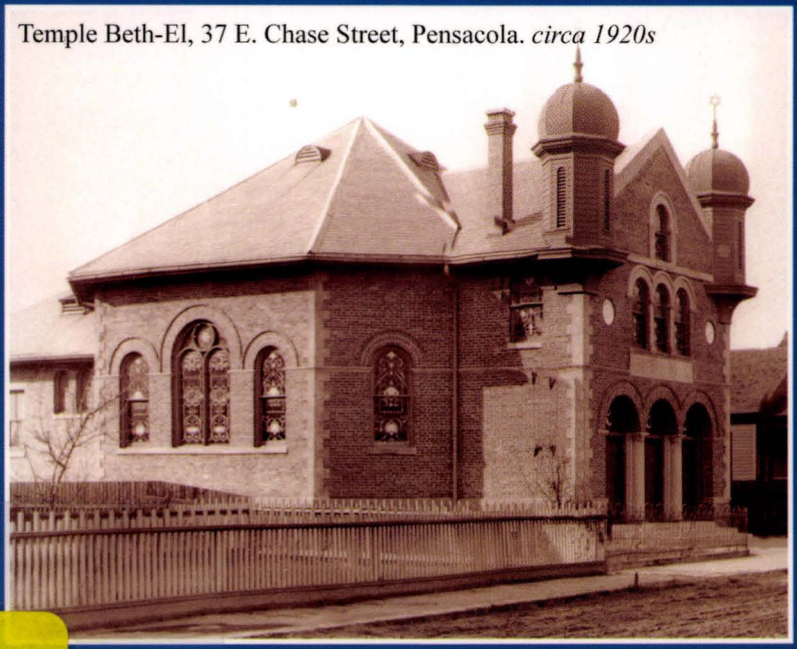
A HISTORY OF TEMPLE BETH-EL PENSACOLA, FL



Temple Beth-El, 37 E. Chase Street, Pensacola. *circa 1920s*

1876-1990

JANEL D. HENDRIX

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of Greater Washington
Reference Only
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A History of Temple Beth-El Pensacola, FL

1876-1990

By Janel D. Hendrix

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Cover Photo:
Temple Beth-El, Pensacola, FL, 37 East Chase Street. c. 1920s
©Deborah Dunlap's Historic Pensacola

Back Cover Photo:
Temple Beth-El, Pensacola, FL, 800 North Palafox Street c. 1993

Since its earliest days, Reform Judaism has asserted that a Judaism frozen in time is an heirloom, not a living fountain. The great contribution of Reform Judaism is that it has enabled the Jewish people to introduce innovation while preserving tradition, to embrace diversity while asserting commonality, to affirm beliefs without rejecting those who doubt, and to bring faith to sacred texts without sacrificing critical scholarship.

- Union for Reform Judaism Website
www.rj.org

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Temple Beth-El Collection

The dedication of Temple Beth-El's presidents plaque, June, 1994. This plaque hangs in the temple's Max L. Bear Auditorium. Former Temple Beth-El presidents include: (left to right) Richard Cole-1955, Louis Rosenbloum-1987, "Chip" Merritt-1993, George Wagenheim-1962 and 1975, Robert H. Kahn Jr.-1973, Harry D. Kahn-1954 and 1971, Fred Seligman-1981, Myron Rosenthal-1985, Dr. Charles Kraselsky-1983, Dr. William Zimmern-1991, and Lewis "Buddy" Pollak-1977.

Foreword

We are members of the last generation who remember the stories about our great-grandparents. They moved to Pensacola shortly after the Civil War and helped found Temple Beth-El. We felt it incumbent upon ourselves to preserve Pensacola's Jewish history as best we could, by recording events that occurred in our temple's history during the past one hundred and twenty-eight years.

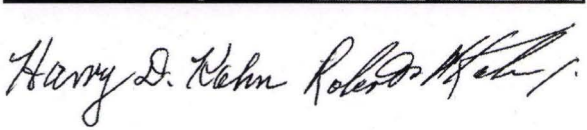
We would like to thank Nancy Fetterman, Coordinator of Research Programs for the University of West Florida Center for Public History and Heritage Studies, whose efforts in providing videos of the temple's World War II veterans stimulated our own efforts. Nancy was also gracious enough to recommend a public historian, Janel D. Hendrix, to write Temple Beth-El's history.

This history is published through the generosity of the Elise Bear and William D. Pollak Family Foundation, Lewis Bear Jr., Jack Kugelman, Dr. Charles Kahn, Dr. Bert Dannheisser Jr., Matt Dannheisser, Rodney Rich, Myron Rosenthal, Harry D. Kahn, and Robert H. Kahn Jr.

Harry D. Kahn and Robert H. Kahn Jr.



Rosann Kahn Mann



Acknowledgments

When this project began, over a year and a half ago, I knew very little about Reform Judaism and Pensacola's Temple Beth-El congregation. I moved to Pensacola in 2000 after recieving a Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of Southern California. In the fall of 2000, I began attending the University of West Florida. In 2002, I recieved a Master of Arts in Public History with an emphasis on oral history and archiving. My training through the university's Public History program prepared me to dive head first into any project that came my way. By using a variety of skills including: collecting oral histories, researching, writing, editing, design, and photography, I have done my best to accurately record the history of Temple Beth-El and its congregation.

That being said, I could not have completed this project without the support of countless individuals. First and foremost I would like to thank Harry D. Kahn and Robert H. Kahn Jr. for securing the funding for this project. Without their wisdom, patience, and persistence this project would never have been completed. To get the project underway, Harry and Bobby provided names of congregation members whose families could be traced back to the temple's beginnings. Everyone I contacted made themselves readily available for questioning about their family's history and their own personal recollections of temple life. Without these family histories, information about the temple's early years would have been nearly impossible to uncover due to multiple fires and the subsequent loss of early records.

Another invaluable help was Kathy Scheid, the temple secretary, who allowed me access to the temple and its archives. She was always there to answer questions. On the off chance that she didn't know the answer, she would always point me in the direction of someone who would. She was also willing to get her hands dirty, helping Harry Kahn uncover the missing 1946 to 1970 board meeting minutes by rummaging through the temple's old storage rooms. The information in those board minutes proved to be a gold mine, and the book would not have been the same without them.

I would also like to thank my husband, Charlie Hendrix, for

supporting me through this entire process. I have spent many nights secluded away in our computer room, typing, editing, and laying out the book. He was always there when I needed an extra set of eyes to look over a recent draft and I used his experience as an editor and designer to my advantage by continually pestering him with questions about layout and grammar. I could never thank him enough.

Of course, this book could not have been completed without the help of Rabbi David E. Ostrich, Temple Beth-El's Rabbi; Marcia Zerivitz, Executive Director of the Jewish Museum of Florida in Miami Beach; and various Temple Beth-El congregation members who helped provide information and photographs.

Special thanks go out to the following people for their family histories: Claire Ades, Thelma and Richard Cohn, Dr. Bert and Joyce Dannheisser Jr., Dr. Charles and Bettie Kahn, Harry D. Kahn, Robert H. Kahn Jr., Pat and Hal Marcus Jr., Taris Savell, Ann and Harold Schops, Jane Starr and Fred Seligman, and Amelia and George Wagenheim. These interviews provided the base for the book.

Special thanks go out to the following people who helped with grammar and editing: Nancy Fetterman, Tasia Hane, Suzanne Kahn, Rosann Kahn Mann, Dr. Patrick K. Moore, Rabbi David E. Ostrich, and Marcia Zerivitz. Each brought their own expertise to the process and provided important input for the final project.

Lastly, special thanks go out to the following people who donated photographs for use in the book: Claire Ades, Thelma and Richard Cohn, Dr. Bert and Joyce Dannheisser Jr., Deborah Dunlap's Historic Pensacola, the Jewish Musuem of Florida, Dr. Charles and Bettie Kahn, Rosann Kahn Mann, Taris Savell, Ann and Harold Schops, and Amelia and George Wagenheim. The photographs provide a unique look at Pensacola and Temple Beth-El throughout the last century.

Because of the limited resources, this is by no means a complete history. However, this is a starting point that I hope others will expand upon.

- Janel D. Hendrix

Preface

A Brief History of Reform Judaism
by Rabbi David E. Ostrich

Judaism is a religion that dates back some 4000 years to the Biblical figures, Abraham and Sarah. Throughout the centuries Judaism has taken several different forms as it has adapted its eternal truths to changing times and situations. While God is presumably the same, people are not, and therefore the ways that people understand and relate to God must change and develop.

Reform Judaism is the latest adaptation of the ancient and continuing Jewish religion. It dates back to 1810 in Germany, where Jews were challenged by the freedom of the modern world. Whereas traditional Judaism had developed in a parochial environment in which Jews were not allowed to take part in the general society, modernity opened the gates of the ghettos, and Jews were faced with an interesting challenge. How does one maintain traditional ways and also participate in an emancipated, open society? Many Jews saw the question differently. Some left Judaism completely, and others retreated into the past, erecting social and religious barriers to protect them from the non-Jewish world. The early Reformers, however, believed that it would be possible to live in both worlds: the world of traditional Judaism and the contemporary world of tolerance and multicultural social participation.

Reform Judaism has been the ongoing adapting response of this middle group. Services were conducted not only in the traditional Hebrew, but also in the vernacular of the country. In Germany it was German, and in America it was English, and, soon, both translations of traditional Hebrew prayers and new prayers in the vernacular were composed and incorporated into Reform Jewish worship. The traditional prayer clothing (prayer shawls and skullcaps) were made optional, reflecting the current attitude that encourages each person to make his or her own judgments about how best to approach God. As society worked toward gender equality, Reform Judaism followed, making men and women equal in worship and in communal leadership opportunities. Social justice, in all of its

dimensions, became of great concern as Jewish leaders realized that the Prophets' insistence of justice and righteousness needed to be expressed in the whole society, not just in the Jewish community. To this very day, one of Reform Judaism's hallmarks is its involvement in efforts to "feed the hungry, heal the sick, free the captive" and to bring about the day when "justice will well up as waters, and righteousness like a mighty stream."

The Reform Movement in Judaism has evolved and developed for almost 200 years and represents a continuing approach to modernity's unique challenge. Not only can Reform Jews continue the timeless essence of Jewish worship and values, but, Reform Judaism also teaches that we can live fully in the present world, bringing modernity to Judaism and Judaism's holiness to the modern world. Today the Reform Movement in Judaism is the largest denomination or stream in the Jewish world, and Temple Beth-El is very representative of this movement. Our worship services are inspiring and spiritually elevating. Our Torah study goes deep and draws us closer to God and godly ways. Our Sisterhood, the Women of Reform Judaism, supports the temple and does important work in the community. Our Religious School is piloting a curriculum from the Institute for Southern Jewish Life, a curriculum that emphasizes traditional Jewish values and our obligations to help with *tikkun olam*, the perfection of the world. Our members study Judaism in adult education and commit themselves to a variety of social justice projects.

Jews are taught that the three pillars of a good life are Torah, worship, and deeds of loving kindness. Temple Beth-El works to keep each pillar standing firm.

PENSACOLA'S TIMELINE

1559 Don Tristan De Luna settles Pensacola in the name of Spain.

1561 Settlement of Pensacola is abandoned after being destroyed by a hurricane.

1698 Spain resettles Pensacola.

1719 France takes over rule of Pensacola.

1722 Spain regains rule of Pensacola.

1763 Britain takes over rule of Pensacola, first Jews arrive.

1781 The second Spanish period begins and Spain once again rules Pensacola. Jews slowly begin to immigrate to Florida.

1810 Reform Judaism begins in Europe after the Enlightenment.

1821 Florida becomes a United States Territory on March 12, and Andrew Jackson takes over as Governor, creating a government in Pensacola.

1845 Florida becomes a state on July 4.

1861 Florida secedes from the Union. During the Civil War, Pensacola's city government is moved to Greenville, Alabama.

1869 Simerall Moses Goldbach of Pensacola donated land to create a Jewish cemetery in Pensacola. The cemetery is located on Cervantes Street, between Q and R Streets.

1874 Nineteen members are installed into the Alpha Lodge No. 219 chapter of B'nai B'rith in Pensacola. Pensacola's chapter is the first in the state of Florida.

1876 Ten families found Temple Beth-El, the first Jewish congregation chartered in Florida.

1878 Temple Beth-El's congregation erects its first building, a wooden structure, at 37 East Chase Street.

1889 Temple Beth-El and its twenty families join the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. The Young Hebrew Ladies Benevolent Aid Society, also known as the Junior Guild, organizes in October.

1891 On May 3, the Junior and Senior Guilds of the temple join together to become the Ladies Benevolent Aid Society.

1892 The temple employs its first rabbi, Adolph Rosenberg.

1895 Fire destroys Temple Beth-El's first building.

1896 Temple Beth-El's congregation erects a second building, a brick structure, on the same spot as the original building, at 37 East Chase Street. It is dedicated in April.

1907 The Ladies Benevolent Aid Society becomes the Temple Beth-El Guild.

1921 Temple Beth-El Guild becomes the Sisterhood of Temple Beth-El when the group joins the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods.

1926 Temple Beth-El celebrates its 50th anniversary.

1929 On December 17, Temple Beth-El's second building burns. Although the temple structure is not destroyed, the congregation decides to build a new temple at the corner of Cervantes and Palafox Streets.

1931 On June 1, the congregation lays the corner stone for the third temple located at 800 N. Palafox St. The temple held its dedication services from November 27 through November 29.

1946 The Temple Sisterhood celebrates its 25th anniversary on January 7.

1953 Temple Beth-El celebrates its 75th anniversary on November 15.

1960 Temple Beth-El builds a Religious School building with nine classrooms, adjacent to the temple Building.

1962 Paula Herschkovitz Ackerman serves as the Spiritual Leader for an interim period at Temple Beth-El, after first serving at Temple Beth Israel in Meridian, Mississippi. Although not ordained, she is the first woman in the United States to serve as a rabbi.

1971 The Temple Sisterhood celebrates its 50th anniversary on February 6.

1976 Temple Beth-El celebrates its 100th anniversary from April 23 through April 25.

1988 Temple Beth-El honors Rabbi N. William Schwartz for serving 25 years as the congregation's rabbi.

1990 The MOSAIC exhibit opens in September at the Historical Museum of Southern Florida, located at 101 W. Flagler St. in Miami. The Exhibit travels for four years to 13 Florida cities including Pensacola.The exhibit now resides permanently in the Jewish Museum of Florida located in Miami Beach.

1993 Temple Beth-El's building undergoes a massive renovation costing nearly $500,000.00

2001 Temple Beth-El celebrates its 125th anniversary with a celebration dinner on May 12. The temple and the Florida Department of State erect a marker at the spot of the original temple, located at 37 East Chase Street between Jefferson and Tarragona Streets.



Janel D. Hendrix

Interior of Temple Beth-El's Sanctuary . Photo taken from balcony. 2004

Chapter 1
History of Pensacola
1559-1840

Don Tristan De Luna, along with a few thousand Spanish settlers, established Pensacola in 1559. After two years of hardship, a hurricane forced De Luna to abandon the settlement. It wasn't until 1698 that Spain resettled the area known as Pensacola. This new settlement shifted loyalties with the political winds of Europe, bouncing between various owners, from Spain to France to England and back again as the countries sought to protect the harbor and its trade routes.

Today Pensacola is known as the City of Five Flags. These Flags represent Spain, France, England, the United States of America, and the Confederacy. Pensacola celebrates its heritage each year with numerous events sponsored by the Fiesta of Five Flags, the highlight of which is the annual coronation of Don Tristan De Luna and his queen.

Throughout Pensacola's history, immigrants of varying nationalities and religions have come to the city. Both Spain and France controlled the settlement at Pensacola for over one hundred years, however, records do not show any Jewish settlers in Pensacola until the British regime took control of the settlement in 1763. Under British rule, Jews enjoyed the religious freedom granted to all inhabitants. Joseph de Palacios, Samuel Israel, and Alexander Solomons, all Jews, arrived in Pensacola from New Orleans in 1763. Isaac Monsanto came to Pensacola during the British regime after being expelled from New Orleans "for the reason that he is undesirable on account of his religion." England remained in control of Pensacola until 1781, at which point Spain regained the settlement.

Palacios, Israel, Solomons and Monsanto are not listed in the Pensacola census information gathered during the second Spanish period between 1781 and 1821. Throughout this period very few Jews remained in the Pensacola area because most of the Spanish inhabitants practiced Catholicism.

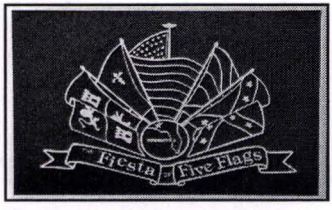
Florida became a territory of the United States on March 12, 1821 and Andrew Jackson established the territorial government in Pensacola. Jewish immigration to Florida increased and by the time Florida achieved statehood on July 4, 1845, there were forty Jewish families living in the state. David Levy Yulee, a Jewish representative to Congress from the territory of Florida, pushed for Florida to become a state. He later became Florida's first United States senator.

For years, Pensacolians dreamed that their city would become a great center of southern trade and commerce. In reality the economy grew slowly and depended on industrial and military support. Nevertheless, Pensacola's population grew with the promise of wealth from the ever-expanding lumber business. This growth continued to bring Jewish families to Northwest Florida and to the Pensacola area.



Charles Hendrix

Five Flags Plaza located at the corner of Gregory and Bayfront Parkway near downtown Pensacola. Flags shown left to right: United States, Confederate, Great Britain, France, and Spain.

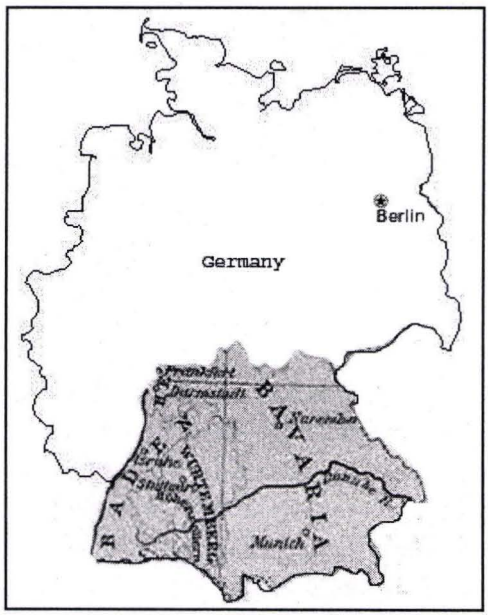


Charles Hendrix

Fiesta of Five Flags Plaque at Five Flags Plaza.

Chapter 2
Influx of Jewish Immigrants 1840-1869

While the United States was continually changing in the mid 1800s, Western Europe was also changing. European turmoil and religious persecution continued throughout the early 1800s and by 1840 German Jews began to fight for equal rights. Their fight soon became a fight for their lives, as perpetual talks of a political union under a strong central government began in the Ruhr Valley. Within a short time, Germany began a program of universal conscription, with Jewish males targeted first. The Germans also instituted population control laws in which Jews were given only one marriage license per family. For the next sixty years, German Jews feared for their safety and continually immigrated to the United States.



1871 Map of Germany with Bavaria highlighted.

This emigration caused the Jewish presence to grow in Pensacola before the Civil War. Often, a male Jewish pioneer came to America alone. Jewish frontiersmen looked for relatives and "old country" contacts in order to maintain familiar customs and kin networks. Even without synagogues and rabbis, the Jewish immigrants maintained a commitment to their religion and their lifestyle.[1]

According to Genesis 1:28, making a home and rearing a family are among the most important tenets for Jews. The early male Jewish settlers often traveled back to the motherland in order to find wives to bring to America. Once word had spread about a safe haven in America, other family members would often follow. From generation to generation, many Jewish families grew and prospered in Pensacola, creating and sharing the city's success and becoming an integral part of its cultural fabric.

The Civil War

In 1861, Florida seceded from the Union and joined the Confederacy. By 1862, southern forces prepared to relinquish their hold on Pensacola. During this time, with permission from Governor E. A. Perry, the local board of aldermen moved the city government to Greenville, Alabama. Most of the town's residents followed suit leaving only a handful of people in Pensacola. When the Civil War ended in 1865, Pensacola's residents slowly returned and began rebuilding their homes and businesses.

By the late 1860s, Pensacola's railroad and port activity began expanding as a result of the lumber trade with Europe. Pensacola was on the verge of becoming a bustling city thanks to her deep-water port, railroad connections and expansive forests of yellow pine. With its offering of so many economic opportunities, the city continued to attract new Jewish immigrant families. The following family histories discuss the lives of those Jewish immigrants who helped found Temple Beth-El in Pensacola. Each family came to Pensacola and the surrounding area for different reasons and each made a distinct impact on both the temple's history and Pensacola's history. Most founding families still have descendants who continue

to be members of the temple and civic leaders in town. Such families include the Forcheimer, Levy, Marx Dannheisser, and Kahn Families. The Bear family, a later arrival, was also very influential in Temple and civic leadership.

Forcheimer Family[2]

The four Forcheimer brothers, Gerson, Emanuel, Abraham and Simon arrived in the South via New Orleans. All four were born in Germany. In 1861, Gerson, and his brother Abraham, established A. & G. Forcheimer, a general store in Milton, Florida, a community accessible to Pensacola by water. Unlike the citizens of Pensacola, the citizens of Milton did not evacuate their town during the Civil War. A. & G. Forcheimer continued business throughout the Civil War, often accepting scrip as payment for goods or services rendered. The Bagdad Land and Lumber Company paid its workers in scrip and the Forcheimer's would accept scrip when bartering with the workers.



Dannheisser Collection

Fifty cent piece of scrip given out by A.& G. Forcheimer

Gerson met and married Bertha Goldstucker, sister to Otto and Adolph Goldstucker, of Pensacola. He and Bertha had seven children: Frances, born 1866; Estelle 1869; Nathan 1870; Cora 1872; Edward 1875; Eva 1878; and Bennie 1880.

In 1869, Gerson moved his family to Pensacola and opened a wholesale grocery and dry-goods store in the Byrne Building on South Palafox Street and across from Plaza Ferdinand. Gerson and his family became leading figures in the emerging Jewish community. His daughter Estelle Forcheimer married German immigrant David Dannheisser in 1886. His son Nathan Forcheimer

operated the Boston Shoe Store at 117 South Palafox Street. Nathan also operated a second business, Forcheimer's Fashion Shop, also on Palafox Street.



