



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
Judea B. Miller Papers**

Manuscript Collection No. 686



Collection Summary

Title	Judea B. Miller Papers
Dates	1947-1995
Collection Number	MS-686
Repository	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator	Miller, Judea B., 1930-1995
Extent	4.4 linear feet (11 Hollinger boxes)
Language of the Material	English

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch

Judea B. Miller was born in New York City in 1930 to Polish immigrants. He did undergraduate work at New York University, graduating with a B.A. in three years and the first annual Bible Award in 1952. While raised as an Orthodox Jew, Miller turned to Reform Judaism in college as a more fitting expression of his personal religious tenets. In 1954, he earned a Bachelor of Hebrew Literature from the Jewish Institute of Religion in New York City. He went on to receive his M.A., M.H.L. and ordination from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, Ohio by 1957.

Miller's first rabbinic assignment from 1957-1959 was as an Assistant Post Chaplain at the army post in Ft. Riley, Kansas. While at the post he specialized in marital and draft counseling. In 1959, Miller assumed a post at Temple Emanu-El, in Wichita, Kansas. Miller was not only a popular rabbi who increased his congregation in Kansas and built a new temple building; he was an also active supporter of black rights. Miller served on a Fair Housing Commission and was active in local politics.

Miller was next named the rabbi at Temple Tifereth Israel in Malden, Massachusetts in 1965. He was active in the local Jewish Community Council, interfaith community activities, and the Massachusetts Board of Rabbis. Miller was also a chaplain at the local Veterans Administration neuropsychiatric hospital. During this time, Miller served in the Delta Ministry in Mississippi and was active in the integration of the first Mississippi restaurant- a Woolworth's counter in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Miller said that one of his reasons for going to Mississippi to aid the desegregation movement was the haunting sense of guilt over the Holocaust and the loss of his two half-brothers in a workers camp outside Maidenek, Poland.

From 1973 until his retirement, Miller was the senior rabbi at Temple B'rith Kodesh in Rochester, New York. He became active there with the local Jewish Federation, interfaith councils and the New York Board of Rabbis. His involvement in national Jewish organizations included the American Zionist Federation, the Board of Overseers for Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, the Rabbinic Cabinet of the United Jewish Appeal and the World Zionist Congress. Miller was also active in support of an orphanage in Israel.

Miller died in 1995. Miller married his wife Anita in 1952 in New York City. They had two children: Jonathan (also a rabbinic graduate of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion) and Rebecca Gottesman.

Scope and Content

The collection details the career and political activities of Judea Miller, rabbi and social activist. Miller was a Reform rabbi who retained his ties with colleagues in the Orthodox and Conservative movements as well as interfaith councils that played an active role in the social and political issues of the times. Whether it was the housing crisis of the 1950s, civil rights and desegregation in the 1960s, Soviet refuseniks in the 1970s and 1980s, or Bosnian refugees in the 1990s, Miller was active in voicing his views and urging his congregants to take a stand.

Miller hoped to move to the Negev desert in Israel, following his graduation from New York University in 1952. While that was not possible, Miller and his wife Anita did go on a tour of Israel in 1961, sponsored by the Jewish Agency. He chronicled this trip in a series of letters found in the correspondence series. Miller was a strong Zionist as seen by his participation in the World Zionist Congress and in a series of articles written throughout the years on Israelis and Palestinians such as Ariel Sharon and Yasser Arafat.

In the mid-1970s, Miller's aunt was robbed and brutally killed in her apartment in New York City. At this point, Miller began a lifelong crusade against the death penalty, following his aunt's own beliefs. He formulated groups of rabbis with similar beliefs from the Central Conference of American Rabbis and also the local interfaith clergy councils. Miller wrote numerous articles and letters to the editors espousing his beliefs. He wrote hundreds of letters to politicians urging them to oppose the death penalty and fought bitterly against its reinstatement in New York in 1989. Letters on this subject are found in nearly every folder of the correspondence series and also in the subject files. Of particular

interest is a series of letters from physicians who wrote to Miller responding to his inquiry about the role of physicians in lethal injection cases.

Also scattered throughout the correspondence series are letters to politicians and colleagues such as David Saperstein of the Religious Action Center concerning important social issues including: civil rights, drug and alcohol rehabilitation, Soviet Jewry, sanctuary congregations and mental health care. The Temple B'rith Kodesh folders in the Subject Files contain programs, scripts and memorabilia from events that often relate to the social conscience of Rabbi Miller. His sermons, found in the writings series, also parallel the social issues of the times. Of some interest is material relating to Miller's observation of a grape worker's strike in Delano, California in 1968.

