



CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL
JACKSON, TN

OUR RABBIS

*indicates student-rabbi

1903-1905 **Louis Schreiber (zt"l)** was the congregation's first rabbi. After leaving our congregation, he was the rabbi at Beth Israel Congregation (Jackson, MS) for one year (1915). (According to Beth Israel's history on the ISJL website: Rabbi Schreiber was quite a polarizing figure, and by 1916 had been fired for grossly insulting and hurting the feelings of Beth Israel members. The congregation bought him a train ticket to Philadelphia to help him on his way.) No records have been found indicating that our congregation had a problem with Rabbi Schreiber.

1906? **Rabbi Alfred Godshaw (zt"l)**

1908?-1918 **Joseph Bogen (zt"l)** was loved by the congregation and was elected "rabbi for life." He was our rabbi from around 1908 to his death in 1918.

1919(?) ***Samuel J. Harris (zt"l)**

1920 ***Milton Ellis (zt"l)**

1921 ***Sheldon Blank (zt"l)** – A distinguished member of the faculty at Hebrew Union College-Cincinnati for more than 60 years.

1922 ***Walter E. Rothman (zt"l)**

- 1925(?)** ***Daniel L. Davis (zt"l)** – Director of the New York Federation of Reform Synagogues (1947-1972).
- 1926** ***B. Benedict Glazer (zt"l)** – Rabbi at Temple Beth El in Detroit, MI.
- 1927-1928** ***Samuel Hurwitz (zt"l)** – One of eight Jewish Chaplains who died in WWII. (Jewish Chaplains Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery)
- 1930** ***Jesse Ross (zt"l)** – Rabbi at Congregation Gates of Heaven in Schenectady, NY from 1931-1933.
- 1932** ***Alexander Kline (zt"l)**
- 1933-1934** **Alexander Kline (zt"l)** – Retired from Shaareth Israel in Lubbock, TX in 1980 after being there 20 years.
- 1937-1938** **Samson Levey (zt"l)** – Served the congregation twice (1937-1938 and 1947-1948). Rabbi Levy was on the faculty of Hebrew Union College-Los Angeles.
- 1939 - ?** **Maurice Feuer (zt"l)** – Our rabbi when the congregation moved into the new temple building at the corner of Campbell and Grand (our current building). Rabbi at Temple B'nai Israel in Amarillo, TX in 1960s and early 1970s.
- 1944-1945** ***Robert Rabb (zt"l)** – Rabbi at Suburban Temple in Wantagh, NY for 36 years.
- 1945-1946** ***Murray I. Rothman (zt"l)** – Rabbi at Temple Shalom in Newton, MA, for 35 years.
- 1946** ***M. Nathaniel Bension (zt"l)** – Director of Hillel University of Alabama.
- 1946** ***Lester Roubey (zt"l)** Rabbi at Temple B'nai Israel in Baton Rouge, LA, and Associate Professor of French, Italian and Biblical Hebrew at Louisiana State University.

- 1947 *Nathan E. Barasch (zt"l) – Chaplain in WWI and WWII.
- 1947-1948 Samson Levey (zt"l) – Professor – HUC Los Angeles.
- 1950-1951 *Daniel Kerman (zt"l) – Jewish Chaplain at Attica Prison during uprising in 1971.
- 1952-1954 *Herbert Rose (zt"l) – Rabbi at Congregation Har HaShem in Boulder, CO.
- 1955 *Samuel Karff – Rabbi Emeritus at Congregation Beth Israel in Houston, TX.
- 1956-1957 *Robert Zimmerman – Became first full-time rabbi at Temple Beth Am in Seattle, WA, in 1957.
- 1957-1958 *Sheldon Gordon (zt"l) – Died in Israel in 1970.
- 1958-1967 Ernst Appel (zt"l) – A retired rabbi who lived in Jackson and served the congregation full-time from 1958-1967.
- 1967-1968 *William Rudolph – Rabbi Emeritus at Congregation Beth El in Bethesda, MD.
- 1968-1969 *Michael Signer (zt"l) Professor of Jewish Thought and Culture at the University of Notre Dame. Met his wife (Betty Roseman of Union City, TN) while a student rabbi at our congregation.
- 1969-1970 *Leslie Freund – Adat Chaverim Congregation for Humanistic Judaism in Los Angeles, CA.
- 1970-1971 *Jay Heyman – Shalom Spiritual Resources (spiritual services for the unaffiliated) in Seattle, WA (Humanistic).
- 1971-1973 *Maynard Bell – Rabbi Emeritus at Temple Solel in Paradise Valley, AZ. Has a counseling practice in Scottsdale, AZ.
- 1973-1975 *Bradley Bleefeld – Rabbi at Temple Beth Hillel-Beth Abraham in Vineland, NJ.

