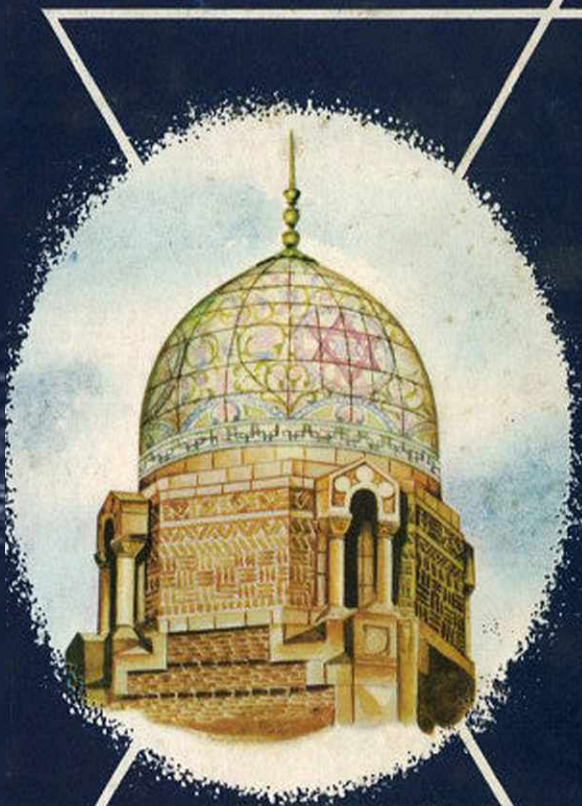
בית שלום

75 Beth Shalom Diamond Book



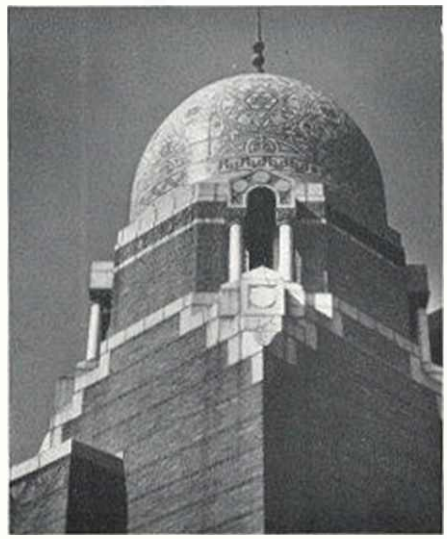
1878 · 1953

The Beth Shalom Synagogue

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY BOOK

5638 - 5713

1878 - 1953



KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

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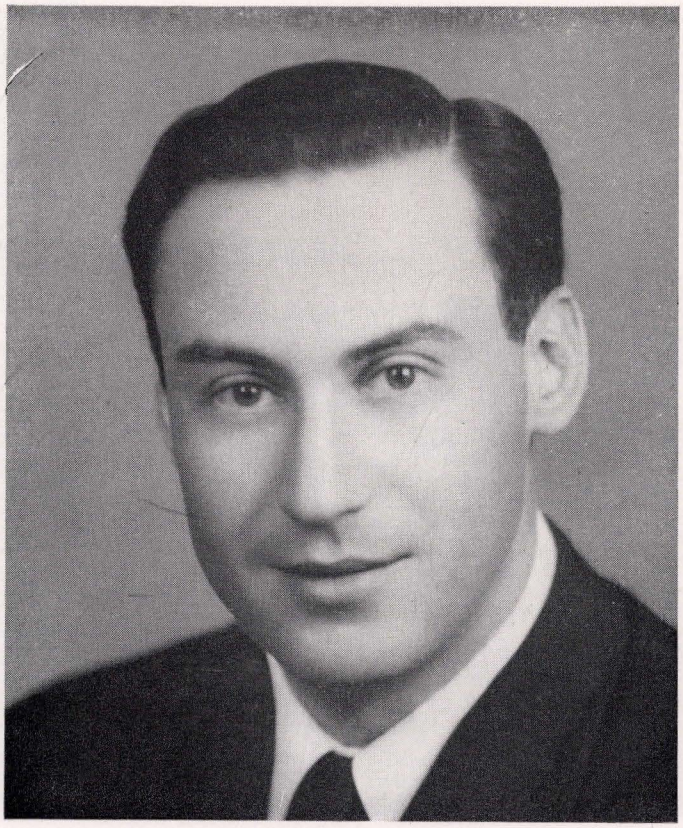
FRONT VIEW OF SYNAGOGUE BUILDING



Rabbi Gershon Hadas

Assumed Position

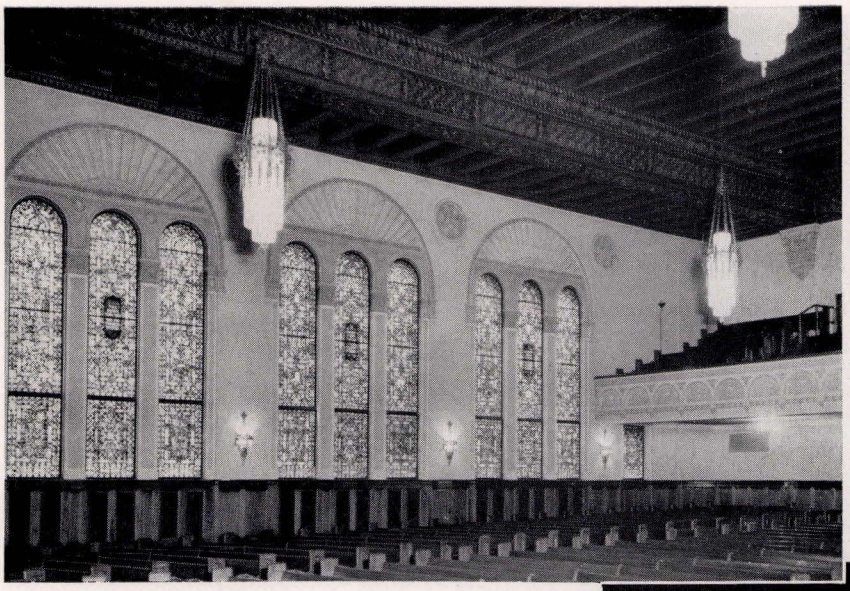
June 1929



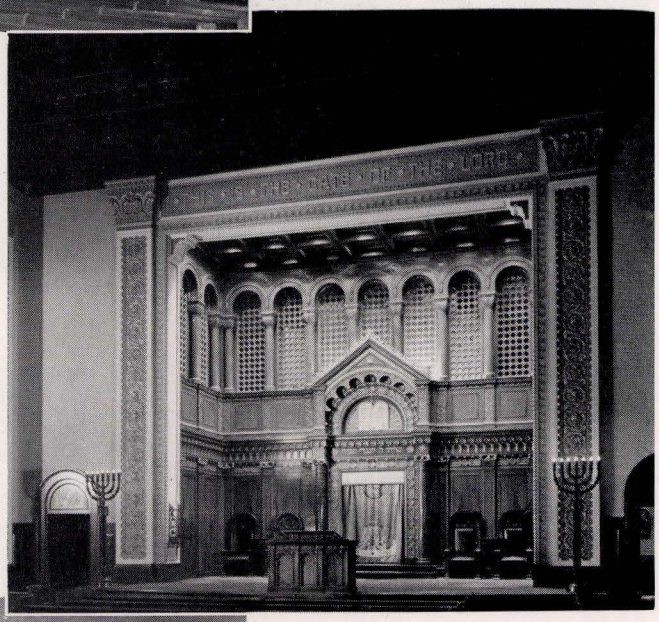
Rabbi Abraham J. Karp

Assumed Position

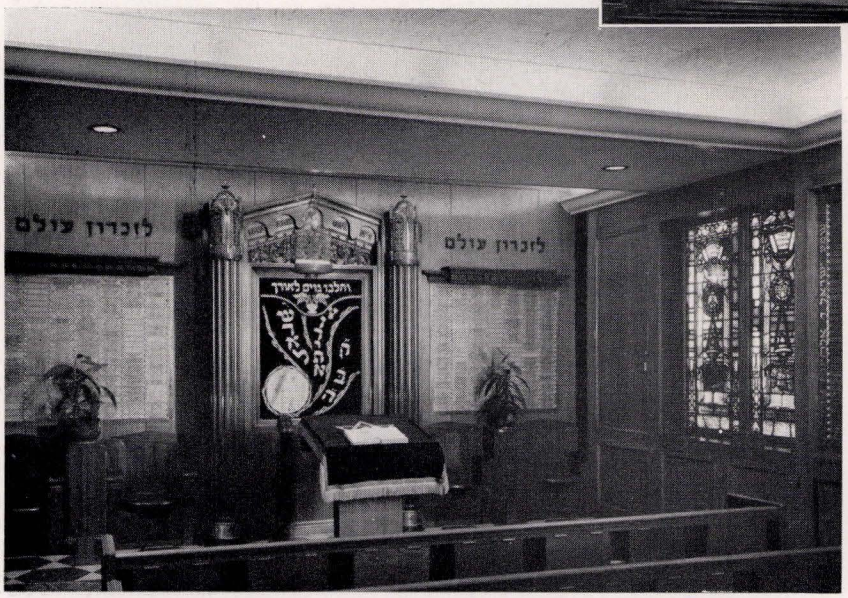
June 1951



MAIN SANCTUARY



SANCTUARY ARK

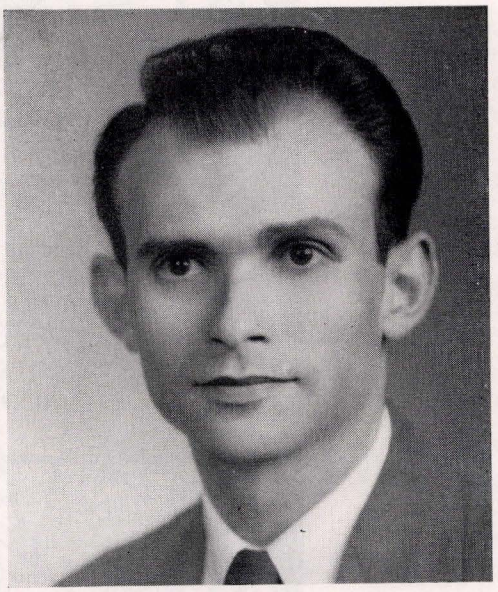


CHAPEL



JACOB ROTHBLATT

Cantor and Director of Music
Assumed His Duties
January 1934



RAFAEL ARBISSER

Principal, Synagogue Schools
Assumed His Duties
August 1951



ABRAHAM METH

Shamash
Assumed His Duties
April 1948



LEONARD M. GLASS

Executive Secretary
Assumed His Duties
May 1948







THREE OF THE SIX STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

Symbolizing Six Major Areas in Jewish Literature—in the Minda Library

School Building



Oron Kodesh
Junior Synagogue



I love to abide in Thy house
The place where Thy glory dwells



The Thomas Cohen Museum of Ceremonial Objects

Officers of the Congregation

ISAAC KATZ	Honorary President
HYMAN BRAND	Parnas
MILTON SILVERMAN	President
HERMAN GREENSTEIN	Vice-President
OSCAR E. ROSENBLOOM	Vice-President
ABE J. KAPLAN	Treasurer
HYMIE J. SOSLAND	Financial Sec'y
SI YUKON	Recording Sec'y



MILTON SILVERMAN



ISAAC KATZ



HYMAN BRAND



HERMAN GREENSTEIN



OSCAR E. ROSENBLOOM

May He who blessed our fathers bless those who serve the needs of this Synagogue, and who enter therein to worship.

May He also bless all those who faithfully devote themselves to the needs of the community and to the rebuilding of Eretz Yisroel.

May He preserve them in health, forgive their sins, prosper their labors and bestow blessings upon them and upon all mankind.



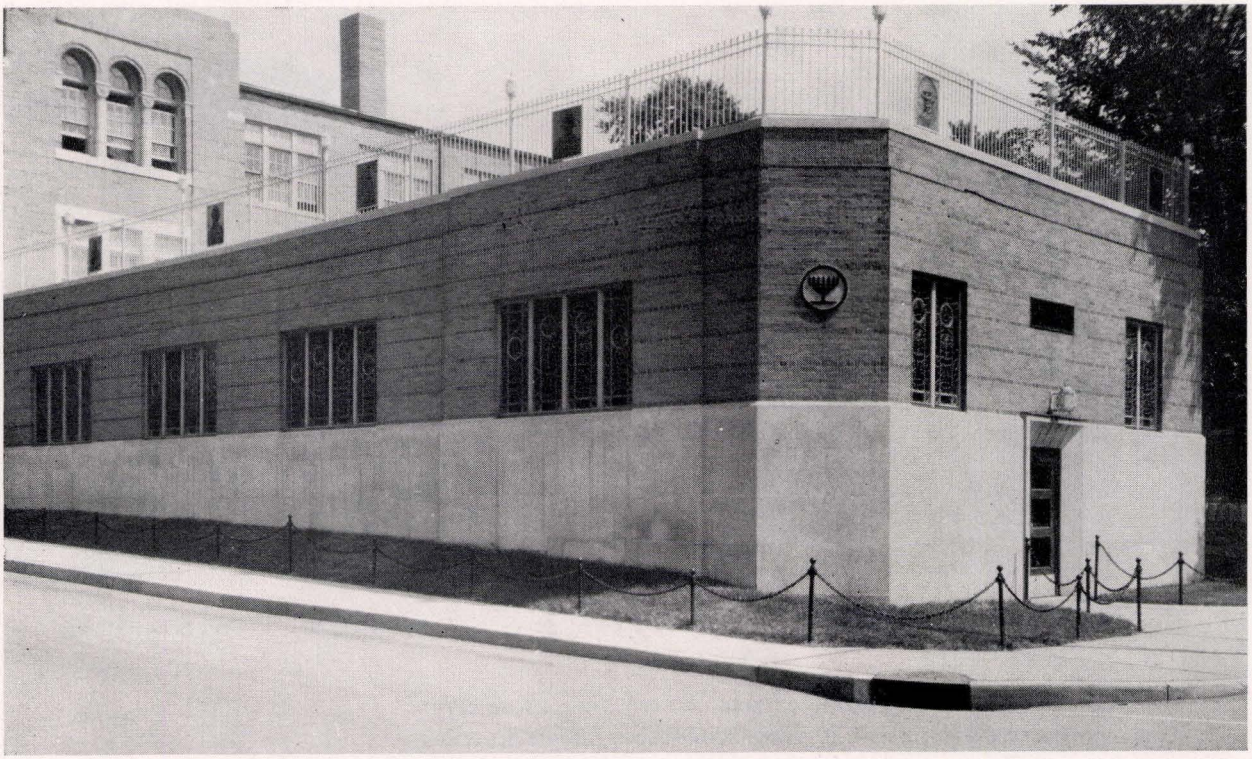
HYMIE J. SOSLAND



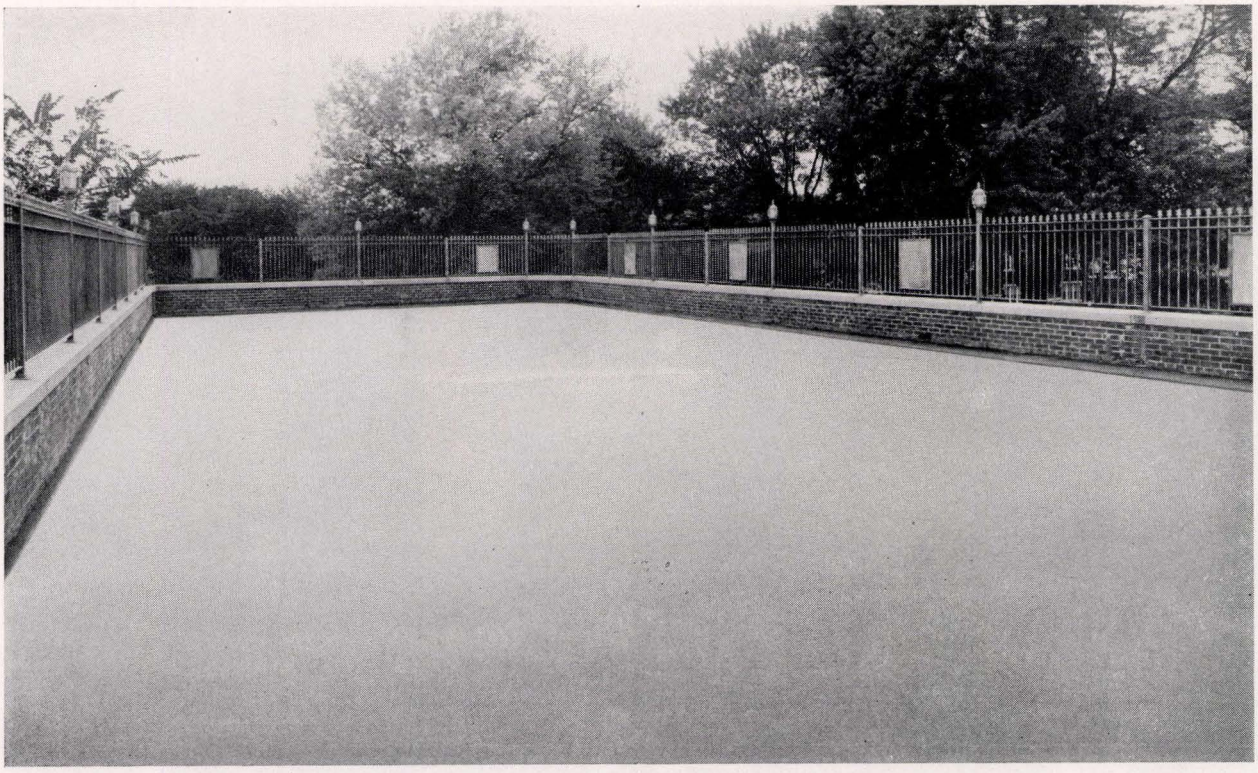
ABE J. KAPLAN



SI YUKON



School Building Annex



PLAY ROOF OVER SCHOOL BUILDING

Plaques are of Moses, Maimonides, Herzl, Weizmann, Washington and Lincoln.

The Board of Directors



Reading left to right

FIRST ROW: Isadore Saver, Max Keller, Meyer Weneck, Manny Copeland, Ethel Rich, Harry Puritz, Sol Forman, Jacob Rubin, Phil Wang, Gustave Plaut, Sam Goller, Dave Brockman, Joseph S. Rubin, and Hyman Brand.

SECOND ROW: Wolf Peltzman, Frank Wayne, A. L. Snyder, Thomas Rogovein, Hymie Sosland, Isadore Rich, Paul Shalet, Morris Ellis, David B. Levitch, Isadore Gale, Joe Greenbaum, Irvin Agron, Jack Kay, Jack Glazer, and Nate Baraban.

THIRD ROW: Paul Rosenberg, Rafael Arbisser, Morris Schlozman, Si Yukon, Harry B. Cohn, C. C. Cohen, Milton Silverman, Abe Kaplan, Herman Greenstein, Meyer Chaikin, Dan Brenner, Harry Brenner, Herbert Jacobson, J. Victor Schultz, and Oscar Rose.

Agron, Irvin
Asher, Seymour
Baraban, Nate
Brand, Hyman*
Brenner, Daniel
Brenner, Harry
Brockman, David
Brown, Jack
Byers, Paul
Cohen, C. C.
Cohen, I. J.*
Cohn, Harry B.*
Chaikin, Meyer
Copeland, Emanuel*
Cumonow, Louis
Eisemann, Karl
Ellis, Morris
Feingold, Harry C.
Fox, Mike
Gale, Isadore
Garfinkle, Morris
Glass, Leebert
Glatt, Meyer S.
Glazer, Jack
Gluck, Max
Goller, Samuel
Greenbaum, Joseph
Greenberg, Lionel
Greenberg, Samuel*
Greenstein, Herman*
Hershman, Herman*
Hipsh, Charles
Jacobson, Herbert
Kaplan, Abe J.*
Karosen, Leon
Katz, Isaac*
Kay, Jack
Keller, Max*
Levitch, David B.
Milens, Max
Margolin, Abe
Peltzman, Louis
Peltzman, R.*
Puritz, Harry*
Rich, Isadore*
Rogovein, Thomas
Rose, Oscar
Rosenbloom, Joe
Rosenbloom, Oscar*
Rubenstein, Leo*
Rubin, Joseph S.
Saver, Isadore
Schlozman, Morris
Schultz, J. Victor
Shalet, Paul
Shapiro, Herman*
Shlensky, Morris
Silberman, Sam
Silverman, Milton*
Small, John
Smith, Ed
Snyder, A. L.
Sosland, Hymie J.
Sosland, Ben*
Taxman, Eugene
Viner, J*
Wang, Phil
Wayne, Frank*
Weneck, Meyer
Yukon, Si

*Honorary Board Members



Stained Glass Windows
in the School Building



Thirty-six Windows
Decorate the School
Building. Each
Window Includes a
Medallion Symbolic of
a Book of the Bible

The Synagogue Schools



The School Staff

From left to right

FIRST ROW: Rose Evelyn Sporn, Marian Wedlan, Dorothea Jagoda, Sylvia Stone, Ida Rose Feingold, Frances Klein, Harvey Bodker, Helen Weinstein, and Joe Bess.

