

Asheville's Jewish Timeline

- 1860s First documented Jews in Asheville
- 1868-73 Estimated period of delivery of *The Scattered Nation* by Zebulon Vance, a speech praising Jews, delivered by a governor from Western NC
- 1880 Railroad comes to Asheville; more Jews begin to arrive.
- 1880s Moses Cone becomes president of C.E. Graham Manufacturing
- 1891 Congregation Beth HaTephila founded as a conservative congregation
- 1892 Jewish section of Riverside Cemetery purchased
- 1899 Bikur Cholim synagogue formed as an orthodox congregation; today Congregation Beth Israel
- 1902 Beth HaTephila purchases their first building
- 1904 Solomon Schechter, head of the Jewish Theological Seminary, brought to Asheville to negotiate a merger of congregations
- 1905 **Jewish population of Asheville 100**
- 1907 Asheville has chapters of the National Council of Jewish Women
- 1908 Beth HaTephila joins Union of American Hebrew Congregations and becomes a reform congregation
- 1912 Asheville chapter of B'nai B'rith founded
- 1915 Young Men's Hebrew Association (YMHA) organized
- 1916 Mount Zion Jewish Cemetery (now known as Lou Pollock Memorial Park), organized by the West Asheville Hebrew Cemetery Association. Bikur Cholim's new building burns down. Another congregation, Anshei Yeshuran forms
- 1922 Agudas Israel, a reform congregation in Hendersonville, is founded
- 1924 Bikur Cholim building reconstruction completed
- 1926 Central Conference of American Rabbis holds its' annual meeting in Asheville
- 1927 **Jewish population of Asheville 700**

- 1928 B'nai B'rith erects a monument to Governor Vance in the "Westminster Abbey of the Southland" in Fletcher
- 1929 Thomas Wolfe's book *Look Homeward, Angel* published
- 1931 William Dudley Pelley, the would-be American Hitler, moves to Asheville
- 1934 The first Brotherhood Day is observed
- 1933 Black Mountain College founded. This became a destination for Jews from the Bauhaus school to leave Germany.
- 1933-45 The Holocaust period
- 1935 Federated Charities organized; later becomes WNC Jewish Federation
- 1937 Jewish population of Asheville 950
- 1939 Jewish Community Relations Council organized in response to Kristallnacht.
- 1940 Jewish Community Center of Asheville opens on Charlotte Street
- 1947 **Jewish population of Asheville 600**
- 1949 Congregation Beth HaTephila erects a new building
- 1950 Bikur Cholim changes its' name to Beth Israel; Asheville has an active chapter of the National Council of Christians and Jews.
- 1960s Harry Winner helps integrate Asheville's retail sales force; Beth HaTephila has integrated Boy Scout troop. ASCORE works for racial integration (1960-65)
- 1960 **Jewish population of Asheville 875**
- 1969 Asheville Biltmore College becomes part of the University of North Carolina. Beth Israel moves into a new building
- 1970 Connie Lerner the first Jewish American to be crowned Miss North Carolina
- 1970s Many businesses relocate from downtown to the new mall; family department stores close
- 1974 Temple of the High Country founded in Boone. A synagogue was built in 2008.
- 1979 The Mountain Synagogue was started in Franklin

- 1980 **Jewish population of Asheville 1000**
- 1983 Center for Jewish Studies created at UNC-Asheville
- 1987 Merger of Congregations Beth Israel and Beth HaTephila again discussed
- 1989 Kenneth Michalove becomes Asheville's first Jewish mayor
- 1995 Center for Diversity Education founded at the JCC
- 1997 Leni Sitnik becomes Asheville's first female and second Jewish mayor
- 1999 Jewish Family Services founded at JCC
- 2001 Brevard Jewish Community formed
- 2003 Hard Lox Jewish Heritage and Food Festival started
- 2005 Celebration Israel started
- 2006-2011 Maccabi Academy operated as a Jewish Day school
- 2006 The Chabad House founded
- 2009 Jewish Film Festival started
- 2010 **3,400 people in Jewish-connected homes in WNC plus 835 seasonal residents**
- 2013 Esther Manheimer becomes Asheville's third Jewish mayor
- 2014 Jewish Secular Community of Asheville founded
- 2014 Carolina Jews for Justice/West chapter, founded as a result of the first Mountain Moral Monday event in Asheville

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