

A Short History of Temple Beth Zion Sisterhood

Prepared by Michele Hope

May 3, 2011

Sisterhood of Zion Daughters of the Star

- Annual Report of Sisterhood of Zion and Daughters of the Star of Buffalo, NY for 1891-'92 includes the Constitution of The Sisterhood of Zion and membership list.
- President's remarks (Clara Desbecker Weill) indicate that the work of the Sisterhood divided into two distinct branches: philanthropic and social.
- The philanthropic (and educational) work done by the active workers of the Sisterhood was known as the "Order of the Daughters of the Star" which had its own general chairman.
- Rabbi Israel Aaron formed the group by calling a meeting in the Assembly Rooms of the Temple on Thursday afternoon, April 16, 1891. The organization initially had 52 members.
- The first annual general meeting held on Sept. 30, 1891.

Sisterhood of Zion Daughters of the Star

- Primarily formed by wives of prosperous German merchants.
- Came together to help less fortunate Russian Jews fleeing pogroms.
- Bought a building on Buffalo's east side to use to teach the American way of life.
- Eventually paid off the mortgage to that building.

FIRST

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE STAR.

Sisterhood of Zion

AND GENERAL MAN, DAUGHTERS OF THE STAR

OF BUFFALO, N. Y.

FOR 1891-'92.

ENDING OCTOBER 1, 1892



BUFFALO, N. Y. MADE IN THE COMPLETE AND FINISHING WORKS OF THE HAYTHORN-NORTHROP CO. 1892.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

OF THE

SISTERHOOD OF ZION,

FOR 1891-'92.

The Rev. Dr. Israel Aaron,

and Alphonse Weill,

President: Mrs. Israel Aaron,

Vice-President: Mrs. Louis M. Brock,

Secretary: Mrs. Benjamin Desbecker,

Treasurer: Mrs. Abram L. Warner.

DIRECTORS:

Mrs. Joseph B. Mayer,

" Marcus Spiegel,

" Henry Weill,

" Abram L. Warner,

" Alphonse Weill.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE:

Mrs. Moritz Fisher,

Mrs. Louis Weill.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:

Mrs. Louis Jellinek,

Mrs. Louis Reich.



OFFICERS

OF THE

DAUGHTERS OF THE STAR.

General Chairman: Mrs. Henry Altman,

MUTUAL BENEFIT TEN.

Chairman: Mrs. Henry Altman,

Secretary: Miss Miriam Rosenau.

Mrs. Solomon Rosenau,

Miss Ray Bergman,

" Nathan Desbecker,

" Hattie Wolff,

Miss Rose Aaron,

" Estelle Brock,

" Sara Hirshfield,

" Helene Exstein,

Miss Bertha Levyn.

EDUCATION TEN.

Chairman: Rev. Dr. Israel Aaron.

Secretary: Mrs. Daniel Desbecker.

Mrs. Benjamin Desbecker,

Mrs. Edmund Ullman,

" Edmund Jellinek,

Miss Theresa Rosenberg,

" E. H. Loeser,

" Jennie Jellinek,

Mrs. Fred Ullman.

LIBRARY TEN.

Chairman and Secretary: Mrs. Arnold A. Levey.

Mrs. Marcus Spiegel,

Mrs. David H. Desbecker,

" Israel Aaron,

" Joseph B. Mayer,

" Joseph Desbecker,

" Alphonse Weill,

" Nathan Wolff,

" Abram J. Elias,

Mrs. Benjamin Desbecker.

Chronology

- **April 16, 1891** – 1st meeting of The Sisterhood of Zion called by Rabbi Israel Aaron ; Mrs. Alphonse Weill was the first president.
- **March 6, 1910** – 1st meeting of Women's Temple Society called by Rabbi Israel Aaron.; annual dues were 50 cents; Mrs. Edward Warner was the first president.
- **Jan 21, 1913** – Union of American Hebrew Congregations asked women attending the convention to form the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods (NFTS) – TBZ was a Founding Chapter.

