



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
Richard J. Israel Papers**

Manuscript Collection No. 722

Collection Summary

Title	Richard J. Israel Papers
Dates	1940-2000
Collection Number	MS-722
Repository	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator	Israel, Richard J., 1929-2000
Extent	10 linear feet (25 Hollinger boxes)
Language of the Material	English

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch

Richard James Israel was born in Chicago and educated in the public schools there. He received his B.A. from the University of Chicago in 1950 and was ordained at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati in 1957.

While enrolled at HUC-JIR, Rabbi Israel spent 1954-55 in Israel studying at Hebrew University and a yeshiva in Yavneh. He also spent time as a rabbi in Bombay, India, under the auspices of the World Union for Progressive Judaism.

Following ordination, Rabbi Israel became Associate Director of the UCLA Hillel Council, a position he held until 1959 when he became Hillel Director at Yale University. In 1971 he was appointed Executive Director of the Hillel Council of Greater Boston.

At Yale, Rabbi Israel taught, counseled, officiated at religious services and lifecycle events, and led a successful major capital fund drive that resulted in the purchase and renovation of new Hillel facilities. As well, he played a major role in eliminating restrictions on Jewish admissions to the university. In Boston, Rabbi Israel supervised planning, programming and funding that served the area's 38,000 Jewish students.

Upon leaving Hillel in 1985, he served as Director of Central Services and Judaica for the Jewish Community Center of Greater Boston, an appointment that oversaw day camps and community programming. He received a national award for his work. Rabbi Israel later worked as Director of the Alperin-Schechter Day School in Boston, the Bureau of Jewish Education for Rhode Island and taught a course in Hillel leadership for the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. During the 1990s, he was interim Hillel Director at both Brandeis and Princeton Universities.

As a speaker, consultant and workshop leader, Rabbi Israel attended conferences in Jewish Education and Leadership throughout his career and in all parts of the United States. As a writer, his articles on Jewish living and education were published in such periodicals as *Moment*, *Commentary* and *Sh'ma*.

He also contributed to The Jewish Catalogue series. A collection of his writings was published under the title *The Kosher Pig*.

Rabbi Israel was listed in *Who's Who in Religion*, *Who's Who in American Jewry* and *Who's Who in World Jewry*. For two years he was President of the National Association of Hillel Directors. In 1962, the American Jewish Congress awarded him a special citation for civil rights activities, following his involvement in a clergy-led protest against segregation in Georgia. In 1974, Rabbi Israel traveled to the Soviet Union in an effort to establish contacts with Refuseniks. He also undertook numerous trips during his life to Israel. In 1982, Rabbi Israel was the recipient of a Honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.

Rabbi Israel devoted his career to helping Jews of all ages to understand, appreciate and articulate their religious identity. Beyond his role as a rabbi, Israel was a longtime beekeeper and ultra-marathon runner.

Rabbi Israel died in 2000 while hiking with his son Joshua. His wife, Dr. Sherry Israel and his four children, Alisa, Rachel, David and Joshua survived him.

Scope and Content

Richard J. Israel spent most of his career with Hillel organizations at UCLA, Yale and the universities located in the Greater Boston area. His papers consist of sermons, writings, correspondence and resources pertaining to his professional activity with Hillel and as an educator, counselor, consultant and administrator in a variety of settings.

Of special interest are the correspondence, writings and news clippings that pertain to Rabbi Israel's many years as a Hillel Director. The material is also indicative of Rabbi Israel's wide range of contacts and friendships throughout the American Jewish world. In addition, the collection contains material

from his years as a rabbinical student at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, involvement in the American civil rights movement and as an advocate for Soviet Jewry. Overall, the archive reveals a man greatly influenced by the work of his own Hillel Director - Rabbi Maurice Pekarsky of the University of Chicago - and who in turn devoted his life to enriching the lives of young Jewish people.

