

**Jackson State University  
Margaret Walker Center  
Archives and Record Division**

**Manuscript Collection**

**Collection Title:** Rabbi Philip Posner Collection

**Dates Covered:** 1961-1963, 1974, 1987, 2002, and 2011

**Collection Number:** AF044

**Volume:** 1.42 linear feet

Original (x)  
Duplicate ( )  
Microcopy ( )  
Photocopy ( )

**Provenance:** This collection was presented to Dr. Robert Luckett for the Margaret Walker Center by Rabbi Philip Posner, Ajijic, Jalisco, Mexico on May 27, 2011. Rabbi Posner attended the 50<sup>th</sup> reunion of the Freedom Riders.

This collection was processed on August 26, 2011.

**Restrictions:**  
None

**Copyright Warning:** This material may be protected by Copyright Law (Title 17 U. S. Code)

**Biography/History:**

Personal Papers of Rabbi Philip Posner who was a Freedom Rider in 1961, arrested on July 29, 1961 at the Jackson train station and held for a night at the Hinds County Jail and 39 days at the Parchman Penitentiary.

A congregational rabbi for nearly forty years, Philip M. Posner has been active in Social Action and Interfaith activities his entire adult life. In 1961 he joined the Freedom Rides, helping to integrate transportation facilities, and spent (served) 39 days (time) in Parchman Penitentiary in Mississippi. He also participated in social action missions to El Salvador and Ethiopia and is the cofounder, with his friend Jane Fellman, of the Rabbinic Network for Ethiopian Jewry. During the Vietnamese war, he created and led Riverside Cares an organization that helped Vietnamese



Boat People. He has a degree in history from UCLA, was ordained in 1968 and holds a Doctorate in Hebrew Letters in ethics from his seminary, The Hebrew Union College - JIR. Recently, he has won awards for his cooking and baking at his local Culinary Arts Society. A father and now grandfather, he lives in Ajijic, a village next to Lake Chapala near Guadalajara in Mexico. \*from the jacket of *Food for Thought, Character and Soul* by Rabbi Philip Posner.

### **Scope and Content:**

This collection has been arranged into series.

Series I: Correspondence

Series II: Scrapbooks

Series III: Miscellany

## **Rabbi Philip Posner Collection [AF044]**

### **Series I: Correspondence, 37 items**

#### **Box 1**

- Folder 1 Outgoing Correspondence from Rabbi Posner to Mrs. Anna Posner while detained at Parchman (MS) Penitentiary for Freedom Riders arrest in Jackson.  
Dates: 08/06/1961, 08/13/1961 & 09/03/1961, 3 items
- Folder 2 Outgoing Correspondence from Rabbi Posner to Mrs. Isadore Posner while detained at Parchman (MS) Penitentiary for Freedom Riders arrest in Jackson.  
Dates: 08/20/1961, 08/27/1961, 2 items
- Folder 3 Incoming Correspondence from Mrs. Isadore Posner to Rabbi Philip Posner while he was detained at Parchman (MS) Penitentiary for Freedom Riders arrest in Jackson.  
Date: 09/02/1961, 2 items (1 two page letter)
- Folder 4 Confidential Form Letters from Rabbi Perry Nussbaum to Rabbi Posner's Parents.  
Dates: 08/11/1961 & 08/18/1961, 2 items
- Folder 5 Form letter to Jackson (MS) area clergy urging support for a Jackson bus boycott.  
Date: 04/14/1962, 1 item
- Folder 6 Incoming Correspondence from Ms. Norma Collins of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) to Rabbi Philip Posner.  
Date: 04/25/1963, 1 item



Folder 7: Incoming Correspondence from Robert Farrell of the City Council of Los Angeles, CA, inviting Rabbi Posner to a Freedom Rider celebration in Los Angeles. Folder also contains a program from and 1981 Freedom Riders celebration in Los Angeles, CA, and 24 color photographs from the 1987 Freedom Riders celebration.  
Dates: 10/26/1981 & 01/14/1987, 26 items

## **Series II: Scrapbooks, 2 items**

### **Box 1**

Scrapbook 1: Contains newspaper clipping, SNCC printed material and CORE (Congress of Racial Equality) printed material. It is the original scrapbook collected by Rabbi Posner's friend Alice.

Scrapbook 2: Contains newspaper clipping and CORE (Congress of Racial Equality) printed material. It is the original scrapbook collected by Rabbi Philip Posner.

## **Series III: Miscellany**

### **Box 1**

Folder 1: SNCC's The Student Voice newsletter, reprint from Saturday Evening Post, an article entitled, "Negro Youth's New March on Dixie" and SNCC solicitation letter.  
Dates: April 1962, n.d., n.d., 3 items

Folder 2: The Daily Enterprise newspaper, Riverside, CA.  
Date: 08/09/1974, 1 item

Folder 3: "Interview with Rabbi Posner", Oral History transcript, interview and transcript by Jake Laband, a student at Chattanooga School for the Arts and Sciences and 2 color photographs.  
Date: 11/11/2002, 3 items

Folder 4: Red Leather Mississippi Freedom 50<sup>th</sup> Commemorative Portfolio.  
Dates: 05/22-26/2011, 1 item

