

Temple Beth Am

50th Anniversary



May 16, 2010

Temple Beth Am

3249 East Henrietta Road
Henrietta, New York

Cindy Miller



I've Got The Music In Me



An ultra-eclectic performance featuring great contemporary music, extraordinary impersonations, witty parodies, fantastic singing and great comedy. Just right for the entire family!

"We go to Vegas and Branson and we don't get to see anything as good as this!"



PROGRAM

- 3:30 pm Hors D'oeuvres &
 Memorabilia Display
- 5:00 pm Cindy Miller Performance
- 6:30 pm Hamotzi - Sharon Garelick
 Welcome - Lee Sigelow
 Toast - Herb Morris
- Dinner
- Grace After Meals - Rabbi Geoffrey Goldberg

DINNER MENU

Hors d' Oeuvre

Bruschetta Basket
Thinly Sliced Baguette Toasted with olive oil
Black Olive Tapenade
Sicilian Eggplant Relish
Fresh Tomatoes & Herbs & Hummus

Dinner

Fresh Green Salad
Roast Chicken Breast
Wild Salmon with Pineapple Mango Salsa
Warm Penne Pasta With Tomatoes & Basil
Sauteed Fresh Vegetables
Roasted Potatoes
Rolls

Dessert

Beverages

Soft Drinks, Wine, Beer
Coffee & Tea

Welcome Messages

Shalom!!

On behalf of the entire 2009 - 2010 Board of Temple Beth Am, we would like to extend a warm welcome to each and every one of you. We are happy to see so many of you, from both far and near, are here tonight to help celebrate the **50th Anniversary** of Temple Beth Am. We hope that you will enjoy the program and dinner to commemorate such an important milestone in the synagogue's history. So please take some time to nosh, schmooze, and share memories with each other. Thank you for coming tonight.

Mazel Tov v' L'Chaim!!

Lee Sigelow & Ruth Steinberg
Co-Presidents

Shalom Temple Members, Friends and Guests:

Welcome to Temple Beth Am's 50th Anniversary Dinner.

Bruce & I have been members for almost 36 years. We have held many positions on the board and also participated in many committees, fundraisers and, of course, BINGO. We raised our 2 children, Peri and Joshua, at Temple Beth Am. They actually thought of Temple as their second home.

Temple Beth Am is a very unique synagogue. It is small in number, but attracts people who enjoy being in a small group, working like crazy to keep Temple Beth Am a small "haimishe" family feel. Everyone feels a part of everyone else's family. When a family joins, they are embraced as part of then Temple Family. We pray together, rejoice in family simchas and grieve with every Temple member who dies.

At the risk of overlooking someone, over the last 25 years we have lost several very active members: Alan Tulin, Walter Lowenstein, Garson and Edna Marcus, Len Kosoff, Jerry Spero, Allan Lippman, and Lee Garelick. At this joyous occasion let us take a moment to remember them and all our Temple members who are no longer with us.

Thank you to all the people who worked so hard to make this dinner a success. May we all be together again for the Temple's 55th, 60th, and later Anniversaries.

Candi Nelson
Past President
1990, 2002-2004

A History of Temple Beth Am

Jewish immigrants settled in Rochester beginning around 1880. There were dozens of synagogues in the area roughly bounded by Central Ave, St. Paul St.,



Beth Hamedresh
Hagodel



Ahavas Achim



Beth Israel

Norton St., and Hudson Ave. The “center” of the Jewish Community was Joseph Ave.

Black families had started to move into the area in the 1950's, and on July 24-26, 1964 the Rochester Race Riots damaged or destroyed the Jewish businesses in the Joseph Ave. business district. By that time, many Jews had moved “to the suburbs”. Almost all moved out after the riots.

In the late 1950's, several dozen Jewish families who had moved to Henrietta, started meeting in people's homes to conduct services and religious classes.



They called the group the “Henrietta Jewish Community Center”. As the group expanded, they met in various places – the Masonic Temple, the Town Hall, the Gannett Youth Center, and in various churches.

