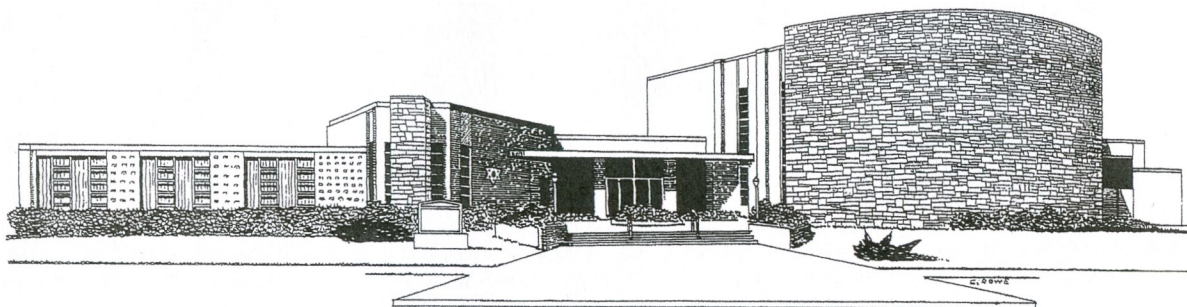


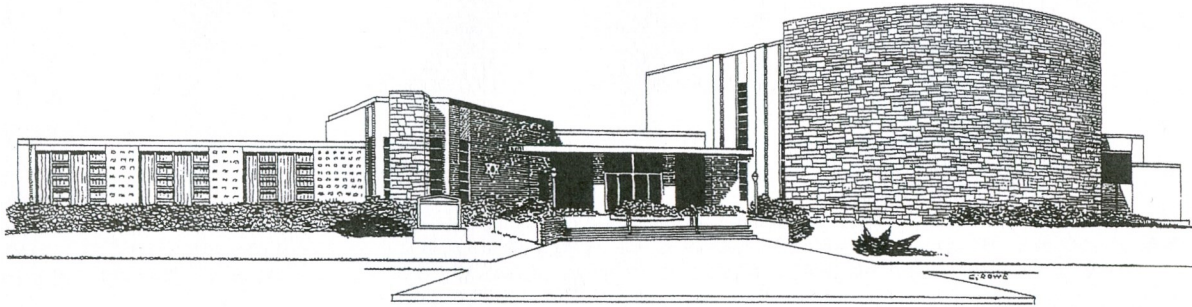
## **CONGREGATION SHAARAI TEFILLA TEMPLE GATES OF PRAYER HISTORY AND HIGHLIGHTS**

- 1901** The Congregation has its beginnings in the Ellensohn living room behind their store on the corner of Grove (now 39th Avenue) and Main Street.
- 
- 1905** There are thirty Jewish families in Flushing and the Congregation's first home is purchased at 53 Washington Street (now 37th Avenue).
- A kosher butcher arrives in Flushing and a Hebrew School class is organized for the children.
- 
- 1915** The growing Congregation is granted permission to use a Knights of Columbus building on Madison Avenue (41st Street) for High Holiday Services. The Congregation purchases a plot of land on Amity Street (Roosevelt Avenue) upon which a Synagogue is to be built.
- 
- 1919** The Congregation engages Rabbi Morris Lichtenstein as its first Spiritual Leader. During the ensuing years he is succeeded by Rabbi Nathan Lublin, Rabbi Arthur Neulander, and in 1927 by Rabbi Joseph Grossman.
- 
- 1921** The newly built Synagogue on Amity Street is dedicated and the Congregation worships in its own home for the first time.
- 
- 1931** A new School Building and Community House is built and dedicated. The facilities include classrooms, offices and a large social hall.
- 
- 1934** The congregation officially affiliates with the United Synagogue of America, the national organization of Conservative Synagogues.
- 
- 1935** Rabbi Abraham Dubin is elected Spiritual Leader of the Congregation. During the war years, he serves as a military Chaplain and the pulpit is occupied by Rabbis Harry Katchen and Hyman Muss. Cantors Wolf Hecker and Vittorio Weinberg serve during this period.



