

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

MANUSCRIPT COLLECTION

REGISTER: SHEARITH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE
COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

Processed by Sandra Berman

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Mss. No. 92

Shearith Israel Synagogue was founded in 1892 in Columbus, Georgia, by approximately fifteen Jewish families of Eastern European origin. For the first twenty years, members of the synagogue congregated in various vacant buildings, rooms and member's homes. In 1913, Shearith Israel moved to its first permanent home with the building of a synagogue structure in downtown Columbus on First Avenue and 7th Street. Throughout the 1900s, the synagogue grew from the original fifteen founders to the current membership of over 100 families.

The 1950s marked a time of considerable growth for Shearith Israel. The arrival of Rabbi Kassel Abelson in 1952 coincided with the congregation's move to a larger and more modern building. At this time, the congregation also became affiliated with United Synagogue of America and became active in the Conservative movement. As a result, Shearith Israel's United Synagogue Youth (USY) chapter became extremely active within the congregation and the entire southeast region. The sisterhood also gained momentum with assistance and guidance from the Women's League of Conservative Judaism.

Throughout the ensuing decades, Shearith Israel continued to evolve and develop from its humble beginning in 1892. Over the years, the synagogue has retained an important presence as a conservative Jewish congregation despite its location in a predominantly non-Jewish southern environment.

Shearith Israel Synagogue Records, 1915-1997, are arranged in alphabetical order by subject and chronologically within each folder. The collection consists of correspondence, minutes, financial records, bulletins, newsletters, and membership records. The social historian interested in the growth and development of both secular and spiritual Jewish life in the South will find this collection of special interest.

Restrictions: Available to the serious scholar

Number of containers: 4

Photographs and slides and 8mm film: Transferred to the Visual Arts Collection

Oversize: Flat items transferred to Oversize Collection

Shelf space occupied: 1.6 cubic feet

Container

1

General files, A-C, 1946-1997

Folder 1: Annual meetings – reports and related material, 1960-1997.

Folder 2: Bulletins, 1946-1987.

Folder 3: Bulletins, 1988-1990.

Folder 4: Confirmation – programs and related material , 1956-1973.

Folder 5: Constitutions, by-laws, and resolutions, 1958-1986.

Folder 6: Correspondence, 1950-1959.

Folder 7: Correspondence, 1962-1961.

Container

2

General files, E-M, 1932-1988

Folder 1: Education and youth survey, undated.

Folder 2: Financial records, 1957-1987.

Folder 3: Graduation – programs, 1975-1987.

Folder 4: Histories, 1972-1980.

Folder 5: Invitations, 1986-1988.

Folder 6: Membership – applications, B-W, 1961-1976.

Folder 7: Membership –dues, 1976.

Folder 8: Memorial fund, undated.

Folder 9: Minutes, 1932-1960.

Folder 10: Minutes, 1961-1962.

Folder 11: Minutes, 1963-1969.

Folder 12: Minutes, 1973-1976.

Folder 13: Minutes, 1976-1979.

Container

3

Subject file, M-U, 1929-1991

Folder 1: Minutes, 1980-1986.

Folder 2: Minutes, 1987-1991.

Folder 3: Miscellany, 1961.

Folder 4: Newspaper clippings, 1929-1970.

Folder 5: Officers and board members, 1961.

Folder 6: Publications including newsletters and brochures, 1943-1991.

Folder 7: Productions and plays, 1956-1969.

Folder 8: Rules and regulations, undated.

Folder 9: Sisterhood – minutes, directory, and related material, 1956-1966.

Folder 10: Soviet Jewry – proclamation, 1972.

Folder 11: Speeches, sermons and reports, 1977.

Folder 12: United Synagogue Youth Southeast Region-Columbus Chapter – minutes, 1960-1961.

Oversize Folder

Broadside – “First Annual Ball,” 1915

Resolution honoring Rabbi Alfred L. Goodman of Temple Israel, 1975.

Newspaper and magazine article, 1970 and undated (encapsulated)