I was born and raised in San Bernardino, not far from San Diego. To a boy growing up in Southern California, San Diego was a wondrous beach community with a great zoo and friendly people. I did not know that it was also home to an extraordinary Jewish community.

You had to be a little eccentric to move to California in the middle of the 19th century. It was a rough place and quite disconnected from the rest of America. The early settlers of California, who came here once gold was discovered, tended to be intelligent, ambitious, creative, individualistic, courageous, entrepreneurial and adventuresome.

After reading the history of Beth Israel, you can detect these qualities in our founders. I am astonished at their strength and commitment. Here they were in this isolated outpost, proud of their Judaism and eager to make sure everyone knew there were Jews in San Diego. They succeeded beyond their wildest dreams!

For 150 years, the dreams of our founders have been the blueprint for a vibrant, creative, ambitious Jewish community. How proud we are of this House of Israel; how blessed we are to pray, study and celebrate in the House built by those who came before us and who bequeathed to us their hopes and aspirations for Jewish life in this far corner of the nation.

During the year celebrating our sesquicentennial, we have expressed gratitude for the vision, courage, faith and determination of the ones on whose shoulders we stand. They gave us Beth Israel, along with an obligation to continue to dream of all that this congregation can become. They were the Bonim, the original builders who laid the groundwork for our Jewish community. It is up to us to be the Shomrim, the guardians of all that they established. During our 150th anniversary celebration, as we rejoiced in our accomplishments, we also continued to strive toward that goal of being worthy guardians of the sacred community that has been placed into our hands for safekeeping.

Being a true guardian of this sacred community means more than maintaining what we have. It means being visionary, as the builders were, and looking to the future. It means being courageous and challenging ourselves to understand what we need to do so that Beth Israel remains relevant and indispensable to the lives of future generations.

We begin the next 150 years at the dawn of a new millennium. No one knows for sure what the future will bring. Who could have imagined, 150 years ago, what the world would look like after two world wars, the advent of jet airplanes, humans walking on the moon, and the technological revolution that has changed everything in the last 50 years or so? And who would dare guess what the world will be like 150 years from now?

“Now it is time to look to the future and confront boldly the challenges that lie ahead. Will we have the courage to be honest about the ways we need to grow and change in the coming months and years? My prayer is that we will, because we must if we are to remain vibrant. We need to be ready to try new ideas and to create a culture of openness to change and experimentation. We must be willing to take risks even when we cannot know the outcome.”

You are blessed, Eternal our God, Ruler of the Universe; You commanded us to establish and sustain holy synagogue communities.

AFTERWORD

By Rabbi Michael Berk
While not easy, it is still our charge. We know there are daunting challenges. A group of distinguished Reform rabbis from across North America recently met to consider the future of synagogues. This group identified some of the challenges facing us. Succinctly stated, they are:

1. **Jews do not feel an obligation to be Jewish as previous generations once did.** Many contemporary Jews feel less of a sense of Jewish kinship and less personal commitment to the Jewish people. The obligation to ensure Jewish survival, once considered a collective sacred duty, is no longer a given.

2. **There is no one way to be Jewish today.** There are limitless ways to be Jewish and connect to Jewish life beyond the traditional structure of synagogues. For many, synagogues have become pass-throughs of convenience for life-cycle celebration and commemoration.

3. **Denominational differences are blurring.** Jews are joining congregations for reasons of worship style, reputation of clergy or religious school, or to be with friends. Loyalty to denominational ideology is less relevant than it once was.

4. **Intermarriage has had a dramatic impact on Jewish life.** Almost half of the children being educated in Reform synagogues today are growing up in a family in which one parent was not born Jewish.

5. **Our 20 and 30 year olds are changing the rules.** This generation has fewer Jewish friends, spouses, neighbors and work colleagues than past generations. They are not joiners and see denominations as divisive or irrelevant.

