



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
Temple Israel (Dayton, Ohio) Records**

Manuscript Collection No. 616



Collection Summary

Title	Temple Israel (Dayton, Ohio) Records, 1909-1974 (bulk 1961-1974)
Collection Number	MS-616
Repository	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator	Temple Israel (Dayton, Ohio)
Extent	4 linear feet (3 record cartons, 1 oversize box)
Language of the Material	English

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch	<p>In 1850, a small Jewish community in Dayton, Ohio, which numbered twelve households, created a Hebrew Society and began to conduct services in rented rooms near Monument and Main Streets in downtown Dayton. The Hebrew Society also purchased a cemetery on the outskirts of Dayton on what is now known as the Rubicon Street (an alley parallel to Stewart).</p> <p>The new Hebrew Society designated a Mr. Wendel as its first Reader. Within a year, the Society created a formal synagogue known as K.K. B'nai Yeshurun. Later, the congregation outgrew the original rented rooms and moved south a block to larger quarters in another rented space.</p> <p>In 1863, the congregation purchased a former Baptist church at the northeast corner of Fourth and Jefferson Streets. Rev. Mr. Delbanco was the Senior Reader at the time. Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise came from Cincinnati to help with the dedication of the new Temple which became the seventh congregation-owned Jewish House of Worship in Ohio.</p> <p>The period 1860-1870 saw great changes in the religious format of the congregation's services due to the leadership and ideas of Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise, the father of Reform Judaism in America. In 1873, this synagogue became one of the first thirteen to join Rabbi Wise in forming the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.</p> <p>The community continued to grow and in 1891, a new structure was built at First and Jefferson Streets. Once again, Rabbi Wise came from Cincinnati along with Rabbi David Philipson and joined Rabbi Max Wertheimer of K.K. B'nai Yeshurun at the dedication of the new temple.</p> <p>At the turn of the century, the congregation was comprised of about 150 families. Rabbi Wertheimer left Dayton in 1900 and was followed by a graduate of Hebrew Union College, Rabbi David Lefkowitz, who served the congregation for 20 years. During his tenure, Lefkowitz was an active force in Dayton's civic and interfaith activities and became a highly visible ambassador of the Jewish Community to the Dayton area. He became a prototype for rabbis who succeeded him.</p> <p>Lefkowitz was succeeded in 1920 by Rabbi Samuel S. Mayerberg. Mayerberg was known for his oratorical skills and his crusades for moral and police reforms in Dayton. The congregation grew to over 200 families under his tenure and Rabbi Mayerberg was instrumental in starting the movement for a larger Temple at the corner of Salem and Emerson in Dayton View. The new Temple was completed in 1927. It was at this time that K.K. B'nai Yeshurun received the alternate title of Temple Israel.</p> <p>Rabbi Louis Witt followed Lefkowitz in 1927. During his 18-year term, Rabbi Witt was dedicated to fostering interfaith understanding and was active in community and civic affairs. With increased immigration, the Jewish population of Dayton was growing and Temple Israel's majority of German congregants were gradually replaced by a more diverse community of Jews. During Rabbi Witt's tenure, Temple Israel grew to nearly 500 families and a movement for a new Temple building was inaugurated.</p> <p>Rabbi Witt retired in 1947 and was succeeded by Rabbi Selwyn D. Ruslander. Rabbi Ruslander led Temple Israel during the years of its greatest growth. He inaugurated many programs that received national recognition, and was probably the best known clergyman of any faith in the Dayton community. Under Rabbi Ruslander, an active youth group was organized and the Religious School was restructured. In 1953, a new sanctuary was constructed on the grounds of Salem and Emerson Avenues.</p> <p>During the decade of the 1960's, Temple Israel increased its membership to 1100 families and appointed Assistant Rabbis Howard R. Greenstein and Joseph S. Weisenbaum. In 1969, Rabbi Ruslander died, and after an interim period where Rabbis Greenstein and Weisenbaum provided leadership, Rabbi Paul Irving Bloom was appointed to the pulpit of Temple Israel in 1973.</p>
Scope and Content	Consists of general files which document various Temple activities such as committee work, membership activities, special events, community outreach, and educational endeavors. There are also files related to Rabbi Selwyn Ruslander's activities with the Jewish Chaplaincy during the Vietnam War and a volume of cemetery records.

