A Finding Aid to the
International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism Records

Manuscript Collection No. 899
### Collection Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism Records</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dates</td>
<td>1984-2016, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collection Number</td>
<td>MS-899</td>
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<tr>
<td>Repository</td>
<td>The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creator</td>
<td>International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extent</td>
<td>14 linear feet (35 Hollinger boxes)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td>Correspondence, administrative files, and records pertaining to the International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism (IISHJ) and its educational programs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Language of the Material</td>
<td>English, Hebrew, French, Russian, and Spanish</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Administrative Information

**Physical Description**
General condition: Good.

**Biographical Sketch**
The International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism (IISHJ) was founded by Rabbi Sherwin T. Wine in 1985. Envisioning one campus in Israel and one in North America, its founding mission was to train leaders and operate as an intellectual center for the philosophy of Secular Humanistic Judaism. In 1986, the International Federation for Secular and Humanistic Jews (IFSHJ) was created to facilitate a network of national and local organizations and communities who were connected to Secular Humanistic Judaism in their organizing principles. In North America, the IFSHJ functioned as a program of the IISHJ, run jointly by Executive Director, Marilyn Rowens.

In 2000, the newly opened Center for Cultural Judaism in New York City served as the office of the IFSHJ under the direction of Myrna Baron. In 2006, organizational responsibilities for the IFSHJ returned to the IISHJ. After Sherwin Wine's death in 2007, long-time supporter of Secular and Humanistic Judaism, Marvin Rosenbloom, re-organized an "International Federation for Secular & Humanistic Judaism," which engaged in outreach to various communities in Europe and elsewhere but became inactive after Rosenbloom’s death in 2011. The IISHJ continues working to train leaders and offer educational programming according to the philosophy of Secular Humanistic Judaism under the direction of new Dean Rabbi Adam Chalom.

The International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism Records collection reflects the close relationship between the IISHJ and IFSHJ in their North American operations, and contains files pertaining to both organizations.

**Scope and Content**
Records pertain to the administration of the International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism (IISHJ) from before its founding in 1985 up to 2016. The files focus on the operation of the IISHJ's major educational programs, seminars and colloquia, including records of their planning, course materials, minutes, and proceedings. Also included are files of the North American section of the International Federation for Secular and Humanistic Judaism (IFSHJ).

**Arrangement**
This collection is arranged in seven (7) series: A. Administration; B. Publications; C. Programs; D. Seminars; E. Colloquia; F. International Federation for Secular Humanistic Judaism; G. Media.

**Terms of Access**
The collection is open for use; no restrictions apply.

**Preferred Citation**
Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism Records and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:

[Description], [Date], International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism Records, MS-899, Box [#], Folder [#]. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

**Provenance**
Received from Adam Chalom, Farmington Hills, Mich., 2014 and 2016.

**Processing Information**

**Subjects**
Series A. Administration, 1985-2010

Extent 1.8 linear feet (4.5 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Consists of records pertaining to the operation of the IISHJ, including Board of Governors meeting agendas and minutes, committee reports, and general correspondence.

Arrangement Administration files are arranged alphabetically by subject, with Board of Governors and daily records files arranged chronologically.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 1. Board of Governors, 1988-1999
Box 1. Folder 2. Board of Governors, 2000-2001
Box 1. Folder 3. Board of Governors, 2002-2003
Box 1. Folder 4. Board of Governors, 2004-2005
Box 1. Folder 5. Board of Governors, 2006-2009
Box 1. Folder 6. Board of Governors, 2010-2016
Box 1. Folder 7. Budgets and financial reports, 1988-2008
Box 2. Folder 1. By-laws and policies, 1985-2015
Box 2. Folder 2. Committee reports, 1995-2016
Box 2. Folder 3. Correspondence, 1986-1989
Box 2. Folder 4. Correspondence, 1990-1999
Box 2. Folder 5. Correspondence, 2000-2009
Box 3. Folder 1. Daily records, 1995 January-June
Box 3. Folder 2. Daily records, 1995 July-December
Box 3. Folder 3. Daily records, 1996 January-June
Box 3. Folder 4. Daily records, 1996 July-December
Box 3. Folder 5. Daily records, 1997
Box 4. Folder 1. Daily records, 2000
Box 4. Folder 2. Daily records, 2001
Box 4. Folder 3. Daily records, 2002 January-June
Box 4. Folder 4. Daily records, 2002 July-December
Box 5. Folder 1. Executive Committee, 1988-2002
Box 5. Folder 2. Executive Director, 1999-2001
Box 5. Folder 3. IISHJ founding proposal, 1985
**Series B. Publications, 1987-2012**

**Extent** 0.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box)

**Scope and Content Note** Includes books, brochures, and other material produced by IISHJ together with correspondence and press pertaining to those publications.

