



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
Stephan F. Barack Papers**

Manuscript Collection No. 777



Collection Summary

Title	Stephan F. Barack Papers
Dates	1970-2007
Collection Number	MS-777
Repository	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator	Barack, Stephan F., 1943-2007
Extent	1.6 linear feet (4 Hollinger boxes)
Language of the Material	English

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch

Stephan F. Barack was born in St. Louis, Missouri on March 30, 1943 to Mr. and Mrs. Sam and Marguerite Barack. Barack's commitment to living a Jewish life began immediately following his bar mitzvah. During his early youth, he attended Jewish summer camps and, in his teen years, he was an active member of the National Federation of Temple Youth, of which he was a life member. He served as a song leader for his local and regional youth groups, demonstrating his love for Jewish music and playing the guitar, which continued throughout his rabbinic career. He first visited Israel as a participant in a NFTY summer program in 1961.

Barack graduated from Washington University in 1965, receiving an A.B. degree in philosophy. He then enrolled at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, Ohio to study for the rabbinate. During his time at HUC-JIR (among many other activities), Barack served as a student rabbi in Livonia, Michigan, and was the director of the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

Following ordination, Barack served as Assistant Rabbi at Beth El Temple in Madison, Wisconsin and as Associate Rabbi at Temple Israel in Minneapolis, Minnesota. While serving at Temple Israel, Barack developed a unique year-round camping program at Camp Teko on Lake Minnetonka in Wayzata, Minnesota. The program was designed for Jewish children ranging in age from preschool through high school. In 1981, Barack moved to Pittsburgh to become the Senior Rabbi at Temple Sinai. In 1985, he moved to Temple Israel in Omaha, Nebraska, where he served until 1989.

At this point in his career, Barack moved to Honolulu, Hawai'i. He was the rabbi at Temple Emanu-El in Honolulu and was a founder and leader of Temple Bet Shalom, also in Honolulu. During his time in Hawai'i - as well as in all his other positions - Barack was a leader in the communal and religious affairs of his community and was active in promoting issues pertaining to social justice and welfare. He was a member of the Executive Board of the Central Conference of American Rabbis and received numerous honors, including from state and local governments in Hawai'i for his numerous activities.

Through his work in the Hawai'i Council of Churches, Barack was actively involved in the Council's efforts in promoting gay and lesbian rights. He signed the 1996 Statement on Same Gender Marriage that was part of an interfaith Perspective from the Hawai'i Council of Churches.

Barack and his wife of 42 years, Renee, have two daughters: Jennifer and Deborah.

Stephan F. Barack died on June 5, 2007 at the age of 64.

Scope and Content

Sermons, addresses, writings and correspondence of Stephan F. Barack.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged in two (2) series: A. Sermons and Writings; B. Correspondence and Miscellaneous.

Terms of Access

The collection is open for use; no restrictions apply.

Preferred Citation

Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the Stephan F. Barack Papers and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-777. Stephan F. Barack Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Provenance

Received from the Barack family, Honolulu, Hawaii, 2010.

Index Terms

Subjects Jews -- Hawaii -- Honolulu / Rabbis
Corporate Names Temple Bet Shalom (Honolulu, Hawaii) / Temple Emanu-El (Honolulu, Hawaii)
Media Sermons

Series A. Sermons and Writings, 1970-2006

Extent 1 linear foot (2.5 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Contains sermons covering the entirety of Barack's rabbinate from 1970 to 2006. Though many of the sermons are from the high holy days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, this series also contains numerous sermons that reflect Barack's interests in social justice, the life of the synagogue, interfaith relations, and Jewish identity.

This series also contains two bound volumes titled, "Essays, Papers and Sermons". Included here are copies of Barack's rabbinic thesis and term papers while a student at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion; his scholarship; and various sermons. These writings go beyond homilies and are in-depth studies on topics in rabbinic literature and Judaic thought that show the depth of Barack's work as a scholar and student.

Arrangement The series is arranged alphabetically.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 1. A-B, 1974-1975, 1988, undated
Box 1. Folder 2. C-E, 1973, 1979-1976, undated
Box 1. Folder 3. F-H, 1979-1987, 2000, undated
Box 1. Folder 4. I, 1973-1988, undated
Box 1. Folder 5. J-K, 1977-1998, undated
Box 1. Folder 6. L-O, 1979-1990, undated
Box 1. Folder 7. P-Q, 1977-1990, undated
Box 1. Folder 8. R, 1981-1988, undated
Box 2. Folder 1. Rosh Hashanah sermons, 1972-2000, undated
Box 2. Folder 2. S-V, 1974-1991, undated
Box 2. Folder 3. W-Y, 1975-1995, undated
Box 2. Folder 4. Yom Kippur sermons, 1974-2000, undated
Box 2. Folder 5. Untitled, 1970-1987
Box 2. Folder 6. Untitled, undated
Box 2. Folder 7. Untitled, undated
Box 3. Folder 1. Essays, papers and sermons (volume 1).
Box 3. Folder 2. Essays, papers and sermons (volume 2).

Series B. Correspondence and Miscellaneous, 1970-2007

Extent 0.6 linear feet (1.5 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Contains one correspondence file of letters from 1971 to 2006. Also includes three large files of condolence letters sent to Barack's wife, Renee, at the time of his death. These files show the great esteem and affection that Barack's rabbinic and professional colleagues felt for him, and show the extent of his significance and importance in the larger Jewish and secular communities in which he was involved.

Arrangement The series is arranged alphabetically.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 3. Folder 3. Correspondence, 1970-2007

Box 3. Folder 4. Condolences, 2007

Box 4. Folder 1. Condolences, 2007

Box 4. Folder 2. Condolences, 2007

Box 4. Folder 3. Miscellaneous.



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Index of Sermons

Note: The following is an index to sermons contained in Series A. Sermons and Writings. 1970-2006. Index terms are followed by their box/folder location.

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American Jewish History: A Mostly Happy Experience, Undated	1/1
Amnesty: A Forgotten Issue? March 15, 1974	1/1
And Your Youth Shall See Visions..., January 17, 1975	1/1
Annual Report, May 11, 1988	1/1
Anti-Semitism, Undated	1/1
Anti-Zionism and Israel = Anti-Semitism? February 19, 1988	1/1
Arab Master Plan, The, December 26, 1975	1/1
Barack, Sam (Eulogy), Undated	1/1
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Black-Jewish Community Relations, Undated	1/1
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