



Reflecting back as we plan to move forward



Presented by Verein and Men's Club



Reflecting back as we plan to move forward



BRITH
SHOLOM



KNESETH
ISRAEL

Shaare Zedek Synagogue	1905 - 2013
Brith Sholom Congregation	1908 - 1959
Kneseth Israel Cong.*	1934 - 1959
BSKI Congregation	1959 - 2013
Kol Rinah	2013 - 2019

*Kneseth Israel Congregation formed as a legal business entity with MO Sec. of State on December 17, 1937

114 Years



“How the concerns of the present
shape our memory of the past”

Dr. Rabbi Pamela Barmash

**Eastern European
Jewish immigrants:**

- Orthodox
- Literate
- Segregated
- Endogamous

Faced struggles of:

- Poverty
- Famine
- Wars
- Conscription
- Pogroms
- Taxation of candles and ritual slaughter
- Limited freedom
- Limited opportunities



Ellis Island New York

Immigration



St. Louis Jewish Ghetto

“The need is great... The time is now!”

THE NEED IS GREAT . . . THE TIME IS NOW!

Religion is an essential element of American Democracy. The Synagogue is a guardian of hope for the future. We must not live in the fantasy of the fairy tale of “Once upon a time”. Our people have survived because we have always looked forward to the great ideal of “There will be a time”. For us, the time is now! The Synagogue is the source of our spiritual life. It stimulates our creative thought on the Jewish heritage and our expression as Jews. The building of our new Sanctuary necessitates the help of all our members and friends. We look forward to your full cooperation in bringing our fund-raising campaign to a successful conclusion. With your help we will not fail.

– BSKI Campaign Brochure, 1960

Shaare Zedek

September, 1904

The Jewish Voice (St. Louis, Missouri) · 15 Sep 1904, Thu · Page 3

THE initial steps for the formation of a Talmud Torah were taken at a mass meeting held Sunday evening, Sept. 11th, at West End hall. The meeting was fairly attended and much enthusiasm was shown. The outlook of the movement appears to be very favorable. Rev. L. Rosenblatt was chosen temporary president. A committee of seven consisting of Rev. L. Rosenblatt, Dr. S. S. Kohn and Messrs. S. B. Pruschansky, H. Simpkin, I. Evans, Louis Fadum and Louis Stockman, was appointed to solicit donations. All donations may be forwarded to Mr. Simpkin, 4205 Olive street, temporary treasurer; Mr. Shepard R. Evans was elected temp. secretary.

* *



West End Hall complex:
At the intersection of Vandeventer and Finney avenues, two blocks from the old Vandeventer Place residential street. Varney, Woolrych & Pullis designed the complex in 1894 with an ornate, three-story brick and other social gatherings in the buildings with storefronts at the street, hall along Vandeventer and Finney.

MEMBERS of the new orthodox congregation, recently organized under the name of "Shaare Zedek," are contemplating the purchase of the fine church building corner Fortieth and Washington boulevard. The inspection of the building was held last Sunday, and next Sunday, it is expected, a definite decision will be reached.

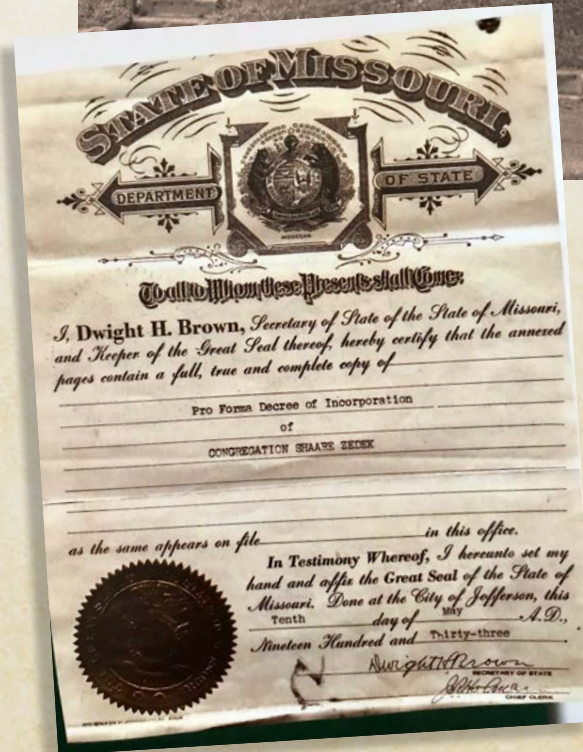
The Jewish Voice - Dec. 1905

In the Beginning, where it started

Shaare Zedek-1905

Sam Lerner
J. Wolshalter
Sol Lipsitz
Sy Lotz
Louis Fadem
M. Turk
Joseph Garden
Herman Prusansky
Abraham Silverstein
H. Simpkin
Alexander Horwitz
Isador Landau
S.H. Ipper
Thomas Prusansky
Rev. Jacob Cohen
(spiritual Leader)

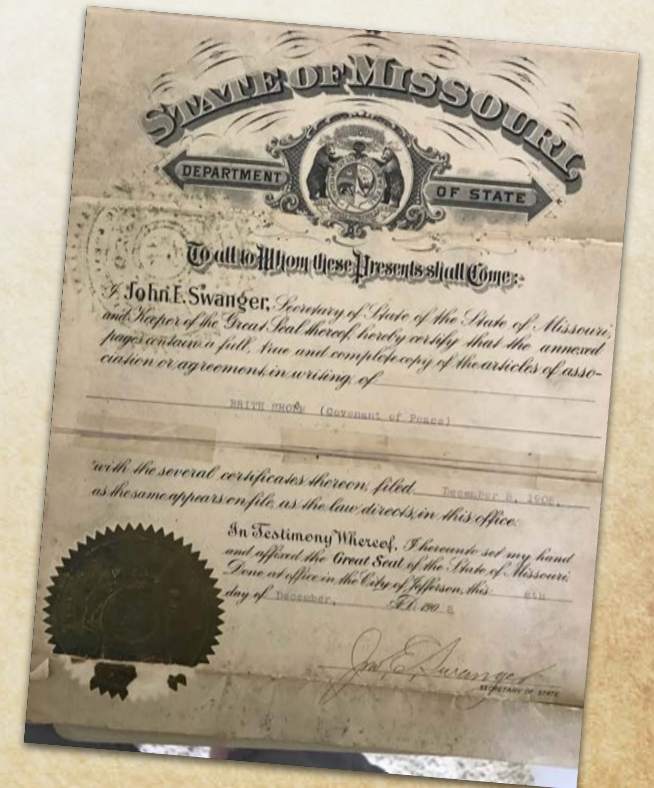
Robert Horwitz
(President)
S. Bierman
H. Senda
C. Kirschbaum
E. Silvermame
J. M. Lippman
I. Evans
P. Meyerson
D. Rubin
M. Benjamin
S. Yawitz
L. Lerner



Brith Sholom-1908

Emile Graff
B. Weinberger
M. Urbach
S. Dankner
Newberger

Isadore Rossman (President)
Ignatz Schlesinger (Secretary)
Samuel Arky (Treasurer)
Dr. Solomon H. Kohn (Rabbi)
Cantor Nathan Hershfield



Founders

ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT
CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS.

(ARTICLE 1.)

We, the undersigned, have assembled at a regular meeting, and resolved to unite and incorporate for the purpose of forming an Austrian-Hungarian conservative Jewish congregation (church) to erect or secure a suitable building wherein to carry on religious worship according to the Jewish orthodox usages connected with a religious Sabbath School, and also to secure a cemetery.

(ARTICLE 2.)

It has been resolved that the congregation shall be named, and shall exist under the name of Brith Sholom, (Covenant of peace) and the place of worship is now located

Brith Sholom Articles of Agreement, Constitution and By-Laws
1908

(ARTICLE 7.)

Every Israelite can enter the congregation Brith Shomol (Covenant of Peace) and belong to the Synagogue (Church) having all the privileges thereto, but only Austrian-Hungarian Israelites and their children can become active members.

(ARTICLE 8.)

The congregation will remain conservative (Jewish orthodox), and the house of worship shall be so arranged so that the ladies and gentlemen shall be separated therein. This arrangement will never be altered during the existence

Landsmen

Shaare Zedek

Hebrew Congregation Buys Home.

Woolley & Fish sold No. 4557 Cook avenue, for George A. Rubelmann to the orthodox Hebrew congregation, known as Shaare Zedek. The property is a two-story apartment building. In connection with the first floor is a large assembly hall, having a seating capacity of between 200 and 300. It is handsomely lighted and decorated. The second floor is arranged in society and class rooms. The entire building is heated with hot water.

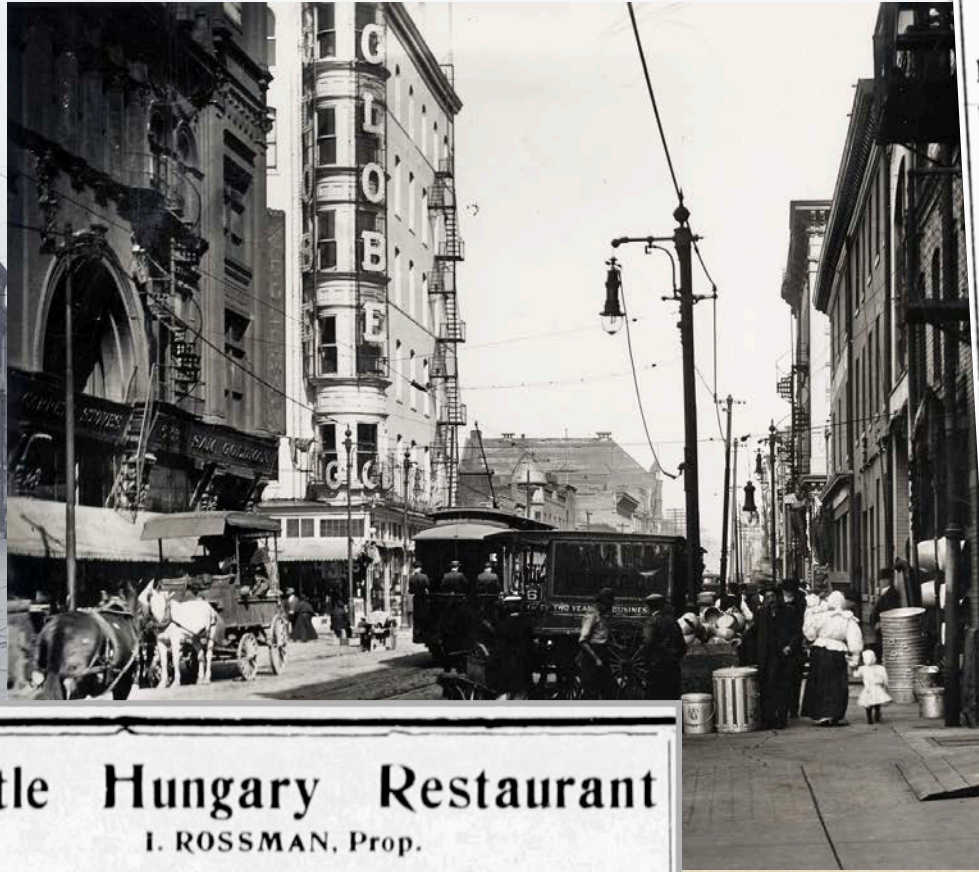
Robert and Sophie
Horwitz



1906-1914: 4557 Cook Ave
Purchased for \$6500

Brith Sholom Origins 1908: Weintraub's Hall, Corner of 7th & Franklin Ave.

The Jewish Voice Oct. 2, 1908



AUSTRO Hungarian Jews of St. Louis are to have a synagog. At a meeting Sunday night at Weintraub's Hall, Seventh street and Franklin avenue, attended by 150 men, a decision to this effect was reached, and arrangements were made for the purchase of a synagog and burial grounds. It is to be named B'rith Sholom. The following officers were elected: President, Isador Rossman; vice-president, G. Denker; secretary, Mr. Jacobs jr.; assistant secretary, Mr. Bernstein; treasurer, Dr. S. S. Kohn; trustees: Messrs. Hartstein, Bernsteint and Gelb; cantor, the Rev. M. Jacobs, sr, and S. S. Kohn, Ph. D. M. D., was unanimously elected rabbi for life. It is estimated that there are about 3000 Austro-Hungarian Jews in St. Louis, most of whom do not now belong to any congregation. Temporarily, services are conducted at Weintraub's Hall, as announced in a recent issue of this paper.

The Austro-Hungarian Cong. B'RITH SHOLOM

Announces to the Jews of St. Louis that it will hold services at the

WEST END HALL

3908 Finney Avenue.

On the great and holy days and on

Sabbath Shubah

as also in its own hall,

1111 North 14th St.

Cor. 14th and Carr Sts.

Where services are held daily. They have provided for comfortable seats and the best readers ('Hazanim').

Tickets are to be had at

I. Rossman, 402 N. Broadway.

M. H. Horowitz, 1423 Pendleton

S. Unger, 9th and Carr Sts.

S. D. Gross, 1930 S. Broadway.

You can order seats by mail or by telephone.



Little Hungary Restaurant

I. ROSSMAN, Prop.

THE ONLY ONE IN THE CITY

FOR

Ladies and Gentlemen

25c MEALS FROM 11 a. m. TO 9 p. m.

