

Hannah G. Solomon Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2000

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

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Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms007027>

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Collection Summary

Title: Hannah G. Solomon Papers

Span Dates: 1817-1986

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1892-1942)

ID No.: MSS82191

Creator: Solomon, Hannah G. (Hannah Greenebaum), 1858-1942

Extent: 2,000 items

Extent: 12 containers plus 1 oversize

Extent: 4.6 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm93082191>

Summary: Civic leader and founder of the National Council of Jewish Women. Correspondence, organizational records, speeches and writings, biographical and genealogical material, family papers, photographs, a scrapbook, and printed matter document Solomon's founding of the National Council of Jewish Women in 1893 and many facets of the organization's development through the end of World War II.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Solomon, Hannah G. (Hannah Greenebaum), 1858-1942.

Organizations

Chicago Woman's Club (Chicago, Ill.)

International Congress of Women (1904 : Berlin, Germany)

Jewish Women's Congress (1893 : Chicago, Ill.)

National Council of Jewish Women.

Park Ridge School for Girls (Park Ridge, Ill.)

World's Columbian Exposition (1893 : Chicago, Ill.)

World's Parliament of Religions (1893 : Chicago, Ill.)

Subjects

Civic improvement--Illinois--Chicago.

Jewish women--Societies and clubs.

Schools--Illinois--Park Ridge.

Women--Illinois--Chicago.

Women--Societies and clubs.

Occupations

Civic leaders.

Provenance

The papers of Hannah G. Solomon, civic leader and founder of the National Council of Jewish Women, were given to the Library of Congress by her granddaughter, Frances Levy Angel, in 1993.

Processing History

The papers of Hannah G. Solomon were processed in 1996. Additional material consisting primarily of birthday greetings and National Council of Jewish Women committee and department records was incorporated into the collection in 2000. A description of the Solomon Papers appears in *Library of Congress Acquisitions: Manuscript Division, 1993*, pp. 18-26.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Hannah G. Solomon is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Hannah G. Solomon are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Hannah G. Solomon Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

| Date | Event |
|---------------|---|
| 1858, Jan. 14 | Born, Chicago, Ill. |
| 1877 | Admitted to Chicago Woman's Club, Chicago, Ill. |
| 1879 | Married Henry Solomon |
| 1893 | Organized Jewish Women's Congress at the World's Parliament of Religions, held in conjunction with the World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago, Ill. Founded the National Council of Jewish Women |
| 1893-1905 | President, National Council of Jewish Women |
| 1894 | Founded the Bureau of Personal Services, Chicago, Ill. |
| 1895 | Participated in founding and elected vice president of the Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs |
| 1897 | President, Seventh Ward District Bureau of Associated Charities, Chicago, Ill. Addressed the Sinai Temple congregation, Chicago, Ill., reportedly the first Jewish woman to speak from a Jewish pulpit |
| 1904 | Represented the National Council of Jewish Women and the Council of Women of the United States, International Council of Women, Berlin, Germany Democratic candidate for trustee of the University of Illinois, Urbana, Ill. |
| 1905-1908 | Honorary president, National Council of Jewish Women |
| 1907 | Assisted in reorganizing and elected president of the Park Ridge School for Girls, Park Ridge, Ill. |
| 1911 | Honorary chair, Joint Committee on Motion Pictures, Chicago, Ill. Published <i>A Sheaf of Leaves</i> (Chicago: Private printing. 270 pp.) |
| 1916 | Democratic candidate for trustee of the University of Illinois, Urbana, Ill. |
| 1917-1918 | Chair, Ward Leaders' Committee, Women's Division of the State Council of Defense, Chicago, Ill. |
| 1942, Dec. 7 | Died, Chicago, Ill. |
| 1946 | Posthumous publication of autobiography, <i>Fabric of My Life</i> (New York: Bloch Publishing Co. 263 pp.) |

Scope and Content Note

The papers of club woman and social reformer Hannah Greenebaum Solomon (1858-1942) span the years 1817-1986, with the bulk of the material dating from 1892 to 1942. The collection largely concerns Solomon's founding of the National Council of Jewish Women and complements the records of the council's national and Washington, D.C., offices, also held by the Library of Congress Manuscript Division. Solomon's papers contain correspondence, organizational records, speeches and writings, biographical information, genealogical material, family papers, photographs, a scrapbook, and printed matter arranged alphabetically by subject or type of material.

A number of items relate to the founding of the National Council of Jewish Women at the Jewish Women's Congress convened in 1893 as part of the World's Parliament of Religions during the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. Included is correspondence from Solomon's chairmanship of the congress's organizing committee, papers delivered at the congress, an attendance register, and drafts of a resolution calling for the establishment of a national organization of Jewish women. The first five decades of the National Council of Jewish Women are recorded through convention proceedings, reports, and printed matter. Committee and department records document many of the organization's activities, including those related to community welfare, contemporary Jewish affairs, education, immigrant and refugee assistance, international relations, and social legislation.

Perhaps the most revealing source on the council's early years is correspondence from and concerning Sadie American, the organization's first secretary. Written largely by American to Solomon, the correspondence concerns the establishment of local sections and the development of a national program. It also reveals a rift between the two women, in part over the focus of the council's work, and exposes tensions within the organization which eventually led to the secession of several local chapters.

Drafts and fragments of Solomon's speeches and writings fill a gap caused by the paucity of Solomon's outgoing correspondence in the papers. They cover a wide variety of subjects, including the council's programs and history, the growth of women's organizations, and the plight of Jews in Nazi Germany.

