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Marcia Freedman papers, 1968 - 2016, undated

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Summary Information

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Repository: | Brandeis University |
| Creator: | Freedman, Marcia |
| Source - dnr: | Freedman, Marcia |
| Title: | Marcia Freedman papers |
| ID: | 11.MWalB02725 |
| Date [inclusive]: | 1968 - 2016, undated |
| Physical Description: | 2.75 Linear Feet 1 record center box, 2 manuscript boxes, 1 oversize manuscript box, and 1 half manuscript box |
| Language of the Material: | English |

Preferred Citation

Marcia Freedman papers, Robert D. Farber University Archives & Special Collections, Brandeis University.

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Biographical / Historical

Marcia Freedman is an American-Israeli women's rights and peace activist. Born in the United States in 1938, Freedman emigrated to Israel in 1967. During the early seventies, she was a founder and leader of the feminist movement in Israel. In 1973 she was elected to the Knesset and served until 1977 as a member of the Citizens Rights Movement. During her tenure, she advocated for women's issues and feminist reform in Israel. As a result of her work, the Youth Ministry's budget for girls in distress was increased and wife battering in Israel was investigated. She also introduced legislation that led to the reform of Israel's highly restrictive abortion law. She co-founded the Women's Party in 1977. In 1977 she also opened the first battered women's shelter in Israel and helped create a network of support and services for women. She returned to the United States in 1981 and was active in women's and peace issues. In 1990 she published her memoirs, *Exile in the Promised Land*, to wide acclaim. She again returned to Israel for extended stays from 1997 to 2002, helping to found the Community School for Women, which offered courses in women's studies to disadvantaged women in Israel. She was also the founding president of Brit Tzedek v'Shalom in 2002, also known as Jewish Alliance for Justice and Peace.

References: Brit Tzedek v'Shalom, also known as Jewish Alliance for Justice and Peace: <http://btvshalom.org/> Marcia Freedman. "Gay & Lesbian Biography", edited by Michael J. Tyrkus and Michael Bronski, St. James Press, 1997.

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Scope and Contents

The Marcia Freedman papers consist of journals, speeches, lecture notes, correspondence, manuscripts, typescripts, and research files created by Marcia Freedman, an American-Israeli activist and feminist. The collection also contains many articles about Freedman, including newspaper clippings, as well as book reviews for her memoir *Exile in the Promised Land*. Of particular note are materials documenting her feminist roots, files relating to her election to the Knesset in Israel in 1973 and her founding of the Women's Party in Israel in 1977, as well as autobiographical writings throughout the collection. Material dates from the late 1960s to the 2010s. There is also some audiovisual material and born-digital mixed media files, such as diskettes, CDs, and flash drives (some of which consists of as-yet unidentified content). Collection is predominantly in English, though there are also many newspaper clippings in Hebrew; some European languages are also represented.

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Arrangement

Arranged in five series: 1. Knesset and Early Political Work, 1971-1999, undated; 2. Correspondence and Personal Papers, 1968-2016; 3. Writings and Printed Material, 1968-2006, undated; 4. Research Files for Speaking Engagements, 1976-2000, undated; 5. Audiovisual and Born-Digital Materials, 1970s-2007, undated. For more information about each series, please consult the series descriptions in the box and folder listing below.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Brandeis University

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research use.

Access to the collection is in accordance with the policies of the Robert D. Farber University Archives & Special Collections Department, Brandeis University. Please contact the department for more information.

This collection is stored offsite. Please contact the department about having the collection recalled for your use. This process usually requires 36 hours notice.

Conditions Governing Use

Requests to reproduce or publish material from the collection should be directed to the Robert D. Farber University Archives & Special Collections Department, Brandeis University.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Donated by Marcia Freedman, December 2016.