SECOND ROW: Edith Shapiro, Gertrude Greenberg, Anna Rheva Shanberg, Pauline Markel, Libby Sherman, Minnie Achtenberg, Irving Nasaw, and Sol Margolin.

THIRD ROW: Martha Levine, Rose Levine, Ida Mae Mour, Ruth Abramson, Emanuel Winston, Leo Feingold, Inge Silverman, Andy Reiz, Lester Peltzman, Morris Tulchinsky, Ruth Birnbaum, Clare Montauk, Shirley Silverman, Kenneth Simon, Dr. Edwin Friedson, Stanley Feit, Rafael Arbisser, and Hy Vile.



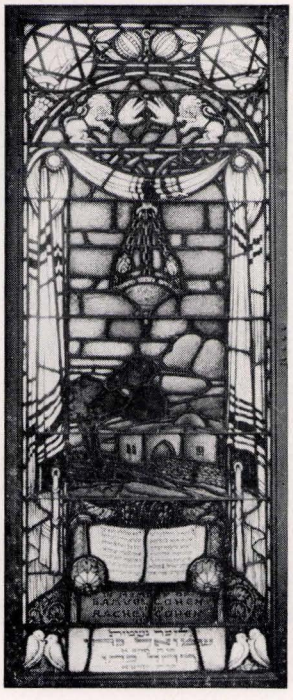
Stanley Feit Devorah Arbisser Miriam Binyamini Edith Shapiro



Stained Glass Windows
in Synagogue Chapel



Curtain for Ark
Used on Rosh Hashonah



The Sisterhood

OFFICERS

MRS. ISADORE RICH ..... President
MRS. HARRY LEVINE ..... Vice-President
MRS. WM. BUSHMAN ..... Vice-President
MRS. CARL LIPOFF ..... Vice-President
MRS. SI YUKON ..... Secretary
MRS. JULIUS LUBIN ..... Secretary
MRS. HERSHEL GOODMAN ..... Secretary
MRS. MILTON SILVERMAN ..... Treasurer
MRS. NORMAN YARMO ..... Auditor



THE SISTERHOOD BOARD

Mrs. David Barr
Mrs. Hyman Brand
Mrs. Sidney Cerier
Mrs. Meyer Chaikin
Mrs. Louis Cumonow
Mrs. Jack Glazer
Mrs. M. C. Gordon
Mrs. Milton Gordon
Mrs. S. L. Greenberg
Mrs. Lionel Greenberg
Mrs. Herman Greenstein
Mrs. Herman Hershman
Mrs. Al Hoffman
Mrs. Joseph Hoffman
Mrs. David Levitch
Mrs. David B. Levitch
Mrs. Abraham Malech
Mrs. Leonard Markel
Mrs. Abe Markus
Mrs. Ernest Montauk
Mrs. Louis Pack
Mrs. Harold Peck
Mrs. Ralph Passman
Mrs. Lester Peltzman
Mrs. Harry Puritz
Mrs. David Reichman
Mrs. Louis Remer
Mrs. Oscar Rosenbloom
Mrs. Roy Ruskin
Mrs. Milton Silverman
Mrs. Leonard Shopmaker
Mrs. J. L. Snyder
Mrs. Fanny Sofnas
Mrs. Kenneth Simon
Mrs. Nat Wedlan
Mrs. Norman Yarmo
Mrs. Abe Yeddis

HONORARY

Mrs. Charles Malcy
Mrs. Lee D. Seelig
Mrs. Lewis Hoffman
Mrs. Gershon Hadas
Mrs. William Jacobs
Mrs. Abraham J. Karp
Mrs. Isaac Katz
Mrs. I. Marder
Mrs. Nat Peltzman
Mrs. R. Peltzman
Mrs. Jacob Rothblatt
Mrs. H. Sandler
Mrs. Phil Small



The Minda Library

The most sacred possession of the Jew has ever been the Book. The rabbis, in profoundly beautiful and meaningful imagery, taught that the Torah existed before aught else came into being. The universe, said they, was created with the Torah as God's Blueprint.

It is impossible to exaggerate the unbounded reverence and deep affection of the Jew through the ages for books and learning. "The scholar," says the Talmud, "takes precedence over the king."



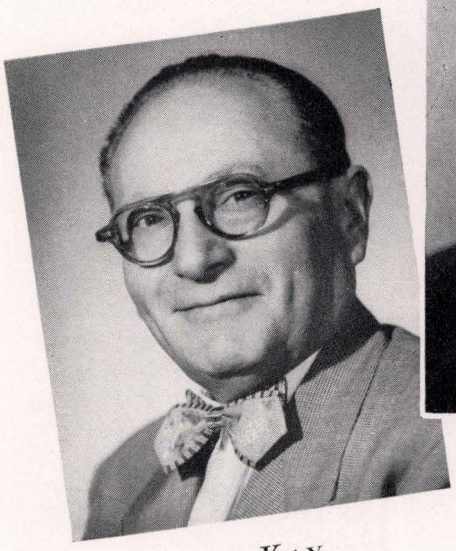
HYMAN MINDA

Every generation and every civilization
must choose between
the book and the sword.

The Library and its Stained Glass Windows are the Gift of the Children of Hyman and Rachel Minda



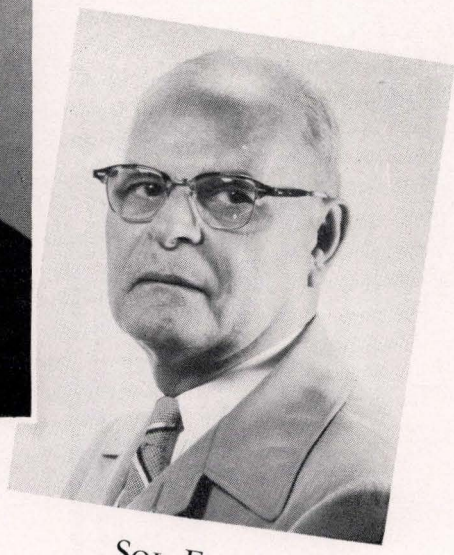
A Corner of the Library with Minnie Achtenberg, the Librarian, and Rabbi Hadas



JACK KAY



BENJAMIN SOSLAND

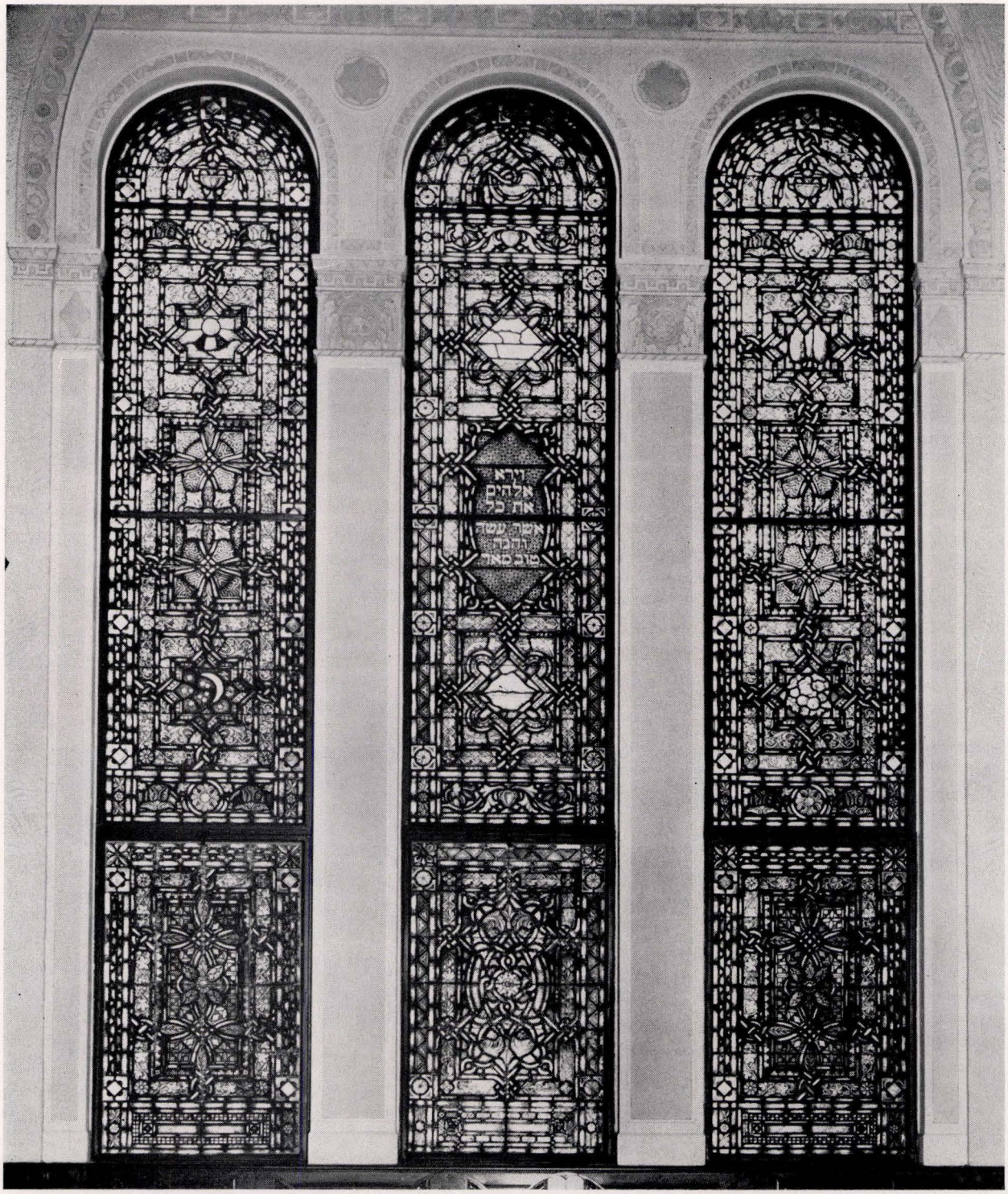


SOL FORMAN

The Breakfast Club



A Sunday Morning at Breakfast Following Shacharis Service

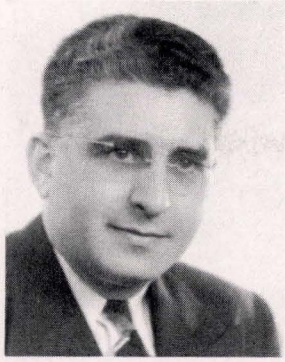


Three of the 26 Magnificent Stained Glass Windows in the Main Synagogue

The Men's Club



TOM ROGOVEIN



ABE J. KAPLAN



MORRIS SHLENSKY

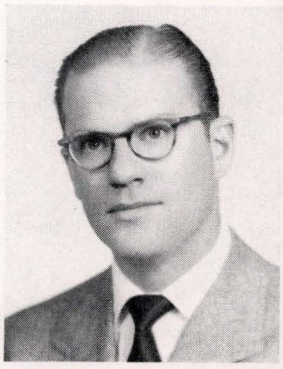


JACK BROWN

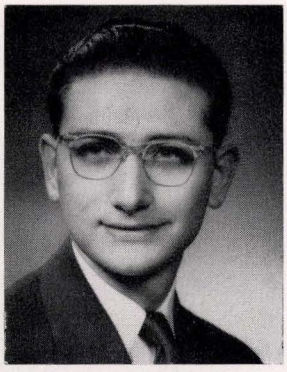




ARNOLD SHANBERG



SAM TILZER



ARTHUR BRAND



LIONEL GREENBERG



SEYMOUR ASHER

The Young Married League



Y. M. L. Officers

Left to right
SITTING ON FLOOR: Arnold Shanberg, Mrs. Myrl Cohen, Myrl Cohen.
SECOND ROW: Kenneth Simon, Mrs. Kenneth Simon, Mrs. Arnold Shanberg, Kenneth Bigus, Mrs. Kenneth Bigus, Mrs. Herb Wildman, Herb Wildman, Mrs. Ben Feigenbaum, Ben Feigenbaum, Mrs. Arthur Brand, Arthur Brand.

The Zimrah Orchestra



Organized and Directed by Mr. Meth Since 1949. This Group Has Become an Important Factor of Our Youth Program.

The Mount Carmel Cemetery



JOSEPH PELTZMAN
1858-1947



Alas for those who are gone,
and are no more to be found.



Mt. Carmel Cemetery had its beginnings in 1878 with the Bikur Cholim Cemetery. The original cemetery grounds purchased in 1885, were extended through the purchase of two additional tracts during the past two decades.

Mr. Joseph Peltzman served the needs of the cemetery for over sixty years. During the last 57 years of his life he was the Gabbai of the Chevra Kadisha.

Mt. Carmel is today a beautifully developed and carefully maintained Beth Olam for our beloved dead.

Our Committees



HERMAN SHAPIRO



ISADORE RICH



SAM D. GOLLER



SAMUEL SOSLAND

LIBRARY
Sam Sosland

Arthur Brand
Paul Shalet
Eugene Taxman
Sol Yarowsky

HOUSE AND BUILDING
H. B. Cohn

Nate Baraban
Herbert Jacobson
Jack Kay
Max Milens
Harry Oliver
Ben Press
Sam Silberman
Meyer Weneck

CEMETERY
Louis Peltzman

Wolf Peltzman

Emanuel Copeland
Joseph Greenbaum
Max Milens
Leo Rubenstein
Norman Yarmo
Si Yukon

SCHOOL
A. J. Kaplan
A. L. Snyder

Irvin Agron
Seymour Asher
Leebert Glass
Lionel Greenberg
Tom Rogovein
Oscar Rose
Morris Schlozman
Arnold Shanberg
Hy Vile
Frank Wayne

MEMORIALS
Sam Goller

Ben Bloustine
Hanan Eisen
Max Keller
David B. Levitch
Oscar Rosenbloom
Joseph Rubin
Isadore Saver

BENEVOLENCES
Isadore Rich

Seymour Asher
Emanuel Copeland
Frank Wayne

GABBAIM
Phil Wang

Hyman Brand
Karl Eisemann
Sol Forman
Meyer Glatt
Gustave Plaut
Harry Puritz
Oscar Rosenbloom
Jacob Rubin
Joseph S. Rubin
Ben Sutin

MEMBERSHIP
Leon Karosen

Harry Brenner
Dave Brockman
Jack Brown
Paul Byers
Meyer Chaikin
Ronald Goodman
Charles Hipsh
Julius Pachter
Paul Rosenberg

INSURANCE
Herman Shapiro

Thomas Rogovein
Ed Smith

FINANCE
Herman Greenstein
Herman Shapiro

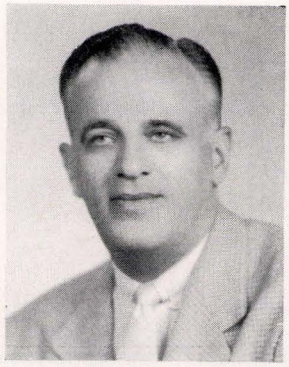
C. C. Cohen
Louis Cumonow
Harry Feingold
Mike Fox
Morris Garfinkel
Jack Glazer
Max Gluck
Samuel Greenberg
Herman Hershman
Abe Kaplan
Isaac Katz
Abe Margolin
Harry Puritz
Joseph Rosenbloom
Oscar Rosenbloom
J. Victor Schultz
John Small
Hymie Sosland

RITUAL
Ben Sosland

Hyman Brand
Daniel Brenner
Karl Eisemann
Morris Ellis
Dr. Louis Forman
Sol Forman
Isadore Gale
Meyer Glatt
Lionel Greenberg
Jack Kay
Oscar Rosenbloom
Ben Sutin
Hy Vile



LEON KAROSEN



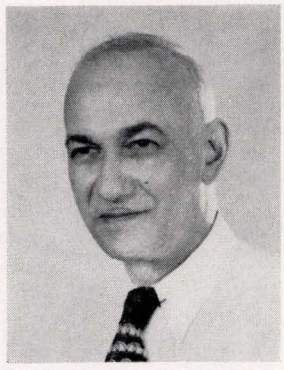
H. B. COHN



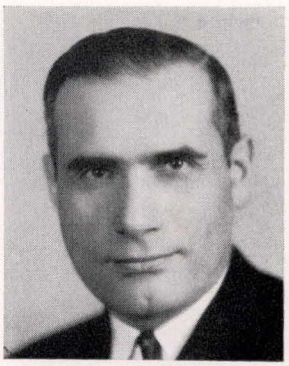
LOUIS PELTZMAN



PHIL WANG



A. L. SNYDER



HYMAN BRAND



MRS. CHARLES MALCY



BENJAMIN SOSLAND



MORRIS SHLENSKY

Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

1952 - 1953

SPECIAL EVENTS

A Service of Tribute to the Pioneer Members was held on October 24. The chairman was Ben Sosland.

A Service of Consecration honoring the past presidents of the Congregation was held November 21. The chairman was Herschel Goodman.

A Service of Consecration honoring the officers and members of the Board of Directors was held December 5. The chairman was Julius Shapiro.

The Annual College Home-Coming Service and Tribute to the First Confirmation Class in the history of the congregation was held December 26. Hy Vile was chairman.

A Service of Tribute to the Honorary Life Members of the Board (those who had served for ten or more successive years on the Board) was held January 23. The chairman was Daniel Brenner.

The Annual Brotherhood Service, with members of the Community Christian Church as guests, was held February 27.

A Service honoring Rabbi Hadas with the rabbi speaking on "A Tale Told By A Rabbi" was held March 14.

The Sabbath morning service, the Seudah Sh'lishis and the Sunday morning service and breakfast on March 14 and 15 were all dedicated to honoring Rabbi Hadas.

The most stirring event of the year was the dinner in recognition of the thirtieth anniversary of Rabbi Hadas' graduation from the Jewish Theological Seminary.

A great gathering of friends of the rabbi heard the Chancellor of the Seminary, Dr. Louis Finkelstein, and the Parnas of the congregation, Hyman Brand, presented the Seminary with an endowment for a permanent scholarship in the name of Rabbi Gershon Hadas. The chairman was Julius Karosen.

Sunday, April 19, Cantor Jacob Rothblatt and the Synagogue Choir, assisted by Mr. Ben Aronin of Chicago presented "The Pageant of Our Festivals."

A Service of Consecration for New Members was held April 24, 1953. Leon Karosen was the chairman.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

General Chairman	Milton Silverman
Planning	Hyman Brand
Celebrations	Julius Karosen
Anniversary Book	Morris Shlensky
Co-Chairmen—Harry Puritz, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Greenberg, Mrs. Isadore Rich, Mrs. Charles Malcy.	
Publicity	Ben Sosland



JULIUS KAROSEN



MRS. ISADORE RICH



HARRY PURITZ



MRS. SAMUEL GREENBERG



ANNIVERSARY DINNER, MARCH 15, 1953

Our First Seventy-five Years

1878-1953
5638-5713



With Pride
In Our Past

With Faith
In Our Future

מזמור לדוד ד" רעי לא אחסר
בנאות דשא ירביצני על מי
מנחות ינהלני נפשי ישובב ינחני
במעגלי צדק למען שמו גם כי
אלך בגיא צלמות לא אירא
רע כי אתה עמדי שבטך
ומשענתך המה ינחמני תערך
לפני שלחן נגד צרדי דשנת
בשמן ראשי כוסי רויה אך
טוב וחסד ירדפוני כל ימי חיי
ושבתי בבית ד" לאדך ימים

In the Beginning . . .



RABBI
BENJAMIN MAYEROVITZ

In 1954 the American Jewish Community will celebrate its Tercentenary. Three hundred years ago in September, 1654, twenty-three Jews arrived in New Amsterdam seeking haven and a home. No sooner had they stepped ashore than they learned that they were not wanted. Only through the pressure of influential members of the Jewish community in Holland were they permitted to remain. Having found asylum, the Jews of New Amsterdam began at once to fashion institutions essential for Jewish living.

They were without rights and without funds, but this did not dishearten them. Rights could be won by vigorous determination, and funds could be acquired by industry and diligence. The right to consecrate land for burial was secured and a cemetery was established. It was, however, many years before these founding fathers were to conduct a public service, and it was not until three-quarters of a century after their arrival that they were able to erect their own Synagogue.

Such were the early days of American Israel, the largest, most influential and affluent community in the history of our people. Had an objective observer studied the Jewish community of New Amsterdam and early New York, he would have given it little chance of survival. What such an observer would have overlooked is the Jewish "will to live," and the expression of that will through institutions which make for survival.



BARNEY STEVENS

The history of the Beth Shalom Congregation is remarkably similar to the story of American Israel. Our beginning was humble and fraught with the gravest difficulties. For many years facilities were woefully inadequate for religious gatherings as well as for the education of the children. The founding fathers of our congregation longed for a suitable Synagogue and a school for their children, but they had no financial means. An observer, unaware of the Jewish love for the Synagogue, would have termed the early congregation a desperately poor risk. Its days, it seemed, were numbered. But here again there rose up men of ability equal to the challenge. They established the foundations of Beth Shalom, a congregation now esteemed and admired not only in its own community but throughout the land. To these

men and women of vision, conviction and ability this history of our congregation is gratefully dedicated.



