

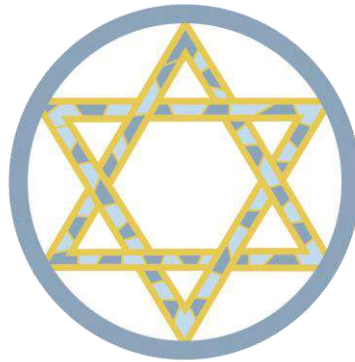


First Congregation Sons of Israel

THE OLDEST SYNAGOGUE IN THE NATION'S OLDEST CITY

Our Legacy, Preserved for Generations

First Congregation Sons of Israel Board of Trustees
Les Stern, President; Robert Gerson, Vice President; Joan Broudy, Secretary; Karen Stern, Treasurer;
Barry Broudy, Trustee; Reggie Daniels, Trustee; Judy Katz Farmer, Trustee; Rene Naughton, Trustee



Shalom,

In your hands, you are holding an exciting vision that celebrates and honors the oldest synagogue in the Nation's Oldest City. Our congregation, with its humble beginnings in the 1800's, built a **synagogue, a social hall, and a Talmud Torah (school)**. These early Jewish settlers to St. Augustine had a vision to provide a **place for Jewish worship, learning, and activities** for the members then, and to provide **an enduring legacy for future generations**. My wife Karen, and I, have been asked by descendants of those original families to continue that vision.

We cannot do this alone. We need your help.

I am asking you to consider making an investment to continue this legacy for our future generations. The interior and exterior of the synagogue are in need of a complete restoration. This document provides information about the congregation and various naming opportunities for benefactors and donor levels for those who can financially assist. Any and every amount will be gratefully appreciated.

The prospect of restoring the oldest synagogue in "The Nation's Oldest City," and the oldest continuously operating synagogue in Florida, is exciting and gratifying. As we begin, and continue through the Jewish New Year, I want to wish you, "Lashannah Tovah Tikatevu" ("May you be inscribed for a good year").

FOR THE CONGREGATION AND THE DESCENDANTS OF THE ORIGINAL FAMILIES:

Leslie E. Stern

Leslie "Les" Stern
President



Our Story

First Congregation Sons of Israel was organized in the late 19th century under the leadership of Jacob Tarlinsky. Services were originally held in a private home on Bridge Street.

Many of the congregation's original members were from Russia and Eastern Europe. They arrived in St. Augustine seeking freedom from religious persecution.

Among these early congregants were I. Eff, J.A. Lew, S. A. Snyder, David Gerstel, Morris Friedman, Moses Kukowsky (Hastings), Jacob Ross, Harry Ross, Max Eff, W. A. Pinkoson, N. Gamse, A. L. Kass, and D. Mehlman.

In 1908 the first charter with the State of Florida was drawn up to be in place for 99 years. The congregation is now on its **Second Charter**.

Rabbi Jacob Tarlinsky, and his wife, Dora, **dedicated the synagogue in 1923** with the completion and first service on March 30, 1924.

The synagogue was originally organized as "Orthodox" with the women and children seated separately in the balcony. First Congregation Sons of Israel is now a Conservative Egalitarian congregation.

Our congregation is also home to beautiful historic stained glass windows donated by the three daughters of Rabbi Jacob and Dora Tarlinsky (Sarah Bernstein, Florence Feiden, and Lena Lichter). Installed in the Sanctuary in 1958, the windows originally came from a 19th century synagogue in Atlanta, Georgia that was scheduled to be razed.

The Jewish community has been an **integral part of St. Augustine**. They have always actively participated in St. Augustine's commercial, social, civic, and religious life, and hope to for many generations.



**RIGHT | CONCEPTUAL RENDERING OF
ENTRY + COMMUNITY COURTYARD**





**RIGHT | CONCEPTUAL RENDERING OF
ENTRY + COMMUNITY COURTYARD**

Community Courtyard

This historic building is the only existing example of Mediterranean Baroque Architecture in the City of St. Augustine. Designed by a Flagler era architect, this brick and stucco structure will be restored to continue the legacy of the First Congregation Sons of Israel early congregants.

At the center of the courtyard is a proposed tile mosaic, which will incorporate the greens, blues, and golds that define the interior stained glass. The mosaic will even incorporate glass from the original windows.

Surrounding the courtyard, palms will frame the entry with other shrubs and flowering plants based in scripture as well as the St. Augustine climate and community. Here, the teachings and celebrations within the synagogue can extend out into our surrounding environment.

NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

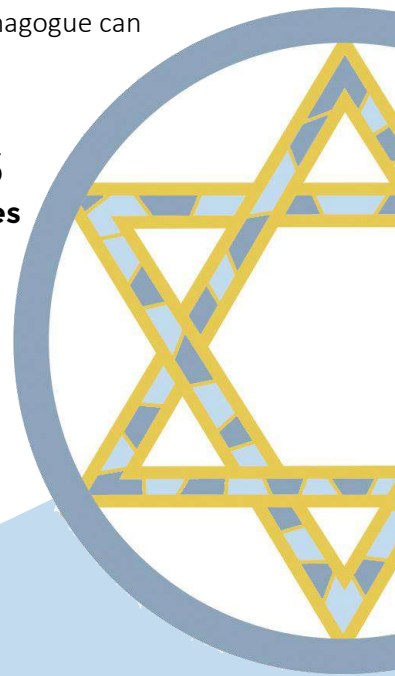
See enclosed sheet for current opportunities

Entry Plaza

Entry Threshold (*doors*)

Façade Restoration

Parking Lot Restoration



Schematic of Mosaic Tile Star of David. This beautiful mosaic will incorporate pieces of the original stained glass (top of page).

welcome.



Sanctuary

The Sanctuary houses the historic stained and leaded glass windows, and the Torah scrolls which were brought from Europe to St. Augustine by the early congregants. The heart of our congregation lies in the Sanctuary. Here, the culture of the congregation is maintained, preserved, and celebrated daily. Improvements seek to rehabilitate and restore the vitality of the space. The renovation will include preservation of the woodwork, the refurbishment of the stained glass windows, as well as several other projects to help maintain this symbol of the Jewish community.

NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

Sanctuary

Balcony

Sanctuary Threshold (*doors*)

