



*To Strengthen Our Heritage*





The Living Symbol  
of Our Great Tradition

## *To Strengthen Our Heritage*

**W**e — like our forefathers of old — must “rebuild the Temple.” Long have we thought about it. The day for action has come! *KODIMOH* means FORWARD!

When Kodimoh was built only a generation ago, the founders chose her name well. It represented their Faith, their Vision, their Loyalty to a long tradition of three thousand years. These founders were our grandfathers, our fathers — ourselves! They believed they were building for many years.

But progress, growth and change have swept over the world, and over our beloved country, like a mighty tide. *KODIMOH* can no longer contain all her sons and daughters. It cannot welcome “the stranger within our gates.”

What shall we do? — We have decided! We shall again, in this year 5718, prove ourselves worthy of our great heritage, as the founders of our Congregation did in 5684. To strengthen that heritage we shall build a new and greater Synagogue — worthy of ourselves, of our great and growing community, of our centuries of unbroken Jewish tradition, of our eternal Torah.

We shall make it a true “Mishkan” or Tabernacle where our growing families — and families yet unreached — shall gather together as one great Kodimoh family, to work, to study Torah, and to “worship the Lord in the beauty of Holiness.”

In a world torn by doubts and fears, we shall prove ourselves worthy of our firm Orthodox tradition — by building on that firm foundation a noble House of God that shall daily be witness to our faith in the Creator and Father of us all.



## *The Founding of A Congregation*

One of our KODIMOH families lives in what is believed to be the oldest house in one section of Forest Park — and it is only 45 years old! So, our founders of 34 years ago were pioneers. A small, but dedicated, group of Orthodox Jews who had early settled in this section of Springfield gathered together and decided that they should have their own Synagogue. Already there were relatively large groups of Jews in other parts of the city — but that was not enough. They wished to have their own “Shul” — a religious home for themselves, their children and their children’s children. They built with faith and boldness. They believed they were building it for generations to come.

Our congregation was founded on the true

Orthodox tradition, which the new Synagogue of 1923 was to strengthen in the life of the community and in their own hearts. They knew that this tradition held many of the deepest convictions of the human race in its yearning search for God and in its long fight for freedom. They knew that their early Jewish codes defined the sort of freedom for which men are striving today. Being “People of the Book,” they knew that in the ancient Hebrew Scriptures, and the equally priceless and ancient oral tradition, are found words capable of guiding America and the world toward the better life foreseen by the prophets for all the people of God.

Thus was KODIMOH solidly founded.



In Reverent Honor to Those Who Founded Our Congregation



# Progress in the Community

What has happened since that day in 1923?

America has grown. Springfield has grown. Forest Park has grown. Most important to us, KODIMOH has grown!

For years now we have seen the growth outstripping our ability to care for it. One minute we rejoiced in it, and the next we sorrowed that we could not fully take care of our people. We had progressed to "the third and fourth generation" — with some of the little ones in Sunday School — and we had reached a point where something must be done.

As evidence, last Passover, many times the number of people were here than on any previous "Pesach". KODIMOH now has 435 families — with a total of at least 1,400 persons. Our Junior Congregation has multiplied fourteen times in three years. Our Senior Congregation attendance every Saturday has increased some 75%.

As our Rabbi recently told us:

"I do not believe you need much convincing to agree that our present facilities are inadequate for our Kodimoh family. Just look about you and you will see the *obvious, crying need for expansion*. Many of you would like to sit together with other members of your family — fathers with sons and mothers with daughters. But how can we do it in a synagogue which has shrunk in the face of the Congregation's expansion? We know there are families who would want to become members of Kodimoh — but how can we accept them if there is no place? And for how long are we to continue turning away brothers and sisters from the House of our Divine Father?