MILTON TERTE

These Were the Founders

The first Jewish settlers arrived in the town Westport Landing, a little less than a century ago. The first institution created by the early settlers was a cemetery. In 1864 the Hebrew Burial Association was founded, out of which evolved Congregation B'nai Jehudah, one of the greatest Reform congregations in the land. During the late seventies, the then increasing number of Orthodox Jews, formed their own burial societies. The men who organized and maintained a cemetery quickly turned their energies from concern for the ultimate disposition of the body to the life giving needs of the spirit. The cemetery quickly became an adjunct to the more vital activities of the Synagogue. Out of these burial societies grew the Orthodox congregations of Kansas City foremost of which, both in status and outlook, was the Keneseth-Israel Congregation which had its beginnings in the year 1878.

Thus we find that, by 1885, a well established institution, the "Bikur Cholim Cemetery," was owned by Keneseth Israel. In that year, however, the congregation had to give up its cemetery property because of a faulty land title. The interred were exhumed and reburied in the Mt. Carmel Cemetery. Keneseth Israel had as yet neither a permanent home nor a rabbi. Services were conducted wherever circumstances permitted, "above a blacksmith shop," in a hall over "Joe and Charlie's Saloon," in various lodge halls. It must have been a proud day for Kansas City's Orthodox community, when, in 1893, it was finally able to invite a rabbi. With the cooperation of the two other traditional congregations, "Etz-Chaim" and "Gomlai-Chesed," Rabbi Benjamin Brachiah Mayerovitz was invited to the position of "Rabbi of the Orthodox Jewish Congregations." A native of Courland, Rabbi Mayerovitz had studied in Kovno under the renowned Rabbi Yitzhak Elchanan Spektor. Rabbi Mayerovitz served the Kansas City community until 1898, when he accepted the call of Congregation Sheerith Yisroel in Dallas, Texas.



FRANK JOSEPHSON

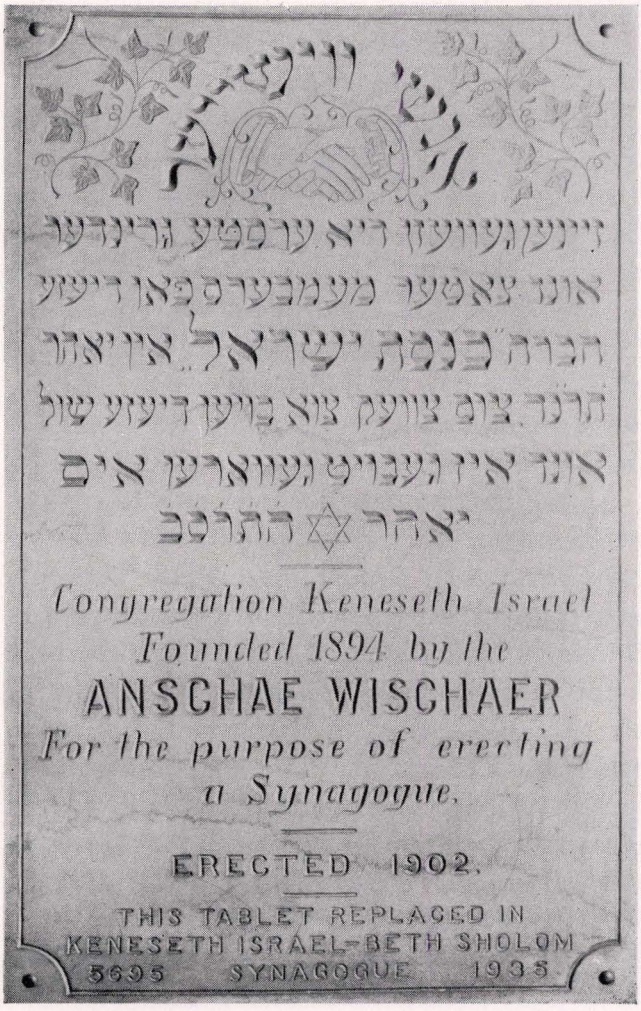
While in Kansas City Rabbi Mayerovitz published a thoughtful and scholarly commentary on the "Ethics of the Fathers." It is interesting to note that the seeds of Conservative Judaism were sown in our congregation by its first rabbi. A meticulously observant Jew, Rabbi Mayerovitz had a breadth of outlook which marks him as a forerunner of Conservative Judaism. In the introduction to his work he writes: "I endeavored to hew a middle path for my co-religionists . . . to unite the

spirit and intent of true enlightenment with that of true religion. . . This work of mine, . . . will, I hope, enable the youth of the present and future generations in this country, . . . to distinguish between true religion and false, belief and unbelief, orthodoxy and reform, to comprehend the teachings of our Torah and our sages, and to learn that, far from being opposed to modern culture, our religion goes hand in hand with it . . ." The status of Jewish education in our community can be imagined from his plaint that "our sacred tongue is shamefully neglected and even ridiculed."



KENESETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE
At 15th and Locust

In the first years of the last decade of the nineteenth century, the congregation had become a permanent, vital and growing institution. It was therefore decided to apply for a state charter which was granted on August 2, 1894. The men whose names appear on this historic document will forever be honored as the "pioneers of the congregation." We record their names with gratitude for what they were and what they did:



B. Stevens, president; B. Dantzig, vice-president; A. Rubin, secretary; William Kort, treasurer; A. Epstein, J. Epstein, Som Rozovsky, John Alisky, J. Rubin, Z. Moscovitz, Z. Rubin, H. Seegel, H. Coplin, M. Gershonovitz, P. Shanberg, E. Eichenberg, H. Aleizke, Sam H. Finkelstein, L. Dantzig, A. Silverman, L. Alizkei, S. Cohn, A. Elisky, S. Aslizky, H. Epstein, I. Fishman, B. Eichenwald, Sam Gersharovit, Joe Peltzman, H. Hoffman, D. Smolinsky, A. Assofskey, Phil Levine, H. Eichenberg, Simon Eichenberg, A. Bertman, D. Peltzman, J. Fleshman, M. Finkelstein, I. Greenberg, P. Greenberg. A marble tablet now in our present Synagogue building states that Congregation Keneseth Israel was founded by the "Anshae Wischaer for the purpose of erecting a Synagogue." The Anshae Wischaer was a "landsmannschaft" composed of immigrants from the Polish town of Wischae.

The Realization of a Dream

Men and women began to labor for the privilege of worshipping in their own Synagogue building. The membership was small in numbers, largely poor immigrants striving for adjustment in a new world. Most of them were tailors, bakers, peddlers, petty shop keepers, and laborers struggling to maintain their families. In the darkest hours and most difficult days they were impelled by the conviction that a Synagogue is a basic necessity, that "more than bread is needed for true living."



RABBI MAX LIEBERMAN

The great happiness of a dream fulfilled welled up in the hearts of the ninety families of Keneseth Israel when on April 20, 1902, they read in their morning paper that, "For the first time in the history of Kansas City the full orthodox Jewish ritual will be exemplified at the laying of the corner stone of the handsome new Synagogue of the Congregation Keneseth Israel, 1425 Locust St. . . . The new temple is to be a very striking structure in the Spanish Moorish style. . . . It will have a capacity of 1,500 and it will have one feature found in no other church in Missouri—its galleries will be supported without the use of a single column. . . . In the basement of the temple will be rooms for a Talmud Torah. The cost of the building will be about $20,000."

"So many came" to the Dedication Exercises that "an overflow took up station across the street, on the lawns." The congregation's president, Mr. Abe Denebeim, presided and spoke of the history of Keneseth Israel from its early beginnings to the inception and building of its Synagogue. The "oration of the afternoon was delivered by the mayor of Kansas City, James A. Reed, who 'made a splendid address, taking the wonderful history of Judaism for his text.'" Others participating in the ceremonies were Rabbi Harry H. Mayer of Temple B'nai Jehudah; Leon Block, G. B. Silverman, B. S. Schwartz, D. L. Stark, W. J. Berkowitz, and Louis Dworkowitz.



ABE DENEBEIM

The officers of the congregation were: A. Denebeim, president; A. L. Askinas, vice-president; Louis Levinson, treasurer; R. Cohen, secretary. Abe Denebeim, a man of strong convictions and great ability, was chiefly responsible for this important milestone in the life of our congregation. With loyalty to Jewish tradition he saw the need for making Judaism aesthetically appealing and intellectually acceptable to a generation of Jews growing up in twentieth century America. Under his leadership the congregation assumed greater coherence and gradually moved toward Conservative patterns in worship. A Sunday School was organized, but "was given up after a year's trial" because of the lack of trained leadership.

In 1904 Rabbi Max Lieberman was called from Bal-



RABBI
ISIDORE KOPLOWITZ

timore to serve the congregation. Possessed of many talents and great energy he served the congregation as rabbi and cantor and conducted the Hebrew school for boys. Under his leadership the congregation grew, and by 1908 numbered one hundred and ten families. The officers of the congregation then were: N. Fishman, president; B. Stevens, vice-president; G. Gershonowitz, secretary; and R. Peltzman, treasurer. Finances were a continuous problem. Dues in those years were five dollars a year, paid in weekly installments.

The beginnings of the Orthodox-Conservative controversy which later led to a division of the congregation can already be discerned in this decade. Religious instruction for girls, sermons in English, a more dignified and meaningful service and mixed pews were some of the problems that confronted the leadership of the congregation. The line between traditional and liberal factions was being drawn, and their leaders contended for control of the congregation. They were all men deeply devoted to Judaism and their differences were a "machlokes l'shem shomayim," differences stemming out of this love of Judaism.

A living tradition must be relevant to life; life to be rich and meaningful must be shaped by tradition. The problem is where to draw the line. Just as democracy must continually harmonize the individual's freedom with the public good, so Conservative Judaism is a continuous process to harmonize tradition and life. The problems faced by this emerging Conservative congregation were similar in nature to the problems that inevitably confront all democratic institutions whether they be religious bodies or political states.

In 1908 the congregation called to its pulpit Rabbi Isidore Koplowitz who possessed not only deep Jewish learning but a wide knowledge of world literature and philosophy. Translator of a number of works from the German, he is the author of "The Mosheeach or Messiah" and "Almoveth or Immortality of the Soul" published in Kansas City in 1909. Reflected in these volumes is a keen mind and a scholar at home in science, literature and philosophy. The congregation's first women's organization, the Ladies' Guild, was organized during his tenure, with Mrs. Koplowitz serving as president.



RABBI
SAMUEL M. COHEN

Toward Conservative Judaism

The need for spiritual leadership of a new order was growing ever more pressing. The Jewish Theological Seminary in New York was training rabbis who were completely at home in American life as well as in the traditions of Judaism. The congregation realized that only such American trained



LEO H. FELD

rabbis could provide the spiritual leadership needed not only for the youth but for their parents who were also rapidly becoming integrated into American life. It was therefore natural for the congregation, upon the resignation of Rabbi Koplowitz, to turn to the Seminary for a spiritual leader.

The Seminary was then just beginning to attain the stature of a national institution, and the number of its graduates was wholly inadequate to meet the demands of the rapidly growing American Jewish community. The Seminary fortunately recommended a rabbi who possessed to an astonishing degree, the attitudes, background and training for dealing with just such problems in adjustment presented by Keneseth Israel during the second decade of this century. He was Rabbi Samuel Cohen, who served from 1912 to 1916.

Great was the jubilation of the congregation as they welcomed Rabbi Cohen. Concerned as they were for their children, they felt that now adequate spiritual training would be available for them. In this they were not disappointed. Through Rabbi Cohen's efforts a Sunday School and the first modern Hebrew school in the history of Kansas City were organized. They began functioning in November, 1912, with Saul Kleiman as principal. Only four months later, in March, a playlet in Hebrew was presented by the pupils at a Purim Festival. The Sunday School met at the Synagogue building and the Kansas City Hebrew School, as it was then called, was located in a rented house on Holmes near Seventeenth Street. A Junior Synagogue, the first of its kind in the United States, was organized. This marked one of the earliest beginnings of the Conservative youth movement in the country. Rabbi Cohen placed great emphasis on youth and labored with marked success to bring young people to the Synagogue and to bring the Synagogue to them.

Writing in 1914 Rabbi Cohen paints a rather gloomy picture of "Jewry in the

KENESETH ISRAEL SCHOOL
GRADUATES—1914

FRONT ROW (left to right) : Fannie Tenenbaum, Annie Levine, Rabbi Samuel M. Cohen, Rose Louis, Saul Kleiman, principal.

MIDDLE ROW (left to right) : Bessie Marks, Marie Weinberger, Leo Rubenstein, Rebekah Tenenbaum, Manuel Shure, Mollie Cohen.

TOP ROW (left to right) : Jenette Wolfberg, Louis Hoffman, Wolf Cohen, ------ Hoffman, Meyer Rich.



West." He finds lack of knowledge, lack of observance and a lack of institutions that can deal with the problem. Yet he is optimistic about the future for he finds a "real warmth . . . Jewish ardor" and that "under-currents of the Jewish spirit still flow deep." He looks to the day when "Western Jewry, breathing a purer and freer air, will go from strength to strength, flourishing and developing until it shall become spiritually what is now only geographically, the center of Jewish life in this country."



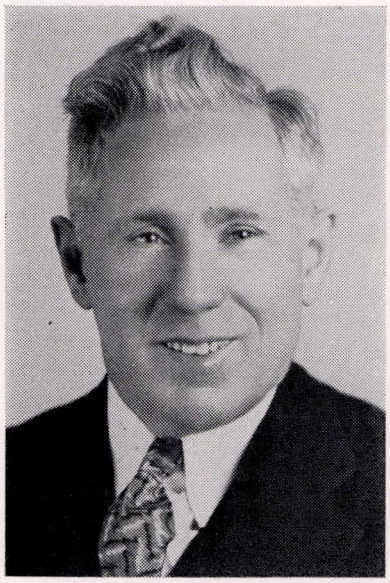
RABBI HERMAN M. COHEN

The men not yet mentioned who led Keneseth-Israel as presidents during this period of growth in membership, activities, and influence were: Alex A. Smith, Milton Terte, Frank Josephson, L. J. Cohen, Samuel Zacharias, N. Fishman, A. D. Askinas, and M. Daniels. They were, one and all, men of courage, devoted Jews who shared the optimistic vision of Rabbi Cohen and who set out to make a living reality of an exalted dream.

In 1913 the United Synagogue of America, the national organization of Conservative congregations was organized and the influence of Conservative Judaism spread over the entire country. Rabbi Cohen, who later headed the United Synagogue of America, directed our congregation to the Conservative movement and was one of its staunchest leaders for many years. The desire for change which had been latent now found a spokesman and men and women who were determined to bring that change about.



FIRST CONFIRMATION CLASS OF BETH SHOLOM 1922



ED S. MICHELSON

The Changing Synagogue

Though anxious to retain loyalty to our tradition the congregation had become imbued with the spirit of the new Conservative movement. They realized the growing need for modernizing services, establishing study classes for young and old, strengthening women's participation and developing programs for young people to give the Synagogue renewed vigor and strength. As the members became more strongly divided in their opinions on this program for change, the "dissenters" withdrew to form a new congregation.

With a firm resolve to transmit their ancestral ideals to their children through the reinterpretation of those ideals in modern terms, a group of men and women met in May, 1915, in the ballroom of the David R. Travis home at 28th and Troost. With the "Oron Kodosh" that stood there as evidence of the piety of their hosts they organized themselves into a Conservative congregation, calling it Beth Sholom, the House of Peace. Rabbi Samuel M. Cohen, who had led Keneseth Israel since 1912, became its rabbi. The congregation rented for its Synagogue the small frame building at 31st and Charlotte that had served the Linwood Christian Church. Abraham Denebeim was elected president of the new congregation.

"On Sunday afternoon, September 12, 1915, in response to an invitation from Rabbi Samuel M. Cohen, a number of Jewish ladies of Kansas City gathered together to form a Sisterhood to Congregation Beth Sholom, in a meeting at the Synagogue at Charlotte and Thirty-first Streets. . . . Thirty-three ladies subscribed their names in membership." The minutes of this organizational meeting record the election of the following officers: President, Mrs. A. I. Louis; vice-president, Mrs. M. R. Travis; financial secretary, Miss Dolly Levi; recording secretary, Mrs. B. M. Achtenberg; treasurer, Mrs. B. Shure. Under their leadership began the successful role the Sisterhood has played through the years in the development of the congregation. The quarters at 31st and Charlotte soon became inadequate. A building committee was appointed, and the property at 1701 Linwood Boulevard was purchased. In the minutes of the meeting held on October 29, 1916 is an acknowledgment of the services during the High Holy Days of Simon E. Rothenberg and Henry Sosland. Both of these men were extremely pious and meticulously observant of Jewish traditions, and their leadership at the services on Rosh Hashonah and Yom Kippur clearly reveals the traditional pattern to which Beth Sholom was dedicated.



JACOB VINER

The congregation grew under Rabbi Cohen's leader-



ISAAC KATZ

ship, and the minutes record that he was commended for his services, particularly for his youth work. His resignation, tendered at the end of 1916, was accepted with regret. Rabbi Cohen had not only brought about a strong sense of unity within Beth Sholom, but had maintained cordial relations with Keneseth Israel and earnestly sought to bring the two congregations together. It was, in part at least, because he hoped that his withdrawal would pave the way for unification that he resigned from the congregation. For a little over one year beginning with August 1, 1917, Rabbi Salo Stein of Louisville, Kentucky, occupied the pulpit of Beth Sholom.

Sentiment for consolidation began to mount as Keneseth Israel purchased a lot at 34th Street and the Paseo. The members of Beth Sholom needed a more attractive and more adequate Synagogue, but did not have the means for an expensive building program. Keneseth Israel had entered upon a building program which grew in its proportions and was eager for the financial aid which consolidation would bring. Neither congregation was, however, willing to surrender the principles which originally had brought about their division.

Mr. Denebeim, the President, appointed Messrs. A. Brenner, M. Daniels, L. Denebeim, Leo Feld, S. B. Russek and Barney Stevens to meet with a committee from Keneseth Israel to discuss the advisability of consolidation. In October, 1918, came a complete change of administration. Leo Feld became president and Rabbi Salo Stein accepted a pulpit in Jacksonville, Florida. The selection of a new rabbi became the primary concern of the congregation and the issue of consolidation was growing ever more intense. On Sunday, April 13, 1919, a committee of five members from each congregation prepared a plan of consolidation which was submitted to their respective congregations on April 20, 1919.



BEN M. ACHTENBERG

The ten members of this joint committee were one and all men of strong will, and it was no easy task to evolve a plan acceptable to all of them. Only after months of negotiations on every point at issue was a tentative plan finally prepared for presentation to each of the congregations. This plan, in brief, called for the merging of the two congregations under a single charter, the transfer of all properties to the consolidated congregation, the building of a new Synagogue and the introduction of a "Modern Orthodox" form of worship. It specified, however, that Orthodox services be provided for those who objected to changes in the ritual. The details of this plan seem extraordinarily simple and free of compromise to us today, but in those days the plan was looked upon with suspicion by both congregations, and for almost five years



RABBI HADAS—1929

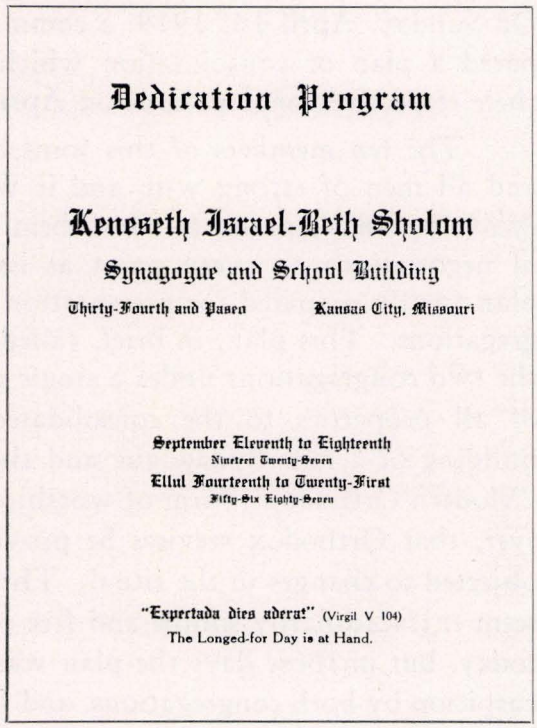
was the subject of continuous and heated debate.

Meanwhile, in June, 1919, Beth Sholom secured as its rabbi, Herman M. Cohen, who had served the Tifereth Israel Congregation of Des Moines. He was warmly received by the membership and rendered devoted service to every phase of congregational activity. A daily Minyan was established, a weekly bulletin was published, the Sisterhood became a vital factor in the growth of the congregation, and a gift by "the well known philanthropist, Alfred Benjamin," marked the beginning of a Synagogue library. The congregation steadily gained in prestige and drew to itself goodly numbers of the most influential leaders in the community.

