



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

---

**A Finding Aid to the  
Jerome D. Folkman Papers**

**Manuscript Collection No. 679**



## Collection Summary

<b>Title</b>	Jerome D. Folkman Papers
<b>Dates</b>	1928-1992
<b>Collection Number</b>	MS-679
<b>Repository</b>	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
<b>Creator</b>	Folkman, Jerome D., 1907-1993
<b>Extent</b>	8.4 linear feet (21 Hollinger boxes)
<b>Language of the Material</b>	English

## Administrative Information

### Biographical Sketch

Jerome D. Folkman was born on September 25, 1907 to Ben and Rose (Tronstein) Folkman. He received a bachelor's degree from University of Cincinnati, as well as a Bachelor of Hebrew Letters and was ordained from HUC in 1928. He received a master's degree from the University of Michigan in 1936 and a Ph.D. from Ohio State University in 1953. Folkman also received an honorary degree from HUC-JIR in 1957.

After completing his studies at HUC, Folkman accepted a position as rabbi at Temple Beth Israel in Jackson, Michigan from 1931-1936. In 1937 he went to Temple Emanuel in Grand Rapids, Michigan where he stayed for ten years. In 1947 Folkman became a rabbi at Temple Israel in Columbus, Ohio where he stayed until his retirement. Folkman became well known for his selfless pastoral work where he often would make the rounds of the local hospitals and nursing homes visiting the sick and dying.

In 1963 Folkman became an Adjunct Professor in the Ohio State University Sociology Department. For the next few decades he taught at Ohio State, Capitol College, Grant Hospital School of Nursing, the Pontifical College of Josephinum, and many others. He also counseled many people and couples both in his capacity as a rabbi and a sociologist.

Folkman was quite active in the Central Conference of American Rabbis and other Jewish organizations - scholarly, ecumenical, and political. Prior to his work with the CCAR, Folkman was the president of the B'nai B'rith Lodge No. 6 in 1943-1944. Folkman also served as a civilian chaplain for the United States Army Air Corps Weather School in 1943. He then was on the CCAR's committees on Marriage, Home, and Family, 1950-1958, and Judaism and Medicine, 1965-1967, as well as holding many other positions within the CCAR. In addition to this work, Folkman was quite active in the affairs of his alma mater and was on the HUC-JIR Board of Governors, 1952-1956, and the UAHC Board of Trustees, 1960-1964. Folkman was also on the boards of countless hospitals and philanthropic organizations.

Awarded several times for his contributions to the Columbus and Ohio community as well as to Judaism in general, Folkman received the Governor's Award from the State of Ohio in 1968 along with countless others. He was honored with the Humanitarian Award by the Orthodox Jewish Community of Columbus in recognition of his service in all areas of his life's work. This award only gives one example of his intra and inter-faith work.

Folkman wrote several books and countless articles during his career. Cup of Life and Design for Jewish Living were both written in 1955. Concerned throughout his life about marriage and the promotion of healthy family life, Folkman wrote Marriage: An Interfaith Guide for all Young Couples (1969) and Marriage has Many Faces (1970).

Folkman married Bessie Schomer in 1930 and had three sons: M. Judah, David Hillel, and Joy Folkman Moss. Rabbi Jerome D. Folkman died in 1993.

### Scope and Content

Collection contains the correspondence, sermons, and writings of Jerome D. Folkman, a prominent Columbus rabbi, teacher, and civic leader. Included are transcripts and outlines of his sermons and articles that he wrote together with photographs and miscellaneous ephemera.

### Arrangement

This collection is arranged in three (3) series: A. Correspondence; B. Sermons and Writings; C. Personal and Professional Materials

### Terms of Access

The collection is open for use; no restrictions apply.

### Preferred Citation

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

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-679. Jerome D. Folkman Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

**Provenance** Received from David Moss, Cambridge, Mass., 1993.

**Processing Information** Processed by Christine Crandall, April 2002.

## Index Terms

**Subjects** Depressions -- 1929 / Jews -- Ohio -- Columbus / Rabbis  
**Personal Names** Folkman, Jerome D., 1907-1993  
**Corporate Names** Central Conference of American Rabbis / Temple Israel (Columbus, Ohio)  
**Media** Photographs / Sermons

## Series A. Correspondence, 1958-1991

**Extent** 1 linear foot (5 Hollinger boxes)

**Scope and Content Note** This series includes letters to and from friends and colleagues of Folkman and organizations that he worked with. Of special note in this series is his work with the mental health community of Columbus and the United States, such as the file on the White House Subcommittee on Religious Resources. Also quite important are the files containing Folkman's work with the Central Conference of American Rabbis's committees on mixed marriages and Judaism and medicine.

