



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
Congregation Bene Yeshurun
(Cincinnati, Ohio) Records**

Manuscript Collection No. 62



Collection Summary

Title	Congregation Bene Yeshurun (Cincinnati, Ohio) Records
Dates	1841-1968 (bulk 1900-1960)
Collection Number	MS-62
Repository	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator	Congregation Bene Yeshurun (Cincinnati, Ohio)
Extent	5.2 linear feet (6 Hollinger boxes, 2 oversize boxes, and 6 microfilm reels)
Language of the Material	English

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch

The Bene Yeshurun Congregation was founded as a result of a large migration of German Jews to Cincinnati, Ohio in the mid-19th century. On September 19, 1841, the Congregation was organized and in 1848, its temple was dedicated on Lodge Street in the West End of Cincinnati.

In April of 1854, Bene Yeshurun called to its pulpit Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise. Wise was destined to become one of the leading rabbis of the country and the strongest influence in the development of Reform Judaism in the United States. From the beginning of his career, Wise introduced reforms in the ritual, making Bene Yeshurun a pioneer Reform Jewish Congregation. Many of the institutions of the new Reform movement were developed by Wise and were, to a large extent, directed by him until his death in 1900.

Wise was succeeded by Louis Grossmann who held the pulpit from 1900 to 1921. James G. Heller, the son of a Reform rabbi from New Orleans, Maximilian H. Heller, was elected rabbi in 1921.

In 1931, Bene Yeshurun Congregation merged with Congregation Sherith Israel Ahabath-Achim (Reading Road Temple) to form the Isaac M. Wise Temple, Bene Yeshurun Congregation. Rabbi Samuel Wohl became the assistant rabbi of the congregation in 1931. Bene Yeshurun operated a synagogue at Eighth and Plum Streets, and a center at Reading and North Crescent Avenue. Heller left Wise Temple in 1952, and Rabbi Albert Goldman became Wohl's colleague.

In 1970, Wohl died, and Goldman became the senior Rabbi. Goldman supervised the congregational move to Amberley Village. The congregation now holds services in the Plum Street Temple and in its Center on Ridge Road.

Note: For a fuller discussion of the development of Reform Judaism in Cincinnati, Ohio, see the Universal Jewish Encyclopedia, Vol. 3 1941 edition.

Scope and Content

Consists of correspondence, minute books, reports, committee records, financial records, and newspaper clippings. The collection includes a good description of the various affairs of the Cincinnati Jewish community from 1925-1968.

Arrangement

Organized into four (4) series: A. Correspondence, 1920-1957; B. Financial Records, 1894-1914; C. Minute Books, 1841-1968; D. Miscellaneous, 1866-1932.

Terms of Access

The collection is open for use; no restrictions apply.

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Preferred Citation

Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the Congregation Bene Yeshurun (Cincinnati, Ohio) Records and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-62. Congregation Bene Yeshurun (Cincinnati, Ohio) Records. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Provenance Received on permanent loan from Congregation Bene Yeshurun, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1952-.

Processing Information Processed by Mark Cowett, August 1978.

Index Terms

Subjects Jews -- Ohio -- Cincinnati / Reform Judaism / Synagogues -- Ohio -- Cincinnati
Personal Names Wise, Isaac Mayer, 1819-1900
Corporate Names Congregation Bene Yeshurun (Cincinnati, Ohio)
Media Minutes

Series A. Correspondence, 1920-1957

Extent 0.8 linear feet (2 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Consists of personal and congregational material written by Rabbis Heller and Wohl. Particularly interesting sections of the records and correspondence include the attempts of the Congregation to solve their financial problems emanating from the Great Depression in the early 1930s and the Congregation's interests in the affairs of the newly founded State of Israel in the late 1940s and early 1950s. Included in this material are letters to and from Siegfried Geismar, Nelson Glueck, Jacob Rader Marcus, Golda Meir, Julian Morgenstern, and Isaac Max Rubinow.