The question of consolidation remained a lively issue, but as Beth Sholom gained in strength and influence the will to consolidate weakened, and according to the minutes of August 15, 1920, the congregation voted that "Consolidation was not to the best interests of Beth Sholom." A committee, consisting of Barney Stevens, Morris Bigus and Abe Denebeim, began to raise funds for a new Synagogue. The first money for the project was $1,000.00 realized from a bazaar held by the Sisterhood.

Keneseth Israel-Beth Sholom is Born

Keneseth Israel was meeting serious difficulties. Progress with its building was slow and the results unsatisfying. The foundation and the basement were inadequate for the superstructure that was needed. The financial support was too meager, and much irritation developed among the members. For a short period Rabbi Simon Glazer served as the rabbi of the congregation and of "The United Orthodox Jewry" of Kansas City. He was endowed with imagination, energy, and ability. As a communal leader he did much to win popular support for Zionism, and was largely responsible for the enactment of "The Kosher



Dedication Program

Keneseth Israel-Beth Sholom

Synagogue and School Building

Thirty-Fourth and Paseo Kansas City, Missouri

September Eleventh to Eighteenth
Nineteen Twenty-Seven
Ellul Fourteenth to Twenty-First
Fifty-Six Eighty-Seven

"Expectata dies aderat" (Virgil V 104)
The Longed-for Day is at Hand.



RABBI ALBERT GORDON

Law" by the State of Missouri. He was, however, temperamentally unable to deal with the day to day routine involved in leading a congregation, and was therefore of little help in the internal problems of Keneseth Israel.

A Reunited Congregation

The urgency of Beth Sholom to build and the pressure of mounting difficulties on Keneseth Israel inevitably led to the resumption of negotiations for consolidation. On June 10, 1924, a meeting of the joint Boards met at Beth Sholom and adopted resolutions for consolidation which later were unanimously accepted by the general membership of both congregations.

These resolutions provided for the complete integration of the two congregations as being "to the best interest of Modern Orthodox Judaism," that the new congregation be named "Keneseth Israel-Beth Sholom," that it begin at once the task of "erecting in the South Central district of Kansas City a . . . Synagogue sufficient to accommodate all its worshippers during the High Holy Days and modernly equipped Sunday and Hebrew School rooms for the religious education of its children." Rabbi Herman M. Cohen of Beth Sholom was invited to head the new congregation and Cantor Louis Cohen (brother of Rabbi Samuel M. Cohen) became its Cantor.

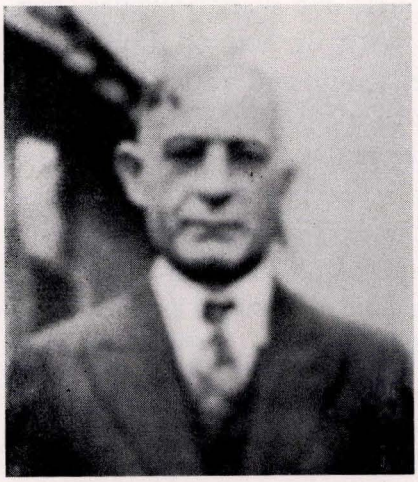
The election of officers for the congregation was held on June 18, 1925, and Ben M. Achtenberg, who had been vice-president of Beth Sholom, was elected as the first president of Keneseth Israel-Beth Sholom. Isaac Katz was appointed Chairman of the finance committee and Ed S. Michelson headed the building committee. Theirs was a task far greater than they or the congregation could have envisioned, but they were men of extraordinary zeal and rare determination, and began at once to carry through the assignment they had assumed.

The outstanding architectural firm of the city, Greenebaum Hardy and Shumacher, which had done the preliminary planning for the building, was employed to complete the drawings and to assume complete supervision over construction. One of the junior architects of the firm who worked on the project was Clarence Kivett who, through the years, has rendered a great many architectural services to the congregation. The Patti Construction Company was given the contract for the building. The existing files on the progress of the work tell of almost endless problems which had to be overcome. The greatest of these was the rapidly mounting financial burden as well as divisions on the nature and scope of the facilities to be provided in the building.



J. J. TAXMAN

That they builded beautifully and well is attested by



BENJAMIN FEINBERG
President, 1932-33

the fact that, at its completion in 1927, the Synagogue received the award of the Kansas City Architectural League for "the most beautiful building, best suited to its purpose, completed in Kansas City that year." With elaborate and inspiring ceremonies lasting a week it was formally dedicated September 11, 1927. Among those who came from out of town to share in the great "simcha" were Rabbis Solomon Goldman, Abraham Halpern, C. E. Hillel Kauvar, Abraham A. Neuman and Samuel M. Cohen. On Sunday, September 14, 1927, the school building with an "unheard of" twenty rooms was formally viewed by the community at a special public reception. Great enthusiasm is reflected in the reports for the months following the dedication of the building which was "wonderful to behold." Nearly 500 families were affiliated with the congregation, and the school enrollment was "well over 325." The members were heartened by this apparent growth and especially by the caliber of the congregational leadership.

The excitement of the celebrations, however, soon passed and a very earnest attempt was begun to secure funds with which to pay for the building. The pressure of this effort resulted in mass withdrawals from the congregation, and the union so hopefully made was beginning to strain the best efforts of the leaders. It became ever clearer that consolidation did not mean union. Misunderstandings and differences continued even after the Synagogue and school buildings were dedicated. In the face of the difficulties between groups within the congregation there loomed before the membership the monumental financial debts.



CONFIRMATION CLASS, 1927



ABBA RUBIN

The Critical Years

The building program had been carried through with a very minimum of cash, plus an inadequate and uncertain amount in pledges. For a brief period this situation did not cause great concern. It was a time when the whole country was riding high on a wave of wild speculation and apparent prosperity. The banks issued and sold bonds covering a first mortgage on the building, large loans on open notes were secured and elaborate but unrealistic plans were made for meeting the staggering obligations.

Rabbi Cohen, who had labored with devotion and courage through many difficult years, found it impossible to remain, and in 1928 resigned to accept the call of Temple Aaron in St. Paul. For some months Rabbi Albert Gordon, who later became the Executive Director of the United Synagogue, occupied the pulpit. Meanwhile, the financial situation was becoming even more critical with the result that the general status of the Keneseth Israel-Beth Sholom congregation was rapidly deteriorating.

Rabbi Hadas Assumes Leadership

It was then that several lay leaders were given a free hand to reorganize the congregation in order to meet the danger that threatened its very existence. Chiefest among these were Isaac Katz, Ed S. Michelson and J. J. Taxman. These were men of great generosity, high enthusiasm, and tremendous determination. It was obvious to all that the first step toward reorganization was to secure a spiritual leader. This was no simple task, because of the wide differences in attitudes within the congregation and because of the overwhelming problems facing it. The situation called for a man of maturity and courage. For months the search was carried on until Dr. Cyrus Adler, the then acting president of the seminary, and Rabbi Solomon Goldman of Chicago recommended Rabbi Gershon Hadas of New Britain, Connecticut.

Rabbi Hadas was completely happy in his community and was unwilling to leave, but was finally persuaded to come to Kansas City "not as a candidate for a position but simply as a guest speaker." During this visit, which



THE SYNAGOGUE CHOIR 1915

FRONT ROW (left to right): Chayim Greenberg, Sam Bass, M. Mallin.
BACK ROW (left to right): Jos. Bartnick, Sam Rostov, Jack Cohn, Wm. Clayman, ----------.



REUBEN PELTZMAN

was on Washington's Birthday in 1929, the committee in charge of securing a rabbi persuaded Rabbi Hadas to consider coming to Kansas City. Not long thereafter Rabbi Hadas did accept the call of the congregation and in June of that year began his active duties. The committee had mentioned some of the problems facing the congregation, but had made light of them, and the rabbi was wholly unaware of the monumental difficulties before him.

These difficulties very soon became uncomfortably evident. In the first place no one really knew the precise extent of the debts that had to be met. The membership list was large but on examination revealed that only a distressingly small number were paying dues; many others denied their affiliation. When, on his own initiative, Rabbi Hadas secured an auditor's report he found that the actual membership numbered only about 250, that the debt was well over $400,000.00 and that of the total amount in pledges (about $50,000.00) a good percentage was not collectible. As a result of this information the rabbi determined to resign from a position which was "completely untenable."

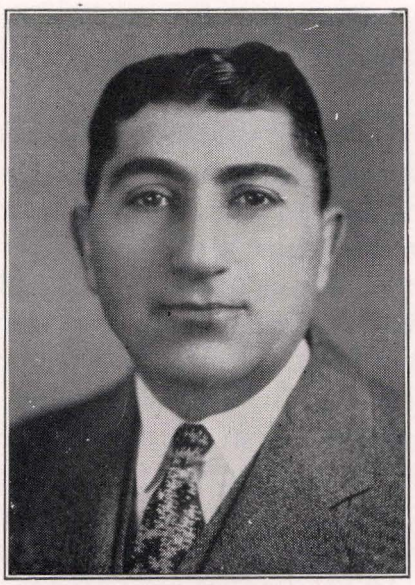
He presented the problems to the men who had persuaded him to accept the position, emphasized his inability to deal with the situation, and tendered his resignation. These lay leaders, however, insisted that the situation was far from hopeless, that they stood ready to help in every way, and provided at once nearly $75,000.00 with which to meet the more immediate obligations including salaries, interest and a host of other demands. The rabbi then and there determined to see the job through, and during the next several months the congregation began to recover its position and the general gloom began to lift somewhat. Then suddenly came the depression and the consequent paralysis to all plans and efforts. Many of the wealthiest supporters were unable to meet even their personal obligations. Salaries were cut again and again, and adjustments in obligations were readily accepted. But even large corporations were in difficulty, and one morning banks began to close. For the congregation and the rabbi the situation looked hopeless, indeed.



ELDERS OF BETH SHALOM

BACK ROW (left to right): J. Peltzman, H. Levi, M. Finkelstein, M. Eichenberg, J. Viner, J. M. Greenberg, L. Feld, J. Smolinsky, J. Moskovitz.

FRONT ROW (left to right): E. Gershon, I. J. Cohen, J. R. Shapiro, M. Klein, Rabbi Hadas, H. L. Minda, M. M. Friedson, A. Ziman, M. Hoffman.



HYMAN GORDON

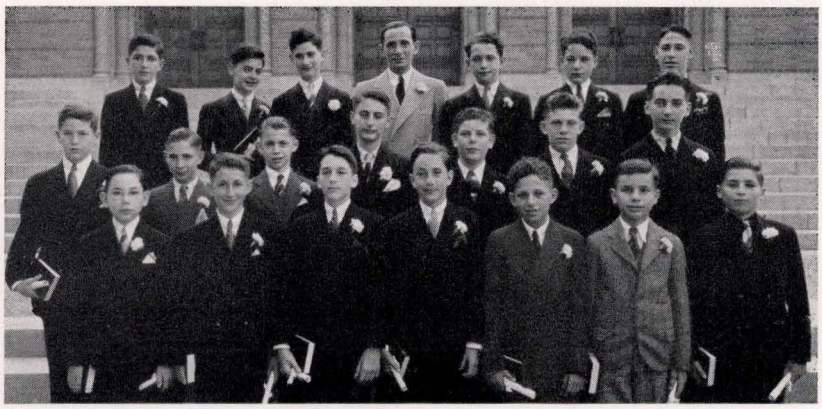
Facing Our Greatest Crisis

And yet there was no turning back. Stubbornly and largely single handedly Rabbi Hadas battled on. Among the obligations was an open note for nearly $100,000.00 endorsed by a long list of individuals, most of whom had become insolvent. Mr. I. Katz, one of the signers, offered to give some $40,000.00 provided the balance could be secured. After heartbreaking labor this was finally accomplished, and a great portion of the burden was lifted. It should be recalled that this job was done and these sums were contributed in 1930-1933, during the days of W.P.A. and bread lines, apple selling on street corners and Hoovervilles.

It would take many pages to tell of the interminable meetings, the countless appeals, in the herculean effort to free the congregation from its crushing debt. For at least a decade following Rabbi Hadas' coming to the congregation this was the job that preempted most of his time and energy. That he was able to face the dark days of those years and to lead the congregation out of its plight was made possible by the patience and devotion of its leaders and the generosity of both the membership and the general community.

Heading the list of those leaders were Isaac Katz, J. J. Taxman, Ed S. Michelson, Hyman Gordon, Ben Feinberg, Reuben Peltzman, Abe Diamant and Jacob Viner. The examples set by these men prompted the fullest measure of support on the part of hundreds of others. Many new members offered assistance, and even non-Jews shared in the task of redeeming the congregation from debt.

The first president to tackle the critical financial problems was Ed S. Michelson. He was a dynamic personality, generous to a fault, impulsive but unyielding in his faith in the Synagogue. During his short term in office (1929-30), and till the end of his days his stubborn determination was a mighty factor in bringing the congregation to its present status of power and worth. He evolved a workable program for tackling the huge debt, and gave large sums with which to initiate the program. It was Ed Michelson who for many years saw to it that our building was carefully



B'NAI BITZVAH 1936

FIRST ROW (left to right): Bill Lieberman, Charles Saver, Herbert Gershon, Howard Friedmann, Morris Lasik, Henry Aronson, Saul Rosen.

SECOND ROW (left to right): Harold Michelson, Jerry Peltzman, Sam Fish, Albert Lipsey, Jack Bernstein, Morton Levine, Strawford Schneiderman.

THIRD ROW (left to right): Lawrence Hans, Kenneth Bigus, Stanford Warshasky, Cantor Jacob Rothblatt, Marvin Apple, Jerry Rosenbloom, Paul Grollman.



SAMUEL GREENBERG

maintained, and even during the years when he himself was in great stress his zeal on behalf of the congregation never lagged.

On November 2, 1930, Jacob Viner, one of the staunchest and best known of our communal workers, became president. The officers who served with him were Isaac Katz, Benjamin Feinberg, Samuel Bobrecker, Reuben Peltzman and A. I. Morris. It was a huge job indeed that faced this administration. Progress was painfully slow, the specter of defeat rose to frighten those of lesser faith, but with dogged persistence Mr. Viner battled on. He became the symbol of assurance and strength and drew to his aid many of those who had withdrawn from what seemed a lost cause.

During Mr. Viner's incumbency Mrs. Isaac Katz was president of the Sisterhood (1928-29) followed by Mrs. Clarence Kleban (1929-30) and Mrs. Harry Sandler (1930-32). The minutes tell of the untiring efforts of the members of the Sisterhood in strengthening the morale of the congregation, and in providing it with financial support. It is difficult to select the names of the outstanding workers among the women during those years but some names appear so often in the records that they should find a place in this story. They are Mesdames Jos. Rittmaster, Al Hoffman, Sam Diamant, B. M. Achtenberg, David Newberg, Robert Blond, R. Peltzman, N. Peltzman, Ben Gibian, Ed S. Michelson, Isaac Katz and Wm. Jacobs. Mrs. Hadas—the Rabbi's wife—was most helpful in bringing a cultural and spiritual quality to the meetings of the Sisterhood.

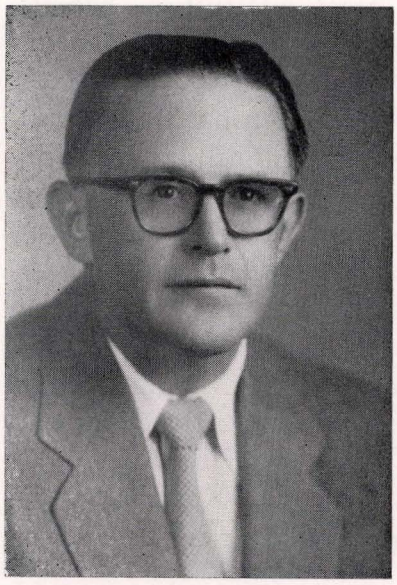
It was during Mr. Viner's administration that the Young People's League was organized with Maurice Gottlieb, Morris Schlozman, Rose Shapiro, Jeanette Dickstein, Mae Wilks, Bill Cohn, Fred Estrin, Jack Karol, Joseph Burgheimer, Bertha Newberg, and Jesse Schlien as its leading members and Morris Kilminick as their advisor. The school was strengthened under the direction of its principal, Mr. Alvin Karner. The Scout Troop numbered well over a hundred boys, and was considered one of the outstanding troops in the entire country.

Cantor Louis Cohen had resigned and for two years the congregation employed cantors for the High Holy Days only. In 1929 Cantor Max Freiman and in 1930 Cantor A. J. Sivowitz officiated. The following year Cantor Paul Discount of Hartford, Connecticut, joined our staff serving the congregation for three years until 1933 when Jacob Rothblatt became our cantor. Many were the



NURSERY SCHOOL—1934

Scout Troop 61



PAUL BAYZMAN
Scoutmaster

FRONT ROW (left to right): Sam Gordon, Albert Krashin, Marshall Eisen, Sol Dallen, Gilbert Tulper, Chas. Bernstein, Sol Firestone, Leo Grossberg, Albert Yukon, Leonard Greenberg, Nathan Plattner, ____ ____, Stanley Herzmark, Joe Karp, Joe Zenitsky.

BACK ROW: Bill Kalis, _____, Allen Tabolsky, Joseph Lichtor, Irving Achtenberg, _____ Lefkowitz, Karl Katz, Leonard Bayzman, and Paul Bayzman.

THE TROOP IN 1931

LEONARD BAYZMAN
Troop Committeeman

lay leaders who shared in this expanding program despite great difficulties. Morris Webber, Nathan Goldberg, Abe I. Morris, Louis Gershon with Abe Diamant as chairman carried on constant campaigns for the reduction of capital debts. Abe Herzmark consecrated many years of effective service to the Boy Scouts, and Leonard and Paul Bayzman were already then as they are now dedicated leaders in this important function of the congregation.

The Chevra Kadisha held its first annual dinner and set forth plans for the improvement of Mt. Carmel Cemetery. Many and varied were the affairs that were conducted by the several groups within the congregation, but the "greatest Synagogue event of the year" was a gala dinner marking the 50th anniversary of the two original congregations which became Keneseth Israel. It was a well attended affair with Dr. Solomon Goldman of Chicago as the guest speaker. Mr. Viner retired from office with the congregation far stronger than it had been, but still uncertain about its financial future.

In January, 1932, Ben Feinberg assumed the presidency, with Isaac Katz and Reuben Peltzman as vice-presidents, Morris Bigus and A. I. Morris as secretaries and Samuel Bobrecker as treasurer.

Amid and despite the crushing financial problems the congregation improved its Holy Days services through the purchase of uniform prayer books and published a most attractive booklet as a supplement and guide for the new prayer book. As an extension of its program the School Committee instituted a Senior Department for adults, published a 32-page booklet outlining courses, and drew large attendance to its weekly classes.

Although Mr. Feinberg died before the completion of his term (1933), his warmth of spirit and true generosity had permeated the general membership. Again and again the members rallied to the president's call and succeeded in moving yet another step forward toward release from its burden of debt.

This was the year when serious rumblings foretold the coming storm in Europe. The position of the Jew in Eastern and Central Europe was rapidly deteriorating, and Zionist activity in America was therefore intensified. In Kansas City this activity was centered in our Synagogue and its most able leader and spokesman was Harry Friedberg, an active and very valuable member of our Board of Directors.

The Peltzman family had for several decades played important roles in the development of the congregation, and on May 7, 1933, the eldest son of the family, Reuben Peltzman (son-in-law of Jacob Viner) began four years of service as president. His of-

BOARD OF DIRECTORS—1929

B. M. Achtenberg	A. Harris
Morris Bigus	Sam L. Hoffman
Sam Bobrecker	Jacob Hyman
Adolph Brenner	Isaac Katz
Toby Brenner	M. H. Katz
Jess L. Chambers	Ed S. Michelson
Max Daniels	P. Millstein
Abe Diamant	Philip Minkin
Samuel G. Eisen	Max Morris
Benjamin Feinberg	H. Naman
Leo H. Feld	J. Peltzman
Jacob Friedman	Nathan Peltzman
Eli Gershon	Reuben Peltzman
Joe Gershon	Louis J. Rose
Louis S. Gershon	S. E. Rothenberg
J. Goldberg, Jr.	I. Rubins
Nathan Goldberg	Harry Sandler
Henry Goldblatt	M. Shankman
Jacob Goodman	David Smolinsky
A. J. Granoff	Jacob J. Taxman
J. M. Greenberg	Jacob Viner

M. Weinberger

ficers and committee chairmen included Sidney Feinberg (son of Ben Feinberg), David Smolinsky, Phil Levi, Nathan Goldberg, Philip Minkin, Wm. Jacobs, Harry Rubenstein, Sidney Pines and Hyman Gordon as well as many of those who had been serving throughout the years.

It was during Mr. Peltzman's administration that Jess Chambers rendered extraordinary service to the membership and the financial committees and Sidney Pines directed the School Committee with signal success. Phil Levi spent endless hours in attempting to straighten out our affairs with the banks. Simon Rothenberg, who had a deep reverence for our traditions, but sought to translate these traditions into contemporary terms was our "Ba-al Schacharis" year after year until his death shortly before the Holy Days in 1933.

