

Shaarey Tphiloh Synagogue—Summary of Board of Director's Minutes—1946-1958

6/13/1946- "The matter of the joint meeting of the boards of directors of all three synagogues to be held at the Cong. Etz Chaim Synagogue June 18<sup>th</sup> was taken up. Nineteen members paid in advance and pledged to be present.

6/20/1946 New president should be given the power "to appoint a committee of five to deal with the question of a Rabbi if and when it shall become necessary."

8/8/1946 "Carl Zolov chairman of finance committee brought in written report on ways and means of raising money to cover expenses of synagogue." VOTED 3 new members in.

8/15/1946 "On matters pertaining to hiring Rabbi by Shaarey Tphiloh and Etz Chaim Synagogues It was agreed that Rabbi should be two weeks out of three at our synagogue and one week at Etz Chaim."

"on Sabbath Hagodel that Rabbi should alternate each year between both synagogues."

Moved "that Rabbi be paid 60%-40% basis and that Etz Chaim be given preference if they desire."

Motion made "to recommend to joint Rabbinical committees that Cong Shaarey Tphiloh and Etz Chaim make the contract with the Rabbi and the Waad Hoir to exercise jurisdiction over the Rabbi in the matters of Kashrus only. It was carried unanimously."

Moved that we "favor the wearing of robes by the cantor and choir."

9/12/1946 "It will be impossible to obtain robes for the choir."

"After a lengthy discussion it was voted almost unanimously not to retain a Rabbi for the High Holidays (12 against and 3 for)."

1/9/1947 "The Pres reported that Rabbi Washer of Toronto will be in Portland for the week-end of Feb 1, 1947."

3/4/1947 Rabbinical committee suggested that two people should go to New York to interview candidates there. "They went down and Rabbi Bercovitch will be here for the Passover Holidays."

3/4/1947 "Reaffirmed the practice in effect in our synagogue that in the absence of the President or vice president that the Shamus is the only person authorized to designate the person to act as cantor, signs to be printed and posted."

4/1/1947 "The president reported that Rabbi Berkowitsh will speak at our synagogue on Last Day of holiday."

*Vaad or individual rabbis -  
Decides individually  
but ends of Vaad*

5/21/47 "It was voted that our synagogue report to the Vaad Hoir that a special meeting of the Vaad be called for the purpose of discussing the question of a rabbi and that our president Mr Cohen, be empowered to appoint a rabbinical committee with full power to proceed in the matter of obtaining a rabbi separately for our synagogue in the event the decision of the Vaad should be negative. It was passed unanimously."

6/26/1947 "Cong Etz Chaim voted to hire their own rabbi. Pres IE Cohen gave report on same. Rabbi Rubin Macir will be at our synagogue on Sat. July 5, 1947."

6/20/1947. "The committee was unanimously impressed by Rabbi Kline." "Rabbi Mayer... too old to handle job in our community. Second candidate—Rabbi Weisenberg the committee felt he was too young for the community, although he has excellent background. The third candidate to appear was Rabbi Carol Kline of Providence, RI. The committee was very impressed. Only in the country ten years, his English was almost flawless, some trace of European ideas in his talk. He agreed to come here for \$5,000 per year. Mr. Weisberg reported Rabbi Kline a fine appearance in keeping with his position." Proposed hiring Kline for three years at \$5,000 per year.

6/20/1947 "Unanimously voted by the board to so hire Rabbi Kline."

8/4/1947 "Mr Carl Zolov gave a detailed report on meeting at Community center about week ago in regard to conservative synagogue... committee to be appointed to meet with conservative group."

8/4/1947 "Pres IE Cohen received letter from Rabbi Carol Klein that he couldn't come to Portland until after holidays."

9/10/1947 "Samuel Cinamon called attention to hiring policeman for the holidays. Abe Passman moved that we dispense with services of policeman, seconded and so voted unanimously."

