

The *Sincerely, Mendel* Collection

This digital collection consists of primary source material found in a variety of archives, personal collections and organisational databases across South Africa, Israel, the USA and the UK. The documents contained in this collection reflect Kaplan's leadership in Jewish communal life on the local, national, and international stage from the early 1970s until 2009.

The collection is organised according to the country and archives or databases in which material was found. The Kaplan Centre for Jewish Studies at the University of Cape Town extends its sincere gratitude to the various archives, institutions and private individuals that allowed us to digitise this material. The Kaplan Centre does not claim ownership of material found in institutional archives or private collections.

The material in our collection may not be reproduced, displayed, broadcast, or published without the further written permission from the institutions it belongs to.

When using documents in this collection to produce new work, please reference the archive it was found in rather than The *Sincerely Mendel* Collection, unless the items you are referencing belong to Mendel Kaplan's Home Office and Office in Storage, the material recovered from Cape Gate, or the Sharon Kaplan Home series. For ease of reference, we have recorded, and used as folder names, all original archival reference codes as far as possible. Some institutions did not have archival reference coding systems. In these instances, it may be best to reference the institution and the file name assigned by us.

The file naming protocol for this collection prioritises dates, then type of document, then persons, title of document, or events. Many of the documents were undated, so we attempted to estimate (circa) based on the context and date-ranges of the files they were found in. In cases where it was impossible to estimate, the filenames start with 0000-00-00.

All documents (English, Afrikaans and Hebrew) have been run through optical character recognition (OCR) software to make pdf text searchable. No verification of OCR was done as the timeframe for such an effort was prohibitively large. Ergo, any misrecognitions by the software were not corrected. Researchers must adapt their search terms in light of this.

All material was collected by Marina Geldenhuys and David Fachler during the period April 2023 to December 2024. Additional material may be added from time to time.

Please direct queries to the Kaplan Centre Research Manager: info@sincerelymendel.co.za / +27 (0)21 650 3062

Israel Archives and Collections

[The Central Zionist Archive](#)

Keren Hayesod Collection

Date range: 1975-1987

Content: Miscellaneous correspondence, lists, memos, minutes, reports, financial statements, speeches, and summaries relating to Kaplan and Keren Hayesod, and the following topics and organisations – IUA campaigns, the combination of IUA and UCF campaigns, IUA-UCF campaigns, SA delegates to JAFI assembly, South African Board of Jewish Education, South African Jewish Board of Deputies, South African Zionist Federation, Southern African Union for Progressive Judaism.

Resources from folders coded: F24-11-1; F24-19; F24-21; F24-22; F24-25; F24-1380; KH4-52-182; KH4-52-183; KH4-52-977; KH4-52-978; KH4-52-979; KH4-52-980; KH4-52-981; KH4-52-985; KH4-1706; KH4-1710; KH4-1725; KH4-40116; KH4-40451; KH4-40456; KH4-40457; KH4-40459; KH4-40460; KH4-40461; KH4-40462; KH4-40463; KH4-40464; KH4-40779; KH4-40886; KH4-40942; KH4-40951; KH4-41711; KH4-41713; KH4-41724; KH4-41725; KH4-50636; KH4-52972; KH4-52983; KH4-404581.

World Jewish Congress Collection

Date range: 1981-1991

Content: Correspondence relating to South African Union of Jewish Students (SAUJS), World Jewish Congress (WJC), and World Union of Jewish Students (WUJS).

Resources from folders coded: C15-44; F50-135; F50-361; F50-561.

[The Israel State Archive](#)

Date range: 1978-1994

Content: Correspondence relating to the Development Corporation for Israel, Jerusalem Foundation, Embassy of Israel, and Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI).

Resources from folders coded: CL2266_10; CL12889_6; CL13284_16; CL15448_3; CL15488_7; CL18675_5; CL20374_7; CL23883_31; CL57506_8; FA7078_14; FA7571_14; FA8743_8; FA10190_1; FA16928_1.

[Documents from Jacky Warman, Company Secretary of Keren Hayesod 2000-present](#)

Date range: 2005-2009

Content: Kaplan's correspondence relating to the following organisations and topics – Advise and Consent, Beyachad, European Jewish Congress, Israel United Appeal (IUA), Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), Keren Hayesod, South African Jewish Board of Deputies (SAJBD), South African Zionist Federation (SAZF), South African Union of Jewish Students (SAUJS), Telfed, United Communal Fund (UCF), United Jewish Communities (UJC), World Zionist Organisation (WZO), World Jewish Congress (WJC).

No reference codes. Resources forwarded by Jacky Warman as dated Word documents which we converted to OCR pdfs.

[The Jewish Agency for Israel Document Warehouse, Tsrifin, IS](#)

Date range: 1978-1994

Content: Miscellaneous correspondence, memos, and minutes relating to the following organisations and topics – Ben Gurion University, Central Agency for Jewish Education, Chitayat Working Group, the Israeli Forum, Council of Jewish Federations, Ethiopian Jewry, IUA-UCF, JAFI Annual Assemblies, JAFI Comptroller's Office, JAFI Dept of Immigration & Absorption, JAFI Dept for Renewal and Development, JAFI Dept of Rural Settlement, JAFI Dept of Youth Aliyah, JAFI Finance Dept, Jewish Education Service of North America (JESNA), Jewish Welfare Federation of Detroit (JWFD), the Joint Authority for Jewish Zionist Education, the Joint Distribution Committee, National Council of Young Israel, The Kaplan Centre, Keren Pardes, South African Board of Jewish Education (SABJE), South African Zionist Federation (SAZF), Soviet Jewry, Soviet Jewry Zionist Forum, Union of American Hebrew Congregations, United Israel Appeal of Canada, United Jewish Appeal, various JAFI subcommittees, World Ort Union, World Union of Jewish Students (WUJS), World Zionist Organisation (WZO), WZO Dept of Immigration & Absorption, Yeshiva College.

