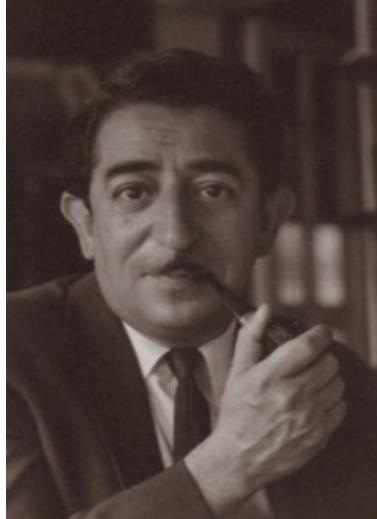




THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
Eugene Mihaly Papers**

Manuscript Collection No. 739



Collection Summary

Title	Eugene Mihaly Papers
Dates	1954-1998
Collection Number	MS-739
Repository	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator	Mihaly, Eugene, 1918-2002
Extent	3.2 linear feet (8 Hollinger boxes)
Language of the Material	English

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch Eugene Mihaly was born the son of Hillel and Ida Judith Kahn Mihaly in Hungary in 1918. Hillel Mihaly served as an Orthodox rabbi in Baltimore, where Eugene attended the New Israel Yeshivah. Later, he matriculated at Yeshiva University in New York, and was awarded his B.A. magna cum laude in 1940. Like his father, he was ordained as an Orthodox rabbi. After serving two Orthodox congregations, Mihaly made the decision to switch to Reform Judaism. His ordination in that denomination took place at Hebrew Union College in 1949, where he additionally earned a Ph.D. in 1952.

In 1945, he married Cecile Bramer, with whom he had two sons, Eugene and Marc.

Mihaly's training as an Orthodox rabbi led to his familiarity with Talmud. A reputation for expertise in halakha (Jewish law) resulted in his opinions in such matters being eagerly sought, sometimes in the form of Responsa. These position papers were intended to draw responses from others. The almost-musical "call and response," or give-and-take, of these papers, some of which are contained in this collection, makes for a very interesting written "conversation."

Mihaly was likewise highly regarded for his command of the English language, and for his facility in the use of the written word. Congratulatory notes from colleagues and friends help the researcher understand the admiration felt for this man. In fact, whether in his role as a lecturer, sermonizer, author, or rabbi, Mihaly could be confident that his audience/readers wanted to know what he thought.

He taught at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati for many years, either as Deutsch professor of Jewish jurisprudence and social justice, or as professor of Jewish rabbinic literature and homiletics. Beginning in 1976, he served as executive dean and vice president for academic affairs. After retirement, a former student of his, Peretz Wolf-Prusan, visited often in the hope of learning more from him. Wolf-Prusan is quoted as saying "EL He was thoroughly involved in modern philosophy and thought, and completely conversant in classic Jewish texts, so that when you learn with someone like this, he was your tour guide to the complexity of Western thought and the incredible depths of Jewish philosophy."

Eugene Mihaly died on June 7, 2002, at the age of 83.

Scope and Content Papers consist of sermons, articles, speeches, lectures, responsa, and class material.

Arrangement The collection is arranged in seven (7) series: A. Class Materials; B. Holidays/Rituals; C. Miscellaneous Writings by Others; D. Personal File: Writings by Israel Bettan; E. Responsa; F. Sermons; and G. Subject Writings.

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

Preferred Citation Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the Eugene Mihaly Papers and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-739. Eugene Mihaly Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Provenance Received from Hebrew Union College-Jewish institute of Religion, Los Angeles, Calif., 6 February 2004.

Processing Information Processed by Vicki Lipski, April 2007.

Index Terms

Subjects Marriage (Jewish law) / Midrash / Preaching
Personal Names Bettan, Israel 1889-1957 / Mihaly, Eugene
Corporate Names Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion
Media Sermons

Series A. Class Materials, 1966-1998

Extent 1.2 linear feet (3 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Mihaly taught Jewish jurisprudence, Jewish rabbinic literature (Midrash), and homiletics. His meticulous, thorough approach and the extent of his knowledge are revealed in these materials.

Arrangement The series is arranged alphabetically.