9/10/1947 "Discussion of length of services brought up for high holidays." Committee appointed/

9/10/1947 "Rabbi: Mr. Cohen reported that Rabbi Kline will not be here for holidays... consensus of opinion that we should drop Rabbi Kline as prospective rabbi... so voted."

*Length of  
Services -  
Naming*

10/23/1947 "It was reported that we again propose to the Vaad Hoir a community Rabbi and that it was opposed by the Etz Chaim Synagogue. Rabbi Finer of the placement bureau of the Yeshivah highly recommended Rabbi Ruditzky, who is 40, married with one child, graduated in 1928 at the head of the yeshivah, graduated city college of n.y. took graduate courses at new york University, has been a chaplain in the Army and has held several good positions to date." Committee formed to get o Boston to inquire.

11/23/1947. "Chairman introduced the subject of Rabbi Bekritsky which was taken up with a complete explanation of background which led up to a unification program. A joint Directorate meeting of both synagogues finally led to the present plans to hire the Rabbi under the joint auspices of both synagogues." Thanksgiving Day service to be held 3pm at Shaarey Tphiloh, followed by Shabbos at Etz Chaim (8pm forum, 3pm Shabbos Soudas) and brotherhood breakfast 9am Sunday. "On the matter of Rabbi David Rudavsky of Shelby, Conn... Rabbi Lewittes stated that he knew of him but did not know his qualifications, Rabbi Soloveitchik was unable to keep his appointment but wrote to us to state that education was fine." "The result that the Orthodox community is unified under the leadership of one rabbi."

11/23/1947 "Secty directed to send letter of thanks to Rabbi Finder for his kind co'operation in the matter of unifying our community."

1/18/1948 Joint meeting of Shaarey Tphiloh and Etz Chaim. "Rabbi Bekritsky addressed the Directors. He expressed his disappointment in the lack of militancy on the part of the Directors in dealing with the conservative movement spreading in the city. He stated that he had been prepared since his coming here to meet this challenge, but the Directors have been apathetic. He claimed that if unchecked, the conservative movement will continue to grow and will dominate the entire religious life of the community. He insisted that action be taken immediately and that the Directors recognize the potential threat. He made three proposals: I: To appoint a committee to meet with some of the conservative leaders and discuss the whole problem. II If necessary, he would be willing to conduct Friday night Services at Beth El and to do away with their possibly hiring a conservative Rabbi which would have the effect of keeping the community intact. III If the above two proposals did not work out, it would require further strategic planning even to the extent of having the Va'ad Hoir build a new synagogue for the entire community in the Woodfords area under its supervision." Committee formed.

1/21/1948 Committee appointed to work with Beth El and Etz Chaim.

2/18/1948 "Joint committee of Cong Shaarey Tphiloh, Etz Chaim Synagogue and Beth El met at Community Center... Beth El rejected offer of Rabbi Bekritsky to meet with their board of directors and that Beth El was going on their own."

3/1/1948 "H. Boxstein reported on amalgamation- no new matters till Vaad Hoir- decided that if cant come to terms to try to open a branch in Woodfords also to see if possible to amalgamate the three synagogues into one for year round, all three to open for High Holidays as well as the Woodfords Branch."

3/1/1948 "Rabbi Bekritsky spoke. Went over situation insofar as conservative movement- threat to community Jewish unity—not only to shuls but seriously the Hebrew School—reported on negotiations with Beth El and on Vaad Hoir meeting—as result of meeting Rabbi proposed two questions (1) Woodfords shul (2) Long range plan of amalgamation of 3 shuls- committee to study amalgamation."

4/1/48- Pd \$10 dues to UOJCA.

4/1/48- Thursday 4/8 will be National Prayer Day with city wide meeting at the Shul.

5/19/48- Hiring of high holiday choir

6/24/1948- Members of high holiday choir sign contract

6/24/48- members spoke pros and cons about holding minyan with etz chaim

6/24/48- non-members were coming into the synagogue and causing disturbances.  
Registered letter sent to Jacob Glovsky telling him not to come to synagogue

8/17/48- Board bought six trees in Palestine for a sick member

*J Israel*

8/17/48- committee of four appointed to meet with Rabbi and cantor "to arrange for length of services etc."

