

Jewish Community Center

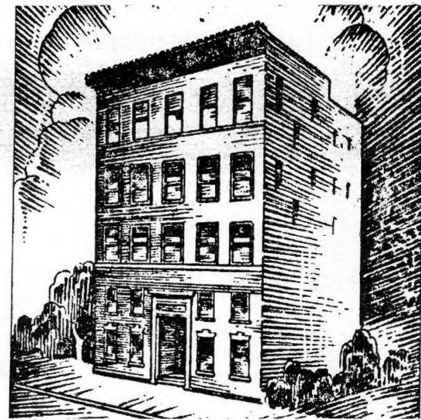
DEDICATION

October 17, 1982

TISHREI, 5743



22 Wilmot St. 1922-1938



341 Cumberland Ave. 1938-1979



57 Ashmont Street 1982

Excerpt from the 1938 Dedicatory Program

“There is hardly a field of cultural endeavor, a subject of Jewish interest, a form of physical recreation, a sharing in group activity of opportunity for communal participation, that does not find expression in some phase of the program of the Jewish Center; Life in the Center has for many thousands of children, young people and adults, become a rich experience in the unfoldment of personality and a valuable training for purposeful living.”

*Harry L. Glucksman,
Late Executive Director,
Jewish Welfare Board.*



DEDICATION PROGRAM

7:00 I. Tours

7:30 II. Installation

Robert Litman
Welcome Remarks
Rabbi Harry Z. Sky
Invocation
Robert Litman
Discharge of 1981-82 Officers
Saul A. Goldberg
Installation of 1982-83 Officers

III. Dedication

Paul Hirsch
Recent Center History
David Small and Cynthia Baker
Building and Furnishings Report — Key Presentation
William Cohen
Fund Raising Report/Plaque Presentation
Robert Harrisburg
Donor Remarks
Harold O. Zimman
JWB Plaque Presentation
Richard Aronson
Jewish Federation Presidential Remarks
Richard LeBlanc
United Way Presidential Remarks
Peter L. Litman
Future Programming
Linda Abromson
Mayor — City of Portland
Rabbi Asher Reichert
Mezzuzah — Blessing
Samuel Novick
JCC President
Samuel Novick, Linda Abromson, Peter Litman
Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

8:30 IV. Refreshments and Tours

Executive Board 1981-82

Saul A. Goldberg — President
James Baker — Treasurer
William Cohen — Vice President — Program
Joan Hirsch — Secretary
Bradley Kaplan — Assistant Treasurer
David Lieberman — Vice President — Public Relations
Marshall Mack — Vice President — Athletics
Irwin Novak — Vice President — Camp
Samuel Novick — Vice President — Budget & Finance
David Small — Vice President — House
Alan Zimmerman — Vice President — Membership
Peter L. Litman — Executive Director

Executive Board 1982-83

Samuel L. Novick — President
James Baker — Treasurer
Herman Blumenthal — Vice President — Membership
William Cohen — Vice President — Camp
Jeffrey Finegold — Vice President — Athletics
Judith Goldberg — Secretary
Larry Plotkin — Vice President — Public Relations
David Small — Vice President — House
Neal Stillman — Assistant Treasurer
Alan Zimmerman — Vice President — Program
Peter L. Litman — Executive Director

Board of Directors 1981-82

Herman Blumenthal
Jeffrey Finegold
Stuart Gilbert
Jerome Goldberg
Judith Goldberg
Ann Goodman
Roberta Gordon
Olivia Leiberman
Betsy Levenson
Cecelia Levine
Don Levy
Stanley Lourie
Bette Novick
Larry Plotkin
Robert Ravitz
Bruce Ruben
Harold Shapiro
Stephen Soreff
Eleanor Spiegel
Neal Stillman
Judy Wilson
Phyllis Winer

Board of Directors 1982-83

Pamela Cohen
Alan Freedman
Stuart Gilbert
Ann Goodman
Roberta Gordon
Joan Hirsch
Chester Komarin
Betsy Levenson
Cecelia Levine
Donald Levy
Marshall Mack
Irwin Novak
Bette Novick
Robert Ravitz
Anita Romanow
Harold Shapiro
Stephen Soreff
Eleanor Spiegel
Phyllis Winer

Narrative From Saul Goldberg

In my May 1980 acceptance speech, I stated my goals and hopes as president of the Jewish Community Center. At the top of the list was the hope that we would find a new home. With help from Joel Gold, Edward Goldman, many real estate agents, and an active committee we looked throughout greater Portland for land or an existing structure.

