



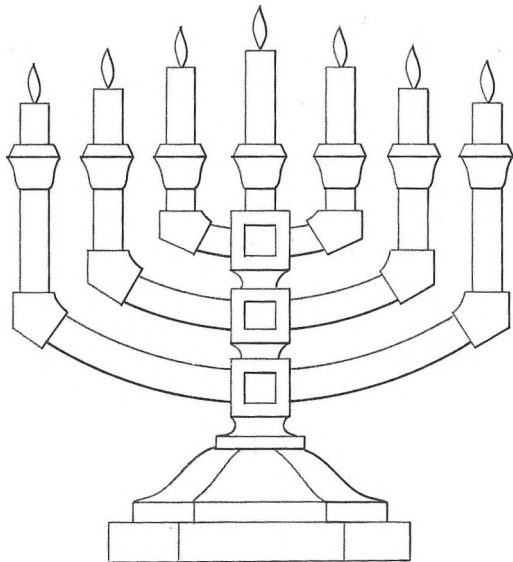
13th Anniversary

Temple Beth El

April 9, 1961

Nisan 23, 5721

*And Jacob said . . . "This is none other than the House of
God . . . and he called the name of that place Beth El "*



BAR MITZVAH PRAYER

Adapted from the Great Synagogue of Tel Aviv
Quoted in *The Bar Mitzvah Treasury*
Edited by A. Eisenberg

Blessed be the God of Israel, Who has kept us alive and well to reach this Bar Mitzvah occasion.

We stand today before the Torah. We greet the Congregation of Israel, which began in the days of the Patriarchs, and which will live to see Israel redeemed and mankind at peace, as our prophets have foretold.

We make this solemn pledge to our people, Israel:

We shall be faithful to our people, to our Torah, our faith, our common hopes. We shall share in our burdens, and work for our salvation. We will help redeem and rebuild our homeland.

We pray that we may stand the test honorably and well, in a spirit of love and brotherhood for our own people, and in a spirit of truth and justice toward all who are created in the image of God.

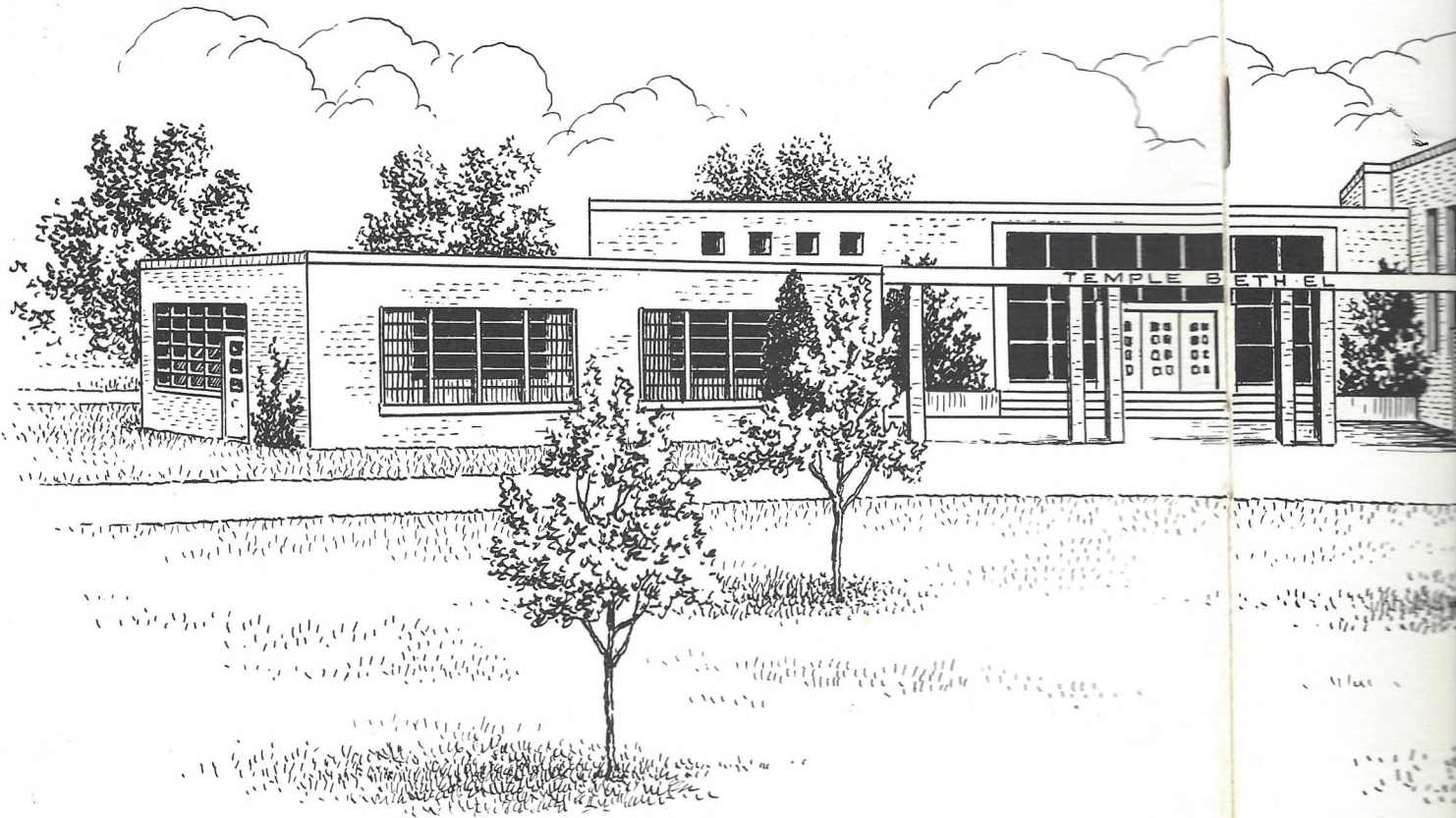
Our hearts give thanks to our Father in Heaven, Who has shielded us from evil and brought us safely to this day. Our thanks and blessings, also, to all the Household of Israel, from its beginnings even to its eternal future.