Resources from folders coded: JA1191_975; JA1191_976; JA1191_977; JA1191_978; JA1191_979; JA1191_980; JA1191_981; JA1191_982; JA1191_983; JA1191_984; JA1193_999; JA1193_1000; JA1193_1001; JA1193_1002; JA1193_1003; JA1193_1004; JA1193_1005; JA1193_1006; JA1193_1007; JA1216_1111; JA1216_1112; JA1216_1113; JA1216_1114; JA1216_1116; JA1216_1117; JA1216_1118; JA1216_1119; JA1216_1120; JA1216_1121; JA1216_1122; JA1217_1123; JA1217_1124; JA1217_1125; JA1217_1126; JA1217_1127; JA1217_1128; JA1217_1129; JA1217_1130; JA1217_1131; JA1217_1132; JA1217_1133; JA1217_1134; JA1217_1135; JA1217_1136; JA1217_1137; JA1217_1139; JA1218_1141; JA1218_1142; JA1218_1143; JA1218_1144; JA1218_1145; JA1218_1146; JA1218_1147; JA1218_1148; JA1218_1149.

[The Jerusalem Foundation](#)

Date range: 1975-2006

Content: Miscellaneous correspondence, financials, memos, minutes, relating to the following organisations and topics – Biblical Zoo, Cape Gate Foundation, Chair in the History of Egypt and Israel – Tel Aviv University, City of David Archaeological dig, City of David Archaeological Garden, East Jerusalem Development Ltd, Israel Tennis Centre, Kaplan Kushlick Foundation, Old Yishuv Court Museum, Operation Exodus, Operation Solomon, Project Renewal, Rights and obligations of SA donors, Teddy Kollek, University Botanical Gardens – Jerusalem, Yemin Moshe Garden.

No reference codes. David Fachler was given special access to the Foundation's document store and scanned as pdfs.

[The Jerusalem Post](#)

Date range: 1987-2007

Content: Articles relating to Kaplan and his communal career.

No archival reference codes. David Fachler contacted an archivist at the Jerusalem Post who supplied articles relating to our subject.

[The Keren Hayesod Document Warehouse, Tsrifin, IS](#)

Date range: 1985-2007

Content: Miscellaneous correspondence, financials, memos, minutes, proposals, and reports relating to the following organisations and topics – Cape Gate Scholarship Fund, the Israel Centre, IUA-UCF, JAFI Executive Meetings, Budget, Finance Committees and Board of Governors transcripts, Jerusalem Tennis Centre, KH Australian Campaign 1993, KH International Leadership Reunions, KH World Board of Trustees, Kiryat Moriah Synagogue, Project Renewal, South African Zionist Federation (SAZF), United Israel Appeal of Canada, various KH Committees, World Zionist Organisation (WZO).

Resources found in folders coded: KHW_5654; KHW_64142; KHW_134741; KHW_136428; KHW_144161; KHW_188817; KHW_206679; KHW_206680; KHW_206681; KHW_206682; KHW_206683; KHW_207846; KHW_225750; KHW_227358; KHW_227890; KHW_234683; KHW_235034; KHW_235621; KHW_251857; KHW_252453; KHW_252590; KHW_252620; KHW_252672; KHW_253429; KHW_254729; KHW_256771; KHW_256863; KHW_256958; KHW_256960; KHW_256965; KHW_256970; KHW_256973; KHW_256980; KHW_256981; KHW_256982; KHW_256985; KHW_256986; KHW_256995; KHW_265974; KHW_281251; KHW_312408; KHW_354210; KHW_367748; KHW_367795; KHW_367796; KHW_367797; KHW_367807; KHW_367809; KHW_460192; KHW_460258; KHW_460479; KHW_466333; KHW_466341; KHW_569222; KHW_578137; KHW_591216; KHW_592104; KHW_592598; KHW_599141; KHW_599146; KHW_599238; KHW_627818; KHW_632259; KHW_632551; KHW_MK726.

[Knesset](#)

Date range: 1986-1993

Content: Knesset session mentioning Mendel's "Project Jerusalem" that aimed to bring South African immigrants to Jerusalem; Transcripts from various sessions of the Knesset Committee for Immigration and Absorption (Aliyah and Klita) which discusses: Mendel's urging of the Russian Ambassador to the United States to allow Soviet Jews to immigrate to Israel; Mendel's business investments in Israel; Mendel's refusal to testify before the committee; Soviet Jewry; Mendel's recommendations for the absorption of South African immigrants and finding employment for them.

No reference codes.

[The Isi Leibler Private Library](#)

Date range: 1979-1988

Content: Miscellaneous correspondence, minutes, reports relating to the following organisations and topics – Executive Council of Australian Jewry, Various WJC Committees, World Jewish Congress (WJC), WJC Executive Meetings, WJC Plenary Assemblies.

Resources from folders coded: LL_644-20_1979-1980; LL_644-20_1981-Jun_1982; LL_644-20_1986-Aug_1987; LL_644-20_Jul_1982-Jun_1983; LL_644-20_Jul_1983-1985; LL_644-20_Mar_1987-May_1989; LL_2421_1981; LL_2421_Jan-Jun_1982.

[The National Library of Israel](#)

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

Date range: 1974-2005

Content: Correspondence, minutes, reports, and speeches relating to the South African Jewish Board of Deputies (SAJBD), and World Jewish Congress (WJC).