The Sisterhood's president was Mrs. Phil Small (1932) succeeded by Mrs. Wm. Jacobs (1933-34). Both of these ladies displayed remarkable ability in helping the congregation and in providing our women with projects that made for greater attachment to Jewish values. Mrs. Celia Segelbaum and Mrs. Isaac Katz were among the outstanding co-workers in almost every Sisterhood undertaking during this period. Others whose names are particularly prominent are Mesdames Sol Forman, I. Marder, Ed Michelson, David Sosland, J. Bornstein and Dave Barr.

Mrs. S. Tranin was elected Sisterhood president on June 24, 1935, and served for two years. The other officers were Mesdames Leo Rubenstein, Phil Levi, Jack Friedman, R. Peltzman and S. Pines. Many new members had joined the ranks of the Sisterhood and many were the assignments which the ladies gladly assumed to the welcome relief of the congregation. They improved the facilities in our kitchen, redecorated the class rooms, helped mightily in financing the Synagogue Schools.

By the end of 1937, the close of Mr. Peltzman's term as president, vast changes had taken place in the congregation. In four years the membership had grown from 395 to 500 families, the Sunday School had an enrollment of 600, the Hebrew School of 150. The Young People's League with a membership of over 100 carried on an effective program of activities, and the Sisterhood was growing at a rapid pace and boasted over 300 members. The adult classes, begun in 1932, had been changed in structure, and were still functioning in satisfactory fashion. A number of special study groups were maintained and a school library became a reality. Cantor Jacob Rothblatt who came to the congregation on December 11, 1933, began at once the development of a Synagogue Choir and there was a most welcome improvement in our religious services for the Holy Days, Festivals and Sabbaths.

Board of Directors—1934

B. M. Achtenberg	A. Louis
Morris Bigus	Abe Margolin
Sam Bobrecker	Ed S. Michelson
I. J. Cohen	Phil Minkin
Abe Diamant	J. Peltzman
Sidney Feinberg	Nathan Peltzman
Leo Feld	Reuben Peltzman
Milton Feld	Sidney Pines
Harry Friedberg	Meyer Rich
Meyer S. Glatt	Louis Rolsky
Nathan Goldberg	I. Frank Rope
Henry Goldblatt	Harry Rubenstein
Jacob Goodman	Leo Rubenstein
Hyman Gordon	I. Rubins
J. M. Greenberg	Harry Sandler
Bernard T. Hurwitz	Phil Slobosky
Wm. Jacobs	David Smolinsky
Sam Kamen	Benjamin Sosland
Isaac Katz	Jacob J. Taxman
M. H. Katz	Sam Tranin
Jake Levin	Hy Vile
Phil Levi	Jacob Viner

Morris Weber

Tremendous improvements were made in the building during these four years. The floor in the Banquet Hall was replaced with terazza, serious leaks in the domes were repaired, and a good part of the building was repainted. This was work that involved great sums of money, but which had to be done in order to preserve the building. A beginning was made toward rebuilding the room used for daily services into a formal Chapel. A new Oron Kodesh was built, additional memorial plaques were placed, and a series of stained glass windows were installed. One of these windows was dedicated to the memory of Ben Feinberg, the late president of the congregation, two to the memory of the parents of Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Katz, two to the memory of Mr. and Mrs. Abe Rosenfield's parents, and one to the memory of Mr. Rosenfield's wife.

Important for the future history of the congregation is that during this period Messrs. Hyman Brand, Milton Silverman and Harry Puritz began to take an active hand in the congregation and their influence very soon became apparent in all its activities. At the annual meeting held in October, 1936, Mr. Isaac Katz was made the Honorary President of the congregation.

Attaining Stability

The general economic improvement in the country and the mounting enthusiasm for the good work which the congregation was doing brought an ever larger measure of supporters to our leaders. The operating budget, which in 1933, had been ruthlessly cut to $30,000 had slowly risen, until by 1937 it was $40,000. This in itself was no small burden, but it was met without too much difficulty. It was the interest and the capital debts which continued to bedevil the congregation. However, even this burden was greatly reduced, and by January, 1937, the overall debt stood at $150,000.

The three years from 1937 to 1940 are memorable in the annals of the congregation and in the history of European Jewry. World War II was getting into full stride, the murder of our people had begun to assume genocidal proportions, and our members were in the forefront of the local campaigns for funds with which to aid the refugees from the terror that ultimately engulfed the whole world.



K.I.B.S. Summer Play School—1938

At the same time, we had to buckle down for a final effort "to get out from under the huge balance of debt which is throttling us." It was with this slogan uppermost in his mind that Hyman Gordon began his three-year tenure as president on November 18, 1937. And, in large measure, he succeeded in his aim, so that the minutes of April 5, 1939, record that "A review of the financial standing of the congregation shows a very rapid liquidation of our various obligations. Payments on pledges are coming in as arranged with donors, our construction notes (issued in 1927) are being gradually settled, and our current general income is maintaining a level slightly higher than in 1938. All these facts indicate that with proper care we shall be completely clear of all debt within a period of three years." Except for a relatively small balance this feat was actually accomplished as promised.

With contagious zest, Mr. Gordon concentrated his efforts and that of the entire congregation toward the attainment of his goal. Meetings and campaigns followed one another in rapid and unbroken succession.

The Sisterhood under the presidency of Mrs. S. Tranin (1937), Mrs. Irving Marder (1938), Mrs. Lewis Hoffman (1939-43) steadily grew in numbers and in influence. Its contributions to the Synagogue Schools, to the Bond Retirement Fund and to the maintenance of the building were of tremendous help. The activities and the accomplishments of the Sisterhood during this period reflect leaders and workers of high caliber.

One cannot exaggerate the constant and effective leadership and cooperation given by Mrs. Gershon Hadas throughout the years. With two very small children at home, the Rabbi's wife nevertheless threw herself into the work of the Sisterhood shortly after



K.I.B.S. SYNAGOGUE SCHOOL—GRADE 6—PURIM OPERETTA—MARCH 16, 1938

coming to Kansas City. Her energy, her understanding, and her friendships were the instruments which many a time brought success to Sisterhood projects.

The history of the Sisterhood records a long list of those who have passed from our midst, but who have bequeathed to succeeding generations memories of devoted service. It is not easily possible nor is it necessary to record here the names of even some of these women. And yet, we cannot help but set down the names of three truly noble Jewish wives and mothers who were taken from us during this period. They are: Mrs. Sol (Rose) Forman (1938), Mrs. Simon (Esther) Rothenberg (1939) and Mrs. Phil (Ruth) Levi (1939).

Despite the strenuous and continuous campaigns for funds the congregation managed to move well ahead in its religious and educational programs. A number of outstanding personalities were brought as speakers at special events. Among them were Dr. Louis Finkelstein; Rabbi Samuel M. Cohen, the first Seminary graduate to serve the congregation; Dr. Milton Steinberg, who spoke on behalf of the Zionist Organization; Ittamar Ben Avi, who was invited on behalf of the Jewish National Fund; Dr. Joachim Prinz, who spoke at a Purim Service on behalf of European Jewry; Rabbi Raphael Gold, who spoke at a celebration commemorating the 900th anniversary of the birth of Rashi, and a goodly number of others.

The Synagogue Schools added exceptionally competent teachers to its regular staff and some twenty teachers were employed for the Sunday classes. The Young People's League with Irving Achtenberg as president (1940) had become the most outstanding group of its kind in the community, and year after year contributed hundreds of dollars to the Liquidation Fund. One of the founders of the League, Mr. Phil Slobosky, served for several years as a director of the Synagogue office.

In October, 1938, the Board honored several pioneer members as permanent Gabbaim with Jacob Viner as Honorary Gabbai and Abba Rubin as Gabbai Rishon. Mr. Rubin was deeply respected as a faithful Jew and as one who had gladly given a lifetime of devoted service to the congregation. He graced the office of Gabbai Rishon until his death in 1944.

The Expanding Synagogue

The congregation had long needed an additional staff member to assist Rabbi Hadas. It became physically impossible for him to carry his burden of duties. Hitler's march across Europe drove many rabbis to America. These were in desperate need of employment and in October, 1939, our Board invited one of these men, Rabbi Moses Landau, to serve as assistant to Rabbi Hadas. It was hoped thus to be doubly helpful. However, Rabbi Landau was too inexperienced to serve a congregation such as ours, and resigned before the end of the year. His leaving did, however, make it clear that it was of primary importance to secure an assistant rabbi for the congregation.

For some time there was no Shamash on the staff. Mr. Morris Simon, who had served in that capacity for some years, had resigned. For financial reasons the Board was hesitant to employ a successor. Mr. Max Finkelstein, a pioneer member of the congregation, became the Shamash, first as a volunteer, and later as a paid member of the staff. He rendered valuable service from 1936 until his death in 1945.

As part of the effort to improve the Sabbath morning services the Ritual Committee purchased in March, 1939, sets of Hertz's Pentateuch for use by the entire congregation. Despite the lack of funds the individual volumes were purchased in order to make their use as attractive as possible. Uniform prayer books for daily services and for festivals were also provided as well as a full supply of taleisim and yarmulkes.

On the tenth anniversary of Rabbi Hadas coming to Kansas City a dinner was given that "despite the weather, over 250 brave souls" attended. It was held on January 9, 1940, at the Synagogue with Bernard T. Hurwitz as toastmaster. The speakers included Rabbi S. S. Mayerberg, George Oppenheimer, Sieg Harzfeld, Emily Levin, Leo Rubenstein and Ben Sosland.

For a decade Rabbi Hadas could give only splintered moments to general community interests. The needs of the congregation did not permit even an occasional vacation from his work. And yet he played a major role in the organization of the Kansas City Welfare Federation and served many another community cause. It was he who helped bring into being the Rabbinical Association of Greater Kansas City (1939) and served as its president during the first four years of its existence.

Under the direction of our rabbi many worthy projects were made possible through the cooperation of all the congregations of the city and their rabbis. The first annual community-wide Thanksgiving Service was held at our Synagogue, November 23, 1939.



RABBI LEON WIND AND B'NAI MITZVAH

This service has become a community tradition. The special ritual published annually for this service has with few exceptions been done by Rabbi Hadas. Through the past fourteen years the services have been mostly held in our Synagogue.

It is difficult, at this distance, to gauge the immense job accomplished during Mr. Gordon's presidency. The Board minutes of July, 1940, record that "The Bond Retirement campaign held in 1939 succeeded in clearing away the entire first mortgage falling short of our needs by only some $7,500." Looking over the records we are amazed by the large number of ready workers who were steadily recruited for a job that was fantastically difficult and exceedingly costly. One of the men who stands out as having been greatly helpful in this complicated undertaking was Mr. Bernard T. Hurwitz. He not only helped in matters incidental to the liquidation of the debt, but also in many another problem faced by the congregation.

Over sixty years, packed full with hopes and dreams and untold labor had passed. The congregation had weathered storms of conflict and the crushing weight of debt. Despite every hazard, it had marched steadily forward from precarious beginnings toward a great Synagogue. By the end of Mr. Gordon's incumbency as president, the congregation was strong in numbers and in singleness of purpose. All irritations stemming from the consolidation had been healed. There was as yet the hurdle of debt to overcome, but the amount was insignificant compared to what it had been for over a decade. With a beautiful building, a loyal membership, and tried leadership the congregation was prepared to enter a new era in its history. It had taken six decades to produce the instruments with which to fashion a great spiritual institution. The time had come to use these instruments "for bringing to young and old a greater knowledge of Judaism, a deeper attachment to its traditions, and a more earnest will to live as Jews."

An event, fittingly closing an important chapter in our story, was an installation of officers and dinner in honor of our oldest members held in December, 1940. It was a truly memorable evening for the entire community as well as for the 26 older men who were honored, almost all of whom had played vital roles in the development of the congregation. The officers installed were Isaac Katz, Honorary President; Samuel Greenberg, President; Hyman Brand, Ben Lieberman and Phil Levi, vice-presidents; Herman Galamba and Louis Niman, secretaries; and Hyman Gordon, treasurer.

Whereas, heretofore, all effort was simply "to hold our own," the new cry was "let's do something with what we have." With great enthusiasm the membership rallied behind the new president, Mr. Samuel L. Greenberg, who was elected on November 3, 1940. Mr. Greenberg was an excellent choice for leadership at this juncture. He was a young man, the youngest to hold the office since the founding of the congregation. His entire family was closely involved in congregational activities and he himself had rendered valuable services to the congregation.

The mandate given Mr. Greenberg was "to use every means at his disposal to make the Synagogue more sensitive to the needs of our children and young people." This was the goal which prompted him to institute at once an associate membership with dues of only $6.00 a year. This membership attracted many young people who thus enjoyed all congregational privileges including a seat for the Holyday Services and tuition in the Synagogue Schools. The plan increased enrollment in the Sunday School and prompted needed improvements in the Assembly Services for Rosh Hashonah and Yom Kippur.

The guest preacher at these services during 1941 was Maurice Samuel and it was then that Mr. Milton Shapiro was first invited to serve as cantor. The following year the preacher was Dr. A. E. Milgram, now Educational Director of the United Synagogue of America.

Although the Sunday School was making good progress the daily Hebrew classes were shrinking in numbers and in effectiveness. Many are the reasons given in the reports for this situation. As we now read these reports it is clear that inadequate funds had been allocated to the Synagogue Schools. The president sought to increase these allocations and to provide additional staff. It became necessary for Rabbi Hadas to spend a great deal of time with the details of the school program, and he then realized that only through a change of its administration would the school be able to function properly. This involved radical action and was, therefore, delayed for some months.

In order to improve the Holyday Services, the Ritual Committee authorized the use of the newly published Holyday Machzor edited by Rabbi Morris Silverman. Some 2,500 copies were purchased in order to provide a uniform prayer book for the three separate Holyday Services conducted by the congregation. The Annual Congregational Seder conducted for many years on the second eve of Passover had been gaining in popularity, and the participants began to demand revisions in the traditional Haggadah. In order to meet this demand the then new Reconstructionist Haggadah was provided. This Haggadah has since become widely used in many of our homes. As part of this general plan to make the ritual of the Synagogue more meaningful to our generation, the Ritual Committee authorized the publication of a Memorial Service booklet for use at all Yizkor services. This booklet included a listing of the names on the memorial tablets in the Chapel. It was a carefully prepared and beautifully printed order of services, and was the gift of the Sosland family in memory of their parents. Several later editions, also the gift of the Soslands, included additional readings, and the latest issue, published in October 1949, contains 70 pages.

The Synagogue Library had been slowly developing as a useful aid for teachers and pupils of the Synagogue Schools. In April, 1942, the library received from Milton Silverman and from his mother, Lena Silverman, sufficient funds for the purchase of book cases and desks. It was some six years later that the children of Hyman Minda made available a fund for setting up the Minda Library in our school building as an integral part of the congregational program.

In February, 1941, a memorable dinner honoring Mr. Jacob Viner and Mr. David Smolinsky was held at the Synagogue by the Appleman Home for Jewish Aged.

Board of Directors—1939

B. M. Achtenberg	Benjamin Lieberman
Morris Bigus	Ed S. Michelson
Hyman Brand	Louis Niman
Harry Byers	J. Peltzman
I. J. Cohen	Nathan Peltzman
Nathan Fredman	Reuben Peltzman
Jos. Fried	Sam Reichman
Herman Galamba	Louis Rolsky
Jacob Goodman	Oscar Rosenbloom
Hyman Gordon	Harry Rubenstein
Nathan Goldberg	I. Rubins
J. M. Greenberg	J. Shapiro
Samuel L. Greenberg	M. Silverman
Bernard T. Hurwitz	John Small
William Jacobs	David Smolinsky
Sam Kamen	A. L. Snyder
Isaac Katz	Benjamin Sosland
Hy Krasne	Hy Vile
Phil Levi	Jacob Viner
Jake Levin	Morris Webber

Frank Wayne

Because of the very long and close contact of these men with the Synagogue the dinner was largely an expression of appreciation by the congregation.

The minutes of the annual meeting held on October 21, 1942, closing Mr. Greenberg's administration relate that, except for a drop to 65 pupils in Hebrew School attendance, great progress had been made in every other phase of our activities. The budget had climbed to nearly $60,000, and capital debts had dropped to $25,000. There were as yet many spiritual gaps in the congregational structure, but the members were fully aware of this, and were eager to fill these gaps. They were greatly heartened by the realization of so many of the plans with which Mr. Greenberg came into office, and were prepared for even more rapid strides toward a great, creative, religious institution.

In Praise of Leaders

Keneseth Israel-Beth Sholom has been singularly fortunate in the quality of its lay leaders. Those who directed its course throughout its 75 years have been, with very few exceptions, men of unusual abilities. It would, therefore, seem bold and unkind to attempt the selection of any one of them as leading all the others in those qualities we seek in a community leader. And yet, to members of our community and particularly to our congregation it will seem neither unkind nor bold to name Mr. Hyman Brand as our most distinguished leader. Everyone in the community accords him unqualified respect, and in the congregation he is held in deep affection. He is that extremely rare personality who truly and always does more than the famous prescription pronounced by Micah. His actions are more than just. He not only loves mercy, his daily living is an active expression of that love. He not only walks humbly with God, but with humility does he serve his fellows as children of God.

It would be amiss to name Mr. Brand without reference to his brother-in-law and business partner, Mr. Harry Puritz, who has himself given unstintingly generous service to every worthy cause and especially to the welfare of the congregation. These men could not have given such sacrificial service without the active encouragement of their families. It was indeed a beneficent Providence that directed them and their families to settle in our city and brought them to our Synagogue. A very few years after Hyman Brand had served on the Board of the congregation he was elected vice-president, and on Mr. Greenberg's retirement in October, 1942, he began a four year term as president with a strong group of officers and the hearty support of the entire congregation. Much was expected of this administration and many were its accomplishments.

Mr. Brand was most anxious to clear away the balance of the capital debt, to place the congregation on a firm financial footing, and thus be able to promote more freely and more fully the basic purposes of the Synagogue, its religious and educational programs. In order to accomplish this goal, Mr. Brand at once called for cooperation in carrying through the following four point program:

1. Completion of the Trust Fund campaign to provide funds for (a) the payment of all capital debts, (b) setting up a retirement plan for the rabbi and other permanent employees, (c) needed major repairs on the building. 2. the organization of a Men's Club in order to promote greater fellowship among the members. 3. the improvement in the administration of the Synagogue Schools. 4. to relieve the rabbi of at least some of those duties which should be borne by the Board and/or the Synagogue office.



HYMAN BRAND

This was no easy assignment, but under Mr. Brand's patient and persistent prodding everyone of the four goals was actually attained. A fund of about $50,000 cared for all capital debts, paid for major repairs on the building, and provided the initial fund needed for setting up a retirement plan for the rabbi. Increases from dues and other income made it more easily possible to meet the rapidly growing budget.

Meanwhile the reports from Europe were becoming ever more tragic. A nation turned barbarians were slaughtering millions of our people, spreading desolation over all of Europe, threatening the freedom of all mankind, and thus compelling our country to enter into the world conflict. By January, 1943, over 150 of our boys and girls were in the armed services and before the end of the war, in September, 1945, about 300 members of the congregation were serving in the defense of our country. A tremendous amount of war work was undertaken by the congregation, especially in caring for military personnel stationed in or near Kansas City. Sifre Torah and ceremonial objects needed for service in camps were loaned or given outright, and all those in military service were welcomed to every congregational dinner and particularly for all holidays. A beautiful service in honor of the men and women in our military forces was held January, 1943, and a most impressive service in February, 1946, marked the joyful occasion when they returned home. A month later, on March 14, 1946, the congregation tendered a complimentary dinner to all veterans and their wives. Each male veteran was presented with a fine tallis embroidered with the name of the recipient and of the congregation. Each female veteran was given a beautiful Siddur, and all veterans were offered a year's honorary membership in the congregation. About 150 of the veterans in attendance gladly took advantage of this offer.

During the terrible days of the war, several services, conducted under the joint auspices of all the Jewish congregations of the city were held in our Synagogue and every week had its quota of appeals and campaigns for one cause or another in connection with war needs and the call for help from our people abroad.

No date will be so well remembered by those who lived through the war years as April 12, 1945, when the sudden death of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt numbed the entire world. Everywhere and to almost everyone the news came as a personal shock, and that same evening the Synagogue was crowded with men and women and little children who came to mourn the passing of a great leader and a good friend. In a deeply moving eulogy, Rabbi Hadas said that "No man, not even a Lincoln or a Wilson, is so well known to the plain people of the whole world. No one was so widely beloved and no death has ever evoked such deep and universal grief." "I know that I am expressing the feeling of untold millions," said the rabbi, "when I say that we have lost a great and good friend, a heroic soldier, an American who was all that I want America to be, and I dread the critical days ahead without him. This is the most tragic day of the war, and, I fear, that it is a loss that will be keenly felt for many years to come." It was a heart-

broken, tear-stained congregation that slowly filed out of the Synagogue.

It is remarkable that in the face of enormous pressure and great anxiety during the war years there was yet the energy and the will to move onward with the needs of the congregation. With the enthusiastic direction of Mr. Herman Greenstein, a Men's Club was organized on July 21, 1943, and immediately outlined ambitious plans for the 1943-44 season. On its third anniversary the club reported a membership of 286, and monthly cultural dinner meetings that brought outstanding lecturers, entertainers, and musicians to its members.

