

## **Introduction: Greensboro Jewish History Tour**

People do not only exist and live in a space, but they also ultimately shape and influence their surroundings. In Greensboro, North Carolina, the Jewish population has continued to grow since the 1800s, establishing a strong presence in the city. Over time, a handful of families and homes formed into a vibrant and civic-minded community determined to contribute and improve their environment and the lives of those who live and visit Greensboro. The efforts of Jewish individuals and groups have actively influenced the history and present-day of Greensboro, leading to the creation of this project.

The Greensboro Jewish History Tour map was designed to fit the needs and desires of those who want to take historical exploration into their own hands. It is not presented in chronological order, but in order of ease of movement for those interested in visiting these sites in person. To best accommodate the public, it is divided into three forms of transportation: walking, bicycling, and driving. The markers as depicted on the map are intended to act as a guide, not a restriction. Feel free to explore Greensboro in a way that suits you best for your own experience.

This map was created as part of a project hosted by the Greensboro History Museum, with University of North Carolina Greensboro Museum Studies graduate student, Kennedy Gray, leading as project manager. Start your experience at the Greensboro History Museum and follow along with the digital self-guided tour!

## **Starting Location: Greensboro History Museum**

View a Kiddush cup and miniature Sefer Torah on display at the Greensboro History Museum. In the *Voices of a City: Greensboro, North Carolina* exhibit, the Kiddush cup on display belonged to descendants of Isaac Isaacson, a founder of the Greensboro Hebrew Congregation, now known as Temple Emanuel. A Kiddush cup is used in ceremonies acknowledging the sanctity of Shabbat and other holy days. As for the Seref Torah, its small size makes it perfect for traveling and personal use. The Seref Torah is used during prayers, and it contains the Five Books of Moses or Pentateuch (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy).

Experience the Greensboro Jewish History tour, presented by the Greensboro History Museum, in Spring 2026, in celebration of Jewish American Heritage Month. Alongside the tour, there will be a temporary exhibit on display on the first floor of the GHM for visitors to see all month, highlighting objects and stories connected to Greensboro's Jewish community over the decades.

## **Bike**

### **The Miriam P. Brenner Children's Museum**

Inspired by traveling the country and visiting children's museums, Jerry Hyman desired for Greensboro to have its own children's museum. Aided by local civic and volunteer leader Cynthia Doyle, who assembled a group of alumni from the Leadership Greensboro Program, a

Steering Committee was formed, and with a Capital Campaign led by Doyle, the Greensboro Children's Museum opened its doors at 220 N. Church Street on May 15th, 1999. At the beginning of 2022, the museum announced its largest gift from a single donor in its 23-year history. Frank and Nancy Brenner made a \$1.25 million donation to support the maintenance of the building itself and advance the museum's mission to inspire hands-on learning through play.

Born in Charleston, South Carolina, on June 27, 1922, Miriam Prystowsky Brenner was a member of Temple Emanuel, Temple Emanuel Sisterhood, a life member of Hadassah, and a life member of The Brenner Children's Hospital. Miriam and her husband, Abraham, Abe, supported causes such as providing endowed scholarships for teachers and students of all religions to study the Holocaust in Europe and in Israel, and starting/funding the Abe Brenner Southeast Leadership Conference.

"My mother was a very special person who cared deeply for her community and especially for children. Having the Miriam P. Brenner Children's Museum named in her memory is something she would have been extremely proud of, and is a fitting way to honor her philanthropic spirit and legacy." Frank Brenner, son of Miriam P. Brenner.

### **Memorial Monument: She Wouldn't Take Off Her Boots**

The Carolyn & Maurice LeBauer Park is a 4-acre park in downtown Greensboro. Dr. Maurice LeBauer served as chief of surgery at Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital and was a well-known doctor in Greensboro. Dr. LeBauer was married to Carolyn Weill LeBauer, who, in her will, left a substantial gift of \$10 million to create a new park in the city. While Dr. LeBauer died in 1996, Carolyn passed away in 2012, and the Carolyn and Maurice LeBauer Park opened to the public on August 8, 2016.

In the park, there is a section called Carolyn's Garden, and inside the garden houses North Carolina's first Women's Holocaust memorial, *She Wouldn't Take Off Her Boots*, by artist Victoria Milstein. Milstein was inspired by a photograph taken in Liepāja, Latvia, on December 15, 1941. A Nazi photographer captured the execution of thousands of Jewish women and children who were taken to the local women's prison and forced to strip before being shot dead in groups of 10. The monument was erected on April 18th, 2023, which was Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day), dedicated by Shelly Weiner and Rachel Kizhnerman to honor their mothers Eva Weiner and Sofia Guralnik, who hid them in Nazi-occupied Poland for almost two years.

