



WAYNE STATE  
UNIVERSITY

Walter P. Reuther Library

# Guide to the JCA: Congregation Beit Kodesh Records UR002356

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English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Walter P. Reuther Library

5401 Cass Avenue

Detroit, MI 48202

URL: <https://reuther.wayne.edu>

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## Table of Contents

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Summary Information .....	3
History .....	4
Scope and Content .....	4
Arrangement of the Records .....	5
Administrative Information .....	5
Related Materials .....	6
Controlled Access Headings .....	6
Collection Inventory .....	6

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Walter P. Reuther Library
<b>Creator:</b>	Livonia Jewish Congregation
<b>Creator:</b>	Congregation Beit Kodesh (Livonia, Mich.)
<b>Title:</b>	JCA: Congregation Beit Kodesh Records
<b>ID:</b>	UR002356
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1957-2011
<b>Physical Description:</b>	3.5 Linear Feet (7 MB)
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	Material entirely in English.
<b>Abstract:</b>	The Livonia Jewish Congregation was organized in 1959, later changing its name to Congregation Beit Kodesh in 1990. Throughout its existence, the congregation held Shabbat services, maintained a religious school, and was active in numerous community and social service projects. The congregation disbanded in 2011. The Livonia Jewish Congregation/Congregation Beit Kodesh Records include administrative records, bar and bat mitzvah records, Chai dinner booklets, legal documents, minutes, and records of Sisterhood activities. The records 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.

### Citation Style

"Leonard N. Simons Jewish Community Archives, Congregation Beit Kodesh Records, Box [#], Folder [#], Walter P. Reuther Library, Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University"

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## History

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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 such as Clarenceville Junior High and Pierson Elementary School. In 1963, property was purchased on Seven Mile Road in Livonia 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 the early 1970s, the congregation negotiated with the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit 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 Congregation Beit Kodesh. Its former name was restrictive in membership appeal as members came from throughout Western Wayne County and Oakland County.

Over the years, the congregation had three rabbis and a dedicated membership that undertook much of the responsibility for the synagogue's daily functioning. There was great involvement on the part of lay leadership, who 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.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Scope and Content

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The Livonia Jewish Congregation/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/Bat mitzvah, Jews—Livonia (Mich.), Livonia (Mich.).

Important Names: Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit, Holocaust Memorial Center (West Bloomfield, Mich.), United Jewish Charities, United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Arrangement of the Records

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

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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Detroit, MI 48202

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### Revision Description

Revised by Dallas Pillen. 2013-10-01

### Acquisition

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

### Processing History

Finding aid written by Sharon Alterman; edited by Dallas Pillen on October 1, 2013. Edited by Aimee Ergas, April 2020.

### Use

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

## Access

Collection is open for research.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Related Materials

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### Related Material

Reuther collections: Jewish Community Archives

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Jews. American
- Jewish culture: arts, media and heritage
- Religious life
- Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit

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## Collection Inventory

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Title/Description	Instances	
Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, 1981-2011	1	folder 1
Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, 1968-1980	1	folder 2
Chai Dinner Honorees List	1	folder 3
Chai Dinner Programs, 1989-2002, 2009	1	folder 4
Chai Dinner Programs, 1963-1986	1	folder 5
Congregation Beit Kodesh (CBK), Minutes, 2010-2011	2	folder 1
CBK Minutes, 2007-2009	2	folder 2
CBK Minutes, 2004-2006	2	folder 3
CBK Minutes, 2002-2003	2	folder 4

Guide to the JCA: Congregation Beit Kodesh Records UR002356

CBK Minutes, 1999-2001	2	folder 5
CBK Minutes, 1995-1998	2	folder 6
CBK Minutes, 1991-1994	2	folder 7
CBK Minutes, 1990	3	folder 1
CBK Minutes, 1987-1989	3	folder 2
CBK Minutes, 1984-1986	3	folder 3
CBK Minutes, 1982-1983	3	folder 4
CBK Minutes, 1980-1981	3	folder 5
CBK Minutes, 1979	3	folder 6
CBK Minutes, 1977-1978	3	folder 7
CBK Minutes, 1975-1976	3	folder 8
Livonia Jewish Congregation (LJC), Minutes, 1973-1974	4	folder 1
LJC Minutes, 1971-1972	4	folder 2
LJC Minutes, 1969-1970	4	folder 3
LJC Minutes, 1968	4	folder 4
LJC Minutes, 1967	4	folder 5
LJC Minutes, 1966	4	folder 6
LJC Minutes, 1965	4	folder 7
LJC Minutes, 1963-1964	4	folder 8
LJC Minutes, 1960-1962	4	folder 9
CBK Newsletters, 2010-2011	5	folder 1
CBK Newsletters, 2008-2009	5	folder 2
CBK Newsletters, 2006-2007	5	folder 3
CBK Newsletters, 2003-2005	5	folder 4
CBK Newsletters, 2000-2002	5	folder 5
CBK Newsletters, 1997-1999	5	folder 6
LJC Newsletters, 1982	5	folder 7
CBK News Articles	5	folder 8
Sisterhood By-Laws, 1969-1996	6	folder 1
Sisterhood Membership Lists, Photos, 1980s-2010	6	folder 2
Sisterhood Minutes, 2005-2011	6	folder 3
Sisterhood Projects, 2005-2011	6	folder 4

Sisterhood, 2001-2010	6	folder 5
Constitution, Amendments, By-Laws, 1978-2008	7	folder 1
Congregation B'nai Moshe, Contract and Letter to Membership, 2011	7	folder 2
Defacing of Synagogue - Community Response, 1984	7	folder 3
Donation to Holocaust Museum, 2008-2009	7	folder 4
Life Cycle Events, 1970-2002	7	folder 5
Membership Lists, 1967-2011	7	folder 6
Memorial Funds, 1970s-2011	7	folder 7
President Lists, 1957-2011	7	folder 8
Rabbi Contracts and Correspondence, 1967-2007	7	folder 9
Real Estate Information, 1962-1989	7	folder 10
Synagogue History and Photos	7	folder 11
Synagogue Membership Applications, A-K, 1987-2011	7	folder 12
Synagogue Membership Applications, L-Z, 1984-2010	7	folder 13
Synagogue Programs, 1994-2011	7	folder 14
Torah Information, 1961-1994	7	folder 15
United Jewish Charities, Correspondence and Lease Agreements, 1973-2011	7	folder 16
United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, 1993	7	folder 17