



Projects, Programs, and Publications

1994 – MJHS incorporated as Indiana Not-For-Profit

Mendel Piser – first president, Roger Birdsell – first Executive Director; 135 charter members; Archives Committee begins work

1995 – “The Jewish Experience: Immigration, Americanization, Integration”

Oral history project funded by the Indiana Oral Heritage Research Grant; 18 people interviewed and transcribed; project completed with program July, 1996

1996 – Jewish Life in America Travelling Photographic Exhibit and Local Jewish Life companion exhibit

Exhibit at the Northern Indiana Center for History; Lecture on October 27th by Dr. Irving Katz, Indiana University Jewish Studies Program

1998 – Publication of “Jewish Historical Sites in South Bend, Mishawaka, Elkhart, and Goshen” brochure

Maps and brief descriptions of cemeteries, synagogues, and other sites by Roger Birdsell

1998 – Publication of Volume I, History of the Jewish Federation of St. Joseph Valley – Organizing a Jewish Community Council: 1945-1956 - By Roger Birdsell

1999 – Publication of Volume II, History of the Jewish Federation of St. Joseph Valley – Continuity and Change: 1956-1978 - By Roger Birdsell

1999 – Jewish Genealogy Lecture – June 20th, at the Northern Indiana Center for History

2000 - Publication of Volume III, History of the Jewish Federation of St. Joseph Valley – New Challenges, New Leadership: 1978-2000 - By Roger Birdsell

2000 – 2010 (approximately) – Efforts to re-purpose the Sons of Yisroel / B’nai Yisroel Synagogue Building - By members of B’nai Yisroel and MJHS

2002 – Dedication of Indiana State Historical Marker at the Original Site of the Brotherly Love Cemetery (Niles Avenue, South Bend)

2002 – Publication of “A Burial Ground for Deceased Israelites: Jewish Cemeteries in South Bend” - Brotherly Love (1859-1884), Rose Hill (1883 – present)

2004 – “Our Jewish Neighbors” Exhibit, sponsored by the Jewish Federation and MJHS Located at Northern Indiana Center for History (October 10th to December 31st)

2008 – Jewish Americans Series sponsored by MJHS, the Jewish Federation, and WNIT

2009 – Family Tree Genealogy Project Organized

Basic information about members of the community, past and present, e.g., name, DOB, DOD, and family connections; currently more than 8,500 people in the database

2010 – “The Michiana Jewish Community – Connections Then and Now”

Publication prepared for event celebrating the 65th Anniversary of the Federation’s incorporation and 10th Anniversary of the Federation Building

2011 – Archive Committee Re-Formed

Currently more than 30 collections, including original collections began in 1995

2012-14 – Projects to Document Businesses, Memories, and Education about the Michiana Jewish Community Through the Decades

Business Database, Oral Histories, Sunday School programs, Telling Our Stories

2014 – Silverhawks Team Store Plaque Dedication

MJHS and The South Bend Cubs (formerly Silverhawks) and MJHS worked together to dedicate a plaque at the Team Store entrance remembering its original purpose, home to congregations Sons of Israel and B’nai Yisroel

2014 - Plaut Family Collection donated to MJHS Archive

Photos, documents, and other materials documenting the Plaut Family’s work in resettling people from their German village to Goshen, IN in the 1930s

2014 – “L’dor v’Dor – From Generation to Generation: The Michiana Jewish Community” published

More than 400 photos of people, businesses, institutions documenting the Michiana Jewish community through the decades

2014 – 2015 - MJHS Digital Presence Increased

Facebook, Blast Emails, Website Launch

2016 – Hands on History Family Program

More than 130 adults and children enjoyed genealogy, dress up, arts & crafts, and maps stations

Presentations:

Indiana Jewish Historical Society – 2011

Illiana Jewish Genealogy Society – 2013

South Bend Genealogy Society - 2016