



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
Lawrence N. Mahrer Papers
Manuscript Collection No. 790**

Collection Summary

Title	Lawrence N. Mahrer Papers
Dates	1966-2006
Collection Number	MS-790
Repository	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator	Mahrer, Lawrence N., 1932
Extent	3 linear feet (3 record cartons)
Language of the Material	English

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch Lawrence Nash Mahrer, born in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1932, earned his bachelor's degree in Psychology from Ohio University, a master's degree in education from the University of Missouri, and was ordained from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in 1959. Mahrer has dedicated his career to serving small congregations, including Temple Beth Hillel in Kenosha, Wisconsin, Beth Israel Congregation in Florence, North Carolina, and Congregation Temple Emanu-El in Dothan, Alabama, from which he retired in 2006. He was presented with a 20-year achievement award by the Central Conference of American Rabbis, and has served on both the CCAR Committee on Rabbis in Small Communities and the UAHC Small Congregations Committee, representing the latter committee for many years on the Commission on Jewish Education of the Reform Movement. Mahrer is a member of the National Association of Temple Educators and has written extensively on religious education. Among his publications are *A Guide to Small Congregation Religious Schools*, co-authored with his daughter, Debi M. Rowe, in 1996. They again collaborated on "The Small Congregation," included in *The Jewish Educational Leader's Handbook*, in 1998.

Scope and Content This collection consists of meeting minutes, correspondence, and budgetary/financial documents. These provide a continuous look at temple administration and the role of the rabbi from 1966 until 2006, in a variety of geographical locations, from the Midwest to the deep South. This collection also provides insight into issues faced by small reform congregations such as attendance, membership, religious schools, programs, and budget concerns.

Arrangement This 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 Lawrence N. Mahrer Papers and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-790. Lawrence N. Mahrer Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Provenance Received from Lawrence N. Mahrer, Parrish, Fla., August 2009.

Processing Information Processed by Michelle Wirth, August 2011.

This collection was arranged and described according to minimal-processing standards. Processing was made possible through a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

Index Terms

Subjects	Jews -- Alabama -- Dothan / Jews -- Illinois -- Peoria / Jews -- Missouri -- Saint Louis / Jews -- Wisconsin -- Wausau / Rabbis
Personal Names	Mahrer, Lawrence N.
Corporate Names	Temple Emanu-El (Dothan, Ala.)
Media	Minutes

Series A. General, 1966-2006

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 1-16. Minutes and Temple Topics, 1966-1984

Box 2. Folder 1-14. Minutes, 1984-1997

Box 3. Folder 1-13. Minutes, personal material, retirement, 75th Anniversary of Temple Emanu-El (Dothan, Ala.), 1997-2006