**Arrangement** The series is arranged chronologically within an alphabetical order.

## Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 1. Applebaum, Morton, 1958  
Box 1. Folder 2. Benjamin Franklin Hospital (Columbus, Ohio), 1966-1971  
Box 1. Folder 3. Blue Plan. Comprehensive Regional Plan. Columbus, Ohio, 1965  
Box 1. Folder 4. Central Conference of American Rabbis, 1981  
Box 1. Folder 5. Central Conference of American Rabbis. Case Study Survey, 1953-1954  
Box 1. Folder 6. Central Conference of American Rabbis Committee on Judaism and Medicine, 1965-1967  
Box 1. Folder 7. Central Conference of American Rabbis Committee on Mixed Marriages, 1965-1967  
Box 1. Folder 8. Church and State, 1964  
Box 1. Folder 9. Citizens Committee for Community Mental Health minutes, 1981  
Box 1. Folder 10. Columbus Board of Rabbis, 1966-1967  
Box 1. Folder 11. Columbus rabbis, 1961-1968  
Box 1. Folder 12. Folkman, Jerome D. Eightieth birthday, 1987  
Box 1. Folder 13. Folkman, Jerome D. and Bessie. Fortieth wedding anniversary, 1980  
Box 1. Folder 14. Folkman Scholars, 1961-1968  
Box 2. Folder 1. General correspondence, 1959  
Box 2. Folder 2. General correspondence, 1961

Box 2. Folder 3. General correspondence, 1962

Box 2. Folder 4. General correspondence, 1963

Box 2. Folder 5. General correspondence, 1964

Box 2. Folder 6. General correspondence, 1965

Box 2. Folder 7. General correspondence, 1966

Box 2. Folder 8. General correspondence, 1967

Box 2. Folder 9. General correspondence, 1968

Box 2. Folder 10. General correspondence, 1969

Box 3. Folder 1. General correspondence, 1970 January-May

Box 3. Folder 2. General correspondence, 1970 June-May

Box 3. Folder 3. General correspondence, 1970 October-December

Box 3. Folder 4. General correspondence, 1971 January-May

Box 3. Folder 5. General correspondence, 1971 June-October

Box 3. Folder 6. General correspondence, 1971 November-December

Box 3. Folder 7. General correspondence, 1972 January-May

Box 4. Folder 1. General correspondence, 1972 May-August

Box 4. Folder 2. General correspondence, 1972 September-December

Box 4. Folder 3. General correspondence, 1973 January-July

Box 4. Folder 4. General correspondence, 1976

Box 4. Folder 5. General correspondence, 1978

Box 4. Folder 6. General correspondence, 1979

Box 4. Folder 7. General correspondence, 1980

Box 4. Folder 8. General correspondence, 1981

Box 4. Folder 9. General correspondence, 1982

Box 4. Folder 10. General correspondence, 1983

Box 4. Folder 11. General correspondence, 1984

Box 4. Folder 12. General correspondence, 1985

Box 4. Folder 13. General correspondence, 1986

Box 4. Folder 14. General correspondence, 1987

Box 4. Folder 15. General correspondence, 1989

Box 4. Folder 16. General correspondence, 1991

Box 5. Folder 1. Kit Kat Club, 1963-1968

Box 5. Folder 2. Korn, Bertram, 1966-1970

Box 5. Folder 3. Nation Council of Community Churches, 1979

Box 5. Folder 4. Nussbaum, Perry, 1963-1968

Box 5. Folder 5. Shankman, Jacob K., 1964-1965

Box 5. Folder 6. Speaking engagements, 1971-1973

Box 5. Folder 7. Temple Israel (Columbus, Ohio) dedication, 1959

Box 5. Folder 8. Temple Israel (Columbus, Ohio) humanitarian award, 1989

Box 5. Folder 9. Temple Israel (Columbus, Ohio) choir director, 1970

Box 5. Folder 10. Toronto trip, 1964

Box 5. Folder 11. Vacations, 1963-1969

Box 5. Folder 12. White House Subcommittee on Religious Resources to the President's Special Assistant for Mental Retardation, 1965

Box 5. Folder 13. World Union for Progressive Judaism, 1965

## **Series B. Sermons and Writings, 1928-1983**

**Extent** 6 linear feet (15 Hollinger boxes)

**Scope and Content Note** Contains the many sermons that Folkman gave during his career. The sermon transcripts are bound and arranged chronologically. The sermon outlines cover 1942-1983 and contain his notes rather than actual transcripts. Folkman's writings span his entire career.

**Arrangement** The sermons are arranged chronologically; writings are arranged alphabetically, with the majority of his articles in the general files under the first letter of the title.

