

# AJHS Finding Aid for the Si Frumkin Papers

## Descriptive Summary

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| <b>Creator:</b>        | Frumkin, Si, 1930-2009  |
| <b>Title:</b>          | Guide to the Si Frumkin (1930-2009) Papers, undated, 1985, 1988-1989<br>*P-871  |
| <b>Dates:</b>          | Creation: undated, 1985, 1988-1989; Creation: Majority of material found within 1988 - 1989   |
| <b>Abstract:</b>       | The Si Frumkin Papers include Mr. Frumkin's articles on the subject of the Holocaust, Israel, the Soviet Union and Soviet Jews from the mid- and the late 1980's, and a video interview with him and video recordings of several television programs related to the topic of the Soviet Jewry. The documents include articles, news clippings and video recordings. |
| <b>Identification:</b> | P-871   |
| <b>Extent:</b>         | 0.5 Linear Feet (1 manuscript box)  |
| <b>Language:</b>       | English, Russian  |
| <b>Repository:</b>     | American Jewish Historical Society,   |

## Table Of Contents

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Historical Note</b>                                | 3 |
| <b>Scope and Content Note</b>                         | 4 |
| <b>Administrative Information</b>                     | 5 |
| Access Restrictions                                   | 5 |
| Acquisition Information                               | 5 |
| Digitization Note                                     | 5 |
| Arrangement   | 5 |
| Preferred Citation                                    | 5 |
| Related Material                                      | 5 |
| Use Restrictions                                      | 6 |
| Controlled Access Headings                            | 6 |
| <b>Detailed Description of the Collection</b>         | 7 |
| Series I: Si Frumkin Papers, undated, 1985, 1988-1989 | 7 |

## Historical Note

The Papers of Si Frumkin 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 Movements of the American Jewish community in the 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

A Holocaust survivor, Si Frumkin was one of the leading figures in the American Soviet Jewry Movement. He was the founder of the Southern California Council for Soviet Jews, the founder of the Association of Soviet Jewish Emigres and served on the Board of Directors of the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews. During more than two decades of innovative activism, Mr. Frumkin organized pickets and demonstrations at cultural and athletic events, including rallies of tens of thousands of participants, direct phone calls to Soviet Jews, mailings of post cards to the USSR and the massive distribution of Prisoner of Conscience medallions. Mr. Frumkin visited the Soviet Union to provide direct aid to the Refuseniks and returned with unique and valuable information on the situation of Soviet Jewry that was widely publicized by the American mass media. Fluent in Russian, he kept in close contact with Jewish activists in the USSR. Mr. Frumkin lectured extensively, wrote numerous magazine and newspaper articles, and appeared in a number of television and radio programs, speaking on the subject of Soviet Jews.

## Scope and Content Note

<p>The Si Frumkin Papers include Mr. Frumkin's articles on the subject of the Holocaust, Israel, the Soviet Union and Soviet Jews from the mid- and the late 1980's, and a video interview with him and video recordings of several television programs related to the topic of the Soviet Jewry. The documents include articles, news clippings and video recordings.</p>

## Administrative Information

### 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 Si Frumkin in 2007.

### Digitization Note

All unique, playable videocassettes were digitized and made fully accessible in 2016-2017.

### Arrangement

The collection is organized into one series arranged alphabetically.

[Papers of Si Frumkin, undated, 1985, 1988-1989](#)

### Preferred Citation

Published citations should take the following form:

Description of item, date of item, Papers of Si Frumkin, P-871, Box #, Folder #, Collection of the American Jewish Historical Society, New York, NY.

### Related Material

The Papers of Si Frumkin 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 \(I-410\)](#), [Medical Mobilization for Soviet Jewry](#), the [papers of Joel Ackerman \(P-787\)](#), [Julia Mates Cheney \(P-806\)](#), [Jerry Goodman \(P-863\)](#), [Laurel and Alan J. Gould \(P-866\)](#), and [Carolyn W. Sanger \(P-870\)](#).

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](mailto:mmeyers@ajhs.org).

For reference questions, please email: [inquiries@ajhs.org](mailto:inquiries@ajhs.org)

## Controlled Access Headings

- Antisemitism
- Articles
- Clippings (information artifacts)
- DVDs
- Emigration and immigration
- Former Soviet republics
- Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)
- Human rights
- Israel
- Jews, Soviet
- Prisoners -- Legal status, laws, etc
- Refugees
- Refuseniks
- Soviet Union -- Politics and government -- 1953-1985
- United States
- Videocassettes

## Detailed Description of the Collection

### Series I: Si Frumkin Papers, undated, 1985, 1988-1989

| Box              | Folder |  |
|------------------|--------|--|
| 1                | 1      | Articles and Clippings, undated, 1988  |
| 1                | 2      | DVD, Interview with Si Frumkin: "Growing up in Kovno Ghetto", undated  |
| 1                | 3, VHS | "Babi Yar: Lessons of History", circa 1985   |
|                  | 1      | Documentary on the Holocaust in Ukraine, by Ukrainian Studio of TV Films.  |
| [ Digital Item ] |        | <a href="#">"Babi Yar: Lessons of History", circa 1985</a>   |
|                  |        | Documentary on the Holocaust in Ukraine, by Ukrainian Studio of TV Films.  |
| 1                | 3, VHS | "Nightline: Soviet Jews on Soviet TV", undated   |
|                  | 2      | Folder 3, VHS 2 was not digitized because it is demagnetized and unplayable.   |
| 1                | 3, VHS | Documentary on the Soviet Jewry movement in Los Angeles, circa 1985  |
|                  | 3      |  |
| [ Digital Item ] |        | <a href="#">Documentary on the Soviet Jewry movement in Los Angeles, circa 1985</a>  |
| 1                | 4, VHS | Los Angeles-Leningrad sister cities hearing; Footage from Perm 35 Camp; Interview with Si Frumkin regarding the death of Andrei Sakharov, 1989, circa 1989                 |
|                  | 1      |  |
| [ Digital Item ] |        | <a href="#">Los Angeles-Leningrad sister cities hearing; Footage from Perm 35 Camp; Interview with Si Frumkin regarding the death of Andrei Sakharov, 1989, circa 1989</a> |
| 1                | 4, VHS | Documentary on the Soviet Jewry movement in Los Angeles, circa 1985  |
|                  | 2      | Duplicate of Folder 3, VHS 3 linked above.   |