

WORCESTER HISTORICAL
MUSEUM

30 Elm Street
Worcester, Massachusetts

ARCHIVES

Temple Emanuel
Photograph Collection

1999.101

Processed by William F. Carroll, C.A.
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Collection Information

Abstract: The collection consists of a single document, a photograph of an adult bat mitzvah class at Temple Emanuel in Worcester. The bat mitzvah celebration is normally (in Reform congregations) for girls upon reaching the age of 12, but is in many congregations an option for adult Jewish women who did not have a formal celebration in their youth.

Finding Aids: Finding Aid in print form available in the Repository. Folder/item level control.

Preferred Citation: Archives of the Worcester Historical Museum, 30 Elm Street, Worcester, Massachusetts.

Provenance: Received May 4, 1999, from unknown donor.

Access: The Finding Aid is cataloged in MARC under the following subject headings (lcs, gm, etc.)

Temple Emanuel (Worcester, Mass.)
Bat mitzvah – Photographs.
Judaism – Customs and practices – Photographs.
Jews – Massachusetts – Worcester – Photographs.
Jewish way of life – Photographs.

Silver gelatin prints – Massachusetts – Worcester – Temple Emanuel – gm
Jewish community in Worcester – Photographs – local (690)

Historical Information

Temple Emanuel was established in Worcester during the early 1920s as a Reform congregation. Located in the western part of the city, it reflects the upward mobility of the Jewish community in Worcester from the relatively poor sections of the city around Green and Water Streets to the more affluent western part.

The bat mitzvah celebration was normally (particularly in Reform congregations) carried out when a girl reached the age of 12 and was considered to be responsible for her own spiritual development. Adult women brought up in the Jewish faith, who for whatever reason did not celebrate their bat mitzvah in their youth, had the option of doing so in many congregations. The collection, a single photograph, depicts the adult bat mitzvah class at Temple Emanuel around 1979.

Scope and Content

The collection consists of a single photograph of the adult bat mitzvah class at Temple Emanuel ca. 1979. The photograph also shows two rabbis associated with Temple Emanuel at the time, presumably the teachers of the adult class. The photograph provides insight into the religious and cultural heritage of the Jewish people of Worcester.

Series Description

The collection consists of a single item, in a single series: Photographs.

Temple Emanuel Photographic Collection
1999.101
Series 1, Photographs

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	1999.101.1.1	Adult bat mitzvah class at Temple Emanuel, including two rabbis, presumably the class teachers, most of the class identified: silver gelatin print, 8 x 10 in., ca. 1979.