WE CATER FOR

WEDDINGS, BANQUETS and PARTIES.

402 N. BROADWAY

Isidore Rossman

In the Beginning

Synagogue Locations:

PRESENT – 1950s

1959 – 1928

1953 – 1949

1948 – 1906

1923 – 1910

1908

Shaare Zedek:

1906-1914: 4557 Cook Ave.

1914: Dedicated a cornerstone
4600 Page Blvd. at 1220 West End Ave.

1923-1948 4600 Page and West End Ave.

1948-1953: 5470 Delmar Blvd.

1953-2013: 829 N. Hanley Rd.

Brith Sholom:

1908: Weintraub's Hall, 7th & Franklin

1908-1911: 1022 Franklin Ave.

1911: 1111 N. 14th St. and Carr St.

1911-1923: Glasgow and Dayton Ave.

1923-1928: Kingshighway at Enright Ave.

1928-1960: 6166 Delmar Boulevard

1960-2013: 1107 E. Linden Ave.

Kneseth Israel:

1930s: Washington Ave. garment district

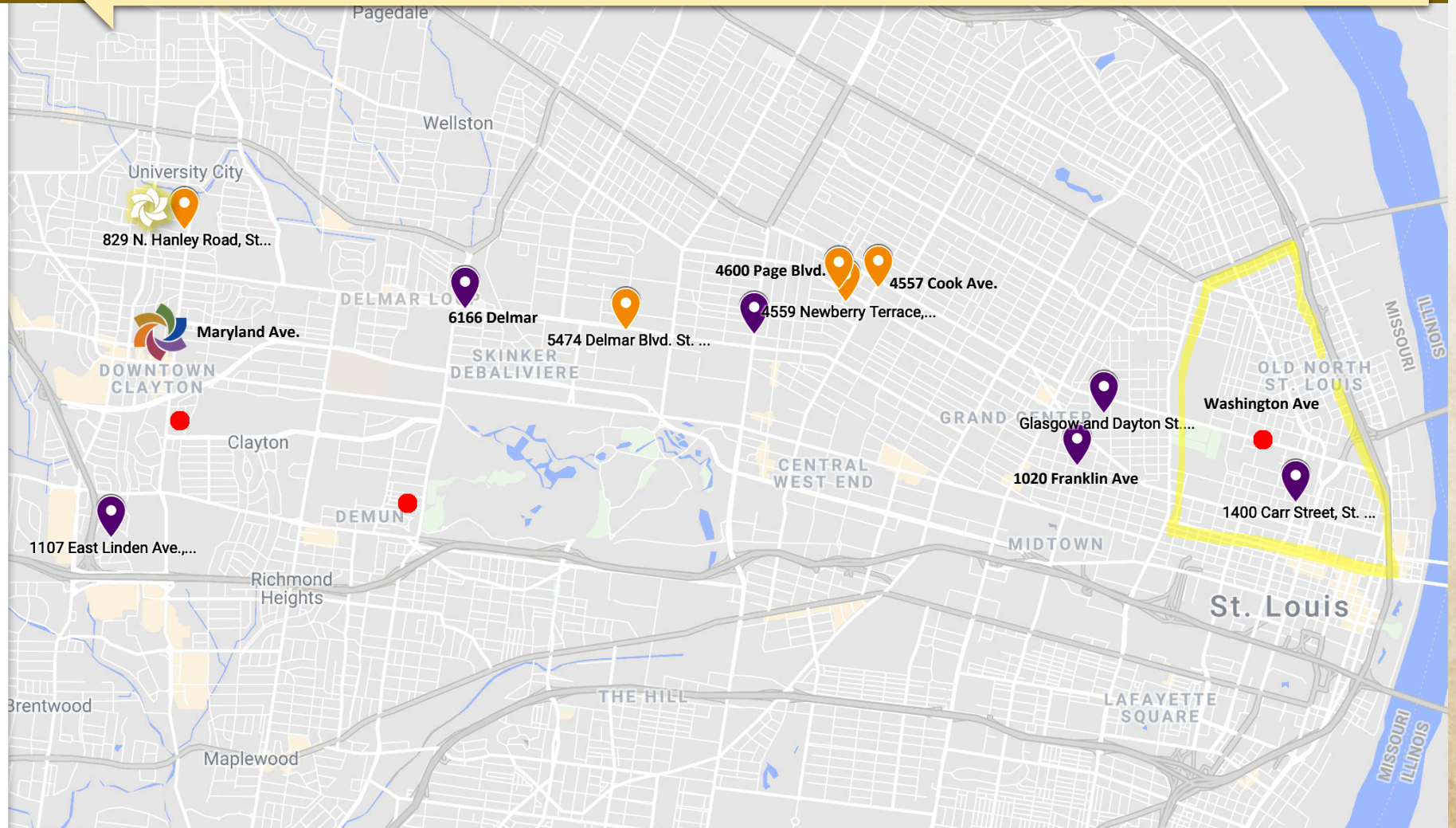
1934-1955: 6349, 6351 Southwood Ave.

1957-1959: 700 South Hanley Rd.

Kol Rinah:

2013-2019: 829 N. Hanley Rd.

2019: 7701 Maryland Ave.



Location, Location, Locations... the exodus continues

March, 1909: Brith Sholom “HUNGARIANS RAISE MONEY TO BUILD NEW SYNAGOGUE”



Brith Sholom Locations

HUNGARIANS RAISE MONEY TO BUILD NEW SYNAGOGUE.

“Csardas,” Weird Native Dance, and
Gypsy Music, Mark Successful
Ball.

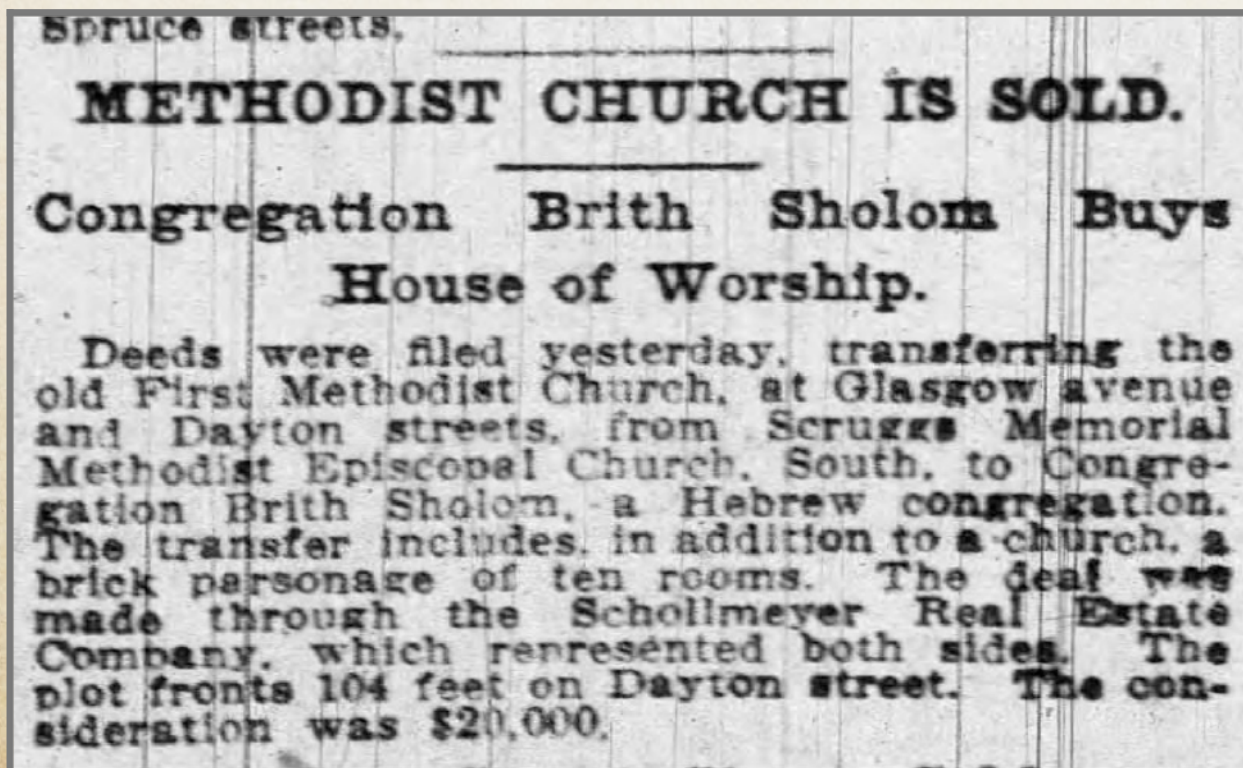
To increase a fund for the building of the first synagogue of the Austro-Hungarian Jews in St. Louis, the Ladies' Society of the Brith Sholom Congregation gave a dance Saturday night at Smith's Hall, 1120 Franklin avenue. It was a typical Hungarian affair, with music furnished by Hungarian Gypsies, and the “csardas,” a weird, fantastic and fascinating dance, predominating on the programme. Financially the dance was a great success. The hall proved too small to admit all who wished to attend.

The honor guests were Dr. M. Spitz of the Bne-El Congregation, who is a Hungarian, and Louis Solteo, secretary of the Austro-Hungarian consulate in St. Louis. The officers of the congregation are: President, I. Rossman; secretary, I. Schlesinger; treasurer, S. Arky; counselor, N. Spielberg. In making the arrangements Mrs. Julia Ungar, president of the Ladies' Society, was assisted by Misses Rose Klein, Örenstein, Jacoby, Farkas and others. Regina Sonnenschein and Helen Klein, both 11 years old, proved pleasing in the “csardas” dance.

The congregation is negotiating for a site for the new synagogue at Fifteenth and Wash streets. If the property is not purchased outright it will be leased as a temporary house of worship.

Brith Sholom, October, 1911:

Brith Sholom Purchased building from
Scruggs Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church
at Dayton & Glasgow Aves.
for \$20,000



Brith Sholom Locations

Brith Sholom, 1923-1928: Kingshighway & Enright – Purchased United Hebrew Temple for \$65,000



Former Methodist Church



BS and UH congregations shared this facility (1923-1926)

Brith Sholom Locations

1928–1960: Brith Sholom moves further west

Purchased 6166 Delmar Boulevard, from University Presbyterian Church for \$46,000

CHURCH TRUSTEES SUED ON PASTOR'S AGREEMENT TO SELL

**Jewish Congregation Seeks Aid of
Court to Acquire Property of
Presbyterians.**

The Congregation Brith Sholom today sued the University Presbyterian Church, alleging breach of contract in the failure of the Presbyterian Church's board of trustees to convey title to its property at 6166 Delmar boulevard to the Jewish congregation.

The petition alleges that an agreement was executed Oct. 18, last, with the signature of the Rev. James Hardin Smith, pastor of University Church, whereby the property and certain church furniture was to be sold to the Jewish congregation for \$46,000. On Nov. 19, it is charged, the trustees refused to perform their part of the sale agreement and failed to transfer title or return \$500 earnest money.

Neither the Rev. Mr. Smith nor attorneys for the congregation could be reached. The Brith Sholom temple is at Kingshighway and Enright avenue.



1928 purchased from the
University Presbyterian Church

Brith Sholom 6166 Delmar

BRITH SHOLOM CONGREGATION

6166 DELMAR BOUL.

A YOUNG SPIRITUAL BODY
FOLLOWING THE STANDARD
OF CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM.

AN ARTICLE ABOUT THIS CONGREGATION
WILL APPEAR MONDAY IN THE

STAR AND Times

1942 Renovation

CONGREGATION BRITH SHOLOM CHAPEL DEDICATION MAY 17

Dedication of the new chapel and auditorium of Congregation Brith Sholom, 6166 Delmar boulevard, by its rabbi, Jacob Reuben Mazur, will be held following a banquet and installation of officers of the congregation, May 17. Cost of the remodeling was about \$13,000.

Re-elected officers of the congregation are: Joseph Saks, president; Samuel Honigberg, vice-president; and Emmanuel Grass, treasurer. Jacob Elbaum was newly elected secretary.

Rabbi Raphael H. Gold, instructor of medical psychiatry and neurology at Baylor Medical School, Dallas, Tex., will conclude the ceremonies with a talk on the life of a congregation.

Shaare Zedek – Page & West End 1913-1947

Purchased the land in 1913
Building Dedicated Aug. 1917
Education Center completed
Cornerstone March 16, 1924
Completed in 1926



NEW \$60,000 SYNAGOGUE

Shaare' Zedek Cornerstone to Be Laid Today.

Mayor Kiel will attend the cornerstone laying at 2 o'clock this afternoon of the synagogue of Shaare' Zedek, the first orthodox Jewish synagogue erected in St. Louis, at Page boulevard, West End and Vernon avenues.

The structure will cost \$60,000. Officers and members of the congregation will march with a band from the present synagogue at 4557 Cook avenue. Among those who will officiate with the Mayor are: Rabbi B. Abramovitz, Zacharia Rosenfeld, M. Spitz, Adolph Rosenkreter, R. Miller and M. H. Horowitz.