Resources from folders coded: HM2-6772a; HM2-6772b; ICJW-700; ICJW-724; ICJW-769; P462-dig-49.

International Press Database

Date range: 1979-2007

Content: Articles downloaded from the National Library of Israel newspaper database for their relevance to Mendel Kaplan and his communal activities. Publications: The Australian Jewish News (Melbourne); The Australian Jewish News (Sydney); The Australian Jewish Times, Community (USA), The Jewish News of Northern California; The Indiana Jewish Post and Opinion; The Northern California Jewish Bulletin.

No reference codes.

Israel Press

Date range: 1977-2008

Content: Articles downloaded from the National Library of Israel Newspaper database for their relevance to Mendel Kaplan and his communal activities. Publications: Davar, Haaretz, Hadashot, Maariv, Yediot.

No reference codes.

The WJC Report

Date range: 1981-2005

Content: Extracts from the World Jewish Congress publication "The WJC Report" relating to Mendel Kaplan and his communal activities.

No reference codes.

[Material from the home of Sharon Kaplan, Jerusalem](#)

This material originates from Mendel Kaplan's Keren Hayesod office.

Date range: 1983-2010

Content: A Audio-visual

A_A01_DVD01 2000-05-00c South African Jewish Museum (SAJM) Volunteer Guide Orientation.

A_A02_DVD02 2000-05-17 SAJM Volunteer Guide Session – Mendel Kaplan leads the session. Mendel describes the recent history of the museum, his strategy for procuring the property; his vision for the museum; and the importing of artefacts from Lithuania to recreate the *shtetl* experience.

A_A03_DVD03 2000 Nelson Mandela – A Righteous Man. Video produced by the Kaplan Kushlick Foundation with a focus on Mandela's relationship with the Jewish community and their role in the struggle against apartheid. Featured speakers: Nelson Mandela, Chief Rabbi Cyril Harris, Eric Samson, Helen Suzman, Albie Sachs, Nat Bregman, Rica Hodgson, Wolfie Kodesh. Records speeches by Mandela and Kaplan at the opening of the SAJM.

A_A04_DVD04 2010-02-00 Kaddish for Mendel – video on Kaplan produced by Keren Hayesod after his passing.

A_A05_DVD05 2010-02-18_Remembering a Great Leader Mendel Kaplan – video of a dinner organised by Keren Hayesod in honour of Kaplan. Speakers: Robert Kaplan, Israel Singer, Avi Pazner, Natan Sharansky, Sharon Kaplan.

A_A06_DVD06 2011-05-29 Miagi Music Centre Opening, Soweto. Mendel is remembered by various speakers for his contribution to this project.

A_A07_VHS01 1987-11-00 Council of Jewish Federations (CJF) Gen Assembly – Kaplan speaks via satellite communication at 00:11:50. This was specially called to discuss the Dinitz Affair.

A_A08_VHS02 1987-12-06 31st Zionist Congress – Mendel delivers a speech in Hebrew.

A_A09_VHS03 1990 Human Resources – Video produced by the World Sephardi Federation in collaboration with the WZO Sephardi Communities Dept, JAFI Renewal & Development Dept.

A_A10_VHS04 1990-11-11 Keren Hayesod, Message from Kaplan to Australia

A_A11_VHS05 1991 Jerusalem On Line, Operation Solomon – operation to extract Jews from the increasingly unstable political situation in Ethiopia.

A_A12_VHS06 1992-06-09 Return to the Shtetl – The Kaplans, Kushlicks, Blochs, and Groll families visit the shtetls of Lithuania, the homes of their forefathers.

A_A13_VHS07 1993-05-19 Jerusalem Day Ceremony Ammunition Hill

A_A14_VHS08 1993-06-27 The Future is Here – JAFI Assembly Opening. Kaplan speaks at 00:22:25.

A_A15_VHS09 1993 Window of Opportunity – United Jewish Appeal Campaign 1993 and Operation Exodus.

A_A16_VHS10 1994 JAFI Keeping the Flame Alive

A_A17_VHS11 JAFI BoG visit to Tel Hai College (circa 1990-04)

A_A18_VHS12 Music School at Kibbutz Eilon

A_A19_VHS13 2000-10-24 KH Crisis in Israel-message from Ehud Barak

B Documents – Kaplan's miscellaneous correspondence, financials, lists, minutes, memos, presentations, proposals, resolutions, speeches, relating to the following topics and organisations: Beth Hatefutsoth, Biblical Archaeology Society, the Center for Special Studies, Children of the Coordinatzia, the Donald Gordon Foundation, the Edelstein Gift, Etz Hayim, Hebrew University, the Kaplan Centre, Helen Suzman Exhibition, the Kaplan Kushlick Foundation, Keren Hayesod (KH), KH Committees, KH Member at large, IUA-UCF, JAFI, JAFI BoG Committees, Jerusalem Foundation, Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture, Municipality of Jerusalem, Old Yishuv Court Museum, Riding the Wave, SAZF, Shivtei Israel Synagogue – Ranana, the South African Jewish Museum (SAJM), Telad, Tel Aviv University, United Jewish Appeal (UJA), University Botanical Gardens – Jerusalem, World Jewish Congress (WJC), World Zionist Organisation (WZO).

C Photos

Many of these photos were scanned from contact sheets and are therefore a little fuzzy. Unfortunately, these are the only surviving copies that we are aware of or have access to. Please help us improve our metadata by informing us when you recognise an individual that does not appear in the metadata.

