

Hebrew Synagogue Society (Shaarey Tphiloh Synagogue)
FROM 3 CDs READ BY JERRY SLIVKA

Portland 1/3/1915

No candidates replies for job of Cantor, mohel, and schochet. Nobody will come to Portland as long as Rev. Lebovitz report is still enforced. Given 3 months time to get applications.

1/6/1915

Motion about 3 months time was not passed. Motion to give committee 3 months more time for applications not passed. Application of Lebovitz for another term was accepted.

1/13/15

Still called Hebrew Synagogue Society. 122 votes for Lebovitz, 50 against. Group from Modern Synagogue Society. M Pinansky D Schwartz and M Levine as their committee, addressed the meeting about their society and asked that the directors should collaborate with them to improve the condition of Yiddishkayt in Portland. Committee appointed to meet with their committee to see what can be done.

2/7/15 (track 1, 11:02)

Communication from organization asking them to do a Purim show in the shul accepted- permission given. Kosher Slaughterer should try to straighten out question about some agreement and should go to the rabbi if necessary. Death of Bernard Shalit. To communicate with press and to write into records of the synagogue.

No date. (1, 16:00)

4/8/15 (1,17:35)

Vaad haKashrut should collect from the Vaad Haschita the money to hire cantor at \$11/wk.

5/2/15 (1,20:45)

5/9/15(1,24:15)

5/16/15 (2, 0:00)

Jacob Rosenberg to swear in directors and officers. Election of Gabboin for Hasidim separate.

Communication to B of D of Shaarey Tphiloh.

6/6/15 (2,2:55) Directors of HSS. Vaad HaKashruth committee to raise \$11 for Lebovitz be dissolved. Revered to be under supervision of Vaad Haschita from next Tuesday.

6/13/15 (2, 8:25)

Vaad Haschita will pay Lebovitz \$10/wk for 2 year contract.

7/14/15 (2, 10:15)

David Schwart's seat as a director was declared vacant. Will pay cantor no more than his contract calls for.

8/4/15 (2, 12:38)

Hebrew School given Torah Scroll for the Holidays was granted. Asked the shul to buy \$10 worth of tickets tabled. Passed to ask Vaad haschita to settle with Lebovitz if possible in the next 10 days. Committee appointed to meet with the cantor to settle the claim. Committee appointed to investigate the claim about the salary.

9/5/15 (3, 1:00)

Resignation of D. Schwartz, director and member from 8/10 was accepted. Committee to work with Vaad Haschita wants nothing except to keep his contract with the Shul.

Passed that price of cantors for Hasidim should be the same as it was last year.

Committee of 5 to talk to rabbi and explain that members of shul are asking that the rabbi should decide members of Halakhah for them. Shylis. Committee met with rabbi and he said that he will solve questions. {Indicates that there is some sort of fracture/controversy.}

10/3/(15?) (3, 7:20)

(a threat?) Cantor Lebovitz is suing the shul for \$1,000. The measures were taken to nominate a committee to deal with this problem. Committee of 3. Fee for new members should be \$5 instead of \$10 for the next 3 months.

10/17/15- (3, 12:22)

Hasidic group cantors paid. Committee about lawyer given more time. Charges from D. Albert against Rev. Lebovitz were accepted and turned over to committee to see the lawyer as a committee. Communication from Mr. Albert in which he asked that synagogue should give money to the rabbi was turned over to a committee to report to directors.

D. Albert v. Lebovitz

10/21/15 (3, 15:00)

Meeting to consider giving Lebovitz notice that according to his contract his time will end 1/1916. President not president at this meeting. (in English) "After due consideration by the Board of Directors of the Hebrew Synagogue Society, at a special meeting called for the purpose of which said specific meeting notice was duly given, it was voted by a majority vote taken at said meeting, that Morris Lebotitz is hereby discharged as cantor and mohel of said society for the causes hereafter set forth: 1) Not attending to his duties according to his agreement. 2) Insulting the members of this congregation by performing the services on the bimah, 3) making disturbances in the synagogue, 4) general conduct such as to make him unfit to perform the services as cantor and mohel for this congregation. That a certain alleged agreement heretofore claimed by the said Lebovitz to be enforced in effect between him and the said Hebrew Synagogue Society is hereby cancelled. The said contract is declared null and void, and is hereby declared that said contract is to be terminated in one year from the date thereof. And that notice be served on said Lebotitz with three proceeding the termination of said contract. Said actions being in accordance with paragraph 4 on page 2 of said agreement dated 1/22/1915. {end English}

