



## **A History of Congregation Beth Yam**

**1978 -2007  
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### BOOK ONE

Genesis 1978 - 1985

In the beginning the Jews of Hilton Head were few and scattered and were without form. Jews had come to visit, but developers did not encourage settlement. Nevertheless, the first Jewish wedding took place on August 24, 1974. The marriage of Cosimo and Deborah Urato was officiated by retired army chaplain, Rabbi Norman Goldberg, and the largest gathering of Jews to date was recorded at the Hilton Head Inn. By the end of the 1970s Jewish settlers did not know whether there were any others here. Some were reluctant to be publicly recognized as Jews and, although they did not deny their faith, neither did they display a mezuzah or other symbol of Jewishness. Nonetheless, thirty people gathered for a Passover dinner in 1979, and the seeds of a Jewish association were sowed. Knowing that there were Jews living in Sea Pines and concerned that there was no synagogue on Hilton Head, the pastor of Christ Lutheran Church voiced this concern to his neighbors and friends, Sue and Hank Noble. In 1980 a notice was placed in the Island Packet inviting all Jews in the area to share a Rosh Hashanah dinner at Christ Lutheran Church. Although the meeting was to be held in Fellowship Hall, Reverend Boyd Cook discovered that the hall had also been promised to the Boy Scouts for their meeting. Honoring his commitment to the Nobles, Reverend Cook put the Boy Scouts in the sanctuary. The morning following the dinner, Hank Noble received a phone call telling him that there had been a problem in Fellowship Hall after the folks had left.

"What was the problem?" Hank asked, and he wondered if something was left dirty or damaged.

"We think that one of Moses' staffs was left behind," the reverend said.

"Huh?" or something to that effect was Hank's response.

"Yes. The Boy Scouts discovered a snake in the room after everyone else had left."

At the dinner meeting it was decided that the time was right to establish a Jewish community group on Hilton Head. A "pot-luck" Seder was held in April, 1981 in Sea Pines Plantation. It appears that ninety-seven people attended this event. Overwhelmed by the response, Stuart and Linda Silver and Hank and Sue Noble assumed leadership roles and arranged a meeting to form a Jewish community group. This meeting, at the home of Hank and Sue Noble, was held on May 1, 1981. Twenty-six people attended, Shabbat candles were lit and a Kiddush was recited. A Steering Committee and sub committees were formed and an organizational dinner meeting was planned on May 29, 1981.

The steering Committee met May 5, 1981, opened a bank account, and deposited the money remaining from the Passover Seder. The Committee made the following recommendations:

1. The official name of the group would be "The Jewish Community of Hilton Head."
2. Application for tax-free status was to be pursued.
3. Annual membership fee was set at \$15.00 for families and \$10.00 for individual members.

On May 29, 1981, fifty-four Jews of Hilton Head met for a dinner and voted to accept the suggestion for the name of "The Jewish Community of Hilton Head." Shabbat candles were lit, a motzi was given, and potluck dinner was consumed. Rabbi Jerome Gurland from UAHC spoke. Other actions taken at this meeting were:

1. Acceptance of the dues structure.
2. Organization of a religious school.
3. Plans for a Shabbat Service (the very first one on Hilton Head) to be held June 12, 1981 at the First Presbyterian Church, which was to become our home for many years. The support and cooperation of Reverend John Miller was important to this group.
4. A family picnic was scheduled for Sunday, July 12 in Greenwood Forest at Sea Pines.

### **JUNE 12, 1981 "A RED LETTER DAY"**

The first Shabbat Service of the Jewish Community of Hilton Head was held Friday evening June 12, in the Fellowship Hall of the First Presbyterian Church. The service, excerpted from the "Gates of Prayer" by Rabbi Gurland was conducted by Leslie Bernick. Sherry Noble kindled the Shabbat candles and Bill Chait recited the Kiddush. Twenty-five adults and children attended and the first Oneg Shabbat on Hilton Head Island followed the services. Refreshments were provided by Elaine Bank, Paula Flink, and Connie Franzblau. First Presbyterian Church served as our gathering place for services and other events for several years, with the whole-hearted support of Reverend John Miller.

### **JULY 22, 1981 "ANOTHER RED LETTER DAY"**

The Jewish Community of Hilton Head was incorporated and was henceforth known as "Jewish Community Association of Hilton Head" (JCA).

In addition, the first meeting of the Board of Directors (Steering Committee) was scheduled for August 10, and continued to be scheduled on the last Sunday of each month. After the August 10 meeting, the Board of Directors announced plans for Rosh Hashanah Evening Service on September 28 and Morning Services on September 29. Kol Nidre was scheduled October 7, followed by Yom Kippur Services on October 8. In addition regular Friday night services were planned on the second Friday of each month in the Fellowship Hall of the First Presbyterian Church. The Membership Meeting was scheduled for Sunday, October 25, 1981 at 3:00 PM at Fratello's Restaurant. Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur 1981 (5742) services were conducted by Rabbi Harold Berman and Stuart Silver and Adam Noble blew the Shofars. Seventy people participated in the Rosh Hashanah services and Yom Kippur attendance was approximately one hundred.

## FIRST MEMBERSHIP MEETING, OCTOBER 25, 1981

1. The following slate of Officers proposed by the Board of Directors was elected:
  - a. President Hank Noble
  - b. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Linda Silver
  - c. 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Bea Chait
  - d. Secretary Debbie Urato
  - e. Treasurer Les Bernick
2. In a classic case of putting the cart after (before?) the horse, the Board of Directors was elected from the floor. This was obviously the same group functioning as a Board of Directors (Steering Committee), and included Elaine Bank, Joel Barasch, Elaine Green, and Herb Novit.
3. The newsletter was called *Sho'reshim Shelanu* – Our Roots and was mailed out monthly. It was edited by Bea Chait and Jackie Gottfried.
4. Religious school under the direction of Harriet Bernick was operational.
5. The first Chanukah Service was held December 1981. The Chanukah issue of *Sho'reshim Shelanu* told the story of the holiday.

The Executive Committee Meeting agenda of December 1981 had the following significant agenda:

1. A discussion of land acquisition for a temple was instituted.
2. The UAHC affiliation was discussed.
3. A budget for the Ritual Committee and for religious schoolbooks was started.
4. A Community Passover Seder was scheduled for April 9, 1982.

## WHAT A YEAR 1981 WAS!

Clearly our founding members were not letting any grass grow under their feet. By the beginning of 1982 the congregation included one-hundred families. Judaism was alive, out in the open, and thriving in Hilton Head.

The frenetic pace of 1981 was followed in 1982 by a somewhat more subdued pace. There was a theater party on February 19 including a performance of “Born Yesterday” at the Community Playhouse following a dinner, originally scheduled at Makato's. But the venue was changed to Jade East. Someone must have realized that Japanese food was not the same as Chinese! Our newsletter put out a call for guests for the first Community Seder and for a Torah.

By February 1982, there was discussion about music for the once monthly Shabbat services, and Torah readings in English had begun. We still had no permanent rabbi and there were no sermons. Instead, inspirational poems at services were suggested, but if there were such, they were not recorded.

*Sho'reshim Shelanu* continued to be an educational as well as an informational newsletter with the March 1982 issue telling the story of Purim. Also in that issue was an announcement that two Pennsylvania congregations were merging and that their newly formed Temple Emmanuel-EI was lending us a Torah and donating textbooks for the religious school. By the time Passover had come and gone, there were sixty-six residents and forty-three non-resident members of the

Hilton Head congregation. We were recruiting volunteers to teach at the religious school and looking for a permanent rabbi. Our congregation had invited the rabbi from Pennsylvania to visit Hilton Head, but the recruitment apparently was not successful.

In another act of an ecumenical nature, our members worked with a Catholic group on Hilton Head to help them prepare a "Seder Meal." It appears to have been successful, but no follow-up events have been noted.

The Annual Meeting was Friday June 11 at First Presbyterian Church:

1. Census showed sixty-six permanent Jewish households (full-time) and forty-three non-permanent members.
2. Dues structure was established.
3. Affiliation with UAHC was voted on and approved.
4. Election of Officers -the same slate was approved.

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur Services were observed at First Presbyterian Church by Rabbi Ira Youdovin.

The year 1982 and, to some extent, the year 1983 were years of consolidation. By February 1983, dues had jumped from \$25 to \$75 for resident families and non-residents paid \$15 per person. Attendance at a Community Seder for Passover at the Sea Pines Conference Center cost \$8 per head. Administrative meetings, which had been held at Fratello's Restaurant, moved to an office provided free of charge by the Hilton Head Company. *Sho'reshim Shelanu* now included book reviews and lists of the bestselling books on Jewish subjects. The August-September issue included a proposal for an Adult Education Program that would focus on Hebrew language classes, Jewish history and Jewish literature. Stuart Silver and Marshall Katz were appointed as a Search Committee for a rabbi.

The Annual Meeting was held on June 12, 1983, with election of new officers:

President	Bernice Berman (now Bernice Lewin)
Vice President	Les Bernick
Secretary	Debbie Urato
Treasurer	Harold Kaplan
Past President	Hank Noble
<b>Board of Directors:</b>	
1 Year Term	Ethel Shapiro
	Melvin Newman
2 Year Term	Herb Novit
	Lanny Horwitz
	Elaine Green

About one hundred fifty people attended Rosh Hashanah services in 1983. The first Sukkah was built in Greenwood Forest in Sea Pines for that year's festival. In December, on the eighth night of Chanukah, an Ecumenical Dinner (\$8 per family!) was held at First Presbyterian Church with the cooperation of Reverend John Miller, who was to continue to be a great supporter of the

Jewish community of Hilton Head. Reverend Miller spoke to two hundred attendees on "The Brotherhood of Man."

Recruitment of a rabbi continued, and Rabbi Ben Romer of Temple Israel in Lafayette, Indiana, visited at the end of 1983. Although he did not relocate to Hilton Head, Rabbi Romer found his calling soon thereafter as a Chaplain in the National Guard and has had a distinguished career, serving in combat zones, and then as Jewish leader at the West Point Military Academy. The November 1983 issue of *Sho'reshim Shelanu* contained a survey asking participants to check off the most and least desirable characteristics a rabbi of our congregation should possess.

#### **WHAT A WAY TO END 1983 AND BEGIN THE MOMENTOUS ORWELLIAN YEAR OF 1984.**

1. On Friday January 13, 1984, Rabbi Lewis C. Littman, Regional Director of the UAHC, conducted services and presented JCA with a UAHC charter. Also on that night President Bernie Berman announced the donation of a Westminster Torah by the Klaus family in honor of Ethel Shapiro. NOT A BAD EVENING'S WORK!!
2. The search for the spiritual leader continued, and the results of the 1983 survey were tabulated. A rabbi for the Jewish Community Association (most important characteristics, 500 points...least important, 100 points) survey results in February, 1984 were:
  - 480: ability to deal with people
  - 460: concern for individuals
  - 440: personal warmth
  - 440: relationship with non-Jews
  - 430: activity in the Jewish community
  - 430: sermon delivery
  - 420: rapport with children
  - 420: rapport with Senior Citizens
  - 420: conduct of worship
  - 410: sermon content
  - 410: administration of Religious School
  - 410: Jewish learning
  - 400: administration of congregation
  - 390: rapport with adults
  - 390: presence in time of sorrow
  - 390: teaching ability
  - 380: observance of Jewish traditions
  - 360: command of Hebrew
  - 340: personal appearance
  - 330: social and political views
  - 320: personal scholarship
  - 310: relationship to whole family
  - 310: creative ideas for worship
  - 300: charm/charisma
  - 300: piety/spirituality
  - 290: presence in time of joy
  - 290: hospital visits
  - 270: brilliance

3. Monthly Friday night services were ongoing. The family of Ethel Shapiro donated a holocaust torah in her honor. This Westminster Torah journeyed around the Hilton Head Jewish community, as it was lovingly guarded at congregants' homes and brought to First Presbyterian Church for the once-monthly Shabbat services.
4. The first catered dinner for the Community Seder was held in Fellowship Hall at First Presbyterian on April 17, 1984. Fees were \$12 for members, \$15 for non-members, \$8.50 for members' children and guests, and \$10 for non-member children. One hundred seventy-five people attended.
5. At the Board Meeting April 24, the Directors voted to recruit a student rabbi for the 1984-85 year. Job duties would include conducting of High Holy Day services, monthly Shabbat services, and Religious School instruction. The membership was fifty-five resident families and fifteen resident individuals, and forty-five non-resident individuals (one hundred fifteen total).
6. The annual meeting was scheduled for June 10, but immediately after, a significant event occupied the minds of the JCA. THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL BAR MITZVAH (that of ADAM NOBLE) was to be held. This for certain is the initial Bar Mitzvah on Hilton Head Island. To make this event even more significant, the Westminster Torah, presented by the family of Ethel Shapiro, arrived.
7. The Bar Mitzvah was spectacular according to members (2007) who were there. At the Annual Meeting, Herbert Bernheim was elected Treasurer; the rest of the officers remained the same.
8. On October 2, 1984 the first Brit Milah ceremony was officiated by Hank Noble and Herbert Ross. Samuel Urato was officially welcomed into the Jewish community at the office of Dr. Neil Love.
9. In October, Rabbi Nina Mizrahi, a fourth year student at Hebrew Union College in New York, was hired to be the spiritual leader for this year. Her job duties, after joining the congregation in September, were to conduct High Holy Day services, to be with us and conduct Friday night services on the second weekend of the month, and to hold Saturday adult seminars on the weekend she was here. At the writing of this report (2007), Rabbi Mizrahi is the Director of City-Wide Programs at the Pritzker Center for Jewish Education at the Jewish Community Center of Chicago and has had a very illustrious career, in addition to being a wife and mother.
10. At this time, the JCA received a new Kiddush Cup and many contributions toward the dressing of the Westminster Torah. A questionnaire asking for interest in cemetery plots was sent out, and there was enough interest to pursue this.
11. Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services were very successful with Rabbi Mizrahi. More than one hundred gathered for Rosh Hashanah dinner. The first Saturday afternoon seminar was also initiated and can probably be viewed as the first formal Jewish adult education done on Hilton Head Island.
12. In addition, the Nathan Franzblau Memorial Building Fund for the building of a Temple was initiated. This was the initial fundraising for what we now know as Congregation Beth Yam. Initial pledges were made by the Caplans, the Chaits, and the Franzblaus.
13. December 1984 ended with a celebration of Chanukah, and the ecumenical Chanukah Advent Dinner at First Presbyterian Church, with Reverend John Miller. But there was one other significant event – the JCA Community Association Building Accessibility Study



14. Committee met on December 30, 1984. Members of this committee were Ed Smith (chair), Dan Caplan, Bill Chait, and Hank Noble. Three options were discussed:
- a. Rent space and convert it
  - b. Buy an existing building
  - c. Buy land and build a sanctuary

## BOOK TWO

Exodus  
1985-1990

The narrative continues with the events leading from the exodus from the First Presbyterian Church to our own house of worship. It should be emphasized that the Congregants and the minister (Reverend Miller) never pushed or demanded we leave, but it was an inner desire of the Jews on Hilton Head to have their own place of worship.