C_C1 Photo Albums

C_C1-01 Oscar Lazar Lab Dedication

C_C1-02 JAFI BoG 1

- C_C1-03 JAFI BoG 2
- C_C1-04 JAFI BoG 3
- C_C1-05 JAFI BoG 4
- C_C1-06 JAFI BoG 5
- C_C1-07 1988 JAFI Assembly
- C_C1-08 1990 JAFI Operation Exodus
- C_C1-09 1990 JAFI Assembly
- C_C1-10 1991 JAFI Assembly
- C_C1-11 1991 JAFI Field Trip
- C_C1-12 1992 JAFI Assembly
- C_C1-13 JAFI Making a Difference
- C_C1-14 1993 JAFI Event Dead Sea
- C_C1-15 1994 JAFI Assembly
- C_C1-16 1994 Joint Authority for Jewish Education
- C_C1-17 1994 JAFI Assembly Award Ceremony
- C_C1-18 Undated JAFI Event
- C_C1-19 1989 Ashod Cornerstone
- C_C1-20 1993c Riga Latvia
- C_C1-21 1991 Old City
- C_C1-22 1994c Partnership 2000 Event
- C_C1-23 Undated Brazil KH Fundo Comunitario
- C_C1-24 1994-02-07 WJC visit to US State Dept
- C_C1-25 1994-10-26 Israel-Jordan Peace Treaty Arabah Crossing
- C_C1-26 1998c Raanana Kehillat Shivtei Yisrael
- C_C1-27 2006 JAFI BoG Event Kaplan 70th Birthday
- C_C1-28 2006 KH ILR London
- C_C1-29 2007-06-21 KH Event
- C_C1-30 Undated MK honoured by JAFI Workers Union
- C_C1-31 Undated Barzelan Opening
- C_C02 Unknown Events
 - C_C02-01 Unknown 01
 - C_C02-02 Unknown 02 c1994
 - C_C02-03 Unknown 03 posb Tiberias
 - C_C02-04 Unknown 04
 - C_C02-05 Unknown 05 posb Jordan Valley visit
 - C_C02-06 Unknown 06
 - C_C02-07 Unknown 07
 - C_C02-08 Unknown 08 prob Dead Sea
 - C_C02-09 Unknown 09 Vilna
 - C_C02-10 Unknown 10
 - C_C02-11 Unknown 11
 - C_C02-12 Unknown 12 posb Gilo Music Centre Dedication
 - C_C02-14 Unknown 13 posb KH related
 - C_C02-15 Unknown 14 posb KH related
 - C_C02-16 Unknown 15 Art Museum ft Ezer Weizman
 - C_C02-17 Unknown 16 1993-02-24
 - C_C02-18 Unknown 17 Buenos Aires
 - C_C02-19 Unknown 18

C_C02-20 Unknown 19 2009

C_C02-21 Unknown 20 Budapest

C_C03 Miscellaneous Colour Photos

C_C04 Miscellaneous Black and White Photos

South Africa Archives and Collections

Rabbi Norman Bernhard Private Library

Date range: 1972-1984

Content: A letter of condolence from Kaplan to Bernhard upon his mother's passing; Batmitzvah sermon for Romi Kaplan.

Beyachad - South African Jewish Board of Deputies Archives

Jewish Press Collection

Date range: 1972-1990

Content: News articles selected for their relation to Mendel Kaplan or concerning communal matters he was involved in from Jewish Affairs and The Jewish Herald (from 1986 known as The Herald Times). A complete set of the publication *Buurman* of which Mendel Kaplan chaired the editorial committee.

South African Jewish Board of Deputies

Date range: 1950-2006

Content: *Buurman* Editorial Committee Minutes 1972-1986
ARCH910 – Afrikaans publication of the SAJBD. Kaplan was a member (Jun 1972 - Aug 1973) and an active chair of the editorial committee (Sep 1973 – dissolution).

Club 44

ARCH620.1 – Minutes in which Kaplan is mentioned.

Denis Diamond

ARCH800.3 – Correspondence and address in which Kaplan is mentioned.

Gus Saron

ARCH117 – Correspondence in which Kaplan is mentioned.

IUA 1937-1987

All folders relating to the IUA found at Beyachad was copied.

ARCH503.2 – Correspondence 1948-1982; Minutes 1987, 1988-1995; Reports 1984-1986

ARCH503.2 – IUA Correspondence and Reports on formation 1937-1949

ARCH503.2 – IUA Women's Section

ARCH503.2 – JHB IUA Women's Executive

ARCH503.3 – CZA37 Reports 1992-1993

ARCH800.4 – IUA-UCF 1989-1991

ARCH814.1 – IUA 1968 Correspondence, History of formation, Minutes, Reports.

Johannesburg Jewish Community Council

ARCH623.1 – proposal, minutes of planning meetings, correspondence and workshop material relating to the formation and affairs of the JJCC 1989-1998.

Mendel Kaplan

ARCH199 – Correspondence with the office of Pres Nelson Mandela re a dinner in honour of Mendel Kaplan; Addresses to the 31st and 34th SAJBD National Congress.

Rationalisation – Formation of Beyachad.

ARCH503.303 – Correspondence re Rationalisation, incl. proposals and responses.

ARCH801.9 – Minutes of Rationalisation Committee meetings 1998-1999; Correspondence re move to Raedene.

