

Temple Israel

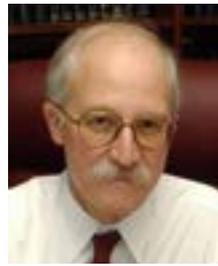
Reform Congregation of Staten Island



Celebrating Our 75-Year Journey • Committed to the Journey Ahead

16 Iyar 5783 • May 6, 2023

Greetings from the 75th Anniversary Committee



In May 1948, the State of Israel was born. That same year, a small group of families on Staten Island began a journey with their commitment to progressive Jewish life. Our 75th anniversary celebration is an opportunity to remember, reflect, and be inspired.

Tonight, we gather, dedicated to continue the journey, from strength to strength, sustained by you, our members, fulfilling our obligation to support our *beit tefilah*, *beit midrash* and *beit kneset* – our house of prayer, house of study, and house of community gathering.

We'll trace our congregation's journey with this evening of music. Cabaret performers Karen O'Donnell and Mickey Tennenbaum will sing Broadway songs from each decade since Temple Israel was born. Congregants whose parents were founders and who grew up in the congregation will share their experiences and new members will share theirs.

The generous contributions reflected in this Journal provide essential financial support as we move forward into the next decade. Moreover, we are grateful for the thoughts expressed in the wonderful messages that fill its pages.

You can view the Journal on our website share it with others. Go to TempleIsraelSINY.org to enjoy just a hint of our remarkable history and achievements, and our warm welcome to all who wish to be part of our continuing story.

Happy 75th!

Terry Baver, Bryn Biren, and Hon. Philip Straniere
The 75th Anniversary Committee Chairs

A Note from the Journal Committee:
If a message or name has been missed or misspelled, please let us know so corrections can be made in the final version for all to view. We are sincerely and deeply grateful to all who have participated.

A Message from Rabbi Howald



This year, Temple Israel and the state of Israel both celebrate the anniversary of their founding 75 years ago. They both arose out of the same inspiration: to provide a home for the Jewish people where we could be free to worship as we choose.

For both state and synagogue, the reaching of this milestone is an opportunity to celebrate and reflect. We rejoice because this longevity could not be taken for granted in 1948. We reflect because attaining three-quarters of a century naturally makes us look ahead to the next 25 years and beyond.

The Book of Genesis tells us that Abraham left his father's home with his wife Sarah at the age of 75. By the standards of today, 75 is an age of retirement from the world and its demands. By the benchmarks of the Torah, however, 75 was just the beginning of Abraham's and Sarah's journey to become the ultimate ancestors of the Jewish people. When he left his father's house in Haran at the age of 75, he still had the major adventures of his life ahead of him, including the Divine promise that he and his wife would found a mighty nation whose numbers would one day be more plentiful than the number of stars in the sky. For Abraham, 75 represented not the end of his life, but a new beginning full of promise and accomplishment.

When Temple Israel began in 1948, this community didn't have a building or a history to call its own. 75 years later, the congregation has a place to worship, meet, and learn, surrounded by the many names of those whose generosity sustained this synagogue over multiple moves, a disastrous fire, demographic changes in the Jewish community and the challenges of designing, constructing, and maintaining its own building.

We could view the arrival of this 75th anniversary as a culmination of all these accomplishments and be content. Jewish tradition, on the other hand, asks us to view our 75th year, not as a finale, but as a new stage in our journey, full of adventure and discovery. So may it be for this congregation as we look forward to the years ahead!

Long ago, as Abraham left his father's house, he received God's promise to make his name great and source of blessing. As Temple Israel reaches its 75th year, these words should also inspire us.

May the journey ahead in the life of this congregation be filled with blessing for all those who sustain this community and may the renown of this synagogue continue to grow!

כן יהי רצון *Cein Yehi Ratzon!*

Rabbi Michael Howald

A Message from Cantor Bernstein



In 1998, when Temple Israel celebrated the 50th anniversary, I was completing my seventh year as your cantor. My children were eight and five, and our family was fully immersed in synagogue life. The Temple Israel choirs, which of course my daughters

joined, sang at services, spiels, nursing homes, the JCC, Project Hospitality, Snug Harbor, Staten Island Cable TV and even in a big Manhattan synagogue. Temple Israel was the center of my family's life, and through Temple we were part of Staten Island community life.

Twenty five years later much has changed in my family. One daughter is married; another has moved to a new city. I live in the village of Catskill, 30 miles south of Albany. And yet, here I am, back again at Temple Israel at this significant moment in the history of this great congregation. What an honor and a privilege it is to serve as your cantor in my post-retirement years, and see that Temple Israel continues to provide community and meaning to both long-time members who I know from back when, and those that I am meeting now. I find the new Avis Foundation initiatives to be especially exciting. There is no greater way to have hope for the future of Temple Israel, and our Jewish people than to sit on the bima at Tot Shabbat and see the excitement on the little ones' faces as they sing "Bim Bam Shabbat Shalom!"

To illustrate the importance of this 75 year milestone, I want to take you to another borough. After I left Temple Israel, I had the opportunity to be the spiritual leader of Progressive Temple Beth Ahavath Shalom in Boro Park, Brooklyn, affectionately known as PTBAS. The unwieldy name was the result of merger of the three historic Brooklyn congregations, including Temple Ahavath Sholom from Avenue R, where a number of Temple

Israel congregants grew up. The congregation met in the building that had been Progressive Temple of Boro Park, which would have celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2019. In 2017, PTBAS decided to merge with another congregation, Beth Emeth, itself also a merger of three congregations. In 2018, one year shy of reaching its 100th birthday, the sanctuary of the last Reform congregation in Boro Park was razed to the ground to make way for condos.

On this happy occasion of the 75th anniversary, I tell you this cautionary tale of PTBAS because we cannot take the longevity of Temple Israel for granted. PTBAS' congregants were passionately devoted to their temple, but demographics and a dwindling membership made it impossible for a Reform congregation to continue in ultra-Orthodox Boro Park. PTBAS never reached their 100th anniversary. Temple Israel has reached this milestone 75th anniversary as the result of the dedication and hard work of the congregation, perhaps along with a bit of mazal. It will take more of that mazal and much more hard work and dedication to reach 100. Each fundraiser, each appeal takes Temple Israel one step closer, to assuring that Temple Israel remains the beacon of Reform Judaism on Staten Island for decades to come. Thank you for coming to the 75th anniversary party. Your support makes Temple Israel's mission a reality.

When I see the children of the children I prepared for bar and bat mitzvah, along with so many new, sweet young faces, coming up to the bima to sing "V'ahavta" with Rabbi Howald and me, I feel a great deal of hope that Temple Israel may reach 100 years and beyond.

"The old shall dream dreams, and the youth shall see visions -
give us time, give us strength, give us life!"

Mazal tov! Cantor Suzanne Bernstein

A Message from the Co-Presidents



Bryn Biren

Linda Brill

Sandy Mazzucco

Felicia Otto

In May 1948, a small group of families on Staten Island pursued a vision. They wanted their children to be educated and enriched in a Reform Jewish congregation: “to introduce innovation while preserving tradition; to embrace diversity while asserting commonality; to affirm beliefs without rejecting those who doubt; and to bring faith to sacred texts without sacrificing critical scholarship.” *

This year, the four of us have served as Co-Presidents. It has been our mission to lead in governance and oversee the efforts that build a diverse, vibrant, progressive community. Rabbi Michael Howald and Cantor Suzanne Bernstein have been our “dynamic duo,” providing meaningful and joyful services.

Since 2017, the Avis Foundation at Temple Israel has helped us engage 27 young families, supporting their membership, education, holiday celebrations, social activities and social justice projects for our youngest children and adults of all generations.

Sisterhood, the backbone of our congregation, along with Brotherhood and dedicated committees, have provided support for the daily, weekly and annual services and festival celebrations and programs that continue to enrich our members’ lives.

We are a volunteer organization. Each year, we strive to develop new and wise leaders who will take Temple Israel into the future. Tonight, we can all be proud and inspired by 75 years of historic achievements, welcoming all who seek a Reform Jewish way of life.

It has been our honor and pleasure to serve this congregation.

שנלך מחיל אל חיל

May we go from strength to strength.

