

# The *Magic City*

## JEWISH **BIRMINGHAM**

COMMUNITY  
HISTORY  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
ORGANIZATIONS  
EDUCATION  
**AND MORE**







**The Birmingham**  
JEWISH FEDERATION

**Birmingham Jewish Federation**

3966 Montclair Road  
Birmingham, AL 35213

Ph. 205-879-0416

**Monday-Thursday**

8:30 am to 5:00 pm

**Friday**

8:30 am to 4:00 pm

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**Birmingham Jewish Federation**



**Jewishbirmingham**

[www.bjf.org](http://www.bjf.org)



# Thoughts *from our* CEO Danny Cohn



Shalom!

Welcome to Birmingham, Alabama, the “Magic City”. As a native Midwesterner and an Alabamian by choice, I can assure you that Birmingham is not only magical, but also a great place to live, work and raise a family. Much has occurred in our city for more than 150 years. We are the birthplace of civil rights, the industrial center of the South, and home to four post-secondary four year colleges and universities. Our museums are some of the best in the country and we boast the restaurants of four chefs who have been nominated for the James Beard Award. All of this coupled with a mid-sized, thriving, and vibrant Jewish community, led by the Birmingham Jewish Federation.

The Birmingham Jewish Federation was established in 1936 as the United Jewish Appeal and since then has raised money for causes both local and abroad as well as birthed major community agencies. The Birmingham Jewish Federation, in conjunction with The Birmingham Jewish Foundation, proudly supports the Alabama Holocaust Education Center, Collat Jewish Family Services, Levite Jewish Community Center, N.E. Miles Jewish Day School, as well as local Hillel chapters at both the University of Alabama and Auburn.

The Birmingham Jewish Federation’s work centers around five areas: strengthening the local Jewish community, educating the broader Birmingham community on Israel and the Jewish community, providing financial support for our Jewish organizations through our annual campaign, helping people in need, and building a better Birmingham. We proudly offer cradle to grave programming for all our Jewish Community through programs such as P.J. Library, You Belong in Birmingham, Shalom Birmingham and the Jewish Community Relations Council. Additionally, the Federation hosts a robust Women’s Philanthropy and Young Jewish Leadership program.

As the fourth executive in our Federation’s storied history, I welcome you and your family to Birmingham and our Jewish community. Together we are continuing to build a strong, sustainable, vibrant Jewish community in one of the best places in the South. I am so excited to welcome you on this journey and look forward to meeting you in the near future. Our door are always open.

B’Shalom,  
Danny Cohn



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# HISTORY OF *Birmingham*

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Birmingham was founded in 1871 in Alabama's Jones Valley by the Elyton Land Company, which merged three small farming settlements into one town.

Jones Valley was chosen as the site of one of the first post-Civil War industrial cities because it's one of few places in the world where coal, iron ore, and limestone are all readily available. It's said that from Red Mountain--where the ground is so rich in iron that it literally rusts--you can see everything you need to make iron and steel with the naked eye. The city was named after Birmingham, England, the center of British steel production at that time.

The abundant natural resources of the area and the junction of two railroads, (the Alabama and Chattanooga and the North and South Alabama) led to the rapid growth of the new city. Birmingham became known as the "Magic City" because it sprang into being "like magic" growing to 4000 people by 1873.

The growth of the city was slowed by a cholera outbreak in that same year, but despite the high fatality rate of the disease at that time, Birmingham survived "like magic."

From its founding until the early 1970's Birmingham's fortunes rose and fell with the iron and steel industry. Between 1902 and 1912, four large office buildings were constructed at the intersection of 20th Street and 1st Avenue North (the city's main north/south and east/west arteries), which collectively became known as "the Heaviest Corner on Earth." The Great Depression of the 1930s hit Birmingham especially hard, but wartime steel production needs led to an economic boom.

Birmingham enjoyed a period of industrial prosperity during the post-WWII boom years until foreign competition and changing market conditions caused most of the city's furnaces to close during the 1970s. Today, only the U.S. Steel plant in Fairfield remains in production.



# HISTORY OF JEWISH BIRMINGHAM

Jews have been a part of Birmingham virtually since the city's founding in 1871. Those early residents primarily came to establish shops to serve the miners and factory workers and endured cholera, primitive conditions, and financial panics. Like their city, Birmingham Jews persevered, grew, and prospered, with Bertha and Hugo Marx being the first Jewish children born in the city in the mid-1870s.

Birmingham's first observance of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur came in 1881, in the home of Henry and Paula Simon. In 1886, the cornerstone was laid for Temple Emanu-El, the first Reform congregation, and Congregation Knesseth Israel, an Orthodox congregation was formed July 4, 1888.



RABBI MILTON GRAFMAN  
SPIRITUAL LEADER OF TEMPLE EMANU-EL

Several notable Jewish figures came to prominence in Birmingham's early years. Samuel Ullman became a tireless advocate for public education for whites and blacks alike--a hugely controversial position at the time. Samuel's wife Emma was one of the primary motivators behind the region's first hospital to serve indigent and black patients. Brothers Burghard and Sigfried Steiner saved Birmingham from financial disaster in 1893 with the "Steiner Plan", having their bank underwrite the city's municipal bond interest. They even personally bought the bonds of investors who lacked faith in the plan. The Steiner Plan gave the city the financial breathing room it desperately needed and has been a model for other cities facing similar financial difficulties.

