



NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER, 1974.

30th ANNIVERSARY EDITION.

HESHVAN 5735.

Shalom Friends,

We say Thanks to God for granting us 30 years of our Progressive Congregation in Springs!

For the interest of Congregants, these are the historic minutes which record the founding of our Temple 30 long years ago! We are proud indeed to see a few of the prominent names shown still stalwarts in our Movement!

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF ENROLLED MEMBERS OF THE REFORM CONGREGATION TO BE FORMED CONVENED BY THE SPRINGS CHAPTER OF THE S.A. UNION FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM AT THE LECTURE ROOM, TOWN HALL, ON MONDAY THE 24th DAY OF APRIL, 1944 AT 8.15 P.M.

PRESENT:

- Mr S. Redhill (In the Chair)
- Mr M.N. Sloot (Vice-President of the Johannesburg Jewish Reform Congregation) and Mrs Sloot,
- Mr I. Greenberg (Hon. Vice-President of the Johannesburg Jewish Reform Congregation) and Mrs Greenberg.
- Mr B. Stalson (General Secretary of the Johannesburg Jewish Reform Congregation and Sec. of the S.A. Union for Progressive Judaism),
- Mrs Redhill,
- Mr & Mrs L.M. Sher,
- Mr B. Ash,
- Mr Wolman and Son,
- Mr & Mrs L. Levitas,
- Mr & Mrs S. Shenker,
- Mr & Mrs H. Gerber,
- Mr & Mrs R. Rubenstein,
- Mr & Mrs K.H. Stoloff,
- Mr & Mrs H. Frank,
- Mr & Mrs L.B. Taurog,
- Mr & Mrs A. Rogies,
- Mr & Mrs G. Heilbrunn,
- Mr Lowenstein,
- Mr & Miss Hammerschlag,
- Mr & Mrs B. Harris and
- Dr & Mrs Kuny.

APOLOGIES: were noted from Mr V. Brasch (Hon. Sec. of the S.A. Union of Progressive Judaism), Mr & Mrs Cowen, Mr & Mrs I. Gordimer, Mr & Mrs A. Shalekoff and Mr N.H. Owsianick.

The proceedings opened with an address by the Chairman who welcomed the guests from Johannesburg. The Chairman effectively outlined the progress made by the Movement in Springs since the inception of the Chapter.

Mr N.M. Sloot then addressed the gathering at great length during which he dealt with the reason why people in this Country desire the change to Reform Judaism and he touched on the advancement of the Movement particularly in America.

Mr Slood outlined very convincingly the differences between the services in the Reform and Orthodox Synagogues and he intimated to the gathering that the Reform Judaism had been accused of taking members from Orthodoxy and as being assimilationists. In this connection he pointed out that only 20% of the Jews on the Witwatersrand belong to Congregations and there was consequently a large field for the Reform Movement to draw from without interfering in any way with these people who were attached to Orthodoxy. With regard to assimilation, Mr. Slood remarked that Reform Judaism keeps Jews as Jews and is against assimilation. Mr Slood wound up with a very interesting remark when he stated that one wonders how far Orthodox Jews are Orthodox.

RESOLUTION: Mr L.B. Taurog moved and Mr L. Levitas seconded "That this meeting resolves to inaugurate and hereby forms itself into a Reform Congregation to serve the area of Springs and District and shall be known as the Springs and District Jewish Reform Congregation.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS: The adoption of the Constitution and By-Laws was moved by Mr H. Frank and seconded by L.M. Sher. At the request of the meeting, the Constitution and By-Laws were explained in detail by Mr Frank. Mr Taurog raised the question of the liability of the members and after the Chairman assured the gathering that this matter would be attended to, the Constitution and By-laws were adopted unanimously.

NOMINATIONS FOR COUNCIL:- The following members were nominated and elected as members of the Council:

Mr A. Rogies,	Mr K.H. Stoloff
Mr L.B. Taurog	Mr L. Levitas
Mr H. Frank	Mr G. Heilbrunn
Mr R. Rubenstein,	Mr M. Lorge
Mr S. Redhill,	Mrs L.M. Sher
Mrs B. Harris.	

It was agreed by the meeting that the Council co-opt at a later date one further lady.

GENERAL: Mr Stalson outlined in detail the methods employed by Reform Movement in the teaching of children and adolescent youths.

Mr R. Rubenstein proposed a vote of thanks to the guests from Johannesburg.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.45 p.m. with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

READ AND CONFIRMED THIS DAY OF 1944

.....CHAIRMANHON. SECRETARY.

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Included in the immortal minutes of 30 years ago, is the name of Mr Len Taurog, who was one of the six foundation members of the Temple. We all pay tribute to his courage, and that of the other founders, who were originally Members of the Orthodox Congregation. With Mr Ken Stoloff and Mr Max Jorge, Mr Taurog attended a service at Temple Israel, Johannesburg and broached Rabbi Weiler on the subject of starting a Reform Congregation in Springs. Knowing the intimidation and difficulties that would arise, it was not surprising that Rabbi Weiler tried to discourage them, but a decision to form the Chapter of the Springs and District Jewish Reform Congregation was made on 27.2.1944!

