

Several years ago I was surprised and thrilled to hear that Martin Luther King Jr. spoke at Temple Isaiah. Then I heard that Indira Gandhi, Bobby Kennedy and Eleanor Roosevelt also spoke at Isaiah. I wondered why there weren't pictures of those events prominently displayed somewhere in the building. I began to ask what other momentous events have taken place at our temple.

Everyone told me to see Susan Needelman. Susan is a past president who knows all about our history because she has preserved it in an amazing archive in the lower levels of the temple. It starts in 1946 at a meeting in Culver City, where fourteen families met to discuss a new synagogue and religious school on the westside. It ends in 2018 with a congregation of over nine hundred families.

Going through this treasure trove of pictures, recordings and documents, I was struck by how ahead of the times our congregation has always been, by the continuity of our leadership and the passion of our membership. I decided that I had to make a film about our Temple's history so that we could share in the pride of our great institution. I hope you enjoy watching this as much as I did making it!

Allen Jay Zipper
Member since 2009