Dedication

of

Beth Israel Synagogue



and

Abraham M. Hains Community Center

"And let them make Me a Sanctuary that I may dwell among them." Exodus 25:8



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Dedication Program

FRIDAY - MARCH 28, 1958 Sabbath Service - Beth Israel Synagogue -Rabbi N. Steinberg - 8:00 p.m.

Historical Review

Oneg Shabbat - Home of Mr. and Mrs. D. Gray

SATURDAY - MARCH 29, 1958

Sabbath Service8:00 a.m.Beth Israel Sisterhood Ball - 9:00 to 12:00 p.m.Hains Community Center - Music by Al Corey

Robert Levine

Harvey Sterns

DEDICATION SERVICE SUNDAY - MARCH 30, 1958 - 2:30 P. M.

Theodore Alfond

Louis Chesner

Procession of Scrolls from old Synagogue

Affixing of Mezzuzah Opening of Portals Reading of Opening Psalm Procession of Torahs to the Altar

Opening of the Ark Reading of Psalms Vocal Selection Prayer before Closing Ark Kindling of Eternal Light Blessing Presentation of Building to Congregation Acceptance of Building Presentation of Sacred Articles Greetings Sisterhood Message Acceptance of building on behalf of youth Anthem Dedicatory Address Closing Remarks

Henry Jacobson Harold Alfond Rabbi Steinberg **Barnet** Jolovitz Harry Silver Meyer Rosenthal Samuel Wein George Chesner Rabbi Rabbi Norman Zdanowitz Rabbi Steinberg George Sterns **Rabbi Steinberg and Congregation** Saul Mandell - Co-Chairman, Bldg. Com. David Gray — President Abraham Sacks Guest Rabbis and other dignitaries Mrs. Philip Rosenthal **Robert Hains** Rabbi Zdanowitz Rabbi Morris Schussheim

Rabbi Steinberg

Rabbi Steinberg

Guests and Congregation will reassemble downstairs for dedication of the Abraham M. Hains Community Center

DEDICATION COMMITTEE

USHERS

PROGRAM PLANNING

ROGRAM PLANNING

David Gray Benjamin Hains Jacob Jackler

Benediction

Harry Leibman Mrs. Philip Rosenthal Mrs. Burton Shiro DEDICATION BOOK

Howard Miller Mrs. David Gray Herbert Sterns Mrs. Herbert Sterns Mrs. Gordon Wolman

Lester Jolovitz

Robert Mandell Howard Miller Samuel Shapiro Oren Shiro Herbert Sterns Gordon Wolman



Rabbi's Message

The entire membership of Beth Israel Congregation is to be congratulated upon this joyous occasion of the dedication of our new synagogue. Long have we awaited this day and the feelings of great accomplishment and satisfaction overwhelm us all.

Now that we have reached our goal, achieved our "peace of mind," some of us might wish to sit back and rest complacently in the knowledge of a job well done. But paradoxically enough, that peace which we all seek is not synonymous with quiet and inactivity, but rather with noise and dynamic living. Man is a creative being and can

only be happy in constant production and everlasting challenge. If he ceases in this struggle for one moment, then he ceases to live as one G-d ordained to live, created in His image.

The physical structure of our synagogue is complete and will remain adequate for our needs for many years to come. The path has been cleared toward our spiritual improvement and growth. The law of diminishing returns applies to the acquisition of material things. New possessions do not thrill us so much after we have amassed more than we can use. But the contrary is true with matters of the spirit and it should be rightly called "The Law of Increasing Returns." With each added improvement of character the being becomes ennobled and is spurred on to ever higher goals of achievement. Our quest to imitate G-d is never-ending and provides us with ever-increasing satisfaction in our aim to become more godlike.

The obstacles that were before us in our attempt to worship the divine in an imposing structure of beauty have been removed. Nothing in the way of improvements or additions can be suggested to enhance its effectiveness. We should therefore now concentrate on spiritual aims and endeavor to make our synagogue a religious center where we will be charged and instructed in the eternal values of our tradition. We must view this milestone that we have passed as an opportunity toward achieving greater personal development and rewarding religious experience. The challenge of a material goal we have successfully met and overcome. May we now accept the ever-present spiritual challenge that lies ahead and strive always toward the ultimate purpose of our initial task — that of human betterment.

May the Lord be with us all and may we always be aware of His presence.

Amen.

President's Message



David Gray

The dedication of our new Synagogue-Center is at once a joyous and a solemn occasion.

There is rejoicing in what is new and beautiful; in having achieved a place of dignity for our worship; in realizing facilities for educational, religious, and social contact. Here we belong not only to each other as friends and fellow-members, but we belong also to our four thousand years of tradition.

