

THE IDA PEARLE AND JOSEPH CUBA ARCHIVES AND GENEALOGY CENTER
OF
THE WILLIAM BREMAN JEWISH HERITAGE MUSEUM
1440 SPRING STREET
ATLANTA, GA 30309
(404) 873-1661

MANUSCRIPT COLLECTION

REGISTER:
RABBI HARRY H. EPSTEIN PAPERS

Mss. No.: 2

Processed by Sandra Berman
April 1986

Harry H. Epstein, Rabbi Emeritus of Congregation Ahavath Achim was the spiritual leader of that congregation for over 50 years. His early life was spent in Chicago, Illinois where his father, Ephraim, was the Chief Rabbi of the Orthodox community. At a young age, he, too, decided on a rabbinical career. His studies in pursuit of the ordination took him to the Slabodka Yeshiva in Lithuania in 1922 to study with his uncle, Rabbi Moshe Mordecai Epstein, and then to Hebron in Palestine to be one of that Yeshiva's first students.

Rabbi Epstein was ordained in 1925, and accepted his first pulpit at Congregation B'nai Emunah in Tulsa, Oklahoma in 1927. A year later, at the age of 25, Rabbi Epstein left Tulsa and assumed the rabbinate at Ahavath Achim in Atlanta.

Ahavath Achim was organized in 1886 as a small fundamentalist Orthodox congregation. Under the leadership and direction of Rabbi Epstein, it has evolved into one of the largest and respected Conservative congregations in the South. Rabbi Epstein introduced such innovations as interpreting the Hebrew liturgy to English at intervals during holiday service, conducting responsive readings in English, and the removal of the traditional segregation of the congregation by sexes. He also initiated an extensive educational program at the Synagogue, offering both Sunday and after school instruction.

An ardent Zionist, Rabbi Epstein is devoted to the State of Israel, working first to insure the creation of the state and then to insure its future.

The Rabbi Harry H. Epstein Papers, 1907-1984, are arranged alphabetically by Folder and chronologically within each Folder. The bulk of the collection relates to Rabbi Epstein's tenure at Ahavath Achim Congregation. There is also, however, much material relating to the Rabbi's academic career, his personal life, and his activities as a leading community figure in Atlanta and the South.

Restrictions: Available to the serious scholar

Number of containers: 22

Photographs: Removed to visual arts

Shelf space occupied: 8.8 linear feet

CONTAINER

- 1 Subject file, 1929-1983, Aca - Act, including academic course work and activities re. travels throughout South.
 - Folder 1: Academic Course Work-Biology, "The Philosophy of Evolution," 1931.
 - Folder 2: Academic Course Work-Correspondence Courses, Central School of Religion, 1952.
 - Folder 3: Academic Course Work-Correspondence Courses, Central School of Religion, 1952-1953.
 - Folder 4: Academic Course Work-Education, 1931.
 - Folder 5: Academic Course Work-English, The Blue Bird, 1931.
 - Folder 6: Academic Course Work-History, "The Influence of Arab Learning in Europe," 1930.
 - Folder 7: Academic Course Work-Philosophy, "The Nichomachean Ethic of Aristotle," 1931.
 - Folder 8: Academic Course Work-Philosophy, "Philosophy of Value," 1931.
 - Folder 9: Academic Course Work-Philosophy, "Studies in Contemporary Problems," 1932.
 - Folder 10: Academic Course Work-Religion, "Confucius-The Man and His Teachings," 1932.
 - Folder 11: Academic Course Work-Religion, "Jewish Mysticism," 1929.
 - Folder 12: Academic Course Work-Religion, "Psychology of Religion," 1931.
 - Folder 13: Academic Course Work-Religion, Report of Masters of Arts Thesis, "The Basis of Religious Certainty," ca. 1932.

Folder 14: Academic Course Work-Religion, "The Rise of Religious Sects During the Age of the Reformation," ca., 1931.

Folder 15: Activities (sermons, addresses) Augusta, Georgia, 1937-1940.

Folder 16: Activities-Birmingham, Alabama, 1929-1983.

CONTAINER

2 Subject file, 1927-1979, Act-Ah, including activities, sermons and addresses re travels throughout South; and A.A. records

Folder 1: Activities-Calhoun, Georgia, 1939.

Folder 2: Activities-Carrollton, Georgia, 1938.

