

OHRAB Final Report 2021-22

Congregation Rodef Sholom

Organization: Congregation Rodef Sholom

Project Title: *Improving the Organization, Preservation, and Accessibility of the Congregation Rodef Sholom Archives*

Project Director: Sarah Wilschek, *Executive Director*

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Summary of Project Activities and Accomplishments

The purpose of the project was to enable Congregation Rodef Sholom to improve its overall understanding of the contents of its archival collections and to enhance the organization and preservation of these materials for use by future generations to learn about Judaic history in the Mahoning and Shenango valleys. Through the creation of a formal archival space, we were able to safely house our vulnerable materials, which date back to the congregation's founding in 1867. With the dynamics of our local Jewish community changing, we knew it was imperative to create a space that could be used not only by our congregants, but by students, other researchers, and anyone interested in our rich history. We believe our collection is of value to those interested in the Jewish community of Youngstown, Reform Judaism, and architecture.

I. Titles, series, dates and cubic footage of records addressed by your project

Series

- I. Membership Records (1904- 2017)
- II.Cemetery Records (1911- 2021)
- III.Board Meeting Minutes (1867-1992)
- IV.Financial Records
- V.Building Construction (1914- 1987)
- VI.Brotherhood Records (1931-2012)
- VII.Sisterhood Records (1947-2010)
- VIII.Youth and Educational Programs
- IX.Rabbis' Papers
- X.Artwork and Framed Items, Plaques
- XI.Ritual Objects
- XII.Temple Bulletins (1975-2018)

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II. Copies of catalog entries and other finding aids

* See attached finding aid document draft

<i>Before (January 2020)</i>	<i>After (December 2021)</i>
 A photograph showing a storage area with multiple shelves. The shelves are heavily cluttered with stacks of papers, folders, and boxes. Some boxes are labeled, such as one with 'MANSHEWITZ' and another with 'Jehovah's Witness'. The area appears disorganized and cramped.	 A photograph showing the same storage area after reorganization. The shelves are now filled with uniform, light-colored storage bins, each with a yellow label. The space is clean, organized, and much more accessible.
 A photograph showing another view of the organized storage area. The shelves are neatly arranged with uniform storage bins and folders. The space is clean and well-maintained.	

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III. Narrative of self-assessment about how the project met the objectives submitted in your application

The primary objective of our project was to become familiar with the contents and to enhance the organization and preservation of these materials. Secondly, we hoped to act as a model institution and create a system that could easily be replicated by other congregations interested in organizing their historical documents. Meeting our original goal was unachievable due to COVID-19 restrictions and cautions, but the project will extend beyond the grant period. Our hired intern was able to organize a large percentage of our paper documents in the provided archival supplies. She also assisted neighboring congregations in inventorying their paper documents, ritual items, and fine arts.

IV. An evaluation of the project's impact and share how your institution will build upon the success of the project through additional initiatives

Volunteers are continuing to organize and digitize our materials with the help of an Americorps Representative. The archive has been utilized by professors researching links between Congregation Rodef Sholom (Youngstown) and Rodef Shalom Congregation (Pittsburgh), and Jews from Greenville, Pennsylvania. It is being utilized for our intern's Master's Thesis, and by a second Youngstown State University class to create an exhibit that highlights our history and mergers with Temple Beth Israel and Ohev Tzedek.

The recent merger with Ohev Tzedek ensured the growth of materials, leading us to the next step in our project. Using the system already implemented, we will inventory and categorize paper documents, ritual items, and fine arts. Our finding aid will continue to grow. In addition, we hope to continue digitizing our vulnerable and significant documents in order to preserve them and make them more accessible to the public. Once our finding aid is finalized, we will begin printing labels for our boxes.

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V. Quotes from local press coverage and also copies from the articles cited

2/15/2021: The Business Journal-Youngstown <https://businessjournaldaily.com/rodef-sholom-ysu-partner-to-create-archive-for-congregation/?fbclid=IwAR3IOJ6ivpqmPp4LE6OesFyRwwwAUPD8tYA7CZABX86gJ9rzCGy4hd0hx4>

2/15/2021: Youngstown State University E-News <https://ysu.edu/news/ysu-history-program-partners-rodef-sholom-archives-project>

3/2/2021: Cleveland Jewish News

https://www.clevelandjewishnews.com/news/local_news/congregation-rodef-shalom-154-year-history-to-be-archived/article_62b9c5b6-7abe-11eb-9e87-c30f7cd1682f.html?fbclid=IwAR3n6X9QJYA8IYFa7lmm_Sq-Ag1DLEsXlc499S9pmlfbxMMhEiTOQfPsARo

