

The Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People Jerusalem (CAHJP)

REBECCA GERTRUDE AFFACHINER COLLECTION – P 85

Ms. Rebecca Gertrude Affachiner was born in New York City in 1884. In 1934 she settled in Palestine, where she lived – except for extended trips abroad – until her death in 1966. She was an active figure in Jewish public service in the United States until 1934 and in Israel from the time of her *aliya* to the mid 1950's.

The following biographical sketch, which was found among Ms. Affachiner's papers, describes her various activities. A matter not mentioned in it, but subsequently indicated in her archives, was the management in Israel, during the 1940's, of an import-export company, on whose behalf she apparently traveled to the United States after World War II.

Affachiner attended the School of Philanthropy and Art School in New York. She was the first teacher to graduate from the Jewish Theological Seminary, New York City; she took special courses at Columbia and Yale Universities and Hartford College of Law, etc. She began her career in social work as an investigator for the United Hebrew Charities, New York City, later serving as Assistant Superintendent at Beth Israel Hospital, Y.W.H.A. Superintendent Columbia Religious and Industrial School for Jewish Girls; leader of girl's clubs at the Educational Alliance, Recreation Rooms and Settlements, etc. She was the first woman to act as chaplain in a State Institution, serving in that capacity at the New York State Training School, Hudson, N.Y., under the auspices of the New York Section, Council of Jewish Women.

During World War I, Affachiner was Assistant Regional Director of the American Embarkation Center, Le Man, leaving for France with the first women's unit of the Jewish Welfare Board. Upon her return from service overseas, she conducted a survey for Child Welfare for the United Jewish Aid Society of Brooklyn, N.Y., later making a study of the problem of the Jewish blind, in the same city. For six years, she served as Superintendent of the United Jewish Charities in Hartford and was actively interested in the Connecticut State School for the Blind. Being a pioneer in work among juvenile delinquents, she was responsible for the earliest developments of the Jewish Big Sisters Movement in New York City, and founded the Jewish Big Sister and Big Brother Organizations in Hartford shortly after coming there in 1920.

In May 1923 Affachiner was appointed a Juvenile Commissioner of the City of Hartford, and in 1924 Governor Templeton chose her to represent the State of Connecticut at the International Conference of Social Workers, meeting in Toronto, Canada. She also served as Vice President of the New England

Social Workers, Secretary of the Advisory Board, Y.M. and Y.M.H.A. of Hartford Director of the Travelers Aid Society in that city. In 1926 she made a tour of Palestine, Egypt, Italy, and the Near East; upon her return to America she was appointed the first National Field Secretary of Hadassah, of which she was a charter member. From 1929 to1934 Affachiner was Director of Jewish Social Service for Greater Norfolk Va. Under the Auspices of the Norfolk Section National Council of Jewish Women, she also founded and directed Council House, the first Jewish Community Center in that city. In 1929 she was elected to represent Norfolk at the World Zionist Congress held in Zurich, Switzerland. In 1934 after resigning her post in Norfolk, Ms. Affachiner returned to Palestine. Shortly after her arrival in Jerusalem she organized the Palestine Society for Crippled Children (later ALYN), acting as its Director of Social Service and in whose interest she made a trip around the world. In 1937 she helped organize the Rumanian Settlers' Association (*Hitahdut Olei Rumania*) of which she became the Director, and in whose interest she had visited Rumania and the USA 1937-38.

1939 she was the only woman asked to serve on the Executive *Vaad* of the Child Placement Bureau Jerusalem – *Miklat Dati*. She was one of the Jewish Charter Members of the American Association of Social Workers, International Conference of Social Work. She is listed in "Who's Who among American Jews" American Hebrew, 1923, and "Women of 1924" – International.

Affachiner traveled extensively throughout the world. In 1924 she went to Mexico to study the conditions under which the Jews lived there, and the possibilities for settling the Polish Jewish refugees flocking, not only there and to Cuba, but to other Central American countries as well. In 1925 she went to Spain and Portugal, being interested in the problem of the modern *Marranos*. In 1930 she visited South America, in 1931 she went to Poland and in 1932 to Soviet Russia, being primarily interested in the Jewish problem in these countries.

Most of Affachiner's material left to the CAHJP has been retained by the Archives and is listed on the following pages. The material was transferred to the CAHJP in October 1966 by Dr. P. Jacobi, executor of Ms. Affachiner's estate and Mr. Ezra Gorodetsky. In May 1968 the CAHJP also received the appointment books of Ms. Affachiner, which were added as appendix to the list. The collection was arranged by Hadassah Kellman in January 1968.

