



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE  
**AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES**

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**A Finding Aid to the  
Skirball Institute on American Values Records  
Manuscript Collection No. 721**

## Collection Summary

<b>Title</b>	Skirball Institute on American Values Records
<b>Dates</b>	1984-2003
<b>Collection Number</b>	MS-721
<b>Repository</b>	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
<b>Creator</b>	Skirball Institute on American Values
<b>Extent</b>	8.8 linear feet (22 Hollinger boxes)
<b>Language of the Material</b>	English and Hebrew

## Administrative Information

### Biographical Sketch

Jack H. Skirball created the Skirball Institute on American Values as an agency of the American Jewish Committee in 1985. Skirball was a successful motion picture producer, entrepreneur and rabbi who wanted to see the Jewish community in this country act as a constructive partner in the realization of the American dream. He perceived a close kinship between traditional Jewish ideals and American values.

Alfred Wolf was chosen by Jack Skirball to head the Institute after his death because of his pioneering accomplishments in bringing together religious leaders of all faiths and developing innovative programs to promote American values. In January 1996, after ten years of leadership, Rabbi Wolf reduced his activities and Eugene Mornell, nationally recognized for his work at the United States Commission on Civil Rights and Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission, became Executive Director of the Skirball Institute. The Skirball Institute on American Values was supported entirely by the Skirball Foundation in New York, which funded many educational and philanthropic enterprises.

The Institute worked in different tracks. First, there was its involvement in American values research, which was guided by a "think tank without walls," comprised of historians, sociologists and ethicists. They developed a framework for a systematic study of the effect of American values on the individual, the family, the community and the nation, with a special emphasis on immigrant populations and their American-born offspring. This study of American values by some of the nation's leading academicians led to a major publication.

At the other end of the academic spectrum, the Institute conducted the Skirball Essay contest, in which high school students were encouraged to write on how their lives were affected by a value that can be illustrated by a person, event or document in American history. The Institute also offered Skirball Fellowship for students pursuing advanced degrees in an academic field related to American values. In addition, the Institute conducted a number of conferences, including National Seminary Presidents Conference for Catholic, Jewish and Protestant Seminary Presidents, Southern California Seminary Conference, Intentional Conversation, and Skirball Values Award. The institute also published monthly issues of newsletter, *Speaking of Values*, which addressed a specific question of American values. The format provided journalists and opinion leaders as well as friends of the institute with essays and commentary on the values under discussion.

Another significant activity of the institute was the Project Discovery. Project Discovery was co-sponsored by the Institute and the Office of Ecumenical and Interreligious Activities of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. The enterprises range from dialogues involving priests, rabbis and lay leadership to the innovative use of rabbinic students as interns in Catholic high school; from annual camp conferences for future rabbis, priests and ministers to a permanent interreligious council comprising nine major world religions. A resource manual for Catholic-Jewish relations was also published entitled, *A Journey of Discovery*.

### Scope and Content

The Skirball Institute on American Values was created as an agency of the American Jewish Committee in 1985 by Jack H. Skirball. Materials in the collection include Skirball Institute's official papers, correspondence, major events records. The collection also includes bio-files and photographs of prominent scholars.

### Arrangement

Arranged into four (4) series: A. Biographical Files; B. Correspondence; C. Events; D. Institutional Documents.

### Terms of Access

The collection is open for use; no restrictions apply.

**Preferred Citation** Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the Skirball Institute on American Values Records and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:  
[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-721. Skirball Institute on American Values Records. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

**Provenance** Received from Eugene Mornell, Los Angeles, Calif., May 2003.

**Processing Information** Processed by Nilanjana Kundu, July 2005.

## Index Terms

**Personal Names** Skirball, Jack H., 1896-1985  
**Corporate Names** Skirball Institute on American Values  
**Media** Photographs

### Series A. Biographical Files, 1985-2003

**Extent** 0.8 linear feet (2 Hollinger boxes)

**Scope and Content Note** Consists of resumes, publications, articles, photographs and correspondence.

**Arrangement** The series is arranged alphabetically.

#### Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 1. Skirball Advisory Board Members bio file including photos.  
Box 1. Folder 2. Bergreen, Morris.  
Box 1. Folder 3. Dorff, Elliot N.  
Box 1. Folder 4. Erburu, Robert.  
Box 1. Folder 5. Feldman, Beverly.  
Box 1. Folder 6. Heinz, Hanspeter.  
Box 1. Folder 7. Lipstadt, Deborah E.  
Box 1. Folder 8. Maguire, John David.  
Box 1. Folder 9. Mornell, Eugene S.  
Box 2. Folder 1. Marayati, Salam Al.  
Box 2. Folder 2. Mouw, Richard J.  
Box 2. Folder 3. Nash, Gary.  
Box 2. Folder 4. Skirball, Audrey.  
Box 2. Folder 5. Skirball, Jack.  
Box 2. Folder 6. Skotheim, Robert Allen.

