

Disagreement over how to proceed- one unit for all or separate units? Two proposals taken under consideration. "1) That the Portland Hebrew School-Synagogue Association lease the sanctuary to the Shaarey Tphiloh Synagogue. 2) That the Portland Hebrew School-Synagogue Association transfer its holdings to the Shaarey Tphiloh Synagogue." The leasing option did not have strong support- stronger action urged. "A formal motion was the offered... that the Shaarey Tphiloh Synagogue take over, through proper legal channels, all assets and physical properties and liabilities, etc. of the Portland Hebrew School-Synagogue Association and that the Portland Hebrew School maintain its autonomy." Passed unanimously and presented to boards of Shaarey Tphiloh and Hebrew School.

*Heaven of Building* | 7/18/57- Passed unanimously to take over title and to give proper lease to Hebrew school "in consideration of the original contribution given by Portland Hebrew School toward the construction on Noyes St." Passed unanimously to incorporate ST as a religious and charitable corporation. Vaad to borrow \$5,000 more from Cemetery Ass'n for chicken slaughter house. Board favors rabbi's request to raise money for the Hebrew School.

9/19/57- William Cohen granted membership. Bert Silverman reported that at meeting of 9/16, the Portland Hebrew Building ass'n agreed to turn over all assets and liabilities of building at 76 Noyes St. to Shaarey Tphiloh. Morris Cox to take care of legal matters. Committee of seven formed to deal with Hebrew School over matters of administration, reorganization, etc. Passed to recognize Bekritsky with a community-wide testimonial in celebration of his ten years of service. Etz Chaim be contacted to co-sponsor.

11/21/57- Bert Silverman resigned as VP Noyes St. Significant new members {seems to be picking up in minutes} Synagogue dedication will take place in April or May 1958, in addition to Rabbis' testimonial banquet.

1/16/58- Position of the Board "that any Kosher Butcher or any other business man whose patronage is materially dependent upon the Jewish Community should be a dues paying member of at least one of Portland's Orthodox Congregations" and copy of this be sent to Vaad Hoir. Banquet to be held 2/16/58.

2/25/58- Testimonial was held at Noyes St. was a success and "a great credit to the Orthodox Community of this city." Discussion of "memorial-type cemetery in conjunction with Temple Beth El within the confines of Mt. Sinai cemetery."

3/20/58- Progress reported in business of cemetery with Beth El. Cornerstone ceremony to take place 5/18/58.

5/11/58- Choir to be engaged at same terms as last year for the High Holidays.

6/18/58- Morris Cox paid \$500 for services. Donated \$100 toward Rabbi Bekritsky's participation in a Rabbinical convention. Discussion of meeting with Etz Chaim over amalgamation.

7/2/58- Authorized Vaad Hoir to call a joint meeting of directors to discuss amalgamation. Passed unanimously. American flag donated to the synagogue.

9/18/58- Shaarey Tphiloh Noyes Street to have own maintenance fund. Balance of PHS Sy Ass'n fund to be transferred to Shaarey Tphiloh fund. Committee to meet with Hebrew School to collect balance on unpaid bills. Some members deemed delinquent and deprived of membership privileges. Still paying Portland Hebrew School interest on loan to building fund and also paying to Synagogue-School association.

11/12/58- Meeting to figure out plan of action for delinquent members. Goal to enroll as members parents of day school and Hebrew school students. 12 members to be sent termination notices. Not trying to close doors, but to make those who were able to share in the maintenance of the synagogue.

11/20/58- Meeting with Vaad and all 3 synagogues to be held. Motioned "that we accede to the request of the Vaad Hoir to participate in joint discussion with board members of the Orthodox Synagogues in relating to mutual problems at Newbury Street Synagogue."

12/18/58- Favorable response to newsletter.

1/15/59- Moved to appoint a committee "to act in full authority in regard to Young Judea meeting at Noyes Street Synagogue. Committee to be unanimous in their decision."

2/19/59- Paid \$10 to Rbbinical Association of Maine, as per request of Rabbi. Report that Young Judea are meeting at the JCC {Meetings seem to be alternating between Noyes and Newbury St.}

3.8.1959- Meeting of religious committee, Rabbi voted not to rehire Sidney Zimmelman for High Holidays but everyone else voted to hire him.

