#### CONGREGATION BETH SHALOM

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

#### HONORING OUR PAST

Come Together
Gala

November 19, 2022

CELEBRATING OUR FUTURE



### Rabbi Seth Adelson Senior Rabbi



Berukhim haba'im! Welcome to this joyous celebration, on which we celebrate not only Congregation Beth Shalom's brick-and-mortar centennial, but also our past presidents, who have built this building, kept it functioning, and strengthened the kehillah which gathers herein. I feel especially fortunate to have been your rabbi for these last seven-plus years, as we have celebrated not only the congregation's centennial, but also 100 years of our beautiful, capacious beit knesset, our house of gathering.

One of the most familiar passages in the Talmud, known to many of us because it appears in many siddurim right after Ein Keloheinu, includes the following quote from the prophet Isaiah, and a slight emendation:

וְכָל־בָּגַיִּךְ לִמּוּדֵי ה' וְרַב שְׁלָוֹם בָּגְיִךְ:

"All your children shall be taught by Adonai, and your children shall increase peace." [Isaiah 54:13]

אל תַּקְרֵי "בּניִדְ" אַלֹא "בּוֹניִדְ".

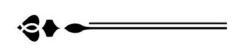
Do not read your children [banayikh], but your builders [bonayikh].

That is, says the Talmud, our children, the ones whom we raise learning the words of Torah, are our builders. The reason we teach our children the words of the Jewish bookshelf, is that they build our future. We build by teaching them our ancient text; we build by engaging them in our customs and our rituals; we build by modeling for them our values and our mitzvot, the holy opportunities of Jewish life.

We celebrate in 5783, 105 years after this congregation was established, and 100 years since construction of this building began, not just the building, and not just its builders. We celebrate also what takes place inside. We celebrate that this congregation, which has a diverse, knowledgeable, and engaged membership, including fifth-generation members, and the healthiest list of programming and ritual offerings of any synagogue in Squirrel Hill, continues to thrive due not only to the builders and the building, but the fact that we continue to teach and live our Torah from generation to generation.

I am personally grateful for the support given to me by our past presidents, these most essential builders of our community, and I am celebrating with them as they are honored for making it possible for us to teach and learn Torah as a community. With your ongoing support, we will continue to make Beth Shalom a key pillar in our members' lives, as we improve ourselves and our world through engaging with our tradition.

We celebrate this evening those who have built, and those who shall build. Mazal tov, and yishar kohekhem.





### Alan Kopolow President



As the current President of Congregation Beth Shalom, it is my high honor to welcome everyone to this year's "Come Together" Gala. We are here on this very special evening to celebrate the 100th anniversary of our building. This is a building in which each one of us has myriad memories on a personal, family, congregational and community basis. Hopefully most of these memories will bring a smile to your face.

Tonight, we are here to create some more wonderful memories. Let us flash back to some of the great things that have happened here as we all honor our past presidents and all of their wonderful accomplishments, visions and guidance that have allowed us to reach this happy day. We are so thankful for all those hours and hours they put in so selflessly for the love of this shul. We have been so very fortunate to have had them

as our leaders and I'm happy to report many of them are still involved to this day.

I have been involved with Beth Shalom since early 1990 when my family moved here from Los Angeles. While I have a host of memories associated with raising my family at Beth Shalom, nothing stands out more than the October 8, 1996, fire that devastated this building. My son was a preschool student who was one of those present in the building as the fire started. Following the fire, what stands out for me is how then President Julian Elbling, the Executive Committee and virtually all of the existing past presidents came together to get the rebuilding process started. They found us a place to operate while we rebuilt almost immediately. Every one of them pitched in tirelessly and soon we had a plan to rebuild Beth Shalom better than before. This building is the product of that hard work. Their leadership got us through that incredible and unimaginably difficult time.

Each president stands on the shoulders of those that came before him or her. That leadership and understanding provides unbroken guidance from president to president and allows Beth Shalom to survive and prosper from generation to generation. In this journal, you can read about many of our past presidents, their memories and accomplishments. Many of them are very modest and many of their accomplishments just happened without fanfare or notoriety. This was just part of the job they accepted with a noteworthy work ethic and love. I also am sure all of them will credit their success at least partially to their spouses and families who were always behind the scenes supporting and helping where they could.

We are in a new era of renewing this building hopefully making it last another 100 years. We hope that when our descendants look back on this day they feel that we did our part to keep Beth Shalom preserved for the generations to come.

May we go from Generation to Generation and from strength to strength.







### Robert Gleiberman Executive Director

#### Ledor Vador – from Generation to Generation and from Strength to Strength



There is a direct connection between the Centennial of our building on Beacon Street and Shady Avenue and the men and women that helped pave the way. For 100 years Congregation Beth Shalom's building has stood tall and shined brightly as a beacon for the entire Squirrel Hill Community.

A facility with the magnitude of its structure does not stand alone in its steep history and accomplishments. For all of the thousands that have walked through our doors, down our hallways and gathered in our sanctuary, ballroom and other spaces for praying, learning and socializing it is time to honor our past as we deservingly single out our former presidents along with their spouses. Yes, spouses of our past presidents and future presidents, by the virtue of that relationship, played and will continue to play a vital role by taking on the awesome responsibility of helping their partner lead the way.

This thankless job is not one that many are willing and/or able to take on. It takes a special kind of person to accept and carry out the formidable responsibilities. In most cases it is a two-year commitment. We actually had several past presidents that through necessity extended their years of service past the traditional two. We salute you!

To be able to lead and manage a large congregation and facility you have to be able to make tough decisions that are not always popular. Many times, the leadership has to go in a different direction than even what their personal thoughts might have dictated. Leaders have to put those feelings aside and do what is in the best interest of the whole, the community of Beth Shalom.

It is now time to honor our Past Presidents by letting them know how much we appreciate them. Their service was definitely a labor of love.

It is also now time to *celebrate our future*. As our Past Presidents had to do, we too have many decisions to make that will help shape our future. With the start of a much-needed capital campaign we will embark on raising significant dollars to take our home to the next level and bring it into the 21st century. This will enable the next several generations to carry on the Beth Shalom traditions and way of life. We are going to help our children and their children to be able to do what previous generations provided for us.

During my relatively short time working at Beth Shalom I have had the privilege to personally meet or speak with many of our Past Presidents (Harriet Kruman, Harvey Robins, Yale Rosenstein (z"l), Julian Elbling, Judy Kobell, Jay Fingeret, Steven Schwartz, Ira Frank, Connie Pollack, Stefi Kirschner, David Horvitz and Debby Firestone. I was also able to meet with several wives of former presidents no longer with us, Natalie Rosenbloom, Sally Greenwald, Sarita Eisner and Barbara Rosenstein. I can tell you that these experiences were engaging and filled with wisdom.

We have formulated a Presidents Council made up of all our Past Presidents along with the current President, Executive Vice President, Senior Rabbi and Executive Director. We plan to meet bi-annually or more if necessary to inform the group of what is going on at the shul and also to get their most valued advice. We had our first meeting in May and have our next one scheduled in December.

It is now time to have a "Come Together" Gala.

What a great day for us all. A celebration well past due.

We are all in this together and together we will make it happen.



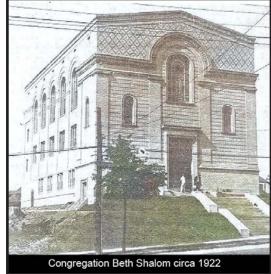


## History of the Building

The founding leaders of Congregation Beth Shalom broke ground on in March 1922 and then laid the cornerstone for its original Community House building later that June.

This moment that we are celebrating is not just a milestone; it is more than just an anniversary marking a meaningful point in our history – this moment is sacred as it also serves to launch the future unfolding here at Beth Shalom, as we bring this synagogue campus more fully into the 21st century.

In order to appreciate this current moment, we of course need to understand better some of our relevant history about world events leading up to the ground-breaking and cornerstone-laying ceremonies here one hundred years ago. What was happening in the world that might help appreciate what was literally and figuratively "ground-breaking"



about the first Bat Mitzvah and about the beginning of Beth Shalom's construction here on Beacon Street? And how might that historical context clarify for us the values that must guide our path forward?

We got some insights from our member and community scholar Dr. Barbara Burstin, who gave a wonderful lecture here for Sisterhood Shabbat, which coincided with the Hebrew centennial of the first Bat Mitzvah in Jewish history. Dr. Burstin has been very generous with her time and her personal archive of Beth Shalom materials. Thanks to her and her book, *Steel City Jews*, we've learned a number of insights about the origins of our synagogue:

- 1. Beth Shalom was not the original name of this congregation. As the first synagogue in this neighborhood, they simply called it "Squirrel Hill Congregation" but in 1919, after the end of World War One, board president Morris Molans suggested the name change to mark the end of "the great war." Calling the congregation a "house of peace" was not just a contrast to the preceding years of conflict it was an aspiration for how the still-nascent community would provide comfort to its members, especially those with relatives still in Europe or who had been drafted into American military service.
- 2. Dr. Burstin's archive includes an article from the *Jewish Criterion* newspaper the week of March 19, 1922, describing the plans for Beth Shalom's new property and the problem of religion in America at that time: "... the Community House will provide activities of the Congregation along educational and secular lines. The basement of this building will contain the gymnasium, which will also be used for banquets and dancing, a large kitchen, boiler room, etc."

One reason why the "Community House" sounds here more like a JCC than a synagogue is because the founders needed a multi-purpose space in order to raise funds for the sanctuary, which took another decade of organizing, planning, fundraising and building.





### History of the Building Continued

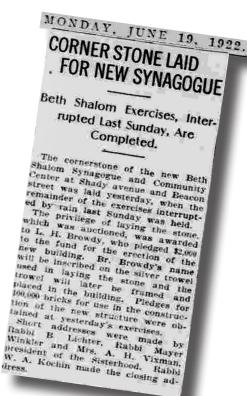
**3**. Another comment in the *Jewish Criterion* article from March 1922 stated: "The gymnasium as well as the above units will have natural ventilation, all rooms having high ceilings."

