
From Our Rabbi:

חזק ואמץ

“BE STRONG AND OF GOOD COURAGE”



There are occasions in life when speech, the vehicle through which we express our emotion, is inadequate. A Silver Anniversary celebration is a perfect example of this adage.

We say “25th Anniversary” in one second but in reality 25 years is a long time, often a life time. As we think back of all that has transpired in the life of our wonderful Congregation since that fateful day of June 18, 1957 when we held our first service in a private residential building on Stover Avenue, we are overwhelmed. Just consider that we have held services daily, without interruption, for a total of 9,131 days. Three hundred and ten couples have solemnized their marriage vows in our Synagogue and three hundred and five Bar and Bat Mitzvah ceremonies have been held here, not to mention the hundreds of new babies who received their Hebrew names at religious services.

Our Congregation has touched the lives of thousands of people. We have served our members and the community both, on occasions of joy and sadness. We have made our Synagogue the spiritual home to all, a warm place where everyone feels welcomed.

In my 30 years as your Rabbi, I have served three different elements of people. The first few years, the Congregation consisted mainly of the “old timers”, men and women who emigrated to Cincinnati from the old world. As the Great Reaper took its toll, the complexion of the Congregation changed and the second generation took its place in the affairs of our Shul. With the passing of the years, the Congregation has once again changed and now we serve a group of young people, born and educated in this country, who have an excellent Jewish background, and have synthesized the American way of life with the Torah-True Yiddishkeit. It is a pleasure to attend Sabbath services and observe our “newest” congregants at prayer and study, well versed in Bible, Talmud and Halacha. I am truly proud to be Rabbi to such a learned and dedicated Congregation. It has been a great pleasure and privilege serving my “Three Congregations” over these 30 years.

Our Congregation is also celebrating its 80th birthday. The Mishna says “at 80 one attains spiritual strength.” (Avos 5:21) How appropriate this saying is for our Shul and this occasion. In all its 80 year history, never have we been in better spiritual condition than now. When I left New York to assume this pulpit, I received a blessing from a saintly Rabbi who said, “May you and the Congregation you are going to lead, both grow.” This wish has come to fruition. May both of us continue growing spiritually in order to be able to serve our entire Jewish community in the years ahead.