These historic facts were extruded in an illuminating address by Mr. Taurog on the evening of the 7th October 1974 when Mr Lu Sher was given the Honour of Honorary Life President with the presentation to him of an illuminated address by Mr Courtney Redhill on behalf of the Congregation. The evening was a fantastic success and our sincere thanks to the Sisterhood for their magnificent meal, catering and drinks which were supplied to Congregants

without any charge.

This function was preceded by the Simcha Torah Service with the ceremony of the Three Generations, and the marching round the Temple with the Torahs and the Flags.

Mr Sher and his family have worked tirelessly for the Congregation since its inception and his Honour is extremely well earned. Mr Sher and his good lady was at the original meeting to inaugurate the movement in the Supper Room of the Town Hall. Mr Sher accepted the Honour with his usual modesty.

Also present at our 30th Anniversary function were Mr & Mrs R. Spiegel, Mr & Mrs Phil Berman, Mr & Mrs Lorne Wayburne, Chairman of the Union of Progressive Judaism and Mr Max Poslinsky, National President of the Rederation of Temple Brotherhoods and his wife, as were Mrs J. Janks National President of the Federation of Temple Sisterhoods and her husband.

We were also delighted with the presence of Dr & Mrs Kuny, who is the only other living Honorary Life President of the Congregation and whose name is also shown in the original minutes.

It appears that some of the inspiration of the founders came from the late Mr S. Redhill who had been attending services at Temple Israel, and whose son Courtney was the first Barmitzvah of Temple Israel on 3rd October 1937! The first wedding in Temple Israel was that of Mr & Mrs Joe Segall! (our members).

Other facts from Mr Taurog's speech reveal that by 2.5.1944 the membership of the Congregation was 43, and on 1st July, 1944 it was 62. At that time subscriptions were approximately R25.00 per annum.

Our first service was held at the Masonic Hall on 9.6.1944, under Rabbi Weiler and E. Davis Marks as Lay Reader. Subsequent services were held in the Supper Room of the Town Hall, and the Heilbrunn House in Roxburgh Road. Our first Seder was held at Gustav Heilbrunn's house. Our Second Seder was held at Dr Kuny's House. That night the late Dr. Fram made a contribution of R1700,00 towards a Building Fund.

Our first Torah was loaned to the Congregation by Mr Louis Levitas!

In October 1945, the Chevra Kadisha granted us burial rites in a separate section of the Cemetary, on instructions from the Beth Dir. Since that time thanks to Rev. Altschuler and latterly Mr Max Kort, the U.H.I. have had a sympathetic attitude at all times.

Our first Rabbi, Rabbi Brasch, was in office in 1948 for 12 months. Morris Shear was appointed reader on 1st August 1946 an a salary of R40.00 per month, and he served in this position for 18 years. He is an Honorary Life Member of t of the Congregation.

In January 1945, Hebrew Classes were held at the Springs Central School.

On 4th April 1945, through the good offices of the late George Behrmann, a cottage was purchased where Rebel Liquor Store is situated today for R10,000.00 with a bond for the full amount! Permits for altering and renovating were obtained through Mr Len Taurog, Mr Sam Redhill and ;Mr Rogies. The rental at that time was R55.00 per month and other expenses R30 p.m. which were considered high for that time!

Consecration of the old Temple Emeth was on 5.9.1945. Representatives of of the UHI and Chevra Kadisha were invited.

In this Temple the 3 Stoloff boys had their barmitzvahs. Mr Taurog's three sons also had their barmitzvahs there.

The cottage was sold for R22,000 in February 1963 and the proceeds were used for the present building.

The site for the present Temple was obtained through a donation by Rand Selection Corp. and Mr L. Taurog also played a prominent role.

In August 1961, the present Temple was consecrated under the Chairmanship of Mr Ruby Lazarus, and the inspired Secretary Mr Lorne Wayburne, now President of the S.A. Union for Progressive Judaism.

At the 30th Anniversary Function an anonymous donation of R500.00 was received by a member towards our campaign to get our roof fixed, which is in need of urgent repair.

During October, Sabbath Services will continue to be held at 6.15 p.m. on Friday evenings. Junior Services are held at 9.30 a.m. on Saturday Mornings. Normal Saturday Morning Sabbath Services are held at 10 a.m.

You are invited to use the Library to borrow books of a Jewish nature at 5.30 p.m. on Fridays, before the Sabbath SEvening Services.

We heartily welcome back Mr & Mrs Len Taurog and Mr & Mrs Sam Aber, and Mr & Mrs Lu. Sher, all of whom have safely returned from trips overseas!

