

To the Temple Sinai Board:

From: Fred Isaac & Adrienne Kirschner

Subject: Future of the Temple Archives

We want to begin discussions with the Bancroft Library and the Magnes Collection in Berkeley regarding our historical documents. We hope to start transferring our most delicate items in the coming year, and to continue the process in the future. We want your input and thoughts on the process.

Background: Fred has been working with the Archives since 2011. They are currently held in one of the rooms on the Sanctuary balcony. Over the past 6 years, first with Susan Levy and now with Adrienne, Fred has assembled and organized a significant amount of documentation about the Temple.

Overview of the collection: The collection includes our Board minutes (1875- 1913, 1930-2006), and a wide variety of original documents and photocopies from throughout our history. We have a complete set of Bulletins (1944 to date), and memorabilia of numerous important occasions. We also have cemetery records, and a number of sets of blueprints and designs from building projects over the past 100 years.

Current State of the project: Susan Levy and Fred organized the material and created a basic numbering system. Adrienne has developed a database grid with several categories; we are now beginning the process of entering the items into that system. We expect it will take most of calendar 2017 (working a few hours a week) to log most of the material.

Planning for the future: Early in the process, we invited Francesco Spagnolo of the Magnes Collection to see the collection. We have kept him apprised of our progress. In 2016 we invited Theresa Salazar, the curator for Californiana at UC's Bancroft Library (the Magnes is now an arm of the Bancroft) to visit the Temple. Because the Archive room is un-heated (the windows are open) we are always concerned about damage to the materials. (A side-note: We have transferred several items not specific to the Temple to the Magnes over the past few years, with agreement from the Rabbis and the Executive Director.)

We also want to contact the American Jewish Archives in Cincinnati. We believe they will be interested in acquiring some specific valuable documents in the collection, as the repository for the Reform movement.

We expect to retain some items permanently, and would continue to collect material both for our own uses and to send in future years.

We also wish to have some items photocopied before transfer. We will retain those copies in the Archives.

Any contract with the Bancroft should include an agreement that we may recall material for display purposes. These include Anniversaries, and other occasions as appropriate.

Board Request: We are requesting permission to begin discussing transferral of large parts of the collection to the Magnes (and to Cincinnati) over the next few years. This will require a conversation of their interest in the items, understanding of the terms of a contractual agreement, and discussion within the Temple community regarding what we deem indispensable. We think some items may be sent to Berkeley in the next few months. Others can be sent in the coming years (2017 - 19). We think this will require Board approval, as well as negotiation between the synagogue (including legal assistance) and the Bancroft/UC.

Thank you for your interest. We look forward to a fruitful discussion of this important matter in the coming months.