

B'nai Jeshurun through the years

1866

B'ne Jeshurun formed, Torah purchased by Hungarian Jews following a meeting in the Cleveland home of Mt. Sinai Hospital founder Herman Sampliner

1878

The temple moves to Michigan Avenue in the old German Theater. Dispute over separation of worshippers by gender prompts group to leave and form Kneseth Israel congregation

1887

Congregation moves to Eagle Street following \$15,000 purchase of the former Anshe Chesed temple. Sigmund Dreschler becomes its first ordained rabbi, at \$1,000 a year. Religious school established

1904

Congregation splits. Oheb Zedek (which will become Taylor Road Synagogue) formed

1906

Synagogue shifts from Orthodox to Conservative. New building completed at East 55th Street and Scovill Avenue

1918

Mathilde Schechter proposes building women's auxiliary at national United Synagogue conference hosted at B'nai Jeshurun

1919

Rabbi Solomon Goldman becomes spiritual leader. He would make his mark as a nationally prominent spokesman for Conservative Judaism

1925

Cornerstone laid for \$1-million, Byzantine-style building – the first synagogue outside Cleveland – at 3130 Mayfield Road in Cleveland Heights. The building is now the Civic Conference and Events Center



1933

Rabbi Rudolph M. Rosenthal installed as rabbi at Temple on the Heights. Rabbi Abraham Nowak leaves to form Community Temple, aka Congregation Beth Am, as “a synagogue for all the people”

1935

B'nai Jeshurun becomes first U.S. congregation to enroll all of its members in the Zionist Organization of America. Membership is at 2,000 families and 1,400 children

1942

Cantor Saul Meisels hired



1947

New building on Washington Boulevard in Cleveland Heights purchased from Trinity Congregational Church for Congregation Beth Am. Rabbi Jack Herman installed

1949

Young People's Congregation founded

1959

First bat mitzvah on Friday evening

1974

Rabbi Milton B. Rube and group of members leave Temple on the Heights to form Congregation Bethaynu

1976

Rabbi Rosenthal retires and becomes rabbi emeritus, Rabbi Herbert N. Schwartz hired as senior rabbi

1980

B'nai Jeshurun moves to the Pepper Pike complex it now occupies

1998

Cantor Aaron Shifman joins congregation

1999

B'nai Jeshurun and Congregation Beth Am celebrate merger with Torah march



2000

Rabbis Stanley J. Schachter and Michael Hecht become rabbi emeriti

2001

Rabbi Stephen Weiss appointed senior rabbi. Rabbi Hal Rudi-Luria appointed assistant rabbi shortly after

2004

Debut of Israel Family Adventure program

2005

Establishment of Early Childhood Program

2011

Congregation Bethaynu closes its building. Most of its 240 families join B'nai Jeshurun. Rabbi Rona Shapiro joins B'nai Jeshurun clergy, the team's first woman and the first female rabbi of a Conservative congregation in Cleveland. She leaves in 2013

2015

Citing Jewish law ruling homosexuality is permissible; Rabbi Weiss issues paper permitting gay marriages

2016

B'nai Jeshurun turns 150