We say Mazeltov to Mr & Mrs Louis Meltzer, and Mr & Mrs Kam, who have both been blessed with granddaughters!

(zeltov to Mr & Mrs Mielke on the birth of a son, and to Mr M Carr on the birth of a grandson! Mazeltov to Mr & Mrs M.D. Weitzmann on the birth of a daughter! Mazeltov to Mr M Gidish on the engagement of his son!

Boy Voyage to Mr & Mrs Guttenberg and Mr E Copans who are on trips overseas.

NOTE that the Farewell Tea to Fan and Eric Herzberg will be held on 1st Nov., 1974 after the Sabbath 8 p.m. Service at an Oneg.

We are proud to announce the following new members, whom we wish many years of happiness in our midst:- Mr Binder and Mr & Mrs E Copans.

Get well quickly to Mrs Cynthia Eppel who is ill in hospital.

The Yahrtzeit list for October/November is as follows:-

SABBATH EVENING, 11th OCTOBER.

Chaie Lazerson	Mother	Mrs M. Stoloff
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SABBATH EVENING, 18th OCTOBER.

Bessie Bailie	Mother	Mr J. Smith
Harry Yewdall	Father	Mr H. Yewdall

SABBATH EVENING 25th OCTOBER.

Walter Kendall	Brother	Mrs H. Lefrebre
Helman Saks	Father	Mrs D. Sher
Leib Carr	Father	Mr M. Carr
Annie Kangisser	Mother	Mr M. Kangisser

SABBATH EVENING, 8th NOVEMBER.

Boris Melman	Father	Mrs L. Taurog
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Do not forget to contact the Secretary, should you require the Naming Certificates for children which are now available!

See you in Shul!

Yours sincerely,

CHARLES EPEL.

LIST OF MEMBERS - 1979

	<u>ADULTS.</u>	<u>CHILDREN.</u>
MR. & MRS. S. ASER	2	
MR. J. ASER.	1	
MR. M. ASERMAN.	1	
MR. E. ASH. MRS. N. ASH.	2	
MR. & MRS. A. BARCLAY	2	2
MR. & MRS. N. BELL.	2	3
MR. & MRS. I. BERNSTEIN	2	
MR. S. BIRNBAUM.	1	
MR. & MRS. F. BRACK	2	2
MRS. C. CARMAN.	1	3
MR. & MRS. M. CHADOR.	2	2
MR. & MRS. E. COHEN	2	
MR. & MRS. S. COHEN	2	
MR. & MRS. S. COHEN	2	2
MR. & MRS. E. COHEN	2	1
MR. & MRS. P. DANNHEISSER	2	2
MR. & MRS. W. DANNHEISSER	2	
DR. W. EDMUNSTEIN.	1	
MR. & MRS. C. EPPEL	2	4
MR. & MRS. N. GIDISH	2	
MR. & MRS. H. GISTMAN	2	3
MR. & MRS. S. GOLDBLUM	2	
MR. M. GOLDFAIN	1	
MR. & MRS. M. GREENBERG.	2	
MR. & MRS. R. GRUENFETER	2	1
MR. & MRS. J. GUTTENBERG.	2	3
MRS. M. HARRIS	1	
DR. & MRS. H. HART.	2	
MRS. R. KRONENBERG.	1	
MR. & MRS. B. LEVY	2	2
MR. & MRS. H. KRAMER	2	1
MRS. KUNY	1	
DR. & MRS. D. LIPSCHITZ	2	
MR. & MRS. J. LUIS.	2	1
DR. & MRS. P. MARKS	2	
MR. & MRS. L. MELTZER.	2	
MR. B. MILLER	1	
DR. & MRS. G. MILLER	2	1
MR. & MRS. C. MOSS	2	2
MR. & MRS. E. PERKINS	2	2
MR. & MRS. C. REDHILL	2	
MR. & MRS. B. ROSENBLATT	2	1
MRS. H. ROTH.	1	
MR. & MRS. L. SAXE	2	2
MR. & MRS. R. SAXE	2	3
MRS & MRS. H. SCHWAB	2	
MRS. B. SEGAL	1	
MR. & MRS. R. SEGAL	2	2
MRS. C. SEIGMAN.	1	
MR. & MRS. G. SHAIRO	2	
MR. & MRS. A. SHEPHERD	2	4
MR. & MRS. L.M. SHER.	2	
MR. I. SKUY	1	
MRS. R. SKUY	1	2
MR. & MRS. H. SUSSMAN	2	
MR. & MRS. A. TAUROG	2	2
MR. & MRS. B. TAUROG	2	3
MRS. L. TAUROG	1	
MR. & MRS. J. TRUMP	2	
MR. & MRS. I. WEITZMAN	2	1
MR. E. WANER	1	
MR. & MRS. M. WEITZMAN	2	
MR. & MRS. I. WOLF	2	
	1	