

Congregation Beth Ahm of West Essex / Jewish Community Center of Verona

1986-2011

Our Third 25 Years

A TIMELINE ON THE HISTORY OF CONGREGATION BETH AHM OF WEST ESSEX, FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER OF VERONA

1986-1987

Clara Levinson and Herb Blum (Co-Presidents)

Women's League President:

Men's Club President:

Membership dues structure raised: \$800 Full Family, \$375 Senior Couple, \$200 Associate Family

September 19, 1986

A Salute to Past Presidents of Congregation, Women's League and Men's Club. Greetings and Presentation by Mayor James W. Treffinger and Co-President Clara Levinson

May 17, 1987 (Clara Levinson and Herb Blum, Co-Presidents, as presented at Annual Meeting)

It was just less than a year ago that we were volunteered by a catalyst named Bernie Oremland to serve this congregation as Co-Presidents. Tonight we feel it is fitting and proper that we have a sense of pleasurable satisfaction as we look back on the experience of the past year.

In the annals of our synagogue it should be recorded that this great responsibility was performed with a full heart and a full spirit, supported by that inherent legacy of past administrations and successes. We learned from the past. To this we must add that the fulfillment of our leadership is attributed to and a tribute to so many valiant, able-minded, well-disposed, and responsive individuals who gave, beyond measure, of their time and energy—and their very special capabilities—to keep the doors of our synagogue open. Here we stand, two very grateful co-presidents, to extend this declaration of infinite gratitude to our officers, board members, committee chairpersons, committee members, and past president, for being the exceptional kind of people they are—for being so ready, willing, and able to serve—for being the inspiration and strength in our midst.

To Rabbi Michael, it was our privilege to preside on the Bimah with you this past year, an experience we will miss. Your wisdom and knowledge are a source of enlightenment to all who enter the domain of your teaching. It can truly be said: "Rabbee, Moree," "My Rabbi, My Teacher."

'All service ranks the same with God,' wrote Robert Browning. "There is no last nor first." And there is a lesson to be learned from the words of another English poet, George Herber, when he wrote: "Who sweeps a room as for Thy Law, makes that and the action fine." So, whether you had the special opportunity this past year to serve as officer, trustee, chairperson, or committee member, or whether you were the person who swept the room, worked in the kitchen, set the table, repaired a bulging floor, helped get mail out in an emergency, and so on and so on, and so on; we want you to know that we "owe you" as the saying goes. To merely say "Thank you" for the extraordinary commitment and dedication extended by this congregation does not suffice. So, "Today Rabah" is lovingly stated to express the gratitude in our hearts for the past moments we have shared, for this present moment we are together, and for those moments that will endure forever.

1987-1988

Irwin Hoffer (President), Larry Dubowsky (1st VP), Herb Rappaport (2nd VP), Harvard Berman (Treasurer), Brinah Enteles (Secretary), Clara Levinson and Herb Blum (Past Co-Presidents), Rabbi Laxmeter, Board of Trustees: Dorothy Friedman and Marissa Stock (Program), Clara Levinson (Publicity), Judy Laxmeter (Adult Education), Sandy Dubowsky (Finance), Larry Dubowsky (Religious), Kurt Landsberger (Membership), Harry Cohen (House), Trustees: Dave Rosenstein, Paul Jacobovitz, Robert Kern, Sandy Dubowsky, Dorothy Friedman, Kurt Landsberger, Edward Bauman, Bernard Oremland, David Meshulam.

Women's League Co-Presidents: Ruth Cohen and Ruth Ness

Men's Club President: Not listed

Annual Ad Calendar Committee: Sandy Dubowsky, Irwin Hoffer, Carol Donohue, Rabbi Laxmeter

Courtesy of the Lilyan Dretel Museum and Resource Center

Congregation Beth Ahm of West Essex • 56 Grove Avenue • Verona, NJ 07044

973-239-0754 • www.bethahm.org

This document will be updated periodically (March 21, 2011). If you have information, please contact Beth Ahm.

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January 1988

The Women's League of Congregation Beth Ahm joined 800 sisterhoods throughout the world in celebrating the 70th Anniversary of its parent organization, Women's League for Conservative Judaism, with special on-going events. Ruth Cohen and Ruth Ness were co-presidents of the Women's League and Renee Rosenthal chaired the events.

April 23, 1988

Annual Affair in honor of Ethel & Seymour Sobel for their many years of service. Took place at Beth Ahm beginning at 9PM.

May 11, 1988

Evelyn Lessinger, past vice president, chairwoman of many committees, and a long-standing member of the Women's League received a Special Recognition Award at the Spring Congerence of Northern New Jersey Branch of Women's League for Conservative Judaism held at The Short Hills Caterers in Short Hills.

1988-1989

Irwin Hoffer (President), Larry Dubowsky (1st VP), Herb Rappaport (2nd VP), Harvard Berman (Treasurer), Brinah Enteles (Secretary), Clara Levinson and Herb Blum (Past Co-Presidents), Rabbi Laxmeter, Board of Trustees: Eve and Ira Jacobs (Board of Education), Clara Levinson (Publicity), Judy Laxmeter (Adult Education), Jeffrey Shilling (Ways & Means), Sandra Dubowsky (Finance), Kurt Landsberger (Membership), Larry Dubowsky (Religious), Harry Cohen (House), Trustees: Alan Kovar, Bernard Oremland, Jeffrey Shilling, Paul Jacobovitz, Robert Kern, David Rosenstein, Sandra Dubowsky, Edward Bauman, Kurt Landsberger.

