



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
Mordecai Soloff Papers**

Manuscript Collection No. 740



Collection Summary

Title	Mordecai Soloff Papers
Dates	1927-1990, undated
Collection Number	MS-740
Repository	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator	Soloff, Mordecai, 1901-1992
Extent	16.4 linear feet (41 Hollinger boxes)
Language of the Material	English

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch Mordecai Soloff was born in Russia July 2, 1901. In 1910 his parents and family moved to the United States. In 1920 he received a diploma from the Jewish Theological Seminary's Teacher's Institute. He taught Hebrew for three years before becoming principal of Chazuk Amuno in 1923-1937. In 1923 he received his BS from City College in New York and then received his MA from Teacher's College of Columbia in 1927. He was active with the Jewish Board of Education in various countries from the mid 1920s through the late 1930s. In 1940 he was ordained as a rabbi at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati and also received his MHL. Soloff served in several congregations in New York and California and late in life was a guest rabbi in Australia in 1983-1984. He spent much of his rabbinic career at Temple Israel of Westchester in Los Angeles, California.

During his many years of service and study he prepared a series of textbooks in the field of Jewish history published by the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and widely used throughout the country in Reform, Conservative and Orthodox religious schools. He is also the author of Jewish Life and Our Prayerbook for the teaching of Hebrew combined with customs and ceremonies. He has written many articles published in journals and the Universal Jewish Encyclopedia. Soloff also wrote How the Jewish People Live and How the Jewish People Grew Up.

Soloff married Eve Miller in 1924 and had two children, Rav Soloff who later became a rabbi and Tamar Soloff Brower. Soloff died in September of 1992.

Scope and Content This collection contains the letters, notes, writings and sermons of Mordecai Soloff.

Arrangement The collection is arranged into four (4) series: A. Correspondence; B. Writings and Notes; C. Sermons; D. Personal and Miscellaneous.

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

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

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-740. Mordecai Soloff Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

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Index Terms

Subjects	Jewish education / Rabbis
Personal Names	Soloff, Mordecai, 1901-1992
Media	Photographs / Sermons

Series A. Correspondence, 1927-1986

Extent 3 linear feet (7.5 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note The bulk of the series consists of family correspondence, especially with Soloff's son, Rav.

These letters cover the years of 1945-1985, including Rav's transition into a rabbi. Rav was also very involved with educational initiatives so the father and son conversed on various educational projects often. There are also letters from Soloff's father, Louis that are rather interesting in helping to understand the Soloff family dynamics.

Arrangement

The series is arranged alphabetically.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 1. A, general.

Box 1. Folder 2. Australian correspondence, 1982-1983

Box 1. Folder 3. Australian correspondence, 1983-1984

Box 1. Folder 4. Australian correspondence, 1984

Box 1. Folder 5. B, general.

Box 1. Folder 6. Book sources and suggestions, 1931-1940

Box 1. Folder 7. Books, 1930-1941

Box 1. Folder 8. Brower, Judy and Marla, 1973-1984

Box 1. Folder 9. Brower, Steven, 1976

Box 1. Folder 10. Bureau of Jewish Education. Baltimore, 1949-1954

Box 1. Folder 11. C, general.

Box 1. Folder 12. Central Synagogue, 1944-1945

Box 1. Folder 13. Chaplaincy, 1942

Box 1. Folder 14. Columbia Teachers College, 1927-1928, 1936

Box 1. Folder 15. Cumberland, Maryland, 1948

Box 1. Folder 16. D, general.

Box 1. Folder 17. Danville, Virginia, 1945-1946

Box 1. Folder 18. E, general.

Box 1. Folder 19. Essex, Maryland, 1950-1953

Box 1. Folder 20. F, general, 1934-1986

Box 1. Folder 21. Feldman, Zalman, 1938-1948

Box 1. Folder 22. G, general.

