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

Manuscript Collection No. 751
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**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

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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

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 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 10. Correspondence, 1990-2006, undated
Box 1. Folder 11. Investments, 1996-1999
Box 1. Folder 12. Membership lists, 1955-2002
Box 1. Folder 14. Mount Zion Cemetery Association, 1911, 1968-2004
Box 1. Folder 15. Photographs, Undated
Box 1. Folder 17. "Temple Emeth History." Rose Kahn Solomon, Undated