Women's League Co-Presidents: Ruth Cohen and Ruth Ness

Men's Club President: Monroe Weller

Annual Ad Calendar Committee: Sandy Dubowsky, Irwin Hoffer, Rabbi Laxmeter, Bea Peters

Membership: 149 Units

May 21, 1989

Annual Affair in honor of Clara Levinson and Herb Blum took place at Beth Ahm

September 5, 1988

Eli Jay Laxmeter led services and read from the Torah at Congregation Beth Ahm following his Bar Mitzvah in Jerusalem at the Western Wall.

1989-1990

Larry Dubowsky (President)

Women's League Co-Presidents: Mildred "Mickee" Lublang

Men's Club President: Monroe Weller

April 19, 1990 or April 29, 1990

Annual Affair took place at Congregation Beth Ahm in honor of Rabbi Michael Laxmeter for his eleven years of service to Beth Ahm and the twentieth anniversary of his ordination by the Jewish Theological Seminary. Cost \$50 per person.

Annual Affair Committee: Sheri Prupis (Chair), Marcia Paisner (Program Chair), Larry Dubowsky, Sandra Dubowsky, Ronald Goldberg, Maria Goldberg, Eve Jacobs, Ira Jacobs, Robert Kern, Carol Kovar, Michael Laxmeter, Mildred Lublang, Raphael Paisner, Herbert Rappaport, Jeffrey Shilling

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1990-1991

Larry Dubowsky (President), Herb Rappaport (1st VP), Jeff Shilling (2nd VP), Brinah Enteles (Secretary), Harvard Berman (Treasurer), Irwin Hoffer (Past President), Herb Blum (Parliamentarian), Rabbi Randall Mark, Board of Trustees: Robert Kern (Board of Education), Clara Levinson (Publicity), Seymour Gelzer (Adult Education), Alan Kovar (Ways & Means), Marcia Paisner and Ronald Goldberg (Program), Jeffrey Shilling (Religious), Herb Rappaport (Finance), Kurt Landsberger and Larry Hoffer (Membership), Ben Cohen and Arthur Enteles (House), Trustees: Marcia Paisner, Robert Kern, Larry Hoffer, Kurt Landsberger, Sandra Dubowsky, Ed Bauman, Ronald Goldberg, Alan Kovar, Seymour Gelzer.

Women's League President: Mickee Lublang

Men's Club President: Max Kutcher

Membership: 138 Units

July 1990

Rabbi Michael Laxmeter resigns and Rabbi Randall C. Mark was hired.

August 2, 1990

The Gulf War - Operation Desert Storm began

August 17, 1990

Rabbi Randall C. Mark was officially installed as the religious leader of Congregation Beth Ahm.

September 7, 1990

Verona Mayor Robert Pignatello was the featured speaker on "Relationship Between the Synagogue and the Community" at Beth Ahm's annual "Commitment Weekend".

December 2, 1990

The seventh annual Chinese Auction was held.

December 8, 1990

Talent Show held at Beth Ahm. Ethel Sobel was the Talent Scout

January 1991 (excerpt from bulletin)

Irwin Hoffer has been selected by Congregation Beth Ahm to be honored at the Annual Affair on April 28th. Irwin has been a major contributor to Beth Ahm of time, talent and effort over the years. A member of our congregation for 25 years and past president, he has brought his expertise to many areas. His Chinese Auction is a major fundraiser and well known for being a crowd pleaser.

Not only has Irwin served Beth Ahm, but he has made many contributions in the greater community. He is on the Board of Directors of the Jordan Heart Foundation and a member of B'nai B'rith and Jewish War Veterans. He is a past chapter president of the AZA and is active nationally. A graduate of the Yeshiva of Hudson County and New York University Business School, he was the vice president of operations at Channel Home Centers.

Irwin and Cookie are the proud parents of Larry and Marcy and grandparents of Steven who gives us all nachas. Larry and Jan are active synagogue members. Marcy & Robby Berkowitz live in Union.

We are proud to have Irwin as one of our distinguished members and it is with great pleasure that we look forward to honor him.

April 21, 1991

An art auction jointly sponsored by Congregation Beth Ahm and the Verona-Cedar Grove Kiwanis was held.

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April 28, 1991

Annual Affair in honor of Irwin Hoffer took place at the Richfield Regency. \$60 per person

1991-1992

Herbert Rappaport (President), Jeffrey Shilling (VP), Alan Kovar (VP), Harvard Berman (VP), Lawrence Hoffer (Treasurer), Lilyan Dretel (Secretary), Larry Dubowsky (Past President), New Trustees: Ronald Goldberg, Irwin Hoffer, Ira Jacobs

Women's League President: Mlckee Lublang

Men's Club President: Max Kutcher

June 2, 1991

Chinese Auction II is held.

September 1991 (a feature in the monthly bulletin)

Honoring Sarah Janoff: Let me tell you about Sarah Janoff. Sarah and her family moved into our town in 1945. They joined the Jewish Community Center of Verona, as Beth Ahm was then known. This probably gives Sarah the distinction of being our longest standing member. Her three sons celebrated their Bar Mitzvah ceremonies here.

From the day she joined, Sarah has been an ardent dedicated worker. She has never said no when asked to help The Shabbat Kiddushim are more beautiful and tasteful because of her efforts; come to any function, fund raising or social, and you will find Sarah there. She is, as her sons call her, "a perpetual teenager." We can all learn a lesson from Sarah. A big todah rabah, Sarah, from your congregation.

