



Sharlot Hall Museum Library and Archives
415 West Gurley Street
Prescott, AZ 86301
www.sharlot.org

Title: Temple B'rith Shalom Records

Creator: Temple B'rith Shalom Prescott Congregation

Dates: 1952-2002

Quantity: 1.5 linear feet (3 boxes)

System of Arrangement

The collection is arranged in the following series:

Series 1: History & Correspondence

Series 2: Newsletters

Series 3: Scrapbooks

Abstract

This collection consists of the history, correspondence, newsletters, scrapbooks, photos, news clippings and other ephemera materials regarding the congregation and members of the Temple B'rith Shalom, as well as, Jewish culture and history in Arizona - particularly in Prescott, Arizona.

Identification: SHM MS-32

Language and Scripts of the Materials: English and Hebrew

Biographical History

Jews have lived in Prescott since pioneer days. Starting in 1879, Morris Goldwater, an uncle of Barry Goldwater, was the mayor of Prescott for many years. While there are records of Jewish ceremonies and services being held during the early years of Prescott history, there was no Jewish congregation organized. Attempts were made in the 1940s to start a Jewish congregation in the Prescott area but nothing actually came of it.

Beginning in 1977, Irving and Shirley Brohner were living in Prescott but traveling back to their old Temple in Phoenix to worship. It was that year on a cold winter night while making the trip, that Shirley had a dream. She dreamed of how wonderful it would be to have a Temple close by - maybe even in Prescott. From that dream, Temple B'rith



Shalom was born. Shortly after that cold drive, Shirley placed an ad in the Prescott Daily Courier that read, "Nice Jewish couple would like to meet other Jewish families." The ad garnered just five responses, but it was enough. In 1978, the small group held its first Chanukkah party, and the next few years brought picnics, dinners, more Chanukkah parties and other social gatherings. As the group grew, it began to hold Friday night services at the old YMCA. These services were conducted by members of the congregation using borrowed Torahs, while Sunday school was held at various locations and taught by members of the group.

Soon the idea of a permanent Temple became more of a need than just a simple want. In 1980, Mark Goodman and his family from Phoenix made the initial donation toward a fund to construct a permanent temple in Prescott. This donation was matched by Irving Brohner, and the "Building Fund" was officially established. That same year, the Temple chose its name, *Temple B'rith Shalom* or *Covenant of Peace*. As the "Building Fund" grew, so did the congregation. In 1983, the first student Rabbi, Lon Moskowitz, arrived. In 1984, the first Torah, a Holocaust Torah rescued from Slany, Czechoslovakia, was brought to the Temple. In 1985 services and Sunday school were moved to a small house on Moeller Street. However, the ever-increasing community needed more space. Hence, in 1990 the Temple was officially moved to a building which previously held a doll factory. This would be the home of Temple B'rith Shalom for the next eight years.

Finally, in 1992 the congregation found the perfect parcel of land located off of Willow Lake Road. Under the leadership of Greg Raskin, Alfred Falk, and Bob and Dorothy Morris, Temple B'rith Shalom's plans for a new temple were underway. Simultaneously, in 1996, Temple B'rith Shalom hired our first ordained rabbi, Rabbi William Berkowitz. On July 1, 1997, over 100 people attended the official groundbreaking ceremony. On November 12, 1997, the street where the Temple is located was renamed Brohner Way in honor of Irving and Shirley. On January 11, 1998, Rabbi William Berkowitz, Temple President Robert Morris, and the members of Temple B'rith Shalom held a dedication ceremony for the newly completed Temple and the congregation began to experience a huge growth in numbers. In 1999, the synagogue acquired an area within the Heritage Memorial Gardens cemetery which was consecrated as a Jewish cemetery. Each year this congregation continues to grow and the history of Temple B'rith Shalom continues to evolve.