On May 23, 1960, 24 families held a meeting at the Pinnacle Rd. Lutheran Church and voted to form their own Jewish congregation, and to affiliate with

the United Synagogue of America, as a Conservative congregation.

The congregation continued to meet in several places. They hired rabbinical student Leonard Cahan as their first rabbi, to conduct High Holyday services, and to come to Henrietta on weekends to lead services and to teach Sunday School.



In October 1961, the congregation hired Rabbi Dr. Joseph Noble, who continued as the congregation's rabbi for 20 years. Under his leadership, the temple became the area's first Conservative congregation to embrace full egalitarianism.

In November 1961, Barry Lacow became the temple's first Bar Mitzvah.

Urban Renewal was on the move in the area north of downtown as the race riots had damaged and destroyed many of the buildings. Almost all of the synagogues in that area were marked for demolition.

Congregation Ahavas Achim donated 2 Torah Scrolls, lecterns, folding chairs, chinaware, and other items to the new synagogue. Some of the items were stored at members' homes.

The number of Jews in Henrietta was increasing as was the membership of the "nomadic" synagogue. It became obvious that the congregation needed a place of its own.

A contract to purchase 3 acres of land across from the Church of the Good Shepherd was approved by the Board of Trustees in 1961.

A building Fund was launched in 1963, and In October 1964, Waxler & Miller Architects began design of the building. A groundbreaking ceremony was held on November 14, 1965.

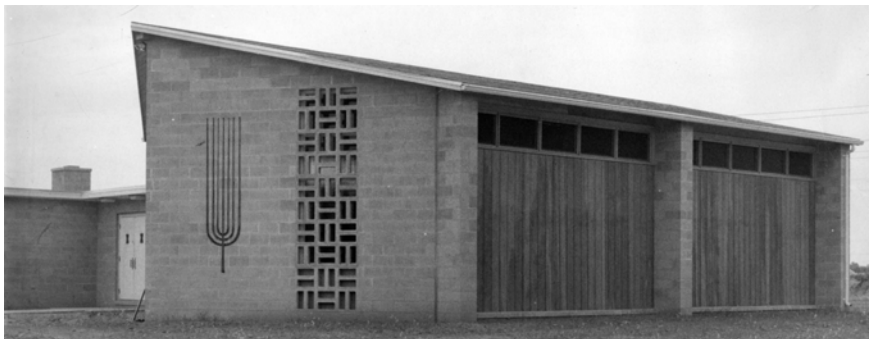


Rabbi Noble



The first services were held in the new building on April 22, 1966 and a dedication ceremony was held on May 5, 1968.

By 1969, Rochester law enforcement and the media were becoming aware of increased underworld activity in the city. When the local publicity became too much to bear, their local leader, Frank Valenti struck back. He had several bombs assembled by gang member Eugene DeFrancesco. The purpose of the bombs was twofold; one was to distract law enforcement officials from his operations, and the other was to intimidate some of his ene-



mies. The bombs were detonated at two churches, the Monroe County Office Building, the U. S. Courthouse and Federal Building, and at the home of a union official. The bombs went off during the early morning hours of October 12, 1970



The bombings achieved the effect Valenti was hoping for - to take the heat and publicity off the local mob activities. Happy with these results, Valenti continued the practice and set off six more explosions between October 27 and December 14. This time his targets were three synagogues (Temple Beth Am, Congregation Beth Sholom, and Light of Israel), a Black Islamic mosque, a Black Baptist church, and the home of a county court judge. The nature of his targets caused law enforcement to focus its investigation on radical groups, militants and Vietnam War protestors.

The day after the bombing, the congregation met at the old Henrietta Academy and voted not only to repair the damages, but to construct a new sanctuary and additional classroom space.

During the construction, the congregation conducted services at the Southeast Branch of the YMCA. The community's response was overwhelming and several groups raised funds on behalf of the temple. Architect James Johnson donated the design of the new sanctuary.

The new sanctuary was dedicated in late 1973.

