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Gary Gans DMin
NJAMFT Southern Chapter Treasurer



DMin, a Southern Chapter member and who currently serves as the Treasurer of the Chapter Board. He has lived and worked in Evesham Township (Marlton) for 36 years, serving as the rabbi of Congregation Beth Tikvah. In August 2016, he was elevated to Rabbi Emeritus of the synagogue, as he is now semi-retired.

Gary has always been fascinated by the individual's personal interpretations of tradition and spirituality as influences on the nuclear family. He maintains a private practice focused on the challenges of the life cycle, particularly pre-marital counseling, supporting couples in their relationships, and enabling clients to grow from their experience of grief and loss. He explores with his clients the impact of their own family system as a determinant of their personal acceptance or confrontation with ethical and religious values.

Gary is married to Rabbi Dr. Ilene Schneider and they are the *second* longest married Rabbinic couple...in the world! They proudly have two sons, Natan (who is himself a new family therapist) and Ari. He and Ilene have lived for a number of years in Israel, where he continues to travel often. Ilene is a published author of a series of South Jersey oriented murder mysteries!

He was ordained by the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and received a Masters from Temple University. He also earned a Doctorate in family counseling at the Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary; indeed an unusual location for a committed Jew! He is a Clinical Member of the AAMFT, as well as a NJ Licensed Professional Counselor. This diverse education propels him to enjoy working with clients of various religious, cultural, and sexual orientations.

Genealogy and family history research invigorates him as his major hobby, and he often gives lectures on the local and national levels, as well as in Israel. Gans is also a licensed HAM radio operator, another unlikely goal for someone who keeps Kosher!

Gary, a member of the National Association of Jewish Chaplains, has recently become a sworn chaplain for the Evesham Township Police Department. He is trained to handle crisis situations and also provide follow-up counseling, group debriefings, and individual intervention for civilians, as well as Police and Fire personnel.

Lastly, Gary will be enjoying the flexibility of his semi-retirement as the rabbi of a cruise ship in the Caribbean over the Chanukah/Christmas holidays!