## **CONGREGATION SHAARAI TEFILLA TEMPLE GATES OF PRAYER HISTORY AND HIGHLIGHTS**

- 1960** A new modern Synagogue building fronting on Parsons Boulevard is built and dedicated. It includes a beautiful sanctuary, daily chapel, library, meeting room, and ballroom with catering facilities.
- 
- 1961** Rabbi Samuel Schafler is elected Spiritual Leader. During his tenure, the Congregation's Adult Education and Youth Activities Programs expand greatly. The Congregation receives the Solomon Schechter Award for Adult Education. Cantor Moshe Bazian is elected in 1962.
- 
- 1967** The Congregation's religious and educational programs expand and the membership grows to its peak of 480 families. The Hebrew School receives accreditation.
- 
- 1971** The Congregation appoints Mrs. Ann Burns as Executive Secretary to coordinate the Temple's many activities and administer the Temple's busy office.
- 
- 1972** Reverend Ezra Goldman is elected to serve the Congregation as Ritual Director.
- 
- 1974** The Temple receives a special award from the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies in recognition of its cooperative relationship with the Flushing YM-YWHA for the welfare of the entire Jewish community.
- 
- 1976** Rabbi Harvey Goldsheider is elected Spiritual Leader and Jacob Mendelson is elected Cantor.
- 
- 1977** Tragedy strikes. The Temple is destroyed by fire. The Sanctuary is gutted and there is widespread damage. The Congregation is devastated and mourns.



## CONGREGATION SHAARAI TEFILLA TEMPLE GATES OF PRAYER HISTORY AND HIGHLIGHTS

**1979** With determination and faith, the Congregation rebuilds. The new Synagogue is dedicated at a ceremony attended by the Honorable Edward Koch, Mayor of New York City.

•

**1980** Rabbi Albert Thaler is elected to the pulpit.

The decade is marked by an influx of many young families and a large new immigrant population from the former Soviet Union.

•

**1982** After being closed for several years, the Temple's Library is refurbished, restocked and reopened.

The Abe and Bea Rosen Fund is established to award scholarships to the Congregation's high school and college students studying in Israel.

•

**1987** The first group Adult Bat Mitzvah for thirty-three women.

•

**1988** The Celebration Wall is installed in the Temple's lobby to record happy events in the lives of our members.

•

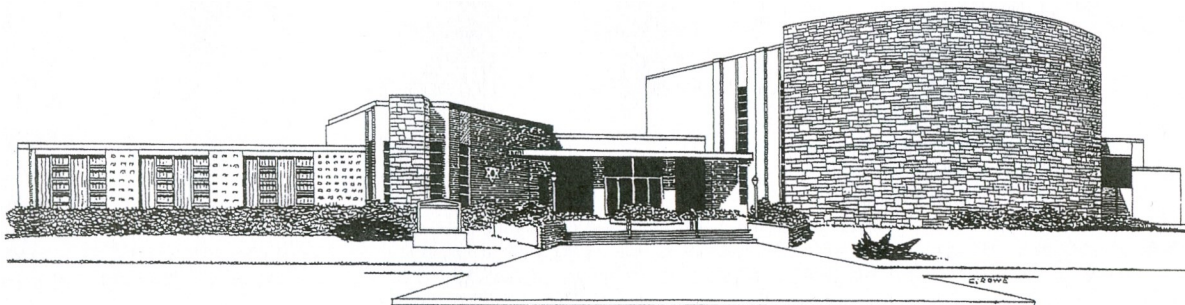
**1990** The Congregation adopts a three year program leading to full participation of women in religious Services.

Moshe Bear is elected Cantor.

•

**1992** Ruth Futterman is elected President of the Congregation; the first woman to serve in this office.

The first biennial family trip to Israel with children and teens subsidized by the Rosen Fund.



## **CONGREGATION SHAARAI TEFILLA TEMPLE GATES OF PRAYER HISTORY AND HIGHLIGHTS**

**1995** Tirenial cycle of Torah reading at Shabbat morning Services is introduced.

The Holocaust Wall is installed in the Temple lobby.

•

**1996** Joshua Gluckstern Reiss is elected Cantor.

•

**1997** The second group Adult Bat Mitzvah for nineteen women.

•

**1998** The Ruth and Morris Urieff Film Library is dedicated and opened for the circulation of video tapes dealing with all aspects of Jewish and Israeli life.

