

To the melody of "Strolling Through The Park One Day".

At the Tree of Life one wintry day  
In a storage room I chanced to stray  
I found a faded book, I had to take a look,  
The Afternoon just sped away.  
A scrapbook full of history--  
A record for posterity--  
A pageant of events is what this represents--  
A treasure house of memory.  
It starts in 1899, and leads us right up to the present time.  
I hope that you'll not drowse,  
but follow while I browse  
Through sixty years of history.

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May 3 dress

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15

Narrator: On the first page I see the Synagogue as it appeared on the corner of downtown Fourth Avenue and Ross Street when Rabbi Fried was the spiritual leader. It was there in 1899 that our Sisterhood was organized as the Ladies Auxiliary under the leadership of Mrs. Henry Jackson. And here is a picture of her calling the first meeting to order.

(Character poses in frame momentarily. Then, she steps out and sings---to melody of "A Wandering Minstrel")

You've honored me today and I accept with pleasure--  
This memory I shall treasure,  
As I perform duties each day.  
Let's pledge in every way to aid our congregation  
In every situation.  
We'll raise funds with dances and plays  
And help in all other ways.

(Character returns to frame and assumes original pose--curtain closes)

Narrator: This young, but already dedicated Sisterhood undertook its first major fund-raising event, a bazaar, at Duquesne Gardens. This successful event resulted in our women proudly presenting the magnificent sum of one thousand dollars to the Synagogue.

In 1905, the Synagogue moved to the building on Craft Avenue which is now owned by the Pittsburgh Playhouse. The building remains but the act has changed. Here the women gathered in a sewing circle which was the first of its kind in the city.

The importance of the position occupied by the Tree of Life in our city was evidenced by a visit from Teddy Roosevelt, ex-president of the United States. This was during Rabbi Coffey's tenure and was also the era of the beautiful Purim Balls.

*hit this*

(Girl returning from ball, removes coat and executes a few dance steps to tune of "After the Balls") Tableau closes.

(1922 displayed in lights)

Narrator: At, the year 1922, ~~that~~ brought us Rabbi Herman Hailperin--

(Chorus steps through frame and recites)

Rabbi Hailperin, young and single  
 set the girls hearts a-tingle  
 Alas, Alack, we were mistaken  
 We later learned his heart was taken.  
 Bespoke was he, O Me, O My-O  
 His gal was waiting in Ohio.  
 And so he wed a very fine wife  
 Who's now a part of the Tree of Life. (end of Tableau)

(Narrator turns page)

Narrator: I see here pictures of children participating in the Sisterhood Purim Show which was held at the YM & WHA in March, 1927. A fabulous profit of \$3,000.00 was realized that evening.

Came 1931. The nation was plunged into Depression and our Sisterhood into debt. "D" stood for Deficits and Delinquents in our Dictionary. We aimed for cultural rather than financial success. We had to! We found ourselves singing:

(Chorus sings to melody "Potatoes are Cheaper")

Potatoes are cheaper, tomatoes are cheaper  
 But no one has the dough for dues.  
 The Butcher, the Baker, the Candle Stick Maker  
 Take the money meant for dues.  
 We don't have the money to defray expenses  
 So we concentrate on improving the senses.  
 So culture is stressed,  
 That's all we possess.  
 We cannot collect our dues.

Narrator: Fortunately we kept our heads above water and were indeed able to help others. The Conference of Jewish women called an emergency meeting and we were chosen to lead a committee to create work for the Jewish jobless. When the 1936 flood brought widespread suffering to our city--and it was indeed a feat to keep ones head above water--the Sisterhood transferred the receipts from our Spring Dance for Flood Assistance. While we were thus absorbed in the problems of others, a real problem arose in our own Congregation. A great exodus of Tree of Life Families to Squirrel Hill was gaining impetus. ~~First we used buses to bring our children to the Synagogue in Oakland. But, as even more families moved we found we too must move with the tide. Sisterhood voluntarily met the challenge by equipping a building on Forbes Street near Shady with modern school furniture. This was the only progressive Hebrew School of it's kind in the state where sessions were held three days a week.~~ *we were provided*

The seed was planted! Our theme song expressed our plans for the future.

(Chorus--to tune "Some Of These Days") *up*

One of these days  
 We'll build the new Schule.  
 One of these days  
 Membership will be full  
 We'll do greater things then  
 Inspired by our men.

We'll have a Synagogue  
 On Shady Avenue.  
 Tree of Life will be grand  
 If together we all stand.  
 Strong in conviction true  
 If we but will it,  
 In our hearts instill it,  
 With harmony and faithfulness---  
 In everything that we do.

rator: With such an incentive, we rolled up our sleeves and really got to work raising funds. The years 1937 through 1940 saw many premiers. We held our first Thanksgiving Eve Dance and our first Gift Luncheon, later known as the Donor Luncheon. This period also marked the inception of the "Happy Day Fund", with contributions amounting to \$97.52 the first year. This fund was the parent of our present-day Remembrance Fund, which today brings in over \$1,000.00 yearly.

When the tragedy of Pearl Harbor struck, December 7, 1941, our Sisterhood concentrated all efforts on War Relief. Women of the neighborhood joined us in sewing and rolling bandages for the Red Cross, knitting and sewing for the Armed Services and children overseas.

