K0627

David Morantz (1893-1959) Papers
[Jewish Community Archives]
ca. 1909-1952
8 cubic feet, oversize

Papers of Kansas City area businessman who compiled stories from the Talmud which were syndicated in newspapers as “Talmudic Tales”. Also includes his business and religious organizational activities as well as research files and writings on the Talmud, Jewish history and law, dietary laws, and anti-Semitism.

BIOGRAPHY:

David Morantz, manager of the Morantz Mercantile agency in Kansas City, Kansas, was a lifelong resident of Kansas City. He served as: the first president of the Kansas Association of Commercial Adjusters in 1933; secretary and historian of the Kansas City, Kansas, Rotary Club; and president of the Kansas City, Kansas Retail Credit Men’s Association.

Mr. Morantz was the author of a newspaper column, Talmudic Tales, which appeared in the Kansas City Kansan beginning in 1931. It was soon syndicated in over 40 newspapers. In 1934 he compiled a book by the same name. The book proved to be so popular that it was reprinted three times. A fourth, revised printing was done by David Morantz’s son, Stanley in 1989.

David Morantz was a member of Congregation B’nai Jehudah and Congregation Ohev Sholom. He was an instructor in the religious school at Temple B’nai Jehudah and served on the board of the brotherhood there. He served as president of the Maccabee club and of the Beth Horon lodge of B’nai B’rith.

David Morantz was married to Rose Slabotsky Morantz. Their children were Stanley A. Morantz and Golda Mayer.

Kansas City Times, April 24, 1959
PROVENANCE:

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DESCRIPTION:

This collection reflects the personal and professional activities of David Morantz. It includes his business and religious organizational activities as well as research files and writings. His research centered on the Talmud, Jewish history and law, dietary laws, and anti-Semitism. Much of the collection concerns the writing and publication of the Talmudic Tales. Included are typed copies, clippings, and correspondence regarding the syndicated column and book.

INVENTORY:

BOX 001

Biographical, General Business, High School

Folder 1. David Morantz Bio
Folder 2. The Morantz Mercantile Agency – Correspondence 1933-1940
Folder 3. Morantz Mercantile Agency 1935-1940
Folder 4. Misc. Business Papers
Folder 5. Direct Mail Information
Folder 6. Misc. Lists
Folder 7. Advertising Club News (KC) 1940
Folder 8. Art Work
Folder 9. American Pamphlets (1939-1940)
Folder 12. Kansas City Kansas Downtowner 1940-1941
Folder 13. Kansas Judicial Council, 1936
Folder 14. German Library of Information (1940)
Folder 15. Mercantile Adjuster, 1936
Folder 16. Merchants Association Credit Bureau, 1942
Folder 17. The Printsmith – Pamphlet 1950-1951
Folder 18. Credit Association Lectures – Morantz 1941
Folder 19. Retail Credit Association Membership Roster, 1929
Folder 20. National Retail Credit Association: Credit World Newsletter
Folder 21. Rotary Club of KC 1934-1936
Folder 22. St. Peter’s Church Bulletin, 1941
Folder 24. Pamphlet: Town Hall 1940
Folder 25. Publication: “Fun with Facts,” Traveler’s Insurance Company
Folder 26. Central High Luminary 1909
Folder 27. Central High Luminary 1910
Folder 28. Central High Luminary 1911
Folder 29. Central High Luminary 1912
Folder 30. Central High Centralian 1910
Folder 31. Central High Centralian 1911
Folder 32. Central High Centralian 1912
Folder 33. Central High School 1936

BOX 002

Jewish organizations, Synagogues, Newsletters, etc. (1912-1945)