In the early 20th century, Jewish businessmen permanently altered the Birmingham skyline. Rising high above First Avenue and 20th Street, Otto Marx's Brown Marx building was one of Birmingham's first skyscrapers, part of "the heaviest corner on earth."

During the Great Depression, the Jewish community led philanthropic efforts across the region. In 1936, the Birmingham United Jewish Fund was founded. Led by Dora Roth, the Fund coordinated the efforts of numerous organizations to raise money for Jewish causes, raising \$24,000 in its first year. The Fund eventually became the Birmingham Jewish Federation, which took on such projects as the founding of the N.E. Miles Jewish Day School and Collat Jewish Family Services.

Largely due to the Nazi threat, membership in the Birmingham Zionists group rose to 600 members by 1936; the city's Zionist ranks continued to grow during and after WWII. In 1943, Zionist leader Abe Berkowitz and others successfully lobbied the Alabama Legislature into passing a resolution calling for the establishment of a Jewish State. After Israel won its independence in 1948, the Birmingham Zionists and Birmingham United Jewish Fund worked to raise funds to help build the fledgling Jewish state.

Jews were an integral part of the civil rights struggle in Birmingham. In 1958, Temple Beth-El discovered 54 sticks of dynamite in a basement window well. Only a faulty fuse prevented the synagogue, (and anyone inside), from being destroyed. The bomber was never apprehended. The Ku Klux Klan's significant influence led many to feel that desegregation was an issue best left alone by Jews, who did enjoy some police protection that was denied to civil rights protestors. Caught between their desire to pursue civil rights and to maintain the harmony of the city, Birmingham Jews worked for a peaceful solution both openly and

behind the scenes. One of the most active leaders was Temple Emanu-El's Rabbi Milton Grafman.

After the tumult of the 1960's, the 1970's were a time of growth and progress in Birmingham and the Jewish Community. The N.E. Miles Jewish Day School was founded in 1973. The Levite Jewish Community Center expanded and improved its facilities. In 1979, the Birmingham Jewish Foundation was created to support Jewish organizations in the city. The three Jewish congregations — Kneseth Israel, Temple Beth-El, and Temple Emanu-El — all thrived.

Today, Birmingham boasts a strong and thriving Jewish community. Between 1984 and 2016, the Jewish population grew from 4,500 to 6,300. Although Birmingham's Jewish community is small by national standards, Birmingham Jews have a disproportionately large impact on the metropolitan area. Birmingham boasts a diverse array of Jewish institutions, including a Jewish Federation, Jewish Foundation, the Levite JCC, the N.E. Miles Jewish Day School, Collat Jewish Family Services, Chabad of Alabama, the Alabama Holocaust Education Center, and four religious congregations — Kneseth Israel, Temple Beth-El, Or Hadash, and Temple Emanu-El. Southern Jewish Life magazine, founded and edited by Larry Brook, has been reporting on Jewish news in Birmingham and the Deep South since 1990. For almost a century, Birmingham has been Alabama's largest Jewish community and seems poised to retain this title well into the 21st century.

**To learn more about the rich history of Birmingham Jews, start here:**

<https://www.isjl.org/alabama-birmingham-encyclopedia.html>



# Birmingham*Today*

Natives know that Birmingham is one of the South's best-kept secrets, and the rest of the nation is starting to catch on. The past few years have seen tremendous positive changes in the Magic City, and the future looks bright indeed!

Recent efforts to revitalize the downtown area, along with the growth of the University of Alabama at Birmingham, have brought new life, new residents, and new energy to both the city and the entire metropolitan area.

The downtown loft district is home to the grand Alabama Theatre and Lyric Theater. Numerous bars and restaurants, many of which feature live performances, have made downtown Birmingham one of the nation's fastest-growing entertainment districts. Home of the Alabama Symphony Orchestra and Alabama Ballet, there's plenty of classical entertainment available. If you prefer something a little more laid back, the Oak Mountain Amphitheater is just a few minutes away from downtown.

Birmingham has a thriving food scene. From award-winning chefs to hole-in-the-wall comfort food, Birmingham has something to offer even the most discriminating diner. Of course, there's barbecue, but Birmingham doesn't focus on just one meat — we have barbecue beef, chicken, turkey-whatever you might want!

There have even been times when vegetables went on the grill, and if there's anything edible that hasn't gone into a deep fat fryer in Birmingham, it's only a matter of time. If you're thirsty, there's a fantastic local craft beer industry, and Birmingham hosts Brewfest, a celebration of microbreweries, every year.

Looking for sports? Birmingham has 140,000 yards of some of the best year-round golf courses in the nation, including two courses on the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail. The Southeastern Conference has its headquarters here, and the Birmingham Barons play AA baseball in Regions Park. In 2022 Birmingham will host the World Games, and some of the country's top Olympic and Paralympic athletes train at the Lakeshore Foundation. Birmingham also knows something about football because of a little game called the "Iron Bowl." The Iron Bowl, the annual match-up between rivals Auburn University and The University of Alabama, was at one time played in Birmingham each year. Regardless, you will definitely need to learn the difference between "Roll Tide" and "War Eagle."

