A Finding Aid to the
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum
Collection of Alfred Gottschalk

Manuscript Collection No. 712
Collection Summary

Title United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Collection of Alfred Gottschalk
Dates 1978-2000
Collection Number MS-712
Repository The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator Gottschalk, Alfred [Collector]
Extent 11.2 linear feet (28 Hollinger boxes)
Language of the Material English and Hebrew

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch

On November 1, 1978, President Jimmy Carter established the President’s Commission on the Holocaust. The purpose of the Commission was to make recommendations on establishing and funding an appropriate memorial to victims of the Holocaust. The Commission suggested the following:

- that a living memorial be established to honor the victims and survivors of the Holocaust and which would ensure that the lessons of the Holocaust be taught in perpetuity;

- that an educational foundation be established to stimulate and support research in the teaching of the Holocaust;

- that a Committee on Conscience be established that would collect information on and alert the national conscience regarding reports of actual or potential outbreaks of genocide throughout the world; and

- that a national Day of Remembrance of victims of the Holocaust be established in perpetuity and be held annually.

In order to meet these goals, the Commission took on a new identity, that of the United States Holocaust Memorial Committee. The Committee, brought about by passage of Public Law 96-388 in 1980, was made up of prominent Jews and non-Jews alike. Chaired by Elie Wiesel, its members included Mario Cuomo, Kitty Dukakis, Irving Greenberg, Miles Lerman and Alfred Gottschalk, then president of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. The membership of the Committee has changed over the years; however, it is the Museum’s governing body to this day.

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum was completed in 1994, the product of endless meetings, phone calls, correspondence, and even research trips. The Museum consists of 44,000 square feet of exhibit space, as well as an archive, library, Hall of Witness, and Hall of Remembrance. Built by architectural firm Pei, Cobb, Freed and Partners, it is the recipient of numerous awards, most notably the National Honor Award of the American Institute of Architects, and the Sixth Annual Jewish Cultural Achievement Award of the National Foundation for Jewish Culture.

Scope and Content

Alfred Gottschalk, president of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion from 1971 to 1995, served on both the President's Commission on the Holocaust and the United States Holocaust Museum Committee. The scope of this collection reflects the extent of his involvement. Dr. Gottschalk served on the following committees: Executive Committee, Committee on Commemoration, Committee on Conscience, Subcommittee on Higher Education, Committee on International Relations.

The collection includes correspondence, financial reports, periodical articles, meeting minutes, press releases and publicity gathered by Gottschalk during his tenure on these committees from 1978 to 1997. The collection is organized into one series and is presented in approximate chronological order.

Included in the collection are papers of other committee members, many of whom were prominent in the Jewish and broader communities. This collection relates the history of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, through the files collected by Alfred Gottschalk. The strength of this collection resides in its comprehensive presentation of the work involved in creating the USHMM, bringing it from conception to reality.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in one (1) series: A. General.

Access Restrictions

Box 23, Folders 10 and 11 are restricted.
Preferred Citation
Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Collection of Alfred Gottschalk and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder#. MS-712. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Collection of Alfred Gottschalk. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Provenance
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Processing Information
Processed by Vicki Lipski, September 2005 and June 2007.

Index Terms
Subjects
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945) / Museums

Corporate Names
President's Commission on the Holocaust / United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Media
Minutes

Series A. General, 1978-2000

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Box 1. Folder 5. First meeting, 1979 February 15
Box 1. Folder 6. Subcommittee meetings and recommendations, 1979 March
Box 1. Folder 7. Days of Remembrance and second meeting, 1979 April 24
Box 1. Folder 8. Third meeting, 1979 June 7
Box 2. Folder 2. Fact-Finding Mission to Europe, Soviet Union and Israel, 1979 July 29-August 12
Box 2. Folder 3. Committees and Subcommittees on which Dr. Gottschalk served.
Box 2. Folder 4. Final report of the Commission, 1979 September 27
Box 2. Folder 5. Education Subcommittee minutes, 1979 March 26
Box 2. Folder 6. Academic Research and Higher Education Subcommittee minutes, 1979 April 16
Box 2. Folder 7. By-laws and establishment, 1980 January 16
Box 2. Folder 8. Days of Remembrance, 1980 April 26
Box 2. Folder 9. Meetings and minutes, 1980 May 28
Box 2. Folder 10. Working Committees.
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Box 2. Folder 13. Members, corrected list, 1980 June 3
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Box 3. Folder 8. Ohio Holocaust Commemoration (photographs).
Box 3. Folder 9. Coordinating Committee meeting minutes, 1981 September 10
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Box 5. Folder 2. Seymour Siegel, Director, 1982-1984
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