



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
Sylvia R. Jacobson Papers**

Manuscript Collection No. 681



Collection Summary

Title	Sylvia R. Jacobson Papers
Dates	1939-1994
Collection Number	MS-681
Repository	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator	Jacobson, Sylvia R., 1911-1994
Extent	0.8 linear feet (2 Hollinger boxes)
Language of the Material	English

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch Sylvia Rosalie Jacobson was born on May 9, 1911 in New York City to Rosalie Hartogensis and Albert Jacobson. She grew up in Riverdale, New York. She received her B.A. from Hunter College of the City of New York in 1932, and her Masters in Social Work from the Columbia University School of Social Work in 1941, specializing in psychiatric social work. During World War II, she worked as a psychiatric social worker with the American Red Cross in United States Naval Hospitals. Jacobson also taught in several university schools of social work, including as an associate professor at the Florida State University School of Social Work in Tallahassee, Florida, where she was a long-time resident. She was also an active member of Temple Israel in Tallahassee, as well as a member of Hadassah and the National Council of Jewish Women.

On Sunday, September 6, 1970, Ms. Jacobson was returning home from a summer course at Hebrew University in Jerusalem when her plane was skyjacked by members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP). Her TWA jetliner, along with a SWISSAIR jet and a BOAC plane, landed in the Jordanian desert where the passengers spent ten days. Jews were separated from non-Jews and kept as hostages to terrorist demands. Ms. Jacobson was rescued along with other passengers with the help of the International Red Cross. She finally arrived in Tallahassee, Florida on Wednesday, September 16, 1970. Along with delivering speeches to many audiences, Ms. Jacobson wrote several essays on her skyjacking experience, the individual and group behavioral responses she observed, and the dynamics of hostages and their captors.

Jacobson died on Wednesday, April 27, 1994 in Tallahassee, Florida, at the age of 82.

Scope and Content The papers document Jacobson's experience as a hostage on a hijacked plane boarded by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Materials include memoirs, newsclippings, correspondence and essays by Jacobson.

Arrangement Organized into two (2) series: A. Skyjacking Files; B. Subject Files.

Terms of Access The collection is open for use; no restrictions apply.

Preferred Citation Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the Sylvia R. Jacobson Papers and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:
[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-681. Sylvia R. Jacobson Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Provenance Received from Stanley Garfein, Tallahassee, Fla., February 2002.

Processing Information Processed by Rachel A. Schwartz, May 2002.

Subjects

Jewish women / Sociology / Terrorism

Series A. Skyjacking Files, 1970-1994

Extent 0.6 linear feet (1.5 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Consists of material on skyjacking, Sylvia R. Jacobson, and Jacobson's skyjacking experience. Documents include correspondence, essays, periodical clippings, personal stories and symposium papers.

Arrangement The series is arranged alphabetically by subject title, and materials are arranged chronologically within each subject except for Jacobson's essays, which are arranged alphabetically by document title.

Box and Folder Listing

- Box 1. Folder 1. The Arab Hijack War.
- Box 1. Folder 2. Articles.
- Box 1. Folder 3. Correspondence. Burial.
- Box 1. Folder 4. Correspondence. General.
- Box 1. Folder 5. Correspondence. Legal, medical.
- Box 1. Folder 6. Damages.
- Box 1. Folder 7. Death, eulogies.
- Box 1. Folder 8. El Mono Inquisitivo.
- Box 1. Folder 9. Essays.
- Box 1. Folder 10. Notes.
- Box 1. Folder 11. Other documents.
- Box 2. Folder 1. Periodical newsclippings. Skyjacking. General.
- Box 2. Folder 2. Periodical newsclippings. Skyjacking, 1970
- Box 2. Folder 3. Periodical newsclippings. Jacobson, Sylvia R.
- Box 2. Folder 4. Personal stories.
- Box 2. Folder 5. Personal story.
- Box 2. Folder 6. Questionnaires. Essay responses.
- Box 2. Folder 7. References (from essays).
- Box 2. Folder 8. Speech. Temple Israel (Tallahassee, Fla.), 1970 September 18
- Box 2. Folder 9. Studies. Stress and anxiety in disaster situations.
- Box 2. Folder 10. Supreme Court case. Finkelstein v. Trans World Airlines, Inc.
- Box 2. Folder 11. Symposium papers. Skyjacking Control in the Perspectives of Current Research and Current Policy.

Series B. Subject Files, 1939-1978

Extent 0.2 linear feet (0.5 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note Consists of material relating to Jacobson's skyjacking experience. Documents include articles on flight anxiety, survivor syndrome and terrorism.

Arrangement The series is arranged alphabetically by subject title, and the materials are arranged chronologically within each subject.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 2. Folder 12. Flight anxiety.

Box 2. Folder 13. Flight staff.

Box 2. Folder 14. Survivors. Disaster.

Box 2. Folder 15. Survivors. Holocaust.

Box 2. Folder 16. Terrorism.