



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
Women of Reform Judaism Atlantic District
Records**

Manuscript Collection No. 876

Collection Summary

Title	Women of Reform Judaism Atlantic District Records
Dates	1982-2006
Collection Number	MS-876
Repository	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator	Women of Reform Judaism (U.S.). Atlantic District
Extent	1 linear foot (1 record carton)
Language of the Material	English

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch Founded in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1913 as the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods (NFTS), Women of Reform Judaism (WRJ) is a national organization representing 100,000 women in 600 local Sisterhoods throughout the United States, Canada, and thirteen other countries. It is affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ), the central body of Reform Judaism in North America.

The Women of Reform Judaism, Atlantic District is the result of the consolidation of the former Women of Reform Judaism Districts 4 and 5 in 2006. Currently, the Atlantic District consists of 52 sisterhoods in New Jersey, Pennsylvania (except Erie, Pennsylvania), Steubenville, Ohio, and Wheeling, West Virginia. The Atlantic District is one of eight districts of Women of Reform Judaism in North America, Israel and around the world.

District 4

District 4 was established in the 1940's as the New Jersey Federation of Temple Sisterhoods. The role of District 4 was to support and foster the sisterhoods in the district through workshops and biennials. District 4 had a proud history of supporting district sisterhoods, Women of Reform Judaism (WRJ) programs and initiatives, Reform Jewish Youth, and the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ). District 4 was a member of the Union for Reform Judaism's New Jersey-West Hudson Valley Council.

District 5

The Pennsylvania Federation of Temple Sisterhoods was formed in 1918 to promote the objectives of NFTS (National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods), to bring the various Sisterhoods of Pennsylvania into closer cooperation and association with one another and to further new lines of services. In 1918, twenty Sisterhoods met in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, to discuss the feasibility of forming an organization of Sisterhoods of the Reform Movement in Pennsylvania. This discussion led to a meeting in 1919 in Philadelphia for the purpose of forming a Federation of (Reform) Sisterhoods in the Commonwealth. Mrs. Ferdinand Dilzheimer was elected temporary President at that meeting and was subsequently elected the first President of the Pennsylvania Federation of Temple Sisterhoods (PFTS) at the first Biennial Assembly in 1921 in Pittsburgh.

By 1951, there were 29 affiliated Sisterhoods in the Commonwealth. In 1957 all Sisterhoods of NFTS were realigned into district federations. Pennsylvania Federation of Temple Sisterhoods became NFTS District 5 — PFTS. In 1963, with the inclusion of the Cherry Hill Sisterhood in New Jersey, NFTS District 5 became the official designation. In 1999, with the addition of four New Jersey sisterhoods, there were a total of 39 affiliated sisterhoods.

--Adapted from <http://www.wrjatlantic.org/history> (Accessed November 26, 2012).

Scope and Content The Atlantic District Records consist of board meeting materials, membership lists, biennial materials, and district manuals.

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 Women of Reform Judaism Atlantic District Records and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-876. Women of Reform Judaism Atlantic District Records. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

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Index Terms

Subjects Jewish women -- New Jersey / Jewish women -- Ohio / Jewish women -- Pennsylvania / Jewish women -- West Virginia / Reform Judaism

Corporate Names Women of Reform Judaism (U.S.). Atlantic District

Series A. General, 1982-2006

Arrangement Arranged alphabetically by subject.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 1. Attendance, agendas, minutes, finances, 2001-2006

Box 1. Folder 2-4. Biennials, 2000-2004

Box 1. Folder 5-6. Contact information, 1982-2006

Box 1. Folder 7-8. Manuals, 1994-2004