

Temple Emanu-El Oral History Project, 1925, 1978-1989

Collection Summary

Reference Code:	MRQ, US.
Repository:	Special Collections, Haverhill Public Library, Haverhill, Massachusetts.
Call Number:	MSS 40
Collector:	Haverhill Public Library
Title:	Temple Emanu-El Oral History Project, 1925, 1978-1989
Dates:	1925, 1978-1989 (bulk 1978-1980)
Size:	4 linear feet (2 boxes, 4 oversized boxes) Boxes marked "OS" are oversized.
Language(s):	Collection materials are in English.
Abstract:	This collection contains oral history interviews (tapes and transcripts) for 43 families of the Temple Emanu-El in Haverhill, Massachusetts.

Organizational/Project History

Temple Emanu-El was a Jewish Conservative-affiliated synagogue that is currently a Reform synagogue founded in 1936, in Haverhill, Massachusetts, with a longstanding tradition of social action. The oral history project was begun in 1978 to capture the stories of how the Jewish people came to settle, live, and make a life for themselves in Haverhill. Emphasis is on the Jews and the shoe industry, as the shoe strike of 1895 brought 1000 Jewish families to Haverhill. Within 30 years of the arrival of this group of Jews, they had become a major force in the shoe factory and allied industries.

Scope and Content Note

This collection contains oral history interviews (tapes and transcripts) for 43 families of the Temple Emanu-El in Haverhill, Massachusetts. It has been organized into two series. Series one contains general project information, photographs, lists, and a family history. Series two is comprised of the actual cassette tapes containing recordings of the interviews and the transcriptions.

Arrangement

- Series 1: General Project Information, 1925, 1978-1980, 1989
- Subseries 1.1: Rules & Regulations for Use of Oral History Material, 1989
 - Subseries 1.2: Advertisement of Interviews, undated
 - Subseries 1.3: Complete List of Oral Histories, 1978-1980
 - Subseries 1.4: Photographs, 1925, undated
 - Subseries 1.5: History of Greenburg Family, undated
- Series 2: Oral History Interviews, 1978-1980
- Subseries 2.1: Oral History Transcripts, 1978-1980
 - Subseries 2.2: Oral History Recordings, 1978-1980

Administrative Information

- Preferred Citation:** [Item Identification], Temple Emanu-El Oral History Project, MSS 40, Special Collections, Haverhill Public Library, Haverhill, Massachusetts.
- Custodial History:** Much of the material was acquired from the creator.
- Acquisition Information:** Unknown
- Processing Information:** Processed by Erik R. Bauer, 2018. Updated by Tamara Gaydos, 2021. Revised by Becky Geller, 2025.
- Access Rights:** Collection is open for research.
- Phys. Access Restrictions:** Researchers must use transcripts and/or digitized recordings.
- Tech. Access Restrictions:** None. The audiocassettes have been digitized and digital files are available to patrons onsite. Researchers must bring their own headphones to listen to the interviews.
- Copyright:** Copyright has not been assigned to the Haverhill Public Library. All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the Board of Trustees. Permission for publication is given on behalf of the Haverhill Public Library as the owner of the physical items and is not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder, which must also be obtained by the researcher.
- Related Material:** None.
- Separated Material:** None.
- Conservation Notes:** Staples have been removed. Recordings were digitized.
- Using the Collection:** It is important to note that the Haverhill Public Library views oral history not as an end in itself, but as an additional tool for exploring social life in past times. Interviews constitute primary source material, retrospective evidence of individual experiences and perceptions. Those who use the Special Collections audio

recordings or transcripts are cautioned to bring to them the same rules of evidence applied to other forms of historical documentation, testing one interview against another as well as against written sources. The Program, Haverhill Public Library Special Collections, Haverhill Public Library, staff, Library Trustee's, Library volunteers, Temple Emanu-El or those who worked on the project makes no representation as to the factual accuracy of a memoir; the scholar shall judge for themselves.

Subjects:

Baker, Anne, -1996
Becker, Henrietta, 1912-2005
Benedetson, William, 1888-1981
Bernstein Family
Bier, Glenna, 1921-2000
Bloom, Alice, 1895-1980
Blotner, Dora
Brindis, George
Brody, Alfred, 1894-1984
Brownstein, Sophie, 1904-2002
Cohen, Dora, 1890-1981
Cohen, Martha, 1901-1981
Epstein, Elsie, 1911-1991
Epstein, Manny
Espovich, Mae Albertson
Espovich, Norman, 1909-1983
Fishbein, David, 1902-1984
Fishbein, Jerome, 1926-2001
Foreman, Frances Albertson
Garbelnick, Julia, 1898-1996
Gerson, Norman
Goldberg, Carl, 1901-2002
Goltz, Philip, 1902-1981
Goralnick, Gussie
Goralnick, Samuel, 1899-1980
Gorevitz, Eva, 1890-1987
Grad, Mrs. Benjamin
Grad, Vinson, 1912-1993
Greenberg, Sarah
Hartman, Benjamin
Haverhill (Mass.) -- History
Hershberg, Bessie, 1900-1993
Jacobson, Abraham I. (Rabbi), 1910-1992
Jews -- Massachusetts -- Haverhill -- History
Kaplan, Evelyn, 1896-1986
Karelis, Saul, 1914-2007