Women's Temple Society

Minutes of First Meeting - Sunday, March 6, 1910

The meeting of the Women's Temple Society was held on Sunday, March 6th 1910. Meeting called to order by Dr. Aaron. 60 ladies present.

Dr. Aaron read the purpose and intentions of the Society about to be formed. Its object to be - To work for the welfare of Judaism in general, to promote the spiritual and material aims and interests of Temple Beth Zion, and to foster warmer social relationship and good fellowship among its members, to welcome the stranger, to enhance the divine service, and to aid all projects and enterprises for the improvement and enlargement of the usefulness and beneficial power of Congregation Temple Beth Zion.

And upon motion it was accepted. Moved and carried that this Society be called Women's Temple Society. Moved & carried that the membership of this Society consist of the wives, daughters & sisters of the members of Temple Beth Zion.

Part 2. - It was moved and carried that the executive power and administration of the affairs of the Society be vested in a Pres. V. Pres. Treas. & Secy. and a Board of eleven directors.

Upon motion a nominating committee of five ladies was nominated from the floor, namely Mrs. S. Aaron, Mrs. Alphonse Mill, Mrs. M. Beck, Mrs. S. Bergman and Mrs. J. Head. These ladies to select officers & directors, to report at next meeting: - carried.

Our Motto to be: -
Broad in fellowship,
Faithful in religion,
Joyful in deed,
Progressive in everything good.

Moved that meeting be adjourned until

Minutes of Second Meeting

March 20, 1910

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Sunday, Mar. 20th, 1910. Second regular meeting
Dr. Aaron in the chair.

The committee appointed to nominate
the officers & directors of this Society
reported as follows:-

President, Mrs. Ed. Garner
V. President, Mrs. Herman Gile.
Treasurer, Mrs. H. Oppenheimer
Secretary, Mrs. Leo Tabor.

Directors:-

Mrs. Daniel Debecker.
Mrs. Frank Kohn.
Mrs. David Geisman.
Mrs. Jacob Goldberg.
Mrs. Albert Ullrichau.
Mrs. Arthur Victor.
Mrs. Emanuel Roasberg.
Mrs. Solomon Rosenfeld.
Mrs. Adolph Winters.
Mrs. Chas. Beck.
Mrs. A. D. Bruckheimer.

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Moved & carried that the nominees
as reported be elected by casting
one ballot.

Dr. Aaron vacated chair.

Mrs. Ed. Garner presiding.

Moved and seconded that
Dr. & Mrs. Aaron be elected Honorary
Pres. & V. Pres. respectively, and that
they have the same power as
the directors of this Society. Carried.

Moved and seconded that
the part of by laws reading:-
"The membership of this Society
is to consist of the wives, daughters
and sisters of the members of
Temple Beth Zion" be amended to
read as:-

The membership of this Society
is to consist of the wives, daughters
and sisters of the members of Temple
Beth Zion and others contributing

to the support of this congregation
and affiliated with no other
congregation. Carried

Moved & carried that dues of members
of the Homeless Temple Society be \$1.
a year.

Moved & carried that this
Society hold quarterly business
meetings.

Upon motion meeting adjourned.

Some interesting items in Archives

- Small, lined book measures 8 7/16" x 6 3/4" x 1/4", black cover is torn around edges, some pages have separated from the binding but are in good condition. Contains minutes of first meeting of the Women's Temple Society on Sunday, Mar 6, 1910. Contains meeting minutes through Wed., May 3, 1912. Also ledger of expenditures, dues and copy of constitution.
- Larger, bound ledger used as a scrap book, measures 10" x 8 1/2" x 1 3/4"; black cover with red spine and corners; gold seal inside front cover reads "Besslers, Inc. 584 Main Street Buffalo, NY" with an embossed buffalo logo. Paper label on cover reads "Women's Temple Society, Buffalo, NY, 1919-1923, Mrs. Henry Nathan, Pres." Book appears to have belonged to Mrs. Nathan and contains personal correspondence written to her during her term as president.