Arrangement	The papers are organized into three (3) series: A. Correspondence; B. Writings; C. Subject Files.
Terms of Access	The collection is open for use; no restrictions apply.
Preferred Citation	Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the Judea B. Miller Papers and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows: [Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-676. Judea B. Miller Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.
Provenance	Received from Judea Miller, Rochester, N.Y., 1962-1993 and from Temple Brith Kodesh, Rochester, N.Y., 1998.
Processing Information	Processed by Melinda K. McMartin, August 2002.

Index Terms

Subjects	Agricultural laborers / Capital punishment / Civil rights / Rabbis
Corporate Names	Temple B'rith Kodesh (Rochester, N.Y.) / Temple Emanu-El (Wichita, Kan.) / Temple Tifereth Israel (Malden, Mass.)
Media	Sermons

Series A. Correspondence, 1955-1994

Extent 2.2 linear feet (5.5 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Consists of correspondence that detail Miller's rabbinical career and political activities. Topics include civil rights, the death penalty, sanctuary congregations, and Soviet Jewry. When a correspondent has five or more items, it has been given a separate folder.

Arrangement The series is arranged alphabetically by correspondent and chronologically within folders

Box and Folder Listing

- Box 1. Folder 1. A, General.
- Box 1. Folder 2. Agah, Ali A. Embassy of Iran, 1979-1980
- Box 1. Folder 3. Alcoholics Anonymous, 1980-1981
- Box 1. Folder 4. Alinsky, Saul. Industrial Arts Foundation, 1966
- Box 1. Folder 5. Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, 1972-1974, 1980
- Box 1. Folder 6. American Jewish Archives (Marcus, Jacob R.), 1978-1990
- Box 1. Folder 7. Anonymous student. Pro-Arab and anti-Israel remarks, 1963
- Box 1. Folder 8. Association for Retarded Children (Rochester, N.Y.), 1983-1985
- Box 1. Folder 9. B, General.

Box 1. Folder 10. Baumgard, Herbert M., 1979-1980

Box 1. Folder 11. Bernstein, Phillip S., 1955-1986

Box 1. Folder 12. Bogage, Lewis, 1979

Box 1. Folder 13. Boyar, Michael. Jewish Family Service (Rochester, N.Y.), 1976-1980

Box 1. Folder 14. Brennan, Joseph, 1973-1985

Box 1. Folder 15. Brickner, Balfour, 1971-1979

Box 1. Folder 16. Brin, Louis Jewish Advocate, 1972-1976

Box 1. Folder 17. Bush, George Herbert Walker, 1983-1989

Box 1. Folder 18. C, General.

Box 1. Folder 19. California grape workers strike [Delano, Calif.], 1968-1969

Box 1. Folder 20. Carey, Hugh L., 1974-1982

Box 1. Folder 21. Carroll, Mark K., 1966-1979

Box 1. Folder 22. Carter, Jimmy, 1977-1980

Box 1. Folder 23. Chyet, Stanley F., 1962-1983

Box 1. Folder 24. Civil rights, 1964-1971

Box 2. Folder 1. Clark, Matthew H., 1980-1986

Box 2. Folder 2. Clergyman Consultation Services, 1969-1973

Box 2. Folder 3. Conable, Barber B., 1973-1984

Box 2. Folder 4. Cooke, Pinny, 1978-1990

Box 2. Folder 5. Cuomo, Mario, 1982-1991

Box 2. Folder 6. D, General.

Box 2. Folder 7. D'Amato, Alfonse, 1981-1992

Box 2. Folder 8. Death penalty. Physician involvement survey, 1983

Box 2. Folder 9. Democrat and Chronicle, 1979-1994

Box 2. Folder 10. E, General.

Box 2. Folder 11. F, General.

Box 2. Folder 12. Fair Housing Committee (Wichita, Kan.), 1964

Box 2. Folder 13. Falk, Randall M., 1981-1985

Box 2. Folder 14. Fein, Leonard J., 1971-1982

Box 2. Folder 15. Freehof, Solomon B. regarding suicide responsa, 1983

Box 2. Folder 16. Frey, Thomas R., 1973-1991

Box 2. Folder 17. Ga-Gn, General.

Box 2. Folder 18. Gitelson, Roland B., 1966-1992

Box 2. Folder 19. Glaser, Joseph, 1970-1987

Box 2. Folder 20. Go-Gz, General.