We must note that World War One was not the only horrible loss of life occurring during the previous several years. The so-called Spanish Flu pandemic would take the lives of 25-50 million people between February 1918 and April 1920. One of the immediate changes in the advent of modern public health was attention to airflow in public spaces, hence the deliberate comment from the *Jewish Criterion* author here. The newspaper's readers would have wanted to know that a new place of gathering like this could safely accommodate crowds according to what folks would expect from a "house of peace."

These are just three insights from the initial months of Beth Shalom's development of its new property into the campus we call our spiritual home a century later. As we reflect upon these aspects of our synagogue's early history, we are keenly aware that the leadership of Beth Shalom once again must contend, as our forebears did, with societal fallout from a land war in Europe and a global pandemic as well as internal challenges like finances and long-term planning for the needs of the congregation in the next decade and beyond.

With that observation in mind, we should feel proud both of how Beth Shalom got established here on Beacon Street and of how we have managed not just to survive but to thrive through almost three years since the outbreak of Covid-19. We hope and expect that our sacred community will continue to draw strength from the entire track record of its dedicated leaders and their efforts.

On June 11, 1922, the cornerstone of Beth Shalom at Beacon Street and Shady Avenue was laid. Check out *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* newspaper article reporting on this historic event.







## History of the Building Continued



Check out more *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* newspaper articles reporting on this historic event.





Mayor, William A. Magee audressing the congregation of Beth Shalom Synagogue at exercises yesterday at which the corner stone of the new synagogue and community center. Shady acrone and Beacon street, Squirrel Hill, was to be laid. Rain caused postponement of part of the program until next Sunday.

#### CORNERSTONE LAYING HALTED BY RAIN STORM

Exercises Launching Work on New Beth Shalom Structure Go Over to Next Sunday.

Bain, coming after addresses has been made by Mayor William A, Mage, and others, interrupted the exercises incident to the laying of the cornerators of the new 125,000 Best. Shalom Synagorus and Community Center, Shady avenue and Beacon street, Squared Hill, yesterday afternoon, and caused the postponement part Sunday aftermoon, part Sunday afternoon and featured the postponement of

Others who had spoken were Rabbi amuel H. Goldenson, Rabbi B. A. ichter, Rabbi A. M. Asginski, and oseph Lasday, president of the Beth halom congregation.

Before the services several hundred members of the congregation marched from the present headquarters at Forbes street and Muray avenue to the site for the new building.

Next Sunday the privilege of laying the corneration will be auctioned and the name of the highest bidder will be inscribed on the silver trowed which will later be framed and placed in the completed building. Speakers will be Rabbi W. A. Kochin, Rabb M. S. Sivita, Rabbi Mayer Winklet and Mrs. A. H. Vixma.





## Presidents 1917-2022

1917-1918	Meyer Osoff*	1982-1983	Alan Greenwald*
1918-1920	M.J. Molans*	1983-1985	Marianne Silberman*
1920-1923	Joseph Lasday*	1985-1988	Milton Eisner*
1923-1936	Maurice L. Avner*	1988- 1990	Arnold H. Lazarus*
1936-1941	J. W. Goldbloom*	1990-1992	Yale Rosenstein*
1941-1950	Joseph J. Schmidt*	1992-1994	Dr. David Rosenbloom*
1950-1955	Elmer A. Hamburg*	1994-1996	Harvey E. Robins, Esq.
1955-1959	M. Leon Tolochko*	1996-1999	Julian Elbling
1959-1962	Julius Halpern*	1999-2001	Barry J. Palkovitz, Esq.
1962-1965	Jerome Solomon*	2001-2003	Judy Kornblith Kobell
1965-1966	Charles B. Stewart*	2003-2005	Jay L. Fingeret, Esq.
1966-1969	Samuel T. Shear*	2005-2007	Steven H. Schwartz
1969-1972	Dr. William Stark*	2007-2009	Ira M. Frank
1972-1973	Samuel T. Shear*	2009-2010	Connie Pollack
1973-1975	David Gold*	2010-2013	Stefi L. Kirschner
1975-1978	Albert Smolover*	2013-2015	Howard Valinsky
1978-1980	Norton J. Freedel*	2015-2017	David Horvitz
1980-1982	Harriet N. Kruman	2017-2021	Debby Firestone
		2021-present	Alan Kopolow

\* of blessed memory



7

# Past Presidents & Spouses at our President's Council Meeting on May 22, 2022



Top Row (left to right): David Horvitz, Ira Frank Second Row (left to right): Teddi Horvitz, Jay Fingeret, Ilene Fingeret Third Row (left to right): Connie Pollack, Julian Elbling, Stefi Kirschner Bottom Row (left to right): Alan Kopolow, Lois Kopolow, Harvey Robins, Debby Firestone, Nathan Firestone







### Harriett N. Kruman President from 1980-1982



In 1961 my husband, Julius, and I joined Congregation Beth Shalom, following which we both immediately became involved spiritually and in the congregational activities. We established friendships with many members of long standing, as well as young, new members like ourselves. In 1969 I became president of the Sisterhood, then in 1970 I became the first female officer on the Board of Directors. After working my way up the slate, I became the first female in the U.S. to become president of a major Conservative congregation. At this time I also became one of two first female national Vice-Presidents of The United Synagogue of America. While all of this was a source of great personal gratification, in a larger, and more important sense it represented the emerging presence of women in leadership roles in the organized Jewish religious community. Jules was active in his own right, serving as Cemetery Chairman for many years, and becoming an Honorary President.

I was also involved and active in leadership roles in a number of other Jewish organizations in Pittsburgh. At the same time, I pursued my interest in writing. I have written 3 children's books. In 2008 I had a book published, *The Huddled Masses: The History of Jews in the Former Soviet Union*, following a fact-finding trip to the Soviet Union.

My son, Nathan, is a product of Beth Shalom's Hebrew School, as well as the former School of Advanced Jewish Studies, all of which were influential in his choice of Jewish Education as his career. He and his family live in Teaneck, New Jersey, where Jules and I moved in 2014. After 60 years of marriage Jules passed away in 2015 and I am currently living in an independent living facility where I am active on it's council. I have been a member and coordinator of its Choral Group, and have been the director of the residents' library.

On reflection, I consider Beth Shalom one of the greatest factors and influences in my life. I was involved through the tenure of three rabbis, all of whom were the source of important counselling and special friendships. My family and I "moved through" all of the aspects of our lives at Beth Shalom, all of them influential in my spiritual and congregational life. I will always consider Pittsburgh my geographical home - narrowed down to Squirrel Hill - and Beth Shalom my spiritual home.

I extend my warm and most sincere hopes and prayers for Beth Shalom to maintain its prominent place in the Jewish community, as well as in the hearts of its beloved members.





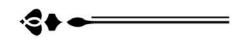
# Harvey E. Robins, Esq. President from 1994-1996



I am so pleased that our Congregation is celebrating its 100-year anniversary and has continued to be a leading egalitarian conservative congregation in our community as well as throughout the County. It is hard for me to conceive that I was president from 1993 to the fall of 1995. When I became president, we had a deficit budget. However, within the two-year period when I concluded my presidency, we had a surplus budget.

Ten days after I turned over the reins of presidency to my good friend Julian Elbling, we had a massive fire at the Congregation. Julian served as president with the help of many people in various construction committees and fundraising, to which I participated. Together, our Congregation endured the rebuilding process and improved our congregation facilities, all while growing our daycare and preschool program and providing religious services to our Congregants at facilities provided by the community during this extended rebuilding program.

Over the last twenty-five years or so, our Congregation has been on a roller coaster ride. Fortunately, with strong and dedicated leadership, with many more highs than lows and from a position concerning the actual sale of our beautiful congregation building, which included the enlarged preschool and education facilities and services to our membership, we are a stronger congregation today. With all these trials and tribulations, we continue to be a leading conservative congregation with strong rabbinical leadership and membership, and hopefully we shall continue to grow for the next millennium.





# Julian Elbling President from 1996-1999



I have vivid reflections of my Presidency of our beloved congregation, Beth Shalom. I inherited my Presidency in June 1996. My High Holidays speech had the following ... "my friends, look around the Main Sanctuary ... carpet is worn. The ceiling needs work. The chairs are showing age. Please contribute to the best of your ability so that we can spruce up this room."

Yes, our congregants gave to the best of their ability.

I now thank Harvey Robins ... he gave me the keys to the building and shortly after the High Holidays we had a 14 million dollar fire.

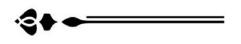
My life changed as did the duties of a President. Immediately, the day of the fire, we moved to the New Light building. Our phones and computers were immediately put in place. It was all history from this point. I had the best rebuilding committee. Amir Pilch, our Executive Director, played an enormous role in this process of rebuilding. I will not list any names, as the entire congregation was on board.

Yes we were one family ... I started each day either going to minyan or meeting with various committees.

We got the ELC moved into place at the Sacred Heart building. We never missed a beat. Weddings, Bar and Bat Mitzvah services and parties were rescheduled.

I have to thank the Clergy and Staff for getting us through these two years. My term as President was coming to an end, and they asked me to finish this enormous task, and stay a third year. I did!

Yes, our building is now a hundred years old and needs repair again. I hope and pray that this fabulous Congregation will again step up to the plate so that we will be here for the next 100 years.





# Barry J. Palkovitz, Esq. President from 1999-2001

My journey to becoming president began in the wake of my father, Jack Palkovitz OBM untimely death at young age of 62. The journey began when I was attending daily minyan to say Kaddish for him.

I had been living in Philadelphia working and pursuing additional education post law school when he passed. I moved back to Pittsburgh to be closer to family and to continue my father's law office in Pittsburgh.

