

A wide-angle photograph of the interior of Temple Israel, a modern synagogue. The space is characterized by its high, vaulted ceiling with recessed lighting and large, curved walls. The walls are clad in light-colored wood paneling. On the right side, a tall, narrow stained-glass window features abstract designs in shades of blue, purple, and green. The central area is a raised platform with a red carpet, containing a pulpit, a podium, and several ornate red chairs. A glass-enclosed staircase is visible on the right. The foreground shows rows of dark wooden pews.

**TEMPLE ISRAEL**  
**100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY JOURNAL**  
**1895 - 1995**

**Shalom Park**  
**Charlotte, North Carolina**



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T E M P L E



I S R A E L

# Happy 100th Birthday TEMPLE ISRAEL

We are celebrating the 100th birthday of Temple Israel -- one hundred years of Jewish experience of which each of us has been a part. It sounds as if we should be highlighted on Willard Scott's segment of the Today Show. He could then tell the world how active and vibrant we are after a full century of life. What is Temple Israel's secret? How is it that after 100 years in Charlotte, North Carolina, we still represent that which is the best of Jewish life today? The answer can be found within our people's mystical tradition.

The Zohar, which is the central mystical text in Judaism, teaches that every Jew has his/her own letter in the Torah. It is our spiritual task to find that one letter which is uniquely ours. No one else shares our "letter," our vision of the Torah. When we discover our letter and become more closely connected to our tradition, we add our own unique insights and perspective. This is how the religious experience of living and interpreting Torah remains alive. In each generation the form of study, prayer and observance changes and grows as it has for the past 3000 years.

Temple Israel remains the strong force for Jewish life that it is because of the letters of Torah that *so many* of us have been able to discover and add to our tradition. **Hazak Hazak ViNithazek!** May the **continual discovery** of more letters allow our synagogue family to continue to grow from strength to **strength, always** growing stronger because of our commitment to Torah and our faith in God!

Happy 100th Birthday Temple Israel!



Rabbi Murray Ezring

T E M P L E



I S R A E L

# 100 Years & Counting'

## TEMPLE ISRAEL

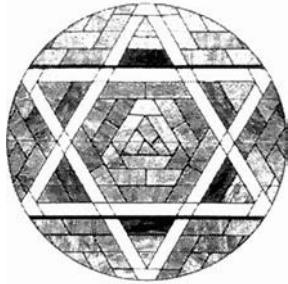
In 1895, a small group of Jewish men met and began the glorious history of the congregation we now call Temple Israel. At that time, our congregation was called the Hebrew United Brotherhood and only numbered 35 members. As Charlotte grew, so did the Jewish community, and Temple Israel was the center of Jewish life in Charlotte. Over the past 100 years, our synagogue has been in the forefront of Jewish education, social life, adult education and community service. The congregation has survived for 100 years because our members throughout the generations have been dedicated to the central mission of cultivating the highest standard of Jewish life in Charlotte. It is impossible to calculate all of the simchas which have taken place within the walls of our three synagogue buildings. The synagogue has always been there for our members, and I know it has been an integral part of all of our lives.

Although it is terrific to celebrate the past 100 years of our existence as a synagogue, this year of celebration also marks the beginning of our second century of service. Our synagogue is still experiencing substantial growth and is blessed with the friendliest and most caring membership and professional staff. Our best years are still ahead of us, and I look forward to being a part of the future. When our current synagogue building was dedicated in 1992, a time capsule was placed in the cornerstone. When it is opened in 2092, our childrens' children will have a remembrance of our current pride and they will know that all the generations before them were committed to ensuring that Temple Israel would forever be their synagogue and home.



David Miller  
President, 1994-95

*It is with great pride that we reprint the 75th Anniversary history written by Rosalie Ashendorf. After writing about the last 25 years, we stand in humble admiration of her outstanding achievement.*



# THE FIRST 75 YEARS

by Rosalie Citron Ashendorf

In the 5,000-year history of the Jewish people, where events are grouped together in eras and periods, a mere seventy-five years would rate the turning of a page. In the history of our congregation, however, the past seventy-five years is prologue to the present and the future. We of Temple Israel of Charlotte believe that our three-quarters of a century record is unique in many ways. Our congregation was formed in 1895 for the purpose of practicing traditional Judaism. It was a bold and courageous step in its time and the congregation's subsequent growth was due in great measure to the perseverance and determination of its dedicated founders.

We have gone through the sketchy documents of our early history, have probed the memories of some of the descendants of our founders, have researched past Temple Yearbooks and invite you to share with us highlights of our history and a remembrance of times past.

During the Civil War, the last full meeting of the Confederate Cabinet was held in Charlotte on April 10, 1865. Soon afterwards, the little town began to bind its war wounds and to build towards its future. Jewish groups in Charlotte can be traced to their time. During the period of Reconstruction, Jewish families settled in Charlotte and took an active interest in the civic and economic life of the town. Old records inform us that Jews sat on the school boards during the 1870's and the 1880's and that they were part of the business structure as the town began to industrialize. That they were aware of their responsibilities and obligations as Jews is also recorded.

The Hebrew Benevolent Society of Charlotte was chartered by the General Assembly of North Carolina December 24, 1870. The purpose of this Society was twofold:

to establish a Jewish cemetery where the laws of Jewish burial would be observed and to extend charity and assistance to members of the Jewish faith.

Of unique interest to us today is Section 4 of Article XI of the original by-laws which stated: "Any member who is summoned to attend to any duty or charity, especially to sit up with a sick member, shall in case of being unable to attend to it himself, furnish a substitute. Any member neglecting to sit up himself or furnish a substitute shall be fined a sum not exceeding \$2.50." Section 5 stated: "Any member not attending when summoned to the burial of a member, his wife or child, or to minyan, shall pay a fine of 50¢ for each and every offense. Not more than one member from each house shall be summoned at a time."

The membership of the Cemetery Association consisted of: H.M. Asher, S. Bauman, D. Blum, S. Cohen, D. Elias, H. Frankenthal, D. Goldberg, N. Holzinger, M. Koppel, M. Nathans, J. Rentels, B. Suggenheimer, I. Wallace and D. Wallace. The Trustees were: H. Baumgarten, S. Franzenthal, J. Heineman. The President was B. Koopman. Officers were: S. Frankford, S.H. Cohen and J. Roessler. The Secretary of this group, Mr. H. Baumgarten, had the distinction of being Charlotte's first photographer. Mr. J. Roessler commanded the Hornet's Nest Riflemen, the militia company of this area, and had served with distinction in the Civil War. Mr. J. Heineman was the father of the famed Dannie N. Heineman, who was born here in 1872 and who gave to Charlotte the Heineman Foundation and the Heineman Lectures which annually bring to this community outstanding leaders in the various fields of medicine. Mr. J. Heineman and Mr. Roessler and Mr. Dannie Heineman are interred in the local Hebrew Cemetery.

These early Charlotte Jews, coming mainly from Germany, were faithful to their religion. They were industrious and intelligent and comprised a very close-knit group who added much to the growth of their community. Religious services were conducted in the homes and High Holyday services in the various meeting halls that the town provided.

When the great wave of immigration of the Jews from eastern Europe occurred, new settlers came to Charlotte. This group also was deeply religious and brought with them their own customs and attitudes. In September, 1895, these new citizens organized another congregation, or in actuality the first formal Jewish congregation of the city of Charlotte. This congregation was the forerunner of what is now Temple Israel. They called themselves Agudath Achim, Hebrew United Brotherhood.

