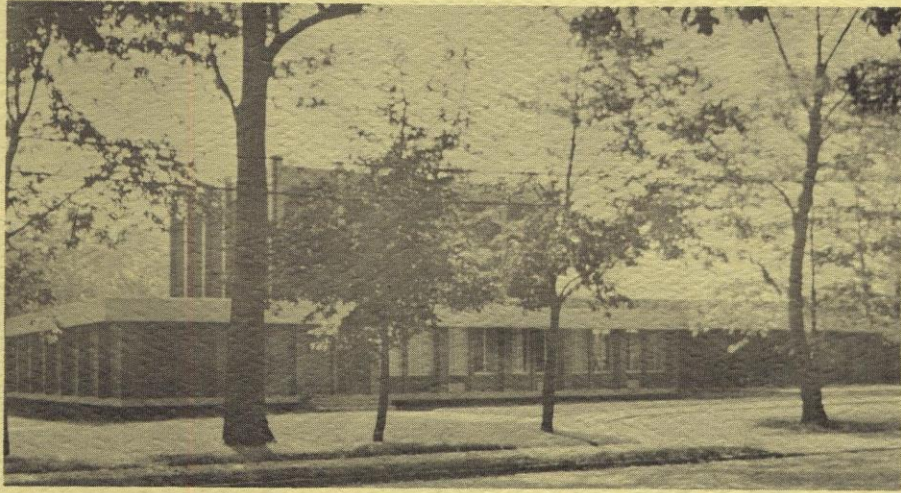


TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL

DEDICATION 1968



TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL

FOUNDED - 1898

New Building Started - 1966

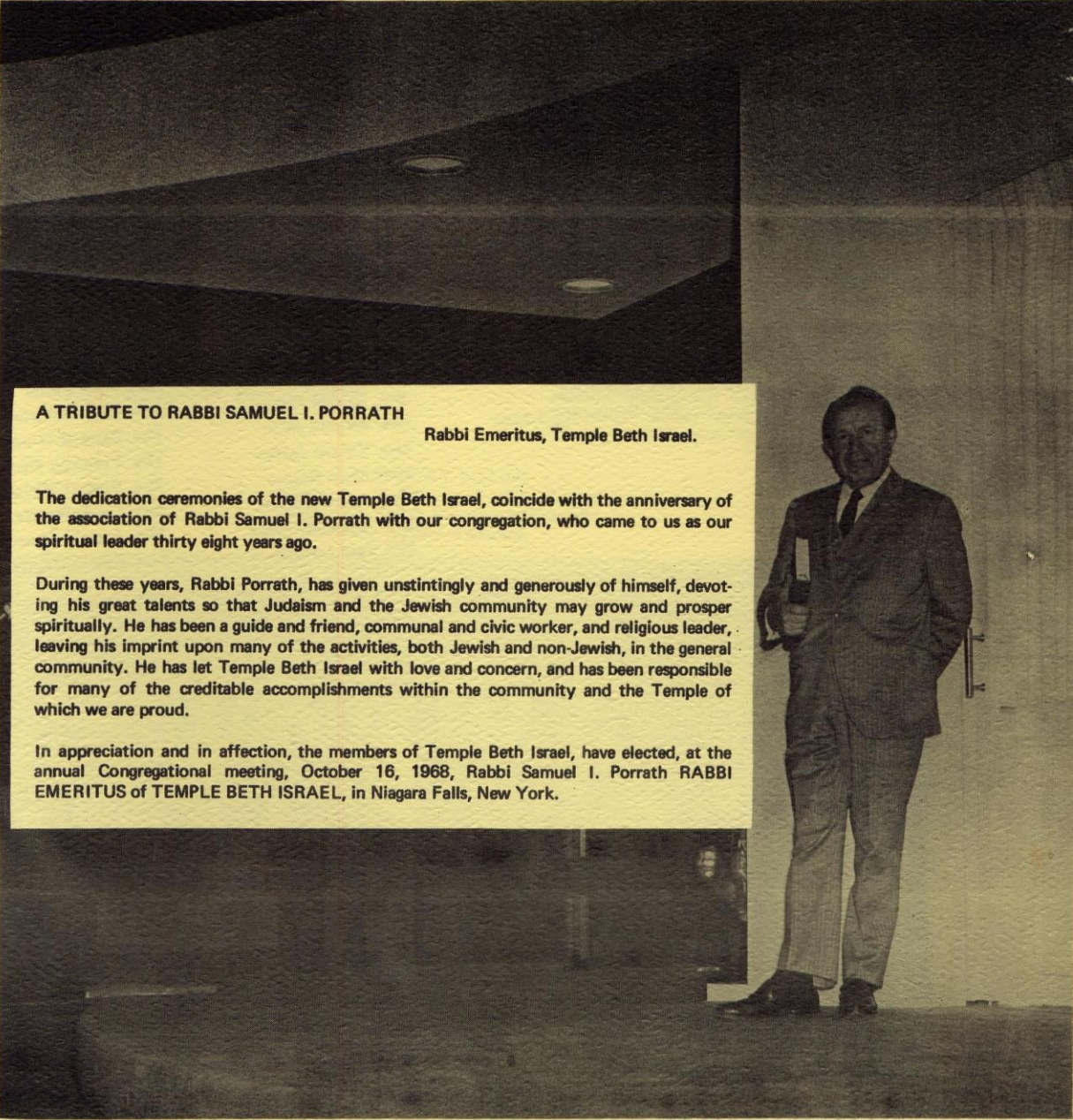
Building Completed - 1967

*"Lord I love the habitation of thy house
and the place where thy glory dwelleth"*

(Exodus)



With the dedication of the new temple, Temple Beth Israel has embarked upon a new era in its long honored past. We, who are present at this moment in history should feel privileged to be a part of this celebration. Since the dedication of the Temple Solomon, the Jewish people have built temples to house the sacred scrolls of Moses. We have continued in this endeavor and have given our children a noble heritage. The vibrant spirit and religious fervor of our people have been reawakened and we of Temple Beth Israel look forward to this era with confidence and anticipation of momentous achievements for the future.



A TRIBUTE TO RABBI SAMUEL I. PORRATH

Rabbi Emeritus, Temple Beth Israel.

The dedication ceremonies of the new Temple Beth Israel, coincide with the anniversary of the association of Rabbi Samuel I. Porrath with our congregation, who came to us as our spiritual leader thirty eight years ago.

During these years, Rabbi Porrath, has given unstintingly and generously of himself, devoting his great talents so that Judaism and the Jewish community may grow and prosper spiritually. He has been a guide and friend, communal and civic worker, and religious leader, leaving his imprint upon many of the activities, both Jewish and non-Jewish, in the general community. He has let Temple Beth Israel with love and concern, and has been responsible for many of the creditable accomplishments within the community and the Temple of which we are proud.

In appreciation and in affection, the members of Temple Beth Israel, have elected, at the annual Congregational meeting, October 16, 1968, Rabbi Samuel I. Porrath RABBI EMERITUS of TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL, in Niagara Falls, New York.