Box 2. Folder 1. Gamoran, Emmanuel, 1934-1952

Box 2. Folder 2. General Tours, 1983-1985

Box 2. Folder 3. Gittelsohn, Roland B., 1944-1952

Box 2. Folder 4. Gottschalk, Alfred, 1962-1986

Box 2. Folder 5. H, general, 1957, 1973, 1986

Box 2. Folder 6. Harvey Press, 1962

Box 2. Folder 7. Hebrew Union College, 1937, 1947-1948

Box 2. Folder 8. Hebrew Union College graduation, 1940

Box 2. Folder 9. Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. Doctor of Hebrew Letters, 1955-1956

Box 2. Folder 10. Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. Honorary degree

[photographs], 1965

Box 2. Folder 11. How the Jewish People Live Today correspondence, 1969

Box 2. Folder 12. How the Jewish People Live Today revision letters, 1948

Box 2. Folder 13. I-J, general.

Box 2. Folder 14. Jacobs, Maurice, 1947-1959

Box 2. Folder 15. Jewish war veterans, 1962

Box 2. Folder 16. Job searches, 1946-1952

Box 2. Folder 17. K, general.

Box 3. Folder 1. L, general.

Box 3. Folder 2. Landau, Jacob, 1963

Box 3. Folder 3. Leventhal, Will, 1985

Box 3. Folder 4. Israel trip, 1967

Box 3. Folder 5. M, general.

Box 3. Folder 6. Maller, Allen, 1987

Box 3. Folder 7. Marcus, Jacob Rader, 1949-1956

Box 3. Folder 8. Miller, I. N., 1973-1984

Box 3. Folder 9. Mollin, Simon, 1938-1958

Box 3. Folder 10. Morganstern, Julian, 1944-1947

Box 3. Folder 11. N, general.

Box 3. Folder 12. P, general.

Box 3. Folder 13. Personal correspondence and awards, 1930-1986

Box 3. Folder 14. Perth, 1985-1986

Box 3. Folder 15. Pomerantz, 1984-1986

Box 3. Folder 16. Pomona, Calif. Temple Beth Israel, 1976

Box 3. Folder 17. Primary holidays, 1957-1958

Box 3. Folder 18. Publications, 1941-1981

Box 4. Folder 1. Publications, 1967-1968

Box 4. Folder 2. R, general.

Box 4. Folder 3. Resignation comments, 1952

Box 4. Folder 4. Retirement, 1973

Box 4. Folder 5. S, general.

Box 4. Folder 6. Soloff, Abraham, 1968, 1980, undated

Box 4. Folder 7. Soloff, Asher, 1942-1945

Box 4. Folder 8. Soloff, Celia, 1968-1975, undated

Box 4. Folder 9. Soloff, Eve, 1941-1984

Box 5. Folder 1. Soloff, Eve. Condolence letters, 1980

Box 5. Folder 2. Soloff, Lillian and Ruby, 1975-1978

Box 5. Folder 3. Soloff, Louis. Condolence letters, 1962

Box 5. Folder 4. Soloff, Michael, 1979-1981

Box 5. Folder 5. Soloff, Philip, 1959-1979
Box 5. Folder 6. Soloff, Rav, 1945-1948
Box 5. Folder 7. Soloff, Rav, 1948-1952
Box 5. Folder 8. Soloff, Rav, 1949-1950
Box 6. Folder 1. Soloff, Rav, 1932-1952
Box 6. Folder 2. Soloff, Rav, 1953-1955
Box 6. Folder 3. Soloff, Rav, 1956-1958
Box 6. Folder 4. Soloff, Rav, 1957-1960, 1973
Box 6. Folder 5. Soloff, Rav, 1959-1962
Box 6. Folder 6. Soloff, Rav, 1963
Box 6. Folder 7. Soloff, Rav, 1964-1965
Box 6. Folder 8. Soloff, Rav, 1965-1969
Box 7. Folder 1. Soloff, Rav, 1970-1978, 1982, 1986
Box 7. Folder 2. Soloff, Rav, 1979-1985
Box 7. Folder 3. Soloff, Sharon, 1977-1979
Box 7. Folder 4. Soloff, Tamar, 1967-1975
Box 7. Folder 5. Smoller, Phineas, 1933-1953
Box 7. Folder 6. T, general.
Box 7. Folder 7. Temple Israel of Westchester [photo], 1936-1968
Box 7. Folder 8. Temple Israel of Westchester. 5th year dinner, 1957
Box 8. Folder 1. Temple Israel of Westchester manual.
Box 8. Folder 2. Temple Jeremiah (Los Angeles, Calif.), 1985, 1976-1978
Box 8. Folder 3. Union of American Hebrew Congregations. Jewish Education, 1962-1974
Box 8. Folder 4. W, general, 1951-1986
Box 8. Folder 5. Wolman, Paul. Injury, 1953
Box 8. Folder 6. Wellington Temple, 1983-1984

