



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

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**A Finding Aid to the  
Temple Beth Sholom (Middletown, Ohio)  
Records**

**Manuscript Collection No. 762**

## Collection Summary

<b>Title</b>	Temple Beth Sholom (Middletown, Ohio) Records
<b>Dates</b>	1938-1984
<b>Collection Number</b>	MS-762
<b>Repository</b>	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
<b>Creator</b>	Temple Beth Sholom (Middletown, Ohio)
<b>Extent</b>	0.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box)
<b>Language of the Material</b>	English

## Administrative Information

**Biographical Sketch** In 1903, ten Orthodox Jewish families rented a small room on Clinton Street in which to hold services. Under the leadership of new Russian immigrant, Mr. Schomer, they rented a single Torah and created a makeshift Ark. As the Orthodox community grew, the rented shul on Clinton Street became too small for weekly Shabbat services, and in 1915, the community bought a structure on First Avenue, across from the public library. Rabbi Gilsey assumed the pulpit, and a regular religious school was formed. Three years later, in 1918, the shul was incorporated under the laws of the State of Ohio under the name "Anshe Sholom Yehudah Congregation."

By 1920 there were approximately thirty-five families in the congregation, all of whom spoke mainly Yiddish. In 1921 Rabbi Stern became the first English-speaking rabbi, and the congregation even sponsored Middletown's first Jewish Boy Scout Troop. Yet it fell upon hard times financially, and on July 28, 1922 Anshe Sholom borrowed \$3,300 from The American Trust and Savings Bank in order to sustain itself. Its trustees dutifully paid back the loan until the mortgage was cancelled on September 28, 1942.

The building was remodeled in 1940, and under the leadership of its then-president, Tony Agronin, Anshe Sholom Yehudah Congregation was renamed Temple Beth Sholom. The congregation no longer identified itself as being strictly Orthodox, but instead, considered itself as belonging to the Conservative movement.

The congregation moved yet again in 1956 to accommodate its growing numbers (approximately one hundred Jewish families), this time to 610 Gladys Drive. The first rabbi in the new Temple was Rabbi Harry Roth, followed by Rabbi William J. Gordon and Rabbi Meyer Marx.

In 1981, despite retaining only sixty families, Temple Beth Sholom had a very active Sisterhood and religious school. Led by Rabbi Gordon Gladstone, it was now affiliated with the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the Reform movement.

**Scope and Content** Consists of documents relating to the 1956 Temple dedication in Middletown, Ohio, documents relating to the 1981 twenty-fifth anniversary celebration, reports, minute books of the Temple Beth Sholom Sisterhood and numerous temple committees, and miscellaneous newspaper clippings and nearprint..

**Arrangement** The collection is arranged into four (4) series: A. General; B. Building Dedication; C. Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Celebration; D. Nearprint.

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

**Preferred Citation** Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the Temple Beth Sholom (Middletown, Ohio) Records and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:  
[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-762. Temple Beth Sholom (Middletown, Ohio) Records. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

**Provenance** Received from Amy Greenbaum, Cincinnati, Ohio, March 2005.

**Processing Information** Processed by Michal Loving, September 2008.

## Index Terms

**Subjects** Jewish women / Jews -- Ohio -- Middletown / Synagogues -- Ohio -- Middletown

**Corporate Names** Temple Beth Sholom (Middletown, Ohio)

**Media** Minutes

### **Series A. General, 1938-1984**

**Extent** 0.24 linear feet (0.6 Hollinger box)

**Scope and Content Note** Includes officer's reports, meeting minutes, Sisterhood minutes, and a synagogue change-of-name certificate.

**Arrangement** The series is arranged chronologically.

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

Box 1. Folder 1. Officer's reports, 1938-1940

Box 1. Folder 2. Certificate of amendment to articles of Anshe Sholom Yehuda, 1940

Box 1. Folder 3. Temple Board meeting minutes, 1954-1961

Box 1. Folder 4. Sisterhood meeting minutes, 1959-1965

Box 1. Folder 5. Sisterhood meeting minutes, 1965-1972

Box 1. Folder 6. Sisterhood meeting minutes, 1972-1984

### **Series B. Temple Dedication, 1956**

**Extent** 0.04 linear feet (0.1 Hollinger box)

**Scope and Content Note** Consists of the dedication book, newspaper clipping, and photographs from Temple Beth Sholom's new building dedication on December 2, 1956.

**Arrangement** The series is arranged chronologically.

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

Box 1. Folder 7. Temple dedication materials, 1956 December 2

### **Series C. Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Celebration, 1981**

**Extent** 0.04 linear feet (0.1 Hollinger box)

**Scope and Content Note** Consists of material relating to Temple Beth Sholom's twenty-fifth anniversary celebration on November 15, 1981. It includes correspondence, reports, the anniversary service program, speeches given at the ceremony, and photographs.

**Arrangement** The series is arranged chronologically.

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

Box 1. Folder 8. Temple anniversary celebration materials, 1981 May-November

### **Series D. Nearprint, 1975-1983**

**Extent** 0.08 linear feet (0.2 Hollinger box)

**Scope and Content Note** Consists of newspaper clippings on the history of the Jews of Middletown. Also consists of miscellaneous nearprint from the Middletown Area Federation of Women's Clubs as well as from the Temple Beth Sholom Sisterhood Donor Dinner Theatre.

### **Box and Folder Listing**

Box 1. Folder 9. Newspaper clippings, 1975, 1983

Box 1. Folder 10. Nearprint, 1981-1983