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 2. Dues book, 1885-1890
Box 3. Folder 4. Dues book, 1894-1899
Box 4. Folder 1. Dues book, 1903-1910
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 6. Sisterhood librarian's record, 1923-1924
Box 6. Folder 7. Sisterhood school register, 1890-1894