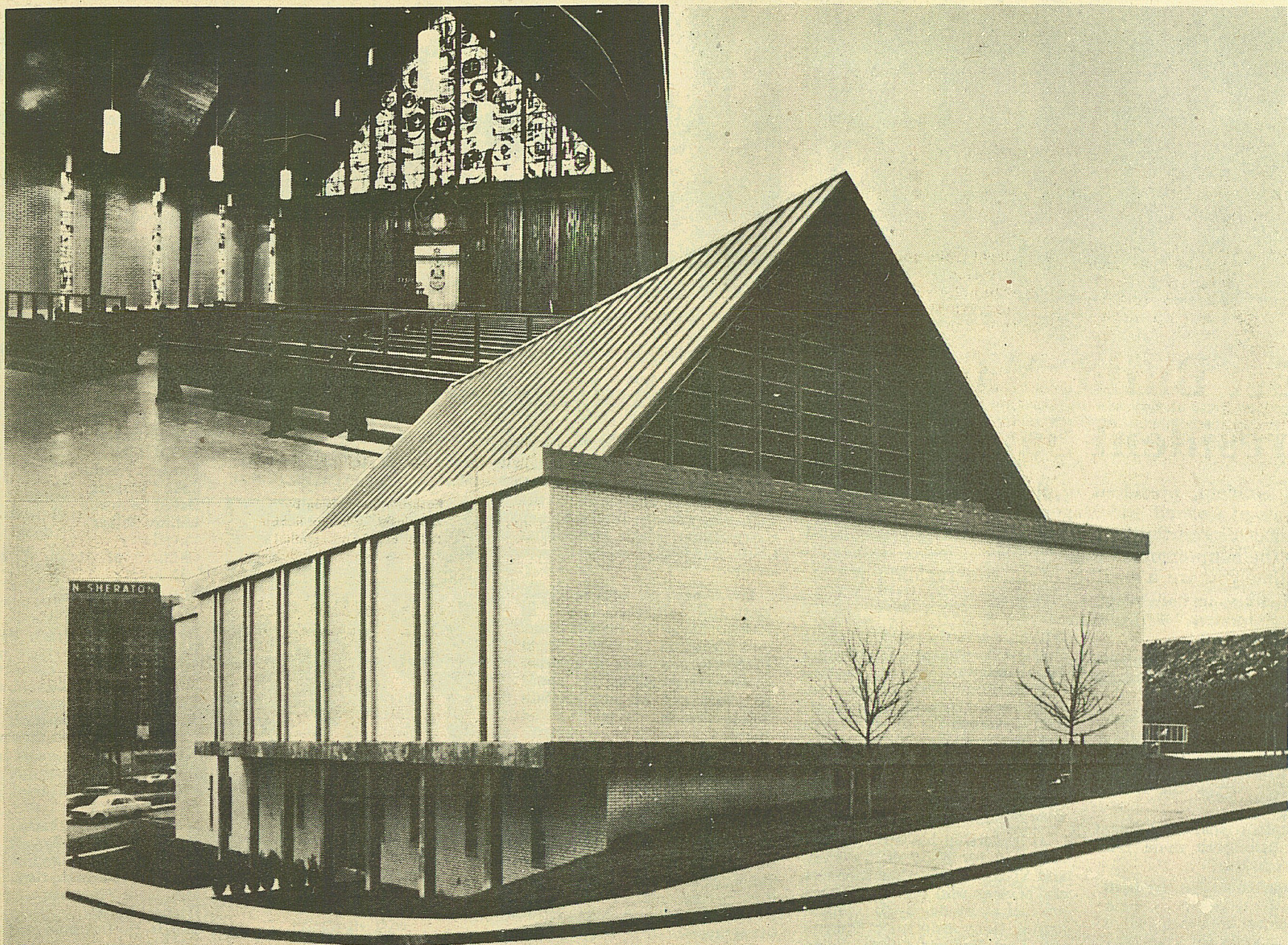


## SPECIAL SECTION OF CONGREGATION BETH HAMEDRASH HAGODOL-BETH JACOB DEDICATION



Interior and exterior views of the Beth Hamedrash Hagodol—Beth Jacob Congregation. It has been dubbed the "Arena Synagogue."

## Almost 100 Years Ago The Story Began

**T**HIS is the story of Beth Hamedrash Hagodol—Beth Jacob Congregation.

The story began almost 100 years ago when 12 Jewish men went to Attorney Josiah Cohen (later Judge Cohen) to arrange a charter for a new Orthodox Congregation.

Mr. Cohen drew the papers at 98 Fifth Ave., Downtown, and the men signed:

**"Morris Rosenthal, Simon Jacob, Louis Sandusky, Jacob Bernstein, J. Notovinsky, Simon Muller, Max Miller, B. Bernstein, Charles Levy, Haimon Rosenbloom, Jacob Solomon, and J. Altman."**

In the congregation were Civil War veterans and some of the earliest immigrants to Pittsburgh from Eastern Europe.

On October 13, 1873, they were chartered as the Chevra B'nai Israel Congregation and started holding daily services in a rented room Downtown, probably on Liberty Ave. or Fourth Ave.

Later, they moved to the corner of Grant St. and Third Ave. where the Grant Building sits today.

Meeting together daily was not new to them. That had started on Rosh Hashana, the Jewish New Year, in 1869.

The congregation has been at it since, making it



**RABBI JOSEPH L. KAPLAN**  
*Teacher of the congregation.*

the oldest Orthodox group in Western Pennsylvania.

Until last July, services were held on the first floor of an old rented restaurant building at 1229 Fifth Ave. The heavy oak pews of the Beth Hamedrash Hagodol were stored on the second floor.

Now the congregation is installed in a bright new synagogue at Colwell and Magee Sts. in the Lower Hill Redevelopment Area, combining two traditional groups — Beth Hamedrash Hagodol and Beth Jacob.

In 1894, a joyous parade wound its way from Grant Street to 129 Washington Place in the Hill as members carried the sacred scrolls to a new synagogue.

It was built after the congregation was re-chartered as Beth Hamedrash Hagodol. They stayed until March 5, 1960 when fire forced them out.

The synagogue was scheduled for demolition anyway by the Urban Redevelopment Authority, but worshipers were going to use it until the wreckers came.

The fire burned the basement, destroying rare books and scrolls, but the elaborately carved Holy Ark and the parchment holy scrolls used in the services in the main sanctuary were saved. Today the Ark and scrolls are in the new Synagogue.

Later the pews and other fixtures were dismantled and moved.