Power of the Board

(circled symbol)

11/9/15 (3, 19:00)

Regular meeting. A report about the trial with Rev. Lebovitz. Also the notice from cantor Lebovitz... report of Shamus that he had delivered notice of decision of 10/21. Also passed that committee that was appointed for the charges of Cantor Lebovitz should act as a committee about the cantor's appeal to the rabbi. Also passed to give the rabbi \$5 extra for the next 10 weeks.

12/5/15 (3, 22:05)

Request from Talmud Torah and Zionist {something} asks a committee from the synagogue help them to build a new Talmud torah. Committee appointed.

12/26/15 (3, 24:20)

Special meeting to discuss about the actions of the rabbi in giving his decision about the cantor without giving the synagogue a chance to prove their claim. Motion made and seconded to stop the rabbis wages right away and let him know that we will not pay him anymore. Committee of 3 to investigate about this and report at the next meeting.

1/9/15¹⁶⁷ (3, 26:00)

Committee appointed to investigate if he can stop the rabbis salary reported that the board has investigated it and their opinion is that the shul has the right to stop his wages. Jacob Berman accepted as a member. Voted 7-1 to stop the payment of the rabbis salary from a week from next Monday. It was passed to notify the rabbi that the shul will not pay him anymore wages and do not recognize him as the rabbi.

END OF CD#1.

2/6/16 (1, 0:00)

United Hebrew Charities asked for a committee to make peace. Committee made. Hasidim asked for prayerbooks- given to supply committee. President authorized stopping the cantor from going to the binah and chanting al mole rachimim and so forth. Passed that committee should see chevra-tehillim to make arrangements about cash.

3/12/16 (1, 3:10)

Passed to appoint a committee to hire a cantor for Passover. Passed to appoint a comm. To look at a modern rabbi for the shul. Committee → D. Comeras M Bernstein, Yisroal Davis, L Lerner and B Press.

4/9/16 (1, 5:40)

Board of Directors of HSS (Still referred to organization as HSS). Authorized to buy prayerbooks for the Hasidic group. Passed to appoint a committee to meet with the committee from the city about the cantor's settlement. Always end "meeting was closed in peace"

5/7/16 (1, 7:45)

The committee xxx the rabbi was given more time. Passed to pay \$75 to Cantor Lebovitz for Passover.

Passover of the Board

5/7/16 (1, 9:20)

Mass meeting of the Shaarey Tphiloh Synagogue.

5/14/16 (1, 10:45)

Directors elected. 120 ballots cast.

5/18/16 (1, 13:45)

Special meeting to consider about settling the claim with cantor levovitz and not to go to court. It was moved... not to settle and to finish in court. All present voted not to settle and the President and secretary were instructed to end in court.

5/28/16 (1, 15:15)

111 Votes cast to elect officers. Sacknoff elected President B. Press VP unanimously. (111 votes). Max Sacknoff presented with a gold watch.

6/4/16 (1, 17:15)

6/4/16 con't (2, 0:00)

{Corresponds to End of Tape One}. Committee of 5 how to settle.