January 1985 began with a pledge from President Berman for more involvement in Rabbi Mizrahi's study group. The scheduled events were still in place, once monthly Friday night services, and a study group on the Saturday that Rabbi Mizrahi was in town, a successful Passover Seder, and an ongoing Religious school. The Board, at its April meeting, presented the Congregation with a list of names, submitted by congregation members, to give it a more traditional character. One of these was Congregation Beth Yam (House of the Sea). At the annual meeting in June the Congregation voted to use this name. Other events at the annual meeting were election of Bernice Berman to a second term as President and the offering of a contract for part-time Rabbi Mizrahi for a second year. On a personal note, President Berman became President Lewin as she married Dr. Julian Lewin.

From a Social Action standpoint, the clergy of Hilton Head banded to organize a group known as Charlotte Heinrich's Community Service, Inc. This was a precursor of what is known now as Deep Well and President Lewin was included in the organization of this group. Once again the Congregation (now known as Congregation Beth Yam) celebrated a successful High Holy Day season and Chanukah / Advent dinner. At this dinner the children from the Sunday school, under the direction of teachers Debbie Urato and Sherry Noble, presented Chanukah in story and song. In addition, the Congregation filled and distributed five Christmas baskets for the Community Service Group.

In January 1986, congregants participated in the Martin Luther King march and were asked to write their senators and congressman regarding the passage of the Civil Rights Resolution Act of 1985 (5431). Friday night services were still held once monthly, and Adult Education with Rabbi Mizrahi on that weekend. The Community Seder was held April 24; cost was \$15 for Adult Members, \$18 for out of town guests, and \$12 for children. At the June Congregational Meeting revised by-laws were accepted in keeping with the renaming of the Congregation. Major points were the following:

1. The Board of Directors shall consist of eleven members, six of whom will be elected officers serving a two year term.
2. The term of the non-officer members shall be two years, two being elected in odd numbered years, and three in even numbered years.
3. There shall be no limit to the number of times a Director could be elected.
4. The duties of the Board are to manage the affairs of Congregation Beth Yam including appointment of committees and establishing a dues structure.
5. There shall be an annual meeting to elect officers and members of the Board.
6. The Board of Directors shall meet once a month.

In the month of June 1986, Rabbi Mizrahi was ordained, and she and her husband were given a wonderful send off. She was replaced by another student, Rabbi David Holtz. Rabbi Holtz conducted exemplary Shabbat and High Holy Day services, with his guitar playing adding a new measure to services. Rosh Hashanah dinner was catered at the First Presbyterian Fellowship Hall prior to services Friday, October 3, the first night of Rosh Hashanah. The fee was \$15 for members and \$10 for member children under 12. Non-member adults were charged \$18.

Immediately after the High Holy Days, another milestone event occurred, the Bat Mitzvah of Ellise Rachael Silver. This appears to be the first recorded Bat Mitzvah on Hilton Head.

A special Congregational Meeting was held December 12, to discuss land acquisition for the proposed temple. At this meeting the membership voted to acquire property in the Main Street development of Hilton Head Plantation as a site for the future home of the congregation. The year 1986 ended with a special Chanukah Shabbat service conducted by Rabbi Don Rohmer. Fundraising for the new sanctuary had started in earnest.

The year 1987 began with monthly Shabbat Services at First Presbyterian Church and Continuing Education classes the week Rabbi Holtz was on HHI. The annual Communal Seder was again held on April 14. On May 9, the Bat Mitzvah of Jessica Sara Green was held (the B'nai Mitzvah score was now in favor of the girls 2 to 1).

At the annual meeting June 12, new officers were elected. After four years in the job, Bernice Lewin became a Past President, and the new President was Scottie Davis Younce. Paul Klein was Vice President., Mike Jukofsky was Secretary, and Irv Unger was Treasurer. Board Members were Bill Moch, Herb Novit, Karen Ferree, Saul Blumenthal, and Stu Silver. Student Rabbi Amy Ehrlich was hired for the 1987-88 year.

Regarding the Building Fund, as of August 12, 1987 the Congregation had received over \$92,300 in cash and had \$259,000 in pledges. The site plan was finally approved by the Town of Hilton Head, and on December 11, 1987 an agreement with Keane Robinson Architects was reached to provide the design of the synagogue. At this time there were seventy-six on-island paid members and sixty-one off-island members. It should be noted that the Rabbinical Search Committee was still operational.

The year ended with another successful Chanukah dinner, but there was excitement in the air ---land purchased, architects hired, funds being raised ----such excitement!!

The year 1988 began with the usual once monthly Shabbat Services, and the extension of our use of the Fellowship Hall at First Presbyterian Church through December 1988. However, the church was not available on Yom Kippur which necessitated some maneuvering. Contracts for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur Services were negotiated at the Hilton Head Inn.

At the June 1988 meeting Bernice Lewin again was elected President, and Student Rabbi Karen Bookman was hired for the 1988-1989 year. Other officers were 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Bob Stone, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Irv Unger, Treasurer Arlene Levit, Recording Secretary Michael Jukofsky, and Corresponding Secretary Florrie Gibbs. Directors were Stu Silver, Paula Flink, Bill Moch,

Herb Novit, and Saul Blumenthal. At a special meeting of Congregation Beth Yam on August 11, a discussion of the new sanctuary was instituted.

1. Stu Silver projected the cost of the new facility to be between \$490,000 and \$550,000, plus land cost of \$115,000.
2. Saul Blumenthal stated that \$283,000 had been pledged with \$76,000 collected and paid toward land purchase. He projected \$207,000 to be pledged on-island and \$330,000 off-island.
3. A motion was made and passed by the Congregation authorizing the officers to proceed with the building and fund raising programs but that no construction should begin unless 85% of estimated cost of construction and fund had been raised by pledge or cash. This authorization would expire by September, 1989. THE PRESSURE WAS CLEARLY ON!

In October of 1988, over one hundred people attended a Rosh Hashanah dinner at the Hilton Head Inn, followed by over one hundred seventy people attending services. The services by Rabbi Bookman and the shofar blowing of Adam Noble were deemed exceptional. The latest addition to services was a three voice choir (Poppy Richman, Arlene Katz, and Steve Ziplow). The Religious School was functioning under the very able leadership of Debbie Urato.

As of year's end, the building fund had \$453,000 pledged with \$99,500 needed to reach an 85% figure of \$552,000. The year's events ended with the Chanukah/Advent Service on December 9 and the distribution of Deep Well baskets.

The year 1989 was the last full year Congregation Beth Yam was to worship at First Presbyterian Church. An initial change in the night of the Community Seder was instituted. The Seder was held on the second night of Passover, the thought being that many congregants preferred to spend the first night with family. This was held again in the Fellowship Hall of First Presbyterian Church. At the Board Meeting March 8, Bob Stone and Stu Silver reported on the four bids with Forrester and Associates having the low bid. As of this date \$553,602 had been pledged with \$156,802 collected. The Board unanimously recommended that new married members would be assessed \$2,500 for the Building Fund and singles \$1,500. These were to be paid over a five-year span.

At the June General Meeting, Bernice Lewin was finally given a rest, and Bob Stone was elected President of Congregation Beth Yam. Other officers were Dick Glass, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President; Stu Silver, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President; Florry Gibbes, Recording Secretary; Sue Noble, Corresponding Secretary; and Poppy Richman, Treasurer. Board Members were Irv Unger, Herb Novit, Arlene Levit, Joanne Gruber, and Dan Caplan.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW TEMPLE BEGAN in June and Rabbi Ted Levy, recently retired from a large congregation in Syracuse, NY was hired as the rabbi for the 1989-1990 year, beginning in September. Beth Yam was out of the student rabbi business. DREAMS CAN BECOME REALITY! The Board of Beth Yam wrote a special paper called "Update – Spring 1989" which reviewed the history of the building of the synagogue. It is included in its entirety. For the record, the Chairman of the Building Committee was Stuart Silver, and the committee members were Bob Stone, Marshall Katz, Bill Moch, Hank Noble, and Mike Jukofsky.

## UPDATE -SPRING 1989

Good Morning!

What began as only a dream many years ago is now very close to reality. OUR OWN SYNAGOGUE!

So much had happened in the last few months that we felt it was important to update our membership regarding the status of the new facility. First, a bit of history for our new members and a refresher for the rest of our group:

- The Board of Directors of Congregation Beth Yam approved the development of our own facility on Hilton Head in 1987.
- The Congregation acquired a parcel of land in the Main Street development just outside Hilton Head Plantation at the north end of the Island. Our neighbors would be a new Episcopal Church and the Museum of Hilton Head.
- The land was paid for with early contributions to our efforts as well as monies collected through dues' increases that were originally earmarked to rent space for our needs.
- The cost of the 1 ½ acres of land was \$112,500 and we owned it without a mortgage.
- About a year before, the Congregation Beth Yam Board authorized a small amount of funding to do preliminary work toward the development of a building. At the same time a Fund Raising Committee mapped out a plan for approaching our membership, both on-Island and off-Island to commit funds to the project.
- An architect was hired (Jim Robinson of Keane/Robinson Associates) to prepare preliminary land plans and a building design. With the input of many of our members, the concept was refined to a point where our Board was ready to present the idea to the membership.
- A Congregational Meeting was held in the fall, and as we all expected, a "spirited" discussion took place. Questions concerning everything from the floor plan to "How do we pay for this?" were among the topics. Obviously, dollars were critically important. At that meeting, it was agreed that if the Fund Raising Committee was able to generate 85% of the money needed to build the facility with pledges over five years, the synagogue would be built. The preliminary cost estimates for the total package (land, structure, landscaping, furnishings, etc.) was \$600,000.
- As of April 1, 1989, we had pledges totaling \$561,202. Of these commitments, \$163,102 had already been paid. This was 86% of \$650,000, a revised estimate.
- Our architect completed the working drawings for the building as the land use plan. Members were again asked for input and suggestions. The Building Committee met, approved the designs, and authorized the architect to solicit bids from a list of area commercial contractors. Those bids were received on February 23.

That's the background, HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW!

The bids for the BUILDING ONLY ranged from a low of \$529,014 to a bid that was \$124,000 higher for the same work. We met with the low bidder, Forrester ~ Associates, and reviewed the bid to be certain what we specified was exactly what he had bid. This was the case.

Even this \$529,014 bid was too high once landscaping, furnishings, architectural fees, land costs, surveys, etc. were added.

We then worked through all aspects of the bid with our architect to determine how we could reduce the costs without significantly impacting on the building design, integrity of the quality of the final product, or the functionality of the space. The challenge was great.

The financial aspects of the project were also a major consideration. Even in reaching the 85% benchmark, the "cash flow" requirements for us to handle a mortgage were impacted. We had secured financing at prime from NCNB on the Island. The rate would float and enable us to pay interest only, interest and principal, or pay down on principal as pledges are paid.

It was determined that the dollars needed for debt service versus when those dollars are pledged and due, would mean the maximum "safely affordable" mortgage would be \$430,000.

So, the goal had to be to reduce the plan for the building through deferrals and deletions from the original specifications to insure meeting the loan parameters.

WE WERE ABLE TO DO THIS! It meant some hard choices, but we chose to defer some elements of the building and delete some others. It was hoped and expected that if pledges were paid early by some congregants or even increased, the deferrals would be incorporated into the building before completion of construction. In fact, the contractor had provided us critical dates whereby we could give him the go-ahead on deferrals, and we would not have to incur additional costs from the March 23 bid. If we were not able to handle the deferrals during the construction phase, the building would still have a finished appearance to everyone. The synagogue would look complete but there would be more to come.

The plan for deferrals involves the following:

- Defer shelving in the Rabbi's study and Conference/Library. Savings \$2,500.
- Defer completion of the kitchen....all power lines and plumbing would be installed but the room would not be equipped with appliances, cabinets, counter tops, sinks, exhaust fans, water heater. Savings \$15,000.
- Defer operable "air walls" that would separate the Sanctuary from the Social Hall...Kitchen pass-through...Classroom to Social Hall. Please know that all of the infrastructure for these items would be built but the actual walls would not be purchased. When affordable, they could be acquired and easily installed. Savings \$17,000.
- Modify the paving requirements and areas. We were trying to arrive at an arrangement with the Episcopal Church that would be starting construction later in the year to SHARE PARKING with them. Obviously, our needs and times for meetings were different and we could save money doing this. We would not be required to place gravel under the power line easement that had been designated for overflow parking. Savings \$5,460.

We still needed Architectural Review Board approval, but we were also planning to pave only the entrance area (circular driveway) and then pave about an 18' wide road down the center of the parking areas. The actual areas where cars would be parked would be high quality gravel. The idea was that after parking, a three step walk to the paved area would be acceptable and the sidewalks closer to the entrance would remain. Savings \$4,040.

- Defer the purchase of a sound system for the facility. The congregation currently had a system that would work well for most requirements. For the High Holy Days and other special needs, arrangements would be made for a portable system. Even with the deferral, all of the conduit and wiring would be installed during the construction phase. Savings \$9,500.
- There were some other minor deferrals such as wall coverings and additional moldings, but it was important to realize the requirement to meet the maximum mortgage numbers. As pledges were paid as scheduled or accelerated, the plan was to make every effort to include these in the building during the construction phase.

There were some deletions/modifications that also accounted for significant cost reductions:

- Changing the sanctuary lighting from one single dimmer to three separate dimmers in the same location would save money. Savings \$6,000.
- Originally a bathroom was planned for the Rabbi's study. This "nice to have" item had been deleted. Saving \$2,400.

These are two examples of the types of savings we had chosen to accept.

Our contractor had shown \$33,000 in the bid for lighting fixtures. Through the hard work and generosity of Irv Purcell, we were able to acquire the same items at a savings of \$18,500, a major cost reduction. Obviously, everyone had contacts and ideas on how to save dollars, and we were anxious to learn of other ideas, especially for the interior work.

**OUR GOAL WAS TO BUILD AN AFFORDABLE FACILITY THAT WOULD MEET MOST OF OUR NEEDS NOW THAT THE PLAN TO ENHANCE THE FACILITY WAS AFFORDABLE!**

With the deferrals and deletions, the revised quotation from Forrester and Associates for the CONSTRUCTION PORTION OF THE PROJECT WAS \$409,469. This included credits for these changes, savings suggested by the contractor and our architect, and "arm twisting" by CBY representatives. IT WAS A VERY GOOD NUMBER.

In addition, Forrester had made a \$3,600 contribution to our efforts. High Holy Day Services were conducted for the last time at the First Presbyterian Church on September 29 and 30, and October 8, under the auspices of Rabbi Levy, the first ordained rabbi hired by Beth Yam. In addition, music was provided by our new soloist Nancy Pattison and her mother, accompanist Kaye Redard. The services were noted outstanding by the membership!

