

Guide to the Temple Beth Sholom Records

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Temple Beth Shalom (Las Vegas, Nev.)
Title:	Temple Beth Shalom Records
ID:	MS-00711
Date [inclusive]:	1945-2015
Physical Description:	12.5 Linear Feet (8 boxes, 4 oversize boxes)
Physical Description:	198 Digital Files (transferred electronically; no physical carrier)
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The records of Temple Beth Shalom date from 1945 to 2015 and include scrapbooks, photographs, bulletins, meeting minutes, by-laws, correspondence, and publications. The collection contains documentation of the Board of Directors, the Sisterhood, the Men's Club, the history of the congregation, events held by the temple, and construction of the temple building in Summerlin in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Preferred Citation

Temple Beth Shalom Records, 1945-2015. MS-00711. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Historical Background

Temple Beth Shalom was the first Jewish congregation in Southern Nevada and continues to function as a religious, educational, and social center for a considerable portion of the Jewish community of Las Vegas. Previously known as the Jewish Community Center of Las Vegas, it became affiliated with the Conservative Movement and officially known as Temple Beth Shalom in 1958. The congregation originated in Las Vegas in the 1930s with a small group of families and grew to be the largest temple in Nevada during the 1960s. Until the 1970s, Temple Beth Shalom was the only synagogue in Las Vegas.

The "Sons and Daughters of Israel" was the first Jewish group in Las Vegas. In the 1930s, this group of about 25 people gathered at the back of a store to pray and to teach Judaism to their children. Services for the High Holy Days were held at the home of community member Nate Mack, and conducted by a cantor who traveled from Los Angeles for the occasion. By 1943 the "Sons and Daughters of Israel" disbanded and

a chapter of B'nai B'rith was founded. In response to the growing number of Jewish families in the area, the Las Vegas Jewish Community Center was built in 1946, and in 1948 became a legal entity.

During the 1940s the community center's activities included Las Vegas's first preschool program, youth dances, Jewish Family Services, and the Sisterhood gift shop. The community also supported the establishment of the State of Israel, raising \$40,000 for the United Jewish Appeal, the highest per capita contribution of Jewish citizens in the United States.

By the 1950s the Jewish population of Las Vegas had increased even more and the congregation purchased another property to accommodate the growth. Jewish casino owners and operators made significant contributions to the fundraising campaign, and also held leadership positions within the temple. At Rabbi Dr. Bernard Cohen's suggestion, the congregation affiliated itself with the United Synagogues of America (the official governing body of the Conservative Movement) and chose its new name, Temple Beth Sholom. By this time the building included a 320-seat sanctuary, social hall, classrooms, a Junior sanctuary, and a consecrated Jewish burial ground.

Membership growth and physical expansion continued parallel to the expanding Jewish population in Las Vegas until a new Reform Temple, Ner Tamid, was formed in 1974. By the 1990s, Temple Beth Sholom's membership numbers had dwindled to 300 families and plans were made to move to Summerlin, where many members were then living. The building on Oakey Boulevard was sold before a new building was constructed, and the community once again held services "in exile," as it had in its early days. The Summerlin temple was dedicated in 2000 and is the center of many activities, including religious services, education, community groups, and events.

Source: "Mission & History." Temple Beth Sholom. Accessed January 12, 2015. <http://www.bethsholomlv.org/#!/mission-history/c1qhp>.

Chronology	
1943	Sons and Daughters of Israel disbands. B'nai B'rith chapter founded.
1946	Las Vegas Jewish Community Center is built at 1229 Carson Street.
1948	Becomes legal entity.
1956	Groundbreaking of property at 1600 Oakey Boulevard.
1958	The name "Temple Beth Sholom" is officially selected. Affiliates with the United Synagogues of America.
1967	Temple Beth Sholom is the largest synagogue in Nevada, with 750 member families.
1974	Some members leave to form Congregation Ner Tamid.
1997	Oakey Boulevard property is sold.

2000	Dedication of Summerlin building on September 24.
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Scope and Contents Note

The records of Temple Beth Shalom date from 1945 to 2015 and include scrapbooks, photographs, bulletins, meeting minutes, by-laws, correspondence, and publications. The collection contains documentation of the Board of Directors, the Sisterhood, the Men's Club, the history of the congregation, events held by the temple, and construction of the temple building in Summerlin in Las Vegas, Nevada. The scrapbooks in the collection focus on the Temple Sisterhood from 1948 to 1976 and include photographs, news clippings, newsletters, and ephemera from events. There is also material from the Temple Men's Club, including meeting agendas, by-laws, correspondence, and other organizational records from 2005 to 2008. The construction of the temple in Summerlin and the Warsaw Ghetto Remembrance Garden is documented by photo albums, architectural plans, an executive summary, and ephemera. Photographs depict events held by the temple, including galas, fundraisers, and community events. Board of Directors records consist of meeting minutes, memos, reports, by-laws, policies, correspondence, and budgets from 1952 to 2006. Also included in the collection are the records of temple president Gene Greenberg, who served from 1985 to 1988, issues of the Beth Shalom Bulletin temple newsletter from 1998 to 2009, and digital photographs and administrative files from 1999 to 2011.