- 1975-1976 *Mark Gross – Rabbi at Temple Beth Orr in Coral Springs, FL.
- 1976-1978 *James D. Cohn – Rabbi at Temple Israel in Charleston, WV.
- 1978-1980 *Susan Talve – Our 1st woman rabbi. Rabbi of Central Reform Congregation in St. Louis, MO.
- 1980-1981 *Arnold Stiebel – Retired – lives in Woodland Hills, CA.
- 1981-1982 *Ilene Melamed – Hospital Chaplain - Chicago area.
- 1982-1983 *Elias Lieberman – Rabbi at Falmouth Jewish Congregation in Falmouth, MA.
- 1983-1984 *Michael Datz – Rabbi at Temple B’rith Shalom in Springfield, IL.
- 1984-1985 *Daniel Fink – Rabbi at Congregation Ahavath Beth Israel in Boise, ID.
- 1985-1987 *Richard Rheins – Senior Rabbi at Temple Sinai in Denver, CO.
- 1987-1989 *Jeffrey Kamins – Senior Rabbi at Emanuel Synagogue in Sydney, Australia.
- 1989-1990 *Samuel Lobar - Director of Major Gifts – Atrium Medical Center Foundation in Middletown, OH.
- 1990-1992 *Greg Kanter – Rabbi at Temple Sinai in Delray Beach, FL.
- 1992-1993 *Deborah Kaiz (Deborah Kaiz Bravo) – Senior Rabbi at North Shore Synagogue in Syosset, NY.
- 1993-1994 *Aaron Sherman – Rabbi at Congregation Beth Israel in Florence, SC.

1994-1996 *Geoffrey Dennis – Rabbi at Congregation Kol Ami in Flower Mound, TX.

1997-1998 *Steven Ballaban – Chaplain – US Navy.

1998-1999 *Shlomo Wing – Rabbi at Congregation B’nai Abraham in Beloit, WI.

1999-2000 *Margaret J. Meyer (see below)

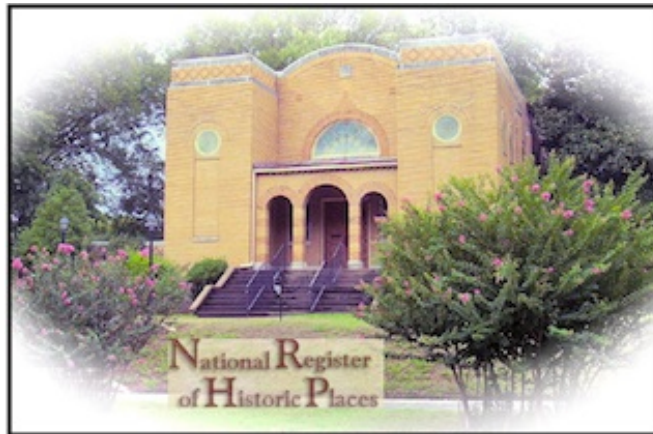
Since 2000, the congregation has been served by part-time clergy.

2000-2008 Margaret J. Meyer - President of the Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati, an interfaith social action organization.

2008-2012 Laura Schwartz Harari - Rabbi at Temple Rodef Shalom in Waco, TX.

2012-2014 Jordan Parr – Rabbi At Temple Beth El in Midland/Odessa, TX. Adjunct Professor University of North Texas.

2014-Current Rabbi-Cantor John Kaplan – Cantor Emeritus – Temple Israel, Memphis.



Congregation B'nai Israel
401 West Grand Street
PO Box 10906
Jackson, Tennessee 38308

Phone 731-427-6141

www.congregationbnai-israel.org

Email: bnai.israel.jackson@gmail.com