(As narrator speaks above lines, music of World War II is heard softly and tableau of War relief work is revealed) Narrator continues:

We also sold stamps and War Bonds; in fact, we sold the almost unbelievable sum of \$15,000.00 at one Sisterhood Bond Brunch and received a citation from the United States Treasury Department. We contributed money and manpower to the USO Canteens and Serva-Camp project as well as buying War Bonds with the receipts of the 1944 Donor.

(Tableau closes)

rator: After the war ended, we turned once more to our Synagogue Responsibilities; and, in 1947, when a momentous decision was made to erect a new Sanctuary, Sisterhood proudly assumed a pledge of \$35,000.00. This fact of affirmation and confirmation was re-affirmed later by Sisterhood individual pledges of service toward this goal.

~~(Chorus sings to melody, "We're in the Money")~~

We need some money, and that ain't funny.  
 We need a lot of what it takes to get along.  
 We've made a big pledge, and we will not hedge.  
 And we can do it now that we're 200 strong.

rator: In 1949, Sisterhood was 50 years old. We had attained a measure of responsibility that the Congregation recognized. We held our first Sisterhood Sabbath. The women participated in Hebrew Responsive reading and a Sisterhood woman sang the Kiddush. This was an innovation not only in our Congregation, but in our city. And the grace of our women shown as the Sabbath Candles.

*we celebrated our Golden Anniversary.*

~~(Woman steps through frame, lights candles, sings to melody of "Some Enchanted Evening")~~

Friday Night Enchantment,  
When you light the candles,  
Comes the Queen Sabbath  
A night and a day  
And then she is gone;  
You know that she'll come back again and again.

If you light the candles,  
It will bring enchantment;  
Within your heart and within your home.  
And night after night  
As strange as it seems;  
The joy of Queen Sabbath will fill all your dreams.

Who can explain it, who can tell you why?  
Fools give you reasons, wise men never try.  
Friday Night Enchantment,  
When you find Queen Sabbath,  
When you feel her presence throughout your happy home.

The table is set, the candles alight,  
Every corner sparkling and bright with delight.

Once you know Queen Sabbath, never let her go--  
Once you have found her, never let her go.

tor: When the scope of Sisterhood activities became wider, a dramatic group was organized and was called "Hakol", the Hebrew word for "The Voice." The voice that so proudly bespoke in humor, song and drama, our Sisterhood's exemplification of Judaism the beautiful. Latent talents blossomed. We recall with nostalgia two of the songs from our favorite shows.

Song (tune of "Any time, Any Day")

Any time, any day you are subject to call  
Any time, any day, Sisterhood deserves your all.

No matter what may disturb your peace of mind,  
In Tree of Life, there is much of joy to find.

Any time, any day ever faithful I'll be.  
Any time, any day, that you have need of me.

It is my pleasure to serve devotedly,  
Any time, any day, any year.

tor: *and in a moment*  
~~And then~~ there was:

Song, (tune of "Sleepy Time Gal")

Sisterhood Gal, you're called on night and day.  
Sisterhood Gal, you work--yet some call it play.  
For as each project and plan  
Is brought to light,  
You can't relax nor rest,  
Think how You're dressed.  
You succeed cause you work with will and might.

Sisterhood Gal, when your assignment is through,  
Don't worry pal,  
They'll find another for you.  
You'll have to cook and to sew,  
You'll serve and love it I know.  
When you're a never-home, on-the-phone,  
Better known Sisterhood Gal.

Narrator: In 1951, the Pittsburgh Playhouse bought our Craft Avenue Building, and temporarily homeless, we became the foster children of the Rodef Shalom, the Y and the Conservative Synagogues. Time and again, we courageously adapted to change and progress. Finally our year of exodus came to an end and our dreams were realized as we moved into our new building at Wilkins and Shady. The building was dedicated during Pennsylvania week and we received a citation of merit from the Governor.

Re-affirming our primary devotion to Sisterhood and Synagogue, we well recognized the fact that a group of intelligent and earnest women such as ours must not remain unaware. Thus we re-activated our Adult Education Program, well remembering that Mrs. Hailperin, our Rabbi's wife taught the first Adult Hebrew Class. Encouraged and guided by our esteemed Rabbi, we instituted a series of cultural programs, the high level of which we have maintained through the years. His participation in our Tuesday lectures has stimulated us immeasurably.

Song, (tune of "Alice Blue Gown")

Rabbi Hailperin, what we say is true,  
Sisterhood sings a tribute to you.  
For we want to make clear  
To the folk gathered here,  
How you willingly guided us through all the years.

With your help in our programs and such,  
Adult classes were never too much.  
Faithful hand you've been lending,  
Our meetings attending.  
Dear Rabbi, we're grateful to you.

Narrator: Our Sisterhood, like Jacob, was engrossed for seven years in a labor of love. We have fulfilled our \$35,000.00 Building Fund Pledge, and again, like Jacob, we labored seven additional years, ~~for his love~~, Our Sisterhood is now embarked on the redemption of a new and greater pledge, for the building of our Sanctuary-to-be.

So dear friends, as <sup>WE</sup> close this scrapbook, let us remember that the achievements of the past are the blueprints upon which to build a richer future and scale the peaks in our eternal Youth.

Low  
Pitch

up