**THE DATE FOR DEDICATION OF THE NEW TEMPLE was scheduled for January 14, 1990. Congregation Beth Yam WAS TO HAVE A HOME – THE EXODUS WAS OVER! WE WERE NO LONGER IN THE DIASPORA!**

**BOOK THREE**  
**Leviticus**  
**1990-2002**

The dedication of the new temple was scheduled for the second weekend in January in spite of a very harsh winter on Hilton Head. Nevertheless, construction was proceeding rapidly and a gift of \$15,500 was received from "The Bargain Box" to help pay for installation of the kitchen. Sheri Farbstein designed and built the doors for the Ark, and Carol Moch made the Eternal Light for the bima.

The first Shabbat services were held in the new Temple on Friday evening, January 12. Prayers were led by Rabbi Theodore S. Levy, and Rabbi Frank Sundheim, Southeast Regional Director of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations delivered a talk. A further celebration was held at the Overlook restaurant on Saturday evening January 13.

Sunday afternoon, January 14, 1990, a landmark date – the dedication of Temple Beth Yam – brought joy to the hearts of the Jews of Hilton Head and to their friends and supporters. Theodore S. Levy was installed as our rabbi and delivered the invocation. Robert Stone, President of the congregation, welcomed the guests. There was music by Kay Redard, organist, and Nancy Pattison, cantorial soloist. Additional greetings were provided by Reverend John Miller of the First Presbyterian Church, Bernice Lewin, our representative to UAHC, Hilton Head Mayor Pro Tem Henry Dreissen, and State Legislator Harriet Keyserling. One of the invited speakers, an active member of his own church and with all good intentions, welcomed Congregation Beth Yam to its new sanctuary "in the name of Jesus Christ." Hank Noble recalls that a sudden silence in the audience was followed by an equally sudden drop in the ambient oxygen level due to the communal gasp. In his dedication speech, Rabbi Levy said, "A new Temple, created by Congregation Beth Yam, now stands as a triumph of achievement in the life of the congregation and community. It is the culmination of a dream envisioned by a group of people who were not afraid to accept the challenge of growth."

Superb relations were maintained with the First Presbyterian Church, which had housed our services for so long. In a few years, new ties were to be established with the Unitarian Fellowship of Hilton Head, to whom we rented space for their Sunday morning services and administrative meetings, and with All Saints Episcopal Church.

One of Rabbi Levy's first innovations was to introduce an adult study group known as the "Second Friday" series that began meeting at noon on the second Friday of each month. Discussions centered on timely topics of Judaism.

From its beginnings, Beth Yam was active in community service and the drive for Deep Well food contributions was announced repeatedly in the monthly newsletter.

The newsletter, *Sho'reshim Shelanu* began to take on some educational activities by April 1990. Following the Rabbi's essay on Passover, there was a reprint of his article published by the Temple Society of Concord in Syracuse, New York, titled "How to Conduct a Seder in Your Own Home" complete with a diagram of a traditional Seder table setting. The first Jewish Community Seder was held in the new building in April 1990.



Rabbi Theodore and Mrs. Ina Rae Levy were appointed delegates to the 25th International Conference of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, held in London, England, May 1-6. At the opening session, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher welcomed the delegates.

Andrew Udinsky was the first Bar Mitzvah in the new temple on August 11, 1990. On September 19, Rosh Hashanah services began in our new sanctuary. Jean and Dan Caplan were called as Aliyot the next day, as did Henry and Thelma Stern, Arlene and Jerry Glickman, and Mindy and Darryl Levine on the second day of Rosh Hashanah, and Bill Moch and Sol Kutler on Yom Kippur. On September 22, Temple Beth Yam held its first Bat Mitzvah ceremony – that of Amanda Rose Stern. Her mother, Shelly Stern, began managing the new Judaica Shop in September. The Chanukah service was well attended and included guests from the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church and our next-door neighbor, All Saints Episcopal Church.

As Temple Beth Yam moved into its second year, we were experiencing the Persian Gulf War, and our television screens were showing us Iraqi SCUD missiles raining down on Israel. *Sho'reshim Shelanu* articles included many expressing great concern for our homeland's survival.

By April 1991, CBY signed an agreement with the Unitarian Fellowship of Hilton Head, renting space on Sundays for Unitarian services. This arrangement was to last until the middle of 2007 when the Unitarian Fellowship obtained its own building.

In July, after the scheduled election, the position of President of the congregation passed from Robert Stone to Paula Flink. Shelly Stone was elected 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, and Herman Gruber, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. For preparation for the Days of Awe, a Selichot service was added in September. Rabbi Levy's monthly "brown bag" lunch discussion meetings were very successful and in November he began to conduct three classes a month on Judaism on Thursday evening (later to be changed to Wednesday evenings). Enrollment in the religious school was growing and the congregation was financially sound.

In May 1991, for reasons unexplained in our records, the name *Sho'reshim Shelanu* was dropped from our monthly newsletter but a logo and a photograph of the temple entrance were added. This was an affirmation that our roots had taken hold in our own home. We were no longer in the Diaspora! Then, in April 1992, at the suggestion of Seymour Lash, it became *Temple Tidings* which has been maintained to the present, and has since added some revenue-raising local advertising.

Under the tutelage of Howard Germain, Stephanie Esther Urato was called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah. Howard had been mentoring and tutoring Bar/Bat Mitzvah students for several years.

By 1992, Congregation Beth Yam had joined the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (later to become the Union for Reform Judaism) and its Southeast Council. There were two special events planned for March 1992. First there was a "Spring Fling" dinner dance, catered by Gruby's Deli, and then in Temple Sinai in Sumter, a Spirituality Conference sponsored by the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. Unfortunately, the responses for the dinner dance were so few that it was canceled. However, the Temple Seder, catered by Gruby's, was a sellout. Of course, almost nothing occurs without some complications, and it had been forgotten that the Foreign Affairs Committee of Hilton Head was holding its meetings in Temple Beth Yam on that Saturday

morning and the time for setting up for the Seder was abbreviated.

Nevertheless, the efficient staff of Gruby's, together with our House Committee, got everything in order by about 5 o'clock.

Ruth and Bert Reinhold presented Beth Yam with a new Torah Scroll, including its velvet cover, silver rimmonim, breast plate and yad. In 1992, Beth Yam joined the tradition of preparing a *Book of Remembrance* for the Yizkor Service at Yom Kippur.

At the Annual meeting on June 12, Seymour Lash became 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, and Robert Schwartz, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. Paula Flink continued as President.

Rabbi and Ina Rae Levy organized a series of three lectures by visiting scholars in 1992. On September 18, Dr. Sol Gordon of Syracuse University, psychologist and author, presented a talk titled, "First a Mensch – Then Jewish." On October 16, Dr. Martin Cohen, a renowned scholar of Sephardic Jewish History, lectured on "The Jewish Experience 500 Years after Columbus." John David Isaacs, President of the Council for a Livable World, spoke October 23.

Plans for a tour of Israel conducted by Rabbi Levy and Dr. John Miller of the first Presbyterian Church of Hilton Head were announced in October. By December, it was a sellout, and the date of departure was set for February 1993. On October 22, Rabbi Walter Zanger, an eminent Israeli scholar and tour guide, occupied the bima and spoke on the Israeli-PLO peace accord process. Rabbi Zanger had accompanied the CBY Israeli tour in March 1991.

There was a double celebration on New Year's Eve 1992. Joel Silver was called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah. The congregation rang in 1993 with a Jewish twist.

The excursion to Israel was a wonderful experience for the nineteen congregants of Beth Yam and a similar number of members of the First Presbyterian Church of Hilton Head. Purim was celebrated at Qumran, the site of discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls. Among the sites visited by the group were the Golan Heights, Masada, the Diaspora Museum in Tel Aviv, and of course, Jerusalem. Expectedly, the visit to the Holocaust Museum was an intense emotional experience.

In February 1993, Paula Flink attended a conference on Small Congregations, in Dallas, Texas, by the UAHC. Her report indicated that although large congregations, such as those in major cities, can do more than those of the size of Beth Yam, the smaller congregations may have a greater sense of family, and members get to know each other faster and better. They also share a sense of intimacy with their rabbi that larger congregations may not enjoy.

The year 1993 saw the introduction of a "Spotlight" section to the *Temple Tidings*, featuring a monthly article on the lives of various members of the congregation. That feature lasted about two years.

In May 1993 a proposal was made to change the by-laws so that the terms of office of members of the Board of Directors would be two years instead of one year. The proposal was approved at the June membership meeting. Also at that meeting, Seymour Lash was elected President. By this time, there were eighteen children enrolled at the religious school, under the direction of Debbie Urato. By November, a basic Judaica Library was established with books donated and purchased. New bookcases were donated by Jean and Dan Caplan. The library officially opened in January

1994. During 1993, a singing group of twelve to fourteen congregants was established to promote greater participation and understanding of the musical portions of the services. Our piano accompanist, Betty Purdy, had by then arrived. Also, Rabbi Levy's Adult Education series continued, designed as a "refresher course" in Judaism for those born Jewish, intermarried couples, and those considering conversion to Judaism.

On November 27, 1993, Adriana Meril Urato was called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah. Under the tutelage of Howard Germain and Schlomo Goldhour (from Jerusalem, Israel) Adriana chanted the day's parasha. This was a first for Congregation Beth Yam.

Congregation Beth Yam was selected from among forty Reform Congregations by the World Union for Progressive Judaism to participate in a unique Sabbath service to promote modern Jewish philosophy. Using a special prayer book, prayers were offered in Hebrew, English, French, and Spanish from various liberal congregations around the world. The service was held on February 11, 1994.

Congregation Beth Yam received a special letter of thanks for its contribution to the Deep Well Project. Our congregation had been collecting food and donations for Deep Well for many years, and this act of tzedakah continues to this day.

In March 1994, the first Progressive Dinner was held at nine different homes. Paula Flink and Arlene Katz organized the event. Seventy-three folks attended and it was such a great success that it has become an annual event. A new Social Committee was formed by Howard and Mary Sherman, Gordon and Sheri Farbstein, and Herman and Evelyn Gruber. Their first event was a family cookout at Dolphin Head. They also organized the Temple's fifth anniversary party in 1995, featuring musical entertainment with chorus director and soloist Al Balkin, and "Sit-Down Comic" Bob Swimmer. After its preview, the event became known as the Annual Dinner Theater review.

By 1994, Congregation Beth Yam had begun to truly expand its social programs, both fun events such as Movie Night, Song Night, and holiday parties, and community affairs such as Trading Places where congregants filled in for Christian volunteers at Hilton Head Hospital and Volunteers in Medicine. We continued to be loyal supporters of Deep Well.

The issue of tickets for the High Holy Day Services has always been a controversial one. In 1994, it was decided to abolish the requirement for ticket sales to non-members and to hand out contribution envelopes instead.

On October 8, 1994 Scott Gruber was called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah. The evening party, at the Country Club of Hilton Head, was an extravaganza. New York had surely come to Hilton Head!

Unfortunately, 1994-1995 saw an unprecedented financial deficit of almost \$10,000 due to both rising maintenance costs and decreased contributions to the Fair Share and general funds. The shortfall was announced at the 1995 membership meeting where Irwin Lindenbaum was installed as President. Thanks to the response of our growing number of congregants, the budget was balanced by mid-1996.

The years of 1995 and 1996 saw the continuance of the Family Cookout, a golf outing for men and women at Indigo Run, a Las Vegas Casino Night, the opening of the gift shop, and the introduction of a new member recognition night at an Erev Shabbat Service. There was also a Savannah Symphony evening with dinner and the concert. That event was repeated in 1997 when Itzhak Perlman performed with the orchestra. The Congregation Seder Dinner had become so popular that it could no longer be held at Temple Beth Yam. The venue had been moved to the Country Club of Hilton Head. In future years it would be held at the Marriott at Palmetto Dunes, the Hilton Hotel at Palmetto Dunes, and back to the Country Club.

In 1997, our congregation formed a Sisterhood organization affiliated with the Women of Reform Judaism. One of Sisterhood's first actions was to sponsor the weekly oneg Shabbat. A local Hadassah chapter was also established.

Howard Sherman was elected President of the congregation at the 1997 membership meeting. He and the Board of Directors established a committee to study the needs and feasibility of expanding and revising the synagogue's physical space over the coming decade. The congregation had grown to two hundred seventy-one members and the religious school, with eight teachers, provided instruction for thirty-nine youngsters.

On August 23, 1997 the Congregation called Samuel Albert Urato to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah.

Rabbi Levy, who by now had received multiple honors and societal appointments, traveled to Johannesburg, South Africa, to attend a meeting of the International Convention of the World Union for Progressive Judaism. Ina Rae Levy was Vice Chairperson for the North American Board section of the World Union. His return ushered a landmark moment for Congregation Beth Yam. Rabbi Levy suddenly announced his resignation in 1997 at the conclusion of Rosh Hashanah services. This triggered dissension among the congregants and internal strife that was to last for more than a year. A Rabbi Search Committee chaired by Robert Stone was formed.

January 1998 brought the first candidate for the vacant rabbi's position, Rabbi Channa Timoner. The second Las Vegas night was held on January 24<sup>th</sup>. The Board of Directors voted to hold two general meetings per year – one in March and one in September, as well as an election meeting in June. Congregation Beth Yam received a nice letter from Ms. Dottie Doyle, President of the Hilton Head Hospital Auxiliary, thanking our members for volunteering over the Christmas holidays. A Scholarship and Awards Committee was formed with Jean Caplan as Chair and Paul and Mae Schild established a Scholarship Fund. The congregation celebrated the B'nai Mitzvah of Brian Gruber and David Carey. Plans were underway to start a youth group. The Community Seder was to be held at the Country Club of Moss Creek.

A Temple Expansion Committee was reactivated to examine future needs. On March 6<sup>th</sup>, a second rabbinical candidate, Rabbi Alan Klein, conducted services, followed by torah study the next day.

The Schild scholarship was formalized to be known as the Peter Schild Memorial Scholarship Fund and was used to aid or reward a religious school student to further his or her educational and cultural backgrounds. Stephanie Urato was the first recipient, and used her award to study in Israel under the auspices of NFTY's EIE High School Exchange.

The abstract of the March board meeting revealed the presentation to the Board by Jeff Schaffer regarding the youth group. It also announced that the Search Committee would be conducting one phone interview and seeing three candidates in Cincinnati in mid-March.

The proposed slate of offices for 1998-1999 was as follows:

President	Howard Sherman
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Bert Reinhold
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Myron Meister
Treasurer	Linda Harrison
Recording Secretary	Bobbi Feiertag
Corresponding Secretary	Paula Flink
<b>Board Members:</b>	
David Pustilnik	Debbie Urato
Paul Isaac	Fred Blumberg
Paul Schild	

Dissension in the ranks of the congregants continued. The leadership was targeted and the congregation's support split between two groups. An "Ad Hoc Committee for Moderate Alternatives at Temple Beth Yam" submitted its own slate of candidates for the Board of Directors election at the June 1998 annual membership meeting. When the slate submitted by the Nominating Committee prevailed by majority vote, many congregants tendered their membership resignations. Congregation Beth Yam was polarized. This was surely the most difficult time in our short history.