In the beginning great numbers of Jewish immigrants were coming to America and many found their way to Pittsburgh and settled in the Hill.

On Washington Place the synagogue became the leader of Orthodox congregations as more than 20 congregations were organized.

On the new charter the signers' addresses show how closely the Jewish community was linked to The Hill in those days.

David Avner lived at 23 Wylie Ave.; Morris Rosenthal at 33 Wylie Ave.; Ja-

cob Solomon, Chatham St.; Moses Margolia, Colwell St.; Simon Miller, Fifth Ave.; Aaron G. Rosenthal, Colwell St.; Mendal Novinsky, Congress St.; Barnett Davis, Washington St.; Myer Rosenthal, 33 Wylie Ave., and Jacob Zernstein, Federal St.

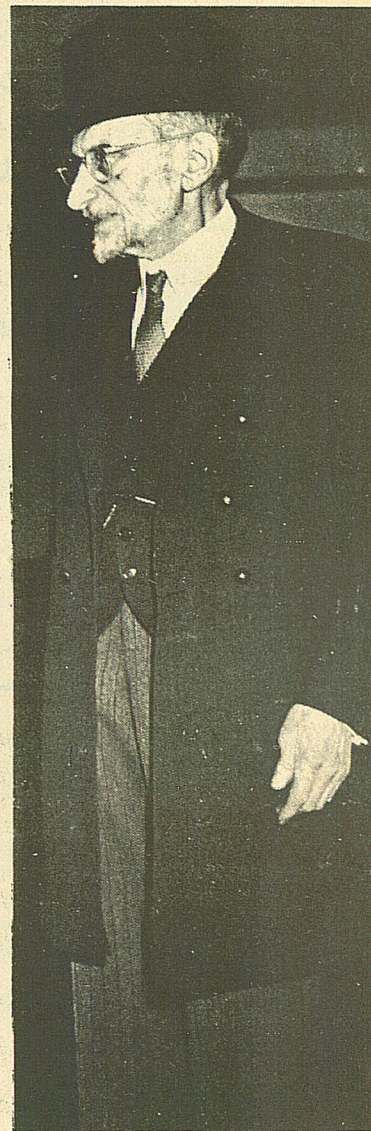
Gradually, the people moved away, and one by one the synagogues closed—all except Beth Hamedrash Hagodol. The new synagogue is the only one between The Point and Oakland.

Daily services are important in the downtown area and particularly convenient to those unable to get home from work in time to attend synagogues far from office or shop.

Services are held mornings and evenings. The morning service is at 8 a.m. except on Saturdays and holidays when they are held at 9 a.m. The evening hour is marked by sunset, and in winter this comes quite early, before the working day is done.

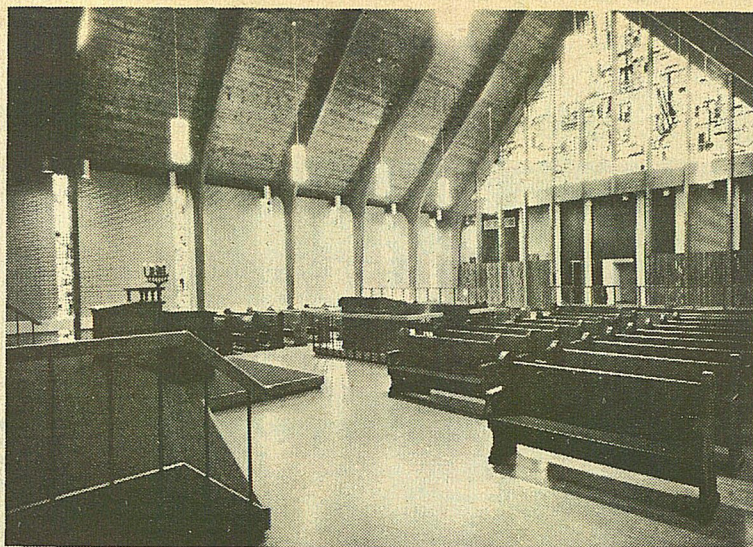
"Yahrzeit" and "Kaddish" are an important part of religious services needed in the Downtown area.

Many Jewish persons live Downtown and more are expected with the opening of new apartment houses in addition to the Bigelow Apartments, Washington



**RABBI A. M. ASHINSKY**  
*Spiritual leader.*

Plaza and Chatham Center. Many Jews coming to town on business or conventions, seek a synagogue close to downtown.



OLD AND NEW sanctuaries of Beth Hamedrash Hagodol mirror old and new times.

# Building

Contributors to Building Fund are:

- Jacob Wolk
- Harold Vexler
- Mrs. Mary F. Parnes
- Cong. Beth Jehuda of Manchester
- William Solomon
- Estate of Louis Little
- Abe Goldstein
- Dr. A. A. Cohen
- Hubert Teitelbaum, Esq.
- R. Lavin & Sons
- Sam Herman
- Ralph Klein
- Isadore Morman
- Ralph Schugar
- Dr. I. H. Stein
- Joseph Levy
- David M. Roth
- Edward S. Sheinberg, Esq.
- Sigmund Ress
- Mr. & Mrs. Louis Bluestone
- Frank T. & Eleanor Rubenstein
- Mrs. Bella Nevins
- Aaron G. Kartub
- Harry J. Wagner
- Abe Srolowitz
- David Rubb
- Bennett Amdur
- Jake Fienberg
- David Labowitz
- Lenore Selker
- Faye Levy
- Children of Abram W. & Jennie Goldvarg
- Milton Freedman
- William Hoffman
- Herman Siegel
- Benet Wolf
- Mrs. Belle Jaskol
- Mendel E. Solomon
- Frank Sklar
- Mrs. Lillian Greenberger
- Rebecca & Herman Fineberg Foundation
- Robert Roe
- Philip Goldstein
- M. A. Sanders
- Mrs. Harry F. Skirboll
- Members of S. O. A.
- Abe Goldbloom
- Harry A. Sherman, Esq.
- Mrs. Rose Friedman
- Herbert Levine
- Morris O. Guttman and Eugene S. Cohen
- Nathan & Florence Comensky Schwartz
- I. Wally Sigal
- David Silverblatt
- Seymour Goldberg
- Estate of Sarah Rhae Rubenstein
- Ellis Lichtenstein
- Mr. & Mrs. Syd Wolfson
- M. A. Nernberg, Esq.
- Reuben Helfant
- Oscar Levin
- Aaron Sandler
- Mrs. Sadie C. Sesler
- Children of Sam J. & Esther R. Cohen
- ... ul Brasley, Esq.
- Milton H. Heller
- Harry Louik
- Mrs. Fannie Slone
- Bud Saunders
- Dr. Norman Cohen
- S. S. Klein
- I. E. Binstock, Esq.
- Ira Hurwick, Esq.
- Louis R. Breman
- Mr. & Mrs. Myer Shapiro
- Joseph Marcus
- Mr. & Mrs. Harry Jacobson
- Joseph Breskin
- Sidney J. Sable, Esq.
- Louis R. Michaels
- Max & Flora Breverman
- Children of Joseph & Rebecca Bernstein
- Bernard Kaplan
- Dr. A. J. Hyde
- Mike & Sam Magadof
- Children of Morris & Sarah Sima Weinstein
- Mrs. Samuel Tisherman
- Benjamin Amdur, Esq.
- Robert Hendel
- Herman Lipsitz, Esq., Helen V. Lipsitz and Louis Lipsitz
- Joseph Aronson
- Sidney Levy
- Mrs. Hilda C. Shire
- Herman & Paul Feldman
- Simon Silverman
- David T. Horvitz
- David Lowenthal
- Wm. H. Mazefsky
- Abe Bernstein
- Mrs. Pearl Sadowsky
- Philip Baskind
- Jacob Gordon
- Jerome Edlis
- Herman and Paul Feldman
- William Nesbit
- Joseph Milch
- Ben B. Samuels
- Nathan Harris
- I. C. and George Bloom
- Albert A. Rice
- Isadore Ash

