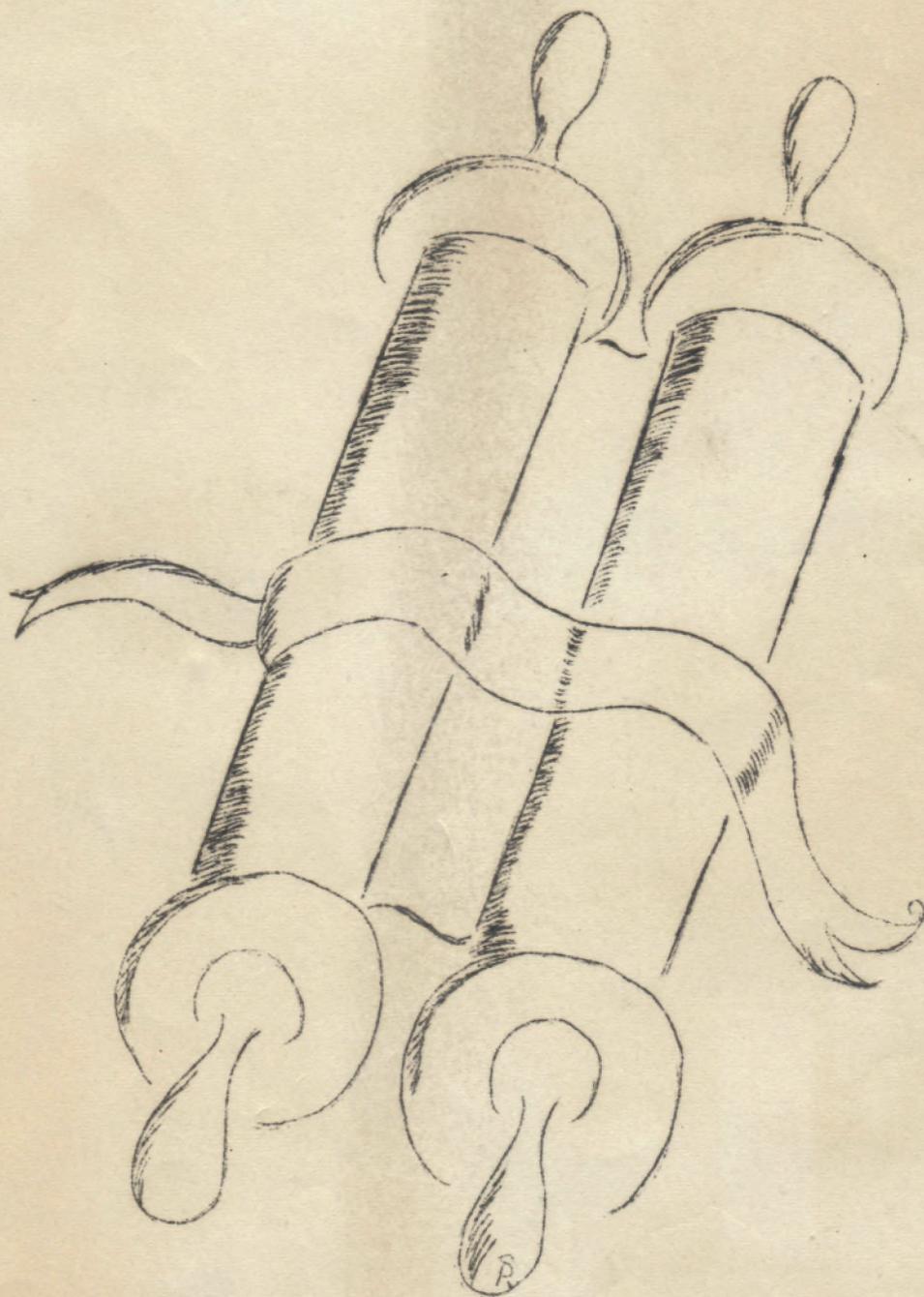


TEMPLE BETH EL
HEBREW SCHOOL ANNUAL
VOL IV



The Torah is Our Tree of Life

To Our Children

Dear Students:

As the school year draws to a close, I find it hard to believe that I have been here with you less than four months. It feels as though we left Texas years ago, and not just months ago. In the time that I have been here, I have gotten to know many of you, and I hope that soon I will know all of you. I have been tremendously impressed by the really beautiful Junior Congregation Services and by the wonderful singing of the Junior Choir. From visiting in your classes, I have been able to get a good idea of how fine a school we have, and I want to tell you that we have plans for next year to make the school even better.