The group was headed by Mr. Harris Miller, Mr. Benjamin Silverstein and Mr. C. Lubin. Among the early members were: Aaron Pittle, Harry Silverstein, Nathan Paul, Morris Silverstein, Jacob Harris, Sam Fligel, Harry Roth, I. Hayman, A. Usilowitz, L. Katzen, Israel Schwartz, Sam Schwartz, Dr. Sam Levy, Dr. Louis Levy, Dr. Ben Levy, Joseph London, Abe Block, Max Kahn, Aaron Kahn, the Rosenbaum, Steinberg and Askins families. Services at first were held in various homes but, as the congregation began to grow, the High Holyday services were held in a large room on East Trade Street above the Merchants and Farmers Bank. A Torah was secured from Richmond, Virginia, and a Cantor brought here from Richmond to conduct the services. By this time additional families had joined the congregation, among whom were Isaac Dushkin, I. Nelson, Jacob Goldstein, Morris Kaufman, Ben Davis, Sam White, A. Nurick, M.B. Smith, R. Malever, H. Neiman, Michael Kirschbaum, Samuel Strousky, David Paul and Joseph Lamb.

It was in this hall on East Trade Street that the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Roth was solemnized in 1909. Happily, fifty years later the entire congregation celebrated the Roths' Golden Anniversary in our present Temple. Among other happily remembered events in this hall were the B'nai Mitzvah of Louis Silverstein and David Usilowitz.

At this point in its history, the congregation engaged its first full-time religious leader, Mr. A. Glick, who served as

a teacher and shochet. Mr. Glick organized the first cheder and classes were moved from the Glicz residence to the North Tryon Street meeting hall. Among his first students were: Ben Schwartz, Harry L. Schwartz, Alfred E. Smith, Joseph Nelson, Sam Pittle, Isadore Pittle, David Levy and Isadore Silverstein.

Mr. Glick was succeeded by Mr. A. Spector. The growth of the congregation was steady and it became apparent that arrangements would have to be made to meet the religious needs of Charlotte's Jewry. A campaign was started with the ultimate goal of erecting a permanent home for the congregation at 413 W. Seventh Street. The Building Committee consisted of: M.B. Smith, Chairman, and included Harris Miller, B. Davis, Dr. Sam Levy and Aaron Pittle. The drive to build a house of worship was on. Bazaars, playlets, cake sales and blind auction sales were held. The young ladies of the congregation sold miniature building bricks on the streets and from door to door. With great dedication this group organized the congregation into every conceivable money-raising effort. Sufficient funds were obtained to interest a contractor who had confidence that the small group could meet its obligations. It is interesting to note that the carved wood of the bimah and the ark, as well as the beautiful steps and railings of the building interior, came from the old Charlotte Post Office which was then being razed. These were the gifts of the contracting superintendent and a few of his carpenters. These workmen were so impressed with the dedication of the small group that they not only donated the materials but insisted upon doing the installation without payment.

The cornerstone was laid October 3, 1915. Eyes were dimmed and tears flowed as the stone was laid into place with the loving hands of Mr. and Mrs. H. Miller. The completed building was dedicated April 9, 1916 with Rabbi George Solomon of Savannah, Georgia, preaching the dedicatory sermon. Proudly the congregation's first Rabbi, Charles Ariclz, introduced local non-Jewish dignitaries who had been invited to share in this memorable occasion. Jacob Goldstein, the first Cantor, sang praise to the Almighty for giving the congregation the strength and courage to build a House of the Lord.

The Temple became the showplace of a proud Jewish community of a mere twenty to twenty-five families. Jewish residents of nearby towns came to see the Temple and to worship there. A library was installed, the gift of a celebrated

philanthropist, Mr. Adolph Stahl, of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. A kitchen and vestry room became the hub of the social activity and of happy events in the years that followed.

Shortly after the dedication of the Temple, the United States entered World War I. Camp Greene had been established here for the training of soldiers, who reached the staggering number of 200,000 men. The Temple was called upon to meet the religious needs of Jewish soldiers. Through our Temple, a chapter of the Jewish Welfare Board was founded. The chairman was Mr. M.B. Smith and serving with him were David Nabow, Jesse Biersucz and Michael *Kirschbaum*. It was through their efforts and the cooperation of the entire congregation that hospitality was extended and religious needs were met.

This was one of the most trying times in the congregation's history and they rose to the challenge. Each night Mr. Smith and volunteers from the Temple were present at the building which had been erected at the Camp. Volunteer ladies of the Sisterhood worked during the day writing letters and reading to the men. Soldiers enjoyed the hospitality of Jewish homes. The Temple was always open for minyan and for worship. The dedication of the Jewish Welfare Board building took place September 25, 1918. The site was where Cannon Airport on Ashley Road was located. At this dedication, approximately 5,000 Jewish soldiers attended. Entertainment and refreshments for all present were furnished by Temple Israel. It is part of the history of this period that the first soldier from Mecklenburg County to lose his life in World War I was Robert "Joe Joe" Friedman. He was meteorologist with the Charlotte Weather Bureau and was excused from military duty. His patriotism, however, demanded that he serve. In the Mecklenburg County Court House, one may find his name engraved on a bronze plaque on the entrance.

The years following the war were a time of steady though unspectacular growth. It was during this time, during the late 20's that a new Sefer Torah was added to the Temple. The late and beloved Mrs. Benjamin Silverstein and Mrs. B. Davis decided that the one Torah was "lonesome all by itself" and that it was fitting that there should be a companion. These two admirable ladies busied themselves with fund-raising activities and with the help of the Sisterhood raised the money to purchase a new Torah. Mrs. Silverstein traveled to New York to procure the Torah which was ornamented

and especially beautiful. So it was that the second Torah of Temple Israel was presented by the ladies of the Sisterhood.

In 1932, Rabbi William Greenburg arrived to take over the duties as spiritual leader of Hebrew United Brotherhood. Rabbi Greenburg was young and dynamic and during his ten years in Charlotte the congregation grew from a membership of sixty-five families to more than 150 families.

Reverend and Mrs. Leonard Wallace and their family arrived in Charlotte in 1936 at the invitation of the congregation. Reverend Wallace was engaged to act as chazzan, shochet and mohel. When he opened his store in Charlotte, it was the first kosher market in the Carolinas which supplied a complete line of kosher meats, kosher products and delicatessen, not only to Charlotte but to the surrounding communities.

Reverend Wallace worked closely with Rabbi Greenburg and together they organized the first Boys' Choir of the Temple. Many people still remember with pleasure the beauty of the services as Reverend Wallace conducted his choir during Sabbath and Festival services.

The congregation at this time was actively engaged in every phase of Jewish and communal life. Religious services were held each Friday evening and Sabbath morning. A regular daily religious school and Sunday School were maintained and special emphasis was placed on the youth of the congregation. Many men in our community recall that President I.D. Blumenthal picked them up each Saturday morning to insure their attendance at services.

The Sisterhood also grew in scope and activity as our women participated in civic and community affairs as well as cultural and religious duties. During this period of economic depression throughout the nation, the congregation maintained itself financially and continued to grow. There was a feeling of closeness among the families of the Temple. Spiritual and religious feeling was fervent and morale was high. On August 15, 1938, I.D. Blumenthal was made the first Honorary Life President of the Temple. Subsequently two other men were to be similarly honored: Mr. Morris Speizman in 1964, and Mr. Ben Jaffa, Sr., in 1968.

It was in the late thirties that the leaders of the

congregation began to make plans to move the Temple to another section of the city. Many families were then moving to the eastern and southern sections of Charlotte and the East Seventh Street location was no longer suitable. In 1938, a committee of past presidents was appointed to formulate plans for the financing and construction of a new and larger Temple. Members serving on this original committee included: I.D. Blumenthal, Chairman; H.B. Diamond, Secretary-Treasurer; Sam Schwartz, Arthur Goodman, Sr., and J.L. Pressman.

With the beginning of World War II in 1941, these plans had to be postponed in order to take care of more immediate responsibilities. Once again Temple Israel found itself caring for the needs of servicemen in this area. In September, 1941, army maneuvers were held throughout this area. On the eve of Rosh Hashanah of that year, truckloads of young men were brought into Charlotte to be housed and cared for during the High Holydays. The word went out to the congregation and families drove down to the Temple to pick up soldiers to take home with them. The trucks stretched for blocks on East Seventh Street. Each family took four--or six--or eight men home. Though the congregation was unprepared for this sudden influx, all the men were housed and invited for holiday meals.

