



## **Marian F. Berkowitz Collection (K0802)**

**Collection Number:** K0802

**Collection Title:** Marian F. Berkowitz Collection

**Dates:** 1942-1943

**Creator:** Berkowitz, Marian F.

**Abstract:** This collection includes a memorial service booklet, armed forces prayer book, and songbook. The memorial service booklet and songbook are both from Congregation Keneseth Israel-Beth Shalom.

**Collection Size:** 0.07 cubic foot  
(3 folders)

**Language:** Collection materials are in English and Hebrew.

**Repository:** The State Historical Society of Missouri

**Restrictions on Access:** Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at [kansascity@shsmo.org](mailto:kansascity@shsmo.org). Collections may be viewed at any research center.

**Restrictions on Use:** The Donor has given and assigned to the University all rights of copyright, which the Donor has in the Materials and in such of the Donor's works as may be found among any collections of Materials received by the University from others.

**Preferred Citation:** [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Marian F. Berkowitz Collection* (K0802); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Kansas City].

**Donor Information:** The collection was donated to the University of Missouri by Marian F. Berkowitz on May 5, 2005 (Accession No. KA1355). An addition was made on July 31, 2012 by Marian F. Berkowitz (Accession No. KA2057).

**Related Materials:** Additional materials related to the Marian F. Berkowitz Collection can be found in the following collections:

*Congregation Beth Shalom Records* (K0602)

**Notes:** This collection is associated with the Jewish Community Archives of Greater Kansas City.

**Processed by:** Processed by Whitney Heinzmann and intern, Natalie Wolf, July 2019

**Historical Note:**

Marian Frances Indin was born to Dan J. and Molly Indin in 1928 in Missouri. She married Harold J. Berkowitz (born March 4, 1927) on May 18, 1948, in Jackson County, Missouri. The couple had one son, Ronald, born February 4, 1953. They later lived in Kansas. Harold Berkowitz died on June 27, 2007, and Ronald Berkowitz died on December 16, 2018. At the time of Ronald's death, Marian Berkowitz was still living.

Congregation Keneseth Israel originated in 1878 from Russian and Polish immigrants who had formed their own burial society and built its first synagogue in 1902. Congregation Beth Shalom was formed in 1915. The two groups merged in 1924 and moved to a new synagogue at 3400 The Paseo, Kansas City, Missouri, in 1927. They opened a school building on Wornall Road in Kansas City, Missouri in 1962 and moved their services to that building in 1971. In 2006, they opened a school at their current location of 14200 Lamar Avenue in Overland Park, Kansas, and in 2011, they officially closed their Wornall building. The group is known today as Congregation Beth Shalom. The building where Congregation Keneseth Israel-Beth Shalom was housed during the time these items were published is currently the Victorious Life Church.

The National Jewish Welfare Board (JWB) was originally established on April 9, 1917, three days after the United States declared war on Germany, in order to support Jewish soldiers in the United States military during World War I. In 1921, several other organizations merged with the JWB to form a national association of Jewish community centers. In 1941, in a response to a mandate from President Franklin D. Roosevelt, six private organizations including the JWB were challenged to handle the morale and recreational needs for members of the Armed Forces. The six organizations pooled their resources to create the United Service Organizations (USO), which was incorporated in New York on February 4, 1941. The JWB is now the JWB Jewish Chaplains Council, part of Jewish Community Center of North America.

**Arrangement:**

The collection has been arranged into three folders.

**Scope and Content Note:**

This collection contains three items. The Memorial Service Booklet was used by Congregation Keneseth Israel Beth Shalom and includes a number of prayers, including prayers for the deceased, and readings. Some of the prayers and readings have been translated into Hebrew. The booklet also contains a list of all of the members of the congregation who had passed away, which was added to at the annual congregation memorial service each year. The "Acknowledgements" section notes that this booklet used material from the Armed Forces Prayer Book also included in this collection.

The Prayer Book for the Jewish Armed Forces of the United States includes prayers and sermons for different types of services. The majority of its pages are written in English on the left and

Hebrew on the right. It also includes a calendar of Jewish holidays for 1942-1947 and a space to write out family records. It was published by the National Jewish Welfare Board.

The song card identifies itself as being from Congregation Keneseth Israel-Beth Shalom in Kansas City, Missouri, and includes either 29 songs written in English or Hebrew typed in an English lettering system.

**Container List:**

- Box 001 f. 1 Memorial Service Booklet, 1942  
 f. 2 Armed Forces Prayer Book, 1943  
 f. 3 Congregation Keneseth Israel-Beth Shalom Song Card, no date

Index Term	Folder
Congregation Beth Shalom (Kansas City, Mo.)	1, 3
Jewish Community Archives of Greater Kansas City	1-3
Judaism--Prayers and devotions	1-2
National Jewish Welfare Board	2
World War, 1939-1945	2