



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
David Polish Papers**

Manuscript Collection No. 631



Collection Summary

Title	David Polish Papers
Dates	1928-1995
Collection Number	MS-631
Repository	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator	Polish, David, 1910-1995
Extent	1.6 linear feet (4 Hollinger boxes)
Language of the Material	English

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch	<p>David Polish was born in Cleveland in 1910. He graduated from the University of Cincinnati in 1931 and was ordained as a rabbi at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati in 1934.</p> <p>Rabbi Polish was president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis -- the organizational arm of the Reform rabbinate in the U.S. -- from 1971-1973. He helped plan the organization's first meeting in Jerusalem in 1970 and, under his leadership, the CCAR became a member of the World Jewish Organization.</p> <p>Polish was a congregational rabbi who spent most of his career in the Chicago area. After a stint as director of the Hillel Foundation at Cornell University and serving five years at a congregation in Waterbury, Connecticut, Polish came to Chicago in 1947. He was founding rabbi of Beth Emet The Free Synagogue in Evanston and served as its rabbi from 1950 until his retirement in 1980.</p> <p>Polish was a prolific author and a devoted Zionist. He was a leader in the American Reform movement and received numerous honors and awards during his lifetime.</p> <p>Polish was married to Aviva Friedland for 57 years. They had two children: Judith Shenker and Daniel.</p> <p>David Polish died in Evanston, Illinois on April 16, 1995 at the age of 85.</p>
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Scope and Content	Collection consisting of correspondence (bulk 1922-1995), sermons, and writings. Includes correspondence with Stephen S. Wise and Abba Hillel Silver; sermons and other writings; and miscellaneous items, including a journal of a trip to Palestine in 1936 and materials pertaining to his student years at Hebrew Union College.
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Arrangement	The collection is divided in two (2) series: A. Correspondence; B. Sermons and Writings.
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Terms of Access	The collection is open for use; no restrictions apply.
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Preferred Citation	Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the David Polish Papers and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:
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[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-631. David Polish Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Provenance	Received from Aviva Polish, Evanston, Ill., 1999.
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Processing Information	Processed by Kevin Proffitt, June 1999.
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Index Terms

Subjects	Jews -- Illinois -- Evanston / Rabbis
Personal Names	Polish, David, 1910-1995 / Silver, Abba Hillel, 1893-1963 / Wise, Stephen S. (Stephen Samuel), 1874-1949
Media	Sermons

Series A. Correspondence, 1928-1995

Extent 1 linear foot (2.5 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Consists primarily of a large file of letters and other materials compiled in chronological order by Rabbi Polish from March 1992 until his death in 1995. This file is maintained here as it was created by Rabbi Polish and contains information on Polish's work, interests and activities during the last years of his life.

Also included in this series are files from earlier in Polish's life. These include materials on Temple Mizpah of Chicago and Beth Emet The Free Synagogue in Evanston, Illinois; files from Polish's student years at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati; files, including a diary, of trips to Palestine in 1936 and Israel in 1959; and correspondence files with Abba Hillel Silver and Stephen S. Wise.

Box and Folder Listing

- Box 1. Folder 1. Correspondence, 1992 March-July
- Box 1. Folder 2. Correspondence, 1992 August-November
- Box 1. Folder 3. Correspondence, 1993 January-May
- Box 1. Folder 4. Correspondence, 1993 June-December
- Box 1. Folder 5. Correspondence, 1994 January-June
- Box 2. Folder 1. Correspondence, 1994 July-September
- Box 2. Folder 2. Correspondence, 1994 October-December
- Box 2. Folder 3. Correspondence, 1995
- Box 2. Folder 4. Beth Emet The Free Synagogue, 1962-1974
- Box 2. Folder 5. Hebrew Union College [graduation], 1934
- Box 2. Folder 6. Hebrew Union College [Literary Society], 1930-1931
- Box 2. Folder 7. Israel trip, 1959
- Box 2. Folder 8. Palestine trip [Diary], 1936
- Box 2. Folder 9. Palestine trip [correspondence], 1936
- Box 2. Folder 10. Silver, Abba Hillel, 1928
- Box 3. Folder 1. Temple Mizpah (Chicago, Ill.), 1948-1974
- Box 3. Folder 2. Wise, Stephen S., 1935-1948

Series B. Sermons and Writings, 1933, 1970, undated

Extent 0.6 linear feet (1.5 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Consists of sermons and other writings including some fiction and plays. The series also contains one file of college sermons written while Polish was a student at Hebrew Union College in the early 1930s together with a file of lectures delivered in Israel in March and April 1970.

Arrangement Compiled alphabetically by title.

Box and Folder Listing

- Box 3. Folder 3. College sermons, 1933, undated
- Box 3. Folder 4. Talks in Israel, 1970 March-April

Box 3. Folder 5. A-F.

Box 3. Folder 6. G-P.

Box 4. Folder 1. R-W.

Box 4. Folder 2. Untitled sermons and writings.