

IHLC MS 1110

**Congregation Anshe Knesset Israel
Records, 1879-1889 and 1900-2021**

Manuscript Collection Inventory

Illinois History and Lincoln Collections
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

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**Congregation Anshe Knesset Israel.
Records, 1879-1889 and 1900-2021.**

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Administration

The monthly synagogue bulletins were mailed to Sybil Mervis in 2021 from a congregation member with the last name Birnbaum, then living in Netanya, Israel.

Box 1

- Constitutions, Bylaws, and Articles of Incorporation [2 folders], circa 1970s
- Constitutions, Bylaws, and Agreement with Spring Hill Cemetery (includes notes and edits, planning materials, and correspondence with the Illini Hillel), 1975-1987 and 2006
- Congregation membership application, undated
- Annual lists of congregation officers, 1989-2000
- List of congregation president duties, circa late 1980s
- Monthly synagogue bulletins
 - September/October-January/February, 1958-1959
 - February/March-May/June, 1959
 - January/February and December/January, 1960-1961
 - December/January and December (Hanukkah), 1958-1959
- Newsletters
 - 1959-1978 (includes some from 1983-1989) [2 folders]
 - 1981-1989 [3 folders]
 - Hanukkah, circa 1983
 - 1990-1998 [2 folders]
 - January 1994
- Meeting minutes, correspondence, and administrative documents (includes a copy of the Illiana Genealogist) [2 folders], 1961, 1972-1975, and 2018

Box 2

Meeting minutes, 1976-1980
 Annual report, 1978
 Rabbis (newspaper clippings, correspondence, essays, and a list of names; includes a list of rabbis who served at Temple Beth El, Danville), 1953-2020
 Notice of Rabbi Fishman's departure (newsletter), 1976
 Termination of contract for the use of facilities by Head Start Program (letter), 1967
 Final services newsletter, 2012
 Notes on organizing synagogue papers and lists of possible items for use at the Vermilion County Museum, 2012
 Photo of congregation presidents, undated
 Letterhead, undated

Box 3

Rubber stamp, undated

Finances

Box 4

Congregation ledger, 1955-1968

Box 2 (cont.)

Member bequests to the congregation (correspondence and legal documents), 1955-1977
 Budget report, 1958
 Annual report, 1962
 Notice of donation receipt by the Immigrants' Service League, 1965
 Newsletter and operating statement, 1977
 Newsletter, 1982
 Endowment Trust (financial documents and tax forms), circa 1981-1994
 Endowment Trust Agreement, 1987
 Annual expense report, 1987
 Dues and tuition increase (newsletter and draft), 1988
 Not-for-profit Annual Reports (copies of forms, correspondence, and a client ledger), 1990-1991
 Appeal & Pledge cards, circa 1992
 Fundraiser contributions lists and a memorandum, 1992
 Account authorization form (blank) and instructions for Kemper Securities, Inc., 1992-1994
 Tax exemption dissolution and reinstatement (forms and correspondence), 1992-2001
 Annual expense summary report, 1995

Buildings

301 East Harrison Street
 Copies of legal documents and newspaper clippings, "Old History of Congregation Israel," and a photo negative, 1900-2014
 Text from *The Cincinnati Israelite* on founding (1900), undated
 Copies of legal documents and newspaper clippings with notes, 1920-1921
 Copies of legal documents with added notes, 1920-1921, 1963, and 1972

Second (German) Methodist Church (photos, newspaper clippings, and notes),
 2005 and undated
 Notes on buildings, 2020
 949 North Walnut Street
 Copies of legal documents, 1965 and 1972
 Newspaper clippings and photos, 1953-circa 1991
 14 East Ridgeview Street
 Acquisition (legal and financial documents), 1952-1965 and 1991-2001
 Remodeling
 Funding request to current members (letter draft), circa 1991
 Funding request to past members (letter draft), circa 1991
 Guarantor inquiry (list of sacred objects, master list of names and
 addresses, and sample letters), 1992
 Donation appeal (letter), circa 1992
 Renovation documents [2 folders; folder 2 is housed in Box 5], 1982, 1991-
 1992, and 2001

Box 5

Financial documents and correspondence, 1991-1994
 Thank you card from Helen G. Preston, 1991
 Collaboration with Ascalon Studios (correspondence, design materials,
 and legal documents), 1987-1992 and 2012
 Photo of stained-glass arch, circa 1991
 Report from the Congregation Israel Construction Committee [3 copies],
 1992
 Cornerstone Service and Dedication Ceremony
 Newspaper clippings, administrative documents, planning materials, and
 ephemera), 1992
Ceremony for the Setting of the Cornerstone (booklet), 1992
 Photos, 1992
 Open House (newspaper clipping), circa 1992
 Consecration Service
 Planning (letter), 1992
 Photos, newspaper clippings, correspondence, and ephemera, 1992-1993
 Plaques and Dedication Lists (service materials and dedication forms), circa 1992
 Synagogue Fund Drive (pledge paperwork, member information, and
 correspondence), 1992-1993
 Landscaping (contractor estimates, correspondence, and insurance information),
 2001
 Closure (newsletters, meeting minutes, inventories, financial information,
 correspondence, and a newspaper article), 2007-2013

Oversized folder ms1110_h001

Article by Debra Pressey, "Time to Let Go," 2012

Members

Box 5 (cont.)

