


Hollywood Temple Beth El

DEDICATION:
LAYING OF CORNERSTONE
FEBRUARY SEVENTEENTH
NINETEEN HUNDRED FIFTY-TWO
(1952)

“In the Beginning...”

 ONE DECADE, one score and one year ago, sixteen farsighted men met at the home of Ed Weiss to form a conservative congregation. This was the beginning of Hollywood's first synagogue which, for the next thirty years was to serve as a House of Worship, House of Study and House of Assembly for the rapidly-growing Jewish community of the Western Avenue-Sunset Boulevard District.

The first Friday evening services were held in a bungalow on Wilton place just south of Sunset Boulevard. An improvised Ark, two Torah scrolls and some folding chairs transformed the living room into a House of Worship. The congregation elected Ed Weiss president; Samuel Tuch, vice-president; E. J. Peiser, recording secretary; Louis Kirstein, financial secretary;

Joseph Miller, treasurer. A charter was granted by the State of California and the Congregation was incorporated January 26, 1922. A few months later a lot was purchased for \$8,500 at 1508 North Wilton Place and plans for the erection of a temple were under way. The fund-raising slogan adopted in 1922 also served as a time schedule. "For All To See In '23." In September of that year, services for the High Holy Days were held in their new building. The interior was unfinished. The "Bima" consisted of a raised wooden platform with velvet draperies covering the raw lumber. But there was fervent religious spirit within its walls. The Congregation gave their temple a truly divine name, Beth El—House Of God.

Mr. and Mrs. Morris Wulinger were true pioneers in the building of the Temple. Among their many donations were memorial lights for the pulpit. Mr. and Mrs. Morris Rosen were among the first and most generous of the members. Their daughter (now Mrs. Seymour Brown) taught Sunday School, and their sons Jack, Allan, and Joseph learned their “alef, baiz” from old Rabbi Wellington in years in the Beth Hamidrash. Mitchell Moidel, well-known attorney, served for many years as principal of the Sunday School, and performed outstanding service.

The first Torah was donated by Mrs. Sarah Esther Levine, whose daughter Saraphine Davidoff is still an active worshipper. The Sam Yellen family were among the early leaders. Sam enjoyed congregational work and took pride in honoring others with Torah readings. And who shall ever forget the years of loyal service by Mark Rappaport, our recording secretary. Through the efforts of Mrs. Ed Weiss a Sisterhood was started, with Mrs. Lena Schwartz, Mrs. Julia Mintz and Mrs. Esther Greenwald, her able assistants.

Rabbi Alstead was the first to occupy the pulpit and the little, 600-seat Temple began to attract men and women in all walks of life, many from the motion picture colony: Michael Curtiz, Vera Cordon, Carmel Myers, Mervyn LeRoy, Jack Pearl, Mme. Reinhardt, Edward G. Robinson, Sam Bishoff, George Sidney, Hal Wallis, Benjamin Warner, Louis Halper, Mike Gore, Ike Briskin, William Koenig, Carl Laemmle, Joe Nadel, Abe Cohen, Lew Seiler, Harry Maizlish, Arnold Pressberger and many others



There was the Pivar family, Maury, Ben, and Edward who occupied an entire pew in the Beth Hamidrash where their father, the beloved Adolf Pivar sang the Kol Nidre with tenderness and heartfelt emotion. There was the Goldstone Family, Phil and his mother, Mrs. Rae Goldstone, and his sisters, Mrs. Dore Levine, and her Husband, Abe. The Temple, Chapel and school rooms are studded with plaques and mementoes, reminders of the contributions made by Phil Goldstone on the great Jewish Philanthropist of Los Angeles. There were the other staunch supporters such as the families of Abe Herman, Jacob Herman, Sr., George Heltzer, Mrs. Rose Simon, Dave Marantz, E. J. Margolin, Dave Matuso, A. A. Schneirow, Henry Davis, Herman Deutsch and his sons, Lester and Alex; Sam Engleman and his son, Alex, Sam "Pop" Feldman, Ben Feldman, the Moidel family, Jacob Bornstein, Morris Landlau, Max Fresko, Maurice Katleman, Joseph Koch, Henry Davis, Henry Davis, George Bilson, Abraham Dratwa, Sol Behr, Joe Chlavin, Al Galvin, Abe Rosenfeld, Max Buky, Milt Nebron, H. Schoenwald, Joe Schwartzman, Sol Silpa, Stanley Stone, Morris Weiner, the Mintz family, and their sister, Mrs. Schwartz; the Isadore Sharpe family, Mr. and Mrs. Leon Solomon, Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Sackin, the Lipnick family, the Glesby family, and many, many others. To list the names of all who helped build Temple Beth El, and all who helped keep open its doors, would require more space than is possible in this limited brochure. Mark well their names for without their contributions and hard work, the Temple's history might have ended long before this.



Hollywood Temple Beth - El
Hebrew School Graduation 1965



































Shout for Joy

Jean-Francois Carti photo

Happy graduates of the nursery school of Hollywood Temple Beth El shout for joy and raise their hands in victory with their

teachers, from left, Harriet Levins, Janet Shultz, Hana Bashan and Rabbi Gilbert Kollin.





































































Thank You!

To everyone for
joining us tonight!

To Our Generous
Donors Without
Whose Contributions
Tonight Would Not
Be Possible

Diane Binder
Dianne Powell
Edward and
Shirley Gush

Elisabeth Wolf
Felix Braginskiy
Friedlander/Bellamy

Harvey Jason
Howard Hoffenberg
Jeffrey Nadel

John & Sara Barta
Marcelo & Lilian
Kupferwasser
Leonard Bauer

Mikhail Shinder
Roger Rosen
Rosya Shinder

Rozaliya Vinokurova

Simon Bril

Steven and Kate

Adney

Carmen Fraser

And To HTBEL 2012 Pesach Committee

Lilian Kupferwasser
Barbara Mo
Diane Posner-Thomas
Steven Thomas
Joel Rosen
Moshe
Simon Brill
Tippy