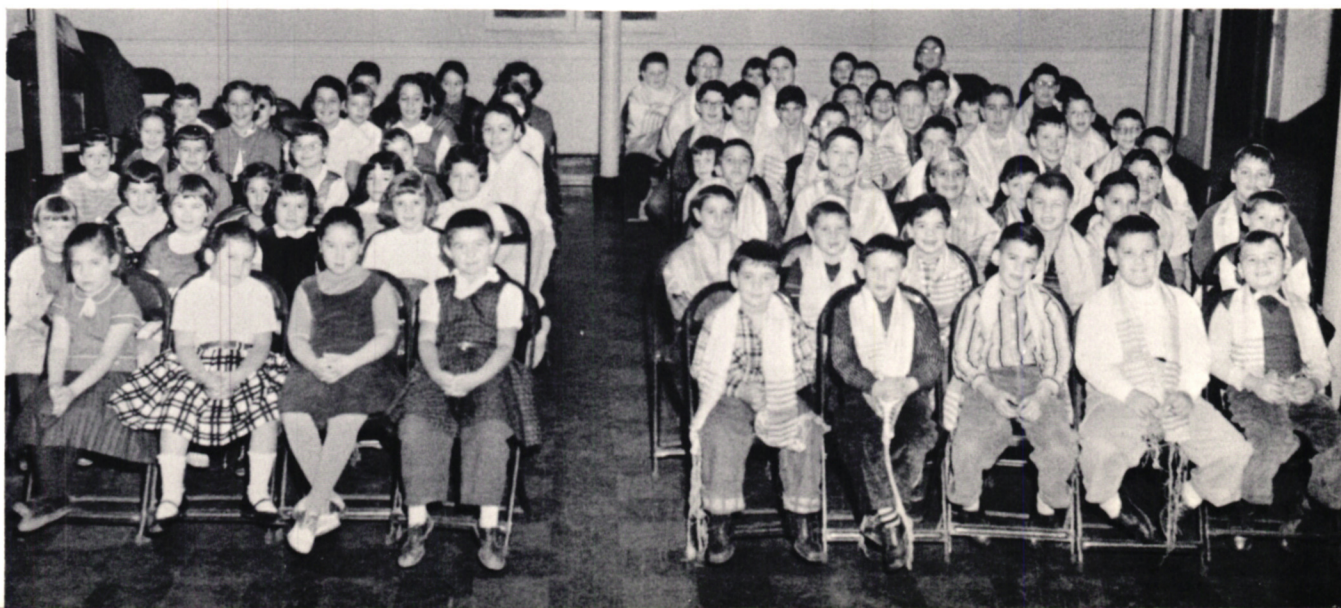


A Crowded Fourth Grade Prepares for the Future



The Graciousness of Our Social Life Will Have Room to Expand

Our Future — Part of the Junior Congregation





# The Congregation's Problems

The HIGH HOLIDAYS — glorious as they are — have become a problem beyond our solution, so far as seating is concerned. We must hold auxiliary services in the Vestry and on both floors of the schoolhouse. And even so, many older people do not come because they cannot climb the stairs. With every seat taken, there is room for only 519 on the floor and 275 in the gallery — a total of 794. And people on the sides of the gallery cannot see the Ark. If we were all able to be here at once, and were able to accommodate all families who wish to affiliate with us, the number would reach 1,400. That is what we are aiming for in the new Synagogue, with the aid of ingenious and flexible plans.

Our problem is equally clear in many different ways. Take the case of the *Vestry* — and all the uses to which it must be put. Sometimes it must serve *five different purposes* within a day: morning service and breakfast; cafeteria for pupils at noon; Cub Scouts in the afternoon; sundown service; another form of gathering in the evening. For numerous occasions it is *our only meeting place*, and many events — such as Bar Mitzvahs and weddings — must be held outside, because the Vestry is already in use or is inadequate because of size.

Lack of provision for our *Young People* and their activities gives us deep concern. There is no real, sufficient provision for the teenagers. Our Junior Congregation has increased to a weekly average of 165, and on Rosh Hashanah there were two services, with a combined total of 300. Last Passover, there was literally SRO — standing room only. When there is a large Bar Mitzvah, we have to choose between Bar Mitzvah and Junior Congregation. We have no right to deprive our young people of the training that will fit them to take their places in the adult congregation. At present they simply do not have facilities for their programs. Though they visit other synagogues, they are too embarrassed and ashamed to invite out-of-town groups to visit Kodimoh — there just isn't enough room.

