COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 2 manuscript boxes; 5 bound volumes; 4 folders color photographs

COLLECTION DATES: 1888-2001

PROVENANCE: Temple Israel, West Lafayette, Indiana, August, 2007

RESTRICTIONS: Items listed as being in Cold Storage need at least four hours to acclimatize, so patrons are advised to call ahead of their visit if they wish to view those items to allow for thawing time.

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2007.0216

NOTES: This forms part of the Indiana Jewish Historical Society Archives
HISTORICAL SKETCH

Temple Israel traces its origins back to 1849 when twenty Jewish families in the area formed the first congregation, Ahavath Achim (brotherly love) in April of that year. In November 1849, they purchased the land for a cemetery called The Hebrew Burial Ground of Tippecanoe County. Early lay leaders included Moses Amberg, Harris Frank, Samuel Kuhn, and Martin Hollstein. J. Sutman led the services and served as cantor. A rabbi did not arrive until 1855 when B. Goodman was brought in. Goodman was followed by N. Emmich and Dr. H. Loventhall. Initially the congregation followed the traditional orthodox teachings but by the 1860s some of the old rituals were abolished.

The congregation met in halls of businesses until a location for a temple could be found. The synagogue was located at South 7th and Alabama streets and was completed in 1867. In 1874 the congregation joined the new liberal Union of American Hebrew Congregations. The temple has been served by a number of rabbis, most of whom only stayed a few years. The longest serving rabbi was Burton E. Levinson, 1966-1982.

In 1919 the congregation adopted a new constitution and changed its name to Temple Israel. A site for a new temple was chosen in 1964, and a site was chosen on Cumberland Avenue in West Lafayette and completed in September, 1969.

Sources:
Information in collection.
SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

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Board Minutes, 1971 Box 1, Folder 6

Board Minutes, 1972 (1 of 2) Box 1, Folder 7

Board Minutes, 1972 (2 of 2) Box 1, Folder 8

Board Minutes, 1973 Box 1, Folder 9

Temple Bulletins, 1972-1973 Box 1, Folder 10

Rabbi Retirement, 1981 (1 of 2) Box 1, Folder 11

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Jewish Community Religious School, 1961 Box 1, Folder 13

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New Temple Ground Breaking, 1969 Color Photographs:

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Jewish Cemetery, Lafayette, 2001

Jewish Education, ca. 1970s

Reception, ca. 1970s

Board Minutes, 1923-1941

Board Minutes, 1941-1953

Cash Book, 1894-1917

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