

To The Members of Temple Israel Congregation

New Castle, Pa.

*Think*

We meet today at the beginning of the second year of the organization of Temple Israel Congregation. At first we hardly realized the responsibilities we assumed and now after one year of establishment in our new House of Worship founded in memory of that beloved teacher in Israel Rabbi J. Leonard Levy on the 10th anniversary of his death, and dedicated to God; we realize that these responsibilities were not so burdensome and as year after year passes on we will become more and more familiar with our duties - to God, our religion, our children and ourselves. As we look back over the past year have we accomplished our aim that which is incumbent upon us as Jews?

81 Our beginning was difficult with but 13 original members holding services each Friday night at our various homes, we have blossomed into an organization of forty-six (46) members and their families worshipping in our own edifice with a spiritual Leader, Teacher and Rabbi who not only has served us faithfully but whom we have learned to admire and love for his unbounded wealth of knowledge which he imparts to us in kindness and humility. I am certain that I speak for our entire membership when I say "Rabbi Menkes you have endeared yourself into our hearts and in the hearts of those who do not worship as we do in our community.

My dear members you honored me by choosing me as your first President I trust that no disappointment has come to you through my efforts, for at all times have I had in mind our little Prayer House although it would have been of no avail without the Spirit of Judaism entering it by your Personal presence and I could not have accomplished success without the whole hearted support each and every one of you have given to me. You stood by me and my every act as soldiers in Israel - Princes - and so I say to you my happiness for my faith is complete and for this I thank you from the bottom of my heart with the assurance of further support to my successor whomsoever you deem it wise to honor.

As nearly as possible we have kept account of attendance at our Friday evening services and we feel assured each of you made every endeavor possible to be present but we would like to see a larger percentage of young men and women, they will attend services if properly urged. Our Saturday morning services have not been as well attended as they should have been, we realize the economic conditions which exist that some men cannot come; never-the-less this should not be a cause for the women and their children to absent themselves so we would request that this condition be bettered by regular attendance.

SISTERHOOD

Our Sisterhood under the guidance of its president has functioned at intervals and with success but it appears to your President that a more sincere and hearty cooperation in all endeavors would be more conducive to greater achievements for a Sisterhood in a Temple is really the backbone, the helping hand for the congregation.

RELIGION

Our committee on Religious School have received great encouragement from their work as our Attendance has grown slowly and under the direction of our Rabbi a curriculum was introduced and carried on with great success. It is worth while to note the knowledge your children have garnered. I would be remiss were I to fail to take this opportunity of thanking our very able corps of Teachers who give of themselves so freely to help educate your children.

BIBLE CLASSES

Since we introduced our Regular Thursday Evening Bible Classes they have been very interesting and well attended. For the benefit of those members who are unable to come or those who think perhaps they can gain no insight or knowledge of our Bible we solicit you to make a visit and listen to our Rabbi and then the discussions after

which tell us whether you think it is worth while and to be continued.

HEBREW CLASSES

*under supervision of our Rabbi*

The Hebrew classes which were inaugurated some months ago have not been as successful as we would like to see them, for this we cannot blame our Rabbi but rather the Parents who at first were anxious to have their children taught but who have failed to give their moral support by seeing that their children attended regularly. Perhaps if the Parents were taxed separately for this branch of learning for which no charge is made at present, more interest would be manifested and better results attained.

*I wish to thank Mr. Cohen & his committee for their work you have had this report*

GYMNASIUM

We have as fully an equipped Gymnasium as any organization in the city and is being well patronized but it seems to your President that membership has not been well organized that the committee in the beginning of the term was in regular attendance but lately has left things glide along and no control of the activities has had the attention necessary. Many boys and girls who took part in exercising have quit coming, perhaps the fee charge to non-members is the cause but your Board of Trustees in their wisdom felt this small charge necessary. The men and womens' hours is scarcely patronized by our members showing a lack of interest, your President has endeavored to fathom the cause of this and his conclusion is that our members feel they can get along without this activity.

*So for the success of this dept the Board & Committee no longer have a charge for members & their children*

WELFARE COMMITTEE

This committee has functioned and as its work is not great never-the-less stands ready at all times to take up matters coming before it.

