



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE  
**AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES**

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**A Finding Aid to the  
Ida Selavan Schwarcz Papers  
Manuscript Collection No. 820**



## Collection Summary

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

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- Box 1. Folder 5. American Jewish Committee [Towson].
- Box 1. Folder 6. Appel, John J.
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