Amen.

*'O Lord thro
I come into
And reveres
In Thy holy*



*'O Lord through Thine abundant kindness
I come into Thy house
And reverently I worship Thee
In Thy holy sanctuary.'*



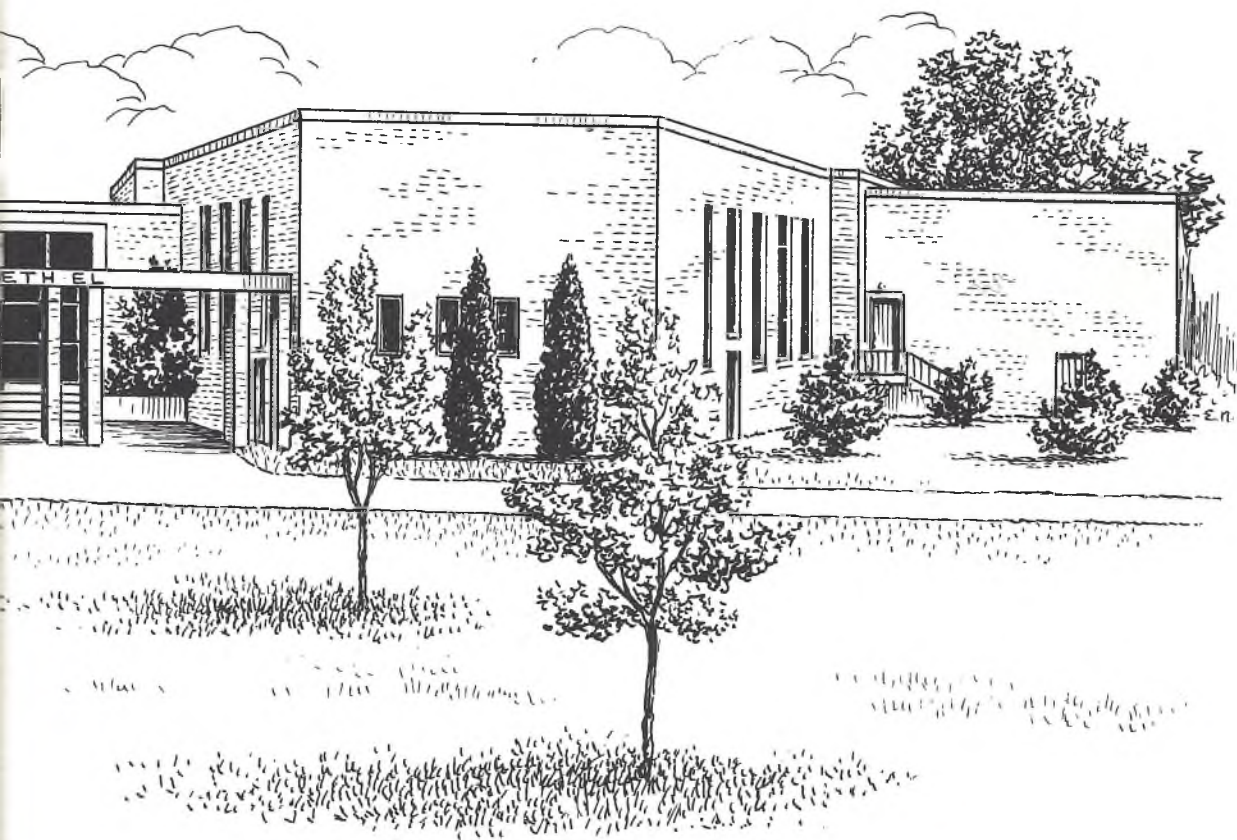
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13th Anniversary

