

BARNERT

The Magazine

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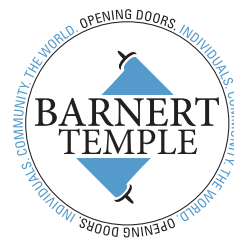
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Cover design: Rebecca Rund

Cover images: (from top left) Mischa Gass Annual Musical Review, 1949; Confirmation class at Straight Street synagogue, 1952; moving our *torahs* from Paterson to our current location in Franklin Lakes, 1987; Senior Rabbi Rachel Steiner and Assistant Rabbi Eliza Scheffler at a Sisterhood and Social Justice event in September of 2022; Freedom Riders — Rabbi Martin Freedman and others refusing to plead for mitigation of sentence. This group was part of the first Interfaith Clergy Freedom Ride and served brief jail sentences in Tallahassee, FL, stemming from a 1961 arrest for a sit-in demonstration; *Simchat Torah*, Rabbi Elyse Frishman, 2013; Rabbi Raisin served as guest chaplain in the United States House of Representatives on January 30, 1947. His books occupy 1 ½ shelves in the Library of Congress; Barnert Temple sanctuary at Straight Street.



Please recycle this magazine.



Vision and Mission Statement The Barnert Temple Congregation B'nai Jeshurun

Franklin Lakes, NJ

Welcome to the Barnert Temple.
This is our Vision and Mission.
We present these ideals as a declaration of
our purpose, to guide our priorities
and decisions, and to measure
the progress of our work together.

Our Vision

We are a welcoming Reform Jewish community,
connected by the realization that we are
part of something larger than ourselves,
continually striving to excel at opening doors
for ethical and spiritual growth.

Our Mission

The mission of the Barnert Temple
is to be a sacred community, a *kehillah kedoshah*,
committed to offering Reform Jewish experiences
that are relevant, accessible and meaningful,
wherein people of all ages and backgrounds
are appreciated and valued, engaged and inspired.

Our Core Values

The people of the Barnert Temple are guided
by these core values:

- Mutual respect for one another, *Derech Eretz*
- A partnership of members, leaders, staff and clergy, *Brit Shleimut*
- Love of the Jewish people and the State of Israel, *Klal Yisrael*
- Repair of our world, *Tikkun Olam*
- Questioning and seeking insight, *Rodef Chochmah*

Letter from Jennifer Sauer and Cipora O. Schwartz

Dear Barnert family,

We are pleased to have had the opportunity to plan this milestone year of events in honor of Barnert Temple's 175th anniversary. On this journey, we revisited our rich history, relished our present, and imagined our future. We are gratified to have engaged so many members as both leaders and participants throughout this momentous, year-long celebration.

In 1790, then-President George Washington wrote a letter to the Touro Synagogue in Newport, RI, establishing freedom of religion for every American. In this document, he declared:

"May the children of the stock of Abraham who dwell in this land continue to merit and enjoy the goodwill of the other inhabitants while every one shall sit in safety under his own vine and fig tree and there shall be none to make him afraid."

For Jews living in America at that time, this statement—coming from the highest office in the land—gave unequivocal permission to all who resided here, regardless of their religious beliefs, to live and pray as they chose without judgment or penalty.



Dedication of bronze statue honoring Nathan Barnert in front of City Hall Plaza, Paterson, 1925.

This public assertion laid the groundwork for the founding of B'nai Jeshurun in 1847 in Paterson, NJ, establishing our roots as the first Jewish congregation in the state. Thanks to the vision and generosity of Nathan Barnert, our shared priorities of *Torah*, social justice, philanthropy, and service to all communities has continued to live at the heart of what defines us as a Reform Jewish congregation. Our commitment to *tikkun olam* (repair of the world) has never wavered.

For the European Jews who immigrated to Paterson

in the latter part of the 1800s seeking a better life in a country where they were free to practice Judaism without question, our evolution was miraculous! From *minyans* in private homes to organized services in larger assembly spaces, and eventually our own synagogue on Straight St., Barnert Temple's forward trajectory in what was the first industrial city of our then-young nation was unstoppable!



Barnert Temple Religious School Class, 1911.

And here we are today, almost 500 families! ...continuing our strong tradition of study, worship, and service to others—*Torah*, *avodah*, and *g'milit chasadim*.

By showing up to participate in our anniversary events, hundreds of members demonstrated their appreciation and understanding that 175 years is a major achievement for us, for our children and grandchildren, and especially for all American Jews.

Our long-lasting success as a vibrant Reform Jewish community is a testament to the dedication of our long history of outstanding clergy and devoted congregants as well as to the relevance we have sustained in the community-at-large over almost two centuries.

We are thankful to everyone who has played a role over these 175 years in what some now call the [#barnerteffect](#)—that special, intangible something that emanates throughout the building.

From clergy and staff to our most senior congregants and our youngest preschoolers—we are an extended family! How blessed we are.

