



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
Temple Emeth (Ardmore, Okla.) Records**

Manuscript Collection No. 751



Collection Summary

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| Title | Temple Emeth (Ardmore, Okla.) Records |
| Dates | 1911-2006, bulk dates 1964-2004 |
| Collection Number | MS-751 |
| Repository | The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives |
| Creator | Temple Emeth (Ardmore, Okla.) |
| Extent | 0.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box) |
| Language of the Material | English |

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch

Jews lived in Ardmore, Oklahoma since its founding in 1887, and by 1890 around 50 Jews called it home. They began establishing a small but organized Jewish community, mainly what would become Temple Emeth. The congregation initially met in a series of churches and fraternal halls while the religious school ran out of the teacher's home. They bought a church building in 1912 and began holding services there. They were usually led by lay leaders, but in 1915 they began hiring rabbinical students from Hebrew Union College to officiate on High Holidays and had weekly visits from rabbis based in Fort Worth and Oklahoma City. Many of the congregants were also involved in other Jewish organizations, including the Mount Zion Cemetery Association, the Ardmore Jewish Federation, and the local B'nai B'rith lodge.

In 1952, Temple Emeth dedicated a new building designed by Ludwig Isenberg, their lay leader. They also hired a permanent rabbi that year, Albert Belton, although he left Ardmore in 1959. The congregation reached its peak of 36 families in 1962, after which it began to decline as members died and their children left Ardmore for bigger cities. There were only ten contributing members left in 1995, at which point they began discussing dissolving the congregation. Ludwig Isenberg's funeral in 2003 was the last service held in Temple Emeth, and in 2004 the congregation was dissolved and the building sold.

Scope and Content

This collection consists of papers from the congregation and associated organizations. Board and congregational meeting minutes, budgets and financial records, and membership lists make up a large part of the series. The series also includes papers related to the purchase of the temple building and the congregation's dissolution as well as correspondence to and from the congregation. Lastly, the series has some papers from related organizations, including the Mount Zion Cemetery Association, the Ardmore Jewish Federation, and the B'nai B'rith Sam Daube Lodge No. 929.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged in one (1) series:

Series A. General

Terms of Access

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Preferred Citation

Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the Barnett and Rebecca Brickner Papers and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-751. Temple Emeth (Ardmore, Okla.) Records. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Provenance

The Temple Emeth (Ardmore, Okla.) Records were received from Walter Neustadt, Dallas, Tex., 2004-2005. Accrual received in 2006.

Processing Information

Processed by Vicki Lipski, December 2007. Accrual processed by Jacob Heisler, October 2023.

Index Terms

Subjects Solomon, Rose Kahn, 1903-1992 / Ardmore Jewish Federation / B'nai B'rith. Sam Daube Lodge No. 929 (Ardmore, Okla.) / Temple Emeth (Ardmore, Okla.) / Mount Zion Cemetery Association (Ardmore, Okla.) / Jews -- Oklahoma -- Ardmore / Synagogues -- Oklahoma -- Ardmore

Media Photographs / Minutes

Series A. General, 1911-2006, undated

Extent 0.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note This series consists of papers from the congregation and associated organizations. Board and congregational meeting minutes, budgets and financial records, and membership lists make up a large part of the series. The series also includes papers related to the purchase of the temple building and the congregation's dissolution as well as correspondence to and from the congregation. Lastly, the series has some papers from related organizations, including the Mount Zion Cemetery Association, the Ardmore Jewish Federation, and the B'nai B'rith Sam Daube Lodge No. 929.

Arrangement This series is arranged alphabetically.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 1. Ardmore Jewish Federation and B'nai B'rith Sam Daube Lodge No. 929, 1961-1978, undated

Box 1. Folder 2. Board and congregational meetings minutes, 1964-1970

Box 1. Folder 3. Board and congregational meetings minutes, 1971-1974

Box 1. Folder 4. Board and congregational meetings minutes, 1987, 1995-1996

Box 1. Folder 5. Budgets and financial reports, 1987-1999

Box 1. Folder 6. Congregation dissolution, 2002-2004

Box 1. Folder 7. Correspondence, 1965-1968

Box 1. Folder 8. Correspondence, 1970-1979

Box 1. Folder 9. Correspondence, 1980-1988

Box 1. Folder 10. Correspondence, 1990-2006, undated

Box 1. Folder 11. Investments, 1996-1999

Box 1. Folder 12. Membership lists, 1955-2002

Box 1. Folder 13. Miscellaneous, 1935-1996

Box 1. Folder 14. Mount Zion Cemetery Association, 1911, 1968-2004

Box 1. Folder 15. Photographs, Undated

Box 1. Folder 16. Property purchase, 1950-1952

Box 1. Folder 17. "Temple Emeth History." Rose Kahn Solomon, Undated