Items in Archives

- Newspaper article dated Feb 6, 1920 entitled “Espousal of Radical Doctrines by Woman Lecturer Stirrs Hearers to Great Indignation: Rabbi Kopald in Defense of the Speaker.”
- Multiple event programs, menus and newspaper clippings.
- Remarks offered as a memorial following the death of Rabbi Kopald.
- Program of the activities of the Americanization Committee, which worked with immigrant women and children in Buffalo.
- Program of 27th council of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the 4th Assembly of the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, Buffalo, NY May 23-26, 1921. Includes Mrs. Nathan’s delegate ribbon, event tickets, etc.

Activities

Women's Temple Society
MUSICALE
NOVEMBER 25th, 1919, 3:30 O'CLOCK

Program

I—SONGS

Mai *Hahn*
 J'ai pleure en Reve..... *Hue*
 Fleurs de ma Paravent..... *Fourdrain*
 The Island..... *Racmaninoff*
 Longing..... *Racmaninoff*
 MRS. MARGARET ADSIT BARRELL

II—

Scenes from Childhood—Op. 15..... *Schumann*

1. About Strange Lands and People
2. Curious Story
3. Catch me if you can!
4. Entreating Child
5. Contentedness
6. Important Event
7. Dreaming
8. By the Fireside
9. The Knight of the Hobby-horse
10. Almost too Serious
11. Frightening
12. Child Falling Asleep
13. The Poet Speaks

MISS ANITA FRANK

III—SONGS

Early..... *Wassell*
 Late..... *Wassell*
 The First Primrose..... *Grieg*
 Across the Hills..... *Rummel*
 Ecstasy..... *Rummel*
 MRS. MARGARET ADSIT BARRELL

iv—

(a) To the Sea } *Anita Frank*
 Cradle Song }

(b) Nocturne—Op. 15, No. 2 } *Chopin*
 Polonaise—Op. 53 }

MISS ANITA FRANK

Sisterhood of Zion

TUESDAY 9 MAY FIFTH 9 1903

Program

1 VOCAL DUETT *Selected*
 MISS HATTIE COHN, MR. EDGAR WEILL.

2 MONOLOGUE "*The Pudding*"
 MISS ANTOINETTE KOHN

"The Scapegrace," *or*
a Cousin to All
A COMEDINETTA IN ONE ACT (TIME: PRESENT.)

MRS. POMEROY DODGE (of Newport)..... Mrs. Eli D. Hofeller
 GLADYS QUINCY (Her Boston Niece)..... Mabel Altman
 NINA CROSBY (" New York ")..... Elsie Loeser
 MAUD LAWTON (" Phila. ")..... Blanche Ullman
 ETHEL DAVIES (" Chicago ")..... Bertha Wile
 ALINE DEVALENCE (" French ")..... Irma Rosenheim
 ELIOT CHAMPNEY (" Nephew ")..... Hugo Wittman

REVERSOLE PIANO kindly loaned by GAONA & HOFFMAN, 74 Seneca Street.
 Furniture kindly loaned by HERREN & Co., and the HOUSEHOLD OUTFITTING Co.

WOMEN'S TEMPLE SOCIETY
Dramatic Arts
 Presents
Dorothy Marie Seidenberg, Lyric Soprano
 Miss Mc Mullen, Accompanist

I
 a A Spring Fancy
 b The Piper of Love
 c Dan Cupid

John Denmore
 Mally Carew
 Manna Zucca

II
The Beau of Bath
 ONE ACT PLAY
 Time: Christmas Eve, 1750.
 Place: Bath.
 Scene: A Room in the Beau's Apartment.