- Arrangement** The collection is arranged into nine (9) series: A. Writings; B. Correspondence; C. Hillel; D. Jewish Lifecycle and Ritual Resources; E. Jewish Holiday and Festival Resources; F. Conferences; G. Jewish Educational Resources; H. Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion; I. Subject Files.
- Terms of Access** The collection is open for use; no restrictions apply.
- Preferred Citation** Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the Richard J. Israel Papers and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:
[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-722. Richard J. Israel Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.
- Provenance** Received from Sherry Israel, Newton, Mass., 2004.
- Processing Information** Processed by Bill S. Tepper, August 2005.

Index Terms

- Subjects** Holidays / Jewish education
- Personal Names** Israel, Richard J.
- Corporate Names** B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations
- Media** Sermons

Series A. Writings, 1957-2000

Extent 3.2 linear feet (8 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Consists of notes, writings and sermonic material that deal with Jewish living, learning, leadership and spirituality. The material covers his career at UCLA, Yale, in Boston and at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Pennsylvania. The voluminous notes and writings reflect his concern with Jewish identity, civil rights and administrative matters involving Hillel and the issue of Jewish learning and leadership. Included are a number of issues of Moment magazine and the Melton Journal in which his articles were published.

Arrangement The files are arranged alphabetically, then chronologically within folders.

Box and Folder Listing

- Box 1. Folder 1. Bees and beekeeping, 1970s-1980s
- Box 1. Folder 2. Chapel sermons at HUC-JIR, 1956
- Box 1. Folder 3. Definitions of Jewish terms, 1969
- Box 1. Folder 4. Experiential notes, 1970s
- Box 1. Folder 5. Funeral sermonic material, 1960s-1980s
- Box 1. Folder 6. Graduation ceremony prayers, 1966-2000
- Box 1. Folder 7. Judaism and jogging, 1975-1987
- Box 1. Folder 8. High Holiday writing, 1960s
- Box 1. Folder 9. High Holiday sermons, 1950s-1990s