The location for the monument was a deliberate decision because every direction offered hope for the future. With the Greensboro Cultural Center, the Greensboro History Museum, the Greensboro Public Library, and the Steven Tanger Center for the Performing Arts, the memorial is encompassed by creativity, education, community, and culture to better society and create upstanders instead of bystanders in life.

For more information about Holocaust programming and education around the site, explore the Women of the Shoah website at the underlined link: [Women of the Shoah](#).

### **Gertrude Weil Historical Marker**

Born in 1871 to an affluent Jewish family and raised in Goldsboro, North Carolina, Gertrude Weil was an ardent supporter of women's suffrage and helped lead a statewide push for women to gain the right to vote. Following her graduation from Smith College in 1901, Weil returned to Goldsboro to join the Goldsboro Woman's Club, which her mother had founded, giving her the experience she needed in leadership and civic duty. In 1911, Weil joined the National American Woman Suffrage Association, and by 1914, she helped co-found the Goldsboro Equal Suffrage Association, serving as the association's first president. She would later become the President of the Equal Suffrage Association of North Carolina.

Weil led her final meeting of the Equal Suffrage Association of North Carolina to establish the North Carolina League of Women Voters here in Greensboro in 1920 at the Guilford County Courthouse on October 7, 1920. The 19th Amendment was ratified on August 18, 1920, and signed into law on August 26, 1920, extending the right of suffrage to women. Gertrude Well was elected chairman of the non-partisan North Carolina League of Women Voters, Mrs. Aubrey (Helen) L. Brooks of Greensboro was appointed third vice-chairman, and Mrs. Julius (Laura) W. Cone of Greensboro was named treasurer.

The Tannenbaum-Sternberger Foundation, Inc., erected this monument in honor of Gertrude Weil.

### **Meyers Department Store**

Founded in 1904 by William D. Meyer, the Meyers Department Store experienced success in the early twentieth century, prompting the store to expand. Built in 1924, designed by Greensboro architect Harry Barton, the Meyers Department Store on the southwest corner of Elm Street and February One Place is a four-story Neo-Classical structure. However, in the 1920s, it was a modernist commercial building and one of the first fireproof structures in Greensboro.

By 1968, there were four department stores in downtown Greensboro: Belk, Sears, Thalhimers, and Meyers. Meyers Department Store was reported to have the largest space, with approximately 95,000 gross square feet. The annual sales volume was also reported as approximately \$3,500,000. These reports can be found in a book titled *Central Business District: Store Location Data, Greensboro, North Carolina*, published by the Greensboro Chamber of Commerce in 1968. The book examines the businesses and revenues of the CBR, or Central Business District, in downtown Greensboro. It is noted how the "Meyers Department Store has extensively remolded its interior, as well as expanding into an adjacent building."

The site served as downtown Greensboro's premier department store until its closure in 1978 due to suburban commercial development and the overall decline of the downtown area. The Meyers Department Store underwent a period from 1974 to 1978, during which it became the Jordan Department Store. However, it ultimately had to close its Elm Street location and relocate to the Four Seasons Mall. In the 1980s, the Meyers Building was converted into commercial real estate space and has experienced many renovations with the acquisition of the building by Guilford County in 1992.

## **Schiffman Jewelry Store**

The first documented formal worship services for what would become Temple Emanuel were for the High Holy Days in 1907. Mr. and Mrs. Sternberger arranged the services largely due to the six Jewish women attending the local state Women's College, later known as the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Rabbi G. Mendelsohn oversaw the 1907 services, which were hosted on a rented second floor of a grocery store, presently occupied by Schiffman's Jewelry store.

One of the earliest permanent Jewish settlers to the Greensboro community was the Schiffmans. Watchmaker Simon Schiffman came to Greensboro by accident in 1892 as he was in between trains on his way to Asheville. While waiting to switch trains, he walked down Elm Street and came across a jewelry store going out of business. Simon immediately began procedures to acquire the store and bought it that day. Simon and his brother, jewelry merchant Augustus (August) Schiffman, were in attendance at the first meeting for the formation of the Reform Hebrew Congregation, Inc. in 1908, arranging to purchase the first temple in Greensboro.

Simon's son, Arnold Schiffman, a certified gemologist, oversaw the company into the 1920s and would go on to organize Retail Jewelers of America, now Jewelers of America, becoming its first president. The store has remained in the Schiffman family for five generations and has expanded throughout Greensboro and Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and Lexington, Kentucky.

## **Elsewhere**

Born on April 20, 1917, Sylvia Gray, a founding member of the local Beth David Synagogue, would open a furniture store in downtown Greensboro with her husband, Joseph (Joe), in 1939. The building consisted of three floors: the first floor covered two storefronts, housing an extensive general retail store, the second floor offered a fourteen-room boarding house in which the Gray family lived, and the third floor acted as a warehouse with storage rooms. After World War II, the furniture store transitioned into an army surplus business. With Joe Gray's death in 1955, Sylvia was left to manage the business. Sylvia slowly altered the store's inventory over the ten years by collecting and filling the entire first floor with boxes and piles of stuff ranging from textiles, buttons, second-hand clothes, and other bits and bobs.