THE MODERN VIEW

A WEEKLY JOURNAL of MODERN JEWISH LIFE and THOUGHT

A New St. Louis Synagogue Will Be Dedicated Sunday.



SHAARE ZEDEK SYNAGOGUE.
West End Avenue and Page Blvd.

On Sunday Afternoon, September 2, at 3 o'clock this new Jewish House of Worship will be formally dedicated and opened to the public with elaborate ceremony. Prominent speakers, Jewish and non-Jewish will address the gathering. Details are given in this issue.



Shaare Zedek Locations

Oct. 13, 1916

The Modern View 13 Oct 1916, Fri · Page 13

SHAARE ZEDEK CONGREGATION.

The result of an appeal made by Rabbi B. Abramowitz, on Rosh-Ha-shono, and through the efforts of the offices and some members, the Shaare Zedek congregation last Sunday evening, Oct. 8, initiated 81 new members. The new members are all young men, the best and most prominent of St. Louis Jewry, and represent many trades and professions. The meeting will surely be remembered by all present as the most successful ever held by this or any other congregation. After the opening remarks by the President, R. Miller, and Vice President, M. Fishbein, very interesting talks were made by some of the newly initiated members: Messrs. Max G. Baron, Sam'l S. Levitt, Harry Baron, Morris Shapiro, Meyer Perlmutter, I. Siegel, B. Sacks, Sam'l S. Bierman and Louis Goodman, who explained the necessity for affiliation with this congregation and pledged themselves to assist in the completion and furnishing of this beautiful structure, which, when completed, will be the finest in the city and the entire southwest. Brief talks were also made by S. Baskowitz, Chairman of the Building Committee; M. G. Rosenfeld, Chairman Board of Trustees; Jos. M. Lippman, S. Pollack, S. Levitt and I. Raskas, who explained the difficulties they had in getting as far as they did and expressed their appreciation to the new members for their encouragement. After the meeting refreshments were served.

Aug. 31, 1928

* SHAARE ZEDEK'S *
* SORRY SITUATION *

The financial condition of Congregation Shaare Zedek is deplorable. Its plight is desperate and should arouse the interest and sympathetic aid of those who view the Synagogue as vital to communal life as it is, surely.

The mortgage on the building is soon apt to be foreclosed—and end the congregation's life, if some assistance is not soon forthcoming, or greater Jewish interest manifested in its fate and that of the Talmud Torah.

The officers of the congregation regard the conditions as most critical. They feel also that it is not only their problem but the duty of all good Jewish people to prevent the disaster that now threatens the disruption of the body devoted to Judaism and to Jewish education of the children.

The congregation should be rescued. Some plan can surely be conceived to extricate it from its sorry situation. A small remedial agency is the sale of seats for the approaching holy days, of which a notice appears in this issue. A hearty response to this call will tide the congregation over for a while. It would be wise to heed the call of Shaare Zedek Congregation and its "Talmud Torah."

Oct. 5, 1928

SHAARE ZEDEK EMERGENCY CAMPAIGN

The Shaare Zedek Talmud Torah Emergency Campaign Appeal Fund to save the school is now in full swing. With the beginning of the campaign, at the first meeting held among its own members, and the wonderful appeal made by Mr. M. J. Slonim on Kol Nidre night, we are glad to inform the Jewish public that thus far we have raised the substantial sum of \$5,000. Our goal is \$20,000 in order to save the Hebrew School. Will it be done? Let our co-religionists answer this question. If all of our people of this community would have had the chance to listen to Mr. Slonim's appeal at the Shaare Zedek on the most holy of holy nights, the necessary sum of money, I venture to say, would by this time be in the hands of our treasurer. Because of the lack of workers, we appeal directly to the people, through "The Modern View," to please send their contributions directly to our treasurer, Mr. S. Barak, 1424 Washington avenue.

J. GREENHOUSE, Executive Chm.
Emergency Campaign Appeal Fund.

Feb. 13, 1931

SHAARE ZEDEK CONGREGATION CAMPAIGN TO SAVE ITS BUILDINGS

The beautiful buildings of the Shaare Zedek Synagogue and Hebrew Free School are in grave danger of being sold at auction because of various overdue mortgage notes held upon them.

The officers and members of the Congregation have instituted every possible economy and have put forth their most strenuous efforts to gather a fund sufficient to save the buildings. At present a minimum fund of \$5,000 is needed for this purpose. The Shaare Zedek appeals to every Jew in the community to donate \$1.00 in this pressing emergency, to save these modern buildings from passing into non-Jewish hands. Contributions may be sent to Grand Rabbi H. F. Epstein, 1246 N. Kingshighway.

Shaare Zedek
5470 Delmar
1948-1953





Garment Workers

Kneseth Israel Congregation

1930s: Washington Ave. Minyan St. Louis Garment Dist

1934-1955: 6349, 6351 Southwood Ave.

(purchased adjacent buildings)

1955-59: 700 South Hanley Rd. (Aprox. 100 units)

(purchased home in Clayton)

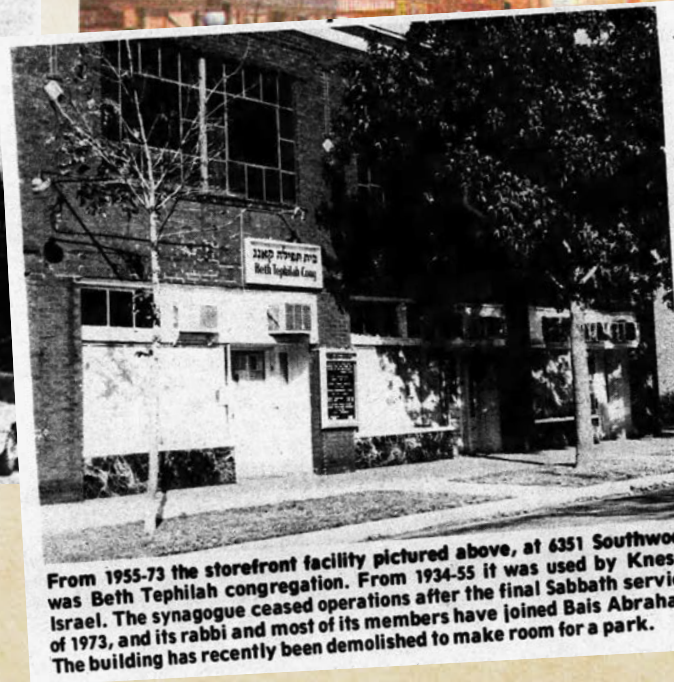


700 S. Hanley Road in Clayton, 1955-59

Kneseth Israel Locations



Washington Avenue
Garment District



From 1955-73 the storefront facility pictured above, at 6351 Southwood, was Beth Tephilah congregation. From 1934-55 it was used by Kneseth Israel. The synagogue ceased operations after the final Sabbath services of 1973, and its rabbi and most of its members have joined Bais Abraham. The building has recently been demolished to make room for a park.

6351 Southwood in Clayton



May, 1950
Plans for
moving

Shaare Zedek

1905-1907 Robert Horwitz
(initial chairman, president)
1908-1918 Solomon Lipsitz
1919 Rubin Miller
1920-1926 Mitchell Grand
1927-1953 Louis Goodman
1954-1955 George Perlmutter
1956-1957 Sol Klayman
1958-1959 David Seltzer
1960-1961 Sam Kolker
1962-1963 Norman Imber
1964-1965 Max Tenzer
1966 Oscar Lehr
1967-1978 Herman Shanker
1969-1970 Jack Makovsky
1971-1972 Jonas Weinberger
1973-1974 Leo Wolf
1975-1976 Albert Bleweiss
1977-1978 Leo Mirowitz
1979-1980 Buddy Spetner
1981 David Hartstein
1982-1983 Marshall Myers
1984-1985 Maurice Guller
1986-1987 Gerson Spector

1988-1989 Shirley Hartstein

1990-1991 Morris Matlof
1993-1994 Sara Myers
1995-1996 Mendel Rosenberg
1997-1998 Barbara Shamir
1999-2000 Barry Pessin
2001-2002 Michael Waxenberg
2003-2004 Alan Spetner
2005-2006 Harriet Shanas
2007-2008 Marsha Birenbaum
2009-2010 Gary Kodner
2011-2012 Mitchell Shenker
2013 Steve Keyser



Sarah Raskas & Louis Goodman (25 year term)

Brith Sholom

1908 – Isidore Rossman
1923-1926 – M. Moyrovitz
1927-1931 – J. D. Gross
1931-1933 – Simon Sorkin
1933-1934 – William Seigelman
1934-1945 – Joseph M. Sacks
1946-1950 – Morris Rosenbaum
1950-1953 – Paul Felberbaum
1953-1956 – Ben Cohen
1956-1959 – Charles Binowitz
1960-1961 – Albert Felberbaum

Kneseth Israel

1934-1936 – Isaac Goodman
1936-1937 – Nathan Greenberg
1938-1940 – Moses Aaron
Teitelbaum
1941-1943 – Gus Katcher
1943-1945 – Harry Feldman
1946-1947 – Nolan DeWoskin
1947-1949 – Ben Hoffman
1950-1952 – Sherman Blustein
1953-1954 – Leroy Kopolow
1954-1955 – Joseph Goldman
1956-1958 – Dr. William Parker
1959-1961 – Paul M. Essman

Brith Sholom Kneseth Israel

1961-1963 – Albert Felberbaum
1963-1966 – Paul M. Essman
1966-1969 – Michael Cutter
1969-1972 – Myman S. Gale
1972-1976 – Maurice J. Frankel
1976-1978 – Irl B. Baris
1978-1980 – David Samuels
1980-1982 – Yusef Hakimian
1982-1984 – Shirlene Baris
1984-1986 – Alan I. Berger
1986-1988 – Dr. Phillip L. Gould
1988-1994 – Vernon M. Mendel
1994-1996 – Gerald Cohen
1996-1999 – Dr. Ralph J. Graff
1999-2002 – Margaret E. Israel
2002-2003 – Gary Kodner
2003-2006 – Paula Hamvas
2006-2008 – Toby E. Don
2008-2011 – Richard Kodner
2011-2013 – Susan Cort

Kol Rinah

2013-2014 – Susan Cort
2013-2015 – Mitchell Shenker
2016-2019 – Randi Mozenter

Shaare Zedek Rabbis/Hazzans

1905 – Reverend Jacob Korn

1914-1922 – Rabbi Bernard Dov Berele Abramowitz

1918 – Cantor/Reverend M. Forster

1922-1930 – Rabbi Israel Lebendiger

1922-1937 – Cantor Gedalliah Weinhaus

1930-1932 – Rabbi Chaim Fishel Epstein

1934-1969 – Rabbi Ephraim Epstein (35 years)

1940s-1950 – Cantor Aaron White

1960s – Cantor Earnest Ban

1971-1978 – Rabbi Arnold Asher

1972-2012 – Rabbi Sholom Paul

1972-1976 – Cantor Max Shimansky

1976-1979 – Cantor Levi Halperin

1977-1979 – Hazzan, Rabbi Levi I. Galperin

1979-1983 – Rabbi Zalman Stein

1979-2005 – Cantor Paul Dubrow

1984-1995 – Rabbi Kenneth Green

1987-Rabbi – Dov Bard

1995-2000 – Rabbi Hillel Gold

2001-2013 – Rabbi Mark Fasman

2006-2013 – Hazzan Joanna Dulkan

Brith Sholom Rabbis/Hazzans

1908-1910 – Reverend, Dr. Solomon H. Kohn

1908-1910 – Reverend M. Jacobs, Cantor

1915-1923 – Cantor Nathan Hirschfield

1912-1930 – Rabbi Adolf A. Rosentreter

1930-1958 – Rabbi Jacob R. Mazur (28 years)

Kneseth Israel Rabbi/Cantor

1955-1959 – Rabbi Sholom Rivkin (5 years)

1956-1959 – Rev/Cantor/Sexton Abraham H. Fligstein

Brith Sholom Kneseth Israel Rabbis/Hazzans

1959-1991 – Rabbi Benson Skoff, Ph. D. (33 years)

1975 – Cantor Irving Grossman

1982 – Cantor Paul Stone

1984 – Cantor Gary Zener

1985 – Cantor Aryeh Katzir

1987 – Assoc. Rabbi Akiba Lubow

1991-2012 – Rabbi Mordecai Miller

1992-2005 – Hazzan Elliot Joel Portner

Reverends/Rabbis/Cantors/Hazzans

Shaare Zedek
Reverend Jacob Korn
1863 –1926
Born in Lithuania

1905-First Rabbi of
Shaare Zedek?
Helped Organize and
create successful
Talmud Torah.

St. Louis Republic
article reports on a
dispute as to whether
Or not Rev. Kon is their
rabbi or a sexton.
Suit is settled for \$25

The St Louis Republic
14 Sep 1905, Thu · Page 12

MAY BE A SEXTON; IF NOT, IS RABBI

Members of Shaare Zedek Congregation Dispute Over What Position Jacob Korn Really Holds Among Them.

Members of the Shaare Zedek Hebrew congregation met at the home of the president, Robert Horwitz, No. 4036 Page boulevard, last night to decide whether Jacob Korn was rabbi of the congregation or the sexton.

No definite conclusion was reached in the inquiry, although it was decided to grant Korn \$25 in full for services rendered.