Folder 1. Fraternity and Sorority Directory of GRC (1936-1939)
Folder 2. Akibians, 1934, 36, 39, 41, 45
Folder 3. AZA (1937-1940)
Folder 4. AZA/B’nai B’rith “The Shoter” (1936)
Folder 5. AZA (1937-1939)
Folder 6. B’nai B’rith Vocational Pamphlets
Folder 7. KS B’nai B’rith Convention (1938)
Folder 8. B’nai B’rith Correspondence (1939)
Folder 9. Brotherhood Day 1935 and 1936
Folder 10. B’nai B’rith – Newspaper Articles (1922)
Folder 11. Maccabaeans – Forms and Stationary, Constitution (1912)
Folder 12. Maccabaeans – Correspondence (1922-1924)
Folder 13. Maccabaeans – Membership and Applications (1914-1931)
Folder 14. Maccabaeans – Meetings (1922-1933)
Folder 15. Maccabaeans – Banquets and Picnics (1914-1934)
Folder 16. Maccabaeans – Literary (1916-1918)
Folder 17. Maccabaeans’ Library (1926)
Folder 18. Maccabaeans – 1958 Reunion
Folder 19. Maccabaeans – Publicity (1916-1922)
Folder 21. YMHA – Jewish Relief Committee – WWI (1915)
Folder 22. Young People’s League – Synagogue of America (1922-1923)
Folder 23. Keneseth Israel – Beth Shalom Scroll (1938)
Folder 24. Keneseth Israel – Beth Shalom Scroll (1939)
Folder 25. Keneseth Israel – Beth Shalom Scroll (1940)
Folder 26. Keneseth Israel – Beth Shalom Scroll (1941)
Folder 27. Keneseth Israel – Beth Shalom Scroll (1942)
Folder 28. Keneseth Israel – Beth Shalom Scroll (1943)
Folder 29. Ohev Shalom Bulletin (1941-1944)
Folder 30. B’nai Jehudah Family Night (May 12, 1944)
Folder 32. B’nai Jehudah Brotherhood Commentator (1941-1942)
Folder 33. B’nai Jehudah Annual Scroll (1933, 1938)
Folder 34. B’nai Jehudah Temple Scroll (1933-1939)
Folder 35. B’nai Jehudah Temple Scroll (1940)
Folder 36. B’nai Jehudah Temple Scroll (1941)
Folder 37. B’nai Jehudah Temple Scroll (1942)
Folder 38. B’nai Jehudah Temple Scroll (1943)
Folder 39. B’nai Jehudah Temple Scroll (1944)
Folder 40. Sunday School Attendance Record, B’nai Jehudah (1943-1944)
Folder 41. Confirmation Material
Folder 42. B’nai Jehudah Confirmation Class (1937)
Folder 43. B’nai Jehudah Confirmation (1939)
Folder 44. B’nai Jehudah Confirmation Services (1940)
Folder 45. B’nai Jehudah Confirmation, Correspondence (1940)
Folder 46. B’nai Jehudah Confirmation (1941)
Folder 47. B’nai Jehudah Confirmation (1942)
Folder 48. B’nai Jehudah Confirmation, Correspondence (1941)
Folder 49. B’nai Jehudah Confirmation (1943)
Folder 50. B’nai Jehudah S.S.M. Club (1941)

BOX 003

Writings by David Morantz

Folder 1. Bits of Wit and Wisdom from the Talmud by David Morantz
Folder 2. Gems of Hebrew Wisdom [Notebook]
Folder 3. Research from file titled “Gems of Hebrew Humor and Wisdom”
Folder 4. Notebook: Draft “Pointed Parables by David Morantz”
Folder 5. Talmudic Tales, Drafts & Marketing
Folder 6. Notebook: Daily Installments of “Talmudic Tales” v. 1 with Index
Folder 7. Notebook: Daily Installments of “Talmudic Tales” v. 2
Folder 8. Calendars marked with Talmudic Tales numbers (1937-1939) (1 of 9)
Folder 9. Talmudic Tales – Typed Copies – No numbers (2 of 9)
Folder 10. Talmudic Tales – Typed Copy – various numbers 1-236 (3 of 9)
Folder 11. Talmudic Tales – Typed Copy – various numbers 143-287 (4 of 9)
Folder 12. Talmudic Tales – Typed Copy – numbers 300-499 (5 of 9)
Folder 13. Talmudic Tales – Typed Copy – numbers 500-699 (6 of 9)
Folder 14. Talmudic Tales – Typed Copy – numbers 700-899 (7 of 9)
Folder 15. Talmudic Tales – Typed Copy – numbers 900-1090 (8 of 9)
Folder 16. Talmudic Tales – Typed Copy – numbers 2000-2221 (hand numbered) (9 of 9)
BOX 004

Talmudic Tales Clippings (1934-1942)

