

Learn, Pray, Community

The Arnold Rissman Family Kol Ami Museum is a unique collection of Jewish art, artifacts and ritual objects. In addition to preserving significant objects for posterity, the museum seeks to develop programs and exhibitions that are designed to educate the congregation and promote an appreciation for works of Judaica.

Research and Exhibit Notes:
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*North Suburban
Synagogue*
Beth El
בית כנסת בית אל



**The Arnold Rissman Family
Kol Ami Museum**

Portrait of a Young Rabbi, after Isidor Kaufmann (1853–1921), Hungary



Kaufmann's *Young Rabbi From N.*, c. 1910, is one of a group of the artist's paintings popularly copied beginning a few years after his death and continuing through the present day. Born in the Austro-Hungarian Empire's trade capital, Kaufmann moved to Vienna in 1876 to study painting. In 1894 – a time when religion was becoming more meaningful in his life – he embarked on the first of many travels through Eastern European shtetls where he documented the lives of traditional Jews.

Prayer Book / Tallis Bag, 20th century, Morocco



Embroideries were popular among many ethnic groups in the Ottoman Empire, including the Jews, and were used for various purposes. This purse-style bag for a *tallis* (prayer shawl) and *siddur* (prayer book) consists of velvet embroidered with gold brocade. It is decorated in an arabesque design with a bird in the center, and has a handle, all of which are typical of North African bags from this period. Bags for prayer shawls were commonly given as a gift to a boy on the occasion of his becoming a bar mitzvah.

Jews Praying in the Synagogue on Yom Kippur, after Mauryc Gottlieb (1856–1879), Poland



This bronze relief of the original painting depicts a service with women and children in the balcony. Standing to the right of the central figure holding the Torah is a self-portrait of the artist, who died prematurely at the age of twenty-three.

Yom Kippur Services Held by Jewish Soldiers at the Military Camp of Metz During the Franco-Prussian War, 1876, Germany



Opinions differ regarding the source of this lithograph. It was most likely created from a painting by Hermann Junker (1838–1899), an artist influenced by Moritz Daniel Oppenheim (1799–1882). Accounts from Metz indicate that the actual service was probably much smaller than the one depicted in the scene. The print was mass-produced on commemorative cloth panels, which hung in many Jewish German homes.



Also in the exhibit:

- Torah Shield (Tas)*, 1895–1896, Germany
- Torah Crown (Keter)*, 20th c., USA
- Torah Mantle*, 20th c., USA
- Torah Pointer (Yad)*, 20th c.

- The Jewish Temple in Amsterdam* (R. de Hooghe), 17th c., Dutch
- Daily Prayer Book*, 1857, Austria
- Tefillin Bags*, 19th and 20th c., Central Europe and USA
- Old Man Praying* (J. Eisenberg), 20th c., Israel
- Child's Fringes (Tzitzit Katan)*, 20th c., USA
- Tefillin Covers*, 20th c., Israel
- Kindling Sabbath Candles*, 19th c., Germany
- Porcelain Miniatures*, 20th c.
- Embroidered Sukkah Hanging*, 19th c., Turkey
- Eitrog Container*, Early 20th c., Palestine
- Blessing Over the Lulav and Eitrog* (A. Ebgi), 20th c., Israel/USA



Exhibit items donated by Fran and Bernard Alpert, Colonel and Mrs. John Gottlieb, Gertrude and Benjamin Harris, the Jacobs Family, Jack Shuman, Badona and Maurice Spertus, and Rena and Harry Young.