Bryn Biren
Linda Brill
Sandy Mazzucco
Felicia Otto

**Union for Reform Judaism*

A Tribute to Rabbi Jay Brickman



In 1983, on Temple Israel's 35th Anniversary, Rabbi wrote to Siggy Kahn, "Please convey to the members of what has now become a most substantial synagogue, my warm felicitations.... I recall vividly being interviewed for the position [of rabbi].... The men were asking some very astute and penetrating questions with which I was

struggling manfully. Suddenly, Josie [Machol] interrupted the austere proceedings saying, "I think he's cute; let's take him!"

In 1949, he wrote to each founding member who returned for their second year. "To take a step into the darkness when there is nothing to depend on but faith in a far-off dream, takes courage. It was your trust and that of a handful of others which gave Temple Israel its being. If this feeling remains we will grow strong and move forward. And then what was once a dream will become a reality."

In 1998, Rabbi and his wife returned to Temple Israel to pray, study, teach, reminisce, dine and dance at our 50th Anniversary Celebration.



Following are excerpts from the obituary by Rob Golub, "Rabbi Brickman leaves behind decades of Jewish service, loving family."

Rabbi Jay Brickman, founder of Congregation Sinai in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, who had prolific interests and touched many lives, died Friday, January 7, 2022. He was 97.

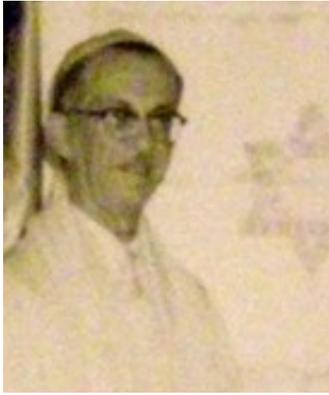
Rabbi Brickman held a master's degree in Bible from University of Wisconsin-Madison, a master of Hebrew Letters, and an honorary doctor of divinity from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.... He became a chaplain for the U.S. Army after World War II.

[At age 24] He was a founding rabbi for Temple Israel Reform Congregation of Staten Island.... He met his wife Rita there, may her memory be for a blessing. She was president of the Sisterhood.

Rabbi Brickman became the founding rabbi of Congregation Sinai in 1955...and its rabbi emeritus in the 1990's....

For many years, he personally taught each bar mitzvah at his home. He spent his decades deeply involved in a dizzying array of pursuits. He was an Eagle Scout. He played mandolin. He studied singing. He read plays at the JCC. He was active with the Democratic Party. He supported Milwaukee's socialist mayor. He published three books. He wrote daily one-liners on Twitter called "A Doodle a Day by Rabbi Jay." He gave sermons at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Door County, where he also taught a summer Bible class. He studied basket weaving.... Nationally, he served on the editorial board for the Reform movement's High Holy Day prayerbook (Machzor), the *Gates of Repentance*."

A Tribute to Rabbi Marcus Kramer



I was nine years old when my father was hired by Temple Israel. I recall his office in the mansion that was our synagogue on Victory Boulevard. I was always impressed with my father's library from which he gathered so much wisdom, insight and integrity. I admired him for these qualities as did so many of his congregants.

Later, when I was older, after the building burnt down and a new synagogue was built on Forest Avenue, I developed other insights into my dad.

I listened to his sermons filled with the words of the ancient rabbis and how they applied to the present day. I observed his activities in the community – his compassion for the poor and downtrodden. One morning my father and I together protested in front of the building of a public school in a poor area without any minority workers. I recall his service to organizations like Family Service and the Urban League.

In college, when I decided to follow in his footsteps, I think that he was shocked at first, but wrote me a beautiful letter about the joys of serving as a rabbi. I never had a father who played ball, with me, but how many sons can say they enjoyed studying Talmud with their fathers.

In his retirement, Marcus Kramer wrote an article for the Staten Island Advance until his demise.

There are two other people I must mention – my mother and my sister. My mother, Harriet, was the consummate rebbetzin of the 1950's and 60's. She was active in the Temple Israel Sisterhood and played a role in the dramas that were put on at the temple and the hostess with the mostest. She was always supportive of my father.

When I went on to college, my sister, Ellen, played an important part in reading and discussing my father's commentaries on the Bible. It was a joy that they shared together.

I look back at the career of Rabbi Marcus Kramer and am proud of what he accomplished serving Temple Israel and the Staten Island community.

Rabbi Michael L. Kramer

A Tribute to Rabbi Milton D. Rosenfeld



Rabbi Milton Rosenfeld
and Cantor Jan Meyel
◀ light and bless the
Chanukah lights, 1987

1981 ▼



Excerpts from obituary, Sun-Sentinel 2014:

Rabbi Milton Daniel Rosenfeld passed away on March 21, 2014 at the age of 93. He survived his wife and life partner of more than 60 years, Ruth Rabin Rosenfeld. ...

Rabbi Rosenfeld was ordained from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in 1960.

He served as Rabbi to congregations in the New York City area, in Portsmouth, Virginia and in Davenport, Iowa.

While in Iowa he received his Doctor of Divinity for service in the community. He was passionate about helping young, disadvantaged youth become literate.

He was active in interfaith work in each community in which he lived.

While he was a Rabbi at Temple Israel in Staten Island, New York, he received a part-time appointment as Chaplin for the New York City Fire Department. In many ways he considered this his finest achievement.

He was a natural teacher and a wonderful rabbi. His gift of words pushed congregations, friends, and family alike to reflect on their actions and the important work of always striving to improve themselves and the world around them. He took the work of “Tikkun Olam” personally. Through his work, he set out to “repair the world.”

A Message from Rabbi David A. Katz



Dear Friends,

I have the happiest memories of serving Temple Israel from 1988-2004.

In 1998 we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Temple's founding and it was a grand affair. We were fortunate to have with us the first rabbi to have served the Temple, Jay Brickman, then retired and living in Milwaukee. (Rabbi Brickman died just over a year ago at the age of 97.)

Excerpt from Rabbi's Jubilee Year Journal Message:

“Let us be strong for tasks still undone, for the demands that history is yet to make, for the testing of us and our children. In this place, may we draw near to Torah, may we draw near to our people, may we draw near to God.”

How busy we were during my tenure at the Temple!

I remember the hundreds who came to our Tu B'shevat seders, our vibrant committees, our Mitzvah Day that turned into Staten Island's "Community Days," I also remember the séance-like welcoming into our Sukkah of guests from ancient days, the zany Purim schpiels and stories told from the bimah about "Magic Pomegranates."

Most of all I remember all the people who made it happen - our Cantor, who you are blessed to have serving you now, the many Presidents, Board members and the committee heads who strove for higher and higher standards.

I congratulate Temple Israel on the 75th anniversary of its founding and know that it will always remain the Jewish place to be.

L'shalom,

Rabbi David Katz

Temple Israel Reform Congregation of Staten Island

2022/2023 ▪ 5782/5783

Rabbi Michael D. Howald
Cantor Suzanne Bernstein

2023/2024 ▪ 5783/5784

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Sandy Mazzucco

* of blessed memory

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* of blessed memory

Temple Israel Annual Gala Honorees (since 1984)