©Deborah Dunlap's Historic Pensacola

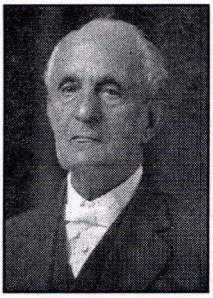
Forcheimer's Fashion Shop Bathing Suit Models at the Isis Theater in Pensacola, FL. May 1922

Gerson's daughter Eva Forcheimer married German immigrant Adolph Greenhut after Greenhut's first wife, Sarah Bear, passed away in 1899.

- In 1874, Gerson Forcheimer was a founding member of Florida's first chapter of the Independent Order of B'nai B'rith, Alpha Lodge 219. In 1876, he served as the first president of Temple Beth-El.

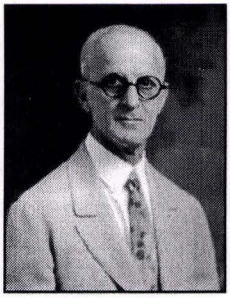
- Estelle Forcheimer Dannheisser was an early organist for the temple. She was active in the Temple Beth-El Sisterhood until she passed away in the 1950s .

- Eva Forcheimer Greenhut was an original member of the Temple Beth-El Guild and remained active in the Temple Beth-El Sisterhood well into the 1970s.



Dannheisser Collection

Gerson Forcheimer
February 1, 1917



Dannheisser Collection

Nathan Forcheimer



Dannheisser Collection

Estelle Forcheimer
c. 1889



Dannheisser Collection

The man in the middle of the back row is Eddie Forcheimer (3). The woman kneeling on the right is Eva Forcheimer (9).



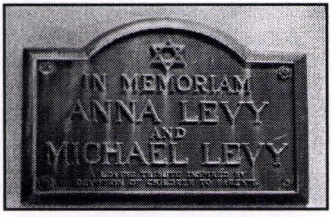
Dannheisser Collection

Forcheimer sisters, Estelle Dannheisser and Eva Greenhut. April 1951

Levy Family[3]

Michael Levy left Germany to avoid conscription and ended up serving in Alabama as a captain in the Confederate Army. He mustered out in Milton, Florida, in 1865. Michael married Anna Pincus from Mobile in the early 1870s and soon moved his family to Pensacola. Michael and Anna had five children: Sidney, Frank, Joe, Rose and Sol. The Levys opened a wholesale grocery business in downtown Pensacola that evolved into the Frank P. Levy Brokerage Company. The Levy Family was very active in both civic and religious life. Their descendants are still active in the temple.

- Michael Levy, one of the founding members of Temple Beth-El, was president of the congregation in 1890. The Temple Beth-El Cemetery entrance is dedicated to Michael and Anna Levy.



Janel D. Hendrix

Plaque on Cemetery Gateway

- Sidney Levy, Michael and Anna's oldest son, was president of the Temple before 1928. He was instrumental in founding the Pensacola Opera House, where the members of the Jewish Progress Club initially met before building their own structure on West Chase Street after the turn of the century.

- Joe Levy donated the iron fence surrounding Temple Beth-El's cemetery, in memory of his brother Sidney, in 1954.



Janel D. Hendrix

Plaque on Cemetery Fence

- Rose Levy Kaplan was very active in the Temple Beth-El Sisterhood.

- Myra Kaplan Rosenthal, Rose Levy Kaplan's daughter, was very active in the Temple Sisterhood, as well as in the Temple choir.

- Myron Rosenthal, a great grandson of Michael Levy and grandson of Rose Levy Kaplan, was president of the temple from 1985 to 1987.

- Dr. Sidney Rosenthal, Myron's son, has become active in Pensacola civic life.



Temple Beth-El Collection

Michael Levy in his confederate uniform.



Temple Beth-El Collection

Left to right standing: Joe Levy, Frank Levy. Anna Levy is seated. c. 1910-1915



Temple Beth-El Collection

Myra Kaplan with grandmother Anna Levy. c. 1911



Temple Beth-El Collection

Myra Kaplan as part of Temple Beth-El's 1923 Confirmation Class.



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The Opera House located at the southeast corner of Government and Jefferson Streets. c. early 1900s

Marx Dannheiser Family[4]

Marx Dannheiser, born in 1828 in Esslingen, Germany, arrived in Pensacola in the mid 1860s with his wife Jeannette Loeb, son Israel, daughter Bertha, and sister-in-law Amelia Loeb Fries Myerson. Marx and Jeanette's children, Sarah, Pauline, and Lyman, who died in infancy, were born in Pensacola. Marx Dannheiser was a founding member of Temple Beth-El.

Later, another Dannheisser family also made its way to Pensacola. Although not initially related, the two families did intertwine with the marriage of Marx's daughter Pauline to Morris Dannheisser. Morris and Pauline had two children, a son Sidney, and a daughter Rena.



Dannheisser Collection

Morris, Rena, Pauline (Marx Dannheiser's daughter) and Sidney Dannheisser. Image taken from a postcard.

Jacob Kahn Family[5]

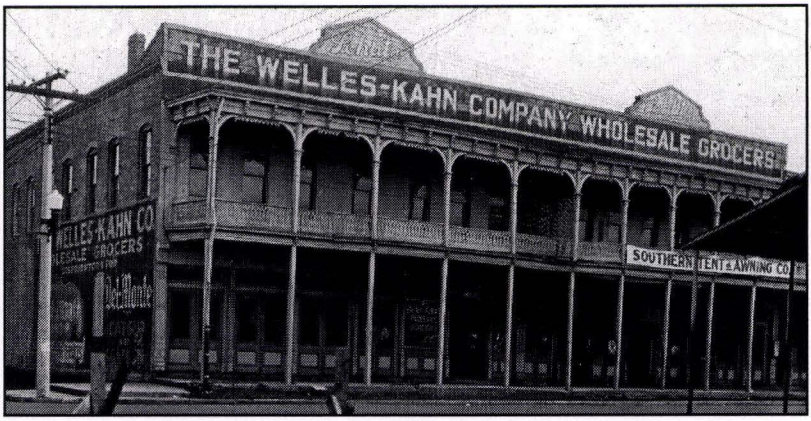
In the mid 1800s, Jacob Kahn, born 1841, and Lewis Kahn, born 1835, immigrated to Philadelphia from Bavaria to avoid conscription into the German army. During the Civil War, Jacob volunteered to fight for the Union. He was captured by Confederate troops and was held as a prisoner of war at Fort Pickens on Santa Rosa Island. After escaping, he made his way back to his family in Philadelphia. When the Civil War ended, Jacob moved his family to Pensacola because he liked the climate.

After moving to Pensacola, he opened Kahn's Clothiers, a men's ready-to-wear store on South Palafox Street and later opened a second store along Palafox Street. His wife Caroline helped manage the stores while raising their eight children. For many years, yellow fever, a mosquito born illness, plagued northwest Florida. Often pregnant women moved north to avoid the epidemics. Caroline was no exception, and in 1870, Harry was born in Philadelphia. Shortly after the birth, Caroline and her son Harry returned to Pensacola.

Caroline and Jacob's two sons, Harry and Max, were the most involved in temple life. Harry married Sallye Bear, the daughter of Lewis Bear. Max, born 1872, married Edna Greenhut, daughter of Adolph Greenhut.

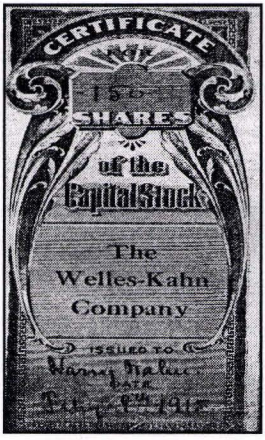
Just before the turn of the century, Harry co-founded the Welles-Kahn Company, a wholesale grocery, with Thomas Welles, a Christian. This was the first Jewish-Christian business relationship in the Pensacola area. The business was located on South Palafox Street, where New World Landing's parking lot is now. The Welles-Kahn Company was liquidated in 1929.

Soon after the liquidation of the Welles-Kahn Company, Harry, his son Jacob Lewis "Son" Kahn, and Harry's brother Max started Kahn Grocery Company. Max passed away in 1942 and Harry passed away in 1943. After their deaths, J. L. Kahn and his wife Helen took over the business. Their son Harry Dante Kahn joined the business in 1947, and soon after changed the name of the business to the Kahn Company. Harry Dante Kahn, and Harry Dante Kahn Jr. operated the business, along with George Wagenheim, until it was sold in 1982.



Harry D. Kahn Collection

The Welles-Kahn Company Building located on the southeast corner of South Palafox and Cedar Streets.



Harry D. Kahn Collection

Left: Certificate for 150 shares of Captial Stock in the Welles-Kahn Company, issued to Harry Kahn on February 8, 1915, by Frank E. Welles.



Harry D. Kahn Collection

Stock certificate for Welles Kahn Company issued to Harry Kahn on February 8, 1915.

J.L. Kahn and his wife Helen were both vitally interested in religious and civic ventures. They passed this legacy on to their sons Harry Dante Kahn and Dr. Charles Kahn who both still live in the Pensacola area and have been staunch supporters of Temple Beth-El. The following members of the Kahn family have served in a variety of leadership positions in civic and religious life.

- Jacob Kahn, a temple founder, served as president of Temple Beth-El in 1885. He passed away in 1899.

- Lewis Kahn, brother of Jacob and a temple founder, was active in temple affairs between 1876 and 1880 when he passed away.

- J.L. "Son" Kahn, a grandson of both Jacob Kahn and Lewis Bear, was a longtime trustee and financial supporter of Temple Beth-El. "Son" Kahn passed away, at the age of 86, in 1986.

- Helen Kahn, J.L.'s wife, was president of the Temple Sisterhood and the third person to become an honorary life member of Temple Beth-El. After her husband's death, she continued to be a strong financial supporter of the temple. She passed away at the age of 93 in 1996.



Harry D. Kahn Collection

Helen and J.L. Kahn at Fort Pickens on Santa Rosa Island. c1922

- Harry Dante Kahn, J. L.'s son and a great-grandson of both Jacob Kahn and Lewis Bear, was president of the temple twice, 1954 to 1955 and 1971 to 1973. Harry and his wife, Ann, co-chaired the committee for the temple's centennial celebration. He was vice president of MOSAIC Jewish Life in Florida from 1988 to 1994, and a board member until 1996, helping to establish a permanent site for the Jewish Museum of Florida in Miami Beach. Harry was the first Jewish person awarded the honor of portraying Don Tristan De Luna during the annual Fiesta of Five Flags Celebration in 1972 and later served as president of the organization. He is a past president of the Pensacola Rotary Club, Fiesta of Five Flags, and the Pensacola Jewish Federation; a former vice president of Florida's Union of American Hebrew Congregations, and a past chairman of the Baptist Hospital Advisory Board.

- Ann Kahn, Harry's first wife, served as president of Temple Beth-El's Sisterhood during the temple's seventy-fifth anniversary in 1953. She was the first person from Pensacola to serve on the Board of the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods. For many years she taught Religious School. She actively participated in the temple and Sisterhood until her death in 1987, at the age of 63.



Harry D. Kahn Collection

Harry D. Kahn as Don Tristan De Luna XXIII with wife Ann in 1972.

- Harry Dante Kahn Jr., Ann and Harry's son, is a former temple trustee. He is a member of the only class confirmed by Paula H. Ackerman in Pensacola, 1963.

- Rosann Kahn Mann, Ann and Harry's daughter, taught Religious School in the late 1970s and served as Youth Group advisor in the mid 1980s. She worked with the local MOSAIC committee as their photographer in the early 1990s.

- Dr. Charles Kahn, son of J.L. Kahn and great-grandson of both Jacob Kahn and Lewis Bear, served as president of Temple Beth-El from 1961 to 1963. He is a former president of the Florida Medical Association and was honored as National Internist of the Year in 1995 by the American Medical Association.

- Bettie Kahn, Charles' wife and great-granddaughter of temple founder Lewis Kahn, was the first woman elected president of Temple Beth-El 1979. She served two years. Bettie also served as president of Temple Beth-El's Sisterhood during the temple's centennial celebration in 1976. She was the second member from Pensacola to serve on the Board of the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods.

- Charles and Bettie's son, Judge Charles Kahn Jr., served as president of the Temple from 1986 to 1988. He is presently a judge on the Florida Court of Appeals and is a member of the Jewish Museum of Florida's Advisory Council.

- Jack Kugelman, a great-grandson of Jacob Kahn, Adolph Greenhut, and Gustave Cohen, has been a community and temple philanthropist for many years. Jack served as President of Fiesta of Five Flags, and the Pensacola Sports Association Foundation. He has also

served at different intervals, on the Board of Barnett and Compass Banks, and the board of MOSAIC Jewish Life in Florida. He is currently the President of the Museum of Art Foundation and a Board Member of the Northwest Florida Girl Scouts Federation and PJC Foundation



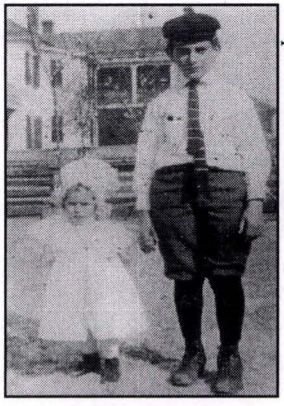
Temple Beth-El Collection

Four generations: Amalie Simon (left) with daughter Sidonia Simon Kahn (right), granddaughter Nettie Cahn (top center) and great granddaughter. Sidonia married Lewis Kahn in 1866 and Nettie, born in 1867, married Sol Cahn. Sidonia, widowed in 1880, owned a shoe store on Palafox Street.



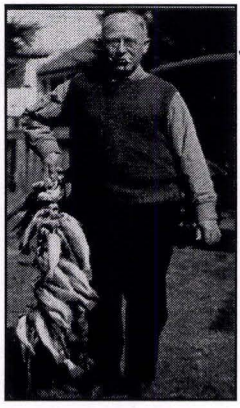
Temple Beth-El Collection

Harry Kahn and Sallye Bear Kahn, Lewis Bear's daughter, both seated, pose here with cousins in 1895.



Temple Beth-El Collection

Hilma and J.L. Kahn, daughter and son of Sallye and Harry Kahn, c. 1909



Harry D. Kahn Collection

Harry Kahn, J.L.'s father. c. 1930

Endnotes for Chapter 2

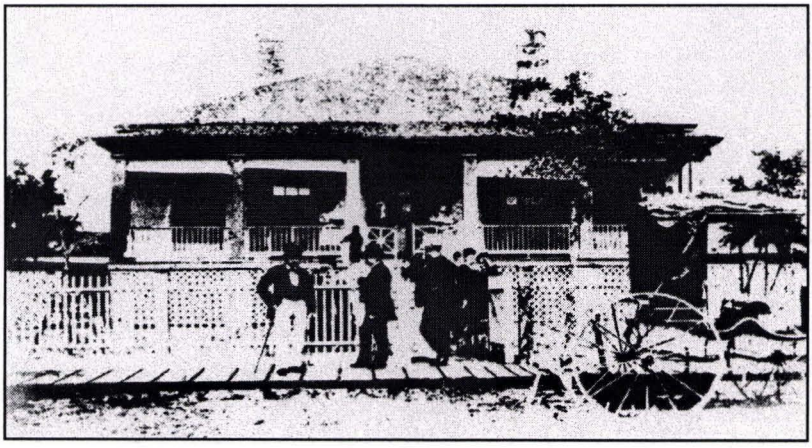
[1] MOSAIC, Inc. *MOSAIC: Jewish Life in Florida Exhibit Text.* Miami: MOSAIC, Inc., 1990.

[2] Forcheimer family information compiled from:
Appleyard Agency, *The Dannheisser Family, Its Origins and Through the Years,* Volume I, Pensacola: Bodree Printing, 2003.

[3] Levy family information compiled from temple records.

[4] Marx Dannheiser family information gathered from:
Appleyard Agency, *The Dannheisser Family, Its Origins and Through the Years,* Volume I, Pensacola: Bodree Printing, 2003.

[5] Kahn family information compiled from:
1. Harry D. Kahn, Interview by Janel D. Hendrix, Tape Recording, Pensacola, FL, 31 May 2003.
2. Dr. Charles and Bettie Kahn, Interview by Janel D. Hendrix, Tape Recording, Gulf Breeze, FL, 15 July 2003.
3. Appleyard Agency, *The Kugelman Chronicles*, Pensacola, 2000.



Harry D. Kahn Collection

Jacob Kahn family home on East Romana Street. 1870

Chapter 3
Beginnings of Temple Beth-El
1869 - 1895

As the Reform Jewish population grew in Northwest Florida, the immigrants began worshipping and celebrating Jewish holidays together, even without a temple building. The first steps toward solidifying a permanent spot for Jewish worship began in 1869, when Simerall Moses Goldbach donated land on Cervantes Street between "Q" and "R" Streets to create a Jewish cemetery in Pensacola. Not long after the cemetery was established, Temple Beth-El was also established.

Prior to the Civil War, Jews had few options for burial in Florida. Typically bodies were sent to Savannah or Charleston for burial. By the turn of the 20th century, however, there were at least five Jewish cemeteries in the state, and Temple Beth-El's was one of the first.[1]



Janel D. Hendrix

Temple Beth-El Cemetery on Cervantes Street. The large headstones in the background, representing the Tree of Life, belong to Lewis Bear and Henrietta Kugelman Bear.

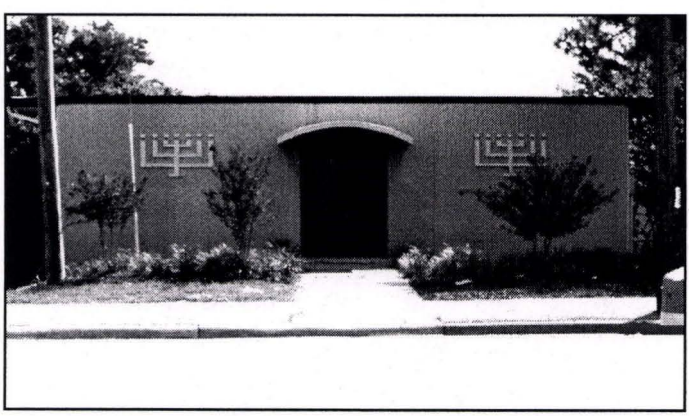


Janel D. Hendrix

Right: A stone monument sits in the middle of the cemetery as a memorial to S.M. Goldbach

The original deed in trust for the cemetery property, executed by S.M. Goldbach and Gerson Forcheimer on February 26, 1869, states that a piece of land in Pensacola, Florida, in Escambia County was conveyed from S. M. Goldbach to G. Forcheimer to be used for "the sole purpose of a burying ground or place of sepulture for the interment of persons of the Jewish faith and for no other purpose what so ever."[2] In order to maintain upkeep of the cemetery, Gerson Forcheimer, a founding member of Florida's first chapter of the Independent Order of B'nai B'rith, conveyed the Jewish cemetery deed to B'nai B'rith's Alpha Lodge 219 on July 31, 1874.

B'nai B'rith is an organization that focuses on the education of its members and the support of Jewish causes. The emblem of B'nai B'rith is the seven-branched Menorah, with each branch symbolizing one characteristic of the organization. The first candle symbolizes Light. The second candle symbolizes Justice. The third candle symbolizes Peace. The fourth candle symbolizes Benevolence. The fifth candle symbolizes Brotherly Love. The sixth candle symbolizes Harmony and the seventh candle symbolizes Truth. Temple Beth-El has the seven-branched Menorah symbol on its Religious School building.



Janel D. Hendrix

Temple Beth-El Religious School building, located adjacent to Temple Beth-El at 800 North Palafox Street, Pensacola.

With the establishment of a Jewish cemetery in town, Pensacola's Jews realized the need for a permanent place of worship. The chartering of a congregation is an important step in formalizing Jewish life. Traditionally, the synagogue serves three functions: a place of worship, a place for education, and a place of congregation or assembly, where all may meet to express the joy of life. According to Jewish law, ten men are the required minimum to form a minyan, or prayer group. In the late 1800s, women were not required to attend services, because of the importance of their child-raising responsibilities; however, women were still encouraged to attend services whenever possible.

Ten members founded Temple Beth-El's congregation in 1876. These members were Jacob Kahn, Lewis Kahn, Gerson Forcheimer, Phineas Stone, Adolph Goldstucker, Otto Goldstucker, Michael Levy, Marx Dannheiser, Simerall Goldbach, and Gustave Cohen. They did not have a permanent temple or a rabbi so traveling rabbis conducted their religious ceremonies until a proper building was built. Temple Beth-El's first structure was built in 1878 for $3,500. It was a wooden structure located at 37 East Chase Street between Palafox and Tarragona Streets. Today there is a historic marker indicating where the original Temple stood.

The congregation is the oldest Jewish congregation in the state. Gerson Forcheimer was the first President of Temple Beth-El. Adolph Goldstucker conducted the religious services until a permanent Rabbi could be found. Phineas Stone was the cantor. The wedding of Caroline Jacoby of Mobile and Phineas Stone in 1878, was the first wedding performed in Temple Beth-El.

With the lumber boom, Pensacola continued to grow. Several Jewish immigrants and their families began to filter south. These families were Reform Jews and attended services at Temple Beth-El. Some of these Jewish families also began businesses along Palafox Street, the city's main thoroughfare. These Jewish families proved to be hardworking, industrious and loyal citizens. Five of these families were the Lewis Bear, Adolph Greenhut, Gundersheimer and Morris and David Dannheisser families.

Lewis Bear Family[3]

Records indicate that Lewis Bear, born 1831, arrived in the United States from Bavaria in 1850 at the age of 18. It is not known if he moved directly to Greenville, Alabama, or if he lived somewhere else for a time. During the Civil War, Lewis Bear fought as a Confederate sergeant from Alabama. After the Civil War, he returned to his grocery business in Greenville. In the mid 1870s, Lewis Bear moved to Pensacola along with his wife, Henrietta Kugelman; his son Morris, born 1868; his daughter Sallye, born 1870; his son Max, born 1872; and his daughter Bertha, born 1874.

After moving to Pensacola, Lewis and Henrietta had one more child, Jake, born 1880. That same year, Lewis Bear applied for U.S. Citizenship and became a ship chandler and general merchandiser opening a small store on South Palafox Street in downtown Pensacola. The Lewis Bear Company grew along with the lumber boom and the railroad expansions. In 1882, with the completion of the Pensacola and Atlantic Railroad retailers in Chipley, DeFuniak Springs, Caryville, and Bonifay soon became customers of the company.

In 1885 the Lewis Bear Company relocated opposite Plaza Ferdinand on South Palafox Street and added a wholesale division to the company, shipping groceries, ship stores, and tobacco along the coast on freight vessels such as the *Tarpon* and the *Grand Rapids*.



