

AFTERWORD

By Rabbi Michael Berk



בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתַיִךְ,
וְצִוָּנוּ לְהִקְיִים קְהִילוֹת קְדוּשׁוֹת.

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

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.”

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
Robert Shapiro 1993–1994
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
H. Richard Brown 1976–1977
David Ben-Veniste 1977–1979
Sheldon F. Merel 1979–1991
Deborah Bard 1992–1994
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

APPENDIX II

SENIOR STAFF^{LXXVI}

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

Marline Gendelman 1977–1997
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^{LXXVII}

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 F. Baranov 1946–1949 and 1953–1954
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
Mary Ann Scher 1992–1995
Dona Gratt 1995–1997
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*

APPENDIX IV

LAY LEADERS ^{LXXVIII}

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
Judi 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 SISTERHOOD, 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*
Eva Glaser 1988–1989
Barbara Brody 1988–1989
Jill Spitzer 1989–1990
Nancy Nevin 1991–1992
Julie Fox 1991–1992
Martha Katz 1992
Sue Geller 1993–1996
Gayle Wise 1994–1996
Joanne Gimbel 1996–1999 & 2000–2001
Karen Stern 1997
Joani Gross 1998–1999
Bonnie Hall 1999–2000
Liba Vinitzky 1999
Jan Kass 2001–2004
Judi Schwartz 2000–2004
Ellen Edwards 2004–2006
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
Herb Hafter 1980–1981
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
Ken Feldman 1997–1998
Rich Renkin 1998–1999
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

COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR

Sandy Feldman

PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIR

Chris Jennewein

ARCHIVIST

Stanley Schwartz

APPENDIX V

BETH ISRAEL MEMBERS WHO SERVED AS PRESIDENTS AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS OF ORGANIZATIONS IN THE GREATER SAN DIEGO JEWISH COMMUNITY^{LXXXIX}

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*.
- iv Donald H. Harrison, *Louis Rose: San Diego’s First Jewish Settler and Entrepreneur*, Sunbelt Publications, 2005.
- v Donald H. Harrison, *Louis Rose*, op cit.
- vi Donald H. Harrison, “The 19th Century Credit Vise: How Tight Money Squeezed J. S. Mannasse & Marcus Schiller, San Diego, California, 1854–1897,” *Western States Jewish History*, Vol. XL, No. 1, Fall 2007, pp. 41–68.
- vii Donald H. Harrison, *Louis Rose*, op cit.
- viii Donald H. Harrison, *Louis Rose*, op cit.
- 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:
Michael Meyer, *Judaism within Modernity*, 2001.
David Ruderman, *Jewish Enlightenment in an English Key*, Princeton, 2000.
Jonathan Sarna, *American Judaism*, Yale, 2004.
Steven Bullock, *Revolutionary Brotherhood*, North Carolina, 1996.

- Deborah Dash Moore, *B'nai B'rith and the Challenge of Ethnic Leadership*, Albany, 1981.
- Lynn Dumenil, *Freemasonry and American Culture 1880–1930*, Princeton, 1984.
- xxiii *San Diego Union* (Weekly Edition), January 13, 1870.
- xxiv *The Hebrew* (San Francisco), October 13, 1871.
- xxv *San Diego Union*, October 13, 1872.
- xxvi *San Diego Union*, September 22, 1874.
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- xxviii James N. Price, “Bringing the Railroad to San Diego,” *The Journal of San Diego History*, Vol. 34, No. 2, Spring 1988.
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"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