### Series B. Correspondence, 1984-2003

**Extent** 0.8 linear feet (2 Hollinger boxes)

**Scope and Content Note** Consists of original as well as xerox copies of correspondence.

**Arrangement**

The series is arranged alphabetically.

**Box and Folder Listing**

- Box 3. Folder 1. Advisory Board, 2001-2003
- Box 3. Folder 2. American Jewish Committee, Accounting Department, 1985-1994
- Box 3. Folder 3. Skirball Executive Committee, New York, 1989-1997
- Box 3. Folder 4. Bahat, Shula.
- Box 3. Folder 5. Harris, David.
- Box 3. Folder 6. Dr. Kerze, Michael A.
- Box 3. Folder 7. Rev. Merrifield, Donald P., S.J.
- Box 3. Folder 8. Mifflin, Houghton.
- Box 4. Folder 1. Miscellaneous correspondence.
- Box 4. Folder 2. Prince Boleyn XIII Charlemagne XXXV Robert. Frederick Sheldon.
- Box 4. Folder 3. Skirball Institute correspondence, 1992-2002
- Box 4. Folder 4. Skirball Institute correspondence, 1996-1999
- Box 4. Folder 5. Stassen, Glen.
- Box 4. Folder 6. Verizon.
- Box 4. Folder 7. The Yellin Company.

**Series C. Events, 1986-2003**

**Extent** 3.2 linear feet (8 Hollinger boxes)

**Scope and Content Note** Consists of original as well as xerox copies of correspondence, brochures, program lists, invitations, acceptance letters and photographs.

**Arrangement**

The series is arranged chronologically.

**Box and Folder Listing**

- Box 5. Folder 1. "Fairness in the news media.", 1986 December 10
- Box 5. Folder 2. "Old immigrants, new immigrants: challenge and promise.", 1987 March 12
- Box 5. Folder 3. "What makes a value American?", 1988
- Box 5. Folder 4. Skirball Institute Convocation, 1990 January 24
- Box 5. Folder 5. "Altruism as an American value.", 1990 January 24
- Box 5. Folder 6. Skirball Institute 5th anniversary dinner, 1990 December
- Box 5. Folder 7. "Religious pluralism and the common good.", 1991 February 27
- Box 5. Folder 8. "Our challenge for the nineties: preventing religious and ethnic balkanization.", 1993 April 26-28
- Box 6. Folder 1. "Religion's role in preserving the environment.", 1994 April 18-20
- Box 6. Folder 2. "Values in seminary education: an interfaith exploration.", 1995 February 24

Box 6. Folder 3. "Religious value in an age of technology.", 1995 April 3-5

Box 6. Folder 4. 10th anniversary of the Skirball Institute of American values, 1995 November 12

Box 7. Folder 1. Preaching, politics, and power: exploring the link between pulpit and ballot box, 1996 April 29 - May1

Box 7. Folder 2. "The conflict between faith and culture.", 1996 February 22

Box 7. Folder 3. "Developing intellect, character, and spirit in seminary education.", 1997 February 20

Box 7. Folder 4. "Religious values in a diverse society; living with differences of religion, race & culture, 1997 April 14-16

Box 7. Folder 5. "The teaching of religious truth: mine, yours and theirs.", 1998 February 27

Box 7. Folder 6. "Leaders to talk about, can they creatively co-exist.", 1998 October 19-20

Box 7. Folder 7. Apocalyptic visions and utopian dreams, 1998 November 2-8

Box 8. Folder 1. "Faith and American culture.", 1999 February 19

Box 8. Folder 2. An Intentional Conversation at Huntington, 1999 April 21

Box 8. Folder 3. Intentional Conversation, 2000 May 23

Box 8. Folder 4. "Theology in personal and professional practice.", 2000 February 25

Box 8. Folder 5. National Seminary Conference, 2000 October 30

Box 8. Folder 6. "Here I am: stories of personal faith.", 2001 March 2

Box 8. Folder 7. National Seminary President Conference, 2001 October 19-21

Box 8. Folder 8. "The Seminary after September 11: the questions we have.", 2002 March 1

