



CONGREGATION
B'NAI ISRAEL
150TH ANNIVERSARY
GROWING OUR FUTURE

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The Growing History of Congregation B'nai Israel

Jews have been part of Galveston ever since the city's incorporation in 1839. When its Island lots were first sold, Joseph and Rosanna Osterman purchased land on the corner of Market and Tremont. Rosanna died tragically in a steamboat accident in 1866; yet her largess provided land for a cemetery, a religious school and a synagogue.

On 26 July 1868, Congregation B'nai Israel (CBI) was chartered. From its onset, CBI was a Reform congregation – the first in Texas – and eventually became a founding member of the Reform Movement in 1874. CBI maintains the prophetic mandate at the heart of its mission: “Do justice; love mercy; walk humbly with God.” (Micah 6:8)

This mandate has been fulfilled generation after generation thanks to the guidance of CBI rabbis, like Rabbi Henry Cohen (served 1888-1952). After helping the Island rebound from the 1900 Storm, Rabbi Cohen guided the settlement of over 10,000 Jewish immigrants through the Galveston Port and, in the 1920s, prevented the KKK from coming onto the Island.

Today, the CBI Family of Faith continues to grow, increasing by 50 family units since 2014 and quadrupling the size of its Religious School. As we grow, so does our outreach to the community, sharing with all the eternal values of our faith. Come be part of history: not just what has been made but what is still in the works!



1895 CBI Religious School Teachers with Rabbi Cohen

Congregation B'nai Israel's 150th Anniversary Campaign

The 150th Anniversary of Congregation B'nai Israel is an opportunity to reflect upon and be grateful for the progressive thinking and generous giving of our forebears, which resulted in an Endowment Fund and a sacred building meant to sustain CBI's future growth.

However, our congregational growth has surpassed both our financial growth and our building is showing its age, as we continue to fulfill our sacred mission of strengthening Jewish identities and Jewish values in the greater Galveston Bay area.

The Endowment Fund...

In order to meet our growing expenses with the interest earned from the Endowment Fund, **the goal of the 150th Anniversary Campaign is to raise 3.6 million dollars.** This is both a goal of necessity and spirituality, as 3.6 represents "double-*chai*" (a prayer for "extended life").

Congregation B'nai Israel would not have reached the heights it has without each subsequent generation's commitment to and investment in our community of faith. Now it's our turn. May we make both our ancestors as well as our descendants proud!

Building Renovations...

CBI's Rabbi Henry Cohen Memorial Temple was built in 1953-1954. Perhaps as a testimony to its architect, Holocaust survivor Tibor Beerman, the Temple has survived numerous storms that have battered the Island over the last 60+ years. Throughout the pummeling, it has endured as a beacon of hope to all humanity.

Age and wear – however – have begun to show, resulting in a congregational home that more shadows the light within than helps to promote it. Therefore, to restore the shimmer, the following areas are planned for renovation:

- Bathrooms
- Courtyard
- Hallways
- Library
- Classrooms
- Ceilings, Roof and Electrical Upgrades



Proposed Courtyard

150th Anniversary Year Festivities

One hundred and fifty years ago, a small group of Jews envisioned a home on the island port city of Galveston. Since that time, Congregation B'nai Israel has been a lighthouse for those seeking a safe harbor in this world. To mark these years of light and love, we'll commence the following:

Special Events...

At CBI, we “congregate to celebrate!” Truly, this congregational adage will achieve new meaning throughout our 150th Anniversary year of 2018 with special services to honor the various congregational groups who have contributed to CBI’s historic success (Past Presidents, Sisterhood, Brotherhood, Interfaith Coalitions, etc.), a year-long Mitzvah Project, a time capsule, a congregational art project, and more!

150th Anniversary Weekend...

Of highlight in the celebratory moments planned will be the **150th Anniversary Weekend: July 27-29, 2018**. Here is a schedule of the proposed events that weekend*:

- **Friday, July 27th: Special Erev Shabbat Service** with Union of Reform Judaism President and other dignitaries.
- **Saturday, July 28th: Honor our History Walk** from original Temple to current one with Galveston’s faith and civic leaders.
- **Saturday, July 28th: Renaming of Avenue O to the “Rabbi Henry Cohen Avenue;”** ceremony to occur at the end of the Walk.
- **Saturday, July 28th: CBI Benefit Concert with contemporary recording artist and film star MATISYAHU** (hits: “One Day,” “King Without a Crown,” and “Jerusalem”) at Grand 1894 Opera House in Galveston.



MATISYAHU

Jewish American musician blending Judaism with reggae, beat-boxing and rock.

* Schedule subject to change. For all the latest information and ways to help support these events, please go to www.cbigalveston.org or call 409.765.5796.

Where Growing Devotion Becomes Participation

At Congregation B'nai Israel, everyone in our intimate and inviting Family of Faith plays a part in our success. Our enriching programs are born from and run by congregants, who open their hearts and share their passions to the benefit of all. Here are CBI's current congregational stewards:

CBI Rabbis

Rabbi Marshal Klaven — Senior Rabbi
Rabbi Jimmy Kessler — Rabbi Emeritus

CBI Executive Board

Barbara Sasser — President
Sandy Richbook — 1st Vice-President
Dana Buschmann — 2nd Vice-President
Steve Hoffman — Secretary
Robert Goldhirsh — Treasure & Cemetery Chair
Stephen Rennick — Immediate Past President

CBI Board of Trustees

Sasha Clark	Saralyn Richard
Dr. Bob Rose	Dr. Mike Warren
Dr. Donna Weaver	Daniel Hart
Eliza Quigley	Steve Feldman
Marsha Rappaport	Dr. Lyuba Levine

CBI 150th Anniversary Team Captains

Services and Ceremonies – Jayson Levy
Cultural Programs – Zeeyon Walker
History and Education – Rabbi Jimmy Kessler
Mitzvah Project – Sara Salzman and Steve Hoffman
Building Renovations – Brent Masel
Public Relations and Regalia – M.J. Osgood

How to Help Grow CBI's Future

Congregation B'nai Israel's past as well as its future calls upon its present – YOU! – to ensure that (1) the history of this innovative Jewish community is not forgotten by (2) establishing the firm and fertile ground from which another 150 years of Galveston Jewish life can grow.

You are needed! Please reach deep into your heart. Reach deep into your soul. Reach deep into your pockets and make an offering that truly makes a difference. This is the time to do it. Let's make this the time that – 150 years from now, they'll say – that generation made a real difference!

Brick-by-brick, dollar-by-dollar, we will grow our CBI Family!

Here's how you can help:

- **Contribute Today!**
- **Pledge Today; Give Over Time!**
- **Leave a Legacy Gift to CBI in Your Will!**
- **Speak to a CBI Past President about Your Gift!**



CBI Past Presidents

- Neil Nathan: 1969-1972
- Irwin "Buddy" Herz: 1975-1978
- Dr. Michael Warren: 1985-1988
- Dr. Bob Rose: 1988-1989
- Dr. Marc Shabot: 1992-1995
- Dr. Brent Masel: 1995-1998
- B.J. Herz: 1998-2000
- Dr. Randall Goldblum: 2000-2002
- Robert Goldhirsh: 2002-2004
- Barbara Crews: 2006-2009
- Jayson Levy: 2009-2011
- Lana Croft: 2011-2013
- Stephen Rennick: 2013-2015

CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL

THE RABBI HENRY COHEN MEMORIAL TEMPLE



3008 AVENUE O, GALVESTON, TEXAS 77550

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CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL

The Rabbi Henry Cohen Memorial Temple

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