These challenges are staggering. But that’s all right; it has never been easy to be a builder or guardian of Jewish communities. So, as we go forward, let us be confident that we can meet these challenges and grow from them. How? The best way for us to ensure our future is to make sure that Beth Israel is always somewhat of a restless place, refusing to rest on its laurels or to be lulled into complacency and acceptance of the status quo.

American Jews are success oriented. One of the stereotypes of the Jewish mother is one who makes her child feel guilty for not succeeding, while another is the mother who is always boasting about her child’s success. This year Beth Israel has been like the proud mother, boasting of many accomplishments. And that is how it should be during this year of celebration. But now it is time to look to the future and confront boldly the challenges ahead. Will we have the courage to be honest about the ways we need to grow and change in the coming months and years? My prayer is that we will, because we must if we are to remain vibrant. We need to be ready to try new ideas and to create a culture of openness to change and experimentation. We must be willing to take risks even when we cannot know the outcome.

“The best way for us to ensure our future is to make sure that Beth Israel is always somewhat of a restless place, refusing to rest on its laurels or to be lulled into complacency and acceptance of the status quo.”

Our synagogue has been at the cutting edge in so many ways – in social justice, in programming, in our religious school and in our worship. This year of celebration has been about honoring how much this congregation has achieved. Now we can best honor our builders by opening ourselves to new possibilities, innovative ideas, improved ways of doing things. The prophet said, “Where there is no vision, the people perish.” And our Talmudic sages recognized this same truth at a time when the world was, or seems to have been, much simpler, when they said: “Evil after evil befalls those who do things the way they’ve always been done.”

Rabbi Eric Yoffie used to tell a story about beginning his tenure as president of the Union for Reform Judaism. Rabbi Yoffie walked his predecessor, Rabbi Alexander Schindler, out of the office on Fifth Avenue in New York on Schindler’s final day as president. Rabbi Schindler’s last words to Rabbi Yoffie were: “Change everything.”

In the days that followed, many people on the staff approached Rabbi Yoffie and affirmed their openness to change. They were behind him and his new ideas. They agreed, change everything, but, they would add, “... just not my department.”

A recent d’var Torah written by my brother, Rabbi Bill Berk, states the case for Jewish openness to change,
even at the risk of failure. He wrote about Bereshit, or Genesis, the first book of the Torah. In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. Also in the beginning God created failure. When we read the opening chapters of Genesis carefully we notice that almost everything God attempts ends in failure. God makes a good world and then Adam and Eve eat from the wrong tree. Cain murders his brother, Abel. God has to bring a flood to destroy the world because it has become so full of corruption and violence. God exiles the arrogant builders of the Tower of Babel. One failure occurs after another. What is God’s response to all this failure? God tries one more time to get it right by choosing Abraham to carry God’s message out into the world.

The d’var Torah goes on to point out how our sages treat the challenge of failure: “Chevra, friends, let’s try again.” Some say a willingness to take risks in order to move forward is the essence of what it means to be a Jew. Failure is part of the package. Expect it. Don’t be thrown by it. God is the ultimate life-coach, telling us in the very beginning that the world is good, life is good, and that the failures that will come our way shouldn’t be taken too seriously.

The greatest gift we can give future generations is to remain eager for new ideas and directions that we may not yet even imagine our journey together can take us. My prayer is that as Beth Israel embarks on our next 150 years, we will be open to a vision of how much more we can yet achieve.

We are part of a chain that stretches back thousands of years. It is our sacred responsibility at this important time in our journey to forge the sturdy link that will connect the Judaism of yesterday with the Judaism of tomorrow. Together, let’s honor the memory of those who came before us by building and maintaining an ever-growing, creative and vibrant Jewish community in this House of Israel.

