



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
Temple Israel (Charleston, W. Va.) Records**

Manuscript Collection No. 783

Collection Summary

Title	Temple Israel (Charleston, W. Va.) Records
Dates	1874-1960
Collection Number	MS-783
Repository	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator	Temple Israel (Charleston, W. Va.)
Extent	2.4 linear feet (6 Hollinger boxes)
Language of the Material	English

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch Congregation B'nai Israel (Temple Israel) was informally organized in 1856, some seven years before the creation of the state of West Virginia. The Congregation's cemetery was founded even earlier, in 1836, and is the oldest Jewish cemetery in West Virginia.

The Congregation was legally chartered in 1873 as the Hebrew Educational Society. The first services were held in rooms over a store on Capital Street with 16 members present. Congregation B'nai Israel was among the original members of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (now the Union for Reform Judaism) which was organized that same year in Cincinnati.

In 1875, the Congregation moved to a small temple on Lee Street. In 1894 the Congregation erected and moved to a new building on Virginia Street that was dedicated by Dr. Isaac Mayer Wise, founder of the UAHC and the Hebrew Union College. In 1960 the congregation moved from Virginia Street to its current home on Kanawha Boulevard at Chesapeake Avenue.

Many accomplished rabbis have served the Congregation. Among these were Dr. Israel Bettan (1911-1922), who later became Professor of Homiletics at the Hebrew Union College, and Dr. Maurice Eisendrath (1926-1928), a significant influence in the development of Reform Judaism, who became the president of the UAHC.

--This note, with slight revisions, was taken from the congregation's history as it appears on the Temple Israel website.

Scope and Content Consists of records of the congregation, including ledgers, cash books, and minutes, together with records of the congregational cemetery and Temple Sisterhood.

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 Israel (Charleston, W. Va.) and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-783. Temple Israel (Charleston, W. Va.) Records. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Provenance Received from Temple Israel, Charleston, W. Va., 2010.

Processing Information Processed by Kevin Proffitt, January 2011.

Index Terms

Subjects Jewish cemeteries / Jewish women / Jews -- West Virginia -- Charleston / Synagogues -- West Virginia -- Charleston

Corporate Names Temple Israel (Charleston, W. Va.)

Media Minutes

Series A. General, 1874-1960

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 1. Executive Board minutes, 1895-1909
Box 1. Folder 2. Executive Board minutes, 1905-1912
Box 1. Folder 3. Executive Board minutes, 1909-1916
Box 1. Folder 4. Minutes, 1938-1945
Box 1. Folder 5. Minutes, 1948-1951
Box 2. Folder 1. Minutes, 1952-1954
Box 2. Folder 2. Minutes, 1955-1957
Box 2. Folder 3. Minutes, 1957-1960
Box 2. Folder 4. Hebrew Educational Society, 1885-1893
Box 2. Folder 5. Hebrew Educational Society, 1899-1905
Box 3. Folder 1. Cash book, 1891-1892
Box 3. Folder 2. Dues book, 1885-1890
Box 3. Folder 3. Dues book, 1891-1892
Box 3. Folder 4. Dues book, 1894-1899
Box 4. Folder 1. Dues book, 1903-1910
Box 4. Folder 2. Dues book, 1910-1915
Box 4. Folder 3. Member registry, 1907
Box 4. Folder 4. Ladies Hebrew Beneficial Society, 1874-1897
Box 5. Folder 1. Sisterhood minutes, 1917-1920
Box 5. Folder 2. Sisterhood minutes, 1920-1922
Box 5. Folder 3. Sisterhood minutes, 1926-1941
Box 5. Folder 4. Sisterhood minutes, 1941-1947
Box 5. Folder 5. Sisterhood minutes, 1947-1959
Box 6. Folder 1. Sisterhood board minutes, 1953-1965
Box 6. Folder 2. Sisterhood cash book, 1874-1897
Box 6. Folder 3. Sisterhood cash book, 1974-1897
Box 6. Folder 4. Sisterhood cash book, 1939-1949
Box 6. Folder 5. Sisterhood cash book, 1945-1954
Box 6. Folder 6. Sisterhood librarian's record, 1923-1924
Box 6. Folder 7. Sisterhood school register, 1890-1894