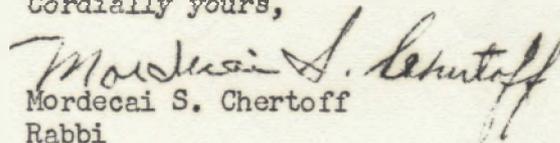
One of the things you did this year as students of our school, which made me very proud of you, was your taking part in the Federation Drive. You set a wonderful example for the adults right here in Portland and for Jewish school children all over the country.

You know that we have been growing steadily and next year we will have more than 200 students attending classes. It means that we will have that many more children to work with in running our Hanukkah and Purim and Passover celebrations, which means, of course, that much more fun.

For next year we are planning to have some wonderfully exciting new books. We are all sorry to see Mr. Corn leave and we know that it will not be easy to find a teacher to take his place, but we are already looking, and we are sure that by the time you come back, after a Summer of fun, we will have a new teacher here to greet you and work with you. We are planning to make next year as interesting, as exciting and as successful as this year has been, and we know that in making our plans, we can count on your help.

On behalf of the Officers, the Board of Directors, the members of the Hebrew School Committee, as well as myself, I want to extend to you our best wishes for a very pleasant Summer. We look forward to your return in the Fall for another wonderful year of learning and fun.

Cordially yours,


Mordecai S. Chertoff
Rabbi

Farewell Message

Dear Students:

It is with profound grief that I take my departure from you and from the Temple Beth El Hebrew School. I will miss the many pleasant hours we spent together in study and discussions. I will miss our Junior Congregation Services, our carnivals and parties. I will miss the happy and smiling faces of the children whom I have seen growing up not only physically but also in Jewish knowledge and Jewish attitudes. I will miss the satisfaction a teacher derives when his pupils know their lessons. Yes, I will even miss reprimanding and scolding you whenever it was necessary. I will miss it all very much.

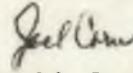
You all recall the story about our great Rabbi and teacher Hillel, who was approached by a heathen and asked to be taught the entire Torah while standing on one foot. I am not a "Hillel" and cannot accomplish such a feat. But, I will try to sum up my three years' teachings in a few sentences:

- 1) Have the courage to perform the duties which our religion teaches us.
- 2) Be not ashamed of the fact of being a Jewish child - on the contrary be proud of belonging to the most ancient race in the world.
- 3) Make it your aim in life to do all that is honorable, and never do anything which is dishonest, of which you may be ashamed.

- 4) Let it be your object in life to be a credit to your parents who have so anxiously and tenderly brought you up.
- 5) Set it as your aim in life to become a good and loyal citizen of these United States to which you have the privilege to belong.
- 6) Strive to be a good man and a good Jew and your life will be a blessing.

May G-D bless you and be with you always. May you grow up to be sound in body, sound in mind and sound in Judaism - a pride and an honor to your parents, your teachers, your people and Temple Beth El. Amen!

L'Hitraot



Rabbi Joel Corn, Editor

Dear Students:

It has been the consensus of opinion that strong leadership is most essential for the progress and effective results of the successful school that we have in Temple Beth El. Although this is necessary, I feel that the academic structure in relation to our religious service has far more importance.

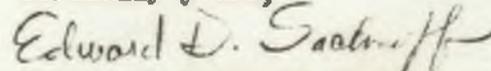
This past year's review of events speaks for itself. The observation of the high standards of technical academic proficiency in your classroom and group participation, as well as the Bar Mitzvah and Confirmation services, has inflated our pride. You are the future leaders of Temple Beth El and Portland Jewry.

