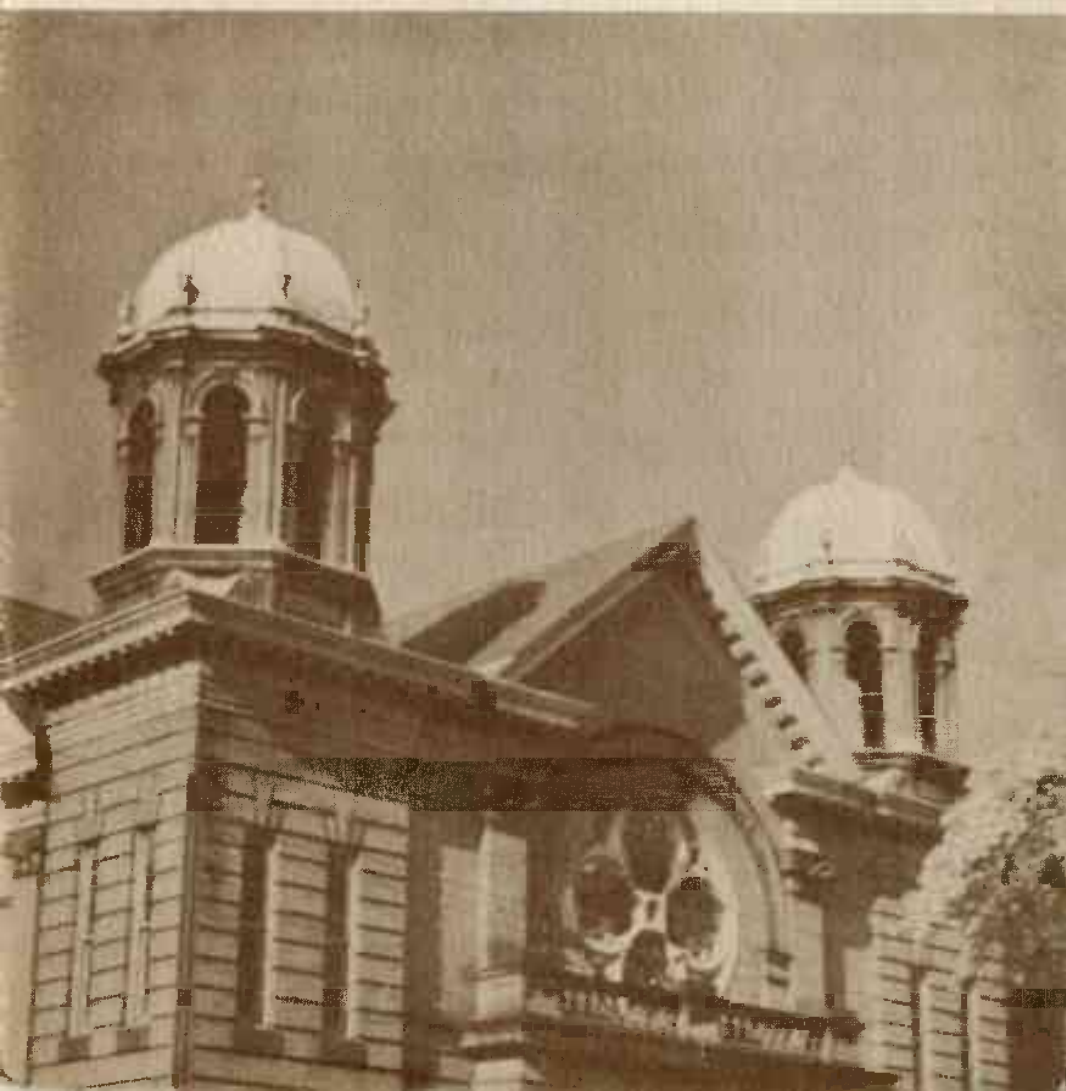


85th Anniversary

1856

1941



1856

85th Anniversary

Congregation Shaarai Shomayim

Lancaster, Pennsylvania

November 21 - 24, 1941



*Congregation Shaarai Shomayim as a "Society of Jews"—referred
to in deed to the Burying-Ground—February 3, 1747.*