4/10/59- Letter sent to congregation requesting payment on previous pledges and dues

Unity { 6/59 Newsletter v. 1 no. 5- From Irving Rothstein- "I am certain that New bury Street and Noyes Street will march together, hand in hand, in strengthening Orthodoxy for generations to come."

6/18/59- Rabbi Bekritsky presented outgoing president Rothstein with citation from synagogue. President read a letter by the RCA for our rabbi to attend meeting in Fallsburgh, NY. Gave him expenses to attend. Will hire choir.

7/16/59- Religious committee was concerned about who will daven on High Holidays. Moved to notify Vaad that Rabbis services should only be used at Shaarey Tphiloh this year during the High Holidays. Ladies auxiliary requested 3-4 women representatives at board meetings with full voting rights if possible. Decided to give them representatives, and a committee be appointed to determine rights and the number to be appointed. William and Ida Cohen, in honor of 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, donated \$250 for shrubbery at Noyes St. Cantor granted \$1,000 for choir.

8/20/59- Religious committee wants recognition for those who gave to oil fund from the Bimah in both synagogues, and no appeal should be made at Noyes St. Newbury St. committee should decide whether to have an appeal or not.

9/17/59- Will reconsider 7/16 request to have Rabbi only at Shaarey Tphiloh. Committee reported "that not more than three members of sisterhood be represented on Board of Directors with full voting power." Recommendation accepted.

3/17/60- \$100 given to Bekritsky to attend conference in Washington, DC. Good attendance reported at Sunday morning services w/ breakfasts and guest speakers.

5/22/60- Zimmelman reported 25 new members. Memorial service to be held that night for Irving Rothstein.

6/23/60- \$100 given to rabbi to attend Rabbinical Ass'n conference in St. Agath Quebec. House committee reported no problems but a potential future problem. Choir to cost \$1200. Suggestion "that No Parking signs on Saturday and Holidays should be placed in front of the Noyes St. Synagogue." Referred to house committee.

7/28/60- Plans to contact Temple to see what action they were taking with regard to Israel Bond Drive. Rabbi Marcus of New York hired for High Holidays. Religious committee recommended that Rabbi, Cantor and Choir conduct services at Noyes St. on one day of Rosh Hashanah and Kol Nidre and Yom Kippur Day. Voted that they keep the same schedule as last year which included a visit to Etz Chaim by the Rabbi. Excellent attendance reported at Noyes Street morning services. Dues to be increased \$10 across the board.

8/25/60- Group wants to use the stage for an orchestra at a Bar Mitzvah party- sent to House Committee. Work on ark at Noyes St. progressing rapidly but will not be done in time for High Holidays.

10/20/60- Minor repairs at Newbury St- painting, leak under Rabbi's office. 10 new members joined. Acoustics and lighting will be taken care of after ark work is finished. Land adjacent to synagogue has been purchased for future expansion. Decided not to sponsor Bond Drive on their own, but would as part of a community effort. "Louis Seavey brought up the problem of diminishing attendance at daily services at Newbury St., and some suitable solution must be had soon. After discussion it was decided that although this problem was serious it was not serious enough as yet to take action." Seavey praised for his work in repairing Newbury St. prior to the High Holidays.

11/17/60- Adjacent land purchased by Levey, Goodman, and Bernstein for \$500 each. Religious chairman said attendance was good on Saturday and urged women to attend.

12/15/60- Brotherhood attendance has been falling off in recent weeks. President suggested that there needs to be a purpose for the existence of the Brotherhood.

1/19/61- Daily services taking place in both buildings. "discussed other problems that have been discussed by the Executive Committee including the orderly sale of honors and memorials in the Noyes Street building and policies of Cemetery administration." Read letter from RCA about conference being held in Israel. Brotherhood considering sponsoring this trip for Rabbi and wife. Board supports the idea for this trip to be held 6/1961. Jewish Historical society asked for additional material for supplement issue.

*Israel*

2/15/61- Iota Phi society will conduct Friday night services 3/3/61.

3/16/61- UOJCA sent letter announcing regional conference in Hartford 4/21-4/23. Requested delegation of five members and five alternates. Kitchen issues came up. Bekritsky explained that the gas was lit Friday and was not touched on the Sabbath, and there was no Sabbath violation in the kitchen to his knowledge. Zimmelman reported that 15-20 members are attending morning services at Newbury St.

