

PROFILE OF RABBI JAMES A. WAX  
SPIRITUAL LEADER  
TEMPLE ISRAEL (CONGREGATION CHILDREN OF ISRAEL) 1946-1878

James A. Wax was installed as assistant to Rabbi Harry W. Ettelson of Temple Israel on Friday, May 31, 1946. He ascended to Senior Rabbi on Friday, April 2, 1954, upon the retirement of Rabbi Ettelson, who was then designated as Rabbi Emeritus.

In the years following his retirement Rabbi Wax served small communities in the Memphis/Mid-South area. On October 8, 1989, while conducting Yom Kippur services at Temple Beth El in Helena, Arkansas, Rabbi Wax suffered an aneurysm. He was hospitalized and died on October 17, 1989. He was interred at Temple Israel Cemetery in Memphis.

On November 2, 1990, Temple Israel memorialized Rabbis Ettelson and Wax by naming the Temple Israel social hall the "Ettelson-Wax Social Hall."

The papers of Rabbi Wax are housed both at Memphis State (University of Memphis) Oral History dated May 13, 1970, as part of the Mississippi Valley Archives Collection, and the Memphis/Shelby Benjamin Hooks Library.

As part of this biographical sketch, include the following:

Rabbi Wax Biographical Data

Remarks of Helen G. Wax dated November 4, 2000

"Our Rabbis and Their Times," a paper by Norman D. Shapiro, MD, dated 12/2/1990 and referring to Rabbi Wax.