

Archives and Special Collections

Dickinson College

Carlisle, PA

**COLLECTION REGISTER**

Name: **Leventhal, Steven G.** **MC 2012.9**

Material: Papers (1981-1984)

Volume: 0.25 linear feet (1 Document Box, 1 Artifact Box)

Donation: Gift of Steven G. Leventhal, 2011

Usage: These materials have been donated without restrictions on usage.

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Steven Leventhal, son of Norman L. Leventhal, graduated from Dickinson College in May 1984. While at Dickinson he was named a Dana Scholar (1981) and in 1983 was named a member of the Omicron Delta Kappa honorary leadership society. He was president of the B'nai B'rith Hillel Counselorship at Dickinson beginning in the fall of 1983, worked as a research assistant for the Judaic Studies Department, and coordinated the college's Adopt-a-Refusenik program. He was the lead bass for Collegium Musicum, and also participated in the College Choir, Noon Day Concerts, the Mermaid Players, and the Follies. He was a member of Alpha Psi Omega (a national theater honorary society) and wrote and directed the senior class musical in 1984. Leventhal was also involved in Cultural Affairs, the Leadership Council, the Senior Action Committee, and the Senior Gift Drive Committee.

Leventhal spent his junior year studying abroad at Tel Aviv University. While in Israel he served as the national delegate and representative for Dickinson College at the World Conference on Soviet Jewry in 1982. Based upon his experiences in Israel, Leventhal decided to establish a special award at Dickinson called the Senior Class Award, to be given "for significant contributions in the field of international human rights and peace." Leventhal served on the Senior Class Award Committee and nominated a Soviet Jewish refusenik, Dr. Yuri Medvedkov, as the first recipient. Leventhal, through Hillel at Dickinson, spread awareness of Dr. Medvedkov's situation, organized writing campaigns in support of him and other refuseniks, and encouraged students to vote for Dr. Medvedkov to win the award. He also suggested Dr. Medvedkov as an honorary degree recipient in the fall of 1983, but this request was not fulfilled. At Leventhal's commencement on May 20, he accepted the Senior Class Award on behalf of Dr. Medvedkov. Due to Leventhal's work, the B'nai B'rith Hillel Counselorship at Dickinson was selected as a winner of the 1984 William Haber Award for outstanding programming for the Jewish campus community.

## COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

The Steven G. Leventhal Collection contains papers collected by Leventhal relating to Dr. Yuri Medvedkov and Medvedkov receiving the Senior Class Award at Dickinson College in 1984. This collection was donated by Steven Leventhal in 2011. The Leventhal Collection papers are arranged into five series: Award Proposal Booklets, Correspondence, Articles, Miscellaneous Papers, and Artifacts.

In the Award Proposal Booklets series there are two booklets, both prepared by Steven G. Leventhal and Dr. Henry A. Green. Green was Leventhal's faculty advisor and the director of the Judaic Studies Department at Dickinson. The first booklet contains papers relating to the Senior Class Award and Medvedkov, including a petition to have Medvedkov receive an honorary degree from Dickinson and guidelines for writing in support of Medvedkov. The second booklet contains biographical information about Medvedkov and other papers relating to his situation. Of note are Medvedkov's response to receiving the Senior Class Award, a speech from Medvedkov in 1981, an article about Soviet interrogation of American journalists, and two articles about the Soviet Union which reference Medvedkov or his wife Olga. Both booklets have been left in the order in which they were found.

The Correspondence series contains 18 letters written either in 1982 or 1984. There are letters to Steven Leventhal, primarily relating to the Senior Class Award and the William Haber Award. There are letters to Steven's father, Norman, which primarily relate to Steven and the Senior Class Award. There are two letters to Dr. Henry Green, one about the Haber Award and one about Steven. There are letters to and from various other people, including a photocopy of a letter and resolution from the Committee of Concerned Scientists, Inc.; a photocopy of a letter from Yur Zhukov, President of the Soviet Peace Committee; and a photocopy of a letter to Anatoly P. Aleksandrov, President of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR. Some of the letters are written by Steven Leventhal and appear to be originals, which may mean they were never sent. All correspondence is arranged by recipient and then chronologically.