Far reaching changes were introduced in the Synagogue Schools. In March, 1943, Mr. Alvin Karner, who had served the congregation for nearly 18 years, was replaced by Rabbi Leon Wind, a young graduate of the Jewish Theological Seminary. During his two years with the congregation, Rabbi Wind assisted Rabbi Hadas, doubled the enrollment in the Hebrew school, and greatly improved the quality of its instruction. In this he was aided by Rabbi Charles Elkin of New York who was added to the staff and placed in charge of the weekday Hebrew classes. Rabbi Elkin resigned after one year because of his military status. The chairman of the School Committee who bore the brunt of the difficulties incidental to the reorganization of the Synagogue Schools was Mr. Phil Levi. It was his warm interest and tact which brought marked improvement to the school with the united support of the entire congregation.

In April, 1945, the Board elected Rabbi Bernard Kligfeld, a graduate of the Jewish Institute of Religion, as associate rabbi and principal of our schools. He performed excellent work with the school, and after four years he resigned to head the Reform congregation in Long Beach, Long Island. During his tenure the congregation purchased the property at 3632 Virginia as a permanent home for the principal of our schools.

Although the congregation had long ago begun to look to the Jewish Theological Seminary and the United Synagogue of America for personnel and other aid it was not until 1942 that we began to support these institutions, and in May, 1943, the Board voted an annual assessment of 75 cents for the Seminary and 25 cents for the United Synagogue. This was followed by limited campaigns for the Seminary until, in 1946, the Board unanimously approved a Seminary campaign for $25,000 as suggested by



THE JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Mr. Brand. This campaign, though only partly successful, set the pattern for the generous support we have been since giving to this great institution of Jewish learning.

By 1946 the membership of the congregation had risen to 800, the budget to $67,000 and the Sisterhood numbered over 500 members. The school enrollment was steadily climbing as was the character and quality of its curriculum. A branch weekday school which operated for about three years was opened at 55th Street and Brookside with Mrs. Saul Kleiman in charge. The Scout troop had jumped from 65 to almost 100 boys.

In 1942, Mr. Morris Frankel of Czechoslovakia was appointed Shamash and superintendent of the building. He was a cultured and pious Jew who gave dignity to his position, served with devotion until his resignation and removal to New York in 1946. It was Mr. Frankel and Mr. David Smolinsky who made our daily services so vital a part of our congregational program. It should be noted that for over twenty years Mr. Smolinsky never missed a single daily morning and evening service.

The Committee on Memorials dedicated several of the large stained glass windows in the main Synagogue auditorium as memorials, and published beautiful monographs on these windows as well as the order of services for their dedication. Through the initial assistance of Mr. Milo Minkin, the tradition of supplying the home of every member with an attractive Jewish calendar was first instituted in 1943. In an effort to distribute honors and aliyahs as widely as possible it was voted that no member of the Board shall be assigned any honors during the Holydays. Although the congregation had taken no direct hand in the supervision of Kashruth in the city it was vitally interested in assuring such supervision, and joined the Orthodox congregations in this task.



Scout Troop Number 61—June 1949



ISADORE RICH

For a number of years the congregation contributed annually the sum of $250.00 toward the employment of a Mashgiach. This support was withdrawn only when the Orthodox rabbis presented another plan for providing this supervision.

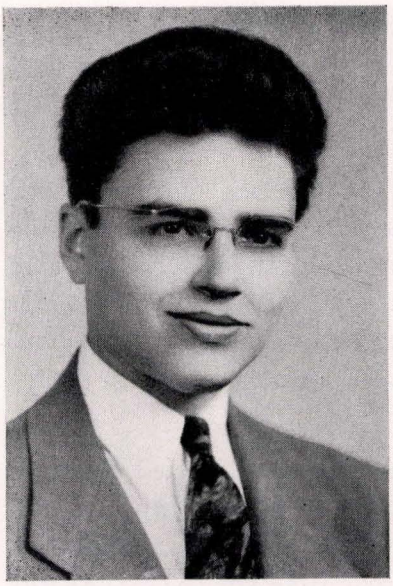
In the summer of 1943, Rabbi Hadas became seriously ill, and was confined for many weeks. For the first time in his career he was unable to be with the congregation during the Holydays, and Maurice Samuel, selected as the lay preacher for both Rosh Hashonah and Yom Kippur, presented a series of stirring and deeply spiritual discourses to the congregation. It was also arranged that the rabbi was enabled to speak from his bed by telephone and loud speaker on the first evening of Rosh Hashonah. It was this illness which impelled the rabbi to seek an assistant, and prompted the Board to set up a retirement plan for the rabbi. However, no sooner was Rabbi Hadas able to return to his duties than he was once again deeply involved in many communal tasks, and more busy than ever with plans for the future of the congregation.

The fifteenth anniversary of Rabbi Hadas' coming to the congregation was celebrated at a dinner held on June 14, 1944, with Dr. Louis Finkelstein as the guest speaker. A special issue of "The Scroll" was published for the occasion and in this Scroll, it was reported that "with a membership of less than 200 and a financial burden of over $400,000 at the outset of his ministry in Kansas City, our rabbi with the courage and optimism of youth undertook to redeem the congregation from debt and to release his energies for the spiritual work for which it was created. The results of his labor are well-known, and we now do not have a single item of debt. Our membership now numbers almost 700. Our religious school population exceeds 500. Above all under our rabbi's leadership and inspiration our congregation has become one of the great citadels of traditional Judaism in America."

So strong had become the financial status of the congregation, and so inspirited was the membership with its attainments, that shortly after a victory dinner, when the mortgage was burned, that earnest discussions began about the possibility of providing an additional building for our school.

Board of Directors—1944

Jack Agron	Louis Lieberman
Hyman Brand	Chas. Malcy
I. J. Cohen	H. Margolin
Harry B. Cohn	Ed S. Michelson
Manny Copeland	Louis Niman
Paul Frischer	Dr. Sidney Pakula
Herman Galamba	J. Peltzman
Benjamin Garry	Reuben Peltzman
Hershel Goodman	Harry Puritz
Jacob Goodman	Isadore Rich
Hyman Gordon	Oscar E. Rosenbloom
Lee Greenberg	Herman Shapiro
Samuel L. Greenberg	Milton Silverman
Herman Greenstein	David Smolinsky
A. J. Kaplan	Benjamin Sosland
Isaac Katz	Hy Vile
Max Keller	Jacob Viner
Phil Levi	Frank Wayne
Jake Levin	B. H. Zarr



RABBI
BERNARD KLIGFELD

Hyman Brand had come to the presidency with the best of good wishes from the entire congregation; he retired from the office with the deep appreciation and the affectionate regard of the staff, the members, and the entire community. Keneseth Israel-Beth Sholom had indeed come to be a congregation of major importance in the American Jewish scene.

It was not easy to be a successor to Mr. Brand, and it was with some doubts that in October, 1946, the young first vice-president, Mr. Isadore Rich, was elected to the presidency. Aside from the fact that he was so much younger than most of our presidents had been, Mr. Rich was, however, well suited for the task of administering the affairs of the congregation. He was a product of this community and of our congregation. He was already widely known throughout the city and had given many years of service to the congregational Board. Our growing number of young people found in him an earnest understanding champion, and other members gladly followed his leadership. With zealous attention to every detail in the affairs of the congregation, he strove to add greater meaning and larger purpose to its efforts.

Circumstances beyond his control forced him to retire after only a single year in office, but a rich chapter in our history is recorded for that year. One of his first undertakings was to improve the Sabbath services, and ours was one of the first congregations to introduce "The Sabbath and Festival Prayer Book" published by the United Synagogue of America. A large group of members organized into an Ushers Committee, which proved very helpful at Sabbath services; the number of Gabaim was increased and their functions were broadened. The Ritual Committee dedicated many meetings to discussions on the Siddur and the Machzor, and probed various plans for improving our ritual.

The size of the school had grown far beyond the capacity of available class rooms. For Sunday mornings the Assembly Hall was divided into four rooms. Every lobby, the choir loft, the main auditorium and even the rabbi's study were all used as class rooms. The matter of an additional build-

Men's Club Board of Directors

1945

Seymour Asher	Max Keller
David Bodker	Rabbi Bernard Kligfeld
Hyman Brand	Julius Lubin
D. S. Brockman	Charles Malcy
Wm. Bushman	Lou Niman
S. M. Feinberg	O. J. Pollack
Bert Garry	Harry Puritz
Hershel Goodman	Isadore Rich
S. L. Greenberg	Nat Robin
Herman Greenstein	Tom Rogovein
Charles Hipsh	Oscar Rosenbloom
Rabbi Gershon Hadas	Cantor Jacob Rothblatt
Lewis Hoffman	Wm. Schreiber
Wm. Jacobs	Hy Vile
A. J. Kaplan	Frank Wayne

ing was clearly an immediate need. The question of the size of the building and its cost was carefully considered, and on July 23, 1947, the sum of $70,000 was voted for its construction as per plans prepared by Kivett and Myers. The contract for the building was given to the Morris Hoffman Construction Company.

For a short time during 1947-48 Mr. Daniel Sloan of New York was employed as "sexton and executive secretary." Because it was difficult to secure a suitable apartment near the Synagogue the congregation bought and remodeled the house at 3600 Virginia as a home for him and his family. Mr. Sloan, however, proved unsuited for the work in our congregation and resigned his position. The Board felt that the house provided Mr. Sloan was much too large for any successor to his job and sold the property with no delay and no loss.

The Cemetery Committee had purchased additional acreage and carried through an elaborate program of improving the entire cemetery including the building of stone walls for the new section, the construction of roads, and the planting of trees and shrubs. A large part of the cemetery was surveyed and plotted and a new plan for the sale of lots was introduced. The Committee, in an effort to obviate the waste involved in large monuments and in order to assure the beauty of the grounds, restricted monuments for the new sections to standard size granite markers.



PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE SISTERHOOD

STANDING (left to right): Mesdames Charles Malcy, Lewis Hoffman, Irving Marder, Lee D. Seelig, William Jacobs.
SEATED (left to right): Mesdames Harry Sandler, Isaac Katz, Reuben Peltzman, Clarence Kleban.

There had been much discussion for some time as regards a project for the prepayment of all charges in connection with funerals. The plan called for a nominal annual payment in return for which no charge would be made for any and all services rendered by the cemetery or the congregation in case of death. During Mr. Rich's year in office the plan was again thoroughly discussed, but action was postponed "until a more careful study is made of its full implications."

The Men's Club was developing into a strong organization with a consistent growth both in the number of its members and in the wide range of its programs. So also the Sisterhood had become an increasingly indispensable unit of the congregation. Under the presidency of Mrs. Lee D. Seelig during '45-'49 and Mrs. Charles Malcy in '49-'51 the ladies provided their members with stimulating programs, and carried through major projects the income from which was assigned for the support of the Sunday School. One of these projects, the Annual Pesach Luncheon, had become a popular tradition. Year after year Mrs. Hadas assumed charge of this luncheon and the rabbi reviewed a current book of Jewish interest.

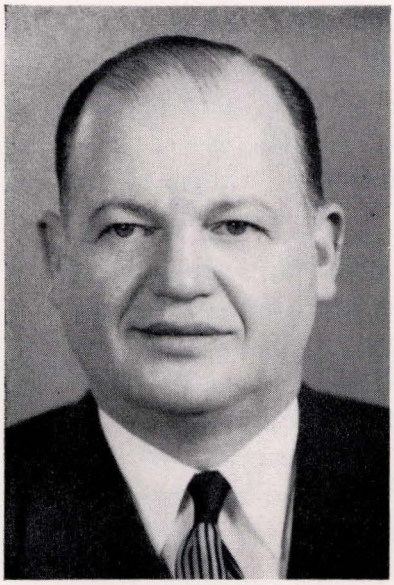
The war had wrought havoc among all young people's groups. The Young People's League had almost completely disappeared and steps were taken to recover this loss. Several groups of young people began to meet with some regularity and plans were evolved for the permanent organization of a Young Married League and of a number of youth groups within the congregation.

After Eighteen Years

During the summer of 1947, on the occasion of Rabbi Hadas' 18th anniversary with the congregation, the Board voted to grant the rabbi a year's vacation "as a long delayed Sabbatical year." Careful plans were made for an extensive itinerary, and he and his wife left Kansas City for the west coast late in November. They had been gone only a couple of weeks when it became evident that the congregational staff was not yet prepared to carry on its work without the direction of the rabbi. The experience with the plan to give the rabbi a leave of absence again revealed how important it was to secure a competent associate rabbi and a larger staff to assure the continued development of the congregation.

A very full year came to a close when, on October 15, 1947, Mr. Rich completed his term of office and Mr. Leo Rubenstein was elected president. The congregation had broadened the scope of its activities, its staff was strengthened and its spiritual attainments were greatly heightened. Above all a sound beginning had been made in dealing with the most vital problem of the Synagogue, the religious training of our youth.

Mr. Rubenstein and his family had always been close to Keneseth Israel, later to Beth Sholom and finally to the consolidation of the two congregations. His father, Harry Rubenstein, was a member of the Board until his death on Yom Kippur, 5703, and he himself had given many years of devoted service to the congregation. He was fully informed on all the plans and the problems of the congregation and was eager to carry forward the work begun by his predecessors. Because of the heavy demands made on the president, the congregation voted to create a new office, that of Chairman of the Board, and elected Hyman Brand to fill this position. It was Mr. Brand's task "to advise and to assist the president."



LEO RUBENSTEIN

The work on the new school building was begun in September, 1947, but was not completed before April, 1949. Extensive work was also done in several parts of the old school building, in the kitchen, the Assembly Hall, the boiler rooms, and in the Main Auditorium. The Building Committee with Mr. Herman Greenstein as chairman reported the final completion of their program in September, 1949.

In order to provide parking facilities, a lot at 3426 Paseo, two doors south of the Synagogue, was purchased in March, 1948, with funds contributed by Mr. and Mrs. Milton Silverman. This is the lot on which subsequently was built the house for the senior rabbi. During the same month the southwest corner of 34th Street and Virginia Avenue was purchased for development into a parking lot. Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Feinberg paid for the lot and for the expensive job of transforming this property into a most convenient parking lot.

The congregation was deeply involved in the steadily rising needs of European and Palestine Jewry. Vast sums were needed, and our members responded with generosity to every appeal. The situation in Palestine was growing tense when in November, 1947, the United Nations announced a plan for partitioning Palestine. This plan greatly favored the Arab population, but was nevertheless accepted by the Jews of Palestine and of the world because it offered the possibility of eliminating the hostility of both the Arabs and the British to the determined effort of the Jewish people to open the gates of Palestine to all Jews, especially to the homeless remnants of European communities. Jews everywhere hailed the United Nations' decision, and a Service of Thanksgiving was held at our Synagogue with Rabbi Kligfeld in charge.

The Arab states, however, ignored the decision of the United Nations and instead savagely attacked the Jews in Palestine. While the battles raged in Palestine frantic efforts were made by Jews everywhere to provide whatever assistance it was possible to bring to our hard-pressed people facing murderous attacks. What a relief it was to us to learn that the Jews were successfully repelling these attacks and that they were even gaining ground. And how thrilled we were when on May 14, 1948, the state of Israel declared its independence. A veritable miracle had occurred; the first Jewish state since Roman times, the third Jewish commonwealth, the dream of nineteen centuries had been realized.

The immediate recognition of the State of Israel by President Harry S. Truman, followed by many other nations, and its acceptance into the family of nations by the United Nations brought songs of praise and gratitude to the lips of world Jewry. Celebrations were held everywhere and in our Synagogue, a city-wide service of Thanksgiving was held on Sunday evening, May 16.

For many years the question of a change in the name of the congregation was periodically discussed but without action. Those who wanted a change argued that the name

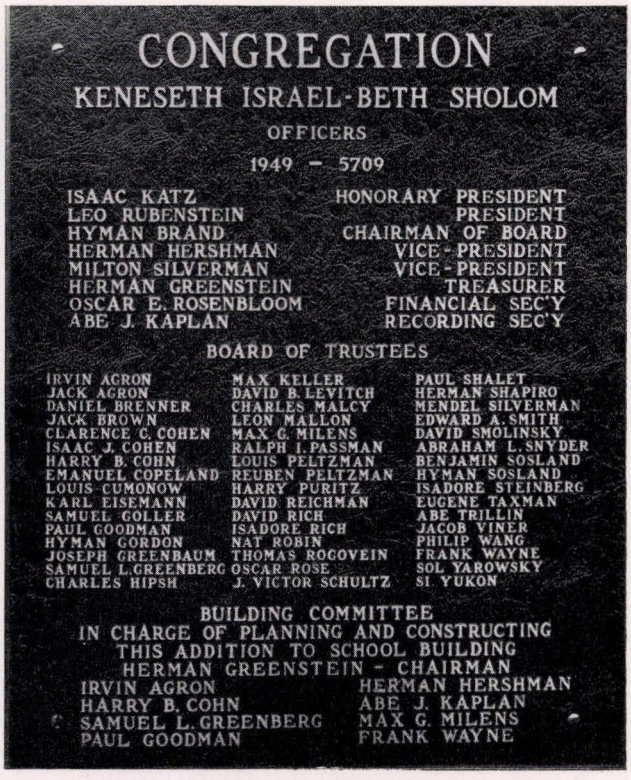


HERMAN HERSHMAN

Keneseth Israel-Beth Sholom was much too cumbersome, too difficult to spell and to pronounce. Those who were opposed to a change argued that our name was much too heavily laden with precious memories and rich traditions to be abandoned. Because one of the men who bitterly opposed the change was Mr. Jacob Viner, our oldest member and one of the most respected, the congregation hesitated to make the change despite an overwhelming vote in its favor. On September 1, 1948, after consultation with Mr. Viner and a poll of the entire congregation, the Board unanimously voted to proceed to change the legal name of the congregation, and on May 23, 1950, we were renamed "The Beth Shalom Congregation."

Traditionally the Shamash assisted in the daily services and only occasionally was assigned other minor duties. The title, therefore, came to be associated with a person who possessed little or no real competence in any field of congregational work. At most he was an informed and observant Jew with little or nothing else in his favor. The growth of the congregation, the expansion of its facilities and activities demanded a new sort of Shamash. We needed a man who could assume charge of our building and its maintenance, and assist in some of our activities as well as care for his traditional duties. We found such a person in Mr. Abraham Meth, who came to us from Hungary in May, 1948.

Mr. Meth has brought distinction and dignity to the title Shamash. He is a cultured person, and a well informed and devoted Jew, and possesses an amazing range of capacities which make him extraordinarily well equipped to deal with the many problems and projects assigned to him. Our school, our youth activities, our Synagogue services as well as our building have all greatly profited from the faithful service he is rendering the congregation. One of his many projects is the Zimrah Orchestra made up of boys and girls from our youth groups, which he has directed since its organization in 1949. This orchestra, perhaps the only one of its kind in the country, has been a source of great satisfaction to its members and of much pleasure to the community. Mr. Meth has brought a knowledge of Jewish music to the orchestra and through the orchestra to the



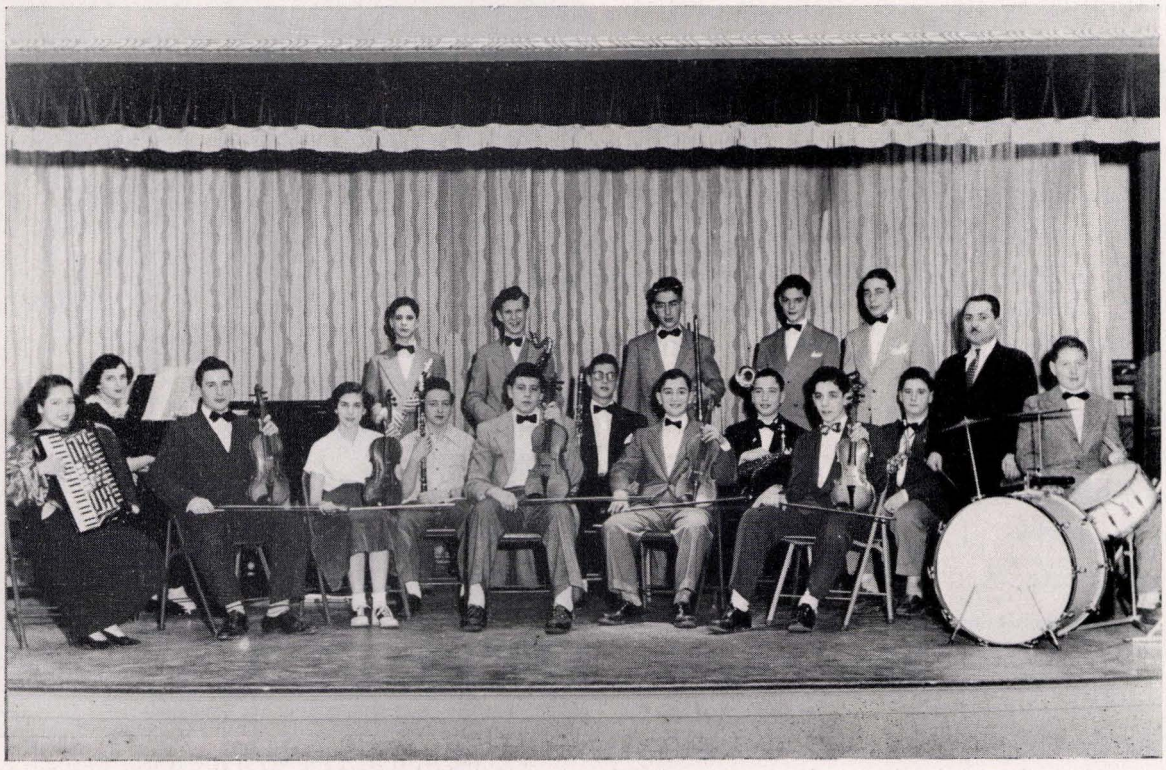
PLAQUE ON ADDITION TO SCHOOL BUILDING

congregation and the community.

