

THE IDA PEARLE AND JOSEPH CUBA ARCHIVES AND GENEALOGY CENTER
OF
THE WILLIAM BREMAN JEWISH HERITAGE MUSEUM
1441 SPRING STREET
ATLANTA, GA 30309
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MANUSCRIPT COLLECTION

REGISTER: Temple B'nai Israel /
Albany Hebrew Congregation

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MSS. No. 164

Temple B'nai Israel has been a Reform congregation since its founding in 1854 and was a charter member of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, now the Union for Reform Judaism.

In 1845-46, only ten years after the founding of Albany, three pioneer Jewish families settled there. The first families in Albany were from German extraction. In January 1854, a petition was filed in the Inferior Court of Dougherty County to incorporate the United Hebrew Society of Albany. The fourteen-year charter was granted for the purpose of purchasing property to build a synagogue, exercising religious worship according to their faith, and establishing a burial ground. In 1858, the original Jewish cemetery lot was purchased, as Jews were not allowed to be buried in the public cemetery at that time.

During this period the congregation did not have its own house of worship and services were held in the Mayer Building and the Welch Building, both at Broad Avenue and Washington Street. The Albany congregation was chartered in 1876. In 1882, the first temple was built at the corner of Jefferson and Broad Streets, followed in 1886 by a building on the corner of Jefferson Street and Oglethorpe Boulevard. On March 24, 1996, the congregation broke ground for a new facility at the corner of Gillionville Road and Weymouth Drive. The new temple, was dedicated in May 1999.

In 1898, the first permanent rabbi, Dr. Edmund A Landau, Sr., was hired. He was succeeded by Rabbis Martin Hinchin Kaplan, and Joseph Freedman. Following Rabbi Freedman, were Charles Lessor, David Zalonka and William Cohen. In 1987, Dr. E. E. "Zeke" Palnick moved to Albany from Little Rock, Arkansas. Rabbi Palnick retired in June, 1999, and served as Rabbi Emeritus until he passed away in 2005. Rabbi Dana Evan Kaplan came for the High Holy Days in 2001 and now serves as full time rabbi.

Temple B'nai Israel continues the tradition of providing a welcoming center for the Jewish community of southwest Georgia, making the community a better place for everyone to live.

Temple B'nai Israel / Albany Hebrew Congregation Records, 1861-1999, are composed primarily of the minutes and financial records relating to the daily activities of this congregation. This collection is arranged in alphabetical order by subject and chronologically within each folder. The researcher interested in the daily operations of building a new synagogue, general daily operations and the work of a Rabbi will find this collection of special interest.

Restrictions: Available to the serious scholar.

Number of containers : 2

Oversize flat items: none

Photographs: none

Shelf space occupied: .5 cubic feet

CONTAINER

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- Folder 1: Board meeting - minutes, 1994.
- Folder 2: Board meeting - minutes, 1995.
- Folder 3: Board meeting - minutes, 1996.
- Folder 4: Board meeting - minutes, 1997.
- Folder 5: Board meeting - minutes, 1998.
- Folder 6: Board meeting - minutes, 1999.
- Folder 7: Congregation Beth EL in LaGrange, GA, undated..
- Folder 8: Constitution, 1998.
- Folder 9: Contract for Purchase and Sale, undated.
- Folder 10: Cornerstone documents, Albany Council No. 5, 1895.
- Folder 11: Cornerstone documents, Albany, Georgia – city officials, 1896.
- Folder 12: Cornerstone documents, Albany, Georgia – History of Jewish Life by Rabbi Edmund A. Landau, 1941.
- Folder 13: Cornerstone documents, Albany - Guards – Roll, 1896.
- Folder 14: Cornerstone documents, building committee, 1941.
- Folder 15: Cornerstone documents, Confederate paper money, 1861 – 1864.
- Folder 16: Cornerstone documents, Confirmation class rosters, 1898 – 1940.
- Folder 17: Cornerstone documents, Equitable Building and Loan Association, Association of Albany, 1896.
- Folder 18: Cornerstone documents, Free and Accepted Masons – Albany Lodge – Membership, 1896.
- Folder 19: Cornerstone documents, Free and Accepted Masons – Albany Lodge – Officers, 1896.
- Folder 20: Cornerstone documents, Free and Accepted Masons, State of Georgia – Constitution, 1878.
- Folder 21: Cornerstone documents, Grand officers, 1896.

- Folder 22: Cornerstone documents, Hebrew Benevolent Society – officers and members, 1941.
- Folder 23: Cornerstone documents, Hebrew Sabbath School – Students, 1896.
- Folder 24: Cornerstone documents, Hofmayer, Jones and Company, 1896.
- Folder 25: Cornerstone documents, Knights of Pitheus – Albany Lodge, 1896.
- Folder 26: Cornerstone documents, Knights of Pitheus – Artesian Lodge – membership list, 1896.
- Folder 27: Cornerstone documents, membership list, 1941.
- Folder 28: Cornerstone documents, Independent Order B’nai B’rith – Micha Lodge – officers and members, 1896.
- Folder 29: Cornerstone documents, officers and building committee members, 1896.
- Folder 30: Cornerstone documents, speech, 1940.
- Folder 31: Cornerstone documents, Sabbath School – teachers, 1896.
- Folder 32: Cornerstone documents, Sisterhood officers and members, 1940.
- Folder 33: Correspondence, 1982 – 1999.
- Folder 34: Financial Reports, 1996.
- Folder 35: Financial Reports, 1996.
- Folder 36: Financial Reports, 1997.

CONTAINER

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- Folder 1: Financial Reports, 1998.
- Folder 2: Financial Reports, 1999
- Folder 3: Hebrew Ladies Benevolent Society, 1981 - 1982
- Folder 4: Lutz, Harry ,1958 – 1991.
- Folder 5: Lutz, Harry Jr. 1960.
- Folder 6: Maschke, David President, 1995 – 1998.
- Folder 7: Mekel, Counsul General Arye, Bio, 1995.
- Folder 7: Membership, undated.
- Folder 9: Rabbi’s Report to Temple Board, 1995 – 1998.
- Folder 10: Standard Form of Agreement Between Owner and Architect, 1987.
- Folder 11: Temple B’nai Israel Religious School, 1996 – 1997.
- Folder 12: Temple Hadashot, 1990 – 1994.
- Folder 13: Union of American Hebrew Congregation, undated.