Box 1. Folder 10. High Holiday sermons, 1960s-1990s

Box 1. Folder 11. High Holiday writing, 1970s

Box 1. Folder 12. Homiletic materials, 1980s

Box 1. Folder 13. Kosher Pig, The (book by Richard J. Israel) notes, 1982-1991

Box 2. Folder 1. Lectures, 1958-1991

Box 2. Folder 2. Lectures, 1965-1967

Box 2. Folder 3. Lectures, 1966-1970

Box 2. Folder 4. Memorabilia, 1950s-1990s

Box 2. Folder 5. Miscellaneous notes, 1950s-1990s

Box 2. Folder 6. Miscellaneous notes, 1976

Box 2. Folder 7. Miscellaneous notes, 1965-1987

Box 2. Folder 8. Miscellaneous notes, undated

Box 2. Folder 9. Miscellaneous writings, 1960s-1990s

Box 2. Folder 10. Miscellaneous writings, 1980s

Box 2. Folder 11. Miscellaneous writings, 1950s-1980s

Box 3. Folder 1. Miscellaneous writings, 1968-1987

Box 3. Folder 2. Miscellaneous writings, 1961-1989

Box 3. Folder 3. Miscellaneous writings, 1965-1985

Box 3. Folder 4. Miscellaneous writings, 1963-1985

Box 3. Folder 5. Miscellaneous writings, 1963-1982

Box 3. Folder 6. Miscellaneous writings, 1966-1987

Box 3. Folder 7. Miscellaneous writings, 1969-1988

Box 4. Folder 1. Miscellaneous writings, 1961-1989

Box 4. Folder 2. Miscellaneous writings, 1960s-1980s

Box 4. Folder 3. Miscellaneous writings, 1975-1981

Box 4. Folder 4. Miscellaneous writings, 1970s-1980s

Box 4. Folder 5. Miscellaneous writings, 1950s-1980s

Box 4. Folder 6. Miscellaneous writings, 1960s

Box 5. Folder 1. Miscellaneous writings, 1980s

Box 5. Folder 2. Miscellaneous writings, 1980-1987

Box 5. Folder 3. Miscellaneous writings, 1960s-1980s

Box 5. Folder 4. Miscellaneous writings, 1982-1992

Box 5. Folder 5. Parashot, 1970s-1980s

Box 5. Folder 6. Public prayers, 1950s-1980s

Box 6. Folder 1. Sermonic material, 1980-1995

Box 6. Folder 2. Sermonic material, 1970s-1980s

Box 6. Folder 3. Sermonic material, 1974-1995

Box 6. Folder 4. Sermonic material, undated

Box 6. Folder 5. Sermons, 1950s-1960s

Box 6. Folder 6. Sermons, High Holidays, 1952-1956
Box 6. Folder 7. Stories, undated
Box 7. Folder 1. Talks, 1969
Box 7. Folder 2. Talks, 1961-1985
Box 7. Folder 3. Talks, 1973-1988
Box 7. Folder 4. Talks and articles, 1965-1970
Box 7. Folder 5. Talks, High Holidays, 1980s
Box 7. Folder 6. Talks. Lectures, 1953-1988
Box 8. Folder 1. Talks and sermons, 1954-1992
Box 8. Folder 2. Talks and sermons, 1960s-1970s
Box 8. Folder 3. Talks and sermons, undated
Box 8. Folder 4. Talks, Small, 1950s-1970s
Box 8. Folder 5. Talks, Textual, 1951-1957

Series B. Correspondence, 1950-2000

Extent 0.8 linear feet (2 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Consists of correspondence with colleagues and friends. The writing covers Israel's rabbinical student years at HUC-JIR in Cincinnati, directing Hillel organizations at UCLA, Yale and in Greater Boston, conference work, business involving Boston's Alperin Schechter Day School, the Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island, the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, salary and pension issues as well as correspondence with his publishers and many close friends and rabbinical colleagues.

Arrangement The files are arranged chronologically.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 9. Folder 1. Correspondence, 1950-1957
Box 9. Folder 2. Correspondence, 1958-1959
Box 9. Folder 3. Correspondence, 1960-1963
Box 9. Folder 4. Correspondence, 1964-1967
Box 9. Folder 5. Correspondence, 1968-1969
Box 9. Folder 6. Correspondence, 1970-1979
Box 10. Folder 1. Correspondence, 1980-1983
Box 10. Folder 2. Correspondence, 1984-1985
Box 10. Folder 3. Correspondence, 1986-1987
Box 10. Folder 4. Correspondence, 1988-1989
Box 10. Folder 5. Correspondence, 1990-2000
Box 10. Folder 6. Correspondence, undated

Series C. Hillel, 1957-2000

Extent 1.6 linear feet (4 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Contains materials relating to Israel's work with Hillel. Included are memoranda, flyers, pamphlets, news clippings and numerous papers that focus on the Jewish presence within the campus community.

Arrangement The files are arranged alphabetically, then chronologically within folders.

Box and Folder Listing

- Box 11. Folder 1. Boston, Greater, 1970s
- Box 11. Folder 2. Boston, Greater, 1985
- Box 11. Folder 3. Brandeis University, 1999-2000
- Box 11. Folder 4. Brown University candidacy, 1989
- Box 11. Folder 5. Budget issues, 1980s
- Box 11. Folder 6. Budget issues and goals, 1970s-1980s
- Box 11. Folder 7. Campus cults, 1966-1980
- Box 11. Folder 8. Campus ministry, 1970s
- Box 11. Folder 9. Chabad Lubavitch on campus, 1980
- Box 11. Folder 10. College-bound students preparation, 1970s-1980s
- Box 11. Folder 11. College talk, 1960s-1980s
- Box 11. Folder 12. College talk, 1960s-1980s
- Box 11. Folder 13. College talk, 1960s-1980s
- Box 11. Folder 14. Commission meeting issues, 1979
- Box 11. Folder 15. Directors' Conference notes, undated
- Box 11. Folder 16. Fundraising, 1977-1978
- Box 12. Folder 1. Fundraising, 1960s-1980s
- Box 12. Folder 2. Grant request, 1960s
- Box 12. Folder 3. Group leadership activities, 1960s
- Box 12. Folder 4. Israel trip, 1966
- Box 12. Folder 5. Jewish-Christian relations, 1950s-1980s
- Box 12. Folder 6. Jewish Community Center programming, 1980s
- Box 12. Folder 7. Jewish experiential material, 1970s-1980s
- Box 12. Folder 8. Jewish Student Conference, 1969
- Box 12. Folder 9. Miscellaneous, 1950s-1960s
- Box 12. Folder 10. Miscellaneous, 1940s-1980s
- Box 12. Folder 11. Miscellaneous, 1960s-1970s
- Box 12. Folder 12. Miscellaneous, 1960s-1980s
- Box 12. Folder 13. Miscellaneous, 1980
- Box 12. Folder 14. Miscellaneous, 1970s-1980s
- Box 12. Folder 15. Miscellaneous, 1981
- Box 12. Folder 16. Miscellaneous, 1983
- Box 12. Folder 17. Miscellaneous, 1980s