Box 3. Folder 1. Goldman, Harvey, 1973-1980

Box 3. Folder 2. Goldrich, Stephen S., 1974-1980

Box 3. Folder 3. Gottschalk, Alfred, 1970-1988

Box 3. Folder 4. Gryn, Hugo G., 1982-1991

Box 3. Folder 5. H, General.

Box 3. Folder 6. Hait, Paul L. New York Board of Rabbis, 1977-1987

Box 3. Folder 7. Horton, Frank, 1974-1991

Box 3. Folder 8. I-J, General.

Box 3. Folder 9. Israel trip, 1971

Box 3. Folder 10. Jacob, Walter, 1983

Box 3. Folder 11. Javits, Jacob K., 1974-1979

Box 3. Folder 12. Jewish Advocate, 1969-1973

Box 3. Folder 13. Jewish Community Council (Boston, Mass.), 1967-1974

Box 3. Folder 14. Jewish Community Federation (Rochester, N.Y.), 1967-1974

Box 3. Folder 15. K, General.

Box 3. Folder 16. Kaplan, Kivie, 1966-1973

Box 3. Folder 17. Kiliminick, Shaya. Rochester Board of Rabbis, 1979-1992

Box 3. Folder 18. King, Robert L., 1989-1992

Box 3. Folder 19. Korff, Samuel I., 1968-1972

Box 3. Folder 20. Kraut, Grace, 1979-1981

Box 3. Folder 21. Kravitz, Leonard S., 1979-1991

Box 3. Folder 22. Kurlander, Lawrence T., 1976-1986

Box 4. Folder 1. L, General.

Box 4. Folder 2. LaFalce, John J., 1984-1991

Box 4. Folder 3. Lampert, Richard G., 1976-1977

Box 4. Folder 4. Levin, Meyer regarding Diary of Anne Frank, 1971-1976

Box 4. Folder 5. Liebert, Arthur E. Rochester General Hospital, 1980

Box 4. Folder 6. Lookstein, Haskel, 1985-1988

Box 4. Folder 7. Louis, Elmer, 1975

Box 4. Folder 8. Lozansky, Edward, 1978-1983

Box 4. Folder 9. M, General.

Box 4. Folder 10. Macdonald, Torbert H., 1967-1971

Box 4. Folder 11. Malino, Jerome R. Central Conference of American Rabbis, 1976-1979

Box 4. Folder 12. Mandelbaum, Bernard, 1979-1980

Box 4. Folder 13. Massachusetts Board of Rabbis, 1972

Box 4. Folder 14. More, Lee Krenis. Democrat and Chronicle, 1980-1986

Box 4. Folder 15. Moshowitz, Israel, 1983-1991

Box 4. Folder 16. Moynihan, Daniel Patrick, 1977-1991

Box 4. Folder 17. Mulligan, Charles F., 1979-1984

Box 4. Folder 18. N, General.

Box 4. Folder 19. Nan Freeman Memorial Fund (regarding farm workers' strike), 1972

Box 4. Folder 20. O-Q, General.

Box 5. Folder 1. Office of the Chaplain [Ft. Riley, Kan.], 1958

Box 5. Folder 2. Paxon, Bill, 1990-1992

Box 5. Folder 3. R, General.

Box 5. Folder 4. Rabbi, 1969-1979

Box 5. Folder 5. Rosenbaum, Henry, 1979

Box 5. Folder 6. Ryan, Thomas P., Jr., 1975-1986

Box 5. Folder 7. Sa-Si, General.

Box 5. Folder 8. Sally, Tim. Dignity-integrity rochester, 1982

Box 5. Folder 9. Sanctuary congregations, 1983-1989

Box 5. Folder 10. Saperstein, David. Religious Action Center, 1975-1992, undated

Box 5. Folder 11. Schindler, Alexander M., 1973-1989

Box 5. Folder 12. Seltzer, Sanford, 1970-1979

Box 5. Folder 13. Siegman, Henry Synagogue Council of America, 1975-1985

Box 6. Folder 1. Sk-Sz, General.

Box 6. Folder 2. Slaughter, Louise M., 1988-1993

Box 6. Folder 3. Stern, Malcolm H., 1964-1984

Box 6. Folder 4. Sundheim, Frank N., 1979-1993

Box 6. Folder 5. T, General.