Temple Beth El

April 9, 1961

Nisan 23, 5721



13TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

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Mrs. Udell Bramson
Mrs. Herman Lewis
Mrs. Milton Mack
Maurice Mersky

Joseph Stillman
Mrs. Melvin Stone and
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Harry Turitz
Gerald Waxman
Lester Willis
Carl Zolov



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Historian: Mrs. Benjamin Finn

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PREFACE

We have reached a milestone: our Bar Mitzvah Year as a new Conservative Jewish Congregation. As we celebrate our Thirteenth Anniversary, we, the members of Temple Beth El, are gratified at the continual growth of this endeavor, which began only a few short years ago. We are thankful that our spiritual needs have been so well served, and that we have arrived at this day of rejoicing.

The Dedication Volume of our Temple which appeared in December, 1950, told the story of the beginning of the Conservative Movement in this community, and its steady growth and establishment. In this book we will record only the events and changes that have made for continuous progress since then.

It is hoped at the present time, that our Congregation will feel a sense of rededication to Temple Beth El during its Thirteenth Anniversary, that will enable us to continue on to a wider scope of spiritual and cultural achievement in the future.

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RABBI RAYMOND LEIMAN



MESSAGE FROM THE RABBI

Thirteen years ago, men and women with vision and foresight established a modern Conservative Temple in Portland, Maine. The purpose of the Temple today, as when it was first established, is to provide a central point to allow the Jewish community to sanctify God in the fullest possible manner.

Our religion enjoins upon us to add beauty and loveliness in our performances of God's Commandments in the world. Thus, Temple Beth El, a graceful and attractive sanctuary of the spirit, is a splendid example of the Commandment of "Hidur Mitzvot" or "the beautifying of the mitzvot" of Jewish communal life.

The early years of constructive effort are completed. The physical building is established. Valuable insight into the life of the spirit have been garnered by man, women and children who have been associated with the Temple since its inception.

Now a new phase in the history of Temple Beth El will begin. During this Bar Mitzvah Year, the community can turn its attention toward future learning, dedication and worship with a sense of ever-deepening purpose.



MAURICE J. ELOWITCH

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we review the past thirteen years of our growth, Temple Beth El stands as a shining testimonial to the hundreds of Temple members whose devotion and boundless energy has enabled us to celebrate this happy occasion in our lives.

Much has been accomplished but our purpose is great.

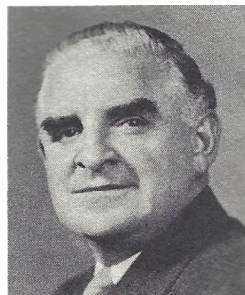
The inspiration and ideals upon which our Temple was founded must be further strengthened. The desire to guide our standards of conduct through education and synagogue worship will reflect and advance the great heritage that is ours. May we at all times have strength to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed, courage to change what can and should be changed, and wisdom to distinguish the one from the other.

If this be our aim, then would not tomorrow be yet a greater day?