Box 12. Folder 18. Miscellaneous, 1990

Box 13. Folder 1. National Association of Hillel Directors, 1961-1985

Box 13. Folder 2. Organization and leadership, 1980s

Box 13. Folder 3. Princeton University, 1992-1993

Box 13. Folder 4. Princeton University, 1992-1993

Box 13. Folder 5. Purdue University, 1990

Box 13. Folder 6. Rabbi-Director review, 1989-1990

Box 13. Folder 7. Reconstructionist Rabbinical College Director's course, 1990s

Box 13. Folder 8. Reconstructionist Rabbinical College Director's course, 1982-1994

Box 13. Folder 9. Reconstructionist Rabbinical College Director's course, 1993-1994

Box 13. Folder 10. Reconstructionist Rabbinical College Director's course, 1994-1995

Box 13. Folder 11. Strategic planning, 1980s

Box 13. Folder 12. Stress workshop, 1982

Box 13. Folder 13. Summer institutes, 1960s-1970s

Box 14. Folder 1. UCLA, 1957-1959

Box 14. Folder 2. UCLA counseling, 1958

Box 14. Folder 3. UCLA, Yale University, 1950s-1960s

Box 14. Folder 4. UCLA, Yale University High Holiday service, 1958-1968

Box 14. Folder 5. Yale University, 1960s

Box 14. Folder 6. Yale University, 1960s-1970s

Box 14. Folder 7. Yale University, 1960s-1980s

Box 14. Folder 8. Yale University chaplaincy candidacy, 1992

Box 14. Folder 9. Yale University freshmen orientation, 1971

Box 14. Folder 10. Yale University Hillel pamphlets, 1959-1971

Box 14. Folder 11. Yale University interfaith, 1968-1971

Box 14. Folder 12. Yale University morality crisis, 1960

Series D. Jewish Lifecycle and Ritual Resources, 1940-1990s

Extent 0.8 linear feet (2 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Consists of writings and related materials pertaining to Jewish lifecycles and rituals. Included are files dealing with wedding, bar/bat mitzvah, circumcision as well as adoption, conversion and intermarriage.

Arrangement The files are arranged alphabetically, then chronologically within folders.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 15. Folder 1. Adoption, 1980s

Box 15. Folder 2. Adultery, undated

Box 15. Folder 3. Bar mitzvah, 1960s-1980s

Box 15. Folder 4. Bar mitzvah (Temple Israel, Natick, Mass.), 1989

Box 15. Folder 5. Circumcision and naming, 1960s-1990s
Box 15. Folder 6. Conversion, 1960s-1970s
Box 15. Folder 7. Conversion/Who is a Jew, undated
Box 15. Folder 8. Divorce, 1970
Box 15. Folder 9. Divorce, 1990s
Box 15. Folder 10. Halacha/Jewish law, 1960s
Box 15. Folder 11. Inter-marriage, 1970s
Box 15. Folder 12. Inter-marriage conference, 1979
Box 15. Folder 13. Inter-marriage, 1980s
Box 16. Folder 1. Marriage, 1980s
Box 16. Folder 2. Marriage, 1970s-1990s
Box 16. Folder 3. Memorial services, 1960s-1980s
Box 16. Folder 4. Mikveh, 1978
Box 16. Folder 5. Public prayers, 1948
Box 16. Folder 6. Weddings, 1950s-1980s
Box 16. Folder 7. Weddings, 1960s-1980s

Series E. Jewish Holiday and Festival Resources, 1949-1992

Extent 0.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note Comprised of writings and materials involving the Jewish holidays and festivals, including Shabbat.