South African Board of Jewish Education

ARCH300_file01 – 1954 SABJE Constitution

ARCH300_file05 – 1984 SABJE Constitution

ARCH300_file06 – Minutes and correspondence 1971-1983; 1969 SABJE Constitution; 1972 SABJE Constitution; 1975 SABJE Constitution; 2006 SABJE Constitution

ARCH300 – SABJE Reports to National Education Conference 1974-2006

ARCH623.1 – 1992 SABJE Constitution

South African Jewish Appeal (SAJA)

ARCH210.5_file06 – Report to 34th SAJBD Congress; The SAJBD–It's Role and Development 1973

ARCH503.2 – Minutes SAJA Ways and Means Committee; Memo describing the history of SAJA 1943-71

SAJBD Congress Committee Minutes

ARCH803 – SAJBD Congress Committee Minutes 1975-06-20 to 1991-06-02

SAJBD Congress Minutes

ARCH803 – SAJBD Congress Minutes for 1970 to 2003

SAJBD Correspondence

ARCH503_box04 – Israel Correspondence 1970-1974 relating to Kaplan.

ARCH503_box06 – Israeli Embassy Correspondence 1966-1989, 1991, 1997-1999, 2000 relating to Kaplan.

ARCH503 – Israel Correspondence 1973-1980 relating to Kaplan.

ARCH800.1 – SAJBD General Correspondence 1972-2000 relating to Kaplan.

ARCH809.4 – SAJBD Government Correspondence 2002 & 2005 relating to Kaplan.

SAJBD Country Communities Committee

ARCH400.1 – Country Communities minutes 1949-1986 relating to Kaplan.

SAJBD Deputies Meetings

ARCH800.2 – Minutes 1969-1981

SAJBD Dignitaries to SA

ARCH139 – Mentions of Kaplan in relation to dignitaries visiting SA 1958-1980

SAJBD Executive Council
ARCH804 – Minutes 1969-2000

SAJBD Finance Committee
ARCH801.6 – Minutes of the SAJBD Finance Committee and the Pension Funds Investment Advisory Committee 1962-1976

SAJBD Honorary Officers / Management Committee
ARCH805 – Minutes 1971-2006

SAJBD International Affairs Committee
ARCH500 – Minutes 1985-2000

SAJBD Religious Instruction Committee
ARCH309 – Religious Instruction 1970-1976
ARCH309 – Religious Instruction in Schools 1950-1974
ARCH309 – Religious Instruction in Schools 1953-1974 Minutes, Correspondence, Legislation.
ARCH309 – Correspondence between Kaplan and Director of Education Dr. A.L. Coetzee.

SAJBD Congress Reports to South African Jewry
ARCH804 – Biennial reports 1955-1993

SAJBD Staff Finance and Administration Committee
ARCH801 – Minutes 1978-1988

South African Jewish Trust
ARCH801.1 – Correspondence 1967-1975
ARCH801.1 – SAJT Management Committee Minutes 1971-1978

United Communal Fund
All folders relating to the UCF found at Beyachad was copied.
ARCH503.6 – UCF Allocations Committee Minutes 1965-1968
ARCH503.6 – UCF Correspondence, Minutes, Reports 1955-1991, Management Accounts. Minutes 2004, Agreement IUA-UCF 2000.
ARCH503.6 – Correspondence and Meetings 1958, 1964-1973
ARCH503.6 – UCF History, Constitution, Campaigns 1959-1967 Miscellaneous Pamphlets and Brochures.
ARCH503-6_UCF_Minutes_1949

South African Zionist Federation

Date range: 1937-1993

Content: SAZF Conferences 1970-2006

ARCH503.3 – Agendas, Minutes, Resolutions proposed, Resolutions accepted for conferences from 1970 to 2006

SAZF Executive Council Minutes 1970-1990

ARCH503.3 and ARCH503.31 – Minutes from different sources were combined in chronological folder to fill gaps and for ease of viewing. Some gaps may remain.

SAZF General Correspondence 1975-1990

Minutes for Tripartite meetings, Correspondence concerning Kaplan.

ARCH503.303 – SAZF General Correspondence 1970-1990

ARCH503-303 – SAZF Solly Sacks Correspondence 1988-1990

SAZF Honorary Officers Minutes 1970-1993

ARCH503.3 and ARCH503.31 – Minutes from different sources were combined in a separate chronological folder to fill gaps and for ease of viewing. Some gaps may remain.

SAZF Israel United Appeal (IUA)

SAZF992 – Brochures relating to IUA campaigns.

SAZF992 – IUA 1960-1979 Pamphlets

[Cape Gate – Jane Kimber's Recovered Workstation](#)

Date range: 1958-2011

Content: A CG Documents

A_A01 Kimber 2010 – Documents re Kaplan's Yahrzeit, and his CV

A_A02 Kimber 2011 – Miscellaneous documents

A_A03 Jewish Agency – Two letters

A_A04 Messages – Document containing phone messages left for Kaplan.

A_A05 MK 2000 – Letters and faxes from Kaplan for 2000

A_A06 MK 2001 – Letters and faxes from Kaplan for 2001

A_A07 MK 2002 – Letters and faxes from Kaplan for 2002

A_A08 MK 2003 – Letters and faxes from Kaplan for 2003

A_A09 MK 2004 – Letters and faxes from Kaplan for 2004

A_A10 MK 2005 – Letters and faxes from Kaplan for 2005

A_A11 MK 2006 – Letters and faxes from Kaplan for 2006

A_A12 MK 2007 – Letters and faxes from Kaplan for 2007

A_A13 MK 2008 – Letters and faxes from Kaplan for 2008

A_A14 MK 2009 – Letters and faxes from Kaplan for 2009

A_A15 Muizenberg Shul – Six letters asking for contributions; a photo of the shul's Foundation stone.

A_A16 Adventures in East Africa 1958 – Pdf of the publication; various pdfs of the typed-up content; some scans of original telegrams etc.