"There's always something to do in Birmingham" isn't an empty slogan—it's what the city delivers. Birmingham's welcoming, family-friendly version of Southern Hospitality is just waiting for you!

## Birmingham Bucket List

### Birmingham Civil Rights Institute

There's nowhere better to understand the Civil Rights struggle than the Birmingham's Civil Rights Institute. A series of galleries leads visitors through the differences between daily life for Caucasian and African-American residents during the age of segregation and Jim Crow. The Movement Gallery recalls the days of "Bombingham," the years of relentless violence in the late 1950's and early 1960's that drew national attention to the city. The Processional Gallery uses life-sized figures of all ages and races to illustrate the "Walk To Freedom." Just a few blocks away, the Letter from Birmingham Jail Historic Marker commemorates Dr. Martin Luther King's famous 1963 open letter.

Birmingham was at the center of the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960's, and became known as "Bombingham" because of the extreme violence of the period. For years, the image of Birmingham was one of police dogs and fire hoses. Since that time, Birmingham has worked hard to rid itself of the legacy of segregation, Jim Crow and Bull Connor, and is now home to the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, which preserves the essence of the struggle for equality and is an essential feature of the landscape of today's Birmingham.

In many ways, the history of Birmingham mirrors the history of post Civil War America. From an industrial, segregated city to today's diverse, technology-driven metropolis, Birmingham is showing the nation that it honors its past without repeating its mistakes.

During the 1970's Birmingham began shifting from iron and steel production to service, financial, and educational industries. An urban renewal program in the warehouse district just south of the east-west railway lines centered around the University of Alabama Medical School and University Hospital, leading to what is today the large campus of the University of Alabama at Birmingham. UAB is now recognized as a world leader in medical treatment and research, and Birmingham's hospitals are some of the finest in the U.S. The city is also the region's financial center, housing the state's largest banking and insurance companies.

## BIRMINGHAM VOICES

"Downtown Birmingham is feeling more revitalized than ever, as several historic buildings have been reimagined as restaurants by local chefs. Five-time James Beard finalist Rob McDaniel, who grew up 80 miles from the city, opened contemporary Southern grill Helen in 2020 inside a 1920s shotgun-style building. You can smell his wood-fired meats from the sidewalk, and inside every meal starts with warm angel biscuits topped with whipped cane syrup butter. A block away at The Essential, Southern-bred chef Victor King and pastry chef Kristen Hall have partnered with farmers to serve vegetable-heavy dishes, homemade pastas, and the tastiest desserts in town (look for Parisian-inspired Bar La Fête from the duo in early 2022)."

Condé Nast, The 22 Best Places to Go in 2022



# You Belong In *Birmingham*





**W**hat's so great about the Magic City?  
It's just that-**magic!**

Our Jewish community is part of the magic. There's a certain magic in the air when we get together. Our community, from Shabbat to Passover, gather to celebrate everyone as one.

**You Belong In Birmingham**, funded by the Birmingham Jewish Federation's Annual Campaign, connects young Jewish adults in their 20s and 30s, with opportunities to become involved in our community. Through **You Belong In Birmingham**, young Jewish professionals have the opportunity to meet each other through fun social events, community service opportunities, and cultural experiences.

Our goal is to help them fall in love with Birmingham —an easy task. Birmingham is a thriving up-and-coming city, with new restaurants, exciting events, and fulfilling volunteer opportunities. Birmingham is a city that allows you to make your mark and the BJF is here to help you do it.

**You Belong In Birmingham** offers participants a taste of everything the Birmingham Jewish community has to offer. Whether it's a fun social experience like Top Golf, happy hour, or participating in a delicious Shabbat dinner, **You Belong In Birmingham** has it covered.

The Birmingham Jewish Federation serves as a resource to you. Whether to get connected to a synagogue or a reliable dry cleaner, we're here to make your transition to the Magic City a smooth one.

New to Birmingham? Contact us at [federation@bjf.org](mailto:federation@bjf.org) We'll take you out for coffee and find the best way to get you plugged in.

## BIRMINGHAM VOICES

"Birmingham is a hidden gem of the southeast. It's a city with a deep history that's become a hub for business, arts and entertainment. Downtown Birmingham boasts fantastic restaurants, breweries, bars, and amazing events like Secret Stages Music Festival and the Sidewalk Film Festival. Certainly, a place anyone could call home!