As to *Sunday School*, the attendance keeps increasing, as elsewhere, because of the higher birth rate and larger families. The provisions

for our school are awkward and inconvenient; two shifts are needed. More rooms, and better separation of rooms, are needed to avoid confusion. And as to our adult education program, the Sunday morning program had to be *canceled* more than two years ago for lack of space and because of conflict with the Breakfast Minyan of Bnei Mitzvah.

An increasing list of separate auxiliary *organizations* — now well past a dozen — calls for more and better meeting places than we now have. The Vestry is overworked; two or three smaller conference rooms are needed; our *kitchen* and serving arrangements, too, are inadequate. The Mr.-and-Mrs. Club must meet at the homes of members.

Thus, we are most imperfectly equipped for a full-scale program of worship, study and social activity to reach all our own people, young and old, to say nothing of families still “without the gates” for lack of room.



The Light of Our Fathers Blazons Our Steps  
to the Future



## *The Solution . . .*

There is no mystery about the solution: the KODIMOH family needs a new *synagogue*. Thorough study has been given to the question, and we agree on the answer. It was clearly stated in the Rabbi's stirring Kol Nidre appeal:

"Tonight I announce to you in happiness and *SIMCHAH*, in a mood of joy worthy of another *SHE'HE'CHIYANU* blessing, that this year 5718 Kodimoh will — with the help of Almighty God and you, His people — have a new and imposing building . . . Tonight I tell you that the leaders of the congregation have determined that *THIS YEAR WE GO FORWARD* in response to the sacred challenge of *V'ASSU LI MIKDASH*: "Let them make me a Sanctuary." We resolve this holy night that this year we will erect a *BAYIS*, a *HOME* a shrine of intimacy and warmth — a fitting place for our deepest devotions — because God is our Father, and we are His children and nothing less will do!"

### **The Plans**

To accomplish what is needed, there are three steps:

1. *Convert the present Synagogue into a convenient and commodious administrative, educational and activities building.* The committee and the architect are jointly working out this problem. Here will be the classrooms, the offices a modern Kitchen, and serving conveniences.

2. *Remove the school building.*

3. *Erect a larger Synagogue on this site, fronting on Oakland but extending well back.*

Due to a recent purchase of residential property on Kenwood Terrace there is, fortunately, room for such an extension — as the