**Arrangement** Publications records are arranged alphabetically by publication title or subject.

**Box and Folder Listing**

- Box 5. Folder 9. Humanist Readings in Jewish Folklore. Correspondence, 2001-2002
- Box 5. Folder 10. IISHJ/IFSHJ newsletter, 1987-1996
- Box 6. Folder 1. Proposals, 2010-2016

**Series C. Programs, 1986-2008**

**Extent** 2.6 linear feet (6.5 Hollinger boxes)

**Scope and Content Note** Consists of records of IISHJ's educational and outreach programs, degree programs, and certifications. Files pertaining to faculty and students of IISHJ programs are also included.

**Arrangement** Program records are arranged alphabetically by program title or subject, followed by student and faculty files arranged alphabetically by name.

**Box and Folder Listing**

- Box 6. Folder 11. Continuing Jewish Education, undated
Box 7. Folder 8. Rabbinic Program development, 1994-1996
Box 7. Folder 9. Scholar-In-Residence, 2001-2005
Box 7. Folder 10. Scholarships, 1994-2001
Box 7. Folder 11. Travel programs, 1999-2006
Box 8. Folder 1. Student files and projects. Alpern to Davis. Restricted, 1993-2008
Box 10. Folder 5. Student files. Leadership program final projects. Restricted, undated
Box 11. Folder 3. Student project. Illustrated cards. Restricted, undated
Box 11. Folder 5. Faculty files. Cohn to Friedman. Restricted, 1995-2005, undated

**Series D. Seminars, 1984-2013**

**Extent** 4 linear feet (10 Hollinger boxes)

**Scope and Content Note** Consists of the IISHJ’s educational courses including syllabi, rosters, and correspondence between faculty and Institute staff concerning course planning.
Subseries 1. Planning Files, 1987-2013

Extent 1.6 linear feet (4 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Planning files include syllabi, schedules and correspondence pertaining to seminar events.

Arrangement Seminar planning files are arranged alphabetically by seminar title, followed by general files pertaining to the seminar program. See Series G Media for recordings of seminars, 1991-2004.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 13. Folder 1. After the Bible, 2008
Box 13. Folder 6. Basic Ideas of Secular and Humanistic Judaism, undated
Box 13. Folder 9. Congregation Administration (Madrikh), 1997
Box 14. Folder 1. Dead Sea Scrolls, 2005
Box 14. Folder 5. Israeli Jewish Culture, 2001
Box 14. Folder 6. Israeli Jewish & National Consciousness, 2005
Box 14. Folder 8. Jewish Calendar and Holidays, 2001-2006
Box 15. Folder 1. Music of Secular Humanistic Judaism, 1999
Subseries 2. Readings and Coursepacks, 1984-2007

Extent 2.4 linear feet (6 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Includes printed course readings and assembled course materials for seminar events.