Karelitz, George, 1903-1990
 Mandell, Ada, 1920-2011
 Marcus, Max
 Mencis, Bert
 Nesson, Bennett
 Newberg Family
 Oral history
 Rich, Anuta
 Rodberg, Nadia
 Salner, Sadie
 Silverman, Fannie
 Silverman, Saul
 Sherman, Ida
 Shinberg, John D.
 Swartz, Louis
 Taitsman, Dorothy
 Temple Emanu-El
 Watnick, David
 Watnick, Pauline
 Woodman, Bertha Shapiro, 1914-2005
 Zelig, David, 1896-1990

Collection Inventory

Series 1: General Project Information, 1925, 1978-1980, 1989, undated

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Title, Dates		
Rules & Regulations for Use of Oral History Material, 1989	1	1
Advertisement of Interviews, undated	1	2
Complete List of Oral Histories, 1978-1980	1	3
Photographs, 1925, undated	1	4
History of Greenberg Family, undated	1	5

Series 2: Oral Histories, 1978-1980

Subseries 2.1: Summary Page & Transcriptions, 1978-1980

Anne Baker & Bert Mencis, 1979	1	6
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<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
William Bendetson, 1980	1	7
Glenna Bier, 1979	1	8
Alice Bloom, 1979	1	9
Alfred Brody, 1979	1	10
Martha Cohen	1	11
Manny & Elise Epstein, 1978	1	12
Mae Albertson Espovich, 1978	1	13
Mae Albertson Espovich & Bertha Woodman, 1978	1	14
Norman Espovich, 1978	1	15
David Fishbein, 1979	1	16
Frances Albertson Forman, 1978	1	17
Norman Gerson, 1979	1	18
Carl Goldberg, 1980	1	19
Philip Goltz, 1978	1	20
Sam & Gussie Goralnick, 1979	1	21
Eva Gorevitz, 1979	1	22
Eva Grad, 1978	1	23
Vinson Grad, 1979	1	24
Benjamin Hartman, 1979	1	25
Bessie Hirshberg, 1979	1	26
Rabbi Abraham I. Jacobson, 1979	2	27
Saul Karelis, 1980	2	28
George Karelitz, 1979	2	29
Ada Mandell, 1979	2	30
Max Marcus, 1978	2	31
Bennett Nesson, 1979	2	32
Aunta Rich & Sophie Brownstein, 1978	2	33

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Sadye Salner, 1978	2	34
Henrietta Becker & Evelyn Kaplan, 1980	2	35
Fannie & Saul Silverman, 1979	2	36
Saul Silverman, 1979	2	37
Louis Swartz, 1979	2	38
Pauline & David Watnick, 1979	2	39
Dorothy Taitsman, 1979	2	40
Ida Sherman & Dora Cohen, 1979	2	41
Dr. John D. Shinberg, undated	2	42
Dr. David Zelig, 1979	2	43

Subseries 2.2: Original Recordings, 1978-1980

Anne Baker & Bert Mencis	3 (OS)
Anne Baker & Bert Mencis	3 (OS)
William Bendetson	3 (OS)
William Bendeston	3 (OS)
Alan Bernson	3 (OS)
Alan Bernson	3 (OS)
Glenna Bier	3 (OS)
Glenna Bier	3 (OS)
Alice Bloom	3 (OS)
Alice Bloom	3 (OS)
Dora Blotner	3 (OS)
Dora Blotner	3 (OS)
Al Brody	3 (OS)
Al Brody	3 (OS)

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>
Martha Cohen	3 (OS)
Martha Cohen	3 (OS)
Mae Albertson Espovich	3 (OS)
Judge Norman Espovich	3 (OS)
Judge Norman Espovich	3 (OS)
Manny & Elise Epstein	3 (OS)
Manny & Elise Epstein	3 (OS)
David & Jerome Fishbein	3 (OS)
Frances Foreman	3 (OS)
Julia Garbelnick	3 (OS)
Mrs. Benjamin Grad	3 (OS)
Mrs. Benjamin Grad	3 (OS)
Norman Gerson	3 (OS)
Norman Gerson	3 (OS)
Carl Goldberg	4 (OS)
Carl Goldberg	4 (OS)
Philip Goltz	4 (OS)
Philip Goltz	4 (OS)
Eva Gorevitz	4 (OS)
Eva Gorevitz	4 (OS)
Sam & Gussie Goralnick	4 (OS)
Sam & Gussie Goralnick	4 (OS)
Vinson Grad	4 (OS)
Vinson Grad	4 (OS)
Mrs. Sarah Greenberg	4 (OS)
Mrs Sarah Greenberg	4 (OS)
Benjamin Hartman	4 (OS)