4/24/61- Noveim only to be allowed on Bar Mitzvahs or by anyone who desires to read from it. Anyone called up to Maftir may read from Humish instead of Noveim. Choir to have same expense as last year. (\$1200).

7/20/61- Another lot of land was available near the Synagogue.

11/16/61- Better attendance Sunday mornings by board of directors and sons over 13. House committee did not recommend use of kitchen by caterers for out-of-town affairs.

12/21/61- Working on a brochure with the rabbi. The Center brings members to morning services. Estimates for additions to building. {clear that this has become the focus of much effort- a lot of \$\$ going into preparing Noyes St.} RCY conducted Friday night services recently.

1/18/62- Brochure to be used to obtain contributions toward the building. Religious committee chair reported he had received no serious complaints. Brotherhood president requested a larger presence by board. Sisterhood undertaking a Friday night service and dinner sometime in April. Board approved this. Friday 2/9 services held by JCC Boy Scouts at Noyes St.

2/15/62- Get well prayers to be recited for those ill on future Saturday services. Federation womens group to hold kickoff dinner at Noyes St.

✓ 3/15/62- Memorial plaque at Noyes St. Another will be erected at Newbury St. if so desired. VP Shatz "reported that Newbury St. building is deteriorating. The winter storms broke windows, the ceiling is peeling and the plaster is falling."

5/17/62- Letter read from RCA announcing annual convention in Miami beach in July. \$100 toward rabbi's expenses if he decides to attend. Outstanding events of the past year included brotherhood's raising money for Rabbi's Israel trip, combined party with the sisterhood, Friday night family night, Mother and Daughter night, Friday night services held at Noyes St. by RCY Boy scouts and Inter city youth groups. Also ambassador Ball at synagogue on behalf of Israel Bonds.

✓ 7/19/62- Rules for admission of children to the Holiday services were discussed. Chairman of rel. com. Will study "problem caused by early adjournment of Childrens Service." \$50,000 paid off- \$100,000 still due. *Recorred Children*

✓ 11/16/62- President Silverman would be a representative of Synagogue at bi-annual convention of UOJCA in DC in 11/22. This synagogue will receive an award for outstanding community service. He and Dr. Wolf will also receive awards for their contributions to the congregation. Report that RCA recommended that Rabbis who have served in one community for more than 15 years be given life contracts. Ex. Committee supported, but no action taken by board.

✓ 2/21/63- Purim breakfast scheduled. Rabbi requested that Shul go along with Federation and oppose prayer in public schools. Passed 9-8 with 1 abstention. Voted against taking a stand as requested by UOJCA regarding Federal Aid to religious sponsored schools.



Rabbi suggested holding Beano games to raise money for Hebrew school and to help reduce the mortgage. He said this was ok from a religious angle.

Social events  
religious program  
↳ permissibility

3/21/63- Rabbi Bekritsky suggested the height of the mechitzah should be 48". The women and many men objected to a mechitzah over 40". They currently have a 40" mechitzah. The women present and many men objected to a mechitzah over 40". "Rabbi Bekritsky mentioned that Rabbi Soloveitchik decrees 48" as the separation which satisfies Jewish law." Rabbi said that we only had a 40" mechitzah as a temporary measure, with the thought that it was until permanent seating was installed. 17 (of 20?) decided to go with seating plan that uses a 40" Mechitzah. Committee be given authority to buy xxx screens and use them at their discession.

4/18/63- "Rabbi bekritsky stated his position on Orthodoxy with regards to the Mechitza. The Rabbi stated that this was a religious matter and must be decided by the Rabbi. It cannot be taken by a vote of the board. After much discussion it was decided to leave the matter of the Mechitza to the Rabbi's discession after another conference with Rabbi Soloveitchik, and another report be made to the committee before a final decision be made. Plans for seating continued as planned.

6/20/63- \$100 back dues due to UOJCA. Voted to be paid if treasurer's records show that this was not paid. \$100 granted for Rabbi to attend RCA convention. Choir hired for \$1200.

7/25-63- Plans for seating on High Holidays

7/18/63- Letter read from UOJCA with reference to White House Conference on Civil Rights. Rabbi withdraws request for funding to attend RCA convention. Zimmelman engaged for a concert. Terms of seat sale.