Box 6. Folder 6. Temple B'rith Kodesh (Rochester, N.Y.) contract negotiations, 1973-1980

Box 6. Folder 7. Temple B'rith Kodesh (Rochester, N.Y.) installation, 1973

Box 6. Folder 8. U-V, General.

Box 6. Folder 9. Union of American Hebrew Congregations regarding rabbis' discretionary funds, 1976

Box 6. Folder 10. Vorspan, Albert Union of American Hebrew Congregations, 1968-1986

Box 6. Folder 11. W, General.

Box 6. Folder 12. Walker, John S., 1980-1984

Box 6. Folder 13. Weil, Edward Mid-Kansas Jewish Welfare Federation, 1963

Box 6. Folder 14. Weizenbaum, Joseph, 1975-1986

Box 6. Folder 15. Wiesel, Elie, 1978-1985

Box 6. Folder 16. Witmer, Lawrence, 1979-1987

Box 6. Folder 17. X-Z, General.

Box 6. Folder 18. Young, Frank, 1980-1985

Box 6. Folder 19. Unidentified correspondence, undated

Series B. Writings, 1960-1995

Extent 1.4 linear feet (3.5 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Consists of writings including sermons given in the pulpit and articles about Miller's political beliefs, including farm worker's rights, the death penalty and Israel.

Arrangement The series is arranged alphabetically by title.

Box and Folder Listing

- Box 6. Folder 20. About martyrdom, 1980
- Box 6. Folder 21. Absence of malice: Sharon v. Time, 1985
- Box 6. Folder 22. Alzheimer's memorial service, 1995
- Box 6. Folder 23. And Moses stuttered, 1993
- Box 6. Folder 24. Anti-Defamation League testimonial dinner, 1994
- Box 6. Folder 25. Anti-Nazi rally, 1978
- Box 6. Folder 26. Armageddon - final battle of the world, 1984
- Box 6. Folder 27. Arms and the man: A Jewish view of Gandhi, 1983
- Box 6. Folder 28. Because of being sheep, 1966
- Box 6. Folder 29. Biletkiy, Roman - A righteous gentile, 1994
- Box 7. Folder 1. Book reviews, 1979-1993, undated
- Box 7. Folder 2. Bucknell University baccalaureate address, 1991
- Box 7. Folder 3. By the mouth of two witnesses: a retrospect. California grape worker's strike, undated
- Box 7. Folder 4. Can God really save us?, undated
- Box 7. Folder 5. [A] Closet: another religious view of gay liberation, undated
- Box 7. Folder 6. Confessions of a middle-aged Beatles fan, 1981
- Box 7. Folder 7. Current trends in modern Jewish thought, 1966
- Box 7. Folder 8. Death and dying in Jewish religious thinking, undated
- Box 7. Folder 9. Death of righteous man. Lubberts, Taeke, undated
- Box 7. Folder 10. Delano diary. Delano, California. grape worker's strike, 1968
- Box 7. Folder 11. Deputy, undated
- Box 7. Folder 12. Doing an ungrudging kindness: notes on martyrdom, 1979
- Box 7. Folder 13. Eternal life: Eric Roth scholarship award, 1975
- Box 7. Folder 14. First amendment: separation of church and state, 1991
- Box 7. Folder 15. Further notes from the Zionist Congress, 1978
- Box 7. Folder 16. Ghost of the struma and the Haitians, undated
- Box 7. Folder 17. Hanukkah services, 1991-1992, undated
- Box 7. Folder 18. Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion chapel sermon, 1987
- Box 7. Folder 19. Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion ordination sermon, 1992
- Box 7. Folder 20. Hitler diaries, 1983
- Box 7. Folder 21. Hostages in Iran, 1980-1981
- Box 7. Folder 22. How a Jew reads scripture, undated
- Box 7. Folder 23. How normal should a Jewish state be?, 1988
- Box 7. Folder 24. How precious is a good deed done in time, undated
- Box 7. Folder 25. How shall we remember Martin Luther King?, 1992
- Box 7. Folder 26. I met Andrei Sakharov, 1960