Organized as Congregation Shaarai Shomayim—February 25, 1855

Chartered as Congregation Shaarai Shomayim—November 17, 1856

1941

Foreword - By the Rabbi

We celebrate the eighty-fifth anniversary of Congregation Shaarai Shomayim at a time when we are particularly conscious of the blessings that have been ours in the uninterrupted course of congregational life. We realize now with what vision the founders of the Congregation labored and with what courage they made sacrifices to maintain the house of God, which they had established. We are grateful that destiny has made us the heirs of their accomplishment and that we are privileged to continue the work of building and maintaining our Congregation in a free and peaceful land. The thought cannot escape us that we are in a sense, pioneers of a new age. Wicked men have sought to destroy the religious life of one continent. Great communities that have done so much in the name of Judaism have been all but annihilated. Never before in Jewish history has the challenge to the new communities in Israel been so insistent. Men of faith must build here more firmly and more extensively the institutions of Judaism that have been undermined in other lands. It is then, not only in the light of our Congregation's past that we must feel the high responsibility of our heritage, but with the consciousness of Israel's future need, we must here determine to build the greater Congregation. Our opportunities are many, for we are free to give expression to every ideal of Jewish living. Our Congregation has associated with its many activities more men and women and children than at any time in its long history. Our community is a growing community. All the materials out of which we can build the greater Congregation Shaarai Shomayim of the future are at hand. We must make good and constant use of them. Each one of us, who is a part of Congregation Shaarai Shomayim must make his part count for more, mean more, achieve more; that together we may establish the greater Congregation of the future.

DANIEL L. DAVIS.

A Message From The President

Our Congregation is once again celebrating another milestone in its march of progress, and as its President I bid you enjoy the rich bounty of religious inspiration and Jewish solidarity that it offers you as its members.

There are not many congregations in this country that can boast of 85 years of continued existence.

This heritage has been handed down to us by our ancestors, who with their far-sighted vision and their true sense of loyalty to Judaism have made it possible for us, here assembled, to celebrate and at the same time re-affirm our faith in our religion, which has lived throughout the ages and will continue to live and prosper, no matter what the trend will be in this fast moving and changing world.

True, our people have been harrassed throughout the ages, but were it not for our inherent faith in our God and our inborn sense of loyalty, we too may have gone down, but as long as we can stay united and support Jewish causes and Temples such as ours, our faith will never suffer.

This is indeed a very happy occasion for us. We, as a small Congregation in a small community have a Temple, a Religious School and a Spiritual Leader that we may well be proud of.

Our Congregation is growing in membership and it is most gratifying to me that our younger folks, the coming generation, are becoming more congregation-minded and are taking a more active part in its progress.

It is with this sense of loyalty that I pledge my support to our Congregation and faith and will continue to look for your co-operation with me in all the endeavors of our Congregation.

HARRY A. ELINS.

A Message From the Anniversary Chairman

In celebrating the eighty-fifth anniversary of Temple Shaarai Shomayim, it is with a feeling of pride that one reflects upon the noble influence our Congregation has had upon the Jewish and general community in its past history.

During these current days of world turmoil, our Congregation, under the able guidance of our spiritual leader, Rabbi Daniel L. Davis, is doing excellent service in the preservation and inculcation of a spiritual consciousness in the lives of our people. This latter fact is particularly gratifying, inasmuch as in recent years spiritual values seem to have been deprived of their full significance in many channels of worldly affairs. It is with a sense of humble service and whole-hearted willingness that I have had the privilege of serving our Congregation in this Anniversary Celebration. Proper praise for all arrangements must go to the committees in charge, who have individually and collectively given unstintingly of their time and means toward the success of the occasion. The splendid co-operation of all the committees was a source of pleasure to the general chairman, who wishes to express his gratitude and to extend deserving praise where it is due.

