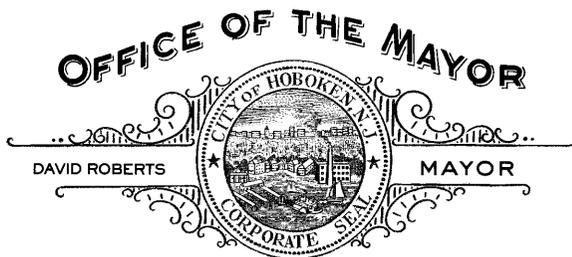


The First 100 Years

UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF HOBOKEN



Centennial Gala
November 19, 2005



CITY HALL
HOBOKEN, NEW JERSEY

November 19th, 2005

Dear Friends:

I offer my heartfelt congratulations to the United Synagogue of Hoboken as it celebrates its Centennial Anniversary as the only surviving congregation, the Star of Israel, founded in 1905.

Hoboken has long been America's melting pot, serving as home to a wide variety of ethnic and religious cultures. Faith has long to many played an important component in our community's success as a microcosm of the ultimate urban experience.

As we celebrate our 150th anniversary of incorporation as a City, the United Synagogue of Hoboken must be acknowledged for continuous service to those of the Jewish faith and for its community involvement.

As Hoboken evolves and the United Synagogue embarks on an ambitious restoration plan to meet current and future needs, our community embraces the spirit of "Welcoming the Future."

On this most historic occasion, I congratulate and thank the United Synagogue of Hoboken for its many contributions to our community.

Sincerely,

Mayor David Roberts



Ron Rosenberg
President 1999 - 2005

Thank you Ron for your dedicated leadership



Introduction

by Rob Harari

When Julie and I moved to Hoboken in 1989, we couldn't have possibly dreamed that our world would grow so profoundly as it has with our affiliation to the United Synagogue of Hoboken. First it was walking into the Star of Israel building and feeling that this was a place I belonged, then the interaction with the few members in our age group. Volunteerism was not something I often did, until Mike Marcello and I started renovation days to polish the brass and hammer loose nails in the sanctuary. That was the first step to understanding how important a treasure our building was. Later, Doug Klein asked me to join the Board, "Just a few hours a month, no problem." That led to more than a decade of inspirational involvement.

Being on the Board allowed me to see the inner workings of the Congregation, and how dysfunctional our organization was with two deteriorated buildings on opposite ends of town. That is when the kernel first appeared in my mind that we needed to consolidate properties and form a united campus to go along with our United Synagogue. It is true that one person has the idea, but it would have been impossible to accomplish that dream without the immense dedication and contributions of many along the road. Countless meetings were held in our dining room, Marty Cohen's decision trees, design team recommendations, architect search and ultimately the toughest question of all, selling 830 Hudson Street. Through it all our first born in 1993, Joseph, who will be Bar Mitzvah this year, sat on my lap and listened to these men and women having intense conversation. Little did he know that the school from which he would receive his Jewish education was to be the Talmud Torah which the generation of Congregants from 1938 charged this community to build when they burned the Mortgage of 115 Park Avenue at a celebration.



After many sleepless nights in 1999, Vice President Andrew Heiden and I walked out of the buyer's office of 830 Hudson Street with a check that would



pave a new road for our congregational future. We had all of our approvals, our blueprints and the money needed to build. After many years of planning, the next leader took over to make the dream materialize. At the ground breaking ceremony, I handed the torch to Ron Rosenberg. He took the mantle of responsibility in a way that our community inspires us to do, and proceeded to manage the future synagogue affairs judiciously and with prosperity. After six years, he stepped down and handed a growing preschool, Learning Center, membership and balance sheet over to Ken Schept, our current president. That act provided the next link in the chain of Jewish continuity in Hoboken.

As for our family, Genevieve was born, Julie's interest in Judaism continued to grow, and through her studies with Rabbi Scheinberg, she

A12

The Jersey Journal • Friday, August 14, 1998

RELIGION

Preparing the way for the next generation

Hoboken temple embarks on \$1.1M in renovations

By Brynn S. Mandel
Journal staff writer

HOBOKEN — As the city has experienced a resurgence in its population and a make-over, its only synagogue, United Synagogue of Hoboken, has followed suit.

The temple, which broke ground on Park Avenue in 1905 and was completed in 1915, is one of the few remaining traditionally constructed synagogues in the area, said Rabbi Robert Scheinberg.

And with the passing of time, the three-story building has suffered the normal deterioration of a nearly century-old building, which is why the temple leadership has organized a \$1.1 million renovation, which will include an addition and the repair of crumbling plaster and problem areas.

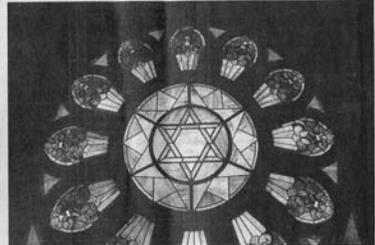
"When I first joined, I was blown away by this building," said temple President Robert Harari, whose is in charge of the congregation's business matters.

Beneath the temple's sky blue ceiling with clouds and stars painted on is the third floor, where Scheinberg said women used to sit for Orthodox services, peering over a brass railing down into the main worship room. Back rooms on the third floor now serve as classrooms for the synagogue's 40 or so children. A portion of the third floor balcony is roped off for safety, and sections of wall and ceiling paint are peeling. But the slight disrepair barely detracts from the building's beauty.

"We're definitely growing," said Harari, sitting in one of the 30 or so pews on the second floor. In the front of the room is a ma-
son and gold-accented ark, where the Torah is kept and

STAINED GLASS windows in the United Synagogue of Hoboken, right, will be refurbished under a \$1.1 million plan to renovate and expand the 83-year-old temple, with the help and oversight of Rabbi Robert Scheinberg, below left, and temple President Robert Harari.

Journal photos by Bill Bayer



of new temple members in the past four to five years, particularly of young singles.

"This is amazing because most synagogues have very few

"These are Jewish kids finding themselves for the first time — they're so energetic and full of life," said Harari, adding that the congregation has more than doubled in size in the past decade.

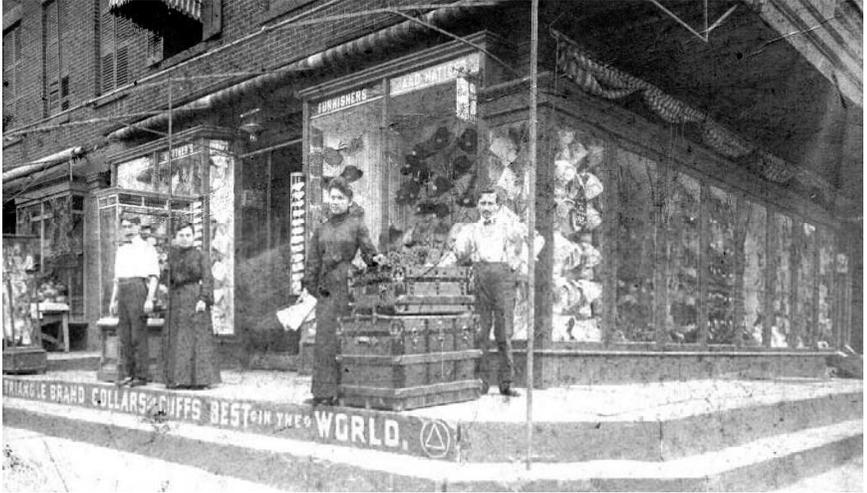
half ago, Harari said, the congregation voted to sell a second building it owned at 830 Hudson St. to help finance the construction.

In an adjacent lot on the tem-



proceeded to learn and teach our family more about Judaism than I had ever imagined. My personal growth came through this and the burden of an enriching responsibility. Both of our children have grown up with great friends and a second home which they completely call their own, USH.

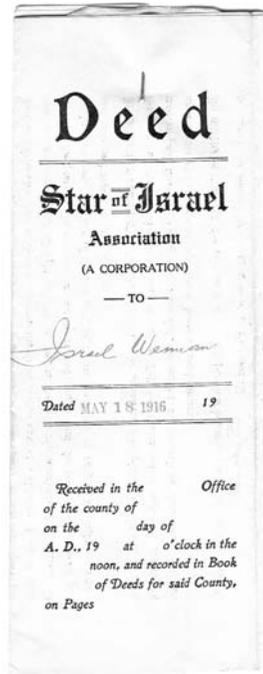
That outlines the theme of this book. We all have a personal connection with the United Synagogue of Hoboken. That connection grows and spreads through the years as does our membership. Leaders from USH have moved on to other communities and become successful leaders there. What is unusual now, is that leaders from other communities have seen what is happening in Hoboken and have moved to participate in a congregation that is uniquely inspirational, due in large part to our remarkable Rabbi Robert Scheinberg. Yet we all are just passing through, to leave a mark to build on for those who follow. The Star of Israel building stands as a tribute to those Jewish pioneers 100 years ago, and to the future generations who will walk through its doors.



Israel, Etta, Dora and Louis Blumberg (left to right) taken in front of their store Blumberg Brothers Furnishers and Hatters located at 101 Washington Street in Hoboken around 1900.



Announcement, in Yiddish, of a guest cantor, visiting from Budapest, who would be leading services at the Star of Israel Synagogue, 1920's.





The Star of Israel Building

by *Cindy Tavlin*

May 16, 1915 dawned cloudy and gray. Not the best weather for the Chanukat Habayis, the housewarming and dedication of the new Star of Israel synagogue, but the 25 congregants who organized the event were probably thankful for the forecast, which didn't predict rain until evening. In world news, thirty survivors from the *Lusitania*—the passenger ship torpedoed by a German submarine the previous week—set sail from Liverpool for New York. The *New York Times* reported that U.S. officials were optimistic that Germany would discontinue its attacks on unarmed merchant ships and hostilities between the two nations could be avoided. In local news, suffragists were resuming their marches through lower Jersey City, a new corset shop opened on Monticello Avenue and the Ringling Bros. Circus starring “Solomon and the Queen of Sheba” was in town.

In Hoboken, members and guests of the Star of Israel congregation gathered in the Social Hall at 2:00 p.m. A gold key was auctioned to Mrs. L. Feinstein for \$100. Everyone filed into the sanctuary except for the officers and members of the building committee who stayed behind in order to make a grand entrance for the official dedication of the new sanctuary. Their names are still with us today, on two marble tablets in the synagogue lobby: S. Lubash, President, S. Zucker, V. President, W. Kaplan, Sergeant at Arms and so on, all begging the question, Who were these people and how did this Jewish community come to be? Over a year of digging for the United Synagogue of Hoboken (USH) Centennial has turned up a lot of information, yet each new discovery by the History Committee raises even more questions. This much we do know:

Star of Israel, the predecessor to USH, was Hoboken's third synagogue, following Adas Emuno, a reform congregation formed by German immigrants in 1871, and Moses Montefiore, an orthodox congregation started by Eastern European immigrants who built their synagogue on Grand Street in 1901. Organized in 1905, Star of Israel was the city's second orthodox congregation and its first place of worship was the Hebrew Institute at 79 Grand Street. The congregation then moved to the upper

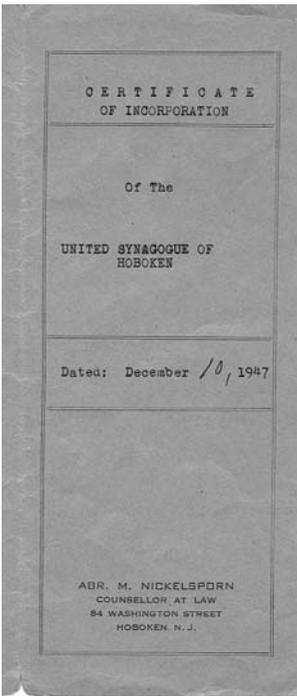


numerous synagogues throughout Europe with similar Old World details which could have been the source of inspiration for Star of Israel. If the building committee had picked an Eastern European synagogue and instructed Max Beyer to “go build this,” their choice would have come from a large city as the shuls in small towns and cities tended to be wooden structures and much more modest.