10/7/48- Gave \$25 to Mizrahi. Voted to have Sunday morning services with breakfasts. Etz Chaim will have them every other week. Friday night services with Etz Chaim were to alternate from week to week

11/2/48- Will participate in radio program with Congregation Etz Chaim. Shul will participate in a brotherhood month program in Feb, 1949 with the Maine Council of Churches.

12/9/48- Continued talk about redoing basement? Bimah, Ark, and flooring. Every honor at the dedication would be sold to highest bidder except for one, to be dedicated to the memory of relatives of the synagogue members.

12/28/48- Commissioned a history of the synagogue to go with new ark dedication- by I.E. Cohen. Wanted 1200-1500 circulars for without the state. Date to be 3/20/49 (Sunday 2pm).

3/10-49- Decided to sell Ner Tamid honor as well.

3/10/49- Program for dedication to include speeches by 4 rabbis- including Ephriam Bennet. Includes choir, processional, unveiling of Ark, refreshments, music, usherettes from Junior sisterhood.

3/31/49- Began discussion on 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary- tentatively for Chanukah, 1949.

4/10/49- Suggested that all new directors be asked before their service to attend services at least once a month.

5/3/49- Suggestion to have another class of membership to help with extra expenses

*Newbury Refrains*

*Brotherhood*

*Newbury Amble*

5/31/49- Meeting between Mount Sinai and Beth El board (Udell Bramson- with Etz Chaim also or typo?). Also, torah scroll repair discussed

6/23/49- Voted to charge a \$5 tax on high holiday tickets

9/7/49- "A lengthy discussion was held in regard to poor state of finances of synagogue. The records show that weekly expenses exceed the weekly income. It was suggested that we have two classes of membership, one \$26.00 and one \$50.00." Rabbi was to make an appeal for money at Nelia for the repair of the sefer torahs.

9/7/49- "It was suggested that our president appoint Hon Max L. Pinansky represent our synagogue at ground breaking ceremony of Temple Beth-El."

9/27/49- Raised \$58 at the meeting for publication of annual bulletin. Rabbi to make appeal, not announcement, about Sefer Torah. 7 members took a voluntary raise in their dues.

11/22/49- President Rothstein was at MERCY Hospital.

2/7/50- Paid UOJCA dues of \$10.

6/8/50- Gave extra \$100 to Zimmelman's expanded choir.

6/8/50- Suggestion that "in addition to our policy of selling tickets in Shul for the High Holidays we have teams go out and sell tickets to members at their homes or place of business."

8/8/50- Zimmelman says that he can begin services at 7, last part at 10, and over by 1pm.

8/8/50- A decorum committee was appointed

10/19/50- Voted unanimously to ask board of Mount Sinai for loan at 2% interest.

10/19/50- passed unanimously to take out a full page ad for \$100 in Temple dedication journal.

3/29/51- paid \$5 to Mizrachi of America. Chairman to ask the priest to have children stop breaking ST windows.

5/3/51- Zimmelman asked for \$775 for choir- same amount as last year

5/29/51- "Rabbi Bekritsky addressed board in regard to opening an Orthodox Synagogue in the Woodfords section. The committee present that represented the Woodfords Orthodox Synagogue..."

*preparing  
changes*

5/29/51- Motion "that our board of directors should hold joint meeting with Board of Directors of Anshe Shfard Synagogue to discuss formation of joint Directorship of the three Orthodox syn. and the eventual development of the Orthodox Synagogue Movement, to invite all that are interested, to have the Sisterhood present and to extend invitation to the Directors of Etz Chaim Synagogue. It was passed 19 to 2."

7/26/51- Proposed \$5 tax on High Holiday tickets again

9/21/51- Paid again to Mizrachi and for individual members

10/8/51- Board of directors supports the establishment of a synagogue of Woodfords and should consult with committees from other organizations. Discussion of joining together with Etz Chaim for Simchat Torah. B of D would urge members to celebrate at Etz Chaim if they received invitation, but would keep their doors open for those who did not want to go.

