



# M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives

## **Albany Jewish Community; Collection mss037**

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English

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives
<b>Creator:</b>	Greater Albany Jewish Federation
<b>Title:</b>	Albany, New York Jewish Community Collection
<b>ID:</b>	mss037
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1905-1990
<b>Physical Description:</b>	2.03 cubic ft.
<b>Physical Location:</b>	The materials are located onsite in the department.
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	The Jewish Community of the Albany, New York area is featured in the Collection which was brought together to show community involvement in the region by the Greater Albany Jewish Federation and the University Libraries of the University at Albany, SUNY. This collection contains photographs, meeting minutes, commemoration papers, local area newspapers, academic articles, community reports, and a prayer book.

### Preferred Citation

Preferred citation for this material is as follows:

Identification of specific item, series, box, folder, Albany, New York Jewish Community Collection, 1905-1990. M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University at Albany, State University of New York (hereafter referred to as the Albany Jewish Community Collection).

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## Biographical Sketch

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According to *The Jews in Albany, New York* by Louis Silver, the first Jewish settlers in the fast growing commercial center that became Albany arrived in the mid-1650s. This small community declined as trade diminished during the late 17th Century and there was no organized Jewish community in the area during the 18th Century. As trade and immigration from Central Europe to Albany flourished during the early 19th Century, the Jewish population increased and Albany's first synagogue was dedicated in 1841. Eastern European Jews, predominantly Poles and Russians, began immigrating to Albany in the mid-to late-19th Century. As a direct result of this influx of newcomers, Silver cites the Jewish population in Albany in 1886 as being approximately 3,000. By the turn of the 20th Century, this number reached 4,000 and continued to grow. According to Henry Brownstein, in *Being Jewish in Albany, New York: Origins and Manifestations of Diversity*, the Jewish population in Albany was around 13,500 by the late 1970s.

Throughout the 19th and 20th Centuries, Jews in Albany created additional synagogues along with fraternal and philanthropic organizations. This included a local chapter of B'nai B'rith, a home for the aged, a women's benevolent society, the Jewish Community Center, a YMHA and YWHA and more. An organized Jewish labor movement also began in earnest in the 1890s.

The Greater Albany Jewish Federation was originally called the Albany Jewish Community Council when it was established in 1952. It was renamed the Greater Albany Jewish Federation in 1978. It was again renamed in 1986 to the United Jewish Federation of Northeastern New York after it merged with other Jewish organizations in the region. It is a non-profit organization whose mission is to serve the Jewish community in the region.

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## Scope and Contents

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The collection documents Jewish life in the Greater Albany area of New York and consists of two series: Series 1: Subject Files, Series 2: Photographs. Series 1 contains the meeting minutes of the Congregation of Beth El Jacob from 1957-1961, local area Jewish newspapers, newspaper clippings, mortgage files, various local area Jewish organizations' anniversary commemoration pamphlets, community reports, a master list of Soviet Jewish immigrants, and a bound volume of a Jewish prayer book in Yiddish. Series 2 contains photographs and portraits, many taken by Morris Gerber depicting special events, military personnel, and everyday life in the Jewish community between 1926 and 1961.

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## Arrangement of the Collection

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The collection is organized into the following series:

Both series are arranged alphabetically

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives

### Revision Description

Encoded in EAD by Jason Thomas 2014

### Processing Information

Processed in 2014 by Jason Thomas.

### Access

Access to these records is unrestricted with the exception of one folder marked on the inventory.

### Copyright

The researcher assumes full responsibility for conforming with the laws of copyright. Whenever possible, the M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives will provide information about copyright owners and other restrictions, but the legal determination ultimately rests with the researcher. Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be discussed with the Head of Special Collections and Archives.

### Acquisition Information

This is an organically assembled collection initially brought together by the Greater Albany Jewish Federation and the University Libraries of the University at Albany, SUNY in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Albany, New York
- Ethnic Groups
- Judaism--New York (State)--Albany
- Religious gatherings--New York (State)--Albany
- Religious communities--New York (State)--Albany
- Fund raising--New York (State)--Albany
- Synagogues--New York (State)--Albany
- Religious institutions--New York (State)--Albany
- Clubs--New York (State)--Albany
- Charities--New York (State)--Albany
- Community life--New York (State)--Albany
- Newspapers
- Photographs
- Pamphlets
- Minutes
- Articles
- Greater Albany Jewish Federation
- B'nai B'rith

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## Collection Inventory

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### Subject Files, 1905-1990Undated

Date [inclusive]: 1905-1990

Date [inclusive]: Undated

Physical Description: 1.43 cubic ft.

#### Scope and Contents

Series 1 contains the meeting minutes of the Congregation of Beth El Jacob from 1957-1961, local area Jewish newspapers, newspaper clippings, mortgage files, various local area Jewish organizations' anniversary commemoration pamphlets, academic articles, community reports, a master list of Soviet Jewish immigrants, and a bound volume of a Jewish prayer book in Yiddish.

