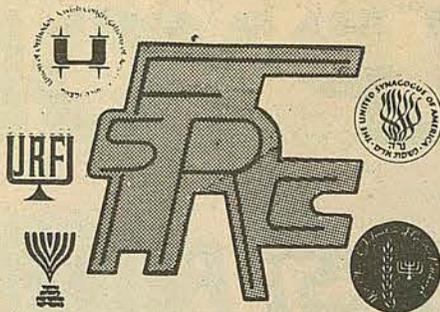


"IDENTIFY:Join a Synagogue"

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FOR CREATIVE JEWISH LIVING

# SYNAGOGUE and FEDERATION



**VOLUNTEER librarians at the Rodef Shalom Temple's Abraham Lippman Library are, from left: Phyllis Green, Marian Eger, Sylvia Klee, and Adeline Axelrad.**

## Synagogue libraries get NCJW helping hand

If you wanted to find out rabbinic thought on the subject of abortion or capital punishment, would you know where to look? How about finding a Jewish periodical that you saw once in Philadelphia or Boston? Or even if you wanted to settle a bet on who was the first Jew in Texas?

The first place to look would be "Judaica in Pittsburgh—A Catalogue of English Language Print Materials," a 1976 publication of the Pittsburgh Chapter, National Council of Jewish Women. "The original Judaica catalogue committee was formed and chaired by Irene Ruth



**B. Wallach**

reimer," explains Bea Wallach, who has served as chairman of an active group of 5 women involved in updating that original catalogue.

"Some synagogue libraries were catalogued in the original publication which can be found in the libraries at Hillman, Hebrew Institute and several synagogues." Two years ago under Mrs. Wallach's direction, the catalogue updating began. Recently, Rosalie Abrams succeeded Mrs. Wallach as chairperson.

Books of Jewish interest or by Jewish authors are indexed two ways: alphabetically by author or alphabetically by title.

"Unfortunately, not enough people know it exists," says Mrs. Wallach.

Libraries recently re-catalogued include Rodef Shalom, Hebrew Institute, Jewish Home and Hospital for the Aged, Temple Sinai, B'nai Israel and Tree of Life.

"Next big project will be Holocaust Library in the Jewish Community Center." All of the NCJW cataloguers attended training sessions given by Mrs. Kreimer.

Many area synagogues have excellent libraries. At Rodef Shalom, for instance, there are two free, well stocked circulating libraries. The Abraham Lippman Library was founded in 1908 and has a University-trained librarian, Mrs. Irving Axelrad as well as volunteers Mrs. Marian Eger, Mrs. Helen Booher, Mrs. Edward Klee and Mrs. Mayer Green.

The library boasts books on "all Jewish subjects or authors, Jewish Reform Responsa, Jews of the World", as well as many current books.

Who uses synagogue libraries? "Mostly congregation members, teaching staff, and college students", says Mrs. Axelrad.

Rodef Shalom also has the Glick Library which specializes in children's books and the Falk Library, not open to the public which houses rarer, seldom seen volumes.

Remember that a synagogue is a house of learning as well as of prayer. Visit a synagogue library and see what we mean.

## Volunteers 'lion' up to build new chapel

It all began with a handsome pair of hand-carved, solid wood lions some 10 years ago. With a lot of hard work by volunteers and a lot of imagination, those wooden lions will be the crowning pieces of Beth El Congregation's new chapel.

"Ten years ago, when my son Avi was just 10, he found those carved wooden lions under a stairwell at Beth El," explains Brenda (Mrs. Ronald) Orenstein.

They were, it turned out, from Beth El's original site in Beechview, before the congregation moved to its present Cochran Road location in Scott Township. The lions were carved by the brother of Eva Marmorstein, a Beth El member.

"By searching around the synagogue, we also found the arch from the old bima plus a round window. We took them home for safe-keeping and kept them in Avi's closet for 10 years," says Brenda.

When Beth El built its new sanctuary three years ago, a chapel was needed. Enter the idea to recreate the old Beth El bima in the needed chapel.

Beginning the first Sunday after Passover, volunteers from the synagogue have worked a couple of hundred man-hours on Sundays after minyan to build the chapel, in an area which formerly housed the sisterhood gift shop and the entranceway to the rabbi's office.

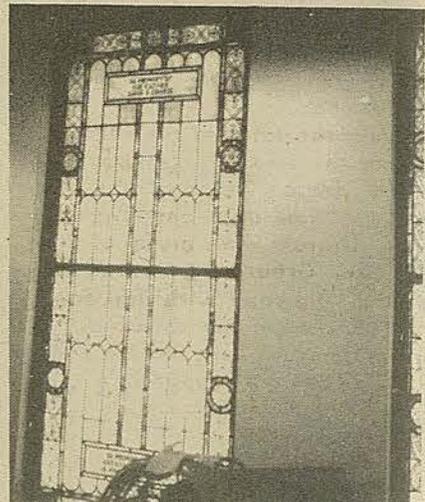
Current plans are for the new chapel to be ready for the High Holidays.

Synagogue members who have donated their time stripping wood, wiring fixtures, putting in windows, and putting up walls are: Ron and Brenda Orenstein, Les Clifford, Harry Brahm, Marvin Liebson, Maury Deul, Tina Rieger, and Sidney Rubenstein.

"When we heard that the Brownsville synagogue, O'hava



**ARK contains the lions from Beth El and cabinet and Ner Tomid from Ohave Israel, the Brownsville synagogue.**



**SELDOM-seen stained glass window from the "old" Beth El fill one eye-catching wall in the rebuilt chapel now under construction.**

Israel, was closing and some of their material would be for sale, we contacted them. They gave us their ark and a Torah and their Ner Tomid. Memorial plaques from their synagogue will hang in our new chapel," Mrs. Orenstein added.

Brownsville synagogue ark was all oak; Beth El's wood was all walnut. "We stripped the woods down to their natural color and they look fine together." The Brownsville cabinet, however, had to be reduced in size by two-thirds by the band of Beth El volunteers.

In addition, four stained glass windows from Beth El's old home which got no exposure in the new Beth El were removed, refurbished and replaced in the new chapel.

When completed, the new Beth El chapel, rebuilt by volunteers, will accommodate between 45-50 persons. It will be used for youth congregation Sabbath and High Holidays services, morning and evening minyan, small weddings and study groups.

Got any old lions hiding under your stairwell?



**SYNAGOGUE-Federation Task Force at its June meeting prepares the groundwork of the coming year.**

**Attention synagogue leaders:** These pages, produced monthly by the Synagogue-Federation Relations Committee, are devoted to news of area synagogues. Your comments, ideas, or items of interest are welcome. Please address them to the Synagogue-Federation Relations Committee, 234 McKee Place, 15213.