SOCIAL ENTERTAINMENT

Under the able supervision of its chairman the Social hour after our Friday evening service has been very successful and much cordiality among our members has resulted therefrom - A continuance is recommended.

CHOIR COMMITTEE

Your President thanks the committee for its most laudable work and he wishes to thank the members of the Choir who serve us regularly at services and without pay. It is a joy and pleasure to listen to the boys and girls choir singing at services on Saturday morning.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Usually one feels that where much work has been done for our congregation by a committee that its an easy task and that anyone might have done the same amount of work because results have been so healthy, permit me my dear members that had it not been for the untiring effort which was put forth by this committee our Congregation might not have grown as rapidly as it has. Your President sincerely thanks this committee, especially the Chairman, who has achieved success in his undertaking and I felt that no mistake would be mine when this chairman was appointed by me a year ago, and so my personal thanks are extended to him and that of our entire membership as well. This is a very important committee and my successor would be wise if no change is made in this chairmanship the coming year.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Whilst this committee has not had an opportunity to function actively during this, the first year of our existence never-the-less we look forward to expecting much from them in the future. No organization can exist unless the financial end is looked after thoroughly. The work of this Committee does not only exist for the purpose of checking out money but its duty is clearly outlined in our By-Laws; members who are in arrears should be seen by this committee if it is necessary to remind them of their duty to pay and should also keep in touch with all activities of income and outlays so that

your Board of Trustees may know at all times the financial conditions of the Congregation. Your President is not criticizing but on the contrary wishes to thank this very able committee and trust they will continue the good services rendered under adverse circumstances of the past year. *I also desire to thank the Stationery - The Furnishings & the activity Committees.*

HOUSE COMMITTEE

This very important committee has functioned more strenuously than some of the other Temple committees which is most natural as the work and duties incumbent upon them are continuous and needs exacting and unceasing attention as they concern themselves with every activity of our Temple. They are the oil which furnishes lubrication for the smooth running of the Temple machinery practising as they have great economy for us so that our maintenance fund will not be impaired. Your President most sincerely extends to this committee his thanks and appreciation for their interest and faithfulness in their duties. I recommend since a contribution was made for beautifying the grounds of our Temple that this Committee investigate cost and report their findings to the Board of Trustees at their next meeting.

TEMPLE ISRAEL FLORAL AND MEMORIAL FUND

*task*  
This activity is in the hands of an individual who has regretfully been incapacitated to perform the duties so necessarily incumbent upon her for the success of this fund. A very few of our members have used this fine method of remembering happiness or sorrow, since all of the stationery has been received from the lady who established this beautiful tribute is now in the hands of its chairman, distribution will be made shortly. Your President asks you to remember this fund so that it will grow large enough that in the near future we can use its income for our maintenance fund.

BUILDING COMMITTEE

You may wonder why your President speaks of the most important committee of the Temple last, his reason is quite easy to fathom, good things are always saved for the last. When your President a year ago had to choose a chairman to undertake this arduous work, for dear friends no one member knew better what it meant to have a responsible man to lead this committee than did your President, and he feels that no mistake was made when he selected from our Board one who has not alone devoted time, energy and faithfulness but as important as either of these watchfulness. Our members I know voice my personal sentiments when we say we thank you dear Chairman and your very able Committee. When one examines our Building records and finds that in the erection of our beautiful House of Worship that the extras on erection over our contract price was only 1% can you imagine such a condition? In other words if a building contract for a home would be \$50,000.00 - 1% for extras would mean \$500.00 can you dear members say this of your own home building? Can you blame your President when he feels that he has no words at his command, can find none in the dictionary which would fully express his deep appreciation to this chairman and his committee for their work and the help they gave your President.

In concluding this report your President feels that he would be remiss in avoiding to thank our Architect, all of our most dear friends and contributors who assisted in making Temple Israel edifice possible not alone those who helped us in a most liberal financial manner, those who contributed in furnishings, those who bought themselves memorial windows, but each of you dear members for your instigated financial support many of us sacrificing to gain the end of success for our Temple; for your hearty cooperation and especially the members of your Board of Trustees who never failed to meet the calls made upon them for the benefit of your Temple by your President.

Again do I express to each and every member my sincere thanks and wish for you a long life, renewed health and success for our Temple that it will grow from strength to strength.

Respectfully Submitted,