Scope and Content Note

This collection consists of the history, correspondence, scrapbooks, photos, news clippings and other ephemera materials. The collection contains a folder on the history of the Jews in Arizona, which contains handwritten notes and copies of excerpts from books regarding when Jews settled in Arizona - includes a letter exchange with Barry Goldwater. Also, the collection consists of correspondence regarding the permanent loan



of a Torah primarily with the *Congregation B'nai Israel of Freeport*, New York. There is a booklet regarding the Bar Mitzvah of Bret Simmons, which is in Hebrew. The collection includes the Temple B'rith Shalom newsletters, *The Ram's Horn*, from 1995 to 2002. In addition, there are nine (9) scrapbooks that include letters, news clippings, photos and other information and ephemera regarding the congregation and members' publicity, events and activities. Three of the scrapbooks include information and activities of the Temple B'rith Shalom Sisterhood.

Restrictions

None

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use

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Related Archival Materials & Subjects

[Jewish history, life, and culture](#)

[Judaism--Customs and practices.](#)

[Synagogues.](#)

[Jewish pioneers](#)

[Goldwater, Barry M. \(Barry Morris\), 1909-1998.](#)

[Prescott \(Ariz.\)](#)

[Temple B'rith Shalom \(Prescott, Ariz.\)](#)

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Accession Number:

99.064

2013.120

The materials found within this collection were donated by Susan Lorant on behalf of the Temple B'rith Shalom congregation to the Sharlot Hall Museum on April 20, 1999. The



materials were processed and placed into a non-standardized arrangement and organization scheme and were originally cataloged in Document Box 414. Apparently, no finding aid was created for this document box. The collection was re-processed using a DACS compliant finding aid and was re-assigned a new manuscript number MS-32 in November 2013. On November 14, 2013 an accrual was donated by William “Bill” Weiss, a member of the Temple B’rith Shalom (Acc #2013.120). He donated more *Ram’s Horn* newsletters from 1995 to 2002. Brenda Taylor processed the newsletters and weeded out all duplicates.

Accruals: This congregation is still active and more accruals are expected from future members.

Description Control

This collection was processed by Brenda Taylor using *Describing Archives: a Content Standard (DACS)* in November 2013.

Container List

Title: Temple B’rith Shalom Records - SHM MS-32

Dates: 1952-1987

Series Scope and Content: This series consists of history of the synagogue, Jews in Arizona, correspondence regarding a Torah in Freeport, New York and a booklet on a Bar Mitzvah.

Series 1: History & Correspondence		
Box/Folder	File/Item Description	Dates
1.1	History of Jews in Arizona	1952-53 & 1981
1.2	Torah Correspondence	1984-1987
1.3	Bar Mitzvah	November 1983



Title: Temple B'rith Shalom Records - SHM MS-32

Dates: 1995-2002

Series Scope and Content: This series consists of the newsletter written by members of the Temple B'rith Shalom.

Series 2: Newsletters		
Box/Folder	File/Item Description	Dates
1.4	The Ram's Horn Newsletter	Jan.-Feb., April-June, Sept.-Oct. & Dec. 1995
1.5	The Ram's Horn Newsletter	Mar.-April, June & Aug.-Dec. 1996
1.6	The Ram's Horn Newsletter	Jan.-Feb. & April 1997
1.7	The Ram's Horn Newsletter	February 1998
1.8	The Ram's Horn Newsletter	March-Dec. 1999
1.9	The Ram's Horn Newsletter	Jan.-Dec. 2000
1.10	The Ram's Horn Newsletter	Jan.-Dec. 2001
1.11	The Ram's Horn Newsletter	Jan.-July 2002



Title: Temple B'rith Shalom Records - SHM MS-32

Dates: 1979-1987

Series Scope and Content: This series consists of scrapbooks regarding the members and congregation at the synagogue. These scrapbooks contain news clippings, letters, photos, synagogue event items and other ephemera.

Series 3: Scrapbooks		
Box/Folder	File/Item Description	Dates
2.1	Blue-Green hard-cover scrapbook #1	1979-1981
2.2	Red hard-cover scrapbook #2	1981-1983
2.3	Royal Blue paper-cover scrapbook #3	1983-1984
2.4	Red paper-cover scrapbook #4	1984-1985
2.5	Sport-themed paper-cover scrapbook #5	1985-1986
3.1	Brown hard-cover scrapbook #6	1986-1987
3.2	B'rith Shalom Sisterhood – Beige scrapbook #7	1985-1986
3.3	B'rith Shalom Sisterhood – Flower scrapbook #8	1986-1987
3.4	B'rith Shalom Sisterhood – Flower scrapbook #9	1987