8/15/63- Rabbi requested money to cover Hebrew School shortfall but no action taken as not enough money was in the account about which he inquired.

11/21/63- Collections holding up, but losing members and not replaced by new ones. Urged sisterhood to follow up new arrivals to city. New case for gift display should be purchased. Brotherhood speakers included Rabbi Bekritsky, Jules Krems, and Councilor J. Weston Walch. Cabaret social to be held 1/25. Al Doane band jazz concert (free) for Feb.

Social  
Events

Sisterhood  
given task  
of getting  
new members

12/19/63- Read letter from RCA announcing meeting in Lakewood, NJ. Voted to contribute \$100 to Rabbi's expenses to attend. Assistant added to try to get a Minyan. "The President also announced plans for Memorial Services for the late President John F. Kennedy at the end of the thirty day mourning period, on Sunday December 22. A candle lighting service in which both members of the Synagogue and Temple will join." Dance, Jazz concert, and Cantor's concert were upcoming social events. Fire chief to be guest speaker for 12/22/ minyan. Plans to hire part time secretary for synagogue.

Announcers

Brotherhood speaks indicate American Sent

2/9/64- Ex. Comm.. heard request by Rabbi for \$2,000 annual raise. Board does not recommend increase at this time.

2/20/64- ~~Music festival~~ to be held in March. Purchase of land and buildings at Deering/Noyes for \$15,500 Rabbi requested discretionary fund. Given \$25 that will be replenished when needed. Rabbi wanted PTA and sisterhood to merge- further meeting to be held. *Scarf*

DATE?? House Committee Reoprt 3/22/64? "Under good + welfare, discussion was held relative to xxx better working relationship with our Rabbi." Referred to Executive board.

3/19/64- 4 weddings and 13 bar mitzvahs from 2/63- 3/64. Mortgage balance \$84,000. Zimmelman's concert was a huge success.

4/12/64- "A special meeting was held on Sunday morning April 12, 1964 to clarify certain matters involving Rabbi bekritsky." Committee of 5 to meet with rabbi, calling attention to certain criticisms and discussing possible solutions to these matters.

6/2/64- Board voted \$100 for Rabbi to attend RCA conference in fallsbury? NY. \$1350 for High Holiday Choir. Included bringing wm glovsky to Portland for rehearsals and his stay during the holidays. Discussion of new sound system.

6/14/64 annual meeting- had a combined supper and program meeting with beth el, Sabbath services by junior members of the congregation. Full list of accomplishments given. Concern over dwindling attendance at Newbury St.

7/16/64- Recommendation accepted with 3 opposed that Rabbi should only go Noyes St. and Newbury St. also. Voted to notify the Vaad that Rabbi only be available to them on Shobos Tzhuvoh. Moved to dispense with high Holiday babysitting services. Rabbi's request for space for gift shop was referred to House committee.

8/6/64- Special meeting to discuss rabbi's schedule at Orthodox synagogues. Request that Rabbi be at Noyes for 1 day of RH and Newbury for the other day; and Noyes St. for Yom Kippur. Request for Rabbi to go to Shabbos Tschuvah instead of one day of Rosh Hashanah. Noted that Rabbi is an employee of Vaad, not synagogue. Vaad can tell rabbi where to serve. Rabbi to give sermon at Etz Chaim on same day that he serves Newbury St. Etz Chaim has stated in the past that it is more concerned about kashrut than having the Rabbi's services. Need to figure out relationships after high Holidays. {Difficult to read- check original}

8/20/64- Chairman of the Interfaith Chapel Fund of Cumberland County Jail, thanking for \$25 contribution. Rabbi Bekritsky would attend Holiday Services the same as last year. Annual convention of UOJCA to be held Thanksgiving week in DC.

11/19/64- New secretary.

12/7/65- Chapel renovation plan. Brotherhood speakers- Kenneth Lawrence "His Observation of British Education", and then Rabbi Aaron Golden of Portsmouth. Rabbi bekritsky agreed to delete some of his materials in the newsletter in response to request to reduce costs. One set of rules to be drawn up for caterers and cleanliness of Kitchens between ST and TBE.