- 1984** Estelle Gootenberg, Albert Melniker, Sanford Nalitt, Norman Saunders, Robert Straniere, Gloria Tilzer, Allan Weissglass
- 1986** Dr. Gerald J. Lustig
- 1987** Selma Blumin, Siggy Kahn, Herman Wetschler
- 1991** Max & Ada Kadin, George & Carole Lachman, Dr. Stephen & Harriett Pollack, Beatrice Victor
- 1992** Dr. Ronald & Helene Leventhal, Alvin & Eleanor Nalitt, David & Susan Sappin, Joan Tenney
- 1993** Edward & Phyllis Elman, Jerrold & Karen Gross, Michael & Janet Sirotta, Louis Stolzenberg
- 1994** Phyllis & Harry Elrich, Linda & Jerrold Mulnick, Eileen & Steward Sandman, Rev. Terry Troia
- 1995** Bryn & Richard Biren, Ellen & Bart Horowitz, Hon. Susan Molinari
- 1996** Terry & Steve Baver, Lois Gold, Eleanor Goldberg, Joyce & Vernon Scholar
- 1997** Linda & Alan Brill, Geri Kitoff, Susan & Stewart Marks
- 1998 Jubilee Year Celebration**
- 1999** Cheryl & Michael Levine, Adrienne & Gordon Nash, Judith Pessah
- 2000** Diane & Michael Eisenkraft, Norman Linscheid, Ann & George Targownik, Florence & Lewis Werb
- 2001** Pam Carlton, Arnie Grossman, Jennifer Straniere, Barbara & Alan Tepper
- 2002** Rabbi David & Nancy Katz
- 2003** Judy Scher, Janet Harris Smith, Dr. Fred Hecht
- 2004** Jodi & Alan Siegel, Janice Gross & Larry Flaum
- 2005** Cantor Suzanne Bernstein
- 2006** Gale & Wayne Schwartz, Assemblyman John Lavelle
- 2007** Nancy & Ron Avis
- 2008** Claire Guttsman, Ada & Max Kadin—representing the Founding Members of Temple Israel
- 2009** Karen & Jay Duskin, Sheila & Arnie Grossman, Nina & Jim Rohan
- 2011** Shariann & Jeffrey Ganz, Linda & Larry Hanibal Lynn & Robert Silberman
- 2012** Deanna Feder, Ida Grober, Josephine Grober, Joanna & David Meltzer, Muriel & Maurice Schlefstein
- 2013** Jaime Blackman, Jerry Gross, Ilene Pappert, Tracy Schulman
- 2014 Golden Gala—**
Celebrating 50 Years in our Spiritual Home
- 2015** Libby & Ira Gershansky, Richard Maren, Lenore Miller, Cindy & Searle Selmon, Inez Singer
- 2016** Andrea & Fred Simon, Barbara Fried, Rebecca Hand, Beverly Mazer, Rhonda Trontz-Allen
- 2017** Kim & Victor Avis, Linda & Alan Brill, Pamela J. Carlton, Pamela Rogozin, Barbara Tepper
- 2018** The Adult Choir & Accompanists, Claire Bleiman, Karen & Joe Gamoran, Blanche Ricci
- 2019** Bryn Biren
- 2020** Rabbi Michael D. Howald
- 2021** The Resilience of the Congregation
- 2022** “22 & You”

BENEFACTOR

***Congratulations
to Temple Israel***

Joan and Alan Bernikow

BENEFACTOR

We remember with love,

Shirley & Seymour Wolinitz

Our Parents, Grandparents & Great Grandparents

Founding Members of Temple Israel

May 1948

Bryn & Richard Biren

Brooke, Luis, Genevieve & Freda Lopez

Natalie, Adam, Hailey, Jace & Brett Biren

BENEFACTOR

**Delighted to share and support
this special 75th Anniversary Celebration
of Temple Israel.**

**I wish to express my sincere gratitude
to our visionary Founders.**

Dreams do come true!

Jay Chazanoff

BENEFACTOR

**Congratulations
on this milestone**

Caroline and Timothy Harrison

BENEFACTOR

*“Let them build Me a sanctuary
that I may dwell in their midst.”*

Exodus 25:8

Celebrating 75 years of
Reform Judaism on Staten Island.

In heartfelt gratitude to those
whose generosity and vision have
made this congregation possible.

Robin and Rabbi Michael Howald

BENEFACTOR

Temple Israel has been a busy place for 75 years
and Sisterhood has been an integral part of almost everything!
Things have changed over the years, but Temple Israel has always been a place
where we gather with our community to pray, to celebrate and to mourn.

BEST WISHES FROM

Sisterhood of Temple Israel



HAPPY 75TH ANNIVERSARY
TEMPLE ISRAEL

Every event in our Temple has special meaning
and creates special memories that last us a lifetime.

Our Temple Israel Home and Family has been a big part of many lives
and we celebrate Temple Israel's 75 years hoping for another 75 to come!

BENEFACTOR

**Like Anatevka
Temple Israel Has Been Our Home**

The Straniere Family

Nicholas (1908-1986)

Augusta (1909-1964)

Jennifer (1951-2021)

Philip

Gregory

Amanda

Nicholas

Abigail

SPONSOR

**Temple Israel
means so much to me and my family.**

Thank you to Rabbi Howald, Cantor Bernstein
and the entire Temple Israel community
for dedicating yourselves
to strengthening Judaism
on Staten Island.

Dr. Ronald Avis

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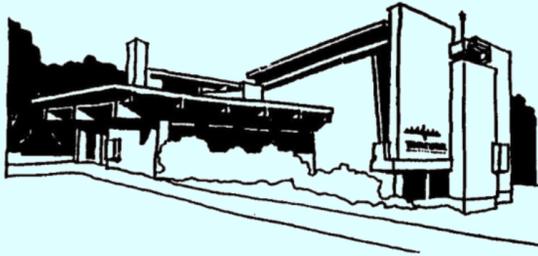
**CONGRATULATIONS ON THE
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With sincere and deep appreciation
and in support of Temple Israel

**Ann and George Targownik
& family**



Celebrating 75 Years
Temple Israel Board of Directors
2022-2023





*As Past Presidents of Temple Israel,
we look back with pride at the past 75 years.*

As “what’s past is prologue” to the future,
we look forward with optimism and hope to the next 75 years.*

Terry Baver

Jeffrey Ganz

Wayne Schwartz

Bryn Biren

John Greenbaum

Alan Siegel

Linda Brill

Jerrold Gross

Fred Simon

Phyllis Elrich

George Lachman

Ann Targownik

Wilhelm Figueroa

Susan Sappin

* Shakespeare— *The Tempest*

Congratulations

Alice Diamond

**Congratulations
to Temple Israel.**

**Thank you for always being
our spiritual home.**

Jay & Karen Duskin

*Congratulations on the 75th Anniversary
of Temple Israel*

*For all the past memories we cherish,
For all the new ones yet to experience,*

We thank you!

*Claire and Dennis Guttzman
& family*

From West Coast to East Coast
Congratulations to Temple Israel of Staten Island
Celebrating their 75th Anniversary

IN LOVING MEMORY of MY PARENTS
JAMES and MARY BORACK
Founding Members

With great affection and appreciation for my cousin, Bryn Biren
for helping to keep the flame alive and also forging
a unique and unbreakable bond between myself and my family
with Rabbi Scott Kalmikoff
for his friendship and talent as a genealogist.

SHIRLEY BORACK HOWARD

**Congratulations on
Temple Israel's 75th Anniversary**

Compliments of
**Richard D. Kuhn
Maureen A. O'Toole
Daniel Kuhn
Carl A. Maietta**

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TEMPLE ISRAEL

Happy Anniversary!



L'DOR V'DOR
From Generation to Generation

With Love

Sandy Mazucco & Richie Marlieb



**The Otto Family honors and celebrates
Temple Israel's 75th Anniversary!**

**We are thrilled to be a part of the
Temple Israel Family.**

**Thank you to Rabbi Howald, Cantor Bernstein,
and all of the Board Members
who lead our wonderful congregation.**

Mazel Tov on 75 years and here's to many more!

With love, gratitude, and appreciation,

Felicia, Jason, Austin and Arielle

**Congratulations
to Temple Israel**

Freya & Alan Poritz



The students and families of Temple Israel's Religious and Hebrew School thank and honor our school leaders and teachers for all of their teaching and guidance this school year.

We also thank and honor all of the many contributors that support and help to fund so many of our activities and enrichment programming to our families.

With appreciation and gratitude,

THE 2022-2023 RELIGIOUS SCHOOL
STUDENTS AND FAMILIES



*Happy 75th anniversary
to Temple Israel,
our spiritual home*

Nina and Jim Rohan

***Congratulations to Temple Israel on 75 years,
and here's to many more!***

***In gratitude for the opportunity to gather (virtually)
with Rabbi Howald and lay leaders for
Saturday Morning Torah Study and Service.***

The Shabbat Morning Group & Supporters

***Joseph Aronson
Jaimie Blackman
Linda Brill
Pamela Carlton
Maxine Cohen
Karen & Jay Duskin
Barbara Fried
Libby Gershansky
Joyce Goldring
Karen & Jerrold Gross***

***Arnold Grossman
Kathi & Dennis Kass
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to our friends at Temple Israel
on your 75th anniversary!**

**Thank you for all you do
to enhance the Jewish community
in Staten Island**



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Jewish Community Center
of Staten Island

Susan Sappin
President, Board of Directors

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***The Ritual Committee
works with our Clergy and Members
so that all may celebrate Shabbat
and Holidays throughout the year.***

***We each wish Temple Israel
a Happy 75th Anniversary!!***

Linda Brill

Lee Brooks

Sue Freedman

Barbara Fried

Jeffrey Ganz

Shariann Ganz

Silvia Gornstein

Jerrold Gross

Claire Guttsman

Cheryl Levine

Beverly Mazer

Nina Rohan

Jodi Siegel

Remy Smith

***The Brotherhood
wishes to Commemorate
and Celebrate Temple Israel's
75th year of serving the
Congregation and Community.***

***“The value of a man
should be seen in what
he gives and not in what
he is able to receive.”***

- Albert Einstein

BEST WISHES
TO TEMPLE ISRAEL ON
ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
ELLIE GOLDBERG

From
**Joel, Jason, Shira, Jocelyn,
and Ethan Goldberg**

CONGRATULATIONS
ON YOUR 75th ANNIVERSARY

WITH FONDNESS,

**Julie, James
and Allison Cohen**



*Happy 75th Anniversary
Temple Israel*

“It is not joy that makes us grateful, it is gratitude that makes us joyful.”