Four days before the dedication, the congregation held a special meeting about seats, which were sold for \$200-\$350 depending on one’s proximity to the holy ark. The minutes, translated from Yiddish, are spare, mundane but not without drama as Brother Eichler demanded a certain seat in the men’s section. After some discussion it was agreed that Brother Eichler would receive a \$350 seat for which he’d pay \$300 in cash, and a \$50 grant from the community for his dedication to the synagogue.

At the dedication, Rabbi Menachem M. Eichler of Temple Ohabei Shalom of Boston delivered what congregants later described as a stirring address. “Do you want this house of worship to be a monument to the Judaism that is dead in your hearts and in your homes? Are you going to pay the Almighty an annual visit during the fall, while your synagogue lies

here all year round silent? If you will, then all this work has been for nothing,” the conservative rabbi told the crowd in English, and also urged the establishment of a Jewish day school. In all, the sale of pews and other donations from the Chanukat Habayis totaled \$11,343.90, an impressive amount, equivalent to roughly \$214,000 in today’s dollars.



Coincidentally, two new Hudson County synagogues were dedicated on the same day, Star of Israel in Hoboken and Agadath Sholem in Jersey City. Both made the news, the reporter from The Jersey Journal noted, “The new house of worship, work upon which was begun more than 6 months ago is one of the largest and best equipped churches in Hoboken and is a fitting tribute to the enterprise of the Hebrews of Hoboken.”



C E R T I F I C A T E O F I N C O R P O R A T I O N

of the

UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF HOBOKEN

The undersigned persons desiring to associate themselves into a corporation pursuant to an Act of the Legislature of the State of New Jersey, entitled "An Act to Incorporate Associations not for Pecuniary Profit" and the amendments thereto, do hereby certify:

FIRST: That the name by which such corporation is to be known in law is UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF HOBOKEN.

SECOND: That the purposes for which it is formed are:-

- A. To disseminate Hebrew culture.
- B. To provide a place of worship for the observance of the Hebrew faith in a manner neither strictly orthodox or ultra reformed but in a conservative manner.
- C. To provide a place of amusement and relaxation for members of the Hebrew faith.
- D. To perform acts of charity.
- E. To create a seat of learning for the inculcation of Hebrew history, literature and religious faith.
- F. To provide facilities for physical improvement.
- G. To provide and own places of burial for Hebrews.



This Indenture, made this *Eighteenth* day of *May* A. D. One thousand nine hundred and *sixteen*

Between the STAR OF ISRAEL ASSOCIATION, of the City of Hoboken, County of Hudson and State of New Jersey, a corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of New Jersey, party of the first part,

And *Israel Weiman*

party of the Second Part:

Witnesseth, That the said party of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of *Three hundred and Thirty* dollars, to it in hand paid by the party of the second part at or before the ensembling and delivery of these presents, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, and the said party of the first part, its successors and assigns forever released and discharged from the same by these presents has bargained, sold and conveyed, and by these presents does bargain, sell and convey unto the party of the second part and to his heirs, forever,

All that certain seat in the Star of Israel Synagogue, Numbers 115-117 Park Avenue, Hoboken, New Jersey, known and designated as Seat Number *Two* in Row *cc Right*, of the main floor, and also Seat Number *Two* in Row *BB Left* situated in the Ladies' Balcony of said Synagogue TO HAVE AND TO HOLD all and singular the above mentioned seats unto the said party of the second part, his heirs, executors and administrators, to their own proper use, benefit and behoof forever, subject however, to certain restrictions hereinbefore and hereinafter mentioned, which shall bind the heirs, executors and administrators of the party of the second part.

Deed for four pews May 1916



Letter from Rabbi Robert Scheinberg

The United Synagogue of Hoboken is a synagogue like no other. And I can prove it to you.

- When I first came to Hoboken, at age 27, I was older (slightly) than both of the co-chairs of the Rabbinic Search Committee that hired me.
- When I arrived for my “audition Shabbat,” I realized that I had forgotten to bring a tie. In a panic, I asked Myrna Kasser (at whose home I was staying) if there was a clothing store nearby where I could purchase a tie. She said no, but she added, “don’t worry — no one will care if you’re wearing a tie or not.” I didn’t believe her at the time, but she was right: This community is consistently more focused on substance than surface.
- When a pre-schooler in the congregation at that time learned that I was applying for the rabbinic position, he said, “I didn’t know boys could be rabbis!”
- In the span of three years, I officiated at the weddings of at least 10 couples who met through the synagogue.
- We had a problem with our Rakefet synagogue management database program because there was no easy way to combine the records of two members if they married each other. We contacted the authors of the Rakefet database program to ask for help, and they said, “We can’t help you — but seriously, how often does this really happen?” We responded, “at least a couple of times each year,” and they couldn’t believe it.
- I heard stories about Kushi, Rabbi Jeff Marker’s dog, who lived upstairs at 830 Hudson Street and would come running downstairs as she heard the melody of “Adon Olam” because she knew it was time for Kiddush.
- Whereas most synagogues hold the synagogue annual meeting at the synagogue, our 2004 Annual Meeting took place in the back room of the Goldhawk. Similarly, the United Jewish Appeal of Hoboken used to have its bi-weekly meetings in the back room of the Elysian Cafe, in its pre-renovation days.



- At least once every couple of months, I am contacted by someone doing genealogical research who is a descendant of someone listed on our memorial plaques or pew plaques.
- Unlike many synagogues, this congregation is led in prayer, not by paid functionaries, but by expert volunteer hazzanim, even on the High Holidays.

Speaking more seriously: Almost every day as the rabbi of the United Synagogue of Hoboken has been full of joy and deep meaning. I am grateful to this community for teaching me how to be a rabbi. It has been a privilege to be here for hundreds of Shabbatot and holiday celebrations, many dozens of weddings, funerals, bar/bat mitzvahs, brisses and baby namings; many hundreds of hours of classes for adults and kids — and perhaps most importantly, many thousands of conversations with you.

The Torah tells us that Abraham was 100 years old when his son Isaac was born. Earlier, Abraham and Sarah had felt no reason to be optimistic about the future. They thought their story was coming to an end. But with the birth of Isaac, they realized it was just beginning.

Earlier generations of this synagogue also thought its history was coming to an end. But at age 100, we see that it is only beginning.

Happy Birthday, United Synagogue of Hoboken. Wishing you a bright future for the next 100 years!





Letter from President Ken Schept

Ninety years ago, members of the Star of Israel community named Mr. and Mrs. Niton donated the Ner Tamid. Their gift of the eternal flame suspended over the ark, recorded in the synagogue's Yiddish-language board of trustee meeting minutes of May 22, 1915, takes on special meaning during our Centennial.

While ninety years is a short span in the life of the Jewish people, it is an eternity to have avoided the fate of most synagogues in urban centers, which too often have been demolished or converted into houses of worship of other faiths or into condos.

The survival of the Star of Israel building and the resurgence of spirit and activity within it did not happen accidentally. They depended on the individuals who established the community, in 1905, when Hoboken was a bustling commercial port, and those who sustained it at mid-century when the piers became obsolete, factories relocated to the Sunbelt, and the middle class migrated to the suburbs.

When Susan and I moved to Hoboken, in the early 1970s, the Star of Israel was shuttered for most of the year. A diminishing core of determined families, including the Silvers, the Gitters, and the Marks struggled to maintain it. Slowly, the resurgence of Jewish life began with the arrival of the Freisers, the Kaplans, the Beckers, and other newcomers.

In the 1980s, the small but growing community hired part-time Conservative rabbis and initiated a nascent childhood education program with less than a handful of kids. In the late 1990s, former presidents Rob Harari and Ron Rosenberg, along with Myron Kaplan, Sandy Weiss and others, envisioned — and built — a learning center building. Today, our preschool and learning center educate 150 children.

Tomorrow, we will have a reinvigorated community with schools, programs, and services that minimize the lure of the “M” towns — Montclair, Millburn and Maplewood; a community that remains modest in its affect but ambitious and creative in its approach to Jewish life; a community that strengthens its connection to Israel and the wider Jewish



world; a community that works to improve life for all the inhabitants of Hudson County.

Our Centennial Celebration and Campaign helps us achieve these goals by drawing us together, fostering appreciation of our history, and raising funds for restoring the Star of Israel.

Centennial planning began on July 31, 2003, with five individuals meeting around the Strell family kitchen table. Since then, the Centennial Celebration has included two concerts (the Klezmatics and David Broza), three brunch lectures, a six-part film series, an alumni weekend, and an evening gala of dancing and entertainment. More events are planned for 2006. Meanwhile, the Centennial Campaign has raised \$1.3 million, with work on the Star of Israel expected to commence in the first quarter of 2006.

Like the inception and survival of our community, the success of our Centennial Celebration and Campaign has depended on many individuals, particularly the committee chairs: Building, Russell Kriegel; Fund Raising, Carol Losos; Events, Norman Cantor, and Jeanne and Bob Becker; Marketing, Monica Rodriguez and Rhonda Greenstone; History, Ricky Mason.

The Centennial Celebration and Campaign were enormously enriched by the endless ideas and energy of Rabbi Robert Scheinberg, as is the case with virtually every aspect of life at United Synagogue of Hoboken.

In a similar way, virtually every positive development at United Synagogue of Hoboken has happened because of the passion that individual members commit to the community. Given the limited space here, I will mention only two: former president Ron Rosenberg, whose six years of outstanding leadership we honor with this commemorative book, and his predecessor, Rob Harari, who conceived this publication and graciously agreed to serve as its publisher.

As USH president, I am privileged to follow Rob and Ron and to serve the community during this Centennial year; as a long-time member, I am grateful to everyone whose hard work has brought us to this new day.



Nazi Holocaust survivor Manfred Gans, who recalls the horrors of Kristallnacht 50 years ago, stands in front of United Synagogue in Hoboken, of which he is president. LISA BAUSO THE HUDSON DISPATCH

They'll never forget

50 years later, region's Jews recall Nazi assault



United Synagogue of Hoboken Rabbis

1997-present	Rabbi Robert Scheinberg
1995-1997	Rabbi Lia Bass
1989-1995	Rabbi Stephanie Dicksein
1987-1989	Rabbi Kenneth Katz
1982-1987	Rabbi Jeffrey Marker
1980-1981	Rabbi Mark Urkowitz
1974-1980	Rabbi Alex Pronman

Past Presidents of the Board of Trustees

Joel Freiser	Marilyn Freiser
Robert Harari	George Kalish
Phyllis Klein	Irving Litwin z”l
Sol Lubash z”l	David Riklan
Ami Rosenberg	Ron Rosenberg
Ken Schept (current)	Gary Schneider
William Schubin z”l	Eli Seligman z”l
Edward Silverman	Leonard Smith z”l
Stanley Silver z”l	Douglas Zucker

Past USH Rabbis



Rabbi Jeffery Marker



Rabbi Stephanie
Dickstein



Rabbis Rob and Naomi
Scheinberg



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Dan Steinhauser	Jake Stuiwer
Suzanne Wagner	



SHOFAR



**... and the shofar shall be sounded throughout
all your land -- Leviticus 25:19**

Bulletin of the United Synagogue of Hoboken

830 Hudson Street Hoboken, NJ 07030

January 1, 1980

The 12th of Tevet, 5740

JANUARY EVENTS

Oneg Shabbat
January 11, 7:30 PM

Friday Family
Dinner
January 25, 7:00 PM

Regular Services:
Saturday Mornings
at 9:00 AM

Monday and Thursday
Mornings
at 7:30 AM

Friday January 4
at 4:30 PM

Friday January 18
at 4:45 PM

CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

January 4: 4:22 PM

January 11: 4:29 PM

January 18: 4:37 PM

January 25: 4:45 PM



Hug Ivri
January 17, 7:30 PM

Hebrew School
January 13, 10:00 AM

Jewish War Veterans
Hospital Visit
January 8, 6:00 PM

Hebrew School After-School
Program to be announced





Bashert

by *Cindy Tavlin*

Couples Who Met and Married Through USH

For Sandy Flitterman and Joel Lewis it was a casual introduction in the social hall during kiddush. A singles event at 830 Hudson Street brought Rochelle and Avi Ohring together and Joanne Herman and Antonio Perrotta credit UJA/Youth Leadership Division as the catalyst for their eventual walk down the aisle. Three couples, among the more than dozen who can say they met their bashert at United Synagogue of Hoboken. Here are their stories:

THE LEAN YEARS

Sandy Flitterman was accustomed to High Holiday services at the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium when she first checked out services at Star of Israel after moving to Hoboken in 1979. The Old World atmosphere was intriguing to the Californian, still there were few young people in sight. As she likes to say with great affection and no disrespect intended, “When I got here, there were five old Jewish men and the Freisers.”



