A Finding Aid to the
Temple Beth Shalom (Sun City, Ariz.) Records

Manuscript Collection No. 641
Collection Summary

Title: Temple Beth Shalom (Sun City, Ariz.) Records
Dates: 1969-2001
Collection Number: MS-641
Repository: The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator: Temple Beth Shalom (Sun City, Ariz.)
Extent: 1.2 linear feet (3 Hollinger boxes)
Language of the Material: English

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch
Following the establishment of the Jewish Congregation of Sun City, Arizona (which was a Conservative congregation) supporters of Reform Judaism began to plan their own organization. On 11 June 1969, Temple Beth Shalom was formally welcomed into the Union of American Hebrew Congregations with 29 members. Their first president was Dr. A.A. Papermaster. Among their board members was Benjeman Gould, who was moving to Sun City in September 1969 and who had only been in contact with Temple Shalom by mail. Services were originally held in the Town Hall. Despite the small original membership, in one year the congregation grew to 55 members. Services were conducted by student rabbis from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. The first full time rabbi, Albert A. Michels began in 1971. Rabbi Michels remained a guiding force in the community until his death in 1994. His "Evening with the Rabbi" and "Breakfasts with the Rabbi" were an integral part of the Temple Programming. His wife, Helen Michels became the first Choir Director. Both retired in 1981. Rabbi Bernard Kligfield served next as Rabbi for Temple Beth Shalom until 1997. Rabbi Arthur J. Abrahms became rabbi in 1998. By 1974, the Temple had an option to purchase land for a permanent synagogue. In 1977, the cornerstone was laid and by 1978 the building was functional and ready for dedication ceremonies. In 1980 the books and periodicals of the temple were catalogued and a librarian engaged. An Archives Committee was formed to preserve the history of Temple Beth Sholom.

Educational programs began in 1971 with the arrival of Rabbi Michels. A Social Action Committee was formed in 1980, with a particular focus on helping Soviet Jewry. The Temple sponsors numerous outside lectures on a variety of topics from computers to Bible study. An active Sisterhood and Brotherhood also assist in the varied activities of the Temple.

Scope and Content
Material sent from the Archives of Temple Beth Sholom, Sun City (Ariz.) including: annual meeting reports, budgets, correspondence, newspaper clippings, programs, publications and temple bulletins.

Arrangement
The 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 Temple Beth Shalom (Sun City, Ariz.) Records and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-641. Temple Beth Shalom (Sun City, Ariz.) Records. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Provenance
Received from Temple Beth Sholom, Sun City, Ariz., 1989-

Processing Information

Index Terms

Subjects
Jews -- Arizona -- Sun City / Synagogues -- Arizona -- Sun City / Synagogues -- Organization and administration

Personal Names
Kligfeld, Bernard / Michels, Albert

Corporate Names
Temple Beth Shalom (Sun City, Ariz.)

Media
Photographs / Synagogue bulletins
Series A. General, 1969-2001

Scope and Content Note  Newspaper clippings prior to 1991 are loosely organized into the following categories: Brotherhood, business, education, people, services and Sisterhood.

Arrangement  The materials are arranged chronologically within the folders.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 1. American Jewish Archives, 1989-1995
Box 1. Folder 2. Beth Hyam Cemetery consecration, 1983
Box 1. Folder 4. Correspondence, 1969-1994
Box 1. Folder 5. History, undated
Box 1. Folder 6. Membership lists, 1972-1976
Box 1. Folder 8. Newspaper clippings, 1974-1976
Box 1. Folder 10. Newspaper clippings, 1985-1987
Box 2. Folder 1. Newspaper clippings, 1988-1990
Box 2. Folder 3. Newspaper clippings, 1994-1995
Box 2. Folder 4. Newspaper clippings, 1997-2001
Box 2. Folder 5. Photographs, -2001
Box 2. Folder 6. Programs and publications, 1972-1983
Box 2. Folder 7. Programs and publications, 1985-1987
Box 2. Folder 8. Programs and publications, 1988-1990
Box 2. Folder 9. Programs and publications, 1991
Box 3. Folder 1. Programs and publications, 1992
Box 3. Folder 2. Programs and publications, 1993
Box 3. Folder 3. Programs and publications, 1994
Box 3. Folder 4. Programs and publications, 1995
Box 3. Folder 5. Programs and publications, 1999-2000
Box 3. Folder 6. Programs and publications, 2001
Box 3. Folder 8. Temple bulletins, 1991-1993