Since the Temple could not possibly seat the hundreds of people for services, permission was hastily obtained from the City to use the old Armory on Cecil Street, the site of the present Park Center. A bimah and an ark were hurriedly set up, Torahs brought from the Temple, and that Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur two services went on simultaneously--one at the Temple and one at the Armory.

By the High Holydays of 1942, Charlotte was surrounded by Army camps--Camp Sutton at Monroe, Maxton Air Force Base near Lumberton, Morris Field in Charlotte and as far away as Fort Bragg at Fayetteville. This time the Temple was prepared and the entire congregation joined with the servicemen at services in the Armory. Over a thousand persons were in attendance.

During the war years, Charlotte's Temple Israel once again offered its hospitality to the men away from home. The congregation was saddened to lose two of its own young men who gave their lives in the service of their country: Max Usilowitz and Robert Baker.

With the return of our young men from the military service, a new spirit of enthusiasm was kindled. The young men who had served their country came home to serve their people. Plans and projects which had been held in abeyance through the war years were revived and came to fruition.

During the early forties, two services were held consecutively during the High Holydays. One was orthodox, as had been the pattern, and the other leaned toward conservatism, which appealed to the younger members. In July 1946, the congregation by majority vote of the membership was constituted a religiously conservative institution. Moreover, it was resolved that the congregation join with the parent body of Conservative Judaism, the United Synagogue of America. It was further resolved to change the name of the congregation from Agudath Achim or Hebrew United Brotherhood to B'nai Israel, to be known as Temple Israel.

A most moving and unforgettable service at the Seventh Street Temple was held in May of 1948 when Temple Israel and its sister congregation, Temple Beth-El, joined together at services to pray and give thanks for the birth of the State of Israel, which had been proclaimed that day. Since that time, our congregation has remained devoted to the growth and development of the State of Israel and our members have continued to be outstanding leaders in every project pertaining to its welfare.

In 1945, the original Building Committee which had been established in 1938 was augmented by the addition of the then-President, A.S. Gittlin, and a Permanent Executive Building Committee was formed, consisting of: J.L. Pressman, President; A.S. Gittlin, Vice-President; Morris Speizman, Treasurer; Dr. Philip Naumoff, Secretary and the following members: I. Ashendorf, Dr. J.B. Freedland, B.M. Gittlin, Sam Goldfein, Arthur Goodman, Sr., Hy Helbein, Ben Jaffa, Sr., Dr. Albert Kossove, Sidney Levin, Harry L. Schwartz, Sam Schwartz, Alfred E. Smith and Fred Stern. At this time, Mr. Blumenthal submitted a report to the Executive Committee of the Temple indicating a grand total of 96 pledges totaling over \$72,000.00 with almost \$50,000.00 on hand. The Permanent Building Committee initiated an immediate campaign through which an additional \$75,000.00 was obtained in pledges for the express purpose of building a new and adequate house of worship on the property at Dilworth which had been purchased by the



original committee in 1945. On August 2, 1948, our congregation and friends participated in an inspiring and impressive groundbreaking ceremony. This was followed on January 9, 1949, by the laying of the cornerstone on Dilworth Road and included the installation of the cornerstone from the old Temple on Seventh Street. At this point, it is fitting to acknowledge the untiring efforts of Mr. Alfred E. Smith during the months of construction. Mr. Smith spent hours of almost every day in conference with the architect and the contractor, insuring that brick-by-brick the building was constructed in accordance with approved plans and specifications.



**Groundbreaking at Dilworth Road, August 2, 1948**

The year 1948 was also memorable in the life of our congregation because of a number of innovations which have become part of the Temple's daily life.

It was during that year that the Temple Israel kindergarten opened its doors after many months of arduous work and planning. Under the chairmanship of Mrs. Nat Krumbein, with Dr. J.B. Freedland, Mrs. I. Ashendorf and Rabbi Tofield as members of the committee, this was the first daily kindergarten in the Carolinas to be sponsored by a Hebrew congregation. It was also in 1948 that the Sisterhood Gift Shop was established under the direction of Mrs. A.S. Gittlin. The Men's Club was organized in that year with J.A. Sosnik as its first president.

In September of 1949 the last service in the Seventh Street Temple was held. The Sefer Torahs were then carried by the elders of the congregation to their new home in our present Temple. A crowd of hundreds was present to witness this beautiful and symbolic ceremony. On Rosh Hashanah of 1949, services in our new Temple began. Not only was the New Year welcomed, but prayers of thanksgiving were chanted as we reached this day of fulfillment. Soon after occupancy of the new building, the Temple Israel library was established under the direction of Maurice A. Weinstein. In the same year the Adult Education Institute was begun under the supervision of Morris Speizman. The Chevra Kadisha was formally reorganized in that year, and this most important organization was headed by Harry Roth as president.

"These dedication ceremonies mark the successful

completion of a task to which we have set our hearts and hands for the past decade. We thank God that we have been permitted to reach the point at which we can enjoy the fruits of our labors." This was the opening paragraph of our Dedication Book as we formally dedicated Temple Israel of Charlotte on March 17, 1950.

Dr. Max Arzt of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America preached the dedicatory sermon entitled: "Religion In Action" at the Friday evening service. Saturday morning,



**Torahs are moved from Seventh Street to Dilworth Road Temple, September 21, 1949**



Ruth Levine (left) and Hushie Silverstein lead Temple Brownie Troop, c. 1951.

Rabbi William Greenburg spoke on "The Synagogue--A Symbol of Survival." There were many guests from the religious, civic and cultural organizations in the city as well as many distinguished guests from far away, including Rabbis and past-presidents of the congregation. It was a weekend of joy, of dedication and of thanksgiving.

This spirit seemed to carry over into the decade of the fifties as the congregation grew in strength and in numbers. In 1950, the Junior Congregation became a permanent part of the Temple's religious services. The young couples and the young adults of the congregation organized into clubs which were extremely active in social affairs. They were most helpful as they endeavored to integrate and to make welcome the many new families who were joining the Temple. The membership was growing in such strides that the Yearbook of 1952-53 was dedicated to our new members. In that year we happily welcomed the 300th member to join the Temple.

Through the help of Rabbi Tofield and Mrs. Nathan Sutzer, 1952 saw the organization of the Golden Age Club, designed to afford an opportunity for the senior members of the congregation to join together for social enjoyment.

The Temple's post-Bar and Bat Mitzvah and post-Confirmation young people organized themselves and affiliated with the United Synagogue Youth, with Phyllis Ashendorf as its first president. Another "first" was a beautiful performance of the cantata "What Is Torah?" under the direction of Dr. Albert Kossove and performed by the Temple Israel choir. And the Daily Kindergarten expanded in 1952 to include a first grade, and the Kindergarten PTA was

Elaine Chernotsky (left) and Judy Miller lead Temple Brownie troop, 1992.



formed under the direction of Mrs. Emanuel Guller.

With the dream of a new Temple fulfilled, the Yearbook of 1954 devotes itself to a new dream--that of the building of an Education Building. This "dream" was in fact born of necessity, for from a Hebrew School enrollment in 1950 of approximately thirty students, there was in 1954 an enrollment of more than ninety in the Hebrew School and more than 200 children in the Sunday School. As a result, split sessions had become necessary and once again we were faced with the dire problem of space.

In 1955, Temple Israel celebrated its 60th anniversary, boasting the largest congregation in the Carolinas, approximately 350 families. On this occasion, the Temple honored Mrs. Benjamin Silverstein, who was the only surviving member of the original founding families.

Among the first to realize the serious need for additional space were the ladies of the Sisterhood. They instituted a Shareholders Project in which every woman raised, by her own efforts, a sum of \$6.00 per share. All these funds were designated for use in building the new Education Building. Thus, \$7,000.00 was turned in by the Sisterhood. Memorials in the proposed new building were sold and an active building campaign was put in motion. On July 11, 1958, ground was broken for the new building. Through the untiring and diligent supervision of Emanuel Guller, the inspiration of Rabbi E.A. Levi, and the hard-working Building Committee, the Education Building was completed and dedicated in 1959. Rabbi William Greenburg was again invited to Charlotte to share in another milestone in the continuing progress of Temple Israel.