February 1992

The Board of Trustees of CBA proudly introduced the formation of a new group named YACHAD (Hebrew for "together"). It is geared towards young singles, young couples, and young families in the Beth Ahm community. Chairs: Jan Hoffer and Dassy Mark

May 31, 1992

Annual Affair took place at the Richfield Regency in honor of Evelyn & Alan Hirsch. \$60 per person.

1992-1993

Herbert Rappaport (President), Alan Kovar (Education VP), Harvard Berman (Financial VP), Jeffrey Shilling (Membership VP), Laurence Hoffer (Treasurer), Lilyan Dretel (Secretary), Larry Dubowsky (Past President), Rabbi Randall Mark, Board Members: Ron Goldberg (Adult Education), Carol Kovar (Education & Youth), Alan Hirsch (Finance), Milton Levinson (House), Ruth Ness (Membership), Marcia Paisner (Program), Seymour Friedman (Publicity), Alan Kovar (Ritual), Beverly Salerno (Social Action), Irving Newman (Ways & Means), Trustees: Herb Blum, Seymour Sobel, Beverly Salerno, Clara Levinson,

Women's League President: Mlckee Lublang

Men's Club President: Max Kutcher

September 1992

Commitment Weekend

Special Speaker—Edward Alcosser, Chairman of the Board of American Sephardi Federation. Topic: Sephardic Jewry

June 13, 1993

Annual Affair in honor of Anny and Kurt Landsberger held at the Richfield Regency

Annual Affair Committee: Ruth Ness (Chair), Brenda Budovitch, Lilyan Dretel, Maria Goldberg, Ron Goldberg, Judith Leslie, Clara Levinson, Irving Newman, Dorothy Schept

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1993-1994

Alan Kovar (President), Harvard Berman (Financial VP), Carol Kovar (Membership VP), Ronald Goldberg (Education VP), Lilyan Dretel (Board Secretary), Harvard Berman (Treasurer), Herb Rappaport (Past President), Rabbi Randall Mark, Board of Trustees: Ron Goldberg (Adult Education), Joel Gurzinsky (Education & Youth), Beverly Salerno (Finance), Herb Rappaport (House), Lisa Paley (Membership), Ron Goldberg (Program), Clara Levinson (Publicity), Joel Rosenbluth (Ritual), Ron Goldberg (Social Action), Irving Newman (Ways & Means), Trustees: Seymour Friedman, Milton Levinson, Judy Leslie

Women's League President: Mickee Lublang

Men's Club President: Max Kutcher

May 1, 1994

Annual Affair in honor of Herb Rappaport, held at the Richfield Regency.

Annual Affair Committee: Brenda Budavitch, Maria Goldberg, Ronald Goldberg, Judy Leslie, Clara Levinson, Ruth Ness, Irving Newman, Lisa Paley, Dorothy Schept, Shirlee Sherman

Excerpt from Annual Journal

Today is the day we have selected to honor Herb Rappaport for all that he has done for our little Congregation in Verona. All of the current and past members of our Synagogue know that when we name those members who have given unselfishly to Congregation Beth Ahm, Herb's name will always be among those which will rise to the top.

There is probably no job at our Shul which he cannot or has not done. I personally can account for Herb's having served as Trustee, President and House Chairman. He has also served on the Ritual Committee, High Holiday Committee, and can frequently be seen cooking up a storm in the kitchen. When he's not busy working for us, it's only because it's Shabbat or a Holiday and he's attending services. Of course, Herb does not quietly attend services, since he's generally busy assisting with the service, either as an usher or as a Gabbai.

Over the years certain names have become synonymous with certain activities. For example when one thinks of baseball, the name Babe Ruth immediately comes to mind; when one thinks of computer software the name Bill Gates will be part of the conversation. When one thinks of Congregation Beth Ahm, the name Herb Rappaport will quickly come to mind. (written by Alan Kovar)

1994-1995

Alan Kovar (President), Mickee Lublang (Financial VP), Carol Kovar (VP Membership), Ronald Goldberg (VP Education), Lilyan Dretel (Board Secretary), Bernie Reiter (Treasurer), Herb Rappaport (Past President), Rabbi Randall Mark, Board Members: Ira Jacobs (Adult Education), Joel Gurzinsky (Education & Youth), Beverly Salerno (Finance), Jerome Diamond (House), Milton Levinson (Kiddush), Lisa Paley (Membership), Seymour Friedman (Program & Social Action), Clara Levinson (Publicity), Joel Rosenbluth (Ritual), Irving Newman (Ways & Means), Trustees: Ira Grobe and Judy Leslie

Women's League President: Mickee Lublang

Men's Club President: Max Kutcher

Membership: 123 Units

May 21, 1995

Annual Affair in honor of Mickee Lublang

Annual Affair Committee: Brenda Budovitch, Marcia Diamond, Maria Goldberg, Ronald Goldberg, Judy Leslie, Clara Levinson, Ruth Ness, Irving Newman, Lisa Paley, Denise Rosenbluth, Dorothy Schept, Shirlee Sherman

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1995-1996

Ronald L. Goldberg (President), Mickee Lubland (Financial VP), Lisa Paley (Membership VP), Jerome Diamond (Education VP), Judy Leslie (Board Secretary), Bernie Reiter (Treasurer), Alan Kovar (Past President), Marcia Diamon (Assistant Treasurer), Rabbi Stephanie Dickstein, Board: Clifford Gillman (Adult Education), Perry Granof (Education & Youth), Marcia Diamond (Finance), Jerome Diamond (House), Milton Levinson (Kiddush), Ruth Ness (Membership), Seymour Sobel (Social Action), Clara Levinson (Publicity), Joel Rosenbluth (Ritual), Trustee: Ira Grobe

Women's League President: Mickee Lublang

Men's Club President: Max Kutcher

Membership: 125 Units

August 1995

Rabbi Mark resigned and Rabbi Stephanie Dickstein took over.

