



CONGREGATION SHARAY TIPHILAH

JUNE, 1975



Dr. Steven M. Dworken, Rabbi
Samuel Zimelman, Cantor
Saul Brenerman, President
Maxwell Wiesenthal, Editor



*Mazel
TOU*

FROM THE RABBI:

This year's graduates of schools all over the country will be faced with the question "what now"? More than in the past, thousands of young women and men will ask what purpose has their education served. Many who have received academic degrees will find it impossible to find gainful employment. Others desirous of continuing their education will be frustrated in their attempts to enroll in graduate schools. In despair, many, many feel that their education was in vain.

This conclusion is correct if we regard the goal of education as the ability to make a living. However, it is not correct if we see education as training for life. While science, history, economics, etc. are necessary, one also needs to acquire an attitude towards life, a way to interact with one's fellowman, a proper reaction to all of life's achievements and disappointments.

We hope that somewhere along the line, our graduates have learned what we call, "Torah", which very generally defined is the use of knowledge for noble and beneficent purposes. To be able to sympathize with others; to respect and live by noble ideals; to appreciate the Godly and the goodly attributes in man; to have been convinced of the pleasure and privilege of remaining a loyal Jew; these are the goals of a true education.

Perhaps none of these goals can be converted into money, yet these ideals can lead to a good, altruistic and fulfilling life.

We wish our graduates well and pray that they have learned much that will enable them to live a good life as they acquire the material possessions which make life a little more enjoyable.

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OUR CONDOLENCES TO:

Family of JACOB SILVERMAN
Family of SALLY NEMON
Serita Shulman on loss of brother
Bella Feder on loss of mother
Family of CARL GREENBERG

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT -Given at Annual Meeting May 18, 1975

Tonight marks the end of three years as your president and my service in that capacity to the synagogue.

When I assumed the office three years ago, I never gave it a thought to be the best president in the history of this synagogue, instead, I simply wanted and tried to do a good job, to the best of my ability.

It was not easy for one who had been a congregant at Newbury Street to come into your midst and try to lead two shuls. It was like coming from the Ghetto to a bright and flourishing community.

It was not an easy task to get adjusted to working with a new and young Rabbi who had been here in our community only a short time and with a Cantor, a veteran of 26 years.

This past year we had many accomplishments but also a few disappointments. For the third time in three years an increase in dues was necessary in order to keep up with the inflationary period. With this increase in dues and some added income from the proceeds of the sale of the Kenwood Street property and the proceeds from the 70th Anniversary Journal, and the old Vaad Hoir, we ended up the year with a balanced budget probably the first time in the history of our synagogue. Balancing of the budget is also due to the hard work of the Finance Committee headed by Vice-President Howard Levitan, Chairman Joseph Taylor, and committeemen Louis Seavey, Sam Cinamon, Russell Mack, Barry Koslow, and Jay Ketover.

This past year we were successful in removing the tablets from Newbury Street to our Chapel at Noyes Street at a cost of \$2,000.00, a project which had been planned for some time and finally completed this past December.

Another major project which was started this past winter and now nearing completion is the new Mikvah and storage house adjacent to our synagogue at a cost of \$39,000. This Mikvah will serve all of southern Maine. For the present we took out a construction loan from Maine Savings Bank at $9\frac{1}{2}\%$ interest but we do hope to have a drive for funds to help defray some of the cost of this building.

Another highlight of this past year was the 70th Anniversary celebration and the mortgage burning ceremony of this building. This three day program was featured by a special Friday night and Saturday morning service with all past presidents participating, the President's Ball on Saturday evening, and culminated in the mortgage burning ceremony on Sunday afternoon. In conjunction with this event we published a 70th Anniversary Journal which netted us approximately \$6,500.00 due mostly through the efforts of the Journal ad chairman, Robert Harrisburg, and Cantor Zimelman. It has been a source of pride and satisfaction to have been able to follow through the plans which were only a dream three years ago.

President's Annual Report continued.

Up until this point, we have not had any success in selling the Newbury Street property due to the tight mortgage market, although we have had several interested parties.

This past year we have been fortunate in acquiring an excellent maintenance crew, through the efforts of our House Committee Vice-President Bennett Webber and Chairman Jay Ketover.

Through the efforts of our Congregational Bulletin Editor, Maxwell Wiesenthal and Rabbi Dworken, we kept our membership informed through this media on what is going on in our synagogue.

This past year the recipient of "Man of the Year Award" given by our Brotherhood was Samuel J. Shatz, our long time secretary and ardent Bingo worker. A more deserving individual couldn't have been chosen.

This past year the Brotherhood had as their Breakfast guest speakers both Senator Edmund Muskie and William Hathaway.

This past Rosh Hashanah your president and the new president at Temple Beth El, Mrs. Eleanor Merdek, exchanged greetings.

Once again, I must compliment Joseph Modes, Vice-President in charge of Bingo, and the Bingo workers. Through their efforts, we were able to again contribute \$1,500.00 to the Levey Day School, pay off the mortgage on this building, and also reduce our balance due on the Rabbi's parsonage to \$7,000.00.

For the first time, since the plush seats were installed in the Sanctuary, they were not reserved for the High Holidays to seat holders. This proved to be a success without inconvenience to any one.

This year we were saddened by the passing of a past president of our shul, I. Edward Cohen. A special Memorial Service was held on Sunday, April 27 with Rabbi Dworken, Rabbi Herschel Cohen, son of the late I. Edward Cohen, and Cantor Zimelman officiating, and your President read a resolution passed by the Board of Directors which were spread on the records of the synagogue and attested copies were sent to the family.

