



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
Bernard H. Mehlman Papers
Manuscript Collection No. 858**

Collection Summary

Title	Bernard H. Mehlman Papers
Dates	1967-2000 (bulk 1978-1999)
Collection Number	MS-858
Repository	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator	Mehlman, Bernard H., 1937 Ethan Allan Brown Scholarship Foundation
Extent	48 linear feet (48 record cartons)
Language of the Material	English

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch Bernard H. Mehlman was born on January 6, 1937 and grew up in Brooklyn, New York. He graduated from New York University in 1957 and earned his masters and rabbinic degrees at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion's Cincinnati campus in 1963. He began his rabbinate as an Army chaplain in Texas and Germany. He married Emily Shain in 1964; they had two sons, Jonathan and David.

In 1965, Mehlman became the assistant rabbi at Temple Shaaray Tefila in New York City. Two years later, he was hired by Temple Micah in Washington, D.C., a young congregation that expanded rapidly during his ten-year tenure. While in Washington, Rabbi Mehlman served as the Jewish coordinator for Interfaith Metropolitan Theological Education, Inc., an 'experimental, interfaith, interracial, urban centered seminary for men and women' of all faiths. In 1973, he earned a doctorate in Hebrew Letters from HUC-JIR.

In 1978, Rabbi Mehlman became the senior rabbi at Temple Israel in Boston, Massachusetts, serving for twenty-one years. Mehlman adopted a more inclusive team approach, broadened education opportunities for all congregants, and worked to address multiple constituent needs. After retiring in 1999, he became professor of Homiletics and Midrash at HUC-JIR's New York campus. Mehlman was also on the committee for the Ethan Allan Brown Scholarship Foundation from 1986-1999.

--Adapted from *Becoming American Jews: Temple Israel of Boston*. By Meaghan Dwyer-Ryan, Susan L. Porter, Lisa Fagin Davis.

Scope and Content This collection consists primarily of papers from Mehlman's rabbinate at Temple Israel in Boston, Massachusetts, from his installation in 1978 until his retirement in 1999. Alphabetical files cover a wide range of topics relevant to congregational life, from sermons, services, and lifecycle events to social issues and programming activities. Topical files consist of correspondence, minutes, writings, and more. Also included are papers from the Ethan Allan Brown Scholarship Foundation.

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

Access Restrictions Access to the Rabbi Bernard Mehlman Papers will be restricted until January 1, 2025. Until that date, researchers seeking to gain access to the Rabbi Bernard Mehlman Papers must request special permission to do so, in writing, from the Executive Director of The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives.

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

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-858. Bernard H. Mehlman Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Provenance Received from Bernard H. Mehlman, Boston, Mass., August 1999 and August 2004.

Processing Information Processed by Michelle Wirth Detroit, March 2012.

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Index Terms

Subjects	Jews -- Massachusetts -- Boston / Rabbis
Personal Names	Mehlman, Bernard H., 1937-
Corporate Names	Congregation Adath Israel (Boston, Mass.)
Media	Sermons

Series A. General, 1967-2000

Arrangement Alphabetical files are arranged chronologically.

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Box 3. Folder 1-36. R - Ta, 1977-1980 (5738-5740)

Box 4. Folder 1-12. Te - Z, 1977-1980 (5738-5740)

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Box 5. Folder 1-42. N - Tel, 1980-1981 (5741)

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Box 6. Folder 12-57. A - C, 1981-1982 (5742)

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Box 9. Folder 1-38. Tem - Z, 1981-1982 (5742)

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Box 16. Folder 60-87. A - Bro, 1985-1986 (5746)

Box 17. Folder 1-84. Bu - H, 1985-1986 (5746)

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Box 48. Folder 34-45. Ethan Allan Brown Scholarship Foundation, 1986-2000