We recall with pleasure some of the young women who through the years were in charge of the Synagogue office. There was Frieda Bernstein who for almost a decade managed the office with rare devotion. Then there was Sylvia Segal and later her sister, Helen Rae Segal, whose loyalty and competence are so clearly reflected as we page through the records they left behind. There were others who gave outstanding service to the office, and, though we recall them with gratitude, the list is too long for inclusion in this brief record. But heavier duties were constantly being imposed on the office staff, duties that required long range planning and more permanent personnel. It was to meet this pressing need that in May, 1948, Mr. Leonard Glass was placed in charge of the Synagogue office. Mr. Glass, who came to us immediately from his graduation from college, has grown with the growth of his duties and has become an important member of our staff.

It was during Mr. Rubenstein's presidency on September 1, 1948, that the Board voted to accept a gift from the Minda family for setting up a permanent library within our school building and under the jurisdiction of the congregation, to be known as the Minda Library. The gift provided for the complete remodeling of a room and the purchase of all furnishings and equipment needed for a library. It also set up a trust fund of $500 a year for ten years toward the maintenance of the library.

Early that year the congregation dedicated a very attractive plaque at Mt. Carmel Cemetery to the memory of Mr. Joseph Peltzman who had rendered nearly sixty years of consecrated service to the congregational cemetery. Other memorials such as stained glass windows, silver ornaments for the Torah Scrolls, and others were also dedicated during the year.



ZIMRAH ORCHESTRA— 1949

In February, 1949, Rabbi Hadas was privileged to accompany a group, representing the United Jewish Appeal from all parts of the country, on a trip to Europe and Israel. He returned bringing a stirring message to our community on what he saw and heard in refugee camps in France and in Italy and most especially on his experiences in the land of our fathers. With him from Kansas City were Rabbi Maurice Solomon and Mrs. Ernest Peiser.

The record of the congregation is a refutation of the notion that only so much can be done within a given time and no more . As we were reading the minutes of our several Boards, we were amazed by the number and scope of activities which were steadily added to our program year after year. Certainly Mr. Rubenstein rounded out two highly significant and thoroughly exciting years as our president, and on October 26, 1949, Mr. Herman Hershman was elected as his successor.

Mr. Hershman was in every sense of the word a "shul-mentsch," intimately related to the Synagogue. He loved its traditions and stood in reverence before the sanctities which it taught and symbolized. Then, too, he had a deep affection for Beth Shalom and was ever ready to serve its needs. It was an enthusiastic congregation that elected him to office and a deeply appreciative president who entered upon his duties with the firm determination to maintain the high standards set by his predecessors.



The Jewish Book Council of America

sponsored by the

NATIONAL JEWISH WELFARE BOARD

hereby awards this citation of merit to

Minda Library
Beth Shalom Congregation
Kansas City, Missouri

in recognition of its fulfillment of our minimum requirements for a Jewish library and as testimony of its contribution to the furtherance of Jewish culture through the dissemination of the Jewish book.

Mortimer J. Cohen
President

Philip Goodman
Executive Secretary

Herman Peiser
Chairman, Committee on Citations

May 21, 1952
Date

This determination very soon began to find expression in a host of tasks that involved large sums of money and the cooperation of the entire membership. Shortly after Mr. Hershman assumed office the Board authorized the expenditure of $30,000 for a new Chapel. This was the final step in a program begun some fifteen years earlier, and called for the fashioning of as beautiful and as comfortable a place for worship as the available space permitted. Clarence Kivett drew the plans and A. I. Morris and Son were awarded the construction contract. It was almost a year before this work was completed, and the chapel, formally dedicated on November 6, 1950, is as charming an example of an ideal Synagogue, in miniature, as we have ever seen. It is a source of genuine pride to all who come there for services even as for all who shared in its building.

Adding Beauty to Holiness

The Minda Library was completed just before the work on the Chapel was begun. It was dedicated on November 27, 1949, at a service in the Main Synagogue with Rabbi Albert Minda of Minneapolis as the guest speaker. Rabbi Minda is the son of Hyman and Rachel in whose memory the Library was dedicated. The following month, on December 2, 1949, the congregation dedicated the attractive metal fence and the six artistic copper plaques mounted on the roof of the addition to the school building. These were the gift of the family of Lee Greenberg, "of blessed memory." Mr. Greenberg was a son of Jacob and Anna Greenberg and a brother of Samuel L. Greenberg, a former president of the congregation. He was a beloved member of the congregation and of the community.

Stained glass windows were installed in the addition to the school building from designs prepared by A. Raymond Katz of New York. A group of four of these were dedicated on October 27, 1950. One was the gift of friends of Henry Zinn and was dedicated in his memory. Another is in memory of Max and Esther Morris and was placed by their family. The fourth is in memory of Harry and Edna Milens, and was placed by their family. Other memorials dedicated during that year were six large bronze plaques the gift of the families of Sol Brams, Celia Taxman Durwood, Jennie Steinberg, Tom Cohen and Anna Cohen. One was placed by the Breakfast Club of the congregation.

The last two of the twelve windows in the Chapel, designed by Jeanette Klein, were dedicated to the memory of Leo Goodman and Fannie Cohen.

The Synagogue Museum of ceremonial objects was opened to the public. A fund given by Dorothy Cohen in memory of her husband, Tom Cohen, provided for the initial setting up of the museum as well as for future purchases. A number of very interesting and valuable ceremonial art objects have been added to the museum from time to time as gifts of individual donors.

The Men's Club was beginning to offer its members programs of such merit that on several occasions the Main Synagogue had to be used for the capacity audiences which they attracted. The Chairman in charge of programs was Mr. Morris Shlensky, whose enthusiasm knew no bounds and who succeeded in setting standards that were far and above what most congregational men's clubs could possibly undertake. The Young

Married League was getting into stride and began to draw into its ranks couples af varied backgrounds, but all interested in gaining a fuller appreciation of Jewish values and in introducing these values into their homes. The League sponsored a study class, Friday night dinners and services as well as many social gatherings. An effort was made to reorganize the Young People's League and a notable event of the year was the twentieth anniversary dinner of the League held on May 16, 1950.

Accent On Youth!

For several years Mr. Henry Steinhaus had served the congregation as the leader of youth activities. First as a volunteer and later as a part time member of our staff he attained outstanding results in his work with teenagers. He organized and led a large United Synagogue Youth group and was particularly successful with the Leader's Training Fellowship. Scores of our children were skillfully guided to an intense interest in the Synagogue and in all of Jewish life. For the first time our youngsters in large numbers began to attend Sabbath Services and it was unusual when there were not at least twenty-five of the L. T. F. boys and girls at the regular Sunday morning services. Mr. Steinhaus enjoyed the affection of parents as well as of children and it was with deep regret that we bade him farewell when he and his family moved from the city. The enthusiasm and the warmth with which he infused our young people was a powerful element in prompting us to enter upon a yet more fully rounded program of extra-curricular activities for children and teenagers.

Mr. Steinhaus's work led to cooperative efforts with other youth groups in this area. Many youngsters were sent as delegates to conferences in other cities and a convention of the Midwest Region of the United Synagogue Youth was held in Kansas City during the latter part of November, 1949. The Sisterhood, the Men's Club as well as the School Committee gladly provided generous subsidies for all these activities. Generous support was given also to an expanding program of scholarships to selected summer camps. These scholarships were given to outstanding pupils of our school, and the camps selected were those where the individual boy or girl would receive a maximum of training for Jewish life and leadership. This program was later implemented with a city-wide plan sponsored by The Guardian Society for Jewish Children which seeks to encourage wider participation in this important educational undertaking through subsidies to organizations who desire to sponsor such scholarships.

An important change in the executive staff took place when, in August, 1950,

Men's Club Board of Directors

1949

Hyman Brand	Harry Puritz
David Brockman	Isadore Rich
Jack Brown	Nat Robins
Wm. Bushman	Thomas Rogovein
Emanuel Copeland	Joe Rosen
Jack Fox	Oscar Rosenbloom
Lee Glass	Cantor Jacob Rothblatt
Hershel Goodman	J. Victor Schultz
Herman Greenstein	Arnold Shanberg
Rabbi Gershon Hadas	Morris Shlensky
Charles Hipsh	Milton Silverman
Abe J. Kaplan	Jerome Stone
Rabbi Bernard Kligfeld	Samuel Tilzer
David Levitch	Hy Vile
Julius Lubin	Frank Wayne
Charles Malcy	Norman Yarmo
Lou Niman	Si Yukon

Rabbi Kligfeld resigned. Mr. Melvin Schein of New York was in charge of the school, and for a few months Mr. Jack Aronson of Kansas City served as Mr. Schein's assistant. Once again the Board began an earnest canvass for an associate to Rabbi Hadas. Many rabbis were interviewed in their own communities and several were invited for visits to Kansas City, and many months passed before a decision was made.

These changes did not, however, retard the continued growth of the congregation which then numbered well over 1,250 families, nor the development of the school with its enrollment of over 700 pupils. A daily nursery was opened with an enrollment of only six children but completed its first year with 20 pupils, the maximum that could be accommodated. Mrs. Jack Hoffman was in charge with Mrs. Edwin Levine and Mrs. Shops Levitz assisting her. The nursery school has steadily grown in popularity.

Remarkable progress was made in increasing attendance at Friday night services, and a number of changes in the Sabbath morning services introduced by the Ritual Committee added much toward making those services more meaningful to larger congregations. A number of rituals for special services were published. Particularly successful was the Purim Service which has been used in subsequent years and has brought great joy to large congregations of both children and adults. So also were a number of other special services gladly welcomed and their pattern followed year after year.

In the preparation and the presentation of all services and special programs it was Cantor Rothblatt who bore the major burden of the work involved. It is he who not only helps in planning the programs but spends a tremendous amount of labor in organizing and training the Synagogue Choir. His aid has been of incalculable value through-



NURSERY SCHOOL—1952

out the years. Graciously and generously has he given his time and energy to the school as well as to his musical work. It is Cantor Rothblatt who trained so many of our boys and girls for their Bar Mitzvah and Bas Mitzvah and taught them to lead in Synogogue services. Our annual Confirmation Service which has become so beautiful and so vital an event in our calendar has been under the Cantor's sole charge for many years. During the past several seasons it was he alone who developed the program, trained the class and the choir and supervised and directed the entire service. He certainly fully and well merits the warm regard in which he is held by the staff as well as by the entire membership.

It was a tradition, hoary with age, for those who come to recite Kaddish for their deceased to serve refreshments to the congregation after the service. This very probably stemmed from the desire to assure a Minyan at the service which was often held in the home of the mourners. This custom continues to our day except that in our Synagogue we have greatly improved upon it. There are many who can with justification claim credit for this improvement, but it was members of the Sosland family who many years ago instituted what has since become our famed Breakfast Club.

This Club, made up of all those who come for daily morning worship, is served a

THE SYNAGOGUE CHOIR—1953



FRONT ROW (left to right): Mrs. Edwin Levine, Mrs. Morris Ellis, Mrs. Hans Caspari, Cantor Rothblatt, Mrs. Morris Lerner, Mrs. Leuchter.

SECOND ROW (left to right): Mrs. Joe Zitterman, Max Lerer, Mrs. Isadore Bressel, Sam Pasmanik, Miss Marie Untrif, Morris Cohen, Edward Wolberg, Mrs. Martin Bass, Dave Cooper, Mrs. Bernard Birnbaum, Miss Barbara Rosenfeld.
Not Shown in the Picture: Mrs. Frank Agranoff, Ted LaVine.

full breakfast after every service except on Sabbaths and festivals. The morning service, which lasts half an hour, begins on week days at 7 o'clock and Sundays at eight. After the Sunday breakfasts, speakers address the Club but never for more than fifteen minutes and the Club adjourns at 9:30 a.m. The cost of providing the breakfasts is met from a voluntary collection made every Sunday morning.

The Breakfast Club has been a great stimulant in encouraging attendance at the daily service, and indirectly has brought about wider participation in other congregational functions. It has been a source of very deep satisfaction to have large numbers of young people as well as children attend and share in the Sunday morning services and very often the service is conducted by these young people.

The daily chairman of the Club holds office for just eleven months, the period required for reciting the Kaddish for our deceased. The Club president, who is in charge of speakers and programs, is Mr. Jack Kay, who has held this office for several years. Mr. Sol Forman, in charge of supplies and menus, and Mr. Si Yukon, the treasurer, came into office during Mr. Hershman's administration. But it is Mr. Benjamin Sosland who for many years has been the most consistent and devoted supporter of the Club. It was he who during the earliest days of the Club was appointed its chairman and toastmaster, and as such he has been serving to the delight of all those who attend the Club's Sunday morning breakfasts.

Following the pattern of past years, in giving special recognition to Rabbi Hadas every five years, his twentieth anniversary with the congregation was celebrated in October, 1949, with what was described as "an elegant reception arranged by the ladies of the Sisterhood." The Sisterhood under the presidency of Mrs. Charles Malcy provided



BREAKFAST CLUB, MOTHERS' DAY—1953

an endless number of receptions, served as hostesses at every Oneg Shabbat, prepared and served the monthly dinners for the Men's Club, arranged annual programs with outstanding stars, the proceeds from which provided them with funds for large subsidies to our school, and at the same time they offered well-rounded programs for their own meetings. Especially noteworthy was the annual contribution made by the Sisterhood to the Torah Fund of the Seminary. The traditional Pesach Luncheon was dedicated to the Torah Fund and so successful was this annual event year after year that the Sisterhood has become one of the largest contributors to this Fund in the entire country.

The role of the Jewish Theological Seminary in the American scene and its rela-

Beth Shalom Sisterhood Boards

1933 . . .

Mrs. D. Barr
Mrs. M. Bernstein
Mrs. T. Bornstein
Mrs. H. Clemage
Mrs. M. Eisen
Mrs. M. G. Epstein
Mrs. B. Feinberg
Mrs. L. Fink
Mrs. J. W. Flieg
Mrs. S. Forman
Mrs. F. Friedman
Mrs. J. Friedman
Mrs. E. Gibian
Mrs. R. Goldberg
Mrs. G. Hadas
Mrs. A. Hoffman
Mrs. Wm. Jacobs
Mrs. I. Katz
Mrs. C. Kleban
Mrs. I. Marder
Mrs. E. Michelson
Mrs. A. I. Morris
Mrs. M. Morris
Mrs. N. Peltzman
Mrs. R. Peltzman
Mrs. S. Pines
Mrs. L. Rubenstein
Mrs. Harry Sandler
Mrs. L. Segelbaum
Mrs. P. Small
Mrs. D. Sosland

1939 . . .

Mrs. David Barr
Mrs. Thos. Cohen
Mrs. B. Czarlinsky
Mrs. Karl Eisemann
Mrs. Fannie Eisen
Mrs. J. Friedman
Mrs. Herman Galamba
Mrs. Lawrence Goldman
Mrs. Sam Greenberg
Mrs. Gershon Hadas
Mrs. Lewis Hoffman
Mrs. Wm. Jacobs
Mrs. I. Jarus
Mrs. I. Katz
Mrs. K. Martin Kirschner
Mrs. H. Krasne
Mrs. I. Marder
Mrs. Louis Niman
Mrs. M. H. Novorr
Mrs. Sidney Pakula
Mrs. Nathan Peltzman
Mrs. Reuben Peltzman
Mrs. Louis Rolsky
Mrs. Frank Rope
Mrs. Oscar Rosenbloom
Mrs. Leo Rubenstein
Mrs. Mae Saltzman
Mrs. Wm. Schreiber
Mrs. J. V. Schultz
Mrs. Lee Seelig
Mrs. Milton Silverman
Mrs. Phil Small
Mrs. Ben Sosland

1944 . . .

Mrs. D. B. Alport
Mrs. D. Barr
Mrs. I. Bernstein
Mrs. M. Bernstein
Mrs. H. Brand
Mrs. Wm. Bushman
Mrs. Tom Cohen
Mrs. J. L. Chambers
Mrs. H. Galamba
Mrs. S. L. Greenberg
Mrs. H. Greenstein
Mrs. G. Hadas
Mrs. Al Hoffman
Mrs. Lewis Hoffman
Mrs. B. Hurwitz
Mrs. A. D. Jacobson
Mrs. Ike Jarus
Mrs. A. J. Kaplan
Mrs. I. Katz
Mrs. C. Kleban
Mrs. J. Klein
Mrs. H. LeVine
Mrs. L. B. Lieberman
Mrs. Charles Malcy
Mrs. I. Marder
Mrs. A. I. Morris
Mrs. Louis Niman
Mrs. R. Passman
Mrs. N. Peltzman
Mrs. R. Peltzman
Mrs. O. J. Pollack
Mrs. Isadore Rich
Mrs. L. Rolsky
Mrs. Oscar E. Rosenbloom
Mrs. J. Rothblatt
Mrs. Edith Rubin
Mrs. H. Sandler
Mrs. L. Sandler
Mrs. Lee. D. Seelig
Mrs. H. Shapiro
Mrs. L. M. Shapiro
Mrs. J. Small
Mrs. P. Small
Mrs. M. Silverman
Mrs. B. Sosland
Mrs. C. Tranin
Mrs. B. Yukon
Mrs. B. H. Zarr

1949 . . .

Mrs. David Barr
Mrs. Isadore Bernstein
Mrs. Hyman Brand
Mrs. Jack Brown
Mrs. William Bushman
Mrs. Sidney Cerier
Mrs. Herman Copaken
Mrs. Sol Dennis
Mrs. Hanan Eisen
Mrs. Morris Garfinkel
Mrs. Hershel Goodman
Mrs. M. C. Gordon
Mrs. Samuel L. Greenberg
Mrs. Herman Greenstein
Mrs. Gershon Hadas
Mrs. Herman Hershman
Mrs. Al Hoffman
Mrs. Joseph Hoffman
Mrs. Lewis Hoffman
Mrs. William Jacobs
Mrs. Isaac Katz
Mrs. Bernard Kligfeld
Mrs. Harry LeVine
Mrs. Sol Levinson
Mrs. David Levitch
Mrs. David B. Levitch
Mrs. Carl Lipoff
Mrs. Julius Lubin
Mrs. Charles Malcy
Mrs. I. Marder
Mrs. Abe Markus
Mrs. A. I. Morris
Mrs. N. Peltzman
Mrs. R. Peltzman
Mrs. Harry Puritz
Mrs. Dave Reichman
Mrs. Isadore Rich
Mrs. Nat Robin
Mrs. Thomas Rogovein
Mrs. Jacob Rothblatt
Mrs. H. Sandler
Mrs. Lee D. Seelig
Mrs. Arnold Shanberg
Mrs. Milton Silverman
Mrs. Sidney Simon
Mrs. P. Small
Mrs. Jack Snyder
Mrs. Norman Yarmo
Mrs. Si Yukon
Mrs. Molly Zinn

tion to our community became ever clearer to the congregation. Mr. Hyman Brand had become the chairman of the Friends of the Seminary for this region, and it was he, aided by such men as David Sosland, Milton Silverman, Harry Puritz and Herman Hershman who directed us to a close relation with "this institution as the fountain of our spiritual strength." We began to think of the Seminary as our very own and sought to support it as such.

The annual dinner of the Kansas City Friends of the Seminary held on January 11, 1950, presaged widespread and generous support for the Seminary. Dr. Louis Finkelstein, the guest speaker, was given a warm welcome and his prophetic message stirred us all to greater loyalty to our faith.

Just before the close of Mr. Hershman's second term as president the Board made several decisions that were of far reaching importance. These decisions had been carefully considered and were the expression of the unanimous will of the membership. They involved the future of our school and youth programs, and the future status of Rabbi Hadas as he was approaching the age when he may retire. It was imperative that the school be placed under competent direction, and it was equally important that Rabbi Hadas be given an associate who could at once relieve him of many routine duties and who could be counted upon to gradually assume an even larger measure of the rabbinic direction of the congregation. Without experienced leaders our youth program began to falter and there was no question in anyone's mind but that a trained leader should be secured for this basic phase of our activities.

Our Staff Grows

It was not easy to find the sort of people we wanted. Nor did we know just how we would be able to finance the program for the expansion we had in mind. The choices that were then made have, however, fully justified our hopes.

