



Temple Sinai and the State of Israel are Celebrating Their 70th Anniversary This Year

So many simchas! During the New Year 5778, Temple Sinai will be celebrating its 70th anniversary along with the 70th anniversary of the State of Israel. It's going to be an exciting year! Welcome to a new section of the Scribe. Each month we will highlight a decade in the life of our Temple as part of a yearlong celebration of Temple Sinai. Our story will be told primarily from the words and pictures of Larry Krasnoff's beautiful book "Temple Sinai of Roslyn". We will showcase clergy, distinguished speakers, as well as groups and events that are a part of our history. We will look back at where, who, and how we have grown since 1948.

A Temple is Born – The 40's

The origin of Temple Sinai is a classic story of community and interfaith fellowship. The population of the greater Roslyn area increased to about 9,000 during the years of World War II. The grand estate of John Mackay, "Harbor Hill", was closed and its property and surrounding tracts were available for development. In 1945, Levitt and Sons, who built affordable homes for veterans, developed the first community of East Park; the communities of South Park, Browers Hill, West Park, Strathmore and Country Club followed. Other developers created Norgate, Nob Hill, Country Estates, Fairfield Park, and Canterbury Estates. Approximately one-third of its new population, about 3,000 of the residents, were Jewish. But, there were no local synagogues and the Jewish residents became conscious of a growing need for a Jewish congregation in the community.



In 1947, Josh Adelstein and other Jewish families went to Rabbi Jacob P. Rudin of Temple Beth El in Great Neck, the Reverend John Van Zanten, minister of the Roslyn Presbyterian Church, and Forrester W. Pierce, owner of the Pierce Country Day School for help and guidance. These men were of great assistance to our Jewish community in these formative years.



In 1948, after several meetings in people's homes, the Roslyn Jewish Community Center was formed. The first meeting was held on Friday, February 14, 1948 at the Roslyn Presbyterian Church under the temporary chairmanship of Mrs. Adelaide Adelstein with Seymour Levy acting as temporary secretary. At a subsequent meeting, Roslyn's first Rabbi, Alvan Rubin (*left*), was welcomed to the Roslyn Jewish Community Center by about 100 members of the new congregation. These ceremonies were officiated by Rabbi Jacob Rudin of Temple Beth El and held in the Odd Fellows Hall, a social gathering place near the Clock tower in the Village of Roslyn. The president of the student body at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York, Alvan Rubin, became the first Rabbi of the new congregation in August, 1948 upon his graduation and ordination.

The heart of every temple lies with its Rabbinate. Imagine the daunting task of starting a new temple with no history, no synagogue, no congregation, no established lay leadership, no budget and no experience. That was the looming challenge for the first rabbi of Temple Sinai, newly ordained with no assets but a few motivated families and a strong conviction. Rabbi Rubin conducted monthly services, High Holy Day services and supervised the Sunday school in facilities made available by the Presbyterian Church, the Pierce Day School, the firehouse of the Roslyn Highlands Fire Department, and other community buildings until the construction of the new temple was complete.

(Continued on page 19)

(Continued from page 18)



Ground breaking for the new building was held in December, 1949, with attendance by a large number of the original 50 family members on a very cold, snow-covered field bordering Roslyn Road. The new Temple was built on vacant property that was formerly a potato farm in a development that was to become the community of Country Club. During the period that the new Temple was being constructed, religious services were held in the Roslyn Presbyterian Church where the Reverend John Van Zanten was minister; the Church and the RJCC even shared the same organist, Leonard Nichols. Sunday school classes were held at the Pierce Country Day School run by Forrester W.

Pierce, a popular and highly respected Catholic educator, Hebrew classes were held at the local firehouse, and general meetings were held at the Odd Fellows Hall.

The dedication ceremony for the new temple was held on August 27, 1950.

As we can see, the infancy of our Temple began with heartfelt commitment, dedication and hard work. It is from there that we have our roots. Each month we will explore how those roots grew and grew.



A limited number of copies of "Temple Sinai of Roslyn" are still available. The cost is \$50. You can obtain your copy from the Temple office. Checks should be made payable to Temple Sinai.

Visit to UN Signing Site in Lake Success

Sunday, September 24 at 11:30am



In 1939, the United States government bought a large tract between Marcus Avenue, Lakeville Road and Union Turnpike in Lake Success. It became the home to the Sperry Gyroscope Company, which built a variety of maritime, military, aerospace and navigation products.

After World War II, the building served as the temporary headquarters for the United Nations from 1946 to 1952. On the historic afternoon of November 29, 1947, the United Nations voted in this building in favor of establishing the Jewish State in Israel. This meant worldwide recognition of the Jewish people as a nation. Herzl's dream, which first found its voice 50 years earlier, was transformed from dream to reality. Jews around the world

celebrated. In our homeland, Jews ran into the streets shouting "mazel tov" and singing Hatikvah.

Join us on Sunday, September 24 at 11:30am as we visit this site of historical significance. It is located on Marcus Avenue opposite the Parkway entrance (you will see the flags). RSVP howard@berrent.com or call Temple office.