Folder 3: Activities-Charlotte, North Carolina, 1940-1950.

Folder 4: Activities-Chattanooga, Tennessee, 1931-1957.

Folder 5: Activities-Chicago, Illinois, 1935-1967.

Folder 6: Activities-Cincinnati, Ohio, 1934.

Folder 7: Activities-Columbus, Georgia, 1932-1944.

Folder 8: Activities-Columbus, South Carolina, 1937-1939.

Folder 9: Activities-Dothan, Alabama, 1939.

Folder 10: Activities-Greenville, South Carolina, 1937-1951.

Folder 11: Activities-Griffin, Georgia, 1944-1953.

Folder 12: Activities-Jacksonville, Florida, 1939-1957.

Folder 13: Activities-Knoxville, Tennessee, 1949.

Folder 14: Activities-LaGrange, Georgia, 1945-1948.

Folder 15: Activities-Lakeland, Florida, 1957.

- Folder 16: Activities-Macon, Georgia, 1939-1965.
- Folder 17: Activities-Marietta, Georgia, 1950.
- Folder 18: Activities-Miami Beach, Florida, 1936-1969.
- Folder 19: Activities-Minneapolis, Minnesota, 1938-1942. (Kenesseth Israel Synagogue)
- Folder 20: Activities-Mobile, Alabama, 1951.
- Folder 21: Activities-Montgomery, Alabama, 1948-1956.
- Folder 22: Activities-Montreal, Quebec, Canada, 1962.
- Folder 23: Activities-New Orleans, Louisiana, 1935-1962.
- Folder 24: Activities-Pensacola, Florida, 1956 1961.
- Folder 25: Activities-Rome, Georgia, 1937-1975.
- Folder 26: Activities-St. Louis, Missouri, 1945.
- Folder 27: Activities-St. Petersburg, Florida, n.d.
- Folder 28: Activities-Savannah, Georgia, 1928-1958.
- Folder 29: Activities-Tulsa, Oklahoma, 1927.
- Folder 30: Addresses and radio broadcasts, 1926-1952 and undated.
- Folder 31: Agnon, Shmuel Yosef, 1966-1970.
- Folder 32: Ahavath Achim (A.A.)-Bulletin articles, "From Jerusalem Shalom," 1978-1979.
- Folder 33: A.A.-adult classes, Monday, 1963-1972.
- Folder 34: A.A.-adult classes, Sunday, 1963-1965.

Container

3 Subject file, 1932-1981, Ah including A.A. records.

- Folder 1: A.A.-annual and special meetings, 1936-1974.
- Folder 2: A.A.-Brotherhood, 1932-1954.
- Folder 3: A.A.-Educational Center, dedication, 1941.
- Folder 4: A.A.-history, 1954.
- Folder 5: A.A.-Northside Branch, 1935-1939.
- Folder 6: A.A.-Religious School, graduations, 1936-1981.
- Folder 7: A.A.-Sanctuary dedication, 1982-1983.
- Folder 8: A.A.-Sisterhood, 1937-1980.
- Folder 9: A.A.-Sisterhood, adult classes, 1957- 1979.
- Folder 10: A.A.-souvenir program, 1940.

Container

- 4 Subject file, 1924-1983, Ah-Be, including anti-Semitism, Bar & Bat Mitzvah, and articles.

- Folder 1: A.A.-souvenir program, 1953.
- Folder 2: Alpha Epsilon Pi, 1951.
- Folder 3: Anecdotes, 1929-1943.
- Folder 4: Anti-Semitism-reference, 1937-1965.
- Folder 5: Anti-Semitism-sermons and notes, undated.
- Folder 6: Arbitrations, 1928-1948.
- Folder 7: Article-"The Yeshiva in Slabodka," 1924.
- Folder 8: Articles-miscellaneous subjects and authors, 1927-1939.

- Folder 9: Assimilation-intermarriage, 1960-1964.
- Folder 10: Bar and Bat Mitzvah-talks and reflections, 1971-1973.
- Folder 11: Bat Mitzvah, 1941-1950 (includes first Bat Mitzvah at A.A., 1941).
- Folder 12: Ben-Gurion, David, 1966-1973.
- Folder 13: Bereshes (Genesis), undated.

Container

- 5. Subject file, 1926-1980, Bi-Ch, including Bible, Book Month, brotherhood, and Chanukah.