### **Box and Folder Listing**

Box 6. Folder 1. Sermons, 1928-1931

Box 6. Folder 2. Sermons, 1931

Box 6. Folder 3. Sermons, 1932

Box 7. Folder 1. Sermons, 1932

Box 7. Folder 2. Sermons, 1933

Box 7. Folder 3. Sermons, 1933

Box 8. Folder 1. Sermons, 1934

Box 8. Folder 2. Sermons, 1934

Box 8. Folder 3. Sermons, 1934

Box 9. Folder 1. Sermons, 1935

Box 9. Folder 2. Sermons, 1935

Box 9. Folder 3. Sermons, 1936

Box 10. Folder 1. Sermons, 1936-1937

Box 10. Folder 2. Sermons, 1937

Box 11. Folder 1. Sermons, 1937

Box 11. Folder 2. Sermons, 1938

Box 12. Folder 1. Sermons, 1939-1940

Box 12. Folder 2. Sermons, 1940

Box 13. Folder 1. Sermons, 1941

Box 13. Folder 2. Wedding and funeral sermons, undated

Box 13. Folder 3. Sermon outlines, 1942 March-December

Box 13. Folder 4. Sermon outlines, 1943 January-June

Box 13. Folder 5. Sermon outlines, 1943 August-December

Box 14. Folder 1. Sermon outlines, 1944 January-June  
Box 14. Folder 2. Sermon outlines, 1944 August-December  
Box 14. Folder 3. Sermon outlines, 1945 January-June  
Box 14. Folder 4. Sermon outlines, 1945 July-December  
Box 14. Folder 5. Sermon outlines, 1946 January-June  
Box 14. Folder 6. Sermon outlines, 1946 September-December  
Box 14. Folder 7. Sermon outlines, 1947 January-June  
Box 14. Folder 8. Sermon outlines, 1947 September-December  
Box 15. Folder 1. Sermon outlines, 1948 January-June  
Box 15. Folder 2. Sermon outlines, 1948 October-December  
Box 15. Folder 3. Sermon outlines, 1949 January-June  
Box 15. Folder 4. Sermon outlines, 1949 July-December  
Box 15. Folder 5. Sermon outlines, 1950 January-June  
Box 15. Folder 6. Sermon outlines, 1950 September-December  
Box 15. Folder 7. Sermon outlines, 1951 January-June  
Box 15. Folder 8. Sermon outlines, 1951 September-December  
Box 15. Folder 9. Sermon outlines, 1952 January-June  
Box 16. Folder 1. Sermon outlines, 1952 September-December  
Box 16. Folder 2. Sermon outlines, 1953 January-June  
Box 16. Folder 3. Sermon outlines, 1953 July-October  
Box 16. Folder 4. Sermon outlines, 1954 January-June  
Box 16. Folder 5. Sermon outlines, 1954 July-December  
Box 16. Folder 6. Sermon outlines, 1955 January-May  
Box 16. Folder 7. Sermon outlines, 1955 August-December  
Box 16. Folder 8. Sermon outlines, 1956 January-May  
Box 16. Folder 9. Sermon outlines, 1956 September-December  
Box 16. Folder 10. Sermon outlines, 1957 January-June  
Box 17. Folder 1. Sermon outlines, 1957 September-December  
Box 17. Folder 2. Sermon outlines, 1958 January-March  
Box 17. Folder 3. Sermon outlines, 1958 September-December  
Box 17. Folder 4. Sermon outlines, 1959  
Box 17. Folder 5. Sermon outlines, 1960 March-December  
Box 17. Folder 6. Sermon outlines, 1961  
Box 17. Folder 7. Sermon outlines, 1962  
Box 17. Folder 8. Sermon outlines, 1963  
Box 18. Folder 1. Sermon outlines, 1964  
Box 18. Folder 2. Sermon outlines, 1965  
Box 18. Folder 3. Sermon outlines, 1970  
Box 18. Folder 4. Sermon outlines, 1971

Box 18. Folder 5. Sermon outlines, 1972

Box 18. Folder 6. Sermon outlines, 1973 January-November

Box 18. Folder 7. Sermon outlines, 1975 March-December

Box 18. Folder 8. Sermon outlines, 1975 April 7

Box 18. Folder 9. Sermon outlines, 1979 February-November

Box 18. Folder 10. Sermon outlines, 1983 October

Box 18. Folder 11. A, General.

Box 18. Folder 12. Adults and the Aged. Union of American Hebrew Congregations Biennial Kallah, 1963 November 16

Box 18. Folder 13. An American Tragedy. Two memorial tributes to John F. Kennedy, Jr., 1963 November

Box 18. Folder 14. Autobiography, 1969 September 3

Box 18. Folder 15. B, General.

Box 18. Folder 16. C, General.

Box 18. Folder 17. Can We Still Believe?, 1967 February

Box 18. Folder 18. Crisis, 1970 March

Box 18. Folder 19. The Cup of Life: A Jewish Marriage Manual, 1955

Box 19. Folder 1. D, General.