Series B. Writings and Notes, undated

Extent 2.2 linear feet (5.5 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note The series displays the full breadth of Soloff's work. In reading his notes on various topics you can gain a sense of his workflow methodology and the issues that interested him the most. He was very interested in the philosophies behind teaching methodologies.

Arrangement The series is arranged alphabetically.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 8. Folder 7. Aging and Judaism.
Box 8. Folder 8. Amos notes.
Box 8. Folder 9. Bible, teaching.
Box 8. Folder 10. Biblical criticism.

Box 8. Folder 11. Bible for adults.

Box 9. Folder 1. Book reviews, 1950-1975

Box 9. Folder 2. Chaplaincy.

Box 9. Folder 3. Dissertation.

Box 9. Folder 4. Courses of study for elementary school.

Box 9. Folder 5. Curriculum revisions.

Box 9. Folder 6. God.

Box 9. Folder 7. Diary, 1983-1984

Box 9. Folder 8. Diary of a Bronx experiment. Attitudes peculiar to Jews.

Box 10. Folder 1. Education in Ancient Israel, 1938

Box 10. Folder 2. Hasidism in Psalms, 1940

Box 10. Folder 3. Hasidism notes.

Box 10. Folder 4. Hebrew Union College. Introduction to Jewish Education, 1931

Box 10. Folder 5. Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. Funding Jewish Education, 1953

Box 10. Folder 6. Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. Classroom management, 1955

Box 10. Folder 7. Homiletics.

Box 10. Folder 8. How the Jewish People Grew Up? suggested revisions, 1938

Box 10. Folder 9. Introduction to Jewish Education, 1965

Box 10. Folder 10. Isaiah.

Box 10. Folder 11. Israel trip, 1974

Box 10. Folder 12. Jeremiah.

Box 10. Folder 13. Jewish education notes.

Box 10. Folder 14. Jewish education and communal life.

Box 10. Folder 15. Jewish education in Rhode Island, 1936

Box 10. Folder 16. Jewish history, teaching.

Box 11. Folder 1. Jewish Life under the Hasmoneans film, 1971

Box 11. Folder 2. Jewish philosophy.

Box 11. Folder 3. Jewish Vocational Education in Palestine.

Box 11. Folder 4. Jews.

Box 11. Folder 5. Job.

Box 11. Folder 6. Liturgy.

Box 11. Folder 7. Loyalty oaths.

Box 11. Folder 8. Methods of teaching.

Box 11. Folder 9. Missions.

Box 12. Folder 1. National Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds.

Box 12. Folder 2. Philosophy of Jewish Education.

Box 12. Folder 3. Plan for school magazine.

Box 12. Folder 4. Prayerbook.

Box 12. Folder 5. Pre-consecration service, 1943
Box 12. Folder 6. Prophecy.
Box 12. Folder 7. The prophets.
Box 12. Folder 8. Psalms.
Box 12. Folder 9. Psychology of Religion: God's Presence in History.
Box 12. Folder 10. Rabbinic thesis.
Box 13. Folder 1. Religion.
Box 13. Folder 2. Report on religious school. Milwaukee, 1941-1942
Box 13. Folder 3. School board reports.
Box 13. Folder 4. Teaching religion techniques.
Box 13. Folder 5. Supervised study problem.
Box 13. Folder 6. Teaching Bible.
Box 13. Folder 7. Teaching theology techniques.
Box 13. Folder 8. Theology class.

