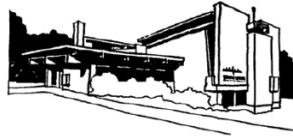


TEMPLE ISRAEL  
REFORM CONGREGATION OF STATEN ISLAND



# GALA 2024

HONORING

*Dr. Ronald Avis Foundation for Temple Israel*

*Larry Hanibal*

*Jim Rohan*

*Jodi and Alan Siegel*

SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 2024

**Above**

at the Hilton Garden Inn



ORDER OF PROGRAM

*Champagne Welcome*

WELCOME

*Jesse Siegel*

Event Chair

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

*Bryn Biren and Felicia Otto*

Co-Presidents, Temple Israel

D'VAR TORAH & BLESSINGS

*Rabbi Michael Howald*

*Cantor Suzanne Bernstein*

PRESENTATION OF THE HONOREES

CHOIR PRESENTATION

COCKTAILS, HORS D'OEUVRES, ENTERTAINMENT & DESSERTS

AT **Above**



# *Dr. Ronald Avis Foundation for Temple Israel*

Presented by Felicia Otto



We are grateful.

Tonight we acknowledge and honor extraordinary vision, dedication, generosity, and commitment to ongoing support.

In 2017, recognizing the need to engage families with young children in the synagogue community, our long-standing, esteemed member, Ronald Avis established the Dr. Ronald Avis Foundation for Temple Israel. The Foundation's grants have already provided financial support enabling 35 families to join the congregation with adjusted membership dues and free-of-charge religious school.

Moreover, all members of the congregation have benefitted from an array of innovative, meaningful spiritual, educational, and community-building experiences that affirm Jewish values and celebrate our traditions.

Now, more than ever, congregations are challenged to serve as welcoming, safe homes for ethical, spiritual, respectful, socially conscious communal life.



We are grateful.



## *Larry Hanibal*

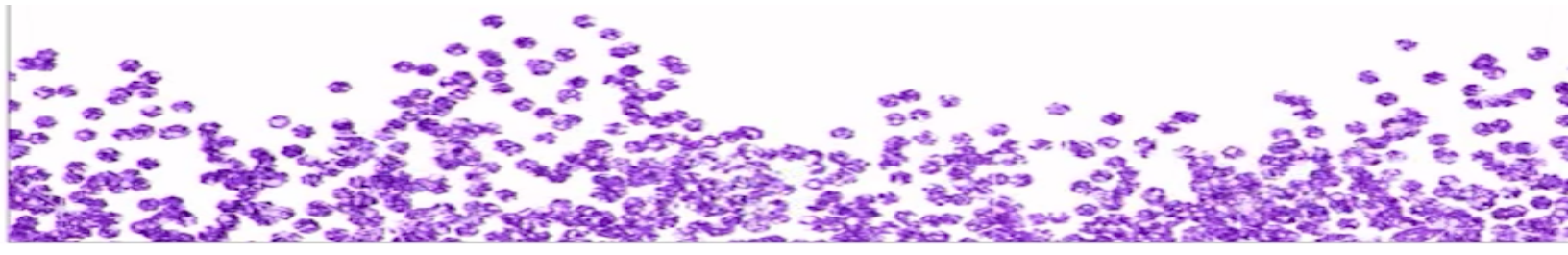
Presented by Brian Hanibal and Rachel Hanibal




Larry is the youngest of three children from an interfaith family raised in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn.

From childhood, Judaism was very important to him. After arranging to meet with Rabbi Friedman from a Crown Heights synagogue at age twelve, Larry told his parents he wanted to study to become a Bar Mitzvah. When his parents agreed, he studied three days a week for a year and a half to accomplish his goal.

Larry was called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah at Temple Ahavath Shalom (Avenue R Temple). Having many friends in the neighborhood, he remained active in the temple youth group where Larry and Linda met in 1969 and subsequently married 50 years ago at that same synagogue.

