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Younger Men Being Attracted to Hebrew Free Loan Board of Directors

The following officers were chosen at the annual meeting of the Hebrew Free Loan Association in the Rodef Shalom Temple: President, Louis Shoop; honorary vice president, Julius H. Cohen; first vice president; Dillinger Livingston; second vice president, A. Leo Weil, Jr.; treasurer, Morris Balter, and corresponding secretary, Sidney A. Teller.

The following were nominated for the board of directors: George Rom, Herbert Rosenbaum, Louis Miller, Morris Balter, Joseph Goldstein, A. L. Koch, Gustav H. Oppenheim, Israel Oseroff, Emil Steinbach and A. Leo Weil, Jr. Mr. Shoop, president, in his annual address, said:

"The fact that we are holding our meeting jointly with the United Hebrew Relief Association or, as it is to be called hereafter, the Jewish Family Welfare Association of Pittsburgh, is in my judgment, significant because it emphasizes the relationship between the community work done by the Hebrew Free Loan and the work which the Family Welfare Association is undertaking. Both serve our community in a material and practical way, either trying to prevent poverty, which I consider as our special task, or to overcome poverty, which I believe is primarily the function of the Family Welfare Society. It is our business to help respectable men and women to help themselves and to prevent their becoming dependents by advancing them loans without interest, at the right time. We expect the return of our loans in full, even though we are willing to charge no interest, and, to extend wherever necessary, the time limit for the return of the loans.

"I am sometimes told that we do not turn over our basic capital to the same extent as do other free loan societies. But this may be accounted for by the fact that in a number of instances we have found that it would be a tremendous hardship indeed to insist upon automatic repayments when the home conditions are almost critical in character. In other words, we use judgment in the interest of our clients as well as in the interests of the society we represent."

Federation and the Browarsky Estate.

The Federation not only meets our Administrative Expenses, which during the last year amounted to approximately \$1,350.00, but it also acts as the Trustee of the Mark and Rosa Browarsky Estate—and turns over to us from time to time such amounts as may be needed by us.

Board of Directors.

Last year has seen a very considerable improvement in the Board of Directors of our organization. I am happy to report that the policy for which Dr. Bernstein is largely responsible of attracting younger people, and of interesting larger numbers of representative men in this community, has worked out very well indeed. It may possibly be unfair to mention particular names, but I feel that it is only just—without reflecting on the faithfulness and conscientiousness of the others, to point out the fact that I have received unusually valuable assistance from Mr. Dillinger Livingston, Mr. Morris Balter, Mr. I. Oseroff, Mr. Emil Steinbach, Mr. A. Leo Weil, Jr., Mr. A. K. Koch, Mr. Oppenheim, and Mrs. Victor. In line with this newer policy it is a pleasure for me to announce that our four new board members of the Hebrew Free Loan Society likewise belong to the class of energetic men from whom I confidently expect energetic cooperation.

Our Methods of Investigations and Collections.

During the past year, we have also changed our methods of investigations and collections, believing that the time had come, with the aid of an adequately paid financial secretary, and with the help of a competent Board of Directors, to undertake both tasks, without the aid of any other social agency. On this occasion we desire to express again our cordial thanks and appreciation to the Irene Kaufmann Settlement, to its Director Mr. Teller, and to Miss Heldman, for the great help they gave us so unstintingly—when we were in need of it. But, as I said before, we are now in an infinitely better position to do the work on our own responsibility. As a matter

of fact, our collections have been most gratifying, and our judgment as to the character of our borrowers seems to have been perfectly reliable.

The Business Men's Committee.

There has been a growing demand for loans, and what is more important, there has been a growing demand for loans in larger brackets. There has been a feeling among the members of our board, which is shared by the members of the Jewish Family Welfare Association, that it would be very helpful to assist certain families under the care of the United Hebrew Relief Association, with one large substantial loan rather than with protracted allowances frequently amounting to regular pensions.

During the year just passed, a joint committee representing our own organization and the United Hebrew Relief Association, met for the purpose of arriving at some definite plan of cooperation. It was felt that a joint request should be made to the Federation to set aside an amount of money to be used for certain border-line families for free loan purposes. I confidently hope that the year 1927 will prove conclusively that it is possible to organize a self-help fund, so valuable for the families as well as for the community.

Scope of the Work for 1926.

Without entering into detailed figures, let me just briefly say that during the year 1926, we loaned out a total of \$34,562.76 on a basic capital of less than \$24,000.00, the total number of our borrowers being 371 during the entire year, or, in other words, at the rate of approximately \$93.15 per loan. You may also be interested to know that we rejected many requests, for reasons which seemed entirely satisfactory to our Loan Committee, composed as it is, of intelligent and reasonable men who are familiar with the economic and social conditions of our prospective borrowers.

It is my confident hope that the year 1927 will bring us nearer to the realization of our aims, which is, to extend the service and the usefulness of our organization. During the new year we also expect to move into our new quarters in the proposed Social Service Building, which is being erected by the Federation, on Fernando Street, and where we are going to have a permanent office assigned to us. With the aid of an active Board of Directors, I feel confident that our organization will take place among those that are of real constructive help to our community.

May I, in conclusion, express my cordial thanks and appreciation, not only to those people on the Board whose names I have mentioned before, but more particularly to Mrs. Doris Victor, who has very cordially collaborated with me; also to Mr. Frishman, our Financial Secretary, and to Dr. Ludwig B. Bernstein, the Executive Director of the organization, who has ever encouraged and guided me in my work.

Death of A. J. Sunstein and Morris Jackson.

Before proceeding further with the rest of our business, let me express, on this occasion, the sense of great loss sustained by the Hebrew Free Loan Society in the passing away of a great leader in Jewish communal life of Pittsburgh—the late Mr. A. J. Sunstein. He has been a particular friend to the kind of social work which we represent. Through his friendship with and guidance of the late Mr. Mark Browarsky, Mr. A. J. Sunstein has helped to lay the foundation for what we consider to be one of the most significant foundations in the history of Pittsburgh's Jewry—I refer to the will of Mark and Rosa Browarsky.

It is also a matter of deep regret for me to report to you the passing away of Mr. Morris Jackson, who so faithfully served the Hebrew Free Loan Society for a number of years as its President, and latterly, as its Honorary President. During his presidency, our Hebrew Free Loan Society developed from its early infancy to a much stronger organization. He has indeed left many staunch friends behind.