-Eli Foree, YBIB Member



# Youth Spotlight

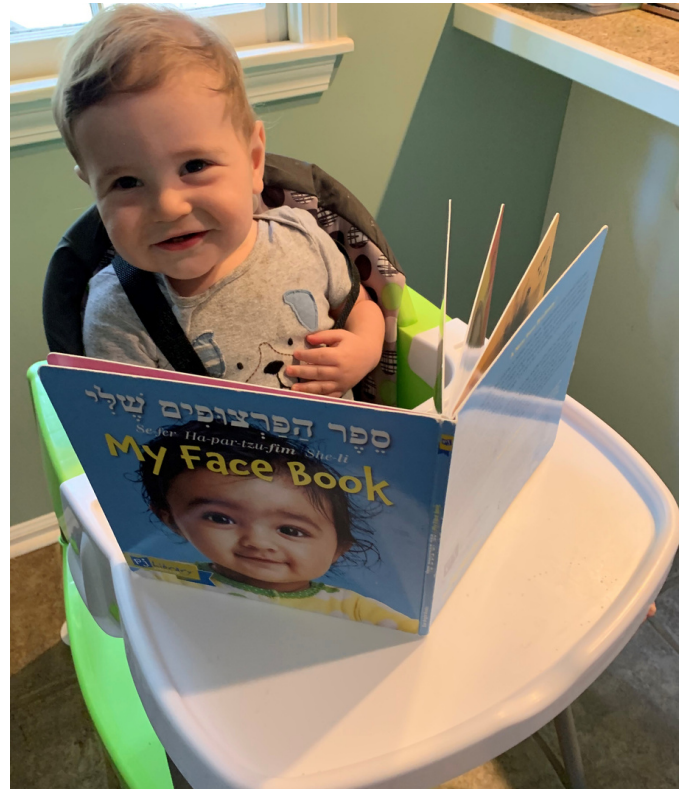




# PJ Library

Created and supported by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, **PJ Library** is funded nationally in partnership with local philanthropists and organizations. **PJ Library** is provided through the generosity of the Birmingham Jewish Foundation's Andrew David Abrams Educational Fund, with support from The Birmingham Jewish Federation and The Birmingham Jewish Foundation.

**PJ Library** engages Jewish families with young children, (birth to 8 years), in order to create stronger Jewish homes – homes that foster children's curiosity about their Jewish heritage and help families explore their Jewish identity. Participating families receive a high-quality Jewish children's book sent to their home every month accompanied by a reading guide. Regardless of your level of observance or affiliation, the stories and songs are sure to enrich your entire family's Jewish journey.



In addition, **PJ Library** offers programming for PJ families. We send out a monthly e-newsletter featuring events for young children happening in the Birmingham community. If you would like to be added to our e-newsletter or have any questions about **PJ Library**, visit [www.bjf.org](http://www.bjf.org).





# Young Jewish Philanthropy (YJP)

**Young Jewish Philanthropy (YJP)** is a youth program designed to strengthen the bonds of our youth to the Birmingham Jewish community. Born out of The Birmingham Jewish Foundation's Teen Tzedakah program, this new program seeks to increase philanthropic activity and the giving of tzedakah. YJP is divided into three groups; Shalom Service Corps. Tikkun Olam Squad, and Bar/Bat Mitzvah fund.

Shalom Service Corps for children ages 9-10 picks up where PJ Library ends. Through the community service programs of Shalom Service Corp, we spark conversation and enthusiasm as well as provide resources to continue these conversations at home. Shalom Service Corp participants learn about responsibility, leadership, and their place in improving the world.

Tikkun Olam Squad is for ages 11-12. The mission of Tikkun Olam Squad is to continue the learning of mitzvot, establish relationships with peers and develop leadership skills by actively helping people in the community. Your pre-teen will join with other kids to give back to the Birmingham community. Resources and step-by-step program guides for each activity are provided.

At the age of Bar/Bat Mitzvah, your child will be able to establish a fund in his/her name in the Birmingham Jewish Foundation. With a \$250 contribution to the Birmingham Jewish Foundation, a match will be made by the Brenda and Fred Friedman Family Foundation so that your Bar/Bat Mitzvah will have an initial \$500 in his/ her fund.

For more information on **YJP**, go to [www.bjf.org](http://www.bjf.org)



# BBYO

**BBYO** is the leading pluralistic Jewish teen movement aspiring to involve more Jewish teens in more meaningful Jewish experiences. As expressed in their core values, **BBYO** welcomes Jewish teens of all backgrounds, denominational affiliation, gender, race, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status, including those with a range of intellectual, emotional, and physical abilities.

With a network of hundreds of chapters across North America and in 56 countries around the world, **BBYO** reaches nearly 70,000 teens annually and serves as the Jewish community's largest and most valuable platform for delivering fun, meaningful and affordable experiences that inspire a lasting connection to the Jewish people.

Birmingham is the home to two **BBYO** Chapters, Magic City BBG and Rabbi Abraham Mesch AZA. Both chapters are active on both a chapter and regional level and invite 8th graders to join in January of each year.

Magic City and Mesch are part of Delta Region BBYO. For more information on joining BBYO, go to [www.bjf.org](http://www.bjf.org)

## BIRMINGHAM VOICES

"I feel that BBYO is a safe space to be around other Jewish teens like myself and make friendships that last a life time. My father still talks about his friends from AZA."