According to the architect, the building's three peaks are meant to resemble tents in the desert. The large window in the front is a "tree of life" pattern.

The sanctuary ceiling was originally planned to be supported by its trusswork. However, during construction, the contractor determined that the trusswork would not hold the weight, so, unfortunately, 2 vertical I-beams needed to be placed in the room.

In 1980, burglars broke into the building and all the silver in the ark was taken. Some of the pieces were found in the wooded area behind the temple but many have to be replaced.



In 1988, Temple Beth Am hired Rabbi Susan Gulack, the first female rabbi to lead a Rochester area Conservative congregation.

And who could forget the “Monday Night Bingo Game”? Although it was universally disliked by our dedicated volunteers, it was a principal source of revenue for many years and helped pay off the original loans on the building.



Fast forward to Winter 2004...

It started with a squirrel ...

Then snow in the building.

And we found the problem!

The roof part of the building and the walls were built on different foundations. The roof is supported by beams in the front. The freeze-thaw cycle of many winters caused those beams, set into the ground, to twist away from the other part of the building ... and we had a BIG problem.



Engineers were brought in, and it was determined that there was insufficient drainage around the beams in the ground, and that some of the plates connecting the trusses were failing. There was a danger of collapse if the situation was not rectified.

The congregation got a matching grant, and the community once again came to the rescue to raise the funds needed for the repairs.

In recent years, the congregation has partnered with Temple Beth David and Congregation Beth Hamedresh Beth Israel for joint events, educational opportunities and religious services, which provides for greater opportunities for the members while maintaining Temple Beth Am's unique characteristics.

Our Charter Members

We owe a debt of gratitude to the families who banded together to create the Temple Beth Am congregation.

Arnold & Annette Ackerman

Ed & Elsie Brovitz

Rob & Delores Carr

Morton & Ann Carson

Julius & Senta Cohen

Manny & Gert Cohen

Morris & Lil Ganon

Lee & Sharon Garelick

Joe & Elaine Groden

Irv & Zora Katz

Hy & Ilene Klass

Morris & Sybil Lacow

Garson & Edna Marcus

Herb & Estelle Morris

Jerry & Dorothy Palum

Marvin & Barbara Rubenstein

Herman & Sar Strassman

Mort & Marion Weingarten

Acknowledgements

Thank you to all the individuals who helped put together this celebration:

COMMITTEE COORDINATOR - Lee Sigelow

ENTERTAINMENT - Cindy Miller

INVITATION DESIGN - David Schott

PROGRAM DESIGN & TYPESETTING - Bruce & Candi Nelson

PROGRAM & INVITATION PRINTING - Bruce & Candi Nelson

INVITATION MAILING - Lee Sigelow, Mira Phillips, Tali Phillips, Bruce Nelson, Aaron Marsh

RESERVATIONS - Estelle Morris

DECORATIONS & SHOPPING - Ami Schmerl, Martin & Laurel Schneiderman

PAST MEMBER RESEARCH - Aaron Marsh

PROGRAM AD SOLICITATIONS - Ruth Steinberg, Lee Sigelow

DECORATIONS & SHOPPING - Martin & Laurel Schneiderman, Ami Schmerl

TEMPLE CLEANUP TEAM - Ami Schmerl, Bruce Nelson, Lee Sigelow, Lou Babin, Ronna Marsh

CATERING & ENTERTAINMENT COORDINATION - Lee Sigelow

MEMORABILIA - Sharon Garelick, Irv & Barbara Cohen, Martin & Laurel Schneiderman, Bruce & Candi Nelson

MEMORABILIA SETUP - Laurel Schneiderman, Ruth Steinberg

CATERING - All Occasions Catering

MASHGIACH - Rabbi Geoffrey Goldberg

VIDEOGRAPHER - Earl Lubitow

PHOTOGRAPHER - Bruce Nelson

Our Rabbis

The Temple Beth Am Congregation has been blessed by the spiritual leadership of many learned men and women:

