



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
Selig Salkowitz Papers**

Manuscript Collection No. 725

Collection Summary

Title	Selig Salkowitz Papers
Dates	1963-2000
Collection Number	MS-725
Repository	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator	Salkowitz, Selig, b. 1929
Extent	2.4 linear feet (6 Hollinger boxes)
Language of the Material	English

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch Selig Salkowitz was born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1929. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Cincinnati in 1950. He attended Hebrew Union College where he received a Bachelor of Hebrew Letters degree in 1952 and a Master of Hebrew Letters degree in 1954. Salkowitz later earned a Doctorate of Divinity at the New York Theological Seminary in 1970. In addition, he did independent study at the Oxford Center for Postgraduate Hebrew Studies, and obtained a Certificate in Pastoral Counseling from the Post Graduate Center for Mental Health in New York City.

Rabbi Salkowitz served as a Navy chaplain from 1954-1974, doing active duty in the Mariana Islands from 1954-1956, and reserve duty in the U.S. from 1956-1974. He also served on the Central Conference of American Rabbis' Chaplaincy Committee as well as on the National Jewish Welfare Board's Commission on Jewish Chaplaincy.

Salkowitz's other committee work for the CCAR included chairing the important Committee on Homosexuality in the Rabbinate (1986-1990) and co-chairing the Committee on Human Sexuality (1993-2000). Both of these committees explored questions of the place of gays and lesbians in the Reform movement, debating both inclusion in the rabbinate and whether to officiate and recognize marriages between same-sex couples. At the recommendation of the Committee on Homosexuality in the Rabbinate, the CCAR adopted a resolution in 1990 allowing openly gay and lesbian rabbis in the Reform rabbinate. In 2000, the CCAR adopted a resolution in support of rabbis who chose to officiate at same-sex ceremonies.

During his career as a pulpit rabbi, Dr. Salkowitz served Temple Beth El in Providence, Rhode Island (1956-1958), Temple Avoda, Fair Lawn, New Jersey (1958-1988) and Union Temple of Brooklyn, New York (1988-1992). He was also interim rabbi at Temple Israel of Stockton, California (1992-1993).

Scope and Content Consists of minutes, correspondence, reports, nearprint, and working papers associated Salkowitz's service on committees of the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR) including the Committee on the Chaplaincy, the Committee on Homosexuality in the Rabbinate, and the Committee on Human Sexuality.

Arrangement This collection is arranged in four (4) series: A. CCAR Committee on the Chaplaincy; B. CCAR Committee on Homosexuality in the Rabbinate; C. CCAR Committee on Human Sexuality; D. Miscellaneous.

Access Restrictions This collection is restricted. Access requires the permission of the Executive Director of the American Jewish Archives.

Preferred Citation Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the Selig Salkowitz Papers and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:
[Description], [Date], Selig Salkowitz Papers, MS-725, Box [#], Folder [#]. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Provenance Received from Selig Salkowitz, Fair Lawn, N.J., 2001.

Processing Information Processed by Dorothy Smith, 2006 and 2008. Additional processing by Kevin Proffitt, 2013.

Index Terms

Subjects Adoption / Family violence / Homosexuality -- Religious aspects -- Judaism / Military chaplains /

Population -- Statistics / Rape / Vietnam War, 1961-1975 / Women's rights

Corporate Names Central Conference of American Rabbis. Committee on Homosexuality in the Rabbinate / Central Conference of American Rabbis. Committee on Human Sexuality

Media Minutes

Series A. CCAR Committee on the Chaplaincy, 1963-1975

Extent 0.8 linear feet (2 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Includes materials documenting Rabbi Salkowitz's service in the Navy as a Jewish chaplain from 1963-1974. Records include general correspondence, correspondence with chaplains, reports, minutes of the CCAR Chaplaincy Committee, minutes of the National Jewish Welfare Board's Commission on Jewish Chaplaincy, surveys, and working papers. Salkowitz was involved with recruitment of Jewish chaplains during the Vietnam War. These records reflect some of the struggles and conflicts experienced by the Reform rabbinate during that time.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 1. Correspondence, reports, minutes, 1963-1967

Box 1. Folder 2. Correspondence, reports, minutes, 1968-1969

Box 1. Folder 3. Correspondence, reports, minutes, 1970

Box 1. Folder 4. Correspondence, reports, minutes, 1971

Box 1. Folder 5. Correspondence, reports, minutes, 1972-1973

Box 2. Folder 1. Correspondence, reports, minutes, 1974-1975

Box 2. Folder 2. Responses to CCAR Chaplaincy Committee surveys, 1971

Box 2. Folder 3. Chaplaincy Commission of the Rabbinical Association of Bergen County (N.J.), 1966-1975