•

**1999** The Hank Greenberg Bikur Ḥolim Program is established. A large committee is formed to visit the ill and help the homebound.

Reverend Ezra Goldman retires after serving 28 years as Ritual Director. A Shabbat Tribute is tendered in his honor.

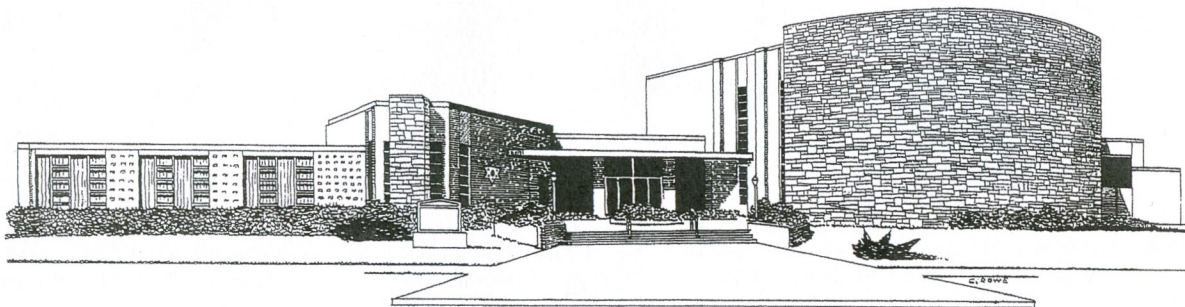
Menahem Hollander is elected Cantor and Martin Segal is appointed Spiritual Director.

•

**2000** A year long series of programs is launched to celebrate the Temple's One Hundredth Anniversary. The first program is a Torah Celebration. A new Torah is dedicated and the Heritage Torah is retired to a place of honor. The second program is a concert by Debbie Friedman to which our Sister Congregations in Queens are invited. The third program is a lecture by Rabbi Harold Kushner. The final program is a One Hundreth Anniversary Dinner Dance in honor of Rabbi Albert and Shirley Thaler, celebrating their twentieth anniversary at the Temple.

A special Program of Jewish Studies for Children with Special Needs is introduced.





## **CONGREGATION SHAARAI TEFILLA TEMPLE GATES OF PRAYER HISTORY AND HIGHLIGHTS**

- 2001 The Congregation begins to use the new Etz Hayim Humash at Shabbat and Holiday Services.**

**The Bea and Larry Kahn Memorial Lecture Series is inaugurated.  
Fay Sladowsky retires after teaching in our Hebrew School for thirty-six years.**

•

- 2002 Programs are developed to mark the beginning of our second century. These include performances by Mike Burstyn and Theodore Bikel. Second century programs include a Dinner Dance honoring longtime members of the Temple.**

**Cantor Aaron Katz is elected.**

•

- 2003 Dedication and naming of the Reverend Ezra Goldman Bet Midrash.**

•

- 2004 The Temple hosts a traveling exhibit, Herzl: Up Close and Personal.**

•

- 2005 The Temple participates in Shabbat Across America.**

**The Anne Berman and Fay Tomick Fund for Jewish Education is established.**

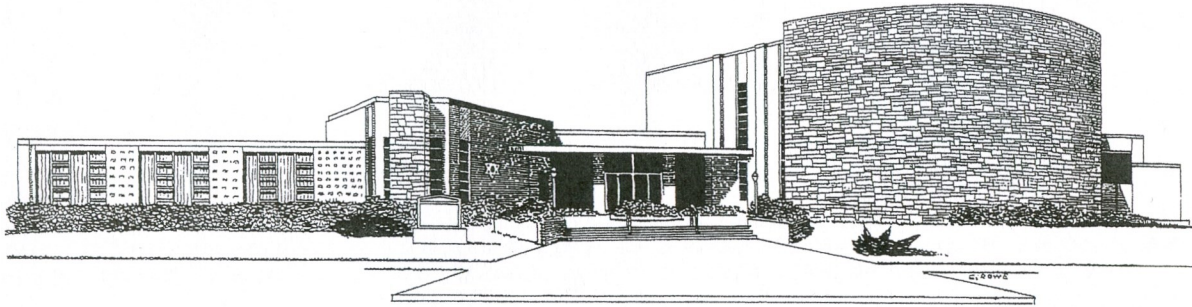
**The Congregation, after much discussion, votes to sell a section of its parking lot.**

