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Marcia Freedman papers, 1968 - 2016, undated 11.MWalB02725

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English

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Waltham, MA

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Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Biographical / Historical	3
Scope and Contents	4
Arrangement	4
Administrative Information	4
Controlled Access Headings	5
Collection Inventory	5
Knesset and Early Political Work	5
Correspondence and Personal Papers	6
Writings and Printed Material	7
By Marcia Freedman	8
About Marcia Freedman	10
Printed Material	10
Research Files for Lectures and Other Speaking Engagements	11
Audiovisual and Born-Digital Materials	12
Cassette tapes	13
Compact discs (CDs)	13
Computer diskettes	13
Digital video discs (DVDs)	14
Thumb drives	14
Video Home System (VHS) cassettes	14
Addendum to collection accessioned on September 9, 2021	14

Summary Information

Repository:	Brandeis University
Creator:	Freedman, Marcia, 1938-
Source - dnr:	Freedman, Marcia, 1938-
Title:	Marcia Freedman papers
ID:	11.MWalB02725
Date [inclusive]:	1968 - 2016, undated
Physical Description:	3 Linear Feet 1 record center box, 2 manuscript boxes, 1 oversize manuscript box, and 2 half manuscript boxes
Language of the Material:	English

Preferred Citation

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

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Brandeis University

415 South St.
Waltham, MA
URL: <https://findingaids.brandeis.edu/>

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.

Some advanced notice is needed for access to these materials because the collection is stored offsite. Please contact the department for more details.

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.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- Freedman, Marcia, 1938-

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

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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	Box 1	Folder 5

Date: September 10, 1968

Freedman, Marcia letters to Natalie Rein, 1973-1980 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1973-1980	Box 1	Folder 6
U.S. citizenship request brief, 1980 <u>Date</u> : 1980	Box 1	Folder 7
"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

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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	Box 1	Folder 28

<u>Date [inclusive]</u> : circa 1975-1979		
"The Lady of the Wild Things" (drafts and research for incomplete manuscript) [2 of 4], circa 1975-1979 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : circa 1975-1979	Box 1	Folder 29
"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	Box 2	Folder 9

Date: February 1977

"Wrestling With Israel" [2 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	Box 2	Folder 16

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

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

**Addendum to collection accessioned on
September 9, 2021**

Box 6

Scope and Contents

"A file of my emails/blog posts as well as the journal I kept while in Israel during the 2nd Intifada in the late 1990's and early 2000's. They detail, during the period of my term in the Knesset, what I was feeling and thinking when I was first elected, the first days and year in the Knesset, and the attempt of the progressive parties to unite to form a more powerful vote and voice." Description by Marcia Freedman

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)