Folder 1. Talmudic Tales – Numeric Index (1 of 6)
Folder 2. Talmudic Tales – News Clippings (1-406) (2 of 6)
Folder 3. Talmudic Tales – News Clippings (407-808) (3 of 6)
Folder 4. Talmudic Tales – News Clippings (809-1168) (4 of 6)
Folder 5. Talmudic Tales – News Clippings (1169-1599) (5 of 6)
Folder 6. Talmudic Tales – News Clippings (1600-2168) (6 of 6)
Folder 7. Talmudic Tales – News Clippings (71-94) (1/3/1936-12/12/1937)
Folder 10. Talmudic Tales – Newspaper Clippings – Jan. 12, 1940-May 2, 1941
Folder 11. Talmudic Tales – Clippings, “Daily Mirror” – numbers 1-64 (1941)
Folder 12. Talmudic Tales – American Israelite (1936)
Folder 13. Talmudic Tales – American Jewish Outlook (1936-1938)
Folder 14. Talmudic Tales – Atlanta Constitution (1936, 1937)
Folder 15. Talmudic Tales – Atlantic City Evening Union (1936-1938)
Folder 17. Talmudic Tales – Express
Folder 18. Talmudic Tales – Indiana Jewish Chronicle
Folder 19. Talmudic Tales – Iowa Jewish News (1936)
Folder 20. Talmudic Tales – Jewish Examiner
Folder 22. Talmudic Tales – Jewish Journal of the Anthracite Region
Folder 23. Talmudic Tales – Jewish Ledger (1936)
Folder 24. Talmudic Tales – Jewish Post (1936)
Folder 25. Talmudic Tales – Jewish Record (1936)
Folder 26. Talmudic Tales – Jewish Review and Observer (1936)
Folder 27. Talmudic Tales – Jewish Standard (1936)
Folder 28. Talmudic Tales – Jewish Transcript (1936)
Folder 29. Talmudic Tales – Jewish Tribune (1936, 1937)
Folder 31. Talmudic Tales – KC Kansan (1934-1938)
Folder 32. Talmudic Tales – Kansas City Times
Folder 33. Talmudic Tales – Kelsonian Tribune (1935)
Folder 34. Talmudic Tales – Louisville Herald Post (1935-1936)
Folder 35. Talmudic Tales – Milwaukee Journal (1935)
Folder 36. Talmudic Tales – Rocky Mountain News (1936)
Folder 37. Talmudic Tales – San Francisco Chronicle (1935)
Folder 38. Talmudic Tales – Seattle Jewish Transcript (1936)
Folder 39. Talmudic Tales Clippings – The Scribe (1937)
Folder 40. Talmudic Tales – Texas Jewish Voice (1936-1937)
Folder 41. Talmudic Tales – Wisconsin Jewish Chronicle (1937)
Folder 42. Talmudic Tales – Various Newspapers (1936-1937)
Folder 43. David Morantz Newspaper Clippings

**BOX 005**

*Correspondence (1935-1958)*

Folder 1. Talmudic Tales Book – Publication Correspondence (1934)
Folder 2. Correspondence from Readers & Newspapers (1934)
Folder 3. Correspondence with Syndicator (1935)
Folder 5. Correspondence – Talmudic Tales (1935)
Folder 6. Correspondence – Talmudic Tales (1936)
Folder 7. Correspondence – Talmudic Tales (1937)
Folder 8. Correspondence – Talmudic Tales (1937)
Folder 9. Correspondence – Talmudic Tales Radio Show (1937-1938)
Folder 10. Correspondence – Talmudic Tales (1938)
Folder 11. Correspondence – Talmudic Tales (1939)
Folder 12. Correspondence – Talmudic Tales (1941)
Folder 13. Correspondence to Newspapers of Daily Copy of “Talmudic Tales”
Folder 14. Correspondence to misc. Newspapers (1947)
Folder 15. KC Correspondence – Talmudic Tales (1936-1952)
Folder 16. Correspondence – Baker & Taylor Company (1936-1938)
Folder 17. Correspondence – Arthur Brisbane [NY Mirror] (1935-1936)
Folder 18. Correspondence – J.V. Connolly [King Features Syndicate] (1935-1936)
Folder 20. Correspondence – Alfred Bruchtman [Checker Rug Company] (1936)
Folder 22. Correspondence – Atlanta Constitution (1935-1940) (1 of 2)
Folder 23. Correspondence – Atlanta Constitution (1935-1940) (2 of 2)
Folder 24. Correspondence – Atlantic City Press (1935-1939)
Folder 25. Correspondence – Bronx Home News (1935-1937)
Folder 26. Correspondence – KC Journal (1935-1942)
Folder 27. Correspondence – MacMillan Company (1936-1937)
Folder 28. Correspondence – NY Daily Mirror (1941-1942)
Folder 29. Correspondence – Register & Tribune Syndicate (1936)
Folder 30. Correspondence – San Francisco Chronicle (1935-1936)
Folder 31. Correspondence – Wichita Beacon (1935)
Folder 32. Correspondence – Wichita (1936-1939)
Folder 33. Correspondence – Jewish Papers (1936-1937) (1 of 2)
Folder 34. Correspondence – Jewish Papers (1936-1937) (2 of 2)
Folder 35. Correspondence – Jewish Papers (1938)
Folder 36. Correspondence – Jewish Papers (1939)
Folder 37. Correspondence – Jewish Newspapers (1940)

