

Community Partnership

for the preservation of

Jewish History

in the Mahoning Valley

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Introduction

Congregation Rodef Sholom



Congregation Rodef Sholom

- *Founded in 1867 as the first, and only, Reform Jewish Congregation in Youngstown*
 - *Has consistently served as the only Reform Jewish Congregation in Youngstown*
 - *The congregation built its current edifice in 1915 and has remained in the location without any interruption of service or mission*
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The Creation of the Project

- *Searching for a way to engage the Congregation during the winter of 2019-2020*
- *Discovery of congregation's historical materials tucked away when searching for something*
- *Evolution from congregation involvement into partnership and community involvement*



Congregation Rodef Sholom's Goals

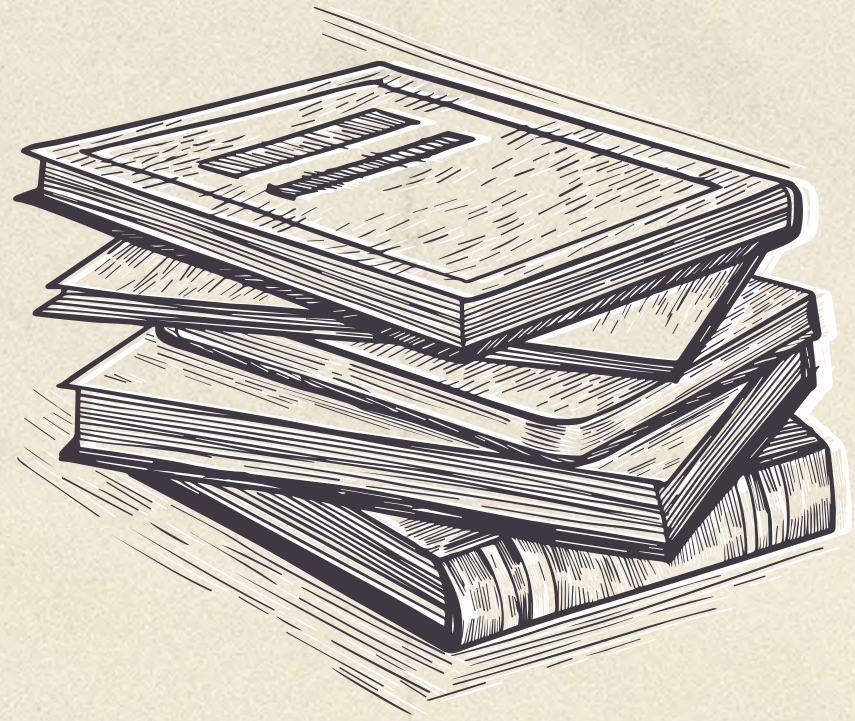
- *Highlight the value and impact of Congregation Rodef Sholom on the greater Jewish and secular communities*
 - *Create a relevant and useful tool for the congregation and greater community*
 - *Implement a process for collection growth and manipulation based on findings*
 - *Involve partners within the community for enhanced care and depth of knowledge with regard to the collection*
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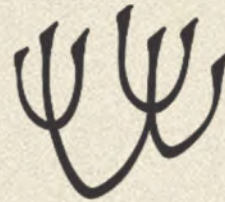
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Partnerships

Planning & Outreach



Partnerships



CONGREGATION
RODEF SHOLOM



AmeriCorps



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES



OHIO
HISTORY
CONNECTION

Youngstown Historical Center
of Industry & Labor

Local History Member

Meetings started
February 2020

Faculty & Students

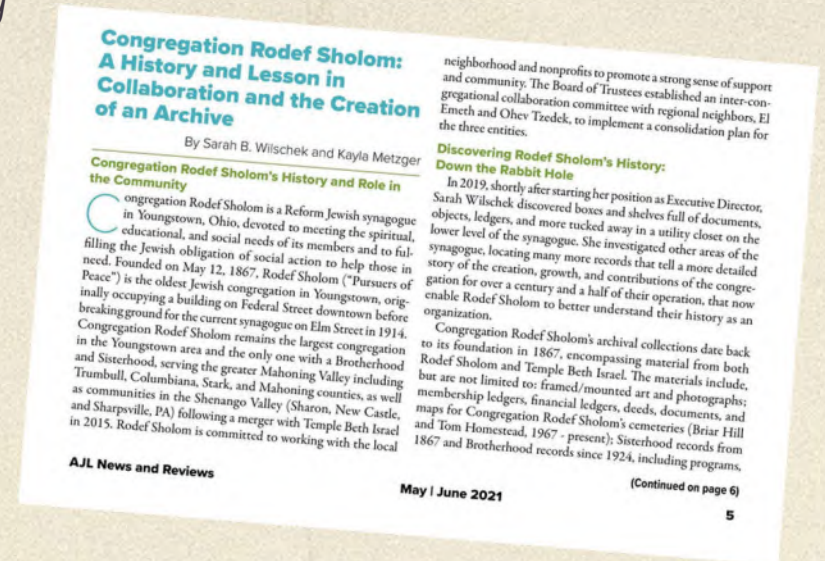
Practicum in Applied History
Course Spring 2021 +
Center for Judaic & Holocaust
Studies

