

5/19/66- Harold Woolf, Membership Chairman speech. Membership now at highest point in last 13 years (his term as chairman.) 475 total members. "This, in spite of the inroads that Conservative Judaism is making on all Orthodox Synagogues. I feel that this is due to 1: Our progressive religious leadership. 2: To the congeniality which young and old find in these surroundings. 3: To the dynamic leadership of our president. 4: To my persuasiveness and persistence as membership chairman." End of his term as Membership chairman.

*Young & old
Finding a balance*

6/16/66- Rabbi Aaron Goldin of Portsmouth, who many in Portland knew, died. Bekritsky gave the eulogy. Bekritsky gets \$100 for RCA convention. Doubts about Hebrew School amalgamation plan. Moved to make every effort at amalgamation.

7/21/66- Mortgage balance at \$62,000. donation to be used to purchase an organ. Choir terms same as last year.

6/30/66- religious comm.. meeting. Choir to sing at Noyes St. Children's service brought up, but no action taken. Rabbi to be at Newbury St. and Etz Chaim. Police officer at Noyes St.

6/29/66- Need to update by-laws. Letters will be written to other Orthodox synagogues to use as guides.

8/31/66- Newbury St. still having trouble getting a morning minyan. Help for Bingo still not happening. Several communications from UOJCA read and taken under advisement. Bekritsky asked for \$100 to subsidize trip to biennial in Nov at Washington DC. Voted to cooperate with International Jewish Affairs Commission by promoting a declaration of rights for Soviet jewry.

10/19/66- Letter of thanks from Young Jewish Leadership Council, Secretary Saralee Harrisburg. Mortgage to \$59,500. Orchestra for dancing for Synagogue and sisterhood installation of officers. Some members complained about high holiday services. Committee to try to fix. Persident Cox couldn't go to Washington convention, so he will appoint someone. Recommendation that no outside caterer can use kitchen for affairs outside the city. Blumenthal's lost Kashrut supervision. Temple wants to be part of Vaad. Suggestion to reconstitute Vaad with a separate vaad hakashruth with city-wide representation. In the meantime, invite Temple reps as non-voting members of Vaad on matters of community Kashrut only.

*Kashrut
Temple - Vaad*

11/16/66- Hildreth Radio Stations offered services to publicize synagogue functions. Brotherhood breakfasts discontinued. Once a month, brotherhood will do evening event with a speaker. Men and women will be invited, and refreshments will be served. Women have expressed desire to serve on Shul committees. Sisterhood pres. should be contacted if participation is desired. UOJCA requested delegates for DC convention. Bekritsky's allocation to be increased from \$100 to \$150. UOJCA wanted \$200, based on 100 members at \$2 each (100 families? Max 100 members to be charged?)

Women

Synagogue decided to increase their payment from \$25 to \$50. Bekritsky reported on late Friday night worship services. First was 11/11 and 2nd to be 11/18. Ministerial assn of greater Portland (Bekritsky is member) met at Shul on 11/1/6 and sisterhood served refreshments. Letter read from Frank D. Hirsh, rep of Interfaith General Assembly, about upcoming meetings 11/20 and ecumenical meeting 12/4.

12/21/66- Mortgage now \$56,000. Brotherhood Ladies night, roast beef dinner with dancing. Speaker for Feb meeting. Rules for when and if lay people can lead- rules regarding role of Cantor. Report to form Vaad hakashruth between Beth El and Shaarey Tphiloh.

1/25/67- 170 persons at Brotherhood affair. Mortgage \$55,000. Failure to organize Vaad Hakashruth with temple. Need direction for Vaad Hoir, an "integral part and function of an orthodox Jewish community."

2/15/67- Letter from London requesting info on incorporating a Jewish music program for aged and Blind in London. May 14th concert by Paul and Sol Zimel for 19th anniversary of israel's founding. "Rabbi Bekritsky spoke on the possibility of launching an Orthodox Youth Group in Portland. He stated that because of community conditions such a group was necessary. The National Council of Synagogue Youth is the national Orthodox organization and promotes activities among youth groups in various cities." \$100 allocated for bringing two reps from NY to organize such a chapter. New butcher approved for Portland by Vaad- operated by William Ross and beryl Izikson. ST wants larger representation on Vaad based solely on membership.

