

PRELIMINARY INVENTORY
K0582 (KA1261+)
MORRIS B. MARGOLIES (1921-2012) PAPERS
[JCA]

This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City. If you would like more information, please contact us at kansascity@shsmo.org.

Introduction

The papers contain personal and professional materials including correspondence, letters, and cards to Margolies, Rabbi at Congregation Beth Shalom, and his wife Ruth, who was active in Hadassah, the Beth Shalom Sisterhood, and the Women's League for Conservative Judaism. In addition, lectures (VHS) Rabbi Margolies gave at Beth Shalom during and after his tenure as Rabbi.

Born in Jerusalem on December 25, 1921, Rabbi Morris B. Margolies came from a distinguished Jewish family and was a direct descendant of the founder of Chabad, Rabbi Schneur Zalman of Liadi (1745-1812). He descended from multiple generations of rabbis, including his own father, Rabbi Yosef Meir Margaliyot. His mother, Malka Chasya Shmerling, was a sixth-generation Israeli. Margolies came to the United States at the age of eight, his father having emigrated amid the privations of the Great Depression and ongoing turmoil in Israel.

Morris Margolies spent his youth in the Bronx in New York and enrolled at Yeshiva University, receiving his ordination in his senior year from Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik and Dr. Samuel Belkin and Rabbi Moshe Shatzkes. He received his M.A. in English literature from the University of Chicago in 1947 and his Ph.D. in Jewish history, under the auspices of the eminent Jewish historian Salo Baron, from Columbia University in 1976. He received an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from the Jewish Theological Seminary in 1968.

Margolies was rabbi of Hyde Park Hebrew Center in Chicago from 1943 to 1947, executive director of the American Jewish Congress, Midwest Division, from 1947 to 1949, rabbi of BMH Synagogue (Beth Hamidrash Hagadol) in Denver from 1949 to 1951, and a chaplain in the U.S. Army from 1951 to 1952, serving much of that time in Korea during the Korean War. From 1952 to 1961, Margolies was rabbi of Temple Beth El in Brooklyn, New York. He became senior rabbi of Beth Shalom Synagogue in Kansas City in 1961, succeeding Rabbi Gershon Hadas. He retired in 1986 but worked as a professor of Jewish history at the University of Kansas until 1993.

He was a champion of civil rights and fought for non-discriminatory housing in Kansas City. He pushed for the establishment of what is now the Hyman Brand Hebrew Academy in Kansas City and agitated for equal rights for women in the synagogue. In 1975 he created the Bat Torah program, a rigorous two-year course in Jewish learning, to help usher in women's complete participation in Jewish ritual life. He blended modernity with traditionalism, and insisted on viewing science as a necessary and indispensable complement of faith.

K0852 (KA1261+)
MORRIS B. MARGOLIES (1921-2012) PAPERS

From 1966 to 1971, Margolies had a Sunday morning television program called Great Ideas of the Bible, which aired on the local NBC affiliate. In the mid-1980s, Margolies began writing a regular column for The Kansas City Jewish Chronicle. He also reviewed books on Judaica for The Kansas City Star from 1962-1986.

Margolies married Ruth Smith of Brooklyn in 1952. They had three children and six grandchildren. Rabbi Morris B. Margolies died November 9, 2012.

Donor Information

The papers were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Rabbi Morris Margolies on January 7, 2004 (Accession No. KA1261) as part of the Jewish Community Archives. An addition was made on July 23, 2007 (Accession No. KA1534); August 22, 2007 by Mr. and Mrs. Joel Vile (Accession No. KA1543); September 10, 2007 (Accession No. KA1551); May 20, 2010 (Accession No. KA1800); October 19, 2010 (Accession No. KA1841); December 16, 2010 by Rabbi and Mrs. Margolies (Accession No. KA1890); December 29, 2010 by Mrs. Ruth Margolies (Accession No. KA1895); March 17, 2011 (Accession No. KA1918); and May 17, 2011 (Accession No. KA1937).

Copyright and Restrictions

The Donor has given and assigned to the University of Missouri all rights of copyright, which the Donor has in the Materials and in such of the Donor's works as may be found among any collections of Materials received by the University from others.

