A Finding Aid to the
Jerome D. Folkman Papers

Manuscript Collection No. 679
Collection Summary

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


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:
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 6. Central Conference of American Rabbis Committee on Judaism and Medicine, 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 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 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 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 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 15. General correspondence, 1989
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 5. Shankman, Jacob K., 1964-1965
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 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 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 20. Folder 1. Prayers of our People, 1964 January


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


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 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 18. Untitled.


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 2. Course outline. Introduction to Judaism, 1980


Box 21. Folder 11. Mixed marriages, undated
Box 21. Folder 13. Photographs, 1950s
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