Archives

State-wide connections
& expertise

Planning & Outreach

- *AmeriCorps x Rodef meetings to identify goals, priorities and needs of the organization to make the project a reality*
- *Developed a Collections Management Policy*
- *Increased exposure of the project/goals to the local community and greater historical community of Ohio to increase visibility and interest*
 - *Local press outlets*
 - *Interviews*
 - *American Jewish Libraries article*



Making the Project a Reality

- *Funding assistance was needed to create a proper environment for archival material, particularly aged and vulnerable records*
- *Sought expertise from American Jewish Archives, Youngstown State University and Youngstown Historical Center of Industry and Labor on best practices and collections care*
- *Awarded Ohio Archives Grant from Ohio Historical Records Advisory Review Board to set up Archive room for improved storage and create a research space*





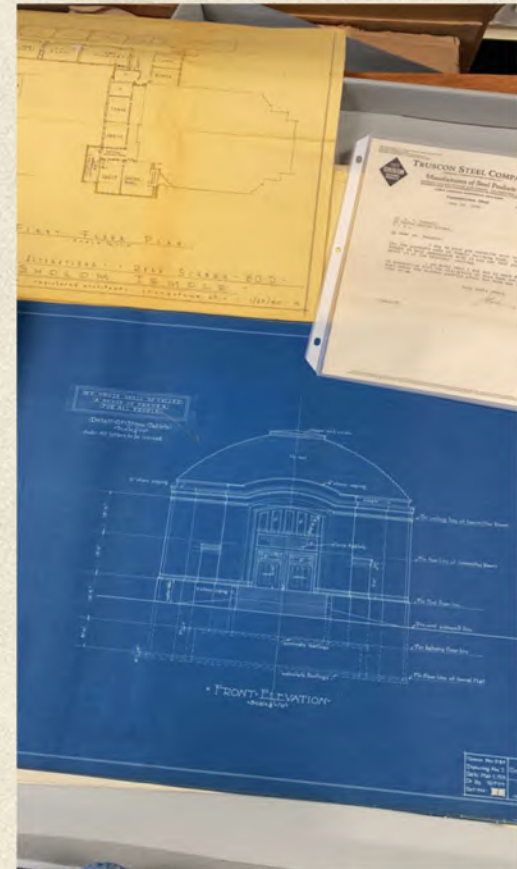
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Experiential Learning

Youngstown State University

Student Involvement

- *Began with YSU History Program's Practicum II course in January 2021*
 - *Inventoried art & framed collections and gained a general understanding of content of collection*
 - *Introduced to archival logistics by Martha Bishop*
- *Assisted in developing project plans and creating a grant budget*
- *Played a role in helping neighboring congregations develop their own inventory plan*



Internship & Current Standing

- *Internship spent working on archives, assisting other local congregations*
 - *Became familiar with archival materials*
 - *Creating a finding aid*
 - *Practical ways to organize*
- *Applying the archives to a thesis*
 - *Variety of sources*
 - *Able to tailor to my personal interests*
- *Independent study*
 - *National Register of Historic Places nomination*



Progress Update

- Around 50% complete with organizing Rodef Sholom's collection
- Completion of funded project phase by December 2021



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Next Steps

Continuing & Strengthening Partnerships



Moving into the Future

- *Enhancing partnerships with Youngstown State University*
 - *Future courses on the congregation, its members, and its impact on the greater Youngstown community*
- *Using items in the collection for future projects*
 - *Application for the National Register*
- *Access to additional grant and program funding*
 - *Partnership with YSU Holocaust and Judaic Studies program for visiting scholars*
- *Creating a replication guide for other organizations*
- *Ongoing partnership opportunities*
 - *Ohio History Service Corps*
 - *American Jewish Archives*
 - *Mahoning Valley Historical Society*



Thank you

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For inquiries about the YSU M.A. in History (Applied History Certificate) Program:

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