– David Steindl-rast

Thank you for providing a place to study, a community to share fellowship with, and for being a beacon of inspiration, encouragement and hope.



*With sincere appreciation,
Michael, Jacqueline
and Emilia Rabinowitz,
along with our
Family and Friends*

**CONGRATULATIONS
to TEMPLE ISRAEL on their
75th ANNIVERSARY**

**Thank you for
keeping up the traditions
of Reform Judaism
on Staten Island**

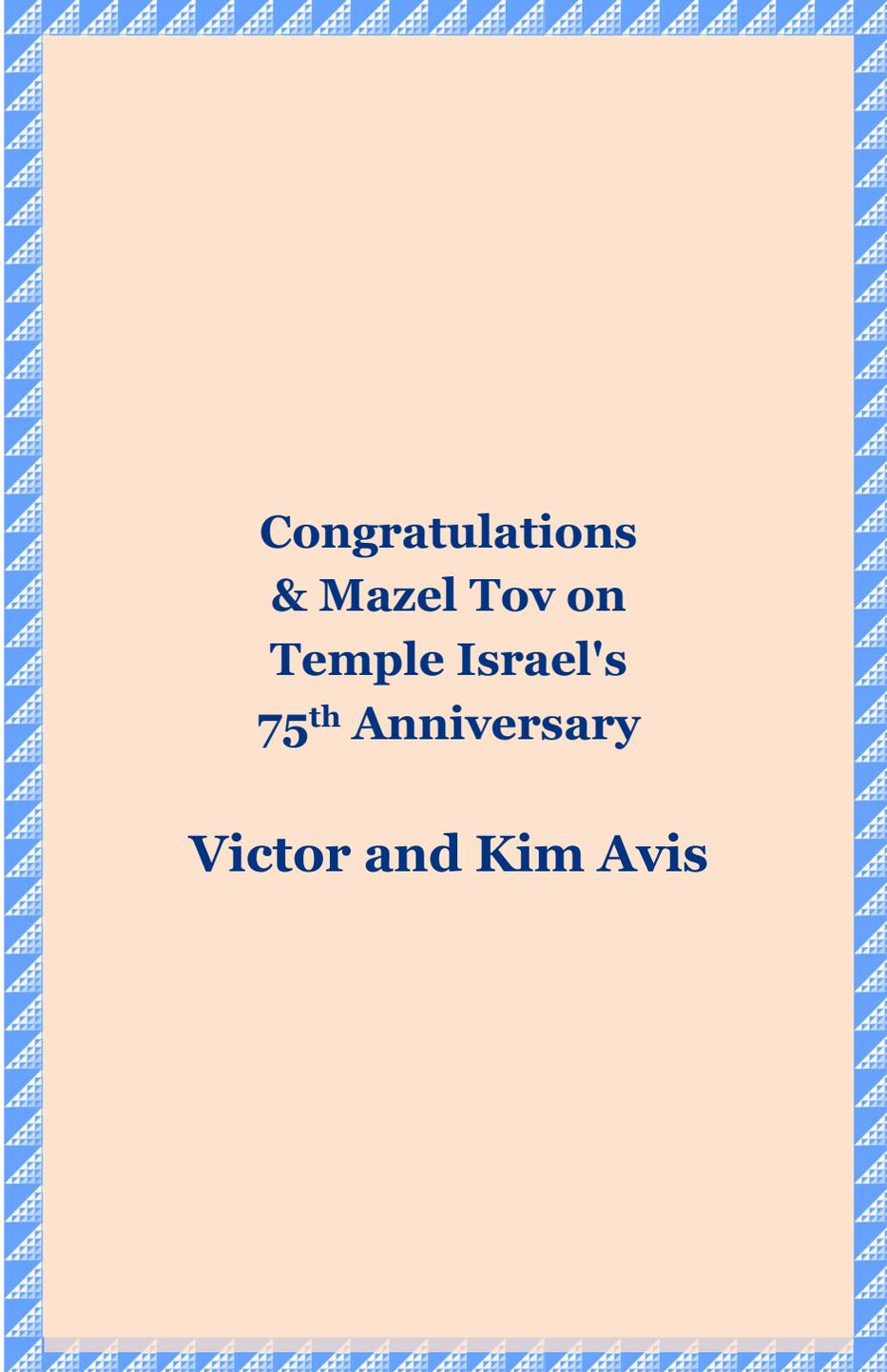
Andrea and Fred Simon



**Congratulations Temple Israel
for 75 years.**

Here's to at least another 75.

**Karen, Joe and
Orachino Gamoran**



**Congratulations
& Mazel Tov on
Temple Israel's
75th Anniversary**

Victor and Kim Avis

The Kaminskys
are very pleased to help celebrate
this 75th Anniversary and
love being part of Temple Israel.

Wishing another 75 years
to such an important place
in our community that
means so much to so many!

With Love,

**Alison, Russell,
Ethan, Carly, Jenna
& Sydney**

Congratulations
to Temple Israel
on your 75th Anniversary

Murray Berman

Thank you to those who have been.
Thank you to those who will be.
Our Temple community has, is
and will always be, in my heart.

**Phyllis Elrich
Past President**

Best wishes for at least another 75!

**Phyllis and Harry Elrich
and family**

We celebrate
Temple Israel's 75 years.

It has provided a spiritual home;
a community; and
a moral compass for our family.

We have been privileged
to be a part of this
loving congregation.

Judy & Steve Scher

**CONGRATULATIONS
TO TEMPLE ISRAEL
ON YOUR
75th ANNIVERSARY**

EILEEN & R. RANDY LEE

**SINCE 1977,
TEMPLE ISRAEL
HAS BEEN OUR FAMILY'S
SPIRITUAL HOME AND
BEACON....**



*...Through 7 baby blessings,
3 B'nei Mitzvahs and Confirmations,
2 weddings and so much more.*

*We are very grateful that we have
been able to be part of the Temple
Israel Community through all these
times.*

*Karen & Jerry Gross
Renee, Allan, Ethan and Simon
Marc, Cara, Henry and Ian
Shari, Lu, Jackson and Miles*

We are grateful
for our years of membership;
for Rabbi Howald
and Cantor Bernstein;
for Bryn and
all the wonderful members
who volunteer to
keep our Temple alive.