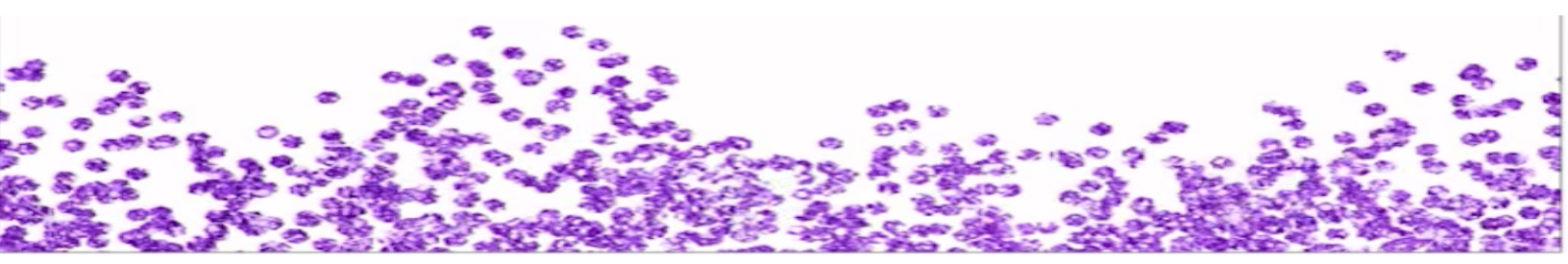




Synagogue life has remained an important part of life for the Hanibal family from their first Brooklyn congregation to Temple Israel Reform Congregation of Staten Island which they joined in 1987. Larry and Linda's children Brian and Rachel were raised and educated at Temple Israel through Confirmation.

Larry chose to join the Adult Confirmation class of 1994-1995; the same year, Brian was in the Religious School Confirmation class. Nice father-son bond. Larry has served Temple Israel on the Board of Trustees as well as on the executive board for many years. Then came his dedication to fund raising via the Gift Certificate Program. Many of you know that he expanded the gift certificate offerings from the island grocery stores to dozens of options. Then Larry began to personalize the delivery of the certificates so that the program could continue through the COVID pandemic lockdown. It has brought in a steady stream of funds.

His commitment to Judaism and Temple Israel is a given when one thinks of Larry Hanibal, but anyone who knows him, knows that Dad and Grandpa are the two most important titles he has ever held or ever will.



## *Jim Rohan*


Presented by Rabbi Howald



Jim and his wife Nina joined Temple Israel in 1998. They were looking for a place where they and their daughter Elizabeth could worship together. Except for occasional interruptions, they have been at Friday night services ever since. When Nina's family was unable to come to Elizabeth's Bat Mitzvah after the events of

September 11, the whole congregation came forward to help. It is this feeling of a temple family that Jim believes makes our congregation so special.

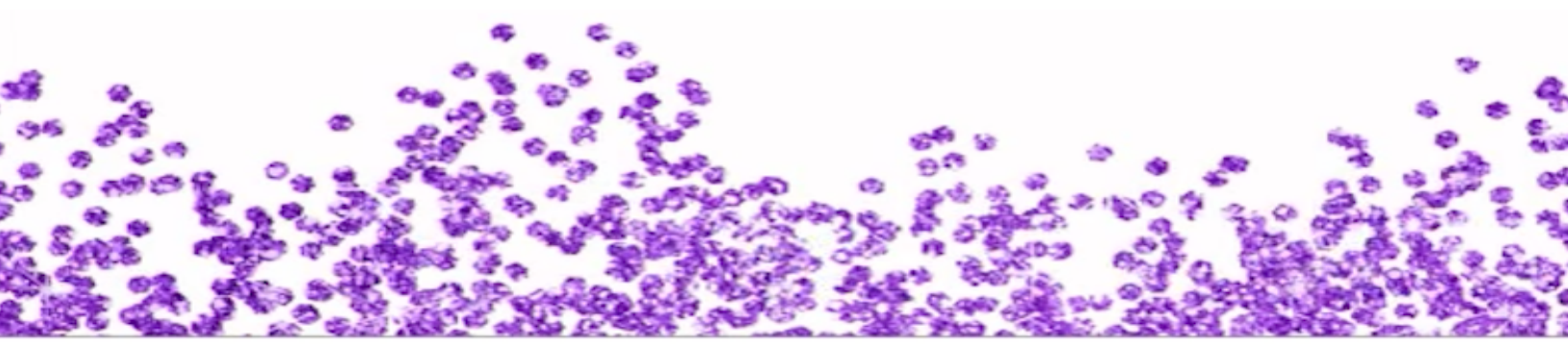
Jim is a longtime member of Brotherhood, and he has participated in many Sukkah construction crews. He played King Achashverosh for many Purim spiels and has occasionally served as an usher for services. He has served on more than a few nominating committees for temple leadership. He has been an active member



