



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
Aaron Wise Papers**

Manuscript Collection No. 818

Collection Summary

Title	Aaron Wise Papers
Dates	1960-1980
Collection Number	MS-818
Repository	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator	Wise, Aaron, 1913-1999
Extent	2 linear feet (2 record cartons)
Language of the Material	English

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch	<p>Born in Cincinnati in 1913, Aaron Wise graduated from the University of Cincinnati and was ordained by the Jewish Theological Seminary in 1938. For the first nine years of his rabbinate he served as rabbi of the Nott Terrace Synagogue in Schenectady, New York where he had a weekly radio broadcast. In 1947 he helped found Adat Ari El in North Hollywood, California, a congregation he served for the next fifty-two years. Wise developed the synagogue's school, community education programs and facilities, and even co-designed the chapel's stained glass windows in 1949. Under his guidance, the synagogue gained a national reputation for its pioneering adult education classes, its Darshanim program that offered lay congregants the opportunity to explain the weekly Torah reading during Saturday morning services, and its commitment to equal status for women. In 1986, the synagogue became the first major Conservative congregation to hire a woman as a pulpit rabbi.</p> <p>Active in social causes, Wise marched with Martin Luther King Jr. in the South and was an early opponent of the war in Vietnam. He helped create the San Fernando Valley's first Jewish day camp and nursery school, and was a leader in establishing the West Coast branch of the University of Judaism. After his retirement from the rabbinate, Wise co-created and taught the 10-week university course "Making Marriage Work", in which engaged and newly married couples learned to cope with the difficulties of married life by working with trained counselors. Nearly 6,000 people completed the program with only a 9% divorce rate.</p> <p>Wise also served as president of the Southern California Board of Rabbis and was a member of the executive counsel of the Rabbinical Assembly of America. He and his wife Miriam had three children. Wise died in 1999.</p>
Scope and Content	Collection consisting almost entirely of sermons. Includes one folder of personal miscellaneous items (clippings, etc.) and one folder of student notebooks.
Arrangement	This collection is arranged in one (1) series: A. General.
Terms of Access	The collection is open for use; no restrictions apply.
Preferred Citation	<p>Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the Aaron Wise Papers and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:</p> <p>[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-818. Aaron Wise Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.</p>
Provenance	Received from Miriam Wise, Los Angeles, Calif., October 2007.
Processing Information	<p>Processed by Kevin Proffitt, September 2011.</p> <p>This collection was arranged and described according to minimal-processing standards. Funding, in part, for the arrangement and description of this collection was provided by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.</p>

Index Terms

Subjects	Rabbis
Corporate Names	Adat Ari El (North Hollywood, Calif.)
Media	Sermons

Series A. General, 1960-1980

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 1. Sermons, 1960-1980

Box 1. Folder 2. Sermons, 1960-1980

Box 1. Folder 3. Sermons, 1960-1980

Box 1. Folder 4. Sermons, 1960-1980

Box 1. Folder 5. Sermons, 1960-1980

Box 1. Folder 6. Sermons, 1960-1980

Box 1. Folder 7. Sermons, 1960-1980

Box 1. Folder 8. Sermons, 1960-1980

Box 1. Folder 9. Sermons, 1960-1980

Box 2. Folder 1. Personal miscellaneous, 1960-1980

Box 2. Folder 2. Notebooks, 1960-1980

Box 2. Folder 3. Sermons [miscellaneous], 1960-1980

Box 2. Folder 4. Sermons [miscellaneous], 1960-1980

Box 2. Folder 5. Sermons [miscellaneous], 1960-1980

Box 2. Folder 6. Sermons [miscellaneous], 1960-1980

Box 2. Folder 7. Sermons [miscellaneous], 1960-1980

Box 2. Folder 8. Sermons, 1960-1980

Box 2. Folder 9. Sermons, 1960-1980

Box 2. Folder 10. Sermons, 1960-1980

Box 2. Folder 11. Sermons, 1960-1980