By membership in a Synagogue we attach ourselves to the lofty goals of Judaism, treasured by our fathers and cherished by those to follow. Now we become more aware of our responsibilities as a group; each has a very definite part to take in what happens here because it represents the heart of the Jewish Community.

As we dedicate this building, let us pray to the Almighty that He guide us and inspire us to the successful culmination of our plans and hopes for our Synagogue and Center.

Past Presidents

PHILIP LEVINE — 1905 ABRAHAM MAGULSKY MOSES RUDMAN NATHAN BELOFSKY



LEWIS WOLMAN



HYMAN ROSENTHAL



JOSEPH WOLMAN 1919 - 1921



LEWIS J. ROSENTHAL 1922



WILLIAM SELTZER 1925 - 1928

Past Presidents



BARNET JOLOVITZ 1928 - 1930



SAMUEL WEIN 1930 - 1947



HENRY JACOBSON 1947 - 1954



AARON LEVINE 1954 - 1955



BENJAMIN HAINS 1955 - 1956



History of the Beth Israel Congregation

Shortly after the turn of the century, in the days of the horse and wagon and the itinerant peddler, seven men of the Jewish faith settled in Waterville. These men, who earned their livlihood by peddling various wares, soon were faced with the need to band together in an effort to foster Judaism for themselves and their families. The Beth Israel Congregation was chartered June 16, 1902.

These seven founding fathers included Julius Levine, William Levine, Louis Wolman, John Paikowsky, Phillip Levine, Moses Silver and John Williams.

Their ultimate goal was to build a House of Worship for the Jewish residents of Waterville, Before this dream could become reality, however, they found it necessary to conduct religious services at various private homes in the community. High Holy Day Services were conducted at Hose No. 4 Fire Station on Ticonic Street.

On August 21, 1903, a barn, situated on the corner of Kelsey and Ticonic Streets, was purchased by the Congregation. This barn was dismantled, and by securing additional new lumber, work was begun on the new building. The project was accomplished under the direction and guidance of Mr. Charles Fitzgerald of Winslow.

In 1905, the Beth Israel Synagogue on Kelsey Street was completed. This was unique in that it was wholly supported from dues of members, which at that time, were ten cents a week, or \$5.00 per year.

There was a substantial mortgage however, and twenty years later, in 1925, the balance of the mortgage was paid by William Levine, in memory of his son Theodore N. Levine.

Mr. Moses Silver, who emigrated to Waterville in 1900, became the first "Shochet" or ritual slaughterer, even before the completion of the Synagogue. Mr. Hyman L. Shenson became the spiritual leader in the years that followed until about 1914, at which time there was a succession of different rabbis. In 1921, Reverend Abraham M. Hains arrived in Waterville, and remained as spiritual leader, unit! his death in 1953. Rabbi David P. Prince succeeded Rev. Hains in 1954, and left Waterville to accept a pulpit in Ambridge, Pennsylvania.

Out of the growth of the Jewish population in Waterville after World war II, there again rose a need, both physical and aesthetic, for a larger and more modern place of worship.

In June, 1957, building was begun on the present structure. This was done as a result of the dynamic leadership of Mr. David Gray, president of the Congregation, the Board of Directors, and their capable committees. Through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Alfond, the present edifice stands at the corner of Main and Kelsey Streets. This was completed in March of 1958.

Rabbi Nathaniel Steinberg now leads Beth Israel Congregation. He serves well in all duties and functions that his title connotes. May we, in Waterville, continue to prosper under the able leadership of Rabbi Steinberg, and look forward to many more years of tutelage and inspiration from him.



REVEREND ABRAHAM M. HAINS

For 32 years, Reverend Hains was the spiritual leader of the Jewish community in Waterville. He officiated as rabbi, teacher, and cantor. He was renowned and respected throughout the state of Maine for his devotion to all worthy causes. He served as President of the Zionist Organization, and was active in the Jewish National Fund and the United Jewish Appeal.

Reverend Hains is remembered, above all, for his humility, understanding, and devoted loyalty to the community. In tribute to his memory, the social hall of Beth Israel Synagogue building is to be known as the Abraham M. Hains Community Center.

Corner Stone Laying Ceremony



HAROLD ALFOND

DAVID GRAY HON. CLINTON CLAUSON FRIDAY, AUGUST 23, 1957

PROGRAM

Anthems: AMERICA HATIKVAH

Welcome

Invocation

Greetings of Beth Israel Sisterhood Greetings-Greater Waterville

Ministerial Association

Hymn

Message

Greetings

Palestinian Melodies Placing of Cornerstone and Remarks Benediction Acknowledgment of Building Committee Hallelujah Camp Lown Chorus and Assembly

David Gray-President Rabbi David P. Prince Mrs. Philip Rosenthal Rev. Robert Ingraham

Dov Lusterman and Camp Lown Chorus Mayor Clinton A. Clauson Rev. John I. Daniel - pastor, Universalist - Unitarian Church Camp Lown Chorus Harold Alfond Rabbi David P. Prince Howard Miller, (program chairman) Chorus "We have come into thy sanctuary to commune with Thee. Give purpose to our work, meaning to our struggle, and direction to our striving."