CHARACTERS:
 Milton Guggenheimer
 Hugo Wittman
 Miss Janeth Michael

Directed by Milton Guggenheimer
 Miss Martha Gomph, Harp
 Property Manager, Neville Hofeler

III
Marie Seidenberg
 Arditi

The first working meeting of the
 Class for Child Study will be held
 at Temple Beth Zion on Tuesday
 morning, Jan. 9, 1923 at 10:30 o'clock.
 At this meeting the membership list
 will be closed and it is known that all
 listed who have not yet enrolled and
 are unable to register personally at
 this meeting, must do so by mail prior
 to Jan 9th
 Hanna K. Desbecker, Corr. Sec.
 79 Inwood Place.

Women's Temple Society
 Temple Center

Child Study Class

A CLASS in CHILD STUDY will be organized for those interested, on Tues-
 day, December 5th, 1922, at 2:30 o'clock, by Mrs. Sidonie Gruenberg,
 of New York City, vice-president of the National Federation for CHILD STUDY.
 Her Subject will be "Problems of Childhood and Youth—the age old
 problems and their modern aspect".

Minnie K. Levi, Fin. Sec.



More than 4000 circular addresses
 Temple women as their lunch
 As women's movement as their lunch
 such as many women as their lunch
 which were given to
 but which were given to
 of Mrs. Mary Nathaniel
 of Mrs. Mary Nathaniel
 of Mrs. Mary Nathaniel



Women's Temple Society

*For all we cannot wait,
 For all we cannot wait,
 We will convene all of you folk,
 For once, aside we'll put all piety,
 For a gladtime frolic, by the Society,
 Women's Temple Society.*

THRIFT LUNCHEON

The H.C.L. is going higher! The bottom of the purse is drawing nigher!
 To lodge the issue we cannot drift, but must study and practise ways of thrift.
 Come to a Luncheon and see how it's done, Tuesday, March 9th, when the
 strikes One.
 nell University, we bring a Professor in Home Economics; Miss
 Rensselaer.
 Study Members, one and all, of the Women's Temple Society,
 for this kind of meeting our U. S. A. has asked us to hold.
 received not later than Monday A. M., March 8th.



WOMEN'S TEMPLE SOCIETY

The Annual Meeting of the Women's Temple Society in the form of a
 Luncheon, will be held Tuesday, May 25th at one o'clock, at the Temple
 Centre.
 Mr. George Eisler, Executive Secretary of The American Fellowship,
 Incorporated, will speak on "Americanization—True and False."
 The report of the Nominating Committee will be received, also annual
 reports of the work of the year.
 Reservations for luncheon must be received not later than Monday A.M.
 May 24th.
 DUES
 Selma Schroder,
 Cor. Secretary.



Mrs. Henry Nathan.

The Temple Beth-Zion
 and
The Women's Temple Society
 cordially invite its members to welcome
Rabbi and Mrs. Louis J. Kopald
 on Wednesday evening, the fourteenth of April
 from eight-thirty to ten-thirty o'clock
 The Temple Centre

PROGRAM

TWO—ONE ACT PLAYS
BY

JOHN KENDRICK BANGS

Given under the auspices of the
WOMENS' TEMPLE SOCIETY
TEMPLE CENTER

Monday Evening, February 20th, 1922

"A PROPOSAL UNDER DIFFICULTIES"
CHARACTERS

Robert Yardsley.....	Allen Morris
Jack Barlow.....	Jerome Kirtz
Dorothy Andrews.....	Evelyn Alpern
Jennie.....	Adelle Land
Hicks.....	Whois Knott

Scene—A New York Drawing Room
Time—New

GROUP OF SONGS

BY

MRS. ARTHUR FULLER

Accompanied by Mrs. Edward H. Warner

"THE REAL THING"

CHARACTERS

Michael McGuinnis.....	Maurice S. Tabor
Mrs. Bridget O'Hara.....	Miss Marjorie Elias
Mrs. Daphne Perkins.....	Mrs. Neville Hodder
Mrs. Delaney Paul.....	
Mrs. ...	