PAST PRESIDENTS



Benjamin Lazarus
1947-48



James Stein
1948-49 and 1949-50



Edward J. Berman
1950-51, 1951-52 and 1952-53



Edward D. Sackman
1953-54 and 1954-55

Pres
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Chairman of Board—Melvin Jacobson

Executive Secretary—Joseph Cohen
Treasurer—William Cohen
Secretary—Brewster Branz



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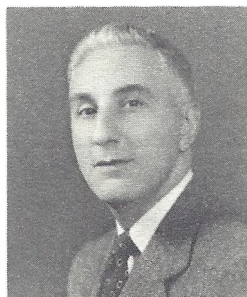
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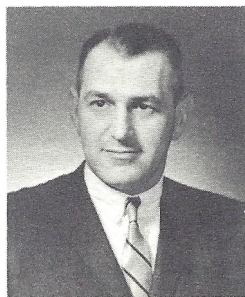
*Deceased



Edward J. Berman
1951-52 and 1952-53



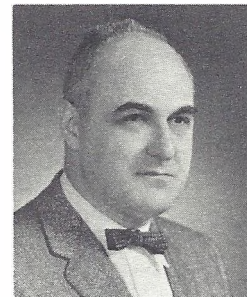
Edward D. Sacknoff
1953-54 and 1954-55



Joseph Stillman
1955-56 and 1956-57



Carl Zolov
1957-58 and 1958-59



Dr. Albert Aranson
1959-60



MRS. MILTON MACK

It is a joy and a privilege to be associated with Temple Beth El and a participant in the celebration of its Thirteenth Anniversary. Much has been accomplished from the inception of our Temple to the present day by the concentrated effort on the part of diligent and devoted members.

Today we are gathered to commemorate this occasion, and further dedicate ourselves to the daily practice of the ideals of Judaism. Sisterhood pauses to reflect on the past as well as to plan for the future. We are confident that our combined efforts will contribute toward the continued growth in every phase of our Sisterhood, Temple and Community Life.

Ella L. Mack, *President*
Temple Beth El Sisterhood

SISTERHOOD OF TEMPLE BETH EL

"She opens her mouth with wisdom and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue." Proverbs, Chapter 31

The outstanding role of the Sisterhood in the early years and its invaluable assistance to the Temple could not for lack of space and time be adequately told here. Nor can we forget the courage and vision of a small group of women, who saw in the very beginning the need for a strong and ever-expanding Sisterhood as part of a successful Temple Beth El. Membership had grown from one hundred eighteen in 1949 to one hundred sixty-two in 1950. Today Sisterhood boasts of two hundred ninety-eight members.

From the first meeting in the new Temple many long-planned activities were carefully organized. For here at last were the facilities and space so urgently needed. The foremost effort was in sponsoring and participating in every religious event and activity that related to the young people of the Congregation. The members gave their attention as well to serving as hostesses at Friday Evening Kiddush. Sisterhood soon affiliated with the Women's League of the United Synagogue which brought Eternal Light programs, Leadership Training Institutes and Holiday Institutes to Portland. There was constant effort to enlighten the Congregation on the work of the Torah Fund for the furtherance of the work of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, the fountainhead of the Conservative Movement in Judaism.

The success of the first Mother-Daughter program made this an event looked forward to with eagerness and pleasure each year.

A notable date in Sisterhood history took place during February 1951. This was the afternoon of the first Interfaith Meeting at the Temple, to which the women of neighborhood churches were invited. Approximately eight hundred ladies were in attendance. The tremendous success and impact of this event on the community at large was evident in the increased interest and amicable relations which emerged from it. Since that time, our Sisterhood members have been invited to churches to present programs on Jewish customs and ceremonies.

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1st Vice-P
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Mrs. K
Mrs. A
Fund Rai
Mrs. E
General
Mrs. S
Mrs. P

There has been at all times, of course, constant cooperation with every aspect of Jewish Community life, assisting wherever possible to help create and maintain pleasant and harmonious Jewish communal relations.

It would not be possible to explain in detail the effort involved in the projects sponsored by Sisterhood to raise funds. Suffice it to say that contributions to the Temple from the Sisterhood Treasury has given the Board of Directors additional means to enable Temple Beth El to proceed with necessary and costly endeavors.

Sisterhood primarily is and must continue to be a force to promote and strengthen religious practices. Beth El Sisterhood accepts, in this Bar Mitzvah year, a challenge for new and concentrated effort in this direction in the future.



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