One of the disappointments has been the lack of attendance of our Board members at meetings. At times we barely had a quorum present so that we could transact business. When we have 33 active directors including three Sisterhood representatives and 20 Life Members and can barely get a quorum to a meeting, it is very discouraging. I hope the 10 newly elected directors will make an effort to attend as many meetings as possible.

Another disappointing factor is the lack of decorum at Sabbath Services. We are happy to see everyone come to these services but when they spend most of the time in the Chapel discussing the topics of the day, it is beyond my comprehension why they even bother coming

President's Annual Report continued.

to services at all. When there is a small attendance at these services and a third of them are in the Chapel, we hardly have a minyan to listen to the Torah reading. I think our Rabbi should insist that everyone remain in the Sanctuary during all of the service including the time during the Torah reading which is an integral and most important part of the Sabbath service.

I am also dismayed that so few members attend Sabbath and Holiday services aside from Holiday Days and Yizkor services, and that we have not been able to attract and interest enough young people to our programs and religious services. Through the efforts of our Rabbi, we have brought in several young couples into our membership but where are they? Outside of the High Holy Days, who sees them? There is no question in my mind that the Board of Directors in conjunction with our Rabbi should exert a major effort to correct this situation, in terms of developing programs by involving these young people or by planning lectures of interest.

These young people should be much more involved in our synagogue not only spiritually but also in the every day operation. Getting involved would make life a more rewarding experience.

I know that we are not alone in trying to involve people in synagogue work. It is hard to open minds and make them listen to our pleas, but we must continue trying and not give up hope.

Although we held our own in membership in past years, 1974 saw a drop of 44 members through resignation, death, or relocation, leaving our membership at 373 families as of December 31, 1974. We need a lot of work on membership and membership retention.

If I was to single out any individual who has done more in fund raising for our synagogue, I must mention our Cantor. Approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ of the ads appearing in our 70th Anniversary Journal was sold by our Cantor. During 1974 he sold 36 plaques bringing in a total sum of \$4,500.00. In addition, year after year, he sells more raffle books than any one member of our synagogue in behalf of the Sisterhood Annual Package Party. We hope that before long, we of Shaarey Tphiloh can show our appreciation for his untiring efforts and 30 years of service to our synagogue.

This year, our Sisterhood will embark on an ambitious program. In addition to their contribution of \$1,000.00 towards the Mikvah, they are installing a new refrigerator in the large kitchen, and are planning to install new lighting both in the Sanctuary and the Social Hall. This new lighting should improve the appearance of our synagogue and should make us all feel proud to be a part of its membership.

So, in closing, I would like to thank the officers, Board of Directors, Rabbi Dworken, Cantor Zimelman, Brotherhood and Sisterhood presidents, for all they have done and are doing for the shul. Also our office staff, Bertha and Edith for their wholehearted cooperation which helped make my job as president somewhat easier.

President's Annual Report continued

I would also like to mention the Gaboyim, Arthur Cope, Mike Moscowitz, and Louis Seavey at Newbury Street, who have a thankless job in the performance of their duties. They are always open for criticism but no one is willing to take on the responsibilities.

My fellow congregants, the past three years have been an exciting and challenging period and one of accomplishments. Three years ago, at the very first Board of Director's meeting at which I presided, I made the following quote, "I don't care how much respect you may have for the individual holding the office, but I do expect you to have respect for the office itself". But, somewhere along the line, some of our members of the Board, congregation and Sisterhood did not see it that way.

I think it is now time for a new face with new ideas to take over the leadership of this synagogue. I urge the nominating committee to make every effort, if they already haven't done so, to interest someone in this honorable position by election time, June 18. I will give this individual all the support and help I possibly can.

MAZEL TOV CORNER:

Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Freedman on the birth of granddaughter

Mr. & Mrs. Morris Baker on the birth of granddaughter

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Novick on the birth of grandson

Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Baker at Bar Mitzvah of grandson

Mr. & Mrs. Norman Reef at Bat Mitzvah of daughter

Drs. Sam & Sara Cope at Bat Mitzvah of daughter

Mr. & Mrs. Shaya Zimelman on marriage of daughter

Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Slivka on marriage of daughter

Cantor and Mrs. Samuel Zimelman thank all their many friends, family, organizations for their cards, donations, and gifts - wishing them well in their new home.

A VERY SPECIAL MAZEL TOV! TO
RABBI AND MRS. STEVEN DWORKEN
ON BIRTH AND BRIS OF THEIR SON,
ARYE PINCHAS

The many thoughtful expressions of sympathy, by so many dear friends, will always be remembered with heartfelt appreciation by the family of DAVID M. FELDMAN.

Mrs. Betty Silverman wishes to thank Rabbi, Cantor, and Mr. Greenman, her friends, family and organizations for their get well wishes during her recent hospitalization.

The family of Jacob Benjamin wishes to thank Rabbi Dworken, Cantor Zimelman, the organizations, many friends, and family for their thoughtfulness during their recent bereavement.

A. Edward Caplan wishes to extend sincerest thanks to Rabbi Dworken, organizations, family and friends for their many kindnesses extended to him during his hospitalization and convalescence.

Abraham S. & Fanny B. Levey Day School (Hillel Academy) wishes to thank everyone who was kind enough to donate items to our recent successful garage sale.

Mr. Joseph Slosberg wishes to thank Rabbi, Cantor, friends, family and organizations for their many good wishes during his recent hospitalization.

The kind expressions of sympathy by Rabbi, Cantor, friends, family and organizations will be remembered always by the family of Jacob Silverman.

The family of Carl H. Greenberg wishes to express their thanks to Rabbi, Cantor, friends, family and organizations for their kind expressions of sympathy.