1960 - 1961	Rabbi Leonard Cahan %
1961 - 1976	Rabbi Joseph Noble
1976 - 1977	Rabbi David Barsel
1977 - 1981	Rabbi Joseph Noble
1981 - 1982	Rabbi Meyer Minkowich
1982 - 1986	Rabbi Robert Tabak
1986 - 1987	Rabbi Nason Goldstein
1987 - 1988	Rabbi Phillip Blachorsky
1988 - 1995	Rabbi Susan Gulack
1995 - 1996	Rabbi Gershon Baron
1996 - 1997	Rabbi Ben Shull *
1996 - 1997	Rabbi Shalom Plotkin %
1997 - 1998	Rabbi Irvin Brandwein
1998 - 2001	Rabbi Louis Kaplan
2001 - 2003	Rabbi Eliot Somers
2003 - 2005	Rabbi Joshua Cahan *%
2005 - 2006	Rabbi Gary Karlin *
2005 - 2007	Rabbi Robert Morais
2006 - 2007	Rabbi Howard Handler *
2007 - 2008	Rabbi Jill Jacobs
2008 - 2010	Rabbi Alan Cohen *
2009 - 2010	Rabbi Geoffrey Goldberg

** Denotes Leader for High Holydays*

% Denotes student rabbi at that time

Presidents

1960-62	<i>Joe Groden</i>
1962-64	<i>Herb Morris</i>
1964	<i>Joe Groden</i>
1964-67	<i>George Litsky</i>
1967-68	<i>Len Broutman</i>
1968-69	<i>Jerry Bloomberg</i>
1969-71	<i>Saul Babbín</i>
1971-73	<i>Elliot Curwin</i>
1973-74	<i>Arnold Cohen</i>
1974-76	<i>Joan Schwartz</i>
1976-78	<i>Linda Lowenstein</i>
1978-80	<i>Lee Garelick</i>
1980-81	<i>Marvin Budgar</i>
1981-83	<i>Bruce Nelson</i>
1983-85	<i>Ron Schott</i>
1985-87	<i>Jerry Kramer</i>
1987-88	<i>Irv Arons</i>
1988-90	<i>Barbara Freeman</i>
1990-91	<i>Candi Nelson</i>
1991-92	<i>Len Kosoff</i>
1992-93	<i>Ronna Marsh</i>
1993-94	<i>Ronna Marsh and Jerry Spero</i>
1994-95	<i>Jerry Spero and Martin Presberg</i>
1995-97	<i>Don Rosenbaum</i>
1997-98	<i>Martin Schneiderman and Al Lippman</i>
1998-99	<i>Sar Strassman</i>
2000-01	<i>Aaron Marsh and Sar Strassman</i>
2001-02	<i>Aaron Marsh and Paul Sultar</i>
2002-03	<i>Candi Nelson and Laurel Schneiderman</i>
2003-04	<i>Candi Nelson and Aaron Marsh</i>
2004-05	<i>Debi Bloom and Aaron Marsh</i>
2005-06	<i>Debi Bloom and Debbie Gallant</i>
2006-07	<i>Debbie Gallant</i>
2007-09	<i>Aaron Marsh</i>
2009-10	<i>Lee Sigelow and Ruth Steinberg</i>

Sisterhood Presidents

1960-61	<i>Lil Ganon</i>
1961-62	<i>Estelle Morris</i>
1962-64	<i>Sheila Weinberger</i>
1964-66	<i>Barbara Cohen</i>
1966-68	<i>Sar Strassman</i>
1968-70	<i>Linda Lowenstein</i>
1970-72	<i>Kaleen Litvak</i>
1972-74	<i>Joanne Schoenfeld</i>
1974-76	<i>Bev Groden</i>
1976-78	<i>Barbara Budgar</i>
1978-80	<i>Judy Ressel</i>
1980-83	<i>Dotty Tulin</i>
1983-84	<i>Candi Nelson & Sue Lippman</i>
1984-85	<i>Candi Nelson</i>
1985-87	<i>Carol Schott</i>
1987-88	<i>Shirley Fritzhand</i>

Men's Club Presidents

1964-65	<i>Ken Weiner</i>
1965-66	<i>Fred Starr</i>
1966-67	<i>Walt Lowenstein</i>
1967-68	<i>Harry Telles</i>

Sharing our 50 year celebration ...