Box and Folder Listing

- Box 1. Folder 1. Midrash 9 — Ethical Literature. Early Talmudic writings, 1994
- Box 1. Folder 2. Midrash 9 (formerly 7) — Ethical Literature — Session 2, 1993
- Box 1. Folder 3. Midrash 7 — Ethical Literature. Moses Chaim Luzzatto, 1993
- Box 1. Folder 4. Midrash 7 — Ethical Literature. Bahiya ben Paquda, 1991
- Box 1. Folder 5. Midrash 7 — Ethical Literature. Israel Meir Hacohen, aka Chofetz Chaim.
- Box 1. Folder 6. Midrash 7 — Ethical Literature. Yisrael ben Yosef, aka Al-Nakava.
- Box 2. Folder 1. Midrash 7 — Ethical Literature. Israel Salanter.
- Box 2. Folder 2. Midrash 7 — Ethical Literature, 1988
- Box 2. Folder 3. Colloquium. Pittsburgh Platform, 1991
- Box 2. Folder 4. Senior Homiletics Practicum, 1991, 1993
- Box 2. Folder 5. Hebrew Scripture through Jewish Eyes, 1993
- Box 2. Folder 6. Hebrew Scripture through Christian Eyes.
- Box 2. Folder 7. Midrash - Ethical Literature. Reform — 19th and 20th century.
- Box 2. Folder 8. Midrash — Ethical Literature. Ezra Melamed, Israeli Talmud scholar.
- Box 2. Folder 9. Midrash — Ethical Literature. 32 principles of Rabbi Ishmael.
- Box 3. Folder 1. Liturgy E-22. Meal blessings, 1970
- Box 3. Folder 2. Liturgy E-22. Meal blessings, 1970
- Box 3. Folder 3. Midrash E-14, 1966
- Box 3. Folder 4. Teachings of the Ancient Rabbis [incomplete].
- Box 3. Folder 5. Shared Values Project. Stanford University, 1998

Series B. Holidays/Rituals, undated

Extent 0.2 linear feet (0.5 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note Includes services for brit milah, conversion, Passover, the High Holidays, Selichot, and weddings.

Arrangement The series is arranged alphabetically.

Box and Folder Listing

- Box 4. Folder 1. Brit milah.
- Box 4. Folder 2. Conversion [Hebrew and English].
- Box 4. Folder 3. Eulogies.
- Box 4. Folder 4. Eulogies.
- Box 4. Folder 5. Haggadah [Hebrew and English].
- Box 4. Folder 6. Rosh Hashanah.
- Box 4. Folder 7. Selichot [Hebrew and English].
- Box 4. Folder 8. Wedding ceremonies.
- Box 4. Folder 9. Yom Kippur.

Series C. Miscellaneous Writings by Others, undated

Extent 0.1 linear feet (0.25 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note Writings by Joseph Heineman, Christopher Hitchens, Michael Meyer, and Richard Sarason.

Arrangement The series is arranged alphabetically.

Box and Folder Listing

- Box 4. Folder 10. "Reform Judaism: A Centenary Perspective." CCAR.
- Box 4. Folder 11. "Structure and Division of Genesis Rabbah" by Joseph Heineman.
- Box 4. Folder 12. "On Not Knowing the Half of It: My Jewish Self" by Christopher Hitchens.
- Box 4. Folder 13. "German-Jewish Thinkers Reflect on the Future of the Jewish Religion" by Michael Meyer.
- Box 4. Folder 14. "Ismar Schorsch, the Historian" by Michael Meyer.
- Box 4. Folder 15. "Liberal Judaism in Nazi Germany" by Michael Meyer.
- Box 4. Folder 16. "Rabbi Dr. Baeck's Legacy to Progressive Judaism" by Michael Meyer.
- Box 4. Folder 17. "Interpretation of Jeremiah 31:31-34 in Judaism" by Richard S. Sarason.

Series D. Personal File: Writings by Israel Bettan, undated

Extent 0.3 linear feet (0.75 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note Bettan was Mihaly's teacher, and these are Bettan's own copies of some of his own writings, given to Mihaly. Plainly, Mihaly held him in high esteem.

Arrangement The series is arranged alphabetically.

Box and Folder Listing

- Box 4. Folder 18. A-R. Includes Bettan's index.
- Box 4. Folder 18. Awakening the Dawn.

Box 4. Folder 18. Building Altars for Tomorrow.

Box 4. Folder 18. Conventional Faith and Personal Conviction.

Box 4. Folder 18. Dedication of Sefer Torah.

Box 4. Folder 18. Dedication sermon.

Box 4. Folder 18. Early Reform in Contemporaneous Responses.

Box 4. Folder 18. The Function of the Prayer Book.

Box 4. Folder 18. The Glory of Men and Nations.

Box 4. Folder 18. Has God Been Forsaken?