of many Cantorial search committees. But his favorite activity has always been music.

Jim was recruited to join the choir where he still sings bass. He became a percussionist for the Rock of Israel Band and often also plays percussion at Friday night services. When there was no music for Tot Shabbat, he began regularly playing guitar for that service.

When Temple Israel began using student cantors whose contracts ended with their school year, Jim stepped up and began playing for summer services eight years ago. He has also played the Sunday morning learning service and the Saturday morning service on occasion. He currently acts as the song leader and plays guitar for those Friday nights when Cantor Bernstein is not singing.



## *Alan and Jodi Siegel*

Presented by Fred Simon and Bryn Biren

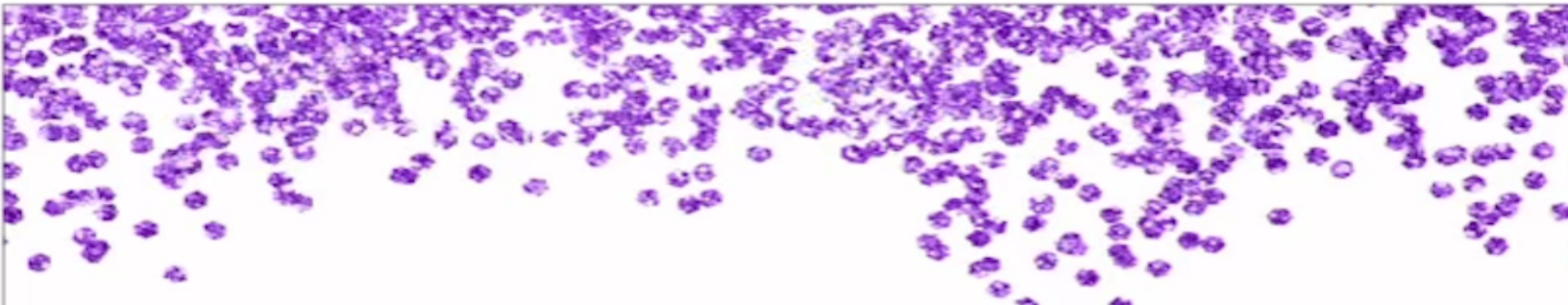


Jodi & Alan met when they were both teaching at John Dewey High School in Brooklyn. It was hate at first sight, but they managed to overcome their initial loathing to create a wonderful loving partnership both professionally and personally for the past 37+ years. This partnership resulted in

many fabulous theatrical productions and Jesse, one absolutely incredible daughter. Upon joining Temple Israel in 1993, they immediately found their Jewish home. Jesse found sisters and brothers and more moms and dads than she can count and Alan and Jodi found a way to fill up every single second of spare time they might ever have had.