## 'Must Build, Maintain' --President Sanders

M. A. Sanders, president of the new congregation at the corner of Colwell and Magee Streets, emphasized the importance of contributions to not only the building fund but also the maintenance fund.

"Whether you are a member of the congregation or not, our new facilities are open to you for our daily services," Mr. Sanders emphasized.

However, he urged those who use the Synagogue to pay annual dues of \$25 a year.

The congregation needs hundreds of members to meet its maintenance costs, and to keep the doors open for the "congregation that serves the entire community."

Mr. Sanders said that most members belong to more than one congregation.

He emphasized that the Beth Hamedrash Hagodol — Beth Jacob has an unbroken record of daily services for every day for the past 92 years.

The "Civic Arena" congrega-

tion will serve the residents of the Bigelow Apartments, Washington Plaza, Gateway Towers, Chatham Center, Penn Sheraton, Carlton House and the many new apartments planned for the Bluff area and downtown river fronts.

The congregation is not intended, however, as a neighborhood structure, but as a community-wide facility.

Its leadership has stressed that the need for Kaddish, Yahrzeit, and Yiskor Services for travelers and persons who work Downtown are met every day by the congregation. Many residents of Squirrel Hill, East End and suburban congregations worship at the Beth Hamedrash Hagodol - Beth Jacob.

## When Knights Carried Scrolls

By HARRIS W. SACKS Chronicle Staff Writer

The name of Jacob Bernstein should forever be entwined with the imposing congregational title Beth Hamedrash Hagodol, said Harry Simon, whose grandfather, Louis Sandusky, was a charter member.

Mr. Simon, 85, who is a resident and volunteer worker in handicrafts at the Jewish Home and Hospital for the Aged (JHHA), has been a member of the congregation for about 60 years and he and his late wife, Sophia, were married there.

In 1873, the Chevra B'nai Israel Congregation had been formed. Members religious services had been a history of moving in and out of humble rented rooms including one on Eighth Street, Downtown; the old Tree of Life building at Third Avenue and Ross Street, and an old church building at Third Avenue and Grant Street.

"Chevra B'nai Israel purchased a lot on Washington Place, site of an old glass house, and began to build a synagogue," Mr. Simon related. "But midway a depression struck and the incomplete structure was presented for sheriff's sale."

Mr. Bernstein, a Fifth Ave. merchant, purchased the property and the congregation was reorganized as Beth Hamedrash Hagodol.

Mr. Simon further recalled the procession of members from the Grant Street site to 129 Washington Place where the congregation remained until fire forced them out in 1959.

"Commanders of the Knights of Pythias in their bright uni-

forms added to the dramatic color of the congregational



HARRY SIMON

Member over 60 years.

marchers who bore the sacred Torah Scrolls," said Mr. Simon.

Mr. Simon credited J. M. Gusky with banding together the first minyan at Fourth Avenue and Market Street which was attended by Mr. Simon's father.

The JHHA resident said that it was a Rabbi Graffman who married him. Mrs. Simon, who was also a resident of the home, died there in 1961.

In his youth, Mr. Simon lived for 12 years in New Kensington, and started the committee and building fund for the Beth Jacob Congregation there.

Mr. Simon's skills in painting signs and other handicraft are well known. He was the subject of articles in the Post-Gazette and Press.

## Cemetery Modernization Planned

Extensive improvements and renovations of the merged Beth Hamedrash Hagodol-Beth Jacob cemeteries are planned this year.

Both cemetery chapels will be remodeled and modernized. Old wooden barriers that separated the two burial grounds have been removed and new fences will be constructed. Decaying trees will be

removed and a major landscaping job has been undertaken.

The committee is ready to announce a plan for perpetual care of graves as well as another plan for annual care. Persons interested in either program are requested to get in touch with members of the cemetery committee or with synagogue officers.

Lewis H. Small is chairman of the committee and Al Rice associate chairman.

Other members include Max K. Markovitz, David M. Roth, Harry Anolik, Abe Breverman and Sidney Sanes.

represented the congregation.

A third charter was granted August 26, 1964 for the merger of the two oldest Orthodox congregations, Beth Hamedrash Hagodol and Beth Jacob.

The attorneys for the merger were Bernard Kaplan, Max Markovitz and Sidney Sanes.

Beth Jacob had only one charter since 1882.

## Recent Bequests to Congregation

- Estate of Harry F. Skirboll
- Estate of Fannie Skirboll
- Estate of Harry Aronson
- Estate of Joseph Bernstein
- Estate of James A. Bernstein
- Estate of Jacob Horn
- Estate of Morris Wolk
- Estate of I. Morris Berlin
- Estate of Samuel Bernstein
- Estate of Samuel S. Friedberg
- Estate of Samuel M. Levinson
- Estate of Louis Freedman
- Estate of Louis Little

## Third Charter United Synagogues

Twelve pioneers of the early Jewish community in Pittsburgh petitioned Common Pleas Court for a charter to establish the first Orthodox Synagogue in Western Pennsylvania. It was known as Chevra Bnai Israel.