Bob Stone reported to the Board that the committee was unable to make a match for a rabbi and the search was to continue. The Board also agreed to publish and sell 500 copies of Sophie Miklos's book regarding her experiences in Transylvania with anti-Semitism, titled *The Paper Gauze Ballerina, Memoir of a Holocaust Survivor*.

In May, a third candidate for the position of rabbi, Rabbi Aaron Koplin led a Shabbat service. Rabbi Koplin was subsequently hired in June and started at Congregation Beth Yam in July. June also marked the B'not Mitzvot of Carly and Dana Gottfried. Also in June the proposed slate of officers was elected.

In July, Rabbi Koplin conducted Friday night services and instituted a policy of services every Friday evening. Bob Wiener had graciously led Friday night services for a few months and had done a superlative job. An additional event of note was a cemetery proposal from Six Oaks Cemetery, largely through the efforts of Paul Isaac and his committee.

September marked the Bat Mitzvah of Sara Heyman, the leading of High Holy Day services by Rabbi Koplin and the emphasis of "Fair Share" by President Sherman and the Board.

The remainder of the fall of 1998 was devoted to Friday night services, publishing of a list of funds available to donate (including a new Torah Fund), and a special service celebrating Chanukah. The census at the end of 1998 was one hundred thirty-six full time members and seventy-eight affiliate members.

The year 1999 began with the January Bat Mitzvah of Natalie Liba Urato. She presented CBY with a silver havdalah set. February was highlighted by a talk by Harriet Keyserling, who for 16 years served as a Representative in the South Carolina General Assembly. In March, CBY had a Purim celebration with a Megillah reading led by Rabbi Koplín. Many of the congregants were in costume. CBY also celebrated the Bar Mitzvah of Ian Fleming with his family.

April was highlighted by Passover celebration (second night) at the Country Club of Hilton Head. Rabbi Koplín also announced a Yizkor service and a special service honoring Hadassah. A second torah was purchased through contributions to the Torah Fund.

The slate nominated for consideration at the General Meeting in June was as follows:

President	Bert Reinhold
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Myron Meister
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Steve White
Treasurer	Linda Harrison
Recording Secretary	Debbie Urato
Corresponding Secretary	Kelley Kaufman
<b>Board Members:</b>	
Marilyn Bellet	David Zauber
Joe Fraum	Ron Goldenberg
Fred Blumberg	

The Bar Mitzvah of Dylan Highsmith was celebrated in May, and the Schild Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Aaron Shiansky.

In June the slate of officers nominated was elected at the General Meeting. Other important events were the Bat Mitzvah of Julie Medoff and B'nai/B'not Mitzvah service of ten members of CBY affirming or re-affirming their status as adults in Judaism. They were Al Balkin, Rita Balkin, Naomi Charlip, Sheri Farbstein, Renee Fraum, Evelyn Gruber, Herman Gruber, Linda Harrison, Mary Sherman, and Stephen White.

In June the Marilyn and Edward Bellet Speaker's Fund was established. This would serve many times in the future to recruit exceptional guest speakers.

The Beth Yam singers led by Al Balkin were established in the summer of 1999 to participate in High Holy Day services. High Holy Day services in 1999 were conducted by Rabbi Koplín and were a grand success. Break the Fast was celebrated at All Saints, and a Sukkot celebration was also held.

In October, the temple Judaica store was reinstated, led by Ellen Goldstein and Seymour Lash. The CBY picnic was also held in October at Spring Lake Pavilion.

Adult Education for the year included torah study, adult Hebrew study, readings in history and philosophy, a Taste of Judaism, and guest speakers (sponsored by the Bellet Fund).

Simchat Torah was celebrated with music, singing, and dancing. In addition, Rabbi Koplin explained the history of our first torah, the Holocaust Torah, which was “retired” and placed on permanent display.

The year of 1999 ended with the celebration of Chanukah and a CBY New Year’s dinner dance celebrating the millennium.

The new millennium started with a bang at CBY New Year’s Eve party. Regular Friday night services were conducted in January by Rabbi Koplin who also led congregants in the march on Hilton Head honoring Martin Luther King, Jr.

February 2000 was marked by a video of the sermon given by Rabbi Eric Yoffie, President of the UAHC, at the UAHC biennial in December 1999, and the reopening of the Judaica store.

In March, plans for Shabbat with jazz to be led by Dr. Al Balkin in April of 2000 were announced. In addition, the *Tidings* noted the Community Seder would be held at the Country Club of Hilton Head. In addition, the Shabbat service March 17th featured the Hilton Head Choral Society led by Mary Green, and the festival of Purim was celebrated.

April was highlighted by the Bar Mitzvah of Jacob Spirer. A second event of great interest was the Beth Yam tour of Brookgreen Gardens organized by Steve White.

In May, Monsignor Leigh Lehocky, Vicar of Ecumenism and Inter-Religious Affairs for the Catholic Bishop of Beaufort County, addressed CBY. Yom HaShoah service was also held, and CBY also celebrated the B’nai Mitzvah of Sara Turner, Sara Weber, and Chelsea Weser.

The annual meeting of CBY was held in June. The meeting was highlighted by a consideration of the revised by-laws, which were accepted. Jerry Rosenblum agreed to serve as chairman of the By-Laws Committee. Linda Harrison was installed as President of CBY. Other officers were:

1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-President	Myron Meister
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-President	Ron Goldenberg
Treasurer	Manny Rosenbaum
Recording Secretary	Judie Aronson
Corresponding Secretary	Kelley Kaufman
<b>Directors:</b>	
Joe Fraum	Jane Joseph
Jerry Rosenblum	Bob Wiener
David Zauber	

Summer of 2000 was a slow period at CBY, with many of the congregants either visiting or entertaining relatives. The business of the congregation under President Harrison was directed to planning High Holy Day services in September and October. President Harrison did write her goals for her term and published these in the *Tidings*.

September was highlighted by the CBY family picnic, followed by Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur in early October. Bert Reinhold had initiated a men’s lunch at Gruby’s. (This was a



precursor to the CBY Men's Club.) Simchat Torah was celebrated in late October, and a place of honor was dedicated to our Holocaust Torah.

The UAHC Southeast Council Regional Biennial was held in Savannah in November of 2000. Many of the officers of CBY were in attendance. The General Meeting of CBY was also held in November. Highlights of the meeting were Ed Menkus's presentation of the work of the Long Range Planning Commission, followed by Paul Schild and the Building Committee's demographic projection to understand our space requirements.

The synthesis of the reports was as follows:

1. Projections using government furnished data from Hilton Head, Bluffton, and Sun City projected CBY to grow from one hundred forty families in 2000, to one hundred seventy-three in 2005, and to two hundred twelve in 2010.
2. Projection for the religious school was for small growth from the current twenty-two to a high of thirty-eight in 2010.
3. Enlargement of the sanctuary to accommodate two hundred-fifty people for a social function, as well as necessary kitchen renovations were necessary.
4. Increased number of classrooms, administrative and office space, and storage should be planned.

The Building Expansion Committee was charged by the Board to employ an architect to do preliminary planning for expansion. The New Member Friday night service, preceded by dinner at a local restaurant, was scheduled in early December. There was a gala cabaret night enjoyed in mid-December, followed by the celebration of Chanukah to end the year.

## **2001**

In early 2001, Rabbi Koplin chose to leave CBY upon completion of his contract in July. Rabbi Koplin had suffered some fallout from the polarization that had plagued CBY before his arrival. This necessitated a Rabbi Search Committee, chaired by Stu Poticha. Ed Appelbaum and Bob Wiener co-chaired the interim Shabbat service to be initiated when Rabbi Koplin left.

March 2001 was highlighted by the second Shabbat with jazz service led by Dr. Al Balkin, and planning for an initial Woman's Seder to celebrate the Jewish woman's role in Judaism. Purim was celebrated and Hadassah also planned a Casino and Dinner Gala at the end of March.

The Passover Seder in 2001 was held at Moss Creek Country Club. In April, CBY celebrated the Bar Mitzvah of Eric Friedman, and also had a Holocaust remembrance service.

On Sunday, June 10, 2001, there was the annual election meeting, and there was a tribute to Rabbi and Joan Koplin. The search for a new rabbi had been ongoing for five months and according to President Harrison, had not yielded good results. The Rabbi Search Committee recommended to the Board that CBY engage an Interim rabbi. Rabbi Richard Address was recommended. Rabbi Address was to be available on a once a month basis as well as on the High Holy Days and other major Jewish holidays. He was to be on the island from Friday to Sunday.

Rabbi Address was to continue his duties as Director of the Department of Jewish Family Concerns of UAHC, while he ministered to CBY.

CBY membership voted to begin the process of fund raising for temple expansion. The Congregation was to vote again after 70% of the \$750,000 proposed costs had been pledged. Other notable events at the June Annual Meeting were:

1. The Schild Scholarship was awarded to Alex Rivchun to attend Camp Coleman.
2. The architectural firm Opus presented plans for a 3,700 square foot addition to CBY.
3. New Officers for 2001-2002 were:

President	Linda Harrison
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Myron Meister
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Jerry Rosenblum
Treasurer	Manny Rosenblum
Recording Secretary	Judie Aronson
Corresponding Secretary	Elaine Appelbaum
Past President	Bert Reinhold
<b>Directors:</b>	
Ron Goldenberg	Jane Joseph
Mark Mayer	Stuart Poticha
Bob Weiner	

Sisterhood President      Jane Rosenblum

On August 3, 2001, Rabbi Richard Address led the congregation in services. He was described as very energetic and thoughtful. Perhaps as a sign of progress, the Board decided to issue tickets for High Holy Day services. Ushers were to check tickets at the door. The annual picnic was held on September 9, two days before one of the great tragedies in American History, the bombing of the World Trade Towers. This event triggered an incredible demand for High Holy Day tickets by members and guests. CBY was fortunate both to have a ticket policy in place and to have a rabbi leading our services.

For the record (taken from President Harrison's October message), congregants requested about three hundred fifty tickets for their families and guests. In addition, there were fifteen ticket requests for services from people who belonged to other UAHC Congregations that were entitled to receive CBY tickets. Thirty-seven people wished to purchase tickets. Because CBY could seat two hundred fifty people comfortably, the Board decided not to sell tickets, but to inform non-members that they would be permitted to enter the building for services if there were vacant seats after services began. The bottom line was that the sanctuary was overfilled and alternative plans had to be worked out for 2002.

The 2001 CBY General Meeting was held on November 4. One of the new enterprises established by Rabbi Address was embellishment of the Caring Committee. Stu Poticha, Committee Chair, reported on the Rabbi Search Committee. There were three viable candidates. Jane Joseph reported on the increase in membership and reported on the High Holy Day access problem; there were seats for two hundred seventy-five people and demand exceeded this. Suggestions for solving the problem were: two services, erecting a tent, using closed circuit TV, and renting space. A motion for active fund raising for a new building was introduced, and was rejected by a

vote of sixteen yes and forty-eight no. Chanukah services were well attended, but the big news was that forty-five people were attending Rabbi Address's Saturday morning Torah Study Group. The year 2001 will be remembered by everyone.

## 2002

Rabbi Address continued his once monthly pilgrimage to CBY and was viewed as a very inspiring leader. His Saturday morning study classes were still very well attended, indicating that they were not the phenomenon of a "new guy," but rather due to the substance of the leader.

Board actions were:

1. Renewal of the two year lease of the Unitarians for the use of our facility,
2. Publishing of names of lay members of CBY who would conduct services when Rabbi Address was not present, and
3. Reporting that eighteen new families became members.

The Sisterhood was functioning quite well and making plans for the second annual Women's Seder. Other functions such as book club, fashion shows, and fundraising were proceeding.

A new lecture series was announced featuring Reverend John Miller. These lectures were jointly sponsored by CBY and the Unitarian Fellowship and were titled "The Abiding American Ethical Issue: Private vs. Public; Me vs. US."

On February 1, 2002, Friday services were conducted by Rabbi Mark Covitz, a candidate for the position of Spiritual Leader of CBY. Rabbi Covitz also conducted Saturday Torah Study. Rabbi Address came on the third Friday of February, so for this month, the membership had two services run by professional rabbis.

In addition to the two Shabbat services conducted by Rabbis, a third Shabbat during February was Shabbat with jazz, directed by Al Balkin. February 2002 was really quite a month for the congregants of CBY.

President Harrison announced the census of CBY. One hundred and eighty five resident families and eighty affiliate families were members of CBY in February of 2002. President Harrison also announced that the Board of Directors had concluded that the best option for High Holy Day services would be to hold services and Break the Fast at All Saints Episcopal Church.

Other events noted during February 2002 were the donation of a new Memorial Board to CBY by Donald and Helen Kahaner and Continuing Education by Reverend Miller, Rabbi Yosef Edelstein, Rabbi Address, and Dr. Eli Breger.

March was also a busy month with Continuing Education by Rabbi Yosef Edelstein on March 5th and 19th, the Women's Seder on March 12th, and the Passover Community Seder on March 28th. President Harrison's message focused on the search for our new rabbi and, once he or she would be selected, establishing a mutually satisfying long-term relationship. The big news of the month however, was on Monday evening, March 25. The membership of Beth Yam voted to offer the position of rabbi to Rabbi Mark Covitz of Denver, Colorado.

April 2002 was highlighted by Rabbi Address's Torah Study, Rabbi Edelstein's Adult Education, and a bus trip to the McKissick Museum at USC to see the exhibit, "A Portrait of the People: Three Hundred Years of Jewish Life in South Carolina."

The nominating committee presented the following slate of officers to be voted on at the General Meeting in June:

President	Donald Kahaner
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Jane Joseph
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Stu Poticha
Treasurer	Howard Misthal
Recording Secretary	Ruth Levy
Corresponding Secretary	Elaine Appelbaum
Immediate Past President	Linda Harrison
<b>Directors:</b>	
Paula Flink	Richard Levin
Valerie Mayer	Jack Tarlow
Bob Wiener	

In addition to the General Meeting in June, there were two B'nai Mitzvah, that of Noah Posner and that of Sean Fleming. It was also the last Shabbat of Rabbi Address (on June 21); the members of CBY universally felt very fortunate to have had him for the year. Rabbi Covitz was to begin at CBY on July 1. The evolution of CBY continually moved forward and the Rabbi Covitz era had commenced.

## BOOK FOUR Numbers 2002-2007

The July newsletter was notable in that it was President Donald Kahaner's first newsletter. Donald had taken over when the congregation had become very divided, mostly due to where High Holy Day services were to be held. In addition, there were budgetary issues. CBY was fortunate in that Donald had been President of a congregation in New York. The goals in his presidency were: 1) to leave the congregation stronger financially, 2) to develop future leadership, and 3) to create a structure where CBY will have greater control over its own destiny.