Alan and Jodi are both career educators. Alan served as a teacher, assistant principal and principal with the New York City Board/Department of Education for 38 years, retiring as Principal of Lafayette High School in 2005. His career continued with Citibank and then, as an Educational

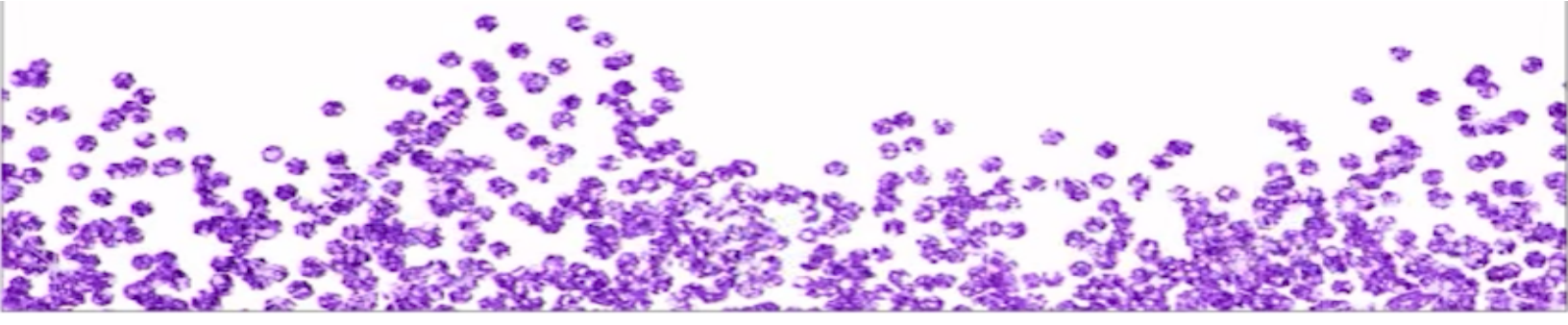





Consultant. Jodi taught high school for 20 years before being lured to the Superintendent's/Regional Office where she served multiple schools in multiple boroughs as a Lead Instructional Mentor, Achievement Coach and Leadership Development Specialist. She and Alan are both currently enjoying their retirements.

At Temple Israel, Alan has served as President, Vice President, Financial Secretary, Co-Chair of the House Committee, and a member of the Finance Committee. Over the years, he has also served as President of Brotherhood and continues to serve on the Board of Trustees. He has also worked on Rabbinical Search, Ways & Means and Gala Committees, Memorial Wall and Tree of Life Refurbishments and the security and sound systems. On any given day, Alan can be found cleaning refrigerators, installing engraved leaves, hanging pictures, tightening pews, measuring spaces, cutting branches, putting up plaques, hanging Mezuzahs, or just being an "old Jew telling jokes".

Jodi currently holds a position on the Temple Board of Trustees and is a member of the Ritual and Aesthetics Committees and a long-time member of the Temple Israel Adult Choir. She has been the editor of the temple's monthly e-Bulletin since its creation in 2017. In a few weeks, she will be reprising her role as Sisterhood Co-President, a position she previously held from 2014-2021 and 2001-2004. Jodi is proud to have served as Co-Chair of the Annual Gala Committee for almost 20 years and is especially thrilled to have passed that torch on to Jesse Siegel! The design and installation projects of a new Memorial Wall and the refurbishment of the original Memorial Wall in the Temple Israel sanctuary were spearheaded by Jodi, in addition to a new Tree of Life in