The charter was granted October 13, 1873 upon petition of:

- Morris Rosenthal
- Simon Jacob
- Haimon Rosenbloom
- Jacob Solomon
- J. Altman
- Louis Sandusky
- Jacob Bernstein
- Simon Miller
- Max Miller
- J. Notovinsky
- B. Bernstein
- Charles Levy

The attorney for the group was Josiah Cohen who was then the only Jewish lawyer in Pittsburgh.

He became a Judge in Common Pleas Court where he served for many years, until the age of 92.

Twenty years later, ten members of the congregation signed a petition for a new name for the old congregation. It was chartered as Beth Hamedrash Hagodol on May 29, 1893.

The signers for the new charter included:

- David Avner
- Morris Rosenthal
- Jacob Bernstein
- Jacob Solomon
- Moses Margolis
- Simon Miller
- Aron G. Rosenthal
- Mendel Novinsky
- Barnett Davis
- Myer Rosenthal

Attorney Josiah Cohen again

# These Are the Original Members of Congregations

## Beth Hamedrash Hagodol

Adler, Abraham M.  
Avner, David  
Alpern, H. I.  
Aronson, Samuel  
Avner, M. L.  
Alpern, S. H.  
Abels, Simon  
Alpern, David  
Azen, Max  
Avner, Max  
Abels, Morris  
Aronson, Jacob H.  
Azinsky, Abraham  
Ashinsky, Morris  
Broude, S.  
Bernstein, Jacob  
Baker, H.  
Browarsky, Sol  
Browarsky, H.  
Browarsky, Samuel  
Barnett, Morris  
Barnett, Jacob  
Bloom, D. H.  
Berenstein, H.  
Bernstein, Jacob  
Bornstein, H.  
Baker, William  
Browarsky, Max  
Bremen, George  
Bloom, Charles  
Bluestein, J. B.  
Bloom, Jacob  
Breakstone, Nat  
Barnett, Hyman  
Baseman, M. J.  
Bernstein, Joel  
Bonder, Gershon  
Beilstein, Harry  
Berman, Paul  
Caplan, Louis  
Caplan, Morris  
Cohen, Joseph  
Cohen, A. B.  
Cohen, A. D.  
Cooper, Samuel  
Cohen, Samuel  
Cohen, Jacob I.  
Cohen, J. D.  
Cohen, Israel  
Cohen, Harry  
Cohen, Ruben  
Cohen, Abe  
Davis, Barnett  
Davis, Charles  
Davis, David  
Davis, S. D.  
Davis, Sam H.  
Davis, Abe  
Dunn, I.  
Elpern, Harry B.  
Edelstein, Harry  
Edelstein, Jacob  
Feldstein, Ruben  
Freedman, S. W.  
Fisher, S.  
Fisher, H.  
Feldstein, Charles  
Finkelhor, Sam  
Finkelhor, L. J.  
Finkelhor, Max  
Finkelhor, Joseph  
Finkelhor, B.  
Feinberg, Max  
Folp, Jacob S.  
Freedman, Max  
Feldstein, Bennie  
Frank, H. L.  
Feinberg, Sam  
Freedman, Jacob  
Fisher, Joseph  
Fisher, Israel  
Finkelstein, Jacob  
Feinberg, Joseph  
Goldstein, Kassel  
Goldenson, D. J.  
Goldstein, E.  
Goldstein, Sam  
Goldman, Isaac  
Gordon, Louis  
Goldberg, Morris  
Goldstein, Max  
Green, Oscar  
Grodzinsky, Jacob  
Goldstein, Manuel  
Gordon, Wolf  
Gulande, Samuel  
Ginsburg, S. S.  
Gefsky, Abraham  
Grudzinsky, Kodish  
Goldberg, Simon  
Goldstein, A. L.  
Ginsburg, Nathan  
Granitz, Solomon  
Harris, Solomon  
Hepner, Jacob  
Harris, Louis  
Hirsh, Davis  
Harris, Samuel  
Hostein, Morris  
Hill, Solomon  
Harris, Philip  
Horvitz, Ekiva  
Harris, Max  
Hadas, Harry  
Ive, M.  
Jacobson, Sam  
Jacobson, Henry R.  
Jacobson, Harry  
Jacobson, Solomon

Korenblum, Joseph  
Kaufmann, Henry  
Kevowitz, Maurice  
Kornbloom, I. R.  
Kushner, Jacob  
Kaplan, Louis  
Kowalsky, Joseph  
Kreilberg, E.  
Lieber, Nathan  
Levin, S.  
Levy, Morris  
London, Abraham  
Levenson, H.  
Lanson, A. J.  
Levy, Jacob  
Lando, S.  
Lang, Harris  
Leviton, Joseph  
Levin, Shabse  
Langer, Max  
Little, Louis  
Levite, Abraham A.  
Louis, I.  
Lewis, Abraham  
Levy, I. B.  
Levin, Louis  
Levy, Abe  
Levy, I. B.  
Lichter, Philip  
Lapidus, Morris  
Levenson, Nachman  
Levenson, Max  
Levenson, Abe  
Morrison, Louis  
Meyers, Abe  
Margolies, M.  
Miller, Simon  
Miller, Max  
Morris, Harry  
Marcovsky, R.  
Miller, I. J.  
Meyers, Mendel  
Marcus, Abe  
Marcus, Joseph C.  
Marks, Max  
Novinsky, M.  
Neaman, P.  
Nevins, M.  
Nieman, Bennie  
Neamone, Harry I.  
Neamon, Ben  
Oppenheim, H.  
Oppenheim, S.  
Perelman, Joe  
Portuoy, E. C.  
Perelman, Juda  
Rosenthal, Morris  
Rosenthal, Meyer  
Rosenthal, David  
Rosenfield, Louis  
Rosenfield, Simon  
Rubinovitz, H.  
Rosenberg, Max  
Rodominsky, M.  
Ruderman, B.  
Ross, I.  
Rosenblatt, I.  
Rosen, Louis  
Raffel, I.  
Rabinovitz, Israel  
Ruben, Frank H.  
Reichbaum, Abe  
Rosengold, Julius  
Rosenfield, Nathan  
Rosenfield, E. T.  
Ress, Abe M.  
Ruben, Joseph M.  
Solomon, Rudolph  
Sedler, Mike  
Slone, Oscar  
Slone, Oscar  
Siegel, Harry  
Supowitz, Max  
Solomon, Louis  
Skirball, Harry F.  
Skirball, Louis  
Shapiro, Samuel S.  
Sable, Harry  
Saul, Sam  
Saul, Max  
Saul, E. A.  
Shapiro, Sol  
Shoop, Louis  
Selker, Morris  
Simon, William  
Samuels, M.  
Stein, S.  
Sabludowsky, L. J.  
Stein, Charles  
Solomon, Jacob  
Shapiro, Jacob T.  
Silverman, Abe  
Shapinsky, Samuel  
Sheinberg, Ben  
Simon, Isaac  
Siegel, Kassel  
Shapiro, Sam  
Sachs, Sam  
Sheinman, William  
Spokane, Alex  
Solomon, Frank  
Teplitz, Isaac M.  
Tapolsky, Max  
Turets, B. D.  
Teplitz, P.  
Tapley, Harry  
Tobias, Joseph  
White, Ben  
Weinstein, Ike  
Wolk, Joseph  
Wolk, William  
Williams, William