In the morning minyan, I was befriended by older and wiser congregants who grew into being surrogate fathers and mentors. Alvin Weinberg, Bill Stark, George Stern, Milt Eisner, Arnold Lazarus, Yale Rosenstein, all of blessed memory, took me under their wings and helped me continue growing both personally and professionally. After morning minyan, I met our new Executive Director, Amir Pilch FSA. He was close to my age and over the span of the year of saying Kaddish for my dad, we became friends. Amir had a positive vision for the Shul that I shared, and I became fully engaged in Beth Shalom in response to the profound loss of my life mentor and guide.

I became interested in pursuing Jewish leadership and Beth Shalom provided me the opportunity to grow as a person and a leader.

My mother, Esther Y. Palkovitz OBM was a Leader in the Jewish community in her own right and instilled the love for synagogue in me at a young age. As a child, she would take me to Junior Congregation at the Hebrew Institute every Shabbat morning. She would explain to me the importance and obligation of being Jewish. She reinforced her and my father's goals for me of reading and speaking Hebrew, having a relationship with the State of Israel, and being able to lead daily and Shabbat services, so I knew how to say Kaddish. These were the essential Jewish life tools that they emphasized.



Standing on scaffolding on top of the Faye Rubenstein Weiss Sanctuary during the fire rebuilding in 1996





# Barry J. Palkovitz, Esq. Continued

My parents' goals were realized when, after my dad's untimely passing and 30 years later for Mom, when I was able to lead each Shiva minyan and every minyan that year. I continued to grow as a leader at Beth Shalom. Within a few years I became the Chair of the Constitution Committee, then the Co-chair of the Finance and Budget Committees, and a member of the Beth Shalom Board of Trustees. I also was an initial participant in the Sulam Leadership Training program offered by United Synagogue and the Conservative movement, an invigorating weekend of Shabbat and learning together in New Jersey with other synagogue leaders from around the country. The programming was focused on teaching lay leadership fresh ideas and programs for use at their home synagogues. I was honored to be one of the initial participants in this wonderful program. As president, I continued the Sulam leadership training here at Beth Shalom by bringing its program creator and teacher Rabbi Moshe Edelman, to Beth Shalom to teach and inspire the leadership of our congregation.

I was invited to be a member and joined the United Synagogue National Board of Directors and the UJA National Young Leadership Cabinet. The year 2000 was upon us with the hopes for new millennium and greater member participation through programming. During my Presidency, I initiated the Presidents Circle. It was a member gift to the Shul of \$1800.00 in addition to regular dues. The funds raised from the "Presidents Circle" underwrote our new program "Beth Shalom University", a formal learning concept that we launched. Beth Shalom University engaged speakers from around the city and nation to lecture and enhance our members' Jewish lives with this enhanced programming. It was a great success. Participants in the Presidents Circle were recognized at private functions in The Jack and Esther Palkovitz Grand Lobby hosted by my mom and me. Mom was enormously proud of my accomplishments and experienced much "Nachas" from my leadership efforts. I am so fortunate that my mom was able to share these experiences with me.

My sister, Sharon Moskowitz, also became a leader in her shul, Beth El Congregation of the South Hills, and served as its President for two terms. My sister, Barbara Zimmer Kann, is also a leader in the community, a member of the Chevre Kadisha and serves in leadership in the Pittsburgh Jewish Federation. Mom and dad have had a real impact on our family.

Being president of Beth Shalom was one of the greatest honors of my life. It provided me a platform to continue growing as a Jew, as a Jewish leader in our community, and as a mensch.





### Judy Kornblith Kobell President from 2001-2003



Thirty years ago, I arrived in Pittsburgh and looked for a synagogue for myself and my family where we would be welcomed and comfortable. Fortunately, I found this at Congregation Beth Shalom and soon became active and involved in leadership. I first served as Sisterhood President, as I had in New York, and two years later became a part of the Executive Committee. I advanced through several officer positions, becoming Executive Vice-President and then President of Beth Shalom in 2001, the beginning of a new century!

My tenure as Congregation President was a continuation of many changes, from the 80's transition to an egalitarian congregation to the late 90's rebuilding of our structure after the devastating fire. Other changes came along as well. Some members wanted a more participatory service and initiated the Library Minyan. Eventually, this group of involved and dedicated members merged with the main sanctuary service, challenging the need and desire for a choir, later a cantor, and

professional Torah readers. We are fortunate to now have a depth of knowledgeable congregants to take on those roles.

Presently, twenty years after my presidency, I continue leadership as Sisterhood President. During the past several years, the Jewish community has undergone changes and our Beth Shalom membership numbers have decreased, from over 1000 members to the current approximately 600 full and associate members. Attendance at services and programs is also reduced, reflecting these changes and increased familial commitments. Our future tasks are now formidable. Our officers, clergy and members need to recapture the spirit of volunteerism and philanthropy to assure the Congregation's vitality, while providing religious services, programming, and outreach that strengthen our community and provide meaning to our lives and all our endeavors.





# Jay Fingeret, Esq. President from 2003-2005



It was a turbulent time in Beth Shalom history. I suppose, though, that one might ask which time in our history was not in some way at least very interesting.

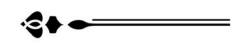
I grew up at Beth Shalom, was bar mitzvahed here, so of course I was well enough educated in Jewish practices. Yet it wasn't until 1990 when my father (of blessed memory) passed away and I honored my pledge to say prayers for him morning, afternoon, and night for eleven months, that I would become more fully involved. It changed my life.

I learned to lead services, took classes in leyning Torah, taught myself to chant haftarot, and read up on many facets of Judaism, all with a zeal that continues. I studied with Cantor Moshe Taubé (z"I) to lead *Shaharit* on Rosh Hashanah, Day 1 being the yahrzeit of my beloved mother. I also joined the Religious Services Committee, would go on to serve on the Executive Committee, as a VP, and in 2003 was elected President, and would serve for two years.

The swirling currents made Beth Shalom a complex ship for a President to steer. We had just reconstructed after the fire, under Julian Elbling's leadership. Yet as unifying as that tragedy was, there remained division among congregants. One example is the dissimilitude between the Library Minyan (younger members, lay-led) and those who preferred the more formal conformation of the main sanctuary services with Rabbi Steindel and Cantor Taubé. This was the beginning of the egalitarian movement, and that, too, was evident in this separation. On occasion the Library Minyan would be invited to join the main service for Musaf, but it perhaps was too small a gesture. Meanwhile, different auxiliaries and committees of the congregation also would claim and manage their perceived territory as fiefdoms. Of course, I took it as my job to stake out a middle ground and find consensus. Many times I had to assure folks that I was there to smooth feathers, not to ruffle them. Amid the rough waters, the shifting land, and the feathers, I believe I found a modicum of success.

What were things that I failed to accomplish, goals that I failed to realize? I had hoped to redo the main Sanctuary, which was so often rather empty, to be configured like a European Sephardic synagogue, with seats around a bimah, and with the ability to close off that portion to create a smaller praying space. I had the plans drawn up, but it was not to be, although Rabbi Adelson's floor-based approach is a bit closer to the feeling I had in mind. Additionally, the president of Tree of Life and I discussed a merger between the congregations, but that also did not come to pass.

My vision was, is, and will continue to be that the common purpose and ultimate goal of a synagogue is to comprise a family. We should always hold each others' better interests to heart, and function toward the common good of the community and the world, even on the occasions when we do not completely agree.





#### Ira Frank President from 2007-2009



I have been a lifelong member of Congregation Beth Shalom with memories going back to when I was in nursery school at the synagogue.

Cantor Taubé, Rabbi Goldblum, Rabbi Sklar and Rabbi Lehman were all a part of my early memories. In the late sixties, a major expansion took place including the renovation of the larger formal main sanctuary. My sister's bat mitzvah was in the old sanctuary which is now the gym. I had my Bar Mitzvah in the newly remodeled sanctuary. Rabbi Sklar was my bar mitzvah tutor. I'm happy to say we both survived his tutelage. I remember there being a youth group for each grade. The confirmation classes ran the Purim carnival each year. I remember it being a lot of work but lots of fun. During and after college I would come home for the holidays to be part of the traditional Beth Shalom services. I always enjoyed Cantor Taubé's chanting and the formality and beauty of the service.

When I moved back to Pittsburgh I began attending Shabbat morning services regularly. I became a self -appointed usher since I didn't like being told where to sit, and have ushered ever since. Later on I became President of the Beth Shalom Singles. Even though we had our own singles services I chose to attend services in the main sanctuary because I liked the service so much. As Beth Shalom Singles President, I had a seat on the board. Within a few years, I became a member of the executive committee. After many years on the executive committee I became the president of the congregation.

There are many highlights of my two-year term. There were significant changes in our Shul. Rabbi Steindel announced his retirement during my presidency. There were several transitional executive directors with Amir Pilch's departure and staffing changes. We had many conversations about interfaith section of the cemetery and continual updating of the by-laws. I am proud of our accomplishments. We developed a strategic plan. We were able to stabilize financial issues. As my two years ended, I left the shul in good financial standing. We also did major fundraising.

I am proud to say I have done every job in the building and have volunteered in numerous positions including Men's Club President.

As I reflect on my years, notwithstanding the pride our leadership felt in our successes, I feel the best thing about our Shul is that the children have played such a central role and often were the primary reason for their parents coming to Shul. WAY TO GO KIDS!!!!







# Connie Pollack President from 2009-2010

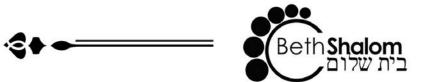


When we joined Congregation Beth Shalom in 1986, we had just celebrated the birth of our first child and his *pidyon haben*, which was officiated by Rabbi Goldblum. Membership was at its peak and seats for the High Holidays were hard to come by on the main level of the sanctuary. We had to sit in the balcony seats. Hard to believe, right? Rabbi Goldblum was retiring, and Rabbi Steindel was just beginning his tenure as Rabbi.

Throughout my years as a member, I witnessed many changes and transitions in clergy, administrative staff, and religious practices and services. Policies changed and women's roles in religious services grew. Synagogue leadership was strong and dedicated and had to deal with decreasing membership numbers as well as an unfortunate fire, which damaged parts of the building. However, Beth Shalom remained a strong, spiritual community.