Robert H. Kahn Jr. Collection

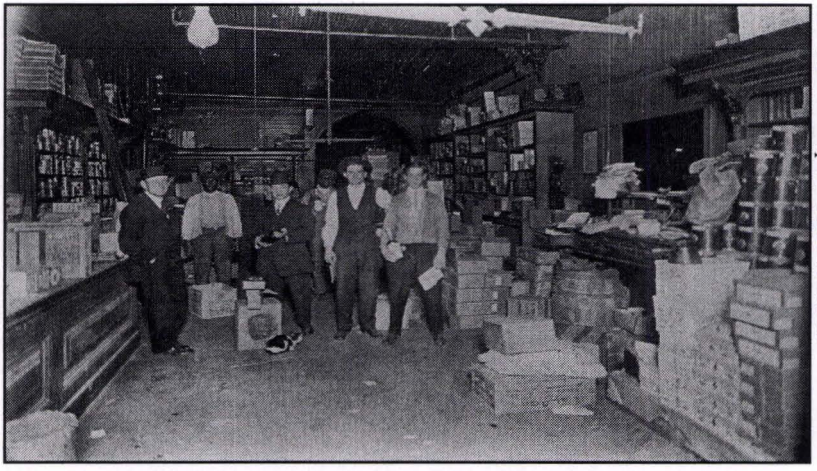
The Lewis Bear Company building located on South Palafox Street, across from Plaza Ferdinand.

The company readily employed early Jewish arrivals and was responsible for many future successful merchants whose careers began there. In 1892, Lewis Bear built the two-story building on the corner of Palafox Street and Main Street. This building most recently housed Pensacola Restaurant Supply Co.



©Deborah Dunlap's Historic Pensacola

The Lewis Bear Company building located on the corner of Palafox and Main Streets. This image was taken from a postcard.



©Deborah Dunlap's Historic Pensacola

Photo taken inside the Lewis Bear Company Warehouse. Jake Bear is on the left, "Josie" Rosenau is in the middle wearing the bowler, and Bill Massey is second from the right, wearing the vest.

Lewis Bear's son Morris entered the family business in 1889 and was later joined by his brothers Max and Jake. Max had been educated at Staunton Military Academy in Virginia. He served as an officer in the Chipley Light Infantry during the Spanish-American War. When Lewis Bear died on July 17, 1895, his sons began expanding the products they offered including the addition of wine and spirits. This established their longtime relationship with Anheuser-Busch. The family sold the grocery division of the Lewis Bear Company in 1995; however, the beer division still operates today, with Lewis Bear Jr., great-grandson of Lewis Bear, as president of the company.

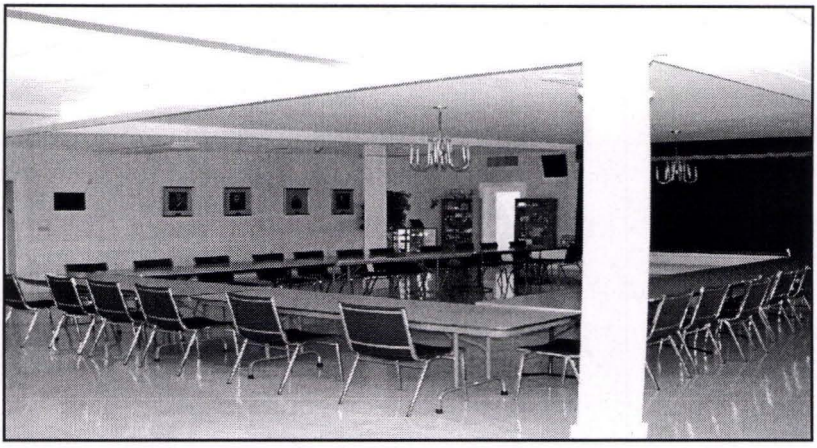
The Bear family has a long tradition of both civil and religious leadership. As early members of Temple Beth-El, the Bear family's most enduring interest would become their roles in the Temple. Their monetary donations often helped the temple in times of need and various family members served on boards within the temple's many organizations. Morris gave the gift of an organ to the temple just weeks before his sudden death in 1928.

Max was a cornerstone of Temple Beth-El, serving as president of the congregation for approximately thirty-nine years between 1907 and 1949. As chairman of the building committee in 1931, Max contributed $5000 to help build the current Temple Beth-El building, after a fire irreparably damaged the second temple on Chase Street. Max also served as mayor pro-tem of Pensacola from 1931 to 1936. He served as official mayor of Pensacola from Sept 21, 1936 until June 14, 1937. He was also commodore of the Pensacola Yacht Club before WWII and served as president of the Pensacola Rotary Club. The temple recreation hall is named in his honor. Max L. Bear passed away in 1956, at the age of 84.



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Left: Max L. Bear as Commodore of the Pensacola Yacht Club.



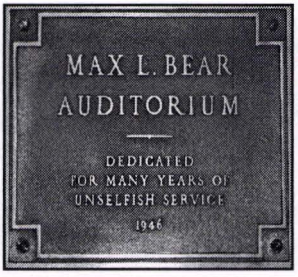
Janel D. Hendrix

Max L. Bear Auditorium, located on the lower level of Temple Beth-El's building. This auditorium is host to numerous events and meetings throughout the year.



Hal Marcus Jr. Collection

Max L. Bear c.1949



Janel D. Hendrix

Plaque hanging in the Max L. Bear Auditorium. Dedicated, in 1946, to Max L. Bear for his many years of unselfish service.



Hal Marcus Jr. Collection

Belle Rosenau Bear, Max's wife, c.1949



Robert H. Kahn Jr. Collection

Lewis Bear



Robert H. Kahn Jr. Collection

Morris Bear

Bear family descendants living in the Pensacola area remain just as active in temple and civic life as their ancestors were.

- Robert H. Kahn, Jr., Morris Bear's grandson and Lewis Bear's great-grandson, was president of the temple from 1973 to 1975, and was chairman of the board of the Lewis Bear Co. in 1995, when the grocery division was sold. He is a past president of the Pensacola Rotary Club, Covenant Hospice and the Lakeview Center, as well as a 33° Scottish Rite Mason.

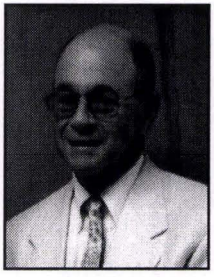
- Lewis Bear Jr., Morris Bear's grandson, continues as President of the Lewis Bear Co. In 1999, he was the second Jewish person to be crowned as Don Tristan De Luna. He is the founding president of the Five Flags Rotary Club and was president of the Greater Pensacola Chamber of Commerce.

- Susan Bear Leath, Morris Bear's granddaughter, was secretary of the temple from 1980 to 1985.

- Lewis "Buddy" Pollak Sr., Max Bear's grandson, was president of the temple from 1977 to 1979, and was vice president of the Lewis Bear Co. in 1995, when the grocery division was sold. "Buddy" was campaign chairman of the massive temple renovations in 1993. Because of his generous contribution, "Buddy" is named in the "Founder Category" of the Jewish Museum of Florida. Buddy is the founding president of the Gulf Breeze Rotary Club and is a 33° Scottish Rite Mason.

- Brenda Pollak, Lewis Pollak Sr.'s wife, was president of the Temple Sisterhood and a member of the Temple Board of Trustees. She was also a member of the Gulf Breeze City Council.

- Hal Marcus Jr., a grandson of Max Bear, was a director of the Lewis Bear Co. in 1995, when the grocery division was sold. Hal and his wife Pat both served on Temple Beth-El's Board of Trustees. During the 1980s they were the leaders of the Temple Beth-El Youth Group.



Lewis Pollak Sr. Collection

Lewis "Buddy" Pollak Sr.



Robert H. Kahn Jr. Collection

Robert H. Kahn, Hilda Bear Kahn's husband.



Robert H. Kahn Jr. Collection

Hilda Bear Kahn, Morris Bear's daughter.



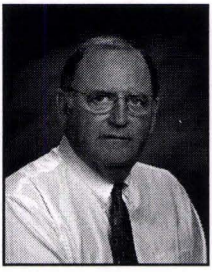
Robert H. Kahn Jr. Collection

Lewis Bear, grandson of Lewis Bear



Robert H. Kahn Jr. Collection

Peggy Bear, wife of Lewis Bear



Lewis Bear Jr. Collection

Lewis Bear Jr., greatgrandson of Lewis Bear



Robert H. Kahn Jr. Collection

Left to right: Eunice Gerson (m. Jennings Hertz), Gladys Cahn (m. Jake Hirsch), Hilda Bear (m. Robert Kahn), and Miriam Friedman (m. Leonard Frank)

Adolph Greenhut Family[4]

Adolph Greenhut was born in Bavaria. He came to Pensacola via Greenville, Alabama, with his wife Sarah Bear and their two children, Edna- the grandmother of Jack Kugelman, and Herman- the father of Sarah "Bootsie" Rich, Jack Greenhut and Dudley Greenhut. Adolph initially worked for the Lewis Bear Co.

After his first wife Sarah passed away in 1899, Adolph married Eva Forcheimer, Gerson Forcheimer's daughter. Eva and Adolph had three children, two of who are Irvin and Frederick. Adolph served as mayor of Pensacola in 1913 and is credited with actively encouraging the United States Navy to locate its Naval Aeronautic Station on the site of the then closed Navy Yard. His son Irvin served as Mayor of Pensacola in 1965.

Several descendants of the Adolph Greenhut family still live the Pensacola area and have served as both civic and religious leaders in Pensacola.

- Adolph Greenhut served as president of Temple Beth-El in 1896 and as president of the Progress Club in 1909. He also served as president of B'nai B'rith.

- Frederick Greenhut, son of Adolph Greenhut, served as vice president of the temple in the late 1940s. His wife, Leah, was active in the Temple Sisterhood.

- Dudley Greenhut and Bill Greenhut, grandson and great-grandson, respectively, of Adolph Greenhut, have both been active in Pensacola civic affairs. Bill Greenhut is a past president of the Chamber of Commerce. He is the third generation to serve on the Sacred Heart Hospital Advisory Board. This long association began when Adolph Greenhut gave the Daughters of Charity generous funding to start a hospital in Pensacola.

- Rodney Rich, great-grandson of Adolph Greenhut, served as president of Temple Beth-El from 1999 to 2001. He is a former President of the Five Flags Rotary Club.



Temple Beth-El Collection

Adolph Greenhut



Temple Beth-El Collection

Irvin Greenhut

Gundersheimer Family[5]

The Gundersheimers are one of the oldest Jewish families in the state. Joseph and Fanny Gundersheimer moved from Bavaria and owned a retail shop in Milton from 1860 until after the Civil War. Joseph and Fanny had ten children: Carrie, Abraham, Dora, Emma, Ralph, Bernardt (usually called Leon), David, Max, Jeanette, and Gus.



Gundersheimer Collection

Gundersheimer children. Carrie, the eldest, is standing in the middle of the back row.

After the Civil War, the family moved to New Orleans where Joseph passed away in 1879. After his death, Fanny moved the family to Pensacola. Her son Abraham opened a dry goods business with stores on East Gregory and East Chase Streets.

Leon married Nan Starr Slaughter from Louisville, Kentucky. At the turn of the century, Leon opened M&O Store, a premiere men's clothing outfitter, at 321 South Palafox Street, opposite Plaza Ferdinand. His brothers Ralph and David were also involved with the business.



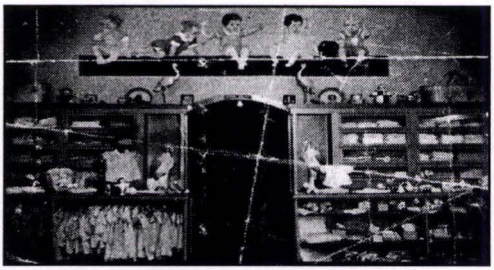
Gundersheimer Collection

From left to right: Rafe Gundersheimer, unknown, Dave Gundersheimer, unknown, nurse, and B.L. Gundersheimer standing outside of M & O Store. B.L. Gundersheimer Jr., age three months, is in the carriage.

During the depression Leon lost the business but he worked hard the rest of his life to pay off all his debts. Leon's daughter Jane Starr Gundersheimer married Fred Seligman. Born in Germany, Fred worked for the Lewis Bear Company for most of his business career and was a valued member of the company's Board of Directors.

David Gundersheimer married Belle Berlin. David and Belle owned a business called the Five Dollar Limit Store, which was located at the corner of Palafox and Chase Streets. They lost the business during the Depression. David passed away in 1929. After David's death, Belle continued to maintain various stores along

Palafox Street in order to support the family. The last store she owned was Belle's Children's Shop located at 23 South Palafox Street.



Gundersheimer Collection

Interior of Belle's. c. 1934

David and Belle's daughter Ann married Harold Schops and lived in New York City for thirty years before she and Harold returned to Pensacola to retire. The Gundersheimer family attended services at the Temple regularly and both Ann and Jane Starr attended Saturday Hebrew school conducted by Rabbi Martin Friedman.

- (Bernardt) Leon Gundersheimer was vice president of the Progress Club in 1909.

- Fred Seligman, Jane Starr's husband, was president of Temple Beth-El from 1981 to 1983.

- Jane Starr Seligman, Fanny Gundersheimer's granddaughter, has been active in the Temple Beth-El Sisterhood.

- Ann Gundersheimer Schops was very active in the Temple Beth-El Sisterhood before moving to New York. Since returning to Pensacola in 1980, she has been very active in researching the Temple's history. Both she and her husband Harold, were charter members of MOSAIC.

Morris and David Dannheisser Families[6]

Morris Dannheisser and his brother David Dannheisser moved from Germany to England and then to America. According to an article in the *Pensacola News* in February 1890, Morris arrived in the United States in 1882, and his brother David arrived three years later. After living in various states in the South, they eventually moved to Pensacola.

The brothers had a liquor establishment at 401 South Palafox Street, on the southwest corner of Palafox and Zarragossa Streets.



Dannheisser Collection

Dannheisser Brother's Bar. c. 1897. Image taken from a postcard.

Morris Dannheisser married Marx Dannheiser's daughter Pauline, and had two children, a son Sidney, and a daughter Rena. He eventually moved the family to Washington DC.

On May 11, 1892, David Dannheisser married Gerson Forcheimer's daughter, Estelle Forcheimer. Their sons, Bertram and Alvin, were born soon after. The boys attended school in Pensacola, with Bert graduating from high school in 1910. After high school both Bert and Alvin went to dental school. Bert returned to Pensacola and set up a practice, while Alvin set up a practice in Citronelle, Alabama.

Bert married Frieda Goodman, of New Orleans in 1921. He and Frieda had two sons, David Harry (D. H.) and Bert Jr. Bert Jr. also became a dentist. Frieda became active in both the Red Cross and

the Temple Beth-El Sisterhood. Both Bert Sr. and Frieda attended Temple Beth-El regularly and made sure the boys got a proper Jewish education.

Continuing the tradition of early founding families, the Dannheisser family and its descendants have maintained both civic and religious leadership positions in Pensacola.

- Morris Dannheisser was president of Temple Beth-El in 1895.

- David Dannheisser was a long time trustee of Temple Beth-El.

- Dr. Bert Dannheisser Jr. was president of Temple Beth-El from 1965 to 1967. He was also president of the Florida Dental Association.

- Joyce Dannheisser, wife of Bert Jr., served as the head of Temple Beth-El's religious school and as a member of the Temple Beth-El Sisterhood.

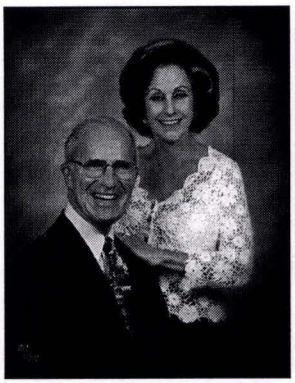
- Tom, Joyce and Bert's son, is the Santa Rosa County Attorney.

- Matt Dannheisser, Joyce and Bert's youngest son, is presently a member of the Board of Trustees at the temple. He is the Gulf Breeze city attorney.



Dannheisser Collection

David, Bert, Estelle and Alvin Dannheisser



Dannheisser Collection

Joyce and Dr. Bert Dannheisser Jr. 2003



Dannheisser Collection

Joyce and Bert's sons, Tom, Danny and Matt Dannheisser, with their families.

Congregational Growth

As the temple's congregation grew, the Board of Trustees began to take on more responsibilities. On January 15, 1881, the Jewish cemetery became the property of Temple Beth-El. According to the deed, Simerall Goldbach and Gerson Forcheimer, trustees of B'nai B'rith Alpha Lodge No. 219, granted Simerall Goldbach and Emanuel Levy, trustees of the Beth-El congregation, the deed to the cemetery land. At this time, Temple Beth-El's officers included Michael Levy, president; David Bear, vice president; Sol Cahn, treasurer; and J. Israel, Secretary. Other Trustees included C. J. Heinberg, Phineas Stone, I. Gugenheim, David Dannheisser, Otto Goldstucker and Adolph Greenhut.

In 1889 Temple Beth-El and its twenty families joined the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. According to the UAHC constitution, the organization has three main objectives.

- to establish and maintain institutions for instruction in the higher branches of Hebrew literature and Jewish theology, with the necessary preparatory schools in various cities of those states designated by the constitution;
- to provide means for the relief of Jews from political oppression and unjust discrimination, and for rendering them aid for their intellectual elevation;

- and to promote religious instruction and encourage the study of the Scriptures and of the tenets and history of Judaism.

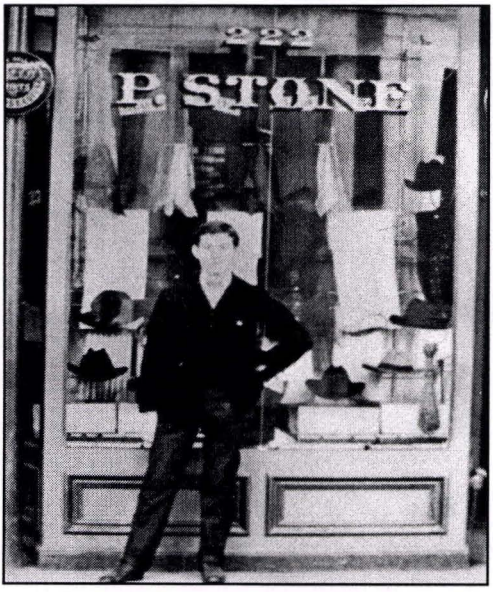
The UAHC is also the institution to which Reform congregations apply when they are in need of a rabbi. The organization holds a listing of Temples that are in need of a rabbi, as well as the resumes and qualifications of rabbis who are candidates for a pulpit. Temple Beth-El employed its first rabbi, Adolph Rosenberg, in 1892. Prior to Rabbi Rosenberg, laymen Gerson Forcheimer, Adolph Goldstucker, Samuel Laskey, A. Posman, and M. Gugenheim conducted religious services for the temple.

Young Hebrew Ladies Benevolent Aid Society[7]

The female segment of the congregation also made its mark in the late 1800s. From the beginning, Temple Beth-El's female congregation had been very active in temple life. The Young Hebrew Ladies Benevolent Aid Society, also known as the Junior Guild, was organized in October 1889 and its membership was comprised of nearly all of the young Jewish ladies in Pensacola. The society's purpose was to "dispense charity and to afford assistance and relief in sickness, want and distress; to assist in furnishing funds for temple and in maintaining the cemetery." Married women were made honorary members of the Junior Guild, although they had their own guild known as the Senior Guild. According to an article in the *Pensacola News* dated February 14, 1890, officers of the Junior Guild included Miss Sarah Dannheisser, president; Miss Estelle Forcheimer, vice president; Miss Dora Gundersheimer, secretary; and Miss Fannie Kahn, treasurer.

On May 3, 1891, Temple Beth-El's Senior and Junior Guilds officially merged to become the Ladies Benevolent Aid Society. This society is the precursor of the present day Temple Beth-El Sisterhood.

After almost twenty years, Temple Beth-El's congregation was continually growing. Everything was going well, when disaster struck. Unfortunately, similar to many towns all over the United States, Pensacola was plagued with fires because of the lack of fire safety standards. In 1895 the temple's original wooden structure burned. The fire started at night, and no one was hurt. Phineas Stone, the temple's second president, ran into the burning building to save the Torah from destruction. Despite being rescued from the fire in 1895, this Torah was later burned in the 1929 fire and buried, as custom dictates.



Temple Beth-El Collection

Phineas Stone standing in front of his shop, which sold men's clothing.

Endnotes for Chapter 3

[1] MOSAIC, Inc. *MOSAIC: Jewish Life in Florida Exhibit Text.* Miami: MOSAIC, Inc. 1990.

[2] Escambia County Deed for square #174 "K" containing 300 feet on Kennedy Street on the North, 300 feet on Babcock Street on the South (front), 305 feet on "R" Street, and 305 feet on "Q" Street. Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of F.E. de la Rua and John de la Rua. 15 January 1881.

[3] Information about the Bear Family was compiled from:

1. Robert H. Kahn Jr., Interview by Janel D. Hendrix, Video Tape, Pensacola, FL, 27 May 2003.
2. Lewis "Buddy" Pollak, Interview by Janel D. Hendrix, November 2003
3. Harold Marcus Jr., Interview by Nancy Fetterman, Video Tape, Pensacola, FL, 3 April 2003.

[4] Information about the Greenhut family was compiled from temple records.

[5] Information about the Gundersheimer family was compiled from:

1. Jane Starr Seligman, Interview by Nancy Fetterman, Video Tape, Pensacola, FL, 6 March 2003.
2. Ann Schops, Interview by Janel D. Hendrix. Tape Recording, Pensacola, FL, 21 July 2003.

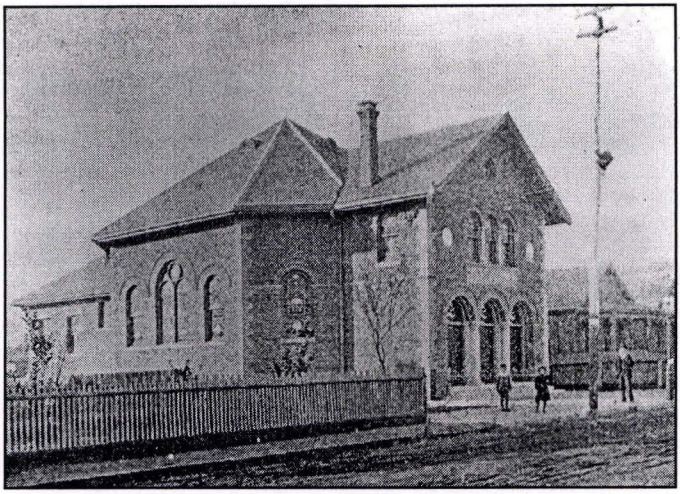
[6] Information on the Morris and David Dannheisser families compiled from:

1. Dr. Bert and Joyce Dannheisser, Jr., Interview by Janel D. Hendrix, Tape Recording, Pensacola, FL, 14 July 2003.
2. Appleyard Agency, *The Dannheisser Family, Its Origins and Through the Years.* Volume I, Pensacola: Bodree Printing, 2003.