Sisterhood Officers and Board

1968-69

President.....	Mrs. Jerauld Wisbaum	Mrs. Dorothy Cohen	Mrs. Esther Nimelman
Vice-President	Mrs. Malcolm Pierce	Mrs. Leo Franklin	Mrs. Jerald Nimelman
Vice-President	Mrs. Roger Kushner	Mrs. Jack Garfinkel	Mrs. Jack Passer
Vice-President	Mrs. Arnold Zimmer	Mrs. Jack E. Gellman	Mrs. Melvin Passer
Treasurer	Mrs. Lawrence Wolfgang	Mrs. Samuel Gellman	Mrs. Malcolm Pierce
Asst.	Mrs. Louis Kranitz	Mrs. Martin Gold	Mrs. Samuel I. Porra
Financial Secretary	Mrs. Russell Seidner	Mrs. Boris A. Golden	Mrs. Max Rosen
Asst.	Mrs. Joseph Fox	Mrs. Bernard Goodman	Mrs. Arnold Sherman
Recording Secretary	Mrs. Franklin Kutner	Mrs. Arthur Gray	Mrs. Irwin Sidenberg
Asst.	Mrs. Philip Gellman	Mrs. Saul Green	Mrs. Fred Stone
Corresponding Secretary..	Mrs. Joel Jaffe	Mrs. Harold Haber	Mrs. Saul Weinstein
Asst.	Mrs. Bryant Kurtzman	Mrs. Jerauld Jaffe	Mrs. Samuel Wineburgh
		Mrs. Natalie Jaffey	Mrs. Franklin Wisbaum
		Mrs. Alvin Kianof	Mrs. Robert Wisbaum
		Mrs. Frank Kranitz	Mrs. Louis Wolfe
		Mrs. Roger Kushner	Mrs. Arnold Zimmer
		Mrs. Paul Lunken	Mrs. Saul Zubkoff



BACK ROW: Jean Passer, Betty Gellman, Girt Sidenberg, Edith Wineburgh, Sylvia Gold, Dorothy Cohen, Elizabeth Wisbaum, Tibey Porra, Hedgi Lunken, Leah Sherman, Helene Kianof, Charlene Green, Florance Stone, Easther Nimelman, Marilyn Wolfe, Fanny Kranitz, Dorothy Gellman, Sarah Franklin, Milly Golden
 FRONT ROW: Rose Gellman, Betty Kranitz, Leba Wolfgang, Marcia Kutner, Sandy Wisbaum, Barbara Zimmer, Freda Fox, Regina Zubkoff, Bell Passer

Temple Beth Israel

Officers and Board 1968-69

OFFICERS

Dr. Russell Seidner President
 Mr. Bryant Kurtzman
 Mr. Paul Lunken
 Mr. Malcolm Pierce Vice Presidents
 Mr. Jack Passer Treasurer
 Dr. Lawrence Wolfgang Secretary
 Mr. Arnold Zimmer ... Financial Sec'ty

HONORARY TRUSTEES

Alex Gellman, Jack A. Gellman
 Philip S. Gellman, Dr. Boris A. Golden
 Alvin E. Katz

EX-OFFICIO TRUSTEES

Rudolph Gold Cemetery
 Mrs. Sandy Wisbaum Sisterhood
 Saul Zubkoff Building Fund
 Mrs. Helene Kianof .. Dir. of Activities

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Joseph Feldman, Harold Haber,
 Samuel Kranitz, Dr. Roger Kushner,
 Melvin Passer, Samuel Wineburgh,
 Louis Wolffe, Howard Kushner,
 Jerauld Nimelman, Samuel Berman,
 Jerry L. Jaffe, Jerauld Wisbaum,
 Martin Gold, Eugene Dimet.

ADVISORY BOARD

Abraham R. Kushner, Dr. Lester
 Schiff, Dr. Irwin Sidenberg, Franklin
 C. Wisbaum, Robert Wisbaum.



BACK ROW: Louis Wolffe, Samuel Berman, Melvin Passer, Philip Gellman, Abraham Kushner, Roger Kushner, Howard Kushner, Harold Haber, Jerry Wisbaum, Sandy Wisbaum, Sam Wineburgh, Helene Kianof, Gene Dimet, Pauline Pierce, Jerry Nimelman, Lester Schiff, Al Katz, Boris Golden, Louis Kranitz, Samuel Kranitz, Robert Wisbaum, Jack A. Gellman, Joseph Feldman
 FRONT ROW: Lawrence Wolfgang, Saul Zubkoff, Arnold Zimmer, Malcolm Pierce, Russell Seidner, Paul Lunken, Bryant Kurtzman, Jack Passer, Rudolph Gold, Franklin Wisbaum.

A SACRED ENTERPRISE

. . . . Rabbi Samuel I. Porrath

*"This is the day which God had prepared, — let
us rejoice in it." Psalms*

Looking forward to a pleasant experience, is a delight.
Realizing it, at last, is dramatic joy.

We are now finally ready to dedicate our new Temple Beth Israel, formally, with proper ceremonies. This is an important occasion. Fortunate and blessed are we who are privileged to partake in such a celebration.

There it stands, the new edifice. A magnificent structure, housing a mutiplicity of religious, social and educational activities. It is serving a community and a community within a community, constituting an outstanding contribution to the welfare of a great city, and identifying us also, with all of the more important cultural, humanitarain and civic programs of the day.

We are proud of our new Temple. It represents unity, cooperation, harmonious endeavours, love and affection, devotion and loyalty, faith and courage of a consecrated congregation whose members labored dilligently to interpert a dream into a reality.

Temple Beth Israel is the symbol of the everlastingness of the Jew and the Jewish religion; the eternal character of the Jewish way of life. It also bespeaks our determination to continue to uphold and safeguard these great teachings and philosophies which were first endowed to us through the Holy Hebrew Bible.

Strengthened shall be the hands of the many co-workers, for this handiwork is a sacred enterprise.