The Childrens' Edition of the Bulletin has always been a source of revelation to all of us. I feel extremely proud of our Hebrew School's constant growth--physically, spiritually and academically. Without the combined efforts of the Rabbi, faculty, school board and students this progress would not be ours. Their concentrated efforts and cooperation have been our policy and I am confident it will continue.

The power and prestige that we have established in the Jewish education absorbed by our students has been a most commendable feat. May you, our children, be inspired with the desire to pursue with an unquenchable thirst for knowledge the faith of our glorious religion. This is justly yours by virtue of your birthright. This knowledge will prove its worth time and again in the future, giving you a well rounded education in conjunction with your outside course of study. Such a foundation will encourage you toward a way of life, bringing honor and pride to your parents, teachers and community.

Mrs. Sacknoff joins me in wishing you and your families a joyous and healthful Summer. Carry on!

Cordially yours,



Edward D. Sacknoff, President

Dear Students:

Sincere congratulations to the pupils and faculty for the successful 4th year of our school. We started 4 years ago with 50 pupils and the enrollment has increased each year. We are happy to inform you that 205 students have already registered for the next Fall opening.

As I recall my own Hebrew school days I cannot help but marvel at the advantages you children enjoy today, as compared to those which your parents had when they attended their Hebrew School.

You have modern class rooms that are well lighted and ventilated, the most up-to-date desks and chairs. You have your own Junior Congregation, led by your own Cantor, choir and leader. You also have your own holiday programs which are not only greatly enjoyed by yourselves, but by many parents and friends who attend your programs in large numbers. The boys enjoy greater participation in the Bar Mitzvah services, but the girls have really made the greatest gains in their religious life. From practically non-recognition in religious activities, to almost equal participation, plus the beautiful and highly spiritual Confirmation services. Nearly all of

these advantages were not enjoyed by any children in the City of Portland previous to the establishment of Temple Beth El.

Your study of the Bible, in both English and Hebrew, makes the understanding of that wonderful Book much more meaningful and lends for greater appreciation in your daily life.

All of the above advantages that you now enjoy should make for a happier and more contented Jewish life after you graduate from our school.

In behalf of the entire School Committee, I wish you a most happy and restful Summer vacation.

Cordially yours,

Lewis H. Kriger

Lewis H. Kriger, Chairman
Hebrew School Board of Education

To My Pupils at Beth El Hebrew School:

Do some of you still remember your first day at Hebrew School? It was a lovely Sunday morning, the doors of the Temple were wide open and soon we were comfortably seated in the brand-new big chairs, some of us very happy, many of us - including myself - just a tiny little bit scared, but all of us excited and eager to learn all about Jewish life and what it means to be a good American and, on top of it, a good, cultured and educated Jew.

Before we knew it, the first ninety minutes were gone, the first Hebrew letters easily recognized, and proudly we streamed out of class to tell our parents of the delightful time we had with this new, strange and beautiful language. And we told them that "Shalom Abo" means "Hello Daddy" and that Shalom spells peace and Hebrew School...Fun! Indeed, we could hardly bear to wait for another day to come - another hour filled with the sound of new words, old and wonderful stories, an hour we would not have liked to miss.

All this happened a long, long time ago. Four years ago. About 500 times we attended Hebrew School. Imagine: Five hundred times ninety minutes gave us 45,000 minutes of Hebrew education. We - yes, all of us - have studied hard and earnestly. And now, finally, a grand time of leisure, of relaxation, of swimming, playing and hiking will take the place of school and studies. The sun, the mountains, the beaches and God's exciting nature will lend us strength and vigor to face a new year of rich experience and earnest learning.

Until we meet again, Shalom and my very best wishes.

Cordially yours,

Ernest Braun

Ernest Braun

To the Pupils of Temple Beth El:

Warm weather is with us, Confirmation ceremonies have been completed and your thoughts are now turning to Summer vacation and the fun you will have at camp, beaches, picnic grounds, etc. Before closing your books, however, and calling it quits to the school year now ending, take a moment to look back over your record at the Temple during the past nine months.

Some of you who have taken your Hebrew learning seriously, can look back with pride at your accomplishments. You now know much more about your people, its history, language, culture and religion than you did, last September. This increased knowledge has endeared to your hearts the Jewish heritage handed down to all of us by our forefathers. You look forward happily to resuming your Jewish studies and to rejoining your teachers and classmates, next Fall.

