



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
Robert P. Tabak Papers**

Manuscript Collection No. 846

Collection Summary

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| Title | Robert P. Tabak Papers |
| Dates | 1964-2011 (bulk: 1975-1995) |
| Collection Number | MS-846 |
| Repository | The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives |
| Creator | Tabak, Robert P. |
| Extent | 5 linear feet (5 record cartons) |
| Language of the Material | English |

Administrative Information

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| Biographical Sketch | <p>Robert Philip Tabak was born in 1950 in Dubuque, Iowa. He earned a bachelor's degree in history from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, a master's degree in religion (1977) and a doctorate in history (1990) from Temple University, and was ordained by the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in 1977.</p> <p>Tabak has served numerous congregations including Congregation Adath Shalom in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (1977-1979), Beacon Hebrew Alliance in Beacon, New York (1979-1982), Temple Beth Am in Henrietta, New York (1982-1986), Kehillat Israel in Lansing, Michigan (1986-1987), Temple Beth Shalom in Spokane, Washington (1988-1990), Congregation B'nai Shalom in Piscataway, New Jersey (1990-1991), and Beth Israel Congregation in Woodbury, New Jersey (2000-2005). He is also a staff chaplain at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.</p> <p>Tabak has been active in the Northern Federation of Temple Youth (NoFTY president, 1967-1968), Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association (editor of the RRA Connection since 2002), National Association of Jewish Chaplains, the Board of Rabbis of Greater Philadelphia (associate director, 1990-1998), and New Jewish Agenda as well as many other local organizations.</p> <p>Robert Tabak and Ruth Loew married in 1983 and have three sons, Gabriel, Aaron, and Nathan.</p> |
| Scope and Content | <p>The collection consists of correspondence, writings, and publications created while Tabak was a student, rabbi, chaplain, educator, and member of various Jewish organizations. Rabbinical files include newsletters and programs from the congregations he served. Tabak's work on the code of ethics for the National Association of Jewish Chaplains, the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association, and Board of Rabbis of Greater Philadelphia is also documented.</p> |
| Arrangement | <p>This collection is arranged in two series: A. Rabbinical Career, 1977-2005; B. General, 1964-2011.</p> |
| Terms of Access | <p>The collection is open for use; no restrictions apply.</p> |
| Preferred Citation | <p>Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the Robert P. Tabak Papers and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:</p> <p>[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-846. Robert P. Tabak Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.</p> |
| Provenance | <p>Received from Robert P. Tabak, Melrose Park, Pa., in multiple installments from 1986 to 2011.</p> |
| Processing Information | <p>Processed by Elisa Ho, January 2012.</p> <p>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.</p> |

Index Terms

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| Subjects | Chaplains / Jews -- Iowa -- Dubuque / Jews -- New York (State) -- Rochester / Jews -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia / Jews -- Washington (State) / Rabbis |
| Personal Names | Tabak, Robert P. |

Corporate Names Board of Rabbis of Greater Philadelphia (Philadelphia, Pa.) / Hebrew University (Jerusalem) / National Association of Jewish Chaplains / New Jewish Agenda (Organization) / Northern Federation of Temple Youth / Olin-Sang-Ruby Union Institute (Oconomowoc, Wis.) / Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association / Temple Beth Am (Henrietta, N.Y.) / Temple Beth Shalom (Spokane, Wash.)

Series A. Rabbinical Career, 1977-2005

Extent 2 linear feet (2 record cartons)

Scope and Content Note Materials Tabak gathered as a rabbi while serving congregations in Philadelphia, New York state, Michigan, Washington state, and New Jersey. Documents include newsletters, correspondence with members and other rabbis, sermon outlines, programs, and minutes.

Arrangement Arranged chronologically.

Box and Folder Listing

- Box 1. Folder 1-3. Congregation Adath Shalom (Philadelphia, Pa.), 1977-1979
- Box 1. Folder 4-7. Beacon Hebrew Alliance (Beacon, N.Y.), 1979-1982
- Box 1. Folder 8-36. Temple Beth Am (Henrietta, N.Y.), 1982-1986
- Box 1. Folder 37-45. Kehillat Israel (Lansing, Mich.), 1986-1987
- Box 2. Folder 1-9. Kehillat Israel (Lansing, Mich.), 1986-1987
- Box 2. Folder 10-30. Temple Beth Shalom (Spokane, Wash.), 1988-1990
- Box 2. Folder 31. Congregation B'nai Shalom (Piscataway, N.J.), 1990-1991
- Box 2. Folder 32. Kehilat Chaverim of Bensalem (Bensalem, Pa.), 1997
- Box 2. Folder 33-35. Beth Israel Congregation (Woodbury, N.J.), 2000-2005

Series B. General, 1964-2011

Extent 3 linear feet (3 record cartons)

Scope and Content Note Subject files with correspondence and notes covering education, intermarriage, life cycle events, peace, and Reconstructionist Judaism.

Arrangement Alphabetical by subject.

Box and Folder Listing

- Box 3. Folder 1-61. A-Correspondence, 1964-2011
- Box 4. Folder 1-36. Correspondence-Na, 1964-2011
- Box 5. Folder 1-39. Ne-Z, 1964-2011