At the first Board Meeting presided over by President Kahaner, the members adopted a compromise regarding worship at High Holy Days. Erev Rosh Hashanah, Rosh Hashanah morning, Kol Nidre and Yom Kippur services were to be held at All Saints Episcopal Church. All other services were to be conducted in our sanctuary. In addition, a ticket policy regarding High Holy Days was established.

On July 5, 2002, Rabbi Covitz officiated at his first Friday night service. In rapid order the Bar Mitzvah of Alex Rivchun took place on July 13 and two of our founding members, Ethel Shapiro and Bill Chait, passed away. Rabbi Covitz had a very busy initiation. The August 2002 *Temple Tidings* was the first time Rabbi Covitz wrote an article for CBY. The major theme revolved around the concept that our tradition is to celebrate life and to do so joyously.

President Kahaner's message also reflected this concept. He announced major changes which provided CBY with much needed direction. He set up a Transition Committee and was instrumental in introducing Rabbi Covitz to HHI and its Mayor and community leaders. The new rabbi, with assistance of Bob Wiener, took over the Religious School, after Principal Jim Flynn had to resign. A PTA was founded with Valerie Mayer as acting President. The Board, led by President Kahaner, voted to open the use of CBY for meetings. This act of inclusion was a portent of a new future for CBY. President Kahaner also made a place for more volunteers for CBY.

September 2002 was the first time Rabbi Covitz conducted Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services at CBY. President Kahaner instituted a L'Shanah Tovah Giving Program. Services were deemed "very good" by the attendees and "Break the Fast" was held at the Fellowship Hall at All Saints Episcopal Church. Open House on Rosh Hashanah was held at the Covitz's new home.

The rest of 2002 was occupied by CBY getting used to our new rabbi and vice versa. Highlights were:

1. The announcement of \$100,000 pledges, one by Jean and Dan Caplan to the newly created Dan and Jean Caplan Endowment Fund, and one by Marilyn and Ed Bellet to the Endowment Fund,
2. Rabbi Covitz starting a Junior and Senior Youth Group,
3. Establishing a CBY Men's Club,
4. Initiating the "Night of 100 Menorahs" services and
5. Membership was noted at one hundred sixty seven members.

The year 2003 began with President Kahaner, in his monthly message, thanking those who contributed to Fair Share. In addition, he announced a new policy regarding calls to CBY after hours; callers were to be given an officer's home phone number and an emergency number to reach Rabbi Covitz. The Sisterhood, CBY Men's Club, and Adult Education were all active, especially the former, which was busy planning the Passover Seder on the second night.

President Kahaner's February message discussed the formation of several new committees to study the role of the non-Jew at CBY. This seemed to be an important step in the evolution of CBY, as an increasing number of members had mixed marriages. Other items of import were a discussion of the purchase of a defibrillator, and that May 31 was to be the First Annual Journal Dinner Dance.

In March, President Kahaner announced a committee headed by Jack Tarlow to review the bylaws. The plans for the Third Annual Women's Seder were announced. A terrific celebration of Purim was held, with many of our members in costume, and Rabbi Covitz leading a lively noisy celebration. Bob Wiener was doing a first rate job as head of the religious school, and the number of children enrolled was growing.

April marked the acceptance of PTA By-Laws; kudos was offered to Valerie Mayer for accepting the responsibility of organizing our PTA. President Kahaner also announced that Maestra Mary Green would be conducting a volunteer choir at this year's High Holy Day services.

The dinner dance was held May 31 at the Marriott Beach and Golf Resort was chaired by Arlene Katz. The Cemetery Committee chaired by Jack Tarlow and Jerry Rosenblum was establishing a policy and was negotiating with Six Oaks.

The highlight of the June General Meeting was President Kahaner's announcement of an increased size of the Board of Directors with a sequencing of Board involvement so there would always be experienced leadership. This meant that terms expiring in 2004 were:

President	Donald Kahaner
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Stuart Poticha
Recording Secretary	Ruth Levy
Directors	Richard Levin
Valarie Mayer	

The new Board Directors were Michael Fritz, Richard Glass and Sheila Goad, and the slate of officers with term expiration in 2005 was:

1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Jane Joseph
Treasurer	Howard Mistal
Corresponding Secretary	Toby Markowitz
<b>Directors:</b>	
Stanton Bluestone	Jerold Rosenblum
Sheri Farbstein	

Other announcements at the Annual Meeting were:

1. CBY had reversed the deficit and would finish the year with a surplus.
2. A new Music Committee was established, chaired by Mindy Shea and comprised of Al Balkin, Judy Bluestone, Tobye Markowitz, Paula Flink, and Ed Appelbaum.
3. In addition to the \$200,000 in the Endowment fund, additional pledges from Theodora and Stanley Feldberg, Paula and Henry Flink, Jane and Hart Joseph, and Helen and Donald Kahaner had added \$115,000.
4. Paula Flink agreed to stay on as editor of the *Tidings*.
5. CBY began to prepare for the 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first Jewish settlement in North America in 2005 by appointing Judy Bluestone as chairperson. Important announcements reported in the July *Tidings* were the appointment of Ruth Levy as new Religious School Principal, and the implementation of a new policy regarding payment by unaffiliated worshippers of High Holy Day services. Membership was also announced at one hundred seventy resident member families.

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services were accomplished without major problems, and a full Adult Education Film Festival was ongoing. A Progressive Dinner presented by CBY Sisterhood occurred in October. A new defibrillator was put in place and many CBY members were trained in its use, thanks to Richard Levin. A new Social Action Committee chaired by Mike Fritz was initiated and began by asking for a survey of CBY members' involvement in the community.

By December of 2003, the results of the Social Action Survey were analyzed. CBY was very much involved in the Hilton Head Community as individuals, but the congregation was not a collective force. Therefore on Saturday, January 17, 2004, CBY volunteers would be involved in fifth Saturday or Martin Luther King weekend. A non-denominational prayer breakfast at 8:00 AM followed by working in community projects from 9:00 AM - noon was the order of the day.

Other notable happenings in December were a town hall meeting discussing funeral and memorial services held in the CBY sanctuary and burial policies in the CBY Garden at Six Oaks Cemetery. CBY donated \$1,000 to Habitat of Humanity, and many of its members became involved in building Habitat houses.

## 2004

January began with the announcement in *Tidings* of the Sisterhood Sweetheart Luncheon in February, and ongoing Adult Education (movies with discussion by Rabbi Covitz and Joe Scheines, and lectures by Rabbi Yosef Edelstein); the committee was chaired by Richard Levin. Twenty five members of CBY gathered to build beach conservation fences on MLK Community Service Day. The kick off dinner for the Habitat house which CBY was partially sponsoring (about 40%) with contributions from All Saints and Queen Chapel AME, was scheduled for February 2nd, with the wall installation on February 14. (It should be noted that a major donation was given by a client of Howard Misthal). Social Action in the Hilton Head Community by CBY was alive and moving. The Men's Club of CBY (Co-Presidents Don Baker and Lew Markowitz) assumed the leadership role in building the Habitat house.

February included a Goods and Services Auction on the 21<sup>st</sup> chaired by Sheri Farbstein. At the February Board Meeting, President Kahaner suggested we negotiate a new contract with Rabbi Covitz, as he had one year left in his original contract and wished to make a commitment to Hilton Head. President Kahaner appointed Mike Fritz to chair a committee to evaluate the Rabbi's performance.

Other notable events were the report of a very well organized Care Committee (chaired by Bobbie Elow) and publication of Policy for Funerals and Memorial Services (chaired by Jerry Rosenblum). The Sisterhood also announced that \$500 was raised by gift wrapping at Barnes and Noble (chaired by Sue Fritz and Mae Schild), and this money was to be donated to Heroes on Horseback and the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation.

March marked another Purim Carnival and Megillah Reading, and April began with the Community Seder on the 6<sup>th</sup> with two hundred forty people attending. On the 15<sup>th</sup> of April, there was a special meeting of CBY to amend the by-laws. These were overwhelmingly approved.

Other important items were:

1. The Committee to evaluate Rabbi Covitz's contract reported very positively to the Board. This Committee sent out a questionnaire designed by a professional to random members and statistically evaluated the answers. The results were to be presented to the Congregants at a future meeting.
2. As a result of the report, a Committee was formed to negotiate a new contract with the Rabbi.
3. A separate fund for 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of "Jews in America" was established.
4. The Ritual Committee was charged with the responsibility of Shabbat services.
5. Membership was one hundred eighty-eight Resident Members and seventy eight Affiliate members.
6. Fair Share notices were sent out for the annual appeal.

In May the Nominating Committee (Chaired by Stan Bluestone) made its report; The nominations were to be voted at June CBY General Election Meeting. The slate for 2004-2005 was the following:

President	Jane Joseph
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Toby Markowitz
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Stanton Bluestone
Treasurer	Felicia Pascal
Recording Secretary	Joe Levy
Corresponding Secretary	Thea Heimlich
Immediate Past President	Donald Kahaner
<b>Directors:</b>	
Sheri Farbstein	Jerry Rosenblum
Valerie Mayer	Sheila Goad
Mike Fritz	Sam Birnbaum
Stuart Rosenberg	Lee Oppenheimer
Jack Resnick	



The Gala Dinner Dance honoring outgoing President Donald Kahaner was scheduled for June 19. The contributions to the future of CBY by President Kahaner cannot be overstated. He mended many of the rifts in the congregation, established a stable organizational structure, promoted fiscal stability, and entered into a long term commitment with Rabbi Covitz.

The slate was voted into office at the CBY General Meeting. Other notable events at the June meeting were the “retirement” of Paula Flink as editor of the *Tidings* to be replaced by Bette Forman, and the request for voices for the High Holy Day Choir under the direction of Maestra Mary Woodmansee Green.

July 2004 began the Presidency of Jane Joseph and brought the announcement of schedules for the 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration throughout 2004-2005. Highlights were October 16 & 17 with Steven Ovitsky, January 14-16, 2005, with Scholar in Residence Gary Zola, Director of American Jewish Archives, and a CBY Gala at the Arts Center. This enterprise was co-chaired by Judy Bluestone and Barbara Peck.

August marked the beginning of a new B’Yachad Committee to act as a bridge from the Congregation to the Board.

In September, CBY celebrated the High Holy Days, using both All Saints and the synagogue for services and Break the Fast. At the same time it should be noted that we observed the passing of one of our Past Presidents, Howard Sherman.

On a happier note, Nick Bass volunteered to build a Sukkah on our premises. The Religious School enrollment was announced at forty-three students. The Film Series chaired by Sharon and Steve Burstein was ongoing.

At its October meeting, the Board of Directors decided to suspend Social Action Projects on Shabbat until the Ritual Committee could make recommendations. Individual participation could be involved, but there was to be no sponsorship by CBY. Resident Membership at the Board Meeting was announced at 195. Robert Pascal agreed to chair Adult Education.

The members of CBY were saddened by the November 11 passing of Rabbi Theodore S. Levy, our first permanent rabbi, and the rabbi who consecrated our building. Ted was not only a strong religious leader but was also a very important force in the Hilton Head community.

December 2004 began with the Night of 100 Menorahs on the 7<sup>th</sup>, the 350<sup>th</sup> Film Series, and ended with the first Kabbalat Shabbat service on December 31.

## 2005

The highlight of January 2005 by most recent accounts was Scholar in Residence Rabbi Gary Zola's four presentations focused on different aspects of the Jewish experience in America. In addition, Beth Yam Gardens (our cemetery) was the recipient of an entrance way monument donated by, and honoring the names of, Stanley and Theodora Feldberg. CBY received a portion of the Judaic Library of the late Rabbi Ted Levy, donated by his widow Ina Rae.

Long Range Planning focus group sessions were to begin in February and occur through April. Other notable February events were initiation of once monthly Kabbalat Shabbat Services as a trial for the next few months, increased activity of the Social Action Committee and the Men's Club partying at CBY on Super Bowl Sunday. The Men's Club also planned to supply ushers for Friday night and High Holy Day services.

March 2005 was highlighted by the "350 Years of Jews in America Art Exhibit" at the Arts Center of Coastal Carolina. This was preceded by a private opening and by a Gala Dinner Dance at the Arts Center.

The Annual Community Seder was successfully held at the Marriott Beach and Golf Resort in April 2005. This was again preceded by the Fifth Annual Women's Seder.

May began with the Yom HaShoah Service, continued with the return of Rabbi Address as part of the 350<sup>th</sup> Celebration, and the nomination of the following people as officers and Board Members:

President	Jane Joseph
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Stanton Bluestone
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Jack Resnick
Treasurer	Felicia Pascal
Recording Secretary	Joe Levy
Corresponding Secretary	Thea Heimlich
Directors:	
Lee Oppenheimer	Stuart Robinson
Barbara Schuman	Nick Bass
Stuart Rosenberg	

These were to be voted on at the June General Meeting.

Other Directors whose terms had not expired were:

Jerold Rosenblum	Sheri Farbstein
Sheila Goad	Valerie Mayer
Jane Geiger – PTA President	
Helen Kahaner – Sisterhood President	
Donald Kahaner – Immediate Past President	

At the General Meeting in June the slate of officers was elected.

Summertime in Hilton Head Island is often a time when people travel and families visit. Other than the plans for the High Holy Day services and the September Flea Market, summer 2005 followed this trend. The calm situation at CBY was certainly relished by the membership, and indicated that our congregation was functioning efficiently. The only other report of note during this time was the appointment of Bruce Belisle to the Board replacing Sheila Goad (Bruce was also appointed as Religious School Chairman), and the Board action making the Kabbalat Shabbat service a permanent feature of our worship schedule.

High Holy Day services in 2005 were successful, as was the Flea Market. New leadership positions were announced: Judie Aronson and Barbara Slagowitz were to co-chair the Social Action Committee, and Shawn Timen was the new Youth Group Advisor.

CBY was involved in providing a Special Delivery Hurricane Relief Fund to victims of Hurricane Katrina. CBY Vice President Jack Resnick and his close, friend Porter Thompson, were the organizers and truck drivers of this effort.

In October of 2005, the Board re-established the Building Expansion Committee with Jack Resnick and Stan Bluestone as co-chairmen. Other notable events at the October Board meeting were the appointment of Debra Reed as PTA Chairperson and the establishment of a CBY Hurricane/Disaster Plan.

At the Board Meeting in November, the plans were instituted for a December CBY Semi-Annual Meeting (a change from the past), announcement of the turnover of the Judaica Shop to the Sisterhood, announcement of plans for Chanukah and the Night of 100 Menorahs, with a Shabbat Dinner preceding this, and a February 2006 Service Auction and Dinner.

The year 2005 ended with the Night of 100 Menorahs and many in CBY community continuing their contributions to the victims of Hurricane Katrina and reflecting on the fact that two events of the last few years (the bombing of the World Trade Towers and Hurricane Katrina) would shape the United States for decades to come.

