

Jewish Life in Akron: A Historical Journey Through Images



Jewish Life in Akron (Images of America)

by Arlene Cohen Rossen

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English

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Text-to-Speech : Enabled

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Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Print length : 3602 pages

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Akron, Ohio has been home to a thriving Jewish community since the mid-19th century. As part of Arcadia Publishing's Images of America series, *Jewish Life in Akron* captures the rich history and culture of this community through a captivating collection of over 200 vintage photographs.

From the arrival of the first Jewish immigrants to the establishment of synagogues, schools, and social organizations, *Jewish Life in Akron* tells the story of a community that has played an integral role in the city's development.

Immigration and Settlement

The first Jewish immigrants arrived in Akron in the 1850s, seeking economic opportunities and religious freedom. They came from Germany, Russia, Poland, and other parts of Eastern Europe. Many settled in the

city's North Hill neighborhood, where they established a close-knit community centered around their synagogues and other institutions.



Synagogues and Religious Life

Synagogues were the heart of Jewish life in Akron. The first synagogue, B'rith Sholom, was founded in 1861. Over the years, other synagogues were established, each reflecting the diverse backgrounds and traditions of the city's Jewish population.



Schools and Education

Education was highly valued in the Jewish community of Akron. The first Jewish school, the Hebrew School, was established in 1865. In 1910, the Jewish Community Center was founded, providing a wide range of educational and social programs for all ages.



Social and Cultural Organizations

In addition to synagogues and schools, Akron's Jewish community established a variety of social and cultural organizations. These organizations provided a sense of community and support, as well as opportunities for recreation and cultural enrichment.



Jewish Businesses and Commerce

Jewish immigrants played a significant role in the development of Akron's economy. Many opened small businesses, such as clothing stores, dry goods stores, and grocery stores. Others worked in the city's factories and industries.



World War II and the Holocaust

During World War II, Akron's Jewish community rallied to support the war effort. Many young men and women served in the armed forces, while others worked in factories and on the home front. The community also played a role in resettling Jewish refugees from Europe after the war.



Post-War and Modern Era

After the war, the Jewish community of Akron continued to grow and prosper. New synagogues and schools were built, and new social and cultural organizations were founded. The community also played a leading role in the civil rights movement and other social justice causes.



Jewish Life in Akron is a fascinating and poignant look back at the history of a vibrant and diverse community. Through its collection of vintage photographs, the book tells the story of immigration, settlement, religious life, education, social and cultural activities, and the contributions of Akron's Jewish community to the city's history and identity.

Whether you have a personal connection to Akron's Jewish community or are simply interested in local history, *Jewish Life in Akron* is a must-read. It is a testament to the resilience, determination, and spirit of a community that has flourished for over a century.

Free Download your copy today!



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