

THE HEBREW FREE LOAN ASSOCIATION
OF PITTSBURGH

PRESENTS

"TIME MARCHES ON"

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ANNOUNCER: Ladies and Gentlemen, This is THE MARCH OF TIME!

Tonight we dedicate our program to THE HEBREW FREE LOAN ASSOCIATION OF PITTSBURGH, which is holding its 57th Annual Meeting at the Schenley Hotel at Pittsburgh. We Salute Mr. Emanuel Spector, President of the Hebrew Free Loan Association, and the Board of Trustees, who are now assembled at this Annual Meeting.

TIME MARCHES ON!

NARRATOR: Ladies and Gentlemen, I am the Narrator. Tonight I speak for the Hebrew Free Loan Association of Pittsburgh.

The idea of a Hebrew Free Loan Association had its origin in the biblical quotation: "Im Kesseff Talveh ess ami". "If thou lend money to my people, thou shalt not lay upon them usury." It must be a free loan, because the Creator of the Universe has established the World in such a manner that almost all of the creatures of the Earth are borrowing, each from the other.

FIRST VOICE: The Earth is borrowing from the Heavens, as it is said: "GOD WILL OPEN FOR YOU HIS TREASURES, THE HEAVEN, TO GIVE THE RAINS OF THY LAND"

SECOND VOICE: "THE MOON AND THE STARS ARE BORROWING EACH FROM THE OTHER. ALTHOUGH GOD HATH GIVEN THE SMALLER LIGHT TO RULE AT NIGHT WITH THE STARS, THEY SHALL EQUALLY SHED THEIR LIGHT UPON THE EARTH."

THIRD VOICE: THEY BORROW LIGHT AT CERTAIN TIMES OF THE MONTH, EACH FROM THE OTHER. IN THE MIDDLE OF THE MONTH, THE MOON IS THE POWERFUL RULER IN THE SKY, AND THE STARS ARE ALMOST INVISIBLE. AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MONTH, AND AT THE END THEREOF, THE STARS ARE THE BRIGHT SHINING LUMINARIES, AND THE MOON'S LIGHT IS VERY DIM, ALMOST INVISIBLE."

NARRATOR: For God hath said: "KEY OMARTI OHLOM CHESED YIBONEH (For unto Eternity will Kindness be built up."

FIRST VOICE: I am CHESED, the Angel of Kindness. I pleaded before the ALMIGHTY against EMETH, the Angel of Truth, who claimed that the World was unworthy to be created, because of the falsehood which will prevail among mankind. I pleaded before the ALMIGHTY that the virtues of Goodness and Kindness which will fill the World will overcome the evils of Falsehood. I prevailed before the ALMIGHTY, and thus for the sake of ~~KESSED~~ CHESED was the World created.

FIRST VOICE: The Fourth is giving before one is asked, and directly to the Poor.

SECOND VOICE: The Fifth is, when the Giver does not know the Receiver, but the Receiver knows the Giver.

THIRD VOICE: The Sixth is, when the Giver knows the Receiver, but the Receiver does not know the Giver.

FIRST VOICE: The Seventh is, that type of giving which makes it impossible for the Giver to know the Receiver, or the Receiver to know the Giver.

SECOND VOICE: The Eighth and highest type of Charity is that which enables the Poor to become self supporting, either through loans or business establishment.

THIRD VOICE: That is the work of the Hebrew Free Loan Association.

NARRATOR: There grew up the feeling on the part of the Jews throughout the Ages that the welfare of the group is inextricably interwoven with the welfare of the individual. This was especially true during the Middle Ages when because of persecutions, expulsions and discriminations, it became necessary for the Jewish Communities and individuals to protect other Jews as far as possible. Jewish communities had to prepare themselves as best they could to receive wandering Jews. Shelters had to be established and arrangements made for meeting all of the other needs of the wanderers, since the Jewish poor could neither apply nor receive aid from the general community. The seven branches of Jewish Charity mentioned in the Rabbinical literature are:

FIRST VOICE: "LECHEM ANIYUM - (Feeding the Poor)

SECOND VOICE: " MALBISH ARUMIM - (Clothing the Naked)

THIRD VOICE: "BICKUR CHOLIM - Visiting the Sick

First Voice: Burying the Dead

SECOND VOICE: Redeeming the Captives

THIRD VOICE: Sheltering the Homeless.

FIRST VOICE: Providing Poor Maidens with Dowries.

NARRATOR: Reb. Gamaliel, one of the sages of Israel hath said: "Al shlōsho, d'vorim h'ohlen ohmade alha torah, v'al h'avodah, b'al Gemiloth Chasodim".
(The world is based on three things: On Torah or Wisdom, on Works of Devotion, and upon Acts of Loving Kindness.)

FIRST VOICE: The work of The Hebrew Free Loan Association is also known as Gemiloth Chasodim.

NARRATOR: "Fifty-~~two~~^{seven} years ago, a handful of reverent Jews gathered in a private home to solemnize the eve of Yom Kippur. This prayer meeting had begun a week before, in the same home, with the celebration of Rosh Hashonah, and after the holidays, their hearts touched with religious fervor, these men were confronted by a problem. They had \$50 left over from the prayer meeting, and must decide which deserving charity should receive it.