-Katherine Stein, BBG



# Women's PHILANTHROPY

As women philanthropists, we are the change-makers and community shapers of the world. We are sisters and daughters, mothers and friends, compassionate and committed women at every stage of life. The Birmingham Jewish Federation's Women's Philanthropy offers a way for Jewish women to engage in the fulfilling work of Tikkun Olam. Our collective philanthropy enriches our own lives while improving the lives of others. The following groups are based on each member's level of giving. For more information, go to [www.bjf.org](http://www.bjf.org)

## The Lions of Judah



The Lion of Judah pin was established as a symbol of a woman's commitment to the worldwide Jewish community, wherever Jews live, wherever Jews are in need.

## The Pomegranate Society



The pomegranate has 613 seeds- equal to the number of mitzvot in the Torah. The Pomegranate pin is a symbol of a woman's commitment to honor the mitzvot of tzedakah.

## The Pearl Society



The Pearl Society was established so that women of all ages and backgrounds can give from the heart and feel a connection to Jewish life through events and philanthropy.



# Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC)

The **JCRC** officially began in 1962 under the name of the Jewish Community Council of Birmingham. The Council was formed to serve as the convening voice of the Jewish community in response to the turbulent times Birmingham faced during the Civil Rights Movement. Today, the **JCRC** is the public affairs and community relations arm of the Birmingham Jewish Federation. The **JCRC** convenes the Jewish community's "Common Table" around which representatives from every Jewish agency, organization, and synagogue are welcome and encouraged to sit together to find consensus on issues of concern. The **JCRC** expresses these interests and values to the community-at-large, policymakers, and media outlets. The **JCRC** develops relationships with our government officials, builds bridges among our interfaith and intercultural communities, and serves as a catalyst for social justice.

The **JCRC** is the point of contact for the Birmingham Jewish community to respond to incidents of antisemitism. On the JCRC website ([www.bjf.org/jcrc](http://www.bjf.org/jcrc)) is an Antisemitic Incident Form through which community members can reach out for assistance.

In addition, the **JCRC** works with our area school systems to ensure that Jewish students receive the appropriate educational accommodations they need for religious holiday observances. The **JCRC** distributes a Five Year Calendar of Jewish Holidays and Observances to area schools, nonprofits, and civic organizations in order to avoid scheduling conflicts with the High Holidays. **JCRC** staff and lay leaders frequently speak in the broader community about Jewish holidays and customs and regularly reach out to our elected officials on issues important to our Jewish community.

To learn more about the work of the **Jewish Community Relations Council**, including access to our Five Year Calendar of Jewish Holidays and Observances - visit [www.bjf.org/jcrc](http://www.bjf.org/jcrc).





*There's always  
something to do in  
Birmingham!*









# BIRMINGHAM NEIGHBORHOODS



## Avondale

Built-in 1887 as a neighborhood for workers at a nearby textile mill, Avondale is experiencing a resurgence as artists and young professionals move into the historic homes in this pedestrian-friendly neighborhood. In just four years, the four-block commercial area in the heart of the district has gone from 25% occupancy to 75%, thanks to entrepreneurs who recognize the potential of this space just two miles east of Downtown. The active Avondale/Forest Park neighborhood association has led efforts to revitalize Avondale Park, and hosts family-friendly events year-round, including open-air movies and concerts, as well as offering softball fields, tennis courts, and walking trails.

## Great Picks

Avondale Brewery, Back Forty Beer Co, Blueprint on 3rd, Big Spoon Creamery, Avondale Common House & Distillery, Rodney Scott BBQ

### BIRMINGHAM VOICES

"Birmingham is big enough to matter, but not so big that you don't matter."

Bill Smith, Founder-Shipt Inc.



## Downtown Birmingham

Downtown Birmingham is being reborn. The one-time business district has been transformed into a 24-hour mixed-use district. Downtown lofts and condominiums are some of the most trendy addresses in the City, while the restaurant, retail, cultural, and entertainment venues are exploding. Building on Birmingham's reputation as a Foodie Town with an eclectic, active music scene, the cultural and economic rejuvenation of Downtown has attracted nationwide attention. With new construction everywhere and new shops and restaurants opening regularly, Downtown Birmingham has become a great place to live and play.

## Great Picks

The Pizitz Food Hall, Carrigan's Public House, Railroad Park, Regions Park, El Barrio, Yo Mama's,, Collins Bar, Good People Brewing, Helen, Bistro 218

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# BIRMINGHAM NEIGHBORHOODS



## Southside/Five Points South

The historic Southside community, situated on the hilly and forested slopes of Red Mountain, is just south of the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Southside is one of the most cosmopolitan neighborhoods in Birmingham and is the hub of the City's bohemian culture. Five Points South has long been a popular nightlife and entertainment district. Several of Birmingham's award-winning restaurants — Highlands Bar & Grill, Bottega, Ocean — are all located on the Southside. The international reputation, faculty, and student population of UAB make Southside the most racially and ethnically diverse neighborhood in Birmingham.

## Great Picks

Chez Fon Fon, Bottega, Surin West, Five Points Oyster Bar, Filter Coffee Parlor

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## Lakeview

Just east of UAB and Five Points South, the Lakeview District is one of Birmingham's most rapidly-growing areas for entertainment, retail, design, and food. With new urban dwellings currently under construction on almost every block, Lakeview is evolving its own character and reputation for good food, and good entertainment. Like many other Birmingham neighborhoods, Lakeview is very pedestrian and bike-friendly, and the Farmer's Market at Pepper Place (in the old Dr. Pepper bottling plant) is open every Saturday from April to December, rain or shine, bringing Alabama-grown fresh produce direct to consumers.