Processing Information

Processed by Jeffrey Hayes, June 2017.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Freedman, Marcia

Collection Inventory

Knesset and Early Political Work, 1971-1999, undated

Date [inclusive]: 1971-1999, undated

Scope and Contents

As the first woman elected to the Knesset (Israel's parliament), this series includes newspaper clippings of Freedman's early work with the Jewish feminist movement, newspaper clippings covering Freedman's election to the Knesset, notes of congratulations to Freedman about her election, as well as miscellaneous documents and materials produced during her time serving on the Knesset, including drafts of speeches, correspondence related

to her work with battered women, and a document outlining the platform of the Women's Party in Israel, which Freedman helped found. The bulk of materials in this series dates to the mid-1970s. Arranged chronologically by oldest to most recent.

| Title/Description | Instances | |
|---|------------------|----------|
| Clippings – earliest days of Jewish feminist movement, 1971-1981, undated <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1971-1981, undated | Box 5 | Folder 1 |
| Correspondence to Marcia Freedman about Knesset election, 1974 <u>Date:</u> 1974 | Box 1 | Folder 1 |
| Newspaper clippings about Knesset election; unidentified documents, 1974-1981, undated <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1974-1981, undated | Box 5 | Folder 2 |
| Drafts of Knesset speeches and Knesset records, 1975, undated <u>Date:</u> 1975, undated | Box 1 | Folder 2 |
| Knesset correspondence with battered women, 1975-1977 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1975-1977 | Box 1 | Folder 3 |
| "The Women's Party Platform" – English and Hebrew, April 1977 <u>Date:</u> April 1977 | Box 1 | Folder 4 |

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Correspondence and Personal Papers, 1968-2016

Date [inclusive]: 1968-2016

Scope and Contents

Includes handwritten letters to Natalie Rein, author of "Daughters of Rachel: Women in Israel", as well as many personal emails discussing the women's peace movement in Israel and the political climate in Israel and Palestine from 1997 to 2002. Dealing with the same subject matter, Freedman's personal journal, typewritten, is also available in this series. Finally, includes two bound booklets of 22 years of transcribed conversations of the Wandering Menstruals, a support/discussion group for aging women, of which Freedman was a prominent member. For other writings, of a non-personal nature, by Marcia Freedman, see the "Writings and Printed Material" series. Arranged chronologically by oldest to most recent.

| Title/Description | Instances | |
|--|------------------|----------|
| Dickie, George letter to Marcia Freedman (with article), September 10, 1968 <u>Date:</u> September 10, 1968 | Box 1 | Folder 5 |
| Freedman, Marcia letters to Natalie Rein, 1973-1980 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1973-1980 | Box 1 | Folder 6 |
| U.S. citizenship request brief, 1980 | Box 1 | Folder 7 |

Date: 1980

| | | |
|--|-------|-----------|
| "The Wandering Menstruals First Twenty-Five Years Conversations", 1994-2014 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1994-2014 | Box 1 | Folder 8 |
| "Mennie Conversations", 2014-2016 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 2014-2016 | Box 1 | Folder 9 |
| Personal emails – women's peace movement in Israel, political climate in Israel/Palestine [1 of 3], 1997-2002 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1997-2002 | Box 1 | Folder 10 |
| Personal emails – women's peace movement in Israel, political climate in Israel/Palestine [2 of 3], 1997-2002 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1997-2002 | Box 1 | Folder 11 |
| Personal emails – women's peace movement in Israel, political climate in Israel/Palestine [3 of 3], 1997-2002 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1997-2002 | Box 1 | Folder 12 |
| Personal journal [1 of 5], 1997-2007 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1997-2007 | Box 1 | Folder 13 |
| Personal journal [2 of 5], 1997-2007 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1997-2007 | Box 1 | Folder 14 |
| Personal journal [3 of 5], 1997-2007 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1997-2007 | Box 1 | Folder 15 |
| Personal journal [4 of 5], 1997-2007 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1997-2007 | Box 1 | Folder 16 |
| Personal journal [5 of 5], 1997-2007 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1997-2007 | Box 1 | Folder 17 |

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Writings and Printed Material, 1968-2014, undated

Date [inclusive]: 1968-2014, undated

Scope and Contents

This series includes articles, commentaries, and papers written by Freedman, on the topics of sexism, feminism, philosophy, Israel, and others. Some appear to be original typewritten copies, while others made their way into various publications, including newspapers, magazines, and academic journals. Also includes several incomplete manuscripts Freedman worked on through various stages of her career. Writings about Freedman include many newspaper clippings about her life's work, as well as numerous reviews of her memoir titled "Exile in the Promised

Land". Publications include programs for Jewish holidays and materials dealing with Freedman's work as founding president with the organization Brit Tzedek v'Shalom. Arranged alphabetically by title.