Arrangement Readings and coursepacks are arranged alphabetically by seminar title and chronologically in the case of repeated titles.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 17. Folder 1. Basic Ideas of Secular Humanistic Judaism, 2007
Box 17. Folder 2. Basic Ideas of Secular Humanistic Judaism, undated
Box 17. Folder 3. Contemporary Jewish History, 1996
Box 17. Folder 4. Contemporary Jewish History, 1999
Box 17. Folder 5. Contemporary Jewish History, 2002
Box 18. Folder 1. Faraway/Nearby: The Intersection of Inner Creative Expression and the Outer Exploration of Place, 1999
Box 18. Folder 3. History of Secular Humanistic Judaism, 2010
Box 18. Folder 4. Introduction to Secular Humanistic Judaism, 2002
Box 18. Folder 5. Israeli Culture and Literature, 2001
Box 19. Folder 3. The Life Cycle, 2002
Box 20. Folder 1. North American Jewish Culture, 2000
Box 20. Folder 4. North American Jewish Literature, undated
Box 20. Folder 5. Philosophic Guidance and Counseling, 2002
Box 21. Folder 3. Rabbinic and Medieval History and Literature, 2004
Box 22. Folder 1. Roots of Secular Humanistic Judaism, 2000, 2006
Box 22. Folder 2. Roots of Secular Humanistic Judaism, 2006
Box 22. Folder 3. Roots of Secular Humanistic Judaism, long program, undated
Box 22. Folder 4. Sephardic Judaism, 2001

**Series E. Colloquia, 1995-2014**

**Extent** 2.8 linear feet (7 Hollinger boxes)

**Scope and Content Note** Records dealing with IISHJ’s biennial conferences (Colloquia) in the United States including planning documents, publicity, and correspondence between Institute staff and attendees or speakers.

**Arrangement** Colloquia are arranged chronologically, with files of each Colloquium arranged as they were received in binders from IISHJ, followed by general files pertaining to Colloquium events.

**Box and Folder Listing**

Series F. International Federation for Secular Humanistic Judaism, 1986-2011

Extent 2.4 linear feet (6 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Contains the records of the IFSHJ, including correspondence between the North American Section and international affiliate organizations. Because of the close relationship between the IISHJ and the IFSHJ during their history, IFSHJ records can also be found with IISHJ records in the other series, especially Series A. Administration.

Arrangement This series is arranged in four (4) subseries: 1. Administration; 2. Affiliate Correspondence; 3. Biennial Conferences; 4. Subject Files.

Subseries 1. Administration, 1986-2011

Extent 0.6 linear feet (1.5 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Contains correspondence and files dealing with operation of IFSHJ, including minutes, by-laws, and regular statements produced by IFSHJ about secular and humanistic Judaism.

Arrangement IFSHJ administration files are arranged alphabetically by subject.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 30. Folder 1. Articles of Incorporation, 1993, 2008
Box 30. Folder 2. Constitution and by-laws, 1986, undated
Box 30. Folder 3. Correspondence, 1993-1995
Box 30. Folder 4. Correspondence, 1997-1998
Box 30. Folder 5. Correspondence, 1999
Box 30. Folder 6. Correspondence, 2000
Box 30. Folder 7. Correspondence, 2001-2010
Subseries 2. Affiliate Correspondence, 1988-2011

Extent 1.2 linear feet (3 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Correspondence between the North American Section and Federation affiliates/sections in Israel, Europe, Russia (Eurasia), and the Americas.

Arrangement IFSHJ affiliate correspondence is arranged alphabetically by location.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 31. Folder 8. Brazil, 2008-2010
Box 32. Folder 5. Eurasia, 1994-2003
Box 32. Folder 7. Europe, 1994-1999
Box 32. Folder 8. France, 1996
Box 33. Folder 1. Israel, 1988-2002
Box 33. Folder 2. Israel. T'Mura, 2004-2007
Box 33. Folder 3. Israel. T'Mura, 2008-2011
Box 33. Folder 4. Italy, 1998-2003
Box 33. Folder 5. Latin America, 1987-2000
Box 34. Folder 1. Switzerland. Posen Foundation, 2000-2002
Box 34. Folder 2. Uruguay, 1989-2000


Extent 0.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note Files pertaining to planning and running regular IFSHJ conferences, including schedules and promotional material.

Arrangement IFSHJ Biennial Conference records are arranged chronologically by conference year.
Box and Folder Listing

Box 34. Folder 5. Paris conference. Correspondence, 1996
Box 35. Folder 1. Tel Aviv conference, 1998
Box 35. Folder 4. San Francisco conference, 2004

Subseries 4. Subject Files, 1998-2007

Extent 0.2 linear feet (0.5 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note Files from IFSHJ records pertaining to assorted topics related to Secular and Humanistic Judaism or to IFSHJ activities.