May 5, 1996

Annual Affair in honor of Ruth Ness.

Annual Affair Committee: Marcia Diamond (Chair), Constance Gillman, Maria Goldberg, Ronald Goldberg, Carol Granof, Mickee Lublang, Clara Levinson, Irv Newman, Lisa Paley, Elliot Pleener, Lisa Raphael, Dorothy Schept, Shirlee Sherman

1996-1997

Ronald Goldberg (President), Lisa Paley (VP Membership), Jerome Diamond (VP Education), Mickee Lublang (Financial VP), Frances Guttentag (Board Secretary), Bernie Reiter (Treasurer), Marcia Diamond (Assistant Treasurer), Alan Kovar (Past President), Rabbi Stephanie Dickstein, Board of Trustees: Clifford Gillman (Adult Education), Eve Jacobs and Douglas Klein (Children & Youth), Marcia Diamond (Finance), Jerome Diamond (House), Milton Levinson (Kiddush), Ruth Ness (Membership), Lisa Raphael and Irv Newman (Program), Clara Levinson (Publicity), Alan Hirsch (Ritual), Seymour Sobel (Social Action), Mickee Lublang (Ways & Means), Trustees: Ira Grobe and Saul Sokaler.

Women's League President: Mickee Lublang

Men's Club President: Max Kutcher

August 21, 1996

The Shoah Foundation came to Beth Ahm to interview Jack Honig.

May 18, 1997

Annual Affair in honor of Carol and Alan Kovar took place at the J.C.C.

Annual Affair Committee: Marcia Diamond and Ruth Ness (Co-Chairs), Constance Gillman, Maria Goldberg, Ronald Goldberg, Carol Granof, Mickee Lublang, Clara Levinson, Lisa Paley, Denise Rosenbluth, Dorothy Schept

1997-1998

Jerome Diamond (President), Lisa Paley (VP Membership), Marcia Paisner (VP Education), Mickee Lublang (Financial VP), Fran Guttentag (Secretary), Bernard Reiter (Treasurer), Marcia Diamond (Assistant Treasurer), Ronald Goldberg (Immediate Past President), Rabbi Isaac Jeret, Board of Trustees: Clifford Gillman (Adult Education), Lisa Raphael (Children & Youth), Marcia Diamon (Finance), Seymour Sobel (House), Milton Levinson (Kiddush), Ira and Eve Jacobs (Membership), Lisa Paley (Program), Clara Levinson (Publicity), Marcia Paisner (Ritual), Irv Newman (Social Action), Ruth Ness (Synagogue Restoration), Ronald Goldberg (Ways & Means), Trustees: Ira Grobe, Saul Sokaler

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Women's League President: Mickee Lublang

Men's Club President: Max Kutcher

July 1997

Rabbi Stephanie Dickstein resigned.

March 1, 1998

Rabbi Isaac Jeret was officially installed as Rabbi of Congregation Beth Ahm. The Honorable Matthew Kirnan, Mayor of Verona attended.

Welcoming Committee: Lisa Paley (Chair), Rhanda Cohen, Lilyan Dretel, Maria Goldberg, Ronald Goldberg, Edye Kramer, Mickee Lublang, Bernice Malovany, Ruth Ness, Marcia Paisner, Raphael Paisner, Dorothy Schept, Ethel Sobel

March 10, 1998 (from plaque hanging in All-Purpose Room)

By recommendation of Milton Levinson, a plaque was dedicated to Lillian Kapelowitch and Norma Katz in recognition of their exemplary dedication to the Shabbat Kiddush. May their memory serve as a blessing to all who serve our synagogue. Dr. Gerald Jaffe, during his presidency, initiated the basis of an ongoing Shabbat Kiddush. Through hard work, love, "know-how", and the special talents of Sarah Janoff and Frances Sender, the "crew" established the widely praised and emulated Beth Ahm Kiddush that we now take for granted.

1998-1999

Jerome E. Diamond (President) - May 1998 to January 1999

Women's League President: Mickee Lublang

Men's Club President: Max Kutcher

September 1998

The annual Yizkor book was dedicated to the memory of Jack Honig, a part of our family.

January 1999

Lisa Paley took over the 5 month's left on the President's position.

May 16, 1999

Annual Affair in honor of Max Kutcher and Ira Grobe took place at the Richfield Regency.

1999-2000

Lisa Paley (President), Charles Paley (Financial VP), Teena Schwartz (Membership VP), Ruth Meyerowitz (Education VP), Herb Rappaport (Treasurer), Marcia Paisner (Secretary), Rabbi Isaac Jeret, Board of Trustees: Vicki Abrams, Alan Cohen, Rhanda Cohen, Seymour Gelzer, Joseph Hecht, Rosalind Hobeck, Max Kutcher, Clara Levinson, Mickee Lublang, Ruth Ness, David Schreier, Rhonda Silver, Ethel Sobel, Seymour Sobel, Karen Wirtshafter, Marc Wurgaft