Related Collections

Margolies, Morris B. Papers, The Library of The Jewish Theological Seminary, New York, N.Y., ARC.1000.132.

Location Note

The collection is stored offsite and will need to be retrieved before viewing.

Box List

Box 001

Beth Shalom Bulletin, Vol. 1-2 (1915-1917)
Synagogue Scroll of Keneseth Israel-Beth Shalom, Vol. 18-19, 1947-1949
Synagogue Scroll of Beth Shalom, Vol. 20-24, 1949-1954
Synagogue Scroll of Beth Shalom, Vol. 27-33, 1956-1963
Synagogue Scroll of Beth Shalom, Vol. 36-46, 1965-1976

Box 002

Synagogue Scroll of Beth Shalom, Vols. 46-57, 1976- 1987
K I Bit Ser, Vol. 5, #4, December 8, 1940

Box 003 (KA1534) not full

Clippings
Photographs

K0852 (KA1261+)
MORRIS B. MARGOLIES (1921-2012) PAPERS

Cards and letters

Correspondence, letters from congregation

Correspondence, Toronto Weekend December 9, 1983-December 11, 1983

Programs, invitations, correspondence

1 microcassette labeled JSB (1890kc)

Program, dinner honoring Rabbi Margolies on his 25th Anniversary as a Rabbi in Israel,
May 19, 1968

Certificates, Ruth Margolies, Rabbi Morris Margolies, 1986, 1992, 1999, 2009

“Torah and Life” luncheon discussions conducted by Rabbi Morris B. Margolies for
Beth Shalom Congregation men’s club

Photographs, Margolies with President Truman, President Carter, Rabbikoff (Governor of
CT)

“Jewish Spectator” May 1960

Recognizing over a Half Century of Rabbinic Service, March 27, 2000

Jewelry for a Cause: Torah fund, 11 fund raiser pins for JTS

Ruth Margolies- speeches, prayers, poems, writings 1959-1991, audiocassette MBM Talk
Patrons’ brunch March 1986 (1895kc)

Cards and letters addressed to Morris and Ruth Margolies, 1980s-1990s

Jewish World War II veterans’ memorial, 1944

Newspaper publicity and speeches regarding Beth Shalom, 1971-1976

Newspaper publicity and speeches regarding Israel and foreign affairs, 1952-1974

Plaque presented to Ruth Margolies for devoted leadership, on occasion of the 25th
Anniversary of State of Israel Bonds, October 19, 1975

Audiocassette Tapes, (10) Rabbi Margolies Birthday Kiddosh, 2001; AJL Convention
opening address 1988; “Anne Frank and Christianity, 1995; Cantor Yossele
Rosenblatt, his original compositions; Cavid Barash, WDAF-AM; Jewish
Conservative View of Domestic Issues, 1997; Women Who Run with the Wolves.

Audiocassette Tapes, (15) Sessions spent with Joan Israelite studying for conversion
(1534kc)

VHS tape of 25 year anniversary/retirement dinner, 1986 (1543kc)

Box 004 (folder removed and added to Box 003)

Box 005 (KA1800)

VHS TAPES OF LECTURES

Opening prayer, House of Representatives, February 25, dubbed March 5, 1986, 10
minutes (2 copies)

Beth Shalom Men’s Club luncheon final session, “Concept of Promised Land,” March 6,
dubbed March 14, 1986, 60 minutes

Beth Shalom Men’s Club luncheon, “The Concept of the Sabbath,” February 27, dubbed
March 5, 1986, 60 minutes

Beth Shalom Men’s Club luncheon, “Concept of Free Will,” February 6, dubbed
February 17, 1986, 60 minutes

Beth Shalom Men’s Club luncheon, “Concept of the Covenant,” February 13, dubbed
February 21, 1986, 60 minutes