Example of Yearbook – 1949-1950



MRS. MEYER H. RIWCHUN

Every organization is the lengthened shadow of its leader. The work of the organization reveals the loyalty, enthusiasm, and imagination of the person who occupies the position of president.

Mrs. Meyer Riwchun has served as president of our Sisterhood for nearly four years, and in that time, Sisterhood's ever widening scope of service has indeed been the reflection of her inspiring leadership. With the impetus and stimulation which Mrs. Riwchun has supplied, we as devoted assistants have striven to serve our organization, our Temple, and our community, after the pattern she has so beautifully set.

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*duplicate in
Pres. Anne Riwchun file*

The Sisterhood of Temple Beth Zion

599 Delaware Avenue

Buffalo, New York



1949-1950

Committees - 1949

- Uniongram
- Publicity
- Ways and Means
- Notices
- Cookbook
- Volunteer Office Force
- Judaica Shop
- Addressograph
- Children's Dancing Class
- Peace & World Relations
- Budget
- Interfaith
- Rummage Sale
- Library
- Religion
- Youth Activities
- Sunday School
- Foster Children
- Membership
- Workshop – sews aprons, layettes, etc. for charities
- Programs
- Inter-Organization Activities

Committees (continued)

- Special Events
- Canteen – caters Sisterhood and Men’s Club events.
- Dining Room – sets tables, cooks and serves monthly Men’s Club meetings.
- House – fundraises, furnishes, and decorates Temple.
- Hospitality – hostesses at Temple affairs.
- Alter Flowers
- Social Correspondence
- Service to the Sightless
- Volunteer Service of the Veterans Hospital

The Sisterhood of Temple Beth Zion

requests the honor of your presence

at a

Luncheon

commemorating their Fiftieth Anniversary

on

Tuesday, March eighth, nineteen hundred sixty

Twelve-thirty o'clock

at

Temple Beth Zion, 599 Delaware Avenue

R.S.V.P. Card enclosed

50th Anniversary Celebration Program

The Presidents of Sisterhood

Mrs. Edward Warner*
Mrs. Israel Aaron*
Mrs. J. G. Joseph
Mrs. Leon Watters
Mrs. Charles Bock
Mrs. Irving Block, Sr.*
Mrs. Max Lewis
Mrs. Stanley Falk
Mrs. Joseph I. Fink
Mrs. Sidney S. Wallens
Mrs. Sol G. Levy
Mrs. D. Bernard Simon
Mrs. Emanuel Hirsch
Mrs. Meyer H. Riwehun
Mrs. Elmer I. Levy
Mrs. Benjamin E. Obletz
Mrs. Jacob Fruchtbaum
Mrs. Irving Hyman

*Deceased

Menu

Sherry Wine

Chicken a la King in Patty Shell

Fruit Sherbert Tossed Salad

Rolls Butter

Birthday Cake

Coffee Tea

Sample info from 1960's

- Minutes of opening board meeting of 1960 season; 922 members.
- Newly formed Suburban Nursery School has a maximum capacity of 25 students. (Sep 20, 1960).
- Total budget for 1960-1961 is \$14,800.
- Book review on Dec 20, 1960 will be "Goodbye Columbus" by Philip Roth.
- Dancing school for the 6th and 7th grades had 199 students.
- Sisterhood annual report, May 9, 1961; contains extensive committee reports.
- Note from Blanche Levy, Social Secretary to the president indicating that she had written 353 notes; many were notes of thanks after the temple burned (Apr 2, 1962).

NEWS
11/1/43

Sisterhood Of Beth Zion To Be Honored

Special to Buffalo Evening News
CHICAGO, Nov. 1—The Sisterhood of Temple Beth Zion, Buffalo, will receive special honors as one of the founders of the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods at that organization's 50th anniversary convention in the Hotel Conrad Hilton here Nov. 18-21.