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>
Benjamin Hartman	4 (OS)
Bessie Hershberg	4 (OS)
Bessie Hershberg	4 (OS)
Rabbi Abraham I. Jacobson	4 (OS)
Rabbi Abraham I. Jacobson	4 (OS)
Becker / Kaplan (Shapiro Family)	4 (OS)
Becker / Kaplan (Shapiro Family)	4 (OS)
Saul Karelis	4 (OS)
Saul Karelis	4 (OS)
George Karelitz	4 (OS)
George Karelitz	4 (OS)
Ada Mandell	4 (OS)
Ada Mandell	4 (OS)
Max Marcus	4 (OS)
Max Marcus	4 (OS)
Bennett Nesson (Haverhill Credit Union)	4 (OS)
Bennett Nesson (Haverhill Credit Union)	4 (OS)
Anuta Rich (Tape 1 of 3)	4 (OS)
Anuta Rich (Tape 2 of 3)	4 (OS)
Anuta Rich (Tape 3 of 3)	4 (OS)
Anuta Rich (Tape 1 of 3)	4 (OS)
Anuta Rich (Tape 2 of 3)	4 (OS)
Anuta Rich (Tape 3 of 3)	5 (OS)
Nadia Rodberg (Tap 1 of 3)	5 (OS)
Nadia Rodberg (Tap 2 of 3)	5 (OS)
Nadia Rodberg (Tap 3 of 3)	5 (OS)
Nadia Rodberg (Tap 1 of 3)	5 (OS)

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>
Nadia Rodberg (Tap 2 of 3)	5 (OS)
Nadia Rodberg (Tap 3 of 3)	5 (OS)
Sadie Salner (Tape 1 of 3)	5 (OS)
Sadie Salner (Tape 2 of 3)	5 (OS)
Sadie Salner (Tape 3 of 3)	5 (OS)
Sadie Salner (Tape 1 of 3)	5 (OS)
Sadie Salner (Tape 2 of 3)	5 (OS)
Sadie Salner (Tape 3 of 3)	5 (OS)
Anna Burstein Silverman / Jennie Burstein	5 (OS)
Anna Burstein Silverman / Jennie Burstein	5 (OS)
Becker / Kaplan (Shapiro Family)	5 (OS)
Fannie Silverman	5 (OS)
Fannie Silverman	5 (OS)
Saul Silverman	5 (OS)
Saul Silverman	5 (OS)
Louis Swartz	5 (OS)
Louis Swartz	5 (OS)
Pauline Watnick (Tape 1 of 3)	5 (OS)
Pauline Watnick (Tape 2 of 3)	5 (OS)
Pauline Watnick (Tape 3 of 3)	5 (OS)
Pauline Watnick (Tape 1 of 3)	5 (OS)
Pauline Watnick (Tape 2 of 3)	5 (OS)
Pauline Watnick (Tape 3 of 3)	5 (OS)
Bertha Woodman	5 (OS)
Bertha Woodman	5 (OS)
Bertha Woodman	5 (OS)
George Brindis (Wilson Family)	5 (OS)

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>
George Brindis (Wilson Family)	5 (OS)
Wise Family (Ashlcowitz Family)	6 (OS)
Wise Family (Ashlcowitz Family)	6 (OS)
Dr. Zelig	6 (OS)
Dr. Zelig	6 (OS)
[Unknown]	6 (OS)

Appendix

Rules and regulations pertaining to the use of the Temple Emanu-El Oral History Collection.

It is important to note that the Haverhill Public Library views oral history not as an end in itself, but as an additional tool for exploring social life in past times. Interviews constitute primary source material, retrospective evidence of individual experiences and perceptions. Those who use the Special Collections audio recordings or transcripts are cautioned to bring to them the same rules of evidence applied to other forms of historical documentation, testing one interview against another as well as against written sources. The Program, Haverhill Public Library Special Collections, Haverhill Public Library, staff, Library Trustee's, Library volunteers, Temple Emanu-El or those who worked on the project makes no representation as to the factual accuracy of a memoir; the scholar shall judge for themselves.

Only authorized Library personnel shall have direct access to the transcripts and audio recordings.

All rules and policies that apply to Special Collections shall apply to this collection.

None of the audio recordings are to be removed from the Special Collections or the Library at any time.

The oral histories may be used in exhibitions and may be loaned to other institutions so long as the loan follows the archival and museum standards.

Persons doing research shall use transcripts of interviews in preference to the audio recordings, yet audio recordings may be used when necessary or for clarification reasons.

Audio recordings may be listened to where no transcripts are available.

A limited number of transcript material will be duplicated for the researcher at the discretion of the Librarian or person in charge of Special Collection; to ensure that proper context is given the whole transcript will be printed and no single pages will be printed. The charge for a printed copy of the transcript will be \$ and each additional contributed to the Haverhill Public Library.

Single copies of audio recordings may be requested by at the cost of \$ each additional recording will cost \$.

The Special Collections Research Usage Policies covers any items that are not covered in this document.