



Women of Valor



CELEBRATING
Women Rabbis

40 years
1972–2012

The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
www.AmericanJewishArchives.org



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The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives (AJA), founded in 1947 on the historic Cincinnati campus of Hebrew Union College, is committed to preserving and disseminating a documentary heritage of the religious, organizational, economic, cultural, personal, social and family life of American Jewry. It is the world's largest free-standing research center dedicated solely to the study of the American Jewish experience.

Three years ago, the AJA spearheaded a project to preserve the personal and professional records of women rabbis. With the help of the first women rabbis of the Reform, Reconstructionist, and Conservative movements and in cooperation with the Jewish Women's Archive (JWA), the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association (RRA), the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR), and the Women's Rabbinic Network (WRN), the AJA established the Advisory Council on Women

in the Rabbinate to coordinate the archival preservation of these important historical documents.

A recent and significant development in this venture has been a partnership with the Los Angeles-based Story Archive of Women Rabbis—a digital archive of women rabbis speaking about their personal reflections. Ronda Spinak, Producing Artistic Director of the Jewish Women's Theatre co-directs the project with Conservative Rabbi and Pulitzer-prize winning journalist, Lynne A. Kern, and Lynne Himelstein. The AJA will serve as the permanent repository for these oral histories.

As we mark forty years of women in the rabbinate we call on all interested parties to help us with this historic undertaking. Here's how you can help:

- 1. Spread word of this project to women rabbinic colleagues and friends. Encourage them to participate by identifying and collecting their personal papers and documents.*
- 2. If you or your congregation has or knows of women's rabbinic papers, consider donating them to the American Jewish Archives where they will be preserved.*
- 3. Consider providing your oral history to the project. Each personal history brings new perspective to the study of women in the rabbinate.*

For more information:
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Located on the Cincinnati Campus of the Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion
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