One of the first functions of CBY was a Sunday January 8 cleanup of Chaplin Park, organized by the Social Action Committee. A new committee, the Communication Committee, was established and was chaired by Maria Bell. The Board accepted contributions from the Bellet family in honor of the late Marilyn and Ed Bellet.

February 2006 was highlighted by the visit of visiting Scholar Steve Ovitsky. Other significant events were the Film Series and the Silent Auction.

The Board approved a contractual arrangement with Six Oaks Cemetery and also voted to continue to hold High Holy Day Services at All Saints. The first meeting of the Building Expansion Committee was held in January, chaired by Stan Bluestone and Jack Resnick. As this history will show, the process of entering into a Capital Campaign for the expansion of CBY would take over 18 months. Coincidentally this would be just a few months past the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of CBY on Hilton Head Island.

March 2006 was highlighted by the Megillah reading, planning for the Community Seder, and the visit of Rabbi Marc Lee Raphael as visiting Scholar-in-Residence.

In April the Nominating Committee presented the slate of officers to be voted on at the Annual Meeting in June.

President	Stanton Bluestone
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Jack Resnick
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Thea Heimlich
Treasurer	Felicia Pascal
Recording Secretary	Joseph Levy
Corresponding Secretary	Debra Reed
<b>Directors:</b>	
Bruce Belisle	Carol Katz
Ted David	

The Directors whose term did not expire were:

Nick Bass	Valerie Mayer
Lee Oppenheimer	Stuart Robinson
Stuart Rosenberg	Barbara Schuman
Jane Joseph, Immediate Past President	

May 2006 was highlighted by the New Members Service, the Annual Congregational Picnic and Hurricane Preparedness Seminars with our neighbors (All Saints Episcopal Church). The Film Series was ongoing and the Social Action Committee chaired by Judie Aronson and Barbara Slagowitz was very involved in the Hilton Head Community.

At the June Congregational Meeting, the slate of officers was elected. A major function of this group would be to act as overseers of building expansion. The send off to Jane Joseph at a wonderful dinner at Windows on the Waterway was splendid, as was her "Roast" by Robert Pascal and Steve Burstein.

The installation of the new Board was scheduled for July and began the Presidency of Stan Bluestone. In addition to managing the affairs of CBY, Stan's mission was to guide the membership through a proposed physical expansion.

The Board of Directors stayed busy during this summer (among other things) by planning for High Holy Day services. CBY members were also very much involved with the events in Israel during the summer of 2006, as our brothers and sisters were involved in a war in southern Lebanon, and were donating to the Israel Emergency Fund and the Ambulance Fund.

High Holy Day services and Break the Fast were again successful. President Bluestone established the Friends of CBY, allowing the membership to make a single decision on an annual basis to support financial needs of the congregation. Jane Joseph and Barbara Peck served as co-chairs.

Other important Board actions in October were the hiring of the Ostroff Group, professional fund raisers, to perform a feasibility study for the planned Capital Campaign and acceptance of the Ritual Committee's recommendation to purchase *Mishkan T'filah* prayer books.

November marked the dedication of the Leadership Plaque for Rabbi Theodore Levy, the first permanent Rabbi of CBY. In addition, there was a Town Hall Meeting for an update of the building expansion of CBY.

The conclusion of 2006 at CBY was a report by the Membership Committee (chaired by Mike Werner) regarding a strategy for acquiring new members and integrating them into CBY, and the Night of 100 Menorahs celebration of Chanukah.

## **2007**

The Long Range Planning Committee held two strategy sessions for the membership in January 2007. The Film Series chaired by Sharon and Steve Burstein was ongoing and well attended.

President Bluestone, in his monthly message in the *Tidings*, presented a tentative timetable for CBY expansion, and the Board of Directors approved the Ostroff Group to move ahead with the feasibility study.

CBY, due to the efforts of Jane Rosenblum and others, now had a resource document, "A Guide to Death and Mourning." The Religious School (Ruth Levy, Principal) announced forty-one students.

It was announced in February that June 1 and 2, 2007, would be "Founders' Tribute," honoring our Founders and the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of CBY.

March was highlighted by Casino Night, Women's Seder, and Adult Education Seminar, the Megillah Reading, and Purim Dinner. The Long Range Planning Committee was actively compiling the ideas and suggestions garnered at the January meeting. The Ostroff Group met with congregants during this month.

The Community Seder, Yom HaShoah Services, and an ongoing Film Series highlighted April 2007. This month also marked the report of the Long Range Committee, written by Michael Werner and Karen Blickstein, on what CBY members liked and disliked, and a prioritized vision for 2012.

May of 2007 was highlighted by the Film Series and planning for Founders' Weekend.

In June 2007, CBY celebrated Founders' Weekend and 25 Years on HHI. The list of Founders is included. It is still hard to imagine that these people created what we have today, a Jewish identity on HHI, and an ongoing dynamic congregation. There cannot be praise enough for the foresight of these people.

FOUNDERS who were acknowledged and alive in 2007

Dan & Jean Caplan

Beatrice Chait

Neil & Ida Ruth Citron

Paula Flink

Arnold & Connie Franzblau

Gilbert & Beverly Held

Lynne & Roger Irvine

Dorothy Kaplan

Marshall & Arlene Katz

Julian & Bernice Lewin

Hank & Sue Noble

Ruth Parris

Burt & Ruth Reinhold

Irvin & Dorothy Rudick

Stuart & Linda Silver

Allen & Cookie Slan

Debbie & Cosimo Urato

**BOOK FIVE**  
**Deuteronomy**  
**2007**

Having celebrated the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of CBY, and with CBY getting ready for temple expansion, the authors of this report will end here. Hopefully, there will be a second twenty-five year report written in 2032.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The authors are indebted to Hank and Sue Noble for providing us with invaluable source material, and to Donna Morris, Peggy Pantano, and Janeen Jewell for their skills.

This history is dedicated to my dear friend, Emory University colleague, and co-author Robert Pascal, MD, who passed into eternity on April 17, 2008.

Michael E. Fritz, DDS, MS, PhD  
2008

From this point forward, the updating of the history begins.

## 2008

In April 2008, the Nominating Committee recommended the following slate of Officers and Directors for the '08/'09 timeframe:

Jack Resnick	President
Ted David	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President
Carol Katz	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President
Thea Heimlich	Treasurer
Joseph Levy	Recording Secretary
Harold Freeman	Corresponding Secretary

### **Directors:**

Nick Bass	Stu Robinson
Barbara Schuman	Richard Feldman
Michael Shapiro	Barbara Slagowitz
Myron Meister	Felicia Pascal
Mike Werner	

In July, final preparations were being developed for a joint presentation with the Ostroff Group to a special Congregational meeting in August. The presentation and Q&A would be in preparation for a CBY vote on the fundraising and expansion plans for the new building.

A new CBY logo was developed and presented this month.

Plans were evolving for an October "Taste of Jewish Cooking" at Honey Horn with the Heritage Library Festival.

In August, it was reported that every Board member personally agreed to support the capital campaign. CBY's new temple was moving along rapidly.

Approximately eighty-five congregants (well in excess of our quorum number) attended the Special Congregational Meeting on August 9. They were briefed on plans for both building expansion and the conduct of the capital campaign to raise the necessary funds. Briefers included our President, Fund Raising Committee leaders and Michael Ostroff, of the Ostroff Group.

At an August 23 special meeting, a formal vote on the two motions will take place. The intent of the two motions was to allow our full membership to indicate both whether we believed that a facility expansion should be undertaken and whether we wished to engage the professional services of the Ostroff Group to assist in conducting our capital campaign.

Both motions were passed.

In September, a contract with the Ostroff Group was formally signed.



In October, we received a formal letter of agreement from the Boys and Girls Club describing the terms of the tenancy of our Religious School for the 2007 – 2008 school year.

Michael Werner presented an overview of the accomplishments of the Long Range Planning Committee to the Board. Complete formal documentation of the new strategic plan was to be made available in the near future.

The Adult Education Committee had all plans in place for the November 16 – 17 Scholar in Residence weekend wherein Rabbi Schaalma will be the guest of honor.

In November, the Board agreed that special events will be planned for the May 9 – 11 weekend, when the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel will be officially celebrated. Judy Bluestone chaired the event and worked with Rabbi Covitz in the planning.

Also in November, the Board discussed plans for several important meetings:

- The December 9 semi-annual meeting of the congregation
- A December 13 gathering (hosted by Paula Flink) for younger families with school age children. This was for a discussion of the impact of our planned new facilities on their children's Jewish education
- A January 17, 2008 meeting at which we will ask the general membership for permission to engage an architect.

In December, Stan Bluestone and Jack Resnick led an informational meeting representing the formal launch of the capital campaign. The following dates were presented:

- 01/17/08 – approval to fund the services of an architect
- 01/31/08 – conclusion of the capital campaign
- 06/08 – approval to fund construction
- 08/08 – groundbreaking for the new Temple
- 09/08 – begin construction

At a December 10 Board meeting, it was reported that pledges for the capital campaign had passed the \$1.5 million mark.

A special meeting of the Board was set up for January devoted to discussion of the new five year strategic plan.

In January, it was reported that the capital campaign was with \$80,000 of its stretch goal of \$2,000,000.

During that same month, Sisterhood pledged \$36,000 towards the capital campaign, marked for a kitchen facility upgrade.

At a January 15 special meeting Stan Bluestone and Jack Resnick updated the attendees on the progress of the capital campaign and plans for the facility expansion. The motion to approve the

expenditure of \$240,000 to hire Kermit Huggins as our architect was approved by an overwhelming majority.

In February, we were informed the capital campaign was inching closer to its stretch goal (\$2,000,000) and that meetings had begun with Kermit Huggins, resulting in a clear direction and the draft of preliminary plans.

In March, the Nominating Committee announced the slate of Officers and new Directors.

Also in March, the Board discussed how to proceed with the recommendation from the Ritual Committee to repair our Torahs.

In April, the Board finalized plans for its retreat later that month. A full day was to be devoted to develop comprehensive implementation plans to achieve the goals in the new strategic plan.

Also, the Board reviewed the reception to the recently introduced *Mishkan T'filah* prayer books. The response was that they were very well received.

In May, in addition to a brief overview of progress with architectural and other planning for the annual meeting, a special congregational meeting was planned for late June for a thorough review of all progress related to the building, for the entire membership.

The Men's Club announced that it will be holding its Golf Tournament at Moss Creek in November. Sisterhood also upped its contribution to the capital campaign by \$5,600 for appliances in the new kitchen.

Sisterhood also announced the installation of its new President, Elaine Lust.

In June, the Congregation's annual meeting took place. The slate of Directors and offices, as well as new Board members, was approved virtually unanimously.

## 2009

At the July 8 special meeting, the voting was essentially unanimous to proceed with the necessary contracts and agreements for construction of our new facility.

Also in July, the Board was informed that we are searching for temporary office space, to allow administrative functions to continue during the construction process.

The Board also saw a demonstration by Michael Shapiro of the progress made on our new Website.

In August, the Board approved the lease for our temporary office space at Sutler's Square. The lease went from 8/15/08 to 8/15/09, with an option for a two month extension.

Also in August, the Board prioritized key objectives, derived from the Congregation's strategic planning activities. Discussion will continue at the next Board meeting.

Questions had been raised at a special meeting as to the project management structure and project insurance needs for the new facility. The Board reviewed these questions and engaged Steve Carter of the McNair Law Firm to advise us on the issues.

The revised project structure places Jarvis Enterprises, Inc. as the General Contractor and David Gaal as construction supervisor to Jarvis. Jack Resnick will function in the role of Owner's Representative, with Dan Pincus, Dan Caplan, and Nick Bass in an advisory capacity. All appropriate insurance for the project would be purchased by the Congregation.

In October, after considering special circumstances, the Board agreed to permit a non-member family to place a name plaque on our Memorial Board. The Ritual Committee was asked to establish policy recommendations in this area.

In November, the Board reviewed the first issue of the "Construction Connection," which provided a review of progress and planning as the building expansion moved forward.

The Board also continued to work on priorities within the Strategic Plan. Membership recruitment and retention were recognized priorities.

In December, with great reluctance and sadness, the Board accepted the resignation of Rabbi Covitz. The Board discussed the rabbinic search process in detail.

The Rabbi Search Committee was co-chaired by Michael Werner and Stan Bluestone. The Committee was large and diverse, comprising a total of twenty-four members, carefully chosen to represent a membership cross-section. Focus groups were to be held in January, the purpose being to make the memberships needs known, resulting in a series of key criteria for the hiring of a new rabbi.

Also in December, we were informed that the Social Action Committee would be supporting and working in partnership with All Saints in the Family Promise area. Family Promise houses and feeds homeless families in Beaufort County. They also work to restructure their job and living situations.

The Board approved the recommendation of the Resource Committee to plan an afternoon in March for a Committee Fair. The hope was to publicize the work of the Committees and increase participation in their activities.

In January, the Board approved a construction loan arrangement with SCB&T

The Board also received an update on construction progress and discussed facility availability during the construction period. It was agreed that services will take place elsewhere (mostly at the Unitarian Church on Malphrus Road.

In February, Nick Bass updated the Board on construction progress. Much of the framing and roughing in had been completed.

The Rabbi Search Committee reported on its progress. With our application sent to the CCAR (Central Conference of American Rabbis) in February and approximately twenty resumes were promptly received. Mike Werner reported that the Committee had launched its evaluation process.

Ted David updated the Board on plans for Back to Shul day, to be held in March. Tours of our new synagogue building would also be planned so that members could see construction progress.

In March, the Rabbi Search Committee, detailed resume review and six to eight phone interviews, arranged for visits of three candidates under serious consideration. Despite the shortness of time and physical facility access problems, the Committee pledged to make every effort for maximum member access to these candidates.

The Board also planned a farewell party for Rabbi Covitz on June 6. A committee led by Thea Heimlich was formed for this purpose.

In April, the Nominating Committee recommended three new Directors as follows:

- Arthur Behrens
- Morris Drucker
- Pennie Meiselman

All Officers were recommended as previously shown.

Also in April, the Board assembled in a special session to listen to a presentation by the Rabbi Search Committee regarding the candidate evaluation process and their recommended selection. The Committee recommended that the Board approve the choice of Rabbi Brad Bloom as our new spiritual leader and that we negotiate a three year contract with him. A contract negotiation committee was also recommended. The Board approved the above. After a contract was negotiated, the entire congregation would be called upon to approve the selection of Rabbi Bloom.

In May, a special congregational meeting was held to vote on Rabbi Bloom. The rabbi choice was approved and he would begin his three year term on July 1, 2009.

In June, the Board approved a policy for a Voluntary Dues Program, under which new members will pay dues on a voluntary basis for their first year of membership. Other congregations showed both a 50% dues rate for the first year and a 75% retention rate.

A number of orientation activities were planned for Rabbi Bloom in July and August. And, a formal installation ceremony was planned for the October timeframe.

