

Collection #  
M 0902  
OM 0443

## B'NAI B'RITH INDIANA MATERIALS, 1956–1993

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Processed by

Monica Casanova  
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Manuscript and Visual Collections Department  
William Henry Smith Memorial Library  
Indiana Historical Society  
450 West Ohio Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

[www.indianahistory.org](http://www.indianahistory.org)

### COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	Manuscript Materials: 2 boxes, 2 oversized folders Visual Materials: 1 folder photographs
COLLECTION DATES:	1956–1993
PROVENANCE:	Sheila Greenwald, Indianapolis, Indiana, November 2004
RESTRICTIONS:	None

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**ALTERNATE FORMATS:**

**RELATED HOLDINGS:** M 362 Indianapolis Lodge No. 58 B'nai B'rith

**ACCESSION NUMBER:** 2005.0043

**NOTES:** This forms part of the collection of the Indiana Jewish Historical Society.

**HISTORICAL SKETCH**

The B'nai B'rith was founded in New York in 1843 with the purposes of intensifying and raising the level of Jewish community life. As a fraternal organization, its interests are cultural, philanthropic, political, and social. The name means "Sons of the Covenant." The B'nai B'rith Abraham Lodge No. 58 was founded in Indianapolis in 1864; the Esther Lodge No. 323 was established in the 1880s. The two groups merged in 1907–1908 to form the Indianapolis Lodge. The Women's Auxiliary Lodge began in 1940. Of all the local Jewish organizations established during the 1860s and 1870s, only the B'nai B'rith remains active today.

The lodge played an important role in philanthropic activities, and supported numerous cultural, community and social programs for Jews and non-Jews alike. It gave to various charitable organizations, both local and national in scope, including the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, the Sunshine Mission, the Infantile Paralysis Fund, the Jewish Education Association, and the Cleveland Jewish Orphans' Home. Early in the century, it began sponsoring English and naturalization classes for Jewish immigrants, and encouraged Jewish immigrants to gain their American citizenship. The lodge sought to find employment for immigrants, and provided baby and child care clinics for newly arrived mothers.

From about 1910 on, the organization extended its social programs to include conducting religious services and Passover Seders for Jewish inmates and military men. The lodge also provided education for the Jewish and non-Jewish community by providing speakers for lodge meetings and speeches that were open to the public. Topics addressed contemporary Jewish problems, including European refugees, the Zionist movement, anti-Semitism, and the Nazi movement. In 1925, the B'nai B'rith nationally took on the sponsorship of the Hillel Foundation (an international college student organization) and the Aleph Zadek Aleph (later the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization). The local lodge supported a large and very active A.Z.A. chapter and generously funded the Hillel Foundation at Indiana University.

The B'nai B'rith took a leading role in the political life of the city's Jewish population as well. The lodge was the only local Jewish organization to adopt an anti-Klan program (1925), and continued to play a major part in organized efforts to fight anti-Semitism. The Anti-Defamation League, created by the national B'nai B'rith in 1913, became very active in Indianapolis during the 1930s and 1940s through the strong backing of the lodge. The lodge worked with other Jewish organizations to fight anti-Semitism through education and publicity. A special concern of the B'nai B'rith was the elimination of unethical business practices and improper behavior in the Jewish community as a way of reducing anti-Semitism.

Sources:

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The time period of material in this collection extends from the late 1950s to the early 1990s. Convention materials are contained in Series 1. These include convention programs and agendas, biographies, flyers, finances, newsletters, and reports. Biography profiles of William Korey, Gerald Kraft, and Max Einsteadig. Miscellaneous materials include AZA musical program, organization chart, and songs. There are also some member photographs and oversized manuscript folders with the B'nai B'rith logo and newspaper clippings. Series 2 contains meeting minutes, programs, and yearbooks from the B'nai B'rith Women Indiana Council and the State Association. Materials from the Indianapolis Lodge No. 58 are contained in Series 3. Materials include membership rosters, newsletters, correspondence, and newspaper clippings.

## SERIES CONTENTS

### **Series 1: B'nai B'rith Indiana State Associations Annual Conventions, 1959–1993**

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Convention Programs, 1959–1993 (1 of 2)	Box 1, Folder 1
Convention Programs, 1959–1993 (2 of 2)	Box 1, Folder 2
Correspondence, 1962–1976	Box 1, Folder 3
Newspaper Clippings, 1967–1971	Box 1, Folder 4
Men and Women Membership Rosters, 1964–1976	Box 1, Folder 5
Flyers, 1962–1971	Box 1, Folder 6
Agendas, 1963–1975	Box 1, Folder 7
Minute Meetings, 1969–1975	Box 1, Folder 8
Committees, 1969	Box 1, Folder 9
Finances, 1969–1976	Box 1, Folder 10
Reports, 1963–1975	Box 1, Folder 11
News Release, 1968 and 1969	Box 1, Folder 12
Newsletter, 1971–1975	Box 1, Folder 13
President's Message, 1972 and 1976	Box 1, Folder 14
Biographies, 1969	Box 1, Folder 15
Suite Memories of the 1860s	Box 1, Folder 16

Miscellaneous, 1967–1973	Box 1, Folder 17
Newspaper Clippings, 1961–1970	OM 0443, Folder 1
Indiana State Association B'nai B'rith Logo, n.d.	OM 0443, Folder 2
Member Photographs: Max Einstandig, David Kleiman, Mrs. Leo Sporber, Mrs. Sanders-Klein, Thomas D. Mantel, Mrs. Philip Bernstein, n.d.	Photographs, Folder 1

## **Series 2: B'nai B'rith Women Indiana State Association, 1956–1975**

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
B'nai B'rith Women Constitution and By-laws, n.d.	Box 2, Folder 1
B'nai B'rith Women Meeting Minutes, 1961–1975 (1 of 3)	Box 2, Folder 2
B'nai B'rith Women Meeting Minutes, 1961–1975 (2 of 3)	Box 2, Folder 3
B'nai B'rith Women Meeting Minutes, 1961–1975 (3 of 3)	Box 2, Folder 4
B'nai B'rith Women Program and Yearbooks, 1956–1969	Box 2, Folder 5

## **Series 3: B'nai B'rith Men Indianapolis Lodge No. 58, 1967–1968**

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Membership Roster, 1968	Box 2, Folder 6
Correspondence, 1968	Box 2, Folder 7
Newsletter, 1968	Box 2, Folder 8
Socials, 1967	Box 2, Folder 9
Newspaper Clippings, n.d.	Box 2, Folder 10
Speech, n.d.	Box 2, Folder 11

## **CATALOGING INFORMATION**

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog: <http://opac.indianahistory.org/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.

3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, M 0902).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.