

THE IDA PEARLE AND JOSEPH CUBA ARCHIVES AND GENEALOGY CENTER
OF
THE WILLIAM BREMAN JEWISH HERITAGE MUSEUM
1440 SPRING STREET
ATLANTA, GA 30309
(678) 222-3700

MANUSCRIPT COLLECTION

REGISTER: TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL
MACON, GA

Processed by Sarah Moosazadeh

Date: December 2006

MSS. No. 151

Temple Beth Israel was established in 1859. The temple's first constitution was adopted on December 4 of that same year, and can still be read in the original minute book, engraved by Mr. Dessau in English, interspersed with Hebrew. The legislature of the State of Georgia granted the new congregation Beth Israel a charter on the same date. The next step was to secure a religious leader in where shortly after the Rev. H. Loewenthal was installed at \$700 for one year.

The Congregation struggled throughout the Reconstruction period after the Civil War, but by 1866 business conditions began to improve. That same year the congregation also experienced an increase in membership. Soon, congregants began to focus their attention on the education of their children and it was not long before they hired the Rev. Davidson to teach day school.

The year 1868 is an important one in Temple Beth Israel's history, as it marks the real beginning of the religious school. That year, too, saw the establishment of a regular meeting of the temple board.

As time went on, membership and attendant responsibilities increased and in 1879 Rose Hill Cemetery, which was used by Beth Israel, could hold no more graves. Soon after, the new burial ground, to be known as William Wolff Cemetery, was established. It was in this climate that Rabbi, Issac E. Marcuson of Cincinnati, Ohio, freshly graduated from Hebrew Union College, came to Beth Israel in 1894. Thus began a ministry that lasted until his death in 1952, interrupted in 1903 for a period of sixteen years. Four years after Dr. Marcuson came to Beth Israel, a lot was purchased at Spring and Cherry Street where services have been held since.

In 1934, Temple Beth Israel, celebrated its 75th anniversary. The congregation joined with peoples of the world in donations for relief to those persecuted by the Nazis, and made a place for those refugees who found their way to Macon. In 1939, the first United Jewish Appeal campaign was headed by a member of Beth Israel, and resulted in raising then the largest sum for philanthropy by the Jewish community.

During the 1960s discussions began about the wearing of head covering by the male members during the services. The Hebrew Union College was consulted. They responded that it was not a matter of Jewish law but of custom and shortly thereafter the practice was discontinued. Heads remained uncovered until about 1990 when the head covering was resumed. Almost concurrently the Bar Mitzvah and Bat Mitzvah observances were introduced. In the Congregation's 142 year history it has been led by fifty lay presidents and the membership has fluctuated from about 300 to 100 members.

The records of Temple Beth Israel consist of minutes, correspondence, cemetery records, financial and legal records, and general administrative files. Of special interest to researchers are the minutes which provide a clear accounting of the congregations activities from its inception in 1859. The first minutes book refers to members called away to fight for the Confederacy. Genealogists will find that the marriage, membership and cemetery records provide useful information.

The Temple Beth Israel Records, 1859-1998 are arranged in alphabetical order by subject and chronologically within each folder. Additional Board of Trustees minutes records are located in the oversize bound volume in the oversized container.

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Restrictions: | Available to the serious scholar |
| Number of Containers: | 13 |
| Oversize flat items: | Removed to oversize file |
| Photographs: | Removed to visual arts |
| Shelf space occupied: | 7 cubic feet |

Container

1

Subject file, An–Bo, 1918-1997

Folder 1: Anniversary 75th, 1934.

Folder 2: Anniversary 85th, 1934.

Folder 3: Anniversary 90th, 1934.

Folder 4: Anniversary, 100th, 1859 - 1959.

Folder 5: Anniversary 125th, 1959 - 1984.

Folder 6: Annual meetings, 1964.

Folder 7: Annual Report, 1984 - 1997.

Folder 8: Annual Report – board of education, 1996.

Folder 9: Annual Report – Kroger Cash, 1994 -1997.

Folder 10: Annual Report – President and Vice President, 1984-1997.

Folder 11: Annual Report – Rabbis, 1994.

Folder 12: Annual Report – Sisterhood, 1986-1994.

Folder 13: Annual Report – Treasury, 1984-1991.

Folder 14: Board meetings, 1946-1964.