Stories of Sylvia, which provide a perspective into who she was as a person and her dedication to the store, include how she filled the store by taking twice-daily trips to the local Salvation Army and Goodwill, bought and organized everything following her own logic or interests, and would decide price depending on her own opinion of the person attempting to purchase from her store. She did not want "collectors" visiting her store, interested only in possessing things, but people who would enjoy using her items. Sylvia worked in the store until the day before she died. Sylvia Gray passed away on April 23, 1997, at the age of 80 and is buried in Greensboro Hebrew Cemetery.

In 2003, her grandson, George Scheer, and collaborator Stephanie Sherman decided to convert the three-story thrift store into an experimental arts space and seasonal museum utilizing solely Sylvia Gray's nearly 60-year collection of material culture. With the recruitment and assistance of two more friends, Scheer and his team would excavate and organize the collection of objects. By 2004, Elsewhere had become a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. In 2005, the group launched a residency program, inviting global creatives of all forms to Greensboro to spend a month or more living in the space and working with and within the collection. By offering an inclusive experience for global and local artists through an interactive hands-on approach to contemporary art, Elsewhere pushes forward with the stated vision statement motivating their work: "*with people and things, we build collaborative futures.*"

Elsewhere is temporarily closed for staff restructuring. If interested in finding out more, visit their website at the underlined link: [Elsewhere](#)

### **The Reform Hebrew Congregation, Inc. Original Location**

On February 8, 1908, at the office of David P. Stern, the trustees of Temple Emanuel met to discuss negotiating for a location to build a temple. In attendance, according to the recorded minutes of the Trustees, were: Emanuel Sternberger, Herman Sternberger, Simon Schiffman, Augustus Schiffman, Isaac Isaacson, Jake Goldstein, G. Mendelsohn, David P. Stern, and Max E. Block. During this meeting, they agreed to negotiate the purchase of the Friends Church for \$2,500, with Orthodox Jews being asked to contribute \$1000. The Friends Church, located at 115 East Lee Street, was next to a large farm. By 1910, the mortgage on the East Street location was paid off.

While originally referred to as "The Hebrew Congregation," early Orthodox and Reform Jews would come together and call themselves the "Reform Hebrew Congregation, Inc." The location and group's name changed a few more times from 1909 to 1915, with "Greensboro Hebrew Congregation" being the most common name. It would not be until April 4, 1915, the name Temple Emanuel would appear in the Executive Board Meeting minutes. The site would serve as the designated communal place of worship for Greensboro's Jewish community from 1908 to 1923. As more Jewish families settled and grew in Greensboro, the East Lee Street (now Gate City Boulevard) location sold for \$7,500 in 1924, and the congregation relocated to the newly constructed Temple on Greene Street that same year.

After being sold in 1924, the location would be repossessed in 1929 and resold in 1945. The building remained standing until 1952, when construction took over East Lee Street to widen the streets.

### **Bicycling**

#### **Carnegie Public Library Original Location**

The National Council of Jewish Women was founded in 1893 in Chicago, Illinois, at the Chicago World's Fair. Founder Hannah Greenebaum Solomon, a Jewish activist from Chicago, established the oldest Jewish women's grassroots organization in the United States dedicated to

advancing human welfare in both Jewish and general communities, on local, national, and international levels. The organization values education and spreading social awareness to communities, emphasizing the responsibilities of individuals in advancing human welfare and promoting a democratic way of life, and providing essential services to those in need. As the organization expanded, its policy focused on training volunteers for leadership in pioneering needed services. With a desire to foster group volunteerism and support local communities across the U.S., the Greensboro chapter of the National Council of Jewish Women was created.

The first meeting of the National Council of Jewish Women Greensboro chapter took place in 1919 in the basement of the Carnegie Library. Mrs. C.L. Weill served as president, and Mrs. Sidney Stern as secretary and treasurer. While in the early years, the chapter would meet in the basement of the Carnegie Library, it later moved its monthly meetings to the Assembly room at Temple Emanuel. The Carnegie Public Library was open from 1906 to 1939; however, following its closure, it was demolished. The library was segregated, and a Carnegie building for the African-American population opened in 1924. Standing on 900 East Washington Street, the building was acquired by Bennet College in 1967 and is still in use by the college.

At the beginning of its founding, the chapter offered aid on a national level, assisting immigrants at Ellis Island, New York. At the local level, services were provided to help nonprofit and civic organizations, such as sewing and mending for the Children's Home of North Carolina. The Greensboro chapter worked as one organization with the Sisterhood of Temple Emmanuel until October 1945. As the chapter grew in size, so did its goals for the Greensboro community. Many Greensboro agencies, now functioning completely on a professional level, have their origin in this organization.