Series C. Sermons, undated

Extent 6 linear feet (15 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Sermons are divided by occasion, and then a subseries follows of general topics of holidays and events.

Arrangement The series is divided into two (2) subseries: 1. Life Cycle Events; 2. General.

Subseries 1. Life Cycle Events, 1943-1990

Extent 1.6 linear feet (4 Hollinger boxes)

Arrangement The subseries is arranged alphabetically.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 14. Folder 1. Anniversaries, 1957-1990
Box 14. Folder 2. Circumcisions.
Box 14. Folder 3. Conversions.
Box 14. Folder 4. Divorces.
Box 14. Folder 5. Funerals, 1943-1953
Box 14. Folder 6. Funerals, 1954-1958
Box 15. Folder 1. Funerals, 1959-1961
Box 15. Folder 2. Funerals, 1962-1964
Box 15. Folder 3. Funerals, 1964-1970
Box 16. Folder 1. Funerals, 1971-1976
Box 16. Folder 2. Funerals, 1977-1979
Box 16. Folder 3. Funerals, 1980s

Box 16. Folder 4. Funerals, 1980s
Box 17. Folder 1. Funerals, 1980s
Box 17. Folder 2. Marriage. Cancelled.
Box 17. Folder 3. Marriage. Thoughts.
Box 17. Folder 4. Pre-nuptial.
Box 17. Folder 5. Weddings and anniversaries, 1942-1955
Box 17. Folder 6. Wedding and anniversaries, 1956-1966
Box 18. Folder 1. Wedding records.
Box 18. Folder 2. Wedding records.

Subseries 2. General, undated

Extent 8.4 linear feet (21 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note These are almost all handwritten on the back of scrap paper with many corrections and additions which disclose his thought process. Much of the subseries is divided by Torah portion.

Arrangement The subseries is arranged alphabetically.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 18. Folder 3. Acharey Mot.
Box 18. Folder 4. Adult Education Interfaith.
Box 18. Folder 5. American Jewish Conference.
Box 18. Folder 6. Americanization of Jews.
Box 18. Folder 7. Anti-Semitism.
Box 18. Folder 8. Aykev.
Box 18. Folder 9. B'hukosai.
Box 19. Folder 1. B'haalotcha.
Box 19. Folder 2. B'har.
Box 19. Folder 3. B'midbar.
Box 19. Folder 4. B'rit.
Box 19. Folder 5. B'shalach.
Box 19. Folder 6. Baeck, Leo.
Box 19. Folder 7. Balak.
Box 19. Folder 8. Bar and bas mitzvot.
Box 19. Folder 9. Bereshit.
Box 19. Folder 10. Bo.
Box 19. Folder 11. B'nai B'rith.
Box 20. Folder 1. Brotherhoods.
Box 20. Folder 2. Building fund.
Box 20. Folder 3. Central Conference of American Rabbis, 1971

Box 20. Folder 4. Chaya.

Box 20. Folder 5. Chanuka.

Box 20. Folder 6. Chanuka.

Box 20. Folder 7. Christmas.

Box 20. Folder 8. Chukat.

Box 20. Folder 9. Church and state.

Box 21. Folder 1. College homecoming.

Box 21. Folder 2. College students and religion, 1965

Box 21. Folder 3. Columbus Day.

Box 21. Folder 4. Commissioning service, 1955

Box 21. Folder 5. Confirmation services.

Box 21. Folder 6. Confirmation services.

Box 21. Folder 7. Confirmation services, 1944-1948

Box 21. Folder 8. Congregational anniversaries.

Box 21. Folder 9. Consecration ceremony.

Box 22. Folder 1. D'varim.

Box 22. Folder 2. Death.

Box 22. Folder 3. Democracy.