Arrangement The files are arranged alphabetically, then chronologically within folders.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 17. Folder 1. Chanuka, 1940s-1990s
Box 17. Folder 2. High Holidays at Brandeis University, 1988-1989
Box 17. Folder 3. Jewish holidays overview, 1989
Box 17. Folder 4. Passover, 1978
Box 17. Folder 5. Purim, 1980-1992
Box 17. Folder 6. Shabbat, 1970s-1980s
Box 17. Folder 7. Shavuot, 1950s-1970s
Box 17. Folder 8. Sukkot, 1960s-1980s
Box 17. Folder 9. Tisha B'av, 1980s

Series F. Conferences, 1969-1991

Extent 0.8 linear feet (2 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Consists of writings and resources pertaining to Rabbi Israel's participation as a speaker and/or workshop leader at Jewish educational and leadership conferences throughout the United States.

Series G. Jewish Educational Resources, 1950-1990s

Extent 1.2 linear feet (3 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Consists of educational resources and writings. Included are materials pertaining to Jewish learning at camps, synagogues and Jewish Community Center workshops. Topics include Jewish Leadership, the Land of Israel, Refuseniks in the Soviet Union, Social Action, Fundraising, The Holocaust and Pluralism.

Arrangement The files are arranged alphabetically then chronologically within folders.

Box and Folder Listing

- Box 20. Folder 1. Academy of Religion and Mental Health, 1950s
- Box 20. Folder 2. Alperin-Schechter Day School (Providence, R.I.), 1991-1992
- Box 20. Folder 3. Boston/New York Bureaus of Jewish Education, 1980s-1990
- Box 20. Folder 4. Boston Jewish Community Center, 1980s
- Box 20. Folder 5. Brandeis Beit Midrash teaching notes, 1989
- Box 20. Folder 6. Brandeis class materials, 1989-1990
- Box 20. Folder 7. Discussion guides, 1967
- Box 20. Folder 8. Educational talks/brochures, 1979-1991
- Box 20. Folder 9. Family education, 1987
- Box 20. Folder 10. Fundraising, 1995
- Box 20. Folder 11. Group sensitivity training, 1960s
- Box 20. Folder 12. Havurot resources, 1985
- Box 20. Folder 13. Hebrew College/Boston JCC Ulpan, 1986-1987
- Box 20. Folder 14. Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion Steinhardt Fellows, 1994
- Box 20. Folder 15. Holocaust notes, 1980s-1990s
- Box 20. Folder 16. Hornstein Fieldwork Program at Brandeis University, 1986-1987
- Box 20. Folder 17. Hornstein teaching materials, 1970s-1980s
- Box 20. Folder 18. Israel trip, 1986
- Box 20. Folder 19. Israel travels, 1950s-1980s
- Box 20. Folder 20. Israel walkathon, 1979-1980
- Box 20. Folder 21. Jerusalem: Three View, undated
- Box 20. Folder 22. Jewish Community Center agendas, 1986-1988
- Box 20. Folder 23. Jewish Community Center material, 1980s
- Box 21. Folder 1. Jewish identity games/resources, undated
- Box 21. Folder 2. Jewish identity games/resources, undated
- Box 21. Folder 3. Jewish learning, 1980s-1990s
- Box 21. Folder 4. Jewish learning, 1980s-1990s
- Box 21. Folder 5. Jewish learning material, 1980s-1990s
- Box 21. Folder 6. Mador/Camp Ramah orientation, 1969

