A Finding Aid to the
Ida Selavan Schwarcz Papers

Manuscript Collection No. 820
Collection Summary

Title: Ida Selavan Schwarcz Papers
Dates: 1889-1995
Collection Number: MS-820
Repository: The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator: Selavan, Ida Cohen
Extent: 5 linear feet (5 record cartons)
Language of the Material: English and Yiddish

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch: Ida Sara Cohen was born on June 5, 1930, in Brooklyn, New York, to immigrant parents from Ukraine. Her native language is Yiddish. She attended public schools and afternoon Hebrew schools, and graduated from Brooklyn College and Herzliah Hebrew Teachers Institute in 1951. From 1951-1953, she was a student at the Middle East Institute of Dropsie College. She then went to Israel to complete research for a doctorate at the Middle East Institute of the Hebrew University. While in Israel, she met and married Amos Selavan. She switched majors to English and Secondary Education so that she could teach in the Israeli school system. She never taught in Israel but became the Assistant Editor of Karnenu, the English language publication of the Jewish National Fund.

In 1957, Ida and Amos Selavan left for the United States so that Amos could continue his studies in psychology. A son, Barnea Levi, was born in 1958 and a daughter, Batya, in 1963. Ida became involved in the Oral History Project of the National Council of Jewish Women and wrote two books: By Myself I'm a Book and My Voice Was Heard. She then enrolled in classes at the University of Pittsburgh and received an M.A. in American History and a Ph.D. in International Education. Her research revolved around the Jewish community of Pittsburgh and its environs. She later enrolled in the School of Library and Information Sciences at the University of Pittsburgh, graduated in December 1981, and was hired as a librarian by Hebrew Union College Library in September 1982.

Ida retired in 1995 and immigrated to Israel in October that same year. She met and married Dr. Joseph Schwarcz in 1996 and has lived in the Negev ever since. Through the years, Ida Selavan Schwarcz has published books, articles, translations, and bibliographies. Her son, Barnea Levi Selavan, a rabbi, lives in Jerusalem with his wife Shoshanah. They have five children and two grandchildren. Her daughter, Batya Selavan, lives in Greenhills, Ohio.

Scope and Content: This collection consists of correspondence, writings, research materials, Yiddish/English translations, and Yiddish language library resources. Correspondence is arranged by year or alphabetically by name of recipient and research materials are divided topically. Included are materials on the Jewish community in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and resources on notable Jewish women throughout history.

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

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

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

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-820. Ida Selavan Schwarcz Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Provenance: Received from Ida Selavan Schwarcz, Cincinnati, Ohio, October 1987 and October 1995.

Processing Information: Processed by Michelle Wirth, September 2011.

This collection was arranged and described according to minimal-processing standards. Funding, in part, for the arrangement and description of this collection was provided by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

