

Honoring Larry 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 since 1987. Larry and Linda's children Brian and Rachel were raised at Temple Israel through confirmation.

Larry chose to join the adult confirmation class 1994-1995; the same year Brian was in the religion school confirmation class. Nice father-son bond. Larry has served Temple Israel on the Board of Trustees as well as 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 offerings of gift certificates 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.