Women's League President: Mickee Lublang

Men's Club President: Max Kutcher

May 21, 2000

Annual Affair in honor of Marcia and Raphael Paisner

Annual Affair Committee: Teena Schwartz (Chair), Nancy Davis, Sy Gelzer, Ira Grobe, Jeanne Krausman, Audrey Levitin, Mickee Lublang, Charlie Paley, Lisa Paley, Stephanie Regan. Valued Advisors: Ruth Ness, Cookie Hoffer, Shirlee Sherman

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2000-2001

Lisa Paley (President), Charles Paley (Financial VP), Rosalind Hobeck (Education VP), Rabbi Jeret, Board: Hilda Jaffe (BOE), William Abrams (Finance), Rosalind Hobeck (Gemilut Chassadim), Alan Cohen and Sy Gelzer (House), Ruth Meyerwitz (Kiddush), Karen Wirtshafter (Membership), Ethel Sobel (Program), Marty Friedman (Publicity), Howard Kestenbaum and Nancy David (Ritual), Seymour Sobel (Social Action), Trustees: Vicki Abrams, Alan Cohen, Rosalind Hobeck, Rhonda Silver, Ethel Sobel, David Schreier, Nick Levitin, William Abrams

Women's League President: Mickey Lublang

Men's Club President: Max Kutcher

Membership: 133 Units

November 19, 2000

The Verona Town Council renames the intersection of Grove and Personette Avenues in honor of the late Rabbi Alter Kriegel.

November 25, 2000

Project Return – Alumni Reunion. Chaired by Marc Wurgaft and Ruth Ness

December 21, 2000

Ruth Meyerowitz donated an outdoor menorah and dedicated it in memory of her beloved parents, Chana and Yitzchak Krautwirth

January 2001

Rosalind Hobeck (January 2001)

February 2001

Rhonda Silver (February – May 2001)

February 3, 2001

Gerald Jaffe has his second Bar Mitzvah (first was in 1931), Parashat Bo. *"Basically, what it says is that at age 13, you have knowledge but you don't have wisdom. Now that I have both, it makes it even more challenging because I am supposed to be a professional at this stage in my life. I should be able to look back and say, "I accomplished this."*

2001

Rabbi Isaac Jeret resigns

For the first time since WWII, the synagogue did not hold an Annual Affair.

2001-2002

Nick Levitin (President)

Women's League President: Mickey Lublang

Men's Club President: Max Kutcher

July 27, 2001

Rabbi Aaron Kriegel begins position at Congregation Beth Ahm

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September 11, 2001

Terrorists attack World Trade Center and Pentagon. Howard Kestenbaum, of blessed memory, was lost in the World Trade Center.

March 17, 2002

Beth Ahm presented "An Afternoon of Yiddish Music" featuring Marsha Schreier, Eytan Uslan and Marc Levin.

March 19, 2002

Congregation Beth Ahm hosts its first Women's Seder. The program was partially underwritten by the Clara Levinson Fund.

April 2002

Marsha Schreier hired as cantor.

April 28, 2002

Operation B'Yachad to help Israel. Congregation Beth Ahm participates in Chai Ride for Israel.

May 2002

Trip to Israel ?

2002-2003

Nick Levitin (President)

Women's League President: Mickey Lublang

Men's Club President: Max Kutcher

June 2, 2002

Annual Affair in honor of Rabbi Aaron and Sarah Kriegel

Annual Affair Committee: Rhonda Silver and Vicki Abrams (Co-Chairs)

January 2003

Congregation Beth Ahm donated \$5,000.00 to the Jerusalem Police Department towards the purchase of bulletproof vests and other needed security equipment. Beth Ahm established "Operation B'Yachad" through which they will continue to support Israel through donations and visits.

February 11, 2003

A special Congregational Meeting was held to review proposed changes to the CBA Constitution. These changes were intended to streamline the workings of the Board of Trustees and the offices. Hilda Jaffe chaired the Ad Hoc Restructuring Committee.

May 18, 2003

Annual Affair in honor of Nick and Audrey Levitin held at the Richfield Regency. \$80 per person

Annual Affair Committee: Ruth Ness and Marcia Diamond (Co-Chairs), Maria Goldberg, Dan Katz, Debbie Lawrence and Marc Wurgaft

2003-2004

Marc Wurgaft (President), Ethel Sobel (VP Membership), Jerry Diamond (VP Education), Bill Abrams (Treasurer), Hilda Jaffe (Secretary), Nick Levitin (Past President), Rabbi Aaron Kriegel, Board of Trustees: Ruth Ness and Shelley Schwartz Hargrove (Membership), Hilda Jaffe (Board of Education), Ethel Sobel (Program), Nick Levitin and Elliot Rothchild (Ritual), Seymour Sobel (Social Action and Gemilut Chassadim), Richard Miller (Ways & Means), Sy Gelzer (House), Irwin Hoffer (Cemetery), Jennifer Lader (Publicity), Marty and Ellen Friedman (Adult Education), Cookie Hoffer (Museum), Robert Lintz (Israel Affairs), Paul Kapner (Kiddush), Trustees: Vicki Abrams, Gail Cost, Don Glickman, Joe Hecht, Robert Lintz, Glenn Weiner

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Bulletin Editor: Nick Levitin / Webmaster: Elliot Rothchild

Women's League President: Mlckee Lublang

Men's Club President: Max Kutcher

Executive Director: Debra Dretel Lawrence

July/August 2003

The Lilyan Dretel Museum and Resource Center was near completion.

January 2004

The congregation, led by Rabbi Kriegel and Seymour Sobel, began holding special Shabbat services every Friday afternoon for Sarah Janoff who was residing at the Little Nursing Home in Montclair, as an act of Gemilut Chasadim.

