A Finding Aid to the
Rav A. Soloff Papers

Manuscript Collection No. 859
Collection Summary

Title: Rav A. Soloff Papers
Collection Number: MS-859
Repository: The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator: Soloff, 1927-
Extent: 12 linear feet (12 record cartons)
Language of the Material: English and Hebrew

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch
Rav Asher Soloff was born on January 4, 1927 in Brooklyn, New York to Eve (Miller) and Mordecai Soloff. In 1951, he was ordained by Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati and a year later graduated from the Chaplain School at Fort Slocum, New York. He earned a PhD from Drew University in 1967.

Soloff was an army chaplain between 1952 and 1954 and served as rabbi of Temple Israel in Lafayette, Indiana (1951-1952); Temple B'nai Jeshurun in Essex County, New Jersey (1954-1959); East End Temple in New York, New York (1959-1970); Anshe Chesed Fairmount Temple in Cleveland, Ohio (1970-1975); and Beth Sholom in Johnstown, Pennsylvania (1976-1990). He was also involved in various Central Conference of American Rabbis committees and was a chaplain in Pennsylvania’s Mental Health program. Soloff and his father, Rabbi Mordecai Soloff, co-wrote two publications, The Faithful Jew and Jewish Life: Sacred Hebrew for Beginners.

Soloff and his wife Harriet married in 1952 and have three children, Rebecca, Sharon, and Michael.

Scope and Content
The collection consists mostly of correspondence and sermons arranged in alphabetical order by subject. Of note is correspondence with members of Congress, mainly John P. Murtha and Arlen Specter, about upcoming legislation and current events. Files include life cycle records from congregants’ bar/bat mitzvah, confirmation, and marriage ceremonies from Congregation Beth Sholom; material from the Responsa, Liturgy, Health, Small Cities, and Soviet Jewry committees of the Central Conference of American Rabbis; the Intercollegiate Zionist Federation of America, the chaplaincy, and Turkish Jews. Sermons on theology and weekly torah portions from 1976 to 1992 are arranged chronologically.

Arrangement
This collection is arranged in one (1) series: 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 Rav A. Soloff Papers and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-859. Rav A. Soloff Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Provenance
Received from Rav A. Soloff, Lansdale, Pa., June 1992 and 1996.

Processing Information
Processed by Elisa Ho, March 2012.

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Index Terms

Subjects: Jews -- Pennsylvania / Jews, Turkish / Military chaplains / Rabbis
Personal Names: Soloff, 1927-
Corporate Names: Anshe Chesed Fairmount Temple (Cleveland, Ohio) / Beth Sholom Congregation (Johnstown, Pa.) / Central Conference of American Rabbis / East End Temple (New York, N.Y.) / Hebrew Union College / Intercollegiate Zionist Association of America
Series A. General, 1943-1996

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 1. A, 1953-1982
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Box 1. Folder 3. Association of Reform Rabbis and CCAR, 1962
Box 1. Folder 16. Beth Sholom congregation, religious school, 1979-1985
Box 1. Folder 20. Boat people, 1979
Box 2. Folder 2. Camps, 1946-1961
Box 2. Folder 4. CCAR committee on aging, 1974-1976
Box 2. Folder 5. CCAR Centennial Endowment Fund, 1988-1989
Box 2. Folder 6. CCAR health committee, 1982-1992
Box 2. Folder 8. CCAR Liturgy committee, 1980-1984
Box 2. Folder 9. CCAR Committee on rabbinic growth, 1982
Box 2. Folder 10. CCAR Responsa committee, 1972-1979
Box 2. Folder 11. CCAR Responsa committee, 1941-1980
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Box 6. Folder 3. Drugs, 1960, undated
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