My first leadership experiences started within Sisterhood, and these experiences ultimately led me on my journey of leadership roles in the synagogue, culminating with the position of President of Beth Shalom. As I look back, I not only think about the challenges that we, as a congregation, faced at that time but also remember the "highs" I experienced. I absolutely loved getting to know our congregational members on a deeper and more personal level. Keeping the congregation informed about shul happenings each week, helping people with membership matters, and attending services and shul events were just some of the many things I looked forward to as President. Helping to implement a Strategic Plan and its objectives and goals was a big accomplishment.

As I reflect upon my Presidency, I can honestly say that I learned a lot about the nature of people. My executive committee was incredible and dedicated. We dealt with many key personnel changes across many departments and celebrated our beloved Rabbi Steindel when he retired. Yes - my term comprised many transitions, but I worked tirelessly to keep Beth Shalom moving forward so that we could continue to be a thriving, spiritual community. I addressed each situation in a professional, respectful, and transparent way. It was important to me to be a strong, upstanding role model for Beth Shalom. Although the position of synagogue president is certainly one that entails self-sacrifice, it paves the way for personal growth and new experiences. Serving as President of Beth Shalom was an honor and memorable experience, indeed! I'm excited to see where our current clergy and synagogue leadership take our kehillah in future years.



# Stefi L. Kirschner President from 2010-2013



It was my honor and privilege to serve as President of Congregation Beth Shalom from 2010-2013. The challenges we faced meant that our board and executive officers had to tackle a variety of matters which had weighed on the synagogue for many years.

Thanks to the engagement of many congregants we were able to enact a strategic plan which resulted in our teams of volunteers and our dynamic staff employing innovative and creative ideas to move CBS forward. Among the highlights were:

- Successfully reducing the size of the board from 99 to 36 members, enabling better governance and more timely decision making.
- Collaborating with Rodef Shalom Congregation to create J-JEP (Joint Jewish Education Program) a
  viable, warm, and sustainable educational environment for our youth. With greater scale, the students
  enjoyed an inclusive environment with access to more friends and enhanced educational opportunities.
- Creating Shababababa for our youngest population and developing a spiritual educational program
  for our youth services. Our USY continued to host regional conventions, providing leadership in the
  CRUSY region, while engaging more youth in our Conservative movement.
- Building on the community-wide Tisha B'Av service, we invited other congregations to join us on Selichot and Simchat Torah. We also welcomed hundreds to a weekend of study with Hadar, featured many speakers, and hosted a very successful Israeli Art Festival.
- To improve our financial health and more fully utilize our facility we brought in tenants: La Escuelita, The Jewish Chronicle, Jewish National Fund, LSAT, SAT, Osher classes and different caterers.
- The population of our successful Early Learning Center increased by introducing the Reggio Emilia approach to education where the child is central to their own learning. We addressed policies and accepted children of intermarried families and then admitted non Jewish children as well, to make our program more financially viable.
- Established an interfaith cemetery with Temple Ohav Shalom, adjacent to the Beth Shalom Cemetery
  to meet the needs of our members and more fully utilize our property. Additionally we assumed responsibility
  for the management of the Homestead Cemetery.

During this time we transitioned our clergy and benefited greatly from the hiring and presence of our Interim Rabbi, Amy Levin, which paved the way for Rabbi Seth Adelson and his family to join our Beth Shalom Family.

I am proud and thankful to all the volunteers and staff who helped make my terms impactful so that Beth Shalom could be a beacon of light and innovation on Beacon Street.







# Howard Valinsky President from 2013-2015



My Beth Shalom roots are deep. I have been a lifelong member of our synagogue, following in the footsteps of my grandparents who were one of the early members of Beth Shalom. There is a memorial plaque honoring my grandparents, Samuel and Mollie Zytnick which was given by my parents, Toby and Marvin Valinsky, aunts and uncles, Ruth and Alan Zytnick, and Arnold and Marion Huttner, directly outside of the main sanctuary. In addition, the handicapped accessible elevator was donated by all three families.

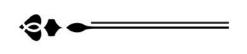
When I was very young, I often accompanied my grandfather to services. (I mainly came for the cake and treats.) I also went to nursery school at Beth Shalom before the current construction of the preschool. I remember there was a parking lot under the building before the fire.

My personal religious experience as well as many family milestones have been at Congregation Beth Shalom. They include my religious school

education, confirmation, Bar Mitzvah, and my wedding. Even the members of our family's next generation have a strong connection to our shul. All of our five children went to the preschool. Two have had their Bar/Bat Mitzvah there (the other three were in Israel). I would be remiss if I didn't mention the heart and soul of the preschool at that time, Fern Moscov, the former preschool director. Fern made the preschool a family with her love of the children and warmth toward the families. My wife, Nicole, and I were so happy to have been able to donate the Valinsky Art Studio in the Early Learning Center which is another connection we share with our synagogue.

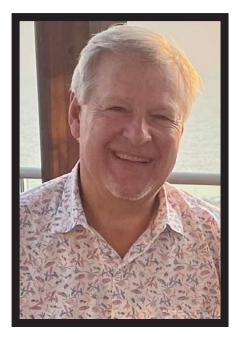
For many years, I served on the House Committee and Executive Committee. During my tenure, there was substantial change and upheaval in our congregation with the departures of the rabbi, cantor, and executive director. Along with spiritual leadership and organizational problems, I also dealt with financial issues. It was a time of transition, with the hiring an interim rabbi, Rabbi Amy Levin. Rabbi Levin's contributions were extremely important in helping the congregation focus on its strengths. I also often filled in as executive director. I was very fortunate to have a great front office team including Jill Braasch, Dale Caprara, Michelle Vines, and of course, Honey Foreman. Honey definitely would have written this for me. In addition, I feel very lucky to have had very good people supporting me on the executive committee, including my long time friend, Alan Himmel, and Ria David.

My presidency at Congregation Beth Shalom began while I was President of Community Day School. Dealing with different personalities was my strength during my two years as president as it was a difficult and volatile time. I also relied very heavily on many past presidents and board members who guided my decision-making during the two years. We had many successes during my term, including the hiring of Rabbi Seth Adelson and Executive Director Rob Menes who both have added to the synagogue's spiritual growth and stability. It was wonderful to see our synagogue transform into a more welcoming and inclusive organization.





# David Horvitz President from 2015-2017



Prior to my presidency, Beth Shalom had been without an Executive Director for a number of years, and that burden had fallen on my predecessor Howard Valinsky, who somewhat miraculously survived and managed to keep the Synagogue afloat. We were also without a permanent rabbi and were led by an interim rabbi, Rabbi Amy Levin, who gracefully guided us in the right direction. As my term as President began, we entered a new, exciting and challenging time. Rob Menes was hired as Executive Director and he quickly took responsibility for our administrative and staff needs, which were many. Most importantly, we hired Rabbi Seth Adelson as our Senior Rabbi. My goal as President was to provide Rabbi Adelson the latitude he needed to propose and make changes he felt were in the best interest of the Congregation, with the hope that those changes would have a positive impact on the Congregation. Some of those changes were contrary to the way things had historically been done at Beth Shalom, but we needed to give change a chance. To the Congregation's credit, the changes were given a chance and we are now in a far better place than when Rabbi Adelson arrived.



### Debby Firestone President from 2017-2021



My term began after the Centennial Brunch in May, 2017. I could not have succeeded without the help of those with more experience and ability. I was lucky enough to become President of Congregation Beth Shalom after the tremendous job of my predecessor David Horvitz. Also, I was fortunate in that Ria David's advice along with several previous presidents and others created an easy transition for me and helped me throughout the four years of my term. After that the Evening Gala at the Marriott Pittsburgh City Center in November 2017 was the beginning of a desire to have a yearly "Come Together Event," which continues to be a successful fundraiser. The major internal issues that we thought needed to be addressed immediately, such as financial and structural concerns, had to be put on the back burner as more significant problems confronted Beth Shalom. The first was the shooting at Tree of Life in October 2018 which focused our attention on important security concerns which had not captured our attention before. The second issue was the onset of Covid March 2020, which changed completely how we as a congregation could continue to support our services, safety of our members, staff, preschool and tenants. For both of these problems, Beth Shalom's ability to surmount these

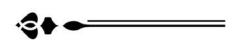
challenges was a result of the excellent work of lay leadership and newly appointed committee members, who offered invaluable policy guidance and support. They began having regular security taskforce meetings and Covid taskforce meetings which continue to guide our decision making.

During my time as president, we acquired two new tenants - New Light Congregation and Elegant Edge Catering whose tenure we value highly. We were given a new security system with assistance from the Federation and private donors and began the Life and Legacy Program. We were also guided by USCJ (United Synagogue Conservative Judaism) in developing and instituting a new Strategic Plan, Rules and Constitution. Rabbi Adelson, committee chairs, committee members, staff and lay leadership have worked diligently to strengthen our synagogue bylaws and official documents. So far, we are grateful that we have succeeded in addressing our congregational family's safety needs and in creating a roadmap for the future.

We have also been fortunate that several significant personnel additions have been positive additions to Beth Shalom. I've been very proud of our hiring of our Interim Executive Director Ken Turkewitz, whose help to the Shul and to me personally has been invaluable. Our current Executive Director, Robert Gleiberman, and our Development Director, Rabbi Andy Shugerman have both been successful hires. I've been a participant in many community meetings with Robert and Rabbi Andy and have been impressed with their professionalism and depth of knowledge. They both do not take the volunteerism of our members lightly, and it's great to see many members helping in many more ways especially in leadership.

On another positive note, several congregational trips for members have strengthened our membership and our bonds internally. I hope in the future we have the opportunity to have a Beth Shalom Israel experience and a trip to America's South again, which gave us a renewed appreciation of Jewish life in the South and our difficult and painful Civil Rights heritage.

