

Brownsville, Pa., Jewry will Dedicate New Temple

After many months of anxious and watchful waiting the members of Temple Ohave Israel, Brownsville, Pa., will formally dedicate their new \$50,000.00 edifice and house of worship in the near future.

The present beautiful, costly and thoroughly efficient structure is the culmination of nearly fifteen years of continuous activity by the members who would not permit apparent unsurmountable obstacles to stand in their way in order to realize their final aim and ambition.

The first meeting of the congregation was called for charter purpose during 1906 and met at the residence of Sam Birkenfield. There were but a mere handful present and the prospects of an eventual congregation was rather gloomy at the time but the spirit and earnest desire of the few present brought about further meetings and the following charter members were instrumental in bringing about the foundation of the congregation: Messrs. John Altman, Sam Birkenfield, Jos. N. Cooper, Edw. Gottesman, I. Hershkowitz, Max G. Krause, Morris Lebowitz, Harry Levy, Abe Miller and B. Wise.

From 1906 to 1915 the members of the congregation met from time to time at the homes

ices and so large because the assemblage that a great desire for their own synagogue brought

tion and to bring about the reality of their own house of worship.

After considerable difficulties a building of proportionate size and constructed in frame was opened for services in 1916 and served its purpose until 1919 when unfortunately a large fire which swept the neighborhood also claimed this structure among its ruins thereby entailing considerable spiritual and financial loss.

From the very inception of the congregation, arrangements were made for the Jewish education of the children; Rev. Levendorff, formerly of Monessen and now of New Castle, would come to Brownsville and instruct classes every Sunday at the various children's homes until such time that a hall was finally rented. The first Sunday school superintendent was H. L. Beck and he was succeeded in turn by M. Seligman, Celia Fink, Bella Krause and finally by Rabbi Shapo who has complete charge at the present time of all the children's Jewish educational activities, holding his class services at Waggoner's Hall up to the present.



TEMPLE OHAVE ISRAEL
Erected by the Brownsville Construction Co.

of various members and during holiday services rented available halls in and around Brownsville. So encouraging were these serv-

about the appointing of various committees to formulate plans as to the best remedy to bring about a solution for this conges-

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The destruction of their house of worship in 1919, cast a broad gloom over the forty-five members and their families, but their efforts to bring about a new Temple and the necessity of maintaining the daily Hebrew school and the weekly Sunday school classes, catering to fifty children were not to be overlooked and only added to the zealous efforts for a new permanent home which is now to be formally dedicated. A building committee consisting of Messrs. Edw. Gottesman, chairman; Altman, Sam Birkenfield, Geo. Ehrenpreis and Dave Jacobs were appointed and with the grand assistance of Benj. Schwartz, president of the congregation a report was rendered and accepted that a lot on Second Street, near Arch Street, was purchased.

Immediately this active committee drew plans and specifications through the guidance of Architect N. P. Cooper, of Uniontown, Pa. and the contract was awarded to the Brownsville Const. Co. for erection.

The completed Temple is a two story brick veneer building and has a main seating capacity of over 300 including a balcony, and has a seating capacity of 250 in the auditorium. The auditorium will be used as a school, for lectures, plays and in the evenings for a gymnasium with its shower bath partition arrangements. Besides the synagogue and auditorium there are several meeting rooms. The walls are beautifully decorated, art windows forming the background. The building is finished in hardwood throughout and is steam heated. The fixtures are very attractive and durable.

As is customary in all successful communities where religion and children's Jewish edu-

cational work feature; the women of Brownsville are no exception. Through the grand efforts of the Hebrew Ladies' Aid Society, which was organized about four years ago and whose membership numbers about 98 per cent of the Jewish women; many valuable services have been rendered by this splendid organization indirectly toward the synagogue and the fact that they have their present splendid organization augurs well for the future constructive work of the Temple through its many functions. The officers of the Brownsville Hebrew Ladies' Aid Society are Mrs. Abe Miller, President; Mrs. Jos. N. Cooper, Vice-President; Mrs. Benj. Schwartz, Secretary, and Mrs. Paul Gerecter, Treasurer.

The Temple which is to be formally dedicated has been in charge of the following officers, who have made innumerable sacrifices to bring about the completion of the building; Benj. Schwartz, President; Geo. Ehrenpreis, Vice-President; Max Laponsky, Esq., Secretary; Oscar Jubelirer, Treasurer. Trustees, Nathan Kaufman, R. S. Goldstein, Harry Levy and Elder, Mr. H. Kramer.

Many out of town guests are expected to attend, as Brownsville is one of the oldest towns along the Monongahela Valley and many successful and well known residents of large cities formerly lived at Brownsville and still have many friends and relatives there. The following interesting program has been arranged for the occasion which will go down in history of Brownsville Jewry. Following the program the members of the Hebrew Ladies' Aid Society will cater a banquet to all present in the auditorium of the synagogue.

Are we to Rejoice at the Victories of the Bolsheviks?

Mr. S. I. Yazkan, the editor of the "Warsaw Haint," who is at present on a visit in America, answering the above question, wrote the following in an article in the New York "Day" of August 23rd:

"It seems to be the prevailing conception in America that no greater fortune could befall the Jews of Poland than to find themselves, so to say, in the arms of the Bolsheviks.

"This impression one obtains not only in circles that express distinct leanings towards Bolshevism, but also from such Jews as are very far from Bolshevism. Thus, the other day, I met an old orthodox Jew who can hardly be expected to sympathize with Bolshevism or Socialism generally, and he said to me, 'Thank God. I have lived to see the defeat of your Poles.' In another instance, an old woman, one who certainly has no concern with Bolshevism, very earnestly congratulated me upon the manner in which the Jews of Poland have at last been redeemed. She said to me, 'Finally the Almighty did

have mercy with our brethren in your Poland,' and she said it with much feeling of jubilation. And it is to these innocent Jews and naive Jewesses that I desire to point out that they are grievously in error.

"This error arises from and finds its origin in a very natural source. Ever since the day that Poland obtained its freedom, a matter extending slightly over two years, the heart of every Jew in America has from time to time been rent by reports of pogroms and excesses which have been committed upon the Jews in Poland. Hardly a day passes that the American Jew should not read something in the press with regard to the treatment of his brethren in Poland which makes his blood boil. Small wonder, indeed, that the name Poland, which at one time brought forth decided sympathy, the Poles having borne the bitter destiny of exile together with the Jews, small wonder indeed that this name has suddenly been converted into something which evokes only feelings of enmity and