## Great Picks

Slice, Hattie B's, Jack Brown's, Cahaba Brewing Company, Trim Tab, Red Cat Coffee, Bettola, Moes Original BBQ, Automatic Seafood, Rojo, Hot and Hot Fish Club

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# Jewish Education

From Pre-School to Hebrew High School, Birmingham offers Jewish educational opportunities for our youth.

## Pre-School

**Jo Ann Hess Morrison Chai Tots Preschool** at Chabad of Alabama is a progressive preschool for Jewish children 18 months through Pre-K. JAHM Chai Tots is dedicated to educating children from a broad range of Jewish backgrounds and observances through a play-based curriculum and a warm nurturing environment.

**The Cohn Early Childhood Learning Center** at the LJCC provides quality early childhood education in an atmosphere of Jewish culture and values. Beginning at age 6 weeks for a full day and 18 months for half-day programs, the Cohn ECLC facilitates children's development through movement, play, imagination, and basic life skills.

## N.E. Miles Jewish Day School

Located on the LJCC campus is the N.E. Miles Jewish Day School, which houses grades K-8. The N.E. Miles Jewish Day School integrates General and Judaic Studies and strives to instill the values of lifelong learning, respect for others, and the ability to make informed choices in life.

## Kesher Program

This program focuses on meaningful education for our community's post B'nai Mitzvah students. Students will choose from exciting elective classes, socialize, nosh with their peers and engage in whole-group learning over twelve sessions. Topics include but are not limited to: Teshuvah & Second Chances, Introduction to Filmmaking, History of Jews in America, Discussion of Antisemitism, Torah and Technology, Leadership Through Improv Comedy, Holocaust Education, and Israel Through Art and Artists. Students will also participate in two community mitzvah projects over the course of year.



## High Schools

Five of the top 10 Alabama public high schools are located in Jefferson County: Mountain Brook (Mountain Brook), Homewood (Homewood), Vestavia Hills (Vestavia Hills), and Hoover and Spain Park (both in Hoover). Both the #1 and #2 private high schools in the state are in the metropolitan area: Indian Springs (Pelham, just south of Birmingham) and The Altamont School (Birmingham). There are 33 private high schools in Jefferson County, serving 7,520 students with a 9:1 student: teacher ratio. For exceptional older students, the Alabama School of Fine Arts is located in the downtown Birmingham Arts District. ASFA is a semi-residential school with admission by audition in one of six areas: Dance, Creative Writing, Math/Science, Music, Theatre Arts, and Visual Arts. Funded by the State Legislature, in-state students pay no tuition. In addition to grades 7-12, ASFA offers summer camps in all areas of study.

## Colleges and Universities

Jefferson County is home to six institutions of higher learning, with the University of Alabama at Birmingham being the largest. Part of the University of Alabama system, UAB has nearly 20,000 students from over 100 countries, pursuing degrees in 140 programs of study. University Alabama at Birmingham is one of the largest academic hospitals in the country, and UAB is the largest single employer in the state. Birmingham-Southern College and Samford University are small private universities in the area, while Miles College is one of eight historically black colleges in Alabama. Two Associate (2 year) colleges have several campuses in Jefferson County — Lawson State and Jefferson State. Four Law Schools — Cumberland School of Law, Alabama School of Law, Birmingham School of Law, and Miles Law School — are located in Birmingham.

Whatever your age or educational goal, Birmingham has the resources and facilities to help you reach it.







# BIRMINGHAM DIRECTORY

Jewish Congregations

Jewish Organizations

Theater & Performing Arts

Community Spaces

Shopping & Business Districts

Day Trips & Family Activities

Weekend Getaways

Education

## Congregations

### Reform

#### TEMPLE EMANU-EL

[www.ourtemple.org](http://www.ourtemple.org)  
2100 Highland Avenue  
Birmingham, AL 35205

### Conservative

#### TEMPLE BETH EL

[www.templebeth-el.net](http://www.templebeth-el.net)  
2179 Highland Avenue  
Birmingham, AL 35205

### Orthodox

#### KNESSETH ISRAEL CONGREGATION

[www.kicongregation.org](http://www.kicongregation.org)  
3100 Overton Road  
Birmingham, AL 35223

#### CHABAD OF ALABAMA

[www.chabadofalabama.com](http://www.chabadofalabama.com)  
3040 Overton Road  
Birmingham, AL 35223

### Humanistic

#### OR HADASH

[www.orhadashbham.org](http://www.orhadashbham.org)



Temple Emanu-El



Temple Beth- El



## Our Community

### THE BIRMINGHAM JEWISH FEDERATION

The Birmingham Jewish Federation is our Jewish Community's central fundraising, community relations, and community development agency. We are dedicated to enriching Jewish life, supporting Israel, helping all people in need, and building a better Birmingham.



