

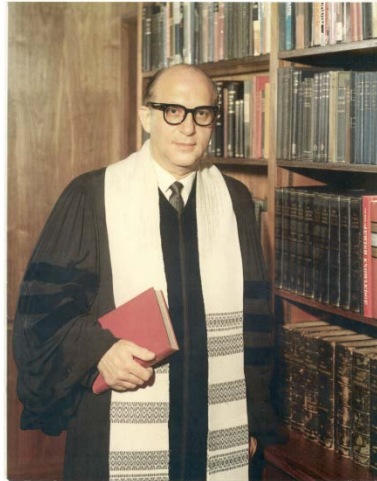


THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE  
**AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES**

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**A Finding Aid to the  
Milton L. Grafman Papers**

**Manuscript Collection No. 825**



## Collection Summary

<b>Title</b>	Milton L. Grafman Papers
<b>Dates</b>	1929-1995 (bulk: 1950-1970)
<b>Collection Number</b>	MS-825
<b>Repository</b>	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
<b>Creator</b>	Grafman, Milton L., 1907-1995
<b>Extent</b>	1 linear foot (1 record carton)
<b>Language of the Material</b>	English

## Administrative Information

### Biographical Sketch

Milton L. Grafman was born in Washington, D.C. on April 21, 1907 and spent his formative years in Western Pennsylvania attending high school in Pittsburgh. Ordained by the Hebrew Union College in 1933, Rabbi Grafman served Temple Adath Israel in Lexington, Kentucky until 1941 and Temple Emanu-El in Birmingham, Alabama from 1941 until his death in 1995 (Rabbi Emeritus 1975-1995). He was active in many religious and civic affairs throughout his life, including being a founder of Spastic Aid of Alabama, later United Cerebral Palsy, serving as its first president. He established the Institute for Christian Clergy in BirminghamDLan annual gathering that promoted understanding and cooperation of rabbis and Christian ministers in a city with a high level of anti-Semitism. He was prominently involved, both publicly and privately, in trying to facilitate in a peaceful manner the civil rights movement in Birmingham, often at great personal risk to himself.

In April 1963 Rabbi Grafman was among the addressees of Dr. King's Letter from Birmingham Jail. For many years thereafter, many critics falsely assumed that the rabbi was an opponent of the civil rights movement. In fact Rabbi Grafman and the other ministerial addressees were supporters of the civil rights movement, though they had sought to persuade Dr. King that a protest march he planned for April of 1963 was "unwise and untimely" in light of the significant progress that was then being made to overcome the racial divide in Birmingham. In September 1963 Rabbi Grafman, along with other prominent clergy from Birmingham, was invited to the White House to meet with President Kennedy to provide background and advice to the President on the civil rights movement.

Rabbi Grafman's civil rights involvement was deep and extensive, spanning nearly the entire scope of the movement in the 1950s, 1960s, and beyond. Among other things he served as a member of the first Bi-Racial Committee established in Birmingham to facilitate desegregation in the city; he spoke out forcefully against the Ku Klux Klan; he opposed the city's earlier efforts to close the public parks and golf courses rather than integrate, and he chastised the merchants in his own congregation for not providing visible positions in their stores for their African American employees; he played a critical role in facilitating the integration of the Birmingham Ministerial Association; subsequently he was elected as its first and, as of 2010, the only Jewish president. Further, he offered Temple Emanu-El as a meeting place for Sunday services for a newly formed church established by those who wanted to integrate their then church but were unsuccessful in doing so. Formed as the Baptist Church of the Covenant this newly formed church worshiped at Temple Emanu-El for some two years before they were able to establish their own church facility.

Even as Rabbi Emeritus, Rabbi Grafman continued his leadership role in numerous civil affairs. He was recognized for his service on a number of occasions, including an award at Tuskegee, Alabama for his part in "combating injustice" and by Birmingham's first African American mayor who stated that Rabbi Grafman has "a life long record of working to bring about change [in Birmingham] and a reputation for being concerned about justice."

### Scope and Content

Correspondence, class notes, and pamphlets arranged alphabetically by subject. Topics of correspondence include alumni issues and recruitment for Hebrew Union College (HUC), fundraising efforts, the Central Conference of American Rabbis' debate over interfaith marriage, and Zionism. Exchanges with fellow rabbis discuss visits and synagogue activities. Of note is the file on Julian Morgenstern's "anti-Zionist" speech and the reaction by HUC students. Also includes newspaper clippings and pamphlets on Father Charles Coughlin collected after Grafman's 1938 trip to Nazi Germany (folder 34).

