



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

*The Nineties remind us of the kaleidoscopic events and emotions that marked the last decade of the twentieth century: While we lost Yitzhak Rabin, JFK Jr., and Princess Diana, Nelson Mandela regained his freedom. Research expanded on global warming while our TVs were tuned to Friends and Seinfeld. Amazon and email were just warming up and everyone everywhere wanted a PlayStation. Wayne Gretzky was on fire and Steven Spielberg made Schindler's List everything it should be. Through it all, Temple Sinai reflected the times by focusing on preservation of what we have while embracing the future.*

## The 90's

This decade started with a project to preserve the Torahs at Temple Sinai. Neil H. Yerman, a professional Scribe, was engaged in June 1991 to examine and restore our Torahs. They were between 45 and 150 years old, with the oldest torah also being the first torah given to the infant Temple Sinai. In 1950, this gift was bestowed by congregant Edith Hyman in memory of her father, Edward Tannenbaum.



The Temple conducted a rehabilitation of its Nursery, Religious and Hebrew School facilities between June 30, 1995 and September 1, 1995. These facilities were originally constructed over 40 years earlier, but were then retrofitted with large windows, skylights, air conditioning and improved electronic systems.



Rabbi Aaron Petuchowski joined Temple Sinai as Senior Rabbi upon the retirement of Rabbi Norman Kahan in 1986. He conducted several special prayer meetings and held public discussions in response to the events in the Middle East. On January 15, 1991, he denounced the unprovoked Scud missile attacks on Tel Aviv and Haifa by Iraq. In addition, he created a fund that resulted in Temple Sinai purchasing a much-needed ambulance for Israel through the American Red Magan David.

In January, 1996, Rabbi Petuchowski participated in a special mission visiting Egypt, Jordan and Israel as part of a delegation of Reform rabbis under the auspices of The Association of Reform Zionists of America (ARZA). The agenda within Israel included efforts to further the recognition of non-Orthodox rabbis and life-cycle ceremonies in Israel. However, the main purpose was to convey support for the ongoing peace process. Rabbi Aaron Petuchowski resigned on June 6, 1997 to accept a position as Senior Rabbi at Temple Shalom of Chicago. During his 14 years as rabbi, the Temple witnessed many progressive innovations in the Temple's religious services, social action and youth activities.



Rabbi Michael A. White served as rabbinic intern at Temple Sinai from 1985 to 1989. He was reintroduced to the congregation on September 12, 1997 then formally installed as Senior Rabbi on November 7, 1997 at a special Shabbat service. Rabbi Michael White continues to serve in that capacity. Andrew Edison was officially installed as Cantor at Temple Sinai on November 10, 1989 and continued to serve until his retirement in May, 2008. Cantor Edison, an accomplished pianist, always found new ways to use music to enrich services. These fine liturgical musical concerts offered the congregation the opportunity to hear varied selections by a number of different composers. These programs featured instrumental accompaniment to the Temple's organist, G. Stratton Caryl<sup>z</sup>. The Junior and Senior Choirs often joined in.

Eleanor Friedman assumed the position of Executive Director at Temple Sinai upon the resignation of Edwin Kohen in 1985. She retired in 2001, after 36 years of service, including 16 years as Temple Executive Director.



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The Stephen S. Wise Memorial Lecture, Distinguished Lecture Series, Scholars-in-Residence Program, Adult Education Committee, Religious and Cultural Affairs Committees have attracted speakers that set Temple Sinai apart. The distinguished speakers at Temple Sinai during the 1990's included Senator Alphonse D'Amato, former Congresswoman Geraldine Ferraro, Colette Avital, Counsel General of Israel in New York, Charles "Joe" Hynes, Brooklyn District Attorney, Elie Wiesel, author and Nobel Prize winner, and Senator Charles Schumer, among many others.

As the 20th century was ending, we fretted about Y2K. The Sopranos and Sex in the City had our attention. A movie ticket was \$5.00 and Bluetooth debuted as we readied to welcome the new millennium.

## TODAH RABAH FROM TEMPLE SINAI



### A Look Behind the Scenes at the Building, Grounds and House Committee

The role of this committee is to oversee the building and grounds of the congregation, keep them in proper repair and oversee all new construction. In addition, the House Committee formulates all the rules of governing the use of the building and its grounds, and supervises implementations of the same.

The co-chairs of this committee are Jeff Krugman and Howard Weisler. Jeff, along with his wife Pam have been members of Temple Sinai for 40 years. Former Temple President, Howard Weisler and his wife Marilyn have been members since 1977. Together, both Jeff and Howard have devoted many years to maintaining the integrity of our building, and have considered Temple Sinai to be a "second home". Like any home, there are always repairs that need to be done. Jeff and Howard, along with our wonderful custodial staff are there 24/7 to make all our congregants feel "that our home is their home".

With appreciation and gratitude, we thank Jeff Krugman and Howard Weisler for their endless dedication to Temple Sinai's well-being, and the goal of Tikkun Olam.

With sincere gratitude,  
The Todah Rabah Committee

*Barbara Gleicher, Margie Berrent, Richard Blatt, Seth Golden, Bert Kraus, Susan Moisoff*



### Save the Date Educator Recognition Shabbat Friday, June 15 at 7:45pm

Appreciation and gratitude are words we hear. At Temple Sinai we live by those words. We appreciate all the people that have made Temple Sinai their chosen place of worship. We are proud to have many congregants who devoted their careers to the field of education. Please join us as we honor the educators in our congregation who have influenced generations of students.