Five years later, Sandy had completed her Ph.D and was working towards a tenured track position teaching film at Rutgers University, when Joel Freiser introduced her to Joel Lewis, a poet and social worker, after Rosh Hashana services. He was someone Sandy recognized as the young guy who always carried a book under his arm, however she wasn’t looking for a relationship and responded in monosyllables to each of Joel’s questions. “Where do you work?” “Rutgers. “What do you teach?” “Film.”

The two got a brief glimpse of each other again in January 1985 at a Sephardic music concert at 830 Hudson Street, and ran into one another a few weeks later on the Manhattan bound PATH train. She had plans with a friend; he was headed for a date. This time, the conversation went beyond



monosyllables and the pair exchanged phone numbers beneath the Washington Square Arch. They began dating, but Sandy remembers the relationship didn't take a serious turn until the spring of 1985, when she was home with a cold during Passover and Joel brought over a seder, much of it inedible. "I'm not interested in being a friend," Joel told her and they committed to one another soon after. They were engaged on New Years Eve in 1985 and were married by Rabbi Jeffrey Marker in September 1986, at the home of Sandy's twin sister in the Berkshires. A few weeks later the High Holidays came around again, however this time they celebrated as a married couple in the place they were first introduced.

"As Star of Israel got restored it became much more of a welcoming place," said Sandy of the changes she and Joel have seen over the years. It's also been satisfying to witness the handful of married couples around in the early 1980's who stayed, started families and celebrated life cycle events in the synagogue. "You feel generations of tradition that surround the space."

Careful observers who stayed for kiddush following Rosh Hashana services in September 2004, may have noticed Sandy, Joel and Joel Freiser all standing together in the social hall. Nothing clandestine, just a quiet re-enactment organized by Sandy, on the spot where she and Joel were introduced twenty years ago.

START OF SOMETHING BIG

In September 1989, Rochelle Saperstein had an MBA, and a great job at a bank in New York. "That part of my life was settled," recalled Rochelle, "But I thought I should get serious about getting married." Which is why she decided to attend a discussion for singles at 830 Hudson Street called "Symbols of the High Holidays."

A dozen or so people showed up, and after the discussion, a tall, twenty-something guy dressed in black with a ponytail, who looked to be a bit younger than Rochelle, ambled over and introduced himself. It wasn't love at first sight. "He was totally not my type," said Rochelle, who this being the late-1980's said she was dressed like





“Ms. Corporate New Yorker.” And his name, Avi, sounded strange as well “I asked him if he was from Israel, and he said no, I’m from Teaneck.” Still the two chatted for a bit, but Rochelle left the evening doubtful anything would ever develop from there.

A few weeks later Avi and Rochelle ran into each other coming home on the PATH. Here’s that guy with the ponytail was Rochelle’s initial reaction, but the two got to talking, walked through town together, and exchanged phone numbers before going their separate ways. First date was Ali Baba, but a stumbling block in Rochelle’s mind was their age difference, she was 33 and Avi was 25. “I remember telling him on the phone, I think I’m a bit older than you,” a fact that didn’t seem to faze Avi in the least. “We started going out all the time after that,” said Rochelle. Engaged on Valentine’s Day in 1992, the Ohrings married on January 17, 1993 at Teaneck Jewish Center. Their aufruf was held at Star of Israel.

“I always thought it was smart of Rabbi Dickstein to organize that evening,” said Rochelle. “My thought at the time was there’s a lot of single Jews in this town and someone ought to be doing something about getting them together, and no one was.”

USH brought the Ohrings together but it’s also had a hand in their deciding to stay and raise their boys, Jake, born in February 1994 and Max, who followed in August 1996 in Hoboken. “We feel very connected,” said Rochelle. “For my kids in Hoboken, it’s their home away from home. When they were younger I used to worry where they were in the synagogue. I stopped worrying a long time ago.”

THE RENAISSANCE

By the mid-1990’s so many twenty and thirty-somethings were attending Friday night services, there was a little Melrose Place vibe in the air. Jewish singles were moving to Hoboken en masse, and the focal point for them was the synagogue and UJA/Youth Leadership Division, which met bi-weekly in the back room of a Hoboken bar. “For the most part you could not separate the two,” said Antonio Perrotta, who moved to Hudson County from Brazil in 1993. “There was a core group of twenty and thirty year olds who would stick around and drove YLD. They became friends as singles, stayed friends as singles, and stayed friends as couples,” noting that many marriages came out of the group, including his own.



Antonio and Joanne Herman were both active members at USH and casual friends when he asked her if she wanted to see a movie sometime at a kiddush in January, 1996. They went to dinner instead and talked for hours. “I still didn’t know what his intentions were,” recalled Joanne, but at some point their relationship shifted from friends to romantic. “The more we talked we found we had similar values. We had both been married before. There was a lot for us to learn about each other and we found we had common experiences and common goals. It turned out we wanted a lot of the same things.”

Married by Rabbi Scheinberg and Rabbi Bass in May 2000, the Perrottas’ wedding and reception was the first in a long time to be held at Star of Israel. The decision took all of thirty seconds; “I think it was a given,” said Joanne. “It’s the place where we met, it’s the place where we spent a lot of time together. To do it somewhere else wouldn’t feel right.” To get the social hall ready for 103 guests, they had the old linoleum removed and the original parquet floor restored and installed new lighting.

Their son Aaron was born in January 2005 which has meant certain adjustments to their participation at USH like coming to Toddler Time instead of Friday night services. “Now, instead of one child, there are two children in the house,” joked Antonio. The Perrottas live in Guttenberg, and acknowledge the move to the suburbs may be inevitable. “I know we’re not going to find another place like the synagogue,” said Joanne. “Right now we’re staying put.”



The Kaplan Cooperative Pre-School

Rachelle Grossman - Director

Hoboken was always a very special place for me. I began living here in the late '80s – over on Adams and Fifth and then on First between Park and Willow. I took to the town right away – maybe because I grew up in Jersey City as part of a large extended Jewish community first at the Orthodox synagogue on Bergen Avenue and then B'nai Jacob when it was built.

My family had a loose affiliation with USH in those days with Rabbis Katz and Dickstein. When my husband, Bob Seelenfreund and I were looking for a place to get married – you guessed it – we felt the sanctuary and social hall at USH were perfect. And it was. We also celebrated our daughter Michelle's baby naming in the sanctuary with Rabbi Dickstein and our family with a party in the social hall – it too was perfect. Then we moved – to West Orange – in 1994.

I was teaching kindergarten in Orange in 1998 and was unhappy with the school. Our educational visions did not meet. It was my first year there – after 2 wonderful years at B'nai Israel in Millburn as a teacher of the 3's and then the 4's. I came home from school one day after a particularly difficult day and announced, “that's it, I'm looking for a new job!” It was a Thursday and I had my new copy of the Jewish News. Right there in the classified ads, staring at me was the job I had always wanted – the United Synagogue of Hoboken was looking for a teacher/director for a new preschool – incredible – a new building had been built next to the Star of Israel building where there had once been a yard. This was the job for me. I quickly sent in my resume, references and cover letter. Two days later I came home from teaching and my daughter, Emily said – “they called you from the synagogue.” I thought she was joking around – a call so quickly. I called back and had my interview a few days later. I met with Rabbi Scheinberg, Wendy Vock and Stephanie Daniels. A day or two later – I was called back – I got the job!!! The Kaplan Cooperative Preschool was on its way. Now I had to recruit some students.

Our goal was 8 students to start and 12 students to have an assistant teacher. Luckily by allowing 2 year olds to join us we were able to start in



September in our beautiful new building with 12 brave students and families. Laura Acocella joined the staff as assistant teacher and I was the Head Teacher. Felice Borsellino taught our toddler drop-in classes. We learned together as we went along, adding one class each year. Our young school was growing and we needed to decide if we would have enough students to ask the Rabbi to move out of his residence on the 3rd floor and convert it into 2 additional classrooms. Would we have enough students? Again, we took the chance and we've had students to fill those classrooms plus our afternoon enrichment program has been a huge success. Students could now learn at our school from 8:00-3:00. We've experienced such tremendous growth in such a short period of time.

September 2000: Kaplan Cooperative Preschool opens with 1 class and 12 students. We also have toddler classes. We add a 6 week summer camp in July.

September 2001: A second class is added. We have 35 students.

September 2002: Our third class opens – we have 2 morning classes and the 4's meet in the afternoons 12:30-3:30 for a total of 50 students in all. Construction begins to convert the Rabbi's residence into 2 additional classrooms.



September 2003: We add another class to make 4 in total – 2 classes meet in the social hall while construction continues on the 3rd floor. Students can now attend Kaplan from 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. We have 65 students. Kaplan’s 2’s program is launched.

September 2004: We add an afternoon class – the multi-age Bumblebees class that meets 12:30-3:00 MWF. We have 5 classes and 70 students.

September 2005: Here we are in our 6th school year where we currently offer the following:

- 5 preschool classes – 78 students
- afternoon enrichment 12:00-3:00pm
- 2’s programs (Tues/Thurs 9:30-11:00 am) – 25 students
- Toddler 1 class (Friday 10:45-11:45 am) – 20 students
- Toddler 2 class (Friday 9:30-11:00 am) – 30 students
- Summer Camp – 75 campers

This phenomenal growth in such a short time is the result of 5 years of dedication, commitment and hard work from many people - the Rabbi, the Trustees, extended synagogue community, the first year families I call the pioneers, our early parent association organizers (lots of late nights burning the midnight oil), our totally wonderful teachers, all current and past Kaplan families and of course, Lara Seligman, our Kaplan Parent Cooperative Liaison and Laura Forino, the synagogue office administrator. Our Kaplan community is a special place.

The USH community is faced with another tough decision – do we have enough children to start a Jewish Day School. I hope in 5 years we can look for the day school to have the same growth and place in the synagogue community as our preschool.

Mazel tov to the United Synagogue of Hoboken for one hundred great years. I look forward to the next one hundred. Thank you for giving me this incredible opportunity.

HUDSON'S MOVERS AND SHAKERS

Katz leading revived Hoboken synagogue

Uses common sense and the Talmud

By DAVID LIPPMAN
The Hudson Dispatch

HOBOKEN—When Rabbi Kenneth Katz is asked why he became a rabbi, he smiles and says, "My wife asks me that every few years."

Katz took a circuitous route to the rabbinate, but at 33 he represents a younger generation. As rabbi of United Synagogue of Hoboken, he has dealt with joy and sorrow.

"In my first year, Navroze Mody was murdered, and there were three arson fires, and I said, 'Some town. What is this?'"

Katz has drawn praise from clergy colleagues. "He's a blessing to Hoboken," says the Rev. Cris Felske of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. John in Hoboken. "He's a sharp, intelligent man."

Katz was born in Glen Ridge on Feb. 7, 1956. "I was typical of my generation," he says, sitting in a book-lined office. "I did not grow up in a religious household."

LOCAL

Katz received a bachelor's degree in Latin literature from the University of Chicago. In 1978, while doing graduate work in literature at Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass., he went to the university's chapter of Hillel to find someone to officiate at his wedding.

"I WENT in to meet the rabbi, and it was a living room of a Harvard building. I was one of the people in their 20s ready to have a discussion. I learned, Harvard professors, 'An ek through me that telligent to be include. 'A year tempt the see Rabb also was ager. Ge Nazi co

was a frightening figure. He asked me what he could do for me, and I say, 'Well, uh, well, uh, I'd like to become a rabbi.'

So Gold called the dean of United Theological Seminary in Manhattan, and Katz was enrolled in 1978. Six years later, Katz received his master's degree in theology. Now he is working on his doctorate in Jewish history, writing on the Greco-Roman period. He learned on the job to manage his temple's finances and deal with problems.