The trouble arose, it is said, when an attempt was made to evict Jacob Korn from whatever position he fills with the congregation. Korn, it is said, refused to submit to eviction, and when officers of the congregation called at the headquarters, at No. 4126 Finney avenue, yesterday, to remove furniture which is said to day to belong to the congregation, the police were attracted to the scene and had Korn and the president of the congregation, Robert Horwitz, accompany them to the Tenth District Station, at No. 4548 Easton avenue.

The police allowed President Horwitz to proceed with the removal of the household goods.

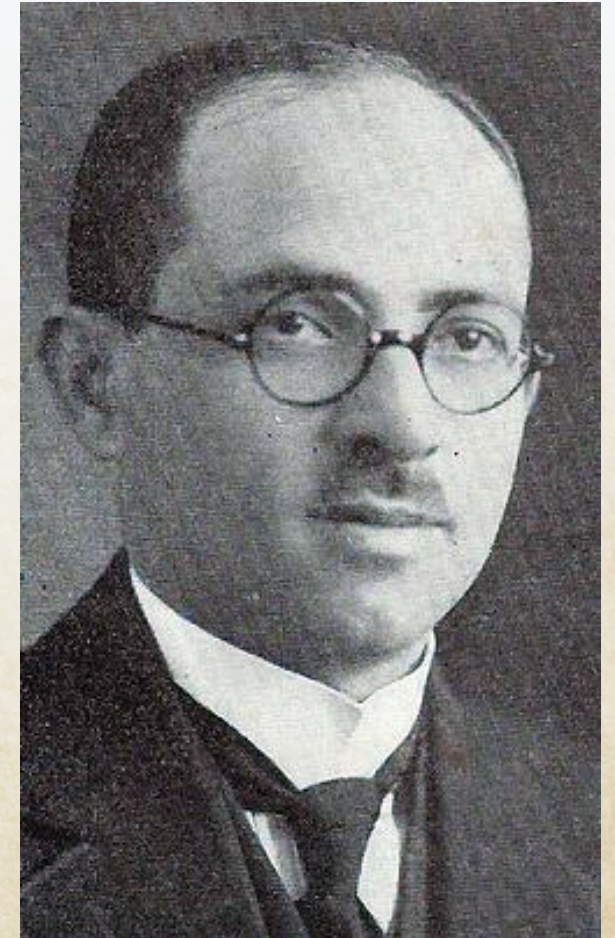
The trouble is said to have arisen through a letter written to the officials by Attorney Sigmund G. Gelbart. Mr. Gelbart, representing the interests of Mr. Korn, wrote to Mr. Horwitz regarding a claim of Mr. Korn that there was a breach of contract existing on the part of the Shaare Zedek congregation.

Shaare Zedek
Rabbi Lebendiger

Born in Grodno,
Poland/Lithuania
Came to the U.S. via
Rotterdam, in 1904.

Graduated Columbia
University/JTS -1914
His diploma was
signed by a
distinguished
list of rabbis:

Solomon Schechter
Louis Ginsberg
Alexander Marx
Dr. Israel Davidson
Israel Friedlander
Mordecai Kaplan
Joshua A. Yoffe



Rabbi Israel Lebendiger
1886-1964
Shaare Zedek Rabbi,
1922 – 1930

Reverends and Rabbis

Kneseth Israel
Rabbi Sholom Rivkin
1926-2011
Born: Jerusalem

Mesiftah Torah Vodaath
Talmudical Seminary-Brooklyn
40th generation rabbi
Formerly served
Congregation Nusach H'Ari

Kneseth Israel,
5 years (1955-1959)
Installed Dec. 1956

Chief Orthodox Rabbi
And head of the Vaad
in St. Louis for 22 years
(1983-2005).

Reverends and Rabbis

St. Louis Post-Dispatch Mon, Dec 10, 1956 · Page 27

KNESETH ISRAEL INSTALLS RABBI SHOLOM RIVKIN

Rabbi Sholom Rivkin was installed as head of Kneseth Israel Congregation, 700 Hanley road, Clayton, last night in ceremonies in which his father and father-in-law, also rabbis, participated.

Rabbi Rivkin, formerly of Nusach Ari Congregation here and a member of Betdin, Orthodox Jewish court for St. Louis, was honored at a banquet at Kingsway Hotel.

His father is Rabbi Emesh Rivkin, teacher in Brooklyn, N.Y. His father-in-law is Zuckerman, chief rabbi in Buffalo.

CONGREGATION KNESETH ISRAEL, 6347 Southwood ave.

Rabbi Sholom Rivkin has been called to assume spiritual leadership of the congregation. He received his secular training at Mesiftah Torah Vodaath Talmudical Seminary, Brooklyn. The congregation soon will move to a newly-acquired location at 700 South Hanley rd. Paul Essman is chairman of the membership committee. Other congregation officers are Joseph Goldman, president; Dr. William Parker, vice-president; Harvey Sach, treasurer; Daniel Lang, secretary. Members of the location committee are Max Brickman, Sherman Blustein, Benjamin Hoffman, Leroy Kopelow and Irving Sachs.

★ ★ ★



Globe-Democrat, Aug. 1955

Rabbi Hayim Fishel Epstein

1874–1942

Born: Taurogen, Lithuania

16th generation of rabbis

Served Congregations in
Europe; Bayonne, NJ;
Cleveland; Cincinnati;
and Brooklyn

1924 established the
Vaad Hoeir

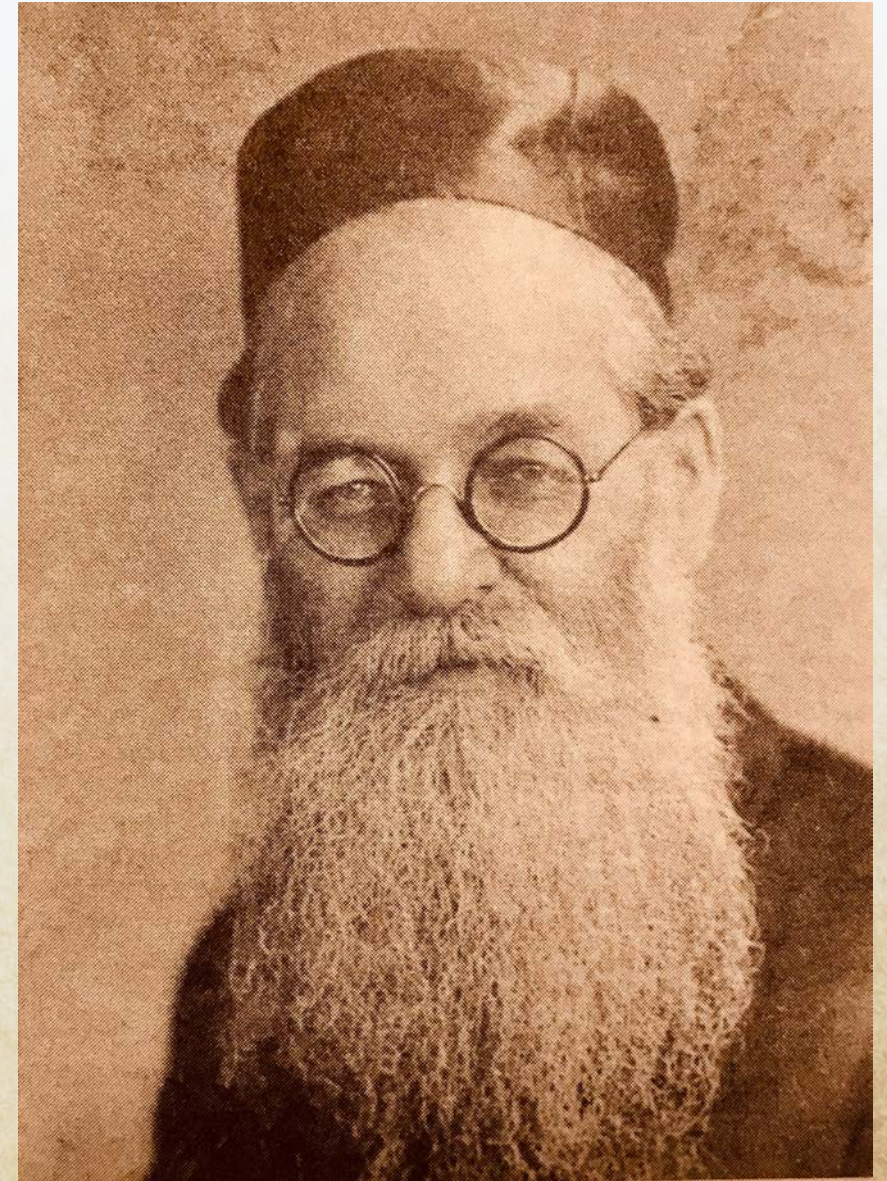
Chief Rabbi of St. Louis
1930-1942

Unofficial Rabbi of
Shaare Zedek, 1930-1932

Epstein Hebrew Academy



Painting by A. Fenton



Reverends and Rabbis

Rabbi Rosentreter

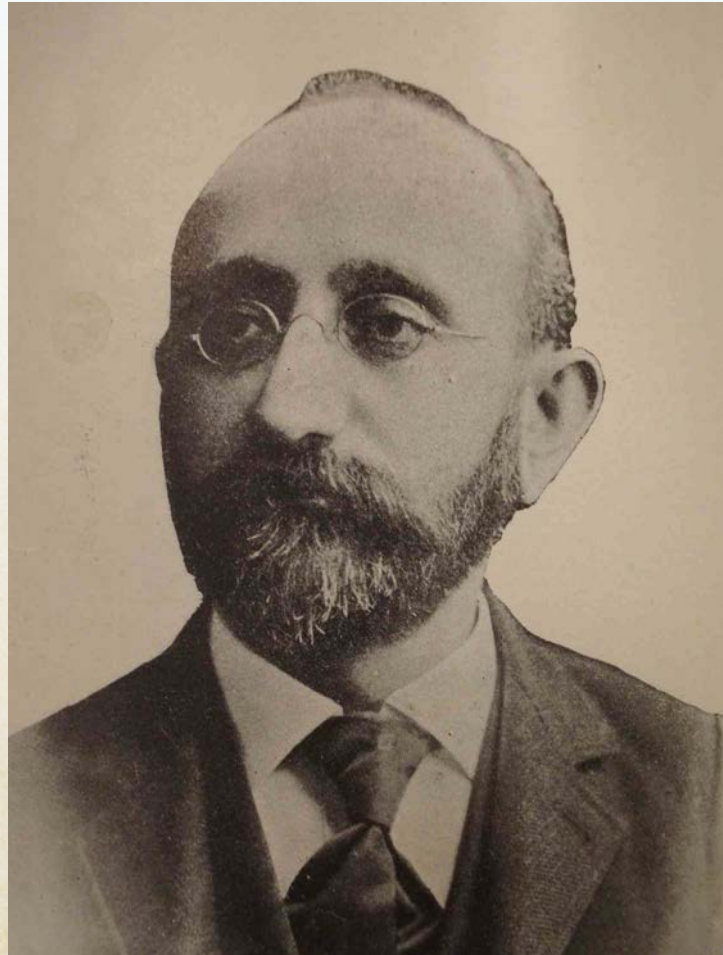
1858-1930

Born: Gollantse,
Germany

Served B'nai Amoona
for over 20 years
(1885-1912).

Gave sermons in
German or Yiddish.

Spoke: Hebrew, German,
Russian, Yiddish, English,
and others.



Rabbi Adolf A. Rosentreter
Brith Sholom Rabbi,
Dec. 29, 1912 – 1930



Rabbi Bernard Dov Berele Abramowitz
Shaare Zedek Rabbi, 1914-1922

Rabbi Abramowitz

1860 –1926

Born in Lithuania
Moved to Palestine at
age 12,

Passionate Zionist
1907-1914-Served at
Beth Hamedresh
Hagadol prior to
Shaare Zedek.

Gave his sermons
in Yiddish.

1907-1920

Considered the chief
rabbi of the Ukrainian
Jewish community in
the city of St. Louis

Reverends and Rabbis

Rabbi Jacob Mazur

Born in Poland and later lived in South Africa.

Son of a rabbi

Came to the US in 1912.

graduated from Dr. Bender's Theological Seminary in Capetown, S. Africa.

Dr. Scheeters' Seminary and at Cornell University.

Served in Montgomery, AL 1921-1930 - Senior Rabbi Agudas Achim East St. Louis.

-Sermons became English.

-Introduced mixed seating.

-Library was started

-Sylvan Robinson organized a shul baseball team.

Sisterhood and Men's club came into being.



RN VIEW

RABBI JACOB R. MAZUR
ELECTED AS LEADER OF
B'RITH SHOLOM CONGREGATION



RABBI JACOB R. MAZUR

We congratulate the B'rith Sholom Congregation upon the honor they have done themselves in choosing Rabbi Jacob R. Mazur as their spiritual leader. The Jewish community joins them in extending him a warm welcome and wishing him success in his work for the Jewish cause.

Rabbi Mazur for the past nine years has been connected with the Agudas Achim Congregation of East St. Louis. He has increased its membership from that of a very few to practically every Jewish family in East St. Louis. Through his efforts funds were secured for a building adjoining the Temple, in which their present Hebrew and Sunday School is housed.