7/2/16 (2, 5:15)

Accepted to forgive a member his overdue dues and he promised to try to pay regularly. Report from committee about cantor settlement was accepted. Committee appointed to hire cantor for Yom Kippur. Passed to advertise for Cantors. Passed to give back the money that they got for a summons in court. Passed not to accept \$2.12 that the rabbi sent by 6-3 vote. {Can I find corroboration in court documents?}

7/27/16 (2, 9:40)

Passed that Mr. Lebovitz should be notified not to come anymore to the synagogue and the officers and trustees should see to it that he does not come anymore to the synagogue. Committee appointed to discuss the letter that Lebotitz wrote to the officers. Passed not to accept the rabbi/schochet as a rabbi in the synagogue and to take away all his privileges which belong to a rabbi. Passed to take away the 2 seats in front of the Oren Kodesh. Also voted by Yisroel Eisen to ask the Rabbi that the next 30 days should he stop coming. Also passed to notify Jacob Judelshon not to come to shul after 30 days. Committee from the Vaad Haschita and communication asked that we not let him be schochet. Communication accepted and we will see to it that he does not come into the shul.

8/13/16 (2, 12:55)

Committee should advertise for cantors. Passed to buy 100 siddurim. Committee of 3 to look for rabbi was tabled until next meeting.

9/3/16 (2, 15:05)

Hired painter Mr Levy for \$40. Committee about cantors has 2 applications. Committee about rabbi given time until next meeting. Application from Cantor Manchester for

Part of the Board.

\$25/wk salary for 3 years accepted, application from Cantor Kaplan for 1 year \$17/wk was accepted. Also passed to have election of cantors 9/4. Appropriation of \$20 for morning holiday chanter for Hasidim (Baal Shachris). Also passed to give the Zionists a Torah scroll for the high holidays.

? Could this be Temple Israel?

9/4/16 (2, 18:35)

Mass meeting of members to elect a cantor. Election- 65 votes cast. Kaplan received 62, Manchester received 3. Cantor Kaplan elected as a Cantor.

9/17/16 (2, 19:40)

Special meeting of directors of the board of HSS. Questions discussed: Election of Cantor Hoffman? approved. Cantor Kaplan should get \$7/wk from the shul. Committee appointed to make a contract with Cantor Kaplan. Voted to lend Kaplan \$60. Communication from Jacob Rosenberg in which he asked for a scroll was tabled until next meeting.

10/1/16 (2, 21:55)

resignation of Jacob Rosenberg director and member was tabled. Committee appointed to investigate.

11/4/16 (2, 24:15) **GET ORIGINAL**

Committee appointed to see what happened in Shul. Haim Simansky and B. Reuter? were suspended as members.

END OF DISC 2

DISC 3 NOT WORKING

SWITCH TO MICROCASSETTES

Microcassette #3

12/10/16- Paid \$28.50 to Maine General Hospital for Cantor Kaplan. \$350 loan taken out. Committee about hiring someone to bring a grand piano said they had found someone to do the work. Committee formed to write about a rabbi.

1/7/17- Committee of 5 to settle with Cantor Kaplan for not more than \$300. Same committee should look for another cantor. Meeting as usual closed in peace.

2/14/17- Regular meeting of directors of HSS. Payment to Comeras for something to Kaplan. Settled with Rev. Kaplan for \$300.

3/4/17- Election for Cantor for the synagogue. Mr. Illegible from Hartford, Rev. Howe from New Bedford, Mr. Siegal from Rochester, Mr Kaplan from Toronto. Mr. Manchester from Fall River. Passed to give rev Kaplan \$25 in expenses. Passed to interview 2 more cantors and then have elections.

136 votes

3/25/17- Special meeting of directors to approve election of Cantor Rachov. 136 votes cast, Rachov 91 votes. Elected cantor for next 2 years. Passed that the synagogue should pay \$8/wk to Mr. Rachov. Committee appointed to make a contract with Rachov.

3/25/17- Mass meeting of the Jews of Portland was held in the Synagogue of Shaarey Tphiloh under leadership of Mr. Sacknoff. Rackoff elected as Schochet for the city for next 2 years.

4/1/17- HSS Board of directors. Passed to buy Talesim and caps for the boys who are singing with the cantor. Charges of B Press against Babkind? turned over to a committee.

4/19/17- Special meeting of BofD of HSS. Passed to accept contract with Rachov. Passed not to sign contract until we are convinced that the rumors about his character are not true.

