



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
Erwin Herman Papers**

Manuscript Collection No. 822



Collection Summary

Title	Erwin Herman Papers
Dates	1947-2008 (bulk 1970-2000)
Collection Number	MS-822
Repository	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator	Herman, Erwin, 1923-2008
Extent	1.4 linear feet (1 record carton, 1 Hollinger box)
Language of the Material	English

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch Erwin Herman was ordained at the Hebrew Union College in 1949. He began his rabbinical life in congregations in Winston-Salem, NC and Scranton, PA. In 1957, he joined the staff of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, serving as Director of New Congregations. He had a special passion for young people in congregations and in the growing network of Reform camps. In 1965, he became the director of the Union's Pacific Southwest region centered in Los Angeles. He and his wife Agnes spearheaded a campaign to advance equal justice and gay rights within the Reform movement and beyond. Rabbi Herman was a strong supporter in establishing the first Jewish gay congregation in America, Beth Chayim Chadashim, in Los Angeles.

Scope and Content The Erwin Herman papers consist of sermons dating back to his student days at Hebrew Union College. Also included are correspondence files pertaining to his rabbinic work, his work in gay rights as an AIDS activist, plus exchanges with colleagues and congregants, together with personal and miscellaneous items.

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

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-822. Erwin Herman Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Provenance Received from Agnes Herman, Lake San Marcos, Calif., May 2009.

Processing Information Processed by Kevin Proffitt, September 2011.

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Index Terms

Subjects	AIDS activists / Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders / Jewish camps / Jews -- California -- Los Angeles / Rabbis
Personal Names	Herman, Erwin, 1923-2008
Corporate Names	Beth Chayim Chadashim (Los Angeles, Calif.)
Media	Sermons

Series A. General, 1947-2008

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 1. Miscellaneous items including letters, messages, sermons, and speeches, 1953-1998

Box 1. Folder 2. Correspondence from Joe Glaser, 1991-1992

Box 1. Folder 3. Roman, Norman T., 1991

Box 1. Folder 4. Stahl, Sam, 1993

Box 1. Folder 5. Letters to Editors, 1981-1986

Box 1. Folder 6. Unfinished Business [includes book review and correspondence], 1983

Box 1. Folder 7. Flying Blind [includes copy of story and correspondence notes], 1983

Box 1. Folder 8. Correspondence about chaplaincy, 1950

Box 1. Folder 9. Service of Installation for Jonathan Kendall, 1990

Box 1. Folder 10. Service of Installation for Michael Mayersohn, 1990

Box 1. Folder 11. Freehling, 1991

Box 1. Folder 12. Ark Dedication [Temple Beth David], 1989

Box 1. Folder 13. SDRA Retreat, 1986

Box 1. Folder 14. Palm Desert service, 1990

Box 1. Folder 15. On the Calendar [Rosh Chodesh sermon], 1982-1983

Box 1. Folder 16. The Yanov Torah [includes cassette tape], 1983, 2008

Box 1. Folder 17. Personal materials, 1943, 1954, 1972, 1973, 1983, undated

Box 1. Folder 18. Jewish Myths: Mystique or Mystery talk, 1992

Box 1. Folder 19. Older Sermons, 1951-1956, 1975

Box 1. Folder 20. Unfinished articles and letters, 1911, 1955, 1960, 1968, 1969, 1980, 1982, 1991, undated

Box 1. Folder 21. Miscellaneous printed materials [includes photographs], 1952, 1954, 1957, 1962, 1969, 1973, 1978-1979, undated

Box 1. Folder 22. Yom Kippur sermons, 1918, 1958-1954, 1975, undated

Box 1. Folder 23. High Holydays sermons, 1949, 1952, 1956, 1958, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1969, 1970, undated

Box 1. Folder 24. Miscellaneous printed materials, 1960s-1970s, undated

Box 1. Folder 25. Promise of the Future Sermon, 1960

Box 1. Folder 26. Variety of Writings, 1965, 1970, 1977-1979, 1980-1981, 1986, 1992, undated

Box 1. Folder 27. A Kol Nidre Fantasy, 1962, 1969, 1972, 1987, undated

Box 1. Folder 28. Rabbi Herman's Talks, 1976, undated

Box 1. Folder 29. "It Was a Close Shave" short story, 1983, undated

Box 1. Folder 30. "Long May It Wave" poem, 1984

Box 1. Folder 31. Story ideas, 1982-1983, undated

Box 1. Folder 32. Miscellaneous printed materials, 1952-1953, undated

Box 1. Folder 33. Rabbi Herman [Personal materials], 1966

Box 1. Folder 34. Herman Sabbatical, 1968-1969

Box 1. Folder 35. Founders Day, 1987

Box 1. Folder 36. Shtklich, 1970s-1980s, undated

Box 1. Folder 37. Shabbaton, 1989

Box 1. Folder 38. Las Vegas High Holydays, 1993

Box 1. Folder 39. Miscellaneous personal materials [includes photographs], 19802, undated

Box 1. Folder 40. AIDS awareness materials, 1980s

Box 1. Folder 41. Jewish National Post materials, 1980s

Box 1. Folder 42. AIDS Committee Meeting, San Francisco, 1988

Box 1. Folder 43. AIDS Committee, 1989

Box 1. Folder 44. Current AIDS Resources, 1989-1990

Box 2. Folder 1. AIDS Committee, 1987

Box 2. Folder 2. AIDS Committee, 1988

Box 2. Folder 3. AIDS Committee meeting, March, 1990

Box 2. Folder 4. AIDS Committee meeting, 1991

Box 2. Folder 5. AIDS Committee meeting, Chicago, 1991

Box 2. Folder 6. AIDS Committee meeting, 1992

Box 2. Folder 7. Changing Jewish Family AG Talks, 1989-1992

Box 2. Folder 8. Homosexuality Resources, 1970s-1990s, undated

Box 2. Folder 9. Changing Family brochure, 1980s