

A Tale of Two Shuls -- CBA/Beth Israel Timeline

1919 – Beth Israel, unites under the leadership of Joseph Rosenblatt as a result of shifting demographics to the upper west side. Services initially held upstairs at the Elmwood Studio, corner of Elmwood and Auburn

1921 – Congregation splinters , Beth Abraham formed and dedicates new synagogue at 1045 Elmwood Ave. Cantor Goldberg conducts service; Emil Rubenstein, David and M. Diamond, speakers; holy scroll presented by Mrs. R. Jacobs

Dance sponsored by CBA at Hotel Statler Ballroom -- \$1.00 Admission

1922– CBA incorporates at 1045 Elmwood

1925 -- Jews unite in community drive to raise \$10,000 for new Buffalo Jewish Council, of which CBA and Beth Israel are both members. 3000 notices mailed to Jewish residents.

1928 -- Rabbi Simon Schwartz in charge of CBA services for Passover at 1045 Elmwood. Public “Passover Festival” also held.

1932 -- Article in Courier-Express notes Beth Israel address as 509 Lafayette Ave. Cantor Morris Gellman conducts services for High Holidays.

1933 or 1934 – Beth Israel moves to reconstructed church at 1073 Elmwood

1933 – Congregation Beth Abraham participates in a protest meeting against Hitler in Elmwood Music Hall. 50 local Jewish organizations convene for this event. Special Friday night services also held at two synagogues, Beth El (on Richmond) and Beth Zion.

1934 – Founder and past President Joseph Rosenblatt dies at 83. Having emigrated from Lithuania, Mr. Rosenblatt and his wife, Fannie Cohen, owned a bakery on William Street. He was “profoundly interested in the United Aged Home in Palestine.” Earlier in the year, he was honored as President of the Board of Trustees for life. Entertainment at the event by Cantor David Glinkovsky

1935 – Officers at CBA elected – Herman Sapowitch (president), David Ravnitsky (VP) Sol Lenzner (treasurer)

Max Cornblum collapses and dies upon leaving services at Beth Israel (1073 Elmwood). Carried back into the Temple and is pronounced dead by Dr. Williams Pollack. He was a tailor, age 59.

1937 – Republican Party rally held at Beth Israel, 1073 Elmwood. Estimated crowd of over 500 people, Meeting ran for nearly 5 hours. Solomon Siegel, Louis Leff, and Sherman Cornblum in charge of various committees.

1938 -- Announcement of services at Beth Israel, conducted by Rabbi Harry Brevis, lecturer at the local Tarbut College of Jewish Studies and educational director of Young Men’s and Women’s

Hebrew Association in Buffalo

1940's – CBA absorbs former members of Beth Jacob (Clinton Street Shul), at one time one of Buffalo's most powerful Orthodox congregations (dating back to the 1880's). Congregation, which had been in decline, was disbanded and building demolished,

1940 – Rabbi Gedalia Kaprow of CBA speaks at dinner celebrating the 900th anniversary of celebrated “simplifier of the Bible,” Ruchia.

1941 – Hebrew School established at Beth Israel. Israel Ruzmizen, Buffalo attorney leads Yom Kippur services

1942 – Series of Friday night services at Beth Israel with Israel Ruzmizen as speaker. Services conducted by the “Rev.” Jacob Judelsohn assisted by a musical quartet under his direction

Temple (Beth Israel) conducts bazaar for the benefit of the synagogue, chaired by Jacob Hartzburg

1932 – Members of B'nai Brith sponsor a bean supper and card party at Beth Israel. Names associated with the event include, Reva Steinhardt, Thelma Levy, Cecil Raych, Pearl Gordon, Hilda Appert, Hilda Isenberg. Rose Axelrod, Rosalie Faber, Doris Goldstein, Gloria Goldberg and Sylvia Lerner

1950 – Hyman Fogel, one of CBA's founding members (and current VP) dies. Rabbi Justin Hoffman conducts funeral service in the Etkin Mortuary, 576 Linwood Ave.

1957 – Court approves consolidation of 2 congregations – Beth Abraham and Beth Israel. Oscar Smukler serves as counsel for Beth Israel, Maurice Yellen for Beth Abraham

Jacob Smukler, dies. Rabbi Isaac Klein of Temple Emanu-El officiates service at CBA, now at 1073 Elmwood Ave,

1958 – Dr. Ralph Seal of NYC serves as guest Rabbi for High Holiday Services

1961 – Joseph Sapowitch, CBA President, hailed in a newspaper article for his role in Jewish education. He was past president of Bureau of Jewish Education and director of the American Association for Jewish Education. At the time, he was actively seeking support for the Kadimah School of Buffalo, holding a fund raiser at the North Park Theatre. He also was an ardent supporter of St Teresa's Church and its pastor, Leo Toomey.

Early 1960s – Last known full time rabbi – Rabbi Katz, followed by Cantor Spitz (a shochet by trade)

1962 – Rabbi Shepherd Baum of the Bronx leads high holiday services

1960s-1980s – Mass exodus of Jewish population to suburbs. CBA like other city shuls suffers the consequences,

Early 1990s – Affiliation changes from Orthodox to Conservative