Arrangement	This collection is arranged in three (3) series: A. General Files; B. Rabbi Ruslander's Chaplaincy Files; C. Cemetery Records.
Terms of Access	The collection is open for use; no restrictions apply.
Preferred Citation	Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the Temple Israel (Dayton, Ohio) Records and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows: [Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-616. Temple Israel (Dayton, Ohio) Records. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.
Provenance	Received from Temple Israel, Dayton, Ohio, June 1995.
Processing Information	Processed by Dorothy Smith, May 1997.

Index Terms

Subjects	Jewish cemeteries / Jews -- Ohio -- Dayton / Military chaplains / Reform Judaism / Vietnam War, 1961-1975
Personal Names	Ruslander, Selwyn D. (Selwyn David), 1911-1969
Corporate Names	Temple Israel (Dayton, Ohio)

Series A. General Files, 1948-1974

Extent 2 linear feet (2 record cartons)

Scope and Content Note Files document the Temple's activities through correspondence, reports, bulletins, brochures, minutes, and working papers. Included are files pertaining to Temple committees, membership, Jewish education, communal activities, community outreach, interfaith relations, Bar and Bat Mitzvah ceremonies, annual reports, and various congregational and rabbinical activities.

Arrangement The series is arranged alphabetically.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 1. Adult Jewish Education, 1972-1974

Box 1. Folder 2. Adult Psychiatric Clinic, 1968-1970

Box 1. Folder 3. American Association for Jewish Education, 1965

Box 1. Folder 4. Annual reports, 1968-1971

Box 1. Folder 5. Baccalaureate, 1963-1967

Box 1. Folder 6. Bar Mitzvah, 1954-1966

Box 1. Folder 7. Bar & Bat Mitzvah, 1963-1974

Box 1. Folder 8. Biennial Committee, 1968-1969

Box 1. Folder 9. Board of Directors, Executive Board, 1969-1970

Box 1. Folder 10. Bureau of Jewish Education, 1965-1971

Box 1. Folder 11. Community Relations Committee, 1970-1971

Box 1. Folder 12. Confirmation, 1970-1973

Box 1. Folder 13. Constitution, 1968

Box 1. Folder 14. Correspondence - Rabbi Howard Greenstein. A-E, 1970-1973

Box 1. Folder 15. Correspondence - Rabbi Howard Greenstein. F-H, 1970-1973

Box 1. Folder 16. Correspondence - Rabbi Howard Greenstein. I-Z, 1970-1973

Box 1. Folder 17. Correspondence - Rabbi Howard Greenstein. Miscellaneous, 1971-1972

Box 1. Folder 18. Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, 1967-1968

Box 1. Folder 19. Couples Club, 1968

Box 1. Folder 20. Cultural Development Brotherhood, 1966-1967

Box 1. Folder 21. Choir, 1965

Box 1. Folder 22. Choir, 1966-1967

Box 1. Folder 23. Choir, 1968-1970

Box 1. Folder 24. Choral presentation, 1967 May 14

Box 1. Folder 25. Clergy Institute, 1948-1968

Box 1. Folder 26. Clergy Institute, 1965-1968

Box 1. Folder 27. Clergy Institute, 1968-1969

Box 2. Folder 1. Dayton Clergy and Lay Consultation Service on Abortion, 1970-1972