By Marcia Freedman

| Title/Description | Instances | |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| Book about 1997-2002 return to Israel (incomplete manuscript) [1 of 6], circa 2006 <u>Date</u> : circa 2006 | Box 1 | Folder 18 |
| Book about 1997-2002 return to Israel (incomplete manuscript) [2 of 6], circa 2006 <u>Date</u> : circa 2006 | Box 1 | Folder 19 |
| Book about 1997-2002 return to Israel (incomplete manuscript) [3 of 6], circa 2006 <u>Date</u> : circa 2006 | Box 1 | Folder 20 |
| Book about 1997-2002 return to Israel (incomplete manuscript) [4 of 6], circa 2006 <u>Date</u> : circa 2006 | Box 1 | Folder 21 |
| Book about 1997-2002 return to Israel (incomplete manuscript) [5 of 6], circa 2006 <u>Date</u> : circa 2006 | Box 1 | Folder 22 |
| Book about 1997-2002 return to Israel (incomplete manuscript) [6 of 6], circa 2006 <u>Date</u> : circa 2006 | Box 1 | Folder 23 |
| "Cybele" (notes, incomplete script), undated <u>Date</u> : undated | Box 1 | Folder 24 |
| "Estrogen Replacement Therapy: A Time to be Cautious" [2 copies], July/August 1995 <u>Date</u> : July/August 1995 | Box 1 | Folder 25 |
| "Four Essays on Morality", January-February 1980 <u>Date</u> : January-February 1980 | Box 1 | Folder 26 |
| "Israel: What's a Radical Feminist Doing in a Place Like This?" [3 copies], Summer 1978 <u>Date</u> : Summer 1978 | Box 1 | Folder 27 |
| "The Lady of the Wild Things" (drafts and research for incomplete manuscript) [1 of 4], circa 1975-1979 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : circa 1975-1979 | Box 1 | Folder 28 |
| "The Lady of the Wild Things" (drafts and research for incomplete manuscript) [2 of 4], circa 1975-1979 | Box 1 | Folder 29 |

| | | |
|--|-------|-----------|
| <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : circa 1975-1979 | | |
| "The Lady of the Wild Things" (drafts and research for incomplete manuscript) [3 of 4], circa 1975-1979 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : circa 1975-1979 | Box 1 | Folder 30 |
| "The Lady of the Wild Things" (drafts and research for incomplete manuscript) [4 of 4], circa 1975-1979 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : circa 1975-1979 | Box 1 | Folder 31 |
| "The Myth of the Aesthetic Predicate" [6 copies], Fall 1968 <u>Date</u> : Fall 1968 | Box 1 | Folder 32 |
| "Nelson's Proof that Epistemology is Possible", undated <u>Date</u> : undated | Box 1 | Folder 33 |
| "The Patriarchal Origins of Government" [2 copies], 1980 <u>Date</u> : 1980 | Box 1 | Folder 34 |
| "Power, Ethics, and Abortion", March 25, 1976 <u>Date</u> : March 25, 1976 | Box 2 | Folder 1 |
| "A Sexist Society?" [2 copies], Winter 1976 <u>Date</u> : Winter 1976 | Box 2 | Folder 2 |
| "Shiva" (incomplete manuscript with Esther Broner's comments), undated <u>Date</u> : undated | Box 2 | Folder 3 |
| "Thinking About Israel on Yom Kippur", undated <u>Date</u> : undated | Box 2 | Folder 4 |
| "Thirty Years of Feminism, and a Positive Prognosis for the Future" [2 copies], March 8, 2000 <u>Date</u> : March 8, 2000 | Box 2 | Folder 5 |
| "The Trail of the Blue-Eyed Collaborator" [2 copies], January 10, 1993 <u>Date</u> : January 10, 1993 | Box 2 | Folder 6 |
| Untitled, 1972 <u>Date</u> : 1972 | Box 2 | Folder 7 |
| Untitled, undated <u>Date</u> : undated | Box 2 | Folder 8 |
| "What is a Nice Jewish Feminist Like Me Doing Here?", February 1977 <u>Date</u> : February 1977 | Box 2 | Folder 9 |
| "Wrestling With Israel" [4 copies], May 1999 | Box 2 | Folder 10 |

