

BETH ISRAEL CENTER BULLETIN

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BOARD APPROVES BUILDING PLANS, BID, SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS

The Beth Israel Center Executive Board concluded its special meeting August 8th at the home of Past-President Jacques Weiss by unanimously approving the following motion by Vice-President Joseph Markowitz:

"Beth Israel Center accepts the final set of building plans presented at this meeting by the Building Committee, and the bids for various portions of the work presented by Wm. R. Schwartzmiller, Inc. subject to the following conditions:

- 1) Approval of the General Membership;
- 2) Completion of the plans in a form suitable for submission to the Bank, at no additional cost to the Center;
- 3) Approval of the plans and the contractor by the Bank; and
- 4) Obtaining the necessary funds in loans, gifts or collections.

Mr. Schwartzmiller's bid was for \$77,653 for the building, plus \$3000 for the grading, \$3000 for the sewer line, and \$2800 for the glass and glazing, making a total of \$86,473.

The set of plans conditionally approved by the Board was the sixth that had come under careful consideration. It calls for a 7800-square-foot building consisting of patterned cinder block faced with Miami Stone. There is a classroom wing, 104 by 42 feet, containing 8 classrooms of assorted sizes, as well as an office, utilities, sanitary facilities and an unfinished but roughed-in kitchen. This is attached to a portion of the building measuring 50 by 70 feet, containing the main sanctuary as well as two small classrooms on either side of the Bimah. The main entrance is in the classroom wing, at its junction with the main sanctuary. The building therefore contains a total of 10 classrooms, as well as the main sanctuary.

Floors will initially be concrete, except in the rest rooms, where vinyl tile is required. The flat roof will be 5-ply tar covered with slag. The present contract calls for installation of ceilings in all rooms except the kitchen; these will be 14 feet high in the sanctuary, and 8 feet high in the classroom wing.

Acceptance of these plans by the Board implies rejection of a building of Butler-type construction, in which prefabricated panels are attached to arched steel beams. The Board examined plans of a Butler-type building with layout, facilities and size comparable to the design accepted. The lowest bid on this building was approximately \$5000 higher than the figures quoted above. A smaller Butler building was also considered, but found to be inadequate for our needs.

Both the Board and the Building Committee expressed regret that it is impossible to build an adequate building for the \$75,000 previously authorized. They agreed that little could be gained in attempting to reduce the size or facilities in order to lower the price. Most easy economies have already been taken, and any further significant reduction would seriously impair the usefulness of the building. A special meeting will be called shortly to request the approval of the plans and contract by the General Membership.

BUILDING GIFTS

There will be many opportunities during the construction of the building to donate specific items. One such gift, \$200 for the paneling behind the Bimah, given by Mrs. Selma W. Simon, was announced last month. This month, we have several new gifts to announce.

A Torah Cover has been presented by Dr. and Mrs. Jacques Weiss, in memory of Dr. Weiss' father, Louis Weiss.

Mr. and Mrs. Max Pearlstein have donated the glass for the building, as well as arranged for reduced prices for the glazing. Mr. Pearlstein is associated with the United Plate Glass Co. The value of this gift is estimated at \$3000.

Mr. and Mrs. Philip Blau, of Miami Stone of Pennsylvania, Inc., have arranged for a reduced price on the facing material. The value of this gift is estimated at \$250.

Mrs. Rose Harris and family have commissioned two original sculptures to be created especially for Beth Israel Center. A silver sculpture, for the Eternal Light, is being created by the nationally-known sculptor, Daniel Blumberg of Philadelphia. A sculpture for the exterior of the building will be executed by Virgil Cantini of Pittsburgh.

Among the items still available for those wishing to make a specific donation are a plaque for the front of the building, the decorative rear wall or floor of the foyer, vinyl tile for the classrooms and corridor floors, bookcases, coat racks, and various portions of the Bimah.

BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS

For your bookshelf and for giving.