- Folder 1: Bible, 1928-1966.
- Folder 2: Bible-explanatory supplements. 1949-1955.
- Folder 3: B'nai B'rith, 1936-1940.
- Folder 4: Board of Trustees, 1963-1969.
- Folder 5: Book Month, 1969, 1980.
- Folder 6: Book reviews, 1940-1958.
- Folder 7: Brotherhood, 1944-1964.
- Folder 8: Chamish Asar B'Shevat (New Year for Trees), 1972-1977.
- Folder 9: Chanukah-reference, 1927-1980.
- Folder 10: Chanukah-sermons.

Container

- 6 Subject file, 1914-1974, Ch-Ei, including Chassidism, civil rights, democracy; and correspondence.

- Folder 1: Chassidism, 1944.
- Folder 2: Chevra Kadisha, 1935-1945.
- Folder 3: Church vs. state, 1961.
- Folder 4: Civic clubs, 1945.
- Folder 5: Civil rights, 1964.
- Folder 6: Clippings, 1946-1950.
- Folder 7: Columbus, Christopher, 1937-1950.
- Folder 8: Commission on Justice and Peace: Judaism and a Just and Enduring Peace, 1942-1944.
- Folder 9: Community Chest, 1931-1955.
- Folder 10: Conservative Judaism, 1954-1963.
- Folder 11: Conservative Judaism, 1964-1974.
- Folder 12: Correspondence-English, 1923-1959, 1985.
- Folder 13: Correspondence-Yiddish and Hebrew, 1925-1960.
- Folder 14: Dead Sea Scrolls, 1955-1956.
- Folder 15: Democracy (barbarism in Germany), 1938.
- Folder 16: "Development of Jewish Life" (series of lectures), 1935-36.
- Folder 17: Devorim (Deuteronomy), 1927 and undated, (includes first sermon as Rabbi of B'nai Emunah, Tulsa, Okla.)
- Folder 18: Devoted Sons of Israel, 1957.
- Folder 19: Dreams, 1914-1933.
- Folder 20: Education, 1932-1962.

Folder 21: Einstein, Albert, 1939.

Folder 22: Emory University, 1941-1959.

Container

7 Subject file, 1919-1982, Ep-Fr, including Epstein family, faith, and Friday night reference material.

Folder 1: Epstein, Ephraim, 1943-1960.

Folder 2: Epstein, Leah Davida, 1934-1957.

Folder 3: Epstein, Reva, 1922-1976.

Folder 4: Eulogies, 1919-1946,

Folder 5: Exodus, undated.

Folder 6: Faith, 1943.

Folder 7: Federal Prison-appointment, 1946-1951.

Folder 8: Free Loan Association, 1934-1943.

Folder 9: Friday night service-index, 1931-1982.

Folders 10-12: Friday night service-reference 1936-1960.

Container

8 Subject file, 1934-1965, Fr including Friday night sermons.

Folder 1: Friday night service-reference, 1961-1965.

Folder 2: Friday night service-reference, miscellaneous notes, 1952 and undated.

Folder 3: Friday night service-Sermon, "Let There Be Light," n. d.

Folders 4-10: Friday night service-sermons, 1934-1941.

Container

9. Subject file, 1941-1952. Fr including Friday night sermons.

Folders 1-12: Friday night service-sermons, 1941-1953.

Container

10 Subject file, 1953-1964, Fr including Friday night sermons.

Folders 1-11: Friday night service-sermons, 1954-1964.

Container

11 Subject file, 1964-1973, Fr including Friday night sermons.

Folders 1-9: Friday night service-sermons, 1964-1974.

Container

12 Subject file, 1921-1982, Fr-Hi including Hadassah and High Holiday reference material.

Folders 1-3: Friday night service-sermons, 1974-1982, 1984.

- Folder 4: Gaon, Rabbenu Saadia, 1941.
- Folder 5: Georgia School of Technology, 1939.
- Folder 6: Georgia State College, 1957.
- Folder 7: God, 1940-1965.
- Folder 8: The Golem, 1937.
- Folder 9: Ha'am, Achad, 1927-1942.
- Folder 10: Hachnasath Orchim, (Welcoming the Stranger), 1937
- Folder 11: Hadassah, 1936-1963,
- Folder 12: Hadassah, Jr. 1936, 1947.
- Folder 13: Halevi, Judah, 1940-1941.
- Folder 14: Haskalah, 1934.
- Folder 15: Hebrew Academy (Day School), 1950-1969.
- Folder 16: Herzl, Theodore, 1940-1960.
- Folder 17: High Holidays-articles by Rabbi Epstein, 1954-1981.
- Folders 18-19: High Holidays-reference, 1921-1948

Container

- 13 Subject File, ca. 1930-1964, Hi including High Holiday reference material.
- Folders 1-7: High Holidays-reference, ca. 1930-1964.

