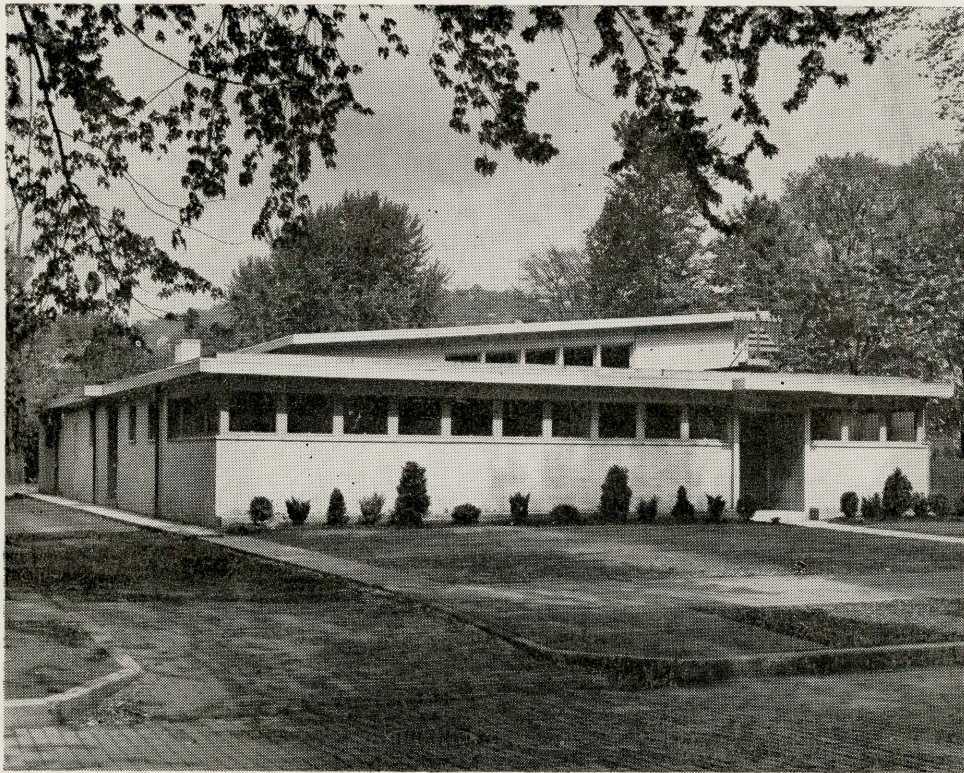

Dedication Program

June 4 - 6, 1954

Sivan 5,714



*Kneseth Israel Congregation
North Water Street
Kittanning, Pennsylvania*

BM225
K5
K6
1954

Dedicated

**In grateful appreciation to
the untiring effort of the
many loyal workers who
made this magnificent
Synagogue a reality.**

BM 225
K5
K6



Rabbi's Message

It is, indeed, a privilege to be part of an occasion which marks the achievement of a great and memorable milestone in the life of a community. As a result of the unselfish and ideal devotion on the part of many a loyal individual, the Jewish community of Kittanning can now proudly point to the erection of a new Synagogue within its midst. The dedication of this spiritual structure is a convincing indication of the maturity which this community has attained during a comparatively short period.



Rabbi Gerald Lerer

The dedication of a holy institution such as the Synagogue, is only the beginning of a lengthy process leading to the fulfillment of its sacred purpose. If it is to be a true Sanctuary of God, the Synagogue must lead us upward in life. It must take us out of our material, physical and sensual interests, while pointing the way to the more beautiful, ideal and sacred aspects of life.

The message which the dedicaton of a Synagogue carries with it, must always remain alive in the hearts and minds of those to whom Judaism is both dear and essential. Ths sacred message must, in turn, be conveyed to our youth who will be the future guardians of our sacred heritage. It is they who must be made to understand that the question of whether Judaism stands or falls depends entirely upon the actions that they will exert for the purpose of its preservaton. They must also be made to realize the fact that it is they who hold the key to the future survival of our people.

Finally, we must never overlook the significance of unity within our ranks. If there is any institution in our life that can serve in the best interests of unity, it is none other than the Synagogue. Only through a better understanding of, and a greater respect for each other's opinion, can we truly hope to make this community a place wherein the ideas and ideals of Judaism will be fulfilled to their utmost. Our history has proven to us time and again that whenever the Jewish people united for a certain cause, they always met with success.

May the dedication of the Kneseth Israel Congregation be crowned with great satisfaction and glory, and may it be an everlasting inspiration and joy to those who have given of their precious time and effort in making this occasion a living realtiy. Amen.

Rabbi Gerald Lerer

President's Message

The Kneseth Israel Congregation on this date has reached a most important milestone in the history of Kittanning in the dedication of our new synagogue.

