
THE PRESENT REFLECTS THE PAST AND MIRRORS OUR FUTURE

No history of our Congregation's move from Avondale to Golf Manor would be complete without some background material concerning the founding of our Congregation 80 years ago.

The turn of the century was a time of great immigration and population shift from Europe to the "Goldene Medina", America. Driven by religious and economic reasons, our People came to these blessed shores to find a haven and resting place. Two such groups who settled in Cincinnati were the Polish and Roumanians. Each group in time organized their own Synagogue and eventually found a home for prayer and worship, the Bnai Jacob (Polish) on Clinton Street and the Anshei Sholom (Roumanian) on Clark Street.

The two Congregations merged to form the Agudas Israel Congregation which was located on Forest Avenue in Avondale. On April 1, 1952, a far reaching event in the life of the Congregation took place; Rabbi David Indich assumed the pulpit of our Congregation and things began happening.

At the request of many of our members who resided in Golf Manor, High Holiday services were held in 1955 at the Civic Hall, with 200 people in attendance. Because of the interest of the worshippers and great need for a House of Worship in Golf Manor, it was decided that the time had come to relocate from Avondale.

Early in 1956 a search committee was formed to find a site for a new home. The Mayor of Golf Manor, Thomas Dunlap, personally chauffeured our Rabbi around Golf Manor in quest of the site. Our President, Sidney Deutch, finally found a proper location and an offer was made.

With the blessing of our elders, Mr. Aaron Wolf, our Honorary President, and Mr. Isidore Liebowitz, President, a Building Committee, headed by Mr. Wm. Hyman and Mr. Al Waxman, was appointed. Negotiations were entered into with the U.S. Steel Corp. for purchase of their Pre-Fabricated Synagogue structure. Mr. Wm. Robertson, of Chelsea Construction Company, erected the building in record time. Ours was the only building of this type ever built as a Synagogue. Simultaneously, a contract was signed with the Warm Brothers for the construction of our auditorium. Groundbreaking ceremonies were held on October 21, 1956 and services in Golf Manor were held for the time time on June 18, 1957.

As soon as our doors opened to our new home, we were deluged with new members and the Synagogue became a focal point of activity. An active Sisterhood, a vibrant Mens Club, a dedicated Mr. and Mrs. Club, a devoted Simchas Club, a P.T.A., Bible Study Group, Minyanaires and a variety of youth activities, became integral parts of our Congregational activities. As the years went on and membership and activities increased, it became apparent that more facilities were needed. In 1967, our beautiful Sanctuary was erected.

Our history over the past 25 years has been one of consistent progress. Today we are one of the foremost Torah-True institutions in the entire Mid-West.

As we celebrate 80 years of existence, 25 years in Golf Manor and 30 years of our Rabbi's association with our Congregation, we consider from "whence we came, where we stand and the direction in which we must continue."