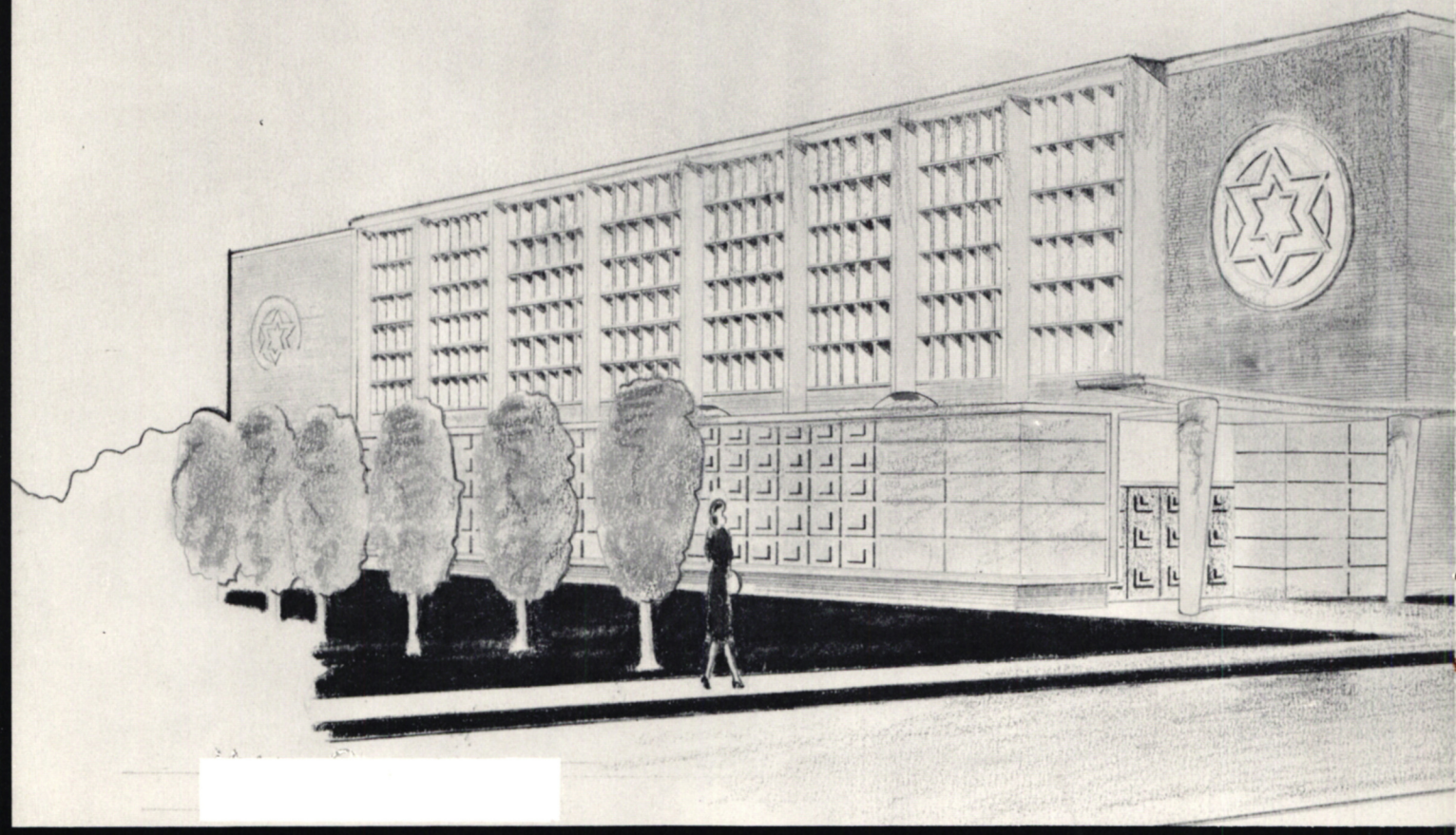
Tradition Inspires Our Children



*Architect's Conception*

as seen from Oak

TENTAT

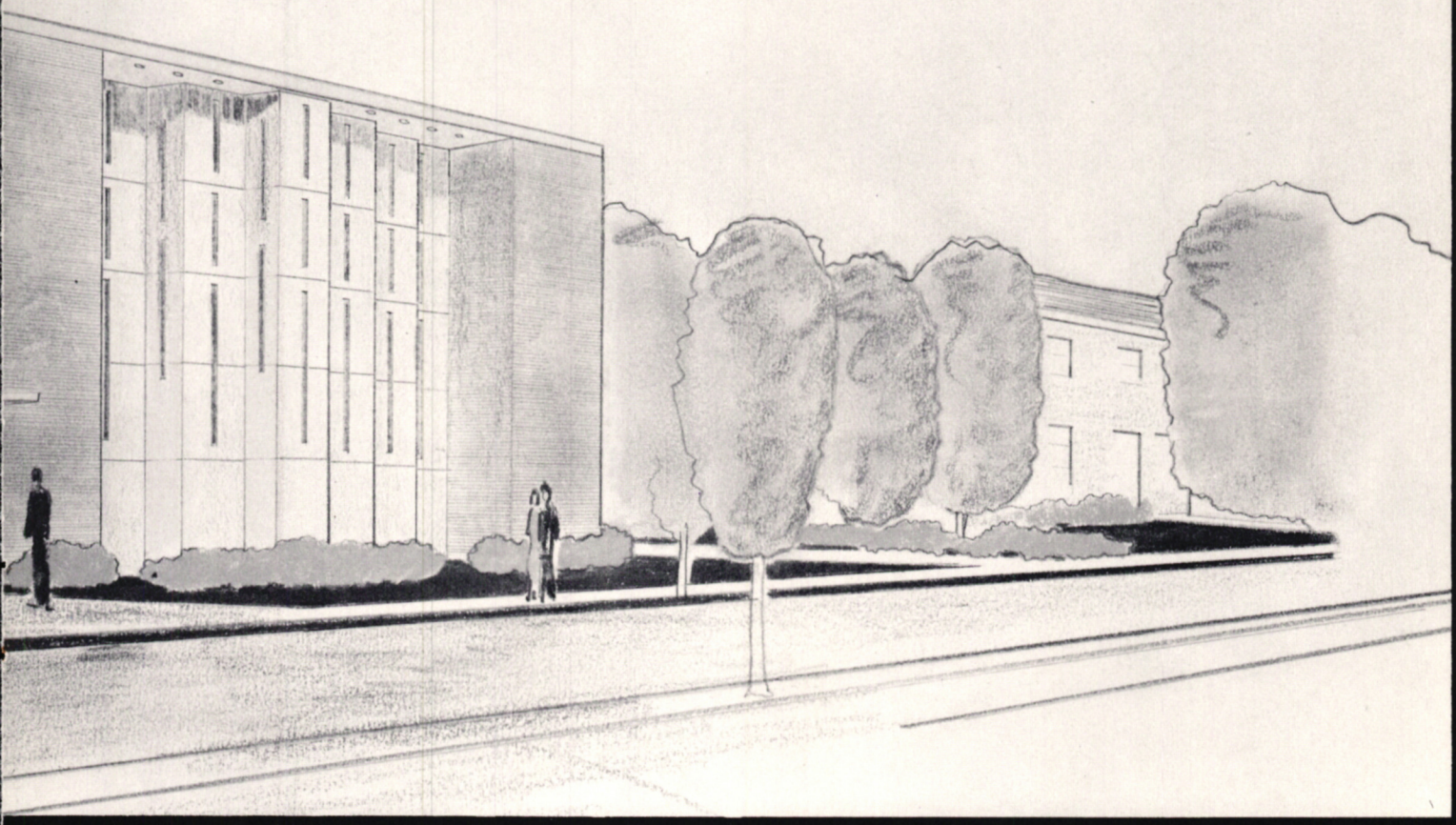




# *of New Synagogue*

land Street

**TIVE**





Plot Plan shows. And it is hoped that further adjacent land may be acquired in the future.

Much thought is being given to these plans which are here presented only in tentative and preliminary form. As all who have built a home of their own know, it takes time to reach the best conclusions, and improvements are bound to be made in the process of developing work-drawings.

But, the aim of the Building Committee is clear: to erect a spacious, dignified, noble, Orthodox House of Prayer worthy of Congregation Kodimoh and the Lord we worship. Simple and impressive beauty — reflecting

both the noble traditions of our faith and the present day in which we live — is sought.

Space for greatly added numbers is to be secured by building a large auditorium or assembly hall, which — for the HIGH HOLIDAYS — can be added to the Sanctuary proper by opening a partition extending the width of the building.