1/21/65- Report of lack of attendance in evening services at Noyes St. Lack of attendance at brotherhood breakfasts. Next speaker will be Julius Levine of Waterville, law clerk to Judge Gignoux. 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary event to be held 3/12-3/14.

7/15/65- Building repairs are proceeding at Newbury St. Old books from Newbury St. basement to be removed and buried "in accordance with the proper ritual." Found "a \$1,000 donor for a used Lowery organ which we can buy for the very low price of \$600. Rental fees for future weddings and similar affairs requiring the organ would then accrue to the Synagogue instead of an organ rental agency." Further report promised. High holiday honors to again be offered on a bid basis, just like last year. Rabbi will invite college students in area to be synagogue's guests for high holidays. Choir to be engaged for \$1,350. "The problems of what to do about school age children and at what age they should be admitted to the adult services was left to the discretion of the religious committee." (last year under 11 had a special service and 11 and over went to adult services.) Committee recommended that Rabbi again spend one day at each in-town synagogue, as during past high holidays. Motion carried. Mortgage reduced to \$77,000

*Jewish law*  
*organ - decorum*  
*but not against Jewish law*

8/19/65- Lack of operating capital- forced to borrow money every month to pay expenses. Recommended increase in dues and plan to put oil contract out for bid. Stronger policy for collecting dues suggested. Manpower shortage for Monday night bingo- the "old-timers" are tired and no replacements. Newbury St. Mikvah in need of repairs. Belief that Vaad should pay for repairs as it serves Southern Maine. Pointed out that Vaad doesn't have \$\$ to do this- "practically destitute." "We must maintain this important religious function." Serious problem in getting daily minyan at Newbury St. "The forces of attrition are creating this worsening situation." Organ situation still unresolved.

*Religious law -*  
*no \$ but need*  
*to keep up Mikvah.*

9/16/65- President had been asked if someone from Young Jewish Leadership Council could sit in on their meeting. He agreed, but nobody came. Slight improved financial condition, but still "bad". "After lengthy discussion... moved... that decorum in the lobby during each of the three High Holidays be supervised by a uniformed policeman." Motion carried.

*Decorum*

10/21/65- Lawrence Labin from Young Jewish Leadership Council came and thanked board for opportunity "to learn with you and from you." Intercenter Youth would be guests on a Friday night in Nov; followed by similar visit from Mu Sigma Fraternity about a week later. Announced New England Region meeting of UOJCA in Springfield Nov 19-21 and urged all who could to attend.



11/18/65- First brotherhood breakfast was poorly attended. Mortgage reduced to \$73,000. "Intercenter Youth Friday night services were very well attended—we were filled to capacity. The evening was a success from every angle." Mu Sigma members and guests will help conduct service 11/26. Rabbi's trip to Springfield convention subsidized by \$50. moved that "plate collections be abolished at funerals." Tabled.

12/16/65- "After discussion of an assessment for \$200 by the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations, a motion was made and passed to continue payment of \$25 per annum as in prior years together with a suitable letter of explanation as to our position in this matter." Brotherhood breakfasts and minyans discontinued through December. Now almost impossible to get morning minyan at Newbury St. "There followed a general discussion on the future of Newbury St. [possibility of closing Newbury st. crossed out]." Committee to be appointed to examine. Rabbi asked for annual \$300 subsidy for conferences. Motion that they pay for each as it comes up, including \$100 for Rabbinical convention in Lakewood for mid-winter. Seemingly tabled.

1/20/66- Newbury St. needs repairs. Minyans resumed with "fair" turnout. Next week, excellent turnout of 45. Planned future speakers are Rabbi Weiss, Sec of State Curtis, and Cumberland County Sherrif Sharpe. Religious committee reported on planned improvements and changes concerning "conduct of services and other pertinent religious matters." Rabbi and Cantor must approve any substitutes prior to event date. Rabbi wants to alternate between Noyes and Newbury St. with no further attendance at Etz Chaim. Committee to investigate. UOC meeting to be held in Brookline with Rabbi and Pres. Morris Cox attending. Offer to buy land reviewed. Report on Newbury St- Costs \$5,000 annually to operate. Ends up being about a \$1,000 loss when membership figures used. Conclusion that "the facility was vital and necessary to Mikvah users and for Sabbath and High Holiday services for members in that part of Portland from High St. east to the Promenade. The Committee recommended that we continue operation of the facility for the present. Adopted by board.