The Rabbi is well known amongst the Jews of this city, having often officiated at ceremonies here. His many friends will be glad to learn that he is now a resident of the City of St. Louis and now resides at 6309 Cates avenue.



Rabbi Jacob Reuben Mazur

1891 – 1958

Born: Poland

Brith Sholom Rabbi, 1930-1958

Reverends and Rabbis

Rabbi Ephraim Epstein

Born in Latvia, 1908

Descendent of 400 yr.
rabbinic heritage –
16th generation of
an unbroken line of
rabbis on his maternal
side, also a direct
Descendant of the
Gaon Rabbi Ezekiel
Landau, chief Rabbi
of Prague during the
reign of Empress
Maria Theresa in the
1760's.

Son of Chaim Fishel
Epstein

Longest serving Rabbi
at Shaare Zedek



Rabbi Ephraim Epstein 1908–1971

Shaare Zedek Rabbi, 1934-1969



Installed
Nov. 1934

HONOR RABBI

Rabbi Ephraim Epstein, newly installed at Shaare Zedek, who will be honored by his congregation at a dinner at Talmud Torah Center tomorrow night.

Reverends and Rabbis



Rabbi Arnold Asher 1935-1978
Shaare Zedek Rabbi,
1967-1970 Associate Rabbi
1971-1978 Senior Rabbi



1961 married Nira Libai.
Known to us as Nira Sher
3 children, Naomi, Ruth,
and Jaron.

Microphones
Sep. & joint seating
Joined USCJ

Rabbi Arnold Asher

Born: Brooklyn, NY

First to be born in America. B.A. from Yeshiva College

Teachers' Institute of Yeshiva University

Masters of Hebrew Letters, JTS

Rabbinic ordination from JTS, 1963.

Nira Asher Geller

SZ, KR, 52 yrs



Rae Gaskin

Shaare Zedek, 30 yrs



Reverends and Rabbis

Rabbi Benson Skoff

Born in Philadelphia

1948 - Ordination JTS

1949-1952 – Rabbi
Cong. Agudas Achim
Austin, Texas

1952-1956 - Rabbi -
Tifereth Israel Cong.
Duluth, MN

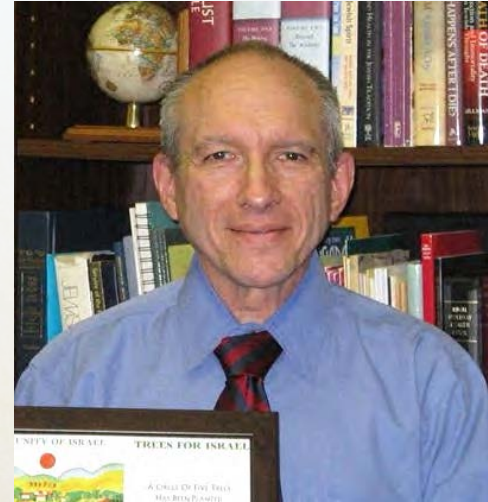
1958-1959 - Rabbi -Ahavas
Israel Cong. Grand Rapids,
MI,

1975 earned his PhD
Rabbi Emeritus –
BSKI and Kol Rinah



Rabbi Benson Skoff 1923–2014

BSKI Rabbi, 1959-1991



Rabbi Akiba Lubow

BSKI Assoc. Rabbi,
1987-1990

Rabbi Akiba Lubow

Born in Los Angeles

Rabbinic ordination
1984 JTS

Author, "Proceeding on
the Committee on
Jewish Law and
Standards"

Served 2 congregations
in New York

Director of Programing
at Rabbinical Assembly
Also served:

Rochester, Winnipeg,
Manitoba, Buffalo,
Temple Beth El-Mekor
Chayim in Cranford, NJ

BSKI Rabbis



Belated Bat Mitzvah: For the first time locally, five Jewish women will become bat mitzvah on Saturday, Nov. 20 at Brith Sholom Kneseth Israel. Reading from the Torah as Rabbi Benson Skoff looks on are (from left) Linda Makler, Carol Battle, Phyllis Hyken, Florence Radunsky and Rita Fineberg.



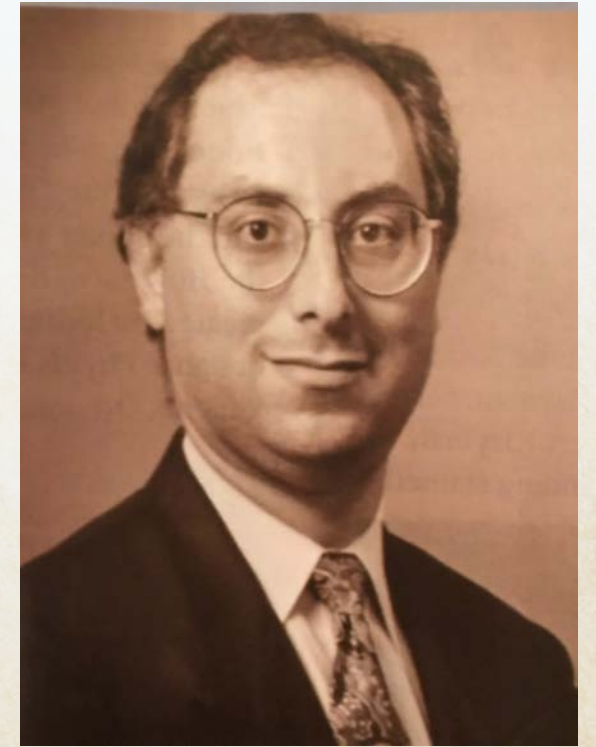
Rabbi Zalman Stein
SZ Rabbi, 1979-1983



Rabbi Kenneth Greene
SZ Rabbi, 1984-1995



Rabbi Dov Bard
SZ Rabbi, 1987



Rabbi Hillel Gold
SZ Rabbi, 1995-2000

Shaare Zedek Rabbis 1979-2000

It's Never Too Late to Fulfill a Dream...

LINDA MATZ MANTLE
Executive Editor

Seven women. Two years. One dream. To become a bat mitzvah takes resolve, patience, dedication, and, most of all, desire. It is a quest that, for the most part, is a scary proposition for a pre-adolescent girl. But for seven adult members of Shaare Zedek Synagogue, the perseverance and preparation have been a joy, a gift and the fulfillment of a goal denied them long ago.

On June 27, Zendra Ashkanazi, Marion Cohen, Rhoda Grimsky, Sherry Kaplan, Charlotte Singman, Molly Spector and Esther Zuckerman will step up to the bima at Shaare Zedek and proudly read the Haftarah, in Hebrew.

Traditionally, the bat mitzvah ceremony signifies an entry into formal Jewish education. But for these women, it is just the latest in a lifetime pursuit of knowledge and the attainment of goals they set for themselves as women of Conservative Judaism.

The journey began when Ashkanazi approached Rabbi Hillel D. Gold shortly after he had joined Shaare Zedek as spiritual leader. "I told him I wanted to become a bat mitzvah and thought that there were other women who were interested as well," said Ashkanazi. His willingness and encouragement inspired



Seven Shaare Zedek women who will share a bat mitzvah ceremony on June 27 are pictured with teacher/Rabbi Hillel Gold. Shown are: (front row, from left) Zendra Ashkanazi; Marion Cohen; Sherry Kaplan; (back row, from left) Rhoda Grimsky; Molly Spector; Rabbi Hillel D. Gold; Charlotte Singman, and Esther Zuckerman.

What has continued for Singman is the cam-



Rabbi Mark Fasman b. 1954 –
SZ Rabbi, 2001-2013
Kol Rinah, 2013-14
Rabbi Emeritus

Rabbis



Rabbi Mordecai Miller b. 1950 –
BSKI Rabbi, 1991-2012
Rabbi Emeritus

“We are a congregation filled with promise”

“We are a congregation filled with promise because we are willing to engage seriously with the questions that we face in our time – just as our ancestors faced many of these very same questions in their time.



We are a congregation committed to the the necessity of change, if not always its desirability. We are a group of individuals that seeks to connect our solidarity lives to that which is greater than any one life: to family, to history, to people, to Israel, to God.”

– Rabbi Mark Fasman, 2005

Dr. Rabbi Shalom Paul
Born Philadelphia

1973-2012 Shaare Zedek
(high holidays) Rabbi.
Chairperson of the Dead
Sea Scrolls foundation
and is a former chair of
the Bible Department of
Hebrew University,
Jerusalem. Editor
Encyclopedia Judaica's
Bible section.
Written many books
and articles on nature
and scientific exploration
from a biblical and
archeological
perspective.

Rabbis



Sandy and Mendel Rosenberg with Rabbi Paul, 2003



Shaare Zedek Hebrew School Early 1930s



Brith Sholom Hebrew School Early 1930s

Hedder, Hebrew School, Sunday School, Religious School

Shaare Zedek Basketball Team Wins 1935 33-19

CITY CHURCH BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS OF 1935



THE Shaare Zedek basketball team, which won senior division honors in the city-wide church tournament, left to right: First row—Fred Glazier, Ben Shanks, Hyman Gimpelson, Ben Perlman, Manuel Brown. Top—Dizzy Bernstein, Business Manager Ralph Edelman, Dave Goldberg, Alex Schurman, Marvin Edelman, Coach Max Dreyfus and Joe Goldberg.



Hedder, Hebrew School, Sunday School, Religious School

Shaare Zedek Hebrew School – 1930s

Director of Assoc. Hebrew Schools, Leon Lander (Dorit Galor's father)



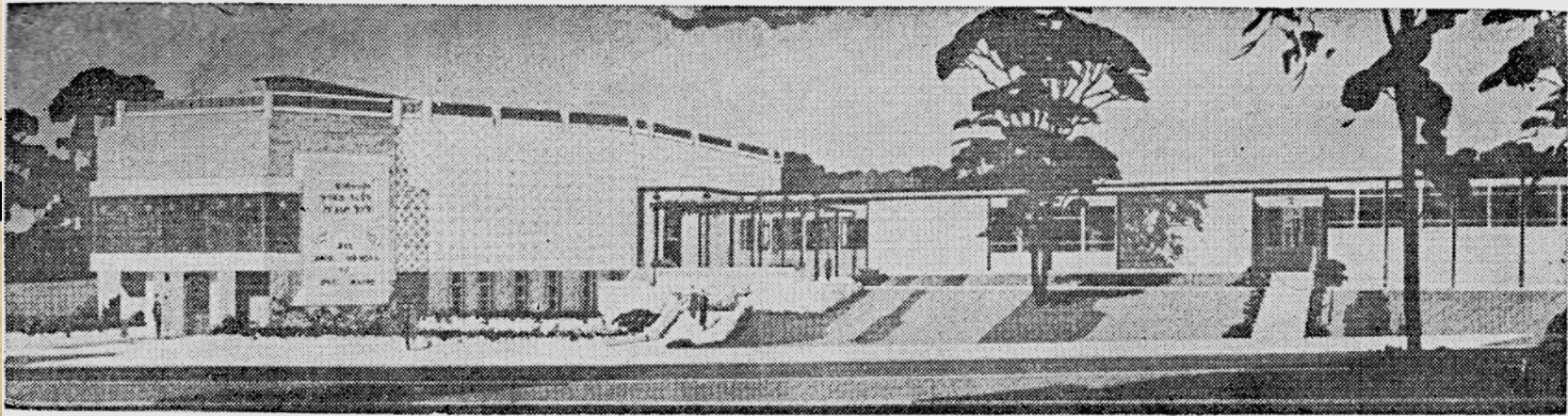
Earliest picture of a Hebrew School class, early 1930s. Teacher on right is Mr. Lander, our own Dorit Galor's father. Now we know why learning Ivrit with Dorit is so popular.

Shaare Zedek – Purim 1926



Purim was big even in 1926 as the kids gathered in costume on the bimah above the orchestra

1957 Proposed New Synagogue in Richmond Heights



TWO CONSERVATIVE JEWISH CONGREGATIONS MERGE

Two Conservative Jewish congregations have consolidated into one synagogue, it was announced yesterday. Brith Sholom Congregation, 6166 Delmar boulevard, and Kneseth Israel Congregation, 700 South Hanley road, Clayton, will become Brith Sholom Kneseth Israel Congregation.

The merged synagogue will meet at 1107 Linden avenue, Richmond Heights. Rabbi Benson Skoff, who leader of Brith Sholom Congregation, will be consolidated synagogue. Rabbi Ben-Felberbaum, president of Brith Sholom Congregation, will be consolidated synagogue. Brith Sholom construction at Linden avenue address, will be completed by May 1,

nounced. The \$300,000 building will provide facilities for religious classes and social activities. The combined congregation will erect a new synagogue at the same location, Felberbaum said.

Fronidizi to Visit Europe.