It is with a sense of pride and joy that I recall the events leading up to this dedication: the foresight of our older members back in 1918 to purchase the property on which our synagogue now stands; their heartaches to pay the mortgage with the help of the Mother's Club; our first community meeting on the night of November 14, 1951 on the second floor of the old synagogue to raise enough money for the building we are dedicating today.

The trials and tribulations of the committee, numerous conferences with the architect, trips to other towns to assemble ideas for our building, the signing of the contract, all led to the actual ground-breaking ceremonies on Jan. 25th, 1953.

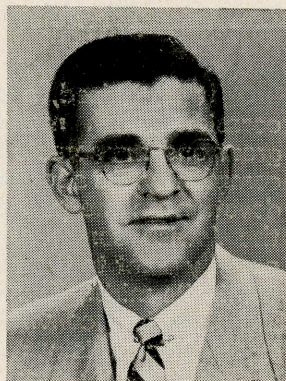
Between the meeting of Nov. 1951 and the happy occasion of this dedication a great deal has transpired. The building committee's tasks both financial and construction-wise have been heroic. The building committee were men of vision, giving absolutely unselfishly of their time and wisdom, inspiring the entire community to give generously when the call went forth for whatever was needed until the entire project was finished. We must also laud the trustees for their work inside the building, the Mothers' Club who so generously gave of their time and financial support, the Men's Club and other groups who so vigorously helped this dream come true.

I deem it a privilege indeed to express my sincere thanks to the entire Congregation for all they have done to make our dream come true.

With the completion of our House of God, Kneseth Israel Congregation is firmly resolved to serve faithfully, spiritually culturally and socially each and every person to the best of its ability and to join in sharing the joys and problems of our Jewish community.

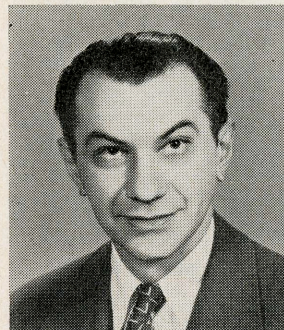
Sincerely,

Bernard G. Adelson
President

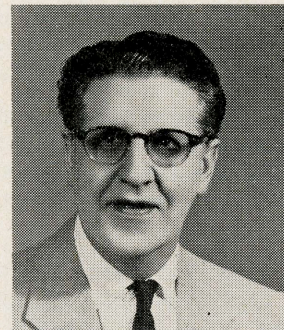


BERNARD G. ADELSON, President

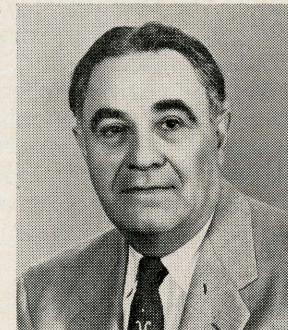
Officers of Kneseth Israel Congregation 1953 - 54



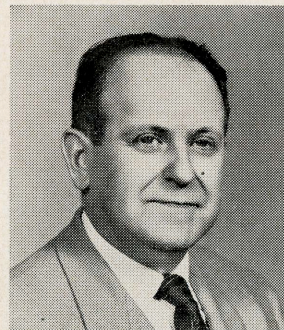
ABE SIEGAL, Vice President



DAVID POLLOCK, Secretary



JACK PARISH, Treasurer



MORRIS RAMBACH, Fin. Secretary

OFFICERS FOR 1952-53

Bernard Adelson,
President

Harry Sparks,
Vice President

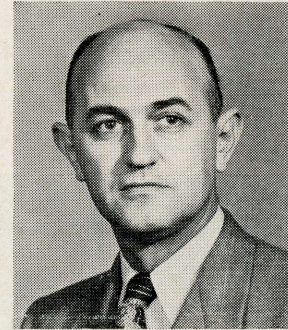
David Pollock,
Secretary

Isadore Lurie,
Treasurer

Rudolph Feldman,
Financial Secretary

Abe Siegal
Morris Finesod
Dr. M. Rambach
Philip Mervis
Sam Reisberg

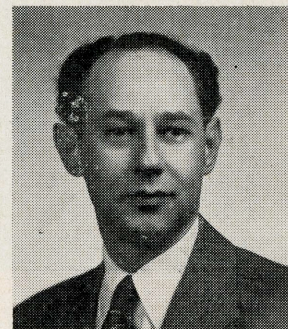
Trustees



JACK LEVINE, Trustee



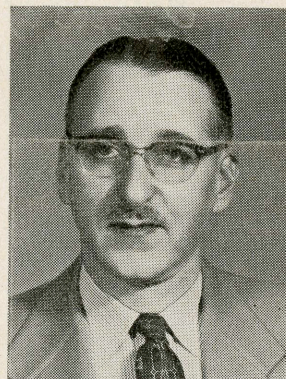
MICHAEL LIEBMAN, Trustee



REUBEN KARP, Trustee

Report of Building Committee

There has been urgent need of a new structure to house our synagogue and community center for these past many years. With this in mind, a community meeting was held in May, 1952. At that meeting, it was decided that local Jewry was entitled to the benefits of a new Jewish center for both religious and social betterment. With this fact established, a hard-hitting, hard-working building committee was appointed, and in short order an enthusiastic community pledged the funds and paid their pledges.