Rabbi Marc Samuels (center) and Hazzan Robert Shapiro (to his right) lead the Torah Dedication Service, 1961.

During this period, under the administration Dr. J.B. Freedland, a Special Events Committee was established. Its function was, as it is today, to arrange for the celebration of noteworthy events in the lives of the individual members as well as in the life of the congregation itself. It has become traditional to present appropriately engraved Kiddush cups to couples celebrating their 25th or, happily, their 50th wedding anniversaries.

In 1960, the Fine Arts Committee was established under the chairmanship of I. Ashendorf. Special showcases, a gift of Mr. Edward Hirsch, for the display of beautiful and traditional objects, were placed in the halls of our Temple. Since that time through the generosity of many of our members, other symbolic and beautiful objects of art have been added to this collection which is on permanent display at the Temple.

Rabbi Michael Hecht, our present spiritual leader, arrived in 1962, marking the beginning of a new and continuing phase of the Temple's progress, with emphasis on education and youth activities. In 1962 also, the first group of young children from Temple Israel were awarded scholarships to

Camp Ramah, the Hebrew-speaking camp affiliated with United Synagogue. Each year since then our Temple has endeavored to send some of its young people to Camp Ramah for its atmosphere of learning and creative Jewish living. This congregation has been more than rewarded with the glowing reports brought back by these campers and by their subsequent leadership in youth activities of the congregation.

In 1963, through the imaginative and yeoman efforts of Hazzan Robert Shapiro, the first Jewish Music Festival of the Carolinas was proudly presented to a capacity audience at Ovens Auditorium, earning wide critical acclaim. The Oratorio Singers of Charlotte, as well as the choirs of many Temples in the two Carolinas, participated in what was considered to be a milestone in the performance and enjoyment of Jewish music. Since that time, the second and third Music Festivals were held with equal success and enjoyment.



I. D. Blumenthal gives new Torah to Temple Israel, 1961.

The year 1963 also marked the Bar Mitzvah year of the dedication of the Temple in its present home on Dilworth Road. The weekend of November 1-2 witnessed appropriate celebration in honor of this event. After



**Temple Israel Choir lead by Hazzan Robert Shapiro, c. 1963**

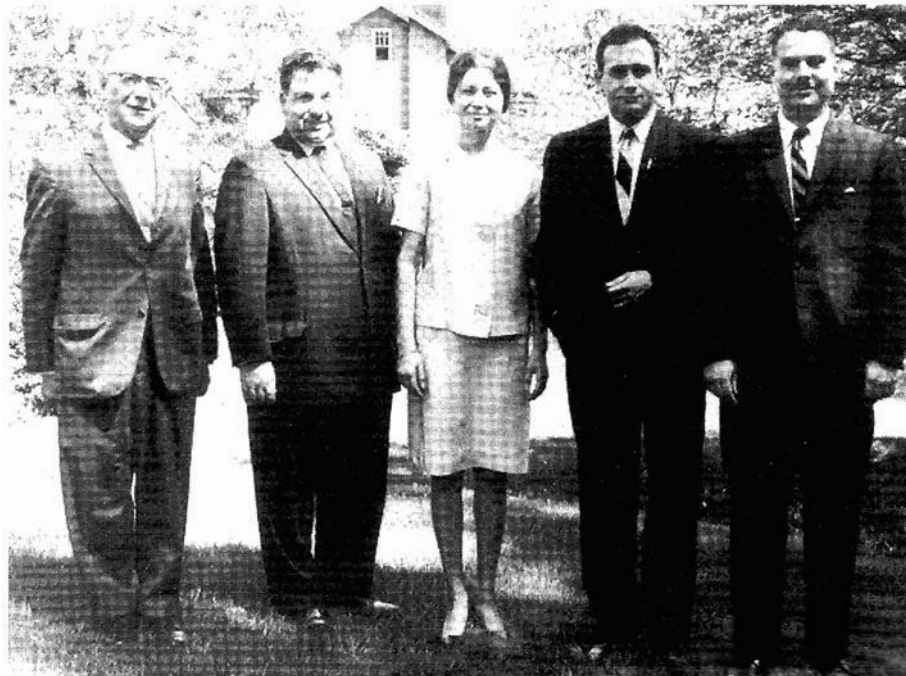
competition with other church-affiliated young people. Each year young people are sent on pilgrimages to Israel and to leadership training camps in the United States. Publication of its own newspaper rounds out the varied activities of TI-Y. A recently formed and successful pre-USY Kadimah group has furthered the youth program in our Temple. Mr. Kentof is now in the process of organizing an "Atid" (collegeage) group.

A three-year program of building improvements was brought to a successful conclusion in 1965. The climax of the program came on March 21 when a completely redecorated Sanctuary was dedicated. Another "first" took place in 1965--it was early in that year when the Board of Trustees authorized Hazzan

impressive religious services on Friday evening and Sabbath morning, the celebration was highlighted by a spirited social evening which included an original program written for the event by Mrs. I. Ashendorf, Mrs. Jerry Fisher and Mrs. Larry Boxer. The spirit was one of joy and pride as befits the celebration of a Bar Mitzvah.

Shapiro to commission Mr. Reuven Kosaloff of New York to compose for Temple Israel new music for "The Jewish Wedding Ceremony." Approximately 500 people were in attendance at the Temple on October 24 for the premiere of this composition. Composer Kosakoff flew in from New York for the performance. Charlotte music critics and musicians were lavish in their praise of this beautiful music which has since been used in many wedding ceremonies in our Temple.

It was also during that year that our education and youth programs were given added spirit and direction with the arrival of Mr. and Mrs. Dov Kentof as instructors in our religious school and leaders in our youth program. Under Mr. Kentof's supervision, as Youth Director, many new activities have been inaugurated and developed. In 1963 a group of twelve youngsters reactivated our youth program and once again affiliated with United Synagogue Youth. Intensive programs took place twice each month at the Temple. Conventions, trips, creative services and special programs strengthened this small group which has developed into one of the largest and most dynamic groups in the Seaboard region. Its membership today exceeds ninety young people and it has been awarded national recognition in programming and religious activities. Under the banner of TI-Y (Temple Israel-Youth), a basketball team was organized, playing regularly in



**Rev. Harry Friedman, Hazzan Robert Shapiro, Alina and Dov Kentof, Rabbi Hecht, c. 1965**





**Temple Israel Men's Club Board Meeting, 1969-1970**

In the following year, our Men's Club, led by President Shai Richardson, inaugurated a youth Scholarship Fund, demonstrating their interest and desire for the enrichment of Jewish education for our young people. This Fund continues to encourage our youth to strive for the expansion of their Jewish experience.

In 1967, Rabbi Hecht conceived the "Tour of Understanding." Four houses of worship in the community participated with Temple Israel, visiting one another for the express purpose of promoting better understanding of the religion of its neighbors. This event was well-received and publicized throughout the community.

In 1968, Temple Israel took pride in congratulating its Honorary Life President, Mr. Morris Speizman, upon his election as President of the World Council of Synagogues. This organization is the international association of Conservative congregations in twenty-two countries on four continents.

A typical day at Temple Israel in 1970 will find Rabbi Hecht, Cantor Keiser, Mr. Dov Kentof, our Secretary Mrs. Pauline Griffith, and our religious school teachers all busily engaged in their daily tasks. One will see men and women arriving or departing for meetings or for minyan, children attending kindergarten, religious school or youth activities. All of this presents a picture of a Temple in

motion, busy with the duties and joys of making Conservative Judaism a relevant and meaningful part of their daily lives.