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Arrangement

These records are arranged into three series:

Series I. Visual materials, 1945-2007 and undated;

Series II. Organizational records, 1952-2015;

Series III. Digital administrative files and photographs, 1999-2011.

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Administrative Information

Access

Collection is open for research. Portions of this collection are digital and available online at <http://d.library.unlv.edu/cdm/search/searchterm/MS-00711>

Publication Rights

Materials in this collection may be protected by copyrights and other rights. See [Reproductions and Use](#) on the UNLV Special Collections website for more information about reproductions and permissions to publish.

Acquisition Note

Materials were donated in 2015 by Temple Beth Shalom; accession number 2015-024.

Processing Note

Materials were processed by Emily Lapworth in 2015.

Existence and Location of Originals

Some items in this collection are digital surrogates. The donor retained the original items.

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Related Materials

Related Collections

Additional Temple Beth Shalom records and bulletins can be found in:

Mary Barkan Collection on the Las Vegas Jewish Community, 1964-2006. MS-00426. Special Collections, UNLV Libraries, Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Names and Subjects

- History -- Las Vegas -- Nevada
- Synagogues

- Religious institutions -- Nevada
- Las Vegas (Nev.) -- Religious life and customs
- Photographs

Collection Inventory

Visual materials, 1945-2007 and undated

Physical Description: 9.5 Linear Feet (4 boxes and 4 oversize boxes)

Physical Description: 148 Digital Files (Files are digital surrogates.)

Scope and Contents Note: The Visual Materials series mainly consists of scrapbooks and photographs created by the Temple Beth Shalom community in Las Vegas, Nevada and depicting the activities of the congregation from 1945 to 2007. The Sisterhood of Temple Beth Shalom created scrapbooks of photographs, newspaper clippings, and ephemera documenting their activities, events, and members from 1948 to 1976. Digital surrogates of photographs and newspaper clippings that hang on the walls of Temple Beth Shalom show the congregation's history since 1945. Photographs from the 1980s to 2007 show the construction of the new temple building in Summerlin, galas, fundraisers, and other events.

Title/Description	Containers
Photographs of Temple Beth Shalom presidents, 1945-2007 Physical Description: 29 Digital Files (Files are digital surrogates.)	
Sisterhood scrapbook, 1948-1949	box 1
Scrapbook pages, 1948-2000	box 2
Sisterhood scrapbook, 1955-1956	box 1
Photographs of newspaper clippings decorating the hallways of Temple Beth Shalom, 1955-2002 Physical Description: 25 Digital Files Files are digital surrogates.	
Large photograph of Temple Beth Shalom building on Oakey Boulevard, approximately 1956	box 1
News clippings scrapbook pages, 1956-1980	box 2
Sisterhood scrapbook, 1957-1959	box 3
Sisterhood scrapbook, 1968-1969	box 3
Bernice Schiffman UNLV Memorial Scholarship Foundation scrapbook, 1970-1977	box 3
Sisterhood scrapbook, 1972-1973	box 4
Sisterhood scrapbook, 1975-1976	box 5
Event photos (originally found in the back of the Sandy and Stan Mallin Gala photo album, 2001), 1980s or 1990s	box 2
Preschool photo album pages, approximately 1988	box 6
Sandy Mallin Gala photo album, 1997	box 5
Mona and Charles Silverman Gala photo album pages, 1998	

	box 6
Groundbreaking and beginning of construction of new temple photo album, 1998 October-1999	box 5
Events photo album, approximately 1998-1999 Scope and Contents Note: Events depicted include: Mommy With Me, Faye Steinberg's and Lillian Kronberg's capital campaign	box 5
Events photo album, 1998-1999 Scope and Contents Note: Events depicted include: Purim Mishloach, 1998; High Holy Day Children's Lunch, 1999; USY Golf Outing, 1999; Peace Walk, 1999; Shabbat For Peace, 1999; New Member Brunch, 1999.	box 5
Events photo album pages, 1998-1999 Scope and Contents Note: Events depicted include: Purim, 1998; Robbo, 1998; Family "Noah" Shabbat, 1999; Men's Club Breakfast-Coach Robinson, 1999; Women's League at Blanche Meisel's, 1999.	box 6
Events photo album, 1999-2000 Scope and Contents Note: Events depicted include: Hanukkah Treasure Hunt, 1999; George Sidney Brunch, 1999; Family Shabbat, May 12, 2000; Israel Independence Day Celebration, 2000; Shabbat And Me, May 26, 2000.	box 7
Oscar Goodman Gala photo album, 1999	box 7
Events photo album, 1999-2000 Scope and Contents Note: Events depicted include: Tu B'Shuat, 1999; Purim, 2000; Mommy And Me, 2000; 55+ Brunch, 2000; New Member Wine And Cheese at Amy C. May's house, 2000.	box 7
Construction photo album, 1999-2000	box 7
Door dedication photo album, 2000 June 7	box 7
Events photo album, 2000 Scope and Contents Note: Events depicted include: religious school and preschool fashion show and brunch, April 16; New And Prospective Member Wine And Cheese at Amy C. May's house; Men's Club Breakfast, May 7.	box 4
Events photo album, 2000 Scope and Contents Note: Events depicted include religious school graduation and family picnic, June 2000 and annual meeting, 2000.	box 4
"Temple Beth Shalom presents Hats Off! A Gala Honoring Sandy and Stan Mallin" photographs, 2001	box 6
Sandy and Stan Mallin Gala photo album pages, 2001	box 6
L'Dor V'Dor scrapbook pages, 2002	box 6
Warsaw Ghetto Remembrance Garden photo album, 2003	box 4
Interior design plans, 2007	box 1