Folder 15: Board meetings – attendance records, 1952-1989.

Folder 16: Board meetings – correspondence, 1951 – 1964.

Folder 17: Board minutes, 1896
(see oversize container for minutes 1859-1895.)

Folder 18: Board minutes, 1918-1934

Folder 19: Board minutes – loose pages, 1906-1913.

Folder 20: Board minutes – loose pages, 1918 – 1938.

Container

2 Subject file, Bo, 1951-1973

Folder 1: Board minutes, 1951-1954.

Folder 2: Board minutes, 1955-1957.

Folder 3: Board minutes, 1958-1963.

Folder 4: Board minutes, 1969-1970.

Folder 5: Board minutes, 1971.

Folder 6: Board minutes, 1972- 1973.

Container

3 Subject file, Bo, 1974-1992

Folder 1: Board minutes, 1974.

Folder 2: Board minutes, 1982-1983.

Folder 3: Board minutes, 1983.

Folder 4: Board minutes, 1984.

Folder 5: Board minutes, 1985.

Folder 6: Board minutes, 1985-1986.

Folder 7: Board minutes, 1991.

Folder 8: Board minutes, 1992.

Container

- 4 Subject file, Bo–Bul, 1920-1997
- Folder 1: Board minutes, 1993.
- Folder 2: Board minutes, 1994.
- Folder 3: Board minutes, 1995.
- Folder 4: Board minutes, 1996.
- Folder 5: Board minutes, 1997.
- Folder 6: Building – donations, 1954-1959.
- Folder 7: Building – general, 1920-1991.
- Folder 8: Building – specifications, 1954-1962.
- Folder 9: Bulletins, 1981-1991.

Container

- 5 Subject file, Cem, 1880-1966
- Folder 1: Cemetery – dues, 1920-1931.
- Folder 2: Cemetery – dues, 1928 – 1959.
- Folder 3: Cemetery – dues, 1928 – 1959.
- Folder 4: Cemetery – general, 1951.
- Folder 5: Cemetery – general records, 1960.
- Folder 6: Cemetery – general records, 1960-1966.
- Folder 7: Cemetery – general records, 1944-1965.
- Folder 8: Cemetery – land purchases, 1880-1958.
- Folder 9: Cemetery – land purchases, 1965-1972.

Folder 10: Cemetery – maintenance, 1953-1964.

Container

6 Subject file, Cem–Cor, 1884-1997

Folder 1: Cemetery – plot purchases, 1884-1942.

Folder 2: Centennial scrapbook, 1959.

Folder 3: Central Conference of American Rabbis, 1859-1947.

Folder 4: Central Conference of American Rabbis, 1947.

Folder 5: Certificate, 1986.

Folder 6: Committee – assignments, 1959-1981.

Folder 7: Committee – adult education, 1964-1984.

Folder 8: Committee – attendance, 1985-1989.

Folder 9: Committee – Camp Coleman, 1984-1987.

Folder 10: Committee – carpool, 1992.

Folder 11: Committee – cemetery, 1984-1987.

Folder 12: Committee – choir, 1984-1994.

Folder 13: Committee – endowment, 1988-1993.

Folder 14: Committee – finance, 1952.

Folder 15: Committee – fundraising, 1987-1997.

Folder 16: Committee – good neighbor award, 1985-1989.

Folder 17: Committee – house, 1984-1986.

Folder 18: Committee – investment, 1989-1997.

Folder 19: Committee – membership, 1984-1997

- Folder 20: Committee – memorials and plaques, 1984-1993.
- Folder 21: Committee – nominating, 1984-1996.
- Folder 22: Committee – rabbinate, 1984-1996.
- Folder 23: Committee – religious school, 1984-1991.
- Folder 24: Committee – renovation, 1991.
- Folder 25: Committee – social action, 1994-1997.
- Folder 26: Committee – temple preservation, 1989.
- Folder 27: Committee – Tree of Life, 1984-1997.
- Folder 28: Confirmation, 1905-1940.
- Folder 29: Constitution and by laws, 1903-1991.
- Folder 30: Conversion, 1913.
- Folder 31: Correspondence and related material, 1914.
- Folder 32: Correspondence and related material, 1945.
- Folder 33: Correspondence and related material, 1946.