The papers contain limited amounts of material on Solomon's life beyond the National Council of Jewish Women. A small number of reports and printed items relate to her involvement in other civic and women's organizations, notably the Park Ridge School for Girls in Illinois and the Chicago Woman's Club. A European trip made by Solomon and her family in 1904 to attend the International Council of Women in Berlin and to celebrate the Solomons' twenty-fifth wedding anniversary is documented by photographs and a scrapbook. Handbills and other election ephemera are included from her two unsuccessful campaigns for trustee of the University of Illinois. Biographical information is also contained in clippings, personal sketches, eulogies, plays based on her life, and genealogies.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by subject or type of material.

Container List

| Container | Contents |
|-----------|--|
| BOX 1 | Biographies, eulogies, and tributes, 1909, 1928-1953, 1986, undated (2 folders) |
| BOX 1 | Birthday greetings |
| BOX 1 | 1928-1936 <i>See also Oversize</i> (6 folders) |
| BOX 2 | 1937-1940 (7 folders) |
| BOX 3 | 1941-1942, undated (7 folders) |
| BOX 4 | Civic and women's organizations, 1893-1939, undated (2 folders) |
| BOX 4 | Clippings, 1908-1967, undated <i>See also Oversize</i> |
| BOX 4 | Condolences on death of Solomon, 1942-1943 |
| BOX 4 | Conference of Jewish Women's Organizations, 1910-1942 |
| BOX 4 | Diary excerpt, 1923 |
| BOX 4 | European trip, 1904 |
| BOX 4 | International Council of Women, Berlin, Germany |
| BOX 4 | Handbook |
| BOX 4 | Statement by Solomon |
| BOX 5 | Photograph album |
| BOX 5 | Scrapbook |
| BOX 6 | Twenty-fifth wedding anniversary |
| BOX 6 | Genealogical notes and family papers, 1817-1934, undated |
| BOX 6 | General correspondence, 1892-1947, undated (4 folders) |
| BOX 6 | International Council of Jewish Women, circa 1904-1941, undated |
| BOX 6 | Jewish Training School, Chicago, Ill., undated |
| BOX 6 | National Conference of Christians and Jews, 1936-1952, undated |
| BOX 6 | National Council of Jewish Women |
| BOX 6 | American, Sadie, 1894-1944, undated (2 folders) |
| BOX 7 | Circular letters |
| BOX 7 | Publicity chairs, 1943-1946 |
| BOX 7 | Section presidents, 1944-1951 |
| BOX 7 | Committees and departments |
| BOX 7 | Contemporary Jewish Affairs, 1944-1945 |
| BOX 7 | Education, 1954 |
| BOX 7 | International Relations and United Nations observer reports, 1941-1951, undated |
| BOX 7 | Legislation and Social Legislation, 1920, 1941-1951, undated |
| BOX 7 | Miscellaneous, . 1939-1946, n.d |
| BOX 7 | Religion, 1915-1917 |
| BOX 7 | Section Service, 1944-1946 |

Container List

| Container | Contents |
|-----------|--|
| BOX 7 | Service to the Foreign Born, Overseas Service, and refugee assistance, 1941-1951, undated |
| BOX 7 | Social Welfare, 1943-1947 |
| BOX 8 | Constitution, bylaws, and directories, 1900-1922, 1946-1951, undated |
| BOX 8 | Conventions |
| BOX 8 | Miscellany, 1897-1946, 1953, undated <i>See also Oversize</i> (2 folders) |
| BOX 8 | Proceedings and reports |
| BOX 8 | 1896-1908 (2 folders) |
| BOX 9 | 1911-1926 (4 folders) |
| BOX 9 | <i>Council Woman</i> , 1940-1946, 1963 |
| BOX 10 | Histories of, 1943-1986, undated (2 folders) |
| BOX 10 | Miscellany, 1938-1943, 1953, undated |
| BOX 10 | Notebook kept by Solomon and Hannah Leib, 1893-1910, undated |
| BOX 10 | Pamphlets and booklets, 1897, 1929, 1938, 1947, undated |
| BOX 10 | Reports, 1911, 1939 |
| BOX 10 | Resolution re founding, 1893 <i>See Container 12, same heading</i> |
| BOX 10 | Sections |
| BOX 10 | Chicago, Ill., 1922-1958, undated (3 folders) |
| BOX 11 | Miscellaneous, 1930-1944, 1957-1960 |
| BOX 11 | Photographs, 1875-1918, undated <i>For additional material see Container 5, Photograph album</i> |
| BOX 11 | Plays based on Solomon's life, 1953-1954, undated |
| BOX 11 | Speeches and writings |
| BOX 11 | By Solomon, 1903-1942, undated |
| BOX 11 | Unidentified, undated |
| BOX 11 | University of Illinois, Urbana, Ill., 1904, 1916 |
| BOX 11 | World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago, Ill., 1893 |
| BOX 11 | Jewish Women's Congress |
| BOX 11 | Attendance register |
| BOX 11 | Papers delivered |
| BOX 12 | Resolution re founding of National Council of Jewish Women |
| BOX 12 | <i>Songs of Zion</i> |
| BOX 12 | Printed matter, 1892-1893 |
| BOX OV 1 | Oversize |
| BOX OV 1 | Birthday greetings, 1933, undated (Container 1) |
| BOX OV 1 | Clippings, 1907 (Container 4) |
| BOX OV 1 | National Council of Jewish Women |
| BOX OV 1 | Conventions |
| BOX OV 1 | Miscellany, 1902 (Container 8) |