

March 23, 1964

Dear Sid,

It has just been brought to our attention that there is quite a bit of controversy concerning Beth Israel Center Pre-School. This pre-school is something Harvey and I have waited for and hoped to see organized, and it took less than a handful of dedicated women to see it come true. Perhaps B.I.C. members from areas other than Pleasant Hills are not in favor of it being in existence. No one is being asked to support pre-school. They pay a more than fair rental, and are able to support themselves.

For the first time Jewish children may attend a pre-school that is not at a church, but rather at their center. Why is every other church in this area able to support a pre-school? Why does B.I.C. have to be the only one to object? Our children are receiving an excellent background for school with no religious training -- and we are all in favor of this.

The kashruth has been respected and carefully observed by all the mothers, moreso than it was at first by some of our own members. There can be no complaint in that department.

We also feel that we, personally, supported the center when our children were too young to take advantage of it, and now that we have a building, why not allow them to use it.

This school has helped the reputation of B.I.C. grow and improve. Many people not affiliated with the center speak highly of it because of pre-school.

We hope that quite a bit of thought goes into the decision about pre-school, and that if it is necessary to vote on this, it is brought up before the general meeting.

Again may I repeat -- pre-school pays rent and can do w a good job of supporting itself. Why not allow it to continue?

Sincerely yours,

Mr + Mrs. Harvey T. Howley

March 17, 1964

Dear Sid,

We were alarmed to hear that there is some thought being given to discontinuing the Beth Israel Center Pre-School. This is to advise you that we are definitely opposed to any such action. The prestige that Beth Israel Center has achieved through the establishment of the Pre-School is now community wide.

In addition to the above, our own daughter has advanced considerably both socially and educationally through her attendance at the kindergarten.

In our opinion, by having the Pre-School and advertising its benefits, Jewish families will be attracted to this area. Since increasing our membership is of primary importance this is one fact we cannot afford to overlook.

We therefore request that you present our thoughts to the Center Board so that the Pre-School will become an integral part of Beth Israel Center. We certainly expect it to grow as we do the Jewish community in this area.

Thank you for your attention to this letter.

Sincerely,

*Phyllis & Bernie Srota*

311 maize drive  
Apt. 36, Pa.  
March 19, 1964

Dear Mr. Friedlander,

I've heard of the possibility of the Beth Israel Center not sponsoring the pre-school another year. She would like to tell you we are well satisfied with the effects of the kindergarten on our daughter and would like to add our word is support of continuing the pre-school, especially the kindergarten. They are so badly needed in this area.

Sincerely,

Mr. + Mrs. Donald Akey

March 19, 1964

Dear Sid,

It has come to our attention that there is opposition to Beth Israel Center Kindergarten <sup>and</sup> nursery <sup>and</sup> a possibility of not reconvening next year.

We personally feel - having a daughter in the Kindergarten this year - <sup>and</sup> from her wonderful strides in adjusting so that first grade will come so much easier, the necessity of pre-school adjustment. Kindergartens are definitely necessary, <sup>and</sup> the more there are, the more children can be accommodated.

Our first daughter attended Kindergarten in a church <sup>and</sup> regardless of what anyone says, she got Lutheran religious training at least once a day. Naturally, we would prefer our children get no religious schooling (if not Jewish) in a kinder-

partex class, which is, we believe,  
the way B. I. C. operates.

Why support the churches in  
Pleasant Hills when our own  
synagogue needs our support?

Besides being a good school,  
teaching no religion <sup>and</sup> yet opening its  
doors to the entire community, B. I. C.  
has made Pleasant Hills <sup>and</sup> more <sup>Bro.</sup>  
aware of our way of life <sup>and</sup>, we  
feel, makes us a little closer  
neighbors.

If there is great opposition to this  
school, why not have a meeting for  
the General Membership for discus-  
sion pro <sup>and</sup> con.

Please present this letter to the  
Board of Beth Israel Center in  
favor of our Kindergarten <sup>and</sup>  
nursery school.

Sincerely,  
Dore <sup>and</sup> Max Gerson

March 20, 1964

Mr. Sydney Friedlander, President  
Beth Israel Center  
371 Mowry Drive  
Pittsburgh 36, Pa.

Dear Mr. Friedlander:

Beth Israel Center has impressed me as a fine religious organization. In a few short years, it has progressed from a small nucleus into a growing congregation. The fact that it was named Beth Israel Center indicates to me the willingness of this nucleus to be considered not only a synagogue, but a center of community activity.

Realizing the absolute needs of its community emerged a nursery school and kindergarten; not a mediocre or sub-standard school, but one of such high caliber as to warrant praise and recognition of other long established institutions; even recommendations from local realty firms.

As I handle the monthly tuition for the school, I have ample opportunity to converse with parents regarding the nature of the Beth Israel Center Pre-School. The comments, while extremely favorable, also express the excellent service to the area. My own son attends the kindergarten so, of course, I have first hand knowledge of the high quality of the school. Had Beth Israel Center Pre-School not existed, he would have been deprived of kindergarten. Other church schools were unavailable as their own members received first preference. (needless to say, I was only too happy my son was not exposed to other religious teaching which is a practice among local church sponsored schools).

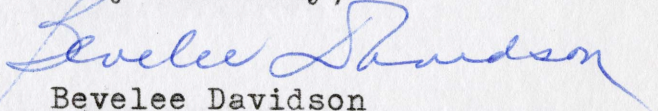
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Of late, rumors have reached me there will be no school next fall. I can believe the Center, in its wonderful effort to be a growing part of the community, would divorce itself from such a worthwhile and admirable activity, and from its financial support.

I have other small children who will be utilizing the Beth Israel Center soon and I truly hope and pray an all out effort will be made to continue the Pre-School.

Thanking you, I am,

Very Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bevelee Davidson". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

Bevelee Davidson



166 Columbia Drive  
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15236  
March 19, 1964

Mr. Sydney Friedlander  
371 Mowry Drive  
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15236

Dear Mr. Friedlander:

As President of the Board of Beth Israel Center, we want you and the other board members to know how much the Pre-School experience has meant to our daughter. Your nursery school has contributed to her growth, ability to get along with a group, and assurance in motor and mental abilities.

We believe in pre-school experience for most children and feel you have done a great service in generously allowing your talents and facilities to go to this cause. Mrs. Mayer's contributions have been tireless. Working with a new building and a new school is difficult, but your success has been great.

Sometimes organizations don't know when they are appreciated. We hope to remedy this. Thank you!

Sincerely,

*Nancy L Moore*  
*Vernon P Moore*