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Middletown Jewish Oral History Project II, 2002-2003

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History

The Middletown Jewish Oral History Project II includes oral history interviews documenting the Jewish community in Muncie, Indiana. The interviews were conducted between 2003 and 2004 under the sponsorship of Martin Schwartz, who commissioned Ball State University professors C. Warren Vander Hill. The Project was a follow-up to the Middletown Jewish Oral History Project I (originally known as the Muncie Jewish Oral History Project) conducted in 1978 and 1979. These interviews were the basis for Dan Rottenberg's book, *Middletown Jews* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1997).

The 2002-2003 project focused on the ways in which the Muncie Temple Beth El congregation changed from the 1970's to the early years of the twenty-first century. The interviews document the new individuals who now make up the congregation. Many of those interviewed in the 1970s have passed away or left the community. The current members came here primarily for the employment opportunities at either Ball State University or Cardinal Health System, a large local health hospital. Despite these changes, this small reform Jewish congregation still faces many of the same problems noted in the previous interviews and *Middletown Jews*, especially its lack of strong financial base which, among other problems, does not make it possible to employ a full-time rabbi. However, the members seem dedicated to doing all that they can to continue to provide a spiritual and community home for the temple's families.

Information taken from comments provided by C. Warren Vander Hill, Spring 2004.

Scope and Content

This collection consists of twenty-four oral history interviews conducted C. Warren Vander Hill. The collection includes information on the project, original transcripts, and twenty-four edited transcripts are included for the interviews. These edited transcripts were prepared for the Middletown Digital Oral History Collection. An online collection of digitized transcripts and audio are available online in the Ball State University Libraries' Digital Media Repository (<http://libx.bsu.edu>).

M. Read, 3/2008

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<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>
1	DVD with copies of original transcripts in PDF format DVD with copies of the edited transcripts in PDF format Zip disc with scanned copies of original transcripts in PDF format Original typed transcripts of interviews with Becker, Meyer, February 3, 2003 Burgauer, David and Elaine, January 22, 2003 Crystal, Raphael, January 3, 2003 Davis, Ken, January 24, 2003 Eden, Ya'akov, December 31, 2002 Eliades, Dr. Anne, February 23, 2003 Francer, Larry, January 13, 2003 Greenberg, Mark and Traci, January 30, 2003 Hirsh, Connie, February 21, 2003 Kamens, David, December 19, 2003 Kloss, Sherry, January 8, 2003 Malitz, Debbie, December 30, 2002 McOmber, Connie, February 12, 2003 Narder, Dr. Dana, January 17, 2003 Nathan, Marilyn, January 17, 2003 Pazol, Herb, February 10, 2003 Rosenman, Alba, December 23, 2002 Schwartz, Martin and Helen, February 26, 2003 Seagar, Andrew, January 2, 2003 Soforenko, Al, January 28, 2003 Spodek, Jonathan, January 10, 2003 Steiner, Tom, December 27, 2002 Walter, Richard, January 7, 2003 Zemstov, Dr. Tali, February 14, 2003
2	Original typed transcripts of interviews with (USER COPIES) Becker, Meyer, February 3, 2003 Burgauer, David and Elaine, January 22, 2003 Crystal, Raphael, January 3, 2003 Davis, Ken, January 24, 2003 Eden, Ya'akov, December 31, 2002 Eliades, Dr. Anne, February 23, 2003 Francer, Larry, January 13, 2003 Greenberg, Mark and Traci, January 30, 2003 Hirsh, Connie, February 21, 2003 Kamens, David, December 19, 2003 Kloss, Sherry, January 8, 2003 Malitz, Debbie, December 30, 2002 McOmber, Connie, February 12, 2003

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Edited transcripts of interview with

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Audio cassette tapes of interviews with

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