



one asheville

One Jewish Asheville consists of more than 2,500 Jewish households and a dozen organizations, together reflecting the rich diversity of Jewish culture, heritage, and religion.

MEMBERS WITHOUT LOCATIONS:

Asheville/Hendersonville Chapter of Hadassah

828 299-3218 • 828 255-7700

www.hadassah.org/ashevillehendersonville

Asheville Jewish Business Forum

www.ashevillejewishbusiness.com

Jewish Family Services of WNC

828 253-2900 • www.jfswnc.org

Call for location

WNC Jewish Federation

www.jewishasheville.org

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Center for Jewish Studies at UNC Asheville*

CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES



PHOTO CREDITS

*Ramsey Library Special Collections: <http://toto.lib.unca.edu/>
History@Hand: www.history-at-hand.com*

Cover:

Leah Karpen and her brother Rabbi Michael Robinson on a hike; The Leader Department store sign on Patton Avenue; Chicken Alley (off Woodfin between Lexington & Broadway)

Inside Panel:

E.C. Goldberg in his newsstand under the stairwell of the Imperial Theater on Patton Avenue

*Jewish walking tours of downtown are available through
history-at-hand.com*

Asheville's Jewish Community



Jews have called Asheville home since the 1800s. With the arrival of the railroad in 1880, enough immigrants came to establish a conservative and later an orthodox congregation. They were drawn to the area because of its beauty, economic opportunity, and its reputation as a healing center. Most of the newcomers worked in, or owned, businesses in the downtown.

People move here today for many of the same reasons. Asheville's Jewish Museum without Walls, depicted on the enclosed map, highlights this current thriving Jewish community (www.onejewishasheville.org). Many of these sites have interpretive panels illuminating their history. One Jewish Asheville participants without physical locations are identified within this brochure by their web address and/or telephone numbers.

Past & Present

- Asheville Jewish Community Center (JCC)** was founded in 1939. Asheville was the smallest Jewish community at the time to support a JCC. www.jcc-asheville.org — 828 253-0701
- University of North Carolina Asheville (UNCA)** is home to:
 - **UNCA Center for Jewish Studies** was founded in 1982. www.unca.edu/cjs — 828 251-6576
 - **WNC Hillel** UNCA's Jewish student organization. <http://orgs.unca.edu/wnhillel>
 - UNCA has 6 campus buildings and an athletic track named for members of the Jewish community: Lipinsky, Zageir, Mills, Robinson, Karpen, and Weisenblatt Halls, and Straus track. www.unca.edu/campusmap
 - **Ramsey Library Special Collections** houses the extensive Jewish Life in Western North Carolina archive. <http://toto.lib.unca.edu>
- Chabad House**, representing an Orthodox branch of Judaism, was established in Asheville in 2006. www.chabadasheville.org — 828 505-0746
- Congregation Beth Ha Tephila**, founded in 1891 as a Conservative congregation, joined the reform movement in 1908. www.bethhatephila.org — 828 253-4911
- Congregation Beth Israel**, founded as Orthodox congregation Bikor Cholim in 1899, later became a Conservative congregation and moved to its present location in 1969. www.bethisraelnc.org — 828 252-8431
- Lou Pollock Cemetery**, founded in 1916 by the West Asheville Hebrew Cemetery Association, was renamed in 1949 for longtime supporter, Lou Pollock, during his lifetime. The cemetery belongs to Congregation Beth Israel and is accessible by appointment only.
- Riverside Cemetery**, a Victorian rural garden cemetery, was founded in 1885. Congregation Beth Ha Tephila purchased land there for a Jewish cemetery in 1892.
- Downtown Asheville** was the location of over 435 Jewish businesses from 1880-1990. See the Family Store virtual exhibit at http://toto.lib.unca.edu/web_exhibits.htm or www.history-at-hand.com. Interpretive panel for Coleman Zageir is displayed at the corner of Patton Avenue and South Lexington Avenue.