K0852 (KA1261+)
MORRIS B. MARGOLIES (1921-2012) PAPERS

- Beth Shalom Men's Club luncheon, "The Concept of Justice," February 20, dubbed March 5, 1986, 60 minutes
Beth Shalom Men's Club luncheon, Deuteronomy 32:26-43- "Song of Moses," January 2, 1986, 60 minutes
Beth Shalom Men's Club luncheon, Deuteronomy 32:1-14, January 30, dubbed February 10, 1986, 60 minutes
Beth Shalom Men's Club luncheon, "Who is a Jew," January 9, dubbed February 10, 1986, 60 minutes
Beth Shalom Men's Club luncheon, Deuteronomy 33:12-21, January 23, dubbed February 10, 1986, 60 minutes
8th Annual Stuart J. Hersh Memorial Lecture, "Terrorism and the Future of Israel," May 22, 1986, 60 minutes
Beth Shalom Men's Club luncheon, Deuteronomy 32:15-25, "Monotheism: The Judaic Genius/Consequences of Reward and Punishment," December 26, 1985, 60 minutes
Beth Shalom Men's Club luncheon, Deuteronomy 32, "The Poem of Moses-Farewell in Poetic Form," December 19, 1985, 60 minutes
Beth Shalom Men's Club luncheon, Deuteronomy 3, "Transition of Leadership- Moses to Joshua," December 5, 1985, 60 minutes
Beth Shalom Men's Club luncheon, Deuteronomy 30:11, "Religion is Within Yourself," November 21, 1985, 60 minutes
Beth Shalom Men's Club luncheon, Deuteronomy 31, November 14, 1985, 60 minutes
Beth Shalom Men's Club luncheon, Deuteronomy 30:11, "Doctrine of Free Will," November 7, 1985, 60 minutes
Beth Shalom Men's Club luncheon, Deuteronomy 31, "Moses Learns of His Final Days and Beings Transition of Leadership," November 14, 1985, 60 minutes
Beth Shalom Men's Club luncheon, Deuteronomy 33:1-12, January 16, dubbed February 10, 1986, 60 minutes
"Three Nineteenth Century Affairs Which Changed the Face of Modern Jewry: The Dreyfuss Affair: 1894," February 29, 1988, 60 minutes
Beth Shalom Men's Club luncheon, Deuteronomy 29:9, October 31, 1985, dubbed January 14, 1986, 60 minutes
Beth Shalom Men's Club luncheon, Deuteronomy 27, "Relationship Man and God/Man and Man/Man and Himself," October 24, 1985, 60 minutes
Beth Shalom Men's Club luncheon, Deuteronomy 26:12, October 17, dubbed December 8, 1985, 60 minutes
Beth Shalom Men's Club luncheon, Deuteronomy 25:17, October 10, dubbed December 8, 1985, 60 minutes
Judaic Pursuit: Jews Who Made a Difference #3, Heinrich Graetz, October 27, dubbed on December 8, 1985, 60 minutes
Judaic Pursuit: Jews Who Made a Difference #4, Abraham Geiger, November 3, dubbed on December 8, 1985, 60 minutes
Judaic Pursuit: Jews Who Made a Difference #5, Samson Raphael Hirsch, November 10, dubbed on December 1985, 60 minutes
Judaic Pursuit: Jews Who Made a Difference, Abraham Isaac Cook, February 2, dubbed on February 10, 1986, 60 minutes

K0852 (KA1261+)
MORRIS B. MARGOLIES (1921-2012) PAPERS

- Judaic Pursuit: Jews Who Made a Difference, Stephan S. Wise, January 26, dubbed on February 10, 1986, 60 minutes
- Judaic Pursuit: Jews Who Made a Difference, David Ben Gurion, February 9, dubbed on February 17, 1986, 60 minutes
- Beth Shalom Men's Club luncheon, Deuteronomy 31, November 14, 1985, 60 minutes
- Judaic Pursuit: Jews Who Made a Difference, Moses Mendelsohn/Samuel David Luzzato, October 1985, 60 minutes
- 13th Annual Stuart J. Hersh Memorial Lecture sponsored by Merton and Barbara Hersh-Dr. Marc H. Tanenbaum, lecturer: "Can the Sickness of Anti-Semitism Be Cured?" April 25, 1991, 60 minutes
- ABC's of Kabbalah, second lecture, June 12, 2001, 66 minutes
- ABC's of Kabbalah, third lecture, June 19, 2001, 65 minutes