The Greensboro chapter helped found the Bookmobile and, for many years, contributed to its staffing. Other programs/projects in the Greensboro community include: audiometer testing in Greensboro public schools during World War II, Release Time for Teachers, Medical Loan Closet, Children's Story Hour, Blue Denim Cook Book, aid to Immigrants Program in the form of special English classes and assistance with resettlement, and the Head Start Program. The organization is also attributed to assisting in the development and management of the Guilford County Home, USO, Sixty Plus Club, Greensboro Community Center, Mental Health Clinic, and the N.C. Home for Jewish Aged. Three of the largest accomplishments of the Greensboro chapter include the establishment of the Council House Day Care Center, Women in Community Services (WICS), and Mobile Meals.

### **Weatherspoon Art Museum**

The Weatherspoon Art Museum is housed inside the Cone Building on the University of North Carolina at Greensboro campus. Opened in 1989, the Cone Building was designed by architect Romaldo Giurgola working in conjunction with Boney Architects of Wilmington, North Carolina. The building is named after Woman's College alumna (now UNC Greensboro), Anne Wortham Cone, Class of 1935, and her husband, Benjamin Cone, Sr, who donated \$2 million to finance the building's construction. The Cone family has an extensive history of supporting the

arts in Greensboro, especially the Weatherspoon collection, which was largely started by Benjamin's aunts Claribel and Etta Cone. The Cone sisters supported and financed roughly 252 works of modern art in 1950, and some of the acquisitions they gave to the museum can still be seen on display today.

Another important couple to highlight in the history of the Weatherspoon Art Museum is Louise D. and Herbert S. Falk, Sr., who a gallery and a visiting artist program named after them. The Falk Visiting Artist: The Falk Visiting Artist program is a partnership between the Weatherspoon and UNCG's School of Art. In 1982, Herbert and Louise Falk started the Falk Visiting Artist Program at the School of Art at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro with a generous endowment. Through this funding, the program allows an artist to mount an exhibition of their work, deliver gallery and artist talks, and engage in individual studio visits with each MFA student in the program. UNCG has hosted over eighty internationally and nationally known artists across a variety of media on campus with the support of the endowment of Herbert and Louise Falk.

The Weatherspoon Art Museum is free to the public, and more can be learned about the museum's current exhibitions and collection at its website: [Weatherspoon Art Museum](http://www.weatherspoonartmuseum.org).

### **Home of Al and Min Klein**

During World War II, Greensboro was home to the largest military base within an American city. The Army Air Force's (AAF) Basic Training Center No. 10 opened on March 1, 1943, near the intersection of Summit and East Bessemer avenues in Greensboro. By 1944, the name changed to the Overseas Replacement Depot due to the site becoming the main processing center for troops on the East Coast. Spanning 652 acres, over 330,000 soldiers went through the base between March 1943 and September 1946. Each soldier received 4-8 weeks of basic training before being sent for advanced training elsewhere. Amenities included 964 buildings with five hundred barracks, fifty-five recreation rooms, fourteen mess halls, ten post exchanges, five chapels, four movie theaters, three gyms, three libraries, two service clubs, a radio station, a hospital, and a base newspaper.

Born on January 4, 1900, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Albert (Al) F. Klein lived in Greensboro for 55 years and worked as a sales representative for Aerochem Corporation of High Point. He belonged to several Jewish organizations, including B'nai Brith, Brotherhood of Temple Emanuel, and N.C. Association of Jewish Men. On March 30, 1930, Al and Min married in Oxford, North Carolina.

Minnie (Min) Munich was born in Russia around 1906, and by 1914, her family had immigrated to the United States, with Minnie attending the Woman's College, now the University of North Carolina Greensboro. Min's accomplishments include being the 5th recipient of the Hannah G. Solomon Award of the National Council of Jewish Women and the Human Services Award of the North Carolina Association of Jewish Women. Her work in the community is seen in her service as president of the Temple Emanuel Sisterhood and of the

mid-Atlantic region of Temple Sisterhoods, librarian and representative of Camp Blue Star for years, YWCA, Jewish Federation, WICS, Bookmobile, and many more organizations.

Before the establishment of a United Service Organization (USO) branch in Greensboro, Al and Min Klein helped to set up and oversee a lounge downstairs in Temple Emanuel for servicemen. Acting as coordinators for the soldiers' lounge at Temple Emanuel, the Kleins went on to become two of the founders of the Greensboro USO. Outside of Temple Emanuel, the couple also hosted Jewish young adults at their house for dinner every Sunday night as a way to provide a "home away from home" during wartime. During this time, Minnie also volunteered for the Jewish chaplains at the O.R.D. The Kleins were also known for caring for and transporting students to the Hillel at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for dances. Their contributions to the community can also be found in the establishment of the B'nai and B'rith Youth Organization (BBYO) chapters in Greensboro in 1946.