A_A17 Hirsh Goodman Book on Mendel

B CG Photos

B_B01 CG Photos

B_B02 CG Photos City of David

B_B03 CG Photos Lithuania

B_B04 CG Photos Miagi

Kenny Katz Personal Papers

Date range: 1974-2000

Content: Digital copies of Kenny Katz's scrapbooks of news article clippings pertaining to his career and Jewish communal organisations. Kaplan regularly appears in these clippings.

Mendel Kaplan Papers Johannesburg, SA

Mendel Kaplan Home Office (MKH)

Date range: 1977-2000

Content: A Documents

A_A01 SAJBD Correspondence 1988 – SAJBD Mancom minutes, aide de memoire re Avigdor Eskin visit to Cape Town, and testimony of Rabbi David Saperstein, found together in an envelope.

A_A02 Miscellaneous Correspondence – Invitation from US Pres Reagan to attend meeting at the Whitehouse; Letters of congratulations on various appointments, achievements, and publications.

A_A03 Misc Documents –

B Press Clippings – News clippings saved by Kaplan relating to his communal career or matters he was interested in.

C Photos

C_C01 1977 IUA Launch Israel

C_C02 1979 Prime Minister Mission to Israel

D Audio

D_D01 MKH001 1977-04-12 Annual Meeting of JCF – Kaplan speaks 00:45:50 to 01:06:50. He delivers an impassioned speech to a congregation in Cleveland on Jewish education and how to impart the feeling of being Jewish and different to the youth. He furthermore provides his perspective of contemporary Johannesburg and the methods they have chosen to strengthen Judaism.

D_D02 MKH002 1979-08-27 Mendel Kaplan addressing the Women's Campaign Seminar – Kaplan speaks on his conception of Zionism, the relationship between the religious and the secular, and between Israel and the Diaspora. The speech is peppered with references to historic events and some anecdotes. There is also a Q&A session where Mendel refers to certain local problems and the need for more tolerance in the Johannesburg community.

E Miscellaneous

Awards & Certificates, Invites, Itineraries, Lists, Programmes, Speeches

Mendel Kaplan Office in Storage (MKS)

Date range: 1975-2000

Content: A Documents

A_A01 A_A01_Folder-Prime Minister State of Israel – letters to, from, and relating to Israeli PMs.

A_A02 Keren Hayesod – Documents found in a folder labelled Keren Hayesod. Mostly correspondence.

A_A03 Misc – 1972-10-00 SAJBD Surveys, WJC folder; Muizenberg Walkway phase 2 opening; Note from Max Fisher to Kaplan re JAFI election; Letter with photo of Kaplan and Pres FW de Klerk; The Kaplan Centre Design Drawings; draft copy of The History of Keren Hayesod; 2006-07-31 The Future of SA Jewry; 2001-03-00 KH Platinum Club 6th Ed Booklet.

B Photos

B_B01 MKS Photo Albums

B_B01-1 MKS Album 1 – Photos from Kaplan's communal career 70s and 80s

B_B01-2 MKS Album 2 – Press clippings and photos of Kaplan's communal career 1987

B_B01-3 MKS Album 3 – UJA Operation Exodus 1990-02-28

B_B01-4 MKS Album 4 – Kiryat Moriah

B_B01-5 MKS Album 5 – 1988 Upper Nazareth Visit

B_B01-6 MKS Album 6 – 2000-03-08_SA Launch Riteva Book

B_B01-7 MKS Album 7 – Wynberg Boys High Reunion 2003

B_B01-8 MKS Album 8 – Hadar Zion Talmud Tora

B_B01-9 MKS Album 9 – IUA-UCF Azerbaijan Visit

B_B01-10 MKS Album 10 – IUA-UCF Event

B_B01-11 MKS Album 11 – Unknown Event (UE) 1

B_B01-12 MKS Album 12 – Unknown Event (UE) 2 1991-08-31

B_B01-13 MKS Album 13 – WBS Event

B_B01-14 MKS Album 14 – WJC Event

B_B01-15 MKS Album 15 – Yehuda Steel Event

B_B02 MKS SAJBD Executive Council 1976-1978 and 1978-1980

B_B03 MKS Loose Photos

B_B03-1 MKS Photos found in back of Album 1

B_B03-2 MKS Photos found throughout boxes

C Audio

C_C01 MKS001 1975-10-10 Mendel Kaplan address to SAJBE

C_C02 MKS002 1976 Rabbi Jakobovits' speech Pretoria

C_C03 MKS003 1976-02-01 Kollek Pillars Banquet

C_C04 MKS004 1976-02-03 Kollek Appreciation Banquet

C_C05 MKS005 1976-02-16 Port Elizabeth UCF launch – speeches by Mendel Kaplan, Abner Weiss, Monty Schechter

C_C06 MKS006 1976-03-21 to 22 14th UCF Campaign Launch Bloemfontein

C_C07 MKS007 1976-04-28 Old Yishuv Court Museum

C_C08 MKS008 1976-05-30 Mendel Kaplan address to UCF Session 29th SAJBD Congress UCF NCC

C_C09 MKS009 1977-11-28 to 30 4th Int Leadership Mtg Washington DC Side1-Elie Wiesel; Side2 Simcha Dinitz

D Audio-visual

D_D01 MKS010-MKS012 Mendel Kaplan 1, 2 & 3 – a series of interviews with Kaplan on family history, Cape Gate, and various philanthropic endeavours.