ALEX PRONMAN
Rabbi



IRVING LITWIN
President

UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF HOBOKEN

October 1, 1975

Synagogue
115 PARK AVENUE
HOBOKEN, N. J. 07030
792-3710

Office and Center
130 HUDSON STREET
HOBOKEN, N. J. 07030
659-2614

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BENJ. BORTNIKER
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- Solna Silver

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This Special Meeting of the General Membership has been called to receive a Report of the Special Committee appointed by President Irving Litwin during the Spring of 1975. As Chairman, Mr. Litwin asked me to investigate the future of the Park Avenue Synagogue as the building is only used, during recent years, for the High Holy Days, Succot, and a few other Special Occasions.

Over the last ten years, the Park Avenue Synagogue has had many expenses related to the fact that it is an old building. We can only conclude that to maintain the only remaining Synagogue in Hoboken will require annual expenditures. Currently, the building costs the community approximately \$3,000 to \$5,000 to properly maintain. This estimate is meant to be a projection of what it will possibly continue to cost as prices rise and the building requires major repairs. As long as the building remains in the ownership of the Jewish Community, it must be maintained and utilized.

As part of this Report, I have amended two additional reports from the architectural firm of Bissell and Welsh and Arthur Charles Cohen, Inc. Real Estate Appraisers and Consultants. Your careful attention to the contents of these reports will answer many of your questions regarding the future of the Park Avenue Synagogue.

In conclusion, it is my personal recommendation that the Membership reject any effort to sell the property maintain the building. Social, recreational, and religious programs should be undertaken which would use the facility. Should the property be placed on the market, it is recommended that the decision for the sale be accepted by a vote of the General Membership at a Special Meeting to be called for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

Letter written by Joel Freiser to the Board of Directors recommending *not* to sell 115 park Avenue.



Ode To The Kaplan Cooperative Pre-School

Can you believe it, they're five

It just can't be true

I remember when they were babies and we were all so new

As (mostly) Jews we wandered through Hoboken looking for a school

Wallace, All Saints, maybe Calabro – nope, they just would not do

We wanted a place that would take in our kids and nurture them with love

Then we met Rachelle – a true gift from above

She guided us through and held our hands

Assured us we'd be fine

Yes, there were definitely some growing pains

But everything smoothed out over time

Laura, Felice and Rachelle took our kids through the 2's and 3's

Pajama Day and pancakes in class showed them how much fun school can be

Then they turned four with no teachers in sight

In walked Sloane & Alma and we knew they'd be alright

Sloane – another Long Island soul transplanted to this side of the river.

A strong talented teacher with a no-nonsense approach – so caring, a real giver

What can I say about Alma – a star from Mexico.

She converted to Judaism a few years back and now she's the torah pro

The Kaplan Coop became a community – another way to live

Working together as a group – we were all so happy to give

Helping parent day made us dizzy – who's day was it and what was what?

When it came to snack, we must remember that nothing can have nuts!

The juggling of the calendar along with class trips around the town

Echo of Art, karate and the Fire station – our kids really got around.



But forget the kids for a minute and let's talk about the grown-up friendships
that were made

The bonding in this class is special and it brings a smile to my face

It takes a village to raise a child — we've all learned that to be true
Kaplan has become a special place and of course, Hoboken too

We'll definitely miss this place and look back with a sigh
Gosh, it was so great and boy, does time really fly

So let's all raise a juice box and try to hold back the tears
This is the best damn pre-school in town and we had three incredible years!

*Written by Lisa Levy
June/2003*

Congregation Adas Emuno
637 Garden Street
Hoboken, New Jersey

★ **SONGS** ★

AND OTHER TEXTS FOR USE IN SYNAGOGUE AND HOME

[Property of the congregation. - Not for sale.]

REVISED EDITION
November - 1936

Songs and other texts selected by
ROBERT F. JACOBS, Rabbi
Arrangement and classification by
BERNARD E. MARK, President

PATRIOTIC TEXTS

THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

Oh, say can you see,
By the dawn's early light,
That so proudly we hail'd
At the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars
Through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watch'd
Were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare,
Bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night
That our flag was still there,
Oh! say, does that star-spangled
Banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free
And the home of the brave?

AMERICA

My country, 'tis of thee,
Sweet land of liberty,
Of thee I sing;
Land, where my fathers died,
Land of the Pilgrims' pride,
From every mountain side
Let freedom ring.
Our fathers' God, to Thee,
Author of liberty,
To Thee we sing;
Long may our land be bright
With freedom's holy light;
Protect us by Thy might
Great God, our King.

AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL

O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good
With brotherhood,
From sea to shining sea.

O beautiful for pilgrim feet,
Whose stern impassioned stress,
A thoroughfare for Freedom beat,
Across the wilderness!
America! America!
God send thine ev'ry flaw,
Confirm thy soul
In self-control,
Thy Liberty in Law!

O beautiful for patriot dream,
That sees beyond the years,
Thine alabaster cities gleam,
Unimpaired by human tears!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good
With brotherhood,
From sea to shining sea.

THE PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America,
and to the Republic for which it stands:
One nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.



USH Learning Center

Grace Gurman Chan - Director

What a journey it has been to make it to the doors of 115 Park Avenue and to the United Synagogue of Hoboken. I had a successful seminar business; I met the love of my life and was ready to get married to the man of my dreams. Sounds like a nice first act of some Broadway play.

Without warning my life was about to take yet another turbulent turn. This time I was blind-sided. I had worked in the Jewish community since I was 15 years old as a Hebrew tutor, Hebrew schoolteacher, youth leader, service leader, regional youth director, local youth worker and led youth trips to Israel. I had been a board member of my local synagogue, continued to contribute to building funds at each location I moved to. So far I think I was volunteering whenever asked at any Jewish event. So what more did I want to do?

I wanted to just visit my good friends who moved from the suburbs to new construction in Hoboken, NJ. Sounds easy enough, until we started talking about Jewish education with our good friends. Until they spent hours of our leisure time telling us how amazing, progressive, committed and diverse their Synagogue was in Hoboken. I nodded graciously upon hearing about how they worked on a new pre-school and how this congregation was having a renaissance. If only our conversation only stopped there.

I then went into my tirade of how hard could it be to get kids these days to love being in a caring Jewish environment.

It was then that the sweetness of our routine conversation about educating our youth became a challenge between two good friends. As of this writing the Myers are still my good friends. What is most astonishing is that they somehow convinced me to drive 40 minutes and take a 12-hour a week job in a place that I believed was filled with twenty somethingers, a Rabbi I did not know and a job that had not been created yet. Oh my.

They told me my life would change but I did not look at the blue prints before I settled into this idealized life change.



I attended a meeting of some highly motivated members of this community who could see that my version of Jewish education could find a home with their visions of Jewish education. I started right away, decided I would not have time to plan a wedding so I planned one in three weeks, came to work my first day and had my car towed and settled in. Now that I look back sounds very Hoboken of me the towing of my car and all.

What came next was that I was gifted these incredible children and parents who by far are the brightest, most open-minded, loving individuals I have ever met. They have molded Jewish experiences that fit each individual's personality and yet bond with everyone who enters our space at the Learning Center.

So back to my life, I gave up my business, became a wife, a mother, an educator, teacher and service leader who revels in the Jewish life I share with you all here. My family and I feel the warmth and menshlichit every time we step through USH doors. I have a colleague and a Rabbi I so admire. I work with a pre-school director who has been most supportive and a secretary who makes administrative work palatable. The Synagogue board cannot be forgotten because they have allowed the Learning Center to prosper and flourish.



To the Myers and all those who have paved the way for me to partner with young people in a way that is natural to me and to them, I am eternally grateful. My soul has soared watching our Bar/Bat Mitzvah students use the Yad they made two years ago to read Torah.

Watching our young people lead parts of our Shabbat morning services in this holy place makes my eyes water. Being part of the life here in this community is something I cherish and I will work very hard to see each child love Judaism in a way that is organic and meaningful.

So what's a tow amongst friends?

All my love and support,

Grace Gurman-Chan

Educational Director,

Kaplan Family Learning Center





Timeline

Jewish Hoboken

- 1871: Hoboken's German-Jewish immigrants establish the city's first synagogue, the Reform congregation Adas Emuno.
- 1877: There are 600 Jews living in Hoboken.
- 1883: Adas Emuno builds a Romanesque-style synagogue at 637 Garden Street on land donated by the Stevens family. The building, now an apartment building, is the oldest surviving synagogue in New Jersey.
- 1892: The Orthodox congregation Moses Montefiore is formed with approximately 60 members. Services include a Hebrew institute, a free school, a Young Men's Hebrew Association, ladies' aid society and social club, and a benevolent association.
- 1896: Herr Rector Ahlwardt, a German anti-Semite, is assaulted and arrested after attempting to speak to the Anti-Semitic Society in Germania Hall. The New York Times wrote that Ahlwardt





reportedly pulled a pistol and was arrested for carrying a concealed weapon. Three Jewish males who were in the audience are arrested on assault charges.

- 1901: Moses Montefiore Congregation, with 80 members, builds a synagogue on Grand Street. The spiritual leader is Rabbi Chaim Hirshensohn, a noted author from a family of rabbis who were among the first in the revival of settlement of Israel in the 19th century. Rabbi Hirshensohn arrived from Jerusalem in 1904 and served the Jewish community of Hoboken until his death in 1935.
- 1905: Recent immigrants establish a second Orthodox congregation, the Star of Israel, on October 10, the day after Yom Kippur. Services are held at the Hebrew Institute at 79 Grand Street. The congregation's first president is Morris Eichler. The group later moves to 111 Grand Street, to a building with a saloon on the ground floor. This year, there are 1,000 Jews in Hoboken and 6,000 Jews in Jersey City.
- 1910: Congregation Star of Israel purchases two lots at 115-117 Park Avenue. Synagogue officials announce they will build a house of worship on the site. The November 19 edition of The Jersey Journal announces a benefit performance at the Lyric Theatre to raise money for the new synagogue.
- 1914: The cornerstone of the Star of Israel building is laid on September 13. The ceremony was attended by more than 1,000 people including U.S. Congressman Eugene Kinkead, representing Hudson County; Mayor Martin Cooke; and other elected officials. The ceremony was preceded by a parade which started at the Hebrew Institute and ended up at the building site.
- 1915: The Star of Israel Building is dedicated in May after six months of construction. Rabbi Menachem M. Eichler of Temple Ohabei Shalom in Boston delivers the opening address, apparently commenting on the raging war in Europe: "The Jew is the greatest cosmopolitan on earth. He lives everywhere in the midst of every nation. When one nation fights another the Jew fights his brother and spills Jewish blood. It is therefore in the interest of the Jews to bring about peace in the world."



- 1925: A group splits from the Star of Israel to form a more liberal congregation, Hoboken Jewish Center. The group purchases a three-story brownstone at 830 Hudson Street for \$18,000. Julius Lichtenstein, a Hoboken attorney who declined a State Supreme Court appointment from Governor Woodrow Wilson, is one of the founders.
- Late 1930s: Hoboken's Jewish population is said to be at its peak of 3,500 families.
- 1938: Star of Israel pays off its mortgage at 115 Park Avenue and holds a mortgage-burning
- 1946: Hoboken Jewish Center and Star of Israel congregations merge to form United Synagogue of Hoboken. Membership is about 500 families.
- 1950: Rabbi J. Weis is installed as rabbi of Adas Emuno Congregation. His wife, Estelle Sternberger, is a well-known political radio commentator and active member in the National Council of Jewish Women.
- 1960: Rabbi Weis retires. A few years later, the sanctuary is sold and the congregation relocates to Leonia, N.J.
- 1970: The 64th anniversary of United Synagogue is celebrated with a dinner dance, honoring the congregation's "Man of the Year" President Sam Schleikorn. Though a number of Jewish businesses still have a presence in Hoboken, the anniversary program tribute reads, "...For sadly our Synagogue and the very community of Jews for that matter, are not what they were. Our numbers are much diminished and many of our cherished and honored elders, good and useful men who could have helped a lot, have departed from life and our midst."
- 1970s: United Synagogue of Hoboken rejects a proposal to sell the Star of Israel building.
- 1979-80: Mark Urkowitz, the synagogue's last Orthodox rabbi, conducts adult education classes. Several of the congregation's parents retain a Jewish Theological Seminary graduate student, Stephanie Dickstein, to teach a handful of young children.