We recommend:

Wild Goats of Ein Gedi, by Herbert Weiner (a journal of religious encounters in the Holy Land) \$4.50

The Spinoza of Market Street, by Isaac Bashevis Singer (a collection of stories by the noted Yiddish author) \$3.95

The Rothschilds, by Frederick Morton (a family portrait of the famous family) \$5.95

Handbook for the Jewish Family, (complete home guide of holidays and customs) \$4.95

This is my God, by Herman Wouk (a paper-back reprint) \$1.45.

These and any other book of Jewish or secular content for adults or children can be ordered through the B.I.C. Book Service. Prices are list. Profits go to the B.I.C. Library Fund.

Orders are now being taken for High Holiday Prayerbooks, at \$3.75 each, for your own use or as a donation to the Center.

Buy books in honor of, in Memoriam, or for the B.I.C. library. Donations of books or money are, of course, gratefully accepted.

For orders and further information, call Mrs. Joseph Markowitz, 884-5860.

HOLIDAY BULLETIN TO CARRY NEW YEARS' GREETINGS

Once again, the special edition of the Center Bulletin for the High Holidays will be printed. It will contain a selection of photographs of our activities over the last year, a schedule of religious services for the coming year, and other features.

As it has for the past four years, the Bulletin will carry New Years' Greetings. The donation remains at \$2 for a single line of print, giving names, under the heading "New Years' Greetings From-". Special wording or copy can be accommodated at \$5 per column inch.

Deadline for the High Holiday issue is Sept. 10. Material should be mailed to the editors, Mr. and Mrs. R. Berman, 211 Ben-Til Dr., Pittsburgh 36; telephone 653-1966.

**RULES COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS PASSAGE
OF AMENDMENT**

The Rules Committee has decided to recommend to the General Membership the passage, at the next General Meeting, of the amendment to the by-laws proposed by Joseph Markowitz. The wording of this amendment, which was referred to the Rules Committee at the Spring General Meeting, is as follows:

"The Board shall have the discretion, subject to the will of the Membership, to define special categories of membership, and shall have the discretion to schedule dues and other payments required of members."

This amendment will permit the establishment of an 'associate member' rank, in addition to that of regular member. The Membership Committee has reported that there are several prospective associate members who, due to commitments to other congregations, feel that they are unable to contribute full dues as well as the standard building fund contribution. Nevertheless, they wish to maintain ties with the community.

These people would represent a definite gain to the Center, and they should be encouraged to join. Once the amendment to the By-laws is passed, the Membership will be asked to pass on the dues or building fund exemptions, privileges, and qualifications of associate membership. It is expected that associate membership will be available only to those who are full members elsewhere, and will not carry the privilege of enrollment in the schools.

CENTER SENTIMENTS

MAZEL TOV: to Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Rosenberg upon the birth of a son, Alan Mark, on June 29th.
to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Poller, on the birth of a daughter

BEST WISHES: to Mr. Sam Raphael upon recovering from a recent illness.
to Dr. and Mrs. Daniel Klein upon moving into their new home on Dutch Lane, Pleasant Hills.

MEN'S CLUB BRIEFS

MEN'S CLUB TO MEET AT BRUCE MOTEL

The new restaurant of the Bruce Motel, Route 51 and Streets Run Road, has been reserved for the general meeting of the Men's Club. The meeting will be held on Sept. 18 at 8:30 P.M.

Rabbi Kaufman will be a speaker on the program. Earl Parker, chairman of the Fellowship Committee, which is planning the affair, announced that there would also be some surprises in the program.

Watch for further publicity on this event.

DUES ARE DUE.

Sid Kaufman, our treasurer, has hinted that he would like to have a treasury to be treasurer of. If you mailed him a check, at 329 Macassar dr., Pittsburgh 36, he might be persuaded to accept it. Dues remain a trifling \$5.

**MEMBERSHIP LIST PUNCHED IN IBM
CARDS**

The Men's Club has arranged to have the Center's list of members and area families punched in IBM cards. The cards have now been completed and are available.

The cards can be used to print out a complete membership list in approximately 30 seconds. Any portion of the list-- Sisterhood, Men's Club, committees, Religious School classes, telephone squad checklists-- can be printed in any order. The list can be kept up-to-date by adding, removing, or repunching single cards.

Addresses can be printed in a three-line format on gummed labels for mailing. For information, call Mel Wellerstein, 882-1084.