D_D02 MKS013 2000 Nelson Mandela – A Righteous Man. Video produced by the Kaplan Kushlick Foundation with a focus on Mandela's relationship with the Jewish community and their role in the struggle against apartheid. Featured speakers: Nelson Mandela, Chief Rabbi Cyril Harris, Eric Samson, Helen Suzman, Albie Sachs, Nat Bregman, Rica Hodgson, Wolfie Kodesh. Speeches by Mandela and Kaplan at the opening of the SAJM.

D_D03 MKS014 2010-01-31 Mendel Kaplan, a Man from Parow and Tribute – Memorial service for Kaplan held at Glenhazel, Johannesburg.

D_D04 MKS015 2010 My Rabbi – Rabbi Avraham Tanzer speaks about his friend Mendel Kaplan shortly after his passing. Traces their relationship, Kaplan's love of learning, and his translation of Kehati.

[Oxford Shul Records](#)

Date range: 1968-1988

Content: Minutes of the Oxford Shul Internal Management Committee.
Miscellaneous correspondence re the Kaplan membership at the shul.

[The South African Board of Jewish Education](#)

* Only viewable with permission from the SABJE.

Date range: 1970-2004

Content: A SABJE Executive Committee Minutes 1970-2010
B SABJE Executive Council Minutes 1971-1984
C SABJE General Correspondence 1976-2004
D SABJE Honorary Officers Minutes 1975-1984
E SABJE KDHS Linksfield Media Centre 199 – video of the opening.
F SABJE Miscellaneous Committee Minutes
F_F01 SABJE Action Committee Minutes 1975
F_F02 SABJE Conference Committee Minutes 1984
F_F03 SABJE Education Committee Minutes 1970-1985
F_F04 SABJE Finance Committee Minutes 1983-1984
F_F05 SABJE Miscellaneous Committees 1982-1988

[University of Cape Town Special Collections Libraries – Jewish related collections held at the Kaplan Centre](#)

BC680 Kaplan-Kushlick Collection

Date range: 1981-1988

Content: Box06 Additional Material – Statement of donation distributions of the Kaplan Kushlick Foundation.

BC821 Israel United Appeal (IUA) Collection

Date range: 1972-1983

Content: Box01_A Minutes of fundraising campaign 1971-1979
Box03_B Fundraising campaign records 1979-1982
Box08_C IUA Correspondence 1977-1982
Box09_C Correspondence 1979-1982
Box10_C Miscellaneous Correspondence 1963-1982
Box15_D Finances proposed budgets 1978-1984
Box16_E-F Seminars 1978-81 & Young Leadership 1981

Box17_G Circulars 1980-1982
Box20_H Clippings Scrapbooks 1977-1978 campaigns
Box22_K Publications Pamphlets 1970s

BC861 John Simon Collection

Date range: 1975-1979

Content: Box02_A UCF & SAJBD (Cape) minutes and correspondence
Box03_B Inter-provincial Conference, SAJBD Congress & Minutes of the SAJBD Honorary Officers/Management Committee 1975-1977 (most of these also appear in the collection of minutes found at Beyachad)
Box04_C Correspondence relating to South African Jewish Trust, Soviet Jews
Box07_F Correspondence SAZF and WPZC
Box07_G Minutes and Correspondence UZA, IUA, and SAZF

BC1158 United Communal Fund (UCF), SA

Date range: 1949-1983

Content: A UCF (Cape) Constitution
B UCF (Cape) Minutes and correspondence
C UCF (Cape) correspondence, lists of top donors
I IUA Campaign 1979

BC1308 Orlowitz-Solomon Family Papers

Date range: Sep 1989

Content: F_F2 My Return to the Lithuanian Shtetls Sep 1989 – Video of a talk on his trip to Lithuania, by Mendel Kaplan at UCT.

BC1484 Mendel Kaplan Collection

Date range: 1977-2007

Content: A_1 Speeches Articles 1978-1992
A_A5 WJC Correspondence 2007
B_B8 City of David correspondence and financials.

United Kingdom Archives and Collections

[The London Metropolitan Archive](#)

Date range: 1968-1990

Content: Office of the Chief Rabbi papers
Chief Rabbi Immanuel Jakobovits' correspondence with Kaplan and others relating to the following organisations and topics – Federation of Synagogues of South Africa, Jewish Agency for Israel, Jewish Education Development Trust, Robert Sobukwe, South African Jewish Board of Deputies, United Communal Fund (UCF), visits to South Africa, Yeshiva College of South Africa.

Resources from folders coded: ACC/2805/07/21/011; ACC/2805/07/14/098; ACC/2805/07/14/080; ACC/2805/07/14/082; ACC/2805/07/14/042; ACC/2805/07/14/038; ACC/2805/07/14/039; ACC/2805/07/14/040; ACC/2805/07/14/041.

[Sasha Polakow-Suransky Interviews](#)

Date range: Dec 2004-Mar 2005

Content: Interviews conducted by Sasha Polakow-Suransky as research for his book *The Unspoken Alliance* (2010) on Israel's relationship with Apartheid South Africa.

Beilin, Yossi

Date: 2004-12-03

Platform: In-person

Duration: 00:40:13

Diamond, Denis

Date: 2004-12-19

Platform: In-person

Duration: 01:16:30

Goldberg, Aleck

Date: 2005-03-07

Platform: In-person

Duration: 00:43:59

Goldreich, Arthur

Date:

Platform: In-person

Duration: 01:52:51

Granot, Elazar

Interview 1

Date: 2004-12-15

Platform: In-person

Duration: 01:23:59

Interview 2

Date: 2004-12-15

Platform: In-person
Duration: 00:54:06

Kaplan, Mendel
Date: 2005-03-07
Platform: In-person
Duration: 00:55:45

Liel, Alon
Date: 2004-12-03
Platform: In-person
Duration: 01:05:31

Schwarz, Harry
Date: 2005-03-18
Platform: In-person
Duration: 00:47:36

Smith, Mervyn
Date: 2005-02-22
Platform: In-person
Duration: 00:43:08

[The Jewish Chronicle \(UK\)](#)

Date range: 1979-2009

Content: Articles downloaded from the Jewish Chronicle online archive (paywalled access here: <https://archive.thejc.com/>) for their relevance to Mendel Kaplan and his communal career.