May Congregation Shaarai Shomayim continue its excellent achievements in the future, as in the past. Through its endeavors, our heritage of Judaism will receive enrichment and our Jewish way of life ever-increasing inspiration.

B. HARRY SILVER.

Sabbath Eve Service

Friday Evening, November 21, 1941.

Prelude—"Andante" ----- *Mendlessohn*

Mr. Jules Sternberg, violinist;

Mr. Karl Wagar, organist.

Opening Prayer

"Tove L'Hodos" ----- *Wagar*

Choir

Services from the Union Prayer Book—Pages 10-24.

Rabbi Daniel L. Davis

Lighting of the Sabbath Candles—Mrs. Harry A. Elins

Kiddush—Mr. Kurt Wolff

Hymn No. 110 in the Union Hymnal—

"How Good it is to Thank the Lord" ----- *Lewandowski*

Congregation

Anniversary Prayer—Dr. Isidore Rosenthal.

Anthem—"Onward, Ye Peoples" ----- *Sibelius*

Anniversary Sermon—Dr. William H. Fineshriber.

Meditation—"Romance" ----- *Rubinstein*

Jules Sternberg — Karl Wagar

Adoration and Kaddish—Union Prayer Book—Pages 71-77.

Hymn No. 76 in the Union Hymnal—"The Lord of All" ----- *Sulzer*

Congregation

Benediction

Postlude—"God of Abraham, Praise" ----- *Lorenz*

The Musical Service for the Sabbath Eve was composed by Karl Wagar, choirmaster and organist of the Temple, in honor of the 85th Anniversary of the Congregation.

The Sisterhood will tender the Congregation a Sabbath Reception in the Temple Center following the services.

Sabbath Morning Service

Saturday Morning, November 22, 1941

Prelude—"Andante Cantabile" ----- *Widor*

Opening Prayer

"I was Glad" ----- *Ferris*

Junior Choir

Services from the Union Prayer Book—Pages 100-128, 138-141.

The Torah Service—Rabbi Daniel L. Davis

"History Speaks"—Recollections and Reflections Upon the History
of Congregation Shaarai Shomayim.

Episode I—Eighteenth Century Antecedents
Audrey Chertcoff

Episode II—Beginnings and Foundations
Alvin Trilling

Episode III—The First Synagogue
Rhoda Krane

Episode IV—Leadership, Reform and the New Temple
Baruch Davis

Episode V—Period of Quiet Growth
Jean Louise Levy

Episode VI—The Temple To-day
Herbert Elins

Episode VII—The Temple Tomorrow
Audrey Chertcoff

Solo—"Eternal God, Who Blessed Our Sires" ----- *Brahe*
Pearle Lobach

Adoration and Kaddish—Union Prayer Book—Pages 150-153

Hymn No. 292 in the Union Hymnal—Ayn Kaylohaynu—*Freudenthal*
Congregation

Benediction

Postlude—"Festival March" ----- *Faulkes*

"History Speaks" was written by Rabbi Daniel L. Davis on the occasion of the Eighty-Fifth Anniversary of Congregation Shaarai Shomayim for the Sabbath Morning Service for young people.

Fellowship Service

Sunday Afternoon, November 23, 1941

Organ Recital ----- Karl Wagar, Organist
Prelude in the Dorian Mode ----- *Bach*
Intermezzo ----- *Collaertz*
Meditation ----- *Klein*
Evensong ----- *Martin*

Invocation—The Rev. Harvey Swanson

Hymn—No. 264 in the Union Hymnal—"America"
Congregation

Greeting—Rabbi Daniel L. Davis

A Prayer of Fellowship—The Rev. James Wagner

Anthem—"He That Watcheth Over Israel" ----- *Mendlessohn*
Choir

Reading From Scriptures—I Kings, chapter 8, verses 41-43, 54-61

Anthem—"Twenty-third Psalm" ----- *Idelsohn*
Choir

Fellowship Greetings:

The Neighborhood

The Rev. Allen L. Benner

The Council of Jewish Women

Mrs. Samuel Morris

The Bnai Brith

Dr. Louis M. Shear

The Harmonie Club

Dr. Samuel Morris

Hadassah

Mrs. David Guffenberg

The Ministerial Association

The Rev. C. P. Kichline

Congregation Degel Israel

Rabbi Joshua Weiss

The City

Hon. Dale E. Cary

Anthem—"How Beautiful Upon The Mountains" ----- *Wolcott*
Choir

Fellowship Address—Dr. Theodore Herman

Anthem—"Halleluyah" ----- *Lewandowski-Binder*
Choir

Benediction

Postlude—"Choral and Toccato" ----- *Baellmann*

History Of

When Congregation Shaarai Shomayim celebrated the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of its chartered existence in November of 1931 a detailed account of the history of the Congregation was written and published in a souvenir booklet issued at that time. Since then few new facts have been uncovered concerning the antecedents of the Congregation and its early beginnings. It is necessary then on the occasion of the celebration of the Eighty-fifth Anniversary merely to summarize what has been previously written. That there seems to have been an organized Jewish community in Lancaster during the eighteenth century, is indicated in the deed to the cemetery, now the property of Congregation Shaarai Shomayim. The deed, bearing the date of February 3, 1747 is still on record in the Lancaster County Court House. It refers to a "Society of Jews settled in and about Lancaster". This eighteenth century group did meet for religious services and maintained what was termed "a temporary synagogue," as we learn from a letter dated Lancaster, March 17, 1789, indorsed "Rough Draft of Letter to Senators and Representatives in Congress respecting the Permanent Residence of Congress," in which it was stated, "there are seven places of Public Worship, besides a temporary Synagogue in the Borough of Lancaster".

At the beginning of the nineteenth century there were only a few Jewish residents in Lancaster. Joseph Simon, the distinguished leader of the eighteenth century community died in 1804 and was buried in the cemetery of which he was one of the founders. His grandson, Joseph Simon Cohen, was admitted to the bar in Philadelphia on May 24, 1813. It does not seem likely that he was living in Lancaster at that time, although his name does appear in a list of attorneys in Lancaster. The name of Lewis Levi of Lancaster is recorded as having served in the war of 1812. It was not

Congregation Shaarai Shomayim

until the 1840's that the community began to grow again. The advent of immigrants from Germany, who came to settle in Lancaster helped to reestablish the Jewish community. In 1855 there is recorded in the first minutes that were kept of congregational proceedings the names of twenty-one persons who came together to establish (perhaps to reestablish) Congregation Shaarai Shomayim. On November 17, 1856 the Congregation received its charter from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. On the following day it was made a matter of official record and from that date, Congregation Shaarai has continued its uninterrupted existence.

It was in 1867 that the little Congregation succeeded in building and consecrating the first Synagog structure in Lancaster. The occasion, according to the newspaper account of the proceedings seems to have made a profound impression upon the whole community. For some years following the building of the first Synagog the Congregation had to struggle to maintain itself. For the most part leadership was in the hands of individuals, referred to at that time "as chazzan-shochet-teacher" and often only well-intentioned laymen were delegated to conduct the services and to direct the religious as well as the fiscal affairs of the Congregation.

The coming of Rabbi Morris Ungerleider in 1884 marked a turning-point in the history of the Congregation. Through his efforts the Congregation was directed toward a more stable existence; its forms of worship were given greater dignity and significance, the Religious School was permanently established and the first steps toward Reform were taken. Rabbi Clifton H. Levy, succeeded Rabbi Ungerleider in 1893 and continued the process of Reform, which culminated in the establishing of a "Building Fund For a New Temple". Rabbi Levy was succeeded by Rabbi Isidore Rosenthal