Stained Glass Windows

Engraved Seat

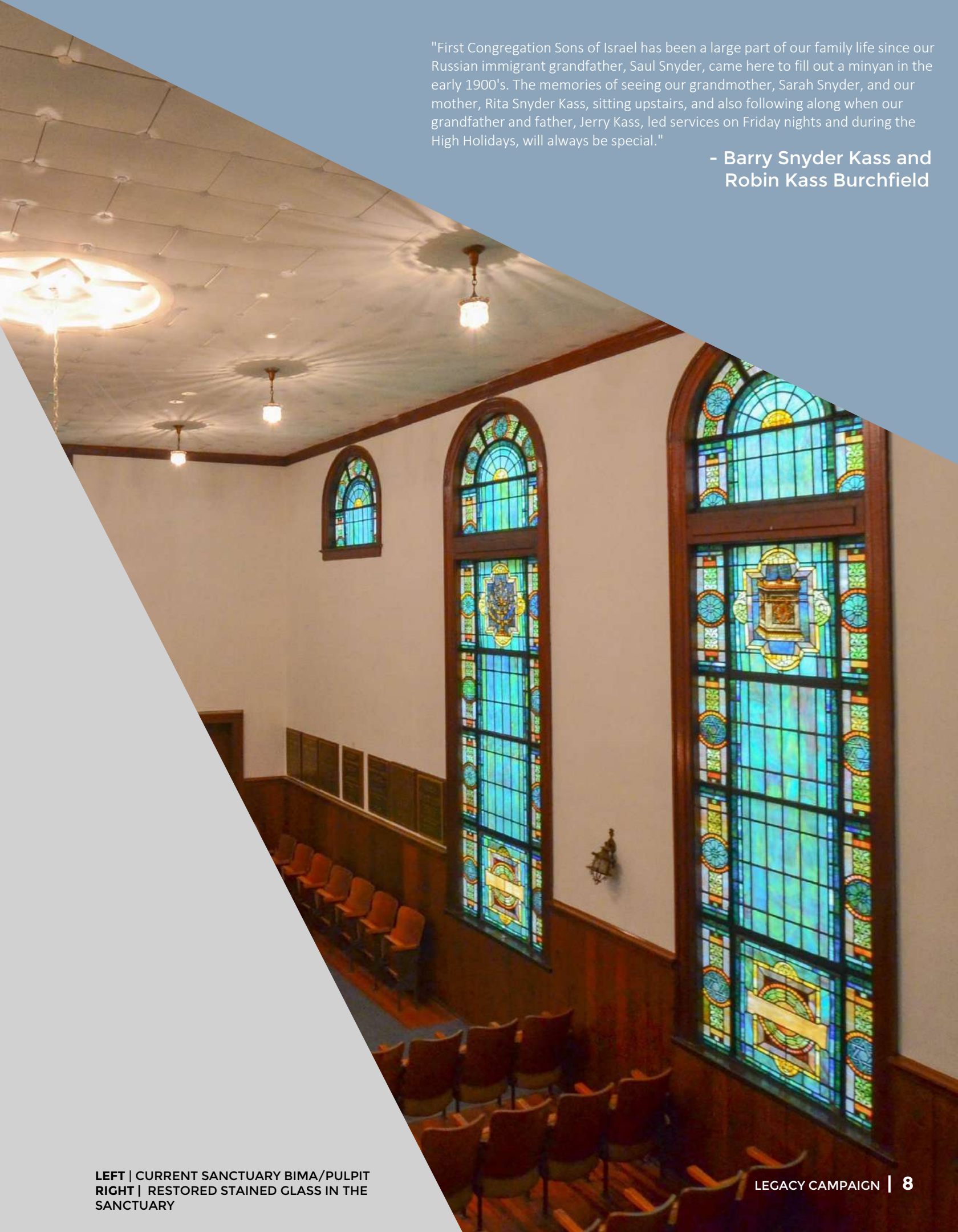
Rabbi's Study

Lounge

Worship.

"First Congregation Sons of Israel has been a large part of our family life since our Russian immigrant grandfather, Saul Snyder, came here to fill out a minyan in the early 1900's. The memories of seeing our grandmother, Sarah Snyder, and our mother, Rita Snyder Kass, sitting upstairs, and also following along when our grandfather and father, Jerry Kass, led services on Friday nights and during the High Holidays, will always be special."

- Barry Snyder Kass and
Robin Kass Burchfield



LEFT | CURRENT SANCTUARY BIMA/PULPIT
RIGHT | RESTORED STAINED GLASS IN THE
SANCTUARY

"From his own Bar Mitzvah to the wedding of his granddaughter, the synagogue has been a very special place for our father. I know that the improvements would be something he would delight in, so many more generations can have a special place to attend."

- Philip Bernstein's family, Mark Bernstein (son), Cheryl Berman (daughter), Gary Bernstein (son)



ABOVE | EVENT AT MAX JAFFE HALL CA. 1953
RIGHT | MAX JAFFEE HALL DEDICATION PLAQUE



Max Jaffe Hall

Built in 1928 and attached to the back of the Sanctuary, the Max Jaffe Hall was designed to serve as a social hall for First Congregation Sons of Israel. The hall included a kosher kitchen and bathrooms for the congregants. Max Jaffe was a long time lay leader of religious services and educator of the Hebrew school. He served dutifully up to and past his 100th year.

Our goal is to restore this communal area in order to provide adequate function for celebrations within our community. Here wedding receptions, birthdays, and other joyous celebrations could take place.

NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

Max Jaffe Hall Entrance

Gift Shop/Office Space

Benefactor Wall

Family Donation Package

Preservation Donors

Legacy Donors

gather.

“The Congregation Sons of Israel has always been the center of life for my family. When my grandmother’s family, the Rosses and the Wexlers, came from Europe in the early 1900s they eventually settled in a house across from the synagogue. Being orthodox Jews, this meant they could always walk to the synagogue even on Sabbath when needed. Growing up, the synagogue was always busy, either with services—the women upstairs and the men downstairs—or activities—religious plays, card games, or even carnivals.”

- Peter & Rene’
(Kaplan) Naughton

RIGHT | WEINSTEIN TALMUD TORAH PLAQUE



Weinstein Talmud

The Weinstein Talmud Torah was added to First Congregation Sons of Israel in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Donated by the Weinstein family, it was planned to be used as the Hebrew school. We would like to renovate the Weinstein Talmud Torah to include a school, functional kitchen, bathrooms, and library.

NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

Weinstein Talmud Torah Foyer

Kitchen Renovation

Library

Expansion Areas

learn.



Prayer Garden

Descendants of Rabbi Jacob Tarlinsky, the first rabbi of the Congregation, indicated a desire for a reflective, meditative green space as a vital part of the synagogue. When completed this space will be a fitting honor to the early congregants. The prayer garden creates a space for quiet contemplation.