[7] Constitution for Temple Beth-El's Ladies Benevolent Aid Society. 3 May 1891.

Chapter 4
Temple Beth-El Rebuilds
1896 - 1930

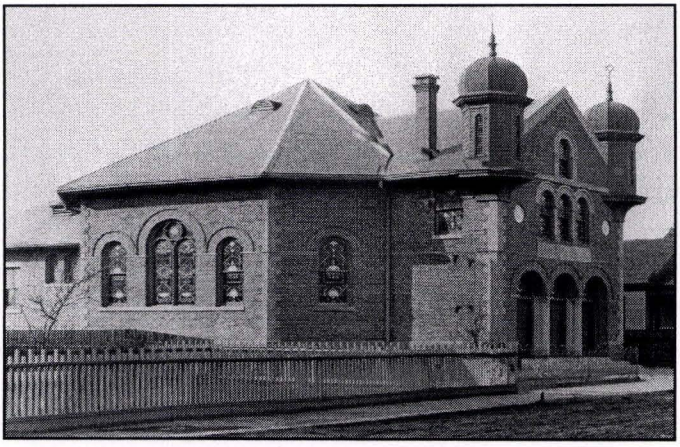
After the fire, a new red brick temple structure was built on the same site at 37 East Chase Street.



Jewish Museum of Florida Collection

Temple Beth-El building without minarets. c. 1897

At some point between 1896 and 1903, two minarets were added to the front, one on each side of the building.



©Deborah Dunlap's Historic Pensacola

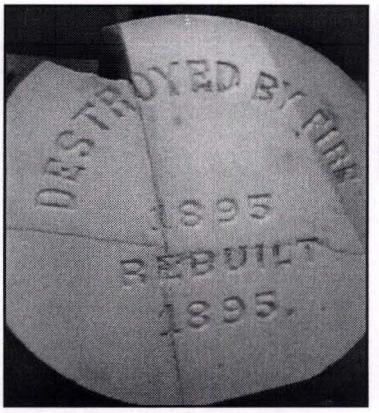
Temple Beth-El building after minarets were added. c. 1920s

Engraved stone tablets above the entrance showed the date of the founding of the temple, the date of the fire, and the date of the construction of the second building. According to an article titled "A History of Jews in Pensacola, Florida," published in *The OWL* in 1902, the interior was finished with hardwood and was lit by electricity and gas. A large chandelier was suspended on brown iron crossbeams from the domed roof. The temple building had a seating capacity of several hundred, a choir loft, and a reed organ.



Rosann Kahn Mann

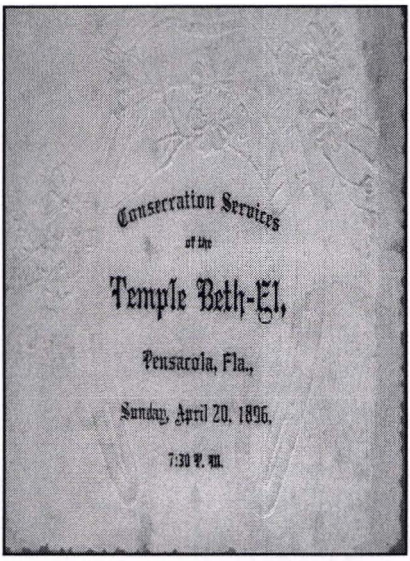
1878 cornerstone. The stone is inscribed "Congregation Beth-El organized 1878." This cornerstone was rescued by David and Rosann Kahn Mann in 1980, when the old temple building was demolished.



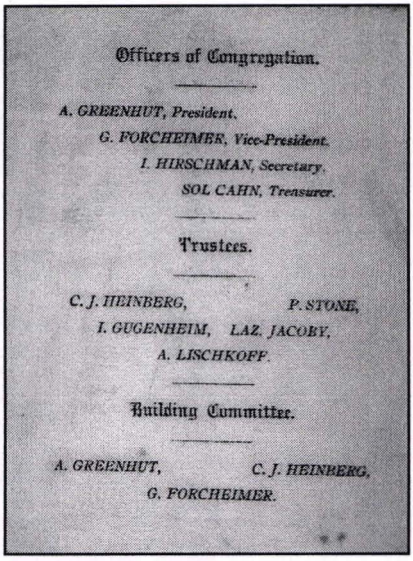
Rosann Kahn Mann

1895 cornerstone. The stone is inscribed "Destroyed by fire 1895, rebuilt 1895." This cornerstone was rescued by David and Rosann Kahn Mann in 1980, when the old temple building was demolished.

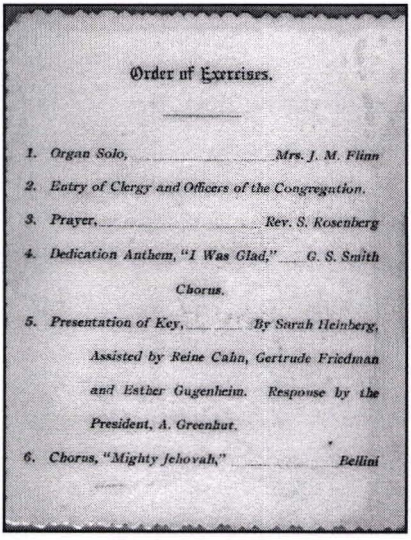
The temple was consecrated on Sunday April 20,1896, with the dedication sermon given by Rabbi Dr. Max Heller, of Temple Sinai in New Orleans. The Torah that Phineas Stone saved from the fire was placed in the new building. At this time, the temple officers consisted of Adolph Greenhut, president; Gerson Forcheimer, vice president; I. Hirschman, secretary; and Sol Cahn, treasurer. Trustees included C. J. Heinberg, Phineas Stone, A. Lischkoff, I. Gugenheim, and Laz Jacoby.



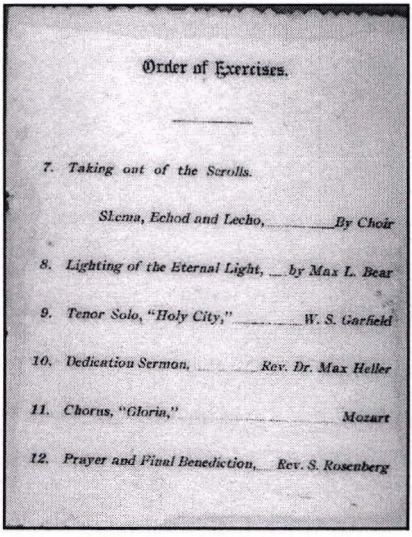
Program cover from the 1896 Temple Beth-El consecration service.



First page of the 1896 Temple Beth-El consecration service booklet.



Second page of the 1896 Temple Beth-El consecration service booklet.



Final page of the 1896 Temple Beth-El consecration service booklet.

This program for the 1896 Temple Beth-El cosecration service is owned by George and Amelia Wagenheim.



Wagenheim Collection

Dedication of Temple Beth-El on Chase St. Left to right: Sis Ball, Esther Guggenheim, Reine Cahn, and Gertrude Friedman. 1896

Wagenheim Family[1]

In 1897, Isaac E. Wagenheim began serving as the congregation's new rabbi. He served five one-year terms before leaving for Pennsylvania in 1903.

Isaac Wagenheim was born in Sagarrn, Kurland, Russia in 1858. He attended the Talmudical Seminary and at age seventeen went to Germany to enter the Jewish College of Schwerin, Prussia. Isaac met his wife Theresa Hart in Germany where he served in various rabbinical posts, and in 1884 they were married in New York. He began his post as rabbi of Temple Beth-El in Pensacola on September 1, 1897.

On July 4, 1898, Rabbi Wagenheim led a special temple memorial service for the victory of the American Fleet over the Spanish Fleet at the Battle of Santiago Harbor. This victory concluded the Spanish-American War. The service is noted as the first recognition of that victory in the United States. Rabbi Wagenheim's sermon was forwarded to President William

McKinley, who wrote a letter of thanks for the show of patriotism.

After serving five terms as rabbi of Temple Beth-El, Isaac Wagenheim moved to Danville, Pennsylvania. Theresa and the children remained in Pensacola. Elsie Block of Danville came to Pensacola to visit Isaac's daughter Fannie and met and married Isaac's son Harry. Elsie Wagenheim began Miss Elsie's Kindergarten in 1917 and shaped the lives of thousands of both Jewish and non-Jewish children until retiring in 1962.

Fannie Wagenheim married Clarence Frenkel, who moved from Yazoo City, Mississippi to Pensacola after his father died. Rabbi William Ackerman married Clarence and Fannie on June 25, 1918.

- Rabbi Wagenheim was president of B'nai B'rith in the early 1900s.

- Fannie Wagenheim Frenkel, Rabbi Wagenheim's daughter, was the secretary of Temple Beth-El for over thirty years. She taught Sabbath school for many years and sang in the choir as well. She was the second person to be named an honorary life member of the Temple.

- Clarence Frenkel, Fannie's husband, served on the Board of Trustees twice and was a member of both the Temple Men's Club and the old Progress Club.

- Claire Frenkel Ades, Fannie and Clarence's daughter and Rabbi Wagenheim's granddaughter, has been involved in Temple life for many years serving on the Temple Board and as part of the Temple Sisterhood. She also served on the Board of the Jewish Museum of Florida. Today she is chairman of the cemetery committee and actively works to keep the Temple's historic documents, artifacts and photographs in order.

- Harry Wagenheim, Rabbi Wagenheim's son, was president of Temple Beth-El in 1928.

- Elsie Wagenheim, Harry's wife, was instrumental in organizing the Temple Beth-El Sisterhood and served as its first president in 1919. She was also very involved in establishing Hadassah in Pensacola in 1938.

- George Wagenheim, Isaac's grandson, was twice president of Temple Beth-El, in 1962 and from 1975 to 1977. George and his wife Amelia were co-chairpersons of the temple's centennial celebration. George is a past president of the Pensacola Sports Association.

- Amelia Wagenheim, George's wife, was president of the Temple Beth-El Sisterhood and has always been involved in temple activities.



Claire Ades Collection

Rabbi Isaac Wagenheim. c.1900



Claire Ades Collection

Theresa Hart Wagenheim. c.1897



Claire Ades Collection

Fannie Wagenheim Frenkel. c. 1948



Claire Ades Collection

Clarence Frenkel. c. 1918



Wagenheim Collection

Harry and Elsie Wagenheim



Claire Ades Collection

Claire Ades, Fannie Frenkel's daughter. c.1995



Wagenheim Collection

Left to right: Theresa Klein, Amelia Wagenheim and Albert Klein Jr.'s mother, and Elsie Wagenheim.



Wagenheim Collection

Temple Beth-El Confirmation class of 1902. Front row left to right: unkown, Rabbi Isaac Wagenheim, and Fannie Berlin. Back row left to right: Rene Dannheisser, Sol Levy, unknown, Gertrude Friedman, Bennie Heinberg, and Esther Guggenheim.

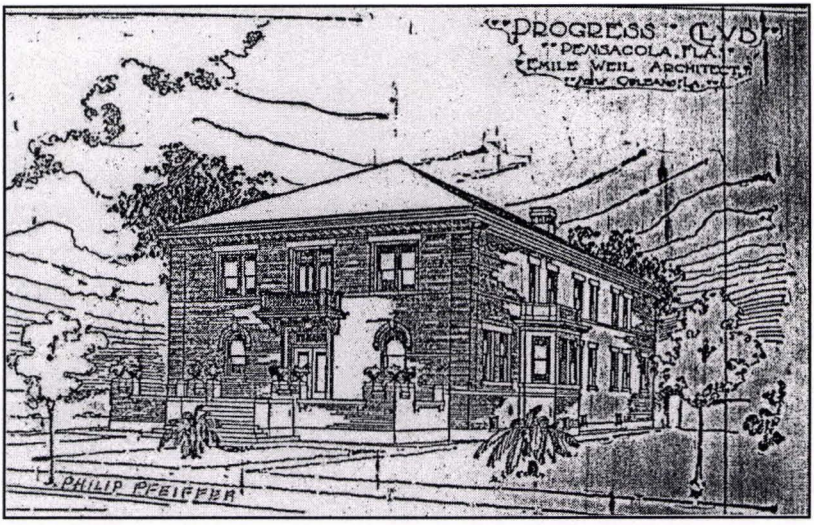
While Rabbi Isaac Wagenheim presided over Temple Beth-El, Pensacola saw a new wave of immigrants making their way into the community. By the late 1890s Pensacola was made up of all types of immigrants, especially those from Eastern and Western Europe. This resulted in a tolerance of diversity in the city, a tolerance that was not matched elsewhere.

However, the Jewish population was not exempt from discrimination. Pensacola was home to many varying religions, and typically religious differences did not exclude anyone from social events, except in the case of Jews. Jews were often accepted personally and commercially but not socially. Although business relations did exist between Jews and gentiles, such as those exibited in the Welles-Kahn Company, Jews were usually invited to social functions as neighbors or associates, rather than as intimates. This exclusive attitude toward Jews led to the restriction of Jewish memberships in certain clubs and social circles. The most notable restriction was the Pensacola Country Club where Jews were not admitted until 1977.

Progress Club

The Jewish community fought the social restrictions by starting their own social club, the Progress Club, in 1897. The Progress Club restricted its membership to Jews and excluded non-Jews from its dances, debutante balls, Purim festivals and card games. The club originally occupied the entire second floor of the Grand Opera House building on the corner of Government and Jefferson Streets. It had a large ballroom, a bar and several card rooms for the gentlemen. There was also a library and several billiards tables.

The Progress Club moved to its own building on West Chase Street, located between Baylen and Palafox Streets, in 1909. Emile Weil, an architect from New Orleans, designed the building. The new building had the biggest ballroom in the city, according to an August 12, 1909 article in the *Pensacola Journal* describing the construction.



Pensacola News Journal

Philip Pfeiffer's drawing of the Progress Club building, located on West Chase Street.

Temple Beth-El Guild and Sisterhood[2]

The women of Temple Beth-El continued to gather as they had for almost 10 years, and in March of 1907 the Hebrew Ladies Benevolent Aid Society became the Temple Beth-El Guild. Officers included Mrs. Alfred Moog, president; Mrs. Louis Friedman, vice president; Mrs. Ed Forcheimer, secretary; and Mrs. Sol Cahn, treasurer. The guild's Governing Board consisted of Mrs. Max Bear and Mrs. C. J. Heinberg. The purpose of the guild was to beautify and maintain the cemetery of Temple Beth-El. The guild hired Mr. Cole as sexton of the cemetery with a salary of $20.00 per month. The guild also established four rules surrounding the use and care of the cemetery:

> Rule 1: Any person may donate flowers or shrubbery of any kind.
>
> Rule 2: No member or non-member of the temple may tend to graves. Only the sexton may attend to graves.

Rule 3: All persons not contributing to the guild will not have graves tended to by the sexton.

Rule 4: Those who have relatives buried in the cemetery but who do not contribute to the guild or to the congregation, cannot take care of the graves or send anyone else to take care of the graves without the express permission of the president and the directors of the guild.

Between 1907 and 1917 the guild was very active holding sales of fancy work, luncheons, card parties and dances to raise funds for the temple and the cemetery. The guild often helped the temple financially and gave over $1500 to the temple over a span of three years. By 1917 the guild was fairly inactive due to the demands of World War I. The guild deemed it unpatriotic to tax the community in its own interest and therefore only met a few times until the war ended.

When the group joined the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods in 1921, the Temple Beth-El Guild became the Temple Beth-El Sisterhood. Elsie Wagenheim was the first president of the new group. The Sisterhood continued to maintain and beautify the cemetery as well as look after the concerns of the Sabbath School students. They donated money to charities in Pensacola and around the country and continued to raise money to help the temple financially. One fund-raiser, held at the Progress Club, was called the "Sisterhood Revue." It consisted of various forms of entertainment and starred many members of the temple's congregation.

Facing Page: A program for the "Sisterhood Revue" held at the Progress Club on January 13, 1926.

Progress Club

Wednesday, January 13th, 1926

"The Sisterhood Revue"

Artists Appearing

MISS CLARA FRENKLE
ENTERTAINER

MISS RUTH OLINSKY
PREMIER DANSEUSE

MR. "TINY" RENIER
AND
MR. WALTER PRUITT
(COURTESY ED C. NUTT SHOW)

"THE MATCHMAKERS"

("SCHADCHEN")
A ZEPHYR FROM THE GHETTO
—By—
SIDNEY P. LEVY

NOTE: If this little fragment inspires a sincere thought for nobler human tenderness, then its mission will have been fulfilled.—THE AUTHOR.

THE CAST

SIMON SOLOMON	MR. HARRY WAGENHEIM
ESTHER SOLOMON	MRS. STELLA KLEIN
NATHAN BLOCH	MR. LOUIS BUNNEN
MINNIE ADLER	MRS. SARAH G. LANDY
BERTHA GOLDSTEIN	MRS. SIMON WAGENHEIM
MORRIS BLOCH	MR. C. J. HEINBERG
SAM KATZ	MR. KENNETH CAHN
JOE MENDELSOHN	HARRY WAGENHEIM, JR.
FANNY MOSCOWITZ	BERNICE WOLF

SCENE: Simon Solomon's Tailor Shop, (in the basement), 24 Grand Street, N. Y. Friday Morning.

MUSIC BY MESSRS. MAX HEINBERG, E. J. JOHNSON and RAY DENSMORE

PROGRAMS DONATED BY LA MODE
"The Best Place to Shop, After All"

World War I

With war looming, Pensacola began to place its attentions on the new Naval Air Station being constructed at the site of the old Navy Yard in Warrington. With the town's increasing feelings of patriotism, many younger members of the temple joined the military. Those members who served during WWI include: Lewis Bear, Louis Bunnen, Clarence Frenkel, Ben Goodman, Jennings Hertz, Toby Hertz, Julian Issacs, Robert H. Kahn, and J. L. "Son" Kahn.

Temple Beth-El continued to have services throughout the war, and Sabbath School students continued studying Hebrew and religion with Rabbi William Ackerman presiding over the congregation. Rabbi Ackerman remained rabbi of Temple Beth-El until 1919, when he married temple member Paula Herschkovitz.



Temple Beth-El Collection

Temple Beth-El Confirmation class of 1916. Seated left to right: Amelia Berlin, Rabbi Ackerman, and Leoma Bear. Standing left to right: Adele Berlin, Claude Kugelman, Janice Kahn, Mayme Abrams, C.J. Heinberg, and Titi Guggenheim.

During the 1920s, several Rabbis occupied the pulpit in the Temple including Rabbi Iser L. Freund, 1921 to 1923; Rabbi Israel J. Sarasohn, 1924; and Rabbi Beryl D. Cohon, 1925 to 1927. Rabbi Martin Friedman became rabbi of Temple Beth-El in 1928, and remained the rabbi for eleven years. Little is known about the temple activities during these years because all of the files were destroyed on December 17, 1929, when the second temple building burned. Although the structure was not destroyed, the congregation decided to build a new temple on a lot they had purchased many years before, located at the corner of Cervantes and Palafox Streets. The burned temple was eventually remodeled and given a second life as Pensacola's first roller rink, the Silver Dome Skating Academy. The building remained standing until 1980, when it was deemed too deteriorated to save and was demolished.[3]



Temple Beth-El Collection

Temple Beth-El Confirmation class of 1923. Seated left to right: Hilma Kahn, Rabbi Israel Sarasohn, and Jeanne Solomon. Standing left to right: Myra Kaplan, Dudley Greenhut, unknown, Lester Bear, Doris Hirschman.

Endnotes for Chapter 4

[1] Wagenheim family information compiled from:

1. Amelia and George Wagenheim, Interview by Janel D. Hendrix, Tape Recording, Pensacola, FL, 6 August 2003.
2. Claire Ades, Interview by Nancy Fetterman, Video Recording, Pensacola, FL, 14 January 2003.

[2] Information gathered from Temple Guild Minutes 1907-1919

[3] *Pensacola News Journal*, "Wrecker's Ball Erases Memories of a Two-Fold Career," 13 July 1980, Section E, 1.

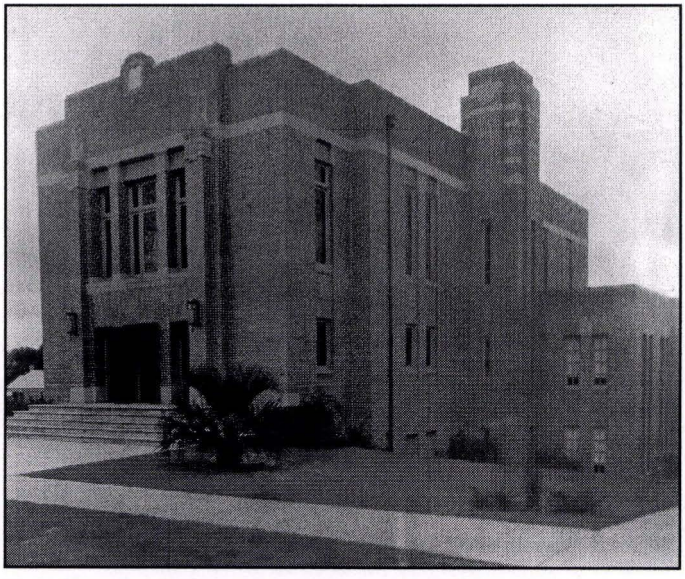


Wagenheim Collection

Rabbi Martin Friedman served Temple Beth-El from 1928 to 1939.

Chapter 5
Temple Beth-El Relocates
1931 - 1950

After the fire Rabbi Martin Friedman wrote an article in *The Southern Israelite* called "Pensacola, Florida Jewry Builds New Temple." He wrote, "in bringing events of interest to the attention of Southern Jewry for the Holiday Season, the activities of the Jewish community of Pensacola, Florida, are worthy of calling to the attention of our many readers." Rabbi Friedman went on to discuss the history of the temple and stated that in spite of the depression, the congregation decided to build a new building that would cost almost $50,000. The temple would have seating for 310, including 80 seats in the balcony. It would also house an auditorium for special events presented by the temple. The building committee consisted of Max L. Bear, Chairman; Joe M. Levy; Dr. M. A. Lischkoff; and Dan Oppenheimer, the congregation president.