Abe S. Chinn

Our new building is now a reality. It has been a revelation to see the continuing enthusiasm since its completion. Fortunately, there are still many things needed (in our new building,) and this should keep that interest actively alive. May such be the case for continuing interest in all Jewish affairs, both local and national.

Abe S. Chinn



BUILDING COMMITTEE

Standing, left to right: A. Charlson, R. Karp, A. Chinn, Dr. M. Rambach, B. Adelson, E. Steiner, Abe Seigal.
Seated, Mrs. M. Rambach, Mrs. D. Pollock, Mrs. R. Karp, Mrs. M. L. Gross.

Message from Mothers' Club

With the dedication of our new Synagogue, I feel proud to have had a small part in its achievement.

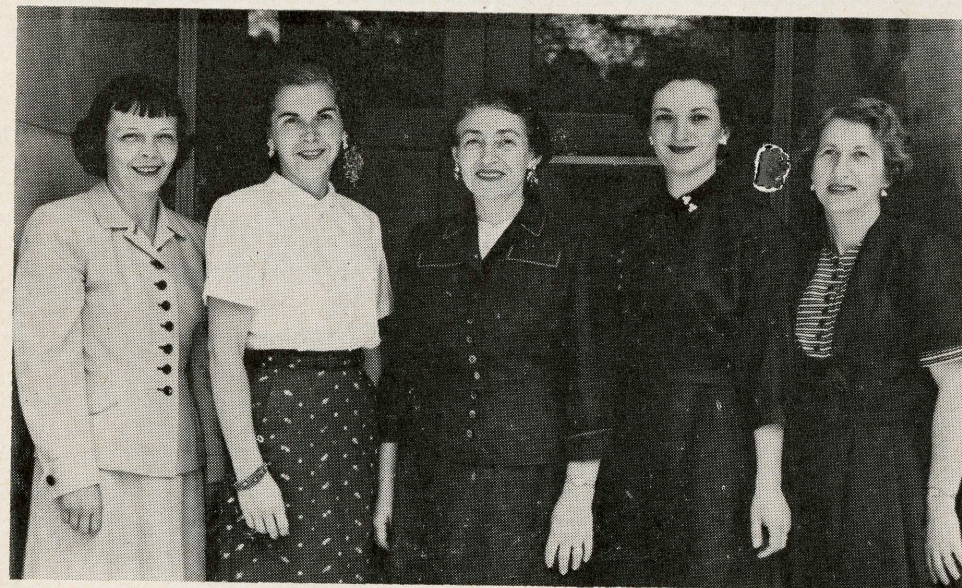
The Mothers' Club has as its object the furtherance of Judaism, the moral advancement of this community, and an active participation in all endeavors of the Congregation.

With these aims in view, we have worked untiringly to aid the Congregation. We planned plenty of classrooms for the Sunday School, which we sponsor and maintain. As extra curricular activity, it has been our custom to give the children treats at Chanuka and Purim, and to hold a model Seder Service at Passover.

Our kitchen was planned and financed with funds raised for this purpose. It is of ample size and fully equipped to take care of any function. In addition, we have purchased to date, banquet and card tables, additional metal chairs, window screens, acoustic tile for the kitchen ceiling, carpeting for the Synagogue, and asphalt tile for the entire building.

We feel that we have accomplished a great deal in a short period of time. Since our work has just begun, let us rededicate ourselves, and with renewed energy, make the Knoeth Israel Synagogue an inspiration for ourselves and our children.

Mrs. Martin (Pearl) Gross, President



MOTHERS' CLUB OFFICERS

Left to right: Mrs. H. Sparks, Mrs. A. Chinn, Mrs. M. L. Gross, Mrs. I. Lurie, Mrs. J. Moss

Dedication Program
Kneseth Israel Congregation
June 4 - 6, 1954

FRIDAY
Services

JUNE 4, 1954

Kaholas Shabbos	8:00 p. m.
Dedication Sermon	Rabbi Gerard Lerer
Benediction	
Reception	Social Rooms

SATURDAY
Services

JUNE 5, 1954

Morning Service	9:00 a. m.
Reading of the Torah:	Numbers - 4:21
Haftorah	Judges - 13:2
Dedication Message	Rabbi Gerald Lerer
Musaf	Additional Service
Benediction	

Dedication Program

JUNE 6, 1954 2:00 P. M.