BOX 006

Research, Anti-Semitism

Folder 1. Articles on Jewish Issues (see oversize box for 3 more articles) (1936-1940)
Folder 2. KCKS Public Library List of Books of Interest to Jewish Readers
Folder 5. Bible History
Folder 7. Jewish Tribune [Bible History] (June –Sept. 1932)
Folder 8. Jewish Spectator [Jewish History] (April 1939)
Folder 9. Publication: Israel’s Messenger – Shanghai, China (Sept. 20, 1938)
Folder 10. Talmud History
Folder 11. Research – Notes
Folder 12. Notecards [speeches?]
Folder 13. Anti-Defamation League (1938)
Folder 14. Anti-Defamation League
Folder 15. Pamphlets on Anti-Semitism – See oversize box: Henry Ford Must Choose
Folder 16. Newspaper Articles on Anti-Semitism (see oversize-box)
Folder 17. Writings by David Morantz on Anti-Semitism
Folder 18. Christian pamphlets on Anti-Semitism
Item 1. Toward Integration in Suburban Housing
Item 2. Report on the KKK
Item 3. Privacy and Prejudice
Item 4. Jewish Employment Problems
Item 5. One Nation under God
Item 6. Anti-Semitic Activity in the U.S.
Item 7. Guide to Changing Neighborhoods
Item 8. Let’s Join the Human Race
Item 9. Religion and the Public Schools
Item 10. Civic and Political Status
Item 11. Community Relations Values of Interreligious Activities
Item 12. Prejudice Won’t Hide
Item 13. To Secure these Rights
Item 14. The Gentle People of Prejudice
Item 15. Encounter
Item 16. Crisis without Violence
Item 17. Religion’s Role in Racial Crises
Item 18. Race and Psychology
Item 19. The Devil and the Dream
Item 20. Assault upon Freedom of Association
Item 21. Epitaph for Jim Crow
Item 22. We Shall Overcome
Item 23. Social Change and the Negro Problem
Item 24. The Family Called Man
Item 25. The Un-American Immigration System
Item 26. Equal Job Opportunity is Good Business
Item 27. Jews under Soviet Rule
Item 28. The Censors
Item 29. Judaism and Cities in Crisis
Item 30. Judaism in Action
Item 31. Judaism and International Relations
Item 32. As Driven Sands: The Arab Refugees
Item 33. Prejudice in Children: A Conversation with Dr. Spock
Item 34. The Neglected Frontier
Item 35. Don’t be Afraid, Honey
Item 36. A Question of Judgment
Item 37. Neo-Fascist and Hate Groups
Item 38. Treatment of the Jews under Communism
Item 39. When your Child Meets with Prejudice
Item 40. A Nation of Immigrants
Item 41. A Primer for Parents
Item 42. Let’s Look at Ourselves
Item 43. Christian Friends – Haggadah
Item 44. An Enemy of the People – Anti-Semitism (10 Copies)

BOX 007

Book Reviews, Book Orders
Folder 1. Marketing: Talmudic Tales
Folder 2. Reviews: Talmudic Tales
Folder 4. Book Orders 1935
Folder 5. Book Orders 1936 (1 of 2)
Folder 6. Book Orders 1936 (2 of 2)
Folder 7. Book Orders 1937 (1 of 4)
Folder 8. Book Orders 1937 (2 of 4)
Folder 9. Book Orders 1937 (3 of 4)
Folder 10. Book Orders 1937 (4 of 4)
Folder 11. Book Orders 1938 (1 of 3)
Folder 12. Book Orders 1938 (2 of 3)
Folder 13. Book Orders 1938 (3 of 3)
Folder 14. Book Orders 1939
Folder 15. Book Orders 1940
Folder 16. Talmudic Tales Rejects 1935-1947

**BOX 008**

*Dietary Laws, Health*

Folder 1. Notes, Speeches, and Articles on Dietary Laws by David Morantz
Folder 2. “Is it Kosher” Articles from *The Jewish Examiner* (1938-1940)
Folder 3. Articles on Jewish Dietary Laws (See oversize box – 3 articles)
Folder 4. Dental Health Pamphlets
Folder 5. Weight and Diet Pamphlets
Folder 6. Exercise Pamphlets
Folder 7. Home Safety Pamphlets
Folder 8. Disease Pamphlets
Folder 9. Children’s Health Pamphlets
Folder 10. Healthy Food Pamphlets
Folder 11. General Health Pamphlets
Folder 12. Articles on Trichinosis (See oversize box, “Cook your Pork Well”)
Folder 13. Articles on Tularemia (Rabbit Fever)
Folder 14. Safe Driving Pamphlets
Folder 15. Publications: Kosher Foods

Item 1. *The Royal Table: An Outline of the Dietary Laws of Israel* by Rabbi Jacob Cohn

**FLAT BOX 001**

Items 1-5. Calendar pages, Frank Connet Lumber Company, Kansas City, Kansas- February-May, August 1938, with notations of *Talmudic Tales* #s on dates

(swastika and American flag on cover)- regarding Ford’s book *The International Jew*, used by Nazi propagandists.