Box 2. Folder 4. Liaison Committee, 1966-1967, 1975

Box 2. Folder 5. Correspondence with chaplains, 1971-1972

Box 2. Folder 6. Youdovin, Ira S., 1970-1971

Box 2. Folder 7. Lay Leadership Committee, 1972-1976

Box 2. Folder 8. Chaplaincy reports, 1970-1972

Box 2. Folder 9. Recruitment, 1969-1973

Series B. CCAR Committee on Homosexuality in the Rabbinate, 1977-1990

Extent 0.8 linear feet (2 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Includes meeting minutes, extensive correspondence and emails, surveys, nearprint, journal articles, newspaper clippings, and working papers. The committee, formerly called the Ad Hoc Committee on Homosexuality, was chaired by Rabbi Salkowitz and was charged with studying, gathering background information, and presenting recommendations on the question of ordaining openly gay and lesbian rabbis in the Reform movement.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 3. Folder 1. Conference Responsum Committee on Homosexuality correspondence, 1977-1979

Box 3. Folder 2. CCAR Committee on Homosexuality correspondence and responsa, 1978

Box 3. Folder 3. Ad Hoc Committee on Homosexuality correspondence, 1986

Box 3. Folder 4. Ad Hoc Committee on Homosexuality minutes, 1987-1989
Box 3. Folder 5. Correspondence, reports, minutes, 1987 January-April
Box 3. Folder 6. Correspondence, reports, minutes, 1987 May-December
Box 3. Folder 7. Correspondence, reports, minutes, 1988
Box 4. Folder 1. Correspondence, reports, minutes, 1989 January-June
Box 4. Folder 2. Correspondence, reports, minutes, 1989 July-December
Box 4. Folder 3. Correspondence, reports, minutes, 1990 January-May
Box 4. Folder 4. Correspondence, reports, minutes, 1990 June-December
Box 4. Folder 5. Correspondence, reports, minutes, undated
Box 4. Folder 6. Final report, 1990
Box 4. Folder 7. Judaism and Homosexuality nearprint, 1987
Box 4. Folder 8. CCAR resolution on Homosexuality in the Rabbinatne newsclippings, 1990

Series C. CCAR Committee on Human Sexuality, 1977-2000

Extent 0.6 linear feet (1.5 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Records from this committee reflect work on the question of sanctioning same-sex unions in the Reform movement. Included are minutes, correspondence, survey responses, and nearprint. Also included is a small amount of material from Rabbi Salkowitz's earlier work with the Committee on Family Life and the Sub-Committee on Jewish Sexual Values.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 5. Folder 1. Committee on Family Life, 1977-1983
Box 5. Folder 2. Sub-Committee on Jewish Sexual Values, 1978-1982
Box 5. Folder 3. Committee on Human Sexuality, 1993-1995
Box 5. Folder 4. Committee on Human Sexuality, 1996-1997
Box 5. Folder 5. Committee on Human Sexuality, 1998-1999
Box 5. Folder 6. Committee on Human Sexuality, 2000
Box 5. Folder 7. CCAR Conference on Judaism and Sexual Values pre-conference correspondence, 1981
Box 5. Folder 8. CCAR Conference on Judaism and Sexual Values correspondence, 1981-1982
Box 6. Folder 1. CCAR Conference on Judaism and Sexual Values papers, 1981 November
Box 6. Folder 2. Breakout session responses, 1996
Box 6. Folder 3. Sexuality questionnaire and correspondence, 1979-1980

Series D. Miscellaneous, 1979-1993

Extent 0.2 linear feet (0.5 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note Consists of files on adoption, Jewish population growth, and issues of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 6. Folder 4. A Rabbi's Guide to Adoption [includes correspondence], 1979

Box 6. Folder 5. National Conference on Jewish Population Growth correspondence and minutes, 1983

Box 6. Folder 6. In-Service training. Sexual assault, domestic violence, and forgiveness correspondence and clippings, 1992

Box 6. Folder 7. National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Jewish Women's Domestic Violence information packet, 1993



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MS-725: Selig Salkowitz Papers. 1963-200.

Appendix of Papers Presented at the CCAR Conference on Judaism and Sexual Values, November 1981.

- "Adolescent Sexuality: Sex Education" by Walter Jacob
- "Report of the Workshop on Adolescent Sexuality and Sex Education"
- "Is there a Reform Response to Homosexuality?" by Rabbi Rav A. Soloff
- "Homosexuality" by Dr. Sol Gordon
- "Marital Sex as Viewed by the Rabbis of the Talmud" by Bernard M. Zlotowitz
- "Our Declining Population: The Need for a Jewish Communal Response" by Judith E. Zimmerman
- "Jewish Population Growth" by Henry A. Roth
- Talk given by Dr. Ruth Westheimer
- Talk given by Dr. Sol Gordon
- "Sex outside of Marriage" by Rabbi Leonard Kravitz
- "Reading the Jewish Tradition on Marital Sexuality" by Eugene B. Borowitz
- "Jewish Sexual Ethics: A Bibliography of Periodical Literature for the Period, 1975-1979" by S. Radwine
- "Understanding and Relating to Sexual Issues: the Rabbi's Role"