

At our last Congregational Meeting, we departed from our past practice of receiving separate reports from the chairman of every committee, and reports from committees responsible for routine or procedural matters were incorporated in the President's Report. Hearing much comment favoring this change, and none contrary, we've concluded it was a happy one, and we shall continue to include the reports of committees other than those that have already been presented, or will be given later as the main business of the meeting. At the conclusion, if there are any questions or comments, we will direct them to the chairmen concerned.

Besides being Secretary to the Board and a member of the Executive Committee, Mrs. Harry Greenberger is chairwoman of the Administrative Committee, the Public Relations Committee, and the Social Committee.

The Administrative Committee is responsible for the conduct of our Temple office, and wishes publicly to acknowledge our gratitude to the Temple Men's Club whose kind annual gift has enabled us to provide much needed draperies for the office. The Public Relations Committee is primarily responsible for publication of the Temple Bulletin, notices, and newsletters. The Social Committee was responsible this year for all the arrangements for the annual party for the members of our Choir, for the dinner and reception honoring Rabbi and Mrs. Herzog on the occasion of his installation, and for our Chanukkah dinner and entertainment.

Abe Lipsick is chairman of the Program and House Committee, which supervises rental of our Temple facilities to individuals and organizations, and is responsible for setting up and administering the calendar of events in this building to avoid conflicts of date and of program. A survey from the Union this past week inquired whether or not the Congregation had any clearing-house of this sort, and we were pleased to report that ours has been operating so smoothly for many years.

Phil Ellovich is chairman of our Committee on Social Justice. He has had conversations with the Rabbi in this field, but no specific program has been undertaken. Rabbi Kaplan, Director of the Pennsylvania Council of the Union, suggested that we meet with representatives of the Erie Congregation, and Rabbi Herzog has initiated conversations with Rabbi Zion of Erie to this end. Although neither this Congregation nor any other is officially represented, Mr. Ellovich, together with Rabbi Herzog, Morris Miller, Will Nathan of Farrell, and I are members of the Board of the Shenango Valley Human Relations Council, whose program I outlined for you last year.

The Religious Practices Committee, of which Attorney Routman is chairman, prepares the list of honors for the High Holy Day Services, and has consulted with the Rabbi on the conduct of services. Thoughts and opinions concerning next Fall's High Holy Day Services have already been exchanged.

Leon Bolotin is chairman of the Music and Choir Committee, as well as liaison officer between the Board and the Cemetery Committee. Besides their contribution to the beauty of our Sabbath and festival services, we

are also grateful to the Choir for providing our fine program for this year's Jewish Music Month.

The three insurance men in our Congregation make up our Insurance Committee, and Walter Routman serves as Chairman. Instead of the great fluctuations from year to year in the demands on our strained financial resources, the Committee has set up a new insurance plan under which our payments each year will be approximately the same.

Mrs. Harry Jubelirer, Chairwoman of our Library Committee, has submitted the following report: "From April 1961 to April 1962, sixty-one books were added to the Library, at a cost of \$106.06. Five contributions were presented to the Library, totaling \$121.50. The balance on hand April 15, 1962 is \$300.05, of which \$200.00 is the Edna Lavine Fund. The librarian recommends that remodeling of the library be initiated as promptly as possible, because there is no more shelf space for library books. Some of the recent purchases are stored in cartons, and for this reason the librarian can make no more purchases unless assured of adequate shelving. The use of the books is greatly curtailed by the difficulty in displaying them properly." I should like to add to Mrs. Jubelirer's report that the Buildings and Grounds Committee has received sketches and quotations for furnishing the Library. The Dedications Committee is soliciting a dedication for the project, and we hope that before our next meeting, we will have a real Temple Library to serve the needs of our Congregation.

Bernard Goldstone, our Liaison Officer with the Union and our Trustee to the Pennsylvania Council of the Union, reports to the Board any Union matters that should be brought to our attention. He would like me to announce the Biennial of the Pennsylvania Council at the Hotel Hershey next November, and urge that as many of the Congregation as possible plan to attend this important and inspiring meeting.

I want to thank Mrs. Lou Routman, who has served as our Welfare Subcommittee. Mrs. Routman reports sending some 77 cards for a total expenditure of \$5.07, including postage.