Ken yehi ratzon. May this be God’s will.
APPENDIX I

CLERGY

SENIOR RABBIS

Samuel Freuder 1888–1889
Marx Moses 1890–1893
Emil Ellinger 1909–1911
Dr. Montague N.A. Cohen 1912–1916
Julius Halprin 1917–1918
Alexander Segel 1918–1919
Ernest R. Trattner 1920–1921
Maxwell H. Dubin 1922–1925
Jacob K. Levin 1925–1930
H. Cerf Straus 1930–1934
Moise Bergman 1934–1946
Morton J. Cohn 1946–1962
Melvin Weinman 1962–1966
Joel S. Goor 1967–1975
Michael P. Sternfield 1976–1993
Jonathan Stein 1994–2001
Benjamin Kamin 2001–2004
Paul J. Citrin 2004–2007
Michael Berk 2007–present

CANTORS

Julian K. Miller 1949–1962
Henri Goldberg* 1963–1968
David Ben-Veniste 1977–1979
Sheldon F. Merel 1979–1991
Arlene Bernstein 1997–present

*Cantor at Temple Solel, which separated from and then merged with Beth Israel, from 1963–1967, and at Beth Israel from 1967–1968

ASSOCIATE AND ASSISTANT RABBIS

Jerold Levy 1971–1972
Michael P. Sternfield 1973–1975
Lenore Bohm 1982–1985
Laurie Coskey 1985–1993
Dana L. Magat 1995–1999
Sheila B. Goloboy 2000–2006
Glenn Ettman 2006–2008
Michael Satz 2009–present
EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

David Mitchell
Norman Fogel
Alice T. Engel
Dr. Bert S. Gerard
Alan Levinson
Steve Makoff
Mark Greenstein
Stuart Simmons 1988–2007
Lesley Mills 2007–present

PROGRAM DIRECTORS

Nadine Finkel 1978–1982
Barbara Goldman (co-director with Bonnie Graff) 1983–1989
Bonnie Graff 1983–present

LEE AND FRANK GOLDBERG FAMILY RELIGIOUS SCHOOL DIRECTORS AND DIRECTORS OF EDUCATION

Marie Blochman, religious school founder, 1886
Robert Imberman
Sarah Regina Harrow
Bernard Wind
Rabbi Samuel H. Markowitz
Dr. Lawrence Meyers
Dr. Bert S. Gerard
H. Richard Brown
Helene Schlafman
Jane Cohen
Rabbi Dana Magat and Susan Stein
Rabbi Sheryl Nosan
Rabbi Amir Wind
Michael Kessel
Dr. Harvey Raben
Rabbi David Katz
Ava Keenen Kurnow

BILL AND SID RUBIN PRESCHOOL AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION DIRECTORS

Tammy Vener 1998–present

BETH ISRAEL DAY SCHOOL DIRECTORS

Beth Matez
Sharon Raffer
Bob Kolton
Jill Green
Michael Kessel
Dr. Harvey Raben
APPENDIX III

PRESIDENTS OF THE CONGREGATION

Marcus Schiller  1861–1904
Abraham Blochman  1904–1909
Simon Levi  1909–1912
Adolph Levi  1912–1926
Samuel I. Fox  1926–1939
Henry Weinberger  1939–1946
Nathan Schiller  1949 and 1951
Murray D. Goodrich  1950 and 1958
Morris W. Douglas  1952–1953 and 1960
Mac Esterson  1954–1955
Robert M. Stone  1956
Richard Lustig  1957 and 1959
Alfred Brooks  1961
Allan Lame*  1961
Milton Fredman*  1962
Robert Epsten  1962–1963
William Starr  1963
Gerald Kobernick  1964–1965
Elliott Cushman*  1965
John Ingram*  1966
Alvin Cushman  1966–1969
Seymour Rabin  1967* and 1969–1971
David Alpert  1971–1972
Fred Weitzen, Jr.  1973–1974
Carl M. Esenoff  1974–1975
Joan Jacobs  1976–1978
James Milch  1978–1980
Eugene Heikoff  1980–1982
Robert Berton  1982–1984
Richard C. Barrett, Jr.  1984–1986
Simon Coleman  1986–1988
Patricia Perlman  1988–1990
Betty Byrnes  1990–1992
Gerald J. Rosen  1997–1999
Allan Ziman  1999–2001
Jerold Goldberg  2001–2003
Jeffrey H. Silberman  2003–2005
Barbara Haworth  2005–2007
Amy Corton  2007–2009
Ronald I. Simon  2009–2011
Emily Jennewein  2011–present