### 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 Milton L. Grafman Papers and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:  
  
Marcus Seminar, 1934, Box 1, Folder 4. MS-825. Milton L. Grafman Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

**Provenance** Received from Stephen W. Grafman, Potomac, Md., December 2005; 2008; November 2009; December 2011.

**Processing Information** Processed by Elisa Ho, 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** Civil rights / Jews -- Alabama -- Birmingham / Rabbis  
**Personal Names** Cashdan, Louis Joseph, 1905-1987 / Grafman, Milton L., 1907-1995  
**Corporate Names** Central Conference of American Rabbis / Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion / Temple Emanu-El (Birmingham, Ala.) / Union of American Hebrew Congregations

## Series A. General, 1929-1995

**Arrangement** Arranged alphabetically.

### Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 1. American Council for Judaism.  
Box 1. Folder 2. American Jewish Historical Society.  
Box 1. Folder 3. Apple, James L.  
Box 1. Folder 4. Asher, Joseph.  
Box 1. Folder 5. Bamberger, Bernard.  
Box 1. Folder 6. Baton Rouge, Louisiana.  
Box 1. Folder 7. Baumgard, Herbert M.  
Box 1. Folder 8. Berger, Elmer.  
Box 1. Folder 9. Blackman, Murray.  
Box 1. Folder 10. Bloom, P. Irving.  
Box 1. Folder 11. Borowitz, Eugene.  
Box 1. Folder 12. Brasch, Rudolph.  
Box 1. Folder 13. Brav, Stanley R.  
Box 1. Folder 14. Brickner, Balfour.  
Box 1. Folder 15. Cashdan family.  
Box 1. Folder 16. CCAR.  
Box 1. Folder 17. Children's services.  
Box 1. Folder 18. Class notes. A Grammar, 1929-1930  
Box 1. Folder 19. Class notes. Homiletics.

Box 1. Folder 20. Class notes. History taught by Dr. Marcus.

Box 1. Folder 21. Class notes. Marcus Seminar, 1934

Box 1. Folder 22. Class notes. Theology.

Box 1. Folder 23. Cohn, Edward P. (Atlanta).

Box 1. Folder 24. Cohon, Samuel S.

Box 1. Folder 25. Commission on Information about Judaism.

Box 1. Folder 26. Convention (Southeast Council).

Box 1. Folder 27. Convention (Southeast Council, UAHC), 1956

Box 1. Folder 28. Conversion certificates.

Box 1. Folder 29. Converts.

Box 1. Folder 30. Cook, Samuel.

Box 1. Folder 31. Egelson, Louis I.

Box 1. Folder 32. Eichorn, D. Max.

Box 1. Folder 33. Eisendrath, Maurice N.

Box 1. Folder 34. Essrog, Chaim.

Box 1. Folder 35. Frazin, Robert.

Box 1. Folder 36. Freehof, Solomon B.

Box 1. Folder 37. Garfein, Stanley J.

Box 1. Folder 38. Get (bill of divorcement).

Box 1. Folder 39. Giesecking, Walter.

Box 1. Folder 40. Gittelsohn, Roland B.

Box 1. Folder 41. Goldberg, Norman H.

Box 1. Folder 42. Goodman, Alfred L.

Box 1. Folder 43. Gordon, Theodore H.

Box 1. Folder 44. Gottschalk, Alfred.

Box 1. Folder 45. Grafman, L. Elliot.

Box 1. Folder 46. Gutmann, Joseph.

Box 1. Folder 47. Ha-Azinu workshop.

Box 1. Folder 48. Hebrew Instruction (UAHC).

Box 1. Folder 49. Hebrew Union College.

Box 1. Folder 50. HUC Alumni Association.

Box 1. Folder 51. HUC-JIR Merger.

Box 1. Folder 52. Janowski, Max.

Box 1. Folder 53. Jarman, Pete.

Box 1. Folder 54. Karff, Samuel E.

Box 1. Folder 55. Kronish, Leon.

Box 1. Folder 56. Lectures, 1965

Box 1. Folder 57. Lefkowitz, Sidney.

Box 1. Folder 58. Letters.

Box 1. Folder 59. Lincoln, Nebraska (American Reform Congregation).

Box 1. Folder 60. Lipman, Eugene.

Box 1. Folder 61. Louisiana (marriage affidavit).

Box 1. Folder 62. Marx, Meyer.

Box 1. Folder 63. Message of Israel.

Box 1. Folder 64. Messing, Richard D.

Box 1. Folder 65. Morgenstern on Zionism.

Box 1. Folder 66. Narat, Joe.

Box 1. Folder 67. National Association of Retired Reform Rabbis.

Box 1. Folder 68. Newsclippings and nearprint.

Box 1. Folder 69. Orbach, Harold.

Box 1. Folder 70. Palestine.

Box 1. Folder 71. Palestine partition.

Box 1. Folder 72. Perilman, Nathan A.

Box 1. Folder 73. Petuchowski, Jakob J.

Box 1. Folder 74. Plaut, Gunther.

Box 1. Folder 75. Pontiac, Michigan.

Box 1. Folder 76. Rabbinical-Congregational relations.

Box 1. Folder 77. Rabbinic Placement Commission.

Box 1. Folder 78. Reform Jewish Appeal (HUC-UAHC).

Box 1. Folder 79. Rosenberg case.

Box 1. Folder 80. Rothschild, Jacob M.

Box 1. Folder 81. Schwartz, William B.

Box 1. Folder 82. Seltzer, Sanford.

Box 1. Folder 83. Shusterman, Abraham.

Box 1. Folder 84. Silberg, Barry.

Box 1. Folder 85. Silver, Daniel Jeremy.

Box 1. Folder 86. Zionist related.