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MS-763: Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman Collection, 1930-2004.

Series F: Life in Israel, 1956-1983.

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Friedman, Herbert A. Biography/resume. undated.

For more information on this collection, please see the finding aid on the
American Jewish Archives website.

BIOGRAPHICAL RESUME - HERBERT A. FRIEDMAN

Herbert Friedman was born in New Haven, Connecticut, USA, on September 25, 1918. His parents migrated to the United States from Vilna in the 1890's.

He graduated from Yale University (B.A.) in 1938; attended Columbia University Graduate School of Business Administration; graduated from the Jewish Institute of Religion with the degree M.H.L. (Master of Hebrew Literature) and Rabbi, in January 1944. This rabbinical seminary was unique in that its founder, Rabbi Stephen Wise, attempted to create an environment where students from orthodox and liberal backgrounds could study together, enjoying mutual respect from one another, and the traditions of a united people.

Friedman was then sent to Temple Emanuel in Colorado, where he served for one year; qualified to enter the United States Army as a Chaplain for almost three years; then returned to Denver and remained there until 1952.

During his army service, which took place in Germany, Herbert Friedman was the Jewish Chaplain (Captain) of the 9th Infantry Division, and later of the Berlin Headquarters Command. He was then transferred to Frankfurt as assistant to the Advisor on Jewish Affairs to the U.S. General commanding the European Theater. During this same period he served in the Hagana in the Aliya Bet Program. He was subsequently decorated by the State of Israel for that service.

Upon his return to the United States he was enlisted by the United Jewish Appeal as the Chairman of its Speaker's Bureau, and served for many years in that capacity, speaking in hundreds of communities throughout the United States.

In early 1952 he accepted the call to the Congregation Emanuel in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and remained there until summoned by the United Jewish Appeal in 1955, to be its Chief Executive Officer. He remained in that position almost 18 years, developing the policies and programs which were necessary to interpret Israel's and World Jewry's needs to American Jewry. He travelled constantly and extensively to Morocco, Rumania, Iran, France, Austria, and most often to Israel, in order to study problems at first hand, and then create campaign strategies and techniques to meet current situations.

Among the major programs he created were Missions to Israel and Europe, in 1955, which inspired contributors by bringing them to the scene of action; the Young Leadership Movement which has provided a constant flow of dedicated and ideologically committed men into positions of community leadership; the Israel Education Fund in 1964, which has provided an extra flow funds into the building of high schools, kindergartens and other educational facilities; and the Israel Emergency Fund in 1967, which perpetuated the higher levels of giving after the Six Day War. In 1971 he migrated with his family and now lives in Jerusalem. Settlement in Israel with his family represents fulfilment of a lifetime commitment to the survival for the Jewish people and the development of the Jewish State.

Friedman has appeared, during the years, all over the Jewish world, on behalf of the Keren Hayesod and the local campaigns. He has been invited to Australia and South Africa, Canada and England, as well as many countries in Western Europe. He is in great demand to appear in Israel as a speaker to appear before the many missions which come from these countries, as well, of course, as speaker to the UJA missions which come from the United States.

He is currently working on a project which he has dreamed about for many years, which combines the values of Zionism and Judaism with education, character building and leadership training. The project involves the establishment, near Jerusalem, of an international boarding school to be called the Jerusalem Academy, for students of high school age, half of whom shall come from within Israel and half from the Diaspora. Adjacent to the school will be a cultural center-conference center for adults.

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In 1971 he migrated to Israel with his family and now lives in Jerusalem and Caesarea. Settlement in Israel with his family represents fulfilment of a lifetime commitment to the survival of the Jewish people and the development of the Jewish state.

While continuing to serve UJA, and speaking for Keren Hayesod in other countries, he has assumed another responsibility, namely the development of a liberal, progressive religious movement in Israel. He feels that this is necessary in order to add to the quality of Jewish life in the national homeland. He is currently serving as Director of Planning and Development for the World Education Center for Progressive Judaism.