With deepest gratitude for our *kehilah kedoshah*—our sacred community,

Jennifer and Cipora

Jennifer Low Sauer, member since 1968

Cipora O. Schwartz, member since 1949

Co-Chairs, Barnert Temple 175th Anniversary Celebration

A Message From Rabbi Rachel Steiner

Building for Our Future and Future Generations



Mah gadlu ma-asechah Adonai! How great are your works, *Adonai!* (Psalm 92:6.) As we reflect on almost a full year of celebrating our demi-semi-centennial — our 175th anniversary — I am filled with gratitude. Gratitude for:

The generations of Barnert Temple members who prepared for us
You, who are here right

now and created so many meaningful opportunities to celebrate this community milestone

Our collective responsibility to continue our Jewish, Barnert tradition of innovating and building both for our community today and for the generations to come.

What a year of celebrations! What a community filled with meaningful connections! What a future we are building!

Celebrating Barnert's 175th anniversary was more than a milestone celebration. It was a unique opportunity for us to reflect on the vision and commitment of our founders and the generations who came before. We exist as a congregation and community today because of them. It was a reminder to pause, appreciate, and celebrate their work and to take note of our role in the ongoing Barnert story.

So many individuals joined this Barnert cadre of leaders to help in this year of elevated worship, learning, music, justice, and social gatherings. As we look back, I want to formally and publicly thank Cipora O. Schwartz and Jennifer Low Sauer for their intergenerational and nonstop visioning, leading, and planning. We are so grateful to both of you for your unmatched commitment to Barnert — past, present, and future — and for your threads of energy and love that stitched together this year of celebration.

Building upon the joy from our year-long celebration, we now turn to our future and all that we will continue to create together. This fall, our much-anticipated renovation and construction project will begin. This work is not just for beautification. These changes and enhancements will ensure that our physical space will be able to serve our dynamic and growing Barnert community and reflect our values as a Jewish community. This is our time to ensure that our Barnert families of today, and those who follow us, will continue to thrive because we have prepared for them the way that our predecessors prepared for us.

In the coming year, even amidst the construction, our three pillars of *Torah*, *Avodah*, and *Gemilut Chasadim*

will continue to anchor our Jewish living and inspire our growth. Some of **where** we are accustomed to living Jewishly within our Barnert building may change during construction, but our commitment to **what** and **how** we live meaningful Jewish lives at Barnert will endure as we embrace this opportunity to explore new ways to gather, learn, worship, celebrate, serve others, and remain connected.

Torah (learning): Jewish learning is at the core of Jewish living at Barnert. Students in our preschool and Jewish Journey Project learn in innovative and dynamic programs that are rooted in Jewish tradition, and bring Jewish learning and living to life with content that makes Judaism relevant, accessible, and meaningful. We continue to hear from you, our parents, that our Jewish youth education is a primary draw to our sacred community. We give our young people Jewish knowledge and tools to navigate our inherently complicated world within the uniquely loving and fun Barnert community. This empowers our next generation!

And, of course, Jewish learning is not just for our youth. There are many formal and informal opportunities for adults to learn and develop language and tools that bring Judaism to life for all ages and stages. As we prepare to begin a new Jewish year, please look for our adult-education opportunities. Learning is a lifelong process and journey, and we create our Jewish future by continuing to learn and grow as Jewish adults.

Avodah (worship): *Avodah* is not simply prayer. *Avodah* happens through ritual and community, showing up for holy days and lifecycles, and coming together in times of joy, sadness, and the everyday moments of living. Our renovated space will ensure that **everyone** can participate fully in our gatherings — something that is not possible in our current space. Gathered in brighter spaces that facilitate face-to-face interactions and provide dedicated areas for service leaders, musicians, and participants of all physical abilities, we will continue to create impactful and meaningful Jewish ritual experiences.

During our *Shabbat* celebration of our demi-semi-centennial (say it with me!) in December, we had a taste of the myriad ritual styles that Barnert members have experienced throughout our 175 years. Barnert has survived longer than any other Jewish congregation in New Jersey by innovating and adapting to meet the evolving needs of our community. I can't wait to be in our new sanctuary with you as we continue our rich tradition of ritual, musical innovation, and worship that grows with us and gently nudges us forward.

Gemilut Chasadim (acts of loving kindness): Our third pillar is our commitment to engaging in acts of kindness and generosity. Our involvement in ongoing
(Continued on page 10)

A Message From Craig Solomon



It's overcast, breezy, and cool in Portland, Maine — a welcome break from the sticky New Jersey summer. Stacey and I drove the 320 miles to stay here tonight, Thursday, July 20, as a jumping-off point to see our daughter at camp for tomorrow's visiting day. She seems to be having a great summer — her sixth, best, and last at the camp she loves. She looks great and is

all smiles in the many pictures the camp posts each week. (What did parents do before camps provided proof-of-life shots?) Still, we can't wait to see her and to hold her, and to look into her eyes and know that our girl is "okay." After visiting day we'll drive back to Portland for the night, then drive 370 miles back to New Jersey, passing our home on the way to see our son, who is spending much of the summer at an academic program in Lawrenceville.

