

The first Jewish activity in Tucson occurred in the early 1850's shortly after Tucson became part of the United States through the Gadsden Purchase. The established Jewish community in Tucson began in the 1880s with the arrival of Jewish women who founded organizations such as the Ladies Hebrew Benevolent Society (*Citizen/Star*). Arizona's first synagogue, Temple Emanu-El, opened in 1910. As Tucson's Jewish population grew in the 1920s, a need arose for a Conservative place of worship and, in 1930, CAI was chartered. In the early years the congregation met at the Jewish Community House, but moved in 1946 into their new synagogue on Sixth and Martin. In 1969 CAI moved into its present building. Starting with a few families, the congregation has grown into an active, vibrant, Conservative synagogue.



Cantor Falkow with first choir, 1948



Rabbi Breger and Cantor Falkow stationed in Okinawa



CAI's incorporation charter, April 1930

OCTOBER 4, 1929
THE ARIZONA DAILY STAR

JEWISH HOLIDAYS TO BEGIN TONIGHT

The Congregation Anshei Israel of Tucson have services celebrating the coming Jewish holidays of Rosh Hashonah and Yom Kipur, in the auditorium over the Steinfeld grocery at 79 North Stone avenue.

Rosh Hashonah services will start at 7:30 o'clock Friday evening, October 4. On Saturday, October 5, services will be held at 9 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. with Sunday morning services at 9 o'clock.

Yom Kipur services will start at 7 o'clock Monday evening, October 13, with the singing of Kol Nidrei. Services will be held all day Monday, October 14.

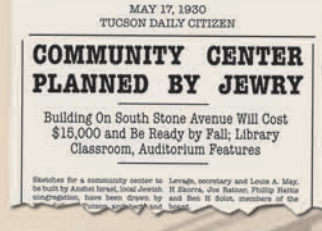
All persons of Jewish faith are cordially invited to all the services.



First CAI Newsletter after opening of new synagogue at Sixth and Martin, April 1946



No Words Can Tribute A Rabbi Such As Ours



Cong. Anshei Israel, chartered in 1930, was housed in a made-over old adobe home. The adobe was covered with a desert tan plaster and the interior dividing walls had been removed. This made one room of about 30x50 for services. At the south end of the room was the pulpit and the ark. The walls around the ark were painted a light blue to resemble the sky and even faint stars had been painted into the sky.

In this one room services were held, Hebrew school was taught and card games were played.

1929
■ Conservative Jews begin holding separate services

1930
■ CAI, located on S. Stone, receives charter from the state of Arizona

■ Gerson Chanin is first CAI Bar Mitzvah (*CAI*)

1935
■ First Sefer Torah donated

1939
■ Dr. Marcus Breger becomes the first long-term Rabbi of CAI

■ Membership 26 families (*AZ POST*)

1939-45
■ World War II and Holocaust

1940
■ Greater Tucson population around 55,000, Jewish population around 600

1941
■ Mixed seating begins

1943
■ Rabbi Breger joins the Army, becomes acquainted with Cantor Maurice Falkow

■ Rabbi Aaron Moscovitz serves as interim Rabbi

1945-48
■ Cantor Harry Boronstein serves CAI as first full-time cantor

1946-50
■ Jewish population grows as WWII vets and UA alumni settle in Tucson

1946
■ CAI relocates to new building at Sixth and Martin

■ Rabbi Breger returns

■ CAI membership reaches 175 families

1947
■ Lael Horowitz is first CAI Bat Mitzvah during Friday evening services (*AZ Post*)

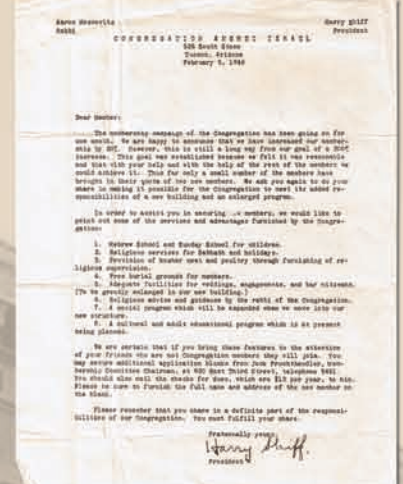
1948
■ State of Israel established

■ Cantor Falkow joins CAI

1949
■ CAI affiliates with United Synagogues of America



Interior of 6th and Martin synagogue



Letter to CAI Membership from Harry Shiff, President of congregation, Feb. 1946



Rabbi Breger as a Chaplain in World War II, 1945-46



UA Maimonidean Society (precursor to Hillel), Sabino Canyon, 1937



Steinfeld's department and grocery stores, Stone and Pennington, 1929

1950
■ Greater Tucson population about 110,000; Jewish population estimated at 5000



Certificate of Appreciation to Mr. and Mrs. A. Goldenberg for donation of Sefer Torah, 1935



Charles Moses Strauss, First Jewish mayor of Tucson, 1883-1884

First Southern Pacific train arrives in Tucson, 1880



- 1880s
 - Railroad arrives in Tucson
 - Tucson population about 7000
 - Jewish population about 200 (*US Census*)
 - Ladies Hebrew Benevolent Society and B'nai B'rith founded
 - Charles Moses Strauss serves as the first Jewish Mayor of Tucson



Ladies Hebrew Benevolent Society, Mid-1880's

- 1890s
 - Religious services held at Steinfelds and at Levin Park, owned by Alex Levin, a local brewer
 - Jewish Cemetery Association founded

1910
■ Hebrew Benevolent Society builds first synagogue in the Arizona Territory, Temple Emanu-El, in Tucson on S. Stone Ave.

1912
■ Arizona becomes the 48th state

1850s
■ Jewish Settlers in Tucson