Title/Description	Instances
<i>Adjustment of Soviet Jewish Immigrants in the Albany (N.Y.) Area</i> by Walter P Zenner and Debra Hiller	Box 1 (1- Folder 1 Subject Files)

<u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1983		
<i>The Albany Jewish World</i>	Oversized 1	Folder 1
<u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1976		
<u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1979		
<i>Being Jewish in Albany, New York: Origins and Manifestations of Diversity</i> by Henry H. Brownstein	Box 1 (1-Subject Files)	Folder 2
<u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1975		
Certificate of Incorporation of the United Brethren Society of Albany, NY	Oversized 1	Folder 2
<u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1905		
Commemorative Papers – Albany Area Jewish Organizations	Box 1 (1-Subject Files)	Folder 3
<u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1970		
<u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1983		
<u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1990		
Jewish Communal Survey of Albany, NY	Box 1 (1-Subject Files)	Folder 4
<u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1947		
Jewish Community Center – Schedule of Classes	Box 1 (1-Subject Files)	Folder 5
<u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1979		
<i>The Jews in Albany, New York</i> by Louis Silver	Box 1 (1-Subject Files)	Folder 6
<u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1954		
Meeting Minutes – Congregation Beth El Jacob’s United Brethren	Box 1 (1-Subject Files)	Folder 7-8
<u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1956		
<u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1958-1960		
Meeting Minutes – Congregation Beth El Jacob’s United Brethren	Box 1 (1-Subject Files)	Folder 9
<u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1961		
Mortgage Documents, United Brethren Society	Box 1 (1-Subject Files)	Folder 10
<u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1939		
<u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1942		
<u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1952		
<u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1960		
Order of Consolidation – Congregation Beth El Jacob and Agudas Achim Congregation (United Brethren Society Cognregation)	Box 1 (1-Subject Files)	Folder 11
<u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1959		
Plaque, Congregation Sons of Abraham	Oversized 2	
<u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1931		
Program, Dedication of Newly Acquired Building for Congregation Sons of Abraham		

<u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1959	Box 1 (1- Subject Files)	Folder 12
Program, The Completed New Congregation Sons of Abraham <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1962	Oversized 1	Folder 3
Skull Cap and Prayer Book from the Wedding of Libby Jochowitz and Behzad Khajehzadeh <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1978	Box 1 (1- Subject Files)	Folder 13
Shas Tehine <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> Undated	Box 1 (1- Subject Files)	Folder 14
Soviet Jewish Immigrants Master List-[RESTRICTED] <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1974-1981 <u>Conditions Governing Access:</u> <b>Conditions Governing Access</b>  Must consult archivist before viewing this material.	Box 1 (1- Subject Files)	Folder 15
<i>Times Union</i> Photo Clipping <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1947	Box 1 (1- Subject Files)	Folder 16

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## Photographs, 1926-1961

Date [inclusive]: 1926-1961

Physical Description: 0.6 cubic ft.

### Scope and Contents

Series 2 contains photographs, many taken by Morris Gerber, which document the Jewish community of the greater Albany area in the early- to mid-Twentieth Century. These include photographs of special events, portraits, military personnel, and everyday life.

Title/Description	Instances	
Events <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1935-1936 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1939	Box 2 (2- Photographs)	Folder 1
Events <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1945 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1947 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1949	Box 2 (2- Photographs)	Folder 2
Events	Box 2 (2- Photographs)	Folder 3



<u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1953-1955		
<u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1957-1960		
Events <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> Undated	Box 2 (2- Photographs)	Folder 4-6
Events – Award Ceremonies <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1957 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1959	Box 2 (2- Photographs)	Folder 7
Events – B'nai B'rith <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1956 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1959	Box 2 (2- Photographs)	Folder 8
Events – Business <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1943 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1953 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1958	Box 2 (2- Photographs)	Folder 9
Events – Business <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1959-1960	Box 2 (2- Photographs)	Folder 10
Events – Business <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> Undated	Box 2 (2- Photographs)	Folder 11
Events – Charity <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1952 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1959 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> Undated	Box 2 (2- Photographs)	Folder 12
Events – Congregation Sons of Abraham <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> Undated	Box 2 (2- Photographs)	Folder 13
Events – Old Philologists <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1945 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1947 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> Undated	Box 2 (2- Photographs)	Folder 14
Events – Temple Beth Emeth <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1938 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1956 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1958 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> Undated	Box 2 (2- Photographs)	Folder 15
Events – Temple Israel <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1926	Box 2 (2- Photographs)	Folder 16

<u>Date [inclusive]:</u> Undated		
Events – Variety Club <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1950 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1953-1954 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1956-1959	Box 2 (2- Photographs)	Folder 17
Events – Variety Club <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> Undated	Box 2 (2- Photographs)	Folder 18
Events – Women’s Organizations <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1937 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1946 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1951 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1960 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> Undated	Box 2 (2- Photographs)	Folder 19
Everyday Life in Greater Albany <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1927 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1931-1932 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1934-1935	Box 2 (2- Photographs)	Folder 20
Everyday Life in Greater Albany <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1937-1938 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1940-1941	Box 2 (2- Photographs)	Folder 21
Everyday Life in Greater Albany <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1943-1945 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1947 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1950	Box 2 (2- Photographs)	Folder 22
Everyday Life in Greater Albany <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1952-1960	Box 2 (2- Photographs)	Folder 23
Everyday Life in Greater Albany <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> Undated	Box 2 (2- Photographs)	Folder 24-25
Military <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1942-1946 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1949	Box 3 (2- Photographs)	Folder 1
Military <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1953-1954 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1957	Box 3 (2- Photographs)	Folder 2
Military	Box 3 (2- Photographs)	Folder 3

Date [inclusive]: Undated

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Portraits	Box 3 (2- Photographs)	Folder 4
<u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1935		
<u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1937		
<u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1939		
<u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1942-1943		

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Portraits	Box 3 (2- Photographs)	Folder 5
<u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1953-1957		
<u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1959		

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Portraits	Box 3 (2- Photographs)	Folder 6
<u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1960-1961		

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Portraits	Box 3 (2- Photographs)	Folder 7-8
<u>Date [inclusive]:</u> Undated		

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