Box 2. Folder 2. Dayton Community Hebrew School, 1965-1973

Box 2. Folder 3. Dayton Hebrew School Curriculum, 1971

Box 2. Folder 4. Dedication of Ruslander Building, 1971

Box 2. Folder 5. Eisendrath International Exchange, 1971

Box 2. Folder 6. Emerson School Project, 1966-1968

Box 2. Folder 7. Executive Committee minutes, 1973-1974

Box 2. Folder 8. Foundation - Temple Israel, 1970-1974

Box 2. Folder 9. Funerals, 1972-1973

Box 2. Folder 10. Hebrew Union College, 1971-1973

Box 2. Folder 11. High Holidays, 1964-1968

Box 2. Folder 12. Hillel, 1965-1969

Box 2. Folder 13. History of Temple Israel, 1950

Box 2. Folder 14. Housing Opportunity Committee, 1967-1969

Box 2. Folder 15. Human Relations Commission, 1968-1969

Box 2. Folder 16. Interfaith, 1970-1974

Box 2. Folder 17. Installation - Rabbi Paul Bloom, 1973

Box 2. Folder 18. Jewish Community Council, 1968-1973

Box 2. Folder 19. Judaic Studies Program, University of Dayton, 1968-1969

Box 2. Folder 20. Membership Committee, 1964-1969

Box 2. Folder 21. Men's Club, 1970-1974

Box 2. Folder 22. New Members Dinner, 1964-1968

Box 2. Folder 23. Next President's file, 1969

Box 2. Folder 24. Sisterhood Services, undated

Box 2. Folder 25. Memory Book, 1969

Box 2. Folder 26. Message of Israel, 1969

Box 2. Folder 27. National Jewish Welfare Board, 1964-1973

Box 2. Folder 28. Ohio Valley Council - UAHC, 1969-1970

Box 2. Folder 29. Ohio Youth Commission Advisory Board, 1964
Box 2. Folder 30. Past Presidents, 1966
Box 2. Folder 31. Religious School, 1969-1972
Box 2. Folder 32. Ruslander, Selwyn - Biographical, 1967
Box 2. Folder 33. Saunders Trusteeship, 1963-1972
Box 2. Folder 34. Scholar in Residence, 1970-1974
Box 2. Folder 35. Standing Committees, 1966-1968
Box 2. Folder 36. Standing Committees, 1968-1969
Box 2. Folder 37. Standing Committees, 1969-1970
Box 2. Folder 38. Standing Committees, 1972-1973
Box 2. Folder 39. Survey Committee, 1970-1971

Series B. Rabbi Ruslander's Chaplaincy Files, 1961-1969

Extent 1 linear foot (1 record carton)

Scope and Content Note Series B includes correspondence, reports, and minutes pertaining to Rabbi Selwyn Ruslander's activities with the National Jewish Welfare Board's Commission on Jewish Chaplaincy, the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR) Committee on Chaplaincy, and the Association of Jewish Chaplains. Of special interest are records of Hebrew Union College rabbinical students who applied for conscientious objector status from CCAR's military chaplaincy program during the Vietnam war.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 3. Folder 1. Directory of Chaplaincy Service, 1967
Box 3. Folder 2. Minutes and reports, 1961-1969
Box 3. Folder 3. CCAR Committee on Chaplaincy, 1964-1966
Box 3. Folder 4. CCAR Commission on Jewish Chaplaincy, 1965-1967
Box 3. Folder 5. CCAR Commission on Jewish Chaplaincy, 1966-1967
Box 3. Folder 6. Conscientious objector status, 1968
Box 3. Folder 7. Association of Jewish Chaplains, 1965-1968
Box 3. Folder 8. Seniors HUC-JIR, 1968-1969
Box 3. Folder 9. Chaplaincy Procurement Program, 1966
Box 3. Folder 10. Eichhorn, Rabbi David Max, 1965-1968
Box 3. Folder 11. Michelson, Rabbi Elihu, 1964-1967
Box 3. Folder 12. Korn, Rabbi Bertrand W., 1964-1966
Box 3. Folder 13. Lev, Rabbi Aryeh, 1966-1967
Box 3. Folder 14. Schwartzman, Rabbi Sylvan, 1965-1967
Box 3. Folder 15. Sandrow, Rabbi Edward T., 1967-1969
Box 3. Folder 16. Vietnam, 1967
Box 3. Folder 17. HUC-JIR Chaplaincy processing kit, 1966-1968
Box 3. Folder 18. Jewish chaplains retreat, 1967

Series C. Cemetery Records, 1909-1957

Extent 1 linear foot (1 oversize box)

Scope and Content Note Series C consists of a partially filled volume recording burials in plots of a cemetery. The name of the cemetery is not noted in the volume.

Box and Folder Listing

Box X-558. Folder 1. Cemetery Lot ledger, 1909-1957



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

MS-616: Temple Israel (Dayton, Ohio) Records

Subject Tracings

Note: This list represents a selective guide to the significant subjects dealt with in the DAYTON, OHIO - TEMPLE ISRAEL RECORDS. References are to boxes and folders, i.e. 1/7 = Box 1, Folder 7. This list must be used in conjunction with the Box and Folder List in the inventory.

Abortion	2/1
Bar & bat mitzvah	1/6, 1/7
Chaplaincy, Jewish	3/1—3/18
Committees	1/35, 1/36, 1/37, 1/38, 1/39
Community relations	1/11
Conscientious objector status	3/6
Education, Jewish	1/1, 1/3, 1/10, 2/2, 2/3
Hebrew Union College	2/10, 3/6, 3/8
Interfaith relations	1/26, 1/27, 1/28, 2/16
Judaic Studies	2/19
Music	1/22, 1/23, 1/24, 1/25
Vietnam War	3/16, 3/18, 3/6