SUNDAY

Chairman:	Ralph Adelson
Opening Song "America"	Faye Liebman
Invocation	Rabbi Gerald Lerer
Master of Ceremonies	Edward Steiner
Presentation of Synagogue	Abe Chinn
Acceptance	Bernard Adelson
Guest Speakers:	
Honorable J. Frank <i>Graff</i>	
Reverend F. X. Foley	
Burgess H. Himes	
Reverend James S. Bair	
E. O. Golden, Attorney-At-Law	
I. M. Jaffee	
Dedication Address	Rabbi David G. Shapiro
Congregation Beth Israel, Indiana, Pa.	
Closing Song: "Hatikva"	Faye Liebman
Benediction	Rabbi Gerald Lerer

BANQUET

JUNE 6, 1954 7:00 P. M.

Chairman:	Martin L. Gross
Toastmaster	Harry Pollock
Greetings:	Bernard Adelson, President
Mrs. Martin L. Gross, Mothers Club	
Acknowledgements to Building Committee:	Harry Pollock
Address:	Ed Steiner
Benediction:	Rabbi G. Lerer

History of Kneseth Israel Congregation

Almost a half century ago a handful of Jews walked from Kittanning and from Ford City to the village of Manorville, where they met with the few Jewish families who lived there at the time to hold services for The High Holidays. The year was 1905 —the group was really the nucleus of Kneseth Israel Congregation, though not one of the worshippers was aware of the fact. For several years these men met to pray on the New Year and Day of Atonement, first in Manorville and then in Kittanning. The pioneer group included the following: Mr. Abe Adelson, Mr. Charles Adelson, Mr. Morris N. Adelson, Mr. Abe Caplan, Mr. Harry Friedman (shochet from Ford City), Mr. Arthur Gruskin, Mr. Ike Gruskin, Mr. John Gruskin, Mr. Harry Lurie, Mr. Dave Pollock, Mr. Louis Pollock, Mr. Israel Rambach, Mr. Sam Rambach, and Mr. Meyer Silberblatt, a few of whom are with us today and most of whom are close relatives of many of our present members. The first president of the Kittanning group was Mr. Israel Rambach; Mr. Morris N. Adelson was vice-president.



GROUND BREAKING, JANUARY 25, 1953

Left to Right: H. Lurie, W. Kaplan, M. N. Adelson, Rabbi Swartzman, J. L. Apple, Rabbi L. Wengrovsky, P. Mervis.

By 1911 the Jewish community of Kittanning had become definitely organized, calling themselves very fittingly "Kneseth Israel" — gathering together in Israel. Records of 1912 show the following officers: President, J. L. Apple; Vice-president, A. S. Gruskin; Secretary, Louis Lesser; Treasurer, I. Rambach, and about fifteen members. They employed Rabbi Dolgoff, their first full time cantor, shochet, and Hebrew teacher at \$40 monthly. He and his wife made their home on South Jefferson Street, where he conducted Hebrew classes for the children. All religious services were held in the Odd Fellows Hall on Jacob Street. The same officers

continued year after year with the exception of the secretary, Mr. Lesser, who left the community in 1914 and was succeeded by Mr. H. Lurie who served as secretary for ten years. As for the other officers — Mr. J. L. Apple held the presidency for almost thirty-five years, both Mr. A. S. Gruskin and Mr. I. Rambach remained in their capacities during their lifetimes. Dues were \$6 monthly with deficits made up at the end of the year by contributions of members; there were always deficits. In direct contrast to the officers, who patiently served from year to year, was the fast turnover of shochet and Hebrew teacher. The names of those who succeeded Rabbi Dolgoff included: Rabbis Friedman, Reiches, Spivak and Ruttenberg.

In 1912 the Jewish women of the community formed their Mothers' Club; not only a social organization, but one founded to carry on the traditions of Judaism, to aid the congregation whenever possible, and finally to establish and maintain a Sunday Religious School for the Jewish children of the community. The original officers were: President, Mrs. J. L. Apple, who held the office for almost thirty years; Vice-President, Mrs. A. S. Gruskin, who also served for an extended term; and Secretary-Treasur-