Mrs. Hubert A. Gerstman of Highland Ave., Buffalo, president of the Sisterhood of Temple Beth Zion, will be presented a plaque for her Sisterhood at a Golden Jubilee Honors Luncheon Tuesday, Nov. 19. Other delegates from her group who will participate in the convention include Mrs. Arthur E. Lewin, Mrs. Benjamin E. Obletz and Mrs. Jacob Fruchtbau.

The National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods will hold this celebration of a half-century's service to Jewish and humanitarian causes on the occasion of its 24th Biennial Assembly.

NEWS
11/22/43

Named to Jewish Post

Special to Buffalo Evening News
CHICAGO, Ill., Nov. 22—Mrs. Jacob Fruchtbau, of 72 Hallam Rd., Buffalo, was elected to the Board of Directors of the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods for a term of four years at the close of the organization's 50th anniversary convention here. She is a past president of the Temple Beth Zion Sisterhood, Buffalo, and takes part in many other Jewish and civic activities.

NEWS
Sat 11/23/43

Chairmen of Sisterhood Ball



MRS. NEWMAN

MRS. LEHMAN

Mrs. Peter J. Lehman is chairman and Mrs. Howard A. Newman co-chairman of Temple Beth Zion Sisterhood's Candle-

mental wrought iron candelabra will be used in creating a Medieval setting in the hotel ballroom. Mrs. Frank H. Jel-

NEWS
3/14/44

Aid Temple Sale March 12



MRS. SETTERS

MRS. GRANT

Mrs. Jacob J. Setters is chairman of motor pickup and Mrs. Lawrence A. Grant heads the Telephone Committee for the Temple Beth Zion baked goods sale Thursday, March 12, from 12 until 5 o'clock at 885 Delaware Ave. Proceeds will go toward the fund for rebuilding the temple.

Mrs. Alvin Rutstein, general chairman of the sale, an-

ditional items sold will be accompanied by the recipe for making it. The sale is sponsored by the Sisterhood of the temple and more than 150 women are working on it.

The revised edition of the Temple Beth Zion Sisterhood Cookbook containing 1000 recipes of members of the Sisterhood and the congregation will be on sale under the supervision of Mrs. Harold L. Goldberg, The Evening Group

Sisterhood pledges \$100,000 to new building for Chapel



Mrs. Arthur E. Lewin

Eugene M. Warner

A \$60,000 GIFT—Mrs. Arthur E. Lewin, president of the Temple Beth Zion Sisterhood, presents a check for \$60,000 to Eugene Warner, treasurer of the congregation, in ceremonies Tuesday at the site of construction of the Sisterhood Chapel at the new temple going up at Barker and Delaware. The check is part of a \$100,000 pledge made by members of the Sisterhood toward the construction.



Mrs. Brown

Mrs. Mendelson

Mrs. Ruistein

Chairmen leave for fund raising meeting

Revue to Boost Chapel Fund


Sisterhood Succeeds at everything it puts its mind to:

- Sisterhood to serve as guides of the new building during the dedication of the new building on Apr 19-23, 1967.
- Sisterhood raised \$300 to adopt three Soviet Jewry families.
- Program for the dedication of the Ark curtain in the Sisterhood Chapel at TBZ on Jan 17, 1975. The artist was Harvey Breverman, a professor of art at the University at Buffalo. Sisterhood women did the actual needlework to produce the curtain.
- Sisterhood Sabbath
- Annual Candlelight Ball

70th Anniversary

TEMPLE BETH ZION SABBATH
SERVICE HONORING SISTERHOOD'S
70TH ANNIVERSARY

Friday Evening April 4, 1980



Rabbi Martin L. Goldberg
Rabbi Stephen A. Karol
Michael Burke, Choir Director &
Organist
Dr. Joel N. Bernstein, Cantorial
Soloist

ORDER OF SERVICE

Shabbat Candle Lighting, pg. 142 Joan Shatkin
President, Temple Beth
Zion

Readers:-

Ruth Rachman - Vice President of Sisterhood

Norma Davis - Past President of Sisterhood
Member, Executive Board District #3
of Temple Sisterhoods

Patricia Greenky - Script writer with Halle Block

Lila Obletz - Past President of Sisterhood
Past member Executive Board of
N.F.T.S.