Israel

3/15/67- Shul in good financial shape because of dues income. Difficulty in maintaining daily minyans at Noyes St. Requested help from board. Suggestion that Newbury St. and Noyes St. combine for one minyan- referred to religious committee. Synagogue donated \$50 to Rescue, inc, a group originally sponsored by Council of Churches to combat suicide.

6/18/67- Although membership has decreased at Newbury St., cost of maintenance is very little and building should be kept since many go there for sentimental reasons. Consideration to one minyan instead of two. Mortgage to \$49,500.

7/19/67- More money to be transferred from tablet fund because of low cash on hand. 4 sisterhood reps to the board. Choir for \$1250. Rabbi asked to be reimbursed \$75 for attending the urgent UOJCA meeting on Israel during recent crisis and war. No Hebrew Day school this year. Group of parents wants to start a nursery school there. About 20 mothers involved. No official name or Jewish affiliation yet, but program to be Jewish oriented. Wants to use facilities initially at no cost to get program started. Recent synagogue robbery—safe was looted and 2 files damaged. Filed as "vandalism". UOJCA wants a \$2 per head tax to finance their operation. Referred to finance committee. Request to use funds not currently tied up for Israel Bonds. Taken under advisement. Plan to look into study group with Rabbi—both men and women interested.

Israel

Women

9/20/67- School to be called K'ton-Ton. Wants to be sure shul is free from litigation. Nobody at Newbury to read Torah when rabbi is not there.

11/29/67- Recommendation that Vaad close chicken house to reduce operating expenses. They should try to sell the building to reduce deficit. \$500 to be paid to the Vaad by the Shul for current bills.

12/20/67- Meeting about Vaad problems. Subscribed to the Jewish Post and Opinion, after endorsement by Bekritsky. UOJCA, "our national parent organization", wants \$2 pp tax added to membership. They will agree to accept whatever is paid as obligation on national dues. Suggestion tabled.

2/21/68- Bekritsky was conducting adult lectures. \$100 given to UOJCA, and accepted, with urging that shul accept responsibility to charge each member \$2. Bekritsky will temporarily supervise Kashruth at Jewish Home for the Aged. Rabbi given salary increase as it was his 20th year. Sisterhood was thinking of sponsoring an event for Bekritsky's 20th year. Committee appointed.

3/20/68- Orthodox youth group will meet for breakfast minyan. 170 people attended brotherhood's ladies' night.

Women

11/20/68- Breakfast minyan of brotherhood planned for 11/24. Temple brotherhood is invited and it will serve as a preliminary to the Israel Bond Drive.

Israel

12/18/68- Next social event will be ladies' night 1/18. More people needed to work Bingo and for morning minyans at Noyes St. Bekritsky announced that RCY would hold services at Synagogue 12/25.

1/15/69- \$150 for Bekritsky to attend RCA conference in Lakewood. Approved that Shaarey Tphiloh should take over Portland Hebrew School, subject to resolution of legal questions.

2/19/69- Funds are rapidly dwindling. UOJCA requested \$200. Rabbi did not attend mid-winter conference and returned \$150 check. Gave UOJCA same as last year, \$100. Progress on young men's minyan on Saturday mornings, under direction of Mr. yaffe. Mortgage balance \$26,500. Morris Greenman, board member, will be honored at TBE for outstanding service to the community. Adult Youth Education's last speaker was a Rabbi from South Africa.

→ closeness ST/TBE

3/19/69- Still solvent but operating funds "urgently needed". Rabbi Leibman of Yeshiva University was the speaker at a 3/16 adult education forum and 60 people were present. He discussed the rise of Black Anti-Semitism in New York. Cost \$190. Entire series has cost \$510; over \$450 budgeted. Survey recommended to understand responses to various synagogue committees and their programs.

4/16/69- barely able to meet obligations and "prospects for the future were extremely dim." Payroll up to \$500/wk. 21 children aged 3-5 were enrolled in K'ton K'ton school. Don't have to be synagogue members. Decided to borrow money from bank (\$17,000) to pay for air conditioning project. Suggested that "inquiry be made of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations to determine if a national plan were available."