Clearly many are alienated { 5/6/17- Meeting of members of ST to nominate directors. Everyone that is a member in the synagogue may use out cantor and ritual slaughterer and mohel and if not he loses any benefits he might have as a synagogue member. A member who is against the synagogue cannot hold office in our synagogue. Only when a member has a reasonable excuse he should report the thing to the president from the synagogue. Strangers who are against the synagogue we deal with the board of directors to deal with. Signed by full committee. }

5/6/17- Regular meeting BofD. Bill for \$18 boys for singing with the cantor. Passed to give \$3 to Jewish Congress. Passed to accept the flag of the pine tree lodge and committee appointed to arrange the flag raising.

Newspaper article?

5/13/17- Election for directors. Nominations for offices. Only Sacknoff for President.

5/20/17- Election for officers. 94 ballots cast for President M. Sacknoff. L. Lerner VP 69 votes.

5/20/17- Special meeting to install new directors and officers.

6/19/17- Regular monthly meeting of BofD of HSS. Rachov asked for expenses to come to Portland. Paid \$50. Resignation of Shamus, and committee to take applications. M. Sacknoff appointed as committee of one to look for permanent secretary.

7/3/17- Regular meeting BofD HSS. J. Rodman withdraws resignation. Will discuss later. Application for (new member?) not accepted. Rodman situation discussed and will be decided at next meeting. Committee to make rules and regulations about the Shamus job.

8/8/17- Regular monthly meeting. Passed to settle bill with Rodman. Passed to accept communication with Rodman in which he cancels his resignation. Passed to give Rev.

rik?
Rachov the permission to write on Shabbos to Lewiston? {Possibly misunderstood-CHECK} Committee to hire cantor for Hasidic synagogue and for high holidays. Passed to tax every member 50 cents for a double ticket for the high holidays. High Holidays Ticket Prices Men \$5, \$3, \$2.50, \$1.50. Ladies \$4, \$3, \$2.50, \$1.50, \$1. Cost \$6 to bury tom prayerbooks. Committee to meet with Talmud Torah Committee.

8/21/17- Special meeting. To consider about the rumors circulating in town that Rachov is leaving town. Passed to call him and to explain if rumors have any basis. He explained that he accepted position in Brockton and is ready to leave. Rachov asked for time until 12noon tomorrow to give an answer.

8/22/17- Special meeting. Rachov says he is ready to leave in Portland because he thinks Brockton is a much better place and he is getting more money. But if Portland will give him 2 years \$25/wk plus other income he will stay. Passed to give him \$15/wk from shul and \$10 from Vaad Haschita. Passed to give him a security bond. 2 year agreement. Meeting adjourned.

9/6/17- Committee voted to pay burial expenses. Committee to take tickets and show people where to sit down. Committee to buy Essrogim. Committee to find a financial secretary. Passed to approve new Chevra Kadisha from Shul Shaarey Tphiloh.

9/11/17- Special meeting. Passed to reconsider about Cantor Rachov's bond. Charges of M Sacknoff against JD Aronson accepted and turned over to a committee. Sale of seats to other members approved. Meeting adjourned in peace.

10/9/17- Regular meeting. L. Lerman? VP or Lerner? Cantor Rachov paid \$195. Committee to see Matson about building. President will take action against directors who miss 3 meetings in a row.

10/21/17- City meeting held in Shaarey Tphiloh synagogue under the President presidfing Morris Sacknoff. Motion made that Synagogue Shul should engage a rabbi at Shaarey Tphiloh. A vote should be taken from only people who belong. 105 Votes were cast, 81 yes, 23 no, 1 blank. Passed to hire a rabbi. Also passed that communication for a fitting rabbi for this congregation. President gave word of honor that tomorrow morning he would announce names of this committee.

11/3/17- Regular meeting. Committee about Matson's building is progressing but need more time.

11/xx/17- This report was crossed out. A spcial meeting was held 11/20 to consider about peace with the rabbi. After a long debate we came to the conclusion to give the rabbi \$12/wk or more if he'll give up the rabbinate and wont have any more claims to the Portland rabbinate. Passed by everybody. Committee to meet with the rabbi. Then written in Yiddish, "the whole thing is cancelled."

Power of the Board

105 votes.

Power of Board