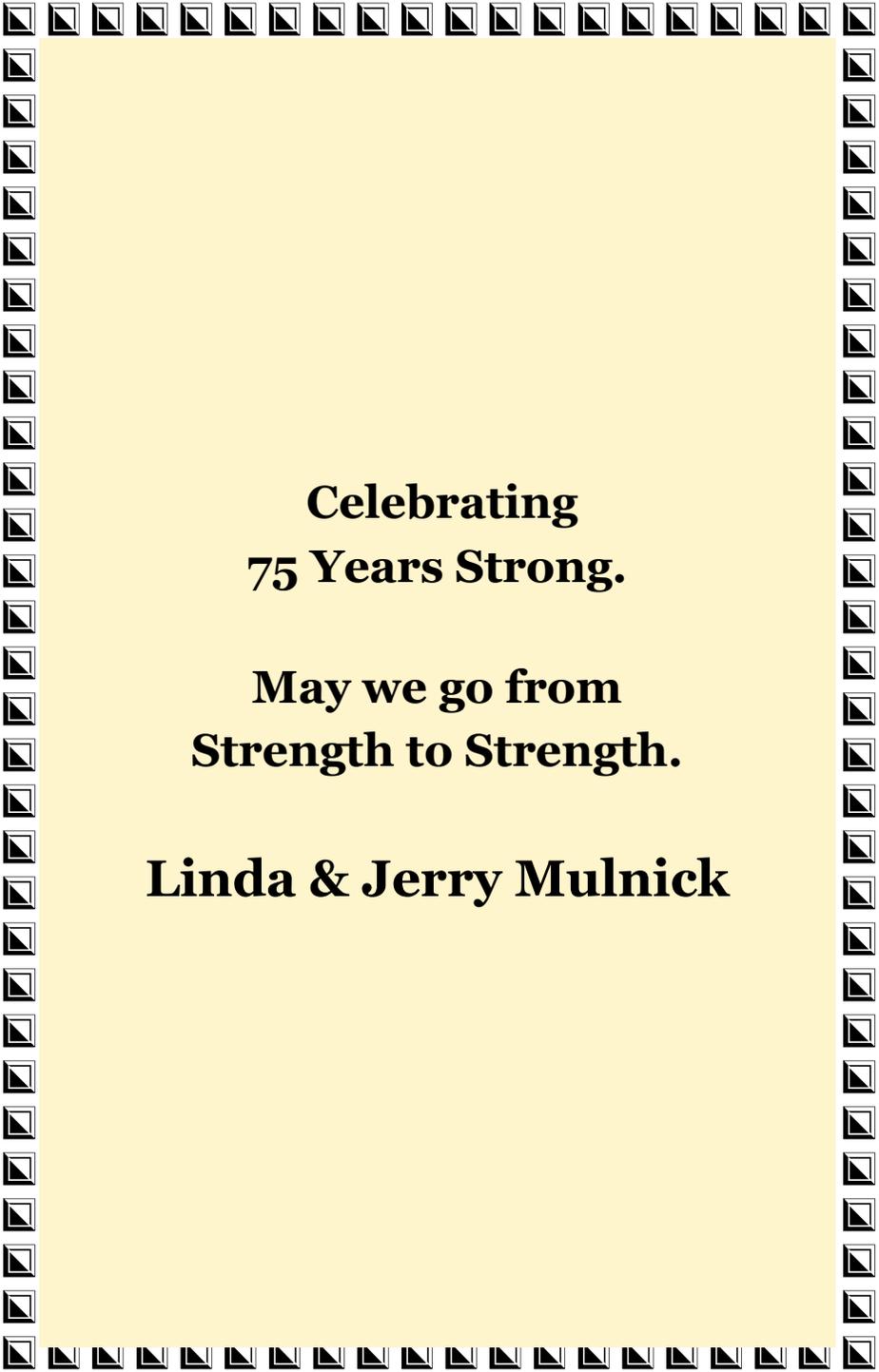
The Bavers

**Terry, Steve,
Mike, Jackson, Gavin,
Josh, Rachel,
Charlie, Oliver & Benjamin**

Congratulations
to Temple Israel
on your 75th Anniversary.

It is wonderful to be
part of such a wonderful
and caring congregation.

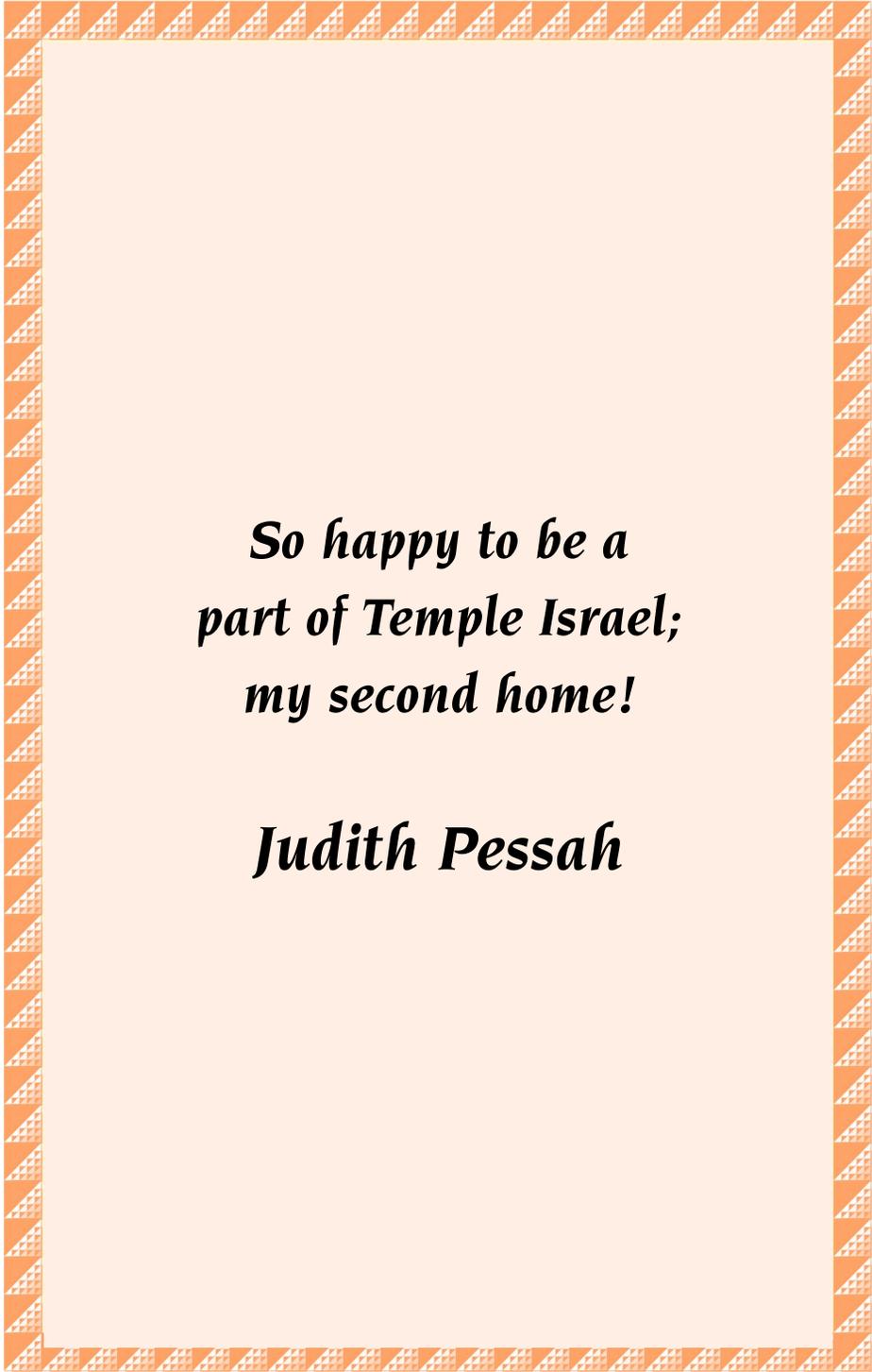
Barbara Feigelman



**Celebrating
75 Years Strong.**

**May we go from
Strength to Strength.**

Linda & Jerry Mulnick



*So happy to be a
part of Temple Israel;
my second home!*

Judith Pessah

*Congratulations Temple Israel
on your 75th anniversary!*

*Thank you for creating
such a welcoming and supportive
community for our family.*