In the summer of 1981, I asked William Cohen, Vice President of Program; Samuel Novick, Vice President of Budget and Finance; and Alan Zimmerman, Vice President of Membership to prepare a plan which would be presented to the Board of Directors outlining programs, dues, budgets, and membership information for the coming year and years.

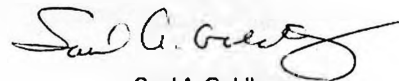
Many breakfast meetings later, a proposal was presented by Bill, Sam and Alan outlining the purchase and renovation of the Ashmont Street facility. Included in the proposal were plans for dues, fund raising, "pay as you go" programming, and membership drives. The building proposal was presented to the Board of Directors in September of 1981.

After a full year of meetings, negotiations, studies, designs, planning, fund raising, and renovations, we once again have a place to hang our hats.

This building has been designed to encompass the needs of our membership and our community; nursery school, teen lounge, weight room and lounge, sauna and lockers, crafts area, Photography darkroom, meeting rooms, and offices for the Jewish Community Center, Jewish Federation Community Council of Southern Maine and the Israel Bonds drive are just a part of this buildings design. Flexibility has been the key word in this project, and I feel we have accomplished our goal.

I look forward to the future of the Jewish Community Center. In this new home, the outlook is bright and the possibilities are endless.

Sincerely,



Saul A. Goldberg
President-Jewish Commu-
nity Center
1980-82

Jewish Community Center Past Presidents

Hon. Louis Bernstein
Honorary President
*Edward J. Berman
Barnett Shur
Harold P. Nelson
*Harold J. Potter
*Irving Small
*Morris Cox
Arnold Goodman
Harold E. Ross
Donald J. Nelson
*Samuel I. Burokoff
Charles A. Cohen
*Joseph Schatz
Robert Litman
William Webber
Julius Elowitch
Edward Goldman
Burton Epstein
Paul J. Hirsch
Saul A. Goldberg
*Deceased

Advisory Board 1982-83

Natalie Brenner
Melvin Fineberg
Tama Fineberg
Steve Goodman
Sophie Hirsch
George Hugo
Fran Jacobson
Ronald Jacobson
Evelyn Litman
Robert Rodman
Bruce Ruben
Betty Sax
Bea Schatz
Dean Silverman
Faye Simensky
Steve Willis

**MANY THANKS AND MUCH APPRECIATION GO OUT TO ALL THOSE WHO WORKED ON
THIS VERY SPECIAL PROJECT**

BUILDING COMMITTEE

Larry Plotkin — Co-Chairperson
David Small — Co-Chairperson
James Baker
William Cohen
Saul Goldberg
Edward Goldman
Stephen Goodman
Paul Hirsch
Marshall Mack
Samuel Novick

FUND RAISING COMMITTEE

William Cohen — Co-Chairperson
Samuel Novick — Co-Chairperson
James Baker
Saul Goldberg
Paul Hirsch
David Lieberman
Neal Stillman
Steve Willis
Alan Zimmerman

SOLICITORS

James Baker
William Cohen
Judith Goldberg
Saul Goldberg
Stephen Goodman
David Lieberman
Marshall Mack
Irwin Novak
Samuel Novick
Larry Plotkin
David Small
Phyllis Winer
Alan Zimmerman