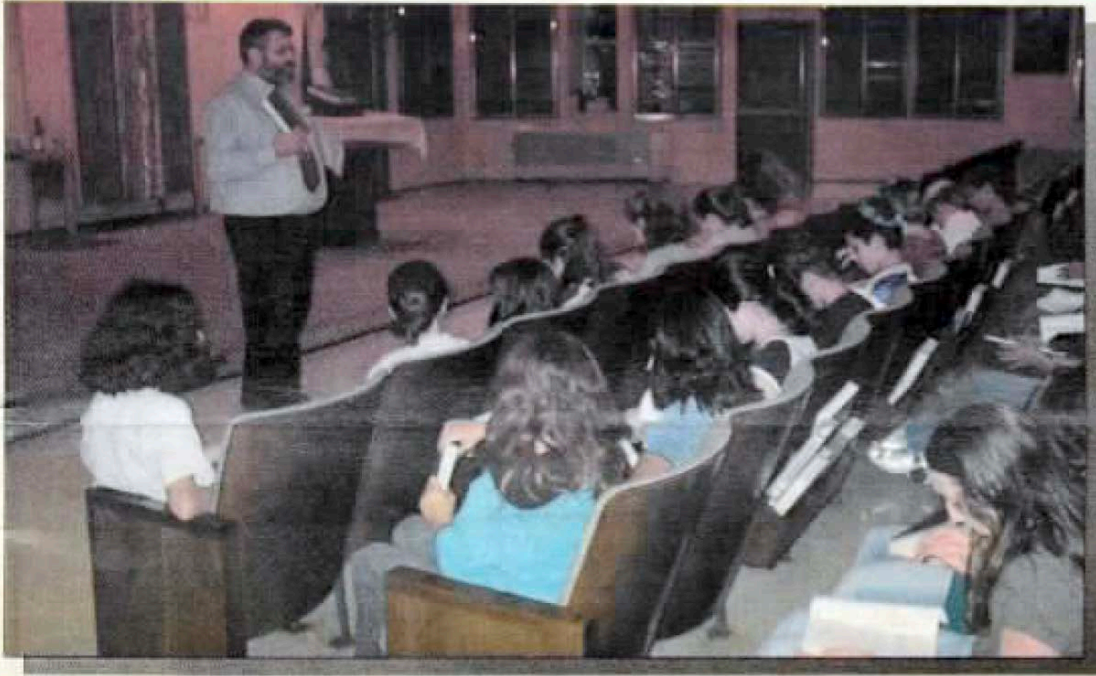
BUENOS AIRES, April 8 (AP) —Argentina's President Arturo Frondizi plans to visit England, France, West Germany, Belgium, Holland, Switzerland, Spain and

POST-DISPATCH
April 8, 1960



EDUCATION | COMING TOGETHER TO LEARN

Religious schools merge



LECTURER Rabbi Eric Cytryn teaches students at Brith Sholom Kneseth Israel, Sunday.
PHOTO: David Baugher

BSKI, Shaare Zedek schools celebrate first day

Shaare Shalom, Sept. 2003



BSKI, c. 1962

Heder, Hebrew School, Sunday School, Religious School



Shaare Zedek, 1954 Hanley Road



BSKI, 1958 E. Linden Ave.



Groundbreaking – MOVING WEST

BSKI Building Dedication Sunday, May 1, 1960 at 2 pm... 1000 people in attendance



1960: BSKI Proposed Sanctuary Building Rendering of new sanctuary building in Richmond Heights



Cantor Abraham L. Eckstein will officiate at high holy day services at the newly completed Brith Sholom Kneseth Israel synagogue, 1107 Linden avenue, Richmond Heights. About 1700 worshipers can be accommodated in the new sanctuary, Rabbi Benjamin Skoff said.

Shaare Zedek Builds on Hanley Rd. in U. City - Project to cost \$400,000

Shaare Zedek Will Dedicate \$400,000 Chapel Tomorrow

Shaare Zedek Congregation, Orthodox Jewish, will dedicate its new \$400,000 chapel at 2 p.m. tomorrow. It is located at Hanley road and Amherst avenue, University City.

Climax of the dedicatory ceremony will be the carrying of the Sefeh Torahs by members of the congregation from the present Ark in the old chapel to the Ark in the new chapel. According to Jewish tradition, the Torahs will be borne to the new Ark by the sons or closest male relatives of the men who carried them to their present Ark.

Taking part in the formal dedication will be Rabbi M. H. Eichenstein chief rabbi of the St. Louis Orthodox Jewish community; Rabbi Jerome Grollman, president of the St. Louis Rabbinical Association; Dr. Isidor Fish, superintendent of the Board of Jewish Education; Sol Klayman, president of Congregation Shaare Zedek; Sam Lefton, chairman of the board; Louis I. Goodman, honorary president, and others.

The week of dedication will include a dance for teen-agers at 8 p.m. tomorrow. Tuesday at 8:15 p.m., Ner Tomid (Eternal Light) awards will be presented to eight members of Boy Scout Troop 30, which is sponsored by

the congregation. Three of the eight boys are brothers.

The Men's Club will present a public program Thursday at 8:30 p.m. Family dedication services will be held at 8:15 p.m. Friday, and Sabbath dedication services Saturday, 8:30 a.m.

Rabbi Ephraim Epstein has been the spiritual leader of Shaare Zedek for 20 years. At the dedication tomorrow Rabbi Epstein will receive the keys to the new chapel from Max Sacks, who has served as co-chairman of the building committee.

Shaare Zedek congregation was founded 50 years ago at West End avenue and Page boulevard. Because of the movement westward of the St. Louis Jewish community, the congregation moved to 5400 Delmar

THE MARVIN LETTERS,
1943-1944



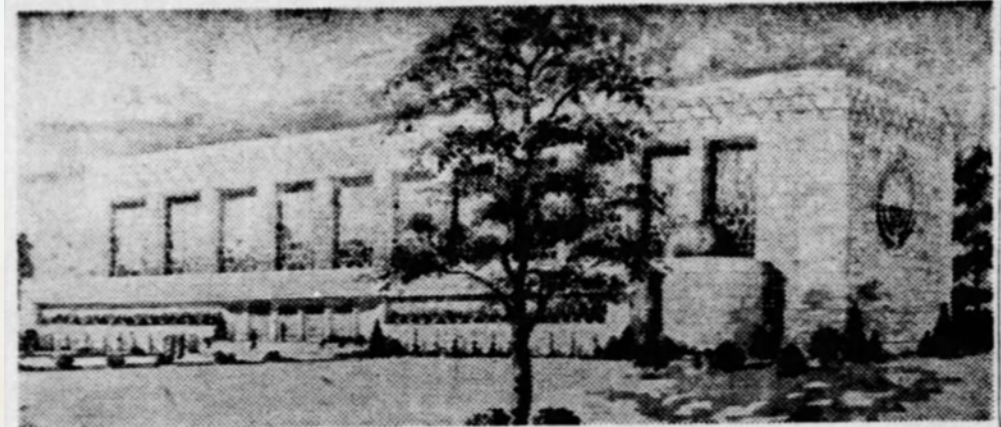
Chapel & School

Built in 1952-53

Dedicated May 18, 1957

Cost: \$400,000

New Synagogue on Hanley Rd.



PERMIT ISSUED—Permit has been issued and construction is expected to start soon for a new synagogue for the Shaare Zedek congregation on a 100-foot wooded tract on the west side of Hanley road just south of the University City Junior High School. Meyer Loomstein has designed the building.

ARCHITECT

Dedication Today of Congregation and School



This is the newly completed community edifice of Congregation Shaare Zedek at Hanley road and Amherst avenue in University City which is to be dedicated with services starting at 2 p.m. today. Architect Bernard Bloom designed the building with seating for 100 in worship services; and with school and youth center in addition on a two-acre site. Cost has been \$650,000, with the newest section, including war memorial chapel, costing \$400,000. Dickie Construction Co. was general contractor. Dedication messages are to be given by Rabbi Ephraim Epstein and Building Committee Chairman William Leve.

May 19, 1957 Dedication
Bernard Bloom, Architect
Total cost \$650,000

Shaare Zedek Hanley Rd. Ribbon Cutting Ceremony - 1957



1957 Ribbon Cutting at Shaare Zedek,
Sol Klayman and Rabbi Epstein, and William Leve

Before Stained glass windows were installed



1957 Rabbi Epstein honoring
William Leve in Diamond Chapel

Shaare Zedek - Hanley and Amherst



Community



Rabbi Mordecai Miller, Marsha Sterneck, Marilyn Bearman, Sid Bearman, Jean Zorensky, Vernon Mendel

Crowd enters new building for the first time: Bonnie and Phil Levens



BSKI 1993



Maurice Frankel (right) holds a tallit with Brith Sholom Kneseth Israel Rabbi Benson Skoff (left) and the tallit's creator, Zella Rubin in 1993. Frankel brought the tallit to Israel, where it was blessed at the Western Wall in Jerusalem. Jewish Light File photo: Mark Richman



Joseph Katz, SZ

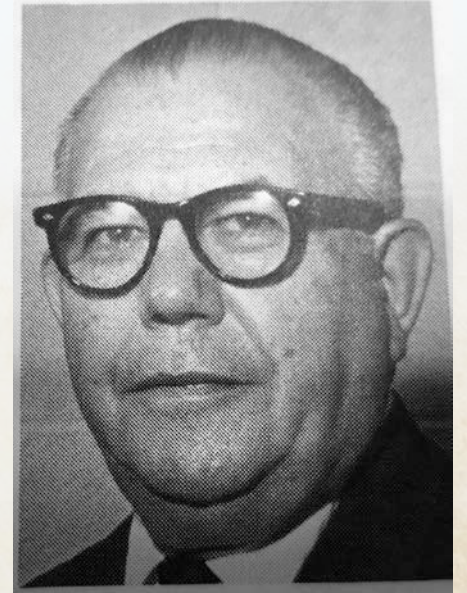


Harry Simon, SZ



Jack Makovsky, SZ

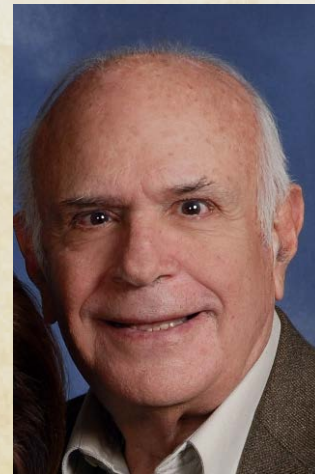
Harvey Sachs
Kneseth Israel,
BSKI



Solon Chervitz
Shaare Zedek



Gerald Cohen
Shaare Zedek



Burton Boxerman
Shaare Zedek



Louis Goldman
BSKI



Bea Sorkin BSKI
40+ yrs



Sue Kodner
BSKI, 17 yrs

BSKI Names Rossner Executive Director

Milton A. Rossner has been appointed executive director of Brith Sholom Kneseth Israel. Rossner has been affiliated with the congregation for 20 years, having been a member of the BSKI choir and scout master of BSKI Boy Scout Troop 117 for four years.



Rossner

He has been active in the Young Couples Club, Men's Club and the Board of Trustees, and has served as president of BSKI Men's Club and Central States Region of the National Federation of Men's Clubs. He also has held the office of vice president of BSKI.

Gwen Sosna
BSKI

Meir Zimand
BSKI, Kol Rinah

Rae Gaskin
Shaare Zedek
30+ yrs



Sara Myers
Shaare Zedek
40+ yrs



Sarah Tullock
Shaare Zedek
20+ yrs

Jacob M. Elbaum
59 years at BSKI



**Meyer Kablansky,
Mr. Ansky**
Shaare Zedek,
40+ yrs.



Don Makovsky
Shaare Zedek



Marty Schaeffer
Shaare Zedek ECC



I. J. Zuckerman
Shaare Zedek



Zendra Ashkenazi, Shaare Zedek



Rabbi Chaim Herber
Share Zedek, CAJE
Shaare Shalom,



Dorit Galor Share Zedek, CAJE

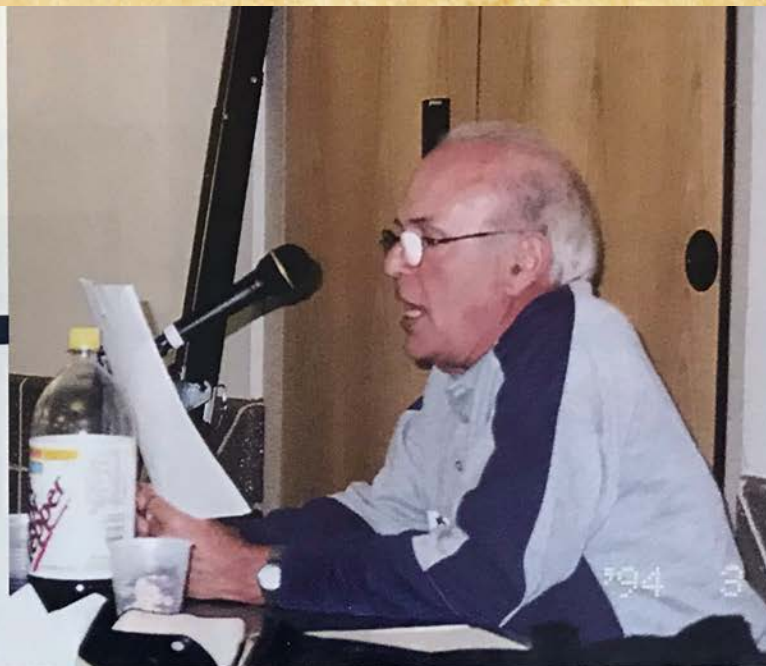
Educators

“That is kind of the fulcrum, where I see the congregation: balancing tradition and change, and serving as a resource where people can access their traditions in a warm, welcoming environment,”

