

THE IDA 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 Nathan Kohen Papers

Processed by Sandra Berman
September 2002

Mss 68

Rabbi Nathan Kohen (1908-1975) was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. His first rabbinate was at Keneseth Israel in Monessen, Pennsylvania. In 1945 he accepted the pulpit at the Fitzgerald Hebrew Congregation in Fitzgerald, Georgia where he stayed for the next 25 years. Rabbi Kohen's unique ministry included the Jewish population that resided in over 30 small, rural towns whose closest spiritual center was the Fitzgerald synagogue. Jewish families or perhaps just one individual would travel 40 or 50 miles to worship or for activities that were held by the congregation.

The Holidays attracted people not only from the neighboring towns of Ocilla, Tifton, Cordele, Douglas and Hawkensville, but from Macon and Atlanta. Elaborate Hanukkah productions were performed; Passover community seders were held; and Confirmation services were conducted. Fitzgerald resident Abe Kruger assisted the Rabbi and performed as Cantor.

In 1966 the congregation awarded Rabbi Kohen and his wife Beatrice with a trip to Israel. On his death in 1975 he bequeathed his extensive library to the University of Georgia.

Rabbi Nathan L. Kohen Papers, 1938-1875, consist of correspondence, newsletters and programs from the Fitzgerald Hebrew Congregation and sermons. Of special interest are the sermons that shed insight into the man who led a small town Jewish pulpit in the deep south for over 25 years. The collection is arranged in alphabetical order by subject and chronologically within each folder.

Restrictions:	Available to serious scholars.
Number of Containers:	3
Oversize:	1 certificate removed to oversize collection
Shelf space occupied:	1 cubic foot

Container

1 Files, B'nai B'rith-Sermons, 1938-1974.

Folder 1: B'nai B'rith – Southwest Georgia Lodge No. 1338, 1950.

Folder 2: Certificates and programs, 1960-1973.

Folder 3: Correspondence, 1938-1971.

Folder 4: Fitzgerald Hebrew Congregation – newsletters, 1947-1973.

Folder 5: Fitzgerald Hebrew Congregation – programs, invitations, calendars, 1949-1974.

Folder 6: Fitzgerald Hebrew Congregation – scripts, 1967 and undated.

Folder 7: Independent Rabbinat of America – directory, undated.

Folder 8: Keneseth Israel, Monessen, Pennsylvania – newsletters, 1943-1945.

Folder 9: Newspaper articles, 1942-1976.

Folder 10: Obituaries and memorial, 1975.

Folder 11: Sermons and speeches, 1940-1941.

Folder 12: Sermons and speeches, 1941-1945.

Container

2 Files, Sermons and speeches, 1946-1956.

Folder 1: Sermons and speeches, c.1940-1945.

Folder 2: Sermons and speeches, 1946-1949.

Folder 3: Sermons and speeches, 1949-1950.

Folder 4: Sermons and speeches, 1950-1953.

Folder 5: Sermons and speeches, 1953-1956.

Container

3 Files, Sermons and speeches, 1957-1978.

Folder 1: Sermons and speeches, 1957-1972.

Folder 2: Sermons and speeches, undated.

Folder 3: Sermons and speeches - incomplete, undated.

Folder 4: Sermons and speeches – incomplete, undated.

Folder 5: Sermons and speeches – incomplete, undated.

Folder 6: Sermons and speeches – inventory, 1948-1949.

Folder 7: Southeastern School of Fine Arts and Creative Education, 1978.