

# Blecher, Marvin Oral History Interview

Marvin Blecher Oral History Interview

1998



## Title Statement

Blecher, Marvin Oral History Interview Marvin Blecher Oral History Interview Ms.1998.017

## Publication Statement

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## Profile Description

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## Revision Description

**2020-09-29** Finding aid notes updated to new department standards. juliags

## Descriptive Summary

### Unit ID

Ms.1998.017

### Unit Date

1998

### Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

### Abstract

Oral history interview conducted by Virginia Tech student Christina Roemer with Marvin and Freda Blecher of Blacksburg, Virginia, regarding Blacksburg's Jewish community, the Hillel student organization at Virginia Tech, and other Jewish communities in the region.

### Creator

Roemer, Christina

### Extent

0.1 Cubic Feet 1 folder

## Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

# Administrative Information

## Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open to research.

## Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use

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## Immediate Source of Acquisition

The Marvin Blecher Oral History Interview was donated to Special Collections and University Archives in 1998.

## Processing Information

The processing and description of the Marvin Blecher Oral History Interview commenced and was completed in November, 2023.

## Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], Marvin Blecher Oral History Interview, Ms1998-017, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

# Biographical / Historical

The Lord Reading Club was established at Virginia Polytechnic Institute (now Virginia Tech) to serve as a campus Jewish denominational organization, hosting weekly services and other activities. As stated in the 1934 *Bugle*, the club's purpose was "the promotion of understanding between various denominations and the Jewish students." The club hosted member-conducted religious services, and members studied "current events, Jewish literature and culture, along with student problems." The club became more formalized with the growth of the campus Jewish community and became affiliated with B'nai B'rith Hillel, taking the name Hillel in 1952. Dr. Marvin Blecher, a professor of physics at Virginia Tech from 1968 to 2010, served as Hillel's faculty advisor from 1973 to 1993.

# Scope and Contents

This collection consists of a single audiocassette tape containing an oral history interview conducted by Virginia Tech student Christina Roemer with Marvin Blecher--a Virginia Tech professor of physics and Hillel at Virginia Tech faculty advisor--and Freda Blecher of Blacksburg, Virginia. The 45-minute interview, conducted in 1998, focuses on the Blechers' involvement in Blacksburg's Jewish community, the Hillel student organization at Virginia Tech (particularly from the perspective of a faculty advisor), and other Jewish communities in the region. Included are brief comments on the early history of the Blacksburg Jewish Community Center, anti-semitism, and the student protest movements of the 1960s.

# Keywords

Montgomery County (Va.)

Blacksburg (Va.)

Local/Regional History and Appalachian South

Faculty and staff

University History

Jews -- History

Blecher, Freda

Blecher, Marvin

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (1970-)

# Rights Statement for Archival Description

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## General

This collection had been originally cataloged as the Marvin Blecher Audiocassette Tape. During the course of processing in 2023, the Marvin Blecher Oral History Interview was determined to be a more appropriate title for the collection.

## Description of Subordinate Components

**Audiocassette tape**

**Unit Date** 1998

**folder** 1