

A milestone is approaching...

NSCI TURNS 100!

Join us to celebrate our legacy and imagine our future
as we approach our centennial year.

CENTENNIAL CO-CHAIRS: Rachel Stein • Jody Weinberg • Charlie Winternitz

APRIL 3-5

Nationally acclaimed Rabbi Rami M. Shapiro speaks on the future of Judaism in "Now More Than Ever, Why Judaism Matters" during our Bernice and Seymour Nordenberg Memorial Scholar in Residence weekend.

APRIL 17 6:15 PM

Long-time Congregant Shabbat service and dinner including a celebration of Rabbi Herbert Bronstein's 90th birthday.

Judy Geleerd & Laurie Lieberman
CO-CHAIRS

APRIL 19 1:00 PM

Docent-led tour of NSCI coupled with a presentation by architect Gunny Harboe, a leading expert in historic preservation. Gunny will share his thoughts about the importance of modern heritage and sacred spaces in our collective conscience. Presented in cooperation with the Chicago Architecture Center and the Glencoe Historical Society. **Lorelei Rosenthal** CHAIR

APRIL 24 6:15 PM

Dedication of NSCI's Shoah Torah. Written c.1850, this Torah was rescued from Bohemia during the Holocaust and hidden for generations throughout Europe.

MAY 3 9:15 AM

NSCI's Mitzvah Day, with hands-on service opportunities for all ages.

Jill Moss & Ann Weisberg
CO-CHAIRS

MAY 4, 11, 18 7:00 PM

The History of NSCI & The Reform Movement from 1920-2020, with Rabbi Steven Mason.

MAY 8 6:15 PM

New Congregant Shabbat service with welcome blessing. Rabbi Steven Mason will deliver a sermon reflecting on NSCI's history and legacy.

FRIDAY, MAY 15 6:15PM

WNSCI Shabbat service and festive oneg celebrating WNSCI's rich history at the synagogue.

MAY 29 6:15 PM

Shabbat Shavuot service honoring adult B'nei Mitzvah alumni.

JUNE 5 6:15 PM

CENTENNIAL SHABBAT and extra-festive oneg. NSCI turns 100!

Stacy & Charlie Winternitz
CO-CHAIRS

JUNE 6

CENTENNIAL GALA: A roaring '20s-inspired fundraiser with a tribute to Rabbi Wendi Geffen's 18 years at NSCI.

Pam Faulkner & Laurie Lieberman
CO-CHAIRS

Plus events and activities including a time capsule, interactive art exhibition, and more!

FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS, VISIT [NSCI.ORG/100](https://www.nsci.org/100)

NSCI'S CENTENNIAL GALA

SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 2020

Say "Cheers" to 100 Years with us at this roaring '20s-inspired event!

Musical entertainment and dancing with

THE BETTYS

performing hits through the decades

Decadent dessert reception by renowned

CHEF DOMINIQUE TOUGNE

of Chez Moi

INVITATION COMING IN APRIL

Questions? Contact Dena Blaustein
at denab@nsci.org or 847.835.0724 ext. 633.



A Brief Early History of North Shore Congregation Israel

IN 1920, a small group of families living on the North Shore, but still members of the classical reform Sinai Congregation in Chicago, sought to create a northern branch of the congregation closer to their homes. And so it was that, with a vote of 40 people, the original founders established “The North Shore Branch of Sinai Congregation” for those with “an interest in furthering their thought and creating a background of Jewish thought for their children.” June 1, 1920 marked the first Shabbat service. It was held at the Hubbard Woods School in Winnetka, Illinois, after which point services were held at irregular intervals based on the rabbi’s availability.

Within a few years, more than 250 families were a part of the congregation, catalyzing the desire for a more permanent and independent identity. As such, the members voted to separate from Sinai Congregation on April 19, 1926, and the name North Shore Congregation Israel was chosen three months later.

In 1928, the congregation purchased land in Glencoe and dedicated a new facility located at the corner of Lincoln and Vernon. It was just

before the stock market crash that heralded the Great Depression. Although this ensuing era marked great instability and change, NSCI’s membership remained largely cohesive, grounded in the value that no one would be turned away for financial reasons.

After World War II, Jewish families started moving to the suburbs in increasingly large numbers. Moreover, there was no congregation, Reform, Conservative, or Traditional, north of the Chicago city limits, except North Shore Congregation Israel. At this time, the Board of NSCI voted to hire its first permanent senior rabbi, Rabbi Edgar Siskin. Having outgrown the footprint of the Vernon Avenue space, a 1952 fundraising campaign enabled the construction of a new classroom wing, a social hall, and new offices. That soon became too small, as NSCI attained a membership of over 1,850 families, with nearly 2,000 children in our religious school. An opportunity arose to purchase a beautiful plot of land on Sheridan Road. ■

The full story can be found in our archives at nsci.org/archives.