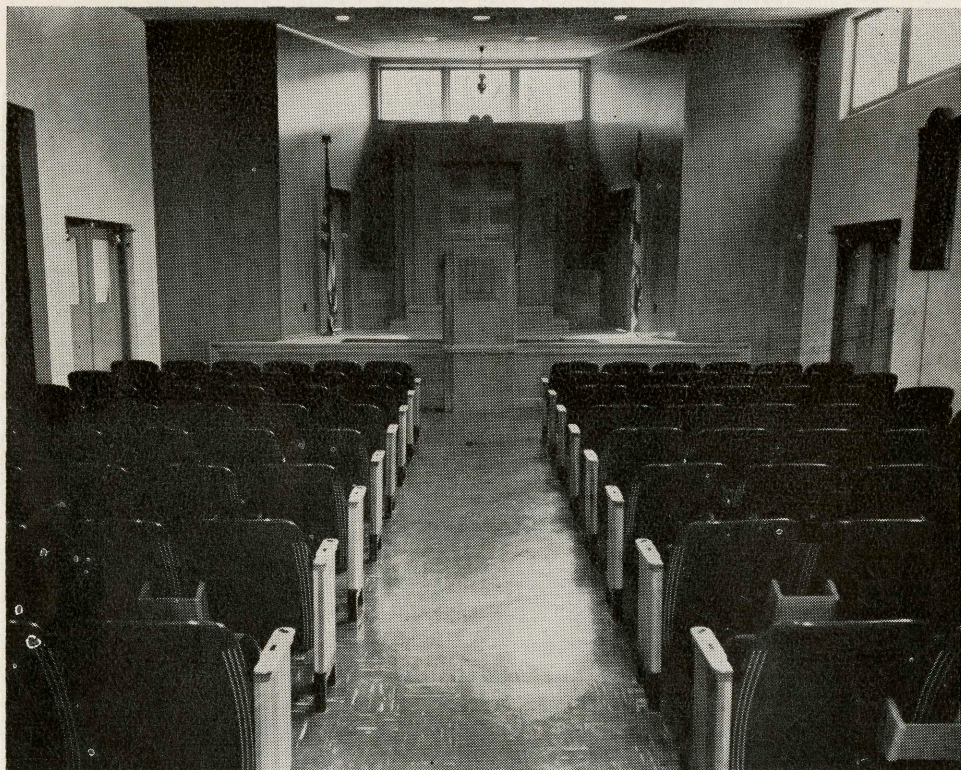


er, Mrs. M. N. Adelson, who remained in the secretarial position for twenty-eight years. Some years later, when the treasurer became a separate unit, Mrs. I. Pollock held the office for many terms.

About 1914 the Congregation moved its quarters to the second floor of the Academy Building on North Jefferson Street. The new location was used for all meetings, services, Hebrew School, and Sunday School which came into being about this time. Mrs. Sidney Kaufman consented to supervise the Sunday School which she did until she left this community. Her work was continued by young women of the community and finally by

various mothers who were members of Mothers' Club. Young men and women and also mothers and fathers became volunteer teachers. The Sunday School for a long period was affiliated with and under the supervision of the Council of Jewish Women, but during the depression years, when membership became a financial burden, this affiliation ceased.

In 1918 the Congregation had the foresight and marvelous courage to purchase a house on North Water Street for \$4,000. There were no funds and the building was mortgaged for the full amount through the Armstrong County Trust Company. The \$700 raised by contributions at this time was used to convert the home for use as a synagogue, meeting place, Cheder, and Sunday School. The remodeling was done by Contractor Young of West Kittanning. The pews came from a church in Butler. Now a charter was secured and Kneseth Israel had its own home. There was only one difficulty — the mortgage had to be paid. Dues were raised to \$8 monthly



SYNAGOGUE

with an additional charge for each child enrolled in the Hebrew School. The Congregation was constantly in financial straits and the Mothers' Club came to the rescue many times. The women raised money for every necessary improvement and expenditure for maintenance; they worked unceasingly on projects of all kinds. These were difficult years — progress was slow, but every effort brought the workers a little closer to the goal. Finally they were successful; the mortgage was paid in full on September 5, 1941.

Many times in the ensuing years — those years in which the following men succeeded each other as presidents of the congregation: Mr. Louis Gruskin, Mr. Maurice Harris, Mr. Harry Pollock, Mr. Phillip Mervis, and Mr. Bernard Adelson — there was talk of the need for a new building. During this period the leadership of Mothers' Club was held respectively by: Mrs. Reuben Karp, Mrs. Abe Siegel, Mrs. Charles Hampton, Mrs. Dave Apple, Mrs. Morris Finesod, Mrs. Sam Parnes, and Mrs. Martin Gross; the Congregation employed: Rabbis Holtzman, Levy, Zakuto, Weiner, Cohen, and Schwartzman. Everyone felt the necessity of improved quarters for Kneseth Israel and occasionally there was a spurt of action such as a Building Fund Drive, but no full fledged attempt was actually begun until the night of November 14, 1951, when a community meeting was held in the social hall of the old Synagogue. President Bernard Adelson presided over the meet-