It's very unusual for a person to have served as president for more than one term. Although I was reluctant to extend my tenure in office, I was persuaded to do so at that time because it was necessary. Today, these issues have largely been overcome. Our congregation accomplished a great deal and we are stronger now.





## Past Presidents' Spouse's Reflections



Top Row (left to right): Natalie Rosenbloom, Sally Greenwald, Barbara Rosenstein Bottom Row: Sarita Eisner







# Alan Greenwald (z"l) President from 1982-1984 By Sally Greenwald



Alan was a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother and uncle. He was close to his parents and to his parents-in-law, and to members of both families.

He was a good business man and a tough boss. He was generous to all of the family and to charities. Alan was faithful to Beth Shalom and its religion. He davened every morning and night at shul or at home.

May he rest in peace.





# Milton Eisner (z"l) President from 1985-1988 By Sarita Eisner



Congregation Beth Shalom was a huge part of Milt's life. He served on its Board of Trustees, too many committees to count (Religious Services, Endowment, Finance) and was Men's Club President from 1971-1973 and the Congregation's President from 1985-1988. Milt's (and Sarita's) generosity to Beth Shalom and the greater Jewish community set an example for all of us. The dedication of the Eisner Commons is but one illustration. While many people shy away from fundraising, Milt was honored to and thrived on raising needed funds for anything and everything at the shul – no goal was too big and he was dogged in making sure that campaigns were successful.

In 1986, during Milt's Presidency, a momentous hiring took place – the hiring of Rabbi Stephen Steindel (currently Rabbi Emeritus). Milt was extremely proud of

this accomplishment during his term in office. As we know, Beth Shalom was fortunate to have Rabbi Steindel as our Senior Rabbi from 1986-2009.

Milt never missed a morning minyan, Shabbat or holiday service. He loved being Gabbai and kibbitzing with all our members. While he was President, he started the tradition of having bagels and coffee after morning minyan. Many years later after Dale Caprara was hired as our Controller, Milt routinely would stop in Dale's office after minyan to check in on the "state" of the shul.

Milt passed away on June 10, 2020, when the Pandemic mandated the temporary closure of our building. The funeral service could not be held in the Sanctuary (as would normally occur for a past President) but was held outside in the parking lot. His casket was carried into the building before he was laid to rest at Beth Shalom's Cemetery. No Pandemic was going to prevent Milt from a final goodbye to his beloved Beth Shalom.





# Yale Rosenstein (2"l) President from 1990-1992 By Barbara Rosenstein

Yale's Presidency was much like his personality – calm and peaceful. He set the tone to make Beth Shalom a warm and welcoming place for everyone and especially children. When asked why his family chose Beth Shalom, Kenny Steinberg recently said: "We were shul-shopping; the synagogue we belonged to... did not have child-sitting arrangements for Saturday mornings. They said we had to leave the kids at home. We came to Beth Shalom and were greeted by Barbara and Yale Rosenstein. `Nuf said."

I do not recall any crises during the time that Yale was President of the shul. Membership was high. Yale's ability to listen to others' points of view, his patience and thoughtfulness created an atmosphere of everyone working together for the benefit of the shul. He believed strongly in training succeeding leadership and the committee system to involve as many congregants as possible. Yale devoted countless hours to the shul not only while he was President, but also with tireless service on numerous committees before and after his Presidency. Yale's opinions were respected and valued. Yale regularly attended and led daily and evening minyan and would trudge out on the coldest nights to ensure that we had a minyan.

Yale's connection with Beth Shalom goes back to his childhood as his parents were members of the shul. I want to share part of what Yale wrote in 1999, about how he felt and what he saw each Shabbat at Beth Shalom:

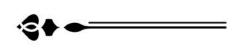
The main sanctuary is awe inspiring but comfortable. A tribute to G-d. The ceiling is very high, over one hundred feet with decorated moldings. The outside walls have many tall beautiful stained-glass windows depicting Jewish holidays, the Holocaust, Israel and Jewish life. Sometimes I look at them and let my mind wander as I take in their beauty. I think of G-d, Torah and man's relationship to man.

Mostly, I focus on the front where the service is going on. The Holy Ark is a marble structure with angel's wings on top with the hands of the priests blessing the people. Inside the Ark are many Torahs. On the High Holidays, they are covered in white velvet. I like getting to carry one of the Torahs around the entire congregation along with the other current officers and past presidents and wish our many friends a good and healthy year.

Throughout the service, I have this sense of peace. I have come to visit in G-d's house. The beautiful surroundings augment that feeling. We read all the traditional familiar prayers as have been done and are still being done all over the world. I have chanted them in many other places and



although the words are the same, the feeling and experience and memories are not the same as in my shul, Beth Shalom.





# David Rosenbloom (3"l) President from 1992-1994 By Natalie Rosenbloom



Being a President of Congregation Beth Shalom has always been a daunting task. No matter the year, or the membership numbers, it's hard to make everyone happy and hard to make the congregation financially sound.

I remember David going to countless meetings, services and shiva visits. As an optometrist David's busiest day was Saturday, Shabbat. I think it was during David's reign that the Executive Board started rotating through the presentation of Shabbat greetings and announcements. He was able to do the 6:30 a.m. Shabbat services for, to quote Rabbi Adelson, the especially zealous members.

David was a Tuesday and Thursday minyanaire. He truly enjoyed learning how to daven and becoming close to those congregants. And, of course, he enjoyed Abe's breakfasts.

In the 1990's our main sanctuary would be packed for the High Holidays. One year he received a call from a very unhappy long-time member. Her grown children would be home for the Holidays and she wanted them all to sit together at services. The seating committee couldn't honor her request on the first floor where she had her seats. A compromise was reached. We could accommodate her whole family on the balcony. Perfect solution.

Kol Nidre evening, when the Torahs are paraded around the sanctuary is a beautiful sight. David made it special for those of us sitting in the balcony by carrying a Torah to the balcony. It's a precedent that other officers now carry on.

Many years after David finished his presidency at Beth Shalom he learned to blow shofar. He took pride in blowing the shofar, for Nei'lah, from the balcony.





### Rabbi Mark Asher Goodman Associate Rabbi



#### Cornerstones

We all have foundational moments in our lives - inflection points which define us and drive us for the years to come. One such moment for me was in the first weeks of seventh grade. I had been accepted to the most prestigious, most posh prep school in Los Angeles California, and there was a math test in the early fall. As we got the test back after class, I had done poorly - some kind of C, because as smart as I was, my public school education up to that point was no match for the high-falutin' elementary prep schools of my classmates. I simply was not on their level, in terms of knowledge, or discipline, or understanding. And one of my classmates said to another, "What did you get? And the boy answered; "A 97." And then he continued: "My mom is going to be mad. She's going to ask how I missed those three points."

He was not enough. And I, by extension, with my 73, was far from enough. That school drilled academic excellence into us for the next six years in every way it could, which was both a positive driver for excellence and also a negative influence in terms of every child's self worth. It was never enough. Every student was always compelled to be more. Because somehow, the school had organized its values primarily around academic excellence - test scores and grades - and not personal responsibility, or kindness, or moral excellence, or emotional stability, or personal meaning, or happiness. The straight A student that was miserable was more valued than the B- student who was content. It took a long time after I graduated for me to see this clearly.

Judaism was one of the things that brought me to that realization - that the metric for what made for a good life was not necessarily the same from community to community, and certainly the metric at the Harvard School for Boys was not the right one - at least for me. A Jewish verse that we recite every new moon, and at Sukkot and Passover and Hannukah during the Hallel service helped to reorient me. The line is "Even ma'asu ha'bonim haita l'rosh pina - The stone that the builder refused will be the head cornerstone." (Note: it is also a line from a really great Bob Marley song.) The verse has many meanings, but primarily to me, it means "hey, the standard by which one person measures is not necessarily the right standard, or the only standard. Sometimes we don't see what is valuable in a person, or a thing. Sometimes, if we look at it differently, we see value and worth that we missed the first time around." Another way to say this is to say that everybody and everything has worth.

Sacred communities like Beth Shalom are a place to reframe the values conversation - and to instill the values of our tradition that matter most from generation to generation. It is also the place where each of us is to be valued for our specific gifts and talents - from the leadership of our presidents to the hard work of our volunteers to the beautiful uplifting voices of our daveners and leyners. No stone unturned, or refused, ever.









### Rabbi Andy Shugerman Development Director



Welcome to our Campus Centennial celebration honoring all of our Past Presidents! As a relatively new arrival to Pittsburgh, I am still getting to know our honorees and their families, but what I have learned so far demonstrates various examples of leadership we can find in already our most ancient texts. Indeed, I see in this diverse group of veteran lay leaders with decades of service to the Beth Shalom community at least three traits found in the Torah regarding similar outstanding individuals.

As I watched our Past Presidents standing together during our Kol Nidre service this year, I realized that the ancient origins of the Hebrew term we use today for "president" (*Nasi*') might actually offer some insights into the roles that these women and men have played in our congregation:

1. The first instance of the Biblical term Nasi' appears in Genesis 23:6, where the Hittites refer to Abraham as "the elect of God" after he calls himself merely "a resident alien." While this points to God's calling to Abraham, who was born elsewhere but whose own descendants will come to populate and govern the entirety of Canaan, I see in this dual language an example of the "insider-outsider" cohort who established Beth Shalom in 1917 and built this property from 1922 onward. Many of those folks were born in the Hill District but moved their families to Squirrel Hill in part to help their Jewish community capitalize on an area with great growth potential.

2.The next major passage in which Nasi' appears is Numbers chapter 7, which describes the final preparation of the Mishkan for use as the desert Tabernacle. (Many of you might recall this as the passage from which we read in the Torah service on Hanukkah.) An early Midrash (Sifrei 45) interprets the "chieftains of Israel" in three ways: first, as "common people appointed [to their position]," and then as "chiefs, the sons of chiefs" (a family business!), before finally combining those two ideas in a radical interpretation that they were former slave-foremen who had been both leaders and "lightning rods" who – according to Exodus 5:14 – were beaten on account of the kin they oversaw but now are rewarded for their sacrifices. In case the parallel I see here is not obvious to others, I will note how our Past Presidents were all appointed to their positions of leadership, some because it was already their "family business," but all of them have had to make sacrifices or even "take a beating" on behalf of this community in order to lead us over the years. Now it is time for them to be rewarded with our recognition of their invaluable efforts!

