

You are cordially invited to the
Sinai Free Synagogue Glitz & Glitter Silver Jubilee
with a Silent Auction
Saturday evening, June 7, 2025 at 4:30



Honoring

Mort David z"l, Madelyn Davis, Larry Genser,
Harriet Kaplow, Barbara Korner and Duane Tananbaum

Recognizing

Barry Nechis for Distinguished Service.



Mount Vernon had two Reform Synagogues, Sinai Temple & Free Synagogue of Westchester. In the late 1990s, they decided to merge. Sinai Temple sold their building to a church; Free Synagogue sold its building and half of its property to Sunrise. Sinai Free Synagogue was built on the other half. SFS is celebrating our Silver Jubilee. We honor the leaders who brought us together. We also recognize our own Barry Nechis, for his continued diligence in overseeing our building and our security.



Joan and Mort joined Sinai Temple in 1967. Their sons Lawrence and Jerald became B'nai Mitzvah and were Confirmed there. Mort was Sinai Temple President when the merger negotiations began and then, was Chairman of the Board working with Larry to complete the merger. At Sinai Free Synagogue, Mort played a leading role on the Board, chaired the Cemetery Committee and always helped make SFS the wonderful, welcoming community it is today. Mort was delighted to see the results of his efforts.



In 1988, when the Pelham Jewish center no longer met our needs, we looked at area synagogues and immediately felt at home at the Free Synagogue. Our three children, Greg, Adam, and Beth, had their B'nai Mitzvot and Confirmations there. I became more and more involved in the community. The combination of Reform Judaism with traditional learning, made it a "home" we could love. When I became President, I was called and told it was tragic I would be the last. The rest is history.



Dr. Larry Genser, last President of Sinai Temple and first President of Sinai Free Synagogue has been on our Executive Board as Vice President, President, Chairman and Treasurer since 1995. After 34 years in private practice of Endodontics in Yonkers, he started a "second career" as a dental educator, Director of Endodontics at Montefiore Einstein and Program Director for second-year dental residency students. Larry and Anita are proud of their children, Greg & Jaclyn, grandson Jacob and Dr. Ilyse Genser.



Harriet and Howard Kaplow joined Free Synagogue of Westchester in 1973. Their son, Wesley, became a Bar Mitzvah, was confirmed, & married Amy Dresner, a Sinai Temple member, in 1989. As President, Harriet was dedicated to keeping a synagogue in Mount Vernon. She was instrumental in the merger, participated in the sale of land to Sunrise, worked with the mayor to smooth the way for construction and attended to details large and small. Harriet says it was challenging and stressful at the time. We are still here. It was well worth it!



I was Free Synagogue President when Rabbi was hired. Madelyn, Harriet and I worked together to create a successful merger and build a warm, welcoming community. For over 30 years I co-taught Beresheet Bunch, chaired the Dinner Dance and served as a Trustee. Our children, Matthew, Shelby, and Ari had their B'nai Mitzvot and confirmations at the Synagogue. We lived around the "korner" and synagogue was a major part of our lives.



Duane taught United States History at Lehman College, CUNY, for 33 years, and is the author of *Herbert H. Lehman: A Political Biography*. He and wife Joan are long-time members of Sinai Temple and Sinai Free Synagogue, where sons Rob and Willie celebrated their B'nai Mitzvot. Duane coordinates the synagogue's annual blood drive and co-leads our weekly Sacred Gathering discussion group on current events.



Barry is a retired fire captain, fire marshal, and paramedic instructor. His grandparents, Rudolph & Ann Friedman, and Benjamin & Sylvia Nechis were Free Synagogue founding members. His parents grew up and were married here. In 2000, Barry and Alexina reconnected with SFS, and daughter, Sydney, became Bat Mitzvah. Barry oversees the maintenance and security of our building. He helped to secure grants that have funded numerous building and security upgrades.

Honorary Committee

Ellen & Mark Barash

Mark Barres

Lisa Lieberman & Rabbi Morris Barzilai

Michael Irving Bernstein

Brenda & Jeffrey Bleustein

Deborah Bloom

Cindy & John Brockell

Marlene & Neil Calman

Pam Charney

Elizabeth Spiro & Tim Costello

Joan David

Madelyn & Michael Davis

Jennifer & David Fondiller

Arlene Freudenberger

Cynthia S. Einhorn & Dr. Martin Friedmutter

Anita & Larry Genser

Arlene & Cliff Gibbs

Jean & Morton Hertz

Muriel & Eugene Holland

Amy & Wesley Kaplow

Harriet Kaplow

Patricia Jeanett Kobetts

Barbara & Ira Korner

Linda & Walter Levine

Fran & Marvin Lifson

Maria Tapia & Leonard Lubarsky

Laura & Mark Mendley

Margie & Joel Miller

Renata & Jethro Miller

Eileen & Ronald Oleet

Sarah & Jonathan Proesel

Rabbi Max Maccoby Fund

Ann & Rod Rolett

Michael Schramm

Jennifer & Bill Schulman

Dana & Eric Stein

Rona & Bob Sterling

Elsa Escalera & Jon Trafimow

Claudia & Joel Wald

Myra & Marshall Watnick

Tania Wilk & Alan Weiss

Zeichner, Ellman & Kraus