



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
Men of Reform Judaism Records**

Manuscript Collection No. 74



Collection Summary

Title	Men of Reform Judaism Records
Dates	1899-2011
Collection Number	MS-74
Repository	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator	Men of Reform Judaism
Extent	3.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box and 3 record cartons)
Language of the Material	English

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch

The National Federation of Temple Brotherhoods (NFTB) was founded in affiliation with the Union of American Hebrew Congregations in 1925. NFTB was, in part, a response to the success of the creation of the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods in 1913. Approximately 47 men's clubs in United States Reform Congregations joined together to form a national organization. By 1942, the NFTB comprised 137 chapters and 23,000 individual members.

The NFTB's mission includes opportunities for men to explore their Jewish identities, to be active in Reform Judaism and to connect the activities of local chapters to a regional and national organization. They also serve as a recruitment method for the synagogues in developing new lay leaders.

In 1939, the NFTB assumed responsibility for the Jewish Chautauqua Society. As the head of this organization, they began to send speakers out to American universities and colleges. Other national activities include the sponsorship of biennial conference and regional/city conferences in alternating years. A second national project is the Reform on Campus Project, which sponsors grants to campuses in order to help sustain their Jewish communities.

Additionally, the NFTB sponsors a periodical entitled Achim Magazine. This periodical follows the former Brotherhood magazine and before that The Jewish Layman. Also, in an attempt to connect the brotherhood chapters, the NFTB has a series of national committees that take the best of the ideas from local chapters and disseminate them to all other chapters.

In 2007, the National Federation of Temple Brotherhoods officially changed its name to Men of Reform Judaism.

Scope and Content

The records of the Men of Reform Judaism (NFTB) consist of correspondence, form letters, and reports which outline the activities and interests of the NFTB and its committees.

Because these records were taken from the Union of American Hebrew Congregation Records (UAHC), much of the correspondence is with the UAHC and its officials or relates to the NFTB's relationship with the Union and the Reform movement. There is also a fair amount of material on the Metropolitan Conference of the Temple Brotherhoods in New York City, in the 1930s. While there are annual reports, there are very few minutes.

The records also include copies of founding documents of the Jewish Chautauqua Society and funding records for that program.

Arrangement

The papers are arranged in two (2) series: A. Records, 1925-1932; B. Jewish Chautauqua Society, 1899-2011.

Terms of Access

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Preferred Citation

Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the Men of Reform Judaism Records and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-74. Men of Reform Judaism Records. American

Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Provenance Received from Union of American Hebrew Congregations, New York, N.Y., 1951 and 2013.

Processing Information Processed by M. Carolyn Dellenback, December 1978. Additional processing by Nathan Tallman, August 2013.

Index Terms

Subjects Jewish men / Reform Judaism

Personal Names Reinhart, Alfred L.

Corporate Names Jewish Chautauqua Society / Jews -- Societies, etc. / Men of Reform Judaism / Union of American Hebrew Congregations

Series A. Records, 1925-1932

Extent 0.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note Consists of correspondence and accompanying materials.

Arrangement The series is arranged chronologically. Correspondence is arranged alphabetically within the year.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 1. Correspondence [topics include: fundraising, activities reports, Asch, Sholem's Kiddush Ha-Shem: an epic of 1648], 1925-1926

Box 1. Folder 2. Correspondence. [topics include: Reinhart, Arthur, committee form letters; reports; minutes; 2nd Biennial Conference, New York City's Metropolitan Conference of Temple Brotherhood], 1927

Box 1. Folder 3. Correspondence [topics include: New York City's Metropolitan Conference of Temple Brotherhood], 1928

Box 1. Folder 4. Correspondence [topics include: 3rd Biennial Conference, Executive Board; Brotherhood lists; reports, New York City's Conference of Temple Brotherhood], 1930, 1932

Series B. Jewish Chautauqua Society, 1899-2011

Extent 3 linear feet (3 record cartons)

Scope and Content Note Includes photocopies of founding documents, Ph.D. dissertation on Jewish Chautauqua Society, and record on granting programs (Chicago/Great Lakes Conference of Brotherhoods, HUC-JIR Year-in-Israel, and Scholar-in-Residence).

Box and Folder Listing

Box 2. Folder 1. Founding documents [includes charter, minutes from National Federation of Temple Brotherhoods Executive Board, and tax documents (photocopies)], 1899-1975

Box 2. Folder 2. Understanding Through Education: One Hundred Years of the Jewish Chautauqua Society, 1893-1993. PhD dissertation by Peggy Perlstein, 1993 September 30

Box 2. Folder 3. Chicago/Great Lakes Conference of Brotherhoods grants, 1992-2004

Box 2. Folder 4-7. HUC-JIR Year-in-Israel book grants, 2007-2010

Box 2. Folder 8. Scholar in residence grant program. Application, circa 2010

Box 2. Folder 9. Scholar in residence grant program. Funding, 2005-2006

Box 2. Folder 10-22. Scholar in residence grant program. Grants awarded. Alaska Pacific University—Garret-Evangelical Theological Seminary [includes correspondence, cancelled checks, applications, and award letters], 1990-2011

Box 3. Folder 1-15. Scholar in residence grant program. Grants awarded. Fairfield University—Ripon College [includes correspondence, cancelled checks, applications, and award letters], 1990-2011

Box 4. Folder 1-16. Scholar in residence grant program. Grants awarded. Sacred Heart School of Theology—Wesley Theological Seminary [includes correspondence, cancelled checks, applications, and award letters], 1990-2011