



## **Congregation B'nai David**

**Records, 1892-2003 (Bulk 1960-2003)**  
21.5 Linear Feet

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Acquisition:	The collection was gifted by David Goodman in 2014.
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Preferred Citation:	Congregation B'nai David Records, Leonard N. Simons Jewish Community Archives, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.
Photographs:	Photographs are included in collection, Box 18.
Audio Visual:	VHS tapes have been to the VHS collection FIC.18.
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## History

Congregation B'nai David, previously known as Beth David, came into existence on May 9, 1892, due to a large influx of Jewish Immigrants from Russia. It was founded by eleven Jews of Russian origins and was often known as "Russische Shul".

During the first eight years of its existence, services were conducted in a rented hall on Hastings Street in Detroit, Michigan.

In 1900, membership grew to over 40 families and a frame building was constructed at 295 Adelaide Street in Detroit. At the dedication of the Adelaide Street Synagogue, Rabbi Yehudah L. Levin was selected to preside over the Congregation until a rabbi could be elected to exclusively serve Beth David. In 1904, Rabbi Ezekiel Aishishkin became the spiritual leader of the Congregation and continued in that position until his death in September of 1935.

By 1915, the Congregation had outgrown its facility and moved to Winder Street in Detroit and remained at that location until 1924. In 1924 they moved to a temporary location at 1924 Owens Ave, Detroit, and in 1928 they purchased property and erected a new building on Elmhurst and 14th Street in Detroit, Mich. The new synagogue was large enough to accommodate 1600 worshippers.

The depression of 1929 brought with it grave financial problems and in 1932 the congregation found it necessary to dissolve Beth David and formed Congregation B'nai David. In 1933 Rabbi Joshua Sperka became the spiritual leader for B'nai David. He served until his retirement in 1953. In 1945, Cantor Hyman Adler was hired and music and congregational singing was added to the service. In 1953 Rabbi Hayim Donin became the spiritual leader of the Congregation.

B'nai David remained on Winder Street until 1958. In 1958 the congregation relocated to Southfield, Michigan. In 1977 Rabbi Morton Yolkut became the synagogues' spiritual leader. Rabbi Yolkut remained at B'nai David for eighteen years.

In 1995 B'nai David moved to West Bloomfield. By the early 2000's, membership dwindled, and the synagogue became defunct.

## **Scope and Content**

This collection is organized into five series: Administration, Cemetery, Members, Photographs and Torah Covers.

**Series I, Administration (Boxes 1- 5)** This series contains information and legal documents pertaining to the different locations of the synagogue, life event announcements, board minutes, membership roster, newsletters, and contracts with employees and outside vendors.

**Series II, Cemetery (Box 6)** This series contains burial information, contracts with employees and vendors and land purchases pertaining to the B'nai David (Beth David) cemetery which opened in 1898.

**Series III, Membership (Boxes 7-17)** This series contains family information pertaining to members.

**Series IV, Photographs (Box 18)** This series contains photographs of the various synagogue buildings, members of the congregation and community organizations.

**Series V, Torah Covers (Boxes 19 – 24)** This series contains Torah Covers used by B'nai David.

## **Arrangement**

Folders are arranged alphabetically.

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
<b>Series 1</b>		
<b>Administration</b>		
1	1	Anniversary Book, 1967
1	2	Announcements, 2002-2003
1	3	Appraisal-Southfield, 1962
1	4	Architectural Drawings-Farmington Hills, n.d.
1	5	Architectural Drawings-Southfield Property, 1964 July 20
1	6	Articles and Press Releases, 2000
1	7	Articles of Association, 1892-1966
1	8	Bar and Bat Mitzvah Applications, 1983-1999
1	9	Bar and Bat Mitzvah and Wedding Announcements, 1985-1999
1	10	Board of Trustees, 1996-2001
1	11	Brochure-Capital Campaign, n.d.
1	12	Bylaws, n.d.
1	13	Calendar, 1991-1997
1	14	Capital Campaign Donations, 1992-1993
1	15	Capital Campaign Plan
2	1	Catering Agreement, 1985-1999
2	2	Centennial Celebration, 1992
2	3	Contract, General Contractor, Southfield, 1965
2	4	Correspondence, 1979-1995
2	5	Correspondence, 1996-2001
2	6	Correspondence, Capital Campaign, 1992-1994
2	7	Debentures, 1981-1999
2	8	Employment Agreement, 1 of 6
2	9	Employment Agreement, 2 of 6
2	10	Employment Agreement, 3 of 6
2	11	Employment Agreement, 4 of 6