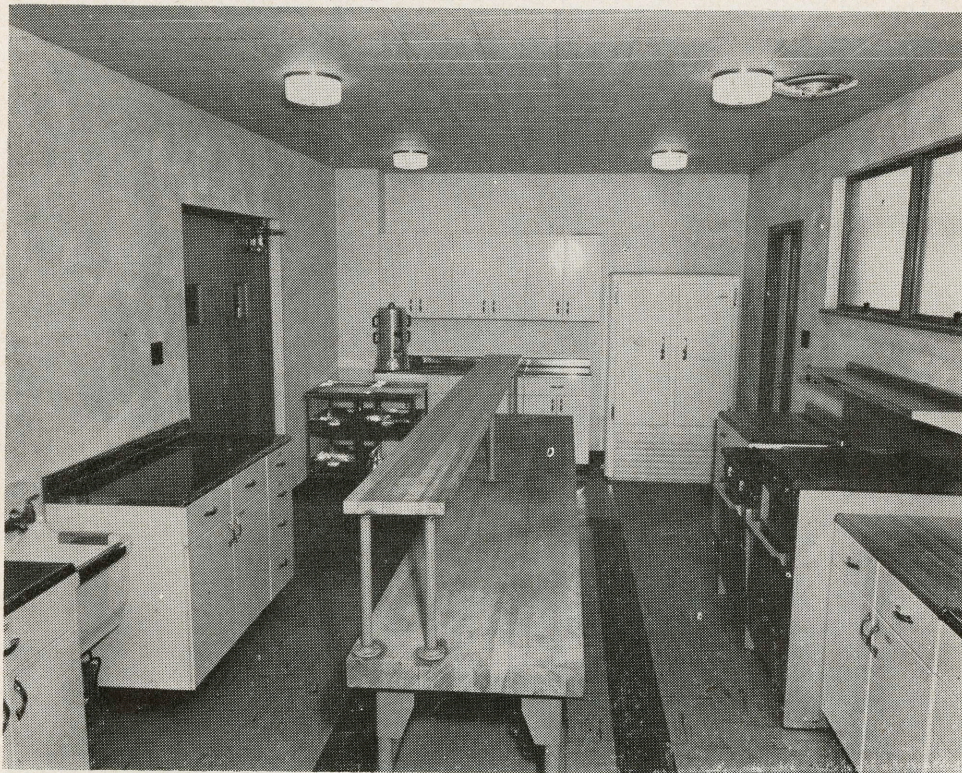


SOCIAL ROOM

ing at which fifty-two people were present. It was stressed that this was not a meeting for the congregation only; this gathering was for all Jews of the community. After much discussion tentative building plans were suggested, a committee appointed, and pledges to the amount of \$25,000 were actually made that night. There were many obstacles; the original committee disbanded and a new one was formed. Headed by Mr. Abe Chinn, a dynamic worker and comparative new comer to this community, this group through their unceasing efforts overcame all obstacles and Ground Breaking Ceremonies for the new Kneseth Israel Synagogue took place on Jan-

uary 25, 1953. The old building was used until the new one, built right behind it, was almost completed. The new Synagogue was available for the New Year Services of 1953, and several times before for Bar Mitzva celebrations even though it wasn't entirely ready for use. The committee and trustees continued their efforts; the 'handy men' of the Congregation spent thousands of working hours laying tile, placing units, aiding the carpenters; the women added their efforts — everyone had a hand in working for the new building to which he had so long looked forward. Just at this time the congregation employed our present religious leader, Rabbi Gerald Lerer.

With the dedication of a new edifice Kneseth Israel looks forward to



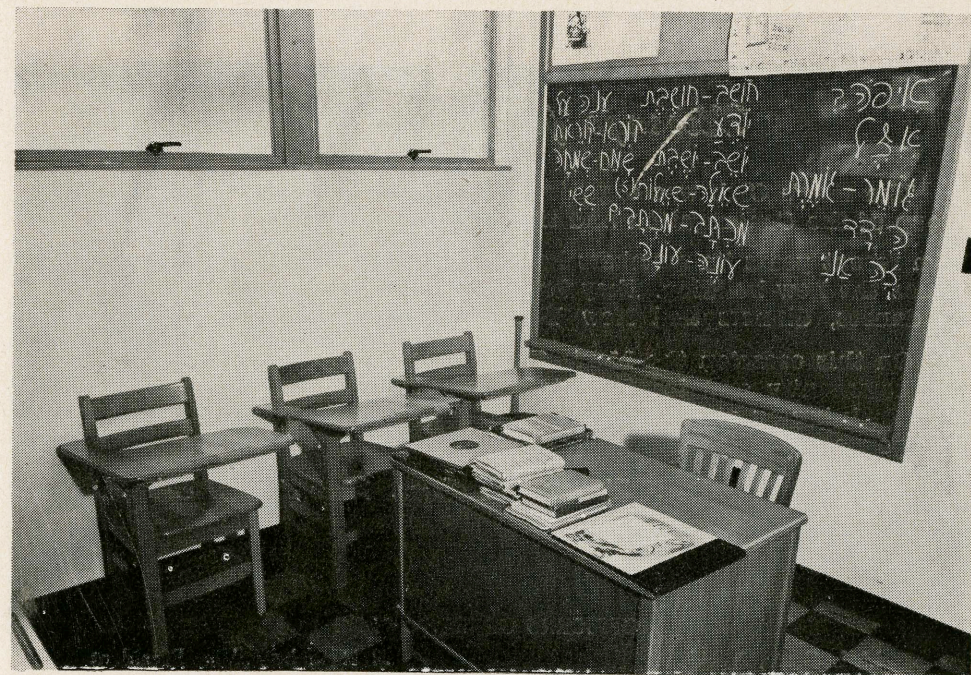
KITCHEN

many years of spiritual prosperity, wherein it can serve its members best — the men and women who have for years served it and have built it from a handful of far-sighted men, meeting in a home almost fifty years ago to a Synagogue of which we can be proud. "How goodly are thy tents, O Jacob, thy dwelling places O Israel."