Container

- 7 Subject file, Cor, 1947-1954
- Folder 1: Correspondence and related material, 1947.
- Folder 2: Correspondence and related material, 1948.
- Folder 3: Correspondence and related material, 1949.
- Folder 4: Correspondence and related material, 1950.
- Folder 5: Correspondence and related material, 1951.
- Folder 6: Correspondence and related material, 1952.

Folder 7: Correspondence and related material, 1953.

Folder 8: Correspondence and related material, 1954

Container

8 Subject file, Cor, 1955-1964

Folder 1: Correspondence and related material, 1955.

Folder 2: Correspondence and related material, 1956.

Folder 3: Correspondence and related material, 1957.

Folder 4: Correspondence and related material, 1958.

Folder 5: Correspondence and related material, 1959.

Folder 6: Correspondence and related material, 1960.

Folder 7: Correspondence and related material, 1961.

Folder 8: Correspondence and related material, 1962.

Folder 9: Correspondence and related material, 1963.

Folder 10: Correspondence and related material, 1964.

Container

9 Subject file, Cor- Gen, 1859-1998

Folder 1: Correspondence and related material, 1965

Folder 2: Dues – income from investments, 1977-1987.

Folder 3: Elections, undated.

Folder 4: Employment, 1859- 1909.

Folder 5: Financial –audits, 1965-1966.

- Folder 6: Financial – bank books, 1948-1954.
- Folder 7: Financial – budgets, 1885-1998.
- Folder 8: Financial – correspondence, 1919-1925.
- Folder 9: Financial – dues, 1871-1892.
- Folder 10: Financial – miscellaneous, 1952.
- Folder 11: Financial – promissory notes, 1899-1957.
- Folder 12: Financial – statements, 1951-1983.
- Folder 13: Financial – tax exemption forms, 1880-1993.
- Folder 14: General ledger, 1943-1944.

Container

- 10 Subject file, Gen, 1946-1959
- Folder 1: General ledger, 1951-1959 (A-C).
- Folder 2: General ledger, 1951-1959 (D-O).
- Folder 3: General ledger, 1951-1959 (S-Z).
- Folder 4: General ledger, 1946-1949.
- Folder 5: General ledger, 1950-1953.
- Folder 6: General ledger, 1951-1954.

Container

- 11 Subject file, Gen-Mis, 1950-1997
- Folder 1: General ledger, 1954-1956.
- Folder 2: General ledger, 1957-1959.

- Folder 3: Friedman J. Newton – Resignation, 1955-1957.
- Folder 4: Georgia Journal, 1953-1965.
- Folder 5: Goldstein, Rabbi Ronald M. –1982-1985.
- Folder 6: History of Temple Beth Israel, 1955.
- Folder 7: Indentures, undated.
- Folder 8: Insurance, 1950-1959.
- Folder 9: Letters, 1963-1997.
- Folder 10: Letters, undated.
- Folder 11: Macon – Jewish community, 1955-1957.
- Folder 12: Marcusson, Rabbi Isaac E., 1934-1959

- Folder 13: Membership (contains: applications, general, lists, new members, monthly reports, questionnaire, resigned members, statistics, and survey), 1945- 1953.
- Folder 14: Memorials, 1981-1983.
- Folder 15: Memorials, 1990-1996.
- Folder 16: miscellaneous, undated.

Container

- 12 Subject file, Ne-Un, 1891-1997
- Folder 1: News articles, 1946.
- Folder 2: News articles, 1894-1984.
- Folder 3: Officers speeches, 1989-1997.
- Folder 4: Prayer, 1891.

- Folder 5: Property (contains: agreements and contracts), 1899 – 1937.
- Folder 6: Resolutions, 1938-1945.
- Folder 7: Sisterhood, 1944.
- Folder 8: Sisterhood – celebration cards and yearbooks, 1989-1998.
- Folder 9: Sisterhood – minutes, 1988-1992.
- Folder 10: Song sheets, undated.
- Folder 11: Statistics, 1976-1978.
- Folder 12: Sunday school, 1944-1997.
- Folder 13: Tau Epsilon Pi – Emory, 1945.
- Folder 14: Temple Beth Or, 1951.
- Folder 15: Temple youth group, 1961- 1963.
- Folder 16: Union of American Hebrew Congregations, 1949-1959.

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