Woodnitzky, B.  
Wolk, J. W.  
Weiner, Morris  
Whitman, E.  
Wolk, Meyer  
Woolf, Joseph  
Zimon, Sam  
Zimmer, H. L.  
Zimmer, Abe  
Zonitzky, I.  
Mrs. J. Blumenthal  
Mrs. Bessie Cohen  
Mrs. C. Cohen  
Mrs. G. Caplan  
Mrs. B. Danenberg  
Mrs. H. Friedman  
Mrs. M. Goldstein  
Mrs. H. Frishman  
Mrs. J. Gusky  
Mrs. A. Goldman  
Mrs. L. Kenenson  
Mrs. J. Lowich  
Mrs. M. Lurie  
Mrs. L. Laufe  
Mrs. J. Leshner  
Mrs. M. Levant  
Mrs. Emma Minsky  
Mrs. S. Musoff  
Mrs. D. Rosenberg  
Mrs. M. Rapport  
Mrs. L. Soltz  
Mrs. L. Marick  
Mrs. M. L. Silverblatt  
Mrs. S. Perlstein  
Mrs. C. York  
Mrs. Jacobson  
Mrs. P. Wolf  
Mrs. Yetta Cohen  
Mrs. Esther Nesvisky  
Mrs. Rebecca Marcus  
Mrs. J. Horovitz  
Mrs. L. Edelstein  
Kalinsky, L.  
Levy, Gershon  
Markovitz, Sam  
Oleinik, Louis  
Malt, Wm.  
Mallin, Solomon  
Malakoff, J.  
Goldstein, Joseph  
Cohen, Solomon  
Fisher, Harris  
Friedman, Morris  
Friedman, Harry  
Sarasky, Manuel  
Radbord, Jacob  
Goldstein, Max  
Rosenblatt, Harry  
Gresser, S.  
Goldblum, S.  
Kamens, Fred  
Miller, Morris  
Snyder, J.  
Frank, Wm.  
Zimeth, Ben  
Zimmerman, Louis  
Mahler, Louis  
Weil, Abraham  
Levinson, I. L.  
Lipsitz, B.  
Wilkoif, S. R.  
Kramer, Harry  
Simon, Abraham  
Goldfarb, Isaac  
Maretzky, N.  
Persky, Morris  
Magidovitz, I.  
Levy, M.  
Miller, S.  
Sirlin, Louis  
Osgood, Morris  
Newberg, B.  
Sallinger, M.  
Racusin, J.  
Rosenberg, Jacob E.  
Epstein, Joseph  
Smith, F.  
Rabinowitz, Harry  
Abels, Morris  
Alpern, Sam  
Ashinsky, Morris  
Bonder, George  
Broude, Solomon  
Barnett, Morris  
Barnett, Hyman  
Baseman, M. J.  
Bernstein, Joel  
Berman, Paul  
Bonn, Israel  
Bernstein, William  
Bram, Abraham  
Barnett, Jacob  
Berman, Harry  
Berlin, I. M.  
Baskind, Sam  
Bagran, Louis  
Becker, A. W.  
Cohen, Joel D.  
Caplan, Solomon L.  
Cooper, Sam  
Cooper, Benj. H., Esq.  
Cohen, S. J.  
Cohen, Harry  
Cohen, Julius  
Cohen, Rubin  
Cohen, Morris  
Cohen, Israel  
Davis, Charles  
Davis, Mrs. Barnett

Davis, Abe  
Davis, Saul  
Elpern, Harry  
Edelstein, Harry  
Edelstein, Jacob  
Eisner, Ben  
Finkelhor, L. J.  
Finkelhor, Max  
Feinberg, Max  
Freedman, Jacob  
Fisher, Joseph  
Fisher, Israel  
Fедerman, Isaac  
Freedman, Harris  
Fierman, Jacob  
Feinberg, Joseph  
Fairman, Harry  
Finkelstein, Jacob  
Goldstein, Manuel  
Goldman, Isaac  
Goldstein, Kassel  
Green, Oscar  
Gordon, Wolf  
Gulande, S.  
Ginsburg, S. S.  
Gefsky, W.  
Groginsky, H.  
Ginsburg, N.  
Grant, S.  
Goldbloom, Mike  
Green, J. W.  
Goldstrom, Morris  
Goldberg, Simon  
Greenberg, J.  
Graff, Morris  
Goldman, Simon  
Gordon, Louis  
Harris, Samuel  
Harris, Max  
Harris, Philip  
Hostein, Morris  
Harris, Charles  
Heller, Hyman  
Hepner, Jacob  
Horvitz, K.  
Hirsh, David  
Harris, Mrs. Morris H.  
Horn, Jacob  
Jacobson, H.  
Kaplan, Harry  
Kaplan, Louis  
Kaufman, Henry  
Kowalsky, Joseph  
Kramer, Ike  
Levite, Abraham, Rev.  
London, A.  
Lanson, M.  
Levy, Jacob  
Levy, Jacob  
Levine, Abe  
Lewis, I. A.  
Levy, B.  
Levine, S.  
Levy, Morris  
Leventon, A.  
Lapiduss, Max  
Langer, Max  
Luterman, J. M.  
Luterman, M. D.  
Little, Louis  
Lewis, Abe  
Levenson, B. T.  
Landau, Joseph  
Lipsitz, Abe  
Lubetz, Bennie  
Meyers, Mendel  
Morris, Harry  
Marcus, Aaron  
Marcus, Joseph, Esq.  
Meyers, Jacob  
Mankin, Judah  
Marks, Sam  
Mazefsky, Morris  
Mintz, Mrs. Jennis  
Neiman, Bennie  
Neaman, Harry I.  
Neaman, B.  
Nathan, Harry A.  
Pearlman, Julius  
Parnes, Harry P.  
Parnes, Joseph W.  
Peckett, A.  
Popkin, Frank  
Pollock, Reuben  
Popkins, Louis G.  
Reichbaum, Abraham  
Rosenfeld, N.  
Rosengold, J.  
Rosenberg, Max  
Ress, Abe  
Reichbaum, Zelig  
Rosenthal, B.  
Ruttenberg, Joseph  
Ratner, Louis  
Rosenbloom, Michael  
Rosenberg, William  
Rosenberg, Nathan  
Raffel, Jacob  
Rubinovitz, Israel  
Robbins, Simon S.  
Rosenthal, M.  
Rubinovitz, H.  
Raffel, Abe  
Rader, Abe  
Rubin, S. W.  
Rein, Abraham  
Radbord, Julius