With gratitude,

The Sarfati's

*On this Auspicious Occasion of
Temple Israel's 75th Anniversary:*

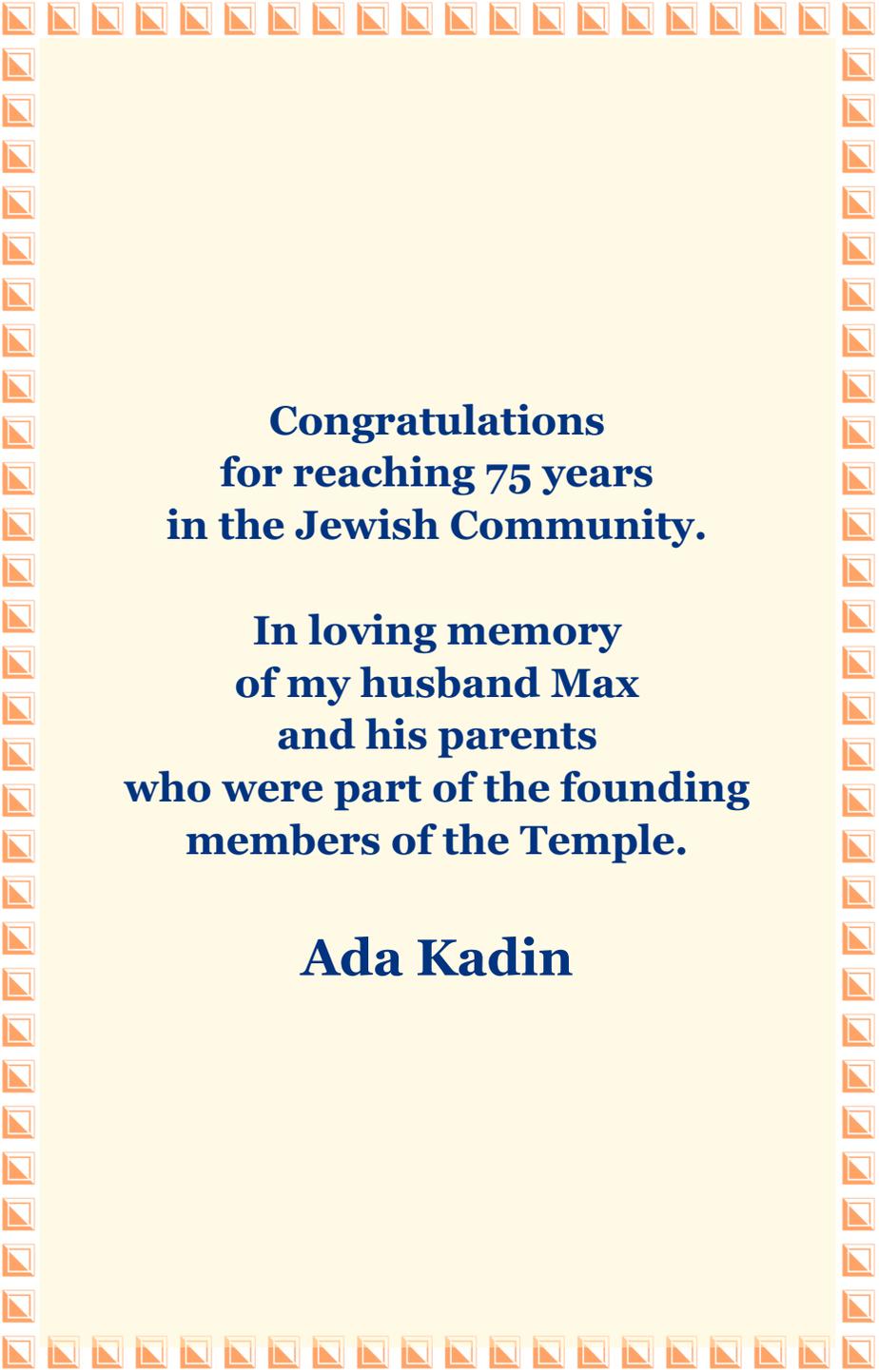
We Say Mazel Tov!

*May there be Many More,
Wonderful Years Ahead!!*

*Thank you to
our Clergy and Lay Leaders
and those altruistic individuals who
donate generously in a multitude of ways
to preserve the past, enrich the present,
and allow for a future of our
beloved Temple Israel.*

You have our Sincere Gratitude,

Ellen, Jeff and Aly Birch

A decorative border consisting of a grid of small orange squares with white outlines, surrounding the text on the left page.

**Congratulations
for reaching 75 years
in the Jewish Community.**

**In loving memory
of my husband Max
and his parents
who were part of the founding
members of the Temple.**

Ada Kadin

A decorative border consisting of a grid of small purple triangles with white outlines, surrounding the text on the right page.

***Congratulations
on the 75th Anniversary
from the
Popler Family***

In honor of the memories
we have shared,
friendships we have made,
joys we have celebrated and
comfort we have given to each other
all through the years.

Barbara Fried
Blanche Ricci
Deanna Feder
Deborah Chernoff
Debra Smith Levine
Inez Singer
Linda Hanibal
Robin Hertzberg
Roni Schorr
Susan Marks

With wonderful memories of the past
and great hopes for the future
we express our gratitude for
our Temple Israel
on this momentous
75th Anniversary.

**May we and Temple Israel
continue to go from
strength to strength.**

Dr. Ira Gershansky
Libby Gershansky
Lawrence Hanibal
Linda Hanibal

**Congratulations to Temple Israel
as it celebrates 75 years
as our Spiritual Home.**

**Your Past Sisterhood Presidents
have been there always.**

**Ruth Andriani
Linda Brill
Pamela J. Carlton
Deanna Feder
Susan Freedman
Shariann Ganz
Karen Gross
Claire Guttsman
Cheryl Levine
Susan Marks
Beverly Mazer
Judith Pessah
Nina Rohan
Susan Sappin
Muriel Schlefstein
Jodi Siegel
Inez Singer**

**Happy 75th anniversary,
Temple Israel.**

Thank you for creating
such a wonderful community for us.

From strength to strength.

The FUNdraising Committee

**Rhonda Trontz-Allen
Lissa Winchel
Karen Frey-Gamoran
Joe Gamoran
Rebecca Hand
Barbara Fiegelman
Larry Flaum
Joyce Miller**

*We are the music makers
And we are the singer of songs*

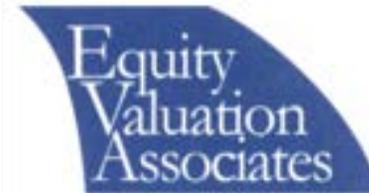
*Congratulations on Temple Israel's
75th Anniversary—*

with love, The Adult Choir

*Bryn Biren
Pamela Carlton
Scott Fuller
Judy Lee
Beverly Mazer
Judy Pessah
Pamela Rogozin
James Rohan
Jodi Siegel
Luigia Weisner
Anna Wu
Ann Young*

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ON YOUR 75th ANNIVERSARY



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**Thank you to the
Temple Israel community for your support.**

Special thanks to Dr. Victor & Kim Avis for your transformative and visionary efforts as upstanders.

We deeply appreciate the Avis Family, Rabbi Michael Howald, Michelle Lee, and Judge Karen Wolff & Jay Duskin for your ongoing commitment to the Wagner College Chai Society, our Hillel chapter, the Wagner College Holocaust Center and our permanent Holocaust Education and Action Gallery.

***"Thou shalt not be a perpetrator. Thou shalt not be a victim.
But above all, thou shalt not be a bystander."***

- Yehuda Bauer (b. 1926),
Prof. at Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Yad Vashem

"You do not know the limits of my courage."

- Marianne Cohn (1921-1944),
underground activist who rescued 300 children in Nazi-occupied France

HAPPY
Anniversary

**Mazal tov on this incredible milestone!
I'll always cherish my time spent in Staten Island
With the incredible Temple Israel community.
Here's to 75 more!**



- Cantor Lindsay Kanter

Dear Temple Israel,

Mazal tov on your 75 anniversary!

Thank you for being our home and giving us your trust to create holy moments together, even in challenging and isolating times.

This community's spirit and resilience are remarkable. We wish you many more years of growing together and experiencing the beauty of our holy tradition.

Love,

Shirel and Lincoln Richman

Mazel Tov to Temple Israel.

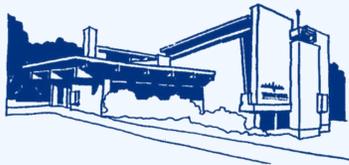
Thank you for all your valuable contributions to our Jewish community.

Drs. Susan and Richard Grodman

*These are the gifts that we bring
that we may build a holy place.
This is the spirit that we bring
that we may build a holy place.
We will bring all the goodness
that comes from our hearts
And the spirit of God will dwell within.*

-- Debbie Friedman

**Kol HaKavod
Cantor Suzanne Bernstein**



To Temple Israel on its 75th anniversary

CONGRATULATIONS

MAZEL TOV

YASHER KO'ACH

Barbara Fried

Thank you, Temple Israel, for
creating such a wonderful community.

From Strength to strength!

Remy and the Boys

Congratulations
Temple Israel
on your 75th Anniversary

**Shariann, Jeffrey,
Matthew & Bryan Ganz**

Thank you Temple Israel
for 75 years of dedication
to the Staten Island Community.

You continue to give us hope and
inspiration for a better tomorrow.

Susan Sappin

We feel so lucky and blessed to be
part of this warm caring community.

We are glad to celebrate with everyone
on this important milestone.

