

A Tour Through Our Building

There has been a big change on Stover Avenue.

As you drive down the street you are startled by the beautiful, imposing Synagogue structure which seemed to have sprung up overnight. The Building is done in a contemporary style with stone, brick, and glass its main materials.

The approach to the Shul has a small plaza which is separated by a stone planter made from the limestone which was taken from our chapel building.

One is impressed by the spaciousness and decor of the new lobby. Immediately opposite the doors is a simple but meaningful wall plaque dedicated in memory of our Six Million brothers and sisters who perished during the European holocaust between 1939 - 1945. The Martyrs are symbolized by six figures of men, women, and children with a perpetual Yahrzeit light burning. The inscription reads: "In Memory of the Six Million Martyrs, May God Remember Their Souls Among the Holy and the Pure Who Have Given Their Lives for the Sanctification of God."

Also in the lobby is a special sink installed for ritualistic purposes. Above the sink is a plaque portraying the hands of the Kohayn blessing the people with the Hebrew words, "Raise Your Hands in Holiness and Bless Ye the Lord."

As you enter through the two massive doors leading into the new Sanctuary, one is awed and inspired by its beauty, dignity, and charm. Since the Synagogue has borne the Jew through the "deluge of history" the Sanctuary was built to resemble an ark. It is made of brick, redwood and knotty pine. Imbedded in the south wall is the limestone slab containing the ten commandments which graced the outside of our old chapel.

The Ladies sections are elevated to afford the women the opportunity of seeing and being part of the services but it is in complete consonance and obedience to Jewish tradition.

The East wall of the Synagogue contains six stained glass windows, each one representing a different holiday. The Sabbath is symbolized by two candles; Rosh Hashonah has a Shofar as its symbol; the Scales of Justice represent Yom Kippur; Succoth has the Esrog and Lulav; Shevuous the Ten Commandments and the Lamb stands for Passover.

On the opposite wall the traditional Menorah and the Burning Bush have been put into beautiful colored glass.

One approaches the pulpit area with a sense of humility and pride. The Ark is immense with a Ner Tamid bearing the name of God in stained glass, and below it is the verse "Raise your heads, Oh ye gates and be lifted up you everlasting doors, and let the King of Glory enter." Flanking either side of the Ark are 12 beautiful wood plaques, symbols of the 12 tribes of Israel, each one in the form of Jacob's blessing. The Ark itself, which contains the Torahs, is relatively small. This is symbolic, for just as within a safe there is a second safe for the most valuable of the person's possessions, so too, we deposit our most priceless possession, the Torah, in this secret repository.

Our Sanctuary is truly a House of God; dignified and awe-inspiring. A place where one can truly commune with God. May we be worthy of His presence.