



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
Michael A. Robinson Papers**

Manuscript Collection No. 797



Collection Summary

Title	Michael A. Robinson Papers
Dates	1955-2001
Collection Number	MS-797
Repository	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator	Robinson, Michael A., 1924-2006
Extent	1 linear foot (1 record carton)
Language of the Material	English

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch	<p>Michael A. Robinson was born in Asheville, North Carolina in 1924. After serving in the Navy in the South Pacific during World War II, he returned to the United States a dedicated pacifist. Finishing his architectural studies at North Carolina State College, he was ordained by Hebrew Union College —Jewish Institute of Religion in 1952, and in 1977, completed his doctorate at Union Theological Seminary in New York. Over the course of his career, he served as rabbi to four different congregations, including twenty-nine years at Temple Israel of Northern Westchester, New York. He became rabbi emeritus from Congregation Shomrei Torah in Santa Rosa, California, and is credited with growing their membership from 27 to 175 families before his 1996 retirement.</p> <p>A tireless activist for social justice, Robinson was arrested for protesting against racial injustice alongside Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1963. He counseled draft dodgers seeking conscientious status during the Vietnam War, and demonstrated against apartheid at the United Nations. He spent more than twenty-five years working for peace in the Middle East as a member of Mideast Witness for Peace and the Fellowship of Reconciliation, and protested, among other things, the development of nuclear weapons at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. After moving to California in 1989, he became a longtime member of Santa Rosa's Peace and Justice Center, and in 1994 staged several sleep-ins to address Santa Rosa's homeless problem.</p> <p>Robinson was married to his wife, Ruth, for fifty-three years. They had three children. Robinson died in 2006.</p> <p>--Adapted from http://www.rabbimichaelrobinson.com/ (accessed November 9, 2011).</p>
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Scope and Content	The collection consists primarily of sermons, both high holiday and weekly sermons. Included is one file folder of newspaper clippings, family items, and miscellaneous.
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Arrangement	Collection is arranged in one (1) series: A. General.
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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 Michael A. Robinson Papers and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows: [Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-797. Michael A. Robinson Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.
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Provenance	Received from Ruth H. Robinson, Sebastopol, Calif., March 2008.
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Processing Information	Processed by Kevin Proffitt, August 2011. This collection was arranged and described according to minimal-processing standards. Processing was made possible through a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.
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Index Terms

Subjects	Peace movements / Rabbis
Corporate Names	Temple Israel of Northern Westchester (Croton-on-Hudson, N.Y.)
Media	Sermons

Series A. General, 1955-2001

Arrangement Sermons are arranged in fourteen file folders, together with one folder of clippings and miscellaneous items.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 1-15. Sermons, clippings, and miscellaneous, 1955-2001