Janice Gross and Larry Flaum

Congratulations
to Temple Israel

Barbara Menna

Congratulations
to Temple Israel

Dr. Ken Pickover

Congratulations

from

Cheryl Levine & Family

In celebration of
Temple Israel's 75th Anniversary

Deanna Feder

Happy 75th birthday,
TEMPLE ISRAEL!

WE ARE FAMILY!

Arnie and Sheila

HAPPY 75th ANNIVERSARY
Temple Israel
Reform Congregation of Staten Island

THANK YOU FOR
MARK MEYER'S ART LECTURES

Barbara & Geoff Worton

Congratulations to Our Temple
on it's 75th Anniversary

Our kids were Bar & Bat Mitzvah here!

Harriet & George Kurlander

Of all the Temples
in all the towns in all the world,
Rabbi Mike walked into ours!

So glad he did!

Mazel tov to our Temple on the 75th!

Miriam Friend
Joe Harris
Pamela J. Carlton

TEMPLE ISRAEL

A place where people cared,
a home away from home,
where I had a spiritual feeling.

Congratulations on your 75th anniversary!

With love,

Muriel Schlefstein

To the next 75 years!

Silvia & Sam Gornstein

Happy 75th Anniversary
Temple Israel

Thank you for the many years of
service to our family and community.

**Mike, Rhonda,
Daniel & Connor Allen**

Mazel Tov and Best Wishes
to our friends at
Temple Israel of Staten Island

**Rabbi Michael
and Barbara Kramer**

Congratulations to Temple Israel
as it celebrates its 75th anniversary.

What a wonderful "second home"
Temple Israel has been to me and my family.

We have celebrated many Lifecycle events
at Temple. I have made life long friends here,
who have become Family.

Blanche Ricci

Mazel Tov on 75 years!

Arlene and David Sorkin

On the 75th anniversary
of Temple Israel
we extend our warm wishes and
deep appreciation to those who've
laid the foundation and continue
to build an edifice based on
Tzeduka and Community.

With Love,

Bob & Anita Zuckerberg

We celebrate our history
and look towards the future.

Happy 75th Anniversary, Temple Israel!

Sincerely,

**Jeffrey, Gayle,
Evan, Shelby, & Jacob Chason**

Congratulations
*Temple Israel Reform
Congregation of Staten Island*
at 75 Years Young

Charles Nadel and Roslyn Persky

Muriel and Mannie Trachman
(longtime members) loved Temple Israel.
They would have been so happy to have been
part of this important celebration.

We, their family, wish Temple Israel
and all its members, Mazel Tov!

Lisa Karlin and Jim Kunen
Henry Karlin and Judy Wong

Dear Temple Israel

Throughout our years on Staten Island
you have been an integral and
irreplaceable part of our lives

With much appreciation

Ellen & Bruce Sheirr

In honor of all our wonderful times and
meaningful occasions at Temple Israel.

Here's to the next 75 years!

Mitchell and Janet Harris Smith

It has been an honor
to be a part of Temple Israel.

Thank you to all those who made it
an important religious and community
resource to Staten Island.

Ilene Pappert



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**IN HONOR OF
RABBI MICHAEL HOWALD
and
ROBIN HOWALD**

Arline Bronzaft

**Congratulations to Temple Israel
on its 75th Anniversary.**

Rian & Nolan

**In memory of my Mom and Dad:
Mariann & Pommie Frankel**

We wish Temple Israel
another 75 years of providing service
to the Staten Island Jewish Community.

David & Diane Frankel

Congratulations to Temple Israel
on this milestone and providing me
with wonderful memories
of the years spent at Temple Israel with
my parents **Selma and Edward Kitoff**
and my grandmother **Rose Kitoff**
who were founding members of
Temple Israel since its inception.

Geri Kitoff-Lauter

Congratulations to Temple Israel
on your 75th Anniversary

**Sandy & Lester Feuerstein
& family**

Congratulations on the 75th Anniversary
of our spiritual home

**The Membership Committee
of Temple Israel**

Sandy Mazzucco	Claire Guttsman
Nina Rohan	Barbara Fried
Joanna Meltzer	Inez Singer
Susan Marks	Maxine Cohen
Fern Barris	Alina Schtynberg

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Senator Andrew Lanza

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**Congratulations to
Temple Israel Reform Congregation
of Staten Island
in recognition of your
75th Anniversary Celebration**

Senator Jessica Scarcella-Spanton

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May 6, 2023
“Broadway Through the Decades”
An Evening of Music
celebrating our 75th Anniversary



Michael Louis Curcio, Performer, is a multi-hyphenate Singer-Actor-Musician-Composer-Conductor with a BFA from Ithaca College’s prestigious drama program. Alongside his performing, composing, and voice teaching, he is also a Licensed Real-estate Salesperson!



Donna D’Ermilio, Music Director/Accompanist, is a pianist, arranger and conductor with music degrees from Wagner College and NYU. She has worked in regional and academic theater and orchestral music as music director, conductor, and featured soloist with combos, pit orchestras and symphonies.



John Griffin, Performer, has been an active member of the Island theatre community for many moons. He is happy to be performing with this group of long time theatre friends.



Katie Micha, Performer, is a Broadway baby turned choreographer. She’s performed on Broadway with shows like Gypsy, Billy Elliot and How the Grinch Stole Christmas. She thanks her family and cat Bella for their love and support.



Karen O’Donnell, Director/Performer, is a well known actor/director/singer in the Staten Island Theatre community. She is blessed to be working with her very talented family and friends on this production. Congratulations to Temple Israel on its anniversary!



Lee Tennenbaum, Performer, is a local actress, choreographer and elementary school teacher. She thanks Mike, Molly, and Lucy for supporting her always.



Mickey Tennenbaum, Emcee/Performer, teaches and directs in the Performing Arts Department at Wagner College. He has appeared in and/or directed many local productions. Thanks to Karen for putting this whole thing together.

We gratefully acknowledge the Cabaret was made possible by the Dr. Ronald Avis Foundation for Temple Israel. We’re delighted to celebrate our milestone anniversary through the performance. Sincere and deep thanks go to Jason Walters and the production crew, to the entire 75th Anniversary Committee, and to our clergy, lay leaders and staff. Refreshments were by Chef Louis Catering.

THANK YOU to all donors for your participation and support.

Acknowledgements

Thank you to
**The Dr. Ronald Avis
Foundation for Temple Israel**
for underwriting the Cabaret Celebration



A huge round of applause to
Karen O'Donnell & Mickey Tennenbaum
et. al. for their Cabaret Celebration performance



Special thanks to the **Production Team—**
JASON WALTERS, Director
(who grew up at Temple Israel)
Dan Johnson, Dan Kahler
Konstantin Metelkin, Izzi Ramikissoon



Sincere thanks to **YOU**
for your participation and support.

The 75th Anniversary Committee

Bryn Biren ▪ **Terry Baver** ▪ **Philip Straniere**
Chairs

Claire Guttsman ▪ **George & Harriet Kurlander**
Felicia Otto ▪ **Ann Targownik**
Journal

Terry Baver ▪ **Brooke Lopez** ▪ **Nina Rohan**
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Jackie Rabinowitz ▪ **Sarah Sarfati** ▪ **Rian Silverman**
Refreshments



Nilaja Troy, Office Manager

Pamela Silvestri, Event Coordinator

Justin LaPierre ▪ **Gerard Altieri** ▪ **Susan Cheek**
Custodians

Each Journal contribution helped meet Temple Israel's essential fundraising goals. Each message reminded us how Temple Israel remains so important and impactful in so many ways. We can trace our 75-year journey and now, we continue our journey into the decades ahead!

Our Journey Begins...

The following is based on Minutes of the founders' first meetings:

June 9, 1948—a warm Wednesday evening. A small group meets to share a vision, questions, disagreements; decisions, donations, friends, a future; prayer, celebrations, hardships; learning, and helping those in need. They seek a place, rabbi, choir, educators, volunteers, members, and funds.

Joseph Werb moves to establish a liberal progressive reform congregation on Staten Island. Questions: Arnold Schwartz – feasibility? Mrs. Stein – advisability? Siegfried Kahn – cost? The motion is passed. Temporary officers: Cornelius Bregoff, President; Dr. David Machol, VP; Carl Isaacs, Treasurer; Joseph Werb, Secretary.

And there was evening and a congregation, a first day.

The group meets the month. Membership will be \$35 per family, including High Holy Day seating. A school is planned, leading to Confirmation. Forty-four families have shown interest. Committees are formed. The name: Temple Israel Reform Congregation of Staten Island, located at 30 Bay Street, Staten Island NY, Room 306.