– Rabbi Mordecai Miller



Our U. City Fair in the Square booth. Kosher food for the community



Trivia maven Burton Boxerman reading the questions at our Trivia Night



Rabbi-Doctor-Cantor Galperin's record release. Barry Pessin has the largest known collection of these

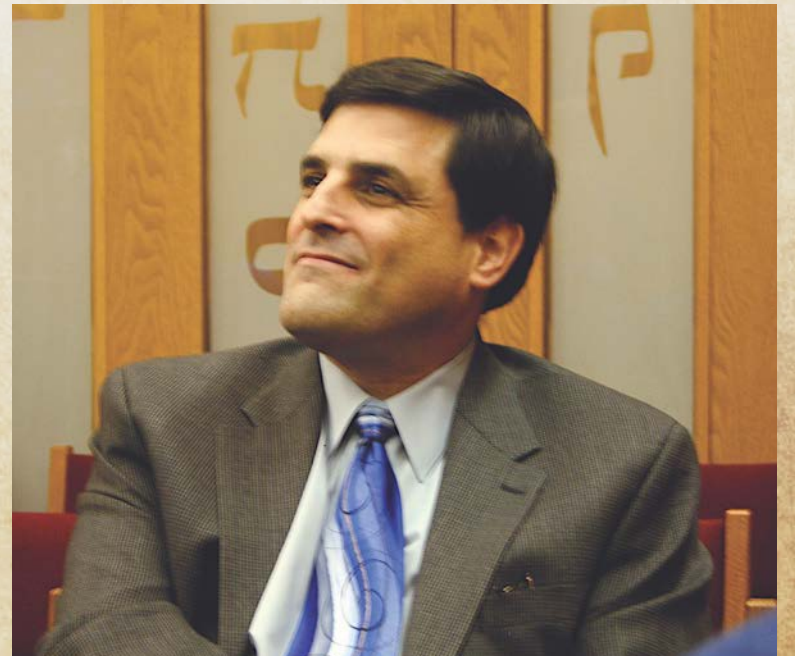
Trivia Night participants











BSKI Murder/Sniper Attack
Gerald Gordon shot and
killed Oct. 8, 1977

Tragedies

Shaare Zedek loses Rabbi Asher
July, 1978

On Today's Editorial Page
Worse Than Nothing
Editorial
Clarifying The Truths
Editorial

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1977
424 PAGES
60¢

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VOL. 99 NO. 278

Sniper Kills Man At Synagogue, Flees

A sniper firing a high-powered hunting rifle killed one man and wounded another Saturday on the parking lot of a Richmond Heights synagogue in what police described as a "highly premeditated attack."

The men were struck by two of five shots fired by the gunman as they were leaving a bar mitzvah at the Birth Sholem Knesseth Israel Congregation Synagogue at 1107 Linden Avenue.

Gerald Gordon, 42 years old, of 317 Hartwell Court, Chesterfield, died in the shooting, which Richmond Heights Detective Capt. Lee Lanford described as a "very carefully planned, highly premeditated attack."

Lanford gave no motive for the shootings but said the sniper, "obviously came here yesterday and got set up. He said in wait."

He said this after investigators found that the sniper had apparently fashioned a stand to hold the rifle steady. The sniper had driven two large spikes wrapped in a sock into a telephone pole about 300 to 400 feet from where Gordon was shot, Lanford said.

The sock was still wet, apparently from Friday night's rain, Lanford said.

A .30.06 semi-automatic rifle, and fitted with a telescopic sight, was found at the foot of the pole along with five spent shells. An empty five-round clip was in the rifle. Also found at the scene was a large, black guitar case, apparently used to carry the weapon, Lanford said.

Detectives said the rifle could be fired in rapid succession by merely pulling the trigger. The serial number was scratched out.

Gordon, Ash and Goldman were among people in the parking lot left to the ground, taking cover behind automobiles, police said.

Inside the synagogue, about 150 guests remained at the celebration being given for Ricky Kalina, son of Mr. and Mrs. Merwyn Kalina, 2127 Lakeview Drive, Crystal Lake Park.

One guest, Joel Mantinband, 14, said the guests were relaxing after the luncheon when, "All of a sudden a few kids came into the auditorium screaming."

Mrs. Gordon told police she was standing next to their family car when the shooting began. A bullet struck her husband, throwing him back onto the pavement. The ball door or more people in the parking lot fell to the ground, taking cover behind automobiles, police said.

"Oh, my God, it's firecrackers," Mrs. Ash recalled thinking when she first heard the shots. But then she noticed that her husband and Gordon had been struck.

"My husband shouted, 'Get the kid, get the kid down,'" as the firing continued, Mrs. Ash continued. She said she grabbed their 3-year-old son in her arms and ran back into the synagogue.

Mrs. Gordon told police she was standing next to their family car when the shooting began. A bullet struck her husband, throwing him back onto the pavement. The ball door or more people in the parking lot fell to the ground, taking cover behind automobiles, police said.

St. Louis Jewish Light
vol. 32, No. 22, October 12, 1977
The Newspaper of the Jewish Community of Greater St. Louis \$15. Per Year, 60 Cents Per Copy

Shooting Shocks Community

By ROBERT A. COHN
Editor-in-Chief

A shooting attack by a sniper which killed one man and wounded another at Birth Sholem Knesseth Israel synagogue has shocked the entire community, but according to Rabbi Baruch Shiff, spiritual leader of BSKJ, "the act of a violent individual is not going to paralyze our synagogue or the Jewish community."

BSKJ is offering a reward of \$1,000 for information leading to the apprehension and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the shooting. Persons with information should contact the Major Case Squad at the Richmond Heights Police Dept. at 640-3000.

Rabbi Shiff, along with Iri R. Baro, president, and Milt Rosner, executive director of BSKJ were interviewed in the rabbi's study following a brief memorial assembly for the religious school students. Attendance at the school was good despite the tragedy which had shattered the celebration of the bar mitzvah of

Rosner said that the first indication of the shooting occurred at about 1 p.m., when Ricky Kalina, who had been bar mitzvah at the Shabbat morning services, ran into the building shouting. "There are snipers out there. They're killing people!" Rushing to the scene on the synagogue's parking lot, Rosner found that Gerald Gordon, 42, of 317 Hartwell Ct., Chesterfield, had been struck in the chest by one of the sniper's bullets.

Gordon died in an operating room at St. Louis County Hospital at about 3 p.m., two hours after he had been shot. A bullet had pierced his left arm and lodged in his chest. Another guest at the bar mitzvah, Lee Ash, 36, of Akron, Ohio, had his left small finger, and suffered a hip wound. He was treated at County Hospital. Police and ambulances were on the scene almost immediately, Rosner said.

Baro and Rabbi Shiff said that

about 350 persons attended the Shabbat services at which the Kalina bar mitzvah took place, and about 200 of those attending were bar mitzvah guests. They expressed relief that the shooting had not started earlier when the parking area was filled with great numbers of people.

See SHOOTING, Page 30

Sketch of suspect.

Boy's Day Of Joy
Is Shattered By
Sniper's Bullets



Richard Kalina,
age 55

Rabbi Suffers Fatal Heart Attack
After Hitchhiker Hijacks His Car

Rabbi Arnold Asher of Shaare Zedek congregation in University City died of a heart attack early today — minutes after he escaped from his own car as it was being commandeered by a hitchhiker.

The rabbi, 43, who had a history of heart trouble, ran to Incarnate Word Hospital, 3545 Lafayette Avenue, a short distance from where he jumped from his car. He was able to telephone his wife, and then tell a security guard what had happened before he was suffered the attack at 12:37 a.m.

Police are searching the St. Louis area for the rabbi's 1969 model car and for his assailant, who apparently had ordered the rabbi to drive him to Belleville.

When the man again demanded to go to Belleville, Asher said, "I don't care if you shoot me, I'm getting out of the car."

He stopped the car at Grand and Interstate 44, jumped from it and ran north along Grand a short distance to the hospital. The hitchhiker drove away in the car, a gray Rambler American.

After calling his wife to tell her that he had car trouble, he told Santa Cruz about the incident. The guard said that as he turned away to call the police, Asher collapsed.

A bartender at Barney's Place, 3012 South Grand Avenue, told police today that Asher bought a drink there.

Synagogue Defaced,
Vandals Blamed

SWASTIKA is painted on Birth Sholem Knesseth Israel congregation synagogue building at 1107 Linden Ave., Richmond Heights. Other vandalism and defacing marks were reported by police to have been put on the buildings between 7:30 a.m. Monday and 7 a.m. Tuesday.

—St. Louis Democrat Photo

Abraham H. Fligstein
Cantor and Sexton
Chants Kol Nidre at
Kneseth Israel
Southwood Ave. in Clayton
September 16, 1945

The St. Louis Star and Times (St. Louis, Missouri) · 17 Sep 1945, Mon · Page 5



Star-Times Photo.

DAY OF ATONEMENT . . . The cantor, A. H. Fligstein, is about to begin chanting Kol Nidre (All Vows) as on either side of him stand Michel Hersch (left) and Morris Berin, carrying the Holy Torah. The picture was made during the observance of the holiest of Jewish holidays, Yom Kippur, in the orthodox Congregation Kneseth Israel of Clayton, Southwood and DeMun avs. The cantor, in his chant, asks for the forgiveness of sins. The holiday opened at sundown last night, ends at sundown tonight with the blowing of the shofar—the ram's horn.

Hazzans
and Cantors

Volunteer cantor, 90, pinch hitting at Brith Sholom Kneseth Israel

By LINDA MATZ
MANTLE
Executive Editor

When asked what her grandfather did, Nolan DeWoskin's granddaughter replied, "He talks to God."

A more accurate response might have been, he sings to God. DeWoskin, now 90, has been performing the duties of cantor at Brith Sholom Kneseth Israel since it was a fledgling congregation.

When his parents passed away, he remembers, he said Kaddish, and was "enticed by a little congregation that met in a storeroom on Southwood in Clayton." He is, in fact, going back 50 years or so, and the congregation was known as Kneseth Israel.

When Kneseth Israel merged with Brith Sholom, DeWoskin recalled, "We had a problem keeping a cantor for one reason or another, so I always had to be the pinch hitter between cantors."



"I call myself a good-for-nothing cantor; I've never charged. So they can't criticize, because they're getting my ser-

hastening to
at is because
jects into his
instinct enun-

lits heredity
l voice. "My
rial voice. It
Al Jolson's."

ctivity stems
rence to reli-

"I have
ne with syna-
nd it a haven
me a certain
ing after the

s," said De-
ed from bus-
shul twice a
week.

of 62 years
years ago at
as made his
point in his
monagenarian
with the early

morning service followed by
breakfast with his friends. "It's
sort of like a club," he said.

*"I have always
been at home
with synagogue
and have found
it a haven
every week."*

— Nolan DeWoskin
(David Henschel Photo)

On March 25, his congregation will honor him with a dinner for friends and family in celebration of his 90th birthday and in appreciation of his long-time volunteer commitment. Though he normally would shun such an affair, he said, "they got to my daughter." Daughter Elaine Grossman, son Norman DeWoskin and assorted grandchildren, who he calls "jewels," will be on hand for the festivity.



DeWoskin says he is gifted with unusually good health and makes it a point to keep busy. "I'm never bored," he said, and claims to "not worry about a thing." Proudly he recalls that his brother, Philip, a noted photographer, died last year at "al-

most 100." While DeWoskin admits to being a little hard of hearing, he said, "What I don't hear isn't worth hearing."

Nolan DeWoskin, who describes himself as a simple man, feels loved and respected. And that's something to sing about.

אלע אידען פון סם. לואיס זיינען איינגעלאדען
צו קומען צו דעם

חנוכת הבית

פון דער

אגודת אחים שערי ציון שוהל
2823 דייטאן סטריט

זונטאג, דעם 29טען דעצעמבער, 1924



עס וועט איד נעמענען ווערען
א וואונדערבארער

קאנצערט

פון

חזן וויינהאוז

פון שערי צדק שוהל

מיט זיין באַר

נאך דעם קאנצערט וועט סערווירט ווערען א
רעגולאר מאפער, און מיר בעסטען דעם פופציקסטן זיי
וואלען גיט פערלאזען דעם פלאץ נאך דעם קאנצערט
ווייל מיר פערזיכערען אידן אז איהר וועט האבען א
פערזענלעכע אכערה און זיך נישט אסורירען.

דער קאנצערט וועט אבנעהאלטען
ווערען 6 אויפגער

אכטונגספאלל, די קאמיטע.