Here, the teachings of the Torah come to life. Barley, olive, and pomegranate trees sway in the breeze as the soft crunching of gravel underfoot creates a serene and peaceful environment for all to experience in their own time. Several etched excerpts from the Pentateuch punctuate the area, giving visitors pause and completing the Prayer Garden.

NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

Prayer Garden

Entry Gateway

Prayer Bench

Olive Tree

Prayer Garden Brick

Prayer Garden Planter

reflect.

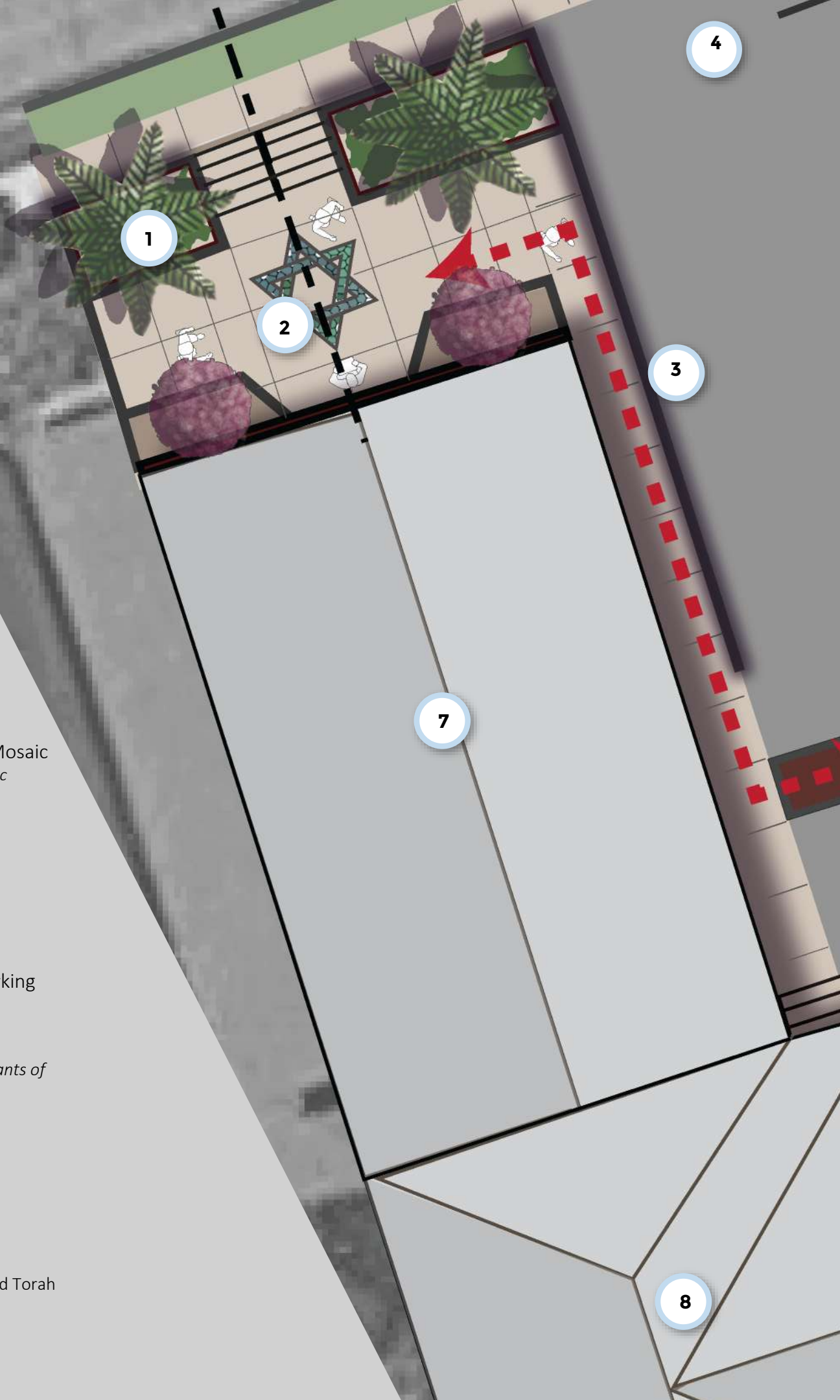
“The synagogue may have been founded by a handful of families as they came to the United States for religious freedom, but it eventually became the center and the rock of the many Jewish families that came after them.”