10/25/51- Suggestion of a branch of Shaarey Tphiloh to open at Woodfords.

11/15/51- Moved to participate in Israel Bond Drive with other synagogues, as requested by the Federation. Committee appointed to look into Woodfords Orthodox synagogue.

1/23/52- "A discussion was held on the decorum on Saturday mornings... [committee appointed] to see that the proper decorum be observed at Saturday morning services." Also, the JCC should be given "fullest cooperation" in observance of Bar Mitzvah celebration.

5/21/52- Letter from Etz Chaim about cemetery. Problem, but unclear exactly what that is. Board decided it needed more specific reasons to create a new cemetery ass'n.

6/12/52- \$850 was maximum this year for the choir. Many small things needed fixing- fence, windows, screens, toilets, put night latches on outside doors.

7/16/52- Tablet fund had been doing very well for past few years. \$3,500 transferred to savings acct to draw interest.

7/16/52- Charge \$5 seat tax for members for high holidays and \$10 for non-members.

9/10/52- Letter from Etz Chaim "in regard to ways and means of effecting unity in the Orthodox Jewish community." No action taken at this time.

10/15/52- Took \$200 from Tablet fund for Day School. More discussions about getting synagogues together.

12/17/52- Rabbi Bekritsky issued rules for the kitchen. "no warming food on Saturday, no bringing in anything baked outside the synagogue, Have supervision over kitchen

*rebury  
Decorum*

*Israel*

Israel?

when baking is being done and Rabbi to be notified when kitchen is being used.”  
Committee formed.

Kashrut

1/21/53- Request to have Rabbi Bekritsky meet with the three synagogues about uniform Kashrut standards in synagogue kitchens. No further keys for kitchen to be made without board approval.

8/25/53- Drive for Israel bonds

10/22/53- Jerry Slivka voted in as a member. 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary committee convened.

Loss of membership

12/1/53- Reverend Zimmelman reported on loss of membership, and will give more detailed report at the next meeting.

12/1/53- Joint Sunday minyan was going ok. Tablet dedication planned. Must decide whether to have 1 or 2 “big affairs”

12/10/53- Idea of building joint Hebrew School and synagogue. Committee decided to have celebrations on the same day.

1/21/54- New committee to discuss “a synagogue in the Woodfords area and all problems involved in such a project” with Etz Chaim

3/24/54- Plans for a golden jubilee week to include religious services as well as social entertainment—highlighted by a banquet. Plans for a “Golden Jubilee Youth Afternoon”. Morning reconsecration. Souvenir program committee.

4/28/54- Joint committee recommended having Friday services at Etz Chaim and Saturday at Shaarey Tphiloh to celebrate the 6<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Israel. Passed. Rabbi Lookstein will speak at Golden Jubilee Saturday morning, June 12. Sunday night will have dedication of new memorial tablets and Cantor Zimmelman and choir will perform.

Israel

5/9/54- Income for year, 16,004 Expenses for year, \$16,360.

6/27/54- Choir for \$800- same as last year.

7/8/54- Together with Etz Chaim, synagogue paid for repairs to Vaad Hoir’s chicken house. Report given on Hebrew School/ Synagogue to be built in Woodfords

8/5/54- Ad revenue from (Golden Jubilee brochure?) \$4500. Income so far, \$3500. Gave bonuses to Krems, Zimelman, and Gross? for work done on jubilee. Loss of membership. Saul Brennerman appointed chairman of decorum committee.

9/9/54- Should co-sponsor with Etz Chaim a series of Sunday morning minyans-breakfasts. And if Etz Chaim does not want to do so, they should sponsor them alone.

11/16/54- Still have problem of broken windows. Committee formed. Zimmelman's contract extended 2 years on same terms.

12/16/54- Zimmelman gave report on loss of membership.