Box 19. Folder 2. Daddy, Tell me a Story, and other Sermons for Parents, 1950 December

Box 19. Folder 3. Democracy and Religion Begin at Home, 1948 September

Box 19. Folder 4. Disorganization - Reorganization?, 1971 June

Box 19. Folder 5. Every Soul is Precious, 1956 November

Box 19. Folder 6. An Evolutionary Faith for Revolutionary Times, 1969 March

Box 19. Folder 7. F, General.

Box 19. Folder 8. Fate vs. Will. Message of Israel, 1957 October 20

Box 19. Folder 9. Fundamentals.

Box 19. Folder 10. Funeral sermonettes, 1961-1981, undated

Box 19. Folder 11. G, General.

Box 19. Folder 12. Gratitude - More than Appreciation, 1961 September 10

Box 19. Folder 13. H, General.

Box 19. Folder 14. I, General.

Box 19. Folder 15. J, General.

Box 19. Folder 16. M, General.

Box 19. Folder 17. The Man Who Came to the Temple, 1949 December

Box 19. Folder 18. The Missing Goal Post and Other Addresses to Young People, 1953 August

Box 19. Folder 19. N, General.

Box 19. Folder 20. O, General.

Box 19. Folder 21. P, General.

Box 19. Folder 22. Past, Present and Future, 1955 January

Box 19. Folder 23. Patterns of Social Interaction Related to Certain Psychosomatic Diseases. Ph.D. dissertation. Ohio State University, 1953

Box 20. Folder 1. Prayers of our People, 1964 January

Box 20. Folder 2. R, General.

Box 20. Folder 3. Rabbis' Role in Sickness and Bereavement. Henry Englander Memorial Lecture, 1957 November 13

Box 20. Folder 4. Radio sermons.

Box 20. Folder 5. Reverie on the Stock Market: A Sermon Fantasy, 1948 November

Box 20. Folder 6. Rights and Responsibilities, 1965 January

Box 20. Folder 7. S, General.

Box 20. Folder 8. The Seven Pillars, 1968 March

Box 20. Folder 9. A Spiritual Inventory, 1955 November

Box 20. Folder 10. Stress Control.

Box 20. Folder 11. T, General.

Box 20. Folder 12. Then and Now, 1966 January

Box 20. Folder 13. The Times Change, and we, 1973 March

Box 20. Folder 14. To Be - or Not to Believe, 1960 December

Box 20. Folder 15. True and False, 1960 December

Box 20. Folder 16. U, General.

Box 20. Folder 17. The Unseen World in the Minor Midrashim. Master's thesis. Hebrew Union College, 1931

Box 20. Folder 18. Untitled.

Box 20. Folder 19. V-Z, General.

## **Series C. Personal and Professional Materials, 1928-1993**

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

**Scope and Content Note** The series holds Folkman's autobiographical information as well as some personal mementos including photographs from the 1950s to the early 1980s. Of special note are Folkman's annotated rabbi manuals and two files containing marriage contracts and information about the mixed marriages that Folkman performed. Also included are the course outlines from the Sociology, Introduction to Judaism, Religious Studies, and Jewish History classes that he taught at various colleges in and around Columbus, Ohio.

**Arrangement** The series is arranged alphabetically.

### **Box and Folder Listing**

Box 21. Folder 1. Autobiographical information.

Box 21. Folder 2. Course outline. Introduction to Judaism, 1980

Box 21. Folder 3. Course outline. Jewish History, undated

Box 21. Folder 4. Course outline. Religious Studies 423. Pontifical College Josephinum, 1979

Box 21. Folder 5. Course outline. Sociology 25. Grant Hospital School of Nursing, 1978

Box 21. Folder 6. Course outline. Sociology 694. Ohio State University, 1976



Box 21. Folder 7. Course outline. Sociology 330. Ohio State University, 1976

Box 21. Folder 8. Folkman, Bessie. Writings, 1962, undated

Box 21. Folder 9. Folkman, Jerome and Bessie. Recognition Sabbath. Temple Israel (Columbus, Ohio), 1973 May 18

Box 21. Folder 10. Marriage contracts, 1986-1988

Box 21. Folder 11. Mixed marriages, undated

Box 21. Folder 12. New Year's booklet, 1992-1993

Box 21. Folder 13. Photographs, 1950s

Box 21. Folder 14. Photographs, 1960s

Box 21. Folder 15. Photographs, 1970s-1980s

Box 21. Folder 16. Photographs, undated

Box 21. Folder 17. Photographs. Ohio Governor James A. Rhodes, Eleanor Roosevelt, undated

Box 21. Folder 18. Rabbi's manual, 1928

Box 21. Folder 19. Rabbi's manual, 1961