The Articles series contains seven articles about Leventhal, the Senior Class Award, and Dr. Yuri Medvedkov. The items in this series are organized chronologically.

The Miscellaneous Papers series contains six papers relating to the Senior Class Award and election, and Dr. Medvedkov. The items in this series are organized chronologically.

In the Artifacts series is one pin that was originally taped to the title page of the second award proposal booklets and was possibly made for the campaign to elect Medvedkov.

## COLLECTION INVENTORY

### BOX 1 - MC 2012.9

#### AWARD PROPOSAL BOOKLETS

- Folder 01) "Who is Dr. Yuri Medvedkov? And Why Should We Honor Him?" - 1981-84  
Photocopy of Senior Class Award for Medvedkov - May 20, 1984  
Medvedkov's Curriculum Vitae  
Summary of Medvedkov's Refusenik Experience - Feb. 1981-Feb. 1983  
Letter from S. Leventhal to the Senior Class Awards Committee - Mar. 2, 1984  
Article: "Who are the Refuseniks?"  
Statement from "For the Establishment of Trust between the USSR and the USA"  
to the world - Dec. 10, 1983  
Medvedkov's response to receiving the Senior Class Award - 1984  
Excerpt from *A Study of Jews Refused Their Right to Leave the Soviet Union*  
Story "A Non-Propitious Time" by G. J. Demko - Dec. 1982  
Speech by Medvedkov to the Institute of Geography's Council - Jul. 21, 1981  
Article on Soviet interrogations of two U.S. journalists - Dec. 28, 1982  
Article from *L. A. Times* on Soviet treatment of Jewish scientists - Feb. 24, 1982  
Article from *Wall Street Journal* on Soviet prison practices - Dec. 19, 1983
- Folder 02) "Who is Dr. Yuri Medvedkov? And Why Should We Honor Him?" -  
Nov. 1983-Mar. 1984  
Letter to S. Leventhal from Committee of Concerned Scientists - Nov. 23, 1983  
Petition for honorary degree for Medvedkov  
Letter to *The Dickinsonian* Editor regarding honorary degree - Feb. 2, 1984  
Leadership Council Banquet invitation - 1984  
Letter to Pres. Banks from Peter Dahlin, pres. of senior class - Feb. 22, 1984  
Advertisement for letter writing campaign to support Medvedkov - Feb. 23, 1984  
Photocopy of postcard addressed to Medvedkov - 1984  
Instructions for writing to Yuri and Olga Medvedkov - 1984  
Letter to President Banks from B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations - Feb. 24, 1984  
Letter to *The Dickinsonian* Editor regarding Leadership Banquet - Mar. 1, 1984  
Article in *The Dickinsonian* about Senior Class Award - Mar. 1, 1984  
Guide to establishment of Senior Class Award to support Refuseniks - 1984

#### CORRESPONDENCE

- Folder 03) Steven G. Leventhal - Mar.-Aug. 1984  
Folder 04) Norman L. Leventhal - Jun.-Aug. 1984  
Folder 05) Henry Green - Jun. 1984  
Folder 06) Miscellaneous - 1982, 1984

#### ARTICLES

- Folder 07) Articles about Medvedkov - May 1983, 1984  
Folder 08) Articles about Steven Leventhal and the Senior Class Award - Jun. 1984

**BOX 1 - MC 2012.9 (cont.)**

MISCELLANEOUS PAPERS

- Folder 09) Senior Class Awards Committee minutes - Apr. 8, 1984  
Letter from Senior Class Awards Committee with nominee biographies - Apr. 1984  
Hillel flyer - 1984  
Medvedkov campaign advertisement - 1984  
Instructions for letters to Medvedkov - 1984  
Petition signed by Delta Nu Sorority - 1984

**ARTIFACT BOX 1 – AC 2012.9**

- Item 01) Blue pin with “Yuri Medvedkov” in black letters - 1984

This collection register was prepared by Lily Key, May 2012.