

**Schwarz Family Collection**  
**Jewish Historical Society of New Jersey Archives**  
Prepared by Jen Wachtel – July, 2014

**Record Group: RG1**

**Collection Number: 2-92**

**Creator:** Isaac Schwarz

**Inclusive Dates:** 1852 and 1970

**Extent: 1 cf**

**Abstract:** Personal papers of Isaac Schwarz and his grandson Joel Schwarz

**Acquisition information:**

The collections of the Society shall be available for examination and study by any member of the public under the normal security procedures and other special procedures established for the protection of the specific collections.

**Preferred Citation:**

Schwarz Family Collection, Jewish Historical Society of New Jersey

**Access restrictions:**

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**History:**

Rabbi Isaac Schwarz, of the Kussy-Schwarz family, emigrated from Bavaria, Germany and was the spiritual head of Congregation B'nai Jeshurun in Newark from 1854-1860. Rabbi Schwarz was the first rabbi to lead Congregation Oheb Shalom, which splintered from B'nai Jeshurun in 1860. He was married to his niece Fanny Bloch (Isaac was her maternal uncle), who he met in Osterberg.

B'nai Jeshurun started as an Orthodox community but eventually became Reform; Schwarz was defeated by one vote in the rabbinical election of 1860 and left to found the Orthodox Congregation Oheb Shalom. Both Oheb Shalom and the unaffiliated B'nai Abraham, another Newark congregation, started as Orthodox communities but eventually practiced Conservative rituals.

Congregation Oheb Shalom, under the leadership of Rabbi Isaac Schwarz, held services in both German and Hebrew and originally met in a simple wood frame building. Following rabbis included Ferdinand A. Sarnier, one of the first Jewish U.S. Army chaplains, and Charles I. Hoffman (1906), a proponent of Conservative Judaism. Oheb Shalom was considered one of the top congregations of the Conservative movement. Roger Schwarz, Rabbi Isaac Schwarz's great-grandson, was an usher when the synagogue left its High Street location for its new home in South Orange. In 1880, Celia Lowenstein née Bloch founded and was the first president of the Miriam Auxiliary at Congregation Oheb Shalom.

Isaac Schwarz also contributed to Jewish education by assisting Hebrew Educational Society. In 1888, the Hebrew Educational Society founded, along with the help of other German Jews including Meyer Hood, Moses Strauss, and Rabbi Joseph Leucht, the Plaut Memorial Hebrew Free School on the corner of Prince and Spruce Streets.

His connection to the Kussy family is through Fanny's sister Bella, who married Gustav Kussy, another German Jewish immigrant. The children of Isaac and Fanny Schwarz include Dr. Emanuel Schwarz, first chief of staff of Beth Israel, Samuel Schwarz, who established a chain of pharmacies in NJ and Westchester County and was president of Oheb Shalom. Their daughters were named Celia (married Emanuel Abeles), Sarah (married Julius Abeles), Ida (married Emil Kohn), Susannah "Setta" Schwarz, and Josephine (married Bernard Kahn). The Schwarz, Kussy, Lowenstein, Abeles, Kohn, and Kahn families were all deeply embedded in Newark's Jewish community life.

Joel Schwarz is the son of Samuel Schwarz and Tessie (Rebecca) Beck and was president of the Newark YM-YWHA. He married his first cousin once removed, Eve Abeles (great granddaughter of Isaac and Fanny Schwarz). Joel was born and raised in Newark, graduated from South Side High School and Rutgers University School of Pharmacy, following the footsteps of Schwarz Drugs and the Victoria Chemical Company. In addition to his presidency of the Newark YM-YWHA, he founded "Joel Schwarz Associates" as a manufacturer's representative for pharmaceuticals and sundries. As YM-YWHA President from 1953-1955, Joel Schwarz chaired multiple committees and oversaw the relocation of the Newark Y. He also served as vice president of the Jewish Vocational Service in Newark where he oversaw the COPE program, was the chairman of the Opportunity Workshop for the Handicapped. He was a trustee of Temple Oheb Shalom in South Orange and the Beth Israel Hospital (now Beth Israel Medical Center) in Newark.

### **Scope and Content:**

The papers of Joseph Joel Schwarz were donated in September 1992 by his daughter-in-law, Mrs. Diane Schwarz. In October 1992 James A. Schwarz added

to the collection. See also The History of the Schwarz Family, compiled by Susan Lowy Lubow in the Lubow Collection. See also the vertical files pertaining to Isaac Schwarz and Joel Schwarz. This collection is comprised of paper, photographs, and newspaper clippings.

**Organization:**

This collection is divided into three series.

- I. Family Photographs
- II. General Subjects
  - a. The Kussys
  - b. Locations (Newark and South Orange)
  - c. Personal
  - d. Pharmacy
- III. Organizations
  - a. Congregations
    - i. B'nai Jeshurun
    - ii. Oheb Shalom
  - b. Other
  - c. Jewish Vocational Services
  - d. YM-YWHA

**Conservation Notes:**

Most of the newspaper clippings are torn at the edges. Photocopies have been made for posterity.

**Removals:**