In honor of their son Brian's Bar Mitzvah in 2004, Rhonda and Bob Silver generously gave the synagogue a wonderful gift—the renovation of Beth Ahm's sanctuary and social hall. The Interior Designer was Tom Ring and project manager was Tom Minden. Work began in late January and ended in early June.

May 2004

Following the passing of beloved long-time member, Sarah Janoff, a sanctuary chair was dedicated to her memory. Not just any chair. The seat the Sarah was accustomed to occupying. As of 2011, this is the only chair to be dedicated.

May 3, 2004

Led by Rabbi Kriegel and board president Marc Wurgaft, members of Beth Ahm traveled to Israel through Volunteers for Israel and stayed at a military base just north of Ashkelon.

May 23, 2004

Annual Affair in honor of Seymour "Sy" Gelzer held at the Richfield Regency. \$85 per person

Annual Affair Committee: Hilda and Gerry Jaffe (Co-Chairs), Stacey Bachenheimer, Joe Hecht, Jerry Jacobs, Debbie Lawrence, Nick Levitin, Marsha Schreier, Marc Wurgaft. Ad Journal: Gail Cost, Jim Hargrove, Carol Lintz, Carlos Montoya, Ruth Ness, Ethel Sobel, Sue Taylor, Jennis Wurgaft.

2004-2005

Marc Wurgaft (President), Ethel Sobel (VP Membership), Ellen Friedman (VP Education), Bill Abrams (Treasurer), Hilda Jaffe (Secretary), Nick Levitin (Past President), Rabbi Aaron Kriegel, Board of Trustees: Ruth Ness and Shelley Schwartz Hargrove (Membership), Hilda Jaffe (Board of Education), Ethel Sobel (Program), Jerry Diamond and Elliot Rothchild (Ritual), Seymour Sobel (Social Action and Gemilut Chasadim), Richard Miller (Ways & Means), Sy Gelzer (House), Gail Cost (Cemetery), Nick Levitin (Publicity), Marty and Ellen Friedman (Adult Education), Cookie Hoffer (Museum), Robert Lintz (Israel Affairs), Paul Kapner (Kiddush), Trustees: Vicki Abrams, Gail Cost, Ellen Friedman, Don Glickman, Joe Hecht, Robert Lintz, Glenn Weiner
Bulletin Editor: Trudy Brenner / Webmaster: Elliot Rothchild

Women's League President: Mlckee Lublang

Men's Club President: Max Kutcher

Executive Director: Debra Dretel Lawrence

June 30, 2004

Renovations were completed.

The Membership Committee organized a light breakfast for the local realtors of the area.

Courtesy of the Lilyan Dretel Museum and Resource Center

Congregation Beth Ahm of West Essex • 56 Grove Avenue • Verona, NJ 07044

973-239-0754 • www.bethahm.org

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1986-2011

Our Third 25 Years

September 11, 2004

A dedication of the Ner Tamid (Eternal Light), in honor of the Silver family, took place during Shabbat services

December 2004

Wally Littman Illustrations To Be Featured in Kol Ha'Ahm

Kol Ha'Ahm is delighted to welcome to our pages the work of talented cartoonist Wally Littman, a life long friend of Irwin and Cookie Hoffer.

May 1, 2005

Annual Affair in honor of Hilda Jaffe and In Memory of Gerry Jaffe

Annual Affair Committee: Sarah Kriegel and Jennis Hanna (Co-Chairs), Kevin Buckley, Sy Gelzer, Jim Hargrove, Joe Hecht, Dan Katz, Debbie Lawrence, Nick Levitin, Ethel Sobel, Myron Spektor, Sue Taylor

2005-2006

Teena Schwartz (President from June 2005 to November 2005)

Nancy Davis (President from December 2005 to May 2006)

Penny Weissman (VP Education), Nancy Davis (VP Membership), Bill Abrams (Treasurer), Hilda Jaffe (Secretary), Marc Wurgaft (Past President), Rabbi Aaron Kriegel, Board of Trustees: Ruth Ness and Shelley Schwartz Hargrove (Membership), Hilda Jaffe (Board of Education), Ethel Sobel (Program), Jerry Diamond and Elliot Rothchild (Ritual), Seymour Sobel (Social Action and Gemilut Chassadim), Richard Miller (Ways & Means), Sy Gelzer (House), Gail Cost (Cemetery), Dean Gordon and Madeleine Goldfarb (Publicity), Marty and Ellen Friedman (Adult Education), Cookie Hoffer (Museum), Robert Lintz (Israel Affairs), Paul Kapner (Kiddush), Trustees: Gail Cost, Ellen Friedman, Don Glickman, Joe Hecht, Robert Lintz, Rhonda Silver.

Bulletin Editor: Trudy Brenner / Webmaster: Elliot Rothchild

Women's League President: Mickey Lublang

Men's Club President: Max Kutcher

Executive Director: Debra Dretel Lawrence

September 16, 17, and 18, 2005

Commitment Weekend

"Musical Happenings" program took place on Sunday

November 2005

The Men's Club purchased Holocaust Memorial Sculpture – Stainless Steel etched with the names of the Concentration Camps.

December 3, 2005

Program entitled: "In Freedom's Light", A Cantata directed by Jeanne Krausman ("A Fahrbrengen"). Narrators: Marc Charney, Ina Fine, Sylvia Pfeffer. Chorus: Randy Simon, Sherri Neuwirth, Eveleen Solomon, Gail Abramowitz, Ron Kaplan, Lee Greenberger, Walter Stephan.