Albert F. Klein died on December 2, 1972, and Minnie Klein passed on February 21, 2000.

### **Beth David Synagogue Original Location**

On December 15, 1944, a number of Temple Emanuel members met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Max Zager to speak about how they wanted to grow separately from the Temple and create a space to meet the needs of their own desired spiritual guidance, emphasizing more traditional and historical Judaism. An organization would soon follow and come to be known and incorporated as the Greensboro Conservative Hebrew Congregation. A building fund was started, \$8,700 was pledged, and temporary officers were elected.

By November 29, 1945, a constitution was written and bylaws were adopted. I.M. Karesh was elected the first president of Beth David. The first services of Beth David Synagogue occurred in the Masonic Temple, 426 W. Market St. on Friday, February 8, 1946. Services were regularly held at the Masonic Temple, the Victory Room of the O. Henry Hotel, and the Civic Room of the public library until the land on East Lake Drive was purchased on March 13, 1946. Five months later, Meir Engle, the first rabbi of the congregation, was elected. The groundbreaking ceremony was held on January 26, 1947, services were held in the new Synagogue in September 1947 despite a shortage of building materials, and the synagogue was completed in 1949. The congregation's first meeting in 1944 had 24 people in attendance; by 1949, the congregation had 145 active families.

Beth David Synagogue was named to honor the memory of Meyer David Stadiem and his wife, Bessie (Bettie) Ethel Stadiem, early Jewish settlers to Greensboro. The Stadiems came to Greensboro in 1897 and started a business. During their lives in Greensboro, they were held in high esteem by the city due to their efforts in promoting charitable, religious, and civic-minded actions. David Stadiem died in 1916, with Bettie Stadiem following in her passing in 1929. The Stadiems are buried together in the Greensboro Hebrew Cemetery, marked as Bettie and David Stadiem.

In May of 1963, Beth David leadership felt it was necessary to consider relocation to fit the needs of their growing community and the number of extensive and continuous needs for renovations and repairs the East Lake location required. July 22, 1978, is the first mention of the purchase of 610 East Lake Drive by Trinity Church in the Greensboro Daily News. It would then be bought by Brightwood in 1984, later becoming Faithway Baptist Church, which remains at this location today.

### **Temple Emanuel Greene Street**

Desiring to move away from the Lee Street Property, due to growing numbers of patrons, the Greensboro Hebrew Congregation decided to look at new locations to build their own temple in October of 1919. The specific location on 713 North Greene Street was chosen as it was "overlooking Fisher Park." The Cone and Sternberger families donated \$75,000 to the construction project, and the congregation raised \$25,000. This fundraising effort was supported by the community, including Mrs. Beatrice Weill, who made and sold handkerchiefs to raise money. Architect Hobart Upjohn was commissioned to design the temple, with the total cost of everything coming out to \$121,666.11, including the lot. Construction began in the fall of 1922.

To create a smooth transition and oversee all developments of the new site, it was necessary for several committees to be formed. The Board of the Temple established five women as part of the Building Committee, demonstrating how Temple Emanuel acted as one of the first Jewish religious institutions in the United States to grant women equal membership and voting privileges following the passage of the nineteenth amendment."

By 1924, the temple was completed and in use. The formal dedication took place the weekend of June 5th, 1925. From 1922 to 1925, the congregation went from having fifty families to seventy-seven in attendance. The Temple on Greene Street acted as a pillar in the Jewish community for both Reform and Orthodox Jews during the 1920s and 1930s, and also hosted those from other counties as well as those out of state. In the mid-1940s, changes began to occur, one being the adoption of the name Temple Emanuel, chosen partly to honor Emanuel Sternberger's contributions as a founding member. The congregation also began to split around 1945 with the formation of the Greensboro Conservative Hebrew Congregation. Both groups would continue to use the Greene Street facilities until the construction of Beth David Synagogue in 1949.

Despite the split, the congregation continued to grow with the expansion of the religious school, creating the Temple annex. In 1949, Edward Loewenstein, architect and Temple member, designed the Sternberger room and later the Sunday school. The late 1950s also saw the construction of the Rypins building, formally dedicated in 1979, in honor of Rabbi Frederick Rypins and his wife, Ruth Rypins.

