

Honoring Jodi & Alan Siegel



Jodi & Alan Siegel 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. Jodi taught high school for 20 years before being lured to the Superintendent's Office which then became Regional Offices which then became Children First Networks, 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 as a member of 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 leaves, hanging pictures, tightening pews, measuring spaces, cutting branches, putting up plaques, hanging Mezuzahs, or just being an "old Jew telling jokes."

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More about Jodi & Alan Siegel



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 onto Jesse Siegel!

The design and installation projects of a (not-so-new anymore) 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 and Festival lunches and fundraisers than she cares to remember. Jodi has also taught the Confirmation Class, written and directed many Purim Schpiels, created hundreds of flyers and journal pages and, for years sent out all acknowledgements for donations made in our Shabbat programs. 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 Haftorah at High Holiday services--opportunities she may never have had at another synagogue.

Jodi and Alan are proud to support Hillel at the College of Staten Island, where Alan serves on the Board of Directors, and at the University of Delaware (Jesse's Alma Mater), On Your Mark, The Staten Island Museum, the JCC, the JNF, the UJA and many other Staten Island community organizations.