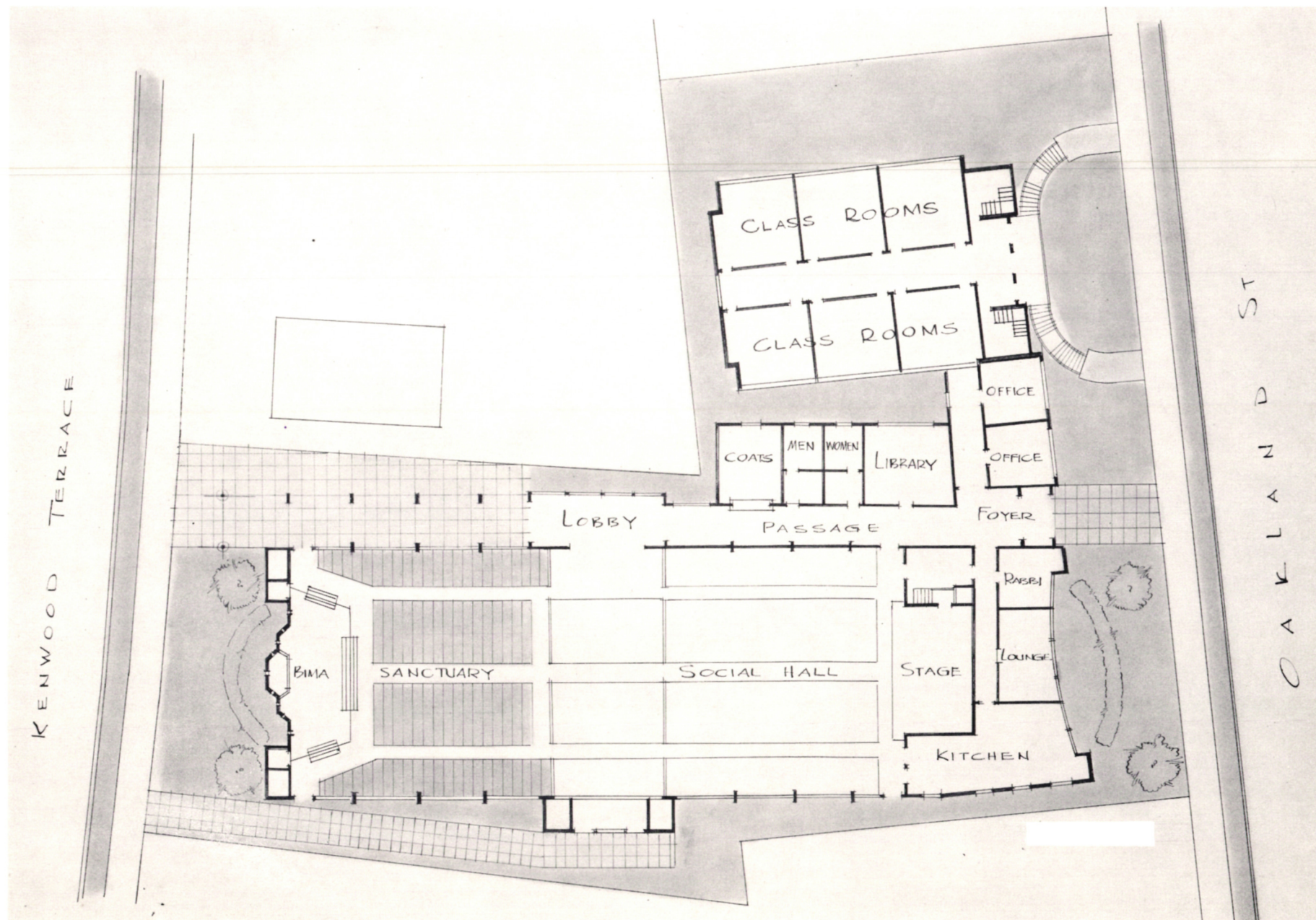
Other rooms and facilities in the old and the new buildings, which can be only suggested on the preliminary plans, will provide for the well-rounded program that our great and growing Congregation has determined to create.

Services and Breakfast  
Clutter a Crowded Vestry



The Sisterhood —  
Eager For Efficient Facilities





HERE ARE THE TENTATIVE FLOOR PLANS





## A Message from Our Rabbi

Dear Friends:

I greet you with an ancient blessing:

*"Blessed be he who comes in the name of  
the Lord,  
We bless you from the House of the Lord."*

Those words were first uttered by King David who three thousand years ago beheld the vision of a "Beis Ha'mikdash," a House for the service of the Lord. David did not live to see that Temple, but his son Solomon transformed the dream of his royal father into a glorious reality. He built the Temple in Jerusalem.

Kodimoh, too, has had its Davids and Solomons. And today we salute those of our Founders who are still with us. They were both Davids and Solomons to our House of G-d. We turn to them in gratitude and love, and say: both your visions and your labors have been worthy. In this building which you envisioned and then constructed, we grew up and married, raised our children and remembered fondly those who have passed on. In here did we offer our prayers of thanksgiving for the joys of life, and our petitions for G-d's mercy in our hours of trial. In here the voice of Torah was heard and its sacred passages expounded. We bless you from the House of the Lord.

Now, however, our beloved Kodimoh has flourished and grown. Hundreds of children pack our vestry on Saturdays and Holidays.

