

42nd Anniversary For Ohave Zedeck

following as charter members and organizers: Harry Lieber, Rev Abraham Fine. Only living Honorary President is Joseph Neustein.



Judge Nathaniel Beck

Congregation Ohave Zedeck of Oakland is celebrating its 42nd anniversary Sunday, September 20, at 6 p.m. in the Shaare Torah Horelick Hall, Murray Avenue. Festivities for the burning of the mortgage are planned.

Judge Nathaniel Beck of County Court will be the main speaker, with the popular Max Keiser as toastmaster for the evening. Guest artist will be Miss Debbie Dorre, hailed as a singing sensation by New York critics. Miss Dorre is not Jewish, but sings in Hebrew, Yiddish, Italian, Spanish and English.

Included in the program are Rabbi Benjamin Krohn, spiritual leader of Ohave Zedeck; and Rabbi Judah Moses, of Adath Israel Congregation. Sports celebrities are also planning to be on hand.

Program chairman, Morris Levine, and reservation chairman, Leonard Rogalsky, announce that tickets are still available. For reservations, call MUuseum 1-2909, or MUuseum 2-3390.

Ohave Zedeck's Beginning

Oakland's Ohave Zedeck dates back to the year 1917. It all began when a sizeable Jewish group, moving out of the Hill District, transplanted their homes in the Oakland area. Under the leadership of the late Messrs. Morris Rosenbloom, Samuel Edelstein, and Samuel Epstein, this group was organized into the nucleus, which later became the basis for an Ohave Zedeck. Perhaps it was our country's entry into the World War that fired up their imagination. Perhaps it may have been their own desire for an uncompromising brand of traditional Judaism. Whatever may have been the reason, they inevitably strove for something more logically associated with the Faith of their fathers. Ohave Zedeck's progress was slow but steady, and has a history worthy of review.

For a number of years, this group met in the Congregation, Tree of Life, conducting services in the, the, unfinished Social Hall of the Synagogue. In the year 1919, they began conducting services in various private homes, rotating them from time to time, but all in the Craft Avenue - Niagara Street area. On the High Holidays, however, larger and more spacious quarters were needed to accommodate the overflow. This haphazard arrangement did not meet

with favor and resulted in the loss of a number of followers who became discouraged and disappointed.

In the summer of 1921, a committee finally met at the Edelstein home, and there conclusively decided to purchase a home for the Synagogue. And so on the corner of Craft and Niagara, where the Congregation now stands, a house and its ground became Ohave Zedeck property. For the High Holidays, it was still necessary to rent a hall to accommodate the influx of worshippers. This arrangement continued for over a decade of years.

In 1936-37, a large-scale remodeling program began. The section facing Craft Avenue (the front of the home), was razed and was practically entirely rebuilt. The back section of the home, however, was left intact, with the exception of the second floor; directly above, being reconverted to a gallery for the women. The basement was refinished to serve as a Social Hall. On Rosh Hashonoh of 1937, the first High Holiday Services were conducted in the Building, and the Ohave Zedeck was thus dedicated, becoming the Schul it is today.

Ohave Zedeck to many stands as a citadel of Orthodoxy; a small Synagogue but a fortress of Judaism; Ohave Zedeck can be proud of its uninterrupted record of the three-time daily services continuing ever since its inception.

However, though the Synagogue was never financially able to afford, a full-time Rabbi, it nevertheless managed to function successfully all these years on its own merits.

In 1932, a tract of land was purchased from Mr. Streiner in Millvale, Pa., Shaler Township. This parcel of land was converted into a beautiful well-kept, little cemetery. A chapel was erected on its grounds the same year.

In 1938, A Hebrew School was organized and was under the tutorship of Teachers Strauss, Domb and Mallinger, respectively. In the same year, a Ladies Auxiliary was organized which became an integral part of the Congregation, functioning for a number of years. In 1953, under the able direction of Mrs. Maurice Lapidus and Mrs. Myer Shanblatt, the Ohave Zedeck Sisterhood once again came into being.

The Congregation's Spiritual leaders were many. A good number of them served with little or no pay at all. They consisted of lay leaders, who served as Sextons, Cantors, Torah Readers and Teachers. The better-known of them were: Reverends Bell, Strauss, Domb, Mallinger, Gordon, Taub, Jaffee, Goldstein, Finestein, Lapidus, Hershman, Lipshitz, etc. The officers of the Congregation in 1921 were Messrs. Samuel Edelstein, treasurer; Bennie H. Lubetz, secretary; Ben-Epstein, Sholom Herlich, and Hyman Swatt, trustees.

The committee who drew up the Constitution included Samuel Edelstein, chairman; Abe Baker, vice-chairman; Benny H. Lubetz, secretary; Mr. Leebov, Hyman Lapidus, and H. Wilder, trustees. To the above may be added the