The kids are having a great time, but it's been an odd summer for Stacey and me. With both kids away from home for the first time in years, we were surprised at how much we missed them, and how things felt somehow off-balance without them. On the upside, we've had some nice time together and have marveled at how much the kids spoke of missing each other.

As the days have ticked by, we have been reminded of how quickly time is passing. In a year our boy will be off to college, and our girl will be a rising high school junior looking for her first summer job. For now, we savor that in a few weeks they'll both be home, we'll be doing a bit of traveling together as a family (and I with some friends to Wyoming's Wind River Range, my other synagogue), and then back to the usual rhythms of the fall: school, work, the High Holy Days . . . but this time with the knowledge that this will likely be the last year we are all living under the same roof.

For both of our kids, probably like many of yours, their first "away from home" experiences were at Barnert. (Sometimes clichés are simply true: those days feel like yesterday.) For 15 years, Barnert has been an essential part of our lives — at varying distances from the center, but never far off and always within reach.

In the year since I was fortunate enough to become president of the congregation, I've come to learn much about the many roles that Barnert plays in

the lives of our congregants, and the ways that people find meaning in our community, often unexpectedly: a renewed sense of purpose, connection, a newfound desire to be a part of something larger than oneself, intellectual stimulation, solace, (re)discovering Judaism, fun and friendship, or simply a feeling that Barnert is "good for my family." At one point or another, Stacey and I have had all of these experiences. I imagine that the desire for these experiences is just part of being human, of being alive. And life happens at Barnert.

Lives happen. You only have to pay attention. And as I write this (now back home in New Jersey), it occurs to me that there is little that is unique about our family's experience. Our family simply is one among many, stretching back generations, whose lives have happened, in part, at Barnert. And if you are reading this, know that some part of your life is happening here, too. That you are part of a community with deep roots and a long, rich history. Regardless of the depth of your connection or involvement — whatever those words mean to you — you are a part of this history.

If you are a long-time member or if you've been a part of the phenomenal growth we've experienced over the last few years (we are now solidly over 500 member families), your pickups and dropoffs, the laughs you've shared in the atrium or at Barnert events, committees and toy drives, religious school and *B'nai Mitzvot*, late-night meetings, friendships, loss, and celebrations . . . all of these moments, these aspects of your lives, are bound up in our history, and they all move us towards a single destination: a future that will be here before we know it.

To be sure, our community has a bright future to look forward to:

Our Lifelong Learning programs (preschool, JJP, adult learning), continue to grow and provide best-in-class opportunities for spiritual, ethical, emotional, and intellectual growth for students of all ages.

Through careful planning and management of our finances, along with the generous support of congregants through Barnert's Annual Fund ("Free Will"), we are in a solid financial position.

The years-long effort to renew the sanctuary, lobby, and library (the Building Together Campaign) will culminate in a groundbreaking soon after the High Holy Days, with work to be mostly complete by *Rosh Hashanah*, 2024. This project is a gift to ourselves, to our kids, and to our community's future — a future that will be here before we know it. This is an opportunity to write that future.

I encourage you to join this effort now by making a pledge in a personally meaningful amount.

With warmth and deep gratitude,
Craig



175th Anniversary Events

Kickoff Shabbat

On Friday, December 16, 2022, we kicked off Barnert's 175th anniversary with a very special *Shabbat*. Past Temple Presidents as well as special guests Mayor André



Sayegh of Paterson, Mayor Charles Kahwaty of Franklin Lakes, Congressman Bill Pascrell (9th District), and Bergen County Commissioner Tracy Zur joined the congregation to celebrate Barnert's rich history through words, music,



and food. The service chronologically traced the evolution of Reform Judaism in liturgy and melody starting with traditional prayers circa 1847, and ending with the familiar prayers and music we typically use today. Others who participated in the service included past Barnert clergy Rabbi Elyse Frishman and Cantor Sheila Pearl; Past President of WUPJ, Rabbi Danny Frelander; President of the URJ, Rabbi Rick Jacobs; the Barnert Temple Adult Choir and the Barnert Tempos Youth Choir. Select members both with deep roots as well as those who more recently planted seeds here at Barnert spoke about their unique Barnert experience as well. This uplifting and inspirational evening was topped off with an *Oneg* for the ages with popular homemade desserts from decades past, including many from Sumptuous Specialties, the Barnert Sisterhood cookbook from the 1970s.



"Barnert is an integral part of my life. There was no question that I wanted to share in the planning of this milestone event in Barnert's history. It was so much fun researching *Oneg* recipes from Barnert's past and seeing all the desserts arranged and ready to be enjoyed by all."
—Rita Kron



"Being a part of Barnert's 175th allows me to continue being a part of the beautiful history of this congregation. Growing up here is such an intricate part of who I am; I couldn't imagine not being involved. I love celebrating the milestones of this special congregation."
—Beth La Forgia

Link to Kickoff Shabbat image gallery: https://www.barnerttemple.org/photo_gallery.php?album=18685

Link to Kickoff Shabbat video: <https://youtube.com/live/GVmQI33IFM?feature=share>

Bingo Night

On Saturday, January 28, 2023, we took a walk down memory lane and shared a night of food, music, and (of course) BINGO! Back in the '70s, when finances were tight, Barnert leaders sought creative ways to raise money. Enter B-I-N-G-O! Weekly Bingo nights were open to



(Continued on next page)

175th Anniversary Events (From previous page)



the public, and a cast of characters from the Paterson neighborhood lined up each week to try their luck at winning cash prizes. They entered our building on Derrom Avenue armed with cigarettes and good-luck charms, which they displayed prominently atop their Bingo boards. They bought coffee and hot dogs from a small contingent of Barnert kids who walked the aisles

selling concessions for 10- and 15-cent tips.