*President of Temple Solel, which separated from and then merged with Beth Israel
CARL ESENOFF AWARD FOR EXTRAORDINARY COMMUNITY SERVICE RECIPIENTS

Carl Esenoff* 1987
Victor Schulman* 1988
Herbert J. Solomon 1989
Stanley* and Pauline Foster 1991
Shearn Platt 1993
Pearl Slayen* 1995
Alberta and Charles* Feurzeig 1998
Robert Breitbard* 2000
Mary Ann Scher 2004

*of blessed memory

JOAN KUTNER SOCIAL ACTION AWARD RECIPIENTS

Joan Kutner 2005

VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

Ruth Landau 1981
Harry Tennebaum 1982
Joan Kutner 1982
Murray and Harriet Blum 1983
Morrie Wax 1983
Lynn Lurie 1984
Sharon Meldelson 1984
Susie Greenberg 1985
Eva Glaser 1985
Karen Coleman 1986
Barbara Drosman 1986
Norman Lurie 1986
Gladys Baba 1987
Louis Brint 1987
Harry Rothschild 1987
Alex York 1988
Larry Hirsch 1989
Fran Zelick 1990
Ed Thomas 1991
Rick Barrett 1992
Mildred Newman 1993
Anne Nemens 1993
Liz Levine 1994
Connie Unger 1995
Terri Sapp 1996
Harry Guterman 1996
Tammy Vener 1997
Betty Stieber 1997
May Sebel 1998
Joanne Gimbel 1998
Debbie Allen Skomer 1999
Don Greenberg 1999
Jerry Goldberg 2000
Ted Mintz 2001
Elaine Moser 2001
Ann Campbell 2002
Barbara Haworth 2002
Emily Jennewein 2003
Bob Metz 2003
Anita Hosenpud 2003
Shirle Horowitz 2004
Joan Gross 2004
Amy Corton 2005
Ron Simon 2005
Diane Voit 2005
Gary Hirschfeld 2006
Judy Fisher 2006
Andy Mayer 2007
Sandy Feldman 2007
Julie Fox 2008
Judith Schwartz 2008
Leona Levy 2009
Beth Israel History Project led by Lawrence Krause 2010
Jerry Sampson 2011
Heidi Gantwerk 2012
Buddy Voit 2012
LIFE MEMBERS

Deanne and Leonard Bloom
Lillie* and Robert* Breitbard
Arthur Brody* and Phyllis Cohn
David Engel*
Alberta and Charles* Feurzeig
Rachel Swimmer-Flores and Armando Flores
Zena and Dr. Donn* Kobernick
M. Larry Lawrence*
Lisa Massry and Alexis Massry
Evelyn and Ernest Rady
Cassidy and Jeremiah Robins
Mickey Stern
Iris and Matthew Strauss
Carol and Charles Swimmer
Sandra Teel and Earl Altshuler
Geraldine* and Lt. Col. (ret.) Hubert Wolff*

*of blessed memory

WOMEN OF BETH ISRAEL (ALSO KNOWN AS SISTERSHDIP, WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM, CAREER WOMEN’S NETWORK)
PRESIDENTS