5/20/69- Cantor notes that they have had choir for 23 years. "the choir greatly enhances and beautifies the services and they have been, for over 2 decades, an integral and important part of our High Holiday services." Choir budget is \$1,450. Unanimously passed. Bekritsky requested \$150 for RCA conference during last week in June. Granted. Minyans at Noyes St. are no problem, but still some trouble with Newbury St. morning minyans. Mortgage balance \$23,500. Idea that moving plaques from Newbury to Noyes St. would hasten decision to close Newbury St. Church willing to purchase building with stipulation that no prayers be conducted within. A new mikvah would have to be built and proper arrangements for services in that part of town would be necessary before closing Newbury St. Moved "that a committee be appointed to discuss mixed seating at services with Rabbi Bekritsky to determine his current position in this vital matter." Motion discussed at length and passed.

Choir -
dearm

closing
of newbury

Mixed
Seating 11

6/29/69- Adult institute sponsored 6 lectures. 3 secured through yeshiva University Community Service Division and three through Mr. Burleigh Loveitt, Extension Agent of the Cooperative Extension Service of the University of Maine. Lecturers and topics from Yeshiva: Rabbi S. Hirt- "American Orthodoxy- What is its future?"; Rabbi Abner Weiss- "Jewish Concept of Marriage;" Dr. Charles Liebman- "Negro Anti-Semitism" (Cost \$475 including travel and lodging). From UMaine: Donald M. Bruce, Youth specialist from UMO- "Problems arising on the college Campus"; Donald DeMuth, ExDir Child and Family Services, "Problems arising from the breakdown of the American Home;" Dr. Henry A. Gurney, BU, "Problems arising from the new sex attitude." Total cost of these lectures \$585 on a \$450 budget. Sisterhood paid difference. Average attendance 80 people. Lecturers spoke between 45-60 minutes followed by a 1 hour "spirited discussion." Lectures arranged by Bekritsky and Adult Institute Committee. Recommended they do it again next year, with comm. to pick speakers in consult w/ rabbi.

Interest in
American
Issues

6/29/69- Bekritsky called attention to many activities that occur at Noyes St. in addition to religious services.

Synagogue -
Center

Brotherhood Report 1968-69- Season began with join breakfast with Beth El at ST. Featured speaker was Leonard Nelson, who showed slides of recent Israel trip. Later had Ladies' night at synagogue.

Israel

7/17/69- Discussion with Vic Taylor of combined Adult Ed program with Center and Beth El. Taylor was present to discuss community-wide projects; hoping for prominent educators, individuals, etc. Perhaps marking anniversary of Israel and commemorating Warsaw Ghetto Uprising- events that are neglected because of fragmented effort. He recognized that some projects are better for the sphere of the synagogue but some were

Israel
Warsaw Ghetto

better for the community. Stressed cooperation instead of competition. Decided to go for combined program- committee appointed. No policemen for the high holidays, but ushers. Rules for children under 6- allowed in special part of sanctuary supervised. Lay readers to participate as in previous years. Temporary speaker's pulpit for rabbi at Noyes St. so more people could hear sermons. Tabled. → Sermons/decorn

8/20/69- Confusion over purpose of joint lecture series- entertainment or education? Mortgage balance \$20,000. 25 people to attend the Hebrew School with some taken away for Day school. Request for Shul to have Ex Dir to supervise administration of Synagogue and Hebrew School. David Rubinoff would do it part-time. President reported on subject of continuing operation of Newbury St., possibility of taking over Anshe Sfaard on a long-term lease basis. If Newbury St. was closed they could build Mikvah at Noyes St. Rubinoff would attempt to "strengthen the lines of communication between the spiritual leaders." Motion to let Hillel Academy, an autonomous organization, use 2 classrooms for a Day School.

9/24/69- Ample funds at present to pay bills. Mortgage \$18,500. "services went well and the only problem was that the speeches could not be heard in the rear of the Shul. The use of a microphone was discussed. Because of religion, this cannot be done." About 80 people attended High Holidays at newbury St. Problem of lack of communication between 2 branches. Heated discussion followed observation that children were allowed at services. "The president has asked the help of the Sisterhood to try to get new members. The new young people in the community are joining the Temple. Plans are being made to contact these people." Recommendation to open the homes of young couples and invite the rabbi for informal Friday night services. Joint programs- "The purpose of these programs is to unite the Jewish community."