Building Committee



GORDON WOLMAN

EDWARD SAPERSTEIN

SAUL MANDELL

DAVID GRAY

DAVID ALFOND (not shown)



Edward Saperstein, Lewis L. Levine, David Gray, Howard Miller, Benjamin Hains Harry Leibman, Howard Sacks, Henry Jacobson, Herbert Sterns, Saul Mandell, George Chesner (Not shown — Jacob Jackler and David Alfond)

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Herbert Sterns

Honorary Directors



HAROLD ALFOND



BARNET JOLOVITZ



SAMUEL WEIN



MRS. PHILIP ROSENTHAL

Sisterhood Message

As President of the Beth Israel Sisterhood, I find it most fitting on this momentous occasion to represent the women who have re-dedicated themselves to this beautiful Synagogue.

I know that I express the thoughts of each one of them when I say that we will do our utmost to share in the work and responsibility of keeping our Synagogue an inspiration for ourselves and our children.

The officers working with me for the past two years have given their earnest support: First Vice-President, Mrs. Ralph Nash; Second Vice-President, Mrs. Theodore Rosenthal; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Hyman Paikowsky; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Burton Shiro; Financial Secretary, Mrs. Gordon Wolman; and Treasurer, Mrs. David Gray. We hope to bring warmth, beauty, and high moral standards of Judaism into our homes, so that our children will learn a way of life that will make for a better world.

'... And may this House be prospered and G-d honored by your fidelity and unfailing devotion.'

History of Beth Israel Religious School

A group of 14 determined women in the early 1920's set out to provide a Hebrew School in order that their children might receive the Hebrew education which they had been lacking.

They formed a group known as the Daughters of Miriam, spearheaded by Mrs. Leah Silver, and also included Mesdames Leah Rosenthal, Rachel Levine, Annie Cook, Sara Levine, Mary Wein, Freda Libby Levine, Anna Snyder, Zelda Rosenthal, Annie Williams, Jennie Paikowsky, Dora Levine, Gelle Wolman, Chanah Baron.

These 14 women, by their perseverance, conducted traveling whist parties, and other fundraising functions, in order to achieve their goal. With the proceeds derived from these functions, they were able to purchase in 1924 the Talmud Torah, or Hebrew School, at 38 Ticonic Street.

Consequently, Jewish children of that time, were able to attend continuous Hebrew classes, under the instruction of various rabbis and teachers.

The mortgage of this building was subsequently paid by the late Harold Sterns of Waterville and Boston, in about 1949.

In the years to follow, a Sunday session was added to the curriculum, under the supervision of Gertrude Williams Levine, and classes were taught by parents of the pupils, and a few interested Colby students.

With the destruction of the Talmud Torah by fire on December 26, 1948, Sunday classes were transferred to the YMCA on Temple St., under the direction of Mrs. Burton G. Shiro. The classes were again moved to Coburn Classical Institute, and ultimately to the present Beth Israel Synagogue.

The daughters of Miriam eventually affiliated with the Women's Grand Lodge of B'nai B'rith, and was then called the Theodore N. Levine Chapter of B'nai B'rith. This latter group, in addition to being a Jewish service and philanthropic organization, assumed the financial responsibility connected with the Sunday School, and was relieved of this last duty, with the organization of the Beth Israel Sisterhood in 1954.



Special Gifts

It is traditional with our people that the building of a House of Worship provides a means for memorializing and honoring dear ones. We acknowledge these special gifts listed below. Many more such gifts will undoubtedly be forthcoming. We regret that those were not known before publication.

In Memoriam

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in loving memory of Harry L. Sterns husband of Mrs. Bessie Sterns and father of George, Fred and Herbert

PULPIT FURNITURE

in loving memory of Helen F. Sacks by her husband and children

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in loving memory of Evelyn Levine by her sisters Ann Wolff Frieda Miller, Betty Kaplan

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in loving memory of Sophie and Meyer Saperstein by Rose and Edward Saperstein

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in loving memory of William and Pauline Seltzer by their children

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in loving memory of William and Sarah Levine by Ludy and Pacy Levine

KITCHEN

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ONE PEW

in loving memory of Louis and Gelle Wolman by Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Wolman

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in loving memory of Simon Alfond by Mr. and Mrs. Harold Alfond

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