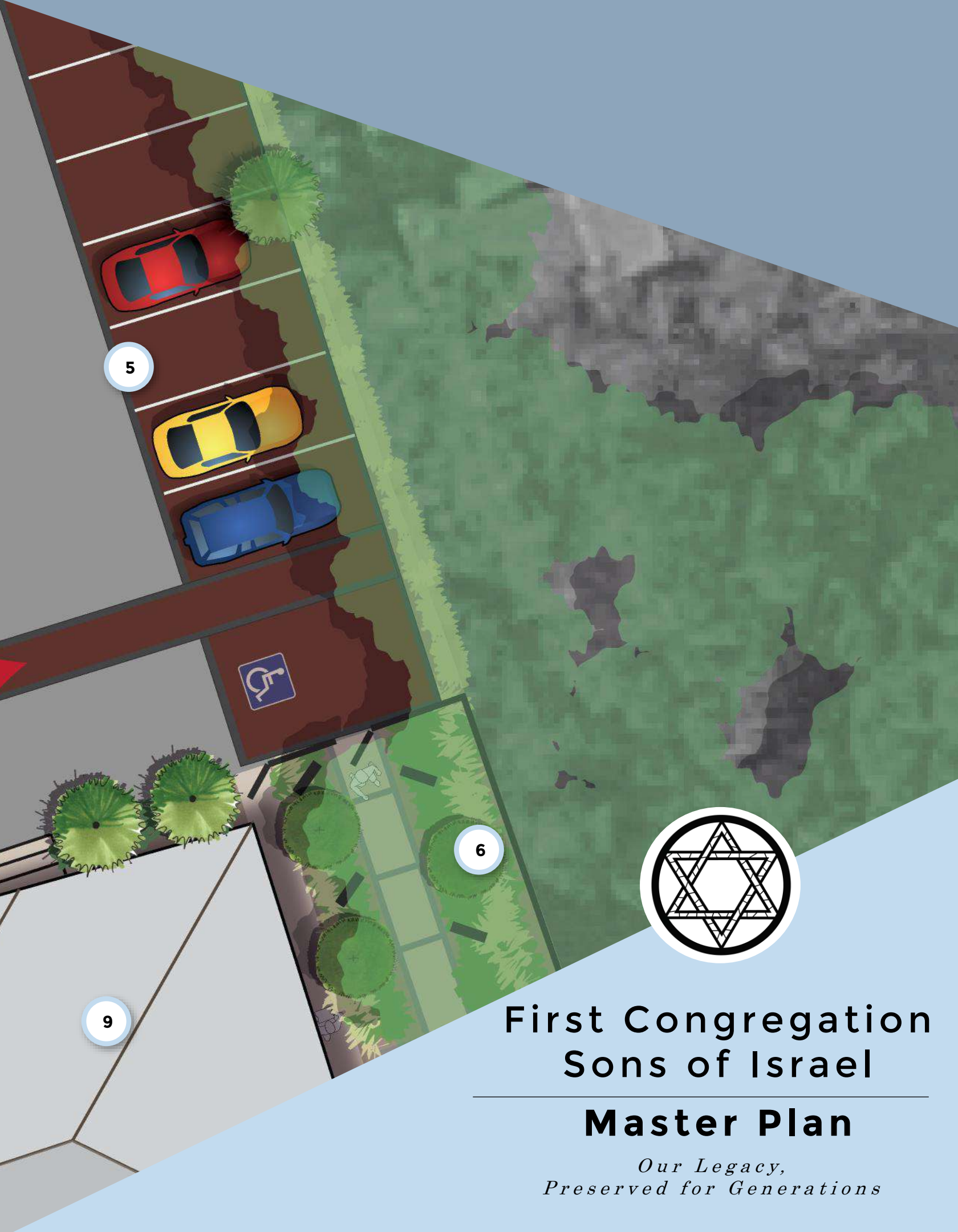
- Peter & Rene’
(Kaplan) Naughton



KEY

- 1** Palm Planters
- 2** Entry Plaza +
Star of David Mosaic
*Inspired by historic
stained glass*
- 3** ADA Ramp
- 4** Rolling Gate
- 5** Brick Paver Parking
- 6** Prayer Garden
*Celebration of plants of
Deuteronomy*
- 7** Sanctuary
- 8** Max Jaffe Hall
- 9** Weinstein Talmud Torah





First Congregation Sons of Israel

Master Plan

*Our Legacy,
Preserved for Generations*



Historic Timeline

- 1565 - St. Augustine Founded
- Late 1800s - Families Arrived
- 1908 - First Charter
- 1923 - Dedication of Synagogue
- 1958 - Stained Glass Windows Installed