12/16/54- "Shaarey Tphiloh Synagogue go on record it shall contribute \$2000.00 two thousand dollars towards the {proposed} Woodfords Orthodox {Hebrew School and } Synagogue, motion was passed." {added above text}

2/23/55- Moved and seconded "that we hold a mass membership meeting as soon as practicable to decide the issue of adopting the proposed Woodfords synagogue as a branch of Shaarey Tphiloh Synagogue. Passed unanimously."

2/23/55- Want to suspend the emergency payments to the Vaad and just resume regular payments.

4/20/55- Report of Golden Jubilee Committee- "Purpose. Shaarey Tphiloh Synagogue was founded in the year 1904. During the fifty years of its existence it has left an indelible imprint on the life of our Jewish community. The origins of all that we hold dear in Jewish life today may be traced back to our synagogue. It was only fitting therefore that we should celebrate our Golden Jubilee and rededicate ourselves to the ideals to which the synagogue's founders and our parents, relatives and friends devoted themselves with such energy... the congregation emerged with added strength and zeal with which to carry on its noble work." On the reconsecration Sabbath service, the rabbi spoke "Ye shall proclaim a Jubilee." Dedication day had a group of young people presenting dramatic readings "Shaarey Tphiloh in Retrospect," which were enclosed (Not enclosed) and read on television and radio. Rabbi Bekritsky prepared the script with piano accompaniment. Sunday commemoration service saw 700 guests. Governor Burton M. Cross and City Council Chairman, Edward T. Colley were special guests. Commemoration address by Rabbi Israel Klavan, executive Director of the Rabbinical Council of America. Greetings by rabbis of Maine with cantor and choir participating. Memorial then dedicated and buffet by sisterhood followed. Monday evening concert by Cantor Moshe Kussevitsky. Income from journal paid for entire celebration, and netted \$419.76.

5/22/55- 8 new improvements were summarized. New cabinet, new fluorescent fixtures, and new ventilator for kitchen, and 2 new memorial tablets, 17 storm windows installed, Golden Jubilee success, 14 Torah mantles, 200 siddurim.

5/22/55- Began to work on a joint membership plan with Woodfords synagogue. Passed 20 to 5.

6/8/55- Committee formed to work on plan for joint membership. Moved "that our Rabbi be requested to get in touch with Superintendent of Schools for the purpose of establishing a policy whereby no exams be given in the public schools during the Jewish

Holidays if at all possible, so passed." Same ticket policy to be used this year as last year.

9/27/55- UOJCA dues of \$25 paid. \$1500 loan from cemetery ass'n to Vaad Hoir.

2/16/56- Zimelman ordered new sink for kitchen for sisterhood. Plan to discuss joint services with Etz Chaim for 2/29/56.

5/6/56- Moved and seconded "that Shaarey Tphiloh Synagogue establish a branch in the Sanctuary wing of the new Portland Hebrew School Building in Woodfords on Noyes Street. Thirty- seven voted in favor no vote against. Motion carried unanimously." {Shaarey Tphiloh had been giving money to Hebrew School for quite some time}

6/5/56- Choir will alternate between Noyes St and Newbury St for high holidays. Expense not to exceed \$850. Suggestion that the two synagogues be called "The Greater Portland Orthodox Synagogues."

6/21/56- Recommended by Bert Silverman that membership rates of \$31, \$52, \$78, and \$104 be established, all with same rights. Passed unanimously, and letter to be sent about new rates and "expansion program."

8/1/56- Choir will split Rosh Hashanah between the synagogues and Yom Kippur at Newbury St. Same for Rabbi Bekritsky. Seating arrangements to be left to seating committees of each synagogue. \$500 taken from tablet fund.