Box 22. Folder 4. The Deputy, 1964

Box 22. Folder 5. East Whittier Calif. Jewish Community Center. Groundbreaking, 1955

Box 22. Folder 6. Election day.

Box 22. Folder 7. Emor.

Box 22. Folder 8. Ethics.

Box 22. Folder 9. Family.

Box 22. Folder 10. Graduation.

Box 22. Folder 11. Graduation.

Box 22. Folder 12. Ha-Azinu.

Box 22. Folder 13. Hadassah.

Box 23. Folder 1. Havdala.

Box 23. Folder 2. Holiday broadcasts.

Box 23. Folder 3. Honors Sabbath.

Box 23. Folder 4. Installation ceremonies.

Box 23. Folder 5. Installations and benedictions.

Box 24. Folder 1. Israel.

Box 24. Folder 2. Israel and Zionism.

Box 24. Folder 3. Israel and Zionism.

Box 24. Folder 4. Jerusalem.

Box 24. Folder 5. Jewish beliefs.

Box 24. Folder 6. Jewish book month.

Box 25. Folder 1. Jewish education.

Box 25. Folder 2. Jewish family.

Box 25. Folder 3. Jewish history.

Box 25. Folder 4. Jewish survival.

Box 25. Folder 5. Jewish social studies.

Box 25. Folder 6. Johnson, Lyndon B, 1973

Box 25. Folder 7. Judaism.

Box 25. Folder 8. K'doshim.

Box 25. Folder 9. Ki tetse.

Box 25. Folder 10. Ki Siso.

Box 26. Folder 1. Ki Sovo.

Box 26. Folder 2. Lag B'Omer.

Box 26. Folder 3. Leh L'ho.

Box 26. Folder 4. Lincoln's birthday.

Box 26. Folder 5. MacGiver report, 1952

Box 26. Folder 6. Mas' ei.

Box 26. Folder 7. Matot.

Box 26. Folder 8. M'tsora.

Box 26. Folder 9. Mikayto.

Box 26. Folder 10. Man.

Box 26. Folder 11. Marriage.

Box 26. Folder 12. Memorial Day.

Box 26. Folder 13. Merger services, 1978

Box 27. Folder 1. Miscellaneous.

Box 27. Folder 2. Miscellaneous.

Box 27. Folder 3. Mishpatim.

Box 27. Folder 4. Morality.

Box 27. Folder 5. Naso.

Box 27. Folder 6. Navy Day, 1948

Box 27. Folder 7. Nitsovim.

Box 27. Folder 8. Noach.

Box 28. Folder 1. Pesach.

Box 28. Folder 2. Pesach family services.

Box 28. Folder 3. Pinchas.

Box 28. Folder 4. Parents.

Box 28. Folder 5. P' kudei.

Box 28. Folder 6. Pearl Harbor, 1943, undated

Box 28. Folder 7. Purim.

Box 28. Folder 8. Purim.

Box 29. Folder 1. R'ei.

Box 29. Folder 2. Race relations.

Box 29. Folder 3. Rosh Hashanah.

Box 29. Folder 4. Rosh Hashanah.

Box 29. Folder 5. Rosh Hashanah.

Box 29. Folder 6. Rosh Hashanah.

Box 29. Folder 7. Russian Jewry.

Box 30. Folder 1. S'fira.

Box 30. Folder 2. Scouting.

Box 30. Folder 3. Sh'lach L'cha.

Box 30. Folder 4. Sh'mini.

Box 30. Folder 5. Sh'mot.

Box 30. Folder 6. Shabbat.

Box 30. Folder 7. Shabbat.

Box 30. Folder 8. Shabbos.

Box 30. Folder 9. Shabos H-godol.

Box 30. Folder 10. Shabbos Zohar.

Box 30. Folder 11. Shalom.

Box 31. Folder 1. Shavuot.

Box 31. Folder 2. Shavuot.

Box 31. Folder 3. Shoftim.

Box 31. Folder 4. Siddur.

Box 31. Folder 5. Simchas Torah. Consecration.

Box 31. Folder 6. Sukkot.