Our adolescents need more and better facilities. On our major holidays we are cramped for room. We are forced to close our doors in the faces of our brothers and sisters who want to experience our joy of being a part of Kodimoh. Now we turn to our Founders and say: we shall learn from your inspired example. We, too, shall be both Davids and Solomons dreamers and workers, visionaries and builders. We shall pronounce the same blessing from a new House of the Lord.

Our vision is a thrilling one. It is a dream of a living Judaism, true to the noblest traditions of Orthodoxy, growing and expanding to fill the needs of a modern, progressive Jewish community, and housed in a beautiful and adequate structure. It is a dream of Kodimoh as the fortress of Torah and Tradition, offering its people the eternal message of Judaism along with all the contemporary facilities and services which they can rightly expect of it. It is a dream of the "beauty of holiness."

You, dear friend, are one of the visionaries. This is *your* dream. Like your grandfather David, you have beheld the vision of a great House of G-d.

*Now, like Solomon — build it! Whether you are young or old, rich or poor, man or woman, formerly active or inactive, now you are a builder of Temples, a laborer in and for the House of God.*

Rabbi Norman Lamm



# Together, We Can Do It!

Everyone will agree that the proposed modernization and building program will give a tremendous lift to the whole life of Congregation Kodimoh. But some will properly ask:

"Can we really do it?"

This question has been seriously considered by those in responsible positions in the Synagogue. A careful person-by-person study has been made to judge the total giving potential of our congregation. The findings indicated: "Yes, we can do it!"

One important point should be noted, however. The statistics showed that we *can* attain our goal, but no figures can prove that we *will* do so.

The answer to that lies in the hearts of you who read these words. Do we really want this new arrangement more than many of the petty personal things for which we spend money? If we do, the modernization and new construction will surely be forthcoming.

## We Must Raise Our Sights

A project such as we envision represents a capital investment. It lasts for generations, but the cost must be contributed all at once. Therefore, it calls for a special, once-in-a-generation scale of giving. Such amounts as we are in the habit of donating to worthy causes each year, or sums which we can dispense casually, without a second thought, will never provide the contemplated construction.

Instead, we must think in terms of making a capital investment — for most of us, probably, the most generous gift we have ever made — which becomes possible only through spreading the payments over a three year period.

## Two Essentials For Success

The experiences of other synagogues which have successfully raised funds as large as this convince us that two kinds of response are necessary. They are:

1. Gifts of Memorial Rooms and other four-figure subscriptions from enough people to add up to a large part of our goal, and

2. Gifts in terms of "shares" from almost all other members and friends of Congregation Kodimoh.

Neither the larger-bracket gifts nor the mass of smaller subscriptions, by themselves, can bring us our new construction. We must have both kinds.

## Face To Face

To make certain that each member and friend of this Synagogue is fully acquainted with the importance and details of our project, committees and teams have been organized for the purpose of making a personal visit upon each. Before being visited, it is hoped that each person will have given very deep thought to our project as presented on the pages of this brochure.

Remember that when it comes to giving for the advancement of The Synagogue, no gift can be too large. And a gift of any size is "large" when it represents real sacrifice. So, "as God hath prospered him", let each one of us respond to the extent of his ability — and beyond!

## Memorial Gifts

The Synagogue is the symbol of *life* — life Now and Hereafter. A Memorial in the Building of God expresses our highest aspirations. Below is a partial list of suggested Memorials wherein you build for the Ages. Further details may be obtained from the chairman of the Memorials Committee, Mr. Nathan Goldstein.

12 Classrooms @ \$3000.00	\$36,000.00
Kitchen	20,000.00
Library	5,000.00
Rabbi's Office	4,000.00
General Office	3,000.00
Lobby	15,000.00
Coat Room	2,500.00
2 School Offices @ \$2,500.00	5,000.00
Basement Vestry	10,000.00
Directors' Room	5,000.00
Stage	15,000.00
Front Doors—3 pair @ \$1,000.00	3,000.00
Window Panels	
about 12 @ \$2,000.00	24,000.00
Ladies' Powder Room	2,500.00
Men's Smoking Room	2,500.00



## *To Help You Plan Your Gift*

### **What is our NEED?**

\$400,000 is our present, tentative need. This includes demolition of the present educational building and the two adjacent houses. It comprises the erection of a New Synagogue and the remodeling of the present Synagogue for use as an efficient, modern educational unit.