March 19, 2006

St. Patrick's Day Brunch at Beth Ahm

May 21, 2006

Annual Affair in honor of Shirlee Sherman

Annual Affair Committee: Marcia Diamond, Gail Cost, Maria Goldberg, Ruth Ness, Hilda Weissman

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2006-2007

Shirlee Sherman (President), Kevin Buckley (VP Membership), Penny Weissman (VP Education), Bill Abrams (Treasurer), Hilda Jaffe (Secretary), Marc Wurgaft (Past President), Rabbi Aaron Kriegel, Board of Trustees: Ruth Ness and Shelley Schwartz Hargrove (Membership), Hilda Jaffe (Board of Education), Ethel Sobel (Program), Jerry Diamond (Ritual), Seymour Sobel (Social Action and Gemilut Chassadim), Richard Miller (Ways & Means), Sy Gelzer (House), Gail Cost (Cemetery), Dean Gordon and Madeleine Goldfarb (Publicity), Marty and Ellen Friedman (Adult Education), Irwin and Barbara Hoffer (Museum), Robert Lintz (Israel Affairs), Paul Kapner (Kiddush), Trustees: Gail Cost, Ellen Friedman, Don Glickman, Joe Hecht, Robert Lintz, Rhonda Silver.

Bulletin Editor: Trudy Brenner / Webmaster: Nick Levitin

Women's League President: Mlckee Lublang

Men's Club President: Max Kutcher

Executive Director: Debra Dretel Lawrence

June 26, 2006

An open house was held for "With a Smile and a Song". This was a Toddler and Pre-K music program led by Eveleen Solomon.

September 16, 2006

Susan McDougal spoke at Selicot services at Congregation Beth Ahm. She was invited by Rabbi Aaron Kriegel, who was her chaplain in prison. The title of her speech was "Good People from the Eyes of a Felon." Program Chair: Ethel Sobel

October 20, 2006

Men's Club Sukkah destroyed by strong wind gusts that hit New Jersey

January 2007

Sid Miller, as chair of the Ritual Committee, organized volunteers to bring nosh following Sunday morning minyans.

March 2007

Sy Gelzer officially resigns as House Chair. (As of 2011, he remains the unofficial House Chair)

WITH A HANDSHAKE AND A SMILE: OUR GUY SY (By Marc Wurgaft):

Nearly three years ago Congregation Beth Ahm honored our long time member Seymour Gelzer as its Man of the Year at the Annual Affair. Many nice things were said about Sy, and tributes came from family and friends. And after the event, Sy went back to work...

For as long as most of us can remember, Sy has served as the Chair of the House Committee of Congregation Beth Ahm. Whether it be a light bulb that needed changing, or a new air conditioning system that needed to be replaced, Beth Ahm turned to Sy. Need to have the front door open for a meeting on a Sunday at 4pm? Sy's our guy! Need to 'button-up' the shul after a late night program? Sy's our guy!

Throughout his years of service, Sy fulfilled his responsibilities with a smile and a handshake. Whether volunteering to drive those in need to their appointments, or making sure a child had a ride to Hebrew School, Sy offered a handshake and a smile. Of course, if you were one of the fortunate, you also got to hear about his beloved Jersey City and/or the latest sporting event of interest. Sy in fact is a fountain of information, with the gift for story telling.

Recently, Sy decided to hand in his resignation as House Chair, though assuring all that he would continue to be available when needed. It's difficult to find enough thanks for all that Sy has done for Congregation Beth Ahm. Thank you, Sy, a thousand times Chai!

Thank you for changing the light bulbs, and for taking such good care of our shul for longer than most of us can remember.

Sy, thank you for being a gentleman all the while, with a handshake and a smile.

April 29, 2007

Beth Ahm's students, their parents and teachers paid a visit to Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty.

Courtesy of the Lilyan Dretel Museum and Resource Center

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May 2007

At the suggestion of Sid Miller, Ritual Chair, the Friday night services changed from 8:00 pm to 6:30 pm. A dairy potluck dinner was introduced for one Friday night each month, along with a Shabbat dinner once a month.

May 20, 2007

Annual Affair in honor of Marsha Schreier

Annual Affair Committee: Sarah Kriegel and Jennis Hanna (Co-Chairs)

2007-2008

Shirlee Sherman (President), Kevin Buckley (VP Membership), Dean Gordon (VP Education), Bill Abrams (Treasurer), Jim Hargrove (Financial Secretary), Ellen Friedman (Secretary), Marc Wurgaft (Past President), Rabbi Aaron Kriegel, Board of Trustees: Doug Brandt and Robin Seidon (Membership), Hilda Jaffe and Shana Miller (Education), Ethel Sobel (Program), Sid Miller and Rhoda Feldman (Ritual), Dean Gordon (Publicity), Marty Friedman and Ellen Friedman (Adult Education), Irwin and Cookie Hoffer (Museum), Paul Kapner (Kiddush), Ahmi Goldfarb (Israel Affairs), Lisa Kalb (Cemetery), Trustees: Don Glickman, Robert Lintz, Audrey Levitin, Rhonda Silver, Natalie Weiss, Hilda Weissman, Rita Zuccaro

Women's League President: Mlckee Lublang

Men's Club President: Max Kutcher

Executive Director: Debra Dretel Lawrence

September 7, 8, and 9, 2007

Commitment Weekend

Friday: "A Search for Self—Music and Talk about Tshuvah"

Saturday: "Can Repentance Save the World?"—Rabbi Norman Patz, Rabbi Aaron Kriegel, Rabbi Laurence Groffman

Sunday: "A Chassidic View of Tshuvah—Mystical Reasons to Repent" – Rabbi Ephraim Mintz

Chairpeople: Ruth Ness, Hilda Weissman, Dorothy Schept, Natalie Weiss, Eadie Leon, Maria CaDavid, Phyllis Jacobs, Marc Wurgaft, Sarah Kriegel, Bea Sorkin

Fall 2007

Max Kutcher designed a new sukkah.

