

AJHS Finding Aid for the Leslie Schaffer Papers

Descriptive Summary

Creator:	Schaffer, Leslie
Title:	Guide to the Leslie Schaffer (1953-) Papers, undated, 1979-1980, 1982, 1984-1987, 1989 *P-923
Dates:	Creation: undated, 1979-1980, 1982, 1984-1987, 1989
Abstract:	Papers of the Soviet Jewry movement activist Leslie Schaffer of Reno, Nevada document her trip to the Soviet Union to visit Soviet Jewish Refuseniks in Leningrad, Moscow and Kiev in March of 1982. The collection includes trip reports notes and photographs, correspondence, biographies of the Refuseniks, travel documents and receipts and background materials on the U.S.S.R.
Identification:	P-923
Extent:	0.25 Linear Feet (1 half manuscript box)
Language:	English
Repository:	American Jewish Historical Society,

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Historical Note

<p>The Papers of Leslie Schaffer represent one collection housed within the Archive of the American Soviet Jewry Movement (AASJM). These papers reflect the effort, beginning in the 1960s through the late 1980s, of thousands of American Jews of all denominations and political orientations to stop the persecution and discrimination of Jews in the Soviet Union. The American Soviet Jewry Movement (ASJM) is considered to be the most influential Movement of the American Jewish community in the 20th century. The beginnings of the organized American Soviet Jewry Movement became a model for efforts to aid Soviet Jews in other countries, among them Great Britain, Canada, and France. The movement can be traced to the early 1960s, when the first organizations were created to address the specific problem of the persecution and isolation of Soviet Jews by the government of the Soviet Union.</p>

Papers of Leslie Schaffer of Reno, Nevada document her trip to the Soviet Union to visit Soviet Jewish Refuseniks in Leningrad, Moscow and Kiev in March of 1982.

Scope and Content Note

Leslie Schaffer's collection contains materials related to her trip to the Soviet Union in March of 1982, where she visited Refuseniks in Leningrad, Moscow and Kiev. The collection features Leslie Schaffer's report on her trip submitted to the Bay Area Council for Soviet Jews, photos, copies of travel documents and receipts, and information on the Refuseniks that she had obtained during her travels. Of particular interest are the Juicy Fruit™ gum wrappers with hidden writings that were used to smuggle sensitive information like names and addresses of the Refuseniks out of the U.S.S.R.

The collection also includes correspondence related to the trip with the Refuseniks, family members, and other Soviet Jewry movement activists. Also included are background materials on the U.S.S.R., profiles of Soviet Jewish Refuseniks, and trip reports from other activists.

Administrative Information

Physical Location

Located in AJHS New York, NY

Access Restrictions

The collection is open to all researchers, except items that may be restricted due to their fragility, or privacy.

Acquisition Information

Donated by the Leslie Schaffer in 2007.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into a single series.

[Papers of Leslie Schaffer, undated, 1979-1980, 1982, 1984-1987, 1989](#)

Preferred Citation

Published citations should take the following form:

Description of item, date of item, Leslie Schaffer, P-923, Box #, Folder #, Collection of the American Jewish Historical Society, New York, NY.

