

Congregation Beit Kodesh Records

3.5 linear feet (7 MB)

1957-2011

Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI

Finding aid written by Sharon Alterman; edited by Dallas Pillen on October 1, 2013.

Accession Number: UR002356

Creator: Livonia Jewish Congregation, Congregation Beit Kodesh

Acquisition: Deposited at the Reuther on September 12, 2012 by the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit as part of the Jewish Community Archives.

Language: Material entirely in English.

Access: Collection is open for research.

Use: Refer to the Walter P. Reuther Library *Rules for Use of Archival Materials*.

Notes: Citation style: "Congregation Beit Kodesh Records, Box [#], Folder [#], Walter P. Reuther Library, Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University"

Related Material: Reuther collections: Jewish Community Archives

History

In 1958, Livonia was a growing community that attracted Jewish families. A group of Jewish visionaries began holding Shabbat services at Clarenceville Central Elementary School. Services were also held in individual homes. In 1958, High Holiday services were held at the Botsford Inn. By 1959, a nucleus of membership had formed and the Livonia Jewish Congregation was officially organized.

Over the years, Shabbat services were held in rented locations as Clarenceville Junior High and the Pierson Elementary School. In 1963, property was purchased on Seven Mile Road and the existing farmhouse was renovated for use. In 1965, a church on Six Mile Road was purchased and renovated. This facility included a sanctuary, meeting rooms and kitchen.

Membership grew and, in early 1970s, the congregation negotiated with the Jewish Federation to use the former Maly and Samuel Cohn United Hebrew School Building. The congregation maintained a religious school and was an important presence within the Livonia community, participating in numerous community and social service projects.

In 1990, the Livonia Jewish Congregation changed its name to the Congregation Beit Kodesh. Its former name was restrictive in membership appeal as members came from throughout Western Wayne County and Oakland Counties.

Over the years, they have had three rabbis and a dedicated membership that undertook much of the responsibility for the synagogues' daily functioning. There was great involvement on the part of lay leadership that often conducted religious services. The synagogue operated on a volunteer basis with a limited budget.

The congregation referred to themselves as the "House of Miracles" as they were small in numbers and overcame many financial obstacles. They were a close-knit synagogue that operated like a family.

The building on West 7 Mile Road was their congregational home for more than 40 years and was occupied until November 1, 2011 when the congregation disbanded.

Scope and Content:

The Congregation Beit Kodesh Records include administrative records, bar and bat mitzvah records, Chai dinner booklets, legal documents, minutes and records of sisterhood activities. They reflect the activities of a small but dedicated group of volunteers that labored to maintain Jewish presence and practice in Western Wayne County for more than 50 years.

Important Subjects:

Bar mitzvah

Bat mitzvah

Chai

Jews—Livonia (Mich.)

Livonia (Mich.)

Important Names:

Holocaust Memorial Center (West Bloomfield, Mich.)

United Jewish Charities

United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

Arrangement

Folders are arranged by subject and then either by secondary subject, format, or reverse chronological order.

Box 1

- 1 Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, 1981-2011
- 2 Bar/Bat Mizvahs, 1968-1980
- 3 Chai Dinner Honorees List
- 4 Chai Dinner Programs, 1989-2002, 2009
- 5 Chai Dinner Programs, 1963-1986

Box 2

- 1 Congregation Biet Kodesh (CBK) Minutes, 2010-2011
- 2 CBK Minutes, 2007-2009
- 3 CBK Minutes, 2004-2006
- 4 CBK Minutes, 2002-2003
- 5 CBK Minutes, 1999-2001
- 6 CBK Minutes, 1995-1998
- 7 CBK Minutes, 1991-1994

Box 3

- 1 CBK Minutes, 1990
- 2 CBK Minutes, 1987-1989
- 3 CBK Minutes, 1984-1986
- 4 CBK Minutes, 1982-1983
- 5 CBK Minutes, 1980-1981
- 6 CBK Minutes, 1979
- 7 CBK Minutes, 1977-1978
- 8 CBK Minutes, 1975-1976

Box 4

- 1 Livonia Jewish Congregation (LJC) Minutes, 1973-1974
- 2 LJC Minutes, 1971-1972
- 3 LJC Minutes, 1969-1970
- 4 LJC Minutes, 1968
- 5 LJC Minutes, 1967
- 6 LJC Minutes, 1966
- 7 LJC Minutes, 1965
- 8 LJC Minutes, 1963-1964
- 9 LJC Minutes, 1960-1962

Box 5

- 1 CBK Newsletters, 2010-2011
- 2 CBK Newsletters, 2008-2009
- 3 CBK Newsletters, 2006-2007
- 4 CBK Newsletters, 2003-2005

- 5 CBK Newsletters, 2000-2002
- 6 CBK Newsletters, 1997-1999
- 7 LJC Newsletters, 1982
- 8 CBK News Articles

Box 6

- 1 Sisterhood By-Laws, 1969-1996
- 2 Sisterhood Membership Lists, Photos, 1980s-2010
- 3 Sisterhood Minutes, 2005-2011
- 4 Sisterhood Projects, 2005-2011
- 5 Sisterhood, 2001-2010

Box 7

- 1 Constitution, Amendments, By-Laws, 1978-2008
- 2 Congregation B'nai Moshes Contract & Letter to Membership, 2011
- 3 Defacing of Synagogue - Community Response, 1984
- 4 Donation to Holocaust Museum, 2008-2009
- 5 Life Cycle Events, 1970-2002
- 6 Membership Lists, 1967-2011
- 7 Memorial Funds, 1970s-201
- 8 President Lists, 1957-2011
- 9 Rabbi Contracts and Correspondence, 1967-2007
- 10 Real Estate Information, 1962-1989
- 11 Synagogue History & Photos
- 12 Synagogue Membership Applications, A-K, 1987-2011
- 13 Synagogue Membership Applications, L-Z, 1984-2010
- 14 Synagogue Programs, 1994-2011
- 15 Torah Information, 1961-1994
- 16 United Jewish Charities, Correspondence & Lease Agreements, 1973-2011
- 17 United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, 1993