Temple Beth-El Collection

Temple Beth-El located at 800 North Palafox Street. c.1931

The cornerstone for the third temple structure was laid on June 1, 1931 at the temple's current location on the corner of Palafox and Cervantes Streets. During the ceremony, Max L. Bear, chairman of the building committee, gave a speech praising his committee members and explaining their efforts in creating the new temple. He declared, "In our plans, we have tried to use foresight so that the requirements of a growing Congregation would be well taken care of. We have tried to practice economy without sacrificing beauty or dignity in the structure... We have tried to contract for a temple of which every Pensacolian may be justly proud, whether he be Jew or Non-Jew."

The temple boasted a membership of 125, and the temple officers included Dan Oppenheimer, president; Lep Wolff, vice president; Nathan Forcheimer, treasurer; and Laz Jacoby, secretary. Other trustees included Max L. Bear, Joseph M. Levy, Jac Son, Dr. M. A. Lischkoff, Alex Friedman, Fannie Frenkel, and Dora Herschkovitz. During the period of construction, religious services, Sabbath School, and social functions were held at the Progress Club on West Chase Street.[1]

Consecration Services

When the temple construction was completed, the congregation held consecration services. The services lasted for three days, from Friday, November 27 to Sunday, November 29, 1931. Sidney P. Levy led the procession of the Torah, which was placed in the Ark. Max L. Bear, chairman of the building committee, presented the key to the temple to Lep Wolff, the incoming president. Rabbi Martin Friedman gave the dedication, and other rabbis who spoke at the three services included Rabbi Alfred G. Moses, from Mobile, Alabama; Rabbi Morris Newfield, from Birmingham, Alabama; Rabbi Jacob D. Schwartz, from Cincinnati, Ohio; Rabbi Gustave Falk, regional representative of the UAHC; and Rabbi Jacob H. Kaplan, from Miami, Florida.[2]

Special Events

The first wedding held at the new temple was that of Miss Alberta Oppenheimer, daughter of Dan Oppenheimer, and Mr. Saul Hammer of New Orleans, and it was held on January 24, 1932.



Wagenheim Collection

Mr. and Mrs. Saul Hammer with their bridal party. Party members include: Eleanor Oppenheimer, the bride's sister, Corinne Lee, Dr. Joseph Oppenheimer, Ezra Feldman, Kenneth Cahn, Leon Loeb, Nathan Kahn Jr., and Ben Katz. January 24, 1932.

Charity Work

During the 1930s, Pensacola was not spared from the effects of the Depression, and several Jewish families lost their businesses. Many turned to religion to help them through the difficult times. Various groups within the temple also reached out to the community, providing all the help they could. Tradition commands that Jews work toward repairing the world. Hillel said, "thou shalt not separate thyself from the community."[3] Therefore, Jews sense a large responsibility to their local community as well as to the national and international Jewish communities. Through the creation of charitable organizations such as the Temple Beth-El Sisterhood, Hadassah, and the Pensacola Jewish Federation, Pensacola's Jewish population has done much to help its neighbors.[4]

Temple Sisterhood[5]

During the 1930s and 1940s, the Temple Beth-El Sisterhood continued to grow and was an important asset to the temple and the Jewish community. Members of the Sisterhood worked very hard year after year to keep both the new temple and the cemetery looking its best. They installed a complete set of water pipes at the cemetery and helped the temple with the cost of furnishing the new kitchen area. Their devotion to the children of the temple was evident through their sponsorship of Seder suppers, Purim parties, and picnics for the children of the Religious School.

Outside of the temple, the Sisterhood continued to work hard to maintain a connection to Pensacola's community. Each year the Sisterhood raised funds for local and national charities. They gave contributions of $10 each to ten charities, including the Tri-State Student Activity Fund, The Braille Review, the Joint Distribution Committee, The Jewish Children's Home, The National Home for Jewish Children, the National Jewish Hospital in Denver, the Ex-Patient Tuberculosis Home in Denver, the Hebrew Union Scholarship Fund, the Jewish Consumptive Relief, and the Red Cross/Welfare. They also sponsored bingo nights, raffles, luncheons, card parties and dances.

As the United States became officially involved in World War II, the Sisterhood continued to grow. By 1941, the Sisterhood had 97 active members and 5 honorary members. On December 8, 1941, just one day after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the Sisterhood had punch and cookies on the sidewalk outside the draft board office to feed and support the volunteers working that day. By May 1942, they had gained 14 new members, bringing the total number of active members to 111. The Sisterhood worked closely with the USO in Pensacola, offering them the full use of the temple kitchen and assisting in the opening of the USO building. Jewish couples manned the USO during Christmas so the Christians could have the day off. Each week the Sisterhood provided cakes and cookies to the wounded servicemen who were hospitalized on the bases at Naval Air Station Pensacola and Eglin Air Force Base.

Although very active in USO and Red Cross activities, the Sisterhood continued to dispense funds to their specified Jewish

Transient Charities throughout the war. They also maintained religious programs for the children of Temple Beth-El. In May 1944, Sisterhood President Peggy Bear gave a rousing speech at the Sisterhood's annual meeting, outlining the purpose of the Temple Beth-El Sisterhood as a religious organization, as well as outlining the duties of its members. Peggy Bear reminded members that "The world needs men and women to adopt a stronger faith, those who will build a new future upon the foundations of the social message of Israel. The task of a religious organization is to prepare men and women and particularly their children, for the secure world community that must be. If in the guise of war service we drop religious, educational and cultural activities, including those for which the Sisterhood stands, we are giving up exactly those things for which we claim to be fighting for."

After the war ended, the Sisterhood maintained close contact with the USO and the Red Cross, continually sponsoring open houses for service men and helping the wounded servicemen at the base hospitals. By 1948, the Sisterhood boasted a membership of 115.



Wagenheim Collection

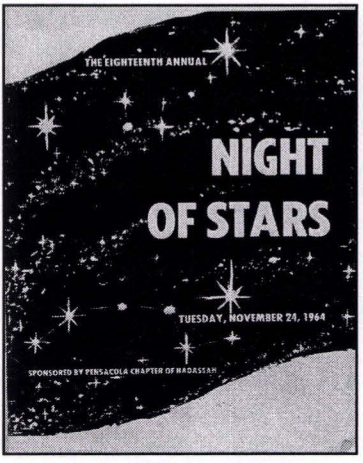
A Temple Sisterhood Event in 1942. Back row left to right: Tom Bivins, Harry Wagenheim, Minnie Savelle, Pat Rosenbloum, Rose Bunnen, unknown, Gladys Hirsch, unknown, unknown, Carolyn Cole, and Nettie Hirsch. Second Row left to right: Myra Rosenthal, Helaine Kling, Eugenia Olsen, unknown, Leah Greenhut, Hattie Isaacs, Peggy Bear, Selma Wolff, Elise Pollak, unknown, and Jane Starr Seligman. Front row left to right: Mildred Klein, Bernice Norman, Sylvia Rosenbloum and Elsie Wagenheim.

Hadassah[6]

Henrietta Szold of Baltimore founded Hadassah, a national group, in 1912. Hadassah's first project, begun in 1913, was a modest mother and child station in Old Jerusalem. Pensacola's local chapter of Hadassah was founded as a joint group of women from Temple Beth-El and B'nai Israel, Pensacola's conservative synagogue, in 1938 with Elsie Wagenheim as president. Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, has been described as a program of practical idealism because of its service to contemporary Israel.

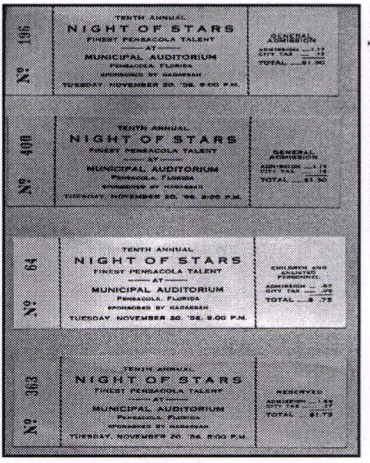
According to a *Pensacola News Journal* article from November 24, 1970, Hadassah's impact was felt in modern Israel through programs of medicine, medical teaching and research, vocational education, child rescue and rehabilitation, and land rescue and reclamation. Pensacola's first project involved raising money to help give Jewish children in Israel a complete education, teach them a vocation, and clothe and feed them.

Over the years, a main fund raiser for the local group was the community talent show called "Night of Stars," produced annually for over two decades. Other fund raisers sponsored by Hadassah included fashion shows held at Scenic Hills Country Club. By 1970, the Pensacola chapter had 110 members.



Temple Beth-El Collection

Hadassah's 18th Annual Night of Stars Program Booklet. 1964



Temple Beth-El Collection

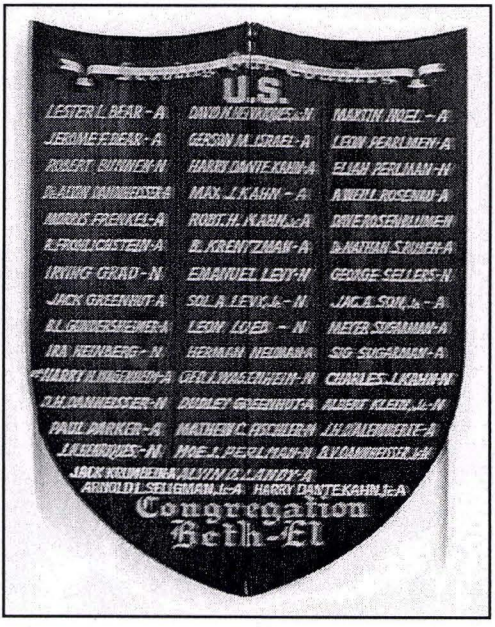
Various tickets for Hadassah's 10th Annual Night of Stars. 1956

World War II

By the end of the 1930s Jewish people all over the world felt the sting of World War II. Although the United States did not officially join the war until December 7, 1941, Jewish residents did all they could during the 1930s to help bring Jews from Western Europe to the United States so they could escape the horrors of the Nazis and what would later become the Holocaust.

World War II helped to decrease the rigid separations based on religion and ethnic grouping in the United States, as American citizens united under one cause. The various United States military branches began drafting thousands of men to fight. Naval Air Station Pensacola began training pilots at a rapid pace. With the presence of an ever-expanding military, Pensacola became more open and tolerant as a community, and distinctions based on religion, class, and sex became secondary to the nation's push for victory.[7]

Temple Beth-El members showed their patriotism through various outlets. On the following page is a list of Jewish veterans who served in World War II.[8]

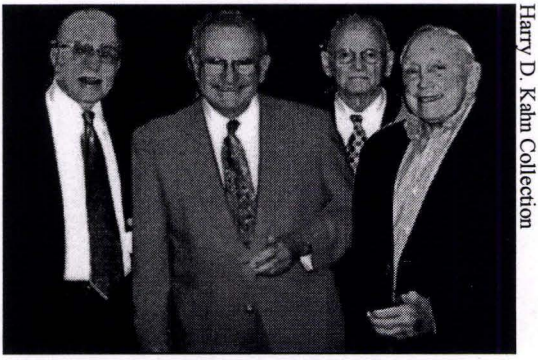


Janel D. Hendrix

Plaque naming Temple Beth-El's veterans, which hangs in the entryway to the Sanctuary.

Temple Beth-El WWII Veterans

Lester Bear
Jerome F. Bear
Robert Bunnen
Dr. Alvin Dannheisser
Morris Frenkel
R. Frohlichstein
Irving Grad
Jack Greenhut
B.L. Gundersheimer
Ira Heinberg
Dr. Harry H. Wagenheim
D. H. Dannheisser
Paul Parker
J.N. Henriques
Jack Krumbein
Alvin D. Landy
David N. Henriques, Jr.
Gerson M. Israel
Harry Dante Kahn
Max E. Kahn
Robert H. Kahn, Jr.
B. Krentzman
Emanuel Levy
Sol A. Levy, Jr.
Leon Loeb
Herman Neuman
George Wagenheim
Dudley Greenhut
Mathew C. Fischler
Moe J. Perlman
Martin Noel
Leon Pearlmen
Eliah Perlman
A. Weill Rosenau
Dave Rosenbloum
Dr. Nathan S. Rubin
George Sellers
Jac A. Son, Jr.
Meyer Sugarman
Sig Sugarman
Dr. Charles J. Kahn
Albert Klein, Jr.
J. H. D'Alemberte
Dr. B. V. Dannheisser, Jr.
Dr. Nathan Arenson
Jack Kugelman



Harry D. Kahn Collection

Four members of the greatest generation, (left to right) Robert H. Kahn Jr., Harry D. Kahn, George Wagenheim, and Jack Kugelman, friends from childhood to age 80. 2004

On the home front, Helen Kahn, Elsie Wagenheim, Minnie Savell, and Nellie Levy, among others, spent eight hours a day, five days a week rolling bandages, knitting, and assisting in canteens for the American Red Cross. Helen served as a volunteer for the organization for over fifty years.



Temple Beth-El Collection

Left: Helen Kahn rolling bandages for the American Red Cross.

After World War II ended, the young Jewish men who had joined the military began returning to Pensacola. Having grown up in Pensacola worshipping at Temple Beth-El, the young men now had the option of becoming official members of the temple. Membership and temple voting privileges are not extended to individuals until they reach the age of eighteen, at which point they can apply for membership.[9] Upon acceptance of the membership application by the Board of Trustees, the new temple members are assessed monthly dues. The Board of Trustees, which is the governing body of the temple, assesses the monthly dues based on how much a person can contribute. The minimum dues have increased dramatically over the past sixty years as a result of inflation, but a typical starting amount in the late 1940s was $2.50 per month.

Many changes took place within the temple in the years directly following the end of World War II. By examining the minutes taken at the Board of Trustees' meetings during the latter half of the 1940s one can observe the important topics of discussion, which include officers elected, new memberships, dues assessed, impending renovations of Temple Beth-El's building, and other subjects.

Highlights from the Temple Beth-El Board of Trustee Minutes 1946-1950

January 1946- The congregation elected the following officers at the annual meeting.

President	Max L. Bear
Vice President	David Henriques, Sr.
Secretary	Fannie Frenkel
Treasurer	Albert Klein

Trustees at this time included: Frederick Greenhut, J. L. Kahn, Dr. C. J. Heinberg, Morris Parker, and Selma Wolff.

May 5, 1946- It is estimated that it will cost $15,000 to repair and remodel the temple.

January 6, 1947- Stephen Goldring donated $1000 to be used for new kitchen equipment after the remodeling is complete. Max L. Bear donated $2500 for furnishing the auditorium, which was recently named the "Max L. Bear Auditorium".

January 15, 1947- The annual meeting for the congregation was held in the Max L. Bear Auditorium. The following officers were re-elected:

President	Max L. Bear
Vice President	David Henriques Sr.
Secretary	Fannie Frenkel
Treasurer	Albert Klein

Dr. C. J. Heinberg remained a trustee, while Dr. Nathan Rubin was newly elected as a trustee.

End of Year (1946) Financial Report read at Annual Meeting

Collections

Dues Collected	$8971.50
Rent	$ 128.25
Memorials	$ 230.50
Miscellaneous	$ 151.92
Total Collections	**$9482.17**

Disbursements

Rabbi's Salary	$5000.00
Secretary's Salary	$ 300.00
Sexton's Salary	$ 440.00
Choir	$ 716.00
Sisterhood	$ 372.50
Miscellaneous	$3128.68
Gulf Power Co.	$ 551.44
Total Disbursements	**$10,508.62**

February 21, 1947- Expenses for temple remodeling now total $30,530, which is more than double the original estimate of $15,000.

March 10, 1947- Robert H. Kahn Jr. was accepted as a member of the temple at a dues rate of $2.50 per month.

June 2, 1947- The Religious School teachers, who until this point have been volunteers, will each be paid for their services at a rate of $2.50 per week. Rabbi Julius Liebert informed the board that the temple is in need of a janitor and a library.

August 4, 1947- Harry Dante Kahn is approved as a new member of Temple Beth-El at a dues rate of $2.50 per month.

November 3, 1947- Trustees were advised that they should attend temple services as often as possible to set an example for members of the congregation.

December 1, 1947- David Henriques Sr. was elected to the Board of Southeast Council for the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. Both Lewis Rosenau and Jack Kugelman were approved as new members of the temple. Rabbi Liebert addressed the board, stating that he wished to wear a robe at services, and the Sisterhood offered to purchase the robe. Until this point the rabbi often wore a tuxedo during services.

January 12, 1948- At a special meeting of the board, held at the Progress Club, the trustees discussed the zoning proposition that recently came before the city council. The ruling stated that a service station could not be erected within three-hundred-feet of the temple; however, this ruling was subject to change. The trustees sent a clipping from the *Pensacola Journal* concerning the topic to the Anti-Defamation League.

January 16, 1948- At the annual meeting for the congregation, a charter was presented for approval. The new charter suggested that the officers be elected as trustees for one year, making eight trustees representing the temple. Two more trustees are to be elected by the Sisterhood making a total of ten members on the board.

March 1, 1948- It is determined that if members do not accept the dues increase enacted at the meeting on January 29, 1948, they will forfeit all cemetery privileges and can no longer be members of the congregation.

June 7, 1948- Joe Levy presented a new bronze plaque to be used for a memorial tablet.

Sept 13, 1948- The trustees decide to offer use of the Max L. Bear Auditorium to Pensacola Junior College, which had just been established on the southeast corner of Cervantes and Palafox Streets.

Dec 31, 1948- The End of the Year (1948) Financial Report

Collections

Dues	$11650.22	
Memorial	$ 225.00	
Auditorium Rental	$ 90.00	
Total Collections		**$11,965.22**

Disbursements

Rabbi's Salary	$6000.00	
Secretary's Salary	$ 300.00	
Sexton's Salary	$ 1150.00	
Sisterhood	$ 444.25	
Choir Salary and Books	$ 886.73	
Sabbath School Teachers	$ 370.00	
Stationery, Printing, Stamps	$ 202.13	
Insurance	$ 460.00	
Building Maintenance	$ 179.68	
Taxes	$ 196.90	
Dues, UAHC	$ 423.00	
Miscellaneous	$ 243.43	
Rabbi's Travel Expenses	$ 215.00	
Rabbi's Pension	$ 210.00	
Gulf Power Co.	$ 317.60	
City of Pensacola	$ 136.68	
Total Disbursements		**$11,735.55**

January 14, 1949- At the annual meeting of the Temple Beth-El congregation, the Sabbath School had an enrollment of thirty-three students in five classes. Seven teachers were employed.

The temple re-elected all current officers for another year.

President	Max L. Bear
Vice President	David Henriques, Sr.
Secretary	Fannie Frenkel
Treasurer	Albert Klein

At the meeting, a committee was formed to plan the temple's seventy-fifth anniversary celebration.

April 8, 1949- Max L. Bear read his letter of resignation as president of the board to the trustees.

April 14, 1949- David N. Henriques Sr. assumed role of president of Temple Beth-El. Elsie Wagenheim was welcomed as a new trustee representing the Sisterhood. Max L. Bear was asked to accept the position of president emeritus.

May 2, 1949- Peggy Bear was introduced as a new board member representing the Sisterhood. The trustees asked Toby Hertz to fill the vacant Trustee position.

May 9, 1949- Max Bear was unanimously voted president emeritus.

May 30, 1949- The board welcomed Toby Hertz and he was elected vice president of the temple.

August 8, 1949- City officials decided not to allow a service station at the corner of Palafox and Cervantes Streets.

September 6, 1949- The board welcomed Jeanette Edrehi as a new member of the board, representing the Sisterhood, upon the resignation of Peggy Bear.

December 6, 1949- The Board of Trustees will recommend the following change to the constitution to be read at the annual meeting on January 9, 1950:

Article III, Section 4

"The business and affairs of the Corporation shall be managed and controlled by a board of ten trustees- four of whom shall be the officers, elected by the congregation to serve as President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer for a term of one year. Four trustees are to be elected for a term of two years. The other two trustees shall serve for a period of one year and shall be elected by the Sisterhood, from their membership."

January 9, 1950- At the annual meeting of the congregation the rabbi asked the membership to help him create the ideal congregation, by attending services at least one hour per week and assisting him in his work.

Officers elected to serve for the coming year include:

President	David Henriques Sr.
Vice President	Toby Hertz
Secretary	Fannie Frenkel
Treasurer	Albert Klein
Trustees	Richard Cole
	Frederick Greenhut

February 6, 1950- The board decided to take out liability insurance at a premium of $75.07 for three years.

February 10, 1950- A special meeting of the board was held for the purpose of having Rabbi Liebert explain conditions in the Sabbath School. Until this point the rabbi did not attend the board meetings. The board decided that from this point forward the rabbi was to be invited to attend the meetings.

April 10, 1950- The rabbi asked the board for a typewriter for the temple because the old one had been stolen. A few changes in the by-laws were discussed, including:

Article II, Section 2

" A spouse of a member in good standing of the congregation may, if they so desire, become a regular member of the congregation, upon approval of his application, by the Board of Trustees."

June 5, 1950- President David N. Henriques Sr. resigned from the Board of Trustees. Toby Hertz assumed the office of president for the un-expired term.

July 17, 1950- Frederick Greenhut agreed to accept the office of vice president until the next election on January 22, 1951.

December 11, 1950- The board decided that all previous rabbis, now deceased, would be recorded in the Book of Life.

December 31, 1950- End of Year (1950) Financial Report

Collections

Dues Collected	$12231.04	
Memorial Fund	$ 217.50	
Union Hebrew College	$ 10.00	
Temple Rental	$ 15.00	
Memorial Plates	$ 27.50	
Auditorium Rental	$ 10.00	
Sabbath School	$ 42.05	
Building and Loan Interest	$ 3.00	
Miscellaneous	$ 80.00	
Total Collections		**$12,636.09**

Disbursements

Rabbi's Salary	$ 6000.00	
Secretary's Salary	$ 360.00	
Sexton's Salary	$ 1200.00	
Choir Salary and Holidays	$ 965.00	
Sabbath School Teachers	$ 295.00	
Rabbi's Travel Expense	$ 83.00	
Rabbi's Pension	$ 300.00	
Cemetery Dues- Sisterhood	$ 489.15	
Miscellaneous	$ 349.22	
Building Maintenance	$ 173.21	
Organ Maintenance	$ 75.00	
Dues UAHC	$ 334.70	
Stamps	$ 91.84	
Stationery	$ 73.85	
Gulf Power Co.	$ 380.49	
City of Pensacola	$ 254.25	
Insurance	$ 591.95	
Sabbath School Books	$ 78.95	
Total Disbursements		**$12,095.61**

Endnotes for Chapter 5

[1] Temple Beth-El Centennial Program, 1976.