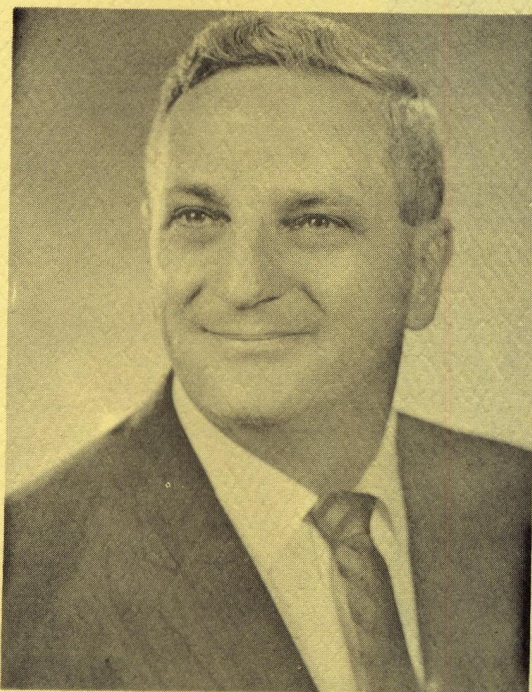
Past Presidents - 1958-68



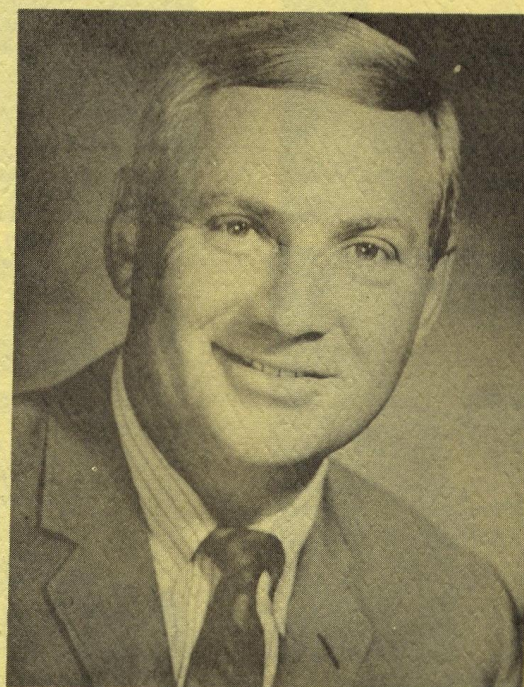
*Dr. Boras A. Golden
1958 to 1963*



*Alvin E. Katz
1963 - 1964*

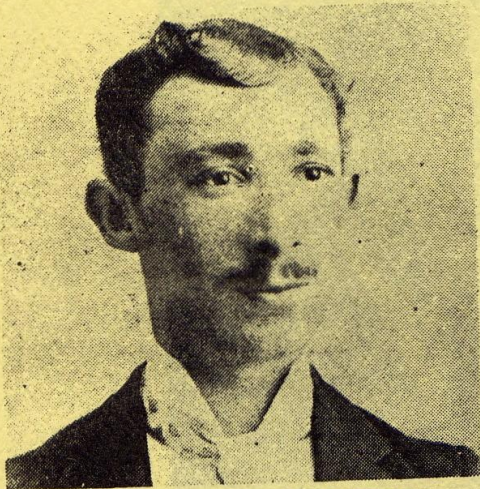


*Jack A. Gellman
1964 - 1966*

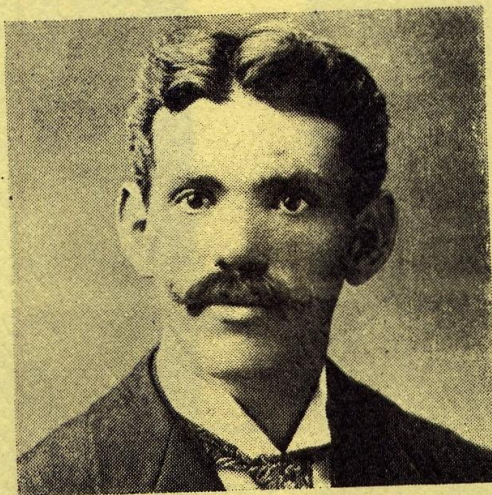


*Philip S. Gellman
1966 - 1968*

Past Presidents



PHILIP PALTROVITCH
1898-1904

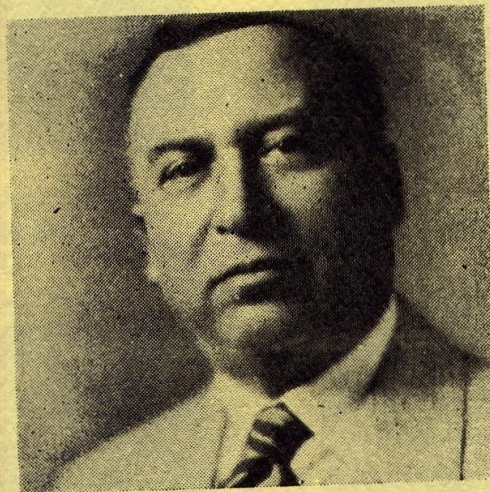


JACOB BOFF
1905-1910

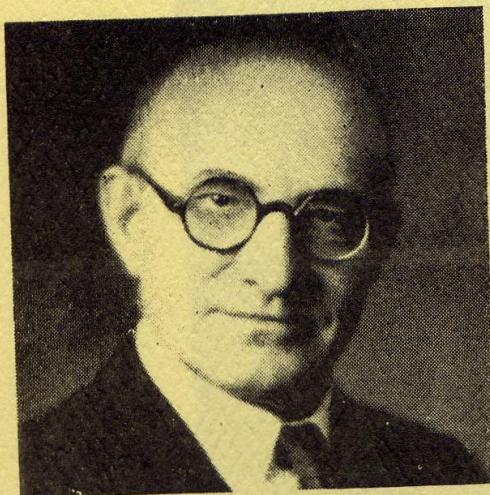
ELY URELES

1911-1914

(Picture Not Available)



ABRAM ATLAS
1915-1917

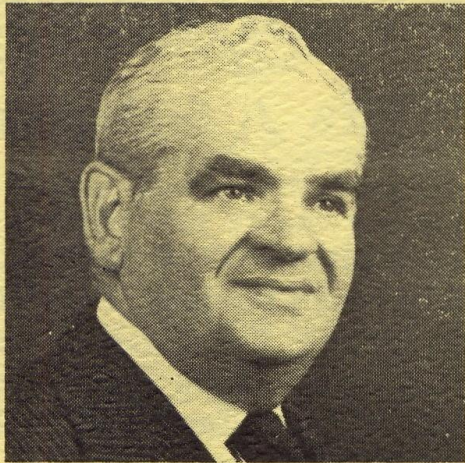


JOSEPH GOLDSTEIN
1918-1919



ABRAHAM WALLENS
1920-1923

Temple Beth Israel (1898-1955)



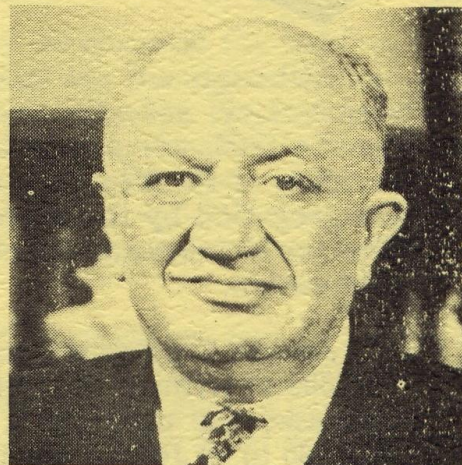
ALEX GELLMAN
1924-1929



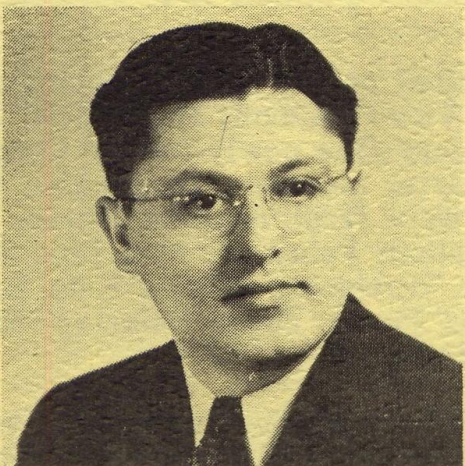
BENJAMIN GELLMAN
1930-1932



HYMAN SILBERGELD
1933-1937



SIMON DIMET
1938-1942



EUGENE LUNKEN
1943-1949



WILLIAM NIMELMAN
1950-1955

*(This is a History of the Temple 1898 - 1955
Published in 1955 during The Golden Jubilee Celebration)*



In The Beginning...

By Jack A. Gellman

WAR WAS BREWING with Spain, William McKinley was President of the United States, and Niagara Falls was a thriving community of about 18,000 people. It was 1898. It was the year Temple Beth Israel was born.

Although we are now in the midst of celebrating our 50th anniversary, actually our Congregation was organized 57 years ago. In 1905, when the Congregation was seven years old, incorporation of the Temple took place and a Charter was granted the Congregation by the State of New York. It is this granting of the Charter 50 years ago which is the basis for our Golden Anniversary celebration.

Joseph Goldstein invited some ten men to his home on April 10, 1898 to witness the "Bris" of his infant son, Harold. These men discussed the need for a Temple and although there were only some 35 to 40 Jewish families of the Orthodox faith in the community at that time, these men there and then decided to organize the Congregation of Temple Beth Israel. Thus began the glorious history of our Temple.

Philip Paltrovitch was elected as the first President of the new organization, Max Leifer, Vice-President; Moses Boff, Treasurer; and Charles Rosen, Secretary. The newly-formed Congregation boasted of twenty-one Charter members. In addition to the officers, the Charter members were Jacob Abelson, Abram Atlas, Jacob Boff, Morris Bricker, Nathan Feinstein, Max Fox, Joseph Goldstein, Jacob Goldstein, Mr. Hirshman, Samuel Katz, Samuel Kurtzman, Frank Pierce, Louis Pierce, Jacob Sklarsky, Samuel Sauber, Isaac Traub, and Ely Ureles.

The young Congregation held its religious services at various places including the second floor above a grocery store on the corner of Main Street and Niagara Avenue, Mayle's Hall on Third Street, and the Crick Building on the corner of Falls and Third

Streets. The members, however, were not satisfied with using somebody else's buildings for the conducting of their religious services and wanted a Temple of their very own. With this in mind, a Land Committee was appointed in 1904 to find a plot of land on which a Temple could eventually be erected.

Incorporation of Temple

The Land Committee, consisting of Joseph Goldstein, Ely Ureles, Moses Boff, Max Leifer, and Jacob Sklarsky, were of the opinion that vacant property on Cedar Avenue, the site of our Temple, was the desired location on which to erect a Temple. It was decided that the Congregation should incorporate before purchasing the land and accordingly in early November, 1905, a petition of incorporation was signed by Jacob Boff, President; Ely Ureles, and Abram Atlas. The trustees at that time were Nathan Feinstein, Abraham Wallens, Moses Boff, Max Leifer, Joseph Goldstein, and Isaac Wiss, Secretary. The State of New York granted a Charter to the Congregation on November 17, 1905, the legal birthday of Temple Beth Israel.

The way was now clear for the purchase of the land on Cedar Avenue and almost immediately after the incorporation had taken place, the land was purchased for \$1600 from the Estate of Jane H. Wheeler. The members could not raise the cash for the full purchase price and it was necessary to give a mortgage for \$500 for the balance. It was not until January 4, 1907, that final payment was made on the mortgage and the land was owned by the Congregation free and clear.

