

## WE BUILD A TEMPLE

THE unification of the three organizations, the Agudath Achim Congregation, the Beth Israel Congregation and the proposed B'nai B'rith Congregation, into a single congregation in 1925 was a great step forward for Judaism in Lorain. But it was a mere beginning. The real work lay ahead. The South Lorain Temple was not favorably located and was far too small for the needs of the newly formed organization. The Fifteenth Street Synagogue was antiquated and likewise ill-suited for our purposes. It was clear that what we needed was a new, modern Temple, centrally located, with facilities to provide for our various activities; religious, educational, social, recreational.

The first step, then, was to raise money with which to build, and the next, to plan a building to provide our wants in the best manner with the means available.

It was on February 11, 1926 that Meyer Gordon, secretary of the congregation, reported to the members at a special meeting that the Articles of Consolidation had been approved by the Secretary of State and that we were recognized as one congregation.

On January 20, 1927, Sam Weingarten, president of the congregation, appointed a committee consisting of Albert Deutsch, Harry Bregman and himself to interview prospective purchasers of the South Lorain Temple property. This committee put forth strenuous efforts, securing several favorable offers, and on November 10, 1927, the congregation approved the sale of the property to the Slovak Lutheran Church at the satisfactory price of \$30,000.00.

Affairs were moving rapidly and on November 22, 1927, the Building Committee, consisting of Harry Bregman, Chairman, Isaac Schiff, Solomon Herman, Morris Asch and Aaron Lertzman, reported several prospective sites for the New Temple and on May 27, 1928, during which year Albert Deutsch was president, the congregation determined upon the present location at Ninth Street and Reid Avenue which site was purchased from the Maccabee Lodge. At the same meeting the con-

gregation authorized the purchase of the lot, corner Pearl Avenue and 33rd Street upon which site it is proposed to erect a building to house the educational facilities for the South Lorain children.

With a location selected, the congregation was in position to make definite plans for building. Harry Bregman, who was elected as president in 1929 and has since continued in that office, was on February 7, 1929 authorized by the trustees to instruct the Building and Finance Committee to find ways and means to build a new Temple. The campaign was on!

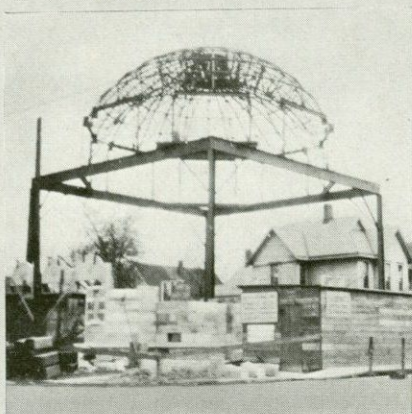
The committees set about their tasks earnestly. Various plans by different architects were submitted. Plans for financing the project were presented. The Building Committee for 1929 consisted of Harry Bregman, Chairman, Isaac Schiff, Solomon Herman, Morris Asch, and Aaron Lertzman. The Finance Committee of that year: Sam Goldstein, Chairman; Aaron Lertzman, Dr. I. H. Glucksman, Edward J. Gould, Sam Sokol, B. Freedman, Albert A. Levin and H. Friedman.

The campaign for funds was formally launched on May 27, 1929 with a huge banquet held at the Knights of Pythias Hall, 700 Broadway. The meal was prepared by the Temple Sisterhood and served by the Junior Hadassah. Harry Bregman, president of the congregation, presided at this banquet with Rabbi Solomon Goldman, of Chicago, (then of Cleveland) delivering the principal address. Rabbi Goldman made a great impression with his earnest appeal and there was a tremendous response in pledges offered. More than \$25,000.00 was raised that memorable evening.

The Building Fund Banquet signalized the opening of a systematic campaign for funds which has been steadily carried forward, never abating even in the face of a serious economic depression. The entire Jewish community was canvassed for pledges and donations.

For the past two years the Finance Committee consisting of Aaron Lertzman, Chairman, Morris Asch, Vice-Chairman, Aaron





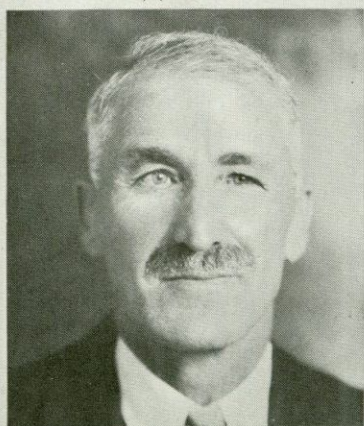
Under Construction



Temple Doors



Breaking Ground



Solomon Herman  
First Gabbah



Nathan Shiff  
Second Gabbah



Haas, Albert A. Levin, Isadore Jacoby, Joseph L. Deutsch, George Nelson, Harry Friedman, Dr. I. H. Glucksman and B. Freedman, have been busy securing additional pledges, collecting payments due on pledges and devising other means of revenue. During the summer and autumn of 1931, a special drive for the collection of pledges was launched under the leadership of Morris Asch, Vice-Chairman, with very successful results.

The Entertainment Committee has also been very active during this period in raising funds. Entertainments of various natures were undertaken. A series of card parties, dances, bazaars and dramatics were sponsored.