## Beth Jacob

Astrov, B.  
Americus, B.  
Americus, Harry  
Americus, Louis  
Americus, Phillip  
Abramovitz, Adolf  
Abrams, H.  
Amdur, Max  
Abramovitz, I.  
Abrams, Ch.  
Amdursky, L.  
Aronson, N.  
Abrams, G.  
Amdur, B.  
Adler, Solomon  
Amdur, Frank  
Amdursky, H.  
Anolek, D.  
Avner, Sam  
Angel, Harry  
Amdur, Nathan  
Barmen, S.  
Barach, Z.  
Broida, M. I.  
Broida, J. J.  
Bernstein, M. I.  
Balter, R.  
Bardien, A.  
Berman, J.  
Balbersky, S.  
Broida, Morris  
Berman, Sam  
Bachrach, H.  
Berman, P.  
Berlin, Harry  
Barkover, Joseph  
Becker, W.  
Berman, A.  
Balter, L.  
Bloom, Jacob  
Balter, Bennie  
Berkovitz, E.  
Barrish, Morris  
Beeson, H.  
Baker, A.  
Balis, S.  
Benenitzky, A.  
Brookner, Sam  
Broida, J.  
Bernstein, Sam  
Broida, P. N.  
Bernstein, B.  
Blom, A.  
Bernstein, Wm.  
Broida, Abraham  
Cohen, Jacob  
Cohen, James  
Cohen, Samuel  
Cohen, J.  
Caplan, M. A.  
Cohen, Benj. H.  
Cohen, Joseph  
Cohen, I.  
Cantor, Sol  
Cohen, Isaac  
Cohen, Harry  
Caplan, L.  
Caplan, Myer  
Cohen, Harry  
Cohen, Clovsky, A. S.  
Cohen, Morris  
Cohen, S.  
Cohen, Sam  
Cohen, Max  
Cohen, S. R.  
Cohen, N.  
Cohen, I.



"IN APPRECIATION of your services during the past year. With your assistance this organization was able to carry on," read caption for this 1936 picture given the Beth Jacob congregation by Lechun Aniyum Society (Bread for the Poor).

Caplan, David  
Caplan, A.  
Cohen, Jos.  
Davis, J.  
Dorfman, Harry  
Davidson, Ruben  
Danenberg, A.  
Davidson, H.  
Dickler, Harry  
Dickler, I.  
Dickler, Moses  
Denmark, Samuel  
Davis, Isadore  
Baskin, A.  
Bernstein, Isadore  
Edelstein, I.  
Enelow, M.  
Eliashoff, A.  
Epstein, Max  
Epstein, Leo  
Epelberg, B.  
Eisenberg, Louis  
Epstein, Louis  
Gerber, Jacob  
Friedberg, S.  
Friedman, M.  
Feldman, Max  
Friedberg, M. I.  
Friedman, I.  
J. Farber  
Framer, P.  
Fierst, David  
Finkelstein, Jacob  
Finkelstein, P.  
Finkelstein, Hyman  
Friedman, Samuel  
Friedberg, Harry  
Friedman, Sam  
Friedman, W.  
Farber, Sam  
Fisher, M.  
Fine, A.  
Friedberg, N.  
Goldberg, Max  
Goldberg, Bennie  
Glick, W.  
Golden, S.  
Goldstock, M.  
Goldblum, M.  
Giffen, I. L., Esq.  
Goldberg, Edw.  
Gelman, S.  
Grusovik, Jacob  
Goldstein, M. I.  
Goldman, W.  
Glasser, I.  
Glasser, Barnett  
Glasser, J.  
Goldberg, David  
Goldstock, A. I.  
Glazer, Barney  
Gershonovitz, K.  
Grossman, Morris  
Goodman, S. M.  
Greenfield, I.  
Goldberg, Sam  
M. Giffen  
Goldberg, B.  
Gerber, Phillip  
Golomb, Louis  
Goldman, S.  
Goldstein, A.  
Golden, A. M.  
Hytowitz, J.  
Hepner, Jacob  
Hoffman, B.  
Harris, N. L.  
Hirshfield, B.  
Hytovitz, Louis  
Horovitz, S. A.  
Hurwitz, Ch.  
Hirsh, J.  
Horovitz, I.  
Harris, Roman  
Taksa, M.  
Rubinstein, S.  
Joseph, M.  
Greenspan, S. H.  
Katz, Joseph  
Kamens, H.  
Kelsky, B.  
Kamen, Dr. P.  
Kramer, Wm.  
Kann, A. I.  
Kann, Max  
Kanel, J.  
Klebansky, K.  
Kopelman, H.  
Kalett, Dr. H. J.  
Kaufman, B. B.  
Kirshenbaum, Abraham  
Kamin, Samuel  
Lando, Jacob  
Levy, H.  
Levin, S. M.  
Levin, R.  
Levenson, I.  
Levin, H.  
Levin, B.  
Levin, Harry  
Lipsitz, J.  
Lipsitz, M.  
Lipsitz, H.  
Leventon, Max  
Levin, J.  
London, Eli  
Lazier, J.  
Levin, A.  
Levite, J. L.  
Levin, Phillip  
Levin, Morris  
Levin, Louis  
Liptz, Alex  
Lubitz, S.  
Levitte, J.  
Levinson, B.  
Liptz, Morris  
Leibovitz, Max  
Lewis, M.  
Ludin, Nathan  
Lebeau, Dr. S. I.  
Lebeau, Morris  
Lipshitz, A.  
Ludin, Casper  
Leshner, H. M.  
Levy, Sam  
Levinson, Max  
Levin, S.  
Lazier, Max  
Lipsitz, Louis  
Lewin, I.  
Lesser, I. A.  
Miller, H.  
Mervis, Louis  
Mezevitz, H.  
Miller, H. J.  
Malachovsky, J.  
Mattes, J.  
Maretzky, J.  
Miller, Samuel  
Mervis, I.  
Minsky, A.  
Margolis, J.  
McNick, Morris  
Marcus, Jacob  
Marcus, L.  
Miller, Samuel  
Miller, S. H.  
Mervis, J.  
Markovitz, J.  
Makler, Sam  
Marlin, H.  
Mysels, H.  
Miller, L. H.  
Magadof, I.  
Marmins, T.  
Slifkin, L.  
Sakolsky, Abe  
Stewart, S.  
Seminovsky, S.  
Stein, S.  
Saklowsky, J.  
Schwartz, I. A.  
Shacne, I.  
Slonimsky, M.  
Silverblatt, S.  
Silverblatt, M. L.  
Silverblatt, I.  
Soloff, Simon  
Solow, H.  
Stein, D.  
Sacks, M.  
Shapiro, A.  
Singer, N.  
Scott, L.  
Slutsky, I.  
Spokane, A.  
Smith, Samuel  
Schwartz, Joseph  
Schwartz, A.  
Sandler, J.  
Siff, H.  
Schoenfeld, A.  
Schwartz, R.  
Shankovitz, M.  
Szeinbach, H.  
Slifkin, Harry  
Silverstein, S.  
Silverman, Victor  
Shachnof, Rubin  
Sheer, W.  
Spokane, Ch.  
Silver, Harry  
Schaffer, L.  
Sasler, Benj.  
Steel, Israel  
Tomashevsky, J.  
Tannenbaum, J.  
Novak, G.  
Nathan, I.  
Neistein, H.  
Rosenberg, Abe  
Osgood, D. S.  
Orlansky, Samuel  
Price, M.  
Pikovsky, M.  
Phillips, L.  
Pratt, A.  
Levitte, J.  
Parker, Max  
Parker, Israel  
Perlstein, Morris  
Persky, J.  
Pearle, G.  
Pittler, Harry  
Pasakof, S.  
Pratt, David  
Palles, M.  
Pollack, Ruben  
Persky, Max  
Simon, A.  
Sambol, Sam  
Rosenberg, K.  
Sach, Simon (Living)  
Rosenberg, S.  
Rogalsky, S. J.  
Ruttenberg, L.  
Rogow, J.  
Racusin, I.  
Rubin, I.  
Rabinovitz, H.  
Rosenberg, David  
Rogow, S.  
Rogow, I.  
Rosenberg, David  
Rudin, C.  
Rosen, N.  
Ryave, Herman  
Rosenkrance, B.  
Robinson, Jacob  
Rubin, M.  
Rabinovitz, A.  
Ryave, D.  
Rosenthal, J.  
Rothstein, J.  
Reba, M.  
Rubinstein, W.  
Ruttenberg, Harry  
Rosenthal, George  
Rosenbloom, Louis  
Ryave, I.  
Rosen, Samuel  
Rudin, Sam  
Pearlman, Herman  
Rein, A. S.  
Opin, S.  
Weisberg, Jacob  
Wilkoif, S.  
Werner, M.  
Wald, James  
Werner, B.  
Weinstein, L.  
Wolf, B.  
Whitman, L.  
Witt, H. L.  
Wilstein, G.  
Winer, S. Wm.  
Zeitzen, Frank  
York, J.  
Yossef, Herman  
York, Nathan