Arrangement IFSHJ subject files are arranged alphabetically by subject.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 35. Folder 5. Center for Cultural Judaism, 2003
Box 35. Folder 9. Meitar, the College of Judaism as Culture, 2000, 2007
Box 35. Folder 10. "The Movement" information packet, undated
Box 35. Folder 11. Think-Tank for Secular Jews proposal, undated


Extent 1.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box, 1 record carton)

Scope and Content Note Consists largely of tape-recordings of IISHJ seminars and classes, along with a small collection of photographs.

Arrangement This series is arranged in four (4) subseries: 1. Photographs; 2. Videocassettes; 3. Seminar Audiocassettes; 4. Rabbinic Class Audiocassettes.


Extent 0.2 linear feet (0.5 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note Includes photographs from conference events and trips; and photographs of faculty members used for colloquium and conference publicity.

Arrangement Photographs are arranged chronologically.
Box and Folder Listing

Box 36. Folder 1. IFSHJ conference, 1994
Box 36. Folder 3. IFSHJ Brussels Conference, 2002
Box 36. Folder 4. IFSHJ Eurasian Section, undated
Box 36. Folder 5. IISHJ faculty, undated

Subseries 2. Videocassettes, 2002-2004

Extent 0.2 linear feet (0.5 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note Video recordings of Sherwin T. Wine seminars.

Arrangement Videocassettes are arranged chronologically.

Box and Folder Listing

Box VT-1017. Item Origins of the Bible, part 1, 2002 November
Box VT-1018. Item Origins of the Bible, part 2, 2002 November
Box VT-1019. Item ReThinking the Bible, part 1, 2004 February
Box VT-1020. Item ReThinking the Bible, part 2, 2004 February


Extent 0.25 linear feet (0.25 record carton)

Scope and Content Note Recordings of IISHJ weekend seminars. Seminar course titles are listed, along with tape counts. A complete listing including more detailed information for each recording is available. Please note some titles repeat due to courses being offered multiple times. See Series D Seminars for additional material related to seminars.

Arrangement Seminar audiocassettes are arranged in chronological order.

Box and Folder Listing

Box C-7624-C-7632. Item Jewish Education [9 cassettes], 1991 June
Box C-7633-C-7639. Item Roots of Secular Humanistic Judaism [7 cassettes], 1992 January-February
Box C-7640. Item Post Biblical History and Literature [1 cassette], 1992 November
Box C-7641-C-7649. Item Basic Ideas of Secular Humanistic Judaism [9 cassettes], 1993 February
Box C-7650-C-7658. Item Yiddish Culture [9 cassettes], 1993 June
Box C-7659-C-7667. Item Contemporary Jewish History [9 cassettes], 1993 August
Box C-7668. Item IISHJ Graduation Ceremony [1 cassette], 1993 October
Box C-7669-C-7676. Item Jewish Calendar and Holiday Celebrations [8 cassettes], 1993 November
Box C-7677-C-7686. Item Jewish Life Cycle Celebrations [10 cassettes], 1994 February
Box C-7687-C-7691. Item Jewish Education [5 cassettes], 1994 June
Box C-7692-C-7702. Item Basic Ideas of Secular Humanistic Judaism [11 cassettes], 1995 February
Box C-7703-C-7713. Item Jewish Calendar and Holiday Celebrations [11 cassettes], 1995 June
Box C-7714-C-7726. Item Post Biblical History and Literature [13 cassettes], 1995 August
Box C-7727-C-7734. Item Jewish Education [8 cassettes], 1996 February
Box C-7735-C-7745. Item Sephardic and Oriental Jewish History, Culture, and Literature [11 cassettes], 1996 April
Box C-7746-C-7753. Item Philosophic Guidance and Counseling [8 cassettes], 1996 June
Box C-7754-C-7762. Item Contemporary Jewish History [9 cassettes], 1996 August
Box C-7763-C-7770. Item Basic Ideas of Secular Humanistic Judaism [8 cassettes], 1997 April
Box C-7771-C-7778. Item North American Jewish Culture and Literature [8 cassettes], 1997 June
Box C-7779-C-7786. Item Jewish Life Cycle Celebrations [8 cassettes], 1997 August
Box C-7787-C-7794. Item Jewish Calendar and Holiday Celebrations [8 cassettes], 1998 April
Box C-7795-C-7804. Item Ashkenazic Jewish Culture and Literature [10 cassettes], 1998 June
Box C-7805-C-7812. Item Managing and Developing a Community [8 cassettes], 1998 August
Box C-7813-C-7817. Item Israeli Culture and Literature [5 cassettes], 1998 November
Box C-7818-C-7824. Item Music [7 cassettes], 1998 December
Box C-7825-C-7831. Item Jewish Education [7 cassettes], 1999 April
Box C-7832-C-7837. Item Philosophic Guidance and Counseling [6 cassettes], 1999 June
Box C-7838-C-7846. Item Roots of Secular Humanistic Judaism [9 cassettes], 1999 August
Box C-7847-C-7853. Item Sephardic and Oriental Jewish History, Culture, and Literature [7 cassettes], 1999 November
Box C-7854-C-7860. Item Music [8 cassettes], 1999 December
Box C-7861-C-7866. Item North American Jewish Culture [6 cassettes], 2000 June
Box C-7867-C-7870. Item Jewish Life Cycle Celebrations [4 cassettes], 2000 August
Box C-7871-C-7879. Item Hellenistic Judaism [9 cassettes], 2000 November
Box C-7880-C-7887. Item Sephardic and Oriental Jewish History, Culture, and Literature [8 cassettes], 2001 January
Box C-7888-C-7900. Item Jewish Education [13 cassettes], 2004 June
Box C-7901. Item Philosophic Guidance and Counseling [1 cassette], undated
Box C-7902. Item Leadership Program [1 cassette], undated

