

172-293-2200

In reviewing the events of the past year, in connection with the conduct of the Synagogue and the difficulties connected with its successful operation, it must be remembered that the ~~past~~ year was an unusually difficult ~~year~~ one, insofar as probably for the first time in the ~~XXXX~~ history of Sharon, the community found itself without a Rabbi, Shochet or Kosher Butcher Shop, all at the same time.

The Board met for the first time this year on Nov. 8th, 1942, for the purpose of organizing and acquainting the 3 new members with their duties and responsibilities. It was at this meeting that the Board decided on a 20% increase in the membership dues--making the \$50 memberships \$60, and the \$25 memberships \$30--in order to partly meet an expected deficit for the year.

At the following meeting, Dec. 6th, the Board was advised by Rabbi Riback that he expected to leave in the near future to serve as a Chaplain in the Armed Forces, and steps were immediately taken in an attempt to secure a new spiritual leader for the Community.

It was also at this time, that the failure of our heating plant to properly heat the Synagogue became more pronounced, and this problem was also a very difficult one.

While the search for a Rabbi was being ~~put~~ in motion, Mr. Huss, our Shochet, appeared before the Board at the meeting of March 7th, and tendered his resignation as Shochet, to become effective April 1st, And it thus became necessary to institute a search for a man to replace him, as soon as possible, as his leaving left the community without the services of a Rabbi, Shochet, ~~and~~ <sup>or</sup> Kosher butcher shop.

At a special meeting, held March 29th, applications from several candidates for both the positions--<sup>of</sup> Rabbi and Shochet--were received and considered by the Board, and the first of a long line of applicants was invited to come to Sharon for an interview with the Board. In this connection, it might be pertinent to point out that in the next few months that followed, <sup>23</sup> 19 men were either interviewed or corresponded with in the search for a successor to both Rabbi Riback and Mr. Huss.

What was probably the outstanding event of the year, was the announcement, at the March 29th meeting, of the splendid gift by the Rosenblum-Epstein family to the community for the construction of a new Synagogue. A Building Committee was appointed by the Chairman to activate the gift and collect additional contributions from the community toward the project. The highly successful dinner and campaign that followed are now history and well known to everyone. Early in August, the Board thought its troubles, as far as a Shochet were concerned, were over when Mr. Nathan Fox, of Pgh., was hired. Mr. Fox later failed to appear to assume his duties, and it was necessary to institute a new search. Also, at the meeting held August 4th, the Board had finally narrowed the field of applicants for the position of Rabbi, down to one man, and Rabbi Michael Kurz, of Norristown was tendered the position. He accepted, much to the gratification of the Board, and as later indicated, to that of the community. Subsequently, Mr. <sup>ABRAHAM</sup> Polansky, of New York, was contacted and offered the position of Shochet, and assistant to the Rabbi, and he also is now filling his position to the entire satisfaction of the community. ~~XXXX~~

A new butcher opened a Kosher shop in Sharon, and the community is now functioning as it should, and receiving its full share of necessary services. The complete failure of the Synagogue heating plant, which was found to be beyond repair, necessitated the letting of a contract for a new furnace, and this project is now under way.

The Board further inaugurated a new departure from established custom, by not selling Aliyahs during the High Holy Days. A committee was set up by the Board, and empowered to distribute the Aliyahs to those ~~XXXXXX~~ members of the Synagogue who had been in the habit of buying them in past years. The new idea was highly successful, and contributed greatly to the fine decorum and orderly conduct of the services in the Synagogue during the High Holy Days.

Summing it all up, while the past year was an unusually difficult one in many respects, it was also one of several outstanding accomplishments, and the Board looks to the future with considerable confidence and anticipation.