I also want to thank publicly our Ushering Committee -- a committee of our Temple Men's Club, whose tireless efforts week after week have certainly helped to make our services more decorous. Departing from custom, I think it is proper for me to thank specifically Lewis Krieger, Alex Polangin, and Martin Shanks.

For the Membership Committee, Mrs. Joseph Bolotin reports that we now have 212 family memberships. Since our last meeting, the following members have passed away: Lena Epstein, Herman Frank, Mannie Goldberg, Samuel Goodstein, Lester Greenberger, Nathan Lavine, Jack Lissauer, Minnie Rosenblum, Sarah Schermer, Meyer Silverman, Max Stahl, and Adolph Steinberger. New members this year are Mrs. Elsa Gostonyi, Dr. and Mrs. Morren Greenberg, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Greenberger, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hyman, Dr. Lou Landay, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Sandler, and Mr. and Mrs. Donald Werner.

Finally, the Membership Rating Committee, of which David Goldberg is chairman, is responsible for negotiations concerning, and collection of dues.

I want to tell you a funny story, but I'm not sure who's the butt of this joke.

Last November, the Board decided to publish the list of members with dues

they were currently paying to the Temple. In December, we notified the

Congregation of the forthcoming promulgation of this list, and we also began

to draft a letter to accompany it. Rabbi Herzog and I worked on this letter,

and did some research on contributions of other denominations. The Executive

Committee met to go over the draft of the letter and spent much time discussing

it. I re-wrote it, and, when we went over it again, Bernie Goldstone pointed

out that it included no call to action -- that there was no indication of the

response we hoped for. Back to the drafting board, as 'twere, and finally,

we found a way to tell the Congregation that we hoped members would step

forward and volunteer increases, to obviate the necessity of our calling

personally to solicit them. When the list was published, we all heard many

comments on the obvious inequities -- the same ones not obvious to everyone,

of course -- but no one volunteered to raise his dues. Is the joke on me? --

The Rabbi? -- The Board? Or on the entire Congregation?

We have undertaken a campaign of personal solicitation of increases, and our

results so far are very encouraging. You are bored hearing about it, and

many of us find this activity distasteful, but our growth does depend on sound

financing; the Congregation will wither with deficit budgets. We ask you

again to consider the matter thoughtfully, and to receive our solicitations

favorably.

You may ask why we need funds, since the proposed budget indicates a relatively small amount needed from projected dues increases.

First: After a decade or more, we are still dependent on an annual contribution from the Federation. With the same list of donors, it would be much neater to keep the pockets of the two organizations separate.

Second: A number of items of expense should be increased if we are to benefit from services in a manner suitable and desirable for our Congregation.

Third: I spoke last Spring about a need I felt in our Congregation -- a need for Jewish Cultural Activity. We have given this need attention, and all of us are aware of the desirability of bringing in lecturers and speakers, musical and dramatic artists. You will note that we allocated \$200 for Adult Education in the proposed budget this year, and increased our Provision for Speakers from \$100 to \$150. But surely these allocations are grossly inadequate to our needs!

You may each have ideas different from mine -- other areas in which you feel the Temple program should be buttressed. I do not mean my list to be exhaustive, but merely to indicate a few reasons why I think we need greater financial support from the membership.

Are there any other Committee reports? ...

For the Congregation, may I express my sincere appreciation to all of the men and women who have devoted time and energy to the activities of these committees? We are grateful, and we hope that all of you who have worked on the committees, and the Board members especially, have derived satisfaction from your service

to the Congregation. I would like to emphasize that the welfare of the Congregation depends on this work, and we are all dependent on these members who are willing and capable of serving. Membership on our Board of Directors implies much less prestige than it does time-consuming activity -- and our thanks to these devoted workers is sincere, not given lightly.

While we are aware that differences of opinion and viewpoint persist, I feel that you will agree that we are largely resolved to put our differences into perspective, and to work together to capitalize on our opportunities for further development. I urge you to continue to support the Board and the Rabbi, to attend services and other Temple functions with ever-greater faithfulness, and to be a full, devoted member of our Congregation.

Thank you.

H. A. Rosenblum
President