Related Material

The papers of Leslie Schaffer is one individual collection within the Archive of the American Soviet Jewry Movement (AASJM) located at the American Jewish Historical Society (AJHS). Other Soviet Jewry Movement collections at AJHS include the records of [Action for Soviet Jewry \(I-487\)](#), the [National Conference on Soviet Jewry \(NCSJ; I-181 and I-181A\)](#), the [Union of Councils for Soviet Jews \(I-410, I-410A\)](#), [Houston Action for Soviet Jewry \(I-500\)](#), [Bay Area Council for Soviet Jews \(I-505\)](#), [Seattle Action for Soviet Jewry \(I-507\)](#), [Medical Mobilization for Soviet Jewry](#), [The Jewish Chronicle Soviet Jewry Collection](#), the papers of [Joel Ackerman \(P-787\)](#), [Julia Mates Cheney \(P-806\)](#), [Jerry Goodman \(P-863\)](#), [Laurel and Alan J. Gould \(P-866\)](#), [Carolyn W. Sanger \(P-870\)](#), [Si Frumkin \(P-871\)](#), [Elaine Pittell \(P-873\)](#), [Sanford A. Gradinger \(P-880\)](#), [Shaul Osadchey \(P-882\)](#), [Leonard S. Cahan \(P-883\)](#), [Doris H. Goldstein \(P-887\)](#), [David H. Hill \(P-888\)](#), [Margery Sanford \(P-889\)](#), [Pinchas Mordechai Teitz \(P-891\)](#), [David Waksberg \(P-895\)](#), [Pamela B. Cohen \(P-897\)](#), [Moshe Decter \(P-899\)](#), [William Korey \(P-903\)](#), [Morey Schapira \(P-906\)](#), [Charlotte Gerper Turner \(P-907\)](#), [Myrtle Sitowitz \(P-908\)](#), [Kathleen M. Hyman \(P-911\)](#), [Babette Wampold \(P-912\)](#) and [Rabbi David Goldstein and Shannie Goldstein \(P-918\)](#).

Individual accounts of activities within the Soviet Jewry Movement are preserved in the [UJA Oral History Collection \(I-433\)](#), which includes accounts from members of the following organizations: the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews, Bay Area Council on Soviet Jews (BACSJ), Seattle Action for Soviet Jews, Houston Action for Soviet Jews, Chicago Action for Soviet Jews, Colorado Committee of Concern for Soviet Jews and the National Conference on Soviet Jewry. Interviewees include accounts by Lillian Forman (BACSJ), Ann Polunsky, Morey Schapira, Myrtle Sitowitz, Deborah Turkin, David Waksberg, Sylvia Weinberg and Dolores Wilkenfeld. In addition, posters related to the Soviet Jewry Movement can be found in the [Jewish Student Organizations Collection \(I-61\)](#).

Additional materials from other collections include records dealing with the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry (SSSJ) located within the [North American Jewish Students Appeal \(NAJSA, I-338\)](#) and the records of the [National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council \(NJCRAC, I-172\)](#). Related records are also located at the AJHS in Newton Centre, MA including [memorabilia and ephemera of the New England Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry \(I-237\)](#) and the [Records of the Student Coalition for Soviet Jewry – Brandeis University \(I-493\)](#).

Use Restrictions

No permission is required to quote, reproduce or otherwise publish manuscript materials found in this collection, as long as the usage is scholarly, educational, and non-commercial. For inquiries about other usage, please contact the Director of Collections and Engagement at mmeyers@ajhs.org.

For reference questions, please email: inquiries@cjh.org

Controlled Access Headings

- Antisemitism
- Clippings (information artifacts)
- Correspondence
- Emigration and immigration
- Human rights
- Jews, Soviet
- Notes (documents)
- Pamphlets
- Photographs
- Receipts (financial records)
- Refuseniks
- Soviet Union
- United States

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Leslie Schaffer Papers, undated, 1979-1980, 1982, 1984-1987, 1989

Box	Folder
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1	1	Correspondence, Background Materials Related to the Refuseniks Visited in the U.S.S.R., undated, 1979-1980, 1982, 1984-1987, 1989
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Box	Folder
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[Digital Item]		Correspondence, Background Materials Related to the Refuseniks Visited in the U.S.S.R., undated, 1979-1980, 1982, 1984-1987, 1989
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1	2	Trip to Visit the Refuseniks in Leningrad, Moscow and Kiev, U.S.S.R., March 1982
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[Digital Item]		Trip to Visit the Refuseniks in Leningrad, Moscow and Kiev, U.S.S.R., March 1982
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1	3	Photos from the Trip to the Soviet Union, March 1982
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[Digital Item]		Photos from the Trip to the Soviet Union, March 1982
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