Esther Kane  term unknown
Estelle Levi term unknown
Eleanor Epsten term unknown
Sarah Goodrich  1947–1949
Bernice Esenoff  1949–1950
Nan Schiller  1950–1951
Dora Friedman  1951–1953
Ruth Esterson  1953–1955
Louise Hertz  1955–1957
Dora Eber  1957–1959
Joan Jacobs  1959–1961
Marian Feldman  1961–1963
Jan Selik  1962–1963
Sylvia Bartell  1963–1965
Sandy Levinson  1963–1964
Jan Selik  1964–1965
Lucy Goldman  1965–1966
Shirley Gilbert  1966–1967
Dorothea Garfield  1965–1967
Shirley Kobernick  1967–1969
Shirley Demberg  1969–1971
Dona Shenkman  1971–1973
Faye Rose  1973–1974
Esther Jane Goldman  1974–1976
Annette Alpert  1976–1977
Lynne Lurie  1979–1980
Rita Weiler  1982–1983
Marilyn Cohen  term unknown
Susan Sincoff term unknown
Barbara Brody  1988–1989
Jill Spitzer  1989–1990
Julie Fox  1991–1992
Martha Katz  1992
Sue Geller  1993–1996
Karen Stern  1997
Joani Gross  1998–1999
Bonnie Hall  1999–2000
Liba Vinitsky  1999
Jan Kass  2001–2004
Judi Schwartz  2000–2004
Elaine Simon  2004–2007
Marge Schane  2007–2009
Lisa Gittleman  2008–2010
Betsy Haubrich  2009–2011
Sheila Bliss  2010–present
Kaylee Brogadir  2011–present
MEN’S CLUB PRESIDENTS

Alan Lame 1951
Richard Lustig 1954
Morrie Slayen 1963
Herb Richmond term unknown
Walter Wind term unknown
Marshall Andrich term unknown
Gene Heikoff 1976–1977
Sol Gordon 1978–1979
Irv Weiner 1982–1983
Larry Zweig 1984–1985
Harry Tennebaum 1986–1987
Sheldon Bleiweiss 1988–1989
Alex York 1990–1991
Kevin Hall 1992–1993
Scott Stearne 1993
Joe Nalven 1994
Irv Hosenpud 1995 and 1997
Harry Guterman 1997
George Wise 1999–2001
Allen Strauss 2001
Don Greenberg 2001–2002
Ken Jacobs 2002–2004
Mort Golden 2004–2006
Larry Krause 2006–2008
David Dahl 2008–2009
Bob Metz 2009–2010
Jim Malkus 2010–2011
Ben Schneider 2011–present

ADULT EDUCATION/ALEINU CHAIRS

Jeff Kirsch
Jerry Goldberg
Liz Levine
Al Ray
Marilyn Williams
Susan Steinlauf
Janine Feldman
Janet Acheatel
Sima Oppenheimer
Stan Bliss
Jerry Sampson
Dean Abelon

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Jerry Goldberg
Connie Unger
Elaine Moser
Anita Hosenpud
Bob Metz
Judy Fisher
Susie Citrin
Deb Debow
Sarah Schrier
Seekey Cacciatore
Stan Bliss

OUTREACH COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Debbie Weiner
Debbie Allen Skomer
Gail Davis
Gladie Jaffe
Karen Shein
Netanya Cranford
Kristin Belsky
Susan Schlesinger

DAYTIMERS CHAIRS

Sima Oppenheimer
Cynthia Wexler
Barbara Gellman
Barbara Krueger
150TH ANNIVERSARY CHAIR
Mary Ann Scher

150TH ANNIVERSARY STEERING COMMITTEE
Mary Ann Scher, Chair
Amy Corton
Ron Fox
Emily Jennewein
Meg Mandel
Jeff Silberman
Ron Simon

150TH ANNIVERSARY HONORARY COMMITTEE
Melissa Garfield Bartell and Michael Bartell
Phyllis Cohn and Arthur Brody*
Phyllis and Daniel Epstein
Pauline Foster
Diane and Elliott Feuerstein
Elaine and Murray Galinson
Bobbie and Jon Gilbert
Beverly and Joseph Glickman
Lee and Frank Goldberg
Allison and Robert Price
Evelyn and Ernest Rady
Karen and Jeff Silberman
Elene* and Herbert Solomon
Iris and Matthew Strauss