There are others among you, however, who cannot share in this sense of pride. These pupils failed to apply themselves, complained about small homework assignments, enjoyed disturbing their neighbors and their teachers, and have learned, as a result, little more than they already knew, a year ago.

To which group do you belong? I hope you can answer to yourself: "I belong to the first group. I've learned much this year and haven't spent my class time annoying the teacher or my classmates."

If, on the other hand, you must answer that you belong to the second group, don't just say you're sorry and let it go at that. Make a resolution that after this Summer your school record will change for the better, that you're going to be counted among the good students a year from now and will be a source of pride and joy to yourself, your teachers, and your parents. You will be, thereby, a better Jew.

God bless you all and keep you well, until we meet again.

Cordially yours,

Edward Weisberg
Edward Weisberg

Dear Students:

A famous man once said: "Youth is a wonderful thing, but it is always wasted on young people who don't know how to use it. If young people could only learn from the experience of older people, they would not repeat their mistakes."

We Jews are a very old people. Everything we have learned for thousands of years has been written down in our holy books. And from the beginning we have always taught these wonderful things to our children. Those who learned well were always happy. But there were many who never learned when they had the chance.

When these people grew older, they began to realize what they had missed. They wished for another chance. You may have heard older people say: "I wish I had the chance to go to school again." But they can't bring the years back.

You have that chance now. If you use it well, you will never complain about a wasted youth.

Cordially yours,

Benjamin Band
Benjamin Band

Dear Students:

Looking back at our musical activities during the past year, I want to thank my Bar Mitzvah students for their cooperation and response without which I would not have been able to solve a problem which actually does not exist. This seems paradoxical, doesn't it?

Well - let me try to explain. Many of you learn to play an instrument. But don't forget that there is a universal musical instrument with which everyone is born and which is almost without exception available through a lifetime--the human voice. Do you know that some children can carry a tune before they are able to talk? On the other hand, there is much argument about "monotones" - those people who seem unable to change pitch at all when attempting to sing - and I remember very well a few of you boasting - two years ago when I became your cantor - that they "couldn't even carry a tune"; on the occasion of their Bar Mitzvah, however, they did very well. This proves what has been absolutely proved that "monotones" can be cured, by patiently developing their ears, but only because there is no such thing as a person who consistently and permanently sings out of tune. No reason, therefore, for next year's Bar Mitzvah boys or their parents to worry.

In connection with our Bar Mitzvah - and Confirmation - Services, it is a real pleasure for me to extend my warmest thanks and congratulations to the members of our Junior Choir; I am proud of you and so is everybody who listened to your fine performances, I am sure.

But aside from our "semi-professional" work as a choir we make music in our Hebrew School to enjoy it in fellowship with others which is to teach you not only to sing, but eventually to live harmoniously with others. As Jewish children you will be unhappy unless you have the feeling of belonging to a Jewish group which our Temple and its Hebrew School can give you.

Music is the international, human language, but Jewish music is a language deeply felt and fully understood only by the Jewish heart. May its beauty help you children develop into well-balanced personalities with a deepening appreciation of our music and our people.

Enjoy your summer vacation with fun and play, and return with renewed strength and enthusiasm to new Jewish experiences!

Cordially yours,

Kurt Messerschmidt

Kurt Messerschmidt
Cantor

HONOR ROLL

The following are the recipients of the Annual Temple Beth El Sisterhood prizes for outstanding scholarship, conduct and attitude throughout the years:

- | | | | |
|------|-------------------|-------|------------------|
| IA- | Elaine Merdek | IIC- | Paul Lewis |
| IB- | Leon Ross | IIIA- | Glenn Rapoport |
| IIA- | Barbara Silverman | IIIB- | Stephanie Gerber |
| IIB- | Edward Schultz | IVC- | Gloria Berman |