# Tradition in Transition

## BETH HAMEDRASH HAGODOL - BETH JACOB Congregation

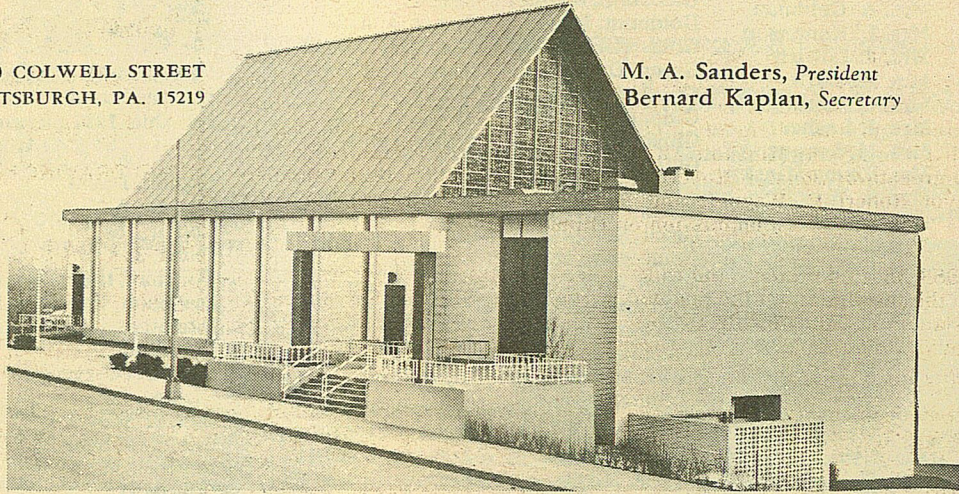
**T**HE FORMAL DEDICATION (*Chanukas Habayis*) of our beautiful new synagogue building will take place on Sunday, June 20, 1965 at 2:00 P. M.

An impressive program has been arranged.

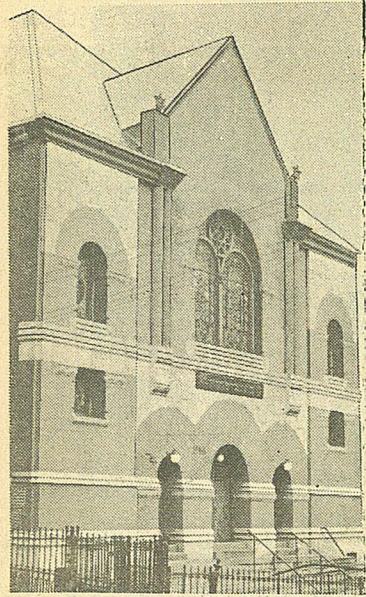
Have your family and friends join you at this assembly, marking the re-establishment of the old-new Beth Hamedrash Hagodol - Beth Jacob Congregation in the heart of the Lower Hill Redevelopment Area.

