

St. Louis Jewish Newspapers

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Ilene Kanfer Murray, publications@stlgs.org

Early St. Louis newspapers for the Jewish community heavily favored the more literate, educated German Jews, who had arrived here in the mid-nineteenth century. For the most part, they were interested in becoming “Americanized” and practiced Reform Judaism.

The first of many Jewish newspapers appeared in 1868 and was called the *Jewish Sentinel*. It lasted just a year; if copies still exist, no one currently knows where they are.

The *Jewish Tribune* began publishing in 1879. It lasted until 1884. Extant copies are microfilmed and available.

The Jewish Free Press, 1885–1887, a Reform weekly, had a short run, which is on microfilm.

The Jewish Voice, 1888–1923, edited by Rabbi Morritz Spitz, lasted for thirty-three years. Published weekly, it was the first major player in St. Louis’s list of Jewish periodicals. However, when Rabbi Spitz died, it couldn’t sustain itself and ceased publication. Copies are available.

The Modern View began publishing in September 1901 and also focused on the German-Jewish community. This paper, however, was, in fact, more modern in appearance than its predecessors, making use of graphics and photos. It lasted until 1943 and copies are widely available.

The Yiddish Newspapers

- *Der Vorsteher (The Representative)*, 1906–1910, covered the Eastern European immigrant community, but not much on St. Louis. Microfilm copies are available.
- *Der Yiddisher Record or The Jewish Record*, 1913–1951, was strictly Orthodox in its viewpoint. Starting as a Yiddish weekly, it became daily for part of 1927–1928 but then again weekly. An English page introduced by the 1920s was gradually increased to an English section, but it wasn’t enough to sustain as first-generation Yiddish speakers were replaced by their American children. Copies are available.

The St. Louis Jewish Light

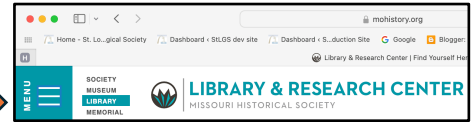
Begun as an in-house publication for the St. Louis Jewish Federation in February 1947, it was originally a newsletter called the *St. Louis Light*. It was published as needed and not widely distributed. The community needed more, but it took almost twenty years before the *St. Louis Jewish Light*, a weekly, began regular publication. Culturally neutral, it

appealed to the widespread community and flourished under a series of skilled editors. Copies are widely available.

Where are these newspapers?

Missouri Historical Society Library and Research Center—mohistory.org

1. Click on the “Menu” dashes on the left.
2. Use “Jewish Newspapers” as your keyword.



- *The Jewish Voice* (English): scattered issues, 1888–1922
- *The Greater St. Louis Jewish Star*: 1954–1955
- *The Jewish Tribune*: 1879–1884
- *Der Yiddisher Record* (Yiddish): 1916 (incomplete); (Yiddish and English) 1928–1951
- *Yiddisher Tegliker Record* (*Jewish Daily Record*): (Yiddish) May 1927–31 January 1928
- *The Representative/Der Vorsteher* (Yiddish): 1907–1908
- *The Jewish Light*: incomplete set; 1963–2018

State Historical Society of Missouri—shsmo.org/collections/newspapers

Not yet online; search for “Newspapers on Microfilm.”

- *The Jewish Free Press*: 1885–1987
- *The Jewish Tribune*: 1879–1884
- *The Jewish Voice*: 1888–1891; broken set 1893–1926
- *St. Louis Jewish Light*: 1947–2000
- *Sulamith* (supplement to the *Tribune* in German): Nov. 1880–January 1881
- *The Modern View*: print copies: 1919–1939; microfilm, broken sets, 1902–1943
- *The St. Louis Light*: 1947–1963
- *Jewish Daily Forward* (Hebrew): February 1945

Emerson History and Genealogy Center at Clark Family Branch, St. Louis County Library—slcl.org

Not online; microfilm available

- *St. Louis Jewish Light*: broken set; 1947–current
- *The Jewish Free Press*: 1885–1987
- *The Jewish Tribune*: 1879–1884
- *The Jewish Voice*: 1888–1920
- *Modern View*: broken set: 1913–1940

St. Louis Jewish Archives, Kaplan Feldman Holocaust Museum (no current presence on the website– archivist, Amy Moorman: AMoorman@STLHolocaustMuseum.org)

- *The St. Louis Jewish Light, 1947–2017*
- *The Jewish Tribune, 1925–1930*
- *The Maccabean, 1917–1920*
- *The Modern View, 1917–1923; 1929–1943*
- *St. Louis Jewish Tribune, 1879, 1883 (single issues*

Newsletters at the archives:

- Y Journal/JCCA Journal (also includes YMHA-YWHA, vol IV), 1922–1983
- University City High School newspaper, 1938
- Temple Israel bulletin, 1945 and 1950
- Several national Jewish publications, including *The Jewish Veteran* 1939–1948

Remember to search secular newspapers as well. Some of interest and easily available:

- *The St. Louis Globe-Democrat*
- *The St. Louis Post-Dispatch*
- *The St. Louis Star and Times*
- *St. Louis Watchman-Advocate*

A list of St. Louis Jewish newspapers with a bit more detail is on the StLGS website:

<https://stlgs.org/research-2/community/ethnic/jews-in-stl/newspapers-that-served-the-st-louis-jewish-community-past-present>

More complete information on the St. Louis Jewish Community:

Ehrlich, Walter, *Zion in the Valley*, volumes 1 and 2, (Columbia, Missouri: University of Missouri Press), 1997 and 2002.

Additional Resources

Jewish newspapers from around the U.S. digitized in The National Library of Israel, Tel Aviv:

<https://www.nli.org.il/en/newspapers/titles?region=North%20America>

Ohio State University Library: Union List of Digitized Jewish Historic Newspapers, Periodicals and eJournals

<https://library.osu.edu/projects/hebrew-lexicon/Jewish-Press.htm>

Ancestor Hunt (lots of ads but keep going for links state by state:

<https://theancestorhunt.com/blog/historic-jewish-american-newspapers-online/#.X-6rEuelaUk>