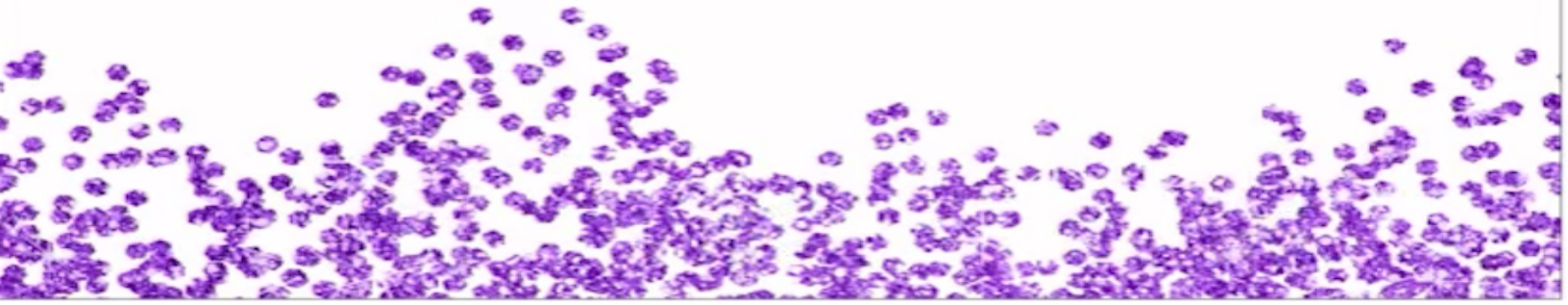




the lobby. She has served on the School Board, Rabbinical and Cantorial Search Committees, and has coordinated more Passover Seders, Shabbat dinners, Festival lunches and fundraisers than she can remember.

Jodi has also taught the Confirmation Class, written and directed many Purim Schpiels, created hundreds of flyers and journal pages, for years sent out all acknowledgements for donations made in our Shabbat programs, and even spent one Yom Kippur afternoon trying to get blood out of the newly installed carpeting in the sanctuary. Of all her Temple accomplishments, Jodi is most proud to have been able to read from Temple Israel's Holocaust Torah and to have been able to chant Torah and Haftarah at High Holiday services-- opportunities she may never have had at another synagogue.

Jodi and Alan are extremely grateful to the clergy and leadership of Temple Israel Reform Congregation of Staten Island for the Jewish education and religious experiences their family has had and for this very special honor; and, to Jesse Siegel, Claire Guttsman, Ann Targownik and their committees and to their fellow honorees, congregants, and their wonderful friends, who are truly family, for making this such a special day.





# GALA 2024

## *Gala Event Chair*

Jesse Siegel

## *Journal Chairs*

Claire Guttsman

Ann Targownik

## *Gala Committee*

Fern Barris

Bryn Biren

Hon. Philip Straniere

Ann Targownik

## *Journal Committee*

George and Harriet Kurlander

Sandy Mazzucco

Jackie Rabinowitz

Lee Brooks

Joanna Meltzer

*Special Thanks to the following people who contributed to the success of tonight's Gala:*

Lara Calderon, Temple Israel Office Manager

Lois & Richard Nicotra

Jennifer Finch & the Team at Above

Petals on Page

Charlie Romo, World Class Entertainment

Joanne Fink of Joanne Fink Judaica

Tracy Hattem and the team at A Little Card Company





## *SHEHECHEYANU*

Music and English Lyrics by Billy Tiep

Reach on up, Fill your cup, Sing this song of praise.  
Reach on up, Fill your cup, Sing this song of praise.

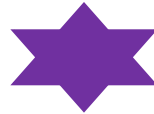
Give us life, Guard our lives, This is the time to be grateful.  
We are blessed to give thanks and to reach this joyous day.

Reach on up, Fill your cup, Sing this song of praise.  
Reach on up, Fill your cup, Sing this song of praise.

Shehecheyanu v'kiy'manu v'higianu laz'man hazeh  
Shehecheyanu v'kiy'manu v'higianu laz'man hazeh

Give a little more peace ,A little more joy, A little more love.  
Now, give a little more peace, A little more joy, A little more love.  
Reach on up, Fill your cup, Sing this song of praise.

Shehecheyanu v'kiy'manu v'higianu laz'man hazeh  
Shehecheyanu v'kiy'manu v'higianu laz'man hazeh



*Be sure to watch the screens during our reception at Above for the Digital Journal and photos of our honorees and Temple Israel events throughout the years.*