*of blessed memory

TORAH PROJECT CHAIR
Jerry Goldberg

ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN CHAIRS
Jeff Silberman
Amy Corton
Ron Simon

OPENING CELEBRATION CHAIRS
Marge and Jerry Katleman
Meg and Jess Mandel
Diane and Buddy Voit

CLOSING CELEBRATION CHAIRS
Beverly and Leonard Bernstein
Carol and Ron Fox

SPEAKERS SERIES CHAIRS
David Bark
Kristin Belsky
Deborah Debow
Sandra and Arthur Levinson
Andrea Oster
Gerald Rosen
Susan Ulevitch
Allan Ziman

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Sandy Feldman

PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIR
Chris Jennewein

ARCHIVIST
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Larry Acheatel  
*Executive Director*  
San Diego Jewish Academy

Sondra Albers  
*President*  
B’nai B’rith  
Brandeis National Committee

Melissa Garfield Bartell  
*President*  
Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center  
San Diego Center for Jewish Culture

Joan Berg  
*President*  
Jewish Federation Women’s Philanthropy

Edgar Berner  
*President*  
Jewish Community Foundation  
Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center

Beverly Bernstein  
*President*  
Israel Bonds

Robert Berton  
*President*  
Jewish Family Service  
Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center

Terri Bignell  
*President*  
Jewish Federation Women’s Philanthropy

Irene Borevitz  
*President*  
Jewish Federation Women’s Philanthropy

Lisa Braun-Glazer  
*President*  
Waters of Eden

Michael Breslauer  
*President*  
Hillel of San Diego

Howard Brotman  
*President*  
Jewish Federation of San Diego County

Betty Byrnes  
*President*  
Jewish Women’s Foundation

Phyllis Cohn  
*President*  
AIPAC

Si Coleman  
*President*  
Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center

Mitchell Dubick  
*President*  
Seacrest Village Retirement Communities  
Anti-Defamation League

Phyllis Epstein  
*President*  
San Diego Center for Jewish Culture

Esther Feier  
*President*  
Brandeis National Committee

Suzi Feldman  
*President*  
Hadassah

Irene Fine  
*President*  
Woman’s Institute for Continuing Jewish Education

Michael Flaster  
*President*  
San Diego Center for Jewish Culture

Pauline Foster  
*President*  
Jewish Federation of San Diego County  
Jewish Federation Women’s Philanthropy  
Jewish Community Foundation

Elaine Galinson  
*President*  
Jewish Women’s Foundation

Murray Galinson  
*President*  
Jewish Federation of San Diego County  
Jewish Community Foundation  
AIPAC

Gordon Gerson  
*President*  
Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center

Phillip Ginsburg  
*President*  
Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center
Jeff Glazer  
*President*  
Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center

Frank Goldberg  
*President*  
Seacrest Village Retirement Communities

Lee Goldberg  
*President*  
Hadassah

Robert Haimsohn  
*President*  
Seacrest Village Retirement Communities

Howard Harris  
*President*  
B’nai B’rith

Marcia Hazan  
*President*  
Jewish Women’s Foundation

Deborah Horwitz  
*President*  
American Jewish Committee

Cecile Jordan  
*Executive Director*  
Agency for Jewish Education of San Diego

Marjory Kaplan  
*President and CEO*  
Jewish Community Foundation

Richard Katz  
*President*  
Jewish Federation of San Diego County  
AIPAC

Gerald Kobernick  
*President*  
Jewish Federation of San Diego County  
Agency for Jewish Education of San Diego