Arrangement The series is arranged chronologically.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 1. General, 1906
Box 1. Folder 2. General, 1920-1923, 1926-1927, 1929
Box 1. Folder 3. General, 1930
Box 1. Folder 4. General, 1931
Box 1. Folder 5. General, 1932
Box 1. Folder 6. General, 1933
Box 1. Folder 7. General, 1934
Box 1. Folder 8. General, 1935
Box 1. Folder 9. General, 1936
Box 2. Folder 1. General, 1937
Box 2. Folder 2. General, 1938
Box 2. Folder 3. General, 1941-1942
Box 2. Folder 4. Eleanor Roosevelt visit to Cincinnati, November 1941, 1943-1946
Box 2. Folder 5. General, 1943-1946
Box 2. Folder 6. General, 1947
Box 2. Folder 7. General, 1948
Box 2. Folder 8. General, 1949
Box 2. Folder 9. General, 1950
Box 2. Folder 10. General, 1951
Box 2. Folder 11. General, 1952

Box 2. Folder 12. General, 1952-1957

Box 2. Folder 13. Miscellaneous, undated

Series B. Financial Records, 1894-1914

Extent 0.4 linear feet (3 microfilm reels)

Scope and Content Note Contains journals, ledgers, and receipts of the Building Committee.

Box and Folder Listing

Box MF-1972. Cash receipts journal, 1897-1902

Box MF-1972. Accounts receivable journal, 1902-1908

Box MF-1972. Accounts payable journal, 1903-1914

Box MF-1972. Receipts of Building Committee, undated

Box MF-1973. Ledger, 1903-1914

Box MF-1974. Ledger, 1894-1904

Series C. Minute Books, 1841-1968

Extent 2.7 linear feet (3.5 Hollinger boxes, 1 oversize box, and 2 microfilm reels)

Scope and Content Note Included are the minutes of the various boards of directors, finance committees, and religious school committees.

Arrangement The series is arranged chronologically.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 3. Minutes, 1841-1872, 1849-1859

Box X-107. Folder Trustees minutes, 1859-1872

Box 4. Minutes, 1872-1891

Box 5. Minutes, includes notebook of business payments, 1891-1906

Box 6. Minutes, 1896-1900, 1906-1916

Box MF-2623 to MF-2624. Board of Trustees, 1916-1968

Series D. Miscellaneous, 1866-1932

Extent 1.3 linear feet (0.5 Hollinger box, 1 oversize box, and 1 microfilm reel)

Box and Folder Listing

Box 6. Weitz, Martin M. The Jewish World [Religious school notebook/scrapbook written while Weitz was a student at Hebrew Union College], 1931-1933

Box MF-1974. Mortuary records, 1900-1917

Box MF-1974. Pew book record book, 1866-1923

Box MF-1974. President's annual report, 1921-1927

Box X-387. Membership records, undated



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MS-62: Congregation Bene Yeshurun (Cincinnati, Ohio) Records

Subject Tracings

Note: The following list of subjects is a selective index to many of the people and topics in the CORRESPONDENCE series of the CONGREGATION BENE YESHRUN (CINCINNATI, OHIO) RECORDS. It is selective in that it only attempts to draw attention to the more significant items in the collection. References are to boxes and folders: e.g. 1/5 means Box 1 Folder 5.

Adler, Cyrus	1/2
Barkley, Alben W.	2/4
Berry, Theodore	1/4, 6
Bettman, Gilbert	1/8
Binstock, Louis	1/3
Englander, Henry	1/8
Feinberg, Louis	1/4
Geismar, Siegfried	1/5, 7
Hamilton County Department of Welfare	1/6
Holmes, John Haynes	2/13
Jewish Consumptives Relief Society	1/3
Lazaron, Morris S.	1/7
Lehman, Herbert H.	1/5
Magrish, James L.	2/1, 3
Marcus, Jacob Rader	2/11
Meir (Meyerson), Golda	2/9
Morgenstern, Julian	1/3, 8; 2/12
Newberger, George	2/3, 8
Newfield, Morris	1/4
Philipson, David	1/4, 2/1
Rubinow, Isaac Max	1/5



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Subject Tracings

Sachar, Abram L.	2/11
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Silver, Abba Hillel	1/6
Singer, Celia S.	1/6
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Untermeyer, Samuel	1/6, 2/1
Warburg, Edward M. M.	2/8, 1/2
Weitz, Martin M.	2/12, 6/1
Wohl, Samuel	2/1, 2/2, 2/3, 2/4, 2/5, 2/6, 2/7, 2/8, 2/9, 2/10, 2/11, 2/12, 2/13
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