Almost from the first day the Congregation was organized the founding fathers had visions of a Temple of their own and worked dynamically and energetically toward that goal. Years of sweat and toil, fund-raising and planning, took place before the dream was to be realized. Finally, however, the day arrived when a contract was entered into, on June 15, 1910, for the erection of the Temple. The Building Committee which negotiated the contract and then actively supervised the building of the Temple, included Abram Atlas, Joseph Goldstein, Abraham Wallens, Ely Ureles, Moses Boff, Jacob Sklarsky, Louis Tobias, and Sigmund Spitzer.

Building of the Temple

Probably the most dramatic and important day in the history of our Temple took place on a Sunday afternoon, May 11, 1911, when the cornerstone of our Temple was laid. There were speeches and other appropriate ceremonies long since forgotten, but not forgotten are those handful of men who worked so hard and unselfishly to build a spiritual House of Israel out of brick, mortar, and wood. There were 33 members active in the Congregation at that time: Abram Atlas, Jacob Boff, Moses Boff, Jacob Coleman, Morris Gellman, Joseph Goldstein, Samuel Gorbaty, Edward Gorbaty, Benj. Davis, Jacob Jean, Ben Jaffe, Samuel Katz,



Meyer Marenus, Louis Pierce, Frank Pierce, Jacob Pierce, Charles Rosen, Charles Rosenthal, Jacob Russell, Sigmund Spitzer, Charles Swerling, Max Spitzer, Max Swerling, Jacob Sklarsky, Harry Schreiber, Max Sauber, Isaac Sakovitz, Meyer Salit, Isaac Traub, Louis Tobias, Ely Ureles, Abraham Wallens, and Louis Wisbaum.

The fulfillment of the young Congregation's hopes and dreams, the completion of the Temple, took place in 1912 when the doors of the Temple were flung open for the first time to enable its members to participate in High Holiday services that year. It had cost about \$12,000 to build the Temple of which \$6,000 had to be borrowed on a mortgage, and \$6,000 had been contributed by the members. Jacob Schiff, a New York City philanthropist, had heard about the building of the Temple and had donated \$250 toward its construction. Many members of the Temple were equally generous and not only contributed cash but also made donations of carpets, tablets, Sifrei torah, lights, and other necessities to outfit the new Temple. Several pages would be required to list the names of all the generous contributors to the Temple not only at the time of its erection but also down through the years of its history.

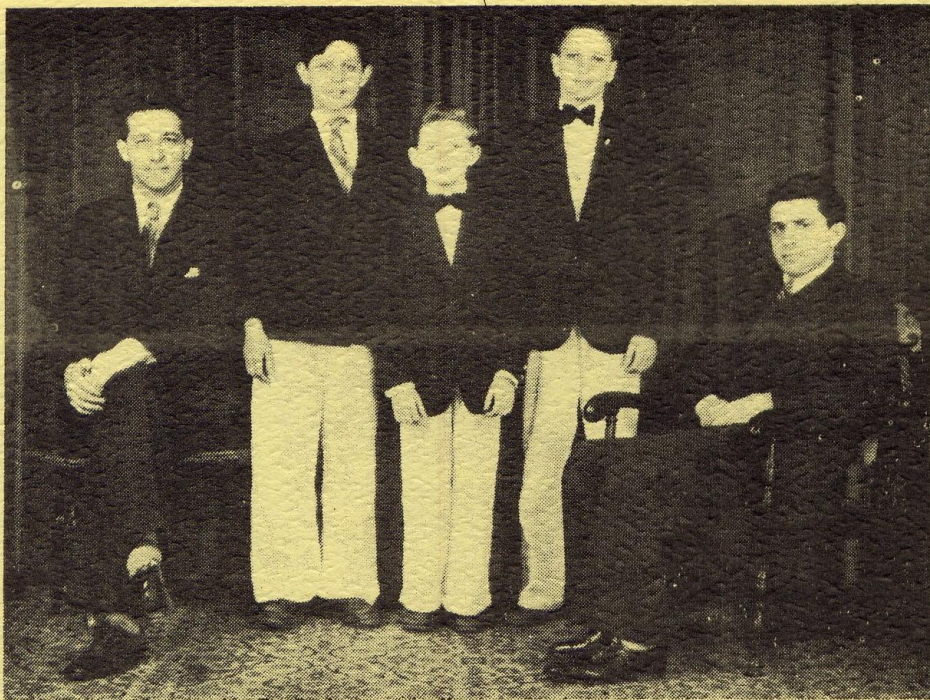
Early Financial Troubles

The young Congregation soon discovered that the building of a Temple did not complete the work to be done, but that its work was just starting. There were always financial problems to be

solved. Dues were modest, each member being assessed an average of about \$17 per year, but dues were difficult in some cases to collect. Only two of the Temple's Presidents during its first twenty-five years of existence, Abraham Wallens and Alex Gellman, were available for questioning and in retrospect stated that the main function of the leaders during those early years was to keep the Temple going financially, to collect dues and to pay the debts, and that it should be noted as a historical fact the the early Presidents' main function was to work tirelessly at great personal sacrifice to keep the Temple's head above water financially.

Lack of funds made it impossible during the early years after the building of the Temple to have a full-time Rabbi, a regular Sunday School, or Hebrew School. Temple Beth El graciously helped out the young Congregation by permitting its Rabbi to serve Temple Beth Israel during part of the High Holiday services. At other times guest Rabbis led the services. It was not until 1916 that the first Rabbi was retained on a full-time basis. He was Rabbi Moses Abramson. The Temple thereafter had many distinguished Rabbis who served the Temple through years: Rabbis Helfman, Holtzman, Alter Abelson, Isser Muskat, Samuel I. Porath, Jacob Freedman, Herman Glatt, Mordacai Waxman, Simon Shoop, Philip Miller, and our present Rabbi, Melvin Kieffer. Rabbi Kieffer has been our Rabbi since 1946 and is now in his 10th year, the longest period of service of any Rabbi in our history.





First Sunday School Graduation Class—1931

Left to right: Dr. Boris Golden, Benjamin Gold, Louis Spector, Jack A. Gellman, Rabbi Samuel I. Porraath.

Mr. Wallens also shed some light on the starting of regular Hebrew School classes. Limited funds made it very difficult to have both a Rabbi and a Hebrew School teacher at the same time, but many of the members, especially Benjamin Gellman, kept up their insistence of Hebrew classes for the children of the Temple and in about 1915 regular Hebrew classes started. There have been many competent teachers in the history of the Hebrew School, one of the best remembered being the late Zusman Simon who served for many years. Mr. Lipa Bendow, the present Hebrew School instructor, has compiled an outstanding record of achievement with the present younger generation since coming to the Temple in 1945.

As membership in the Temple steadily increased during the years following the erection of the Temple, so too did the number of young children of the members increase. It soon became apparent that a permanent Sunday School was needed. There had been Sunday School classes through the previous years but never on a steady or permanently organized basis. In 1926, President Alex Gellman and Mrs. Jacob Pierce of the Ladies' Benevolent Society (now the Sisterhood) combined forces to start a permanently organized Sunday School of the Temple. Car pools, candy and moving pictures were used to entice children to the Sunday School classes. Mrs. Belle Levine did a wonderful job as Superintendent of the Sunday School for many

years. The first Sunday School graduation took place in 1931 and the first Confirmation took place in 1932, both under the direction of Rabbi Samuel I. Porrath. Names and pictures of these two "firsts" are presented elsewhere in this book. The present Sunday School is under the capable direction of Dr. Joel A. Zaslowsky.

The Congregation from its beginning called itself Orthodox, but had modern leanings. In 1931, the Temple affiliated itself with the United Synagogue of America and from that time on was officially a Conservative congregation.

Addition and Modernization Work

The Temple came through the Depression and World War II like everyone else, a little shaken but stronger than ever. The young men of the Temple served their country with distinction and honor during World War II and upon returning to their homes in 1945, many of them married and became members of the Temple. With increased membership a new, strong spirit seemed to pervade the Temple at this time. Financial problems were still present but nothing at all like the fight-for-survival problems of the early years of the Temple. It was in this setting that it was decided to undertake enlargement and modernization of the Temple.