The following are the recipients of Certificates for Excellence in their Studies throughout the year:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|-------|---|
| IA- | Elaine Merdek
Margaret Glen
Antia Gottschalk
Cary N. Mack
Cynthia Potter
Nancy Sax
Philip Simonds
Judith Weiner | IIC- | Paul Lewis
Joyce Miller |
| IB- | Nancy Bogg
Harriet Caplan
Pamela Drogin
Gail Fineberg
Leslie Hirshon
Richard Rosenblatt
Leon Ross
Michael Smith
Roberta Yormack | IIIA- | Glenn Rapoport
Judith Berlowitz
David Blumenthal
Phyllis Gerber
Julie Karlik
Philip Levy |
| IIA- | Barbara Silverman
Joan Berman
Richard Cohen
Richard Lerman
Marshall Mack | IIIB- | Gene Cohen
Elaine Crasnick
Stephanie Gerber
Linda Glen
George Shur
Joan Taylor
Judith Wernick
Stephen Willis
Debora Zolov |
| IIB- | Joyce Finkelstein
Marjorie Goldberg
Elliott Lerman
Edward Schultz | IVA- | David Finkelstein
Stephen Joachim |
| <u>High School Dept:</u> | Lania Elowitch
Martin Garon
Richard Slosberg
Michael Rubinoff | IVB- | Norman Bress
Cynthia Rudek
Alan Merdek
Leonard Slosberg |
| | | IVC- | Gloria Berman
Barbara Blumenthal
Betty Kraus
Ronald Mack
Randolph Modes
Stephen Novick |

HONOR ROLL (Cont.)

The following have been awarded Certificates for Regularity in Attendance throughout the year (less than 5 absences):

IA-	Philip Simonds	IIIA-	Julie Karlik
IB-	Nancy Bogg		Philip Levy
	Erwin Brilliant		Glenn Repoport
	Harriet Caplan	IIIB-	Allan Lempert
	Leslie Hirshon		Joyce Levine
	Richard Rosenblatt		David Patter
IIA-	Jonathan Lepoff		Bruce Schatz
	Marshall Mack		George Shur
IIB-	Joyce Finkelstein		Deborah Zolov
	Marlene Goldberg	IVA-	David Finkelstein
	Robert Goldberg	IVB-	Norman Bress
	Elliott Lerman		Cynthia Rudek
	Edward Schultz	IVC-	Gloria Berman
IIC-	Harvey Elowitch		Ronald Mack
			Stephen Novick
			Norman Stern

High School Dept.

Linda Elowitch	Michael Rubinoff
Gordan Simonds	Joyce Hyman
Richard Slosberg	Martin Garon
Beverly Potter	Donna Levenson
Lee Brooks	Patricia Davidson

The following students have been awarded prizes for having a perfect attendance record at Junior Congregation Services throughout the year:

IA-	Charles Blumenthal	IIIA-	David Blumenthal
	Elaine Merdek		Gerald Levine
IB-	Stephen Goodman		Philip Levy
IIA-	Joan Berman	IIIB-	Allan Lempert
	Jonathan Lepoff		Bruce Schatz
	Richard Lerman	IVA-	Roberta Gitrin
	Marshall Mack		David Finkelstein
	Susan Sacknoff		Bonnie Godfrey
	Robert Slosberg		Alan Levine
IIB-	Marlene Goldberg	IVB-	Alan Merdek
	Joyce Finkelstein		Cynthia Rudek
IIC-	Harvey Elowitch		Leonard Slosberg
	Ellen Godfrey		William Webber
	Joyce Miller	IVC-	Ronald Mack

The following students have been awarded Certificates for having attended 80% or more of the Junior Congregation Services:

Marlene Baker	Linda Glen
Robert Brooks	Elliot Lerman
James Baker	Richard Mack
James Burns	Michael Sacknoff
Gene Cohen	Edward Schultz
Elaine Crasnick	George Shur
Gerald Garon	Stephen Willis
Phyllis Gerber	Harriet Zade

Deborah Zolov

The Rabbi, faculty and members of the Hebrew School Board wish to extend their Congratulations to the students whose names are listed above.

We hope that during the course of the next year, we shall be able to list many more children for excellence in scholarship and regularity in attendance at our Hebrew School and Junior Congregation.