- 1983: Jeffrey Marker becomes United Synagogue's first Conservative rabbi, serving part-time. Women are included in the minyan and children's holiday programs are introduced.
- 1987: The second Conservative part-time rabbi, Kenneth Katz, helps parents develop holiday programming for kids and establish "Tot Shabbat." Recent college graduate Isaac Jeret creates a Shabbat program for seven- and eight-year-old children.
- 1989: Stephanie Dickstein serves as part-time rabbi for two years; then she becomes our full-time rabbi. She moves Shabbat services from the townhouse to the Star of Israel building, which had been shuttered except for the High Holy Days. Rabbi Dickstein and Isaac Jeret establish a formal Learning Center for children. The sanctuary was renovated by Myron Kaplan and Annette Hollander in honor of their daughter Amelia's Bat Mitzvah.
- 1995: Rabbi Lia Bass continues Learning Center growth and prepares members of the first "Tot Shabbat" class for their b'nai mitzvah, while also creating vibrant Friday night services to attract young adults in their 20's and 30's.
- 1997: Rabbi Robert Scheinberg, our current spiritual leader, joins the congregation. Education for adults and children expands, services are further enriched with more melodies and Torah discussion, and membership grows, particularly among young adults. The congregation sells the townhouse at 830 Hudson Street to fund a new building adjacent to the Star of Israel. This consolidates the congregation in one location.
- 2000: The new building is dedicated as the Kaplan Family Learning Center. The Kaplan Cooperative Preschool opens.
- 2004: More than 150 children are enrolled in Jewish educational programs each week in the Kaplan Cooperative Pre-School and Children's Learning Center. The synagogue calendar is full of bar/bat mitzvahs, brisses, baby namings, aufrufs, and weddings.
- 2005: United Synagogue of Hoboken celebrates its centennial and begins a fund-raising campaign to fully restore the Star of Israel building.



Advertising Contract

Date _____ 194__

We hereby authorize the insertion of an advertisement in the Souvenir Journal published in conjunction with the _____th Annual Banquet and Dance of the Star of Israel Congregation of Hoboken, N. J., to be held in the vestry room, 115 Park Avenue Hoboken, N. J. on _____

RATES	
Full Page	_____
Twenty-five Dollars	_____
\$25 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$15 <input type="checkbox"/>
\$10 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$5 <input type="checkbox"/>

Signed _____

COPY

6/14 1944

Ben Rothbard opened meeting 9:30
 present members: Shalom Rabin, Beronan
 Kaminsky Ben Kellerman, Grossberg

Old committee Kaminsky reports that he is getting estimates for window labels also estimate to be taken for the outside wall to be fixed up. Grossberg wants to know what we will do with the building next door what we brought Ben Rothbard next door what we meeting to see what to do with it.

Reynolds com. We have come with 10.00 but after it 53.00. We had 12 day services conducted by our committee com report that you go for you want to pay 100.00 for a grave. You want to pay 100.00 on Monday made & recorded Kaminsky & Ben. That we will come for 100.00 has carried.

Old business Installation Tabei's Building & Cantor special meeting Wed. eve 27 June

Grossberg invites the members on hand to the unshelving of his late wife's monument on Mount Zion Cemetery, date June 25th. Cards to be sent members.

Expense 190.47
 Income \$83.00
 H. P. Kellerman ac. rec.

PHONE 2081 HOBOKEN

J.K. STEIN Sanitary LUMBER

INSTALLATION REPAIRING GUNTING

105 9th STREET AND 508 3rd ST. Hoboken, N. J. June 1944

Star of Israel Association.
 Gentlemen:
 I hereby agree to do the Plumbing and Heating for your Banquet and Dance at 115 Park Avenue, Hoboken, according to the plans submitted to me on _____ 1944. \$2500.00, TWO THOUSAND, FIFTY DOLLARS.

UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF HOBOKEN
 830 Hudson Street
 HOBOKEN, NEW JERSEY

RABBI ALEX FRONMAN 963-5777 IRVING LITWIN, PRES. 659-0933

December 31, 1974

Dear Member:-

Please be advised that at the general meeting held November 19, 1974 at the Center, the Membership voted to approve the Executive Board's recommendation for a change in the dues structure.

The following resolution was passed and approved:-

A. Family membership (Hoboken and out of town) will be \$100.00 per year

B. Single membership (Hoboken and out of town) will be \$50.00 per year

The membership dues, both family and single, includes privileges for High Holy Days services and cemetery rights.

Cordially,
 Irving Litwin, President
 Sol Novitch

IL:ds Dr. Sol Novitch, Corr. Sec'y

BEST WISHES FROM THE
 BREAKFAST CLUB OF THE
 UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF HOBOKEN

Hyman Greenspan, Treasurer
 Jack Podelsky, Co-Chairman
 Rabbi and Mrs. Morris Schnall

Benjamin Berniker	Nathan Marcus
Nathan Fried	William Roth
Adolph Friedman	Sam Schlenker
Harry Gitter	David Schonhaut
David Greenberg	Mark Schubin
Sidney and Charles Heitner	Nathan Schubin
Bernard Kammer	William Schubin
Louis Kammer	Eli Seligman
Al Kaplan	Isadore Smith
Louis Kaplan	Philip Stern
Harold Karu	Sol Sternberg
Joseph Koblitz	Harry Teller
Lichtenberg and Zeichner Bros.	Israel Wiener



Trustee Joel Freiser, center, greets Judah Schept, left, and Tom Ahern and his son Andrew, members of United Synagogue of Hoboken, yesterday during the observance of Yom Kippur.

Many fast

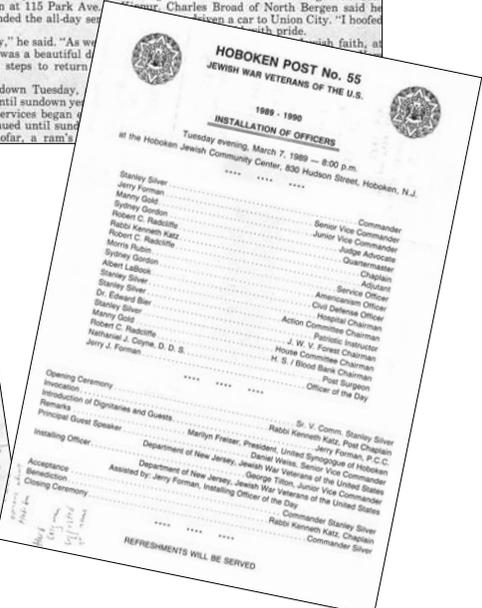
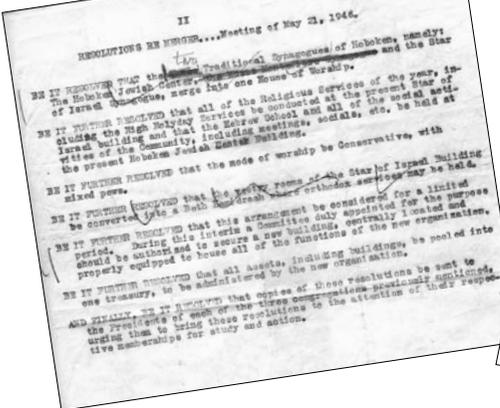
Holiday crowds temples

Hudson's Yom Kippur turnout highest of year

By JONATHAN BRINCKMAN

The Hudson Dispatch
Synagogues across Hudson County had their biggest crowds of the year yesterday as Jews observe Yom Kippur, the religion's most holy day. The day is the traditional finale to 10 days of repentance that began on Rosh Hashana, the Jewish New Year. It is followed by Sukkot, a joyous holiday beginning Sunday celebrated in open-air booths rooled with branches. Joel Freiser, a trustee and past president of the United Synagogue of Hoboken at 115 Park Ave., said a record 250 people attended the all-day service yesterday. "It was an awe-inspiring day," he said. "As we as being a day of penance, it was a beautiful day because we saw people take steps to return to their Jewish heritage." Yom Kippur began at sundown Tuesday, many Jews fasted from then until sundown yesterday. At county synagogues, services began yesterday morning and continued until sundown when rabbis sounded the shofar, a ram's

wind instrument. The most religious spent the entire day in the temple. Temple Israel Emanuel, at 314 53rd St. in Union City, glowed with candlelight as Orthodox men sat in the pews with tallith shawls draped over their shoulders. Louis Kaplan, an elderly Weehawken man attending the service, said praying all day without food is not as difficult as one might think. "It doesn't do anybody any harm to fast for a day," he said. Using modern devices is discouraged on Yom Kippur. Charles Broad of North Bergen said he drove to synagogue in a car to Union City. "I hoofed it home with my wife and three kids," he said.





The USH Centennial Committee

STEERING COMMITTEE

Chair	Ken Schept
Building	Russell Kriegel
Fund Raising.....	Carol Losos
Events.....	Norman Cantor, Jeanne and Bob Becker
PR/Marketing	Monica Rodriguez, Rhonda Greenstone
History	Ricky Mason
Alternative Space	Jane Porges
At Large:	Joel Freiser, Barry Grossman Rob Harari, Myron Kaplan Matt Meistrich, Ron Rosenberg

EVENTS CHAIRS

Concert Series	Jorge Fernandez
Brunch Series	Robin Wolfson
Film Series.....	Norman Rosenblum, Adriana Pacheco
Alumni Weekend	Jeanne and Bob Becker
Centennial Gala	Monique Haas, Jane Klueger, Karen Jurman

CENTENNIAL BOOK COMMITTEE

Chairpersons	Julie and Rob Harari
Editor.....	Merry Firschein
Principal Writer and Research	Cindy Tavlin
Principal Photographer	Sandy Burstein
Graphic Design.....	Erbach Communications Group, Jodey Tenzer, Susan Chait
Production	Louise Kurtz
Proof Reading	Anne Pettit
Sales Team	Monique Haas, Pamela Strell, Alison Grant, Jeanne Becker



Centennial Sponsors



The members of the United Synagogue of Hoboken
thank the sponsors of our Centennial events.



The Centennial Celebration

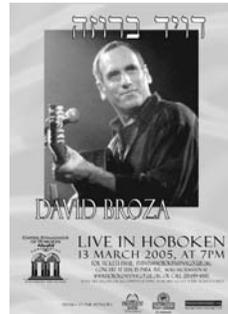
Concerts

October 28, 2004

The Klezmatics. The group, praised as “the best band in the Klezmer vanguard” plays to a packed sanctuary at USH.

March 13, 2005

David Broza. Back by popular demand, David Broza brings his friends, percussionist Cyro Batista and Julio Fernandez and Ken Beckenstein from Spiro Gyra.



Sunday Brunch Series

January 9, 2005

Robert Pinsky. The former U.S. Poet Laureate discusses his work and the influence of his Jewish background.

February 13, 2005

Mimi Sheraton. The renowned food writer and former New York Times restaurant critic describes the impact that her mother and her Jewish upbringing have had on a life spent at the table and in print.



April 10, 2005

Evan Wolfson. Named by Time magazine as one of the 100 most influential people in the world, the civil rights lawyer outlines the case for gay marriage.



Film Series

January 15, 2005

Hiding and Seeking: Faith and Tolerance after the Holocaust

A documentary about tolerance and a family's return to Poland in search of the people who hid an earlier generation during the Holocaust, followed by a discussion with director Menachem Daum.

February 19, 2005

My Terrorist and My Four Children

Two films by women that explore the not always obvious reactions that people have to acts of terrorism.

March 19, 2005

James' Journey to Jerusalem

A touching, irreverent, and funny look at unflattering parts of Israeli society through the eyes of an African pilgrim.

April 9, 2005

Trembling Before G-d

A study of how gay and lesbian Hasidic and Orthodox Jews attempt to reconcile their devotion to Judaism with Biblical prohibitions against homosexuality.

May 21, 2005

Trumpet in the Wadi

Love in Haifa between a Christian Arab woman and her Jewish upstairs neighbor, a recent immigrant from Russia, followed by discussion with the director.

June 19, 2005

The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg

A Hall of Fame slugger and baseball's first Jewish star, shown in conjunction with the celebration of the first baseball game, which was played in Hoboken.