Box 8. Folder 9. A gathering of ethics faculty, 2002 April 24

Box 9. Folder 1. Intentional conversation, 2002 May 22

Box 9. Folder 2. Ethics conference, 2002 October 17

Box 9. Folder 3. National Seminary Presidents' Conference, 2002 October 28

Box 9. Folder 4. Ambassador Within, 2003 January 23

Box 9. Folder 5. "Living a life that matters.", 2003 March 21

Box 9. Folder 6. Intentional conversation, 2003 May 13

Box 10. Folder 1. Skirball essay contest, 1989

Box 10. Folder 2. Skirball essay contest, 1990

Box 10. Folder 3. Skirball essay contest, 1991

Box 10. Folder 4. Skirball essay contest, 1992

Box 10. Folder 5. Skirball essay contest, 1993

Box 11. Folder 1. Skirball essay contest, 1994

Box 11. Folder 2. Skirball essay contest, 1995

Box 11. Folder 3. Skirball essay contest, 1996

Box 11. Folder 4. Skirball essay contest, 1997

Box 11. Folder 5. Skirball essay contest, 1998

Box 11. Folder 6. Skirball essay contest, 1999

Box 12. Folder 1. Skirball essay contest, 2000

Box 12. Folder 2. Skirball essay contest, 2001

Box 12. Folder 3. Skirball essay contest, 2002

Box 12. Folder 4. Skirball values award, 1997

Box 12. Folder 5. Skirball values award, 2001

Box 12. Folder 6. Skirball values award, 2002

Box 12. Folder 7. Skirball values award, 2003

## **Series D. Institutional Documents, 1985-2003**

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

**Scope and Content Note** Consists of budget reports, expenditure files, notes, correspondence, committee reports, minutes, photographs, project reports and publications.

**Arrangement** The series is arranged alphabetically by subject.

### **Box and Folder Listing**

Box 13. Folder 1. Address change.

Box 13. Folder 2. Advisory Board.

Box 13. Folder 3. Advisory Board.

Box 13. Folder 4. Advisory Board Budget and Finance Committee.

Box 13. Folder 5. Advisory Board Executive Committee.

Box 13. Folder 6. Ambassador within.

Box 14. Folder 1. American Jewish Committee.

Box 14. Folder 2. Institute for American values.

Box 14. Folder 3. Articles.

Box 14. Folder 4. Skirball Institute bank documents.

Box 14. Folder 5. Skirball Institute brochure.

Box 14. Folder 6. Skirball Institute budget and financial report.

Box 14. Folder 7. AJC- Catholic/Jewish ethics and public policy.

Box 14. Folder 8. Catholic religious education congress.

Box 14. Folder 9. Claremont graduate school.

Box 14. Folder 10. The common good national interfaith statement.

Box 14. Folder 11. Skirball cultural center.

Box 15. Folder 1. Ethikon Institute.

Box 15. Folder 2. Skirball Institute expenditure.

Box 15. Folder 3. Skirball fellowship on religion and civic life.

Box 15. Folder 4. Skirball conference follow up and evaluation, 1993

Box 15. Folder 5. Skirball conference program, 1994

Box 15. Folder 6. Skirball conference follow up and evaluation, 1994

Box 16. Folder 1. Skirball conference follow up, 1994

Box 16. Folder 2. Skirball conference Lee Lang's report, 1994

Box 16. Folder 3. Skirball conference evaluation and follow up, 1995

Box 16. Folder 4. Skirball conference Lee Lang's report, 1995

Box 16. Folder 5. Skirball conference follow up, 1996

Box 16. Folder 6. Skirball conference Lee Lang's report, 1996

Box 16. Folder 7. Skirball conference Lee Lang's report, 1997

Box 16. Folder 8. Skirball conference evaluation, 1997

Box 16. Folder 9. Intentional conversation follow up, 1999

Box 17. Folder 1. Intentional conversation follow up, 2001

Box 17. Folder 2. Intentional conversation follow up, 2002

Box 17. Folder 3. Intentional conversation follow up, 2003

Box 17. Folder 4. Interreligious affairs of the American Jewish committee.

Box 17. Folder 5. Journey of discovery.

Box 17. Folder 6. Marian Wright Edelman and the children defense fund.

Box 17. Folder 7. Mentor project, 1990-1991

Box 17. Folder 8. Millennium Institute.

Box 17. Folder 9. Miscellaneous.

Box 17. Folder 10. National Seminary.

Box 17. Folder 11. National Seminary conference 2000 follow up.

Box 18. Folder 1. National seminary presidents conference follow up, 2002

Box 18. Folder 2. Newsletters.

Box 18. Folder 3. Newsletters permission request.

Box 18. Folder 4. Planning documents and proposals.

Box 18. Folder 5. Program specialist applications.

Box 18. Folder 6. Project discovery.

Box 19. Folder 1. Research paper.

Box 19. Folder 2. Research paper.

Box 19. Folder 3. Research project- Deborah E. Lipstadt.

Box 19. Folder 4. Publication.

Box 20. Folder 1. Saving remnant society.

Box 20. Folder 2. Saving remnant society follow up, 2000

Box 20. Folder 3. Saving remnant society, 2001

Box 20. Folder 4. School of theology at Claremont.

Box 20. Folder 5. Sites for meetings.

Box 20. Folder 6. Skirball award of the year, 1999

Box 21. Folder 1. Skirball award nominations for 2000.

Box 21. Folder 2. Skirball essay contest press clippings.

Box 21. Folder 3. Skirball essay contest list of winners, 1993-2002

Box 21. Folder 4. Skirball essay contest videotapes.

Box 21. Folder 5. Skirball Institute staff information.

Box 21. Folder 6. Statement of purpose.

Box 21. Folder 7. Skirball think tank.

Box 21. Folder 8. Skirball publication.

Box 22. Folder 1. Skirball winning essays, 1989-2002

Box 22. Folder 2. Youth task force.