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JEROME M. MARKS
RICHARD A. MARKS



The Garelick Family thanks Temple Beth Am for many happy memories at its building during our fifty years of membership:

- ☺ Seven Hebrew school educations
- ☺ Three Bar Mitzvahs (one with a broken dishwasher and a happy team of volunteers)
- ☺ Two Bat Mitzvahs
- ☺ One adult Bat Mitzvah
- ☺ One wedding
- ☺ One fiftieth wedding anniversary
- ☺ One Brit Milah
- ☺ One Naming
- ☺ USY, Boy Scouts & Venturing
- ☺ Three board presidencies
- ☺ Numerous years on the board
- ☺ Multiple terms as treasurer & secretary
- ☺ Years of Simchat Torah apples
- ☺ 30 years of reading of Jonah
- ☺ Very many friends' simchas
- ☺ Countless Shabbat and holiday services
- ☺ And immeasurable feelings of community

Mazel Tov to Temple Beth Am on your 50th Anniversary

Sar, Ava, Keith & Kevin Strassman

Congratulations Temple Beth Am on 50 years. Anne Kosoff

Best Wishes to Temple Beth Am on 50 exciting years. Joan & Len Schwartz

Congratulations on your 50th! Jeffrey Nidetz, Leslie Toker & Mark

Mazel Tov - Annette & Marvin Eisenstein

"May the spirit of the founding members of Temple Beth Am continue *mi-dor le-dor*. Rabbi Geoffrey Goldberg"

<p>Mazel Tov in the first 50 May you continue from strength to strength</p> <p>Rabbi Alan & Linda Cohen</p>	<p><i>Congratulations</i></p> <p>Julian & Deidre Epstein</p>
<p><i>The Nelson Family thanks Temple Beth Am for being a big part of our family through the years</i></p> <p><i>Candi & Bruce</i></p> <p><i>Peri</i></p> <p><i>Josh, Jenn, James, & Sheila</i></p>	<p></p> <p>Cobblestone Computer Service</p>

<p><i>Mazel Tov</i></p> <p><i>Mazel Tov</i></p> <p><i>Mazel Tov</i></p> <p><i>On 50 wonderful years</i></p> <p><i>Marvin, Eileen, Scott and Elizabeth Fishman</i></p>	<p>I have happy memories of my three years as your rabbi on the High Holy Days. Mazel Tov on the congregation's 50th anniversary.</p> <p>Rabbi Louis Kaplan</p> <hr/> <p>We have many good memories from Temple Beth Am and the congregants.</p> <p>Phyllis Broutman Rosenbaum & Donald Rosenbaum Members since 1963</p>
<p>BEING PART OF THE “50 YEAR” HISTORY OF TEMPLE BETH AM</p> <p>“TRULY HAS BEEN A BLESSING”</p> <p>FOR THE MORRIS FAMILY</p> <p>HERB & ESTELLE</p> <p>JANET & MICHAEL BELLISH AARON, JENNA & LILLA SHERYL</p> <p>DIANE</p> <p>DAVID & BARBARA SAM & JACLYN</p>	

Sponsors

GOLDEN BENEFACTOR: The Garelick Family

GOLDEN TABLETS SPONSOR:

Marvin & Eileen Fishman
Sid & Karen (Klass) Goldstien
Aaron Marsh

GOLDEN SUPPORTERS:

Ilene Klass Kline
Barry Shapiro
Josef & Dorothea Ufner

ADDITIONAL DONATIONS:

Annette Bassow
Laurie Budgar
Rabbi Leonard & Elizabeth Cahan
Annette & Marvin Eisenstein
Ruth Elson
Lee Ganon
Rabbi Robert Tabak & Ruth Loew
Joel & Marcie (Grodin) Shapiro



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