[2] Temple Beth-El Consecration Services Program Booklet, 1931.

[3] MOSAIC, Inc., *MOSAIC: Jewish Life in Florida Exhibit Text.* Miami: MOSAIC, Inc. 1990.

[4] James McGovern, *The Emergence of a City in the Modern South: Pensacola 1900-1945*, Pensacola, 1976, 55.

[5] Information compiled from the Temple Beth-El Sisterhood Meeting Minutes 1937-1946.

[6] *Pensacola New Journal*, Nov 24, 1970.

[7] MOSAIC, Inc., *MOSAIC: Jewish Life in Florida Exhibit Text.* Miami: MOSAIC, Inc. 1990.

[8] Names taken from plaque located in temple entry way.

[9] Temple Beth-El by-laws.



Wagenheim Collection

1949 Temple Men's Club celebration. Left to right: George Wagenheim, Jack Kugelman, Harry Kahn, Judge Leonard Frank, Leo Loeb.

Chapter 6
1951-1970

During the 1950s, Temple Beth-El continued to grow as a congregation. Julius Liebert remained rabbi of the temple until 1954, when Camillus Angel assumed the pulpit. Although only the minutes from the 1951-1952 Board of Trustee meetings have been discovered, one can see that the congregation was always striving to enhance its connection to Pensacola's community. The temple and its Max L. Bear Auditorium, with a fully equipped kitchen, became a community center as well as a place of worship. The Sisterhood and the Martin Friedman's Men's Group continually sponsored various speakers and activities as fund-raisers for the temple. They also maintained the temple and cemetery grounds. The Religious School continued to prosper, each year adding more students. More students meant more teachers, and more teachers meant more aspects of religion could be taught, including Hebrew.

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Highlights from the Temple Beth-El Board of Trustee Minutes 1951-1952

January 22, 1951- At the annual meeting, the congregation elected the following candidates:

President	Toby L. Hertz
Vice President	Frederick Greenhut
Secretary	Fannie Frenkel
Treasurer	Louis Bunnen
Trustees	Lewis Bear
	Harry Dante Kahn

March 12, 1951- The board agreed to spend $6.00 each Friday for a social after services.

December 1951- End of Year (1951) Financial Report

Collections

Temple Dues	$12,190.60
Memorial Account	$ 85.00
Temple Rental	$ 25.00
Auditorium Rental	$ 60.00
Memorial Plates	$ 150.00
Sabbath School Books	$ 34.00
Miscellaneous	$ 44.40
Donations	$ 185.00
Interest	$ 3.00
Amount Collected for UAHC	$ 605.00
Total Collections	**$13,382.00**

Disbursements

Rabbi's Salary	$6000.00
Secretary's Salary	$ 360.00
Sexton's Salary	$1200.00
Choir Salary	$ 897.00
Sabbath School Teachers	$ 350.00
Sabbath School Books	$ 97.15
Friday Evening Socials	$ 73.40
Cemetery Dues (Sisterhood)	$ 613.40
Miscellaneous	$ 309.74
Insurance	$ 756.95
Building Maintenance	$ 308.60
Dues (UAHC)	$ 447.00
Stamps	$ 92.87
Stationery, Postcards, etc.	$ 58.94
Gulf Power Co.	$ 357.08
City of Pensacola	$ 280.80
Southern Bell	$ 120.09
Rabbi's Pension	$ 300.00
Rabbi's Travel Expense	$ 200.00
Organ	$ 75.00
Donation collected for UAHC	$ 605.00
Total Disbursements	**$13,510.44**

January 14, 1952- At the annual meeting it is reported that the temple now has 169 members. The Sabbath School now has 60 pupils in six classes. The following board members were elected:

President	Toby L. Hertz
Vice President	Frederick Greenhut
Secretary	Fannie Frenkel
Treasurer	Stephen F. Klein
Trustees	Richard Cole
	Richard Cohn

Fannie Frenkel's salary as secretary was raised to $600 per year.

January 28, 1952- A special meeting was held to discuss changing the by-law concerning the rabbi's term. The proposed by-law read as follows:

Article XII, Section 1

"The rabbi shall be elected at each annual meeting for one year. Term of office shall begin Sept 1, following the election. After a rabbi has been elected for three consecutive years, the congregation may elect that rabbi for a longer period, not to exceed two years."

At a second reading of by-law Article XII, Section 1, on February 4, 1952, the motion to change the by-law passed.



Cohn Collection

Left: Joanne Cohn, daughter of Thelma and Richard Cohn, dressed as Queen Esther for a Purim celebration. c.1952

Seventy-Fifth Anniversary[1]

By 1953, the temple was busy getting ready for its 75th anniversary celebration. The 1953 temple officers included Toby Hertz, president; Harry D. Kahn, vice president; Julian Siegel, treasurer; and Fannie Frenkel, secretary. Trustees included Lewis Bear, Richard Cohn, R.F. Cole, Sadie Henriques, George Wagenheim, and Rosalie Rosenau. The temple held its anniversary banquet on November 15 at Martine's Restaurant, with George Wagenheim presiding. The evening's activities consisted of an invocation; an address of welcome from Toby Hertz, president of the temple; piano selections; historical highlights, presented by Elsie Wagenheim and Richard Cole; an address by Rabbi Emil Leipziger, from Touro Synagogue, New Orleans; and a benediction given by Rabbi Julius Liebert.

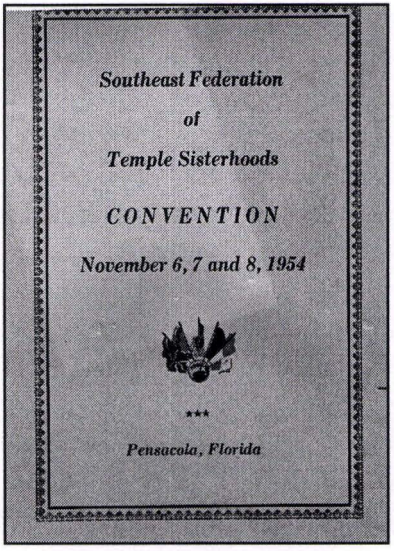
At the banquet, Rabbi Liebert gave a glowing review of the temple and its seventy-five year history, stating, "To this day Temple Beth-El stands out as a monument to the cause of liberalism in religion. The congregation always maintained the highest standard in religious matters. Behold our beautiful Temple! Mark the dignity and inspiring quality of our worship! Note the piety, rising like incense pure, from the very shrubs shading the resting places of our dear departed! The past has, indeed, been glorious."

During the celebration, Toby Hertz, the congregation president, also gave wonderful insights about the temple and its history. Having grown up in Temple Beth-El's congregation, starting in its Sabbath School in 1903, Toby explained that with each passing year he watched the temple become deeply rooted in the core of community life in Pensacola. He stated that "If what has been done in the past brings us satisfaction it must also bring us new responsibilities. We cannot be satisfied to rest on the laurels of the past seventy-five years but must prepare to press forward in a spirit of dedication and zeal to meet the opportunities and challenges of the coming years. If we have reaped the harvest prepared by our Fathers, we must also work to plant seed in fertile ground for the benefit of our children and their children." This attitude is reflected throughout Temple Beth-El's history and can still be seen today in the way the temple congregation continually works hard to preserve

the past, celebrating its heritage and looking toward the future at the same time.

Sisterhood

From November 6 through November 8, 1954, the Temple Beth-El Sisterhood hosted a convention for the Southeast Federation of Temple Sisterhoods. The convention was held at both the Hotel San Carlos and Temple Beth-El. The activities for Saturday, November 6 consisted of registration, an executive board meeting, and a cocktail reception and buffet dinner at the San Carlos. Activities for Sunday, November 7 took place at Temple Beth-El and consisted of a business session with committee reports and reports from local presidents, a religious service, an afternoon discussion session, and a speaker. The banquet took place Sunday night at the San Carlos. The convention concluded on Monday, November 8, with a president's breakfast and the election of officers, held at the San Carlos. Sisterhood presidents from outside of Pensacola had nothing but words of praise for the efforts Temple Beth-El's Sisterhood went through in order to make the convention a great success.



Temple Beth-El Collection

Left: Southeast Federation of Temple Sisterhoods Convention Booklet. 1954.

In 1954, Rabbi Julius Liebert left Temple Beth-El. The temple then engaged Rabbi Camillus Angel, who held the pulpit until 1961. During this time the Temple Beth-El Sisterhood, Temple Beth-El Youth Group, and Martin Friedman's Temple Men's Group prospered. Each group sponsored events for both the temple and Pensacola's community, including bingo nights, the Ballet Espagnol, and various speakers from all over the country.[2] In 1960, the temple built a new nine classroom Religious School building adjacent to the temple with money from a fundraising drive spearheaded by Belle Bear and son-in-law Bill Pollak.

In 1961, Temple Beth-El engaged Rabbi William Sanderson. He left the temple after only one year. With an immediate opening for a rabbi, the temple looked to Paula Ackerman to help them through the difficult situation. She had previously led the Meridian, Mississippi congregation upon the sudden death of her husband. This was a remarkable situation, because women had yet to become ordained rabbis in Reform Judaism. Although not a rabbi, Paula Ackerman, an extraordinary woman, had grown up in Temple Beth-El's congregation, and the temple officers believed that she could lead the congregation until a rabbi could be found. Reform Jews have always been committed to the absolute equality of women in all areas of Jewish life. They were the first movement to ordain women rabbis, invest women cantors, and elect women presidents of their temples. Paula Ackerman and her family accomplished two firsts for the women of Temple Beth-El.

Paula Ackerman[3]

Paula Herschkovitz Ackerman, born in New York City on December 7, 1893, was the first woman to serve as spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation in the United States. Her father, Joseph Herschkovitz, came from a village in Romania. Her mother, Dora Lang, was from Germany. They met in New York City and eventually moved to Pensacola. During a yellow fever scare in Pensacola, a very pregnant Dora went to stay with her family in New York City, and Paula was born before Dora could return to Pensacola.

Although both Joseph and Dora followed all the rituals of a pious Jewish household, they gradually "converted" to Reform Judaism,

as they began to realize that many of the old Orthodox customs had no meaning or little significance to people living today. As soon as Paula was old enough for Sabbath school, the Herschkovitzs joined Temple Beth-El. Dora became the first woman to serve on the temple board.

Paula's brother Jennings was born in 1897, and her brother Toby was born in 1899. In later years, and with their father's permission, Jennings and Toby changed their last name to Hertz. Paula's brother Toby served as president of the congregation from 1950 to 1954.

During high school Paula took four years of Latin, thinking she would become a doctor. She graduated in 1911 as valedictorian and won a scholarship to Sophie Newcomb College, an all girls school in New Orleans that is now part of Tulane University. Paula only wanted to go if she could study medicine, but her father forbade it. She did not want to study to become a teacher, so she ended up staying in Pensacola instead of going to college.

Rabbi William Ackerman visited Pensacola in 1913 and began serving as Temple Beth-El's rabbi in 1914. He and Paula began dating shortly after his arrival in Pensacola, and they were married on November 19, 1919. Rabbi and Paula Ackerman moved to Natchez, Mississippi, in January of 1920 and then to Meridian, Mississippi, in 1924, where Rabbi Ackerman served Temple Beth Israel until his sudden death in 1950. During his tenure, the rabbi took Paula everywhere with him while he was serving the Jewish community. She often said that in Meridian she was the wife of the congregation, as well as that of her husband. She would later call upon these experiences to help her as spiritual leader of both Meridian's Temple Beth Israel and Pensacola's Temple Beth-El.

Shortly after the death of Paula's husband, Rabbi William Ackerman, Temple Beth Israel chose Paula as its leader. When approached by the president of the Meridian congregation about filling in, she said she would try only until they could find someone else. In an interview with Paula in the early 1980s, the interviewer, Rosann Kahn Mann, asked Paula how she finally made the decision to accept the position. Paula declared, "One of the quotations that has always stayed with me from Hebrew Literature was 'out of the ashes of a broken heart I will build an altar to thee.' That was my

inspiration." Working with the congregation helped ease Paula's pain of losing her husband.

The Union of American Hebrew Congregations gave Temple Beth Israel permission to place Paula in charge of the congregation, and the city of Meridian gave her license to marry. There was only one duty that her husband did that she didn't attempt to do while holding the pulpit: she did not try to read from the Torah because she was not fluent in Hebrew, so Sam Nonitch, a member of the congregation, would read the Hebrew while Paula read the translations. Even the non-Jewish community in Meridian accepted Paula as a full rabbi, an acceptance which was more than she allowed herself. She always referred to herself as a lay reader or a spiritual leader, never as a rabbi.

Three years later, after her health began to show signs of strain, the congregation began seriously looking for a replacement. She continued to live in Meridian for over fifteen years, often returning to Pensacola for vacations.

In 1962, Temple Beth-El asked her to return to Pensacola to serve as its spiritual leader for an interim period. Paula herself described the situation, including her fears, in Rosann Kahn Mann's early 1980s interview:

> As exalting as my experience was in Meridian, I think it was even greater here in Pensacola where I grew up and where they knew me from childhood. George Wagenheim, president of the congregation, called me one night in January 1962, it was almost ten years since I had done the work in Meridian, and told me that the congregation was in a rather difficult situation. Their rabbi had left, they had had some problems, and they were in need of some leadership just for the five months remaining. Then they promised to have a rabbi, and would I please come down and do the same job for Pensacola that I had done for Meridian. Well, the thought was just appalling to me. I didn't see, for one thing, how in the world they would ever think of me as a rabbi in Pensacola, where they had known me as a little

girl growing up, going to Sabbath School, being confirmed. I was just part of Pensacola. I didn't see how they would give me the cooperation and the help that I needed to carry on the work. ... After weighing the situation, I said I would come down and give it a try. Well, the first Friday evening, I came down from the altar and stood in front of the pulpit and talked to the congregation heart to heart. I told them this was going to be an experiment, that I was there to help, if I could help, and I could only help if they helped me, if they cooperated with me...It was one of the most pleasurable and happy experiences of my life. I must say they did feel that I was their leader and I had no complaints. When I left they made me an honorary member of the Temple for life.

After holding the pulpit in Pensacola, Paula returned to Meridian. She moved back to Pensacola in 1970, living in an apartment in the Hotel San Carlos. In her later years, when asked about her thoughts on women rabbis, Paula commented that "I didn't do it to set a precedent, I think I pioneered, I think I showed it could be done. If I could do it without special training, then why should they keep a woman away from it if she goes through all of the required studies and preparation." Paula Ackerman passed away in 1989.



Rosann Kahn Mann

Paula Ackerman in her Rabbinical robes.

After Paula left the pulpit at Temple Beth-El, Rabbi N. William Schwartz became its rabbi. He served Temple Beth-El from 1962 until 1990, when he retired. He was the first rabbi in Temple Beth-El's history to be named rabbi emeritus.

Rabbi N. William Schwartz

N. William Schwartz was born in Scranton, Pennsylvania. His father, Samuel was a Lithuanian immigrant, and his mother's name was Esther. After finishing just one year of college at the College of William and Mary in Virginia, Schwartz began his military service in the United States Army during World War II. When he was nineteen years old, Schwartz, a sergeant in the Army, visited the Dachau concentration camp outside Munich, Germany, the day after it was liberated. Shortly after his visit, he met three Jewish female survivors of the camp. The girls' strong devotion to their faith made Schwartz reflect on his own Jewish past, and he decided to become a rabbi.

After returning to the United States, Schwartz finished his degree at the College of William and Mary and entered Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, where he met his wife Elaine Kolstein. They married on August 21, 1955, and had three children, Martin, Deborah, and Daniel.

Rabbi Schwartz came to Pensacola in 1962 from Temple Beth Or in Philadelphia. When asked what drew him to Pensacola, Schwartz stated, "The congregations in Philadelphia and Pensacola were comparable in size, but I felt in Temple Beth-El, that the people were friendlier and had a greater desire to practice their faith, both in the temple and at home. I found ready acceptance. It was almost love at first sight."

Over the years, Rabbi Schwartz helped the congregation grow to over 160 families. Under his leadership, the congregation began an outreach program, introducing Judaism to gentiles who married Jews. Outside of the temple, Rabbi Schwartz became a key figure in Pensacola's civic life, speaking at Christian churches and teaching a credit course titled "An Introduction to Judaism," involving Jewish history, philosophy, theology, customs and ceremonies, and Hebrew,

as an adjunct professor at the University of West Florida. He also made many contributions to the media, including radio, television, and newspapers, in all cases speaking for the entire greater-Pensacola Jewish community.

With Rabbi Schwartz at the pulpit, Temple Beth-El's congregation began to grow and change in accordance with the tenets of Reform Judaism, continually placing the religion in a modern context. Even under the strain of the Vietnam War, the temple continued its connection to religious and civic life in Pensacola. By examining the minutes taken at the board of trustees meetings during the later half of the 1960s, one can see the topics that were important to the temple. Topics included the addition of a library within the temple, the constant renovation of the temple and its properties, as well as the community activities the temple sponsored.



Taris Savell Collection

Bernard Savell, Taris Savell's father, (left) with Rabbi N. William Schwartz (right). The man in the middle is unknown. 1969

Highlights from the Temple Beth-El Board of Trustee Minutes 1966-1970

1966- Temple activities included painting, plastering and recovering seats in the sanctuary, which were financed by the Louis Bunnen Memorial Fund and other contributions. The temple also constructed a new parking area at the rear of the temple.

December 1966- End of Year (1966) Financial Report

Total Collections	**$38,293.13**
Total Disbursements	**$38,983.16**

January 11, 1967- 89th annual meeting of Temple Beth-El, held at the Rodeway Inn. There are currently 152 members in the congregation. Newly elected officers include:

President	Julian Siegel
Vice President	Dr. David Aronson
Secretary	Fannie Frenkel
Treasurer	Kenneth Cahn
Trustees	Aaron Krumbein
	Dr. Nat Rickoff

Outgoing board members include Pat Marcus and Dr. David Aronson

September 13, 1967- The insurance coverage amount is noted as $187,551 for the temple and $44,010 for the sabbath school building.

October 11, 1967- A committee, composed of Dr. and Mrs. Charles Kahn, Rabbi and Mrs. Schwartz, and Mr. and Mrs. William Peretzman was appointed by President Siegel to superintend and operate the Jonathan Kahn Library. Rabbi Schwartz is to be the chairman of the committee.

December 13, 1967- Rabbi Schwartz asked for a raise. He wanted a salary increase of $600 the first year, with a 12% pension, making the total salary $12,600. The second and third year of his contract his salary would be $13,000 with a 15% pension.

End of Year (1967) Financial Report

Total Collections	**$35,967.31**
Total Disbursements	**$34,466.36**

January 10, 1968- At the 90th annual meeting Rabbi Schwartz was re-elected for three years. The temple officers remained the same, except for the trustees. Harold Marcus and George Wagenheim were elected as trustees.

February 14, 1968- A representative from the State Road Department came before the board with details regarding a proposed plan for four-laning Cervantes Street. This would require acquisition of part of the property belonging to the temple.

March 27, 1968- Forty hymnals and ninety-five prayer books are to be purchased and inscribed "In Memory of Rabbi Martin Friedman".

May 15, 1968- Minimum dues for temple members are changed.

Single - $10.00 per month
Married Couples- $15.00 per month

June 12, 1968- Fannie Frenkel's salary as secretary is raised from $125 per month to $175 per month

September 18, 1968- President Julian Siegel appointed the following delegates to attend the Southeastern Biennial in Charleston for October 24, 25, and 26:

Dr. and Mrs. Dave Aronson
Dr. Charles Kahn
Mrs. and Mrs. Julian Siegel
George Wagenheim

October 9, 1968- Religious School has 83 children registered.

December 11, 1968- Kenneth Cahn asked that ten members of the congregation volunteer for service on Christmas Day at the USO.

End of Year (1968) Financial Report

Total Collections	**$33,796.04**
Total Disbursements	**$34, 535.04**

January 8, 1969- At the 91st annual congregation meeting the following individuals were elected to the board:

President	Dr. David Aronson
Vice President	Harry D. Kahn
Secretary	Fannie Frenkel
Treasurer	Kenneth Cahn
Trustees	Julius Stern
	Stephen Klein

February 12, 1969- Brenda Pollak joined the board as a trustee for the Sisterhood. At the meeting the board held a discussion about a "Passion Play" being brought to Pensacola to be shown February 21 and 22. President Aronson will organize a committee to speak to the Pensacola Home and Savings Association about their sponsoring this play and explain why the board is anxious that the play not be shown in Pensacola.

April 9, 1969- The cemetery caretaker was given a raise from $155 per month to $180 per month

June 11, 1969- The temple board would like to go on record as opposing the distribution of the Gideon Bible in the public schools.

November 12, 1969- Stephen Klein tendered his resignation as a board member due to illness. The board approved the selection of Dr. Allen Litvak as the new board member to fill the un-expired term. The board decided to invite the president of the Youth Group to attend temple board meetings starting in January. The president of

the Youth Group will not have voting privileges.

December 1969- End of Year (1969) Financial Report

Total Collections	**$65,073.05**
Total Disbursements	**$66,023.03**

January 8, 1970- At the 92nd annual meeting of Temple Beth-El's congregation the following officers were elected:

President	Dr. David Aronson
Vice President	Harry D. Kahn
Secretary	Fannie Frenkel
Treasurer	Kenneth Cahn
Trustees	Dr. Alex Gup
	Bill Zimmern

The congregation voted to raise the rabbi's salary to $14,000 per year plus 15% for the pension fund and a $50 per month car allowance, as a result of inflation.

January 14, 1970- Dues payable to the UAHC will be passed on to each member of the congregation totaling 11% of a month's dues per member.

September 9, 1970- The membership application is revised to include the minimum dues in all categories. It also requests that the first month's dues accompany the application.

October 14, 1970- Janice Loeb resigned from the board as a representative of the Sisterhood. Miriam Hertz replaced her.

November 11, 1970- Workmen's Compensation Insurance for the temple is noted as $450 for three years. The Sisterhood will hold a banquet in celebration of its 50th anniversary on Feb 6, 1971. Brenda Pollak was elected to be a director of the Southeast Federation of Temple Sisterhoods.

December 9, 1970- Kenneth Cahn, who has been treasurer for eight years, announces that he will not be a candidate for treasurer in the coming year. It is also noted that on July 1, 1971, Rabbi Schwartz will have served Temple Beth-El for ten years.



