

A Finding Aid to the Selig Salkowitz Papers. 1963-2000.

Manuscript Collection No. 725

Creator: Salkowitz, Selig, b. 1929



The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives

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Introduction

Repository:	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator:	Salkowitz, Selig, b. 1929
Title:	Selig Salkowitz Papers
Dates:	1963-2000
Quantity:	2.4 linear ft. (6 Hollinger boxes)
Abstract:	Contains minutes, correspondence, reports, nearprint, and working papers associated with Salkowitz's service on committees of the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR), including the Committee on the Chaplaincy, the Committee on Homosexuality in the Rabbinate, and the Committee on Human Sexuality.
Collection Number:	MS-725
Language:	Collection material in English.

Biographical Sketch

Selig Salkowitz was born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1929. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Cincinnati in 1950. He attended Hebrew Union College where he received a Bachelor of Hebrew Letters degree in 1952 and a Master of Hebrew Letters degree in 1954. Salkowitz later earned a Doctorate of Divinity at the New York Theological Seminary in 1970. In addition, he did independent study at the Oxford Center for Postgraduate Hebrew Studies, and obtained a Certificate in Pastoral Counseling from the Post Graduate Center for Mental Health in New York City.

Rabbi Salkowitz served as a Navy chaplain from 1954-1974, doing active duty in the Mariana Islands from 1954-1956, and reserve duty in the U.S. from 1956-1974. He also served on the Central Conference of American Rabbis' Chaplaincy Committee as well as on the National Jewish Welfare Board's Commission on Jewish Chaplaincy.

Salkowitz's other committee work for the CCAR included chairing the important Committee on Homosexuality in the Rabbinate (1986-1990) and co-chairing the Committee on Human Sexuality (1993-2000). Both of these committees explored questions of the place of gays and lesbians in the Reform movement, debating both inclusion in the rabbinate and whether to officiate and recognize marriages between same-sex couples. At the recommendation of the Committee on Homosexuality in the Rabbinate, the CCAR adopted a resolution in 1990 allowing openly gay and lesbian rabbis in the Reform rabbinate. In 2000, the CCAR adopted a resolution in support of rabbis who chose to officiate at same-sex ceremonies.

During his career as a pulpit rabbi, Dr. Salkowitz served Temple Beth El in Providence, Rhode Island (1956-1958), Temple Avoda, Fair Lawn, New Jersey (1958-1988) and Union Temple of Brooklyn, New York (1988-1992). He was also interim rabbi at Temple Israel of Stockton, California (1992-1993).

Scope and Content Note

The Selig Salkowitz Papers (1963-2000) consist of minutes, correspondence, reports, nearprint, and working papers associated with Salkowitz's service on several important committees of the CCAR, including the Committee on the Chaplaincy, the Committee on Homosexuality in the Rabbinate, and the Committee on Human Sexuality.

Arrangement Note

This collection is arranged in four (4) series:

Series A. CCAR Committee on the Chaplaincy. 1963-1975.

Series B. CCAR Committee on Homosexuality in the Rabbinate. 1977-1990.

Series C. CCAR Committee on Human Sexuality. 1977-2000.

Series D. Miscellaneous. 1979-1993.

Restrictions

Terms of Access

The collection is restricted to the Executive Director of the American Jewish Archives.

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Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

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

[Description], [Date], Selig Salkowitz Papers, MS-725, Box [#], Folder [#]. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Provenance

The Selig Salkowitz Papers were received from Rabbi Selig Salkowitz, Fair Lawn, New Jersey, in 2001. Additional materials were donated by Rabbi Salkowitz in 2008.

Processing Information

Processed by Dorothy Smith, 2006, 2008. Additional processing by Kevin Proffitt, 2013.

Accruals and Additions

No further accruals are expected to this collection.

Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the AJA's online catalog.

Adoption.

Central Conference of American Rabbis. Committee on Homosexuality in the Rabbinate.

Central Conference of American Rabbis. Committee on Human Sexuality.

Chaplains, Military.

Family violence.

Homosexuality -- Religious aspects -- Judaism.

Population -- Statistics.

Rape.

Vietnam War, 1961-1975.

Women's rights.

Box Folder Listing

Series A. CCAR Committee on the Chaplaincy. 1963-1975. [2 Hollinger boxes]

Scope and Content Note: Includes materials documenting Rabbi Salkowitz's service in the Navy as a Jewish chaplain from 1963-1974. Records include general correspondence, correspondence with chaplains, reports, minutes of the CCAR Chaplaincy Committee, minutes of the National Jewish Welfare Board's Commission on Jewish Chaplaincy, surveys, and working papers. Salkowitz was involved with recruitment of Jewish chaplains during the Vietnam War. These records reflect some of the struggles and conflicts experienced by the Reform rabbinate during that time.