Date: May 1999

About Marcia Freedman

| Title/Description | Instances | |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| "Israel" interview with Detroit Women's Press, undated <u>Date</u> : undated | Box 2 | Folder 11 |
| Israeli Women Speak Out by Geraldine Stern [photocopy, chapters 1-9], 1979 <u>Date</u> : 1979 | Box 2 | Folder 12 |
| Newspaper clippings [1 of 6], 1973-2000, undated <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1973-2000, undated | Box 5 | Folder 3 |
| Newspaper clippings [2 of 6], 1973-2000, undated <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1973-2000, undated | Box 5 | Folder 4 |
| Newspaper clippings [3 of 6], 1973-2000, undated <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1973-2000, undated | Box 5 | Folder 5 |
| Newspaper clippings [4 of 6], 1973-2000, undated <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1973-2000, undated | Box 5 | Folder 6 |
| Newspaper clippings [5 of 6], 1973-2000, undated <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1973-2000, undated | Box 5 | Folder 7 |
| Newspaper clippings [6 of 6], 1973-2000, undated <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1973-2000, undated | Box 5 | Folder 8 |
| Reviews of Exile in the Promised Land by Marcia Freedman [1 of 2], 1990-1992 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1990-1992 | Box 2 | Folder 13 |
| Reviews of Exile in the Promised Land by Marcia Freedman [2 of 2], 1990-1992 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1990-1992 | Box 2 | Folder 14 |
| "Setting the Agenda: The Success of the 1977 Israel Women's Party", Fall 1999 <u>Date</u> : Fall 1999 | Box 2 | Folder 15 |

Printed Material

| Title/Description | Instances | |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| Brit Tzedek v'Shalom [1 of 4], 2001-2004 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 2001-2004 | Box 2 | Folder 16 |
| Brit Tzedek v'Shalom [2 of 4], 2001-2004 | Box 2 | Folder 17 |

| | | |
|---|-------|-----------|
| <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 2001-2004 | | |
| Brit Tzedek v'Shalom [3 of 4], 2001-2004 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 2001-2004 | Box 2 | Folder 18 |
| Brit Tzedek v'Shalom [4 of 4], 2001-2004 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 2001-2004 | Box 2 | Folder 19 |
| The Community School for Women; unidentified documents, 1999-2000, undated <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1999-2000, undated | Box 2 | Folder 20 |
| Programs and materials for Jewish holidays [1 of 4], 1986-1996, undated <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1986-1996, undated | Box 2 | Folder 21 |
| Programs and materials for Jewish holidays [2 of 4], 1986-1996, undated <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1986-1996, undated | Box 2 | Folder 22 |
| Programs and materials for Jewish holidays [3 of 4], 1986-1996, undated <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1986-1996, undated | Box 3 | Folder 1 |
| Programs and materials for Jewish holidays [4 of 4], 1986-1996, undated <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1986-1996, undated | Box 3 | Folder 2 |
| Miscellaneous Jewish feminist magazines, 1998-2014 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1998-2014 | Box 3 | Folder 3 |

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Research Files for Lectures and Other Speaking Engagements, 1971-2000, undated

Date [inclusive]: 1971-2000, undated

Scope and Contents

Includes handwritten lecture notes for courses Freedman taught, research files and notes compiled in preparation for numerous speaking engagements on Israel and feminism, and miscellaneous materials related to Freedman's participation as a panelist or speaker at various conferences. Arranged alphabetically by title.

| Title/Description | Instances | |
|---|-----------|----------|
| "Introduction to Feminism" course, Community School for Women, 2000 | Box 3 | Folder 4 |