Index Terms

Subjects: Jews -- Pennsylvania -- Pittsburgh / Yiddish language
Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 1. Abzug, Bella S.
Box 1. Folder 2. Ahanoni, Ada.
Box 1. Folder 3. Aliya.
Box 1. Folder 4. AJA.
Box 1. Folder 5. American Jewish Committee [Towson].
Box 1. Folder 6. Appel, John J.
Box 1. Folder 7. Archives Project, 1982 January-May
Box 1. Folder 8. Misc.
Box 1. Folder 9. Canada.
Box 1. Folder 12. Case of Missing WASP Pop Culture Association, 1979 April
Box 1. Folder 13. Central Zionist Archives.
Box 1. Folder 15. Chamovitz, Marcia and David.
Box 1. Folder 17. Conferences/Conventions.
Box 1. Folder 18. Conferences/Conventions.
Box 1. Folder 19. Conferences/Conventions.
Box 1. Folder 20. Correspondence - unsorted.
Box 1. Folder 21. Correspondence - unsorted.
Box 2. Folder 1. Correspondence.
Box 2. Folder 2. Correspondence, 1973
Box 2. Folder 3. Correspondence, 1974
Box 2. Folder 4. Correspondence, 1975
Box 2. Folder 5. Correspondence, 1975
Box 2. Folder 6. Correspondence, 1980
Box 2. Folder 7. Correspondence, 1981-1982
Box 2. Folder 8. Correspondence, 1983
Box 2. Folder 9. Correspondence, 1984-1985
Box 2. Folder 10. Correspondence, 1974, 1988-1989
Box 2. Folder 11. Datan, Nancy, 1981
Box 2. Folder 12. Davis, Allan, 1908, 1979-1980
Box 2. Folder 13. Harold Debrest Papers.
Box 2. Folder 15. Dobry, Alan & Lois.
Box 2. Folder 16. Dor Hadash.
Box 2. Folder 17. Dropsie.
Box 2. Folder 19. Duquesne History Forum, 1976
Box 2. Folder 21. EDLIS Family.
Box 2. Folder 22. Elazar Project.
Box 2. Folder 23. Elwell, Sue.
Box 2. Folder 24. Fishman Foundation.
Box 2. Folder 25. Rabbi Freehof.
Box 2. Folder 26. Friedberg, Lillian.
Box 2. Folder 27. Bilha, Abigail.
Box 2. Folder 28. From Settlement to Center.
Box 2. Folder 29. Gartner, Lloyd P.
Box 2. Folder 30. Gay, Peter, 1990
Box 2. Folder 32. Gittleman, Sol.
Box 2. Folder 33. Glenn, Susan - Translations.
Box 2. Folder 34. Lichtenstul, Elsie/Goldbloom.
Box 2. Folder 35. Goldene Keyt.
Box 2. Folder 37. Goldsmith, Luba Robin (1879?-1931), 1979
Box 2. Folder 38. Gotsfeld, Bessie (1888-1962), 1989
Box 2. Folder 39. Andrea Hollander Grade 8.
Box 2. Folder 41. Greenberg, Blu.
Box 2. Folder 42. Gurock re: matzos.
Box 2. Folder 43. Guttman, Gall.
Box 2. Folder 44. Hadassah.
Box 2. Folder 45. Bobba Hannah & correspondence.
Box 2. Folder 46. Hassidim.
Box 2. Folder 47. Hebrew Press in America & Russia.
Box 2. Folder 48. Hebrew Union.
Box 2. Folder 49. HUC Yiddish [Singer].
Box 2. Folder 50. Heilbrun, Carolyn G.
Box 2. Folder 51. Heldman, Anna B.
Box 4. Folder 6. Melus Correspondence.
Box 4. Folder 10. MLA Paper, 1978
Box 4. Folder 13. Moskowitz, Bell Lindner Israels (1877-1933), 1988
Box 4. Folder 17. Labor Newspaper Preservation Project, 1982
Box 4. Folder 20. Pittsburgh History.
Box 4. Folder 21. Picon, Molly (June 1, 1898), 1990, 1992
Box 4. Folder 22. Pilch.
Box 4. Folder 23. Plaut, Elizabeth, 1983
Box 4. Folder 24. PNAI.
Box 4. Folder 27. Carol Ritzel.
Box 4. Folder 28. Robinson, Sophia ?
Box 4. Folder 29. Correspondence, 1975-1995
Box 4. Folder 31. Yeuta Sardozley (??).
Box 4. Folder 32. Zena Saul (1888-1967), 1934
Box 4. Folder 33. Sarnia Trans.
Box 4. Folder 34. Schatz, Albert, 1983
Box 4. Folder 36. Miriam Schonfeld (1890?-1940?).
Box 4. Folder 37. Sivitz.
Box 4. Folder 38. Hannah Greenebaum Solomon (1858-1942).
Box 5. Folder 1. Tale of Two Rabbis - History of Founding.
Box 5. Folder 2. Teaching Yiddish Literature.
Box 5. Folder 3. T. Jefferson HS.
Box 5. Folder 4. Translator for Steinberg.

Box 5. Folder 5. Trepp, Leo.

Box 5. Folder 6. Tuerk MLA, 1977

Box 5. Folder 7. Western PA with a "Yiddish Touch" at Temple David.

Box 5. Folder 8. Sophie Udin (Gingold).


Box 5. Folder 10. Lillian Wald (1867-1940) U.S.

Box 5. Folder 11. Writers of American Jewish Literature.

Box 5. Folder 12. Writings.

Box 5. Folder 13. Women in Rabbinic Roles.


Box 5. Folder 15. Intro and Bibles.

Box 5. Folder 16. Yiddish Reference Sources.

Box 5. Folder 17. Yiddish Reference Sources.

Box 5. Folder 18. Yiddish Theater.

Box 5. Folder 19. Young, Israel.

Box 5. Folder 20. Zachinskaia, Nehama.


Box 5. Folder 22. Zametkin, 1990

Box 5. Folder 23. Ziesler, Fanny Bloomfield.