Box 4. Folder 18. The Hebrew Union College and Liberal Thought.

Box 4. Folder 18. Israel and the Synagog.

Box 4. Folder 18. The Jew.

Box 4. Folder 18. The Jewish Interpreter.

Box 4. Folder 18. A Layman's Jewish Library.

Box 4. Folder 18. Meditation.

Box 4. Folder 18. Post-Biblical Judaism.

Box 4. Folder 18. I. Its Biblical Foundation — The Midrash.

Box 4. Folder 18. II. Its Spiritual Note.

Box 4. Folder 18. IV. Its Conception of Israel's Place in the World.

Box 4. Folder 18. V. Its Role in the Survival of the Jew.

Box 4. Folder 18. A Program for Action.

Box 4. Folder 18. The Rabbi as Scholar.

Box 4. Folder 18. The Rabbi of Richmond.

Box 4. Folder 18. The Residue. A sermon for Sh'Mini Atzereth.

Box 4. Folder 18. The Response to Tragedy.

Box 4. Folder 18. Review of "Al-Hidaja 'Ila Faraid Al-Qulub des BachjaEL".

Box 4. Folder 18. The Right to Differ and be Different.

Box 4. Folder 18. The Rise of Rabbinic Literature.

Box 4. Folder 18. The Rock of the Past.

Box 5. Folder 1. S-W Includes Bettan's index.

Box 5. Folder 1. Salvation by Organization.

Box 5. Folder 1. The Sanctuary of Life.

Box 5. Folder 1. Scriptural Texts as Used by the Older Jewish Preachers.

Box 5. Folder 1. The Solitary Soul.

Box 5. Folder 1. Soul and Body.

Box 5. Folder 1. Soul-Progress.

Box 5. Folder 1. The Spirit of the Founder (incomplete).

Box 5. Folder 1. The Theological School — A Contrast.

Box 5. Folder 1. This Thirsting World.

Box 5. Folder 1. Thirty-Second Conference of American Rabbis.

Box 5. Folder 1. To Thine Own Self Be True.
Box 5. Folder 1. Training for Tolerance.
Box 5. Folder 1. The Truth Seeker: His Temper and Method.
Box 5. Folder 1. Our Unique Character and Culture.
Box 5. Folder 1. West Virginia School Code Commission.
Box 5. Folder 1. What Makes Me a Jew?
Box 5. Folder 1. Worshipping the Net.
Box 5. Folder 2. Untitled writings.
Box 5. Folder 3. Classroom lecture notes. Homiletics.

Series E. Responsa, undated

Extent 0.2 linear feet (0.5 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note Responsa written about a cross-section of religious issues, with an emphasis on marriage. The most complete collection of documents bears on a humanistic congregation's consideration of application for membership in the UAHC (URJ).

Arrangement The series is arranged alphabetically.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 5. Folder 4. CCAR Responsum. Gentile Participation in Synagogue Ritual.
Box 5. Folder 5. Response to Responsum. The Jewish Status of Apostates and of Jewish Children Raised in a Christian Environment.
Box 5. Folder 6. Response to Responsum. Mixed Marriage.
Box 5. Folder 7. Responsum on Homosexuality.
Box 5. Folder 8. Responsum on Qualifications for UAHC Membership/Beth Adam.
Box 5. Folder 9. Responsum on Qualifications for UAHC Membership/Beth Adam.
Box 5. Folder 10. Responsum on Jewish marriage.
Box 5. Folder 11. Responsum on Marriage on the Sabbath.

Series F. Sermons, undated

Extent 0.2 linear feet (0.5 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note Includes what could be called "generic" sermons, e.g., an anniversary sermon, a children's sermon, a consecration sermon, a dedication sermon, etc.

Arrangement The series is arranged alphabetically.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 6. Folder 1. The American Jew in Post-War Days.
Box 6. Folder 2. Anniversary sermon.
Box 6. Folder 3. The Basic Virtues of the Fathers.

Box 6. Folder 4. Be Yourself. A Children's sermon.
Box 6. Folder 5. Congregation Brith Shalom.
Box 6. Folder 6. Benediction, Founders' Day.
Box 6. Folder 7. Centennial sermon.
Box 6. Folder 8. The Challenge of Change.
Box 6. Folder 9. The Consecration of a Rabbi.
Box 6. Folder 10. Dedication sermon, Wholeness of Life.
Box 6. Folder 11. Greetings from CCAR.
Box 6. Folder 12. Installation sermon.
Box 6. Folder 13. Religion and Psychiatry.
Box 6. Folder 14. Repentance and Self-Renewal.
Box 6. Folder 15. The Synagogue and Jewish Worship.
Box 6. Folder 16. Teaching Our Children.
Box 6. Folder 17. The Uniqueness of Religion.
Box 6. Folder 18. Where Do We Stand?