Our anniversary BINGO night was a homage to days past, a thank you to those who worked tirelessly in our Paterson years to ensure our survival and a celebration of the vibrant Reform Jewish community we are today, continuing to pave the way for generations to come in northern New Jersey.



"Bingo Night was more fun this time around than when I was schlepping coffee and donuts to the masses more than 50 years ago. I hope the enthusiasm of reviving Barnert's Bingo Night continues!"

—Seth Haubenstock

Link to Bingo Night image gallery: https://www.barnerttemple.org/photo_gallery.php?album=18933

Block Party

On May 21, 2023, close to 375 Barnert members came together for the final event in our year-long celebration of Barnert's 175th anniversary. This old-fashioned day of fun included live music, a DJ, a delicious lunch, relay races, games for all ages, and the ice cream man! Attendees were also able to add personalized notes to a wooden Barnert jigsaw puzzle that will eventually be framed and displayed in the building. A highlight of the afternoon was a special presentation by Jennifer Sauer and Cipora O. Schwartz, the co-chairs of our 175th



anniversary celebration, which included a short musical performance. A rendition of *We'll Be Here Tomorrow*, adapted from "The Grand Tour" by Jerry Herman was originally performed as part of a musical cabaret at Barnert Temple in 1981. It was a precursor to the "Survival Drive" which followed shortly thereafter to raise money for Barnert's eventual move in 1987

up the "208 corridor" to Franklin Lakes. Attendees were also treated to a new parody entitled *That's Our Barnert History*. This song, based on Billy Joel's *We Didn't Start*



the Fire, written by Barnert's musical director Janet Montroy and performed by Rabbi Rachel Steiner, captured so much of the joy and personality that is Barnert Temple. And finally, a congregational hora capped off the festivities with music supplied by a "dad band" made up of Barnert members who rocked out the rest of the afternoon.



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175th Anniversary Events (From previous page)



"It was a wonderful opportunity to help plan Barnert's 175th anniversary celebrations! We all recognize how special it was to have many members, from all different generations, come together to celebrate our beloved

Barnert. While some of us have been members for just a short time, others have been around for what seems like forever. No matter what, we all share a common sense of community and appreciation for what Barnert has to offer. This community helps enrich our lives and the lives of our children and families. We look forward to many more Barnert celebrations in the future!"

—Julie Powers Lurie, Mara Trager, Rebecca Cornell, Tara Marguiles, Michelle Branower

Link to Block Party image gallery: https://www.barnerttemple.org/photo_gallery.php?album=19804

"Slice of Paterson" Bus Tour

Paterson, New Jersey, is where the Barnert origin story began, so touring Paterson as part of our 175th anniversary was a no-brainer. On April 30, 2023, 53 enthusiastic



Barnert members (past and present) donned their rain gear and boarded a charter bus to experience Paterson through the eyes of tour guide Richard Polton, a former Barnert member and avid Paterson historian. His narration throughout the day was accented by personal stories and lively reflections from several in the group who grew up in Paterson and/or raised their families at both the Straight St. and Derrom Ave Barnert locations. There were many opportunities to see various landmarks significant to

the Barnert community as well as to Paterson history. Highlights included the Great Falls where the tour group was met in a torrential downpour by Paterson Mayor André Sayegh and his wife, Farhanna; the multi-faceted



Paterson Museum; and Barnert Temple's Derrom Avenue location (now the Islamic Center of Passaic County). The visit with members of the Islamic Center was especially meaningful as a new connection was forged between Barnert and the leaders of this community. The "Patersonians" on the tour also took a walk down memory lane as they stood in the space that had served as their Jewish home for decades.

We offer a special thank you to the Islamic Center of Passaic County for opening their doors to us and allowing us to share stories and history about our community and the Derrom Avenue location.

Link to Bus Tour image gallery: https://www.barnerttemple.org/photo_gallery.php?album=19660



"A highlight of the year-long celebration of Barnert Temple's awesome 175th anniversary was the marvelous 'Slice of Paterson' Bus Tour. For me, the highlight of the Paterson bus tour was the visit to the beautiful Derrom Avenue Barnert Temple, now a mosque. On June 28, 1975, under a *chuppah*/canopy, on the *bimah* of that beautiful Derrom Avenue Nathan Barnert Temple, Rabbi Martin Freedman and I were married. I joyfully became Rebbetzin Shirley Shacknai Freedman and a member of the fabulous Barnert Temple family.