DEDICATION COMMITTEE

Evelyn Litman — Co-Chairperson
Robert Litman — Co-Chairperson
Natalie Brenner — Public Relations
William Cohen — Program
Fran Jacobson — Invitations
Charlotte Silver — Food
Dean Silverman — Booklet
Dorothy Cohen
Abe Fineberg
Mel Fineberg
Tama Fineberg
Connie Jacobson
Ronnie Jacobson
Beth Stolkner
Betsy Webber

FURNISHING COMMITTEE

Cynthia Baker — Chairperson
Pam Cohen
Judith Goldberg
Ann Goodman
Bette Novick
Marlene Winslow

KITCHEN CREW

Tama Fineberg
Sandy Gerber
Judith Goldberg
Connie Jacobson
Olivia Leiberman
Rhoda Nathanson
Beth Stolkner
Betsy Webber
Marlene Winslow
Cecelia Levine
Pamela Cohen
Ruth Miller
Bette Novick

Design-Build Team
ARCHITECT
Roger Rossignol
Salmon Falls Assoc.
CONTRACTOR
Paul LaLiberte
Donbury, Inc.

A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE 1907-1982

The Young Women's Hebrew Association began in 1907, with Mrs. Louis Matson as its first president. The association's aims were to aid destitute children and to build a home for the Portland Jewish Aged. 1920 brought about a new leader, Miss Ida Goffin, and a new aim and ideal, supervised group activity for young people.

1909 saw the incorporation of the Young Men's Hebrew Association. Starting with its first president, Dr. John L. Davis, the association grew to be a representative Jewish organization, programming for Jewish youths in Portland.

In 1922, the YMHA and the YWHA joined together to bring about the purchase of a home for both organizations. With vigor and interest by public spirited Jews, headed by Morris Sacknoff as general chairman, a drive was commenced to purchase a permanent home.

The Wilmot Street facility purchased in 1922, served for 15 years as the home for all Jewish enterprises. Mainly through the efforts of the YWHA, the community concerned itself with the housing of activities for young people; for their needs, equipment, education and entertainment.

In 1937, with renewed interest, the YMHA with help from the YWHA looked for a new location. A 1937 Campaign to raise money for the Wilmot Street Community Center brought to the Jewish Community the realization of the need of a Center equipped and designed to fill the needs of every Jew in Portland. At a meeting on November 1, 1937 at the home of Louis Bernstein 15 people met to discuss whether or not to purchase the Pythian Temple on Cumberland Avenue. Through the efforts of many people including Louis Bernstein, Edward Berman, Israel Bernstein, Barbara Berman, and Maurice and Frances Davis, the Cumberland Avenue facility was purchased and renovated. The official Jewish Community Center of Portland was incorporated in March, 1938.

For the next forty years, the Cumberland Avenue facility was the center of Jewish communal activity. Through a long list of dedicated Presidents, Officers, and Board Members, the JCC flourished as never before. Its goal and purpose was to serve and meet the needs of Portland's entire community. The JCC was successful in its goal and purpose.

The 1970's brought about many changes. The price of oil, and thereby the cost of running the Cumberland Avenue facility, became expensive and nearly impossible. The neighborhood around the facility changed also. In the late 1970s, the board of directors voted to sell the Cumberland Avenue facility. The last major event to take place in the building was the Center's 40th Anniversary Gala Celebration.

The purchase and renovation of the Ashmont Street facility does not just bring to a close another chapter of the JCC. It begins a new bright and busy future. The JCC will continue to be the program arm of the Jewish Community of Greater Portland. We have a place to hang our hat, and to serve all ages with educational, recreational, social, and cultural activities. The Community has stated once again that the JCC is an important and vital part of everyday life.

Israel "Dean" Silverman

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Vera & Bill Clenott's — Big Red Q Quickprint

Maine Printing Company

Sawyers Flower Shop

Advance Paper Co, the Levi and Zimmerman families

Kathleen Cooledge (K.C.)

Ann Fridinger

Sophie Hirsch

Center Women's Club

Center Men's Club

Mr. Bagel