Posters, undated	box 1
Mounted reproductions of photographs, undated	box 8
Photographs of portraits and events mounted in the hallway at Temple Beth Shalom, undated	
Physical Description: 94 Digital Files Files are digital surrogates.	

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Organizational records, 1952-2015

Physical Description: 2.5 Linear Feet (3 boxes)

Physical Description: 50 Digital Files Files are digital surrogates.

Scope and Contents Note: The Organizational Records series consists mainly of Temple Beth Shalom (Las Vegas, Nevada) Board of Directors records such as meeting minutes, by-laws, policies, correspondence, memos, and budgets from 1952 to 2006. The Men's Club records in this series include correspondence, meeting minutes, by-laws, and documents related to the construction of the Summerlin temple building and the Warsaw Ghetto Remembrance Garden. Temple president Gene Greenberg's records date from 1985 to 1988 and include board minutes, correspondence, organization charts, reports, materials from United Synagogue of America biennial weekend, and resources for selecting a rabbi.

Arrangement: Some documents were removed from binders and placed into acid-free folders, but efforts were made to keep intact the original order within the binders unless otherwise noted. Materials are arranged chronologically at the file level.

Title/Description	Containers
Clippings and publications, 1952-1988	
Physical Description: 5 Digital Files Files are digital surrogates.	
Board of directors records	
Minutes, 1952 September-1956 December	box 11
Minutes, 1957 January-1963 April	box 11
Minutes, 1973 May-1974 May	box 11
Minutes, 1974 May-1975 May	box 11
Minutes, 1987 June-1988 May	box 9
Minutes, 1988 June-1989 May	box 9
Minutes, 1992	box 9
Minutes, 1993	box 9
Minutes, 1995-1996	box 9
Confidential personnel minutes, 1996 June 10	box 9
Minutes, 1996 June-1997 May	box 9
Master by-laws (originally in binder with minutes from 2000), 1998 February 12	box 9

Minutes, 1998	box 9
Minutes, 1999 January 1-1999 December 31	box 9
Minutes, reports, correspondence, and budgets, 2000	box 9
Minutes, memos, reports, and other records	
Minutes, 2000 September 11-2001 August 6	box 9
Warsaw Ghetto Remembrance Garden donor information packet, 2001	box 9
Memos, reports, and other records, 2001	box 9
Early Childhood Center calendar and parent information packet, Fall 2001	box 10
Minutes and by-laws, 2001 September-2002 December	box 10
Summary of motions, temple policies, history, and ephemera, 2001-2006	box 10
Jewish Community Center of Las Vegas certificate of membership to the United Synagogue of America, 1957 October 30	box 1
Temple President Gene Greenberg's records, 1985-1988	box 10
Scope and Contents Note: Temple President Gene Greenberg's records include board minutes, correspondence, organization charts, reports, materials from United Synagogue of America biennial weekend, and resources for selecting a rabbi.	
Men's Club records, 1990-2008	box 10
Scope and Contents Note: Men's Club records include correspondence, meeting minutes, by-laws, documents related to the Warsaw Ghetto Remembrance Garden, construction documents, and ephemera.	
Long range master planning study, 1988 July	box 10
"Beth Shalom Bulletin" newsletters	
Digital copies, 1998-1999, 2005-2008	
Physical Description: 45 Digital Files Files are digital surrogates.	
Paper copies, 2009	box 10
Newspaper clippings, 2000-2009	box 10
Construction plans, 2002-2007	box 10
Historical information and bus tour program, 2004, 2015	box 10

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Digital administrative files and photographs, 1999-2011

box 12

Physical Description: 73 Optical Discs

Physical Description: 0.5 Linear Feet (1 box)

Scope and Contents Note: This series is comprised of CDs created by Temple Beth Shalom (Las Vegas, Nevada) from 1999 to 2011. Contents include photographs of temple events and activities and files created by temple administration in the course of activities such as creating the temple bulletin; managing personnel, membership, and budgets; and planning events. File formats include spreadsheets, images, publisher files, and text documents.

Processing Note: These records are unprocessed. A rough inventory of the accession was created by Emily Lapworth in 2015 and is available at the repository. To prepare the inventory, the described materials were reviewed to create a contents list, estimate dates, and identify material types. No other work has been performed on the materials.

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