Box 006

- Beth Shalom Tape Serial #144 Kaplan Scholar, In Residence, "Israel: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow." Sponsor, Abe and Catherine Kaplan Foundation. January 23, 1994, 60 minutes
- Tape Serial #137 Siyum HaTorah Program. "Dedication Service." Contents, Completion of the Torah, chairman Jim Badzin, Gary Cortes, congregation president Elaine Polsky, Senior Rabbi Alan Cohen. October 25, 1992, 90 minutes
- Judaic Pursuit: Jews Who Made a Difference, Moses Mendelsohn/Samuel David Luzzato, October, Dubbed December 2, 1985, 60 minutes
- Judaic Pursuit: Jews Who Made a Difference #6, Isaac Leeser, November 24, dubbed on December 8, 1985, 60 minutes
- "Three Nineteenth Century Affairs Which Changed the Face of Modern Jewry: The Mortara Affair, February 22, 1988
- Judaic Pursuit: Jews Who Made a Difference, S. G. Agnon, February 16, dubbed February 21, 1986, 60 minutes
- History of Poland, The Jews
- Tape Serial #139 Beth Shalom Adult Education: "Angels, Devils, and Jews Part 1 of 3: Angels in the Jewish Tradition." Contents, Tracing the concept of benevolent and malevolent from Biblical times to the present; an interpretation of angels by the Talmud, Midrash, Kabbalah, and the Hasidim. Sponsor, Beth Shalom Video Library. February 24, 1993, 63 minutes
- Tape Serial #145 Jewish Theological Seminary of America Second Century Award honoring Rabbi Morris and Ruth Margolies for continuing dedication to Torah. January 23, 1994, 145 minutes
- Tape Serial #134 Siyum HaTorah Program. "Services: Endowments to the Torah." Contents, D'var Torah, Rabbi Emeritus Morris Margolies, capital gifts, Book of Genesis, D'var Torah, Senior Rabbi Alan Cohen, Book of Exodus. Sponsor, Siyum HaTorah Project. October 24, 1992, 90 minutes
- Tape Serial #141 Beth Shalom Adult Education. "Angels, Devils and Jews Part 3 of 3: The Demons of Isaac Bashevis Singer." Contents, Introduction of the notion of ghosts, dybbuks and demons. Singer's demons were vehicles for his reactions to the horrors of our time. Sponsor, Beth Shalom Video Library. March 17, 1993, 60 minutes

K0852 (KA1261+)
MORRIS B. MARGOLIES (1921-2012) PAPERS

- Tape Serial #140 Beth Shalom Adult Education. "Angels, Devils, and Jews Part 2 of 3: Satan and Company." Contents, Origins of Satan in the ancient world and his transformation to a "Servant of God" in the monotheistic view. Sponsor, Beth Shalom Video Library. March 3, 1993, 60 minutes
- Christian Origins of Anti-Semitism Part I. Contents, Jesus the Jew. Sponsor, Men's Club Video. February 6, 1989, 75 minutes
- Christian Origins of Anti-Semitism Part II. Contents, Paul the Christian. Sponsor, Men's Club Video. February 13, 1989, 75 minutes
- Judaic Pursuit: Jews Who Made a Difference in Modern Times, Stephen Wise, January 26/Abraham Isaac Cook, February 2, 1986
- Judaic Pursuit: Jews Who Made a Difference in Modern Times, David Ben Gurion, February 9/S. G. Agnon, February 16, 1986
- Three Nineteenth Century Affairs which changed the face of Modern Jewry: The Damascus Affair, February 15, 1988
- Beth Shalom Adult Education Mini Series: American Jewish History Part I. Contents, The Jews and the Revolutionary War. Sponsor, Men's Club Video. October 24, 1990, 70 minutes
- Beth Shalom Adult Education Mini Series: American Jewish History Part II. Contents, The Jews of the Civil War. Sponsor, Men's Club Video. October 31, 1990, 70 minutes
- Beth Shalom Adult Education Mini Series: American Jewish History Part III. Contents, The Jews of World War II. Sponsor, Men's Club Video. November 7, 1990, 78 minutes
- Beth Shalom Adult Education: Christian Origins of Anti-Semitism Part III. Contents, Julian the Pagan. Sponsor, Men's Club Video. February 20, 1989, 75 minutes
- 13th Annual Stuart J. Hersh Memorial Lecture sponsored by Merton and Barbara Hersh- Dr. Marc H. Tanenbaum, lecturer: "Can the Sickness of Anti-Semitism Be Cured?" April 25, 1991, 60 minutes
- Beth Shalom Adult Education Mini Series: American Jewish History Part IV. Speaker, Rabbi Emeritus Morris Margolies. Contents, The Jews of the Vietnam War. Sponsor, Men's Club Video. November 14, 1990, 84 minutes
- Judaic Pursuit: Jews Who Made a Difference, Theodor Herzl, January 19, dubbed February 10, 1986, 60 minutes
- Judaic Pursuit: Jews Who Made a Difference, Solomon Schechter, January 5, 1986, 60 minutes
- 12th Annual Stuart J. Hersh Memorial Lecture, "Who Talks for the American Jew," May 21, 1990
- Men's Club Kovod Award and dinner honoring Max Dubin, Gabbai Rishon, "Israel and Anti-Semitism," December 12, 1991
- Beth Shalom Adult Education Series: 500 Years of Sephardic Judaism. Contents: "1492: Abravenel the Jew that Left," March 25, 1992/ "1492: Abraham Senior, the Marano Jew Who Stayed," April 1, 1992