3.The other major passage in our Torah featuring the Nasi' term also appears in Numbers, but in chapter 34 the focus turns from history towards the future. Within the instructions for how the Israelites were to divide up the Promised Land, verses 16-29 name a new generation of tribal chieftains to assist the few surviving leaders from the Wilderness period as they apportion areas of Canaan among the Israelites. These individuals have not yet entered the Promised Land, neither literally nor figuratively, but their leadership requires of them faith in God and trust in this collective enterprise with each other to implement the vision that Moses imparts to them. I find wisdom in this episode for our current work with the Past Presidents' Council, who offer us sage advice for undertaking all of the work outlined in the Strategic Plan that created not just my position but an entire framework for the financial sustainability of Beth Shalom for decades to come.

Please join me in offering all of the Past Presidents our profound gratitude for their hard work, years of service, and their legacy of leadership bestowed upon us as we bring Beth Shalom more fully into the 21st century from this Campus Centennial in the years to come!







# Hilary Yeckel Director of the Early Learning Center



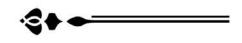
Hello Congregants. For those of you who do not know me, my name is Hilary Yeckel and I am the Director of Beth Shalom's Early Learning Center. My career with Beth Shalom began in 2014 as a lead educator, and in 2016 I moved into an administrative position. I have been the acting director for five years. One of the reasons I have stayed with Beth Shalom as long as I have is the great sense of community and longevity that exists within the congregation and early learning center. There is something special and unique about this building, this space, which draws families to it, and entices them to stay. In my career, I have seen families graduate three generations of children. This speaks volumes to how safe and valued they feel here, not to mention the trust they put

in us. This building is a special place. The hallways, the classrooms, they all hold many memories. Tonight we are celebrating the history and legacy of all Beth Shalom's presidents, 100 years of connection; of community. I myself had the privilege of working and collaborating with two presidents during my time here, Debby Firestone and our current President, Alan Kopolow.

The Early Learning Center has been a premier institution for Jewish early childhood education for 34 years. Over these years we have obtained and upheld a STAR 4 rating with Keystone Stars, as well as the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). Our center is a play based program which allows the children to build their social emotional skills and problem solving throughout their day. They learn to be kind members of their classroom community. Our educators create lessons that follow the creative curriculum which enables us to choose themes that our children enjoy, and have ownership in as we align their activities to PA state standards.

Based on an emphasis of Jewish heritage and culture, we provide an education in Jewish customs, rituals, and celebrations to children of all faiths. Our students learn Jewish history and practice through stories, art, and music; recite simple prayers; explore the synagogue; and have informal Kabbalat Shabbat services on a weekly basis with the rabbi and music specialist. We also celebrate Shabbat with our families at special Friday night services (Shababababa) and dinners and have family holiday celebrations at various times throughout the school year. Hebrew is used in our classrooms and integrated into songs, games, and circle time. Beth Shalom Early Learning Center children learn to see themselves and their families as an integral part of the Congregation and Early Learning Center family.

On behalf of our ELC, I want to extend congratulations to the women and men that have led the way to get to where we are today.





# Marissa Tait Director of Youth Programming



Dr. Erica Brown wrote "There was a time when it was important to know the place you came from in the broadest sense, to have a master narrative of a people as a bedrock for your own values. It grounded you and gave you direction – if you know where you come from, you arguably have a better sense of where you are going." This sentiment is the foundation for the many youths led by our past Presidents and leaders.

Seventy-one (71) years ago, Congregation Beth Shalom started a United Synagogue Youth program that has become the bedrock of our thriving congregation ever since. Just as the Torah tells an epic story of the unwavering heart of our People, so too does our shared experience as

the youth of Congregation Beth Shalom. Over the past 71 years, we have come together as a holy community, seizing our moments during our special time as the youngest congregants, evolving into the best versions of ourselves in this place – not entirely sure as to how we'd ultimately grow, but having fun all while figuring out what embracing our Judaism should mean for each of us and what we as proud Jews means to each other. And, as we engaged with one another, we learned about each other – and we wrote the story of BSUSY together.

In 2011, our then Youth Director, Carolyn Gerecht, began a deep dive into Congregation Beth Shalom (BSUSY) past Presidents in celebration of the 60th birthday of The United Synagogue Youth (USY). Throughout these many saved Word documents, Carolyn kept the names of the people who sent in the information. What a surprise and a delight to see who responded, some were friends that have passed away, some are still great friends and contributors, and even some whose family members are currently in our program.

You shall love your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. Take to heart these instructions with which I charge you this day. Impress them upon your children. Recite them when you stay at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you get up. Deuteronomy 6:6-9

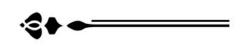
Ramban asks, "we are thus [obviously] commanded [to see to it] that our children know the commandments, and **how shall they know** [the precepts] **unless we teach them**".

Throughout these last 71 years, we hope that here our members felt safe, respected, valued, and heard. And that at Congregation Beth Shalom – with us – they were able to be themselves because that's the only version we want. Our sincere hope is that Congregation Beth Shalom's Youth continue, outside of these walls and grounds, to carry on their Jewish learning for generations to come.

As Jews, we commemorate the sanctification of time and recognize that every year is unique and brings on its own blessings and opportunities. May we be blessed for the next 71 years with the same caliber of Presidents as the last 71 years and may we all go from strength to strength.

Amen and Mazel Toy!







## Rabbi Larry Freedman Director of the Joint-Jewish Education Program



One hundred years for a building is quite the moment for celebration except...

This summer Deborah and I were in Amsterdam for some vacation and took a tour of the Portuguese Synagogue. It was completed in 1675 and still in use today, 347 years later. I'm not saying a building's centennial isn't something to remark upon. It's just that standing in a functioning synagogue three and a half times older was a very stark reminder of just how long Jews have celebrated our heritage and how much energy and drive we have put into it, how many dedicated people have put their time and energy and money into Jewish life so that we can find uplift and meaning. And a reminder that the Old World is really old!

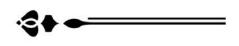
Tell me that Abraham and Sarah are from the Middle Bronze Age and my eyes glaze over. Tell me that Torah at Sinai is dated back 3000 years (just go with me on this) and I feel the import of Torah but it's hard to comprehend millennia.

But sit me down in a European synagogue where they still use candles, invite me into a sanctuary in the `burgh dedicated a few years after Armistice Day and I can feel my history. I can read the Hebrew inscription on either ark. I am home when I spot bima, ner tamid, Torah scrolls. I know the prayers in the siddur. One century or four, both spaces are the same and I feel at home in each one. I can see the Jews, (like me! like you!) in the fashion of the day coming in for Yom Kippur or midweek Torah study or nibbling on cookies at Oneg Shabbat.

Both buildings are impressive. Both buildings are designed to inspire. And how they have succeeded! Rabbis and cantors and educators have taught and moved members for a century at Beth Shalom. And lay people have responded giving so much of themselves. Members of the Board and in particular those who have stepped up to be president are a crucial part of the story of the Jewish people thriving. We must not celebrate a building without celebrating those who volunteer to make it thrive and hum and be a source of uplift and meaning. Presidents of congregations sit in a position of prestige surrounded by the maddening, frustrating, irritating problems that happen with a big building and a big budget. And yet they persevere allowing the staff and Jewish professionals to create magic as they renew Judaism for the next generation.

We live in an increasingly digital world and yet Jewish life is an analog experience. Despite the great efforts of our J-JEP year on Zoom, it is clear that gathering is better. Being face to face is better. The value of Judaism, the joy of Judaism, the utility of Judaism is felt and understood when we are together. Because of an inspiring building and because of lay people led by a congregation's president, may we all be gathering for such uplift for another 100 years.







31





PLEASE JOIN US ON
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2022

AS WE HONOR OUR PAST
PRESIDENTS & CELEBRATE THE
CENTENNIAL OF OUR BUILDING

MA'ARIV/HAVDALAH...... 6:00 PM
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\*See reverse for more details.







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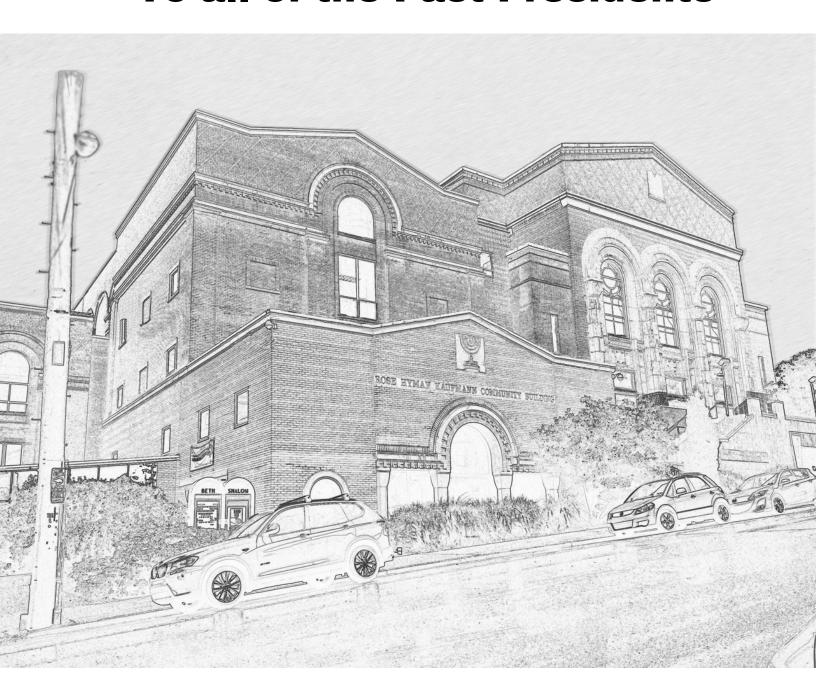
Lisa Steindel

Patricia Weiss



## Mazal Tov

#### To all of the Past Presidents



From the entire Beth Shalom Staff



&

MEN'S CLUB WISHES A HEARTY



#### TO ALL OUR FORMER PRESIDENTS

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\* of blessed memory







# Modim Anahnu Lakhem

We are all so grateful to be a part of this kehillah kedoshah, this community founded in holiness.

