

Rabbi Joseph Bogen
(1842 – 1918)



By 1907, our congregation had chosen to embrace Reform Judaism and joined the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. The following year Rabbi Joseph Bogen was hired. He was a 64-year old German immigrant who had earlier served Reform congregations in Keokuk, Iowa; Greenville, Mississippi; and Texarkana, Texas.

Rabbi Bogen was beloved by our congregation and was elected rabbi for life. Bogen served B'nai Israel until his death in 1918.



Zecher Tzadik Livracha
May the memory of the righteous be a blessing.

Annual Convention - Central Conference of American Rabbis (1919)
Memorial Addresses and Resolutions

JOSEPH BOGEN

By Harry A. Merfeld

It is my sad privilege to bring to you this humble tribute of respect for the memory of my predecessor in office, **Joseph Bogen**.

I am confident that every member of this Conference, whether they came into close and intimate companionship with **Joseph Bogen** or knew him only slightly or not at all will join with me in the time-honored words, *zichrono livracha*, the memory of our friend is a blessing.

Joseph Bogen was born in Breslau, Germany, October 12, 1842. He received the degree of Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Breslau in 1863, and the degree of Doctor of Laws in 1889. He came to America in 1871 and received a call from a congregation at Keokuk, Iowa, remaining there until 1881, when he was called to the pulpit of the Hebrew Union Congregation of Greenville, Miss., which he served until 1901, going from there to the congregation at Texarkana, Texas, and after occupying that pulpit for a period of six years, he became **rabbi** of B'nai Israel congregation, Jackson, Tenn., to which pulpit he was elected for life. On December 16 last, he died at the home of his daughter at Fort Worth, Texas, after a brief illness.

Doctor **Bogen** was the author of a book entitled "Meditations for the New Year and Atonement Days" and collaborated with **Rabbi** George Solomon in the publication of "Essays on the

Origin of Christianity." At the time of his death he had in process of publication a work on "Jewish Religious Customs and their Origin and Purpose."

Joseph Bogen was a member of the so-called "Old School", and he was personally but little known to most of us. As one by one his old friends and colleagues passed away—the great men with whom he had been associated in the great work of American Israel in the pioneer days—his disposition became more and more retiring and his diffidence restrained him from seeking the companionship of his younger colleagues.

He was a member of this Conference almost from its very inception; he was a warm personal friend and admirer of its immortal founder. His life was rich in service and resplendent in sacrifice.

Be it therefore Resolved, That the Conference express its sympathy at the death of our colleague, and that a page of our Yearbook be dedicated to his memory.