From Our Children

Our Hebrew School

I like Hebrew School very much. I like the songs we sing and the stories about Moses, Jacob, Esau, Abraham, Joshua, Isaac and others. Hebrew School is a place to learn how to read, write and other things that are worth learning.

Gail Fineburg - IB

Sometimes I like Hebrew School, sometimes I don't. When I like Hebrew School, I enjoy it very much. I come almost every Saturday to the Services. I have only been absent from Hebrew School two times and I have only been late for Hebrew School once and that proves that I really like Hebrew.

Marlene Goldberg - IIB

David was well again. He had a bad case of scarlet fever and spent five long weeks in bed. And now, his first day back in school, Bob had invited him to come to his camp on Lake Wabash for the weekend. They were to leave Friday after school and return Sunday night.

David came home from school quickly to ask his mother if he could go with Bob. "Have you forgotten you are supposed to sing the most important solo of the Service Friday night?", asked his mother. "Well, I hadn't thought about that.", said David. "But, if they could do without me for five weeks, somebody else could sing the solo." "But I told everybody you were going to sing the solo and I would be greatly disappointed if you didn't." his mother replied. "Think about it, David, I hope you will make the right decision."

David slowly picked up the phone and dialed Bob's number. Bob answered, asking him if he could go or not. David slowly replied, "I can't, Bob. You see, I want to sing in the choir Friday night."

George Shur - IIIB

Our Holidays

SUCCOTH

When the Jews left Egypt, Moses led them in the desert for forty years. They built little booths which were called succoths. They decorated them with green leaves and fruit. Every year at this time we build succoths and decorate them with green leaves and fruit. We eat all our meals in them.

On the last night we go to our holy synagogue and march around with the holy Torah and with flags. We receive bags of candy and fruit.

Marshall Stephen Mack - IIA

CHANUKAH

Chanukah is called the Festival of Lights. For eight days we light the candles at sunset. The youngest child of the family says the blessing. It was at this time of the year that the Jews won their first great fight for religious freedom. For three years the Temple in Jerusalem was in the hands of the enemy. The Temple was cleaned, a new altar built and a large Menorah was lit.

On Chanukah parties are held, special Chanukah goodies are served. This is the time when people give to the poor and exchange gifts.

Barbara Silverman - IIA

Chanukah is the holiday when we light candles. We also give and get presents and have a jolly time. The congregation goes to the social hall and sing songs and have a candle lighting service.

Chanukah is a joyous holiday of song and prayer. We learn all about Chanukah in Hebrew School. The light burned for eight days, so we light candles in memory of our

forefathers. At our house, we take turns lighting the candles. We have a wonderful time.

Robert Slosberg - IIA

PASSOVER

Passover is the Jewish festival of freedom. It is celebrated at the time of the first full moon of Spring. It begins on the fifteenth day of Nisan.

Passover takes its name from the sparing of the eldest sons of the Hebrews on the evening before their flight from Egypt.

The Passover feast has been celebrated by Jewish families in the same manner for thousands of years. The youngest child asks the Four Questions, or the meaning of Passover, and the Father explains it.

We have a Seder. Do you?

Joan Berman - IIA

My story has to do with the first Seder night. Mother was getting the supper ready, and I was putting the table in the living room. We were all getting ready for the Seder. We sat down at the table and opened our Prayer Books. My father started off the Prayers and we all joined in. After we got through with the Prayers we all started to eat. After we finished our dinner, we opened our Prayer Books and finished the Prayers. Then we had a glass of wine and that ended our Seder.

Mark Troubh - IB

Bas Mitzvah

There is more to a Bas Mitzvah than parties, new clothes, and receiving gifts. It should mean more to you than sitting on the stage the night of your Bas Mitzvah and saying a prayer. What is important is to know what that prayer means, to understand that on this day you are a woman not only in body, but also in mind and soul. It should be understood why your Bas Mitzvah is so important.

What impressed me most about the Confirmation was the sermonettes. It was not merely reading words from a piece of paper, but what they said came from their hearts. They did not just go to Hebrew School so that they could have this Confirmation. They went so that they could learn more about Judaism and the life of the Jews.

Bonnie Godfrey - IVA