Container

14 Subject File, 1928-1968, Hi including High Holiday reference material and sermons.

Folder 1: High Holiday-reference, 1943-1964, (used for 1965 holiday season.)

Folders 2-3: High Holidays-reference, 1965-1968.

Folder 4: High Holidays-reference, intermarriage, 1963-1964.

Folder 5: High Holidays-reference, "Message of Israel," 1940-1964.

Folder 6- High Holidays-reference, Yiddish, undated.

Folders 7-9: High Holidays-sermons, 1928-1946.

Container

15 Subject file, 1947-1967, Hi including High Holiday sermons.

Folders 1-6: High Holidays-sermons, 1947-1967.

Container

16 Subject file, 1927-1985, Hi-Je including High Holiday sermons; and honors and awards.

Folder 1: High Holiday-sermons, 1968-1973.

Folder 2: High Holiday-sermons, Yiddish, 1930-1947.

Folder 3: High Holiday-Yom Kippur, reference, 1931-1939.

Folder 4: High Holiday-Yom Kippur, sermons, 1932-1948.

Folder 5: High Holidays-Yizkor, 1938.

- Folder 6: Hillel, 1936.
- Folder 7: Honors and awards, 1953-1982.
- Folder 8: Honors and awards-fiftieth anniversary celebration, 1977-1978.
- Folder 9: Honors and awards-Jewish Theological Seminary honorary degree, 1966.
- Folder 10: Hungarian Benevolent Association, 1935-1939.
- Folder 11: Immigration, 1940-41.
- Folder 12: Installation addresses-1935-1954.
- Folder 13: Israel Bonds, 1985.
- Folder 14: Jacobs, Rose, 1937.
- Folder 15: Jewish education, 1965.

Container

- 17 Subject file, 1907-1978, Je-Or including Jewish history, literature and music.
 - Folder 1: Jewish history, 1938-1961.
 - Folder 2: The Jewish Home. 1962.
 - Folder 3: Jewish humor, 1935-1942.
 - Folder 4: Jewish literature, 1927.
 - Folder 5: Jewish music, 1930-1967.
 - Folder 6: Jewish National Fund, 1935-1958.
 - Folder 7: The Jewish personality, 1930-1936.
 - Folder 8: Jewish War Veterans, 1937-1965.

- Folder 9: Jewish Welfare Fund-campaign, 1936-1938.
- Folder 10: Judaism and medicine, 1936.
- Folder 11: Judaism and science, undated.
- Folder 12: Judaism and United States history, 1938-1939, 1980.
- Folder 13: Labor, 1938-1971.
- Folder 14: Lag B'Omer, 1938.
- Folder 15: Lavin, Bennet B., 1965.
- Folder 16: Maimonides, 1935.
- Folder 17: Masonic lodges, 1940-1960.
- Folder 18: Memorabilia, 1907-1923. (includes ticket stubs and programs)
- Folder 19: "Message of Israel", 1940-1948.
- Folder 20: Messianism, 1914-1937.
- Folder 21: Mikveh, 1930-1935.
- Folder 22: Mizrachi, 1937-1970.
- Folder 23: Mussar (Salanter, Rabbi Israel), 1943.
- Folder 24: Newspaper clippings, 1927-1928.
- Folder 25: Or Veshalom, Atlanta, GA, 1953.