Alumni Weekend

April 1 and 2, 2005

Current and former USH members spend Shabbat and Saturday evening reminiscing. Highlights include discussion groups led by Rabbi Robert Scheinberg and former USH Rabbi Stephanie Dickstein, a musical performance by Gary and Susan Schneider, and video reflections of long-time members produced by Rob Harari and Joyce Boll.



Centennial Gala

November 19, 2005

The community's 100th birthday party, an evening of dancing and desserts with tributes from political leaders and special recognition of former USH president Ron Rosenberg on six years of outstanding leadership.



Contributor List

A special thank you to our contributors:

Lisa Quint

Michele & Russell Moskowitz

Steve Lanset

Jane Isenberg

Dr. Frank Blou and Roslyn Rose

Merry Firschein

<p>“The old shall dream dreams and the youth shall see visions.” <i>Yoel 3</i></p> <p>All our support and love, Grace Gurman-Chan, Kenneth Chan, and Jade Chan</p>	<p>Mark Glass <i>Painter</i> Custom Interiors <i>Comercial & Residential</i></p> <p>918 Willow Ave. Hoboken NJ 07030</p> <p>201-798-0219 mark@markglass.com</p> 
<p>One hundred thanks to Ron Rosenberg and Rabbi Robert Scheinberg for their leadership.</p> <p>Harriet Taub and Harry Kafka Sarah and Jacob Kafka</p>	<p><i>Congratulations!</i></p>  <p><i>Thanks Rob and Julie, for all that you do!</i></p> <p>— <i>Mary Massaro</i> —</p>



Blueprint from preliminary drawings of Star of Israel



The City of HOBOKEN



Mayor David Roberts

and

the Hoboken City Council

Christopher Campos, President

Richard Del Boccio, Vice Pres.

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Theresa Castellano

Michael T. Cricco

Angelo 'Nino' Giacchi

Terry LaBruno

Ruben Ramos Jr.

Michael Russo

BEST WISHES

to

THE UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF HOBOKEN

on the occasion of it's 100th ANNIVERSARY

MAZEL TOV

The Life of Stanley Silver 1918-2003

BORN JUNE 28, 1918 JERSEY CITY, NJ to Ida and Charles Silver. There were four sisters and one brother. He joined the army March 7, 1941. He served in C.B.I., the Pacific and in Europe, receiving six medals. He was discharged on November 25, 1945, having the rank of master sergeant.

He and his brother Jack, who served in the Navy, opened up their first store in 1946 at 830 Washington Street in Hoboken. It was called Silver's Savemor Toyland. They eventually moved to 315-317 Central Avenue, Jersey City, where they remained until 1977 and retired.

Stanley remained very active with the Jewish War Veterans, Hoboken Post 55, where his late father-in-law had been a charter member. On a local level he was post commander for many years. On a national level, he was a U.N. representative and a national chief of staff, three times.

In 1946 he became a member of the United Synagogue of Hoboken. It was known as the Star of Israel then.

On September 11, 1961 he married Selma Lopatkin, a life long Hoboken resident.

Only Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services took place at 115 Park Avenue in Hoboken. Stanley would go out into the street and look to get some young teenagers to clean the synagogue, making it ready for these important holidays. All other events took place at 830 Hudson Street, a townhouse used for a synagogue all year round. We could not afford to keep Park Avenue open all year, due to high bills.

During that time of the year Stanley would take his tools and patch things on Park Avenue as needed.





Stanley used to quietly slide a crisp new \$50.00 bill into the pocket of every bar and bat mitzvah child.

He was chairman of U.J.A. and Israel Bonds for many years, having received many plaques, including, as a couple The Lion of Judah award.

He served as president, treasurer, and board member for the synagogue.

Stanley passed away July 4th, 2003.

Ron

Your long years of service to your synagogue as trustee, treasurer, and president coupled with so many accomplishments, demonstrate your dedication and outstanding leadership skills.

Now your energy is focused on improving Hoboken's Public Schools and I am certain that your contributions on the Board of Education will infuse it with new vision and direction.

**Your friend,
Frank Raia**





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Toll free: (888) 876-9443

Fax: (201) 876-9563

Memories

MY WIFE, ANNETTE HOLLANDER, AND I moved to Weehawken from Manhattan in 1972, and during the next few years checked out the various congregations around north Hudson County. In 1974 we found the United Synagogue of Hoboken, which held services in a funky converted townhouse with a gym downstairs — 830 Hudson Street. Only on the High Holidays did the congregation use the beautiful, old, slightly dilapidated Star of Israel building at 115 Park Ave.

In those years Hoboken was in a depression, and many buildings on lower Willow and Grand streets were — believe it or not — abandoned.

The congregation was missing a generation - it was as if a mini-diaspora had blasted everyone from 30 to 50 years old far out into the Jersey suburbs. Selma and Stanley Silver were the youngest. Many members were 75 and 80. Rabbi Alex Pronman and the members welcomed us, and the services were relaxed and enjoyable.

By 1980 we had young children. Along with the Preis's and Isenbergs, we organized Sunday School classes at the Hudson Street building, during which our children immortalized themselves by carving their names into the wooden table. Mark Urkowitz was the rabbi, and the renaissance was underway, although we didn't know it. A young woman named Stephanie Dickstein taught our kids in Sunday School, who (we also didn't know) would reappear as our rabbi in the 1990s.

The old generation sadly was being lost to illness, but a few young couples moved in to the city and joined the synagogue. Joel Freiser had already become a leader of services and I believe was already serving as president. The congregation's shaky finances led to a debate whether or not to jettison the Star of Israel building. Fortunately, it was not really valuable in





those days, being part of Hoboken's slum quarter, so the congregation kept it.

When Rabbi Urkowitz left, we did not have a permanent rabbi, so we hired Rabbi Judah Perkin for the High Holidays. That year Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur were early and it was very hot in the sanctuary. Rabbi Perkin was quite traditional and wore a suit jacket beneath his kittel and tallis. On the second day of Rosh Hashanah, during the Musaf service, he became very dizzy and had to retire to the social hall. I did some Roling work on his head and neck which restored him, so that he was able to complete the service, minus of course his suitcoat!

The next year Jeff Marker became rabbi and led the congregation for five good years. Young Jewish families now were moving to Hoboken, and the congregation had stabilized and was starting to grow.

In 1986 our daughter Eve had her Bat Mitzvah in the Star of Israel building. We had to lay down new carpet and clean the pews with Murphy's Oil Soap because no simchah had been held there for so many years. A wonderful artisan, Ernesto Morin of Union City, lay on his back on scaffolding for two weeks like Michelangelo, plastering the crumbling ceiling of the social hall in preparation for the Bat Mitzvah.

Rabbi Ken Katz came in 1987, and our daughter Amelia had her Bat Mitzvah in 1988. When Stephanie Dickstein became rabbi, some older members of the congregation left in protest. But she was a strong, popular leader who helped the synagogue grow.

The rest is current history — a swelling congregation with new young couples and their wonderful little ones, thriving here in Hoboken.

— Myron Kaplan

Manhattan Building Company

We honor Ron Rosenberg on his six years as president, congratulate United Synagogue of Hoboken on its Centennial anniversary, and look forward to the next 100 years of growth and accomplishment, starting with the restoration of our historic Star of Israel building.

Mazel Tov and Best Wishes.

Sanford Weiss



**A First Class Congratulations to USH from the
First Class to graduate from the
Kaplan Cooperative Preschool**



*The First One
Hundred Years*



The Next One Hundred Years

A Different History

ALICE, HARRY AND I LANDED AT USH in September 2000 after enrolling Harry at the Kaplan School. It was the beginning of the preschool and the beginning of our relationship with USH.

Alice, the first-born child of Holocaust survivors, had no intention, no dreams, not even any nightmares about becoming a member of a synagogue. I guess, marrying me, a gentile, was probably the safe thing to do to help her stay away from looking at her relationship to Judaism or having a Jewish life. The only thing she did make me promise was that if we ever had children we would raise them to be Jewish.

I'm still trying to figure out the contradictions and hypocrisy behind her statements. Despite my confusion, I agreed willingly, though I have to admit that when she said that if we had a son, we would have to have a bris, I reacted. For weeks, I argued with her, claiming that circumcision was a barbaric, nonsensical ritual. Well, guess what, Harry's circumcision was the first step in my real journey towards Judaism. But the details of that trip will have to wait till I write my memoir.

Since Harry's first days at Kaplan, with Rachelle and Laura as his teachers, lots of things have happened in our life. And many of them are connected with USH. We are members of the synagogue. Harry is a third-grade student at the Learning Center. I'm still working on my conversion to Judaism. And after attending Yom Kippur services this year, Alice expressed a serious interest in starting Hebrew classes soon.

The magic of the synagogue and the community has worked and USH has become our home outside home. From the inspiration I felt while attending Rabbi Rob Scheinberg's Introduction to Judaism classes, to watching Alice's mother light a candle during USH's Memorial to the Holocaust, to listening to Harry recite Ein Keloheinu with his classmates during Saturday morning services, this congregation has turned out to be an important part of our lives. We feel proud and lucky to be part of it.

During Rosh Hashanah this year, I was very sick and unable to attend services. When Alice and Harry returned from the second day of services, they called me into the living room, claiming that a surprise was waiting for me there. I can't describe my shock at seeing Rob Harari, former USH president and my friend, standing in the middle of the room, holding a Shofar and saying, "Alice told me you were sick, so I thought I'd come over and blow the Shofar for you."

What followed was probably one of the most amazing and touching





experiences I ever had and one I know I'll never forget. Rob's daughter Genna, with some help from Harry, recited the calls, while Rob did an encore with his Shofar, blowing each note with the same passion, intensity and devotion he does every year for all our congregation. But now he was here blowing the Shofar for a group of five standing in a circle in our own home. We will always cherish that day and we want to share it - one more sweet history — with the current and future members of the USH family.

By Jorge Fernandez
Edited by Alice Jurish

C ontra
B ass
P roductions

"... sound rental solutions educational and religious institutions"

&

the Jurish-Fernandez family
Salute the United
Synagogue of Hoboken
On their
100th Anniversary

לְדוֹר וָדוֹר נִגִּיד גְּדֻלָּתְךָ...

From generation to generation
we proclaim Your greatness.





To our resilient and special community at 100 years...

Happy Birthday.

To Ron Rosenberg, for your six years of leadership
as our president; to Rabbi Robert Scheinberg
for your intelligence and tireless devotion;
and to the generations of members and
spiritual leaders who brought us to this day...

Thank you.

*The 2005-2006 Officers and Trustees
of United Synagogue of Hoboken*

OFFICERS

Ken Schept, President; Barry Grossman, Treasurer; Russ Moskowitz,
Assistant Treasurer; Matt Meistrich, VP Administration;
Mara Suskauer, VP Membership; and Jeanne Becker, Secretary

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Norman Cantor, Rob Harari (President 1997-1999), Russell Kriegel,
Louise Kurtz, Carol Losos, Mike Marcello, Ricky Mason, Jane Porges,
Samantha Geracht-Myers, Ron Rosenberg (President 1999-2005),
Jake Stuver and Suzanne Wagner

Beth, Ricky, Shipley, Virginia & Joe Mason

DESPITE GROWING UP IN A CONSERVATIVE household, going to Hebrew school three times a week as a child, being Bar Mitzvah'd, and attending and graduating from a Hebrew high school connected to his synagogue, Ricky's Jewish education, indeed his entire connection to Judaism, failed him in a moment of great crisis. Ricky's mother died from cancer when he was seventeen, and in that same year Ricky's older brother was committed to a mental institution as a paranoid schizophrenic. To Ricky, Judaism, like the rest of his life, became largely empty of meaning and purpose. After all, he thought, if G-d could not help him avoid or overcome these tragedies, then what good was G-d? Several years later, when Ricky met and fell in love with Beth, his religion — or what was left of it — stayed behind, even after Beth, who grew up a Roman Catholic, converted to Judaism. When we moved to Hoboken as an ambitious young couple in the mid-1980s, we spent almost no time on our religion or community, and instead focused entirely on our careers. Yes, we looked at synagogues once or twice a year, including USH, but finding none to be remotely satisfying, we even stopped attending high holiday services. Instead of fasting on Yom Kippur, we ate a lighter lunch or perhaps drank water instead of soda.

