rabbis / September 11 terrorist attacks, 2001 / Terrorism

Series A. General, 2001

Scope and Content Note  The sermons give impressions, perspective and analysis on the events of September 11, 2001. Most sermons were given during the high holy days at the end of September, 2001.

Arrangement  Arranged alphabetically by rabbi or cantor.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 2. Sermons. C-F, 2001
Box 1. Folder 5. Sermons. L, 2001