



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

The 80s was a pivotal decade that built a foundation for so much of our lives today. Motorola first introduced the mobile phone; the granddaddy of the smartwatch. We mourned John Lennon and danced to Michael Jackson. Michael Jordan was, well, Michael Jordan. Post-its and Pac-Man debuted and changed how we work and play. Yuppies cheered for Cheers and Dallas. The Berlin Wall came down, the cold war ended, and the Olympics were boycotted. While all of this was going on, our Temple was going through changes in both structure and leadership.

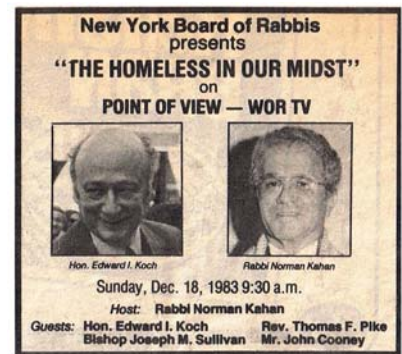
The 80's

Temple Sinai underwent a major renovation commencing in 1983 that included complete refurbishment and redecoration of the Main Hall and Sinai Hall, as well as the sanctuary, classrooms, and Temple offices. There were also upgrades to heating and air conditioning systems, sound system, a new roof and parking lot. Temple Sinai was rededicated at a special service on June 2, 1985 to mark completion of construction.



Rabbi Norman Kahan, Temple Sinai's senior Rabbi, recognized for his significant contributions to the Jewish community and his energetic efforts on behalf of Jewish causes worldwide, was elected president of the New York Board of Rabbis on March 16, 1982. The Board had a membership of over 1,000 Orthodox, Conservative, Reform and Reconstructionist rabbis. In his first official function as president of the Board, Rabbi Kahan delivered a televised invocation at the Holocaust Memorial Service at Temple Emanuel in New York, which houses the largest Reform Jewish congregation in the world. In his capacity as president of the New York Board of Rabbis, Rabbi Kahan was called upon at numerous public events to offer invocations and to represent the Jewish population of New York.

In January, 1983 as president and spokesman of the New York Board of Rabbis, Rabbi Kahan became embroiled in a public dispute with New York City Mayor Ed Koch regarding the responsibility to provide shelter for the homeless. The Mayor expressed concern that sanctuary was then being provided by 16 churches in New York but no synagogues. Rabbi Kahan and several rabbis took umbrage at the mayor's representation of the Jewish response to the homeless situation, a governmental responsibility, and publicly denounced his statements. The opening of programs for people who were homeless at three synagogues eventually mitigated the public dispute.



On June 20, 1986, Rabbi Norman Kahan, spiritual leader of Temple Sinai for over 17 years, retired from his position as senior Rabbi. During his tenure at Temple Sinai, he held numerous leadership positions in various Jewish and rabbinic national organizations that brought honor and prestige to Temple Sinai. After his retirement, Rabbi Kahan continued to serve as Rabbi Emeritus until his passing on June 16, 2014.



Aaron Petuchowski was appointed as Assistant Rabbi at Temple Sinai on October 14, 1983 and upon the retirement of Rabbi Norman Kahan, Rabbi Aaron Petuchowski was selected as the new Senior Rabbi. Rabbi Petuchowski was installed at a special celebration weekend that included an installation service on December 4, 1987 at which his father, Rabbi Dr. Jakob Petuchowski, a world-famous author, editor, lecturer and Professor of Judeo-Christian Studies at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, delivered the installation sermon.

Rabbi Aaron Petuchowski received the Community Service Award from the North Shore Chapter of the Israel Cancer Research Fund on April 10, 1988, and the "Torch of Liberty"

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award from the Roslyn Division of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai Brith on November 20 1988, among other special awards in recognition of his service to the community while at Temple Sinai.

After the retirement of Cantor Norman Belink in 1978, Temple Sinai had a series of cantors who served to enrich Sabbath and High Holy Day services including Steven Pearlson (9/78-9/79), Robert Bloch (9/79-9/81), Mark Ostfeld-Horowitz (9/81-8/85), Rita Glassman (8/85-8/88), and Suzanne Bernstein(8/88-8/89). Andrew Edison was designated the new Cantor at Temple Sinai in July, 1989 and served until his retirement in May 2008.



As the 80s closed out with stamps selling for 25 cents and Harry meeting Sally, Temple Sinai closed out the decade with many of its own history-making milestones ensuring that our next ten years would be even better.



Israel at 70 Upcoming Events

Thursday, January 18 at 7:30pm

Israeli Dance Class with Danny Pollock (Snow date Thursday, January 25, 7:30pm)

Thursday, February 1 at 7:30pm

On the Chocolate Trail with Rabbi Deborah Prinz (Snow date Thursday, February 8, 7:30pm)

Sunday, April 22 at 2:00pm

Choral Festival Hosted by Temple Sinai's Nassau County Jewish Community Choir

Sunday, May 6 at 9:00am

Mitzvah Day Celebrating Israel's 70th Anniversary

Friday, June 1 at 7:30pm Following Services

Time Capsule Dedication Ceremony



Save the Date - Temple Sinai's 70th Anniversary Party

Celebrating the Establishment of Temple Sinai and the Founding of the State of Israel

Saturday, April 28, 2018 at 7:00pm - Get ready for an awesome event!