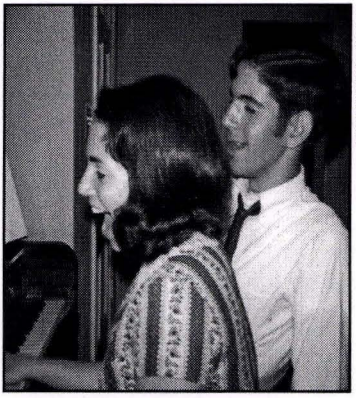
Cohn Collection

A Purim celebration at Temple Beth-El in 1960. Left to right: Lewis Greenhut, Jack Greenhut, Amy Orenstein, Richard Cohn Jr., and Rodney Rich. The girl in the back in unknown.



Cohn Collection

Nellie Stein Levy, Thelma Cohn's mother, standing in Temple Beth-El Cemetery wearing her Gray Lady Uniform from Baptist Hospital. 1962. Nellie's second husband was Leon "Junk" Levy.



Cohn Collection

Joanne and Richard Cohn Jr., Nellie Stein Levy's grandchildren, sitting around a piano. Joanne played piano and organ for Religious School services when she was young. Richard sang at Passover services and is now a cantor at North Shore Congregation Israel, in Glencoe, Illinois.

Endnotes for Chapter 6

[1] Temple Beth-El 75th Anniversary Program Booklet. 1954.

[2] Temple Beth-El Bulletins from 1955-1959.

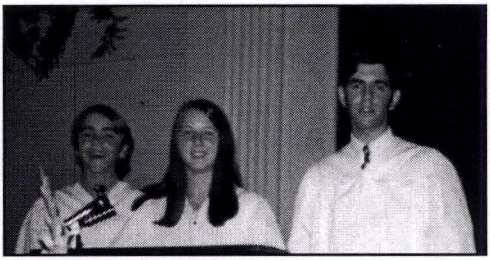
[3] Ackerman information compiled from:
Paula Ackerman, Interview by Rosann Kahn Mann, Tape Recording, Pensacola, FL, 1980.

1965 - Confirmation Class - 5725

CONFIRMAND	PARENTS
David Harry Dannheisser, Jr.	Mr. and Mrs. D. H. Dannheisser
Dudley H. Greenhut	Mr. and Mrs. Dudley Greenhut
David Edward Jacobson	Mr. and Mrs. Bernard M. Jacobson
Patricia Ann McMillan	Dr. and Mrs. Harlow Ades
Louis Kahn Rosenbloum	Mr. and Mrs. David Rosenbloum
Samuel Hyams Zimmern	Mr. and Mrs. William A. Zimmern

Temple Beth-El Collection

Excerpt from a Temple Beth-El Bulletin announcing the Confirmation Class of 1965.



Cohn Collection

1970 Temple Beth-El Confirmation Class: Jack Greenhut, Amy Orenstein and Richard Cohn Jr. Richard would accompany Rabbi Schwartz to Eglin Air Force Base to sing at Bar Mitzvah services in that area.

Chapter 7
1971-1990

Reform Jews are committed to the principle of inclusion, not exclusion. Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, the temple congregation continued to grow with the creation of a UAHC Outreach Program, which offered monthly programs, discussions, and activities centered around Jewish issues, problems, holidays and rituals. This program helped integrate families of interfaith marriages and "Jews by Choice," or those converting to Judaism, into the Jewish community and into the congregation.

The temple remained active, hosting several guest speakers including Rabbi Rachel Hertzman, outreach director of southeast congregations of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations; Rabbi Eric Yoffie, executive director of the Association of Reform Zionists of America; Dr. Jack Forrest, of the Pensacola Beach Community Church; and Yehashua Trigor, Israel's Consul General.

After forty years, however, the temple building began showing its age. Between 1970 and 1990, the congregation continually struggled to raise enough funds to renovate and conserve the temple, which meant so much to them. Still, the congregation had plenty to celebrate throughout the1970s and 1980s as the Temple Beth-El Sisterhood celebrated its 50th anniversary, the temple congregation celebrated its 100th anniversary, and Rabbi N. William Schwartz celebrated his 25th year serving the temple.

Sisterhood

On February 6, 1971, the Temple Beth-El Sisterhood celebrated its 50th anniversary with a special dinner held at Martines Restaurant. The evening began with an invocation by Rabbi Schwartz who affirmed, "Our Sisterhood has never been content to rest on its laurels and has ever sought to improve temple life through active, financial and concerned involvement. Its members have proven themselves over and over again through their participation."

After the dinner, Mrs. David M. Levitt, president of the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, addressed the Sisterhood with a talk called "Reflection and Radiance on a 50th Celebration." The

evening closed with a benediction by Rabbi Rudolph Weiss of B'nai Israel Synagogue in Pensacola.

Through its 50 years, the Sisterhood had continually been a supporting arm of the temple, with its members always ready to go the extra mile. Many members were honored with national and regional leadership posts, including two members who were past board members of the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, five members who were past directors of the Southeast Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, one past president of the Southeast Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, and one first chairman of the Southeast Federation of Temple Sisterhoods Braille Committee.

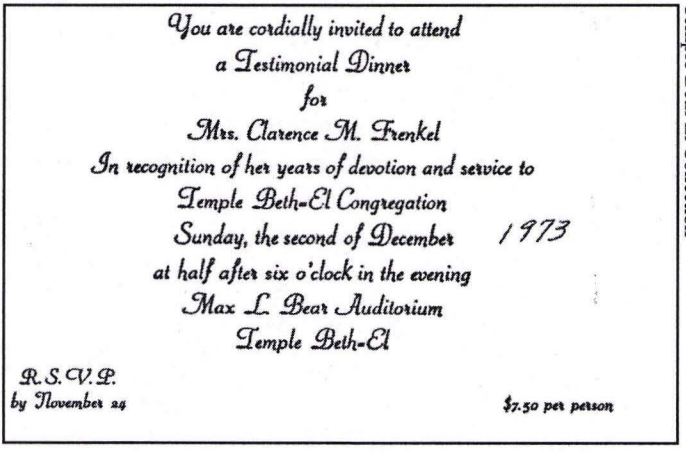
The Sisterhood's mission as religious Jewish women is to

- foster and further the highest ideals of Judaism;
- foster the religious, educational, social and charitable usefulness of Temple Beth-El;
- help Jews in distress;
- aid the community in time of emergency;
- and further the program of the Women of Reform Judaism.

Throughout the 1970s and 1980s the Sisterhood maintained its high level of activity within the temple and the Pensacola community. Their meetings often ranged from 40 to70 members in attendance, which was well above the national average. They continued to work closely with the Red Cross and the USO in Pensacola, and although the Sisterhood no longer took care of the cemetery, they were the sole financial support for the Religious School, paying teachers, buying books, and setting the religious curriculum. They also provided flowers for the pulpit each week and gave a congregational Seder, Chanukah dinner, and Purim party each year. Further, they sponsored the Temple Beth-El Youth Group and sent delegates each year to religious summer camps and to conventions, in addition to holding a National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods and National Federation of Temple Youth Sabbath Service called "Celebrating Shabbat Together."

Special Events

On Dec 2, 1973, Temple Beth-El held a testimonial dinner for Fannie Frenkel in recognition for almost forty years of devotion and service to the temple congregation. The dinner was held in the Max L. Bear Auditorium, where Fannie was given the position of secretary emeritus and became the temple's second honorary lifetime member. Fannie passed away just two years later, on February 24, 1975. She was almost 85 years old.



You are cordially invited to attend
a Testimonial Dinner
for
Mrs. Clarence M. Frenkel
In recognition of her years of devotion and service to
Temple Beth-El Congregation
Sunday, the second of December 1973
at half after six o'clock in the evening
Max L. Bear Auditorium
Temple Beth-El

R.S.V.P.
by November 24

$7.50 per person

Temple Beth-El Collection

Invitation to Fannie Frenkel's Testimonial Dinner in 1973.



Temple Beth-El Collection

Left: Rabbi Schwartz presenting Fannie Frenkel with a certificate of appreciation for almost forty years of service to Temple Beth-El.



Temple Beth-El Collection

Right: Fannie Frenkel with her children at her Testimonial Dinner in 1973. Left to right: Terese McClure, Clarence Frenkel Jr., Fannie, Maurice Frenkel and Claire Ades.

Centennial Anniversary Celebration

From Friday, April 23 through Sunday, April 25, 1976, Temple Beth-El celebrated its centennial with an entire weekend of activities. Rabbi N. William Schwartz was honored to be serving the temple during such a historic occasion. He declared, "Over the years, Temple Beth El has been a source of inspiration, comfort, joy and happiness to its members. Our Temple has fulfilled and is fulfilling the threefold functions of a Jewish Congregation. It has been a House of Prayer, a House of Study, and a House for Assembly to gather for various activities. A Temple is more than a building, more than bricks and wood and windows. A Temple is people pursuing similar goals, having complimentary interests, desiring common ends. We can take pride in the fact that we are such a congregation."

President George Wagenheim looked to the future while celebrating Temple Beth-El's past. He quoted Isaac Mayer Wise, who spoke these words in 1874: "Most nations have had their golden days in the past. The golden days of Reform Judaism are in the future, in the progress of the human race." Temple Beth-El always seems to be looking forward with optimism and an understanding that the past is only important as long as there is a future.

During the weekend, a booklet detailing the programs was given to each member. This booklet, published through funds contributed to honor Helen and Son Kahn on their fiftieth wedding anniversary, contained lists of past rabbis, past congregation presidents and past Sisterhood presidents, a brief history of centennial families, as well as reproductions of the program from the Temple Beth-El consecration service in 1896 and letters from the 1931 Board of Trustees and Building Committee. The booklet outlines the weekend's activities as follows:

- The Centennial Sabbath Eve program was held at the temple at 8:00 p.m. on Friday evening. Rabbi Leonard Mervis, a former rabbi of Temple Beth-El, gave a sermon entitled "Reform Judaism, One Hundred Years Later." Participants included:

- Paula Ackerman, former spiritual leader of Temple Beth-El;
- Dr. David Aronson, past president, 1969-1970;
- Richard Cole, past president , 1955-1956;
- Dr. B. V. Dannheisser Jr., past president, 1965-1966;
- Toby Hertz Sr., past president, 1950-1954;
- Dr. Charles Kahn, past president, 1963-1964;
- Harry D. Kahn, past president, 1954, 1971-1972;
- Julian Siegel, past president, 1967-1968;
- and George Wagenheim, past president, 1962 and current president.

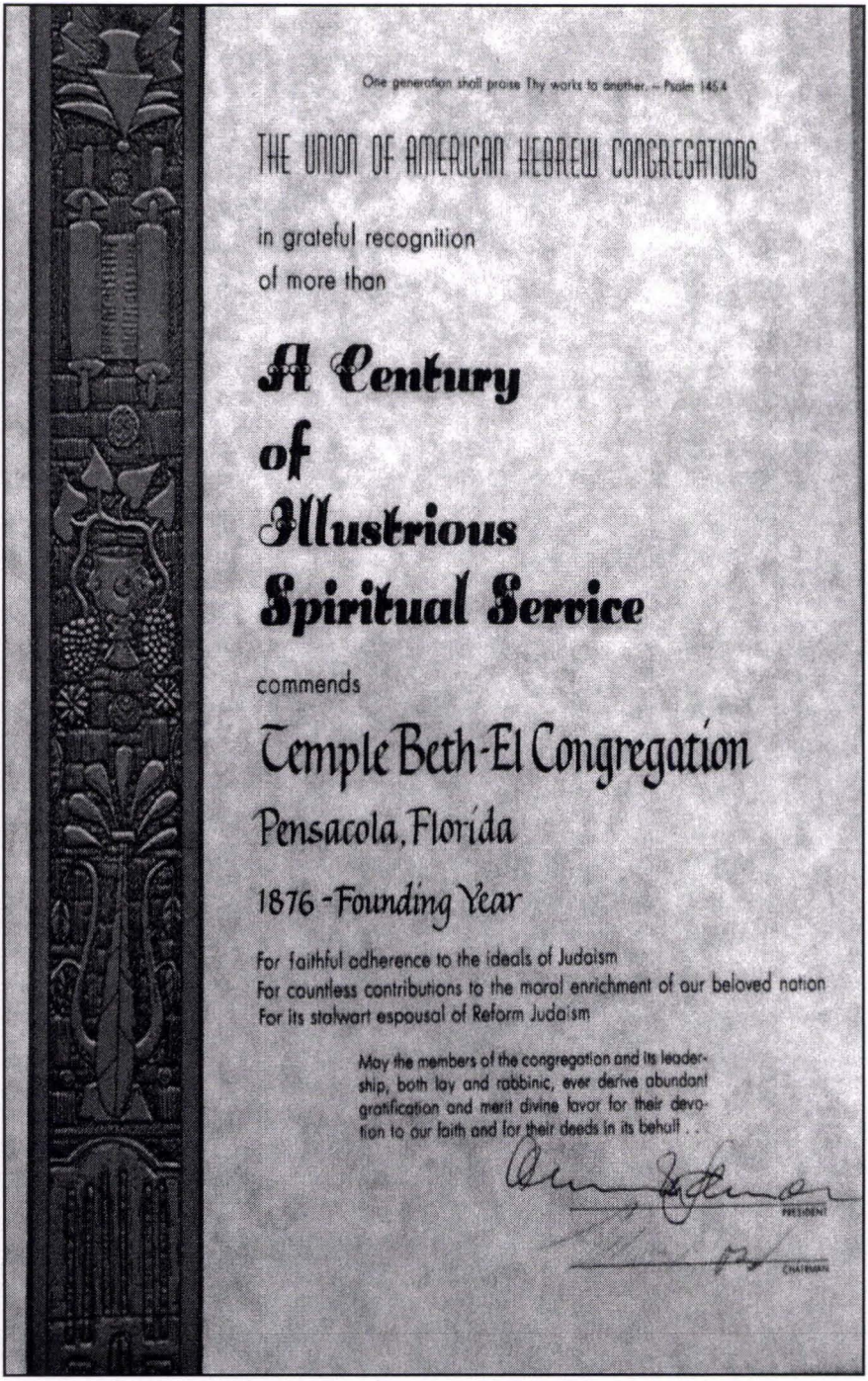
- The Centennial Sabbath Morning Program was held at the temple at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday. Rabbi N. William Schwartz gave a sermon titled "A Glorious Past, An Optimistic Future." Participants included Bettie Kahn, president; the Temple Beth-El Sisterhood; and Dr. C. J. Heinberg, past president, 1957-1961.

- On Sunday evening at 7:00 p.m., the centennial banquet was held at the Scenic Hills Country Club. Temple President George Wagenheim presided over the evening. Rabbi Leonard Mervis gave the invocation. Harry D. Kahn, a centennial co-chairman, presented historical highlights. Rabbi Malcolm Stern, a noted Jewish historian on the staff of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, was the guest speaker for the evening. He gave a speech titled "How the Colonial Jews did it." The evening ended with a benediction by Rabbi N. William Schwartz.

In November of 1977, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations presented Temple Beth-El with a certificate honoring its 100 years.

Following Page: Union of American Hebrew Congregations certificate presented to Temple Beth-El in 1977, for 100 years of service.

Temple Beth-El Collection


One generation shall praise Thy works to another. – Psalm 145:4

THE UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS

in grateful recognition
of more than

A Century
of
Illustrious
Spiritual Service

commends

Temple Beth-El Congregation
Pensacola, Florida

1876 - Founding Year

For faithful adherence to the ideals of Judaism
For countless contributions to the moral enrichment of our beloved nation
For its stalwart espousal of Reform Judaism

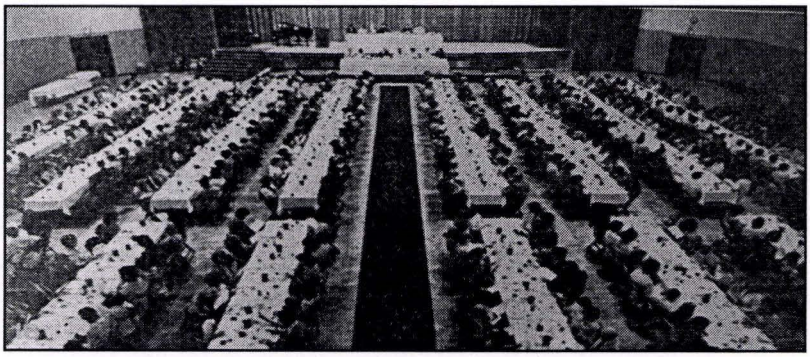
May the members of the congregation and its leadership, both lay and rabbinic, ever derive abundant gratification and merit divine favor for their devotion to our faith and for their deeds in its behalf . .

PRESIDENT

CHAIRMAN

Rabbi N. William Schwartz

During the 1970s and 1980s, Rabbi Schwartz was extremely active in both temple and civic life. At the congregation's annual meeting in 1976, George Wagenheim commended the rabbi by affirming, "Rabbi Schwartz is a dedicated and sincere man who loves his Judaism. His determination in seeing that the children of the congregation receive a good Jewish education and his outstanding work in the community deserve praise." In April of the same year, Rabbi N. William Schwartz led the first area-wide community Seder in Pensacola, attended by 750 people of all races and denominations.



Temple Beth-El Collection

Photograph taken inside the Bayfront Auditorium in Pensacola, during the first area-wide community Seder led by Rabbi N. William Schwartz in 1976.

In November 1979, Rabbi Schwartz and Temple Beth-El hosted the first joint Thanksgiving service with First United Methodist Church. This activity became an annual tradition, which is still observed today.

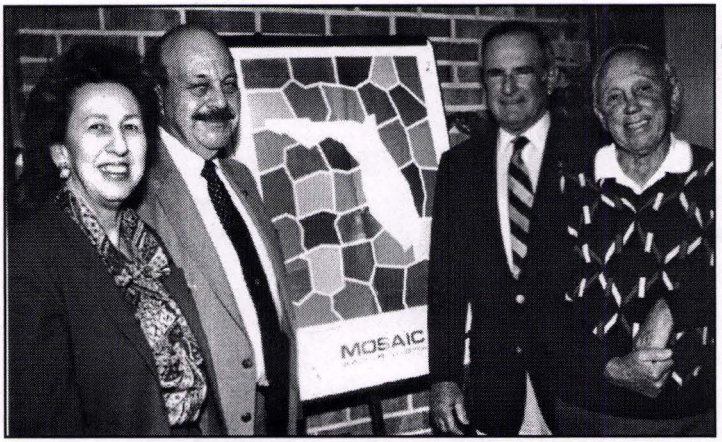
Rabbi Schwartz was called to duty outside of Pensacola, as well. On August 17, 1982, Rabbi Schwartz gave the invocation at the beginning of the United States Congress, House of Representatives session in Washington, D.C.

In 1988, Rabbi Schwartz celebrated his 25th year as Temple Beth-El's rabbi. The congregation honored him with a gala dinner at the Hilton. He retired two years later, and the congregation named him rabbi emeritus of Temple Beth-El.

Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, the temple and its congregation continued to move forward. Meanwhile, several temple members began looking back and focusing on researching and archiving Temple Beth-El's history. Even before the centennial celebration, members of the congregation whose families were instrumental in the temple's beginnings began piecing together the congregation's history by collecting newspaper clippings, temple letters and programs, photos, and temple records. In April of 1980 the Temple Youth Group volunteered to compile records of all the graves at the cemetery. This list is maintained at the temple and includes names, birthplace, and dates.

MOSAIC

By 1989, the Jewish community of Pensacola, including members of both Temple Beth-El's reform congregation and B'nai Israel's conservative congregation, came together to help preserve the history of Judaism in Pensacola. Beverly Kaiman and Harry Kahn coordinated Pensacola's contribution to the MOSAIC project, along with MOSAIC board members Marvin Kaiman and Jack Kugelman.



Temple Beth-El Collection

Pensacola's MOSAIC Board Members, left to right: Beverly and Marvin Kaiman, Harry D. Kahn and Jack Kugelman. c. 1990

Lewis "Buddy" Pollak and Claire Ades also served on the board of MOSAIC in later years.

MOSAIC, Inc. is a non-profit organization, incorporated in Florida in 1989 to retrieve, document, preserve, and display for the public benefit photos, documents, and artifacts depicting the Jewish experience in Florida. The MOSAIC exhibit was a joint project of the Judaic Studies Department at the University of Miami, the Samuel and Helene Soref Jewish Community Center in Fort Lauderdale, and the Central Agency for Jewish Education of Miami and Fort Lauderdale. Dr. Henry Green, director of the University of Miami's Judaic Studies Program, and Marcia Zerivitz, executive director of the Jewish Museum of Florida supervised the MOSAIC exhibit; the Florida Department of State and the Florida Endowment for the Humanities supplied the funding.[1]

The MOSAIC exhibit followed the story of Jews in Florida over the span of two centuries. It traced the history of Jewish culture, not the religion. Consisting of 2000 square feet of exhibit space, MOSAIC included personal stories, photos and memorabilia of various Jews from all over Florida. The exhibit had one introduction panel, seven freestanding units covering major topics, and seven wall-mounted panels covering sub-themes.

The three major themes included

- Jewish Family Life as the source of ethnic identity;
- community interaction as a transitional element in acculturation;
- and a theme entitled "Jewish Floridians: Shaping and being shaped by a unique cultural environment."

The exhibit opened in September 1990 at the Historical Museum of Southern Florida, located at 101 W. Flagler St. in Miami, and traveled for four years to thirteen cities including Ft. Lauderdale, Jacksonville, Orlando, Pensacola, Palm Beach County, Pinellas County, Sarasota, Tallahassee, and Tampa. The traveling exhibit generated so much interest that by 1995 MOSAIC evolved into the Jewish Museum of Florida, where the exhibit is permanently housed today.

The Jewish Museum of Florida opened in a former synagogue that housed Miami Beach's first congregation. Built in 1936 and on the National Register of Historic Places, the building that underwent

a two-year restoration of $1.5 million boasts art deco features, a copper dome, a marble bimah, and 80 stained glass windows.

The museum hosts traveling exhibits; sponsors cultural and educational programs; houses a Collections and Research Center reflecting nearly 250 years of Florida Jewish History; and communicates Jewish history, values, and issues to Jews and non-Jews alike. It is also a place for Jews of all ages to discover and reaffirm their rich heritage.