### **Kilimanjaro Family and Carolina Peacemaker**

Founded in 1967 by Dr. John Marshall Kilimanjaro and his wife, C. (Culey) Vickie Kilimanjaro, the Carolina Peacemaker, has served as Greensboro/Guilford County's longest-running weekly newspaper. Originally, the paper's offices were held on Gorrell Street in Greensboro. Dr. Kilimanjaro worked as the first published and editor of the Carolina Peacemaker. Despite the couple's lack of experience working in mass publishing beforehand, the paper was created out of a passionate need and desire for social activism, drawing attention to the achievements and the social injustices, as well as the economic issues faced by African Americans in Greensboro. The Carolina Peacemaker has never missed a weekly issue and continues to be North Carolina's leading news weekly, and supports a national reputation for its writing and media coverage.

During his lifetime, Dr. Kilimanjaro acted as vice president of Temple Brotherhood, the secretary of the Greensboro NAACP in 1958, participated in the March on Washington with his wife in 1963, established the North Carolina A&T Speech and Theatre Arts Department in 1969, and served as the executive director of the theatre and the Richard B. Harrison Players from 1970 to 1981. He also founded the Paul Robeson Theatre in 1970, founded the N.C. Black Publisher's Association, worked as an instructor at North Carolina A&T from 1961 until his retirement in 1981, and received numerous accolades for journalism and his service to the community.

As for Vicki Kilimanjaro, she is recognized for her service as the first librarian of the first organized library for Temple Emanuel's religious school, established in 1963. At the time of its establishment, it was filled with mostly Jewish encyclopedias. Through the efforts of Vicki Kilimanjaro, she discussed with teachers the materials about Judaism they wanted to use, ensuring they fit the needs of the religious school curriculum. In 1980, the religious school was moved, and the collection went from "about 90 books to nearly 1000." Kilimanjaro assisted in the transition of the school's book collection classification, changing from the Library of Congress classification system to the Judaica system. Vickie retired as the librarian for Temple Emanuel's religious school in 1984.

Dr. Kilimanjaro and Vickie were married in the evening on August 25, 1956, at Temple Emanuel, officiated by Rabbi Fred Rypins. It is at Temple Emanuel that their children would receive their rites of passage through life and attend their religious education. Dr. Kilimanjaro passed away on Wednesday, March 27, 2019, at the age of 88, survived by his wife, children, and grandchildren. The Carolina Peacemaker has continued to produce weekly issues and expand its audience. As of 2025, the paper reports that it has reached over 36,400 readers. The current publisher & editor is Afrique I. Kilimanjaro, and C. Vickie Kilimanjaro acts as associate publisher.

### **The Sternberger Family on Summit Avenue**

On Summit Avenue, there are three historical sites all tied to the Sternberger family, brothers Emanuel and Herman Sternberger, who helped the Cone family launch a mass textile mill enterprise in Greensboro: the Sigmund Sternberger House, the Sternberger Hospital for Women and Children, and Sternberger Park.

The Sigmund Sternberger House at 712 Summit Avenue is "the finest Italian Renaissance Revival style residence in Greensboro," built in 1926 and designed by architect Harry Barton. The home was built for Sigmund Sternberger, son of Herman Sternberger, treasurer of the massive Revolution Cotton Mill. Following his death in 1964, the home became the property of the Tannenbaum-Sternberger Foundation. In 1971, the Foundation deeded the Sternberger House to the United Arts Council of Greensboro, Inc. For a time, the Arts Council housed its offices in the home. However, the home has transformed into the Sternberger Artists Center, where the public can visit to view the works of resident artists and buy original art.

The Emanuel Sternberger Mansion on 715 Summit Avenue became a hospital for women and children in 1930. Many Greensboro women gave birth at the Sternberger Hospital for Women and Children from the 1930s to the 1950s. While the hospital has since been demolished, what remains is the Sternberger Park.

Born October 27, 1887, in Mayesville, South Carolina, Bertha Strauss Sternberger was a pioneer and advocate in establishing the current Greensboro Parks and Recreation System. Mrs. Sternberger also cared deeply about education and was the first woman to serve on the Greensboro board of education from 1921 to 1927. In 1901, less than a year after she moved to Greensboro with her husband, Emanuel Sternberger, Mrs. Sternberger was struck with bulbar paralysis, which prevented her from swallowing. After eight years, she slowly began to recover. It was said that despite her issues with her health, she worked with those in the community, Jewish and non-Jewish citizens, to set up the first children's playground near the courthouse, following a fundraising method used in Philadelphia, selling stamps to raise money for the park.

Bertha Sternberger passed away in 1928 after a lifetime of providing support to numerous groups and organizations to better society. In the Temple Emanuel archives, a tribute letter dated March 5, 1928 typed on Mrs. Julius W. Cone's letterhead, dedicated to the late Mrs. Sternberger, was found, "For years, they held a community seder; for years all of the lonely, homeless Jewish men of the town, all of the college girls, and any newcomer or visitor found warmth and welcome there [the Sternberger home]."