DVDs

- Lecture on the Dead Sea Scrolls, Union Station, February 22, 2007, Titus Video Productions
- The Shape of the Future, Common Ground Productions, 2005

K0852 (KA1261+)
MORRIS B. MARGOLIES (1921-2012) PAPERS

Box 007 (KA1841)

Photo album, Temple Beth El seminar dinner, New York City, January 26, 1957
Photo album, 25th anniversary as a rabbi dinner at Plaza Inn, May 19, 1968
Pucker, Bernard. With Joy and Gladness: Memories of Rabbi Gershon Hadas. Boston, MA: Pucker Gallery, 2003
Miscellaneous, 1970s-2001
Ruth, correspondence with Rabbi Hadas' daughters, 2008-2010
Photographs, Israel bond dinner at Hilton Plaza Inn, September 8, 1985
Photographs, Temple Beth El seminar dinner, New York City, January 26, 1957
Scrapbook, newspaper editorials, 1934-1956

Box 008

Scrapbook, newspaper editorials, 1964-1996

Box 009

Scrapbook, newspaper editorials, 1996-2005
Scrapbook, 25th anniversary as a rabbi dinner, 1968
Scrapbook, retirement, 1986
Scrapbook, *A Gathering of Angels* press, 1991-1996
Men's Club Luncheon award, May 18, 1986
Photo album, retirement dinner, June 8, 1986

Box 010 (not full)

Newspaper Articles, 2001-2010
Programs and invitations, 1961-2002; teaching, Rabbi Morris B. Margolies (undated) (1937kc)
The Dead Sea Scrolls: a presentation Dr. Morris Margolies, Avila University, October 17, 2006; *Judaism and Christianity in the Dead Sea Scrolls* Dr. Morris Margolies, Kansas University, October 11, 2006
The Dead Sea Scrolls Discovery Place, Charlotte, North Carolina, 2006
The Dead Sea Scrolls at Union Station, February 8-May 13, 2007
A Gathering of Angel Morris B. Margolies, hardcover and paperback
Samuel David Luzzatto: Traditionalist Scholar, Morris B. Margolies
Ten Turning Points in Jewish History, Morris B. Margolies, 1963

Flatbox 001

Beth Shalom Confirmation Class, 1968, 1976
Diploma, Doctor of Divinity, The Jewish Theological Seminary of America, November 14, 1971
Gift Acknowledgement to Rabbi Morris B. Margolies Most Outstanding Associate Greater Kansas City Chapter of Hadassah, 2006
Hadassah gift acknowledgement for Medical Research, signed by Ruth Margolies, with Barack Obama 2008 sticker attached
Peace award, Interfaith Peace Alliance, 1999

K0852 (KA1261+)
MORRIS B. MARGOLIES (1921-2012) PAPERS

Certificate of Appreciation, The Jewish Theological Seminary of America, April 13,
1986

Certificate to Rabbi Morris M. Margolies from Beth Shalom Sisterhood, April 29, 1986

Box 001X1

Scrapbook, newspaper editorials, 1956-1964