The Board reviewed plans for a new building dedication celebration for the first week in December.

Finally, the Board approved the formation of a CBY Endowment Fund, to be organized by the following Trustees; Hank Noble, Harold Freeman, Mike Werner, Stan Bluestone and Felicia Pascal. The long term goal of the Endowment was to stimulate and develop legacy contributions to defray the cost of synagogue operations.

## 2010

In July, Rabbi Bloom was welcomed as he sat in on his first Board meeting. He explained that his top priorities for the beginning few months were:

- Worship services
- Pastoral care
- Upcoming B'nai Mitzvah
- Meeting the congregation

In August, after some preliminary matters were discussed, the majority of the Board meeting concentrated upon analysis of our budgetary issues and exploration of plans for deficit reduction. Mike Werner led the group with an extensive "whiteboard" session. The two most important factors in ultimate deficit reduction were recognized to be increasing new member recruitment and increasing external fund raising efforts. Jack Resnick was to assemble a recruitment task force to implement the ideas expressed. A number of different fund raising ideas and approaches were to be turned over to the Fundraising Committee for action.

In November, plans for a Saturday morning service/minyan would be put in place. The service would occur on the Saturday following the third Friday of each month. Services would commence in January, 2010.

Also in November, the Board approved a formal planning effort for a 2011 trip to Israel. Linda Bloom and Barbara Slagowitz will be leading the planning.

In December, the Board agreed to the principle of transferring a sum of money from the Capital Reserve to reduce our construction loan. This internal funds transfer can save thousands of dollars per year as our Capital Reserve earns an interest rate lower than the rate paid on the construction loan.

The Board also approved the hiring of Ann Marie Nora, who will be the new Administrative Assistant, replacing Donna Morris who would be retiring.

It was announced that the Nominating Committee is comprised of the following persons:

- Michael Shapiro (Chairman)
- Nick Bass
- Joe Nahman
- Barbara Schuman
- Nadyne Ulicny

In January, the Board approved the concept of an April 15 Volunteer Recognition Shabbat service. Joel Lerner chaired the planning committee.

The Board discussed a potential new category of membership, Associate Members.

In February, the Board approved the hiring of congregants Valerie and Josh Appel to head the newly formed Youth Group.

In March, the Board debated the Treasurer's 2010/2011 budget, line by line. While finalized approval of a few items was still pending, it was clear that we were on track for a balanced budget, in contrast to the last two years deficit situation.

The Board also agreed to hire David Kimbell as our Congregation's High Holy Days Music Director.

And finally in March, the Board approved a plan to switch the *Temple Tidings* to an electronic version, which will be delivered to all members by email. The conventionally mailed *Tidings* will be sent only to those members who specifically opt for it. The approach realizes substantial annual cost savings of thousands of dollars.

In April, the Nominating Committee informed the Board of its slate of Officers and Directors. They are as follows:

Ted David	President
Carol Katz	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President
Judy Bluestone	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President
Mike Werner	Treasurer
Joe Levy	Recording Secretary
Harold Freeman	Corresponding Secretary

Peter Leff was the only new Director added to the Board.

The Board was briefed on the planning of a Leadership Development Program, which was comprised of six sessions to be moderated by Karen Blickstein. The program would begin in October. It would be open to members who self-identify with a desire to step forward into leadership roles within CBY.

Also in April, the Board approved plans for a May 2 Israel Independence Day celebration to take place in our facility. Presentations were planned by Sharon Kabalo the Israeli Vice Consul General for the Southeastern U.S., as well as numerous community and State political dignitaries.

In May, the Board accepted the by-laws of CBY's Men's Club and made it an official affiliate organization of CBY. The President of the Men's Club would now become an ex officio voting member of the Board.

Also in May, the President announced that an anonymous donor had offered to fund in full the purchase of a new Torah. In addition, the rabbi will explore the potential of engaging a scribe to work on the new Torah.

In June, the Board approved the Treasurer's report from the May meeting, including a deficit of approximately \$50,000 for the '09/'10 fiscal year, but with a balanced budget for the '10/'11 fiscal year.

The Membership Committee gave an accounting of new members along with their recommendation that the Voluntary Dues Program be continued for another year. This motion was approved.

Also in June, there was a discussion about a spaghetti dinner to be held in August, for all members who bring a perspective member with them. The dinner was to be prepared by Rabbi Bloom.

Finally in June, the Board discussed and approved our participation in Backpack Buddies, a Social Action Committee project to get food to school children in need, to take home for weekend meals.

### Fiscal Year 2011

In June, the Board gratefully accepted a gift to CBY, a Megillah Ruth, donated by Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Segal. This was placed within our Ark. We also launched our participation in Back Pack Buddies, a Social Action Committee project, under the auspices of the Lowcountry Food Bank, to get food to school children in need to take home for weekend meals. This has evolved into a major ongoing CBY program. In July, The Board approved setting up a restricted fund for the Back Pack Buddies program. The Board also approved transferring the moneys from the Schild Fund, a restricted fund which is no longer active, to the Religious School Fund. They also, on behalf of the Congregation, thanked the Schilds for their long term generosity. The CBY Endowment Fund Committee held its first meeting, and elected Hank Noble as its chairman.

The members of our new Nominating Committee were as follows: Stan Bluestone; Pete Leff; Pennie Meiselman; Jack Resnick (chair); Shaya Shatz.

In August, The Board approved the purchase of a new (gently used and reconditioned) Torah scroll, thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor. This donor is also underwriting the costs of multiple visits of the *Sofer* (Scribe) Neil Yerman, who continued to work with us as we conducted educational opportunities surrounding this new acquisition and its reconditioning.

In September, we announced the formation of two search committees: one seeking a replacement for Judy Bluestone, Cantorial Soloist; the other seeking a replacement for Ruth Levy, Religious School Principal. Both individuals will be leaving at the end of the current fiscal/Jewish year.

The Board congratulated the Men’s Club for its highly successful October 4 golf outing/fund raiser. This Men’s Club event has continued throughout the years to be extremely popular and successful, as well as being a major fund raiser.

The Board welcomed Mike Weingarten, who replaced Morris Drucker, who resigned. We thanked Morris for his service to the Board.

The Board instituted an important policy change. The \$250 donation to the Cemetery Fund, currently imposed upon all purchasers of a burial plot at Beth Yam Gardens in Six Oaks Cemetery, will instead be applied to the General Fund should the Cemetery Fund balance, currently at the level of \$7,750, ever drop below \$5,000, the Board will reconsider this action. The Cemetery Fund, a restricted fund which may only be used for assisting an indigent member with burial plans, has been carrying a large unused balance for many years. The Board also passed a revised Kashrut Policy applying to events at which food is served. While continuing the prohibition of serving pork and shellfish products at our Temple, it clarified the procedures for separation of meat and dairy products. In December, we further modified the Kashrut policy, making it applicable to official CBY events held off campus.

Our November 6 Gala event was an outstanding success, both in terms of fundraising and member enjoyment. The results were aided by a large contribution from the Bellet Family Foundation. We installed memorial plaques for Ed and Marilyn Bellet on the CBY Memorial Board. Thanks were extended to the organizing Committee: Helen and Donald Kahaner, Linda Bloom, Shari Farbstein.

Under Rabbi Bloom’s leadership, there was strong participation in the January 9 Torah Shelanu meeting. Approximately twenty aspiring writers/artists contributed to the planned book which will be “Our Torah.” This book was completed and distributed to our membership. The artwork and writings were beautiful, and something we all were proud to have in our homes.

As of January 2011, our Board membership stood as follows:

Irwin (Ted) David	President
Carol Katz	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President
Judy Bluestone	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President
Michael Werner	Treasurer
Joe Levy	Recording Secretary
Harold Freeman	Corresponding Secretary
Jack Resnick	Immediate Past President

**DIRECTORS**

Nick Bass	Barbara Schuman
Arthur Behrens	Michael Shapiro
Richard Feldman	Barbara Slagowitz
Peter Leff	Michael Weingarten
Pennie Meiselman	

Helen Hauer	Sisterhood President (ex officio)
Marty Katz	Men’s Club President (ex officio)



Via changes in the provisions of the Bellet Youth Fund, Rabbi Bloom will now brave a role in disbursement decisions (replacing the role of former Rabbi Covitz). We gave our President the discretionary authority to hire a security officer (e.g., a County law enforcement officer) for any Temple events where a potential threat may be discerned.

In March, the Board voted to bestow the title of Honorary Director upon the late Dan Caplan in recognition of his long term leadership and financial support of the congregation. His name will be appropriately placed on CBY letterhead and other locations. The Board unanimously approved plans for a Garden area to be located outside our vestibule entrance, to be funded by a combination of building expansion project moneys previously set aside for this purpose, plus moneys from our Capital Reserve Fund. This garden area contains paving stones inscribed with names of congregants' loved or honored ones and has proven to be a beautiful adjunct to our facility.

Our Megillah Esther scroll, financed by an anonymous donor, was dedicated at the March 18 Shabbat service, and used at our March 19 Purim service. It has remained an important artifact in our ritual life.

The Board approved the selection of Adriana Urato as a new Cantorial Soloist replacing Judy Bluestone, and was fully integrated by the next High Holy Days. The Board offered its thanks to the Cantorial Soloist Search Committee: Sharon Bass; Stan Bluestone (co-chair); Joe Gimbel; Pete Leff (co-chair); Nadyne Ulicny; Jane Weingarten (co-chair).

As announced in March, our *Torah* Scribe, Neil Yerman, was back among us from May 22 – 24. Congregants were able to personally inscribe a letter in our new *Torah*, and perform an act of *Tzedakah*, if so inclined. The *Torah* was formally dedicated at the June 3 Shabbat service. Also at a March 1 special meeting the board formed a recruitment committee to locate a replacement for our Administrative Assistant, Anne Marie Nora, who will be leaving.

At the April Board meeting, the Board was informed of the slate proposed by our Nominating Committee (Stan Bluestone; Pete Leff; Pennie Meiselman; Jack Resnick (chair); Shaya Shatz). Nominees were all subsequently duly elected at the June 9 annual meeting: The full listing of Officers and Directors follows:

Irwin (Ted) David	President
Carol Katz	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President
Judy Bluestone	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President
Michael Werner	Treasurer
Joe Levy	Recording Secretary
Harold Freeman	Corresponding Secretary
Jack Resnick	Immediate Past President
<b>DIRECTORS</b>	
Nick Bass	Pennie Meiselman
Arthur Behrens	Barbara Schuman
Richard Feldman	Michael Shapiro
Peter Leff	Barbara Slagowitz

Helen Hauer  
Marty Katz

Sisterhood President (ex officio)  
Men's Club President (ex officio)

We began our planning for the series of events comprising our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, commencing in September. Our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary was a major milestone in our history.

### Fiscal Year 2012

In addition to electing the new Board, the June 9 meeting voted to approve a By-Laws amendment authorizing the Associate Membership category. Associate and Affiliate thus became our two non-resident membership categories.

Our Board approved a ritual practices policy, which clarifies and codifies current procedures, relating to the roles of our diverse membership within our religious services. Specifically, "Leading the congregation in the following prayers, in either Hebrew or English, must be done by persons of the Jewish religion." This policy is in accordance with our culture of diversity and inclusiveness, which guides the way we conduct our congregational lives.

In June, we set the plans for the Break the Fast, held at All Saints immediately following our concluding Yom Kippur services. Gruby's graciously agreed to provide for this year the major food items gratis.

As a result of a Special Congregational Meeting, the Rabbi Bloom's extension of service through June 2017 was approved by an overwhelming majority. This gave us an important assurance of continuity of Congregational leadership.

Our Board received a preliminary review of the September 10 Gala event. The event was successful in both the social and the fundraising sense, with tentative net profits in the vicinity of \$16,000 to \$17,000.

We were pleased to learn that the 92<sup>nd</sup> Street Y September 8 broadcast was attended by one hundred forty people. Based on subscriptions already sold, there will be at least one hundred people present at each of the three remaining broadcasts of the fall semester, with the expectation of many additional seats being sold. This newly launched series has grown into a prestigious cultural activity sponsored by our congregation, as well as a major ongoing fund raiser.

The Nominating Committee, as appointed by our President, consisted of: Peter Leff (chair); Judy Bluestone; Harold Freeman; Donald Kahaner; Joe Nahman.

We were pleased to hear that the 5<sup>th</sup> annual CBY Men's Club golf tournament, to be held at Hampton Hall on October 17, had enrolled a record seventy-eight golfers. Profits go to community charities such as VIM and Deep Well, as well as to CBY. Our tournament has continued, now for many years, as an ongoing 'must attend' social event and fundraiser.

A series of administrative changes began with the hiring of Karen Riedel (now Karen Smith) as our new administrative assistant. Currently, Susan Sneider is the administrative coordinator on behalf of the Temple; she replaces Carol Katz, to whom we are grateful for several years of

service. Our current paid administrative staff comprises: Mary Sue Mooney (bookkeeper); Michele Johnson (administrative assistant); Karen Smith (administrative assistant).

November marked the return of Rabbi Bloom from his leadership of the Congregational trip to Israel. Another trip is likely to occur in the 2014-2015 time frame. We were proud to learn that Rabbi Bloom was set to be honored by Lowcountry Legal Volunteers for his outstanding efforts in the area of social justice. His award was presented to him at a February 18 dinner at the Country Club of Hilton Head.

The Board was pleased to hear that the Back Pack Buddies program, which has received major support from our Social Action Committee, was awarded a \$5,000 grant from the Bargain Box. We are proud of our leadership level of participation in this important community program, which has been recognized frequently in community news media, such as the *Island Packet*.

We initiated a new long range strategic planning initiative representing an evaluation and update of our Imagine Beth Yam project of approximately four years ago. Our leadership remains committed to long range planning via the updating of strategic plans for both the congregation in general and our committees and activities in particular.

As of January 1, 2012, our Board was comprised as follows:

Irwin (Ted) David	President
Judy Bluestone	1st Vice President
Mike Weingarten	2nd Vice President
Harold Freeman	Treasurer
Joe Levy	Recording Secretary
Pennie Meiselman	Corresponding Secretary
Jack Resnick	Immediate Past Presidents

**DIRECTORS**

Arthur Behrens	Peter Leff
Richard Chalson	Twyla Sable
Marcia Frezza	Michael Shapiro
Carol Katz	Jane Srivastava
Helen Hauer	Sisterhood President (ex officio)
Marty Katz	Men's Club President (ex officio)

In February, the Board authorized utilization of moneys from the Music Fund for music direction, sheet music and an accompanist for purposes of organizing and developing a Shabbat Choir pilot program within CBY. This new choir would perform at several services other than those associated with the High Holy Days. Felicia Pascal, in close coordination with Rabbi Bloom, has led the choir development process. Performances of the choir at select Shabbat services have become a regular and popular feature of our worship activities.