PERSONAL

Documents

1 oversize	Theological Seminary of America, diploma certifying Ms. Affachiner as a teacher of Hebrew (signed by Solomon Schechter)	June 1907
2a-c	Three United States passports issued to Ms. Affachiner	1913, 1923, 1938
3	 Letters certifying Ms. Affachiner's work as a newspaper correspondent, 1924, 1933 Government of Palestine Press Card issued to Ms. Affachiner, 1935 	1924 - 1935
4a-b	Keren Kayment: two certificates, issued to Ms. Affachiner	no date
oversize	Hebr., Engl.	
4c oversize	Registry documents for land near Ramallah, purchased by Ms. Affachiner	1937 - 1943
13a	Various identification cards, receipts from Israel etc. Hebr.	no date
Cor	respondence	
5a	 Private correspondence, greeting cards, copies of a letter sent by Ms. Affachiner, notes Engl., Hebr. 	1913 - 1956
5b	 Recommendation from the American Consulate in Rome for an audience of Ms. Affachiner with the Pope Invitation to the White House for Ms. Affachiner, 1931 	1926, 1931
5c	Invitations Engl., Hebr.	1912 - 1965
Vai	ria	
6	Scrap book with newspaper clippings on R.G. Affachiner	1921 - 1938
7	Diary of a trip through New York State, Canada and New England	1908, 1909
8	Diary of case records, New York State	1917
9	Memorandum book including record of a trip to South Africa	1958
10	Photographs - personal and family	no date
11 oversize	Portrait of Ms. Affachiner's father, Issac Affachiner	no date
12	Miscellaneous visiting cards	no date
13b	Copies of reports and newspaper clippings with articles about Ms. Affachiner and institutions she was affiliated with	1906 - 1967

13c	Family trees and notes <u>Incl</u> : exchanges between Elka Farfel nee Affachiner and Marcella Brenner, Ms. Affachiner's niece	No dates 1974, 1988
	Bremer, ws. Arraemmer's meec	1774, 1700
PUBLIC A	CTIVITIES – UNITED STATES	
14a	"Jewish Welfare Board", Le Mans, France - two letters	1919 - 1920
14b	"United Jewish Charities in Hartford, Connecticut" – letters and membership card	1921 - 1926
14c	"Juvenile Commissioner of the City of Hartford"Certificate and telegram re Ms. Affachiner's election as a member of the Board of Juvenile Commissionersinvitations for meetings	1923 - 1926
14d	"Hadassah" Organization – correspondence, invitation for a <i>Hadassah Sabbath</i> with Ms. Affachiner	1926 - 1934, 1956
14e	"Norfolk Virginia Section, National Council of Jewish Women" - letters, forms, programs for activities and printed matter	1929 - 1934
Public A	CTIVITIES – PALESTINE AND ISRAEL	
'' <i>A</i>	Alyn'' and other social organizations	
15	"Alyn" (The Palestine Society for Crippled Children) – correspondence, minutes, invitations for activities, papers, articles, photos	1935 - 1938
16	"Alyn" (The Palestine Society for Crippled Children) – Correspondence concerning donation of candies to ALYN	1953 - 1954
17	"Alyn" (The Palestine Society for Crippled Children) – notes, programs etc.	no date
18	"The Boys' Shelter", Jerusalem – statutes, correspondence, budget etc.	1940 - 1941
19	"Child Home Placement Bureau (<i>Miklat Dati</i>), Jerusalem – letters and papers	1938 - 1939
20	"Agricultural Training Centre for Palestine Children, David Florentin " – letters and statutes Incl.: letters to Ms. Affachiner from Recha Freier Engl., Hebr.	1942
20a	"Institute of Jewish Social Research for Palestine, Jerusalem Industrial and Trade School" – proposed program	Nov. 1934
91	Invitations to various public ceremonies in Jerusalem	1955 - 1965