Mazal Tov to all of our past presidents!

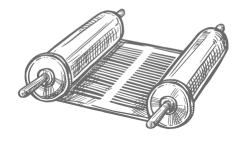
Judy, Oryah, Hannah, Zev & Rabbi Seth Adelson





From the Rosenbloom
Family to the Beth Shalom
Congregation go our most
sincere wishes for another 100
years of continuing to enrich
our lives through community,
education and friendship.

Natalie, Elizabeth, Howard and Jeffrey



אלה קריאי העדה נשיאי מטות אבותם ראשי אלפי ישראל הם:

These are the elected of the assembly, called to serve as chiefs of their ancestral tribes, the heads of the community of all Israel

Numbers 1:16

OUR HEARTFELT CONGRATULATIONS AND VERY BEST REGARDS TO ALL OUR SHUL'S PAST PRESIDENTS...

... AND TO THE ENTIRE BETH SHALOM FAMILY WHOM WE CHERISH AS OUR SPIRITUAL HOME

RABBI EMERITUS STEPHEN E. & LISA STEINDEL



# Mazal Tov

#### To all the Past Presidents

### Proud to be part of the 100 years of our Building



### In memory of my parents Jack & Esther Palkovitz

Barry J. Palkovitz, Esquire



#### **Kol HaKavod to:**

### Judy Kobell

Sisterhood President 1994 - 1996 Congregation President 2001 - 2003 Sisterhood President 2017 - Present

#### B'Ahavah Rabah (with much love)

#### **Gerald Kobell**

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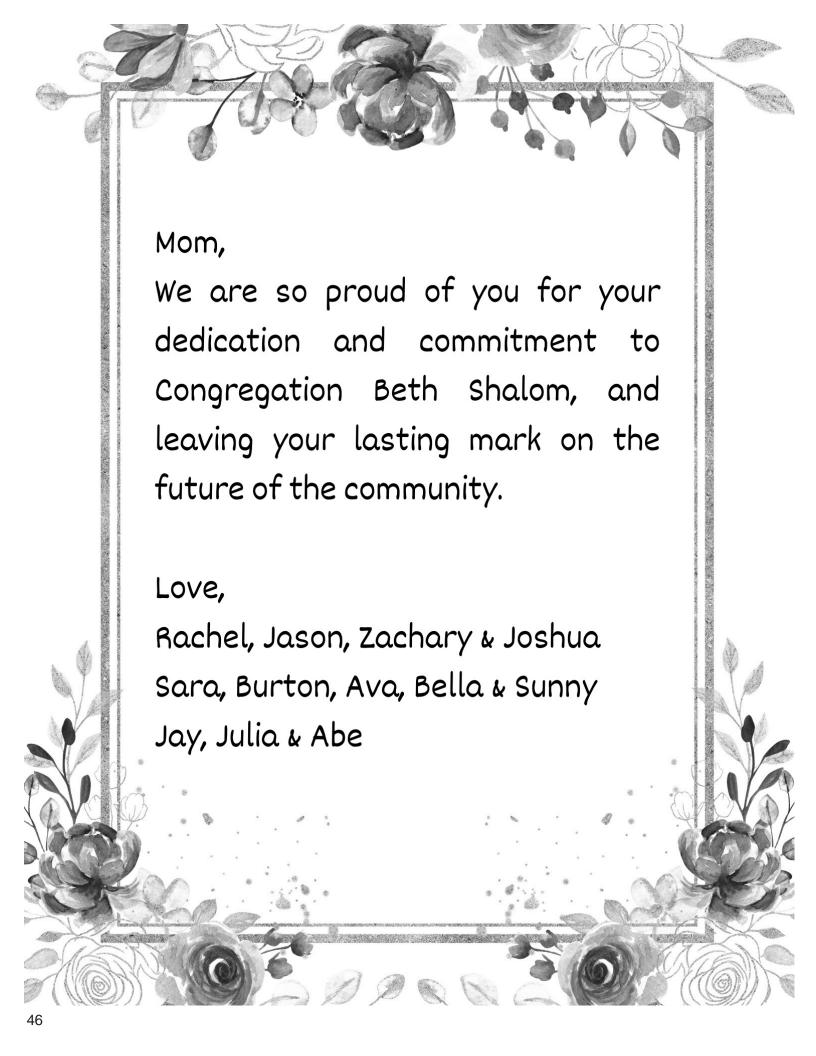
# to my fellow journeymen and women!

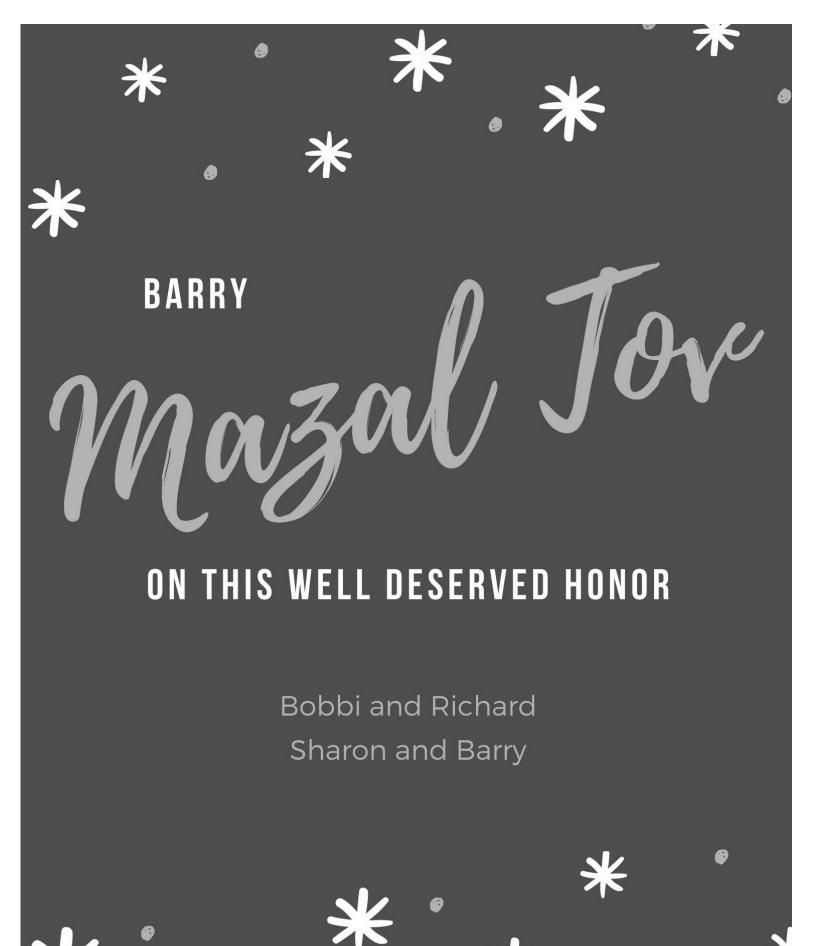


Your time, energy and dedication are greatly appreciated.

Thank you for keeping the vision alive and moving forward!

- Jay Fingeret





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BEGINNING WITH PARENTS,

ABE (Z"L) AND BECKY (Z"L),

ART AND MARLENE,

OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN

WISH A HEARTY

Mazal Tov

TO OUR RABBIS AND PRESIDENTS FOR THEIR LEADERSHIP THESE 100 YEARS.

WE CELEBRATE YOU AND THANK YOU FOR ASSURING THAT BETH SHALOM HAS BEEN IN GOOD HANDS IN THE PAST AND INTO THE FUTURE.

MARLENE & ART SILVERMAN

# Mazel Tov Beth Shalom, Honoring our Past Presidents & Celebrating the Centennial of our Building Imagining the next 100!

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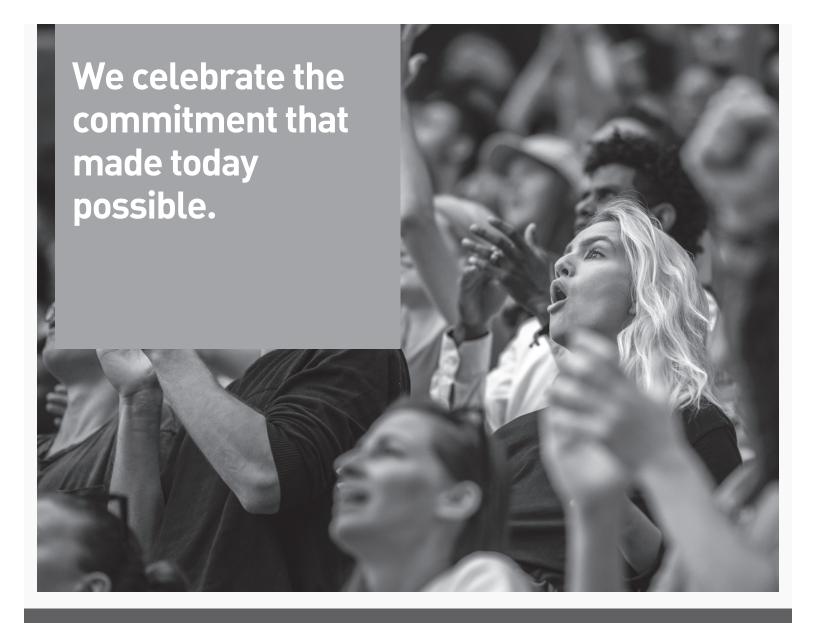
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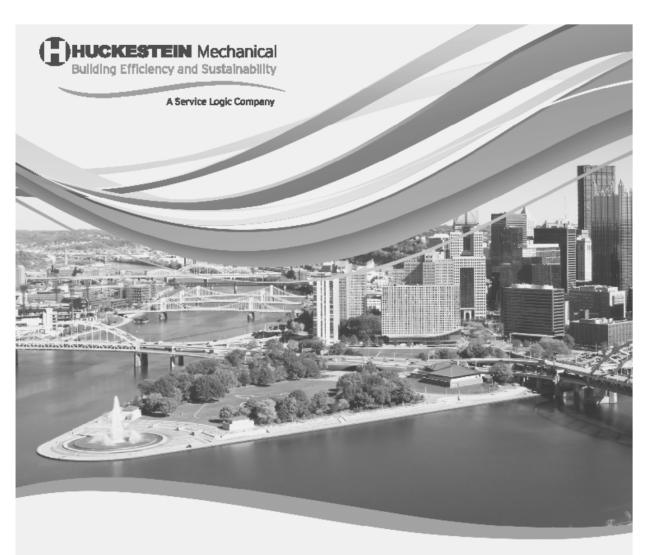
to the past presidents of Congregation Beth Shalom! And here's to 100 years of Yiddishkeit at the corner of Beacon and Shady!

