Beth Israel Synagogue 1918–2008

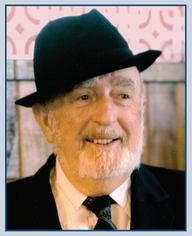
QUINCY, MASSACHUSETTS

Beth Israel Synagogue, established in 1918 at 33 Grafton St., Quincy, Massachusetts, was for decades the spiritual and communal home for a vibrant and diversified local Jewish population. During its peak years—the 1930s through the 1960s—Beth Israel boasted a five-day Hebrew school and a congregation of more than 200 households, often filling the shul to capacity.

Rabbi Jacob Mann, born and educated in Jerusalem, began leadership in Quincy in 1942. Mr. Harold Krasnoff, *z"l,* the synagogue's last president, who joined the congregation in 1964, recalled that at that time, "there was no place to put a chair" on Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur.

For decades, the daily morning and evening minyanim were the only ones available on the South Shore. But demographics changed, and a generation later the shul was struggling to maintain its daily services. Rabbi Mann, who loved the synagogue and the people who sustained it, finally retired in 2003 at the age of 93.

The intricately carved *Aron Kodesh* was created by master carver and builder Sam Katz. It now resides at Congregation Shearith Israel in New York City.



Rabbi Jacob Mann, *z"l,* served the community for more than 60 years and was loved and respected by his congregation. A strong supporter of Maimonides School, he was associated with the school's founder, Rabbi Dr. Joseph B. Soloveitchik, *zt"l,* in local rabbinical organizations as well as personally. Rabbi Mann established an endowed scholarship at Maimonides in the early 1990s. Beth Israel Synagogue and its rabbi were honored by the school in 1992 with the Pillar of Maimonides Award. Rabbi Mann's son, Rabbi Dr. Abraham M. Mann, is a member of the Class of 1955.

Interior of the Beth Israel Synagogue.

Backdrop: The Beth Israel building on Grafton Street in Quincy, built in 1918. *Photo by Donna Stanger.*

IN MEMORIAM

The following names were memorialized on plaques in the Beth Israel sanctuary.

Dorothy F. Abbey
Marion Abrams
Samuel Abrams
Bessie Adler
Morris Adler
Irving Allen
Marvin Allen
Paul Allen
Dr. Abraham H. Alter
M. Alter
Simon Alter
Ruth L. Appelbaum
Kenneth D. Arons
Sidney Arons
Harry Aronson
Annie R. Asnes
S. Asnes
Edward Asnes
Esther M. Asnes
Gertrude Asnes
Harold Asnes
Hyman Asnes
Jacob Asnes
Lena J. Asnes
Meyer W. Asnes
Anna Brava
Minnie Brenner
Julius Brooke
Abraham Brown
Bernard Frazer
Miriam Frazer
Edythe Frazer
Lawrence A. Dreyfus
Ella Dreyfus
Harry Dreyfus
Lawrence A. Dreyfus
Nathan Dushman
David M. Edelstein
Sidney G. Gates
Leister J. Gates
Abraham Gidanian
Abraham Gissner
Esther Gissner
Isaac Gissner
Benjamin M. Fiegar
Gertrude L. Goldman
William Fish
Ruth Fish
Rose Fleishman
Fannie Fraeger
Oscar Fraeger
Bernard Frazer
Edythe Frazer
Miriam Frazer
Lawrence A. Dreyfus
Ella Dreyfus
Harry Dreyfus
Lawrence A. Dreyfus
Nathan Dushman
Dora Gana
Isaac Gascovitch
Lena Gates
Sidney G. Gates
Abraham Gissner
Esther Gissner
Isaac Gissner
Abraham Gidanian
Isaac Gissner
Katie Gisberg
Isaac Gottlieb
Bessie Gottlieb
Harry Gottlieb
Louis Gottlieb
Louis Gottlieb
Louis