

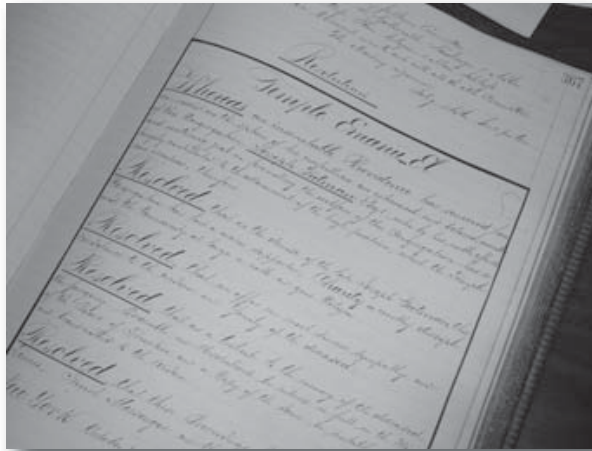
## FROM THE ARCHIVES: EARLY DAYS AT EMANU-EL

Among the many wonderful treasures in our Temple archives are the minute books from the earliest days of Emanu-El's origin. In keeping with the Temple's roots, entries from the first years, starting in 1845, were recorded in German. Nearly a decade later, both German and English were used, with a German entry on the left page and a direct English translation on the right. And by 1868, a full transition to English record keeping was completed.

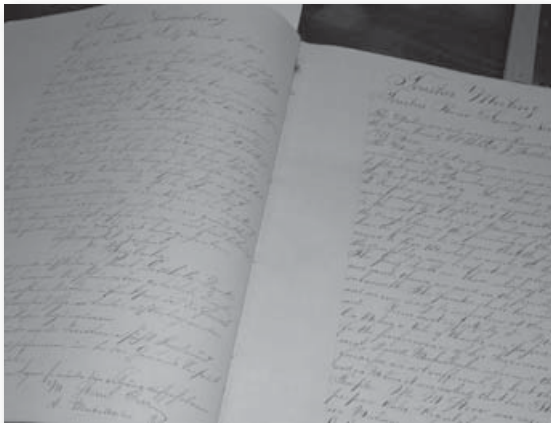
During the early years, regular meetings as well as special meetings were held at board members' homes, with the host's name and the meeting date recorded in the text. Many of today's Temple members can trace their ancestry to the names that appear in these early ledgers. Meeting minutes documented marriages, deaths and the number of burials. They also included an accounting of expenses—such as 13 tons of coal at \$6.50 per ton in 1868, the quarterly salary of

\$1,500 for Rev. Dr. Adler (our second rabbi, who served from 1857–1891), and contents of the Temple charity box summing \$31.40 at the October 8, 1868 meeting.

Minute books also documented various resolutions adopted by board members, including a decision to charge nonmembers a fee of \$150 to use the Temple for weddings (members paid only \$10) or the need to wait 48 hours before conducting a funeral to prevent the possibility of burying someone alive. Some decisions would forever alter the course of services at Temple Emanu-El, such as that by members of the Ritual Committee at their December 14, 1868, meeting which states, "On recommendation, it was resolved that we are of the opinion that the time has arrived to have some portion of our public worship in the English language."



*More than just a recording of facts, Temple Emanu-El's minute books are a work of art.*



*German on the left, English on the right*

Liste		- November 1848	
S. Bittendorf	14	10	10
S. Bittendorf	2	100	10
H. Goldstein	2	10	10
L. Goldstein	2	100	10
S. Kerschbaum	2	100	10
H. Weiss	2	100	10
S. Weiss	2	100	10
L. Kerschbaum	1	100	10
S. Weiss	2	100	10
S. Weiss	2	15	10

*Member donations from November 1848*