4/2/2021: Ohio History Connection History Blog

https://www.ohiohistory.org/learn/collections/history/history-blog/april-2021/youngstownrodefsholom?fbclid=IwAR2e9cPrWTkntHkycpHgoXVd6QUIWNqxpJgz9ptUzc43rJX5EfEU_Qgtxg

5/2021: Association of Jewish Libraries

https://jewishlibraries.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/AJL-2021MayJune_v4.pdf

VI. Project expenses: Include an itemized list of expenditures and details about in-kind cost match, including the cumulative total, and the amount of cash match on the project

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The project expenses entailed equipment and time. We purchased a Fujitsu Scansnap 1500 scanner for \$499.99 and a laptop for \$400 with matched funds. Our archival materials were purchased from Gaylord and totaled \$1,960.72.

We were able to hire a project intern through the grant at \$15/hr for 150 hours for a total of \$2,250. Three volunteers were paid (\$25.43/hr for 175 hours over 28 week) \$4,450.25, funded through the match. The Project Director's salary contribution totaled \$875.00 (25 hours over 28 weeks, \$35/hr), also funded through the match.

Total funding for the project was \$10,306.36 (\$4,081.12 funded through the grant, \$6,225.24 funded through the match).

Budget report is attached.

Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board
National Historical Records & Publications (NHPRC)
State and National Archival Partnership (SNAP) Grants Regrant Program

Salaries and Wages	Grant Funds	Matching Funds	Total
Project Intern - \$15/hr for 150 hours	\$2,250.00		\$2,250.00
3 Volunteers - 3 at \$25.43/hr for 175 hours		\$4,450.25	\$4,450.25
Project Director - \$35/hr for 25 hours		\$875.00	\$875.00
			\$0.00
Subtotals: Salaries and Wages	\$2,250.00	\$5,325.25	\$7,575.25
Supplies	Grant Funds	Matching Funds	Total
(Qty 4) Blue classic record storage carton w/ handholds - 5 pk - RC121510-5	\$201.25		\$201.25
(Qty 20) Blue/grey barrier board flip-top document case (legal) D15105	\$139.04		\$139.04
(Qty 70) Blue/grey barrier board flip-top document case (letter) D12105	\$402.64		\$402.64
(Qty 1) Unbuffered acid-free tissue - 100 pk (20x30) UT2030	\$35.07		\$35.07
(Qty 2) E-flute spacers - 5 pk	\$18.00		\$18.00
(Qty 1) Gaylord reinforced endtabe file folders (letter) ARSF100	\$34.12		\$34.12
(Qty 2) Blue b-flute deep lid oversize map & print box - MFB3040 (30 x 40 x 1.5)	\$67.34		\$67.34
(Qty 1) Flip-top roll storage box w/ 4 compartments - RDIV	\$59.67		\$59.67
(Qty 5) Blue e-flute clamshell box - EFCL17113 (large - 11.25 x 17.25 x 3)	\$57.96		\$57.96
(Qty 5) Blue e-flute clamshell box - EFCL12103 (small - 10.25 x 12.25 x 3)	\$28.40		\$28.40
(Qty 5) Blue e-flute clamshell box - EFCL15103 (medium - 10.25 x 15.25 x 3)	\$43.96		\$43.96
(Qty 5) Blue/grey barrier board clamshell box - CL12104	\$43.80		\$43.80
(Qty 1) Windowgrip UV light-filtering film (4 ft x 25 ft) - GAM25	\$203.56		\$203.56
shipping costs	\$291.94		\$291.94
Funds left	\$204.37		\$204.37
Subtotals: Supplies	\$1,831.12	\$0.00	\$1,831.12
Equipment	Grant Funds	Matching Funds	Total
Fujitsu Scansnap 1500		\$499.99	\$499.99
Laptop for scanning		\$400.00	\$400.00
			\$0.00
			\$0.00
Subtotals: Equipments	\$0.00	\$899.99	\$899.99
Contracted Services	Grant Funds	Matching Funds	Total
			\$0.00
			\$0.00
			\$0.00
			\$0.00
Subtotals: Contracted Services	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other Eligible Expenses	Grant Funds	Matching Funds	Total
			\$0.00
			\$0.00
			\$0.00
			\$0.00
Subtotals: Other Eligible Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Summary Budget	Grant Funds	Matching Funds	Total
Salaries and Wages	\$2,250.00	\$5,325.25	\$7,575.25
Supplies	\$1,831.12	\$0.00	\$1,831.12
Equipment	\$0.00	\$899.99	\$899.99
Contracted Services	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other Eligible Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Project Budget	\$4,081.12	\$6,225.24	\$10,306.36

If you do not receive full funding, will you accept partial funding and still complete the project

Yes No

Yes, however,