(Continued on next page)

175th Anniversary Events (From previous page)

The mosque clergy and others at the mosque who welcomed us enjoyed listening to my Barnert Temple/ mosque wedding story; I enjoyed telling it."

— Shirley Shacknai Freedman,
wife of Rabbi Martin Freedman z"l



"Visiting the former Temple on the bus trip brought back a memory of working for the last dinner-dance held there. As a fairly new member, being involved in the preparations for the event brought me close to the many members who eagerly pitched in, visiting caterers, auditioning bands,

handling invitations, even draping the walls in shiny fabric from a scaffold. For them it was exciting, yet bittersweet, to realize that the congregation was about to leave Paterson for its new home."

— Janet Finke



"For me, it was a wonderful, nostalgic Paterson Tour.

Highlights included chatting with my fellow passengers, especially Shirley Freedman and Ken Rosenthal (Rabbi Raisin's grandson), and the warm welcome we received from Iman Qatanani and his congregation who are

now resident in our former temple on Derrom Avenue.

Thanks to all who arranged this trip."

—Joel Bauer



"Several years ago Claire Cupo took me on her personal tour of Paterson. In addition to Barnert's connection, I had not realized the city's rich history. Could not resist participating in the coordination of 'Slice of Paterson Bus Tour.'"

— Joan Cowlan



"The Barnert Temple and my family had a whirlwind experience back in the 70s as we were one of at least 20 new families from Wyckoff. Susan Sauer's Sisterhood did most everything, from fund raising to progressive dinners, since women were still home and available. We organized a

much-needed telephone squad; had the tastiest hot dogs for our super Bingo Game; ran the unique Israeli Expo; started the Women's Group where we took our senior Patersonians on day trips such as The Jewish Museum in N.Y.; entertained a prize-winning-author luncheon for over a hundred.

"All of that driving into Paterson with the four small kids and no seatbelts or Pampers yet! Alas, on the visit to Paterson in 2023, back to reality to find that the Straight Street synagogue is now a large Wendy's and the Derrom Avenue sanctuary was nowhere to be found. But I loved the trip back to the '70s anyway."

— Benita Herman

Centerville (Clifton) Cemetery Rededication

On April 16, 2023, current and former members of Barnert, along with elected officials from Clifton, came



together to rededicate Barnert Temple's original cemetery in Clifton, NJ, known as the Centerville Cemetery. At its inception in 1847, purchasing land for a Jewish cemetery was the first order of business for the newly incorporated Congregation B'nai Jeshurun (now commonly referred to as Barnert Temple). Attendees learned about the history of this sacred site and the work completed to preserve the location and headstones and headstone fragments that

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175th Anniversary Events (From previous page)

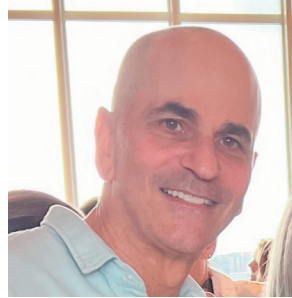


remain. They also recited *kaddish* for the first members of our congregation who are buried there. Many in attendance had never been to this site or knew little about it, and the day proved to be moving and insightful and a poignant reminder of our obligation as a community to

care for those in our community, even after they are no longer with us.

Link to Cemetery Rededication image gallery: https://www.barnerttemple.org/photo_gallery.php?album=19538

Link to Cemetery Rededication video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c_cfPNeToMs



congregants will continue this sacred work.”
— Jeff Himeles

“One of the many things that makes Barnert special is its long history. Helping to restore and maintain our community’s original cemetery in Clifton has been a meaningful way to connect to that history and honor some of Barnert’s earliest members. My hope is that future generations of



A Message From Rabbi Rachel Steiner (From page 4)

local drives and service opportunities will not be impacted by our construction. While the planned construction is prompting us to plan a variety of off-site community-strengthening programs, the reality is that most works of *gemilut chassadim* occur outside the boundaries of our building and campus. As we plan for and imagine Barnert’s next 175 years, let us recommit to learning and action with the goal of repairing what is broken and creating a world that is more whole and more holy.

As you flip through this special publication of our magazine, you will see much more information about the once-in-a-generation project we are about to begin, including beautiful renderings of the planned work. **I hope you will feel moved to join us in this work, which is only possible with your support.** Completing this work is only possible if we come together, with everyone’s participation at whatever level is comfortable for you. We are all part of the Barnert story, and one day our children and future generations will “stand on our shoulders” and thrive because of the foundation we will build today.

I hope you will join me and our other Building Together Campaign donors to help us complete this project and proudly take our places in the history — and the future — of Barnert Temple’s tremendous Jewish community.

Throughout our sacred texts, the Jewish people are known by many names, including *B’nai Jeshurun*, the namesake of our congregation. *B’nai* means “children of” and *Jeshurun* means “upright.” We are all *B’nai Jeshurun*, all at once returning to our roots, thriving in our home here today, and turning with open arms and open hearts to the future we will build together. We are connected to all who have made a home within Congregation *B’nai Jeshurun*, Barnert Temple, over these last 175 years. Being part of this community and our Building Together Campaign means we will take our places in the Barnert story to build for ourselves, for our children, and for all those who will celebrate the next 175 years of our sacred community.