11/4/56- \$671.10 given to Portland Hebrew School. Israel Bonds representatives "interrupted the meeting to speak about the present emergency in Israel and also read a copy of the letter by Ambassador Abba Eban." Hebrew school teacher voted to be appointed "assistant Rabbi in charge of Youth's religious guidance." (Myer Aspes)

11/5/56- Purpose of this meeting was to "discuss ways, means and plans of bringing close together the Shaarey Tphiloh doings of Newbury and Noyes sts. He voiced his confidence in the abilities of those present to reach harmonious results." Should the Hebrew School at Noyes St. be considered a community or congregational school? Question tabled until consideration of joining Beth El and Noyes St. Hebrew Schools. Next topic of discussion "The status of the Noyes Street Building." Recognition of problems that Hebrew School and Synagogue are under one roof. "He proposed that the Portland Hebrew School Synagogue Ass'n legal owners of the building should rent the Synagogue Section to Shaarey Tphiloh, the Day School Section to the Day School and the Hebrew School Section to the Board of Education." Rent paid to be determined by space occupied and by expenses of operation. Also suggested that finances be more budget-based. Expected expenses to operate building for 1 year \$5,000, split between interest, janitor, heat, and incidentals.

11/5/56- Bert Silverman reported that Shaarey Tphiloh "had acquired the following new members due to the creation of the Noyes Street Building. \$31- 40 people. \$52- 29

St Aspes  
branch  
unanimously

Unity

people, \$78- 3 people, \$104- 5 people. Total new members 77. Total new dues- \$3,502. Also reported that "regular members had increased their dues to Shaarey Tphiloh, as a result of Noyes Street Attendance as follows. From \$31 to \$52- 49 people. From \$31 to \$78- 9 people. From \$31 to \$104- 16 people. Total, \$2,620. Grand Total \$6,122- "a sum in excess to the cost of Noyes Street Synagogue operation." He also said that this was only the beginning- more people want to become members and more members will increase their membership level. Louis Seavey pointed out that committee was making a mistake in not including the cost of Rabbi and Cantor in these figures. Maintained that estimated annual cost of \$5,000 "is inaccurate and misleading." Master plan to be crafted with both boards. Samuel Cohen suggested taking over operating expenses as well as the capital debt. Rebuttal that such a plan "should be rejected as endangering the unity of the Orthodox community." Argument that Hebrew School is a community obligation. Review of changes necessary to the governing structure. Agreed that Shaarey Tphiloh should be responsible for operating costs of sanctuary and 1/2 of interest expenses on mortgage. Need to define Rev. Zimelman's relationship to Noyes St. Bert Silverman announced an amalgamation of the Shaarey Tphiloh Sisterhood and the Hebrew School Ladies Auxiliary.

2/20/57- Passed 6-5 to pay 50% of oil bill at Noyes St.

3/21/57- Delinquent membership committee formed.

4/18/57- Constitutional change added 2<sup>nd</sup> VP and total of 35 board of directors.

5/26/57- Sisterhood paid \$1000 for new dishes and silverware for Noyes St. Kitchen. Mt. Sinai Ass'n cash on hand \$24, 346.09.

6/20/57- Bert Silverman appointed Noyes St. VP. Choir for high holidays at \$850. Rabbi and Cantor to be advisory members of all religious and High Holiday committees. All honors and Aliyahs to be sold for high holidays.

6/25/57- Special meeting "to establish better understanding and legal relationship between Congregation Shaarey Tphiloh and the Portland Hebrew School- Synagogue of Association." Originally the Hebrew School had appealed to the federation for permission to build only a Hebrew School on Noyes St. Federation had urged for sake of long range planning the construction of both school and house of worship. \$130,000 for school alone, or \$189,000 to construct combined-use building. Hebrew school went along with request and decided to raise funds for both. Portland Hebrew School-Synagogue Association thus came into being, "controlling a building which was to house both a Hebrew School and a Synagogue." Synagogue wing held no affiliation with any synagogue in the community. "But it was uppermost in the minds of those who were responsible for the creation of the building that if at all possible there should be a complete union between all Orthodox Synagogues in the City of Portland." Unable to achieve this vision, but Shaarey Tphiloh voted in 1956 for Amalgamation with Noyes St. Synagogue. Two problems: 1) Must clarify that Shaarey Tphiloh does exist at Noyes St. and 2) Question of synagogue and Hebrew School Assn should be resolved, but no haste.