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# MAZEL TOV CONGREGATION BETH SHALOM on the centennial of our building.







Mazel tov to our past Presidents, and cheers to another century!
May, Ari, Sara, Rachel, Eva Chester

### Mazal Tov and Thank You

TO ALL OF THE PAST PRESIDENTS THAT HAVE BEEN PILLARS OF OUR COMMUNITY AS WELL AS OUR SYNAGOGUE!

TO MY BROTHER DAVID HORVITZ AND MY DEAR FRIEND BARRY PALKOVITZ WHO BOTH STEPPED UP WHEN THEY WERE NEEDED MOST.

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### Mazal Tov



TO ALL PRESIDENTS - PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE AND

ESPECIALLY OUR "PAPA" ALAN GREENWALD WHO WE MISS EACH AND EVERY DAY!

MICAYLA, ARIEL & GAVRI GREENWALD

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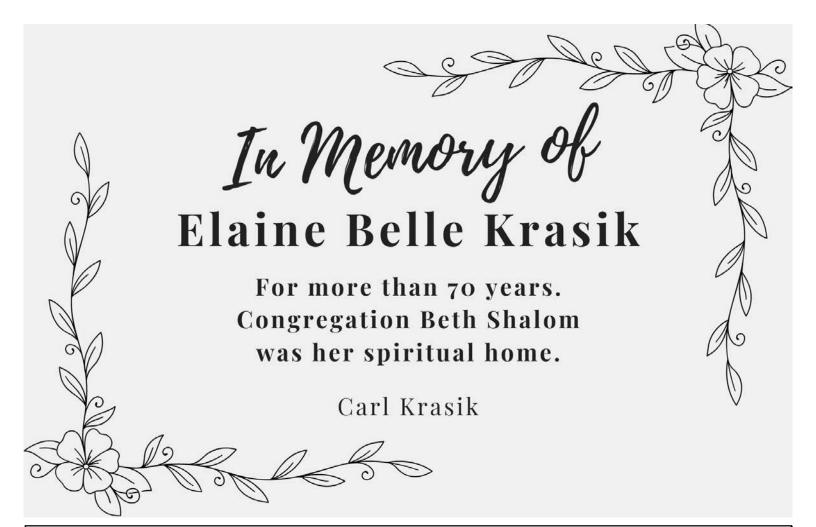
Adrienne and Larry Savitz

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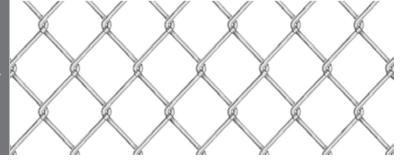
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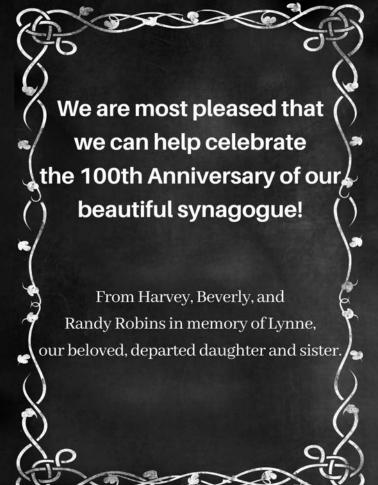
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### Mazal Tov to all the Past Presidents

Gary & Margaret Fischer





MAZEL TOV TO
CONGREGATION BETH
SHALOM
ON THE CENTENNIAL
OF THE BUILDING...

BEHATSLACHA FOR THE NEXT 100 YEARS!

Míndy Shreve, Bobby, Danny & Bella Bress Mazal Tov to Quall the Past Presidents for your love, time, and devotion to Beth Shalom.

-Neila & Danny Bendas

Congratulations
for an outstanding
100 years
and looking forward
to many more.

Bernice & Jack Meyers

#### Without the past presidents, there would be no present or future.

#### Kol Hakavod to all of our Past Presidents!

With hope and love for our future, Rachel & Steve Albert Sarah & Jake Straus



#### MAZAL TOV

TO CONGREGATION
BETH SHALOM
ON THE
CENTENNIAL
OF OUR BUILDING

\_\_\_\_

RICK & SHARI SWEET



Thank You

for your service

You truly deserve this honor

Mazal Tou

Phyliss Caplan

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YASHER KOACH TO OUR
PAST PRESIDENTS FOR
THEIR DEDICATION, VISION,
AND TIRELESS WORK ETHIC
TO ASSURE OUR SHUL
WOULD ALWAYS BE THERE
AS A SOURCE OF JOY IN
TIMES OF CELEBRATION AND
A SOURCE OF COMFORT IN
TIMES OF SORROW.

-David Horvitz



Ira Frank

AND OUR

**Past Presidents** 

Mazal Tov to

CONGREGATION BETH SHALOM

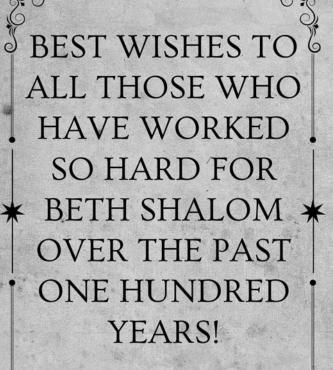
with Thanks and Best Wishes, Barbara & Michael Schneider





FOR ALL YOU HAVE DONE FOR BETH SHALOM AS WELL AS ALL THE OTHER PAST PRESIDENTS

**Rhonda & Mark Horvitz** 



Honoring Past
(and current) Presidents
and celebrating
Beth Shalom's
100 years at the heart of
Squirrel Hill

Mazal Tov and THANK YOU for creating a home for our family

-With love from Paul & Avi Munro and Moshe Baran

מזל טוב

**DEBBY & NATE FIRESTONE** 

#### Uncle Yaya! We all love you so much!!

FREYA, AARON, RYAN, NATHAN & SAM

JORDANNA, PAUL, JACK, ELLA, CHARLOTTE & EVELYN

**ROB, MONICA & EMMA** 

RAV DOVID, RIVKA, MOSHE, BARUCH,
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SHMUEL ELIEZER



THANKING THE

PAST PRESIDENTS OF

CONGREGATION BETH SHALOM

FOR THEIR SERVICE.

ED AND SUSIE BALIS





### MAZAL TOV

FROM THE ENTIRE ELBLING FAMILY



to all the Past Presidents
who devoted
so much time and
love to our spiritual home.

-Paul Teplitz & Abby Morrison

Mazal Tov to
Congregation Beth
Shalom's
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**Past Presidents** 

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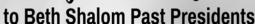
of our Building

May we go from strength to strength

Vicky & Steve Hoffman



### a Big Thank You



for all of their time, energy and hard work in leading our Congregation.

Kol Hakavod!

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#### Mazel tov!

May Chester Design

And thanks especially to Ira Frank for staying so involved and being such a great friend!





May the next 100 years have presidents as wonderful as the first 100 years!!

Thank you all!

-Lois & Alan Kopolow



#### With Gratitude

We Celebrate our Centennial Honor our Presidents and Recall the Vision and Dedication of our Founders including

#### Israel A. Safyan (z"I)

Beloved Grandfather and Great Grandfather

Linda Safyan and Thomas Holber Julia, Jessica and Andrea



From Andrea and Joe Chester and our extended family









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Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle

PNC Bank

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Karen Kranson & Rabbi Andy Shugerman

Sisterhood & Men's Club Patty Evans & Stuart Silverman Marlene & Arthur Silverman

Joel Smallev Michael Smrek

Lidush Goldschmidt & Chester Spatt

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Shari & Richard Sweet

Marissa Tait

Abby Morrison & Paul Teplitz Trust-Franklin Press Co. Nancy & Gary Tuckfelt Nicole & Howard Valinsky

Valinsky Realty Michelle Vines

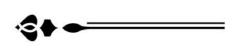
Rochelle & Jimmy Wagner

Wagner Agency Amira Walker Pat Weiss John Williams Shari Woldenberg Stephanie Wolfe Hilary Yeckel Erica Fox Zabusky Kristin Zappone

Jane Liebschutz & Roger Zimmerman

Nancy Zionts

We apologize for any errors or omissions.







Ralph Schugar Chapel, Inc.

proudly celebrates

working hand in hand with

Congregation Beth Shalom for 100 years!

Congratulations to all the past Presidents with gratitude for your service.

Sharon Ryave Brody, President, Licensed Funeral Director Rosemarie Au, Licensed Supervisor and Funeral Director And the entire staff of Ralph Schugar Chapel!



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### We Are On Our Way...





#### **Congregation Beth Shalom**

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