Together, may our journey continue to take us *chazak chazak*, from strength to strength, and *l’dor vador*, from generation to generation.



Experience the *High Holidays* with Barnert

Erev Rosh Hashanah | Friday, Sept. 15
Erev Yom Kippur | Sunday, Sept. 24

Next month, we will welcome 5784. We look forward to sharing the joy and introspection of the new year and Days of Awe with you.

Digital tickets will automatically be emailed to all members in good standing for the 2023-24 fiscal year. Tickets for extended family and adult children (over 18) must be requested.

Key Dates & Deadlines

Friday, Aug. 25

- Last day to order honey in time for Rosh Hashanah

Monday, Aug. 28

- Deadline to order Rosh Hashanah challah

Tuesday, Sept. 5

- Deadline for Book of Remembrance submissions
- Last day to register for Torah Tots, Kavanah Kids, and Junior Congregation
- Deadline to order Yom Kippur challah

Friday, Sept. 8

- Deadline for High Holiday greetings, flowers, and break-the-fast sponsorships

Wednesday, Sept. 13

- Last day to request Rosh Hashanah extended family/adult children tickets

High Holiday Resource Center

barnerttemple.org/high-holidays-2023



**Everything you need to
experience the High Holidays
with Barnert!**



The Building Together Campaign

Creating Spaces That Reflect Our Values and Move Us Forward

At a meeting last month of the Building Together Campaign Committee, our discussion moved to the recent *Bar Mitzvah* of a third-generation Barnert teen whose grandfather uses a wheelchair. Because of the



physical limitations of our sanctuary and *bima*, this teen's grandfather, a beloved member of our community, was unable to join his grandson on the *bima* for this *simcha* and milestone. This was a poignant reminder that renovating our spaces is about more than cosmetics. This transformative and essential work is inspired by the loving, vibrant, and accessible Judaism we strive to live at Barnert. Our new spaces will embody this vision and who we are as a community.

Our beloved sanctuary and gathering spaces, while cherished, are not all they should be, and not all they need to be. For many years, we have implemented workarounds for the physical limitations of our building. However, this fall, we will be breaking ground and finally embarking on this transformative journey.

A Space to Encourage Interaction and Elevate Our Worship Experience

Our renovated sanctuary will be bright, inspiring, flexible, and accessible. Our walls will be covered with light acoustic tiles that brighten and soften the space. The new flooring will also brighten the space and support enhanced acoustics. The central skylight and stained-glass windows behind the *bima* will continue to brighten our space but without causing visual discomfort as they have in the past. Our new seating will accommodate people of all sizes and make it easier for parents seated with young children. The shift away from fixed pews to specially designed chairs for our sanctuary will also allow



us to easily reconfigure our space for special programs and provide easier access for those using walkers and wheelchairs. The three-sided configuration of our seating will also allow for visibility and interaction among congregants in addition to the clergy and others on the *bima*. Our new *bima* will be lower and will include a ramp, making it accessible to individuals of all abilities.

Aesthetics, design, and function will come together in special elements like a new *ner tamid* (eternal flame above the ark), which will be crafted from art created by Devra Frelander z"l, the late daughter of Rabbi Emerita Elyse Frishman and Rabbi Danny Frelander. Devra's art



was inspired by her connection to the outside world and symbolizes our obligation to care for the earth and one another. Our new ark doors will be made, in part, from the wood of our existing ark doors to keep us connected to the Barnert generations that came before us.

(Continued on next page)

The Building Together Campaign *(From previous page)*

New Spaces to Congregate and Connect

Our lobby will be expanded and completely transformed into a bright, comfortable space with seating and gathering spaces that allow people to gather, relax, and connect. The raised roof and large glass windows will bring in natural light and the natural beauty of our

of Devra Freeland z"l, will offer our teens a fresh, functional, and fun space to connect and learn together.

Spaces to Meet the Needs of Our Full Community

We are also refreshing our bathrooms and adding a new family bathroom. Fathers and grandfathers, in



surrounding property.

The many artifacts from Barnert's long history will be relocated to the library, which will be transformed into a living archive. With the guidance of an archivist, this

addition to mothers and grandmothers, will be able to comfortably help children or change diapers. Individuals in wheelchairs will be able to use our facilities with ease.

Enhanced Technology

A/V experts are providing guidance to make sure our renovated spaces continue to support in-person and remote worship, learning, and celebrations and sound capabilities for a range of events including musical guests. We also hope to leverage enhanced technology, like retractable screens in our sanctuary, to elevate how we learn and worship together. The goal is to not only meet our needs today but to position ourselves to meet our technical and A/V needs as our worship, gathering, and learning styles evolve.

Thanks to the generosity of approximately 130 donors to date, our campaign has raised approximately 4.3 million dollars. This number is impressive, and we are incredibly grateful to each and every person who has chosen to be part of this effort and take on the responsibility of doing what our predecessors did: building a space not only for us but also for the generations to come.

