A Finding Aid to the
Robert I. Kahn Papers

Manuscript Collection No. 853
Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch
Robert Irving Kahn was born in Des Moines, Iowa on December 12, 1910. He was ordained by Hebrew Union College in 1935, earned a Doctor of Hebrew Letters in 1951, and was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity in 1960. During World War II, Kahn was an army chaplain and Hillel counselor representing Rice Institute. He was the founding rabbi of Congregation Emanu El in Houston and served for 58 years, including being rabbi emeritus from 1978 until his death in 2002.

Kahn authored many volumes, including, Lessons for Life; The Ten Commandments for Today; May the Words of My Mouth; and the Letter and the Spirit. He also lectured at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion and at local colleges in Houston. In addition, he delivered services on radio programs and wrote newspaper columns in Houston.

Kahn and his wife Rozelle married in 1940 and had three children, Alfred, Edward, and Sharon.

Scope and Content
The collection consists of sermons delivered at Temple Emanu El; lectures given while teaching at HUC-JIR and religious schools; “Emanu El Services of the Air,” a radio program on Houston’s KPRC; “Lessons for Life,” a weekly newspaper column that ran in the Houston Chronicle and “Kahn-Notations,” a column in the Jewish Herald-Voice. Includes a copy of Kahn's dissertation, “Liberalism as Reflected in Jewish Preaching in the English Language in the Mid-Nineteenth Century.”

Arrangement
This collection is arranged in two (2) series: A. Sermons and Addresses, 1935-2000.; B. General, 1937-1999.

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

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

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-853. Robert I. Kahn Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Provenance

Processing Information
Processed by Elisa Ho, February 2012.

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 -- Texas -- Houston / Rabbis

Personal Names
Kahn, Robert I.

Corporate Names
Congregation Emanu El (Houston, Tex.)

Media
Sermons

Series A. Sermons, 1935-2000

Extent 3 linear feet (3 record cartons)
Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 2. Sermons, 1935-1942, undated
Box 1. Folder 3. SM-SME, 1941-1981
Box 1. Folder 4. SMF, 1948-1975, undated
Box 1. Folder 5. SMG, 1943-1971, undated
Box 1. Folder 6. SMH-SMJ, 1947-1953, undated
Box 1. Folder 7. SMK, 1949-1980, undated
Box 1. Folder 8. SML-SMP, 1947-1978, undated
Box 1. Folder 9. SMR, 1947-1959, undated
Box 1. Folder 10. SMS-SMU, 1947-1951, undated
Box 1. Folder 12. SMX, 1947-1977, undated
Box 1. Folder 13. SMY, 1958-1977, undated
Box 1. Folder 14. SMZ, 1941-1992, undated
Box 1. Folder 15. SO-SOC, 1951, 1952, undated
Box 1. Folder 16. SOF, 1953, undated
Box 1. Folder 19. SOL-SOQ (except SON), 1952-1955, undated
Box 1. Folder 20. 1945-SON, 1954-1988, undated
Box 1. Folder 21. SOR-SOT, 1955, 1956, undated
Box 1. Folder 22. SOU, 1956, undated
Box 1. Folder 23. SOV-SOX, 1955-1958
Box 1. Folder 24. SOW, 1948, undated
Box 2. Folder 1. SPA, 1951-1985, undated
Box 2. Folder 2. SPB-SPF, 1942-1969, undated
Box 2. Folder 3. SPG, 1959, 1960, undated
Box 2. Folder 4. SPH, 1956-1978, undated
Box 2. Folder 5. SPJ, 1960, 1961, undated
Box 2. Folder 6. SPK, 1961
Box 2. Folder 7. SPL, 1961-1981, undated
Box 2. Folder 8. SPM, 1962, 1963, undated
Box 2. Folder 9. SPO, 1963, undated
Box 2. Folder 10. SPP, 1963, 1964, undated
Box 2. Folder 11. SPQ, 1964, undated
Box 2. Folder 13. SPS, 1964, 1965, undated
Box 2. Folder 14. SPT, 1965-1976, undated
Box 2. Folder 15. SPV, 1964-1971, undated
Box 2. Folder 17. SPY, 1967
Box 2. Folder 18. SQB, 1967-1990, undated
Box 2. Folder 19. SQC, 1969
Box 2. Folder 20. SQD, 1957-1974, undated
Box 2. Folder 22. SQG, 1966-1971, undated
Box 2. Folder 26. SQL, 1973-1974, undated
Box 3. Folder 1. SQM, 1974-1975, undated
Box 3. Folder 2. SQN, 1974-1976, undated
Box 3. Folder 3. SQO, 1975, undated
Box 3. Folder 4. SQP, 1976, undated
Box 3. Folder 5. SQR, 1975-1977, undated
Box 3. Folder 6. SQS, 1977, undated
Box 3. Folder 7. SQT, 1976-1978, undated
Box 3. Folder 8. TA, 1940-1960, undated
Box 3. Folder 9. TAB, 1938-1960, undated
Box 3. Folder 27. Sermons, 1945-1998, undated

**Series B. General, 1937-1993**

**Extent**  1 linear foot (1 record carton)

**Box and Folder Listing**

Box 3. Folder 29. Correspondence, 1944-1990, undated
Box 3. Folder 32. Rotary speeches, 1977--1990, undated
Box 3. Folder 33. Miscellaneous, 1975, undated