Founding, life, and dissolution of the congregation (newspaper clippings, correspondence, ephemera, copies of photos, and a copy of "Memories of Congregation Israel" by Julie Robbins-Cinti; includes information on Bloomington), 1889-2021 [scattered dates]
 Lists of congregation member names and mailing addresses, circa 1967-2012
 Membership directories, 2006-2011
 Lists of congregants' Hebrew names (includes a membership directory), 1984-2005
 Charts containing member Yahrzeits with Hebrew/Gregorian calendar translations, 2000-2001 and 2004-2005
 Death of Isadore Katz (card), 1995
 Memorial plaques (photos), 1914-2012
 Members and the Torah scrolls (photos), circa 1970s
 Photo of children in front of the ark (copy), mid-1900s
 Congregation histories by various authors, 2012, 2020, and undated

Box 6

Essay by Julie Robbins-Cinti, "Memories of Congregation Israel," 2021
 Letter from "Shari" describing her childhood at Congregation Israel, 2021
 Essay by Marcia K. Thomas, "Journey to a Service of the Heart," undated
 Azoff-Lager family
 Memoir by Thelma Lager (research materials), 2019-2020
 Article describing the influence of the Tostwich on Catlin, Illinois, undated
 Nathan Lager and the Ark (research materials and correspondence)
 1910-1941, 1951-1952, 1983-1990s, and 2012-2014
 1925, 1940s, and undated

Box 7

Framed Ark label, 1992

Box 8

Brown velvet kippah, circa 2014

Box 6 (cont.)

Local Jewish veterans (service records, forms, and correspondence), 1952-2020
 Photo of Holocaust survivors in Woronovo, Poland found at the synagogue (includes Sima Mekel; 2 copies), 1941

Box 4 (cont.)

Book presented to the synagogue library by Mr. and Mrs. Martin B. Smith, *The Eternal Light: A Heritage Album Mirroring Four Thousand Years of Jewish Inspiration and Freedom*, 1966

Box 6 (cont.)

"Not Good If Detached" (text about morality), undated
 Media featuring members of the congregation
 Various members
 Newspaper clippings, copies of yearbook pages, photos, and a book of poetry, 1908-1909, circa 1960s-1985, and 2019

Newspaper clippings, 1953-1958, 1961-1988, and 1997
 Newspaper clippings, correspondence, notes, and copies of photos, 1954
 and 1970-1994
 Newspaper clippings, 1963, 1978, and 1992-2003
 Surnames A-E
 Newspaper clippings and correspondence, 1950s-2021

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Article by Jeff D'Alessio, "Danville Legend to Join Rock Royalty"
 Published by *The News Gazette* (2 copies), 2020
 Published by *The Independent News* (2 copies), 2020

Box 6 (cont.)

Commercial-News article, "A Chance to Pay Tribute to Irving Azoff," 2021
 Article from *Inside Vermilion County*, "Douglas Discovery Garden: A
 Vermilion County Treasure," 2021
Commercial-News article, "Danville Native Named to Chicago's Tenth
 Annual Jewish '36 Under 36'," 2021
 Copy of Jewish Child & Family Services Chicago donor profile for Alexa
 Ehrlich, 2021
 Ehrlich-Kelman wedding, 2021
 Article by Marvin Holman, "Going the Distance: Local Cyclist Races
 Against Childhood Cancer," 2020
 Article by Marvin Holman, "Ehrlich Makes Most of Extra Time to Raise
 Funds for Childhood Cancer," 2020
 Surnames F-G (newspaper clippings, correspondence, photos, and writings),
 1881 and 1970-2009
 Surnames H-R (newspaper clippings, correspondence, photos, and writings),
 1879, 1907-1917, 1937-1945, and 1958-2021
 Surnames S-Y
 Newspaper clippings, correspondence, and photos, 1939, 1957-2009, and
 2019-2021
Commercial-News article, "Master Gardeners Earn Awards," 2019

Box 7 (cont.)

Copper memorial plate for the Smith and Davidson families, undated

Liturgy

Box 6 (cont.)

List of Family Sabbath Service participants, 1983
 Attendance request for Sabbath Weekend Services, 1983

Box 9

Handwritten aliyah book (includes notes by Sybil Mervis), undated

Box 6 (cont.)