Series G. Subject Writings, 1954-1993

Extent 1 linear foot (2.5 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note While much of this series has to do with religious matters, the most interesting title in the series must surely be "Sexual Harassment, Deconstruction, and Quantum Physics." A number of papers presented to the Literary Club of Cincinnati are included in this series.

Arrangement The series is arranged alphabetically.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 6. Folder 19. The Architect as Liturgist, 1974 April
Box 6. Folder 20. Aspects of Metaphor, 1983 January 10
Box 6. Folder 21. Assimilation and Self-Realization.
Box 6. Folder 22. The Authentic Vocation of the Jew, 1990 March 14
Box 6. Folder 23. Bread as a Symbol, 1970
Box 6. Folder 24. College Colloquium [Hebrew and English], 1991 October 25
Box 7. Folder 1. The Edge of a Remark, 1988 November 7
Box 7. Folder 2. A Guide for Writers of Reform Liturgy.
Box 7. Folder 3. Halacha — Discipline and Reform Judaism, 1975 June 18
Box 7. Folder 4. Halakha is Absolute and Passe, 1980
Box 7. Folder 5. Hebrew Union College. An anniversary address.
Box 7. Folder 6. Home for the Jewish Aged, 1961 November 12
Box 7. Folder 7. The Horns of the Altar.
Box 7. Folder 8. In the Cleft of the Rock, 1965
Box 7. Folder 9. Isaac Abravanel on the Principles of Faith, 1955

Box 7. Folder 10. It's All in the Name. Article in Keeping Posted, 1972 October

Box 7. Folder 11. Jewish Prayer and Synagogue Architecture, 1958

Box 7. Folder 12. Jewish Unity.

Box 7. Folder 13. Let Us Make Man: Building Mounds Upon Mounds on Every Jot, 1991 April 22

Box 7. Folder 14. Literary Club. Annual dinner, 1990

Box 7. Folder 15. Love is a Many-Splendored Vexation.

Box 7. Folder 16. The Making of an American Judaism.

Box 7. Folder 17. Mixed Marriage, CCAR Report of the Special Committee on [Hebrew and English], 1983-1984

Box 7. Folder 18. Moses Maimonides, Author and Teacher for the Ages, 1955 October

Box 7. Folder 19. Moses Maimonides. Reform Judaism and Halacha: The Contemporary Relevance of the Mishneh Torah of Maimonides, 1954

Box 7. Folder 20. One Who Commits Suicide Has No Share in the World to Come [English and Hebrew].

Box 7. Folder 21. Our Moorings and Our Reach, 1965 March 13

Box 7. Folder 22. The Palm Tree.

Box 7. Folder 23. Petrie, Beverly and Bruce. Fortieth wedding anniversary poem.

Box 7. Folder 24. Prayer at the Annual Dinner of the Literary Club, 1992 October 26

Box 7. Folder 25. Prayers.

Box 7. Folder 26. Rabbinic Judaism and the Pursuit of Excellence, 1963 November 19

Box 7. Folder 27. The Rage of American Jewish Organizations (Israel Law of Return).

Box 7. Folder 28. Religious Experience in Judaism, 1957 July 7

Box 8. Folder 1. Sayings of the Fathers.

Box 8. Folder 2. Schindler, Alexander. Biennial [English and Hebrew], 1991 October 29

Box 8. Folder 3. The Schlemiel as American Literary Hero, 1973 June 5

Box 8. Folder 4. Seasons Greetings to an American Jew, 1961 December 29

Box 8. Folder 5. Sexual Harassment, Deconstruction, and Quantum Physics, 1991 November 25

Box 8. Folder 6. Speeches.

Box 8. Folder 7. Speeches.

Box 8. Folder 8. Squaring the Circle, 1980 May 12

Box 8. Folder 9. To Be and Not to Be, 1986 March 10

Box 8. Folder 10. The Union and its Platform.

Box 8. Folder 11. Unity Beyond Diversity: The Emerging American Identity, 1993 October 18

Box 8. Folder 12. What's Happening to Reform Judaism?

Box 8. Folder 13. Who is a Jew? Matrilineal/Patrilineal Status.