Mrs. Ralph Adelson



SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS



CLASS ROOM

Message from Superintendant, Sunday School

The Kneseth Israel Sunday School, which had been operated under various conditions by the Mothers' Club, needed a new building perhaps more than any other phase of Jewish community life.

From the cramped quarters where sometimes three classes were conducted in one room, to the spaciousness of the new building, was a most welcome change. The youngest to the oldest children reacted to the beauty and convenience of the Sunday School classrooms with a new respect for their Jewishness.

With Betty Lou Adelson, Carolyn Chinn, Faye Liebman, and Eileen Parnes as teachers, and with the Rabbi in charge of the Confirmation Class, the first year in the new building proved our Sunday School to be an undertaking worthy of the best efforts of the young people of Kittanning.

May the future of the Sunday School be as successful as its first year in the new building.

Mrs. Reuben Karp

Message from Men's Club

The men's Club was organized in 1937 to serve as the social activity group of the Congregation and the Jewish community in general.

In recent years its members have endeavored to raise funds to help finance the new building. They have promoted many social functions such as dances, dinners and New Years parties.

On this occasion the Men's Club wishes to add its congratulations to the community and to state its satisfaction in having had some small part in bringing about the attainment of today's dedication of the new synagogue.

Martin L. Gross, President Men's Club

OFFICERS OF MEN'S CLUB

M. L. Gross, President
Dr. M. LeBendig, Secretary

M. Rosenberg, Vice President
L. Kaplan, Treasurer

Dedication Committee

RALPH ADELSON
General Chairman

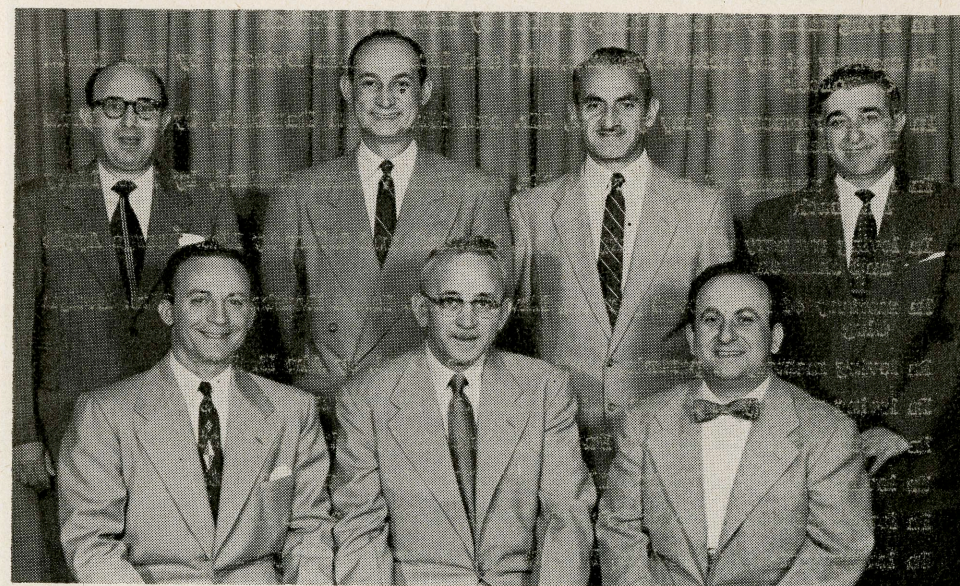
MARTIN L. GROSS
REUBEN MERVIS
Dedication Book

HARRY SPARKS
RUDOLPH FELDMAN
Dedication Program

LARRY ROSENSON
SAM FRIEDLAND
Decorations

MARTIN L. GROSS, Banquet Chairman

Catering by Ladies of Mothers Club



Standing, left to right: Reuben Mervis, Larry Rosenson, Ralph Adelson, Harry Sparks
Seated: Rudolph Feldman, Martin Gross, Sam Friedland