**The Birmingham**  
JEWISH FEDERATION

[bjf.org](http://bjf.org)

**3966 Montclair Road  
Birmingham, AL 35213**

### THE BIRMINGHAM JEWISH FOUNDATION

The Birmingham Jewish Foundation raises endowment, or long-term funds for our community's future, with the income available today to meet current needs. The Foundation administers the endowments of several organizations including the Birmingham Jewish Federation, Collat Jewish Family Services, the Levite Jewish Community Center, and the N.E Miles Jewish Day School and helps them grow their endowment funds. The Foundation works with donors to address their individual philanthropic goals and financial planning needs, while also benefiting the community.



[Birminghamjewishfoundation.bjf.org](http://Birminghamjewishfoundation.bjf.org)

**3966 Montclair Road  
Birmingham, AL 35213**

### LEVITE JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

Through the lens of Jewish identity and values, the Levite Jewish Community Center provides a welcoming, family-oriented gathering place for a diverse membership to engage in meaningful experiences of the mind, body, and soul. Impacting more than 130,000 members of the Birmingham community annually, the Levite Jewish Community Center is welcoming to people of all faiths, ages, and backgrounds. The agency is a family-oriented recreational and educational facility that is open to the entire community.



[bhamjcc.com](http://bhamjcc.com)

**3960 Montclair Road  
Birmingham, AL 35213**

## N.E MILES JEWISH DAY SCHOOL

For over forty years, the N.E. Miles Jewish Day School has inspired learning for a lifetime. It is a community day school, and through a values-based education, students learn to be leaders both in the school community and the greater community. At the N.E. Miles Jewish Day School, the high academic standards, low student-to-teacher ratio, and individualized instruction create a love of learning and an environment of academic excellence where students can reach their full potential.

## COLLAT JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES

Since 1989, Collat Jewish Family Services has worked to help individuals and families live happier, healthier lives. Today, the agency's primary focus is preserving independence and enhancing quality of life for older adults. Services include case management/referral; Buz-A-Bus and escorted transportation; financial/personal affairs management and more. Individual and family counseling, as well as volunteer opportunities, are available for all ages.

## ALABAMA HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CENTER

The mission of the Alabama Holocaust Education Center is to educate about the history and lessons of the Holocaust to create a more just and compassionate world recognizing the humanity of every individual.



[nemjds.org](http://nemjds.org)  
**4000 Montclair Road**  
**Birmingham, AL 35213**



[cjfsbham.org](http://cjfsbham.org)  
**3940 Montclair Road, Suite 205**  
**Birmingham, AL 35213**



[ahecinfo.org](http://ahecinfo.org)  
**2100 Highland Avenue South**  
**Birmingham, AL 35205**



## THEATER & PERFORMING ARTS

### **ALABAMA THEATRE**

ALABAMATHEATRE.COM

1817 3RD AVE N.

BIRMINGHAM, AL 35203

### **IRON CITY BIRMINGHAM**

IRONCITYBIRMINGHAM.COM

513 22ND ST S.

BIRMINGHAM, AL 35233

### **LYRIC THEATRE BIRMINGHAM**

LYRICBHAM.COM

1800 3RD AVE N.

BIRMINGHAM, AL 35203

### **ALABAMA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

ALABAMASYMPHONY.ORG

3621 6TH AVE S.

BIRMINGHAM, AL 35222

### **VIRGINIA SAMFORD THEATRE**

VIRGINIASAMFORDTHEATRE.ORG

1116 26TH ST S.

BIRMINGHAM, AL 35205

### **BIRMINGHAM CHILDREN'S THEATRE**

BCT123.ORG

2130 RICHARD ARRINGTON JR BLVD N.

BIRMINGHAM, AL 35203

### **ALABAMA BALLET**

ALABAMABALLET.ORG

2726 1ST AVE S.

BIRMINGHAM, AL 35233

### **RED MOUNTAIN THEATRE**

REDMOUNTAINTHEATRE.ORG

1600 3RD AVE S.

BIRMINGHAM, AL 35233

### **SIDEWALK FILM CENTER + CINEMA**

SIDEWALKFEST.ORG

1821 2ND AVE N.

BIRMINGHAM, AL 35203

### **ALYS STEPHENS CENTER**

ALYSSTEPHENS.ORG

1200 10TH AVE S.

BIRMINGHAM, AL 35294



Alabama Theatre



Lyric Theatre



**Railroad Park**



**Avondale Park**



**Market at Pepper Place**

## COMMUNITY SPACES

### THE MARKET AT PEPPER PLACE

2829 2ND AVE S.  
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35233

### HIGHLAND PARK

30TH ST S., 29 ST S., 28TH ST S.  
HIGHLAND AVE  
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35205

### RAILROAD PARK

1600 1ST AVE S.  
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35233

### AVONDALE PARK

4101 5TH AVE S.  
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35222

### LINN PARK

20TH ST N.  
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35203

### OVERTON PARK

3020 OVERTON RD  
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35223

### HOMEWOOD CENTRAL PARK

1632 OXMOOR RD  
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35209

## SHOPPING AND BUSINESS DISTRICT

### DOWNTOWN HOMEWOOD

18TH ST S.  
HOMEWOOD, AL 35209

### SHOPS OF COLONNADE

3409 COLONNADE PKWY  
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35243



## SHOPPING AND BUSINESS DISTRICT

### FOURTH AVENUE BUSINESS DISTRICT

4TH AVENUE N. AT 17TH ST  
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35203

