

AJHS Finding Aid for the Efry Spectre Papers

Descriptive Summary

Creator:	Spectre, Efry
Title:	Guide to the Efry Spectre (1934-2010) Papers
Dates:	Creation: undated, 1964, 1970-1973, 1975, 1977-1983, 1987-1989
Abstract:	The papers of Rabbi Efry Spectre reflect his involvement in the American Soviet Jewry movement. Rabbi Spectre chaired the Detroit Jewish Community Relations Council's Committee on International Concerns and the Detroit Soviet Jewry Committee, that advocated Jewish emigration from the USSR and free expression of Jewish religious and cultural rights within the Soviet Union. The materials include news clippings, correspondence, photographs, pamphlets, memos and notes.
Identification:	P-954
Extent:	1 Manuscript Boxes (1/4 linear foot)
Language:	English
Repository:	American Jewish Historical Society,

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Historical Note

The Papers of Efry Spectre 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.

Rabbi Efry Spectre was active in the American Soviet Jewry movement during the 1970s and 1980s when he served at the Adat Shalom Synagogue in Detroit and chaired the Committee on International Concerns and the Soviet Jewry Committee of the Detroit Jewish Community Relations Council. The stated purpose of the Detroit Soviet Jewry Committee (DSJC) was to advocate Jewish emigration from the U.S.S.R. and free expression of Jewish religious and cultural rights within the Soviet Union. The DSJC worked to raise the consciousness of the local community to the plight of Soviet Jews. Rabbi Spectre was involved in projects and events designed to increase awareness of the Soviet Jewry movement and to link the Detroit Jewish community with the Jews in the U.S.S.R. such as Bar and Bat Mitzvah twinings, meetings with former Soviet Jewish Refuseniks, rallies, concerts, lectures, and solidarity days. In 1976 Rabbi Spectre participated in the American delegation to the World Conference on Soviet Jewry in Brussels.

Scope and Content Note

<p>The collection consists of materials that reflect Rabbi Efry Spectre's and the Detroit Soviet Jewry Committee's (DSJC) work on behalf of Soviet Jews during the decades of the 1970s and 1980s. It includes brochures, programs and other documents of the Soviet Jewry related events organized by the DSJC. Materials from other American Soviet Jewry organizations, such as newsletters, memos and updates on Refuseniks, news clippings on Soviet policies towards Jews and the Soviet-Israel relations are also included. The collection also features Rabbi Spectre's notes from the World Conference on Soviet Jewry in Brussels that he attended in 1976. The materials include news clippings, correspondence, photographs, pamphlets, memos and notes.</p>

The collection consists of one half manuscript box.

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 Efry Spectre in 2008.

Digitization Note

This collection was digitized in its entirety with the exception of duplicates.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into a single series.

[Papers of Efry Spectre, undated, 1964, 1970-1973, 1975, 1977-1983, 1987-1989](#)

Preferred Citation

Published citations should take the following form:

Description of item, date of item, Papers of Efry Spectre, *P-954, Box #, Folder #, Collection of the American Jewish Historical Society, New York, NY.

Related Material

The Papers of Efry Spectre 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 [Jewish Defense League \(I-374\)](#), 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 \(I-507\)](#), [The Jewish Chronicle Soviet Jewry Collection \(I-523\)](#), [B'nai B'rith Klutznick National Jewish Museum Soviet Jewry Movement Collection \(I-529\)](#), [Chicago Action for Soviet Jewry \(I-530\)](#), [Religious Action Center for Reform Judaism \(I-538\)](#), 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), Leah Lieberman (P-869), 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), Rabbi David Goldstein and Shannie Goldstein (P-918), Leslie Schaffer (P-923), Arthur Bernstein (P-925), Dolores Wilkenfeld (P-927), Sylvia Weinberg (P-928), Irwin H. Krasna (P-934), Constance S. Kreshtool (P-935), Betty Golomb (P-938), Grace Perlbiner (P-942), Mort Yadin (P-943), Ann Polunsky (P-886), Lillian Foreman (P-945), Marilyn Labendz (P-946), Abraham Silverstein (P-947), Bert Silver (P-949), Billie Kozolchyk (P-950) and John Steinbruck (P-951).

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
- Articles
- Clippings (information artifacts)
- Correspondence
- Human rights
- Jews, Soviet
- Memorandums
- Newsletters
- Photographs
- Refuseniks
- Soviet Union
- United States

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Efry Spectre Papers, undated, 1964, 1970-1973, 1975, 1977-1983, 1987-1989

Box Folder

1 1 Events, undated, 1964, 1970-1973, 1977-1979, 1981-1982, 1987, 1989

Box Folder

[Digital Item] [Events, undated, 1964, 1970-1973, 1977-1979, 1981-1982, 1987, 1989](#)

1 2 Miscellaneous Materials: Correspondence, Photographs, Memorandums, Newsletters, Brochures, and Clippings, undated, 1970-1972, 1975, 1977, 1981, 1983, 1987-1989

[Digital Item] [Miscellaneous Materials: Correspondence, Photographs, Memorandums, Newsletters, Brochures, and Clippings, undated, 1970-1972, 1975, 1977, 1981, 1983, 1987-1989](#)

1 3 Soviet-Israel Relations, undated, 1970

[Digital Item] [Soviet-Israel Relations, undated, 1970](#)

1 4 "To Russia With Love," a Soviet Jewry Benefit Concert, Detroit, November 12, 1981, 1980, 1981

includes a Holocaust Remembrance Day Program, April 13, 1980.

[Digital Item] ["To Russia With Love," a Soviet Jewry Benefit Concert, Detroit, November 12, 1981, 1980, 1981](#)

includes a Holocaust Remembrance Day Program, April 13, 1980.

1 5 World Conference on Soviet Jewry, Brussels, 1976

[Digital Item] [World Conference on Soviet Jewry, Brussels, 1976](#)