10/15/69- Report that there will be an \$8,000 defecit due to Hebrew School. 3 community Ed programs. 1) Jacob Jacobivitch- Chief Rabbi of Great Britain, Dore Schary, musical program of Israeli Group "The Voices Four." "Rabbi Bekritsky will meet with young married couples on a regular basis at private homes on topics of religion."

12/17/69- Hebrew School running at a defecit. \$15,878.75 outstanding dues from this year, \$11,082.50 from last year. Mortgage \$15,500. New membership policy- "Any present member of Shaarey Tphiloh Synagogue who marries a non-Jew may retain his or her individual membership in the synagogue, and aby Jew married to or marrying a non-Jew may become an individual member of the synagogue, but any such person shall be prohibited from serving as an officer of the synagogue, as a member of its board of directors, or as chairman of any permanent or standing committee." Membership decrease. 1965- 440. 1966-437. 1967- 427. 1968- 425. 1969- 393. Efforts to be mad to have more active membership and to reach younger members. Recommended more brotherhood meetings and social functions.

1/21/70- project to increase attendance at minyans at both synagogues. Response to rabbi's letter, requesting more volunteers, had been extremely disappointing. Pleaded

Start of every Day School?

Mikvah

Microphone

women
Sisterhood-
membership

Intermarriage

with directors to attend the minyan. Spirited discussion. Total annual deficit of approx \$10,000. Increase dues or emergency assessment? Joint speaker program called "Maine Omnibus Program." Possibility of addition to Noyes St. building.

2/18/70- Zimel Brothers to come to State Theater on 3/4. "The shul is destitute as of this date." \$100 on books, monthly payroll of \$3800. Short term measures imposed. New dues policy. Plainclothes policeman at High Holidays to enforce ticket policy proposed. More money is needed to cover all expenses of shul and school. Motion made for revival of Bureau of Jewish Education. Could take over schools and lessen burden. Passed. Dore Scharly cancelled because of a storm. OUJCA urged continuation of campaign for Israel. Falasha Rabbi at synagogue talk on 2/8. "Tight" minyan situation. Possibility of sale of Newbury St. There should always be two members of the Synagogue's youth on the board. Weekly study class to be tried.

*Youth
on
Board*

5/6/70- Federation vote- for community Hebrew School.

Report on Hebrew School- Last year of school as a synagogue-school. This year school had 34 children; 24 in Hebrew school and 11 in Sunday School. Children taught under departmentalized system w/ 2 teachers. "Today we look forward to a new era in Jewish education in our city, with all the city unified, working together for the better education of our children."

Omnibus project report- entertainment- "both educational and energizing." Herbert Tarr coming now, author and lecturer, 5/17/70.

Special meeting- Date? 6/7? President spoke about Cantor and Rabbi. Praised rabbi. Asked what we can do for our members and he replied we do the same as other shuls in mass, etc. One spoke against the Junior minyan. One asked for unity. "The rabbi is supported by the Jewish people to make Jewish people Jews. To create the significance of the Jew- my own opinion. To show that Jews can make something of his environment. To advance Jewish person's place in the world and also all peoples. These are the goals of the rabbi. The locals work for betterment of local, the Rabbi works for the betterment of the world. His contribution as a Jew is important and significant. The rabbi represents his people- his place." Suggestion that cantor does more for our members than the rabbi.

*Leftover
goals of
rabbi*

6/7/70- More success in Noyes St. minyan. Choir engaged for Noyes St. High Holidays. Membership down to 385. Bekritsky gave message of encouragement. President suggested a handful of people were doing most of the work. Need to attract young people. Many requests to emphasize the positives.

6/24/70- Mortgage \$11,500. \$150 to rabbi for convention. Exhausted all means to get new members. Suggested that rabbi work with young couples to visit them at their homes. Recommended having their own series, as omnibus attracted only 200 couples.