Box 21. Folder 7. Non-verbal communication exercises, 1960s
Box 21. Folder 8. Other congregations' prayers/services, 1960s-1970s
Box 21. Folder 9. Outreach, 1980s
Box 21. Folder 10. Peace movement writing, 1960s
Box 21. Folder 11. Rhode Island Bureau of Jewish Education, 1990
Box 21. Folder 12. Rhode Island Bureau of Jewish Education, 1991
Box 21. Folder 13. Rhode Island Bureau of Jewish Education, undated
Box 21. Folder 14. Pluralism, 1980s
Box 21. Folder 15. Sermonic material, 1960s-1980s
Box 21. Folder 16. Social action, 1960s
Box 22. Folder 1. Solomon Schechter Day School (Newton, Mass.), 1985
Box 22. Folder 2. Soviet Union trip, 1974
Box 22. Folder 3. Teaching materials, 1950s-1982

Series H. Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, 1950-1957

Extent 0.8 linear feet (2 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note The series is a record of Israel's work while a rabbinical student at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati. Included are his voluminous class notes, syllabi distributed by instructors as well as writings and notes pertaining to his training in pastoral counseling at Bellevue Hospital in New York. There are also several copies of the satirical student journal, *The Quandary*. This collection provides a vivid picture of the HUC-JIR student life and curriculum in the 1950s.

Arrangement The files are arranged alphabetically then chronologically within folders.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 23. Folder 1. Bible class notes, 1950s
Box 23. Folder 2. Clinical pastoral work notes [Restricted], 1950s
Box 23. Folder 3. Hebrew language class notes (while in Israel), 1954
Box 23. Folder 4. History class notes, 1950s
Box 23. Folder 5. Human Relations/Pastoral Work notes, 1950s
Box 23. Folder 6. Human Relations class notes, 1950-1957
Box 23. Folder 7. Human Relations class notes, 1950-1957
Box 23. Folder 8. Introduction to Judaism class notes, 1951
Box 23. Folder 9. Jewish Religious Thought class notes, 1950s
Box 24. Folder 1. Liturgy class notes, 1953
Box 24. Folder 2. M.A. paper notes, 1956-1957
Box 24. Folder 3. Miscellaneous class notes, 1950-1957
Box 24. Folder 4. Philosophy class notes, 1950s
Box 24. Folder 5. Skits, Songs, "Quandarys" (student magazine), 1951-1957
Box 24. Folder 6. Talmud class notes, 1951

Box 24. Folder 7. Talmud class notes, 1950s

Box 24. Folder 8. Tannaic Literature class notes, 1950s

Box 24. Folder 9. Theology class notes, 1950s

Series I. Subject Files, 1946-1992

Extent 0.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note Included are biographical material (including material from his high school and undergraduate student days), Israel's work with the Boston Jewish Community Center, pension matters and the controversy involving Christmas decorations in Hamden, Connecticut in 1961.

Arrangement The files are arranged alphabetically by individual subjects, then chronologically within folders.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 25. Folder 1. Biographical material, 1946-1956

Box 25. Folder 2. Biographical material, 1949-1991

Box 25. Folder 3. Biographical material, 1961-1992

Box 25. Folder 4. Biographical material, 1959-1985

Box 25. Folder 5. Boston Jewish Community Center/Jewish Agency Business, 1984-1987

Box 25. Folder 6. Boston Jewish Community Center job description, 1985

Box 25. Folder 7. Hamden, Conn. - Christmas controversy, 1961

Box 25. Folder 8. Homosexuality and Judaism, 1973

Box 25. Folder 9. Harvard University behavior class, 1979

Box 25. Folder 10. House (Richard J. Israel's) at Yale University, 1960s

Box 25. Folder 11. Judaism Magazine, 1962-1963

Box 25. Folder 12. Pension plan, 1980s

Box 25. Folder 13. Philadelphia job candidacy, 1986-1988

Box 25. Folder 14. Synagogue Council of Massachusetts, 1986