



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
Rav A. Soloff Papers**

Manuscript Collection No. 859



Collection Summary

Title	Rav A. Soloff Papers
Dates	1943-1996 (bulk 1970-1990)
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

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