It was during the administration of Simon Dimet, 1938-1942, that a fund had been started for the eventual enlargement and



Breaking Ground for Addition to Temple—1947

Left to right (rear row): Jack Passer, a workman, Eugene Lunken, Rudolph Gold,. (Front row): Marty Lisses, Russell Larke, Simon Dimet, Franklin C. Wisbaum, Samuel Wisbaum, Abe Wallens, Al Jaffe, Eddy Veillette.

modernization work. The fund-raising continued during the administration of Eugene Lunken and it was during the administration of Mr. Lunken that the work was started and completed.

Samuel C. Wisbaum, chairman of the Building Enlargement and Improvement Committee, and his committee, worked hard on the plans. Finally, in the Fall of 1947, after \$20,000 had been donated by the members of the Temple, work was started on the improvements. The total cost of new construction came to \$30,000 of which \$10,000 was borrowed. The work was completed in the Spring of 1948. The Temple now had new classrooms, a new stage, a modern kitchen, a larger vestry room, and other necessary improvements for its increased membership.

Sisterhood and Chevra Kaddisha

Although this is a history of the Temple itself, two organizations closely affiliated with the Temple should be mentioned: the Sisterhood and the Chevra Kaddisha.

No history of Temple Beth Israel can be recounted without adequate mention of its vital women's organization, the Sisterhood. Its existence parallels that of the Temple itself, for it, too, came into being around the turn of the century.

The Ladies' Benevolent Society, which was later to become known as the Sisterhood of Temple Beth Israel, was organized by Mrs. Moses Boff, who was the first President, remaining in that office for sixteen consecutive years. From its very inception, the organization, composed originally of a handful of consecrated women, has been concerned with promoting the welfare of the Temple and its members; has contributed money and equipment and has aided in the spiritual and material growth of the Temple down through the years. In the earliest years of the Society's existence, the women worked ardently and most energetically, undertaking fund-raising projects, such as bazaars, card parties and "strawberry festivals". Many of us can recall, nostalgically, the "Shul" picnics at Mary's Grove, as an example to which undertakings the women of the Congregation lent great assistance.

Over the years there has been a constant growth in the scope of the activities of the Sisterhood. Food sales and luncheons were annual money-raising projects, while in more recent years, the highly successful annual stage shows and Silver Teas have become community-wide events. Any number of functions, such as "Mother and Daughter" dinners, fashion shows, card parties, rummage sales and the like have been undertaken by the Sisterhood.

The Sisterhood has always lent an able and willing hand to the Sunday School and its functioning. The annual Children's Seder, the Succoth arrangements and Chanukah and Purim parties are instances of the Sisterhood's helpfulness to the Sunday School.

In more recent years, a splendid Nursery School, aided and abetted by the Sisterhood, has been established, and it serves our youngest generation very well.

Pictures and names of the present Sisterhood officers and Board, and pictures of some of the stage productions are elsewhere in this book. The distinguished list of Presidents of the Sisterhood includes Mesdames: Moses Boff, Abraham Wallens, Jacob Pierce, Joseph Levine, Hyman Keitoff, Edmund Goldstein, Edward Meyers, Albert Pierce, Leon Kutner, Mollie Silbergeld, M. Carl Pierce, Saul Weinstein, Samuel Golden, and Robert Wisbaum.

Limitation of space prohibits the enumeration here, of the great number of women who have served, over the years, on the Board or on the various committees so faithfully, so graciously and so conscientiously. It is suffice to say that the strength of the organization lies in the fine support they have provided and will continue to provide.

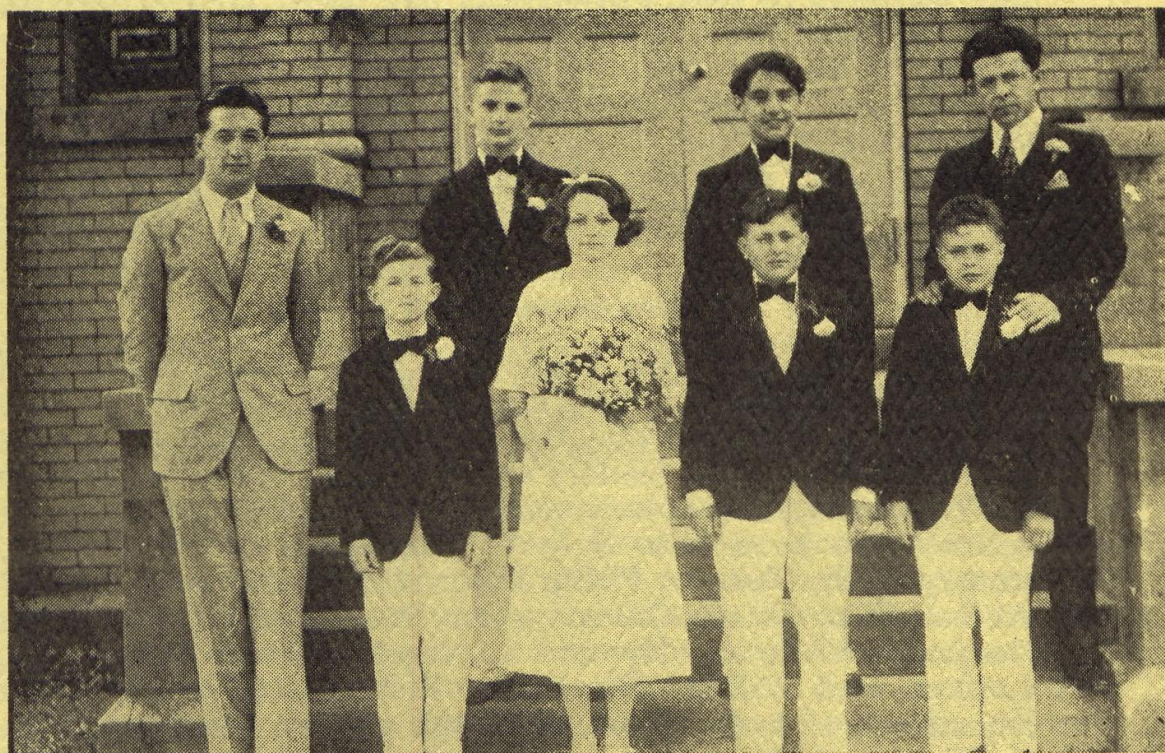
The Chevra Kaddisha, although a separate organization from the Temple, performed its grim but necessary duties for the past many years for members of the Temple after death. The Chevra Kaddisha was active several years before the Temple was built. The Cemetery on Military Road in the Town of Niagara is owned by the Temple and was originally only one-half acre in size when first acquired in 1902. Purchase of additional land in 1925 and in 1945 increased the size of the Cemetery to its present two acres. Among those who devoted considerable time and effort to the work of the Chevra Kaddisha as Presidents and workers since it was organized include Moses Berman, Abram Gold, Rudolph Gold, Jacob Russell, Abraham Wallens, Harry Schreiber, Hyman Silbergeld, Boris Meyers, William Nimelman, and Max Lisses, the present President.

Presidents of the Temple

Not too much has been said here about the Presidents of the Temple except in relation to some historic fact, but historically it must be stated that the Presidents through the history of the Temple were the leaders and the ones mainly responsible for the successful years of existence of the Temple. Amazing as it may seem, there have been only 12 Presidents during the 57 year history of the Temple: Philip Paltrovitch, Jacob Boff, Ely Ureles, Abram Atlas, Joseph Goldstein, Abraham Wallens, Alex Gellman, Benjamin Gellman, Hyman Silbergeld, Simon Dimet, Eugene Lunken, and William Nimelman. Pictures and years of service are elsewhere in this book. Although never a President, Franklin C. Wisbaum holds the record of most years of service as an officer. Mr. Wisbaum was elected Secretary in 1923 and has held that office to this day, 32 years. In 1949 Mr. Wisbaum was tendered a testimonial dinner by the Temple on the occasion of his 25th year as Secretary. Mr. Wisbaum has devoted much of

his time each day to the work of the Temple all the years he has served. Another record-holder is Cantor Morris Weisdorf of Toronto, Canada, who this year returned for the 19th year to serve as Cantor during the High Holidays.

