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Walter P. Reuther Library

Guide to the JCA: Isidore Sobeloff Papers UP002759

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English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Walter P. Reuther Library

5401 Cass Avenue

Detroit, MI 48202

URL: <https://reuther.wayne.edu>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Walter P. Reuther Library
Creator:	Sobeloff, Isidore
Creator:	Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit
Title:	JCA: Isidore Sobeloff Papers
ID:	UP002759
Date [inclusive]:	1918-1992
Physical Description:	2 Linear Feet (2 MB, 1 SB)
Language of the Material:	English
Language of the Material:	Material entirely in English.
Abstract:	Isidore "Soby" Sobeloff (1894-1995) was the Director of the Jewish Welfare Federation of Detroit from 1937 to 1964. During his tenure, he made the Jewish philanthropic campaign in Detroit among the most effective in the United States. Sobeloff also served in other leadership roles in the Jewish community, including Secretary of the Allotment Committee of the United Jewish Appeal (1942), President of the National Conference of Jewish Social Welfare (1944), and member of the Jewish Center Division Executive Committee, National Jewish Welfare Board. From 1964 through 1969, Sobeloff served as the Director of the Jewish Federation Council of Greater Los Angeles. The bulk of this collection comprises professional and personal correspondence, as well as speeches written by Sobeloff for various organizations.

Citation Style

Leonard N. Simons Jewish Community Archives, Isidore Sobeloff Papers," Box [#], Folder [#],
Walter P. Reuther Library, Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University

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History

Isidore "Soby" Sobeloff was born on August 30, 1894, in Baltimore, Maryland. In his early career, Sobeloff worked as a reporter and later city editor. In 1922, Sobeloff enrolled in the Jewish Welfare Board Training School. Upon completion of the course, he became Executive Director of the Jewish Community Center in New Jersey.

In 1932, Sobeloff married Edith Mozorosky, and the Sobeloffs had one son, Jonathan.

From 1937 to 1964, Sobeloff was the Director of the Jewish Welfare Federation of Detroit. During his tenure, he made the Jewish philanthropic campaign in Detroit among the most effective in the United States. Prior to Sobeloff coming to Detroit, the Allied Jewish Campaign had raised \$350,690 from 9,908 contributors. In 1942, under Sobeloff's leadership, the Allied Jewish Campaign raised \$900,000 and had over 22,000 contributions. During Sobeloff's tenure in Detroit, he raised more than \$125 million. Sobeloff also served in many other positions, including Secretary of the Allotment Committee of the United Jewish Appeal (1942), President of the National Conference of Jewish Social Welfare (1944), and member of the Jewish Center Division Executive Committee, National Jewish Welfare Board.

From 1964 through 1969, Sobeloff served as Director of the Jewish Federation Council of Greater Los Angeles.

Isidore Sobeloff died in November 1995, at the age of 99.

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Scope and Content

The bulk of this collection comprises professional and personal correspondence, as well as speeches written by Sobeloff for various organizations. The memory letters from Sobeloff's 97th birthday, including the parody "That Was the Week That Was," give a more personal look at his legacy.

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Arrangement

Folders are mainly arranged alphabetically. Box 3 contains oversized books and posters.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

Proofread and updated by Aimee Ergas. 2020-07-09.

Acquisition

Papers donated to the Leonard N. Simons Jewish Community Archives by the Sobeloffs' granddaughters, Susan, Debbie and Judy Sobeloff, in November 2015. Deposited at the Reuther Library in 2016.

Processing History

Processed and finding aid written by volunteers of the Leonard N. Simons Jewish Community Archives.

Access

Collection is open for research.

Use

Refer to the Walter P. Reuther Library Rules for Use of Archival Materials.

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Related Materials

Related Materials

Jewish Community Archives collections at the Reuther Library, especially the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit Records.

Transfers

Photographs are housed at the Leonard N. Simons Jewish Community Archives, Max M. Fisher Federation Building, Bloomfield Hills, MI.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Social service
- United Jewish Appeal

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
American Jewish Congress, circa 1933	box 1	folder 1
Articles, 1942 September-1969 August	box 1	folder 2
Better Times Welfare, magazine, 1935 March 4	box 1	folder 3
Biographical, 1942-1981	box 1	folder 4
A Committee Looks to You, brochure, 1950	box 1	folder 5
Correspondence: Business, 1922-1992	box 1	folder 6
Correspondence: Personal, undated and 1926-1997	box 1	folder 7
Hebrew Union College, 1969-1970	box 1	folder 8
Lawsuit, Sobeloff vs. Slyder, 1918	box 1	folder 9
Memorial Letter, 97th birthday, 1996	box 1	folder 10
Oral History (incomplete), conducted by Council of Jewish Federations, 1985 March 5	box 1	folder 11

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Pamphlets, 1935-1966	box 1	folder 12
Papers, 1935-1966	box 1	folder 13
Parody: "That Was the Week That Was," 1964 June 10	box 2	folder 1
Journal of Jewish Communal Services, publication, 1950, 1972, 1978	box 2	folder 2
Simon Sobeloff, various documents, undated and 1954-1992,	box 2	folder 3
Speeches, undated and 1945-1952	box 2	folder 4
Speeches, undated and 1954-1976	box 2	folder 5
Future Development of the Home for Aged and Infirm Hebrews, study, 1937 March	box 2	folder 6
Book: Inquiry of the United Jewish Appeal, by Elisha M. Friedman, 1940	box 3	folder 1
Book: Proceedings of the National Conference of Jewish Social Service, 1933	box 3	folder 2
Book: The Function of a Sectarian Welfare Program in a Multi-Group Society, by Arnold Gurin, 1965	box 3	folder 3
Book: The Turbulent Decades, 1958-1978, Volume 1, by Graenum Berger	box 3	folder 4
Book: The Turbulent Decades, 1958-1978, Volume 2, by Graenum Berger	box 3	folder 5
National Conference of Jewish Communal Service, certificate, 1973	box 3	folder 6
Poster: International Conference of Jewish Communal Service, 1985	box 3	folder 7
Poster: World Conference of Jewish Communal Service, 1989	box 3	folder 8
Poster: Family Motto, 1992	box 3	folder 9