United States Archives and Collections

Philip Klutznick Papers – University Chicago

Date range: 1980-1990

Content: Series3 Subseries1 Box095 Folder007 – Correspondence between Mendel Kaplan and Philip Klutznick. Documents received as a single pdf. We separated these into discrete files. View a guide for the Klutznick papers here: <https://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/scrc/findingaids/view.php?eadid=ICU.SPCL.KLUTZNICK>

Joint Distribution Committee

Date range: 1983-1989

Content: JDC Box95 Folder7 - A selection of documents from the JDC Archive selected for their relevance to Mendel Kaplan and his communal activities. Original filenames retained. Contents consist of correspondence relating to JAFI, UIA. Search the archive here: <https://archives.jdc.org/>

Max Fisher Papers – Wayne State University

Date range: 1985-2005

Content: WSU UP002350 Box 90-Folder 1 – Correspondence, personal and relating to communal affairs, between Kaplan and Fisher.
WSU UP002350 Box 313-Item1 – Audio-visual recording of the 1993-09-09 JAFI BOG teleconference re how to deal with Dinitz scandal, featuring Mendel Kaplan.
WSU UP002350 Box 321-Item7 – Audio recording of an interview with Mendel Kaplan for Max Fisher's book. Interviewer is probably Peter Golden.
View a guide for the Max Fisher Papers here: <https://reuther.wayne.edu/node/12891>

Exploratory Interviews

The following interviews were conducted with the specific aim of getting a broad overview of the issues faced by Jewish communal institutions over the period of Mendel Kaplan's career; and to aid the researchers in finding resources for this collection. We have therefore named them "Exploratory Interviews," rather than "Oral History Interviews." Despite this, many of the interviews did at times veer into the territory of oral history, and researchers might gain insights beyond what we sought from our interviewees. Requests to view interviews will be considered on a case-by-case basis and permission granted only if in accordance with the release signed by an interviewee, or special permission may need to be obtained from an interviewee.

Avi-hai, Avraham

Date: 2023-06-19
Place: Jerusalem, IS
Platform: In-person
Duration: 00:38:29
Transcript: Yes

Diamond, Denis

Date: 2023-06-22
Place: Jerusalem, IS
Platform: In-person
Duration: 02:36:12
Transcript: Yes

Fox, Sharon

Date: 2023-07-31
Place: Washington DC, USA/Jerusalem, IS
Platform: Zoom
Duration: 01:28:56
Transcript: Yes

Hoffman, Alan

Date: 2023-07-25
Place: Jerusalem, IS
Platform: In-person
Duration: 01:15:48
Transcript: Yes

Kahan, Adam

Date: 2023-07-20
Place: Toronto, CA/Jerusalem, IS
Platform: Zoom
Duration: 02:15:54
Transcript: Yes

Katz, Kenny

Date: 2023-07-19

Place: Johannesburg, SA/Jerusalem, IS
Platform: Whatsapp call
Duration: 01:26:31
Transcript: Yes

[Kopelowitz, Seymour](#)

Date: 2023-06-20
Place: Cleveland, Ohio, USA/Jerusalem, IS
Platform: Zoom
Duration: 01:03:59
Transcript: Yes

[Pazner, Avi](#)

Date: 2023-07-18
Place: Tel Aviv, IS
Platform: In-person
Duration: 00:23:27 and 00:37:58
Transcript: Yes

[Sackstein, Howard](#)

Date: 2023-07-18
Place: Tel Aviv, IS
Platform: In-person
Duration: 01:10:30
Transcript: Yes

[Singer, Israel](#)

Interview 1

Date: 2023-08-30
Place: New York, USA/Jerusalem, IS
Platform: Zoom
Duration: 02:23:05
Transcript: Yes

Interview 2

Date: 2023-09-07
Place: New York, USA/Jerusalem, IS
Platform: Zoom
Duration: 02:03:33
Transcript: Yes

[Spitz, Anthony](#)

Date: 2023-06-21
Place: London, UK/Jerusalem, IS
Platform: Zoom
Duration: 02:21:56
Transcript: Yes

Secondary Sources in which Mendel Kaplan appears

[The Spielberg Jewish Film Archive - Jewish journeys: South Africa: Blacks, Jews & Whites](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LWWMI5HveM&si=ILKXhgFHLLGpEz)

<https://youtu.be/LWWMI5HveM?si=ILKXhgFHLLGpEz>

Year: 1986

Duration: 00:49:27

Abstract: This short documentary examines the South African Jewish community.

Mendel Kaplan appears at 00:34:49 – 00:35:20

[The Jewish Telegraphic Agency Archive](https://www.jta.org/archive)

<https://www.jta.org/archive>

A search for “Mendel Kaplan” yields 258 articles.

[Operation Solomon – The Daring Rescue of the Ethiopian Jews](#)

Author: Spector, Stephen

Published: 2005

Mendel Kaplan mentioned pgs. 135 & 168

[The Unspoken Alliance – Israel’s Secret Relationship with Apartheid South Africa](#)

Author: Polakow-Suransky, Sasha

Published: 2010

Mendel Kaplan mentioned pgs. 93, 94, 202, & 287*n*