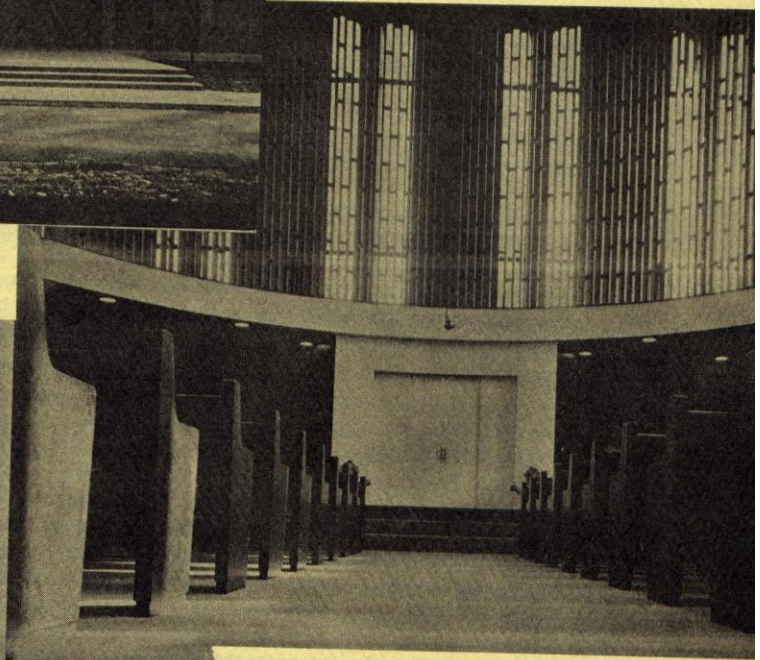
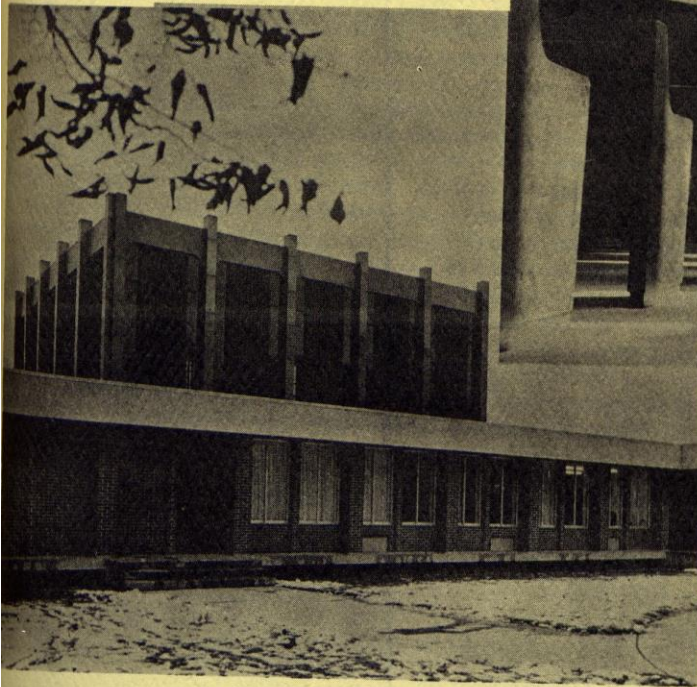
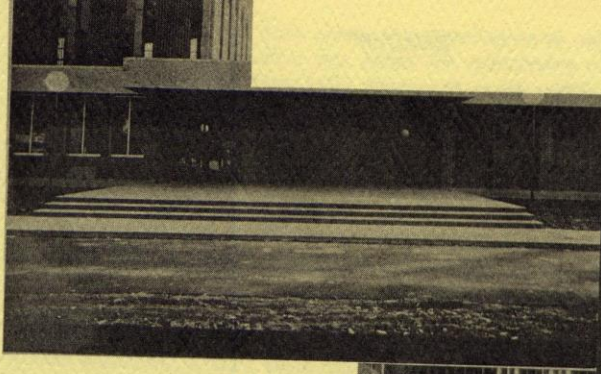
Most important in our history, more important even than the constructing of the original building and its addition, was the founding of a religious Congregation to worship God in traditional custom. The early religious leaders of the Temple and those that followed, were primarily concerned with religious observances, training, and education. A magnificent structure alone without faithful religious observances would cause the founders of the Temple to feel that they failed in their mission. Only the Rabbis and religious leaders of today, not this writer of cold historical facts, can tell whether the religious leaders through the years have failed or succeeded in this primary mission of the Temple. The leaders did succeed, however, in instilling a warm feeling of "family" among the members partially by close contact with each other in prayer during religious observances, and partially by close contact in the varied social functions of the Temple, too numerous to mention, through the years.



First Confirmation Class—1932

Left to right (rear row): Jack A. Gellman, Max Rosen, Rabbi Porrath.
(Front row): Dr. Golden, Louis Spector, Dina Nimelman, Morris Gold, Paul Green.

EXODUS



*"You will bring
them and plant
them in your*

*own mountain, the place you made your abode,
O,LORD, the sanctuary, which your hands
established*

"EXODUS"

A history of Temple Beth Israel from November 1955 to November 1968 based on the official minutes of the Temple recorded by Secretary, Franklin C. Wisbaum and his successor, Paul A. Lunken.

It was a gay time. For three days, November 11, 12, 13, 1955, the jubilant members of Temple Beth Israel celebrated the Temple's Golden Anniversary, the fiftieth year of its corporate existence. The mortgage was burned at an impressive ceremony and the Temple was free of debt for one of the few periods of its lengthy history. Although the Temple was celebrating its Fiftieth Anniversary, the Temple was really fifty-seven years old, having been born in 1898 but not having been incorporated until 1905. Thus in 1968, our Temple is really celebrating its Seventieth Birthday.

William E. Nimelman was President at the time of the Golden Anniversary celebration. He was one of a line of hard-working, dedicated presidents. Tributes were made to past presidents including those then living, Abraham Wallens, Alex Gellman, Simon Dimet and Eugene Lunken. General chairman of the weekend was Franklin C. Wisbaum and Honorary Chairman was Rabbi Melvin Keiffer. Abraham R. Kushner was in charge of the fund-raising. A beautiful anniversary book was published reciting the most comprehensive history of the Temple ever published. It included pictures of historic events which had occurred in the Temple's past.

Mr. Nimelman continued serving as President until his untimely death in April 1958. He had served as president since 1950, a total of almost eight years. At the annual election that year Dr. Boris A. Golden was elected as President. He served for a period of five years. During his tenure, more and more demands were heard for larger and safer classrooms, more adequate facilities. There was considerable discussion and debate as to the need for a new Temple. Fate stepped in to help when the State Power Authority decided it needed about one acre of the Temple's cemetery on Military Road. Negotiations were carried out extensively with the Power Authority over a period from 1958 to 1961. Temple records reveal numerous correspondence and numerous meetings with Power Authority officials. The official negotiating committee consisted of Dr. Boris A. Golden, Jack A. Gellman, Jack E. Gellman, Abraham Kushner and Franklin C. Wisbaum. In lieu of a cash payment, the members authorized an exchange of one acre of cemetery property for approximately two acres of valuable land owned by the Authority at College Avenue and Madison Avenue. The new property was valued at approximately \$100,000. The transfer took place by deed dated January 18, 1961 and the Temple now had property on which it could build a new Temple.



Temple Dinner 1959

Alex Gellman, Franklin Wisbaum



Dedication of Land—Oct. 3, 1965 Dr. Irwin Sidenberg, Rudolph Gold, Rabbi Samuel Parrish

In 1959, an unusual event took place, at a standing-room only dinner in the Temple, the members honored Alex Gellman. The affair was under the sponsorship of the Temple's Men's Club, Dr. Lester Schiff, President, and Jerauld Nimelman, Chairman of the affair, and Franklin C. Wisbaum, toastmaster. Alex Gellman was awarded title of "Honorary Trustee," the first and only time this was done in the Temple's history. He had not only been a member of the Temple since its doors opened in 1911, but had served six years as President, and thereafter continued to work as Chairman of the Religious Committee or as "Gaby" for an accumulated period of twenty-two years in that one position, longer than any other person in the Temple history.

