

Alvin Goldstein papers

Ms. Coll. 1060

Finding aid prepared by Clemence Scouten.

Last updated on April 09, 2015.

University of Pennsylvania, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts

2015 April 1

Table of Contents

Summary Information.....	3
Biography/History.....	4
Scope and Contents.....	4
Administrative Information.....	5
Controlled Access Headings.....	5
Collection Inventory.....	7
I. Student organizations.....	7
II. Jewish Organizations and Publications.....	7

Summary Information

Repository	University of Pennsylvania: Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts
Creator	Goldstein, Alvin, 1934-2014
Title	Alvin Goldstein papers
Call number	Ms. Coll. 1060
Date [inclusive]	1951-1956
Extent	0.8 linear feet (2 boxes)
Language	English
Language Note	The bulk of the material is in English, however, there is a small amount of material in Hebrew.
Abstract	<p>The Alvin Goldstein papers document the period during which Mr. Goldstein (1934-2014) attended the University of Minnesota and was involved in student Zionist organizations. The early 1950s were a critical time for Zionists, just years after the establishment of the State of Israel, and on the eve of the 1956 Suez crisis and Israel-Arab war. The collection consists of a diverse yet integrally related group of ephemeral materials. There are newsletters, brochures, pamphlets, reports, correspondence, and convention programs. Notably, there is detailed information about the founding and first two conventions of the Student Zionist Organization (SZO) and their related activities.</p>

Cite as:

Alvin Goldstein papers, 1951-1956, Ms. Coll. 1060, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts, University of Pennsylvania

Biography/History

Born in 1934, Alvin Goldstein grew up in the small town of Solon, North Dakota, which was located on a Native American reservation and where his father owned and operated the general store. The family went to Bismarck, North Dakota annually for the Jewish holidays in order to have contact with other Jewish families. When Goldstein turned sixteen, his parents became concerned with the lack of Jewish community in the area, so the family (Goldstein had two younger sisters) moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota. There, his family became active members of the Jewish community including membership at the Adath Jeshurun synagogue, where Goldstein was involved in United Synagogue Youth (USY) when it was first being formed.

Goldstein attended the University of Minnesota, graduating in 1956 with a degree in soil chemistry and with the intention of making aliyah and using his education to contribute to advances in agriculture in Israel. During his time at the University of Minnesota, Goldstein was both a member and an officer in numerous pro-Israel and Zionist organizations. He traveled to conferences and attended and helped to organize pro-Israel events on campus as a student. While at the university, he met his future wife Judy (who graduated in 1958) at Hillel House on campus.

From 1956 to 1958, Goldstein served in the United States Army and was stationed in Illinois working on missile propellant development. After the Goldstein's marriage, they continued as active members in many Jewish clubs and organizations including those pertaining to the newly established State of Israel. They raised their three children in St. Louis Park, Minnesota. Goldstein died in 2014.

Scope and Contents

The majority of this collection documents the period during which Mr. Goldstein attended the University of Minnesota in the early 1950s and his involvement in student Zionist organizations at a critical time just years after the establishment of the State of Israel, and on the eve of the 1956 Suez crisis and Israel-Arab war.

The collection consists of a diverse yet integrally related group of ephemeral materials. There are newsletters, brochures, pamphlets, reports, correspondence, and convention programs. Notably, there is detailed information about the founding and first two conventions of the Student Zionist Organization (SZO) and their related activities. Goldstein's material relating to student organizations covers the period of

1951 to 1955.

There are numerous printed ephemeral items related to the Jewish National Fund; the programs and educational materials prepared for the first two national conventions of the SZO (1954 and 1955), including convention regulations and a list of chapters; information related to the 50th commemoration of the death of Theodore Herzl, the founding leader of political Zionism, in 1955; a list of publications of the Youth and Chalutzit Department of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, in 1955; and efforts by the SZO to support Israel through fundraising in support of the American Friends of the Hebrew University and the Jewish National and University Library.

Among the noteworthy publications in the collection, dating from 1952 to 1956, are issues of the *Student Zionist*; the *Student Zionist Collegiate*; the *Reconstructionist*; the *Hadassah Newsletter*; the *American Zionist*; *American Jewish World*; *Israel Digest*; *Israel Speaks*; *Mikhlalah* (the Hebrew-language newspaper of the Hebrew department of the SZO); *'Iton HaEzor* (monthly midwest newspaper published by the Jewish leadership of the Chicago metropolitan area); the *Eternal Light*; and the *Jewish Frontier*.

Administrative Information

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Access Restrictions

This collection is open for research.

Use Restrictions

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Source of Acquisition

Gift of Susan and Evan Goldstein, 2015.

Controlled Access Headings

CORPORATE NAME(S)

- Student Zionist Organization.
- University of Minnesota.

FORM/GENRE(S)

- Correspondence
- Minutes (administrative records)
- Newsletters
- Publications

SUBJECT(S)

- Jewish college students
- Student activities--United States
- Universities and colleges--United States--Religion
- Zionism--United States

Collection Inventory

I. STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS, 1951-1955.

	Box	Folder
B'nai B'rith Hillel, correspondence and publicity, 1955.	1	1
Israel America Club, correspondence and documents relating to the Hebrew University, 1954.	1	2
Israel America Club, correspondence, organization records and publicity, 1954-1955.	1	3
Student Zionist Organization, correspondence, 1954-1956.	1	4
Student Zionist Organization, national minutes and organization records, 1954-1955.	1	5
Student Zionist Organization, conventions and summer camp, 1954-1955.	1	6
Student Zionist Organization, newsletters and publications, circa 1954-1955.	1	7
United Synagogue Youth, correspondence, organization records, newsletters and conference information, 1951.	1	8
Miscellaneous organizations, correspondence and publicity, 1954.	1	9

II. JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS, 1954-1956.

	Box	Folder
American Zionist Council, publications, 1954-1956.	2	1
<i>Hadassah Newsletter</i> , 1954-1955.	1	10
<i>Israel Digest</i> , 1955-1956.	2	2
Israel Office of Information, publications, 1954-1956.	1	11
<i>Israel Speaks</i> , 1955-1956.	2	3-4
Jewish Agency of Palestine, publications, 1955.	2	5
<i>Jewish Frontier</i> , 1955.	2	6
Jewish National Fund, publications, 1955.	2	7
Miscellaneous Jewish publications, 1954-1955.	2	8
Miscellaneous newspaper clippings, 1954-1956.	2	9