Rumanian Jews

21	"Hitachdut Olei Rumania" (Society for Rumanian Immigrants) - papers, correspondence, finances, notes and photos Incl.: - letters from Stephen Wise, Jan. 1938 - letter from Abba Hillel Silver, 24. March 1938 - letter from Louis Lipsky, 28. March 1938 - letter to Senator Alben Barkely, 7. March 1938 Engl., Hebr., Rumanian	1937 - 1943
24	"Hitachdut Olei Rumania" (Society for Rumanian Immigrants) - minutes of committee meetings Rumanian	1949
25	"Hitachdut Olei Rumania" (Society for Rumanian Immigrants), Jerusalem - papers and correspondence Incl.: Renasterea Noastra (newspaper), 2.3.1950, 31.8.1950 Engl., Hebr., Rumanian	1950 - 1951
26	"Hitachdut Olei Rumania" (Society for Rumanian Immigrants) - individual cases Engl., Hebr.	no date
27	"Hitachdut Olei Rumania" (Society for Rumanian Immigrants) - varia Incl.: - "Ziele und Grundsätze der Organisation OWDEI JISRAEL" (socialistic colonist labour organization), no date - Propaganda of Hitachdut Olei Germania (שבועון) 1941 לאוגוסט 1941 (שבועון) 1938 ניו-יארקער וואכנבלאט", 22 ליוני 1938 - Rumanian anti-Semitic circular [1937] - Letterhead and pamphlet of the "Altneuland Group" sponsor of "The Haifa Zebulun Seafaring Society" Engl., Hebr., Yiddish, Rumanian, German	1937 - 1941
22	The Rumanian Jewish War Effort Fund – correspondence	1939 - 1942
23	The Council of Rumanian Jews of America – papers and correspondence Incl.: - Journal of United Rumanian Jews of America - Letterheads of Central Rumanian Committee of America	1938 - 1946
Va	arious organizations	
28	The Orient Service Ltd. (Import-Export Company) – correspondence and papers	1940 - 1946
29	Jerusalem Beth-Am – three letters proposing erection of the institution	1948 - 1949
30	Hadassah Hospital – correspondence concerning the dedication of the nursing school in the new hospital in <i>Ein Karem</i> to Henriette Szold <u>Incl.</u> : photos	1958
31	"Hechal Shlomo" – correspondence concerning dedication of a room to Ms. Affachiner	1958, 1961
32	"Keren Kaymeth Leisrael" – correspondence concerning Ms. Affachiner 's donation of land in Staten Island, New York to the Keren Kayemet	1945 - 1953

CORRESP	ONDENCE	
35	General correspondence in public matters Engl., Hebr.	1933 - 1962
34	Correspondence concerning Max Bodenheimer and other matters with his daughter, Hannah Engl., German	1941 - 1958, 1961
33	Letters to the <i>Palestine Post</i> (Jerusalem Post)	1942 - 1955
WRITING	S BY R.G. AFFACHINER	
36	Articles on World Travels: Alaska	no date
37	Manuscript: Jews in many lands	no date
38	Typescript: Jewish Refugees in Cuba	no date
39	Typescript: Jews in Germany	no date
40	Typescript: The Jews of Mexico	no date
41	Typescript: My Impressions of Poland	no date
42	Typescript: Soviet Russia 1932	no date
43	Typescript: Jews in Spain	no date
44	Several manuscripts and typescripts concerning Jewish social service	no dates
45	Several manuscripts and typescripts on Jewish and social topics	1909 - 1933, no date
46	Short stories	no date
Рнотоб	RAPHS	
Je	ewish Interest	
47	Douglas, Arizona (U.S.): Young Men's Association	1916
48	France: Jewish Welfare Board activities with American forces	1919
49	Granada and Toledo: Synagogues	1925
50	Krakow and Warsaw, Poland: Jewish interest	1931
51	Nieśwież (Poland, today Belarus): Affachiner family background	1931
52	Russia: a Jewish Kolkhoz near Odessa	1932
53	Bombay, India: members of the "Bene Israel" Community	1936
54	Palestine: general	1936 - [1947]
55	MiscellaneousVan Eyck's "Triumph of the Church over the Synagogue"Post-Card depicting the synagogue in Florence, Italy	no date

1920 - 1924

General Interest

56	New York City: Young Man's Christian Association War Workers in Training	1918
57	France: American Forces	1919
58	Russia: guided tour	1932
59	World travels: varia	1930 - 1933

