

THE IDA PEARL AND JOSEPH CUBA ARCHIVES AND GENEALOGY CENTER  
OF  
THE WILLIAM BREMAN JEWISH HERITAGE MUSEUM  
1440 SPRING STREET  
ATLANTA, GA 30309  
www.thebreman.org

MANUSCRIPT COLLECTION

REGISTER:  
Congregation Beth Jacob

Processed by Rachel Katz  
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MSS. No. 215

Congregation Beth Jacob is an Orthodox congregation located in Atlanta, Georgia. Though the Congregation was officially founded in 1943, its roots begin in 1931, when a small group of observant members of Ahavath Achim felt uncomfortable with the modernizing ritual, believing it was not “religious enough.” They began to organize their own High Holiday services in homes and vacant stores before finding their own building in 1943, a converted private residence on Boulevard Avenue. In 1956, the congregation moved to 475 Boulevard, which had previously housed the Tabernacle Baptist Church. In 1962, the congregation moved once more, this time to their own newly-built synagogue building. While the former locations had been building that had been converted to suit the needs of the congregation, the new location at 1855 Lavista Road was the “fulfillment of a cherished dream,” according to the New Building Brochure, “a place of worship combining all the features necessary for the convenience of a modern and growing community.” Indeed, by the early 1970s, the congregation began fundraising to add a much needed expansion to their new building. In 1951, Beth Jacob counted 40 members, grew to 190 families by 1962, and by 1976, membership reached 500 families.

In 1951, Rabbi Yosef Saffra became Congregation Beth Jacob’s first permanent rabbi. Under his leadership, Beth Jacob established a religious school and a program of adult education. Shortly thereafter, in 1952, Rabbi Emanuel Feldman joined the congregation as its religious leader, and would remain in the position until his retirement in 1991. Throughout Rabbi Feldman’s tenure, he exerted a strong effort to maintain a strict Orthodox presence in the community, even raising the height of the *mehitza*, the barrier between the men’s and women’s sections, three times. His efforts proved fruitful as the congregation grew and flourished under his guidance. His son, Rabbi Ilan Feldman, who began serving as assistant rabbi in 1980, stepped in to his father’s position as senior rabbi in 1991.

Congregation Beth Jacob Records (1958-1983) consists of annual reports, minutes, correspondence, financial records, membership information, bulletins, newsletters, and building plans for both the 1855 Lavista Road building and its expansion in the 1970s. The collection is arranged by alphabetically by subject and chronologically within each folder; the first container houses all of the membership newsletters; the second contains the Constitution, membership lists, minutes of membership meetings, and miscellaneous financial; the third contains the documents pertaining to the planning, fundraising, and execution of the “New Building”; and the

fourth and final container holds the documents pertaining to the planning, fundraising, and execution of the expansion of the “New Building.”