We have chronicled for you some of the highlights of the first seventy-five years of the history of our congregation. A history, however, is primarily a record of facts and events, while a congregation is essentially people. It is people who give meaning to the life of a Temple. We honor the founders and early members for their courage, their foresight and their dedication. We acknowledge with pride and appreciation the efforts of all those who have labored on behalf of Temple Israel throughout the years. It is they who have seen to it that traditional Judaism is a vital and moving force in our time. Individually and collectively, they have left the imprint of their personalities upon the life of our congregation. They build well who work and strive for the generations of the future.





Temple Israel Board of Trustees, c. 1975

particularly welcome worker who always came with a delicious cake), Rhoda Gleiberman, Audrey Madans, Doris Widis and many others gave hundreds of hours. More than \$50,000 was presented to the synagogue through the efforts of Blanche and her group of volunteers.

In the 1960's, Temple Israel was graced by the arrival of many Cuban families seeking refuge from Fidel Castro. It was a great boon to the synagogue. The Kaplans, Kiers, Luski and Wojnowichs became vital and active participants in the life of the synagogue. Sam Kaplan became president in 1975. Under Sam's leadership, new standards for Hebrew School were enforced.

Outstanding programs were the Jake Pressman Passover second seders sponsored by his daughter, Jeri Gertzman; the first Sisterhood Art Auction in 1975; Kumsitz Havdalah services in members' homes; an evening honoring Dr. Albert Kossove for his many hours at the Temple piano.

The budget for the year 1976 was brought in at \$39,000 with a deficit of \$6,359. The budget has escalated. Fortunately, the deficit has not.

Bill Gorelick became president of the Temple in 1977. A native-born Charlottean, Bill took great joy in being president. In his own words, Bill said, "You have to

give everything you've got to it and remember the buck stops here."

Bill, a very young president, felt that the city of Charlotte was stagnating and so was the Temple. However, good things were happening. Once again, Rabbi Rocldin led an adult pilgrimage to Israel.

In the years 1978-1979, Aaron Gleiberman was president. Membership exceeded 500 for the first time. The Temple had added more than 100 members in two years.

Because of the increased membership, the High Holiday seating committee faced an impossible task. Aaron and his board met the challenge and inaugurated simultaneous services that took place in the I.D Blumenthal Social Hall and the main sanctuary. This made Harry Swimmer's and Bernice Roberts' jobs as seating chairmen much easier.

A staff vacancy necessitated the hiring of a new Education Director. Hugo and Helga Rosenberger went to Long Island to interview Arthur Tirsun. Subsequently Arthur came to Charlotte and served as Education Director from 1979-1990, and since then as Master Teacher. This gifted teacher has had an enormous beneficial impact on the Hebrew education of our children for one and one-half decades.

The life of the congregation was enhanced with the activities of an older Couples Club (Social Club), the reinstated Young Couples Club and newcomers' dances. In celebration of Rabbi Rocldin's ten years of service, a gala evening was held in his honor.

The city of Charlotte designated the tiny triangle between Dilworth Road and East Morehead Street as Holocaust Square. Hundreds came to consecrate and dedicate the memorial marker on June 10, 1979 in memory of the 11 million who perished in the Holocaust and are never to be forgotten.



Rabbi Richard K. Rocklin blesses Lulav with Hebrew school children, Sukkat 1978

# The SEVENTIES

## Events That Shaped Our Lives

- April 20, 1971: United States Supreme Court unanimously upholds busing of children as a means of achieving racially-balanced schools.
- June 30, 1971: The 26th Amendment to the Constitution establishes 18 years as the minimum voting age in all elections.
- Sept. 5, 1972: Munich Olympic Games; eleven Israeli athletes killed by Arab terrorists.
- Jan. 27, 1973: Cease-fire accord ending the Vietnam conflict is signed in Paris.
- Oct. 6, 1973: Yom Kippur War erupts in Mideast as Egypt and Israel fight at Suez Canal; Syria and Israel battle at Golan Heights.
- Nov. 12, 1973: Israel and Egypt sign a cease-fire agreement.
- Aug. 9, 1974: President Richard Nixon resigns.
- July 3, 1976: Israeli commandos rescue 103 hostages in a raid on Uganda's Entebbe airport.
- Nov. 19, 1977: Egyptian President Anwar Sadat makes historic visit to Israel.
- 1979: The Soviet Union issues 50,000 immigration permits to Jews allowing them to leave the country.
- March 26, 1979: Egypt and Israel sign the Camp David Accords ending 31 years of war.



Minyan Shacharit Service at Dilworth, 1980

Advocates of women's equal rights in synagogue worship brought the issue once again to the Board of Directors. After heated discussion, the measure was soundly defeated.

But new ideas were being examined. The demographics of Temple Israel were changing. The location of the synagogue no longer met the congregational needs. The leaders of the congregation realized that the time had come to discuss a new location. When the preliminary meetings to discuss a community campus began in 1979, Temple Israel became an enthusiastic partner. That was when it all began. The new wind blew once again.

There were many hurdles to overcome. There were

many diverse personalities in the representatives of Temple Israel, Temple Beth El, Temple Beth Shalom, the Jewish Community Center, the Charlotte Jewish Federation and the Hebrew Academy. However, reasonable people find reasonable solutions and, in 1984, the Joint Venture Agreement was signed.

The new decade of the 1980's began with Marvin Barman as president. It was a time of stability. Rabbi Rocklin had been here 10 years. Cantor Birnbaum also had enjoyed several years at Temple Israel.

The Jewish presence in the city was acknowledged when the school board decreed that no tests would be given to any student on a major Jewish Holiday.

From 1982 through 1985, Jerry Levin and Bill Ashendorf served as presidents. Jerry went on to become vice-president of the Southeast Region and a member of the National Board of Directors of United Synagogue of America. The main thrust of their tenure was the ongoing challenge of relocating to what would become Shalom Park. It took years of dedication and hard work to bring this vision to reality.

At the same time, the more prosaic life of the Temple continued. Jerry Levin contacted The Israel Ballet for a performance at Ovens Auditorium which made a profit of \$22,000. This enabled Temple Israel to balance the budget for the first time. The Bimah and Sanctuary were redecorated. The children of Sandra and Leon Levine dedicated a beautiful Torah in honor of their parents.

The family of Rosalie Citron Ashendorf purchased for the Temple a grand piano in 1982. Several memorial concerts were sponsored by the family in her memory.

Finally, an egalitarian form of worship came to Temple Israel. Because of the leadership of Patty Gorelicz and Doris Widis, the Board of Directors approved equal rights for women in the synagogue.

In 1985, Rabbi Richard Rocklin ended his 16 years of loving service to Temple Israel. Rabbi Marc Wilson was brought to Charlotte by the Rabbinical Search committee chaired by Sammy Strause and Sol Jaffa. Once again, a new wind was blowing.

Rabbi Wilson contributed a different type of



**Rededication of Torahs in their new covers, Dilworth Road, 1985**



leadership. He involved us in the social issues of the day. Rachel House, a shelter for abused and battered women and children, was established in a house adjoining Temple Israel.

Rabbi Wilson, with his lucid and stimulating sermons, challenged our minds. We were encouraged to study Torah and he fostered a love for learning and intellectual growth. Through his many study programs, he developed an awareness within the congregants of what it meant to be a Jew. He arranged for Nobel Peace Prize laureate Elie Wiesel to lecture in Charlotte.

Judi Strause became the first woman president of Temple Israel in 1986. It was during her term of office that the Temple Board of Directors was reduced in size. This made the board more efficient and productive. The I.D. Blumenthal Memorial Scholar-in-Residence lectures were established through the generosity of the Blumenthal Foundation. Rabbi Wilson's Saturday cholent lunches were enthusiastically attended.

Hundreds of hours had been spent on plans for the new synagogue. Now it was the time for decision making. Morris Speizman was appointed chairman of the new Temple building committee which awarded the contract to the architectural firm of Dellinger and Lee. Sam Lerner was the moving force behind the preparations for the building. After the untimely deaths of Sam and Morris in 1987, the building committee was chaired by Sol Jaffa. Bill Gorelicz and David Miller were chairmen of planning and construction. Marvin Barman and Shelton Gorelicz prudently managed the investment of building fund money.