PRINTED MATTER - UNITED STATES

Newspapers and Bulletins

60 oversize	"Jewish News" (Weekly) 5.7.1918; 20.9.1918	1918
61	"The Ounce", Big Brother and Big Sister Federation (Monthly)	May 1923
62	"The American Hebrew" (National Jewish Weekly) 1.6.1923, 7.12.1923	1923
69	Jewish Welfare Board News Bulletin "The Shield within the Circle" Vol. 1, no 1 & 2, April & Oct. 1923	1923
63	"Monticello Bulletin" 5.3.1927	1927
64	"Hadassah News Letter" Jan. 1927, Dec. 1930	1927, 1930
71	National Council of Jewish Women, Norfolk, Virginia Section "The Bulletin" Feb. 1929, May 1929, Nov.1929, May 1930, March 1932, 1933-1934	1929 - 1934
65	"Jewish Frontier" 30.5.1936	1936
80	Various clippings from local newspapers	1919 - 1925
Pri	nted matter from Jewish organizations	
67	Council of Jewish Women, New York Section – Year Book 1918-1919 (5679)	1919
68	The Jewish Welfare Board – Final Report of War Emergency Activities	1920
73-76	 Young Women's Hebrew Association (YWHA), Hartford Connecticut Constitution, 1920 Annual Report, 1922 Bulletin, Nov. 1922 	1920 - 1923

United Jewish Charities of Hartford, Connecticut – Annual Reports

- "The 'Y' Standard", Dec. 1923

1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924

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77	"Connecticut Hebrew Record", the Jewish Home Periodical Aug. 1920, June 1922	1920, 1922
70	"The Training School for Jewish Social Work" – Announcement	1926 - 1927
78	"The Jewish Theological Seminary of America" – Register 1926-1927 (5687)	1927
66	First Yassier Association – Revised Constitution	1931
79	"Jewish Charity", a monthly review of general Jewish charity	Oct. 1905
PRINTED	MATTER – PALESTINE AND ISRAEL	
N	ewspapers	
82	"הרפואה", עתון רפואי עברי (העתקה מודפסת)	1934
83	"Acta Medica Scandinavica", Medical journal featuring an article by the Jerusalem doctor, F. Bodenheim	1934
99	"Jerusalem Post" and other clippings	1934 - 1963
96	"Palestine Review", Jerusalem	Sept. 1937
97	"דבר השבוע, שבועון עממי מצויר לארץ ולגולה"	March 1951
98	"Israel Digest", Jerusalem (Weekly) 15.7.1966, 9.9.1966	1966
В	rochures and pamphlets	
81	 2 reports of "Waad Leumi, Jewish Community of Palestine General Council Social" Service in Palestine, Care of Jewish delinquent Boys 	1932
84	הגדה של פסח, רמת רחל	1937
85	"Beth Ha'am, Jerusalem" – various printed matter	1940
86	"Association of Americans and Canadians in Israel" - Bulletin	Feb. 1955
87	אוצר התישבות היהודים בערבון מוגבל" – דין-וחשבון, מאזן"	Dec. 1957
88	Address by Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion on receiving the Henrietta Szold award	June 1958
89	"Women's International League for Peace and Freedom" (W.I.L.P.F.), Jerusalem – mimeographed material	1958
95	Background notes on Eilat and Vicinity	1960
90	"Bar-Ilan University" – statistical report for the academic year 1961/62	1962
В	ooks and booklets	
92	במסילת ראשונים, לזכר מ. בודנהיימר (with personal dedication to R. Affachiner)	1957
93	יצחק ר. מלכו, <i>רבי משה אלמושנינו</i> , חייו וספריו	1942

1941

1942

(1899 - 1916)

94	Yitzchak Molcho, "Le President Yitzchak Ben Zvi", French	1952
PRINTED 1	Matter – India	
100	"The Jewish Tribune", Bombay, India	Feb. 1936
101	"The Jewish Advocate", Bombay, India	Feb. 1936
APPENDIX	X – DIARIES AND APPOINTMENT BOOKS	
102	Trip to Europe – Diary	July - Aug.1913
103	 Trip to California – Diary, July-Aug. 1915 Trip in America and on sea – Diary, AugSept. 1916 	1915, 1916
104	Hudson Valley, weekly visits; notes	1916 - 1919
105	Trips to Europe, Jewish Welfare Board – Diary	1918 - 1919, 1923
106	Appointment book (almost empty)	1919
107	Idem	1928
108	Idem	1929
109	Idem	1930
110	Idem	1931
111	Idem	1932
112	Idem	1933
113	Trip to Russia – Diary	July - Aug. 1932
114	Trip to America – Diary	June-July 1933
115	Appointment book, notebook	1934 - 1938
116	Appointment book	1938

Idem

Idem

Court records, Hudson Valley

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118

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