CONTAINER

1 Subject File, Beth Jacob Bulletins, 1958-1983

Folder 1: Bulletins— Beth Jacob News, 1958-1971

Folder 2: Bulletins— Beth Jacob Magazine, 1971-1983

Folder 3: Bulletins—Beth Jacob Newsletter, 1960-1964

Folder 4: Bulletins—Beth Jacob Newsletter, 1965-1969

Folder 5: Bulletins—Beth Jacob Newsletter, 1971-1974

Folder 6: Bulletins—Beth Jacob Newsletter, 1975-1979

Folder 7: Bulletins—Beth Jacob Newsletter, 1980-1983

CONTAINER

2 Subject File, Congregational documents, 1959-1983

Folder 1: Constitution, 1960

Folder 2: Finance—Citizens and Southern National Bank, 1961-1963

Folder 3: Finance—Corporate Resolution, 1960-1961

Folder 4: Finance—Financial Statements, 1961-1976

Folder 5: Finance—First National Bank of Atlanta, 1963-1974

Folder 6: Finance—Fulton National Bank, 1961-1971

Folder 7: Finance—Home Savings and Loan Association, 1962-1964

Folder 8: Finance—Miscellaneous Documents, 1962-1979

Folder 9: Finance—Progressive Club Stock, 1974

Folder 10: Finance—Tabernacle Baptist Church, 1960-1964

Folder 11: Finance—Trust Company of Georgia, 1962-1963

Folder 12: Membership—Lists, 1959-1972

Folder 13: Membership—Meeting Minutes, 1970-1983

Folder 14: Miscellaneous Documents, 1964-1978

CONTAINER

3 Subject File, New Building, 1960-1970

Folder 1: New Building—Blueprints, Brochure, and Permits, 1960-1961

Folder 2: New Building—Campaign Bulletin, 1960

Folder 3: New Building—Committees—Advance Gift Committee, 1960

Folder 4: New Building—Committees—Building Fund Committee, 1960-1961

Folder 5: New Building—Committees—Executive Committee, 1960-1961

Folder 6: New Building—Committees—General Solicitation, 1960

Folder 7: New Building—Committees—Leadership Gift Committee, 1960

Folder 8: New Building—Contractor—Albert Wood and Five Sons, 1960-1970

Folder 9: New Building— Contractor—Atlanta Fixtures and Sales, 1961-1968

Folder 10: New Building— Contractor—Furniture, 1961-1962

Folder 11: New Building— Contractor—Georgia Power Company, 1961-1963

Folder 12: New Building— Contractor—Milton Hood Ward, 1960-1963

- Folder 13: New Building— Contractor—Richard Naiman & Co, 1960-1965
- Folder 14: New Building— Events—Dedication—Correspondence, 1962-1963
- Folder 15: New Building—Events—Dedication—Speech, Lists, Receipts, 1962-1963
- Folder 16: New Building— Events—Groundbreaking, 1961
- Folder 17: New Building—Finance—Miscellaneous Receipts, 1960-1964
- Folder 18: New Building—Finance—Pledges—Available Memorial List, n.d.
- Folder 19: New Building—Finance—Pledges—Correspondence, 1960-1969
- Folder 20: New Building—Finance—Pledges—Lists, 1960-1968
- Folder 21: New Building—Finance—Pledges—Slips, 1960
- Folder 22: New Building—Finance—Projected Costs and Statements, 1960

#### CONTAINER

- 4 Subject File, New Building Expansion, 1968-1978

- Folder 1: New Building Expansion—Blueprints and Permits, 1971-1977
- Folder 2: New Building Expansion—Campaign Bulletin, 1973-1974
- Folder 3: New Building Expansion—Committees—Expansion Committee, 1968-1977
- Folder 4: New Building Expansion—Committees—Lists, 1973
- Folder 5: New Building Expansion—Committees—Solicitation, 1973-1974
- Folder 6: New Building Expansion—Committees—Subcommittees, 1972-1973
- Folder 7: New Building Expansion—Contractor—Epstein & Hirsch, 1971-1978
- Folder 8: New Building Expansion— Contractor—Milton Hood Ward, 1973-1974
- Folder 9: New Building Expansion—Finance, 1973-1977
- Folder 10: New Building Expansion—Finance—Miscellaneous Receipts, 1971-1978
- Folder 11: New Building Expansion—Finance—Pledges—Correspondence, 1973-1978
- Folder 12: New Building Expansion—Finance—Pledges—Lists, 1973-1976

Rabbis

**Rabbi Emanuel Feldman (1927-)**

**Rabbi Ilan Feldman**

Presidents:

**Michael B. Feinerman (1938-)** served 1983

**Robert Maran (1924-)** served 1980-1982

**Louis Taratoot (1923-)** served 1979-1980

**Abe Esral (1931-)** served 1977-1979

**Neal Busch (1936-)** served 1975-1977

**Ben Rabinowitz (1928-2011)** served 1973-1975

**Ben Hirsch (1932-)** served 1971-1973, also Architect of Lavista Road building **Epstein & Hirsch Architects**

**Edwin Galler (1931-2006)** served 1970-1971, also Co-Chairman of Building Expansion Campaign

**Petty Bregman (1926-)** served 1969-1970, also Co-Chairman of Building Expansion Campaign

**Jack Hirsch (1931-2003)** served 1967-1969

**Larry Nager (1914-)** served 1963-1967

**Maurice Krieger (1914-)** served 1962-1963

**Morris Simberg (1920-1980)** served 1960-1962

**Sol Abrams (1905-1992)** served 1959-1960

**Ben Golden (1912-2007)** served 1958-1959

Others:

**Jack Berchenko (1910-2003)** Campaign Chairman of Lavista Road Building Fund

**Sol Krieger (1916-)** Building Fund Chairman of Lavista Road Building Fund

**Albert Moyer Wood (1914-2010)** decorator of 1855 Lavista Road building, **Albert Wood and Five Sons**

**Milton Hood Ward (1917-)** Consultant for fundraising Lavista Road building, **Milton Hood Ward and Co**

**Art Buchanan (19?-?)** Director of fundraising Lavista Road building, **Milton Hood Ward and Co**

**Senator Abraham Ribicoff (1910-1998)** honored at the dedication of Lavista Road building in 1962

**Tabernacle Baptist Church** Owners of synagogue building Boulevard, Northeast