Helen Kramer  
*President*  
Brandeis National Committee

Joan Kramer  
*President*  
Brandeis National Committee

Thelma Kramer  
*President*  
Brandeis National Committee

Lainie Lesser-Mark  
*President*  
Brandeis National Committee

Steven Levine  
*President*  
Jewish Family Service

Arthur Levinson  
*President*  
Jewish Federation of San Diego County

Beatrice Low  
*President*  
Hadassah Southern California

Marcie Merel  
*President*  
Jewish Family Service

Paul Meyer  
*President*  
American Jewish Committee

Rebecca Newman  
*President*  
Jewish Federation of San Diego County  
Jewish Federation Women’s Philanthropy

Miriam Norten  
*President*  
Jewish Federation Women’s Philanthropy

Andrea Oster  
*President*  
Jewish Federation of San Diego County  
Jewish Federation Women’s Philanthropy

Larry Oster  
*President*  
Jewish Family Service

Linda Platt  
*President*  
Jewish Federation Women’s Philanthropy

Shearn Platt  
*President*  
Jewish Federation of San Diego County  
Jewish Community Foundation  
Seacrest Village Retirement Communities  
AIPAC

Lorne Polger  
*President*  
Anti-Defamation League

Seymour Rabin  
*President*  
Jewish Federation of San Diego County

Michael Rabkin  
*Executive Director*  
Hillel of San Diego
Ernest Rady  
*President*  
Jewish Federation of San Diego County  
Israel Bonds

Evelyn Rady  
*President*  
Jewish Family Service

Ed Samiljan  
*President*  
AIPAC

Etta Schankerman  
*President*  
B’nai B’rith Women  
Brandeis National Committee

Sylvia Schenker  
*President*  
Brandeis National Committee

Mary Ann Scher  
*President*  
Jewish Federation of San Diego County  
Jewish Federation Women’s Philanthropy

Myron Shelley  
*President*  
Seacrest Village Retirement Communities

Renee Sherman  
*President*  
San Diego Jewish Academy

Marian Silverman  
*President*  
Jewish Federation Women’s Philanthropy

Herb Solomon  
*President*  
Jewish Federation of San Diego County  
Hillel of San Diego  
AIPAC  
Jewish Community Foundation of San Diego

Steve Solomon  
*President*  
Jewish Federation of San Diego County  
Hillel of San Diego

Jill Borg Spitzer  
*Executive Director*  
Jewish Family Service

Peter Stovin  
*President*  
B’nai B’rith

Sharon Thomas  
*President*  
ORT

Randi Wax  
*President*  
San Diego Jewish Academy

Lillian Weiner  
*President*  
Jewish Federation Women’s Philanthropy

Bunny Winslow  
*President*  
ORT

Gayle Wise  
*President*  
Brandeis National Committee

Allan Ziman  
*President*  
Seacrest Village Retirement Communities

Ron Zollman  
*President*  
Jewish Family Service
NOTES

i Stanley Schwartz wishes to thank Terri Sapp, Pearl Slayen, Stuart Simmons and Harry Tennebaum for their assistance in researching the history from 1950 to 1996 when his anecdotal history was first compiled and published. The following resources were utilized in this compilation of the congregation's history: Rabbi Ronald D. Gerson's thesis *Jewish Religious Life in San Diego, California, 1851–1918*, 1974, Hebrew Union College and *The 75th Anniversary Story of Congregation Beth Israel*, 1952, by Myron Lustig. He would like to offer a special thank you to his editor, his wife, Laurel Schwartz.

ii Richard F. Pourade, *The History of San Diego*. This is a monumental seven-volume work covering the period from 1492 in Europe to 1970. It was originally commissioned by the Copley Newspapers and published by the Historical Society of San Diego.

iii After hostilities broke out in 1861, Gwin was arrested and he eventually fled to Mexico. Andrew Rooke, *California, A History.*


ix *San Diego Herald*, October 9, 1851.

x This section is taken with some editing from Ronald D. Gerson, *Jewish Religious Life in San Diego, California, 1851–1918*, Master's thesis at Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion, 1974.