Northwest Florida Jewish History Exhibit

For Temple Beth-El, the MOSAIC exhibit sparked interest in recording the history of Jews in Northwest Florida. Because the MOSAIC exhibit is now located at the Jewish Museum of Florida in Miami Beach, several members of Pensacola's temple and synagogue wanted to create something that would remain in the city. They began collecting artifacts, photographs, and documents, as well as interviewing members of the congregation. The result is the Northwest Florida Jewish History Exhibit, which is housed in the room behind the bimah inside Temple Beth-El and is sponsored by the Pensacola Jewish Federation. With historical pictures and artifacts, the room reflects the story of the Jewish people of Pensacola. The sign on the door to the exhibit states, "It is hoped that this exhibit will help keep our children informed of their heritage and to inform the people of Pensacola of our contribution to its growth. Some of these families of the people in these pictures are still here today and carry on the traditions of the original settlers." This exhibit is a wonderful glimpse into the history of the Northwest Florida Jewish community and is available for group tours.



Rosann Kahn Mann

Northwest Florida Jewish History Exhibit located inside Temple Beth-El.

Temple Beth-El's celebrations and various programs throughout the 1970s and 1980s are evidence of an active temple. By examining the information in the Temple Beth-El Board of Trustee meeting minutes, one can see the temple's growth through the number of new members added per year and the continually increasing financial responsibility of the temple, as well as through the continual need for temple maintenance.

Highlights from the Temple Beth-El Board of Trustee Minutes 1971-1990

January 13, 1971- At the annual meeting it was noted that the Temple Youth Group had received a National CB Award. Only thirty-one out of 600 youth groups received this honor.
The temple officers elected included:

President	Harry D. Kahn
Vice President	Robert Kahn Jr.
Secretary	Fannie Frenkel
Treasurer	Lewis Bear Jr.
Trustees	Paul Kling and Dr. Ethan Ruben

End of Year (1970) Financial Report

Total Collections	**$41,992.11**
Total Disbursements	**$42,170.54**

February 10, 1971- Rabbi Schwartz asked to hire a part time secretary. The board raised janitor Felter Fleming's salary to $80 per week.

September 1, 1971- Breakdown of Rabbi Schwartz's salary

Salary	$5300.00
Housing Allowance	$4000.00
Utilities	$1500.00
Car Allowance	$2000.00
Health Insurance	$ 600.00
Pension	$ 600.00

Car Expense	$ 600.00
plus	
Salary Increase	$1000.00 as of August 1, 1971
Total	**$15,600.00**

October 13, 1971- The ladies restroom is renovated and new playground equipment is purchased for the Religious School.

November 10, 1971- It is noted that there are seventy-six children in the Religious School.

December 18, 1971- End of Year (1971) Financial Report

Total Collections	**$40,747.87**
Total Disbursements	**$39,311.87**

February 9, 1972- Dr. Charles Kraselsky and William Halpern are welcomed as new trustees.

March 9, 1972- Fred Vigodsky is welcomed as a new member of the board.

May 10, 1972- Roof and walls need repair. Windows need caulking. Progressive Roofing and Sheet Metal Company was given the contract to repair the roof for $3188.00 with a twenty year guarantee.

June 14, 1972- Dr. Ethan B. Ruben resigned from the board and James Feldman was selected as his replacement.

December 6, 1972- End of Year (1972) Financial Report

Total Collections	**$48,957.69**
Total Disbursements	**$52,791.11**

January 8, 1973- At the annual meeting the following officers were elected:

President	Robert Kahn, Jr.
Vice President	George Wagenheim
Secretary	Fannie Frenkel
Treasurer	Richard Cohn
Trustees	James Feldman
	Paul Kling
	Bettie Kahn

January 17,1973- Vicki Cramer is hired to assist the Rabbi in the office and eventually take over the duties of secretary of the temple at $120/month.

September 13, 1973- Breakdown of Rabbi's salary

Salary	$7325.00	
Housing Allowance	$4000.00	
Car Allowance	$2000.00	
Utilities	$1500.00	
Health Insurance	$ 900.00	
Pension	$ 600.00	
Car Expense	$ 600.00	
Total		**$16,325.00**

October 16, 1973- Fannie Frenkel stated that this would be her last year as temple secretary. The board designated Mrs. Frenkel secretary emeritus and an honorary life member. She will continue to receive her full salary.

November 14, 1973- The Pensacola Jewish Federation raises $250,000.00. This is the largest amount ever raised in Pensacola. The board suggests that Amelia Wagenheim and her Sisterhood committee continue their search of Pensacola's Jewish history.

December 1973- End of Year (1973) Financial Report

Total Collections	**$50,601.74**
Total Disbursements	**$47,889.33**

The roof is still leaking. The Sisterhood renovated the kitchen and redid the auditorium. New carpet was installed in the sanctuary and on the stairs.

January 13, 1974- At the annual meeting it is noted that there are eleven new members in the congregation. There are currently eighty three children in the Religious School. Rabbi Schwartz is given a five-year contract commencing on August 1, 1974.

October 31 to November 5, 1974- The following members attended the Union of American Hebrew Congregation's Biennial Convention in Atlanta:

Ann and Harry Kahn
Dr. Charles and Bettie Kahn
Dr. Bert Jr. and Joyce Dannheisser
Rabbi N. William and Elaine Schwartz
Janis Loeb

November 13, 1974- Rabbi Schwartz sent a telegram to President Ford in regard to the anti-Semitic comments of a Joint Chief of Staff.

December 17, 1974- The rabbi is to receive a raise next year of at least the amount of the cost of living increase or 5% whichever is greater. Figures currently show that the cost of living index in Pensacola is up 12.1%.

End of Year (1974) Financial Report

Total Collections	**$55,271.56**
Total Disbursements	**$52,792.15**

The interior of the Religious School was repainted. The rabbi's study was re-carpeted.

January 15, 1975- At the annual meeting the following officers were elected:

President	George Wagenheim
Vice President	William Zimmern
Treasurer	Richard Cohn
Secretary	Vicki Cramer
Trustees	Lucille Foley
	Richard Hirsch
	Richard Cole

January 23, 1975- All new membership applications show increased dues effective March 1, 1975.

$12.50/single
$18.75/ family

April 9, 1975- Rabbi's salary breakdown for 1975

Salary	$10,000.00
Housing Allowance	$ 4000.00
Car Allowance	$ 2500.00
Utilities	$ 1500.00
Health Insurance	$ 900.00
Pension	$ 800.00
Car Expense	$ 700.00
Total	**$20,400.00**

September 10, 1975- The cemetery was vandalized. The gate will now be locked at 5pm each night. Lights were also installed and the interior of the cemetery caretaker's home was renovated.

October 8, 1975- To avoid a deficit next year, dues will be raised effective Jan 1, 1976.

$16.80/single
$22.40/ family

December 1975- End of Year (1975) Financial Report

Total Collections	**$59,753.29**
Total Disbursements	**$57,825.85**

January 11, 1976- At the annual meeting it is reported that the temple acquired fourteen new members, there were six resignations and five members passed away. The temple also celebrated nine conversions, three births and eight marriages.

December 1976- End of Year (1976) Financial Report

Total Collections	**$62, 457.00**
Total Disbursements	**$61,436.91**

January 9, 1977- At the annual meeting it is reported that the temple acquired 16 new members, there were seven resignations and four members passed away. The temple also celebrated one conversion, three births and two marriages. The following officers were elected:

President	Lewis Pollak
Vice President	Bettie Kahn
Secretary	Charlotte Morris
Treasurer	Richard Cohn
2 year Trustees	Bill Greenhut
	Susan Hirsch
	Fred Seligman
1 year Trustees	Art Tucker
	Greta Rickoff

June 13, 1977- Rabbi's salary breakdown for 1977

Salary	$12,736.00	
Housing Allowance	$ 4000.00	
Car Allowance	$ 2500.00	
Utilities	$ 1500.00	
Health Insurance	$ 1000.00	
Pension	$ 800.00	
Car Expense	$ 799.92	
Total		**$23,335.92**

April 9, 1978- The annual meeting is now being held in April. At the annual meeting it is noted that the temple recruited eight new members, eleven members resigned and four members passed away during the year.

End of Fiscal Year (April 1977- April 1978) Financial Report

Total Collections	**$65,519.30**
Total Disbursements	**$64,522.39**

April 15, 1979- At the annual meeting it is noted that six new members joined the congregation, twelve members resigned, and five members passed away during the year. The total number of members is currently 142.

Officers elected at the meeting include:

President	Bettie Kahn
Vice President	Fred Seligman
Secretary	Anita Rosenau
Treasurer	Richard Cohn
Trustees	Anita Brazel
	Richard Hirsch
	Aubrey Morris

Rabbi Schwartz was reelected for five years.

End of Fiscal Year (April 1978- April 1979) Financial Report

Total Collections	**$72,105.63**
Total Disbursements	**$69,911.94**

April 6, 1980- At the annual meeting it is noted that there are 160 families in the congregation. The temple gained twenty new families, four members renewed their membership after an absence, four members resigned and three members passed away during the year.

End of Fiscal Year (April 1979-April 1980) Financial Report

Total Collections	**$81,808.90**
Total Disbursements	**$72,206.50**

April 12, 1981- At the annual meeting it is noted that five new families joined the congregation and three members passed away during the year.

The officers elected at the meeting included:

President	Fred Seligman
Vice President	Dr. Charles Kraselsky
Secretary	Claire Ades
Treasurer	Harold Marcus
Trustees	Yale Brazel
	Myron Rosenthal
	Dr. William Zimmern
	Dr. Harold Wittcoff

End of Fiscal Year (April 1980-April 1981) Financial Report

Total Collections	**$79,685.53**
Total Disbursements	**$77,085.63**

The Rabbi's total salary for 1981 is set at $33,798.00

April 14, 1982- At the annual meeting it is noted that nine new families have joined the congregation, four members passed away and seven resigned during the year.

End of Fiscal Year (April 1981-April 1982) Financial Report

Total Collections	**$126,471.44**
Total Disbursements	**$124,950.78**

April 10, 1983- At the annual meeting it is noted that thirteen new families joined the congregation, six members passed away and six resigned during the year.

The officers elected at the meeting include:

President	Dr. Charles Kraselsky
Vice President	Myron Rosenthal
Secretary	Anita Rosenau
Treasurer	Richard Cohn
Trustees	Bill Foley
	Charles Kahn Jr.
	Rodney Rich

End of Fiscal Year (April 1982-April 1983) Financial Report

Total Collections	**$106,120.14**
Total Disbursements	**$121,155.13**

The Rabbi's total salary for 1983 is set at $40,185.42

The stairway was re-carpeted, the front doors were refinished, and a security system and intercom were installed in the temple.

April 8, 1984- At the annual meeting it is noted that there are currently 156 members in the congregation. During the year fourteen new members joined the congregation, eleven members resigned, and three members passed away. The rabbi's contract is renewed for five years.

End of Fiscal Year (April 1983-April 1984) Financial Report

Total Collections	**$112,644.47**
Total Disbursements	**$112,145.26**

April 17, 1985- At the annual meeting it is noted that eight members joined the congregation, seven members passed away and eight members resigned during the year. There are currently forty children in the Religious School.

Officers elected at the meeting include:

President	Myron Rosenthal
Vice President	Louis Rosenbloum
Treasurer	Richard Cohn
Secretary	Claire Ades
Trustees	Richard Cohn
	William Foley
	Charles Kahn, Jr.
	Kathleen Kaufman
	Helaine Kling- Sisterhood President

End of Fiscal Year (April 1984-April 1985) Financial Report

Total Collections	**$143,526.20**
Total Disbursements	**$141,063.89**

Rabbi's total salary for 1985 is set at $43,109.38

The cemetery house was removed and replaced with a mobile home.

April 6, 1986- At the 110th annual meeting it is noted that fourteen new members joined the congregation, four members passed away, and five members resigned during the year. There are currently twenty-nine students in the Religious School.

End of Fiscal Year (April 1985-April 1986) Financial Report

Total Collections	**$121,364.29**
Total Disbursements	**$120,069.61**

The Sisterhood refurbished and redecorated the Religious School.

April 5, 1987- At the annual meeting it is noted that eleven new members joined the congregation, six members passed away and five members resigned during the year. There are currently thirty-three students and five teachers in the Religious School.

Officers elected at the meeting include:

President	Louis Rosenbloum
Vice President	Charles Kahn Jr.
Treasurer	Richard Cohn
Secretary	Miriam Simmons
Trustees	George Wagenheim
	Jeff Cramer
	Beverly Zimmern, Sisterhood President

End of Fiscal Year (April 1986-April 1987) Financial Report

Total Collections	**$139,153.79**
Total Disbursements	**$138,263.67**

Rabbi's total salary for 1987 is set at $47,060

A new roof was installed and the parapet wall was recapped. The sanctuary windows were resealed and the inside of the sanctuary was repainted.

April 10, 1988- At the annual meeting it is noted that seven new members joined the congregation, four members resigned, and eight members passed away during the year. There are currently thirty-nine students attending the Religious School.

End of Fiscal Year (April 1987-April 1988) Financial Report

Total Collections	**$186,536.90**
Total Disbursements	**$179,150.94**

The Sisterhood painted the Religious School rooms and put new ceiling fans in the kitchen.

April 9, 1989- At the annual meeting it is noted that ten new members joined the congregation, eight members resigned, and seven members passed away during the year. There are currently fifty students enrolled in the Religious School.

Officers elected during the meeting include:

President	Charles Kahn Jr.
Vice President	Dr. Bill Zimmern
Treasurer	Richard Cohn
Secretary	Sandy Harrison
Trustees	Dante Kahn
	Kenneth Merritt
	Audrey Nolte, Sisterhood President
	Louis Rosenbloum, Past President

John Temple, the cemetery caretaker, retired as a result of illness. Sam and Claude Harvell took over his duties.

Dues were increased from $28 per month to $44.80 per month for current members and $56 per month for new members.

The Rabbi's total salary for 1989 was set for $55,691

Improvements were made to the parking lot entrance and to the kitchen and Max L. Bear Auditorium. New exterior lighting was installed, along with a security door. The porch roof was replaced and the temple's heating and air-conditioning equipment was repaired.

April 6, 1990- At the annual meeting it is noted that nine members joined the congregation and ten members passed away during the year. There are currently fifty-six students enrolled in the Religious School who are taught by ten teachers, two librarians and one music teacher.

It is also noted that the official prayer book used for Sabbaths and holidays is the *Gates of Prayer*. The official prayer book used for High Holy Days is the *Gates of Repentance*. The songbook used is the *Gates of Song*. The official pronunciation of Hebrew at Temple Beth-El is Sephardic.

The water pipes and the furnace heater-coil unit were repaired.

The Sisterhood purchased new carpeting for the library and had the kitchen professionally cleaned. They paid $1160 to repaint the kitchen and entryway and to replace worn tiles and a window sill.



Temple Beth-El Collection

1987 Simchat Torah. Front row right to left: Laura Merritt, Forrest Raymon, Maggie Cramer, Julia Kahn, Laura Nolte, and Rabbi Schwartz. Back row right to left: Kelsey London, Ashley Rosenbloum, Ben Zimmern, and Eric Siegel.

Endnotes for Chapter 7

[1] MOSAIC, Inc. *MOSAIC: Jewish Life in Florida Exhibit Text.* Miami: MOSAIC, Inc. 1990.

Conclusion
125 years and beyond

In early 1990, Temple Beth-El engaged Rabbi David E. Ostrich to occupy the pulpit. Rabbi Ostrich continues to be an active part of the Jewish community and maintains a busy schedule of religious and civic activities in Pensacola, as did his predecessors. Rabbi Ostrich is an adjunct professor at both the University of West Florida and Pensacola Junior College. He is a member of the Pensacola Rotary Club, Leadership Pensacola, and the Pensacola Ministerial Association, and coaches little league baseball. He is also on several boards and committees throughout the area, including the Manna Food Bank, the Pensacola Center for Creative Community Solutions, and the School Superintendent's Religious Advisory Committee.

In 1993, after years of renovating the temple building one piece at a time, the temple congregation undertook a full renovation of the temple. Through time, parts of the temple had become outdated and did not meet building codes. Because of the temple's growing membership, the temple building was not always able to meet the needs of the congregation. According to temple President Dr. William Zimmern Jr., the congregation hoped to "pave the way for worship into the 21st century." The architect's conservative estimate was $500,000, a sum equal to four years of congregational dues. Through a massive fundraising effort and temple donations, the temple was able to meet its goals, and the temple building was properly renovated.



Temple Beth-El Collection

Temple Beth-El located at 800 N. Palafox Street, Pensacola, FL.

Today, Temple Beth-El and its congregation are a very important part of Pensacola's community. The temple congregation remains active, with 185 families as members, and three living honorary lifetime members including Thelma and Richard Cohn, and Helaine Kling. The Religious School continues to prosper, and the temple also sponsors classes for adults. There are many different areas within the temple, including youth programs and Religious School, spiritual committee, adult programs and education, planning and fund raising, membership and outreach, cemetery committee and cultural activities, and Sisterhood and men's group activities. The temple projects are all done by volunteers, and through their support the temple is active and thriving. The temple also continues to sponsor all sorts of cultural events, including films and presentations by speakers from around the world. Each event is typically open to the public and helps to bridge the gap between the Jewish community and those not familiar with the ideals of the Jewish faith.

Temple Beth-El also works closely with B'nai Israel, the conservative Jewish congregation in Pensacola. The two congregations work together on several projects during the year, including an annual Purim party and a pre-kindergarten cooperative Religious School. The joint Thanksgiving day service, started by Rabbi Schwartz, remains an annual event, and each year one of the several congregations involved hosts the event. Some of the religious institutions that are involved in the event include: Temple Beth-El, B'nai Israel, First United Methodist, and Christ Episcopal Church.

Throughout its history, Temple Beth-El and its members have made an everlasting impression on Pensacola. Both the success and the hardships dealt with by the temple congregation helped shape the city. Temple Beth-El and the Jewish community of Pensacola continue to celebrate their heritage, and at the temple's 125-year celebration in 2001, the congregation and the Florida Department of State erected a marker on the spot of the original temple at the corner of Chase and Jefferson Streets.[1] The temple's work in preserving its history allows future generations to be able to appreciate everything this Jewish congregation has dealt with over the last 128 years.



Rosann Kahn Mann

Temple Beth-El marker located at 37 E. Chase Street. The marker was dedicated in 2001, during Temple Beth-El's 125th anniversary celebration.

Endnotes for Conclusion

[1] *Pensacola News Journal*, May 6, 2001

APPENDIX A
Rabbis and Lay Readers

Gerson Forcheimer	**1876**
Samuel Laskey	
A. Posman	**1890**
M. Gugenheim	**1891**
Adolph Rosenberg	**1892**
Jacob Kahn	**1893-1896**
Rabbi Isaac E. Wagenheim	**1897-1903**
Rabbi Samuel Koch	**1903-1905**
Rabbi Jacob D. Schwarz	**1906-1912**
Rabbi Louis Brav	**1913**
Rabbi William Ackerman	**1914-1919**
No Rabbi	**1920**
Rabbi Iser L. Freund	**1921-1923**
Rabbi Israel J. Sarasohn	**1924**
Rabbi Beryl D. Cohon	**1925-1927**
Rabbi Martin Friedman	**1928-1939**
No Rabbi	**1940**
Rabbi Leonard J. Mervis	**1941-1944**
Rabbi Julius A. Liebert	**1945-1954**
Rabbi Camillus Angel	**1954-1961**
Rabbi William Sanderson	**1961**
Paula Ackerman	**1962**
Rabbi N. William Schwartz	**1962-1990**
Rabbi David E. Ostrich	**1990-present**

APPENDIX B
Congregation Presidents

G. Forcheimer	1878
David Bear	*
Sol Cahn	*
Jacob Kahn	1885
Phineas Stone	1887
Michael Levy	1890
Morris Dannheisser	1895
Adolph Greenhut	1896
Max L. Bear	1907
Alec Friedman	**
Sidney Levy	**
Harry Wagenheim	1928
Dan Oppenheimer	1929
Lep Wolff	1932
Max L. Bear	1935
J. Montrose Edrehi	1938
Max L. Bear	1939
David Henriques	1949
Toby Hertz	1950
Harry Dante Kahn	1954
Richard F. Cole	1955
Dr. C. J. Heinberg	1957
George Wagenheim	1962
Dr. Charles Kahn	1963
Dr. B. V. Dannheisser Jr.	1965
Julian Siegel	1967
Dr. David Aronson	1969
Harry Dante Kahn	1971
Robert H. Kahn Jr.	1973
George Wagenheim	1975
Lewis B. Pollak	1977
Bettie Kahn	1979
Fred Seligman	1981
Dr. Charles Kraselsky	1983

APPENDIX B, cont.
Congregation Presidents

Myron Rosenthal	**1985**
Louis K. Rosenbloum	**1987**
Charles Kahn Jr.	**1989**
Dr. Bill Zimmern Jr.	**1991**
Kenneth Merritt Jr.	**1993**
Chuck Lisner	**1995**
Stephen Rome	**1997**
Rodney Rich	**1999**
David G. Tucker	**2001**
Dr. Stuart Siegel	**2003**

***dates lost in fire of 1895**
****dates lost in fire of 1929**



Janel D. Hendrix

This plaque, in recognition of Temple Beth-El's past presidents, hangs in the temple's Max L. Bear Auditorium.

APPENDIX C
Sisterhood Presidents

Elsie Wagenheim
Cora Bear
Miriam Frank
Selma Wolff
Jennie Mayer
Leonie Oppenheimer
Carrie Heinberg
Bert Lichten Parda
Helen Kahn
Freddie Lischkoff
Leoma Goodman
Peggy Bear
Jeanette Edrehi
Betty Rubin
Blanche Barrett
Ann Kahn
Marie Bryant
Ruth Krumbein
Greta Rickoff
Carolyn Cole
Amelia Wagenheim
Bettie Kahn
Brenda Pollak
Janis Loeb
Carolyn Cole
Amelia Wagenheim
Bettie Kahn
Brenda Pollak
Helaine Kling
Beverly Zimmern
Audrey Nolte
Karen Levine
Greta Rickoff
Lucille Foley
Alice Klein
Cindy Gross
Margaret Wein
Deborah Buchalter
Sue Weathers

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Do Not Remove

Corrections
Page 30
Paragraph 3 should read:

Dr. Charles Kahn,son of J.L, Kahn and great-grandson of both Jacob Kahn and Lewis Bear, served as President of Temple Both El from 1961 to 1963. He served as President of Escambia County Medical Society, President Florida Society of Internal Medicine, President and Founder Florida Physicians Association, Speaker of the House of Delegates, Florida Medical Association, Speaker of the House of Delegates, American Society of Internal Medicine. He received The Certificate of Merit, The Organizations highest honor from both The American Medical Association and The Florida Medical Association. In 1995 he was named Distinguished Internist of the Year by both the Florida Society of Internal Medicine and The American Society of Internal Medicine.



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Temple Beth-El located at 800 N. Palafox Street, Pensacola, Florida *circa 1993*