The first step was the employment of Rabbi Abraham J. Karp as the co-rabbi with Rabbi Hadas. Rabbi Karp graduated Yeshiva College in 1942 and the Seminary in 1945. He served in Paterson, New Jersey, as executive on the staff of the United Synagogue of America, and came to us from Swampscott, Massachusetts, where he had been rabbi for three years. He was highly praised by his teachers and by those whom he served as rabbi, and he quickly evoked our sincere regard and affection.

Rabbi Karp came to Kansas City in July, 1951, and was formally installed on Friday evening, September 7, 1951. At Rabbi Hadas' request Rabbi Karp was granted "full equality in all matters including salary with the senior rabbi." Shortly after Rabbi Karp's family arrived the congregation purchased, remodeled and completely redecorated the house at 3719 Forest Avenue as the permanent home for the co-rabbi.

The School Committee, upon Rabbi Karp's recommendation, employed Mr. Rafael Arbisser as the principal of the school and supervisor of all youth activities. Mr. Arbisser's wife was employed to serve on the Hebrew School staff. Both have given an excellent account of themselves in the very short period they have been with us. Mr. Arbisser has with great zeal and earnestness wrought something akin to a miracle in the operation and the attainments of our school. With him in charge it was felt that we may justifiably wait for another year before adding a youth leader to the staff.

In September, 1950, Rabbi Hadas transferred to the congregation his home at 1310

Manheim Road as a gift. The Board accepted this gift and sold the house shortly thereafter. On January 31, 1951, the Board voted to build a permanent home "to be used by Rabbi Hadas and his family so long as he will retain his affiliation with the congregation, and for his successors thereafter." This house, designed by Mr. Ralph Myers of Kivett and Myers, and built by Joseph Hoffman, was completed in June, 1952.

Thus the Board met the several problems with which it had long been struggling. It was true that in a very short while our debt was back at $90,000 but the congregation was great in numbers, in energy and in enthusiasm for what had been done. It was therefore with great pride and full assurance of yet greater tomorrows for the congregation that Mr. Hershman retired from office on November 7, 1951, to be succeeded by Mr. Milton Silverman.

Mr. Silverman, unlike his predecessor, was not what we used to call a "shule mentsch." He had long been affiliated with the congregation, and for many years had served with distinction on the Board. Both he and his wife gave generously of their time and their means to every congregational undertaking. And yet Mr. Silverman was hesitant about accepting the presidency. "I shall be extremely proud to serve," said he, "but I feel that, despite my warm interest in the Synagogue, I am not the sort of person to head this great congregation." It was not long after his installation that he proved himself to be precisely the sort of man the congregation needed.

Many and complicated were the problems facing the new administration. The very

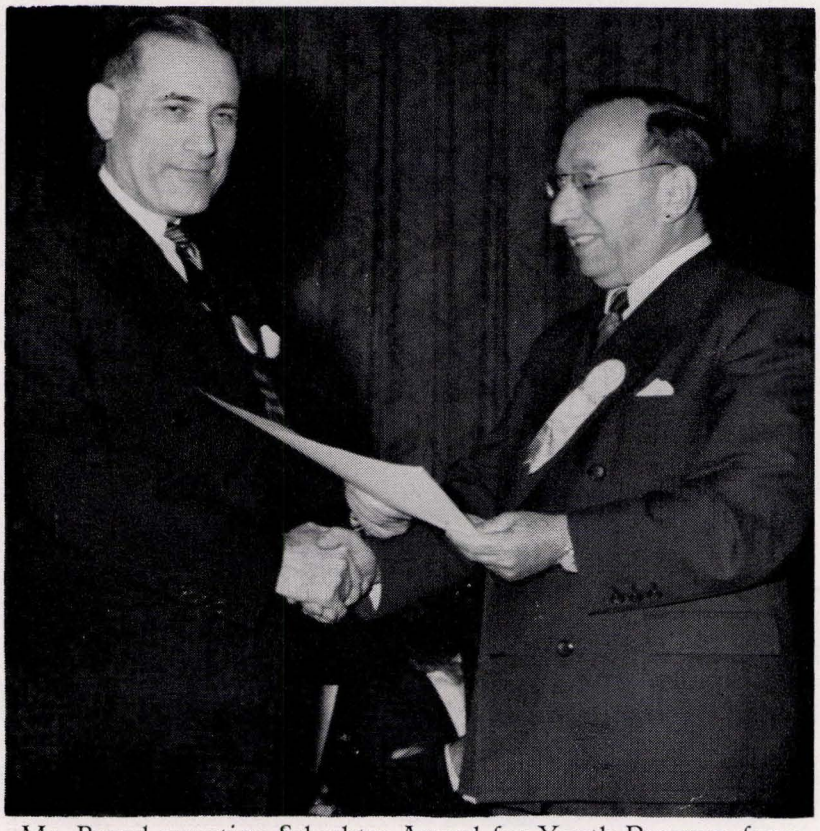


CANTOR JACOB ROTHBLATT RECEIVING MEN'S CLUB KOVOD AWARD, 1952

size of the congregation presented serious difficulties. Too many members were wholly out of touch with what the Board was trying to do. Mr. Silverman introduced a plan for inviting large groups from the general membership to Board meetings. Thus greater numbers of our people became more fully aware of the nature and scope of our problems and therefore more ready to share in their solution. The standing committees were enlarged and given specific assignments with instructions to render written reports at every regular meeting of the Board. These and other changes resulted in excellent attendance and in steady progress at all meetings.

The overall budget had climbed to $140,000 and it became necessary to secure an increase in income from dues in order to meet this budget. The Membership Committee with Mr. Leon Karosen as chairman and the Finance Committee with Mr. Herman Greenstein as chairman succeeded in large measure to secure this increase. The financial structure of the school was greatly improved with the generous assistance of the Sisterhood and the guidance of Mr. A. J. Kaplan, the Chairman of the School Committee. The Men's Club which in former years had received subsidies from the congregation provided substantial aid to the school for its youth activities. The Breakfast Club too began to make periodic contributions especially for camp scholarships and for the maintenance of our kitchen.

Hardly a day passed without a meeting or conference by one or another committee entrusted with some congregational responsibility. And almost always Mr. Silverman was there with suggestions and encouragement. Whenever he saw the need for an improvement whether in the maintenance of the building, the conduct of the school, the operation of the office or in any and every other phase of the congregational activities the matter was immediately brought to the attention of the person in charge, and action was taken to bring about the needed improvement. If the Synagogue was involved, no job was too insignificant for him and none too difficult.



Mr. Brand accepting Schechter Award for Youth Program from Mr. Maxwell Abell, president, United Synagogue of America.

The constitution and the by-laws under which the congregation had been operating for many years failed to meet the needs of the very large organization into which we had grown. A special committee with Mr. Isadore Rich as chairman spent many weeks in

the preparation of a new constitution which was presented to the Board on May 21, 1952, and was adopted by the general membership on November 12, 1952. This constitution includes many important revisions that have facilitated the work of the officers and of the Board. Of special interest is its initial article setting out the purposes for which the congregation is organized.

Synagogue's Purpose

These purposes, as given in the constitution, are as follows:

A. To promote traditional Judaism by:
   1. Maintaining a synagogue for religious services that are significant and inspiring to its members, yet rooted in the traditional liturgy of the Synagogue.
   2. Cooperating with local and national institutions in the promotion of Conservative Judaism.

B. To advance Jewish education by:
   1. Maintaining a Synagogue School with week-day and Sunday classes for children and adolescents.
   2. Maintaining a week-day pre-school and kindergarten, a library, youth clubs, adult study groups and the like.
   3. Maintaining such institutions and activities which promote the spiritual, cultural and social welfare of its members.
   4. Cooperating with local and national organizations which seek to promote Jewish education.

C. To foster attachment to Jews everywhere by encouraging activities which make for religious unity among all Jews.

D. To aid in strengthening the spiritual and cultural values of Judaism in the State of Israel.

E. To purchase, own, hold, lease, rent, sell, exchange or otherwise transfer or dispose of property, whether real or personal, as may be necessary for the proper promotion of the purposes and welfare of this congregation.

Having strengthened the structure and the operation of the congregational organization, Mr. Silverman then undertook to reduce our capital debts and to stabilize the status of the staff. Cantor Rothblatt was as of July, 1952, provided with a retirement annuity and an allocation for housing. The house at 3632 Virginia, belonging to the congregation, was assigned as the home for the principal of the school. And before the close of his first term, the president had succeeded in greatly reducing the debts incurred in connection with the elaborate building program which was completed in June, 1952.

There was a time when the presence of officers and Board members at the Sabbath morning services or even at Friday night services was an unusual occurrence. This situation gradually changed, and under Mr. Silverman's directives it was unusual when at least some of the officers and members of the Board were not present at these services. Also for the first time in our history many officers regularly attended the Sunday morning services. At long last the congregation was beginning to recognize that the basic role of the Synagogue is that of a house of worship, and that loyalty to this, our most

sacred institution, involves much more than simply fiscal obligations.

This change in attitude which touches the very heart of all Synagogue problems was the result of many factors. The services themselves were modified in a fashion that did not affect their traditional pattern but yet made them more nearly acceptable to large congregations.

The rabbis, the cantor, the Ritual Committee, and the Gabaim all cooperated in effecting such modifications. The regular attendance of large numbers of children and young people encouraged their parents to attend services with greater regularity and also prompted the cantor to introduce maximum participation in congregational singing. Such participation offers the congregation the welcome opportunity to share in the services in the most direct and enjoyable fashion. It is only when the congregation will be encouraged to recapture our services and make them their own and not simply the assignments of rabbis and cantors that the Synagogue will once again become a house of prayer for all our people. And it is the Breakfast Club and the attendance of the youth groups which has given life and enthusiasm to the Sunday morning services.

As early as 1942, Rabbi Hadas had begun negotiations with the Linas Hazedek Congregation for the use of its remodeled house at 34th Street and Virginia Avenue diagonally across the street from our school building—for youth activities. In July, 1952, these negotiations finally bore fruit. The entire structure was overhauled, plumbing and heating were provided, making it bright, attractive and thoroughly useful. It



THE YOUTH HOUSE

was without hesitancy that the Board authorized the expenditure of nearly $15,000 for this addition to our facilities which was ready for use in September, 1952.

During the summer of 1952, the president frequently met with his committees, and our staff in planning a special series of programs for the year 1952-53. This was a most significant year for the congregation, marking the 75th anniversary of the founding of the congregation. It was also the 25th anniversary of the dedication of the Synagogue building, and the 30th anniversary of Rabbi Hadas' ordination by the Jewish Theological Seminary as rabbi. The suggestion to plan an entire year of special events in connection with these anniversaries was enthusiastically received by all groups within the congregation.

By August the personnel of the committees had been appointed and in September their work was begun. As an introduction to the year of celebrations the congregation published a most attractive and striking brochure entitled "This Is Our Synagogue."

In preparation for the Holydays the Main Auditorium was completely redecorated, the Oron Kodesh was remodeled and additional lighting for the pulpit was installed. For some time there had been complaints that our kitchen was inadequate for the heavy use to which it was being put. The Sisterhood especially required more complete and more modern kitchen facilities for the many dinners and luncheons which the ladies prepared and served. The Sisterhood with the approval of the Board voted to proceed with the work of enlarging, remodeling and equipping the kitchen. The scope of this work gradually expanded as did its cost and when all was done well over $25,000 had been expended. But "the result was beautiful to see and to use." It is a perfect kitchen in every way.

It would be difficult to exaggerate the vast amount of attention which the House Committee has had to give to the many building projects which we have had to undertake during the last several years. Particular recognition belongs to the chairman of this committee, Mr. Harry B. Cohen, who for well over a year almost daily spent some time at the Synagogue in supervising whatever work was being done.

Immediately after the Holydays the president mustered every congregational group and assigned to each a specific job in a series of celebrations which extended throughout the year. The first event was a Friday night service and reception held on October 24 for Beth Shalom Pioneers. The large congregation of pioneer members were stirred with memories of former years and with delight at the progress which the years had brought. Seventy-five of those who had been on our membership rolls for 40 years or more were presented with a beautiful edition of the Book of Psalms.

"Synagogue Scroll" בית שלום

Affiliated with the United Synagogue of America

VOL. 24, No. 4 FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 1953 Elul 17, 5713

The Annual Meeting of the general membership held on November 12 was a welcome departure from such meetings during previous years. The business of the meeting was handled in an expeditious manner, and was soon disposed of in order to hear an address by Rabbi Morris Adler of Detroit. The address served to make clear the obligations of the Jew to America and the role of the Synagogue in meeting this obligation. It was an address which was richly meaningful and particularly appropriate for our 75th annual meeting. Thus the special events followed one another in quick succession.

There was a celebration by our youth groups, a service of tribute to the past presidents, the installation and consecration of the officers and members of the Board, the Annual College Homecoming Service, a Sabbath dedicated to the Seminary with Dr. Moshe Davis as our guest speaker, a service of tribute to the Honorary Life Members of the Board, the Annual Brotherhood Service to which The Community Christian Church was invited, and many other special affairs crowded the season's calendar.

All these services and programs were well attended and widely praised. A special ritual was printed for each service, and elaborate receptions closed each event. It was a most ambitious program that would not have been attempted were it not for the driving power of our president and could not have been carried through were it not for the very able guidance and tireless labors of Rabbi Karp.

One of the most memorable of the events was "The Pageant of Our Festivals," a musical program which featured the Synagogue Choir, the Junior Choir, an L.T.F. dance group with Ruth Shafton as choreographer, and Ben Aronin of Chicago as the narrator. Cantor Rothblatt planned and directed this very effective musical presentation. A very fine musical program was also presented by the Zimrah Orchestra under the direction of Mr. Meth. This concert, in the form of a cantata, written by Mrs. Martin Stone, was an exciting display of the real interest of our youth in the culture and traditions of Judaism.

The year's celebrations culminated in a week-end dedicated to Rabbi Hadas' 30th Anniversary as a rabbi. On Friday night the rabbi spoke on "A Tale Told by a Rabbi" which dealt with his experiences through the years and his hopes for the future of our congregation. The Sabbath morning Service, the Seudah Sh'lishis on Sabbath afternoon, the Breakfast Club's meeting on Sunday morning were all directed to honoring our rabbi, but it was the closing dinner on Sunday night, March 15, that Rabbi Hadas and the congregation will long remember.

This dinner called forth so very large an attendance that many were denied reservations. It was with very real joy and gratitude that this great assemblage greeted Rabbi

Presidents of the Congregation

1894	Barney Stevens
1900	Milton Terte
1902	Abe Denebeim
1905	Frank Josephson
1907*	L. J. Cohen
1908	N. Fishman
1910*	Samuel Zacharias
1912*	A. Askanas
1913	Max Daniels
1914*	Alex A. Smith
1916-17	Abe Denebeim
1918-21	Leo Feld
1921-22	Jacob Viner
1923-24	Jacob J. Taxman
1924-26	Ben M. Achtenberg
1927-30	Ed S. Michelson
1930-32	J. Viner
1932-33	Benjamin Feinberg
1933-37	Reuben Peltzman
1937-40	Hyman Gordon
1940-42	Samuel Greenberg
1942-46	Hyman Brand
1946-47	Isadore Rich
1947-49	Leo Rubenstein
1949-50	Herman Hershman
1951-	Milton Silverman

Isaac Katz has been Honorary President since 1940.
*Dates uncertain.

Hadas and his family as they took their places at the head table. Others sitting with them were Mr. Milton Silverman, our president, Mr. Hyman Brand, our Parnas, and Mr. Julius Karosen, the toastmaster of the evening.

There was a glow of deep satisfaction on the face of Mr. Silverman as he extended his greeting and it was with affection and warmth that Mr. Brand announced a gift of $21,000 by friends of Rabbi Hadas to be given to the Seminary for a permanent scholarship to be known as the Rabbi Gershon Hadas Scholarship.

The guest speaker was fittingly the Chancellor of the Seminary, Dr. Louis Finkelstein, who had been a very close friend of Rabbi Hadas since their student days at the Seminary. Dr. Finkelstein praised the work which the rabbi had done, and complimented the officers and members of the congregation "for having fashioned a truly great and inspiring institution dedicated to God and to Torah." He spoke with prophetic zeal of the moral imperatives for our age, of the stirring values in our heritage and of the great and good work which is before us and which we may not shirk. The response by Rabbi Hadas was a moving expression of his gratitude. "I am particularly proud," he said, "of the magnificent gift made in my honor. The scholarship gives me far greater joy than anything—outside my immediate family life—that has happened to me. I consider such a scholarship the very highest reward for a rabbi's labors."

All these many and thrilling events did not affect our normal activities. In fact the record reveals that every activity gained strength and momentum because of the celebrations. The school's growing worth was reflected in our Bar Mitzvah and Bas Mitzvah boys and girls and in the summer camp scholarships program. Despite the lack of a full-time leader our youth groups continued their growth. The Men's Club under the presidency of Morris Shlensky and the Young Married League under the leadership of Paul Rosenberg grew in numbers and in importance to the congregation. Most especially the Sisterhood with Mrs. Isadore Rich as president was enormously helpful in almost every congregational undertaking.

The Seminary too gained many friends during this period. The annual dinner of the Friends of the Seminary held in 1952 with Dr. Max Arzt as the speaker honored Mr. Harry Puritz as the "man of the year." Mr. Puritz's work on behalf of the Seminary is almost beyond belief. To it, as to every worthy Jewish cause, he gave a full measure of devotion, energy and ability. In January, 1953, the Seminary dinner with Dr. Moshe Davis honored Mr. Hy Vile for "the many years which he has given to our school and for his great helpfulness in Seminary campaigns."

On June 7, 1953, Rabbi Hadas and the congregation were honored when the Seminary awarded the rabbi the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity.

ANNIVERSARY DINNER

honoring

RABBI GERSHON HADAS

on the occasion of the

Anniversary of Thirty Years of

Distinguished Service to American Jewry

tendered by

THE BETH SHALOM CONGREGATION

Kansas City, Missouri

Sunday evening, the fifteenth of March, 1953

the twenty-ninth day of Adar, 5713

at half after six o'clock

We shall now close this chronicle of the first 75 years of our congregation. It is obviously incomplete. The reasons are many and some of them are even valid. So many of the old records are gone as are those who could recall them. It is incomplete because we failed to tell of the many hundreds of men and women the record of whose labors and sacrifices on behalf of the congregation are clearly and proudly given in the records we have. But no history can possibly include all the events and all the contributions made by individuals to the life of the congregation.

Indeed the more we studied the minutes of meetings and the columns of the Synagogue Scroll and other available documents the more proud we became of the thousands of people whose names were never recorded except on ledger sheets and on membership lists. Their signature on what they did for the congregation is blurred but their imprint is unmistakable.

Because of lack of both space and time our story hardly touches upon the position of the congregation in the community. Our Synagogue has set new standards for other congregations, and its influence has been felt in all communal undertakings. Our Synagogue has given the inspiration and developed the leadership so essential for communal growth.

We are humbly thankful to God for the high privilege that is ours to serve our Synagogue, to rear our families by the light and the warmth which it radiates, and to help in keeping high and bright the flame of Judaism for all people and for all time.

It was with much joy that we celebrated our 75th anniversary and we pray that the years to come will find us and those who will come after us bringing added worth to our sacred citadel of peace, our Beth Shalom.



Beth Shalom

Expresses Its

Gratitude to

the Many Friends

Whose Names

Appear on the

Following Pages

We Express Deep Gratitude to . . .

★ Our thanks to MR. SAUL KLEIMAN for making available material and photographs of the early days of the Synagogue's educational program.

★ To MR. LOUIS SUDVARG we express our deep gratitude for the time and talent he freely gave for the photographic work for this volume.

★ To the OFFICE STAFF OF THE SYNAGOGUE many thanks for many hours of devoted labor in the preparation of the materials for this volume.

★ A deep bow of gratitude to MRS. MINNIE R. ACHTENBERG for preparing the history of the "middle-period" in our congregational growth.

★ To MR. GEORGE NEWBERG, "a native son of Kansas City," many thanks for his contribution of important material on the early days of Keneseth Israel and the Kansas City Jewish community.

Mrs. Lena Silverman

Mr. and Mrs. Milton Silverman

Mr. and Mrs. Mendel Silverman

Mr. and Mrs. Alex Silverman

"They that wait upon the Lord, shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; they shall walk, and not faint . . ."

—Isaiah

§

"For as the earth bringeth forth her growth, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord God will cause justice and glory to spring forth before all nations."

—ISAIAH

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—PSALMS

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"It hath been told thee, O man, what is good,
And what the Lord does require of thee;
Only to do justly and to love mercy,
And to walk humbly with thy God."

—MICAH

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for His mercy endureth forever."

—PSALMS

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"And ye shall be unto Me, a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation."

—EXODUS

"Trust in the Lord with all thy heart, and lean not upon thine own understanding."

—PROVERBS

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"O praise the Lord, all ye nations;

Laud Him, all ye peoples.

For His mercy is great toward us;

And the truth of the Lord endureth forever."

—PSALMS

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"Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore."

—ISAIAH

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"Sever not thyself from the congregation; trust not in thyself until the day of thy death; judge not thy neighbor until thy art come into his place."

—PIRKE OVOS

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