1230 COLWELL STREET  
PITTSBURGH, PA. 15219

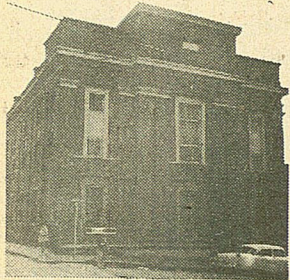
M. A. Sanders, *President*  
Bernard Kaplan, *Secretary*



New Beth Hamedrash Hagodol—Beth Jacob, Colwell at Magee Street.



Beth Hamedrash Hagodol  
129 Washington Pl.



Beth Jacob on Townsend St.

## Merchants Enlist For Fund Drive

Wholesale and retail merchants have enlisted in the drive to raise funds for the Beth Hamedrash Hagodol — Beth Jacob Synagogue.

Headed by Herman Feldman, the merchant's committee includes Jacob Wolk, Joseph Spokane, Herman Liphshitz, Jerome Edlis, Jacob Feinberg, Carl Margolis, Martin Brown and Joseph Milch.

Others helping the building fund include Murray Goldstein, Jack Kelson, Jack Kitman, Morris Benkovitz, Jacob Ash, Abe Werner, William Nesbit, Carl Wolk, Nathan Darling, Bennie Goodstein, Harold Freid and Ben Samuels.

Merchants in the downtown retail and Penn Avenue wholesale district, the uptown section and from the Hill District are aiding the fund drive because all of them make frequent use of the synagogue facilities.

# Mrs. Portno Remembers Wedding—Her Own!

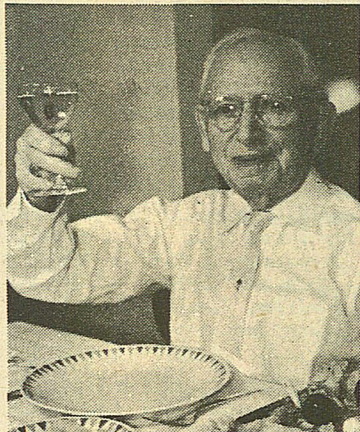
By ALBERT W. BLOOM

Mrs. Margaret Tamar Avner Portno sweeps into a room with regal Victoria Regina posture. With lady-like assurance admits to being "closer to 90 than to 80."

She and her husband Ezzie C. Portno have memories going back into the history of the Beth Hamedrash Hagodol.

"I well remember one wedding there," she quipped, "my own! It was in the synagogue on Washington Street and the date," she added with emphasis, "was March 24, 1904 corresponding to Nisan 8, 5664."

And she hauled out the yellow-



MR. AND MRS. EZZIE C. PORTNO  
Memories go back into history of Beth Hamedrash Hagodol.

viable community institution of this city.

"I remember even earlier, that my sister was married in the Beth Hamedrash Hagodol in 1888.

"It was a beautiful place. I remember how lovely the wood of the 'bimah' and the Holy Ark was carved, and the benches. It was Diebold's Lumber Company that furnished the wood, I believe." (The new synagogue saved the Ark and "Bimah" and the old is now joined with the new.)

"And I remember, too, how one year when I was young, I tried to fast on Yom Kippur, but I wasn't able to fast, and I felt so badly."

"My father was one of the founders of the synagogue" (David Avner, who was also the father of Louis Avner, one of the "incorporators" of Beth Shalom Congregation in Squirrel Hill.)

"My father had a kosher restaurant, right around the corner from Beth Hamedrash Hagodol on Washington Street, on the South Side of Fifth Avenue."

The eating place was known as "Avner's Restaurant" and it was a meeting place for men of the district, and an orientation point for out-of-towners, especially those on their way to or from

the many synagogues in the Hill District, and especially Beth Hamedrash Hagodol, she explained.

Mr. and Mrs. Portno for many years have made their home with their daughter and son-in-law, Dr. and Mrs. Albert J. Hyde, in Baldwin Borough, and recently Mr.

Portno was admitted to the Jewish Home and Hospital for the Aged.

Mrs. Portno's girl and young womanhood memories of the old Beth Hamedrash Hagodol ebb and flow.

For instance, there was the impressive "big central chandelier," and the combination gas and electric fixtures (no one fully trusted electricity in those days, hence the gas combination.)

She admires her father as a founder of an important community synagogue and "a sort of a hero, a man who did wonderful things that other men did not want to do."

One of those memories was the family story of her father's emigration adventure. Evading the Russian-Lithuanian frontier guards, he made his way to a port to come to fabled America. He met a young Jewish woman who was headed for U.S., too. But her ticket was on a sail boat.

He told her, "You can't go

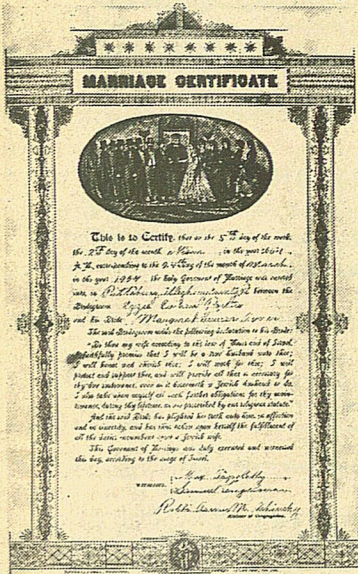
on a sail boat." Then he gave her his ticket and took hers. She went on his ticket on the fast steamship; he took six weeks to come to America by sailboat.

When he got to New York, he didn't like the long, dank tenement steps. So, he came to Pittsburgh, here to throw his lot in with the rising Jewish community and its Pittsburgh history.

Mrs. Portno was the third of seven children. "Children listened to their parents more in those days," she believes.

When the Beth Hamedrash Hagodol opened in 1894 at its Washington Street site she recalled the parade with the Torahs through the streets to "new-old" Beth Hamedrash Hagodol.

Only a short distance away from that site is the "new-new" Beth Hamedrash Hagodol—Beth Jacob synagogue, which will be dedicated at 2 p.m. Sunday amid the memories of Mrs. Portno and the thinning ranks of those like her who remember the old days.



ing scroll to prove it. There it was, the "ksubah", or marriage contract, one copy in Hebrew the other in English, both intricately and artistically decorated and lettered.

Both bore the signature of the officiant, Rabbi A. M. (for Aaron Mordecai) Ashinsky, the venerable teacher, leader, and man of progressive community ideas. Rabbi Ashinsky's "signature" is on some of the most

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\$100 Minimum Each

BETH HAMEDRASH HAGODOL — BETH JACOB CONGREGATION  
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INSERT NAME OF DECEASED AND DATE OF DEATH

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Beth Jacob Congregation.

William H. Mazefsky  
Public Relations Consultant