### **Woven Works Park**

The Downtown Greensboro Greenway is a 4-mile walking and biking trail that formed as a collaborative project between Action Greensboro and the City of Greensboro. The intention behind this project, starting in 2001, was to build a trail that "encourages economic development, improves quality of life for its residents, and tells community stories through public art," as stated by Downtown Greenway. Along this trail is Woven Work Parks at Innovation Cornerstone.

Installed in 2016 by Minneapolis-based artist Randy Walker, Woven Works Park is deeply inspired by Greensboro's textile industry. With benches, gardens, paths, sculptures, a

mini-library, and a playground, it serves as an interactive and accessible play space for those of all ages to enjoy.

One of the elements of the park is the Spool Donor Wall, which is made up of color-coded spinning aluminum spools. Each spool recognizes the contributions of major donors to the Downtown Greenway and is placed like an interactive game for visitors to try and find different donors. The Spool Donor Wall was designed by Walker after visiting the Historic White Oak Plant at Cone Mills and viewing the hundreds of spools.

One of the people recognized for their donations to the creation of the Woven Works Park is Henry Samuel Levinson. Dr. Levinson served as a professor of Religious Studies at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro for over twenty-five years and established the Henry Samuel Levinson Program Fund in Jewish Studies at UNCG in 1998. In place of sending flowers following his passing in 2010, he asked those to donate memorial contributions to Action Greensboro to build a play area for children with special needs along the Greensboro Downtown Greenway. Levinson's request would help provide for the creation of Woven Works Park.

## Driving

### Revolution Cotton Mill

Revolution Cotton Mill, constructed between 1899 and 1900, is a large industrial complex of over one million square feet, located in the Cone Village section of northeast Greensboro. Between the 19th and mid-20th century, there were three major periods of construction. In 1900, the first buildings were erected, and the mill began operations. By 1904, the mill doubled in size. Around 1915, the east and west ends of the building underwent significant additions, doubling the mill's size. The Revolution Cotton Mill played a considerable role in Greensboro's physical and social development, and it also changed the Southern textile industry, largely due to the innovations of its industrial leaders.

Herman Cone (1828-1897) immigrated to Richmond, Virginia, at the age of 17 from Germany. Two of his thirteen children were Moses H. Cone, born in 1857, and Ceasar Cone, born in 1859, with whom Herman went into business as partners. In 1890, they established the Cone Export and Commission Company, a textile sales firm in New York City.

The Cone brothers would choose Greensboro as the next location to start their business venture in textiles due to their feeling that Greensboro offered the least amount of hostility and anti-semitism compared to some of the other surrounding cities in North Carolina. In 1895 and 1896, they created the Proximity Cotton Mill. By 1902, another mill would form under the leadership of the Cones, the White Oak Cotton Mill, the world's largest manufacturer of denim at the time.

By inviting more of the Cone family to Greensboro, it also led to the invitation of some of their family friends in South Carolina, namely the Sternbergers. Emanuel Sternberger, a successful owner of a general merchandise store, began a cotton-buying enterprise in Clio, South Carolina. Not long after, his brother, Herman, joined Emanuel in business. In 1898, Moses H. and Ceasar Cone convinced the Sternberger brothers to move to Greensboro, North Carolina, to join them in a joint business venture to build the Revolution Cotton Mill, the first flannel mill in the South. It would also later become the largest flannel mill in the South. Emanuel was President while Herman acted as Secretary and Treasurer. The factory oversaw an operation of 376 looms producing finished cotton flannel by 1900. With the passing of Emanuel and Herman Sternberger, the Cones bought their remaining shares, and Revolution Mill became a part of Cone Mills.

Surrounding each mill were self-sufficient villages, where mill workers were leased company-owned homes to raise their families close to their employment. Each village offered amenities and social gathering areas like churches, stores, schools, playing fields, and recreation centers. At their peak, the Cone Mill Villages covered roughly 450, supporting 2,675 mill workers who lived in approximately 1,500 houses. The homes were eventually sold off during the late 1940s, and every mill has since been shut down, except White Oak, which continues to make denim in Greensboro.

### **The Rotary Club of Greensboro Carousel**

Part of a 1.75-acre site that includes a picnic shelter and a plaza area, the Rotary Club of Greensboro Carousel offers a welcoming space for visitors of all ages to enjoy. As the largest carousel in North Carolina, it can seat 64 people with its 56 unique, hand-carved wooden figures, which include dinosaurs, flamingos, rams, and other rideable designs, as well as ADA accessible chariots. Another interesting feature of the Carousel is the 32 rounding boards surrounding the top of the Carousel; the boards tell the stories of key moments and figures in Greensboro's history, which visitors can view as the Carousel spins, almost as if traveling through time.