Date: 2000

| | | |
|--|-------|-----------|
| "Israel's New Battlefronts: Culture, Class and Gender", Congregation B'nai Israel Social Action Committee (SAC), 1999-2000 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1999-2000 | Box 3 | Folder 5 |
| "Israeli Feminism 2000: A Report from the Field", Barnard Center for Research on Women, 1999-2000, undated <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1999-2000, undated | Box 3 | Folder 6 |
| Miscellaneous lectures, 1976, undated <u>Date</u> : 1976, undated | Box 3 | Folder 7 |
| "Out of the Closet – Into the Future: Midlife and Aging in Gay America", Senior Action in a Gay Environment (SAGE), 1999-2000 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1999-2000 | Box 3 | Folder 8 |
| "Untold Stories: American Jewish Women in the Yishuv and Early State of Israel", Bentley University, 1998-2000 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1998-2000 | Box 3 | Folder 9 |
| "Women in Western Philosophy" course, Oranim College [1 of 4], 1971-1980, undated <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1971-1980, undated | Box 5 | Folder 9 |
| "Women in Western Philosophy" course, Oranim College [2 of 4], 1971-1980, undated <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1971-1980, undated | Box 5 | Folder 10 |
| "Women in Western Philosophy" course, Oranim College [3 of 4], 1971-1980, undated <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1971-1980, undated | Box 3 | Folder 10 |
| "Women in Western Philosophy" course, Oranim College [4 of 4], 1971-1980, undated <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1971-1980, undated | Box 3 | Folder 11 |
| "Women Who Dared", Hadassah Leadership Academy, April-July 1999 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : April-July 1999 | Box 3 | Folder 12 |

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Audiovisual and Born-Digital Materials, 1978-2007, undated

Date [inclusive]: 1978-2007, undated

Scope and Contents

This series contains numerous audiovisual materials about Jewish feminism, Israel, and women in the Middle East more broadly. Several of these materials were produced during Freedman's work as founding president of Brit Tzedek v'Shalom. A large portion of this series contains as-yet unidentified content, and therefore needs additional processing. There is also a thumb drive containing Freedman's incomplete manuscript of her book on her 1997-2002 return to Israel; please see the "Writings and Printed Material" series (subseries: By Marcia Freedman) for the paper copy of this incomplete manuscript. Arranged by type of media.

Cassette tapes

| Title/Description | Instances |
|--|-----------|
| [Titled in Hebrew], May 10, 1978 <u>Date</u> : May 10, 1978 | Box 4 |
| "Jewish Feminist Conference", September 24-25, 1983 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : September 24-25, 1983 | Box 4 |
| "Not in Our Name: Jewish Women Rethinking the Middle East", August 1990 <u>Date</u> : August 1990 | Box 4 |
| "Forbidden Views: Advocating Palestinian Rights", August 15, 2001 <u>Date</u> : August 15, 2001 | Box 4 |
| "Santa Cruz Talk – Jewish Feminism", undated <u>Date</u> : undated | Box 4 |

Compact discs (CDs)

| Title/Description | Instances |
|---|-----------|
| Brit Tzedek op-eds, undated <u>Date</u> : undated | Box 4 |
| Community of Learning Women, undated <u>Date</u> : undated | Box 4 |
| Community School for Women, undated <u>Date</u> : undated | Box 4 |
| Miscellaneous lecture notes, undated <u>Date</u> : undated | Box 4 |

Computer diskettes

| Title/Description | Instances |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| Journal, October 1996 | Box 4 |

Date: October 1996

| | |
|--|-------|
| Journal, undated <u>Date</u> : undated | Box 4 |
| Untitled, undated <u>Date</u> : undated | Box 4 |
| Untitled, undated <u>Date</u> : undated | Box 4 |

Digital video discs (DVDs)

| Title/Description | Instances |
|---|-----------|
| "From the Ground Up: Building Israeli-Palestinian Peace in Uncertain Times" (#100A), February 18-19, 2006 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : February 18-19, 2006 | Box 4 |
| "From the Ground Up: Building Israeli-Palestinian Peace in Uncertain Times" (#100B), February 18-19, 2006 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : February 18-19, 2006 | Box 4 |
| "The Israelis and Palestinians: Prospects for Peace", November 14, 2007 <u>Date</u> : November 14, 2007 | Box 4 |

Thumb drives

| Title/Description | Instances |
|---|-----------|
| Book about 1997-2002 return to Israel (incomplete manuscript), undated <u>Date</u> : undated | Box 4 |
| Untitled, undated <u>Date</u> : undated | Box 4 |

Video Home System (VHS) cassettes

| Title/Description | Instances |
|--|-----------|
| "The Spirit of Geneva", 2004 <u>Date</u> : 2004 | Box 4 |

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