Box 31. Folder 7. Synagogue.

Box 31. Folder 8. Synagogue.

Box 32. Folder 1. Tazria.

Box 32. Folder 2. Teachers.

Box 32. Folder 3. Teachers.

Box 32. Folder 4. Teachers and school staff Sabbath.

Box 33. Folder 1. Television sermons.

Box 33. Folder 2. Three-hundred years of Jewish history.

Box 33. Folder 3. Three-hundreth sermons.

Box 33. Folder 4. Thanksgiving.

Box 33. Folder 5. Tisha b'Av.

Box 33. Folder 6. Tisha b'Av.

Box 33. Folder 7. Tol'dot.

Box 34. Folder 1. T'ruma.

Box 34. Folder 2. T'sav.

Box 34. Folder 3. T-tsave.

Box 34. Folder 4. Tu Bi-sh'vat.

Box 34. Folder 5. Tu Bi-sh'vat.

Box 34. Folder 6. Union of American Hebrew Congregations, 1929-1934

Box 34. Folder 7. Union of American Hebrew Congregations [photographs], 1964-1965

Box 34. Folder 8. United Jewish Appeal.

Box 34. Folder 9. Unveilings.

Box 34. Folder 10. Unveilings.

Box 35. Folder 1. Va-ayra.

Box 35. Folder 2. Va-etchanan.

Box 35. Folder 3. Va-yayra.

Box 35. Folder 4. Va-Yakhel.

Box 35. Folder 5. Va-yaytsay.

Box 35. Folder 6. Va-y'chi.

Box 35. Folder 7. Va-yeshev.

Box 35. Folder 8. Va-yigash.

Box 35. Folder 9. Va-yikro.

Box 36. Folder 1. Va-yishlach.

Box 36. Folder 2. Victory services.

Box 36. Folder 3. Wallenberg, Raul.

Box 36. Folder 4. Wise, Isaac Mayer.

Box 36. Folder 5. Women's festivals.

Box 36. Folder 6. Yisro.

Box 36. Folder 7. Yizkor.

Box 36. Folder 8. Yizkor.

Box 37. Folder 1. Yom Ha-atmat.

Box 37. Folder 2. Yom Ha-shoah.

Box 37. Folder 3. Yom Kippur.

Box 37. Folder 4. Yom Kippur eve.

Box 38. Folder 1. Yom Kippur morning.

Box 38. Folder 2. Yom Kippur morning.

Box 38. Folder 2. Yom Y'sushalayim.

Box 38. Folder 3. Youth symposiums.

Box 38. Folder 4. Youths.

Box 38. Folder 5. Youths.

Series D. Personal and Miscellaneous, 1947-1986, undated

Extent 1.2 linear feet (3 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Also very intriguing in Soloff's papers are his diaries. He has diaries from his time in Israel in 1967 and other important times are crucial for understanding American rabbinic thought during the formation of Israel.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 39. Folder 1. Central Conference of American Rabbis, Hebrew Union College, Union of American Hebrew Rabbis [photograph], 1953, undated

Box 39. Folder 2. Truman, Harry [photograph], 1947

Box 39. Folder 3. Photographs.

Box 39. Folder 4. Photographs.

Box 39. Folder 5. Photographs.

Box 39. Folder 6. Photographs.

Box 40. Folder Photographs and audiocassettes.

Box 41. Folder 1. Biography.

Box 41. Folder 2. Certificates.

Box 41. Folder 3. Diaries. Israel, 1958

Box 41. Folder 4. Diaries. Israel, 1967

Box 41. Folder 5. Diary, 1970

Box 41. Folder 6. Diary, 1986

Box 41. Folder 7. Eightieth birthday photographs.

Box 41. Folder 8. Israel property.

Box 41. Folder 9. Israel tour.

Box 41. Folder 10. Palestine trip games.

Box 41. Folder 11. Passports.

Box 41. Folder 12. Publicity. New Zealand and Australia, 1983-1984

Box 41. Folder 13. Will.