



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE  
**AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES**

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**A Finding Aid to the  
Congregation B'nai Zion (Shreveport, La.)  
Records**

**Manuscript Collection No. 651**

## Collection Summary

<b>Title</b>	Congregation B'nai Zion (Shreveport, La.) Records
<b>Dates</b>	1940-1981
<b>Collection Number</b>	MS-651
<b>Repository</b>	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
<b>Creator</b>	Congregation B'nai Zion (Shreveport, La.)
<b>Extent</b>	2 linear feet (5 Hollinger boxes)
<b>Language of the Material</b>	English

## Administrative Information

**Biographical Sketch** The Jewish community of Shreveport, Louisiana dates as far back as 1848, but a community wasn't founded until 1857. Originally named Har-El in 1861, services were conducted by Rabbi Julius Lewin at the home of founder Abraham Winter. In 1866, the congregation obtained a charter changing their name to Hebrew Zion congregation, and they built their first building in 1869, near the site of most of the cities churches.

The congregation joined the Union of American Hebrew Congregations in 1908, from that time forward affiliating with the Reform Movement. In 1914, a new building was constructed, and they changed their name to B'nai Zion a year later. At this time, the rabbi was Moses P. Jacobson.

In 1920, Abraham Brill was called to B'nai Zion, retiring in 1942. He was replaced by David Lefkowitz, Jr, who had served as his associate for some two years. In 1955, a yet more modern building was constructed. Lefkowitz retired in 1972. Since then, the congregation had been served by various rabbis. During this time, Lefkowitz served as Rabbi Emeritus until his death in 1999. In 2000, B'nai Zion Congregation numbers 300 families, and is served by Rabbi Harold L. Robinson.

**Scope and Content** The Congregation B'nai Zion Records (Shreveport, La.) consists of annual reports, minutes, religious school papers and other materials dating primarily from the tenure of Rabbi David Lefkowitz.

**Arrangement** Organized into three (3) series: A. Congregational Records; B. Religious School; C. Nearprint.

**Terms of Access** The collection is open for use; no restrictions apply.

**Preferred Citation** Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the Congregation B'nai Zion (Shreveport, La.) Records and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-651. Congregation B'nai Zion (Shreveport, La.) Records. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

**Provenance** Received from Leona Lefkowitz, Shreveport, La., August 1999.

## Index Terms

<b>Subjects</b>	Jewish educators / Synagogues -- Louisiana -- Shreveport / Synagogues -- Organization and administration
<b>Personal Names</b>	Lefkowitz, David, 1911-1999
<b>Corporate Names</b>	Congregation B'nai Zion (Shreveport, La.)
<b>Media</b>	Minutes

### Series A. Congregational Records, 1940-1972

**Extent** 0.8 linear feet (2 Hollinger boxes)

**Scope and Content Note** The material includes temple bulletins, reports to the congregation, and board meeting minutes.

**Arrangement**

The series is arranged alphabetically by type of record, and chronologically within folders.

**Box and Folder Listing**

- Box 1. Folder 1. Annual meetings, 1942-1963
- Box 1. Folder 2. Building program, 1954
- Box 1. Folder 3. Bulletins, 1940-1941
- Box 1. Folder 4. Bulletins, 1942-1943
- Box 1. Folder 5. Bulletins, 1946-1949
- Box 1. Folder 6. Bulletins, 1950-1951
- Box 2. Folder 1. Bulletins, 1952-1953
- Box 2. Folder 2. Bulletins, 1954-1955
- Box 2. Folder 3. Bulletins, 1956-1957
- Box 2. Folder 4. Bulletins, 1958-1959
- Box 2. Folder 5. Congregational report [Jewish Federation Campaign], 1951
- Box 2. Folder 6. Congregational reports and installations, 1963-1965
- Box 2. Folder 7. Congregational seder, 1942-1972

**Series B. Religious School Records, 1946-1970**

**Extent** 0.8 linear feet (2 Hollinger boxes)

**Scope and Content Note** Contains records from the B'nai Zion Religious school, including curricula, schedules, attendance lists, grade reports and other material.

**Arrangement**

The series is arranged in a chronological order.

**Box and Folder Listing**

- Box 3. Folder 1. Building questionnaire, 1955
- Box 3. Folder 2. Educational material.
- Box 3. Folder 3. School year, undated
- Box 3. Folder 4. School year, 1946-1951
- Box 3. Folder 5. School year, 1952-1953
- Box 3. Folder 6. School year, 1953-1954
- Box 3. Folder 7. School year, 1954-1955
- Box 3. Folder 8. School year, 1956-1957
- Box 3. Folder 9. School year, 1957-1958
- Box 3. Folder 10. School year, 1958-1959
- Box 4. Folder 1. School year, 1960
- Box 4. Folder 2. School year, 1961
- Box 4. Folder 3. School year, 1962-1963
- Box 4. Folder 4. School year, 1963-1964

Box 4. Folder 5. School year, 1965-1966

Box 4. Folder 6. School year, 1967-1968

Box 4. Folder 7. School year, 1968-1969

Box 4. Folder 8. School year, 1969-1970

### **Series C. Nearprint, 1981, undated**

**Extent** 0.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box)

**Scope and Content Note** Includes brochures and a historical essay by Leona Lefkowitz on B'nai Zion Congregation.

**Arrangement** The series is arranged alphabetically by topic.

#### **Box and Folder Listing**

Box 5. Folder 1. Brochures, undated

Box 5. Folder 2. Closing exercises, undated

Box 5. Folder 3. Nearprint, undated

Box 5. Folder 4. School paper, undated

Box 5. Folder 5. Term paper [Leona Lefkowitz], 1981