Alvin E. Katz, who had served five years as Vice-President was elected President in 1963 and served for a period of one year. Committees were formed under his direction to celebrate the Sixtieth Anniversary of the Temple which event was to take place in March 1965.

Jack A. Gellman was elected President in October 1964. He made it clear in his acceptance speech that he was accepting the Presidency for the sole purpose of seeing that a new Temple would be built during his administration.

Then, the minutes reveal, began a rapid series of dramatic events which culminated in the actual building of a new Temple. Philip S. Gellman was reappointed Chairman and Rudolph Gold, Co-Chairman of the Building Fund Committee. They formulated plans to conduct a campaign in June of 1965. On January 20, 1965, the Trustees approved the retaining of a professional fund raiser, the Milton Hood Ward Organization of New York City. At the same meeting, James M. Bazemore, a local architect, was retained to complete all architectural work for the new Temple and to work with Robert Wisbaum and the Architect's Committee.

In the meantime, the Temple celebrated its Sixtieth Anniversary. The celebration took place March 19-20, 1965. Paul A. Lunken was General Chairman, Co-Chairman were Mrs. Jack Passer, Robert Wisbaum and Mrs. Arnold Zimmer. Impressive ceremonies took place at both the Temple and the Parkway Inn.

An intensified fund raising campaign took place in June 1965. Meeting after meeting took place and door-to-door solicitation of members was made. The pace-setting pledges of Dr. Irwin Sidenberg and Rudolph Gold followed by many others, together with the back-breaking efforts of many workers, resulted in amazing total pledges of approximately \$350,000 by the end of June. The Temple sisterhood through its President, Mrs. Alvin M. Kianof announced its pledge of \$30,000 to furnish and equip the new kitchen, at a trustee meeting on June 23, 1965. The Milton Hood Ward organization, which had almost resigned before the campaign when advised of the goal, wrote to the Temple that the raising of \$350,000 by our approximately 175 families was "...unbelievable, fantastic and was a credit to the zeal of your members..." The members, rich and poor, sacrificed as they never had before, to pledge such a large sum of money from so few people.



Ground Breaking—Aug. 3, 1966
Pres. Edward Shapiro, Mrs. A. Kianof, Dr. Boris A. Golden, Jack A. Gellman, Rudolph Gold

On October 3, 1965, in a historic ceremony (under the chairmanship of Rabbi Samuel I. Porrath), the Temple grounds at College and Madison Avenue were dedicated.

In the meantime, since the retention of Mr. Bazemore, meetings were constantly being held with him to formulate the final plans for the new Temple. The plans were approved by the Trustees at a meeting on September 15, 1965. Mr. Bazemore assured the Trustees the anticipated cost of the new building would be approximately the \$350,000 figure desired.

Bids were to be submitted by several prominent local contractors on March 30, 1966 at the architect's office. With many officers present, the bids were opened. It appeared at that time that all the work of the past might have been for naught. The bids instead of being \$350,000, ranged from \$531,300 to \$559,945. A special meeting of the Trustees took place that night and it was agreed the architect would have a reasonable opportunity to work with the lowest bidder to see if the bid could be brought down to the initial anticipated cost.

Subsequently, the architect told the Trustees he could reduce the figure to \$420,000 minimum. At a special meeting on April 27, 1966, the Board approved proceeding with plans for the new Temple at this cost providing \$200,000 in cash was received on the pledges.

In June 1966, again it appeared that all plans for a new Temple would have to be scrapped. Saul and Regina Zubkoff, who had for many years been in charge of a Building Fund, announced that the pledge money was not coming in. Some argued that money would not come in until the construction actually began. Others argued not to begin construction until we had the money. The President called a special meeting of the members on June 29, 1966 and introduced two speakers. One was Elmer Woolcutt, mortgage officer, Marine Midland Trust Company. He expressed his confidence in the membership of the Temple Beth Israel and said his bank and the Manufacturers and Traders Trust would lend their money to us knowing it would be repaid. The Reverend Ray Hallin of the Bacon Memorial Presbyterian Church said his church was in worse financial condition than ours when they built, but it turned out fine because in this type of venture "you have to go on faith."

The membership then unanimously approved a motion to proceed with a contract for \$420,000 and to obtain the necessary mortgage. A mortgage commitment was issued on August 10, 1966 in the amount of \$350,000 with the Marine Midland Trust Company committing itself to sixty percent (60%) of the mortgage and the Manufacturers and Traders Trust Company to forty percent (40%) of the mortgage. The president signed the contract with the William H. Rueter Construction Co., Inc., then of Lewiston, New York.



Groundbreaking Service—Aug. 3, 1966
Rev. John Toay, Jack A. Gellman,
Rabbi Seymour Schorr, Father John Duccia

Again, one of the most dramatic periods in the history of the Temple took place when on August 3, 1966, a large number of persons, not only members of the Temple but non-Jewish friends, gathered for the ground-breaking ceremonies on College Avenue at the site of the new Temple. Invited guests Father John Ducette of St. Teresa's Church, Reverend John B. Toay, First Presbyterian Church and Rabbi Alan Ponn of Temple Beth El aided President Gellman and Rabbi Seymour Schorr in actually digging the first shovel of dirt. Prayers were offered by the priest, minister and rabbis. The excavating machines began to dig immediately after the ceremonies and the new Temple was now a reality.

After having served two years, Jack A. Gellman was succeeded in October 1966 by Philip S. Gellman who served for two years. Due to the anticipated additional expense and overhead when the move would be made into the new Temple, it was necessary to reassess the whole dues structure. In April 1967, the Temple found it was without a Rabbi, Rabbi Schorr having obtained permission to terminate his contract early. Rabbi Schorr had served since 1957. Rabbi Morris A. Cohen was retained October 1, 1967 for a one-year period but by mutual agreement actively served approximately one-half of his term. Rabbi Samuel I. Porroth emerged from retirement and has graciously entered active duty to lead the congregation as he has done on numerous occasions before until a permanent Rabbi could be retained. The first Confirmation services were held in the new Temple. The Sunday School was reorganized and so were the Sabbath services and other congregational activities.

The Temple was completed in time for the High Holiday Services in October 1967. The first Bar Mitzvah in the new Temple, that of Bruce Seidner, was held on September 23, 1967.

Franklin C. Wisbaum who had served the Temple as Secretary for forty-four years retired as Secretary in October 1967.

By January 1968, the formation of "Friends of Temple Beth Israel" was announced. The new organization was formed for the purpose of raising funds for the Temple. The organization has proved astonishingly successful as of this writing.

At the annual meeting in October 1968, Dr. Russell S. Seidner was elected President. It was at the meeting that a unanimous resolution was voted electing Rabbi Porroth, Rabbi Emeritus of Temple Beth Israel, in appreciation for his many services to the temple as a spiritual leader.

Temple Beth Israel now numbers 140 families. It finds itself with a new spirit, a new pride, a new Temple with spacious safe classrooms. No longer do the children have to study in a fire-trap classroom, or in the kitchen, or on the stage. Yet, most of the members, especially the older ones, do remember the old Temple with nostalgia. They remember the parade of men and women who worked so hard for Temple functions, the New Year's Eve parties long ago, the earnest praying of the Elders at the table below the altar, the gay Sunday School picnics, the happy occasions, the sad memories, and the warm, sincere friendship the families of yesteryear had for one another.

But today, there is somehow a new decorum, a new hushed, religious spirit while praying in the beautiful new Sanctuary. Weddings, Bar Mitzvah parties and quasi-religious dinners which belong in the Temple can now be held there due to a modern kitchen and the spacious social hall. Financially, the Temple has a bright future due to the zeal of its members and to the fund-raising of the "Friends of Temple Beth Israel." Members are finding themselves drawn closer and closer to each other, as a family, as it used to be in the days gone by. Most of this has been wrought by "The Miracle on College Avenue."

LEST WE FORGET . .

תִּנְצִיבָה

*"We remember with love and affection
the upright and the noble who left us a
sacred heritage.*

May they enjoy perfect repose under his wings."

