

100 to 150 copies
single - spaced

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Dear Members of Beth Israel Center,

Several months ago, the members of the Beth Israel Center voted that the various committees of the Center investigate the feasibility of the Center acquiring a permanent home. Since then, the House and Sites Committee has arrived at an estimate of \$60,000 to \$75,000 for a home that would serve well the needs of the Center. More recently, at another general meeting of the Center, several members who have worked diligently to make a success of our Center spoke in recommendation that we pursue an active building program as soon as funds are available. In addition, our guest speaker, Mr. Robert Heller of the Pittsburgh United Jewish Fund expressed his encouragement toward our proposed Building Program, and pointed out the spiritual need for our having a home for our school and our worship.

At the conclusion of the meeting, pledge cards were given to those members present. To date, over half of the cards given out at that meeting have been returned by mail. The ^{average} average pledge has been an encouraging \$440 per family. If we all see to it that the response continues with the same sincere generosity, Beth Israel will be in a position to acquire a home quite soon. We are all anxious to see just how soon, but our first firm estimate cannot be made until all pledge cards have been filled in (generously, of course) and returned. At that time a joint announcement by the Planning and House and Sites Committees will give more detailed information and recommendations concerning the size, type, location, cost and date of availability of our new home.

It would take many pages to list all the reasons why we need a permanent Beth Israel -- a House of Israel. But let us look at a few of the situations that have added to the burden of operating the Center under the present arrangement of borrowed facilities:

Our Sunday School experienced a brief period of inconvenience because of a rearrangement of equipment and facilities in order that the renovated YMCA building could comply with local fire ordinances applicable to public buildings.

For a time it was not certain that we would ^a have the continued use of the Boro Hall for general meetings, after a minor misunderstanding concerning our use of the hdl. ~~Our friends at the Fle~~

Our friends, at the Pleasant Hills Community Presbyterian Church have been exposed to some childish indiscretions of a few of our Hebrew School students that, though not serious, would have been better if they had been kept "in the ^{family} faily" of the Center. And all of us are looking forward to the coming High Holy Day Services with a hope that the portions of the services that come on Sunday will not make an imposition on the hospitality of the members of the Church.

Most recently, those of us who came to McClellan School for Friday Night services found that the school supply room, where the Ark and Prayer Books are stored, was accidentally locked. As a result, services could not be held.

In each case, the problem was not the adequacy of the facilities,

nor was it any lack of generosity on the part of our hosts; it was the same problem faced by any guest that has stayed with a friend for an extended period -- continued dependence on hospitality leads to inconvenience, misunderstanding, ^{and} eventually, to a lessening of cordiality between even the best of friends.

It is interesting to note that the Lord takes care of most new, young lives in a special way. He ^{provides} each seed, egg or infant with a small reserve supply of rich, ^{readily} available, high-energy food, so that the ^{weak} weak, struggling young ^{plant} plant, animal or child has a small "gift" of nourishment on which it can feed for a short time. So have we, of the Beth Israel Center, been generously blessed with good facilities available for our needs, provided through our friends ^{and} neighbors at little or no cost to us. But the initial supply is almost exhausted, as the previous paragraphs would serve to indicate. So, as ^{one} on newly-hatched chick said to the other,

"Come on, Brother, we're done hatching.

"It's time we got out and started scratching!"

Please fill in and return your Building Fund Pledge cards as soon as possible. If the amount you desire to pledge is not one of those listed on the enclosed card, please write in the amount and manner of payment you desire.

Sincerely yours,

James A. Weissburg
Planning Committee Chairman

"...and we shall build unto the Glory of the Lord a Sanctuary, that He may dwell with us, and we with Him."

"As my Fathers planted for me, so do I plant for my children."