



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

May 30, 2019
5:30 -8:30 p.m.

**The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives,
Skirball Museum, and the Klau Library to feature Exhibits on the Life of
Religious Leader & Reformer**

Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise (1819- 1900)
200 Years After His Birth

*Rabbi Wise, the founder of Hebrew Union College,
is widely regarded as the “Architect of American Judaism”*

Exhibit Open May 2019 to December 2020

CINCINNATI, OH: — The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives (AJA) will host the official opening of a major new exhibit, ***“Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise: An American Dreamer”*** which showcases numerous documents and family objects from the AJA’s vast collection relating to Wise. The evening will begin at 5:30 pm with a brief lecture in The Marcus Center’s Jewish Foundation of Cincinnati Electronic Classroom, ***“They Will Think of Me for a Century: A Bicentennial Look at the Life and Career of Isaac Mayer Wise.”*** by Dr. Gary P. Zola, Executive Director of the AJA and The Edward M. Ackerman Family Distinguished Professor of The American Jewish Experience and Reform Judaism at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. A light dinner will be served from 6:30 – 7:15 p.m., after which all exhibits will open until 8:30 p.m.

The event is a joint program with the **Skirball Museum** and the **Klau Library**, both located on the Cincinnati campus of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR), 3101 Clifton Avenue, Cincinnati, 45220. The evening will offer attendees the opportunity to see the Skirball Museum exhibit, ***“Striking Medals: 50 Years of the Jewish-American Hall of Fame”***

which features bronze medals of Jewish Americans who have made significant contributions to this country's history, society and culture; along with the Klau Library's exhibition, "Isaac M. Wise & the Evolution of the Reform Prayer Book," which features editions from Minhag Amerika to Mishkan Tefilah, 1857-2007.

Wise—who was born on March 29, 1819, in Steingrub, Bohemia and died on March 26, 1900 in Cincinnati, Ohio— is known as the "Architect of American Judaism. Wise's many accomplishments include the establishment of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (now the URJ), The Central Conference of American Rabbis, Hebrew Union College, The American Israelite, and the prayer book, *Minhag Amerika*.

For fifty-four years, Wise was a charismatic leader on the pulpit, delivering fiery sermons and sharing his reforming spirit with congregants and with those he encountered on his many travels around the country. He was also a beloved teacher and well-respected community leader who helped to build bridges with other religious and secular groups in Cincinnati. Throughout his life, Wise spoke publicly and forcefully for liberty, enlightenment, and minority rights in American society. His goal was for all religions and cultures to openly express their identity and beliefs, both publicly and privately, within a larger society that fostered "cultural adaptation and religious liberalism." He foresaw an America where all disparate groups would thrive and "implement their religious and cultural aspirations."

The event, which is scheduled to coincide with the final days of Jewish American Heritage Month, is free and open to the public; however because there is limited seating, RSVPs are requested by May 24, 2019 to: sboyce@huc.edu or by phone at 513.487.3000.

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Located on the historic Cincinnati campus of
HEBREW UNION COLLEGE-JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION
3101 Clifton Avenue • Cincinnati, OH 45220