We Haven't Reached Our Fundraising Goal Quite Yet. With Your Participation We Can.

As you know, inflation has led to significant
(Continued on next page)



space will bring Barnert's story to life. When we use the library for meetings and events, we'll now be surrounded by Barnert's rich history.

Our social hall will be refreshed with new flooring and lighting, and our outdoor patio will be rebuilt and expanded.

Our new youth lounge, named in memory

The Building Together Campaign *(From previous page)*

increases in the cost of just about everything, including building materials and labor. As a result, original estimates for the cost of the project — proposed four years ago — had to be increased. An additional \$700,000 is necessary to reach the \$5 million goal to fully realize the vision for our space.

Be Part of This Remarkable Moment in Barnert's History, and Join Our Campaign

As the name of our campaign implies, we can only build this together. Today, we invite you to join us in this transformational moment by making an investment in the future of the Barnert community. Every gift, regardless of amount, is vital to the success of this campaign. Your support, at the level most appropriate for you, will make a tangible, meaningful difference.

To date, approximately 24% of our congregation has donated to the campaign. That leaves three-quarters of our community with a unique opportunity to join your fellow congregants. We hope you will choose to add your name to the list of donors and make the vision for our renovated space possible for current and future members of Barnert Temple.

Let's build together.

The Building Together Campaign Executive Committee

Lauren Krauss and Alan Lieber (co-chairs)
Rabbi Rachel Steiner; Craig Solomon, President; and Elizabeth Levitt Resnick, Immediate Past President

Turning Vision Into Reality

Rolf Klein, Chair, Barnert Construction Committee



In 2019, our community began the hard work of writing a new chapter in our congregation's 175-year history. It is with great excitement that we will finally break ground on the construction efforts to redesign our gathering and worship areas and create spaces that are inspirational, accessible, and adaptable and which will foster engagement and

connection within our Barnert family. We've developed construction and design plans, and this October, we begin the work of turning the vision for our building into reality!

Barnert has made the choice to remain in our building during the construction project. Anyone who has undergone a construction project in their home or place of work knows that construction can be disruptive and often forces us to do things differently for a period of time. With that said, our construction will follow a phased approach that allows us to keep our schools and building operational during its duration.

Planned Construction Period: One Year, Beginning October 2023

Phase I: Oct. 2023 (estimated duration: four months) Social Hall, Large Meeting Room, and New Gender-Neutral Bathroom

During this phase, we will continue to have full use of our sanctuary and adjacent areas. A sound-proof construction wall will separate the construction

area and keep our building secure. Workers will be entering/exiting our building through designated entrances in the rear of the building.

Phase IIa: March 2024 (estimated duration: five months) Sanctuary, Library, Lobby, BarTY Lounge, and Related Areas

As in Phase I, a sound-proof construction wall will be built to separate and contain the construction area. During this time, we will use our renovated social hall for services, *simchas*, and other gatherings. We'll also be using other non-impacted areas of the building in new and creative ways to allow for gatherings, meetings, etc.

Phase IIb: August 2024 (estimated duration: two months) Renovation of Existing Bathrooms, Completion of Lobby Curtain Wall, and Movable Partition Separating Sanctuary and Social Hall

During the year-long construction, Barnert will be sharing updates to keep our entire community informed about what's happening in our building with this once-in-a-generation project. We will also be creating a space on our website with updated FAQs on the project.

The coming year is sure to be an exciting time! We look forward to seeing you during the High Holy Days as we gather for the final time in our existing sanctuary and celebrate our promising future.

Link to video recording of Rabbi Steiner's presentation:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z6TVYzUuY5g>

We Need You to Turn Vision Into Reality. \$700,000 to Reach \$5M Goal. Help Us Cross the Finish Line!

Through the generosity of our Building Together Campaign donors, we have raised \$4.3 million to date, but we still need \$700,000 to reach our goal of \$5 million to fully realize the plans and vision for our building.

Help us fill our cup with blessings. Join the campaign and be part of this once-in-a-generation opportunity.

We invite you to join us in this transformational moment by making an investment in the future of the Barnert community. Every gift, regardless of amount, is vital to the success of this campaign. Your support, at the level most appropriate for you, will make a tangible, meaningful difference.

It will take all of us to build this...TOGETHER.

Join the Community of Donors

To learn more about the campaign or ways to donate, contact:

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Campaign Co-Chair

laurenkrauss@barnerttemple.org

Alan Lieber
Campaign Co-Chair

alanlieber@barnerttemple.org

Andrew Charles
Campaign Treasurer

andrewcharles@barnerttemple.org



<https://www.barnerttemple.org/buildingtogether>

\$5 million

\$4 million

\$3 million

\$2 million

\$1 million



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Recognition in honor of Sara Losch.*

*This list reflects donations as of
July 24, 2023.*

*For more information, please
contact Campaign Co-Chairs Alan
Lieber and Lauren Krauss at
campaigninfo@barnerttemple.org.*

Building Together Campaign and Barnert Construction Project Leadership

With deep gratitude, we recognize and thank the many Barnert members who have helped us reach this pivotal moment in our Capital Campaign, and continue to lead us as we begin construction on our building this fall. Your leadership and involvement will impact countless Barnert members and generations to come.