It was not until our daughter Shipley, now 11, was born that we began slowly to return to USH and the Jewish fold. The credit for this re-kindling goes to our friend Marilyn Freiser, to whom words cannot express our thanks. When Shipley was 3, Ricky brought her on Shabbats to Marilyn's toddler class, and he and Shipley had so much fun that both of them could not wait for Saturday mornings to come. Virginia joined a couple of years later, and by that time Ricky felt drawn to services in the main sanctuary. The beauty of the liturgy, the warmth of the community, the leadership and intellect of the rabbi, all convinced him that it was not Judaism that had failed him at age 17, but that it was he who had failed Judaism and his





Jewish ancestors, and that now was the time to make amends. And so, after a long journey, we have come full circle: Shipley and Virginia attend the Learning Center three times a week (and love it), Ricky and Beth are active in the synagogue, and Ricky's father Joe, who moved to the area two years ago and was welcomed by the community with open arms, has found a synagogue home to replace the one he left in Richmond, Virginia.

Thank you to Marilyn Freiser and the rest of USH for helping us to re-discover and preserve our Jewish tradition.





TRUSTEES' AUTHORIZATION OF MERGER

WHEREAS, a special meeting upon due notice was held by the membership of the STAR OF ISRAEL CONGREGATION on the 24th day of July, 1946, and

WHEREAS, at the said meeting the following resolutions were adopted by a majority of the members present:

1. Resolved that the Star of Israel Congregation and the Hoboken Jewish Center be merged into one organization.
2. Be it further resolved that all religious services, including High Holy Days, be conducted at the Star of Israel Building and all social functions, meetings, and the Hebrew School be held at the Center Building.
3. Be it further resolved that the mode of worship be conservative with mixed pews.
4. Be it further resolved that all assets, including buildings, be pooled into one treasury to be administered by the new organization.

THEREFORE, we, the Trustees of the STAR OF ISRAEL CONGREGATION, do authorize the President and Secretary of this Congregation to enter into and sign an agreement of merger with the authorized officers of the HOBOKEN JEWISH CENTER which agreement shall be consistent in form with the resolutions as set



forth above and which were adopted by the membership on the date indicated.

DATED: March 19, 1947.

Jacob Auer
M. Marcus
Hyman F. Greenman
R. Poronimski
A. Massarsky
Morris Miller
Harry Gittel
Morris Kellman
Joseph Goldberg
M. Jacobs
M. Raut
A. Jankunsky
M. Kronberg
Samuel Klein
Benj. Rothbard



*With gratitude to the rabbis, teachers, and friends
who have made our community special.*

— Ken, Susan, Judah, and Rebecca Schept

In the Beginning: The Learning Center

FLASH BACK TO 1986: Judah is 7. Rebecca is 3. There is not one children's program at USH.

I keep asking, or should I say bugging, Jeff Marker, our first Conservative rabbi, to help find a teacher for Judah, as I believe it's time for him to start.

A few years earlier a group of parents, including Myron and Annette Kaplan, had hired a teacher named Stephanie Dickstein to teach their kids. Stephanie later goes on to ordination at JTS and returns to Hoboken as our rabbi.

Anyway, it so happens, serendipitously, some might say, others might say it was beshert, that a very talented Jewishly knowledgeable young man named Isaac Jeret is seeking to make a living teaching in order to pursue a career in the country music business. Ken and I hire him to teach Judah.

Flash forward a year or so: We now have a new rabbi, Ken Katz. There are a few more children. With the help of a several volunteer parents, including Gail Tuzman, cousin of Howard Olah-Reiken, Ken institutes a series of holiday programs for kids: a Hanukkah party, a Purim carnival (there had been nothing of this nature before, this is innovative), and a "Tot Shabbat" for 3 and 4 year olds. Marilyn Freiser, Ingrid Katz, and I lead these Shabbat morning programs. Isaac teaches a small group of older kids including Judah and Amelia Hollander every Shabbat morning.

Fast forward to the early 90s: Stephanie Dickstein is now rabbi. We have more children, younger children, enough for three classes. Stephanie, Isaac, and I think that we might have achieved critical mass. We draft a proposal for a Learning Center, a different kind of Jewish education





experience, one with vision, with enthusiasm, and with parental involvement.

It is “iffy” to say the least. We don’t know what the future will bring. The synagogue operates on a shoestring budget. The board reviews the proposal at a contentious meeting. I speak, Stephanie speaks, but it is Stanley Silver, z”l, a past president, who convinces the board by arguing that “a synagogue that does not support its children does not deserve to be a synagogue.” The measure passes; the Learning Center begins under the direction of Stephanie and Isaac.

Postscript: Isaac never establishes himself in country music. His enthusiasm for Judaism and Jewish learning is re-ignited in Hoboken and he becomes a rabbi. The learning center expands dramatically and, 25 years after hiring a private tutor for their daughters, Eve and Amelia, the Kaplans are instrumental in the construction of the Kaplan Family Learning Center. Marilyn Freiser embarks on a brilliant second career as our wonderful and much loved gan teacher.

And Marilyn and I can still do a rousing rendition of *Yadaim al ha Rosh*.

— Susan Schept



*In honor of Ron Rosenberg
for his many years of leadership*

*In appreciation of
Rabbi Robert Scheinberg*

*and Celebrating the
United Synagogue of Hoboken's
Centennial
and our twenty-five years of membership
in the Synagogue*

— Jeanne and Bob Becker —



10 Reasons for the Eagle

(Most are actually true.)

10. *The Eagle heralds the coming of Elijah.*
9. *An Eagle spreading its wings symbolizes G-d's protection from evil for all who came before Him.*
8. *Eagles are considered to be the principal messenger of the Creator.*
7. *The Eagle represents Divine Power - it rises high in the sky carrying our prayers.*
6. *The Eagle was installed to honor the large number of Philadelphians residing in Hoboken.*
5. *Eagles symbolize the triumph of light over the forces of darkness.*
4. *The Eagle has traditionally been a symbol of wisdom and courage.*
3. *The Eagle symbolizes the soaring need to be vigilant and maintain Jewish values.*
2. *The Eagle was the symbol of Imperial Rome.
When the second Temple was built,
Herod placed an eagle
over the gate
to offend the Jewish
populace. Rome fell,
we survived.*
1. *It looks really cool.*

**Here's to another
100 years**

**Susan, Steve & Jared
Chait / Sternberg**



Sapira Family Timeline

The United Synagogue of Hoboken has played such a strong and meaningful role in our growing family:

SPRING, 1993: Loren A. moves to Hoboken, but doesn't get involved as she's in business school and working.

FALL, 1994: Lauren B. moves to Hoboken and happens to park her car next to 115 Park Ave just before the USH BBQ. She decides to check it out and joins soon afterwards. Her dad joins her for their first high holidays in Hoboken.

JANUARY, 1995: Lauren B. convinces her friend Marni Runyon (now Kriegel) to launch a UJA Young Leadership Division in Hoboken, with the support of USH Rabbi Stephanie Dickstein. Loren A. attends the group's first meeting and meets Lauren B. for the first time. Then Loren A. is MIA for several years thereafter (still juggling work and school).

FALL, 1996: Lauren B. goes to Club Med with 3 USH girlfriends – it just happens to be a Jewish singles week. At the end of the trip, she meets Valdi Sapira and his brother Andrew – but figures he'll never call. To her surprise Valdi does call, and starts to trek up to Hoboken from Philly to visit her.

FALL, 1996: Loren A. is in her last semester of business school and realizes she wants to meet other people in Hoboken, so why not seek out Jewish friends? She starts to attend UJA YLD activities. Shortly thereafter, her new friends (Marni Kriegel gets the most credit) convince her to join USH as well.

SUMMER, 1997, 1998: Loren A. & Lauren B. spend summer weekends at the beach with a house full of USH and YLD friends. Valdi is at first a





frequent visitor and then an official member of the house and the Hoboken community.

FALL, 1998: Loren, Lauren, Valdi, and several of Loren and Lauren’s friends from Hoboken and Cornell (Lauren and Loren are both Cornell alum) attend a Cornell hockey game on Long Island. Lauren & Valdi drag Andrew along and Loren meets him for the first time.

SPRING, 1999: Loren and Andrew have their first date.

DECEMBER, 2000: Following an aufruf at USH, Rabbi Scheinberg marries Lauren & Valdi at Temple Beth Ahm in Springfield.

SUMMER, 2001: Andrew and Valdi’s father passes away and is buried in the USH cemetery in Queens. Rabbi Scheinberg performs a touching and personal funeral ceremony.

FALL, 2001: Rabbi Scheinberg marries Loren and Andrew at USH.

Spring, 2003: Lauren’s sister Debbie is married to Alex Tchernovitz by Rabbi Scheinberg, after shlepping over from Manhattan to hold their aufruf at USH.

SUMMER, 2003: Lauren and Valdi have their first child, Joshua. Josh’s Brit Milah is held at USH.

WINTER, 2004: Loren and Andrew have their first child, Abbie. Abbie’s Simchat Bat is held at USH.

FALL, 2005: Lauren, Valdi, Joshua, Loren, Andrew and Abbie all attend USH’s 100th high holidays together, along with many other family members, many of whom are now USH members too.

To our friends at the United Synagogue of Hoboken

From the moment we found you,
The community welcomed and encouraged us.
We enjoy each day, each week, each month and each year with you.
We return again and again to capture and explore the essence of a
Jewish way of life.
To share warm smiles and hugs with each of you:
That has been and remains one of the greatest gifts of being among you.

In celebration of one hundred years of the remarkable
Hoboken Jewish Community,
We rejoice in experiencing
With you the living presence of a vibrant community where
The whole is always greater than the sum of its parts;
A special place to rest, reflect, learn, play, pray, sing, dance,
joke, cry, eat; to bear and nurture beautiful children.

We salute an extraordinary community of
gifted and caring human beings.

With Admiration and Love.
Yasher Koach...May you all forever be strengthened!

Joel, Marilyn, Sarah and Laura Freiser





Mazel Tov
to the United Synagogue of Hoboken
as the community celebrates
your first centennial.

Thank you
for always being my
home away from home.

Amanda Grant



Congratulations
United Synagogue Of Hoboken

Wishing our community
a happy 100th birthday

*Phil Cohen, Rebecca Kramnick,
Madeline and Anna*





Congratulations
to the members of the
United Synagogue of Hoboken
on your first 100 years.

"As long as the earth endures,
seedtime and harvest,
cold and heat,
summer and winter,
day and night
will never cease."

Genesis 8:22



IT WAS JUST ABOUT THE TURN of the century that we made the momentous move from Manhattan's Upper West Side to the mile-square town of Hoboken. In "the city" we were members of Congregation B'nai Jeshurun (BJ), a huge temple with 3,500 families, known for its spirited services, dancing at Friday night services, and leadership in Jewish renewal. But the United Synagogue of Hoboken (USH) offers many things that BJ was missing.

On our very first visit to USH, in the mid-1990s, then at 830 Hudson Street, Rabbi Lia Bass introduced herself and asked Barry who he was saying Kaddish for. (Barry's father had recently passed away.) We were very touched at her concern. This kind of personal recognition was pretty much impossible at a place as large as BJ.

We did a fair amount of "shul hopping" and visiting towns beginning with the letter "M"—Montclair, Maplewood, Millburn, and so on—before deciding to move to here. Hoboken had a lot of what Manhattan offers—street life, public transportation, walkability—without the crowds. We also visited USH again, this time at its present address, 115 Park Avenue. We heard services led by our current, very musical rabbi, Rob Scheinberg who introduced himself after services, as did many of the congregants. We felt warmly welcomed and sure we could find a home here. And we have.

We love you Rabbi Scheinberg. We love you USH.

L'shalom,

Audrey Merwin Grossman

Barry Grossman



MAZEL TOV

TO THE

UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF HOBOKEN

ON ITS
100TH
ANNIVERSARY

from your friends at



DESIGNER SHOWROOMS:
FAIRFIELD, NJ 65 PASSAIC AVE.
ORANGE, NJ 557 MAIN STREET
MADISON, NJ 10 PROSPECT ST.
PERTH AMBOY, NJ 104 SMITH ST.