History Of

in 1894. The new Temple became a reality and was a completed structure in 1896. An unfortunate accident, which partially wrecked the interior of the Temple on April 24, 1896 forced the postponement of the dedication until September 7, 1896, Rosh Hashannah of that year, when the new Temple was used for religious services for the first time. For twenty-seven years, Rabbi Rosenthal served the Congregation as its leader. During that time the Congregation grew and became an important center of religious life in the community and contributed in no small measure to the firm establishment of Judaism in the American scene. In 1919 the membership liquidated the mortgage indebtedness which had burdened the resources of the Congregation since the building of the Temple. In the same year the membership of the Congregation and leaders in Lancaster's communal life paid tribute to Rabbi Rosenthal upon the completion of twenty-five years of ministry in the community.

In 1921 Rabbi Morris Youngerman was called to succeed Rabbi Rosenthal. He served the Congregation from 1921 to 1923 and was followed by Rabbi Nathaniel Cantor who occupied the pulpit until 1925 and was succeeded by Rabbi Raphael Goldenstein, whose ministry continued until 1927.

Rabbi Daniel L. Davis, the present incumbent of the pulpit, was called to assume the leadership of the Congregation in the Fall of 1927. In the first years of his ministry, a Temple Brotherhood, a High School Department of the Religious School and a Temple League were organized. A Junior Choir was created in order to train young people in Synagog music and has enabled them to have a regular part in the Sabbath morning services. A splendid new organ was installed in the Temple in 1929 as the generous gift of the membership and as a memorial to their dear ones. In the same year Rabbi Davis was instrumental in furthering the move-

Congregation Shaarai Shomayim

ment for an Organized Jewish Charities, through whose annual campaign, support is secured for numerous Jewish causes and institutions in the United States, Europe and Palestine. In 1936 the Congregation was able to enlarge its facilities by acquiring the adjoining property on North Duke street and since then has used the Temple House for the educational activities of the Temple. Many renovations were made in the Temple, notably, the hand-wrought doors of the Ark of the Covenant and the choir railings, the gift of Joseph Goldberg, the pulpit chairs, a memorial by the Sisterhood to Carrie Fox, a hand-carved pulpit, given by Olga Pirosh Levy and Anna Pirosh Levy as a memorial to their father, William Pirosh. In 1938 as a result of the efforts of a movement lead by Louis Wainer and Samuel Morris, the complete redecoration of the Temple was made possible, a new floor installed and the stained-glass memorial windows were rebuilt. In 1940 the first overflow services for the High Holidays were held in the Temple to accommodate the growing Congregation and in June 1941, the installation of new seating in the Temple to care for the increasing membership marked a high-point in congregational achievement. The membership of the Congregation has reached the largest number in its history and includes many young people. It promises to continue its steady, healthy growth, not only in numbers but in the spiritual influence that it has upon the community and seeks to instil into the individual lives of those who are part of it. The Congregation rejoices in the eager and willing leadership that its laymen and Rabbi give to every worthwhile cause and to every Jewish undertaking, in which the inspiration of Judaism is translated into practical achievement. May the blessings of an ever-growing influence and ever-widening sphere of usefulness in the name of our God, and our faith and our people be vouchsafed unto Congregation Shaarai Shomayim, its membership and its leadership.

DANIEL L. DAVIS.

Lancaster, November 7, 1941.

Anniversary Banquet

Monday Evening, November 24, 1941

Invocation and Grace

"America"

DINNER

Address of Welcome—Dr. Harry A. Elins
President of the Congregation

Remarks by the Toastmaster—Dr. B. Harry Silver

Greetings

The Temple Sisterhood

Mrs. Leon Jacobs

The Temple Brotherhood

Mr. Sidney Brener

The Temple League

Mr. Jack Belsinger

Musical Selections

The Orchestra

Remarks

Dr. Isidore Rosenthal

Mr. Emanuel Alboum

Mr. Jack Trilling

Rabbi Daniel L. Davis

Benediction

Dancing

Music by Howard Gale and His Orchestra

Congregation Shaarai Shomayim

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