Container

- 18 Subject file, 1928-1982, Or-Pr, including Ort; and Passover sermons.
- Folder 1: Organization for Rehabilitation Through Training (ORT), 1960-1980.
- Folder 2: Passover-reference, 1940-1976.
- Folder 3: Passover-reference, 1931-1982.
- Folder 4: Passover-seder demonstrations, 1954, 1976.
- Folder 5: Passover-sermons, 1st. & 2nd days, 1931-1974.
- Folder 6: Passover-sermons, 7th. & 8th days, 1933-1976.
- Folder 7: Passover-sermons, Yiddish, 1930-1943.
- Folder 8: Passports, 1922-1924.
- Folder 9: Perez, I.L., 1935-1945.
- Folder 10: Pilpulim and hadranim, (Talmudic discourse), 1928-1944.
- Folder 11: Pioneer Women, 1942-1946.
- Folder 12: Postcards. 1926 and undated.
- Folder 13: Prayer (concept of), 1937-1956,

Container

- 19 Subject file, 1912-1983, Pr-Se including prayer, Purim and religion.
- Folder 1: Prayer-special services, 1939-1964.
- Folder 2: Progressive Club, 1940.
- Folder 3: Publication-Judaism and Progress, correspondence and related material, 1933-1950.

- Folder 4: Publication-Judaism and Progress, notes and Hebrew sources, undated.
- Folder 5: Publications-miscellaneous, 1912-1956.
- Folder 6: Purim, 1936-1981.
- Folder 7: Red Cross, 1942-1943.
- Folder 8: Religion, 1929-1969.
- Folder 9: Religion and life insurance, 1938.
- Folder 10: Retirement, 1939, 1978-1983.
- Folder 11: Sabbath, 1931-1940.
- Folder 12: Scrapbook, 1924-1927.
- Folder 13: Seform, Mendele Mocher (Mendele the bookseller), 1935.

Container

20 Subject file, 1927-1982, Se-Su, including Selichoth and weekly sermons.

- Folder 1: Selichoth, 1936-1963.
- Folder 2: Sermons, miscellaneous subjects, 1967-1975.
- Folder 3: Sermons-"The Revenge of Time," ca., 1929 and "The Jew and Progress," 1927.
- Folder 4: Sermons-weekly, 1937-1946.
- Folder 5: Sermons-weekly, Yiddish, 1935-1937.
- Folder 6: Sermons-weekly, 1960-1963.
- Folder 7: Sermons-weekly, 1963-1966.
- Folder 8: Sermons-weekly, 1966-1969.

- Folder 9: Sermons-weekly, 1969-1972
- Folder 10: Sermons-weekly, 1972-1975.
- Folder 11: Sermons-weekly, 1975-1978.
- Folder 12: Sermons-weekly, 1979-1980.
- Folder 13: Sermons-weekly and miscellany, n.d.
- Folder 14: Seventh Day Adventists, 1940.
- Folder 15: Shabbos Hagodol (The Great Sabbath), 1940-1949.
- Folder 16: Shavuos-reference, 1934-1962.

Container

- 21 Subject file, 1928-1982, Sh-Te, including Shavuos sermons and telegrams and cards.
 - Folder 1: Shavuos-sermons and programs, 1932-1982.
 - Folder 2: Shazar, Zalman, 1974.
 - Folder 3: Sokolow, Nahum, 1936.
 - Folder 4: Southeastern Synagogue Conference, 1944.
 - Folder 5: Spinoza, 1932.
 - Folder 6: Strauss, Nathan, 1931.
 - Folder 7: Succoth-reference, 1928-1981.
 - Folder 8: Succoth-sermons (1st. & 2nd. days and Shemini Azereth), 1935-1981.
 - Folder 9: Succoth-sermons, miscellaneous, 1932-1970.
 - Folder 10: Szold, Henrietta, 1933-1945.

- Folder 11: Tau Epsilon Phi Faternity, 1946.
- Folder 12: Teachers, 1952-1980.
- Folder 13: Telegrams, 1927-1947.
- Folder 14: Telegrams and cards-tenth anniversary, 1939.

Container

22 Subject File, 1929-1969, Te-Z, including United Synagogue of America and Zionist Organization of America.

- Folder 1: Temple Emanuel (Grand Rapids, Michigan)-bulletin, 1960-1963.
- Folder 2: Ten lost tribes, 1937.
- Folder 3: United Synagogue of America, 1956-1964.
- Folder 4: Verse (Yiddish), undated.
- Folder 5: WAGA T.V., 1961-1969.
- Folder 6: World War II, 1942.
- Folder 7: Yad Vashem, undated.
- Folder 8: Zionism (includes paper by Reva Epstein), 1929-1944.

Container

23 Scrapbooks, 3 volumes, 1924-1965 (Oversize)

SB. 4
Corrected and updated 7/96, 9/97.