

# John W. Friedmann papers and oral history interview, 1966-2001

## Overview of the Collection

<b>Creator, interviewee</b>	Friedmann, John W. (John Werner), 1921-
<b>Title</b>	John W. Friedmann papers and oral history interview
<b>Dates</b>	1966-2001 (inclusive) 1966 2001
<b>Quantity</b>	1 vertical file plus 2 sound cassettes
<b>Collection Number</b>	5452
<b>Summary</b>	Oral history, transcript, and other written reminiscences of John W. Friedmann, who was born in Germany and was later largely involved with the Jewish community on Mercer Island, Washington
<b>Repository</b>	<a href="#">University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections</a> Special Collections University of Washington Libraries Box 352900 Seattle, WA 98195-2900 Telephone: 206-543-1929 Fax: 206-543-1931 <a href="mailto:speccoll@uw.edu">speccoll@uw.edu</a>
<b>Access Restrictions</b>	Open to all users
<b>Languages</b>	English

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## Biographical Note

John W. Friedmann was born on June 21, 1921 in Glogau, Silesia, Germany. Mr. Friedmann escaped to England 3 months before World War II and became a British subject after the war. He emigrated to the United States, first to New York and then to Seattle with his wife, Ulla. They arrived in Washington state in 1950 and bought a house on Mercer Island in 1952. They raised three children, and have 6 grandchildren. He is now married to Madelaine Georgette, and they live on Mercer Island.

John Friedmann helped found Overlake Jewish Religion School in 1957 and was appointed as Chairman of the Building Committee for the Herzl Synagogue in 1963.

## Content Description

2 sound cassettes (1 original and 1 copy) of a 60-minute tape recorded interview conducted on April 26, 2001, a 19-page transcript, a photograph, newsletter, photocopies of newspaper clippings and correspondence, and other written reminiscences. In the interview and writings, Mr. Friedmann describes his early life and family in Glogau, Germany before World War II. He talks about the family business, his education, his time in England during the war, and the fact that all of his family in Germany perished in the Holocaust. Mr. Friedmann talks about his emigration to the United States,

his first wife Ulla, and their life in New York and, later, Seattle. He describes his work, family, and community activism for organizations such as Congregation Ner Tamid and Overlake Lodge B'nai Brith. He also talks about his work founding the Overlake Jewish Religion School, the construction of the new Herzl synagogue in Seward Park, the merger of the Herzl and Ner Tamid congregations, and forming a Holocaust Memorial committee.

## Other Descriptive Information

Forms part of the Washington State Jewish Archives.

## Use of the Collection

### Alternative Forms Available

[Listen to the audio recording](#) of the interview on the Libraries Digital Collections site.

### Restrictions on Use

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

John W. Friedmann, 1996-08-01 and 2001-04-26

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## Names and Subjects

#### **Subject Terms :**

Holocaust survivors--Washington (State)--Interviews

Immigrants--Washington (State)--Interviews

Jewish community centers--Washington (State)

Jews--Washington (State)--Interviews

#### **Personal Names :**

Friedmann, John W. (John Werner), 1921---Archives

Friedmann, John W. (John Werner), 1921---Interviews

#### **Corporate Names :**

Congregation Ner Tamid of Bellevue (Bellevue, Wash.)

Group Health Cooperative of Puget Sound

Herzl-Ner Tamid Conservative Congregation (Mercer Island, Wash.)

#### **Form or Genre Terms :**

Facsimiles

Interviews

Newsletters

Oral histories

Photographs

**Other Creators :**

**Personal Names :**

Stiefel, Doris J.,  
(interviewer)

**Corporate Names :**

Washington State Jewish Archives (University of Washington)  
Washington State Jewish Archives (University of Washington), host institution  
(creator)

## Names and Subjects

**Subject Terms :**

Personal Papers/Corporate Records (University of Washington)

**Other Creators :**

**Corporate Names :**

Washington State Jewish Archives (University of Washington)

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