סיידי בראס 1923 פרעסירט

Hazzan Weinhaus, Shaare Zedek
Dec. 29 1924 Hannukah Concert

Cantors and Hazzans

3 CONSERVATIVE CANTORS IN CONCERT

Admission: \$10 Donation to The Jewish Food Pantry



Proceeds
To Benefit
The
Jewish
Food
Pantry

DEC. 23 at BSKI
1107 Linden in Richmond Heights
7:30 PM

Elliot Joel Portner – BSKI
Paul DuBro – Shaare Zedek
Robert Lieberman – B'nai Amoona
Call BSKI For Details 725-6230

Dec. 23 2001 benefit concert

Cantor Paul DuBro,
SZ 1972-2005



Hazzan Max Shimansky,
SZ 1972-1976



Hazzan Elliot Portner,
BSKI 1992-2005



LOCAL | HALACHIC RULING LAST YEAR ALLOWS FOR INSTRUMENTS ON SHABBAT

Conservative rabbis address music on Shabbat and holidays

BY JILL KASSANDER
SPECIAL TO THE JEWISH LIGHT

There were three rabbis and no shortage of opinions at the 60+ Luncheon and Program supported by the St. Louis Conservative Synagogue Joint Initiative for 60+ Programming. The subject was the complicated issue of whether musical instruments can be used on Shabbat and holidays. Rabbis Mark Fasman of Shaare Zedek Synagogue, Mordecai Miller of Brith Sholom Kneseth Israel and Carnie Shalom Rose of Congregation B'nai Amoona tackled the difficult topic by addressing its history, the *Halacha* (collective body of Jewish religious law) and the present day interpretations.

Each rabbi agreed he was bound by *Halacha* and always needed to address that first.

"Congregations look to their rabbis for how to read Jewish law," Fasman said. "Since the beginning of rabbinic times, no instruments were used for Shabbat and festivals. That's what we inherited, by Jewish law and tradi-

tion."



From left, Rabbi Mark Fasman, Rabbi Carnie Shalom Rose and Rabbi Mordecai Miller spoke at a recent luncheon to discuss the use of musical instruments during Shabbat and holidays.

Photo: Jill Kassander

Shabbat," Fasman said. "In 1970, though it was not an official response from the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism law committee, when asked if it is permissible for non-organs on Shabbat and holidays — an affirmative response in the minutes."

Each local rabbi must make his or her own decision, which includes discussions with lay leader-

"Getting from the theory to actually making music involves a lot of discussion," Fasman said.

They have examined the issues at Brith Sholom Kneseth Israel to try and identify what people want in their synagogue, why they enjoy services and what makes them want to come to services.

"They want a traditional Jewish atmosphere which

"Our sense is creating a musical atmosphere without musical instruments helps create that uniqueness," Miller said. "Hearing people singing together without instruments, hearing their voices create the music is very beautiful."

Rose agreed on general principles with the other two rabbis but admitted he is in a slightly different

to the spiritual experience."

Rose looked at the original restrictions and codes which clearly say musical instruments are prohibited except for the purpose of *hiddur mitzvah* (to beautify the mitzvah) such as the bells on the Torah crowns.

"If music is there to enhance the experience then ultimately I am comfortable with it," Rose said.

The synagogue is exploring ways to help make the decision on where and when the music will be allowed said Rose. They are experimenting with new approaches on a weekly basis and will "see what sticks." He said music is currently allowed outside the primary service when permission is obtained from the *Klei Kodesh* (clergy team).

The rabbis acknowledged the issue involves so many other factors including: who is leading the service and when is the service taking place.

There were several comparisons to Reform Jewish services which tend to include musical instru-

ments.

"The Conservative movement has a more traditional, early service on Friday night so people can go home and have dinner with their families," Fasman said. "The Reform movement tends to have their Friday night service after dinner."

The luncheon participants also had a wide range of opinions.

"Music is in everybody's heart," Peggy Rosenthal said. "If you feel it belongs there — then bring it in. Singing is not the same."

There were questions on the importance on the use of music as a way to attract young families to congregations.

"We must consider all families," Rose said. "The message is for the older generations to model and bring the excitement to the next generation. It is a pattern of everyone being engaged and involved."

Elaine Schneider said it shouldn't be an "either/or" decision.

"It is a way to use different opportunities to help open minds and souls," Schneider said.

Rabbi Mark Fasman-SZ, Rabbi Carnie Rose-BA, Rabbi Mordecai Miller, BSKI



Hazzan Joanna Dulkan,
Shaare Zedek, 2006-2013

Cantors and music/instruments

Jonathan Belsky

Reading Torah (36 yrs) at
BSKI / KR Since 1983
Teacher at BSKI 1970s



Morris Sapot

at BSKI
1960-1983



Marvin Lerner

Reading Torah (35 yrs) at
Shaare Zedek / KR since 1984
Teacher for 10 yrs. at Shaare Zedek
beginning in 1958



Sam Kolker

Shaare Zedek, Baal Koreh
SZ President, 1960
1934 Sec. Brith Sholom



Ageing buildings, multiple renovations, growing maintenance, shrinking numbers

Challenges:

- Assimilation
- Inter-marriage
- Lower birth rates
- Geographic expansion
- Competition



Reflecting back on our (mid-century) buildings that served this past generation and the people who built them.



Brith Sholom Kneseth Israel

Rabbi Jacob Mazur Education Center
Rabbi Benson Skoff Sanctuary Building
Allen Sanctuary
Rubenstein Auditorium
Zorensky Chapel
The White Room
Elbaum Garden / Tamsky Gift Shop

Leo and Sara Wolf /Epstein Sanctuary
Diamond Chapel / Guller chapel
Sara Myers Community Room
Leve Auditorium / Mirowitz Auditorium
Evelyn Shenker Gift Shop



Shaare Zedek



Edward Boccia



Rodney Winfield





Rubenstein Torah given to BSKl
by Minnie and Simon Rubenstein -
1996



Mark Raiffie Torah
given to Shaare Zedek
by Yetta and Seymour
Raiffe - 2008



To Merge... or Not to Merge

Shaare Zedek/B'nai Amoona

1913, 1917 – Failed

BSKI/B'nai Amoona

1993, 2002, 2003 – Failed

Brith Sholom/Kneseth Israel

1960 (April) – Merger

BSKI/Shaaare Zedek

2003 Shaare Shalom

Religious School

2009-2010 – Talks Stalled

2011-12 – More talks

Sept. 2012 – The Big Vote

2013 Merger Ratified

The Modern View (St. Louis, Missouri) • 5 Dec 1913, Fri • Page 4

CONGREGATIONS TO UNITE?

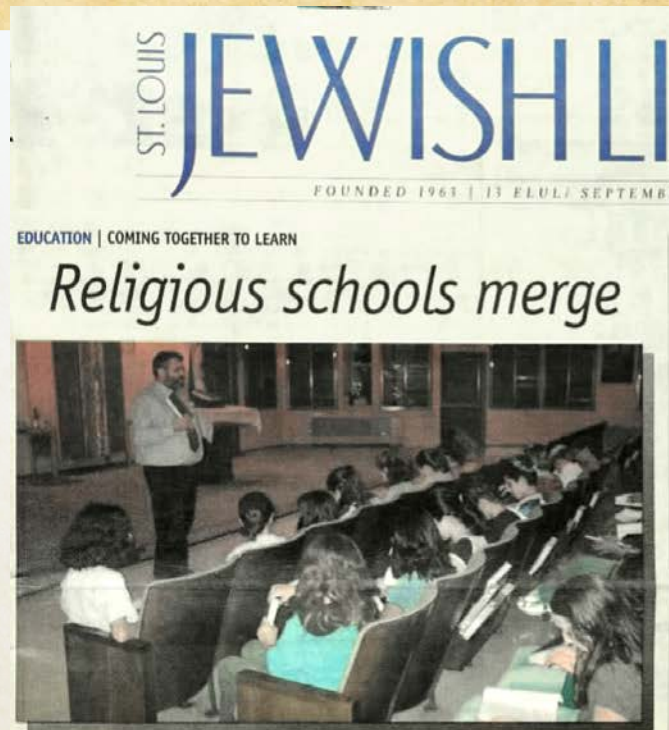
A meeting was held on Wednesday evening to consider a possible merging of our two West End orthodox congregations, namely, Bnai Amoona and Shaare Zedek. It would certainly be a splendid move.

MERGING TALMUD TORAHs.

Dr. M. Golland is active in an effort to amalgamate the two existing Talmud Torahs (Hebrew Free Schools) of our orthodox brethren. Two meetings were held this week for a discussion of the interesting step.



Mitch Shenker Shaare Zedek
Susan Cort, BSKI-September, 2012



LECTURER Rabbi Eric Cytryn teaches students at Brith Sholom Kneseth Israel, Sunday.
PHOTO: David Baugher

BSKI, Shaare Zedek schools celebrate first day

BY JILL KASSANDER
SPECIAL TO THE LIGHT

For Rabbis Mordecai Miller and Mark Fasman, the months of planning have finally come to fruition: the combined religious schools of Brith Sholom Kneseth Israel and Shaare Zedek had the first day of school on Sept. 14. "In many ways this was the dream of Beth Levy, who chairs the Religious Education Committee at Shaare Zedek who communicated it to our own Gary Kodner," said Rabbi Miller. "A group of dedicated people came together and worked hard to iron out the details."

When Levy was appointed Shaare Zedek's school board chair in January 2003, she had not envisioned the incredible series of events that lay before her. "One of the first things I learned was

the director of our religious school was leaving," Levy said. "It was clear filling that position became my first priority. I knew Brith Sholom Kneseth Israel was also without a religious school director. I called them to see if we could work together."

Both congregations were part of the Task Force on Conservative Education, which had its first meeting in February 2003. "Through our discussions at the meeting, our mutual needs became apparent," said David Grebler, school board chair at BSKI. "We saw an opportunity to improve education for all the students at both schools. We started having meetings with both congregations, educational committees and leadership to explore the possibilities."

As the discussions progressed, the Central



Agency for Jewish Education offered its assistance to the two congregations. "CAJE was pleased to act sort of like a shadchan," said executive vice president Jeffrey Lasday. "Just as a tradi-

HOLDING PATTERN
Students wait outside the sanctuary at Brith Sholom Kneseth Israel, Sunday.
PHOTO: David Baugher

MERGER | PAGE 15

Kodner Brothers, May 2010



Sue Cort and Steve Keyser, May 2013



Rabbi Noah Arnow and Mitch Shenker, Sept 2015



Randi Mozenter and Rabbi Noah Arnow, April 2017

A Jewish presence
in the center of
our community
for today and
the future.



Building and Growing Together

Groundbreaking
August 19, 2018



Building and Growing Together



“These walls will be built by...”

...“These walls will be built by our memories of sacred spaces that we can still see in our minds’ eyes. These walls will be built by those who came before us, those who built for us before we could build for ourselves. These walls will be built by those who are here, but are very young, and those who are not yet here, those who will repaint, and repoint and rewire, those who will repatch and repair these walls in decades and generations to come.

These walls will be built by our prayers, that over the coming years, and decades, will fill in the invisible chinks with our holiest desires, our deepest needs, and our highest wishes.

These walls will be built by our kindness and compassion and caring, for each other, and for all around us, inside and outside of these walls.”



– Rabbi Noah Arnow, August 19, 2018

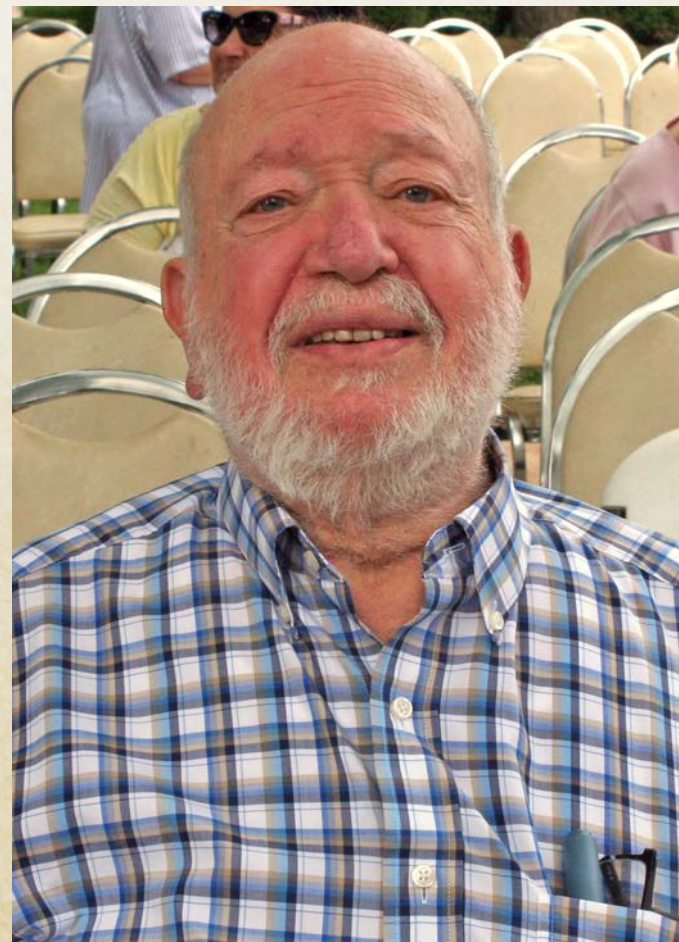
**Our longest
standing members**



Marion Cohen since 1929



Gerald Cohen since 1928



Sources & Credits

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BSKI Archives

Goldstein-Broddon Shaare Zedek Archives

St. Louis Jewish Community Archives

Suzie Broddan



Walter Ehrlich