Harry Swimmer and Sammy Strause were co-chairmen of fundraising. The campaign was launched. Definitive steps had been taken. The leadership and the membership were now committed to the successful completion of this project.

Steven Hockfield became president in 1988. Shortly into his term of office, in November, we memorialized the 50th anniversary of Kristallnacht. That infamous night of glass was mourned again as we stood on the steps of the Temple. With lit candles in hand, we grieved again. The children of Celia Scher dedicated a Holocaust Torah in her honor. More than a thousand people attended from the Jewish and non-Jewish community.

The Sim Shalom prayerbook was adopted for use in 1988. A modern High Holiday supplement compiled by Rabbi Wilson was donated by Bob Speizman in loving memory of his parents, Sylvia and Morris. Job descriptions for the staff were put in place. The synagogue purchased devices to aid the hearing impaired. We welcomed 71 new members in that year.

Temple Israel and Temple Beth El entered into a series of discussions to decide the merits of a joint Jewish Preschool. Shortly thereafter, it was established and flourishes today.

In 1989, another new wind blew into Charlotte--Hurricane Hugo. Selichot services were held by candlelight. Never had the services been more beautiful.



Rabbi Marc Wilson shows Sukkah to preschoolers, 1987

# The EIGHTIES

## Events That Shaped Our Lives

- January 20, 1981: Iran frees 52 U.S. hostages after 444 days of captivity.
- September 25, 1981: Sandra Day O'Connor is sworn in as the first woman justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.
- February, 1982: Jewish immigration from Soviet Union slows to a trickle
- May 26, 1988: The U.S. government mails a pamphlet about AIDS to more than 106 million households.
- July 3, 1989: The U.S. Supreme Court upholds a woman's right to an abortion.
- November 9, 1989: Germany tears down the Berlin wall.
- 1989: Soviet Union grants 71,000 exit visas to Jews.



Groundbreaking at Shalom Park, September 15, 1991.  
L. - R. : Minnie **Sutker**, Blanche Jaffa and Ike Ashendorf.

Rabbi Marc Wilson, having served 5 years as spiritual leader of Temple Israel, left in June of 1990. For the interim, Rabbi Hillel Milgrim was selected to fill the position.

Bob Abel became president in 1990. It was Bob who said of his two years as president, "I wouldn't have served one day more. Nor would I want to serve one day less." These were exciting times. David Miller and Steve Hockfield negotiated the sale of the Dilworth property. Abe Luski and Harry Lerner brought their expertise to the transactions. On September 15, 1991, groundbreaking for the new Temple was held before the sale had been consummated. The day was bright and sunny in celebration of a new beginning.

The Temple and the adjoining Dilworth properties were sold for \$1,700,000. NationsBank and First Union offered the synagogue unsecured multi-million dollar loans, but no money was ever borrowed. At the cost of approximately \$5,000,000, Temple Israel at Shalom Park was dedicated on September 13, 1992, debt free. Bill Gorelick had accepted the responsibility for supervising the construction of the building. This took a day-to-day commitment of energy, time and constant physical presence. Sol Jaffa, David Miller and Bill worked diligently with the architects and builders.

Harry Swimmer and Sammy Strause continued their efforts to raise the necessary funds. Memorials were sold. Every nook and cranny was worthy of a donation.

Ben Jaffa, Jr. and Robert Gleiberman undertook the herculean task of moving us from Dilworth Road to Shalom Park. The Jewish Community Center welcomed us warmly and allowed us to continue Shabbat services in Gorelick Hall.

The new wind blew. We were on our way.



Groundbreaking at Shalom Park, September 15, 1991.  
(L. - R.): Sam Strause, David Miller, Sol Jaffa, Bill Gorelick, Harry Swimmer, Shelton Gorlick and the next generations.



Groundbreaking at Shalom Park, September 15, 1991.  
(L. - R.): Minnie Sutker, Ida Smith and Sidney Levin

Below: Torahs are moved from Dilworth Road to Shalom Park, September 13, 1992



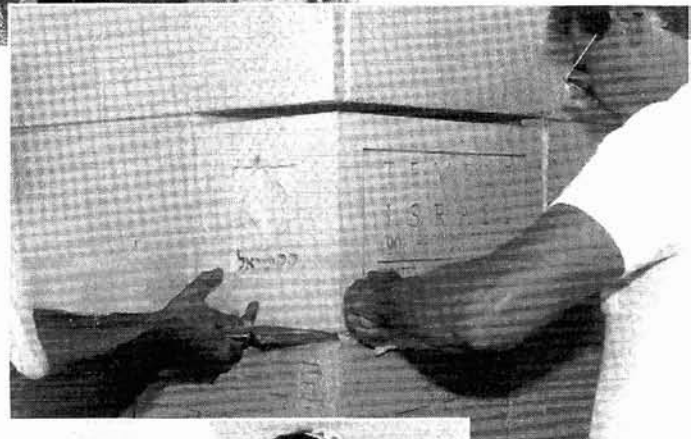
Dr. Scott Goodman became president of the Temple in 1992. During the year, the congregants observed the ever-rising construction of the synagogue. Rabbi Scott White was the incumbent rabbi when on September 11, 12 and 13 we celebrated the dedication of our stunning new synagogue. Judy Miller chaired a truly beautiful celebration. This was the culmination of thirteen years of dreams, vision, tireless effort and unfailing dedication to reach this moment in our synagogue history.



Left: Dedication ceremony, Dr. Scott Goodman presiding, September 12, 1992

Below: Placement of cornerstones from Seventh Street and Dilworth Road along with Shalom Park Temple building, September 13, 1992

Many members of the congregation, organized by Frank Rosen and Alan Sussman, exuberantly carried the Torahs from Dilworth Road, up Providence Road, to Shalom Park.



Bill Gorelick, Shelton Gorelick, Sol Jaffa, David Miller, Sammy Strause and Harry Swimmer set the corner-stone. Ike Ashendorf, Aaron Gleiberman, Sol Levine and Hugo Rosenberger affixed the first Mezuzah. Sam Kaplan, Leon Levine, Bob Speizman, Saul Wojnowich and Simon Wojnowich cut the ribbon. As Bob Brodsky blew the shofar, we followed the Torahs into the sanctuary where we gave thanks for that day of jubilation. On September 26, a gala evening was



Left: Temple Israel youth bury time capsule in Shalom Park Temple Building, Sept. 13, 1992

chaired by Susan Doobrow, Ginger Snitz and Alan Sussman. The social hall glittered with candles, flowers and joyous people -- a promise of many happy social occasions in the future.

Our new spiritual home was truly splendid, but we quickly settled down to the day-to-day life in the synagogue. The phones rang, meetings were scheduled, meals served, nightly Minyan services held, Shabbat observed.

Through the generosity of Baila and John Pransky, the Pransky Family Camp Ramah Scholarship Fund was established. The Gorelicz families sponsored an inspiring weekend with Dennis Prager as our speaker. The Luslu families sponsored annual Jewish music concerts. The Hugo Warat and Sam Kaplan families provided us with scholarly lectures.

Evelyn Berger with the support of Rabbi Scott White chaired CELEBRATING LIFE -- THE ART OF JEWISH AGING, a program to bring together seniors in the Charlotte Jewish community, regardless of affiliation. Those attending enjoy varied programming including lectures on Jewish subjects, music, art and books, followed by lunch and fellowship. This project continues to this date with more than a hundred people attending monthly.

Roz Cooper was education director and Robert Gleiberman, youth director as well as facilities manager. The goal of the staff was to make Hebrew education a positive experience for the children. Junior Congregation, Kadima and USY all prospered under this philosophy.

Some things change, but some

things never change. Once again, Sol Jaffa and Sammy Strause were appointed chairmen for a search committee for a rabbi. Twenty-three years have passed and here they were at the same old job. Rabbi Murray Ezring became our rabbi in 1994 with David Miller as president of the Temple. Once again -- the wind blew.