Housed and operated at the Greensboro Science Center, the Rotary Club of Greensboro Carousel is due to generous contributions and efforts by the City of Greensboro, the Samey Corporation, and many donors who worked with the Rotary Club of Greensboro. One of the key figures was former Rotary Club of Greensboro president Bernard "Bernie" Mann, who spearheaded the creation and development of the Rotary Club of Greensboro Carousel as a celebration of the 100th year of Greensboro Rotary's existence.

Take a moment to listen to the life of Bernie Mann for the UNCG Jewish Archives Project: [Oral History Interview with Bernard "Bernie" Mann](#)

Or, see about how you can visit and support the Rotary Club of Greensboro Carousel at the Greensboro Science Center: [Rotary Club of Greensboro Carousel](#)

## **Tanger Family Bicentennial Garden**

As part of the nation's Bicentennial celebration, Greensboro Beautiful began a beautification project to transform a 7.5-acre tract of flood plain, owned by the City of Greensboro, into a public garden. From 1976 to 1980, the garden expanded with several specialized areas. The development allowed for accessible paths, benches, and artistic sculptures for the Greensboro community to enjoy and engage with. By 1995, Greensboro Beautiful commissioned a conceptual Master Plan to expand and enhance the garden and its amenities for a more interactive experience with audiences, as well as educational preservation of the home of Reverend Dr. David Caldwell and the David Caldwell Log College, a portion of the land that makes up the park. The commissioned plan would be completed and open to the public in 1999.

In 2006, Stanley & Doris Tanger made a significant financial commitment for ongoing support of Greensboro's public gardens, and the Greensboro Parks & Recreation Commission approved the renaming of Bicentennial Garden to the Tanger Family Bicentennial Garden. Stanley K. Tanger, founder of Tanger Factory Outlet Centers, was a businessman largely credited for his influence in the early conceptualization and development of outlet shopping. Tanger and his wife both served as major North Carolina philanthropists, donating to other park maintenance projects in Greensboro, as well as a notable \$1 million contribution to Moses Cone Health System's Regional Cancer Center in Greensboro.

Following his death on October 23, 2010, his son Steven Tanger would take over as president and CEO of Tanger Factory Outlet Centers in January 2010. The Tanger family philanthropy to the community of Greensboro would continue through Steven, as seen in the Steven Tanger Center for the Performing Arts, which was named after him due to his pledge of \$7.5 million to aid in the facility's creation in 2013.

With free admission, the garden is open year-round. Learn more about what amenities the garden has to offer or reserve the space for an event at their website: [Greensboro Beautiful](http://Greensboro Beautiful).

## **Greensboro Hebrew Cemetery**

In 1910, two years after the Reform Hebrew Congregation's purchase, a 9.5-acre burial plot was acquired for \$850, known as the "Gorrell Property." This property would become what is now known as the Greensboro Hebrew Cemetery. Located on High Point Road, Jacob Baach was assigned to lead a committee in 1911 following the purchase of the cemetery. Baach served as Chairman of the Cemetery Committee for many years, lobbying for the cemetery's beautification and overall maintenance.

Many prominent Jewish families have been left to rest in the cemetery, such as the Goldsteins, Schiffmans, Sternbergers, Sterns, and Oettingers. The cemetery is also the final resting place for some non-Jewish Greensboro residents, including gentile spouses, African

American servants, and several unnamed graves for those who were passing through Greensboro during the flu pandemic of 1918.

Another figure to spotlight buried in the Greensboro Hebrew Cemetery is former shochet Naftali A. Kagan. Born in Russia on June 10, 1885, Kagan was called upon through relatives to assist in the affairs of Joe Arlich after his passing by Sidney Stern, Sr.. Described as an “old world immigrant,” Naftali A. Kagan was a kohen, meaning “priest,” and believed to be a direct descendant of biblical Aaron (also Aharon), brother of Moses. After traveling through Mexico to arrive in Greensboro, Stern persuaded Kagan to settle in Greensboro and was hired as shochet in 1933 by Temple Emanuel, and later would jointly serve in this position for Beth David Synagogue. A shochet is certified to perform shechita, ritual slaughter as depicted in the Torah, slitting the throat of the animal with a specific knife called a chalaf.

Through his knowledge of Jewish law and expertise in inspecting cattle and fowl, the shochet provides the community with kosher meat. As a prominent Jewish spiritual leader in Greensboro, over the years, he tutored boys for their b’nei mitzvah, studied the Talmud with senior members of the congregation, and led minyans. Kagan provided his services until his retirement in 1960 and passed away on June 23, 1971.

### **More Information**

The map highlights locations associated with Jewish groups and individuals who have contributed to the development, maintenance, and culture of Greensboro over time. However, this map offers only a small part of the extensive and rich Jewish history of the Greensboro community, focusing on a select few location sites. If you intend to visit these places in person, please go with respect for the community and the space.

If you are interested in learning more about Jewish history in Greensboro or the resources used for this project, here is the bibliography: [INSERT LINK HERE](#)

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