Michael Shapiro, our Webmaster, initiated and led the update our Congregation's Website via a URJ program known as Web Builder 2.0. We may choose from any of 5 basic template options.

Board members showed their preference for one of them. The new website, with many enhanced URJ-provided features, remains available for our membership to employ and enjoy.

In February, the Board voted to authorize the transfer of \$75,000 into the newly formed CBY Endowment Fund. By virtue of our By-Laws, the transfer of this large sum of money requires Congregational approval, and the necessary proxy forms were sent out. A special meeting and proxy vote on March 12 ratified this action. Under the chairmanship of Hank Noble, and most recently (2014), the Endowment Fund Committee has been actively soliciting funds, and the funding level has essentially doubled.

Emblematic of our recent rapid growth in size of our membership roster and our Religious School, Rabbi Bloom is beginning B'nai Mitzvah family classes on March 14. We have an unusually large number of B'nai Mitzvah in 2012/13/14, i.e., approximately seven. There will be a \$300 B'nai Mitzvah fee for each child.

In April, the Nominating Committee recommended the following slate of Officers and Directors:

Mike Weingarten	President
Judy Bluestone	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President
Pennie Meiselman	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President
Irwin (Ted) David	Treasurer
Twyla Sable	Recording Secretary
Harold Freeman	Corresponding Secretary

Nominees for open Board positions were Judie Aronson, Alan Meiselman, Susan Sneider, and Nadyne Ulicny.

Retiring Board members were Arthur Behrens, Richard Chalson, Carol Katz and Joe Levy. Retiring Ex Officio Board members were, Jack Resnick, Helen Hauer, and Marty Katz.

Our Board voted to extend credit card processing, with no transaction fees charged, to all contributions listed in the online form at our Website. CBY will absorb the PayPal transaction fees, and we hope that increases in contributions will offset that cost factor.

In June, the *Temple Directory* was renamed *The Beth Yam Family Directory*.

For the Break-the-Fast, the cost would be \$18 per person, with children under 13 free.

Rabbi Bloom was appointed a Trustee for the Community Foundation of the Lowcountry. He will lend a religious voice to the community.

### Fiscal Year 2013

In July, in Rabbi Bloom's report to the Board, he highly praised the new CBY Choir for its inaugural debut and announced that Teri Powers upcoming Bat Mitzvah would be the first adult B'nai Mitzvah in the new building.

After thorough discussion by the Board, of whether to charge a \$300 B'nai Mitzvah fee for adults, it was voted to clarify the April 2012 passage to include this fee for both students and adults.

Also in July, Mike Werner reviewed the key components of the new Strategic Plan with the Board, including a one page Value proposition, the formation of seven "Super Committees (as opposed to the 20 separate Committees that then existed) and other items related to worship, administration and acts of caring/community.

Based on the recent resignations of two resident families, new approaches were being considered to make members feel more included and welcome.

It was announced that the Ad Book's revenue would exceed prior year's revenue.

In August, certain security system enhancements were made:

- 12 panic buttons were installed around the building
- Internet and cell communications were initiated with the security company
- Additional security cameras were installed, and,
- A button to open the front doors was installed at Karen Smith's desk

An employee handbook was put together for all CBY employees. This was recommended by our outside counsel Steve Cater and the URJ. Under these rules and guidelines, each employee will clearly understand what is and what is not expected.

The Outreach Committee announced that Vicky Farhi would be a speaker at CBY in October. Her topics were, "Jewish Views of God" and "Raising Jewish Children: Learn from the Pros." Marcia Frezza also announced a new Outreach project, design to have congregants invite interfaith families to their homes to celebrate Jewish holidays.

In September the slide in the playground was removed for safety reasons. Monies to replace it will come from the Capital Reserve Fund.

There were fifty-four students in the Religious School, the highest number ever attained. Additional aides were hired to deal with the increased student body.

A brochure entitled *CBY: Art, Culture, Symbols and Values, A walking tour of CBY*, was in the design stages and was expected to be completed shortly.

In October, Michael Mogil was added to the Board to fill out the term of Jane Srivastava who had left. Mike accepted the position so that the Religious School families would have a voice on the Board.

As far as the new Strategic Plan was concerned, implementation plans were completed and Committee plans were in final review. As always, there were more requests for monies than are available, so the Board must prioritize all requested projects and programs.

Also in October, it was decided that there was a need to reenergize the Friends Campaign. Only 52% of the congregation participated in the prior year and 80%-85% of all monies came from 10% of the congregation. A significant marketing effort was designed by Co-Chairs, Pete Leff and Mike Werner.

An issue was brought to the Board that dealt with accepting non-affiliated, Jewish teens as members of the Youth Group and NFTY. The issue was to be explored and voted on in November.

In November, there were discussions held on who can be an Affiliate Member. It was decided that an Affiliate Member must have a permanent residence other than in the Lowcountry and an Associate Member can live within sixty miles of CBY but must be a dues paying member of another full service synagogue.

Also in November, Hank Noble came to the Board to report on the progress of establishing a CBY Endowment Fund. The Fund will have its own Board of Trustees, independent from the CBY Board. All income (earnings on the principal) will be directed to CBY and a safety net will also be created in case of extraordinary circumstances. Each Trustee signed a commitment to the Fund and each CBY Board member is being asked to do the same. A brochure has been sent to all congregants.

Although the Endowment Fund is focusing upon bequests being made upon the death of a donor, the Endowment Fund will also accept gifts made during the lifetime of the donor.

After research by Teri Powers and Judy Bluestone, it was recommended that the congregation purchase a Yamaha N1 electric piano. The money will be paid from the capital reserve fund.

The policy on the use of Restricted/Dedicated Funds was presented at the November Board meeting by Ted David.

**Restricted/Dedicated Funds may only be used for the purpose for which the monies were donated.** Typically restricted/dedicated funds are used to pay for activities or projects not contemplated when the annual operating budget was adopted.

The following restricted funds may be used as part of the annual operating budget only for their designated purpose:

- Adult Education
- Care
- Flower
- Landscape
- Music
- Religious School
- Ritual Items
- Youth Group

The motion to approve the policy was passed with one abstention. Part of the policy also allowed the President discretion to approve requests up to \$1,000.

Finally in November, the Bellet Youth Fund donated \$2,000 for Religious School children to receive scholarships to URJ camps during that fiscal year.

In December, the first Dine Around dinner was a sellout event and contributed about \$200 to CBY. There will be a series of these each year. The event was chaired by Elaine Lust.

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Michael Shapiro, included to Board members and two non-Board members. Harold Freeman, Ted David, Peter Leff, Mike Werner, and Judy Bluestone will have completed their terms.

It was reported that the new Yamaha Avant Grand electric piano was in place in the sanctuary.

The Friends Campaign said that those who donate \$2,000 will be acknowledged with a brick bearing their name in the garden patio at CBY.

Also in December, Ted David reported on his first meeting as a member of the national board of URJ. A few key points in his presentation were:

- Youth engagement is a key focus
- Reaching out to the “uninspired” is a priority
- URJ’s funding will be more transparent, including the setting of MUM dues
- URJ is looking at new ways to prepare for a B’nai Mitzvah

The Board approved a policy that unspecified bequests should be directed to the Endowment Fund.

The Board approved \$1,000 for a scholarship for two of our youth to attend the NFTY national convention. Jazmine Morgan and Kirkland Bennett were the two chosen.

The Board also approved a \$500 contribution to the Israel Emergency Relief Fund for helping Israelis in the path of Gaza missiles. \$800 was also donated for Hurricane Sandy relief.

In January, Rabbi Bloom reported on a program and dinner for Religious School teens and their parents to discuss “honor our father and mother.” The teenagers were also taught how to do Havdalah, making them feel a greater sense of being part of the Jewish community.

The Smiles for Shira Stem Cell Project was well received. Peter Leff worked with the doctors and helped to get out the word. Nine people from CBY signed up to be tested to see if they were a donor match.

Mike Weingarten announced that a Board Retreat will be held on May 13, 2013. The major agenda items were to approve the new strategic plan and develop a tactical plan for the next year.

In February, Mary Sue Mooney began work in the office as CBY's bookkeeper. Ted David will be responsible for giving her direction.

In March, the Board received a letter from David Shatz stating that four members, who wish to remain anonymous, donated \$76,000 over a six year period to partially pay for the cost of a Music Director. The donors expressed support for David Kimbell to fill this position.

Mike Werner presented the completed Strategic Plan to the Board in preparation for the retreat in May.

In April, it was reported that Michele Johnson had been hired as a new part time Administrative Assistant in the office.

David Kimbell was recommended as the Music Director for the first year. After that, the Music Director would be determined by the Board. Review of the role of the Music Director would be done on a regular basis over the six year period.

The Nominating Committee has recommended the following for the next fiscal year along with the standard four ex-officio members:

President	Mike Weingarten
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Twyla Sable
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Pennie Meiselman
Treasurer	Robert Sable
Recording Secretary	Judy Bluestone
Corresponding Secretary	Susan Sneider

**Directors:**

Karen Blickstein	Judie Aronson
Stan Kleiman	Michael Shapiro
Elaine Lust	Marcia Frezza
Mike Mogil	Nadyne Ulicny
	Alan Meiselman

Peter Leff announced that a tele-a-thon for the Friends Campaign would be held on April 28. A script was to be written and calls would be made asking for small donations from those who had not given.

In May, it was reported by the Membership Committee, that most people are comfortable with the VDP option for the first year. 90% stay after the first year and a high percentage of VDP members pay something during their first year.

Once again, the Outreach Committee, under the leadership of Marcia, received the Belin Award from the URJ. The Award was given for five programs, each serving different populations in our Congregation:

- Grandparents
- Raising Jewish children



- Bring your friend to a Chanukah party
- Family to family
- Outreach on the move (trip to Charleston)

In June, Mike Weingarten presided over the Annual Meeting. A few of the highlights were:

- Membership has grown to a total of two hundred seventy-three member units – one hundred thirty-four Resident Families, seventy-two Resident Singles and sixty-seven Affiliate/Associates
- Extra security features have been added to the building, including extra cameras, exterior lighting, locked doors at all times, and panic buttons throughout the building
- A By-Law change included, a Semi-Annual Report instead of a Semi-Annual Meeting
- The slate of officers proposed by the Nominating Committee in April was approved by a majority vote

#### Fiscal Year 2014

We were proud to note Marcia Frezza's appointment to the District Board of Women for Reform Judaism. With pride, we also began planning our November 10 observance of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Kristallnacht, and welcomed our new Music Director David Kimbell. A \$700 grant was received from URJ for CBY to offer a Taste of Judaism. It was a "turnkey" program with the class materials and advertising prepared by URJ. It is hoped that the class will serve as outreach to unaffiliated Jews in HHI as well as others in the community who want to learn more about Judaism. These items all indicate our growth in prestige and stature as a Lowcountry community asset.

We established our new Nominating Committee for this fiscal year: J. Bluestone, (chair), Board members Stan Kleiman and Nadyne Ulicny, Congregation representatives: Mark Britanisky and Phyllis Napoli.

For the first time in several years, we did not hold our Night of 100 Menorahs service because of conflict with the Thanksgiving weekend. We did make plans to bring in a student cantor, to replace Jaquey Schmid, who is retiring at the end of the fiscal year. As is often the case, we are thankful to anonymous donors for stepping forward with funding. Placement of monies in a restricted fund will assure that this program can be funded for several years to come. We will all remember Jaquey's long years of contributing to the beauty of our music with great respect and affection. We at Beth Yam are deeply committed to our musical heritage, and making it a priority item in our temple life.

As we continue to grow, our Religious School has now reached the point where 80% of our 53 students are now from interfaith families. Our principal, Judi Kleiman has the considerable challenge of facing this transition, which is certain to continue in future years. We compliment her on her dedication and hard work.

We continue to add new activities to enrich our members' experience. This includes an additional monthly 'Hot Topics' Shabbat discussion group one Saturday morning per month and a Taste of Judaism course sponsored by the Outreach Committee (Marcia Frezza, chair).

Our Endowment Fund (Ted David, chair; Hank Noble, former chair) is ramping up its publicity efforts and is establishing a Guardian Society to honor contributors, with an appropriate plaque to be designed. The Endowment will be extremely important to our long term financial future.

The Ritual Committee recommended, and our Board agreed, that CBY adopt the new Machzor *Mishkan HaNefesh* for the High Holy Days. We ordered the books promptly to take advantage of an available discount. This Machzor is totally different from the Gates of Repentance in that it emphasizes Torah study and teachings through the many diverse readings which appear throughout the prayer books. It defines tradition for a reform culture with particular deference to interfaith families, and will play an important role for us for years to come.

As Fiscal Year 2014 draws to a close, we look forward to the future. We are actively searching to find our new student Cantor. We are so happy to observe that our CBY Men's Club has grown in size and activity level, with two years of the co-presidency of Nelson Adelman and Alan Meiselman following upon seven years of the wonderful leadership of Marty Katz. We look forward to Stu Blickstein leading us in FY2015. We are proud of the growth of the October Men's Club Golf Tournament, which is both a greatly respected and loved community event, as well as an anchor fund raiser for Deep Well and other community charities, as well as for CBY. We are proud of the continuing growth of our Religious School, now in its third year of Judi Kleiman as principal, and well established in our home facility after its several years of Diaspora at the Boys and Girls Club. And, of course, our Sisterhood has continued to grow as a presence in our Congregational life, and Cathy Kite is prepared to take over the reins from Janet Weingarten.

As of April 30, 2014, our Board was comprised as follows:

Michael Weingarten	President
Twyla Sable	1st Vice President
Pennie Meiselman	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President
Robert Sable	Treasurer
Judy Bluestone	Recording Secretary
Susan Sneider	Corresponding Secretary
Ted David	Immediate Past President

**Directors:**

Judie Aronson	Elaine Lust
Karen Blickstein	Alan Meiselman
Marcia Frezza	Michael Mogil
Stanley Kleiman	Michael Shapiro
	Nadyne Ulicny

Janet Weingarten	Sisterhood President (ex officio)
Nelson Adelman	Men's Club President (ex officio)

While the constituency of our new Board is subject to the annual meeting and elections to be held on June 11, 2014, our nominating committee has proposed a slate to be voted on by the membership. The proposed officers are here noted to be:

Twyla Sable	President
Pennie Meiselman	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President
Susan Sneider	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President
Robert Sable	Treasurer
Judy Bluestone	Recording Secretary
Elaine Lust	Corresponding Secretary
Michael Weingarten	Immediate Past President

It is most appropriate to mention that our Care Committee has for three years, has been the recipient of significant monetary awards from the BJH Foundation. For this, we thank Sandy Leff, Susan Britanisky, and their Committee members. We also thank the originator of the grant process, Lynn Schmidt.

We are all looking forward to the future with great hope and confidence.

It is important to note that much of this update was collected from Board minutes and the Tidings. Without the dedicated Tidings editors during this period, Joe Scheines, Ellen Jenner and Elaine Lust, the update would be much less complete.

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