*Excuse to keep Newbury St. was because of the Mikvah.*

2/17/66- Mortgage balance now \$65,000. Rabbi didn't attend convention in NJ, so subsidy not used. Poor attendance at brotherhood minyans- this would be the last one with Charles Allen as speaker. Preliminary plans for 20 year celebration for Zimmelman. Guest artists and choir, and Friday and Saturday services. Problem of morning minyans at Noyes St. Situation is improved as a result of active solicitation of members by committee. Purim Sunday to be held at synagogue on 3/6. Members and wives urged to attend.

3/17/66- Minyans for morning and evening services have much improved.

4/21/66- Dues money seems to be coming in on time. Zimmelman celebration to be held 4/24/66. Religious committee- Number of Aliyahs to remain at 8. One exception to be calling up of those who had Yartzeit for parents only. Need for "better edited and later-issue Siddurim" Suggestion to send old books to Newbury St. if new books were bought. Possible purchase of uniform mantels for the Torah. If replaced they would NOT carry the names of donors. Some opposition, particularly from one previous donor. Nothin

*Modern Siddur*

*Donor Names*

resolved. Looking into replacement of Paroches. The Rabbi also to "head committee to take a serious look into the custom that has developed in our area of having Children's dances following Bar Mitzvahs. The Committee felt that these are contributing reasons which add to later problems with our children." Suggestion that this wouldn't apply to "dinner-dances". Several felt this was discriminating against those who couldn't afford a dinner-dance. Definite lack of "physical contact" in so-called modern dancing." Eliminating the dances would perhaps send children out to bowling parties and the like. No definite action preferred or taken. In favor of inviting Rabbi Small, owner of Cape Kosher Meat Products to Portland to discuss intention of selling Kosher meat in Portland with the Vaad.

5/19/66- Bekritsky urged new officers to stand for something- to reach a common goal. "When aims are clear and well defined and when leadership is forceful and willing to work, we must succeed."

5/19/66- Report of Shatz, Newbury St. VP- Most important function of Newbury is to serve those that live near it. Prayer available 3 times a day "in order to conform to the basic requirements of orthodoxy." Because of shift in population, increasingly difficult to obtain a minyan. "a synagogue without attendance is an empty shell" If we don't attend now, it might not be available when we need it. Breakfasts had poor attendance. Building is old and needs to be checked often for signs of wear.

*Daily Prayer -  
Important part  
of orthodoxy.*

5/19/66- Report by President Bert Silverman (Outgoing)- Steady progress over 7 years. "At no time could we ever afford to remain stagnant, smug or completely content, either in our thinking or in our actions. Shaarey Tphiloh is a modern Orthodox synagogue... surely there can be no conflict between the two in this year of 1966... to preserve the traditionalism of our forefathers, nevertheless, to improve in whatever realm possible within the proper standards and limitations of traditional Orthodoxy." (1) Goal to make high holiday services "as attractive and inviting as possible... services which were conducted in both houses of worship... Newbury St. and Noyes St.... services conducted in traditional fashion, yet with the blending of English translations and responsive readings and singing to harmonize with the present day and age." (1-2) "In many communities throughout the country we hear, unfortunately, of the losses in membership by Orthodox congregations to other elements of our religion. Happily, this has not been the case here in Portland." Membership increased this year by 27 families. (3) {Interesting to note willingness to talk with other elements of Judaism and non-Jewish groups... a clear affirmation of Modern Orthodoxy.} Mortgage reduced to \$63,000 (4). Highlight was breakfast with ladies with Dr. Samson Weiss, Executive VP of UOJCA. Very impressive speaker, whether one agreed with his views. (6) {what are his views?} Rabbi has a forum series (8). 2 Rabbis came with Bekritsky as moderator- the three later conducted a tour of Maine college campuses, known as the Torah Tour. Synagogue played host to Christian groups (9). Idea to amalgamate with Temple Hebrew School (11-12). Hints that Levey and Goodman were particularly liberal in thought, and did what was best for the synagogue even if they disagreed. (12). Made effort to have an honest, "progressive" administration. Acknowledgment that there has been disagreement. (14)