Extent 0.75 linear feet (0.75 record carton)

Scope and Content Note Recordings of semester-long classes offered as part of the IISHJ rabbinic program. Titles of courses are listed, along with tape counts. A complete listing of recordings is available, including more detail about topics covered. Please note some titles repeat due to courses being offered multiple times. See Series C Programs for additional material related to the rabbinic program and classes.

Arrangement Rabbinic class audiocassettes are arranged in chronological order.

Box and Folder Listing

Box C-7903-C-7906. Item Untitled cassettes [4 cassettes], undated

Box C-7907-C-7925. Item Marriage, intermarriage & divorce [19 cassettes], 1992-1993
Box C-7926-C-7945. Item Jewish Calendar and Holidays [20 cassettes], 1993
Box C-7946-C-7974. Item Biblical History [29 cassettes], 1993-1994
Box C-7975-C-7985. Item Medieval History [11 cassettes], 1994-1995
Box C-7986-C-8002. Item Rabbinic History and Literature [17 cassettes], 1995
Box C-8003-C-8011. Item Jewish Calendar and Holidays [9 cassettes], 1995
Box C-8012-C-8033. Item Post-Biblical History [22 cassettes], 1995
Box C-8034-C-8098. Item Contemporary History [65 cassettes], 1995-1997
Box C-8099-C-8122. Item Philosophy of Secular Humanistic Judaism [24 cassettes], 1997
Box C-8123-C-8149. Item Jewish Calendar and Holidays [27 cassettes], 1997-1998
Box C-8150-C-8174. Item Jewish Life Cycle Celebrations [25 cassettes], 1998
Box C-8175-C-8180. Item Philosophic Guidance and Counseling [6 cassettes], 1998
Box C-8181-C-8200. Item Ancient Jewish history [20 cassettes], 1998
Box C-8201-C-8242. Item Biblical Literature [42 cassettes], 1998-1999
Box C-8243-C-8261. Item Rabbinic History and Literature [19 cassettes], 1999-2000
Box C-8262-C-8289. Item Medieval History [28 cassettes], 2000
Box C-8290-C-8319. Item Philosophy of Secular Humanistic Judaism [30 cassettes], 2000
Box C-8320-C-8332. Item Basic Ideas of Secular Humanistic Judaism [13 cassettes], 2000
Box C-8323-C-8355. Item Contemporary Jewish History [23 cassettes], 2000
Box C-8356-C-8386. Item Basic Ideas of Secular Humanistic Judaism [31 cassettes], 2001
Box C-8387-C-8417. Item Contemporary Jewish History [31 cassettes], 2001