Sisterhood leaders at annual art auction, 1995

Temple Israel was hungry for strong rabbinic leadership. Rabbi Ezring's philosophy embodied a contemporary American approach, firmly anchored on European tradition. His goal was to develop twenty-first century, reinvigorated Jewish observance in America that included the beautiful traditions that could influence modern life.

The present day leadership stands firmly with Rabbi Ezring. On Shabbat, we changed to the triennial reading of the Torah. The transition to egalitarian

form of worship has finally become comfortable for the congregation. Monthly "six o'clock" Shabbat dinners are fully subscribed.

Members of the congregation reach out to others in the city who were less fortunate. R.A.I.N. (Regional Aids Interfaith Network), an organization that provides non-medical help and support to AIDS and HIV victims, is chaired by Elka Yeszel and Dr. Scott Goodman. The social action committee, chaired by Dr. Morey Sheffer, has been very active, serving meals at the men's shelters, Haven House and children's shelters.



Cantor Elias Roochvarg

In 1995, we hired our first full-time cantor in many years, Cantor Elias Roochvarg. Robert Gleiberman became the synagogue administrator. Roz Cooper, education director, Ken Stern and the education committee have been in the



cess of revising the curriculum. It was their goal to teach children to read Hebrew with understanding, to impart a knowledge of the services, and to have them derive comfort in improved basic synagogue skills. They have developed a

course of study that stresses the beauty of Jewish culture through music and art, and nurtures a love for the State of Israel. This fosters the desire to celebrate holidays in an American and traditional way.

## The NINETIES

### Events That Shaped Our Lives

- November 1990: Leaders of United States, Canada and thirty-two European nations formally marked the end of the Cold War.
- 1990: 200,00 Jewish immigrants, mostly from the Soviet Union, arrive in Israel and the U.S.
- May 24, 1991: Operation Moses, a massive air lift, evacuates more than 14,000 Ethiopian Jews to Israel.
- June 9, 1991: Apartheid ends in South Africa.
- December 1991: The Soviet Union dissolves.
- April 22, 1993: U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum dedicated in Washington, D.C..
- September 9, 1993: Israel and the PLO reach an historic accord in Paris. The PLO recognizes Israel's right "to exist in peace and security." Israel recognizes the PLO as the "representative of the Palestinian people."
- September 13, 1993: Israel's President Yitzhak Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat sign a peace agreement on the lawn of the White House.
- April 19, 1995: A tragic bombing of the Federal office building in Oklahoma City kills 169.

On September 10, 1995, Temple Israel had 633 families as members. As we look back to the more than 5,000 year history of Jewish people, a mere twenty-five years is but a flick in time. We are rightfully proud of our beautiful new building, but Jewish history has not been written by buildings. It is written by people -- people who have dedicated themselves to the Jewish concepts that they cherish. It is

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**Above: Ernest Friedman, Baal Koreh,  
Right: Helen Friedman**



evening Minyan. Shai Richardson and Joe Kodsi have been the force behind the Sunday morning Minyan. Ritual chairmen Douglas Mann, Barney Weinstock and Bob Brodsky have arranged Shabbat and High Holiday services through the years. The Torah Gabbaim have included I.D. Blumenthal, Irving Bienstock, Paul Edelstein, Sol Levine, Morris Speizman, Phil Widis and Julius Goldman, who also organized the Thursday morning Minyan. The gift shop has been dependably managed by Rose Weisman and Rose Luski.

Others who have left their mark with long, outstanding service to the temple include: Ilse and Fred Bergen, Deane and Larry Boxer, Ruth Goldberg, Florence and Ben Jaffa, Janet Jaffa, Berta Kaplan, Lee and Larry Levy, Barbara Levin, Shirley Levine, Audrey Madans, Rosaline Mann, Ed Mottzman, Hushie Silverstein and Alene Strause.

Whenever a few Jews settle in a community, among the first official Jewish acts is to provide for a cemetery where Jewish burial rites are observed. The same spirit and deeds of our forefathers who created the Hebrew Benevolent Society of Charlotte in 1870 prevail today. Over the past 25 years, the Chevra Kaddishah committee has performed the

sacred task of washing and sitting with the deceased ~~and~~ time of burial. The men included in this special group ~~are~~ Ellis Berlin, I.D. Blumenthal, Abe Bober, Ricky Bober ~~Mann~~ Goldsmith, Shel Goldstein, Brett Goodman, ~~Edith~~ Goodman, Emanuel Guller, Henry Hirschmann, Jay ~~Jacob~~ Jerry Joffe, Sol Levine, Ike Roth, Lloyd Scher and ~~Howard~~ Winokuer. Among the women who performed this ~~sacred~~ task are Betty Bayer, Lois Benjamin, Helen Friedman, ~~Ruth~~ Hannes, Debbie Hirsch, Audrey Madans, Roberta ~~Monos~~ Gayle Nordin, Ginger Snitz and Doris Widis.



Johnnie Goldberg (left) and Rose Weisman at Sisterhood Gift Shop, c. 1955

We also look with awe and respect at the contributions of the late I.D. Blumenthal and Morris Speizman, visionaries and motivators. Their wisdom helped create the congregation and Jewish community that we are today.

Because of their love for the synagogue, our spiritual home, Temple Israel, has been nourished and cared for. *Talaysim* have been folded, prayer books have been stacked lovingly, the floors were shining, the lights have glittered, the joy of the synagogue has held us in a warm embrace.

To quote Rabbi Rocklin, "Our synagogue must continue to represent the mind and heart of Judaism. Prayer and knowledge must fill its walls." Rabbi Ezring said about our synagogue that it "is constantly evolving and must do so to remain an integral part of its congregants' lives."

And so we moved from 1970 to 1995, from Dilworth Road to Shalom Park, from Rabbi Rocldin to Rabbi Ezring -- L'Dor v'Dor. The first hundred years are history. What lies ahead are the new dreams. God willing -- the new wind blows.



Left to right: Rose Luski, Thelma Wertzberger, Hushie Silverstein and Rose Weisman (not pictured) manage Gift Shop, 1995



# LEADERSHIP



## Temple Israel 1895-1995

### The Rabbis

Rabbi Charles Arick  
Rabbi Spector  
Rabbi Abraham Irom  
Rabbi Filo  
Rabbi Hirsch Glickman  
Rabbi Alexander Kleinfeld  
Rabbi William Greenburg  
Rabbi Elihu Michelson  
Rabbi Sidney Nathanson  
Rabbi Aaron J. Tofield  
Rabbi Nathan Levinson  
Rabbi Eliezer A. Levi  
Rabbi Marc Samuels  
Rabbi Michael Hecht  
Rabbi Richard K. Rocklin  
Rabbi Marc Wilson  
Rabbi Hillel Milgrim  
Rabbi H. Scott White  
Rabbi Murray Ezring

### The Presidents \*Honorary Life Presidents

Harris H. Miller	Isaac Ashendorf *
Benjamin Silverstein	Dr. David S. Citron
Israel Schwartz	A. Bertram Fleishman
Dr. Samuel Levy	Sol A. Jaffa *
David Paul	Samuel Strause *
Morris Benjamin Smith	Al S. Rousso
Harry B. Diamond	Hugo Rosenberger *
Samuel Schwartz	Samuel Kaplan
I.D. Blumenthal *	William Gorelick *
Jacob L. Pressman	Aaron Gleiberman *
A. Samuel Gittlin	Marvin Barman
Arthur Goodman, Sr.	Jerome Levin *
Harry L. Schwartz *	William Ashendorf
Dr. Philip Naumoff	Judi Strause
Morris Speizman *	Steven Hockfield
Dr. Albert A. Kossove	Robert Abel
Ben Jaffa, Sr. *	Dr. Scott Goodman
Dr. Jacob B. Freedland	David Miller
Sol S. Fligel	
Sol Levine *	

