

Our Sisterhood

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OFFICERS OF OUR SISTERHOOD



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The Temple Beth El Hebrew School

In April, 1949, the Board of Directors of Temple Beth El, after prolonged and serious consideration of every aspect of the problem, voted to establish a Congregational Hebrew School to function under its jurisdiction. They were moved to this decision by the realization that:

1. There was a pressing need for a Hebrew School in the Woodfords area;
2. It was an extremely difficult, if not impossible, task to persuade parents to enroll their children for an intensive five-day-a-week Hebrew program. In the interest of providing a Hebrew education for a maximum number of children, it was necessary to establish a three-day-a-week school;
3. Most of the daughters of our members were growing up without the benefit of any Hebrew education;
4. It was desirable to establish a school which would reflect the Conservative philosophy of Jewish life, and which would work in close harmony with its parent body, the synagogue.

Registration for the Beth El Hebrew School, which was held in May, 1949, quickly revealed the wisdom of the Board of Directors' decision. Sixty children, of whom approximately 60% were girls, registered for the 1949-1950 school year.



ERNEST BRAUN



REV. RALPH STERNBERG



JOEL CORN

The school was most fortunate in securing the services of Mr. Ernest Braun, whose engaging personality, love for his work and devotion to his pupils soon won the affection and regard of all the children in the school. It is in no small measure a tribute to his sincerity that attendance for the year attained the splendid average of slightly better than 90%.

Probably, a better indication of the success of the school is the fact that the enrollment increased from sixty to one hundred ten children this year. The faculty has been enlarged; and now includes, in addition to Mr. Braun, Mr. Joel Corn as a full time teacher, and Mr. Ralph Sternberg as a part-time teacher, both of whom meet fully the fine standards set by the Hebrew School Board.

After a year of operation, the school is successfully meeting the goals which were adopted for Conservative Congregational Schools by the United Synagogue Commission on Jewish Education. These were:

1. To develop and enhance the child's spiritual and ethical sensitivity, so that in act and attitude he may be governed by the religious, ethical and cultural traditions of Judaism;

2. To equip the child with knowledge of the Hebrew language, which is indispensable to a full appreciation of the spirit and content of the Jewish heritage and of its renaissance in modern Israel;
3. To impart a knowledge of Jewish history, literature and culture, necessary for rich, meaningful and intelligent Jewish living and for an understanding of the contributions of the Jew and of Judaism to world civilization;
4. To develop in the child the ability and the desire to practice the traditional Jewish observances in the synagogue and the home;
5. To provide for the child, during his school career, a wide range of group activities and observances, through which he may experience the satisfaction and the inspiration of Jewish living;
6. To instill in the child the desire to continue his studies beyond the elementary school level, and to encourage the graduates of the secondary schools to pursue their studies in higher schools of Jewish learning, in order to prepare for positions of leadership in Jewish life;
7. To develop in the child an interest and a desire to participate in local, national and world Jewish affairs, and to contribute toward the fulfillment of the prophetic vision of a just society and a united mankind;
8. To give the child an awareness of the essential harmony between the ideals and traditions of American democracy and the ideals and traditions of Judaism, to the end that he may be happily adjusted as a Jew, a citizen and an heir to the great American and Jewish traditions.

The new school building, so favorably located, and equipped with the most modern teaching facilities, should successfully prepare any child for a full, rich, well-adjusted life as an American Jew.



THE JOY OF SCHOLARSHIP



ENTIRE ENROLLMENT OF
HEBREW SCHOOL 1950



LEARNING IS A GARDEN