2	12	Employment Agreement, 5 of 6
2	13	Employment Agreement, 6 of 6
2	14	Fifty Year Members, 1992
2	15	High School Students, 1983-1986
2	16	History, n.d.
2	17	History and Testimonials, n.d.
2	18	Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur, 1997-2000
2	19	Indenture, 1965-1966
2	20	Inventory, 2000
3	1	Inspection Report-Southfield, 1994
3	2	Land Contract-Southfield, 1971
3	3	Lease-Southfield, 1994
3	4	Lawsuit-Egress and Ingress-Southfield, 1979-1986
3	5	Limited Partnership Agreement, 1987
3	6	Marriage Records, 1981
3	7	Meeting-Membership, 1994
3	8	Membership Cards, n.d.
3	9	Membership Roster, 1990-1995
3	10	Membership-Sisterhood, 1996-1998
3	11	Memorial Plaques, 1992-1999
3	12	Minutes-Board of Directors, 1969-1971
3	13	Minutes-Board of Trustees, 1937-2002
3	14	National Conference of Snyagogues, 1993
3	15	Newsletters, 1958-1962
4	1	Newsletters, 1963-1965
4	2	Newsletters, 1966-1970
4	3	Newsletters, 1971-1974
4	4	Newsletters, 1975-1978

4	5	Newsletters, 1979-1998
5	1	Officers, 1916-1992
5	2	Plaques Removed, 1994-1997
5	3	Pledges-Building Fund, 1996
5	4	Proclamation, 1996
5	5	Program Flyers, 1996-2003
5	6	Project Hunger Fund, 1985
5	7	Proposed Merger-B'nai David and B'nai Moshe, 1994
5	8	Religious School, n.d.
5	9	Rent Ledger, 1984-1996
5	10	Rental Agreement-Akivah Hebrew School Bingo, 1979
5	11	Rental Agreement-Bais Menachem School, 1988-1999
5	12	Retirement Agreement, 1990
5	13	Roster-Men's Club, 1987-1992
5	14	Stained Glass Evaluation, 1998
5	15	Title Policy-Southfield, 1976
5	16	Translation of Sabbath and Festival Prayers, 1969
5	17	Tree of Life, 1992
5	18	Warranty Deed-Southfield, 1957, 1990
5	19	West Bloomfield-Change of Occupancy
5	20	West Bloomfield-Correspondence, 1987-1995
5	21	West Bloomfield-Land Contract and Master Deed, 1995
5	22	West Bloomfield-Lease, 2000
5	23	West Bloomfield-Offer To Purchase, 1987
5	24	West Bloomfield-Purchase Agreement, 1996
5	25	West Bloomfield-Purchase Agreement, 2000
5	26	Yizkor Brochures, n.d.

**Series 2**  
**Cemetery**

6	1	Articles of Agreement, Sept 1903
6	2	Burial List, 1993
6	3	Burial Transit Permits, 1978-2000, Application for Burial Transfer Permits, 1978-2002
6	4	Capital Campaign Plan, 1992
6	5	Caretaker's Letter Re: Bathtub, 1931
6	6	Correspondence, 1966-1967
6	7	Declaration of Trust, Perpetual Grave and Care and Grave Upkeep, Aug 1964
6	8	Disinterment and Reinterment Permits, 1996, 1999, n.d
6	9	Employment, 1977-1999
6	10	Grave Care, 1966-1968
6	11	Grave Locations, n.d.
6	12	Headstone Repair, n.d.
6	13	House Demolition, 1999
6	14	Legal Document-Certificate of Dissolution, 1933
6	15	Legal Document-Construcing Retaining Wall on Van Dyke, 1925
6	16	Legal Document-Erecting Fence on Van Dyke, 1908
6	17	Legal Document-Filing in Dirt and Flying Stone, 1925
6	18	Legal Document-Michigan Report, 1937
6	19	Legal Document-Purchase of Lots 1-8 and 70-81, 1933
6	20	No Next of Kin, 1995
6	21	Organizational Meeting, 1992
6	22	Perpetual Care, 1969-2000
6	23	Plots Reserved, 1983
6	24	Purchase of Burial Lots, 1941-1956
6	25	Report, 2000

6 26 Reserved Plots, 1983

6A Cemetery Cards, A-Z

### **Series 3**

#### **Membership**

7 Members, A-Bis  
8 Members, Bla-Cyw  
9 Members, Dan-Frid  
10 Members, Frie-Grod  
11 Members, Gros-Korm  
12 Members, Kott-Moss  
13 Members, Must-Ravi  
14 Members, Razn-Sege  
15 Members, Selt-Steinb  
16 Members, Steiner-Winok  
17 Members, Wodo-Zwei

### **Series 4**

#### **Photographs**

18 1 Building Exterior  
18 2 Building Interior  
18 3 Class Pictures  
18 4 Class Rooms  
18 5 Dedication  
18 6 Exterior & Interior Southfield Location  
18 7 Group  
18 8 Group Confirmation  
18 9 Individuals



18	10	Israel Bonds
18	11	Ladies Auxiliary, 1938
18	12	Memorial for European Holocaust
18	13	Rabbis
18	14	Scouts
18	15	Torah Transfer Ceremony
18	16	West Bloomfield Building

**Series 5**

**Torah Covers**

19-25

Torah Covers