Box 7. Folder 27. Installation services, 1962

Box 7. Folder 28. Inter-marriage lecture, 1974

Box 7. Folder 29. Jewish community at the bicentennial, 1975

Box 8. Folder 1. Jewish concept of the Messiah, undated

Box 8. Folder 2. Jewish interests in supporting civil rights issues, undated

Box 8. Folder 3. Jewish response to Arafat, undated

Box 8. Folder 4. Jewish tribute to Columbus, 1985

Box 8. Folder 5. Jewish victims and German indifference, 1988

Box 8. Folder 6. Jewish vote, 1981

Box 8. Folder 7. Judaism and the death penalty, 1992

Box 8. Folder 8. Judaism since the Bible, 1976

Box 8. Folder 9. Kol Nidre services, undated

Box 8. Folder 10. Levantine religion, 1978

Box 8. Folder 11. Little house on the West Bank, 1988

Box 8. Folder 12. Martin Luther King and the Jews, undated

Box 8. Folder 13. Martin Luther King day and the McCuller case, 1984

Box 8. Folder 14. Meditations at memorial service for victims of violence, 1993

Box 8. Folder 15. Mississippi winter, 1989

Box 8. Folder 16. More on martyrdom, undated

Box 8. Folder 17. Murder of a social conscience, 1973

Box 8. Folder 18. New anti-Semitism, 1990

Box 8. Folder 19. Newspaper articles, 1960-1993

Box 8. Folder 20. Not for thee to complete: Mississippi,, 1962 undated

Box 8. Folder 21. Operation Solomon: the rescue is complete, undated

Box 8. Folder 22. Panorama of Judaism, 1985

Box 8. Folder 23. Parliament of the Jewish people or who needs a minyan?, 1978

Box 8. Folder 24. Passover services, undated

Box 8. Folder 25. Poland revisited, undated

Box 8. Folder 26. Racism lecture, 1969

Box 8. Folder 27. Remarks about the separation of powers, 1991

Box 8. Folder 28. Right of choice: abortion and the Jewish views, 1990

Box 9. Folder 1. Rosh Hashanah sermons, undated

Box 9. Folder 2. Sacred code of slum landlords, 1988

Box 9. Folder 3. Scapegoat, undated

Box 9. Folder 4. Sedra. "Emor.", undated

Box 9. Folder 5. Sermons. Untitled, undated

Box 9. Folder 6. Some comparative religious views of medical ethics, undated

Box 9. Folder 7. Sharon verdict, 1985

Box 9. Folder 8. Solomon, Aaron. Eulogy, 1986

Box 9. Folder 9. Stephen Wise Temple (Los Angeles, Calif.) installation, 1982
Box 9. Folder 10. Story of the real Columbus, 1973
Box 9. Folder 11. Strong enough to be honest, undated
Box 9. Folder 12. Tel Aviv memorial service, 1972
Box 9. Folder 13. Terrorism lectures, undated
Box 9. Folder 14. Three Jewish views of Jesus, 1975
Box 9. Folder 15. United Nations Zionism resolution: removal of slander, undated
Box 9. Folder 16. Unlocking the code: ferreting the scoundrel, undated
Box 9. Folder 17. Until liberation comes, 1988
Box 9. Folder 18. Urban League, 1993
Box 9. Folder 19. Vatican Council, 1963
Box 9. Folder 20. Veterans day, 1965
Box 9. Folder 21. Waldheim and the carnival, 1986
Box 9. Folder 22. War veterans service, 1974
Box 9. Folder 23. What is Zionism?, undated
Box 9. Folder 24. Who is a Holocaust victim?, undated
Box 9. Folder 25. Woody Allen: a clown for God, 1987
Box 9. Folder 26. Yom Kippur sermons, undated

Series C. Subject Files, 1947-1990

Extent 0.8 linear feet (2 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Consists of material primarily relating to the death penalty and events at Temple B'rith Kodesh in Rochester, N.Y. It includes reports, programs, correspondence and research files.

Arrangement The series is arranged alphabetically by topic.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 10. Folder 1-5. Death penalty, 1977-1994
Box 11. Folder 1. Death penalty survey, 1987
Box 11. Folder 2. Denmark and the Jews. Leif Donde, 1993
Box 11. Folder 3. Draft counseling, 1967-1974
Box 11. Folder 4. Draft counseling. John Lefor case, 1972
Box 11. Folder 5. FIGHT newsclippings, 1975
Box 11. Folder 6. Kristallnacht, 1988
Box 11. Folder 7. Massachusetts Board of Rabbis civil disobedience rally, 1972
Box 11. Folder 8. Miscellaneous, undated
Box 11. Folder 9. S.S. Exodus histories and photographs, undated
Box 11. Folder 10. Soviet Jewry, undated
Box 11. Folder 11. Temple B'rith Kodesh (Rochester, N.Y.) contract negotiations, 1979-1980

Box 11. Folder 12. Temple B'rith Kodesh (Rochester, N.Y.) brochures and programs,
1975-1990