Ada Levy - Past President of Sisterhood

Ruth Fruchtbaum - Past President of Sisterhood
Past President District #3,
of Temple Sisterhoods
Past member of Executive Board
of N.F.T.S.

Introduction of Speaker - Shirley Lasser,
President, Temple Beth Zion
Sisterhood

SERMON

JUDITH HERTZ
President, District #3 Temple Sisterhoods

Anthem

Adoration Kaddish Benediction

Chairman of Oneg Shabbat:-Lydia Shapiro, Vice
President of Sisterhood

Chairman of Sisterhood Anniversary Sabbath:-
Bernice Cohen, Past President
of Sisterhood.

*Following services there will be an Oneg Shabbat
in the Rabbi Joseph L. Fink Auditorium sponsored
by Sisterhood. All are most cordially invited
to attend.*

CALENDAR

Mon. April 7 -- 10:30 Last day Passover, Yizkor
Memorial Service.

Fri. Apr. 11 -- 12 noon Sisterhood Donors Luncheon
featuring Bess Meyerson.

Apr. 11-13 -- Y.P.S. Debate Weekend

Sun. Apr. 13 -- 9:30 A.M. Achim Discussion Group
" " " 1 P.M. Yom Hashoah Observance at
Amherst Jewish Center.

Mon. Apr. 14 -- 12:15 P.M. Dr. Goldberg's Luncheon
Study Group.

May 4 -- Walk-A-Thon for Israel

May 17 -- Young Women's Group Goods & Services
Auction. Call Sue Altman 688-8264 or
Lynn Fingeret 634-1675 if you can help.

Young Women's Group – 1974-1983

- In Sept 1973, the Young Women's Group of Temple Beth Zion was founded with its own Constitution and By-Laws.
- Letter sent to Rabbi Goldberg, indicating that the group had formed and was comprised of women who primarily lived near the Suburban Building of TBZ (dated Dec 13, 1973).
- Formed to attract younger women and to “enable them to strengthen their Jewish identity.”
- Memorandum of Agreement to merge with Sisterhood in 1983.

Young Women's Group Activities

- Goods & Services Auction
- Family Chanukah Party
- Baking for Oneg Shabbats
- Delivering Welcome Baskets to new members of TBZ
- Assists in planning Consecration
- Sock Hop
- Bake Sale
- CPR course
- Speaker luncheons

Service to the Sightless – 1930's-2001

- Formed under the auspices of Sisterhood, but a separate entity with its own by-laws.
- Started to provide Braille transcription.
- Fundraising donations to countless international, national and local organizations providing assistance to the blind and near-blind.
- Reading for the blind, visiting and entertainment.
- Awards to students at the NYS School for the Blind in Batavia.
- Braille Bridge Day fundraiser.
- Cradle Beach.

Certificate of Appreciation



Presented to

Service to the Sightless of Temple Beth Zion

Your contribution to the Buffalo State Hospital's Volunteer Program is deeply appreciated. This award certificate is being presented as a lasting momento of our gratitude.