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- 1 1 Correspondence, reports, minutes. 1963-1967.
- 1 2 Correspondence, reports, minutes. 1968-1969.
- 1 3 Correspondence, reports, minutes. 1970.
- 1 4 Correspondence, reports, minutes. 1971.
- 1 5 Correspondence, reports, minutes. 1972-1973.
- 2 1 Correspondence, reports, minutes. 1974-1975.
- 2 2 Responses to CCAR Chaplaincy Committee surveys. 1971.
- 2 3 Chaplaincy Commission of the Rabbinical Association of Bergen County (N.J.). 1966-1975.
- 2 4 Liaison Committee. 1966-1967, 1975.
- 2 5 Correspondence with chaplains. 1971-1972.
- 2 6 Youdovin, Ira S. 1970-1971.
- 2 7 Lay Leadership Committee. 1972-1976.
- 2 8 Chaplaincy reports. 1970-1972.
- 2 9 Recruitment. 1969-1973.

Series B. CCAR Committee on Homosexuality in the Rabbinate. 1977-1990. [2 Hollinger boxes]

Scope and Content Note: Includes meeting minutes, extensive correspondence and emails, surveys, nearprint, journal articles, newsclippings, and working papers. The committee, formerly called the Ad Hoc Committee on Homosexuality, was chaired by Rabbi Salkowitz and was charged with studying, gathering background information, and presenting recommendations on the question of ordaining openly gay and lesbian rabbis in the Reform movement.

Restriction Note: The collection is restricted to the Executive Director of the American Jewish Archives.

- 3 1 Conference Responsum Committee on Homosexuality. Correspondence. 1977-1979.
- 3 2 CCAR Committee on Homosexuality. Correspondence, responsa. 1978.
- 3 3 Ad Hoc Committee on Homosexuality. Correspondence. 1986.
- 3 4 Ad Hoc Committee on Homosexuality. Minutes. 1987-1989.
- 3 5 Correspondence, reports, minutes. January-April 1987.
- 3 6 Correspondence, reports, minutes. May-December 1987.
- 3 7 Correspondence, reports, minutes. 1988.
- 4 1 Correspondence, reports, minutes. January-June 1989.
- 4 2 Correspondence, reports, minutes. July-December 1989.
- 4 3 Correspondence, reports, minutes. January-May 1990.
- 4 4 Correspondence, reports, minutes. June-December 1990.
- 4 5 Correspondence, reports, minutes. undated.
- 4 6 Final report. 1990.
- 4 7 Judaism and Homosexuality. Nearprint. 1979, 1987.
- 4 8 CCAR resolution on Homosexuality in the Rabbinate. Newsclippings. 1990.

Series C. CCAR Committee on Human Sexuality. 1977-2000. [1.5 Hollinger boxes]

Scope and Content Note: Records from this committee reflect work on the question of sanctioning same-sex unions in the Reform movement. Included are minutes, correspondence, survey responses, and nearprint. Also included is a small amount of material from Rabbi Salkowitz's earlier work with the Committee on Family Life and the Sub-Committee on Jewish Sexual Values.

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- 5 1 Committee on Family Life. 1977-1983.
- 5 2 Sub-Committee on Jewish Sexual Values. 1978-1982.
- 5 3 Committee on Human Sexuality. 1993-1995.
- 5 4 Committee on Human Sexuality. 1996-1997.
- 5 5 Committee on Human Sexuality. 1998-1999.
- 5 6 Committee on Human Sexuality. 2000.
- 5 7 CCAR Conference on Judaism and Sexual Values. Correspondence. 1980-1982.
- 6 1 CCAR Conference on Judaism and Sexual Values. Papers. 1980-1981.
- 6 2 Breakout session responses. 1996.
- 6 3 Sexuality questionnaire and correspondence. 1979-1980.

Series D. Miscellaneous. 1979-1993. [0.5 Hollinger boxes]

Scope and Content Note: Consists of files on adoption, Jewish population growth, and issues of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Restriction Note: The collection is restricted to the Executive Director of the American Jewish Archives.

- 6 4 A Rabbi's Guide to Adoption. Draft and correspondence. 1979.
- 6 5 National Conference on Jewish Population Growth. Correspondence, minutes. 1983.
- 6 6 In-Service Training. Sexual assault, domestic violence, and forgiveness. Correspondence, clippings. 1992.
- 6 7 National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Jewish Women's Domestic Violence Information Packet. 1993.