

Mrs. Blumenthal

Ladies & Gentlemen -

This is the day - Sept. 8, 1963 - and this is the hour for which many have waited and hoped and dreamed. Finally the dream has become a reality.

Many months ago, during Mrs. Earl Pearlman's administration, the Pittsburgh Section, N.C.J.W. appointed me Chairman of the Building Committee of the Anathan House for Older People - a position which my Committee and I regarded as a sacred trust. We hope we have fulfilled their instructions and expectations.

At the inception of the project Eleanor Pearlman, as was to be expected, was a staunch and untiring leader. The successful culmination of a project of this kind would have been impossible without the combined and efficient efforts of many. It would also be impossible to specifically name all the faithful and dedicated people who gave of their ability, energy and devotion. Our present and future thanks must include each and every member.

In retrospect, the solution of what appeared to be insoluble problems were solved in their respective fields and in their sequence by Mr. Meyer Sachs, Mr. Alan Berkman, and Mr. Harry Lefkowitz. Without Meyer Sachs we could not have acquired the property. Without Alan Berkman we could not have unraveled the legal entanglements. Without Harry Lefkowitz this magnificent structure, which you see, could never have been adapted to its efficient usage within the allotted generous funds at our disposal. His planning and professional skill, added to his untiring efforts, resulted in what you see today. As I mentioned earlier, we cannot thank everyone specifically, but I cannot fail at this time to pay tribute to Mrs. Isidore Goldsmith, my Vice-Chairman, and to Mrs. David Silverblatt, my Treasurer, for their invaluable cooperation and assistance.

The furnishings in Anathan House resulted from cash contributions which enabled us to purchase what we needed, and contributions in kind supplemented and augmented our furnishings and equipment. To all those who gave so generously, your thanks and ours.

I have before me three keys symbolic of the opening of the building to

carry out the reality of our hopes - just as the recipients are symbolic of the trust invested in them by virtue of their positions. It is now my honor and privilege to present the first key to Mrs. Simon J. Anathan, Honorary Chairman of Anathan House for Older People - our own Bessie - Pittsburgh Section's Angel. What can we say to Bessie that has not already been said, whether by word of mouth or unspoken gratitude? Her devotion to and concern for all Senior Citizens prompted her, some fifteen years ago, to give the Section the funds to establish the Council Lounge for Older People, but she was never quite satisfied with the limited facilities of our former location. Even while her dear husband was still with us they were constantly on the lookout for more adequate quarters. Now we have them, and to quote one of our Anathan House members, "What a wonderful monument this building is." Our heartfelt thanks to her and her children for providing this living fruition of an ideal.

The next key I am delighted to present to Mr. Leon Katzman, President of the Anathan House members, to all of whom this enterprise is available now and in the future. Mr. Katzman, all this is for you and for the wonderful people whom you represent. It is open to ~~all~~ <sup>everyone</sup> without any restrictions or financial obligations. We hope all of you will enjoy your visits here - ~~all~~ <sup>trust</sup> we ~~ask~~ <sup>trust</sup> that you <sup>will</sup> continue to consider Anathan House as some of you have described it - as your home away from home.

The final key I am proud to present to Mrs. James Lavine, President of the Pittsburgh Section, N.C.J.W., whose duty and obligation it is to act as custodian of the building and administrators of the program. Madam President, I present this key to you with the sincerest congratulations of the Building Committee, and with best wishes for the fulfillment of the high purpose for which it is intended.