And there was a congregation and a name, a second day.

In September, Rabbi Jay Brickman is introduced: twenty-four years old, duly ordained, graduate of Columbia University and Jewish Institute of Religion; he had courses in psychiatry and philosophy and was a student rabbi in Palestine. He will devote weekends to the congregation and will be available for emergencies and holidays, with a salary of \$200 per month.

And there is a congregation, name, and rabbi, a third day.

By mid-September, arrangements are made for High Holy Day Service in a Sailor Snug Harbor chapel. Rabbi Brickman will bring a Torah. Mr. Mitzner will donate an ark. Mrs. Kempner will borrow a Jewish flag. Dr. Machol will handle prayerbooks and Torah storage. Mrs. Leo will make an altar cloth and curtains. Dr. Machol will assist with pulleys. Mrs. Klauber and Bellows will light the candles. Mrs. Brisk donates a Kiddush cup. Mr. Brisk and Dr. Machol will chair the greeting and ushering committee. Mrs. Kempner will ask her husband to blow the shofar. There will be no solicitation of funds. Mr. Bernstein remarks: if people are impressed with the beauty of the services, they will be happy to contribute.

And there was a congregation, name, rabbi, and High Holy Days, a fourth day.

There are ten students in Sunday School. Rabbi Brickman is administrator and principal. Mrs. Florence Werb is the teacher. Mothers of the children form a committee to assist. By Sept 29, 59 families have joined. The Treasurer reports a balance of \$1060. Fundraising is to be done through affairs such as a Hanukah Ball and by members voluntarily agreeing to increase their dues.

And there was a congregation, name, rabbi, High Holy Days, a school and funds, a fifth day.

continued...



First High Holy Day service: Joseph Werb, Rabbi Brickman, Dr. David Machol

A site for a new temple is selected. Pledges are recorded.

And on the sixth day, they saw all that they had made, together.

In January, 1949 Temple Israel Reform Congregation of Staten Island received their charter of incorporation.

After a period renting space for services and classes, the founders purchased the Gans Estate, overlooking Silver Lake Park which served as a stately home from 1951 until 1959.

“Just as a bride is given a shower to start her new home, we had a kitchen shower...Pots, pans, serving utensils, towels, pot holders, a beautiful silver service which was used to serve coffee and tea every Friday night.” - *Betty Kaplan, founder*

“My family joined the Temple in 1953 so that my brother could prepare for his bar mitzvah....Because my father was raised Catholic and my mother Jewish, it must have been a difficult decision as to what religious training we would receive. Temple Israel was a perfect fit. Our family was quickly accepted.... Looking back now I wonder how different my life would have been if there was no Reform Congregation on Staten Island. I am glad that Temple Israel has continued to be welcoming to interfaith couples.” – *Hon. Philip Straniere*

“For my house shall be a house of prayer for all people.”
(*Isaiah 56:5*)



Sadly, a fire destroyed that property in 1959.

“I joined other members crying on the street in front of Temple Israel after the firemen left. We considered this our second home and wondered how we could afford to replace this building.” - *Betty Kaplan, founder*



1962 Groundbreaking Ceremony: Lawrence Simon, Boro President Maniscalco, Building Committee Chair Ben Levee, Rabbi Marcus Kramer (at podium), Barnett Kadin

Our home— “designed to serve forever”

After the fire, Shabbat services were held in the Unitarian Church. High Holy Day services were held at the Snug Harbor Chapel (with Christian symbols discreetly covered). Rabbi Kramer and the congregation continued to pursue their dream.

In 2014, the congregation celebrated the 50th anniversary of the dedication of our building at 315 Forest Avenue. It has been a center for Reform Judaism on Staten Island, committed to its values, drawing upon both tradition and innovation.

Temple Israel purchased a piece of land (with a stream, perfect for Tashlich) at 315 Forest Avenue at a City auction. Groundbreaking took place in 1962; the cornerstone was laid in 1963; the award-winning building, designed by Percival Goodman, was dedicated on September 27, 1964.



By the 1990's, the condition of the roof, roof railings, laminated wood beams, paving, bathrooms, social hall finishes, and air-conditioning system all required repair/replacement. A capital campaign was launched: .

**“The NEXT GENERATION Fund: Their challenge was to build it.
Ours is to preserve and enhance what they built.”**

Though not required by secular law, plans and funds were committed for **Lehiyot: Access to Judaism**. A restroom was constructed on the social hall/sanctuary level, and a wheelchair lift was installed to connect all three levels.

“In 1993, breaking new ground, Rabbi Katz created a bar mitzvah service for our special needs son Gregory, who is non-verbal. ... the Temple remains committed to providing access for persons with disabilities.”
- Hon. Philip Stranieri



Rabbi Brickman and students in the American Legion Post, c. 1950



Sukkot 1952



Rabbi Howald, a Bar Mitzvah and his family share blessings and words of Torah



Sukkot c. 1980

May 1956

Temple Israel Class of 21 Confirmed

Twenty-one young people of Temple Israel Reform Congregation, Silver Lake, were confirmed yesterday at a service in the Sailors Snug Harbor chapel.

Rabbi Henry A. Schorr, temple spiritual leader, conducted the service attended by approximately 550 persons. Prayer books and Bibles were presented to the confirmands by Mrs. Felix Ecker, president of the temple Sisterhood.

The hour-and-a-half service was opened with a procession of the children into the chapel. Taking part were Mrs. David Schmeidler, Sunday School principal, Irving Rubenstein, class instructor, and Morris Singer, temple president. Mrs. Myer Lindner was in charge of the music.



CONFIRMATION

5755 Adult Confirmation Class: Phyllis Elrich, Dan Icolari, Judy Pessah, Larry Hanibal, Ellen Birch, Linda Brill,



5757 Confirmation Class with Rabbi Katz: Bernard Braun, Deborah Chernoff, Shari Gross, Jacob Himmelstein, Phillip Marks, Michael Meyerson, Gillian Ricci, Joshua Bayer, Jaime Cohn, David Haber, Eric Magaram, Gregg Mason, Deborah Nash, Gabe Scher, Aslys-



Holidays and Festivals through the generations

C. 1956 Purim Carnival Kids with Principal Josie Machol

1998 Rabbi Stephen Stern, Arden Heights Jewish Center, Rabbi David Katz, Rabbi Gerald & Bonnie Sussman, Temple Emanu-El, and Cantor Suzanne Bernstein rehearse for *Happy Purim Concert* to benefit *Kosher Meals on Wheels*, *COJO Food Pantry*, and *Project Hospitality*. (top)

C. 2010 Purim is a joyous celebration for all generations ►





Cantor Jan Meyel prepares for his role as Tevye in Temple Israel's 30th Anniversary Celebration and production of *Fiddler on the Roof*, in 1978, staged and directed by Bernie Barr.

“Temple Israel had a vibrant theatre group in the early 1970s. The rear of the social hall had a full stage with a curtain donated by Frank Loesser, the composer of *Guys and Dolls* and other Broadway hits. We performed *How to Succeed in Business, Once Upon a Mattress, Fiddler on the Roof, Guys and Dolls, Little Mary Sunshine, The World of Shalom Aleichem, Oklahoma* and *South Pacific*. It brought together Temple members and non-members from the community. Many of us went on to perform in dinner theatre and summer stock. In fact, Andy Glant, then a teenager, has become a Broadway director.” —Hon. Philip Straniere



(Staten Island Advance photo June 1991) Carole Lachman, Rabbi Katz, Russell Weerth, Nancy Katz

Musical Theater

YOUNG FAMILIES at TEMPLE ISRAEL



The Dr. Ronald Avis Foundation for Temple Israel

Since its inception in 2017, the Foundation has provided financial support to help welcome and engage 27 young families bringing the vibrancy of a new generation.

Our community is strengthened by the participation of families in an array of programming and learning opportunities, teaching children the values and history of Judaism.



COMMUNITY

fostering connections
& lifelong friendships

SPIRITUALITY

honoring spiritual
exploration & growth

LIFE-LONG LEARNING

engaging in creative educational
programs for children & their families

TIKKUN OLAM

working together, caring for each other,
& creating a better world for all

INCLUSION

embracing diversity
& welcoming all

TRADITION

cherishing & celebrating Shabbat,
holidays, festivals, & lifecycles