In Memoriam

- In loving memory of our parents, Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Adelson, by Mr. and Mrs. M. N. Adelson.
- In loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Louis David Adelson, parents of Stephen Jay Adelson, by Mr. and Mrs. M. N. Adelson
- In loving memory of our parents, Isaac and Lena Gross, by Mr. and Mrs. Martin L. Gross
- In loving memory of our parents, Benjamin and Cecelia Kaufmann, by Mr. and Mrs. Martin L. Gross
- In memory of my beloved mother, Ada Rebecca Lurie, by Dora Grossman
- In memory of my beloved husband, Jerome C. Grossman, by Dora Grossman
- In memory of our beloved daughter, Miriam Rita Harris, by Sara and Morris Harris
- In loving memory of my father, David Miller, by Henry Miller
- In loving memory of my mother, Leah Miller, by Henry Miller
- In loving memory of my father, Morris Greenberg, by Freda Miller
- In loving memory of my son Abraham Lurie, by Harry Lurie
- In loving memory of my mother, Lena Edith Kaplan, by Leonard Kaplan
- In loving memory of husband and father, Louis Pollock, by Mrs. Louis Pollock
- In loving memory of son Phillip Pollock by Mrs. Louis Pollock
- In memory of my beloved parents, Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Dvinsky, by Mrs. David C. Pollock
- In loving memory of my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Israel Rambach, by Dr. Morris Rambach
- In loving memory of my parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Rafford, by Mrs. Mary Rambach
- In loving memory of Mr. George Apple, husband, and father by Mrs. George Apple and children.
- In memory of my beloved parents, Mr. and Mrs. Israel Rambach, by Mrs. Evelyn Clug
- In loving memory of parents, Louis and Rose Siegel, by Abe B. Siegal
- In loving memory of Father, Joseph Gelbman, by Margaret M. Siegal
- In loving memory of Mother, Pauline Silberblatt, by John Silberblatt
- In loving memory of Father, Meyer Silberblatt, by John Silberblatt
- In loving memory of Father, Joseph Sparks, by Mrs. Joseph Moss
- In loving memory of Mother, Minnie Sparks, by Mrs. Joseph Moss
- In loving memory of Stella Lillian Steiner, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Julius Steiner

In Memoriam

- In memory of my beloved mother, Sarah Lillian Charleson, by Archie Charleson
- In loving memory of Meyer and Dora Liebman, parents, by Michael Liebman
- In memory of our beloved mother, Ryna Mervis, by the Mervis Family
- In loving memory of Harry and Rebecca Levine, parents, by Jacob Levine
- In loving memory of Harry and Morris Mervis, brothers, by Philip Mervis
- In loving memory of Rachael Kaplan and Bessie Shapiro, sisters, by Philip Mervis
- In loving memory of Fanny Mervis, sister, by Phillip Mervis
- In loving memory of Julian and Sarah Mervis, parents, by Philip Mervis
- In memory of my beloved father, Isaac Lefkofsky, by Charles Lefton
- In loving memory of Mrs. Chasa Kutchai, mother, by Mrs. Abe N. Cohen
- In loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Esrael Cohen, parents, by Abe N. Cohen
- In loving memory of Mrs. Lena Rubinooff, sister, by Mrs. Abe N. Cohen
- In loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Rose, parents by Rudy Rose
- In loving memory of Mrs. Sophie Dahl, mother, by Mrs. Edith Rose
- In loving memory of Mr. Jerome Feldman, father by Rudolph Feldman
- In loving memory of Mr. Jerome Feldman, father, by Rudolph Feldman
- In loving memory of Herman Henning, father, by Ada Pollock
- In loving memory of Sarah Henning, mother, by Ada Pollock
- In loving memory of Nathan and Fannie Friedland, parents, by Mrs. Devine Bayer
- In loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Gruskin, parents, by Mrs. Bernard Apple

Membership of Kneseth Israel Congregation

Arnold Adelson
Bernard Adelson
M. N. Adelson
Ralph Adelson
Bernard Apple
Mrs. George Apple
Joseph Brody
Archie Charleson
Abe Chinn
Dr. Leo Clug
Abe Cohn
Sam Cooper
Isadore Dahl
Rudolph Feldman
Morris Finesod
Samuel Friedland
Martin L. Gross
Mrs. Dora Grossman
Leonard Kaplan
William Kaplan
Reuben Karp
Charles Krutzell
Dr. Morris Lebendig
Charles Lefton
David Lennavitt
Jacob Levine
Michael Liebman
Isadore Lurie
Harry Lurie

Philip Mervis
Reuben Mervis
Samuel Mervis
Henry Miller
Joseph Moss
Charles Nevins
Sidney Nevins
Samuel Parnes
Jack Parish
David Pollock
Harry Pollock
Isadore Pollock
Mrs. L. Pollock
Dr. Morris Rambach
Samuel Rambach
Samuel Reisberg
Rudolph Rose
Sidney Rosenfeld
Maurice Rosenberg
Larry Rosenson
Abe Silberblatt
John Silberblatt
Morris Silberblatt
Samuel Silberblatt
Abe Siegal
Edward Steiner
Julius Steiner
Harry Sparks