### The Sisterhood Presidents

Hattie Malever	Mary Furman	Libby Hirsch	Ellie Katz
Yetta Miller	Ida Smith	Doris Fligel	Sandra Schwartz
Bessie Levy	Rose Croner	Audrey Madans	Debbie Hirsch
Jeannette Schwartz	Faye Gittlin	Florence Jaffa	Paula Klein
Rhea White	Polly Pressman	Doris Widis	Rhoda Gleiberman
Marguerite Stults	Rosalie Ashendorf	Renee Molko	Lois Benjamin
Dorothy Falk	Honey Siegel	Ruth Goldberg	Ginger Snitz
Tena Levin	Minna Goldstein	Pearl Kier	Judy Miller
Minnie Miller	Charlotte Freedland	Berta Kaplan	Marcy Mehlman
Rose Levine	Mickey Schwartz	Janel Jaffa	Karen Ransenberg
Celia Winter	Clara Shulman	Maxine Anderson	Nancy Bernstein
Marian Schlanger Glasser	Sophie Madans	Mary Wojnowich	
Rebecca Greenburg	Frances Pressman	Helen Friedman	



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Rabbi Eliezer A. Levi  
Rabbi Marc Samuels  
Rabbi Michael Hecht  
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Samuel Schwartz	Samuel Kaplan
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Rose Levine	Mickey Schwartz	Janel Jaffa	Karen Ransenberg
Celia Winter	Clara Shulman	Maxine Anderson	Nancy Bernstein
Marian Schlanger Glasser	Sophie Madans	Mary Wojnowich	
Rebecca Greenburg	Frances Pressman	Helen Friedman	

## The Cantors

Cantor Jacob Goldstein  
 Reverend Leonard Wallace  
 Cantor Leon Mirsky  
 Cantor Ralph Sternberg  
 Cantor Samuel Leib  
 Cantor Solomon Sternberg  
 Cantor Robert Shapiro  
 Cantor Sidney Keiser  
 Cantor S. Philip Kirschner  
 Cantor Frank Birnbaum  
 Ms. Marlana Fuerstrnan  
 Cantor Elias Roohvarg

## The Men's Club presidents

<i>Jack A. Sosnik</i>	<i>Al Binnick</i>	<i>Jerry Cohen</i>
Ellis Berlin	Ira Schulman	Salem Leaman
Isaac Ashendorf	Oren R. Manning	Murray Bodner
Lambert Schwartz	Aaron Gleiberman	Dr. Sanford Benjamin
Emanuel Guller	Sherman Seid	Dr. David Somerstein
Arthur Pressman	Shai Richardson	Lloyd Scher
George Brownstein	Louis Port	Larry Segal
Arthur Frank	Samuel Kaplan	Jim Wadsworth
Harry Swimmer	Harold Herman	Alan Sussman
Ben Jaffa, Jr.	Bruce Schlosberg	Irwin Manes
Irving J. Edelman	Robert Ett	
Harold Mandel	Marvin Barman	



## Building Committees

### Cornerstone Laying

October 3, 1915 Seventh Street

Morris B. Smith, Chairman	Dr. Sam Levy Harris Miller	Benjamin Silverstein Israel Schwartz
Ben Davis	Aaron Pittle	Sam Schwartz

### Cornerstone Laying

September 13, 1992 Shalom Park

Sol Jaffa, Chairman	Marvin Barman, Investments
William Gorelick, Planning and Construction	Robert Abel
David Miller, Planning and Construction	Aaron Gleiberman
Samuel Strause, Fund-raising	Scott Goodman
Harry Swimmer, Fund-raising	Steven Hockfield
Shelton Gorelick, Investments	Jerome Levin
	Sol Levine
	Allan Oxman
	Robert Speizman
	Judi Strause
	Rabbi Scott White
	Rabbi Marc Wilson

### Cornerstone Laying

January 9, 1949 Dilworth Road

Jacob L. Pressman, Chairman	Hy Helbein Ben Jaffa, Sr.
I.D. Blumenthal, Original Chairman	Dr. Albert Kossove Sidney Levin
Isaac Ashendorf	Dr. Philip Naumoff
Harry B. Diamond	Harry L. Schwartz
Dr. Jacob B. Freedland	Sam Schwartz
A. Samuel Gittlin	Alfred E. Smith
Benjamin Gittlin	Morris Speizman
Sam Goldfein	Fred Stern
Arthur Goodman, Sr.	

### Of Blessed Memory:

Morris Speizman, Original Chairman  
 Samuel Lerner

# Temple Israel 1995

## Professional Staff

Murray Ezring, Rabbi  
Elias Roohvarg, Cantor  
Arthur Tirsun, Master Teacher  
Roz Cooper, Education Director  
Robert Gleiberman, Administrator

## Office Staff

Doris Cagle, Comptroller  
Sandy Middleton, Office Manager  
Nell Thacker, Rabbi's Secretaiy  
Cindy Sliflun, Office Assistant  
Janice Bernstein, School Secretary

## Temple & Kitchen Staff

Terri Cathcart,  
Kitchen/Event Coordinator  
Mary Reel,  
Kitchen Personnel  
Sonny Addison,  
Maintenance/Custodian  
Douglas Cureton,  
Part-time Custodian

## Executive Board

David Miller, President  
Samuel Bernstein,  
Ist Vice-President  
Miles Levine,  
2nd Vice-President  
Frank Rosen, Secretary  
William Gorelick, Treasurer-Finance  
Irving Brenner,  
Treasurer-Administration  
Dr. Scott Goodman,  
Immediate Past President

## Board of Trustees

Lois Benjamin  
Robert Brodsky  
Daniel Dubin  
Julius Goldman  
Margi Goldstein  
Stacy Gorelick  
Donald Jacobs  
Eric Lerner  
Audrey Madans  
Marcy Mehlman  
Allan Oxman  
Dr. Morey Sheffer  
Dr. Joseph Steiner  
Kenneth Stern  
Saul Wojnowich

## Ten-Year Presidents

William Ashendorf, 1984-1986  
Judi Strause, 1986-1988  
Steven Hockfield, 1988-1990  
Robert Abel, 1990-1992

## Men's Club

Alan Sussman, President  
Marc Titlebaum, Vice-President,  
Membership  
David Bloclz, Vice-President,  
Fund Raising  
Leonard Stern, Secretary  
Ben Aizenman, Member-at-Large  
Bariy Klemons, Member-at-Large  
Dan Dubin, Past President  
Jim Wadsworth, President  
Emeritus

## Sisterhood

Nancy Bernstein, President  
Margie Bower, Simcha Vice-President  
Jenny Stern, Program Vice-President  
Ellie Valenstein & Beverly Grey,  
Vice-Presidents, Fund Raising

## Sisterhood continued

Masci Willenzilz, Vicc-President,  
Membership  
Lisa Kaufman, Recording Secretary  
Lisa Taub, Financial Secretary  
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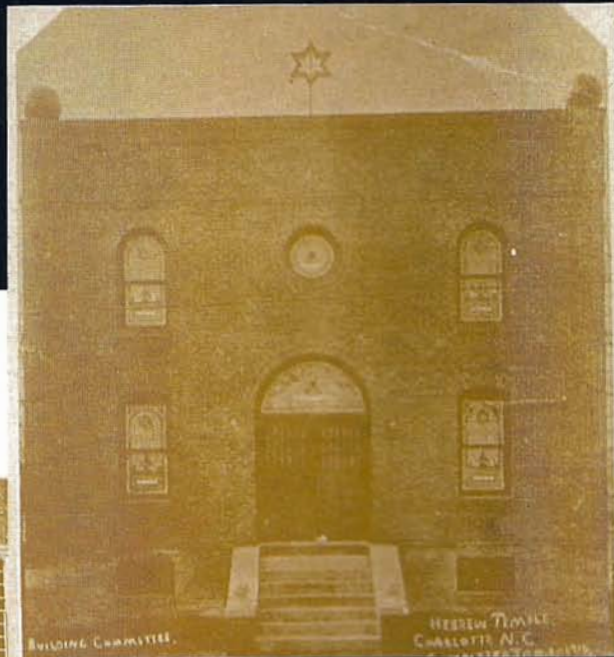
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