### **When will construction commence?**

The Building Committee recommends that the Congregation authorize construction to begin as soon as final plans have been approved and sufficient funds are on hand or pledged. **YOUR RESPONSE TO THIS PROGRAM WILL DETERMINE THE DATE!**

### **What do we get for our gift?**

A New Synagogue — beautiful, spacious, functional, efficient. 1600 can be seated on the High Holidays. Sub-division will take care of daily services. Offices will actually be offices — not cubbyholes. Two kitchens will shine with modernity. Meetings of small groups will cease to scrounge in the discomfort of children's small desks or feel like minute particles swimming in vast spaces.

In addition, we will have an up-to-date educational building that will not have to bow its head to any similar edifice.

## *The Plan of Giving*

### **By what yardstick do we measure our gift?**

By the "share". One share will equal the total of \$12.00 a month over a period of three years, i.e. \$432.00.

### **How will payments be made?**

At your convenience: weekly, monthly, quarterly, bi-annually or annually. However, all payments must be in within the three year period because of building costs.

### **How much ought I to give?**

As much as is possible—**SACRIFICIALLY POSSIBLE**. Many will have to take two, five, ten, twenty shares if we are to meet our need — \$400,000 *This is a time for soul-searching; for facing one's conscience squarely!*

### **How does my gift effect taxes?**

100% deductible — that's what your gift rates.

### **Securities and real estate?**

Stocks and bonds and marketable real estate may be transferred to the Synagogue. Whenever these are worth more today than you paid for them, there are definite tax advantages in giving them. They will be recorded at their market price when received.

### **What benefit do I get from all this?**

In addition to the benefits of the new buildings, you get the joy of carrying on the Great Traditions of our Faith; the feeling of accomplishment of pioneering for your children; the sense of service to the entire community.

### **Will there be a permanent record of the gift?**

Yes. A beautiful Memorial Book will be housed under glass in the Lobby. Within it will be the name (not the amount) of each donor. Pages will be turned weekly for all to see. Your love will memorialize your gift.



# Kodimoh Congregation

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Attorney Joseph Swirsky  
*Vice-President*

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**Treasurer**

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Mrs. Aaron Kurn  
*Secretary*

Maurice Elion  
*Co-Chairman*

Mrs. Louis Izenstein  
*Teas Chairman*

Mrs. Julius Kletsky  
*Hostess Chairman*

### *Special Gifts*

Joseph Radding  
*Division S1*

Maurice Elion  
*Division S2*

Arthur Marshall  
*Section I.*

DIVISION A — Aaron Kurn

*Captains:* Team No. 1 — Louis H. Cohen 2 — Albert Greenfeld; 3 — Julius Kletsky; 4 — David Kagan

DIVISION B — A. Neurick Goodman

*Captains:* Team No. 5 — Paul Bloom; 6 — Irving Judelson; 7 — Jack Davis; 8 — Max Krevalin.

DIVISION C — George Steinberg

*Captains:* Team No. 9 — Herman Bloom; 10 — Samuel Cohen; 11 — Irving Gold; 12 — Harry Judelson.

Julius Goldman  
*Section II.*

DIVISION D — Harry R. Ehrlich

*Captains:* Team No. 13 — Meyron Widland; 14 — Sidney Steinberg; 15 — Joseph Schreiber; 16 — Morris Newman.

DIVISION E — Allan Bloomberg

*Captains:* Team No. 17 — Samuel Ringel; 18 — Trevis Shusman; 19 — Meyer Schoenberg; 20 — Samuel Pava.

DIVISION F — William Chiz

*Captains:* Team No. 21 — Henry Spatz; 22 — Irving Shapiro; 23 — Simon Rosenberg; 24 — Raymond Meyers.

*Executive Committee:* Irving M. Cohen, Maurice Elion, Irving Greenberg; Nathan Goldstein; Dr. Louis A. Izenstein; Milton Katz; Nathan Nirenstein; Joseph Radding; A.J. Saffer; Louis Saffer.

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