### UPTOWN ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT

2221 RICHARD ARRINGTON BLVD N.  
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35203

### FIVE POINTS SOUTH HISTORIC DISTRICT

20TH ST S AT 11TH AVE S.  
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35205

### MOUNTAIN BROOK VILLAGE

2713 CULVER ROAD  
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35213

### CRESTLINE VILLAGE

68 CHURCH STREET  
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35213

### ENGLISH VILLAGE

2012 CAHABA RD  
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35213

### CAHABA VILLAGE

2800 CAHABA VILLAGE ROAD  
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35243

### OVERTON VILLAGE

3150 OVERTON ROAD  
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35223

### THE SUMMIT

214 SUMMIT BOULEVARD  
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35223



The Summit



Crestline Village



English Village

## DAY TRIPS & FAMILY ACTIVITIES

### BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

- Birmingham Civil Rights Institute
- McWane Science Center
- Birmingham Museum of Art
- Vulcan Park and Museum
- Birmingham Zoo
- Kelly Ingram Park
- Regions Field
- Birmingham Botanical Gardens
- 16th St Baptist Church
- Sloss Furnaces National Historic Landmark
- Southern Museum of Flight
- Alabama Sports Hall of Fame
- Barber Motor Sports Museum
- Dave & Buster's
- Red Mountain Park

### CHILDERSBURG, ALABAMA

- Desoto Caverns Family Fun Park

### GADSDEN, ALABAMA

- Noccalula Falls Park
- Riverwalk Park at Coosa Landing

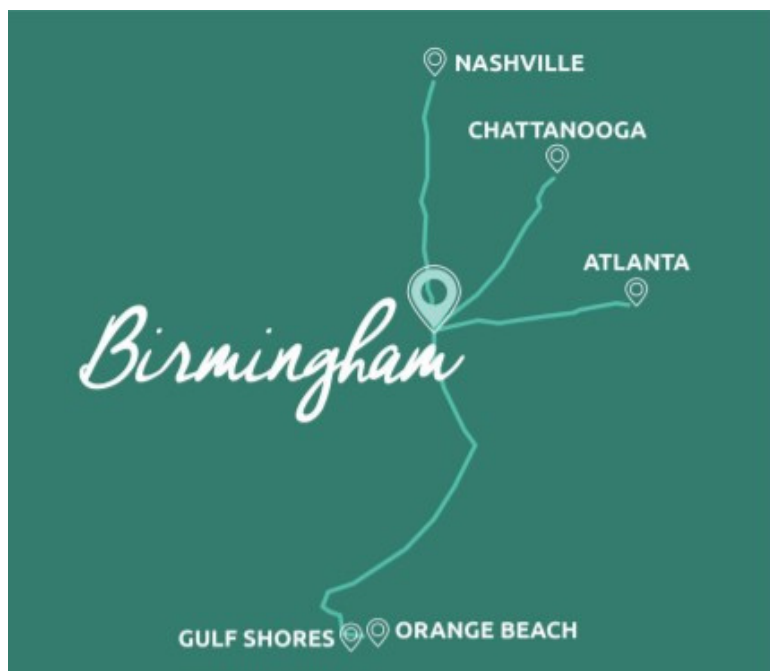
### HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

- U.S. Space & Rocket Center
- Burritt on the Mountain
- Monte Sano State Park
- US Veterans Memorial Museum
- Huntsville Botanical Gardens

### MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

- Alabama State Capitol
- Civil Rights Memorial Center
- Rosa Parks Library and Museum
- Legacy Memorial Museum
- The Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald Museum

## WEEKEND GETAWAYS



Atlanta, Georgia  
(Approx. 2.5 hours)

Chattanooga, Tennessee  
(Approx. 2.5 hours)

Nashville, Tennessee  
(Approx. 3 hours)

Orange Beach, Alabama  
(Approx. 4 hours)

Gulf Shores, Alabama  
(Approx. 4 hours)





ROTARY TRAIL  
*in the*  
MAGIC

## Birmingham Bucket List

### **The Magic City Sign and Rotary Trail**

A re-creation of an iconic landmark, the Magic City sign marks the entrance to Rotary Trail, a pedestrian greenway built in the railway cut in 1st Avenue South between 20th and 24th streets. The Rotary Trail was proposed and largely funded by the Rotary Club of Birmingham and is a continuation of the Railroad Park greenspace. The original Magic City sign welcomed travelers to Birmingham outside Terminal Station from 1926 until it was torn down in 1952. Birmingham became known as the “Magic City” because of its rapid growth in the early 1870’s, appearing “as if by magic.”



Welcome to  
**Sweet Home  
Alabama**



**The Birmingham**  
JEWISH FEDERATION

**The Birmingham Jewish Federation** is our Jewish Community's central fundraising, community relations, and community development agency. We are dedicated to enriching Jewish life, supporting Israel, helping all people in need, and building a better Birmingham.