OTHER LOCATIONS:
BELLEVILLE, NJ 111 WASHINGTON AVE.
MONTCLAIR, NJ 520 BLOOMFIELD AVE.
NEWTON, NJ 17 EAST CLINTON ST.

מי שברך אבותינו אברהם יצחק ויעקב ואמונתנו שרה רבקה רחל ולאה
הוא יברך את כל הקהל הקדוש הזה עם כל קהלות הקדש
הם ובניהם ובנותיהם וכל אשר להם
ומי שמיחדים בתו כנסיות לתפלה ומי שבאים בתוכם להתפלל
ומי שמתנים נר למאור ויין לקדוש ולהבדלה ופת לאורחים וצדקה לעניים
וכל מי שעוסקים בצרכי צבור באמונה
הקדוש ברוך הוא ישלם שכרם ויסיר מהם כל מחלה
וירפא לכל גופם ויסלח לכל עונם וישלח ברכה והצלחה בכל מעשה ידיהם
עם כל ישראל אחיהם ונאמר אמן: (פתוח הסידור)

**"May the One who blessed our ancestors
Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah
bless this entire holy community, together with all other holy communities:
those who establish the synagogue, and those who pray there,
and those who give funds for light, and wine for Kiddush and Havdalah,
and food for visitors, and charity for the needy,
and all those who occupy themselves faithfully with the needs of the community.
May the Holy One reward them, heal them, and forgive them,
and make all their worthy deeds prosper,
together with their brothers and sisters of the house of Israel,
and we say: Amen." (from the Shabbat prayers)**

**Mazal Tov and Yishar Koach!
Rabbi Robert Scheinberg
Rabbi Naomi Kalish
Adina, Shoshana, and Talia**





Mazal Tov
to the United Synagogue of Hoboken
on its 100th Anniversary!

We wish the congregation many more
years of health and happiness!

We have so many wonderful
memories of our years in Hoboken
and our affiliation with USH.

Shana Tovah to all of you.

With much love and pride from:
Natalie, Simon and Tsvika Smith
wife and children of
Past President Lenny (Lior) Smith z''l

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The Centennial Gala Committee



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Mazel tov on your centennial!

*May the next 100 years
be as inspiring as the first.*

-United Jewish Appeal of Hoboken





Congratulations
to Rabbi Scheinberg
and USH!

Jim, Alicia, Grace, Mimi and Evan

I first attended services at the United Synagogue of Hoboken, 115 Park, for the high holidays in 1982. Having recently moved to Hoboken, I decided to check out the local shul rather than travel to my family synagogue. When I arrived, I felt like I had walked into another century and a different world. Here, in a magnificent old world setting, was a relatively small group of old, mostly men who were intensely davening, well, more like mumbling, strictly in Hebrew, rarely pausing to recite the page number. As much as I can remember, there were no kids.

As someone who grew up in a reform congregation, occasionally attending a conservative service in my various travels, my first instinct may have been to run for the door. But I couldn't leave. Something pulled me in and held me tight. It was like my ancestors and all of their prayers were circulating in the building, inside of a giant tallit that formed inside of the building, along the animal festooned walls, up to the crumbling but still glorious starlit ceiling and around by the stained glass and aron kodesh.

And I have never left. Throughout all of these years, inside this tallit, I and my family have celebrated the full cycle of the Jewish holidays, and special occasions like my wedding, the brit milah of my son and simchat bat of my daughter. We look forward to many more years of celebrations in a newly restored building.

We extend our best wishes to the United Synagogue of Hoboken on reaching its 100th anniversary.

Kathy, Bruce, Michael and Jessica Prussack



“The Bar and Bat Mitzvah Class of 2005”



A VISIT TO THE LOWER EAST SIDE WITH THEIR TEACHER MIKE, 2002.

From left to right: Rachel Glicksberg, Cassandra Rosner, Elena Kalmus, Zoe Vock, Ariella Gintzler; not in the photo are Leora Rosenberg and Noah Tavlin.



The Soccer Learning Center
congratulates The United
Synagogue of Hoboken on
their milestone 100th anniversary.

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JUNE 6, 2004 (17 SIVAN 5764) brought Michael and Samantha Brown our first bundle of joy, new Hoboken resident, KENNEDY MAYA (STASHA ESTHER) BROWN.



At her United Synagogue of Hoboken Brit Banot / Simhat Bat Ceremony
Rabbi Robert Scheinberg officiated at her baby naming.

Her name honors the lives of her:

Grandfather Kenny
Great Great Grandmother Sadie

Great Grandfather Milton
Great Grandmother Esther

*Our Adonai and Adonai of our ancestors, we thank you for the precious gift of new life.
We will always be grateful to You for giving us the blessing of parenthood,
which allows us to share in the miracle of creation.*

*Warm Congratulations
to Ron Rosenberg
for his 6 years of outstanding service,
to USH for 100 years
of fine service to the Jewish tradition,
and to all the members of the Events Committee
for their great devotion to the
Hoboken Jewish community!*

Norman Cantor

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KENNY LAIKEN

THANK YOU MEMBERS OF USH FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

When I was faced with cancer 2 years ago, it was the members of our synagogue who provided the support that my family and I so desperately needed. The Rabbi closely followed my progress and came for visits. The congregation prayed for me during the prayer for the sick. USH members reached out in great numbers to offer help in any way they could. Many people cooked us meals and after each chemo session, a hearty dinner was awaiting our return from the hospital. USH members in the medical field became close advisors on seeking the best treatments for the body, mind and soul. Other USH members helped take care of our children so that Monique could concentrate on taking care of me. Another USH member came to our house on the High Holidays and blew the shofar in our kitchen so that I could fulfill the mitzvah of hearing the shofar even when I was too ill to attend services. And a famed group of USH members organized together as a band of talented musicians to celebrate the news of my return to good health. My list could go on and on about all the ways we were touched by the wonderful Jewish community that is the United Synagogue of Hoboken. It is difficult to put into words how comforting it is to have a whole congregation by one's side through a time of need. Monique and I are blessed to be a part of this community and to raise our family among such people of character, strength, diversity and compassion.

— Gordy Haas

Congratulations, Ron!!!

With our deepest
gratitude and appreciation
for your tireless dedication
to our community,
we thank you
for turning vision to reality.

Monique and Gordy Haas
Sebastian & Griffen



Mazal Tov
from
Sandy & Joel Lewis

Ron,

*Thank you for your inspiring
leadership for the community.*

Matt Meistrich

TO THE NEXT
HUNDRED YEARS!

Mary and Joseph Israel

*Mazel Tov to USH
on Reaching Our 100th Year!*

*We are Happy to be a Part of
This Wonderful Community*

*The Ohring Family
— Rochelle, Avi, Jake and Max*

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Joe and Genna Harari

Congratulations
to the
United Synagogue of Hoboken
100 years old and growing stronger every year!



We met in Hoboken, we married at USH,
and we are
proud and honored to be members of the
Hoboken Jewish community!

Mazel Tov,
Karen Jurman & Mike Marcello

*To the Alumni and
Current Members/Volunteers
of the United Synagogue of Hoboken.*

*You are the Sustainers of the Legacy
for the next 100 Years – MAZEL TOV!!*

*Douglas and Rebecca Feit Klein
Evan and Eliana Klein*

“Mazel tov to a
special community.”

Love,
Russell, Marni, Addie & Nate Kriegel

In Memory of my Beloved Aunt, Jeanne Gibstein, who is greatly missed by many more people than she could ever have imagined for her kindness, caring and unstinting love. She loved and was loved no more than by her “favourite niece” Bonnie and nephew David.

In Memory of my father, Edward, who was loved and missed by his daughter Bonnie and who did his best in a very difficult life. May he find the rest he never found in life.

May their souls be bound up in eternal life.

— Bonnie Gail Krepliak & David Lloyd Gallagher,
for whom USH has been a source of learning and comfort.

I have been a USH member for 18 years and the ritual chairperson for 16, so I'll let that be my angle. I remember when we had services only one Shabbat a month in the Star of Israel building. I remember having to drive siddurim from one building to the other. People knew not to sit in a certain place in the center front rows when it was rainy because of the water and bits of debris that would fall from the ceiling. As we grew and were determined to make our space work on Shabbat mornings, we became very resourceful in creating classroom space, even when it meant putting up a wall in front of the rose window or making do behind a screen in the entry area. Within our walls I not only found a welcoming and wonderful community, but I learned much of what I practice today as an observant Jew. I have also had the honor and privilege of participating in many simchas and services, and encouraging many people to go up to the bima for that first time. Our ceiling no longer leaks. We have real class rooms. The rose window is back in all of its glory. I look forward to serving this community and being served by it as we begin the next hundred years and I look forward to our continued growth on every level.

— Louise Kurtz

Thank you for the memories
and for the future.

We are excited about the days to come.

A toast to the next 100 years.

Enid McDonough, Roger Green,
Ryan McDonough, Zoë McDonough

*Thanks to everyone who helped make USH
such a special place for us for so many years.*

You have a special place in our hearts.

*Marilyn Rose
Gerry Buchoff
Adam, Daniel & Isaac*

I was adopted as an infant and had been raised as a Christian. To my astonishment, I discovered (through the New York State adoption registry) that I was in fact Jewish according to Jewish law at age 40 while I was studying for conversion with Rabbi Scheinberg. USH has been the place where I have learned the many skills of Jewish living and worship, and to feel at home with my people, a people that I never really knew before. In order to learn these things, I needed to have people around me who were willing to teach them and to be examples of them. I found those people at USH. Whether one is an experienced and learned lifelong Jew, a prospective convert, or like me, never spent a day in Hebrew school, USH offers a welcoming and friendly environment to grow as a Jew. As beautiful as our sanctuary is and will become, it is the people that make the shul. May our congregation long continue to build on Hoboken's Jewish heritage.

— Anne E. Pettit

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Ron:

We are proud of you for all the years you served as a trustee, treasurer and President of the United Synagogue of Hoboken.

We wish you success in your new role as a member of the Hoboken Board of Education.

Love,
Zehava and Leora Rosenberg

We have a birthday, too!
Cub Scout Pack 18 is 7 years old!



Since 1998, Pack 18 has helped nearly 50 boys improve their community, appreciate the world of nature, and learn new skills.

*Congratulations
on the
Centennial
of the
United Synagogue
of Hoboken*

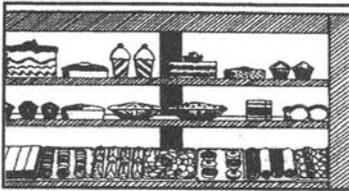
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It's a remarkable milestone
Congratulations USH
and Ron Rosenberg!

Many thanks to a great
"Gala" group for your
inspiration and support:
Monique Haas, Karen Jurman
and Harriet Taub

— Jane Klueger

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Our community is blessed with this jewel of a synagogue and a vibrant growing congregation. Thank you to all who worked through many challenging years to bring us to this day of celebration.

Congratulations!

Diana London and Florence Pape

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Happy 100th Birthday USH

Congratulations Tichon class on your
Bar/Bat Mitzvahs

Thanks Ron for your leadership

— *David, Abbie, Elena & Danielle* —

*We wish you 100 more birthdays
filled with Torah and simchas and naches*

Norman and Myrna Kasser

Congratulations and Thank You to the United Synagogue of Hoboken
for a Century of Torah, Avodah, and Gemilut Chasadim!

— *Joyful Wishes for the Next Hundred Years, and the Generations to Come* —

Samantha Geracht Myers
Glen Myers
Joshua Myers
Aliza Myers

Best Wishes to the United Synagogue of Hoboken

From Lee and Richard Raines

Mazel Tov to United Synagogue of Hoboken in 2005
for the past 100 years, and hopes for 100 more!

Linda Steinhardt
Doug Lindsay
Benjamin Steinhardt Case

*“Mazel Tov USH on 100 Years,
looking forward to participating in your new century”*

Gayle Weisman



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Mazel Tov!

Cindy, Jason, Hannah
and Sam Altberger

Councilman Michael T. Cricco
And
Daughters Caitlin and Carly

*Congratulations
On Your First
Hundred Years*

*Captain Anthony L. Romano
and family*

HERE'S TO THE NEXT
HUNDRED YEARS!

MAZEL TOV

JOEL, CARLA,
ALI, ETHAN &
ZOE GREENGRASS