8/19/1970- Mortgage \$10,000. Rabbi making plans for an adult ed. Institute and sisterhood will help to finance it. Proposal for Etz Chaim members to attend morning minyan at Newbury St. and the opposite for afternoon.

9/23/70- Mortgage \$8,000. Sale of Newbury St. considered and tabled. St. Peters had offered \$30,000. Board members stated new mikvah would first have to be purchased. Rabbi said building cannot be sold until new mikvah is built. Zimmelman said difficulty in Newbury St. morning minyan. Suggested morning at Noyes and evening at Newbury.

Mikvah - Newbury

10/11/70- Meeting called by Rabbi to "outline his duties and future." A crisis had arisen in his life as rabbi after 23 years. In recent months it had become difficult to discharge his duties. "While recognizing that differences may legitimately exist, he felt that his office had been lowered in dignity without cause. He called attention to certain instances which he considered unjustified harassment and which are effecting his personality. He said that certain attitudes on the part of the president had lowered the dignity of his office. He said that if the Congregation does not want him to stay in dignity, he should be allowed to leave in dignity without being made fun or sport of." Needed raise from 11,590 to 15,000, and house in disrepair. Will assume mortgage from Vaad. Rabbi feels harassed by a small group and not the community in general. The people who have criticized the rabbi have been sincere in intention to build and improve synagogue. Word harassment is not entirely accurate. "there is so much friction in the congregation that it is very difficult to enlist the help and efforts of the members on synagogue projects." Decide whether we want to keep the rabbi. Rabbi given vote of confidence 32-3.

Power of Board

Ⓟ

10/18/70- Financially impossible to give raise to rabbi.

11/28/70- Brotherhood breakfast to be held 11/1. Morning minyans to be held at Newbury; evening minyans in both places. Jewish humorist coming 11/15. 18 individuals have agreed to \$100 raise in dues for purpose of Rabbi's salary. Chevra kadisha will also donate. Tabled \$3,500 raise for 5 years. Committee to negotiate.

12/16/70- \$50 to UOJCA "as in previous years." Rabbi's mother died recently in NY. Plan to offer newly arrived Jewish couples dues for \$35 for first year if they meet all requirements. New minyan arrangements working out satisfactorily. Mortgage \$6,000. No conclusion on rabbi's house. The rabbi should not be harassed for harassment's sake. Raise in salary to \$15,000. Tenure of 3 years. Couldn't understand why rabbi, who had never had a contract, was suddenly demanding a 5 year contract. 5 year contract motion defeated.

1/17/71- Hillel Academy can use land for a modular.

1/20/71- Successful breakfast for young couples club on 1/17. Rabbi wants expenses for 1/17 convention (\$100) in Lakewood. Attachment relating to sale of Kosher meats. Consul general of Israel to speak for interfaith clergy council {??}

Israel

2/17/71- Mass meeting relating to Soviet Jewry to be held at JCC 2/21. More defecits. Dues must be raised. Sugegstion of discharging cantor to save \$8,000. Newbury St. boiler must be repaired at cost of \$3,000 Heats water for Mikvah.

*Sover
Jury
Mikvah*

4/4/71- Rabbi upset that terms of the contract have not been carried out. Intimated he may resign. Stated that he would retire as of mid-May because he was not treated justly. Much fighting among directors. Suggestion that Kashrut would be effected if Rabbi left. Resignation was definite. Farewell testimonial to be held.

↳ Carried out this?

5/2/71- Bekritsky to accept a pulpit in Poughkeepsie, NY. To be held 5/11/71. Unity in the Orthodox community was essential at this time. UOJCA recommended \$1,000 for each year of service. Chevra Kadisha inquired if Conservative Rabbi would be ok to officiate at funerals if no Orthodox rabbi.

5/2/71- Decided to give \$5,000, and they would borrow if they had to.

5/19/71- K'ton Ton could use rooms again. Hillel Academy has 16 students. 2 rooms again given to them. Rabbi Sky was not acceptable to be on the synagogue Bimah. Choir to be hired for \$1450. Rabbi from Boston will work with Vaad on Kashrut. Rev. Zimmelman to act as mashgiach. Talk of preserving Newbury St. as a landmark. Tabled motion to move all plaques from Newbury st to Noyes. St.