List of members honored with performing an aliyah, 1988 (5749)
 List of members honored with performing an aliyah, 1989 (5750)

Torahs owned by the congregation (copies of newspaper clippings and correspondence), 1972, 2006-2007, and 2012

Unveiling Ceremony for Martha Friedman Mervis (Religious texts, service booklets, and advertisements for funerary materials), 1988, 2006, and undated

Havurah resources

Sabbath Services for Congregation Israel Havurahs (booklet of religious texts compiled by Sybil Mervis)

Various texts, circa 2012

Hanukkah, 2012

Box 10

Purim, 2013

Our First Havurah-Hanukkah Dinner (booklets), 2012

Box 8 (cont.)

Prayer shawl, undated

Holidays

These materials are organized according to the order indicated by the Hebrew calendar.

Box 10 (cont.)

High Holy Days

Newspaper clippings and schedules of observances, 1970-1981, 1992-1993, and 2000-2004

Schedule of High Holy Days services, 1982

Schedule of High Holy Days services, 1983

Schedule of High Holy Days Services, 1989

"Prayers for the High Holy Days: A Selection" (packet), 1989

Additional Holiday Schedule, 1984

High Holy Days celebration (copies of newspaper clippings), 1939 and undated

Rosh Hashanah dinner reservations list, undated

Rosh Hashanah dinner bulletin, 1992

Yom Kippur Yizkor Service books of remembrance, 1980-1986

Hanukkah

Celebration (newspaper clippings), 1996 and 2006

Article by Brian L. Huchel, "Families Set Hanukkah Traditions," 2000

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"A Celebration of Freedom" (laminated newspaper clipping), 2006

Box 10 (cont.)

Pesach (Passover)

"Passover 5741 (1981): A Guide to Preparation and Celebration" (packet), 1981

"Passover 5743 (1983): A Guide to Preparation and Celebration" (packet), 1983

Passover service schedule, 1984

Seder meal invitation, 1987

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Poster board with attached and identified photos of Seder meal, 1999

Box 10 (cont.)

Yom HaShoah

- Holocaust commemoration service invitation, 1982
- "Because We Dare Not Forget: Readings for Yom HaShoah ve-ha-G'vurah"
(packets of Holocaust commemoration service readings), undated
- Informational booklets on the Holocaust, undated

Religious School

- Newsletters and Board of Education minutes, 1957-1971
- Administrative documents, curricula, and financial information, 1971

Sisterhood

Organizational records and ephemera

- 1950s-1963
- 1960s
- 1970-1978 and 1987-1988
- Bill for dues, 1970
- 1980-1988
- 1990-2007
- Undated

Meetings and events

- Photo (includes copies and a photo negative), 1925-1926
- Thanksgiving dance invitation, 1958
- Luncheon invitation, undated
- Luncheon and supper invitations, 1973 and 1987
- Commercial-News* article, "Sisterhood Plans Auction of Original Art," 1974

Calendars

- 1983 and 1989-1995
- 1995-2002

Congregation address and telephone directories, 2003-2005

Events

- Happy occasions mementoes (greeting cards, invitations, photos, bulletins and programs, and newspaper clippings)
 - Births and Adoptions, 1961 and 1995-2013
 - Birthdays, 1963 and 1985-2011

Box 11

- B'nei Mitzvah, 1990-2004 and undated
- Brunches, Luncheons, and Dinners, 1970-1976, 1988, and 1993-1998
- Engagements, Weddings, and Anniversaries, 1986-2015
- Graduations, 1992-2007 and undated
- Season's Greetings, 2014-2019 and undated
- Thank You cards, 1995-2003 and undated
- Miscellaneous, 1960 and 1984-1991
- Congregation-sponsored events
 - Programs, invitations, and booklets of religious texts, 1956-1973, 1988 and 1997
 - Newsletters, invitations, and correspondence, 1969-1998 and 2012

Event planning materials, 1987 and 1995-1999
 Anti-Defamation League (newspaper clippings, correspondence, and a speech manuscript), 1966-1987
 Advertisements, newspaper clippings, pamphlets, and speaker materials, 1971-2012

Oversized folder ms1110_h001

Article by Jean Byram, "A Tale of Two Cities: Danville Boy Shares Rite of Passage," circa 1981

Box 11 (cont.)

List of summer events, 1984
 Bernie Dean performance (performance contract, financial documents, advertisements, tickets, and a review), 1993
 Kiddush lunches (correspondence), 2005
 75th Anniversary Celebration
 75th Anniversary Celebration (booklet draft), 1991
 "Museum master" booklet, undated
 Dinner reservations (includes newspaper clippings) circa 1991
 Newspaper clippings, correspondence, and ephemera, circa 1991

Oversized folder ms1110_f001

Poster board with attached and identified photos, 1991

Box 11 (cont.)

Photos of synagogue buildings, synagogue-sponsored events, and holiday celebrations, 1990-2006
 Miscellaneous photos, 1984, 2007, and undated

Box 12

Closing weekend festivities (CD-R), 2012

Box 11 (cont.)

Newsletter from Camp Ramah in Wisconsin, 1966
 Quotes on giving, undated