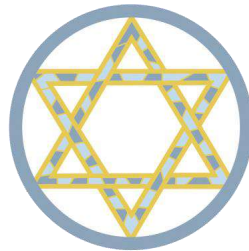
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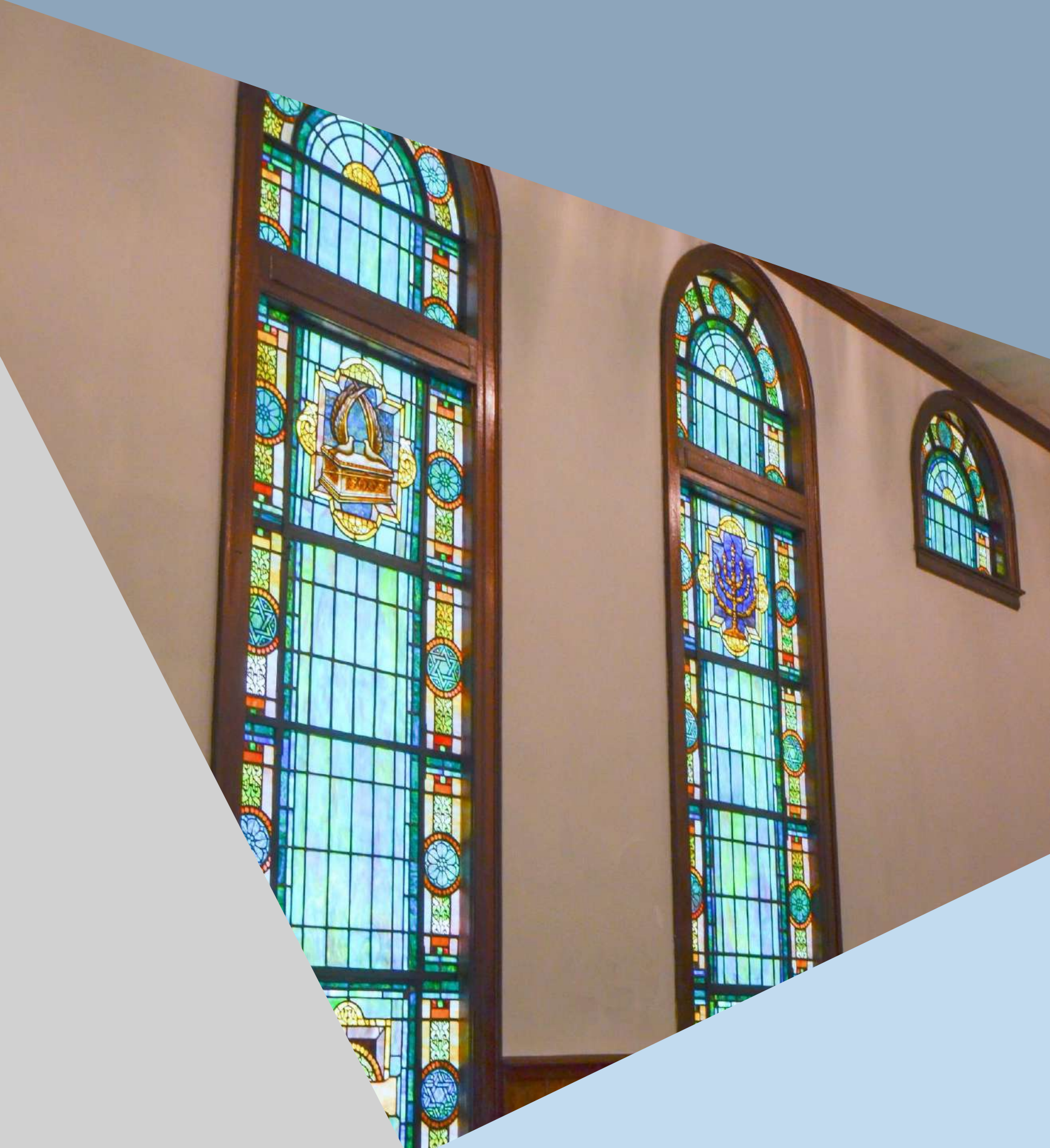
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 Marquis Latimer + Halback
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE · PLANNING

“Give generously to them and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the Lord your G-d will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to.”

- Deuteronomy 15:10





First Congregation Sons of Israel

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