Building Together Capital Campaign

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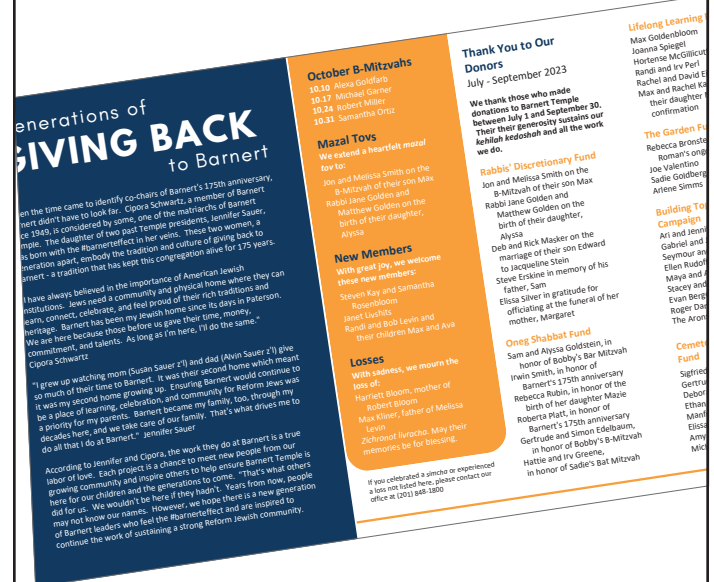


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let us know.



Questions? Contact the office at (201) 848-1800
or rebeccarund@barnerttemple.org.

All year long, members of our community
donate to Barnert Temple to celebrate
simchas, remember lost loved ones, and
support our various funds. Starting this
fall, look for a bi-monthly email and mailer
containing donor acknowledgements as
well as short anecdotes about the people
and stories that make up our Barnert
community. We look forward to once again
recognizing and celebrating the
generosity of our donors.



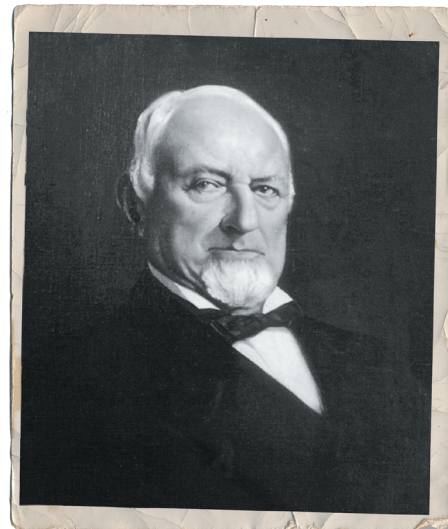
Historical Photos of Barnert



Max and Jacob Rosen, 1910.
Jacob Rosen served as Temple president for 12 years.



In 1860, Congregation B'nai Jeshurun moved to new quarters at 9 Mulberry Street, Paterson, NJ.



Portrait of
Nathan
Barnert.



Barnert Temple's Straight Street location on its 100th anniversary.



Derrom Avenue. Last location prior to moving to Franklin Lakes.



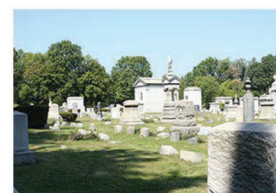
Mount Nebo Cemetery

A Tranquil Final Resting Place in Totowa, NJ

**We're Celebrating
Barnert's 175th
Anniversary with a Sale!
20% off Selected Plots**

In honor of Barnert Temple's 175th anniversary, we are offering a limited number of plots for sale to temple members for \$1,888, which corresponds to the year of Mount Nebo's founding. This price represents a discount of more than 20% off the current price of \$2,400.

These plots are located in the heart of Mount Nebo Cemetery, in the sections surrounding Nathan Barnert's centrally located resting place. Recent improvements to Mount Nebo include a new entry gate, new fencing, and repaving of roads and paths. These upgrades further enhance the rustic ambiance and natural beauty for which Mount Nebo is known, and will make trips to these majestic grounds more comfortable for visitors for years to come.



Burial details are far more difficult to deal with during an emergency or health crisis. Don't burden children and loved ones with this important decision. Have peace of mind knowing your final resting place has been secured.

- Individual and family plots available
- Burials permitted for non-Jewish spouses/significant others
- Non-member plots available

These newly available plots at reduced rates will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis, so don't delay!



**For more information or to make a purchase, contact
Pam and Jeff Himeles at mtnebo@barnerttemple.org**

Mount Nebo Cemetery: 195 Totowa Rd., Totowa, NJ | Barnert Temple: 747 Route 208 South, Franklin Lakes, NJ

Congregation B'nai Jeshurun

Nathan Barnert Memorial Temple
747 Route 208 South, Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417

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