xi The Mannasses had come from Berlin. Goldman was listed as from “Germany” in the 1852 California Census. Katz was from a small town in Germany. See “Memoirs of Marcus Katz: San Bernadino Pioneer,” in *Western States Jewish Historical Quarterly*, Vol. 1, No. 1 (Los Angeles, 1968), p. 20.

xii *San Diego Herald*, September 3, 1853.

xiii “Inst” was an abbreviation for “instant” and referred to a current month or year.

xiv *San Diego Herald*, September 16, 1854.

xv *San Diego Herald*, September 15, 1855.

xvi Judge Benjamin Hayes, *Pioneer Notes from the Diaries of Judge Benjamin Hayes* (Los Angeles, 1929), p. 133.

xvii *San Diego Herald*, April 4, 1857.

xviii *Weekly Gleaner* (San Francisco), November 11, 1859.

xix *Weekly Gleaner* (San Francisco), November 11, 1859.

xx *Weekly Gleaner* (San Francisco), July 12, 1861.

xxi *The Occident*, Vol. XIX, No. 6, September 1861, p. 283.

xxii References used:


xxiv *The Hebrew* (San Francisco), October 13, 1871.

xxv *San Diego Union*, October 13, 1872.

xxvi *San Diego Union*, September 22, 1874.

xxvii *San Diego Union*, March 21, 1874.


xxx *San Diego Union*, September 20, 1887.

xxxi *San Diego Union*, December 1, 1885.

xxxi *San Diego Union*, November 4, 1886 and September 20, 1887.


xxxv T. S. Van Dyke, *The City and County of San Diego Illustrated* (San Diego, 1888), p. 28.


xxxviii *San Diego Union*, September 20, 1887.

xxxix *San Diego Union*, September 25, 1886.

xl *Jewish Progress* (San Francisco), September 23, 1887.


xlii *San Diego Daily Bee*, September 16, 1888.


xliv *San Diego Sun*, September 25, 1889.

xlvi *San Diego Union*, March 14, 1890.

xlvi *San Diego Union*, September 25, 1886.

xlv *San Diego Union*, April 4, 1889.

xlv *San Diego Sun*, April 4, 1889.

xlvii *Panic of 1893*, Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia.


xliv *San Diego Sun*, September 25, 1889.

xlv Ordinance No.155, Book 3, Page 148, File 7, February 29, 1892, in the office of the City Clerk, San Diego, California.


li *San Diego Union*, September 22, 1903.


lii *San Diego Union*, September 20, 1899; *B’nai B’rith Messenger* (Los Angeles), September 22, 1899.
liv  *B’nai Brith Messenger*, June 15, 1906.

lv  *B’nai Brith Messenger*, May 28, 1911.

lvi  *B’nai Brith Messenger*, April 12, 1912.

lvii  *San Diego Union*, September 28, 1912, November 11, 1912, December 21, 1912, and December 28, 1912.

lviii  *San Diego Union*, September 7, 1912.


lxii  Report of Rabbi Montague N.A. Cohen to the board of directors and members of Beth Israel, June 18, 1916.


lxiv  Minutes of Congregation Beth Israel, December 27, 1917.

lxv  Minutes of Congregation Beth Israel, May 21, 1918.


lxviii  *The Anniversary Story of Congregation Beth Israel*, March 1952.

lxix  *The Anniversary Story of Congregation Beth Israel*, op cit.

lxx  “A Short History of City Heights,” from the City Heights Web site.

lxii  “Sisterhood Invites All To Come to the Fair,” *Southwestern Jewish Press*.

lxxx  At that time, Rabbi Gerson had not done his research, and thus his thesis was not available to them.


lxxvi –lxxix  Information based on numerous sources, historical and anecdotal.
"We are part of a chain that stretches back thousands of years. It is our sacred responsibility... to forge the sturdy link that will connect the Judaism of yesterday with the Judaism of tomorrow."

— Rabbi Michael Berk