The decision, when it came, was inspirational. For these men set up a benefit society designed to grant free loans to deserving Jewish men and women. This decision required great courage, foresight and faith, qualities that these men all possessed to a marked degree. There was Simon Shupinsky, the guiding spirit and first President, at whose home the meeting was held; Dr. Max Fineberg; Abe Mintz; Julius H. Cohen, Mayer Rosenbloom, and others. And this pitifully small fifty dollars was the humble beginning which has since grown into the present Hebrew Free Loan Association."

FIRST VOICE: 1929. In this year came the depression and in its wake economic dislocation. Small businesses went under and many families were placed on public relief. It was during this trying period that the administration of Emil Steinbach took charge of the work of the Hebrew Free Loan Association of Pittsburgh. Problems arose which required courageous handling and these problems were met with generosity as well as with courage. Since treasury funds were not sufficient to take care of the many loans which were granted, members of the loan committee were often called upon to make personal advances to borrowers which amounted to as much as \$750. Many tradesmen and small business men were rehabilitated and made self-supporting by loans which they received from the Hebrew Free Loan Association of Pittsburgh.

*Should not
Markos Rosa
Brownsky be put in.*

SECOND VOICE: March 17, 1936. Came the great Pittsburgh Flood and in its wake great loss and much suffering among a large number of small business men whose property was damaged or destroyed by the flood. The Hebrew Free Loan Association of Pittsburgh again stepped into the breach and by means of loans made to those persons affected by the flood, were able to restore small businesses which had been wiped out by the flood. The Grand Lodge of Bnai Brith entrusted the sum of \$5,000 to the Hebrew Free Loan Association of Pittsburgh for the purpose of making loans to flood sufferers. This sum of \$5,000 was returned to Bnai Brith without the loss of a single cent. A committee from the Hebrew Free Loan Association consisting of Emil Steinbach, President, Morris Balter, A. R. Glick, and Samuel Goldstock, visited the City of Johnstown which was seriously affected by the flood in 1936 and besides making loans to several of the flood sufferers in Johnstown, helped that community to establish a free loan organization there.

THIRD VOICE: 1938. A large influx of newcomers who were fortunate enough to escape Nazi dominated Europe came to the free shores of America. Many of these less fortunate individuals established themselves in the Pittsburgh community. Again the Hebrew Free Loan Association was called upon to assist these newcomers with loans in order to enable them to become self-supporting so that they would not be a burden upon the community. The family of the late Max L. Blum created a trust fund which is known as the Max L. Blum Free Loan Fund in the original sum of \$6,000 for the purpose of making loans to newcomers, in the Pittsburgh Community. This fund was added to from time to time by donations and bequests. The United Jewish Appeal made an appropriation of \$2500 which later was increased to \$15,000. This sum was entrusted to the Hebrew Free Loan Association of Pittsburgh for the purpose of newcomer loans. The Pittsburgh Lodge No. 44 of the Bnai Brith at this time again entrusted the sum of \$1500 to the Hebrew Free Loan Association of Pittsburgh for this worthy purpose.

NARRATOR: THE HEBREW FREE LOAN ASSOCIATION MARCHES ON!

FIRST VOICE: "I am a borrower from the Hebrew Free Loan Association of Pittsburgh. I have already paid off the balance of my \$500 loan that you kindly loaned us. Without your help, I could never had gotten started again, but with your wonderful assistance, I was able to get back on my feet. Firms gave me credit because of your loan, and thank God I have now weathered the storm. Am making a living and coming back slowly but surely. May God bless you all in your wonderful work."

SECOND VOICE: "We made a loan from the Hebrew Free Loan Association. We wish to thank you for the loan you extended us. It meant more than you will every know and we will always appreciate it. May your faith in mankind never be shaken. I am sorry I cannot enclose more than \$5 as my donation, but hope to do better next time."

THIRD VOICE: I am also a borrower from the Hebrew Free Loan Association. Please be advised that I have this day made my last payment of \$20 on the \$1,000 loan extended to me last September. It is difficult for me to express in words my appreciation for your favors, especially since I was so badly in need of funds to enable me to continue in business after our terrible catastrophe. All of us should take pride in knowing that there is in existence an organization such as yours, to help at least in a financial way in times when help is needed. I am sure you know that payments on my loan were made strictly in accordance with your terms and I am most happy in the fact that I was able to meet my obligations in that manner."

NARRATOR: DECEMBER 7, 1941. Came Pearl Harbor and with it our country found itself at war; with the increased number of men in military service and war industries there was less demand made upon the Hebrew Free Loan Association for loans. The Hebrew Free Loan Association paid out \$50,000 in cash with which it purchased war bonds from our government. This loan was made to Uncle Sam and was the largest loan in the history of the Hebrew Free Loan Association and was guaranteed by 130,000,000 endorsers, including the Board of the Hebrew Free Loan Association. The administrations of Morris Balter and Mr. Emanuel Spector during these trying war years have been eminently successful.

The Hebrew Free Loan Association is looking forward to the day of victory when our men in military service will be coming home again and will have to be re-integrated into the economic life of our community. The Hebrew Free Loan Association of Pittsburgh is now preparing itself for its post war program.

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