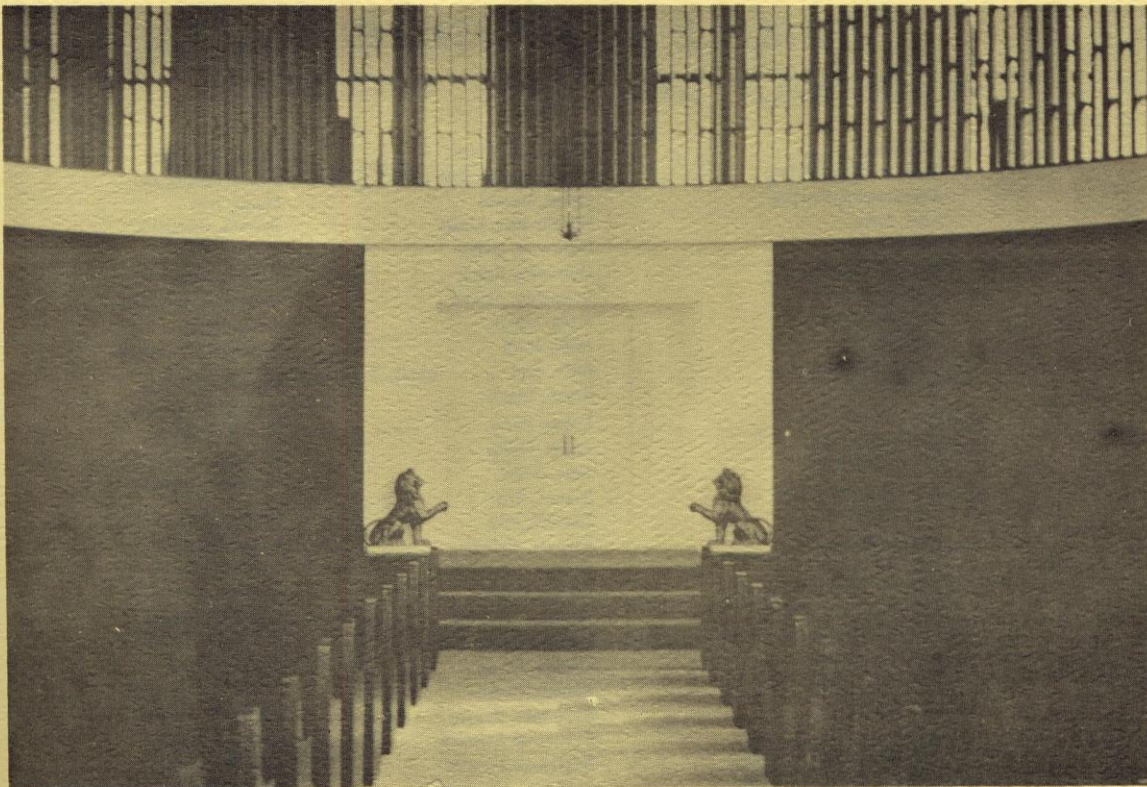
Kermit Abie
Dora Abramowitz
Jeanette Abramowitz
Elka Aldort
Harry Askin
Sarah Askin
Abram Berman
Fanny Berman
Harry Berman
Belle Bernstein
M.M. Bernstein
Norma Britman Bershad
Max Bloom
Sonia Bloom
Anna Boff
Ida Boff
Lester Boff
Moses Boff
Anna Britman
Al E.G. Brown
Paul Brown
Benjamin Bush
Ella Bush
Samuel Caplan
Libbie Chertock
Sara Chertock
Max Cohen
Sarah Cohen
Bertha Desowitz

Abraham Dimet
Sema Dimet
Simon Dimet
Samuel Donner
Sophie Donner
Herman Dickman
Mae Drickman
Charles Duchess
Harry Duchess
David Fader
Minnie Fader
Bernard Farber
Sophie Farber
Moe Feigensohn
Gustave Feldman
Sophie Feldman
Dr. John Finegold
Zelda Fishkin
Ignatz Fox
Sally Fox
Joseph Franklin
Sarah Franklin
Jacob Friedlander
Rebecca Friedlander
Julia Galperan
Annetta Gellman
Benjamin Gellman
Herman Gellman
Minnie Gellman

Rita Gellman
Essie Gerard
Dora Gold
Jacob Goldhaber
Ida Goldman
Mandel Goldman
Benjamin Goldstein
Morris Goldstein
Rose Goldstein
Charles Gornbein
Hannah Gornbein
Arnold Graff
Dr. Isadore Graff
Sophie Graff
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Ida Gray
Max Gray
Sam Haber
Bessie Heller
Issac Heller
Joseph Horenbein
Anna Horowitz
Gerdi Horowitz
Sam Iskowitz
Clara Kanover
Samuel Kanover
Sophie Karnofsky
Joseph Karch
Clara Keitoff

Hyman Keitoff
Jacob Kerner
Samuel Kianoff
Abraham Kianoff
Sara Kianoff
Joseph Kramer
Rose Kramer
Ida Kranitz
Minnie Kurtzman
Samuel Kurtzman
Benjamin Kushner
Gabriel Kushner
Laya Kushner
Rebecca Kushner
Leon Kutner
Leonard Leftstein

Ida Levin
Morris Levin
Barbett Levine
Marian Levine
Abraham Levy
Ida Levy
Jacob Levy
Lester Levy
Sara Levy
Edward Norman Lisses
Dora Losban
Etta Lunken



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Sol Magder	Sarah Pierce	Herman Ruben	Jacob Sherman	Morris Weinstein
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Hyman Mages	Alex Pugrant	Samuel Schiff	Hinda Sidenberg	Ida Wisbaum
Lena Mages	Gertrude Pugrant	Albert Schreiber	Louis Sidenberg	Louis Wisbaum
Herman Munter	Samuel Pugrant	Harry Schreiber	Hyman Silbergeld	Samuel Wisbaum
Lena Munter	Harry Resnick	Lena Schreiber	Isadore Silbergeld	Vera Wisbaum
Sara Nebelitzki	Rose Revzen	Rose Schreiber	Rose Silbergeld	Louis Wolfgang
Wolf Nebelitzki	Sam Revzen	Bernard Schwartz	Lottie Silverman	Rose Wolfgang
William Nimelman	Ester Rice	Malka Schwisberg	Mark Scott Silverman	Jacob Yaffey
Loda Passer	Sadie Rindler	Shmuel Schwisberg	Sara Someroff	Lena Yaffey
Morris Passer	Fanny Robinson	Nettie Seidner	Gussie Spector	Herman Zatulove
Hyman Perman	John Rohall	Max Seigel	Jacob Spector	Benjamin Zavaloff
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Albert Pierce	Harry Rosen	Dora Shapiro	Hilda Sulman	Louis Zimmer
Frank Pierce	Joseph Rosen	Max Shapiro	Wolf Sulman	Pearl Zimmer
Jacob Pierce	Selig Rosen	Meyer Shapiro	Elias Suwalsky	Samuel Zimmer
Anna Rosen	Anna Meyers	Sander Abrams	Boris Meyers	

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Brown, Wilber
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Dimet, Theodore
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Gellman, Samuel
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Goldfarb, Harry Dr.
Goldstein, Martin
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Green, Saul

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Nimelman, Jerauld
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Pasler, Philip
Pasler, Seymour
Passer, Jack
Passer, Melvin
Passer, Samuel
Perman, Abe

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Pierce, Max C. Dr.
Pierce, Rae
Porrath, Samuel I.
Pugrant, Melvin
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Robinson, Milton Dr.
Rosen, Max
Rosenberg, Abraham
Rosenberg, Harry
Rosenstein, Goldie
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Schneider, Arthur
Schreiber, Rosalie
Seidner, Russell Dr.
Seigel, Florence
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Shapiro, Norton Dr.
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Sherman, Jeannette
Shirer, William
Sidenberg, Irwin Dr.
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Silbergeld, Mollie
Silverman, Max
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Wallens, Haskell
Weinstein, Saul
Wittlin, Harry Dr.
Wineburgh, Samuel J.
Wisbaum, Franklin C.
Wisbaum, Jerauld
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Wolfgang, Lawrence Dr.
Wolfgang, Michael
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Zimmer, Rose
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November 22-23-24, 1968

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*"Lord I love the habitation of thy house
and the place where thy glory dwelleth."*