Alexis Schroeder
Co-ordinator of Volunteer Services

H. Hainings
Director

6-21-72
Date



County of Erie
Office of County Executive

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, The Service to the Sightless Group of Temple Beth Zion Sisterhood will hold its annual fundraising dessert luncheon on Tuesday May 20, 1975 at the temple; and

WHEREAS, the Service to the Sightless Group started out in 1933 as a Braillest group for the blind and expanded in 1946 to do not only brailleing, but also community service work; and

WHEREAS, programs for the sightless carried on throughout the year include visiting and reading in hospitals, private homes and Rosa Coplon Home, chauffering, and arranging for picnics, holiday parties and educational tours; and

WHEREAS, additional activities are carried out throughout the year in the form of services and financial support to many blind organization and

WHEREAS, these services are provided by group members in Buffalo, Batavia and Gowanda;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, EDWARD V. REGAN, Erie County Executive, do hereby procla the week of May 18, 1975 as

"SISTERHOOD OF TEMPLE BETH ZION SERVICE TO THE SIGHTLESS WEEK"

in Erie County and commend the members of this group for their outstanding generosity of time, effort, and financial support direct toward making life more pleasant for those citizens hampered by a sight loss.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have caused to be affixed the Seal of the County of Erie this 7th day of May 1975.


EDWARD V. REGAN

Archives

- On July 31, 1989 , Irene Goldberg and Ruth Fernandez sent a letter to past presidents asking them to donate their papers to the Temple Archives.
- A form was sent to the past presidents from the Archives committee which asked a series of historical questions.
- Hannah Falk states, “I am not sure these dates are correct; after 55 years, I guess I am entitled to forget. It was a year that I enjoyed immensely...” Temple records show she served 1932-1933.
- Today, the Archives preserves material from 14 past TBZ Sisterhood Presidents.

Sisterhood Presidents – 1891-1977

- 1891-1910 CLARA WEILL
- 1910-16 MATILDA WARNER
- 1916-19 EMMA AARON
- 1919-24 GERTRUDE W. NATHAN
- 1924-27 STELLA BOCK
- 1927-28 LUCILLE BLOCK
- 1928-32 PAULINE LEWIS
- 1932-33 HANNAH FALK
- 1933-34 JANICE FINK
- 1935-37 MILDRED WALLENS
- 1938-41 BLANCHE LEVY
- 1941-43 DOROTHY SIMON
- 1943-46 HELEN HIRSCH
- 1946-48 ANNE RIWCHUN
- 1948-54 MILDRED LEVY
- 1954-56 LILA OBLETZ
- 1956-58 RUTH FRUCHTBAUM
- 1958-60 IRMA HYMAN
- 1960-62 MIRIAM TABANKIN
- 1962-64 EVELYN GERSTMAN
- 1964-66 BABBETTE LEWIN
- 1966-68 ARLENE ARBESMAN
- 1968-70 ADA LEVY
- 1970-72 RUTH SETTERS
- 1972-74 STELLA ZIFF
- 1974-76 LOIS ROSENTHAL
- 1976-77 BERNICE COHEN

Sisterhood Presidents – 1977-2011

- 1977-79 NORMA DAVIS
- 1979-81 SHIRLEY LASSER
- 1981-83 RUTH RACHMAN
- 1983-86 RUTH FERNANDEZ
- 1986-88 NANCY BORINS
ELIANE KNOPP
- 1988-89 LYNN SOLOMON
HELEN WEINTRAUB
- 1989-91 MYRA FALK
PAULINE ROGERS
MAXINE WEISSMAN
- 1992-94 RUTH FERNANDEZ
CECILE TEGLER
- 1994-97 HALLI GLINA
DIANE LYONS
- 1997-99 SUSAN BRUCKHEIMER
CLAREANNE SILVER
- 1999-2001 ELAINE KLEIN
ROBIN ROSENBLAT
- 2001-04 LYNN KLEIN
MARILYN SCHILLROTH
- 2004-05 ELNORA BALSER
SUSAN BRUCKHEIMER
- 2005-07 SUSAN BRUCKHEIMER
- 2007-09 SUZIE SOLENDER
LAURIE DZIOMBA
- 2009-11 SHARON WINER
KAAREN NORMAN

Happy 100th Anniversary
Temple Beth Zion Sisterhood

May you go from Strength to Strength