Major flooding in basement.

Essex County Hospital, in Cedar Grove, closes and prepares for demolition.

May 18, 2008

Annual Affair in honor of Dr. Susan Kriegel Leshnoff held at Beth Ahm. \$100 per person

Annual Affair Committee: Sarah Kriegel, Marla Kapner, Maria Ca-David, Carol Cathey

2008-2009

Kevin Buckley (President), Dean Gordon (VP Membership), Laurie Brandt (VP Education), Bill Abrams (Treasurer), Jim Hargrove (Financial Secretary), Ellen Patterson (Secretary), Hilda Jaffe (Parliamentarian), Shirlee Sherman (Past President), Rabbi Aaron Kriegel, Board of Trustees: Robin Seidon and Lisa Kalb (Membership), Rita Zuccaro and Maria CaDavid (Ritual), Dean Gordon (Publicity), Irwin and Cookie Hoffer (Museum), Hilda Jaffe and Shana Miller (Education), Ethel Sobel (Program), Marty Friedman & Ellen Friedman (Adult Education), Paul Kapner (Kiddush), Ahmi Goldfard (Israel Affairs), Laurie Brandt (Cemetery), Trustees: Don Glickman, Robert Lintz, Audrey Levitin, Natalie Weiss, Hilda Weissman, Rita Zuccaro, Gran Kestenbaum

Women's League President: Mlckee Lublang

Men's Club President: Max Kutcher

Executive Director: Debra Dretel Lawrence

Editor: Art Maher

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Our Third 25 Years

September 19, 20, and 21, 2008

Commitment Weekend

Friday Night: "The Enemy Within—German POW's in America"—Kurt Landsberger

Saturday: "Wrongful Convictions in the United States"

Sunday:

December 6, 2008

Women's League hosted a Winter Arts Festival for community merchants.

March 29, 2009

Beth Ahm began hosting Jewish Historical Society of MetroWest's exhibit of the "Weequahic Memoirs: Celebrating Newark's Legendary Neighborhood". The exhibit remained at Beth Ahm until May 21st.

May 17, 2009

Annual Affair in honor of Marc Wurgaft and Jennis Hanna held at Beth Ahm. \$100 per person

Annual Affair Committee: Sarah Kriegel, Laurie Brandt, Gran Kestenbaum

Ad Journal: Debbie Lawrence and Dean Gordon

2009-2010

Kevin Buckley (President), Dean Gordon (VP Membership), Laurie Brandt (VP Education), None (Treasurer), Ellen Patterson (Secretary), Hilda Jaffe (Parliamentarian), Shirlee Sherman (Past President), Rabbi Aaron Kriegel, Board of Trustees: Gran Kestenbaum (Membership), Shana Miller (Education), Laurie Brandt (House), Dean Gordon (Publicity), Irwin and Cookie Hoffer (Museum), Sarah Kriegel (Kiddush), Marc Wurgaft (Israel Affairs), Laurie Brandt (Cemetery), Trustees: Hilda Jaffe, Gran Kestenbaum, Marcia Paisner, Natalie Weiss, Hilda Weissman, Rita Zuccaro

Women's League President: Mlckee Lublang

Men's Club President: Jerome Jacobs

Executive Director: Debra Dretel Lawrence

Editor: Art Maher

June 28, 2009

A performance of Taiko Drumming, performed by the NY based group Soh Daiko.

September 2009

The Montclair Jewish Workshop began renting classroom space.

October 2009

Another Sukkah is destroyed by high winds.

April 11, 2010

During Yom HaShoah, the Men's Clubs formally dedicated the Holocaust and 9/11 Memorial.

2010-2011

Dean Gordon (President), Debbie Lawrence (VP Membership), Laurie Brandt (VP Education), Robin Seidon (Treasurer), Ellen Patterson (Secretary), Kevin Buckley (Past President), Rabbi Aaron Kriegel, Board of Trustees: Shana Miller (Education), Adam Radzik (Program), Laurie Brandt (House), Dean Gordon (Publicity), Irwin and Cookie Hoffer (Museum), Marcia Paisner (Kiddush), Laurie Brandt (Cemetery), Trustees: Hilda Jaffe, Marcia Paisner, Carol Cathey, Natalie Weiss, Hilda Weissman, Rita Zuccaro

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Men's Club President: Jerome Diamond

Editor: Debbie Lawrence

June 6, 2010

Annual Affair in honor of Kevin Buckley held at the Richfield Regency.
Annual Affair Committee: Sarah Kriegel and Laurie Brandt
Ad Journal: Debbie Lawrence and Dean Gordon

Summer 2010

Buildings, from the Essex County Hospital in Cedar Grove, begin to be torn down.

September 2010

Beth Ahm accepts donation of two sukkah's from the Shilling family and Adam Radzik.

November 13, 2010

Women's League hosts Tricky Tray fundraiser

February 2011

Congregation Beth Ahm of West Essex begins celebrating its 75th year!

June 12, 2011

75th Celebration at Richfield Regency, Verona.

Courtesy of the Lilyan Dretel Museum and Resource Center

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