A bazaar held at the Hotel Antlers in March, 1930 netted \$441.38. A Lawn party at the home of Jos. L. Deutsch, Chairman of the Entertainment Committee, held on August 5, 1931 resulted in a profit of \$367.00. The series of card parties showed a net profit of \$162.00. In all, the Entertainment Committee turned over several thousands of dollars to the Building Fund.

The members of the Entertainment Committee for 1930 were: Jos. L. Deutsch, Chairman, Dr. B. B. Freedman, Morris Asch, Dr. I. H. Glucksman, Albert A. Levin and Aaron Haas. The present members of the Entertainment Committee are: Jos. L. Deutsch, Chairman; Dr. B. B. Freedman, Dr. I. H. Glucksman, Dr. I. L. Levin, George Nelson, Aaron Haas, Julius Klein and Ervin E. Stern. The Entertainment Committee throughout the campaign for funds has served industriously and competently and deserves much credit.

Of the many plans and specifications submitted by various architects, the Building Committee recommended, and the congregation accepted, the plans submitted by Reynold H. Hinsdale. On January 30, 1930, Mr. Hinsdale was employed as architect for the proposed New Temple of the Agudath B'nai Israel Congregation.

Competitive bidding for the construction of a Temple, based on these plans was held, resulting in the award of the general contract for the construction of the New Temple to the L. A. Burgett Company on November 24, 1930.

The present Building Committee consisting of Edward Gould, Chairman, David Rieger, Albert Deutsch, and Samuel Weingarten was

appointed in January, 1930, and late in 1931 Joseph Goldstein was added to the committee. The major portion of the burden of checking the building of the Temple has fallen upon the shoulders of this committee and they have borne their burden well. It was this committee that checked the plans and specifications of the architect and the work of the contractor. These men and the President, Harry Bregman, have done a splendid job of the task assigned them and deserve the highest praise.

On Sunday, March 1, 1931, at a popular meeting at which \$100.00 was raised by the selling of votes for the election of the person to turn the first shovel of sod, the honor went to Mrs. A. Goldstein. The following day ground was broken and the building of the Temple was under way.

At a banquet held on May 28, 1931, votes were sold for the election of the person to lay the cornerstone of the New Temple, the sum of \$890.00 being realized; and on June 28, 1931 the cornerstone of the Temple was laid by Sam Goldstein, assisted by Solomon Herman, at a service at which Rabbi Abraham Novak of Cleveland was the principal speaker.

The construction work progressed rapidly and the New Temple was sufficiently complete by September, 1931 to permit the holding of services for the High Holidays at our new home. The Educational and Recreational departments have been in use for several months and with the correction of a few minor details construction will be fully completed. The activity daily in progress at the Temple evinces the eagerness with which its completion has been awaited and the great need which it fills.

A Committee on Arrangements for the Dedication Exercises has been appointed, consisting of Harry Bregman, Chairman, Morris Asch, Joseph L. Deutsch, and Jacob Levin. January 3, 1932 has been selected as the date for the dedication of the Temple. The program for the day, as planned, consists of Dedication Exercises during the afternoon with special religious services prepared and conducted by Rabbi Dobrow, followed by a banquet during the evening. Rabbi Saul Silber, President of the Hebrew Theological College of Chicago, and Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver of Cleveland, will be the principal speakers of the occasion.

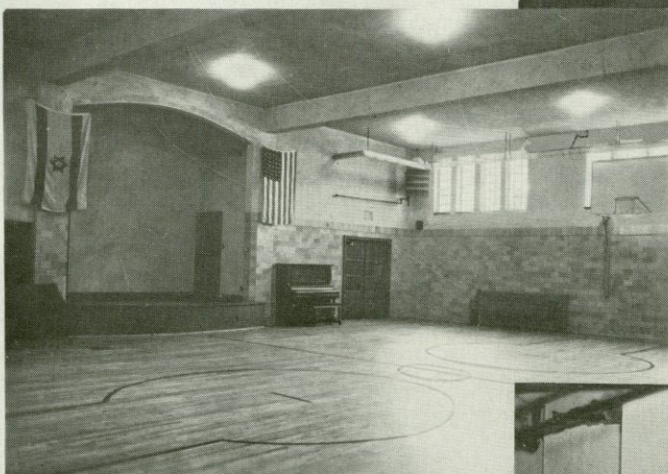




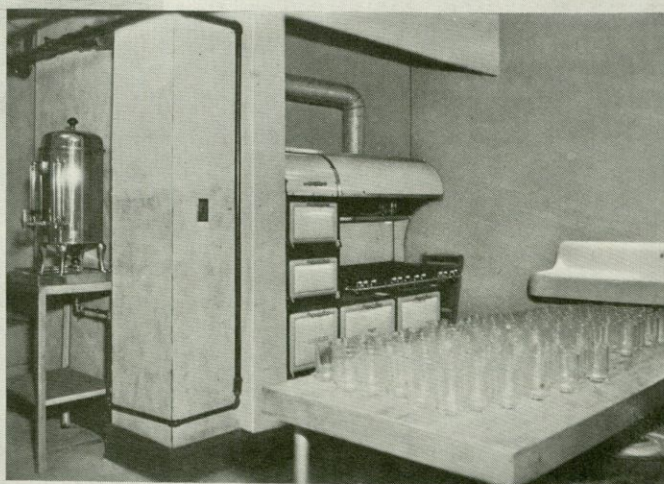
Lodge Room



A Class Room



Gymnasium



Kitchen

*Interior Views*