**The Congregation celebrates Rabbi Albert and Shirley Thaler's twenty- fifth anniversary with the Temple.**

•

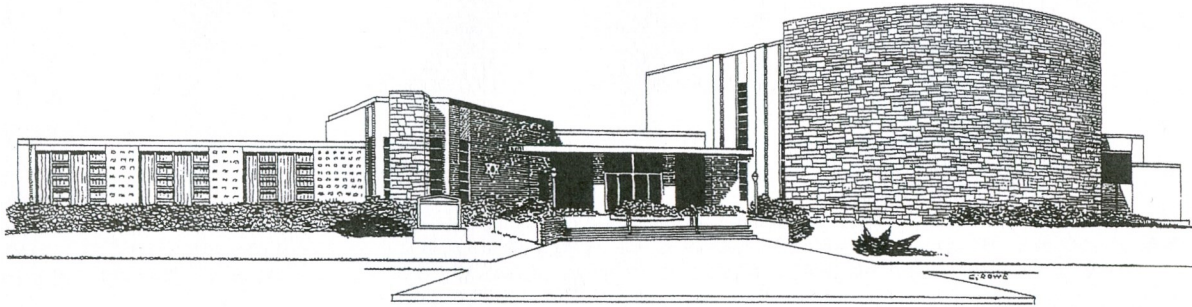
- 2006 The Dr. Saul Futterman Shabbat Torah Study Program is inaugurated.**

**The sale of property is completed and work begins on reconfiguring the parking lot.**



## **CONGREGATION SHAARAI TEFILLA TEMPLE GATES OF PRAYER HISTORY AND HIGHLIGHTS**

- 2007** The Congregation sponsors a Schechter Shabbat inviting students and parents from the Solomon Schechter School of Queens.
- A periodic Learners Service on Shabbat morning is instituted.
- 
- 2008** A family trip to Israel in February - subsidized by the Rosen Fund for children and teens.
- The third group Adult Bat Mitzvah for sixteen women.
- A ramp is constructed in the Sanctuary providing wheelchair and walker accessibility to the Bimah.
- The Youth Lounge is refurbished for a growing youth presence in the Temple.
- Proceeds of the Yom Kippur Yizkor Appeal provide Hanukkah gift packages for Israel's 'Lone Soldiers.'
- A New High Holy Day Maḥzor is introduced.
- 
- 2009** Temple sends financial aid to Israel's southern communities suffering from rocket attacks.
- A G'mach Fund is established to help Temple families through difficult times.
- 
- 2010** A family trip to Israel in February - subsidized by the Rosen Fund for children and teens.
- Adult Bar Mitzvah Reaffirmation Shabbat. Nineteen men participate.
- Cantor Benjamin Tisser is elected.
- The Congregation celebrates its One Hundred Tenth Anniversary at a Shabbat Dinner.



## **CONGREGATION SHAARAI TEFILLA TEMPLE GATES OF PRAYER HISTORY AND HIGHLIGHTS**

- 2011** The congregation donates a Mobile Intensive Care Ambulance to Magen David Adom, Israel's emergency medical service. It was presented to representatives of Magen David Adom in a ceremony at Temple Gates of Prayer in January, and in April, at a ceremony in Jerusalem at the Inbal Hotel.
- 
- 2012** A family trip to Israel in February - subsidized by the Rosen Fund for children and teens.
- 
- 2013** Hazzan Moshe Bear is elected.  
Cantor Edward Cohen is appointed Ritual Director.  
The Temple is awarded a grant by the Department of Homeland Security to enhance our security.
- 
- 2014** A family trip to Israel in February - subsidized by the Rosen Fund for children and teens.
- 
- 2015** Cantor Steven Barr is appointed Ritual Director.
- 
- 2017** Rabbi Albert Thaler retires after serving 37 years as Spiritual Leader of Temple Gates of Prayer. He is elected Rabbi Emeritus.  
Rabbi Mark Biller is elected to the pulpit and a formal installation ceremony is held in November.
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- 2018** Once a month alternative Shabbat and Sunday morning services inaugurated.
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- 2019** Musical instruments are introduced during Shabbat services.
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- 2020** Property at 38-20 Parsons Boulevard sold.