

# MINYAN MONTHLY

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Elul 5751

## MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING JULY 14, 1991

--MITCHELL R. MILLER

A general meeting of the Library Minyan was held to familiarize us with the Temple's plans for a new school building and refurbished main building, to meet with the representatives of the Building Committee, and the architect of the new building, Larry Robbins. Also in attendance were Dvorah Colker, President of Temple Beth Am, Rabbi Joel Rembaum and Harold Waterman, Chairman of the Temple Building Committee. Approximately 50 members of the Minyan attended the meeting.

Dvorah Colker gave an introduction to the building plans and explained that the building program at this point was very much a work-in-progress. Although the process has been going on for approximately two years, the Temple continues to seek input from various constituencies, including the Library Minyan, Daily Minyan, Men's Club, Sisterhood, etc. Dvorah

mentioned that Library Minyan members Ira Grossman, Robert Pflug and Mitchell Miller serve on the Building Committee and Joel and Fran Grossman, Alan and Judy Weinstock, Alan Broidy and Bob Braun serve on the Capital Fund Committee, which is and will be the fund raising entity for the Temple building project. Dvorah mentioned that there are many constraints which affect the building process, including, first, a limited budget; and second, a limit on space: that is, the Temple must conform with a variety of zoning and other regulations which strictly limit the amount of square footage which we can use.

Dvorah mentioned that the architect had extensive experience in synagogue building and reconstruction and has worked on approximately 40 synagogue building projects, including Valley Beth Shalom and Temple Sinai.

Rabbi Rembaum also spoke, introducing Harold Waterman, the Chairman of the Building Committee, who had held the project  
(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

together through many difficulties. Joel noted that while every constituency of the Temple has a number of needs and requests, obviously, because of the constraints mentioned, not every group would be able to get everything that it wants. However, through the process of the Building Committee meeting with the various constituencies, we are trying to get each group to have as many of its needs met as possible.

The next and main speaker of the evening was Larry Robbins of Robbins and Bown, the architect of the project. Making extensive use of plans, sketches and a scale model of the proposed construction, Larry walked through the plans of the existing building, illustrating the current state of the main sanctuary structure, including the presently existing eight levels on the lower floor and four levels on the upper floor of the main building.

He then illustrated the overall plan for the new structures (going from South to North on La Cienega Blvd.): the school building on the site of the present parking lot; the sanctuary building; and a new parking lot where the chapel-school building now stands. He showed, both on the plans and on the model, the new entrance way to the main sanctuary building which will provide for visual access to the all activities in the building and reduce the number of levels substantially.

Upon entering the main sanctuary at ground level, there would be a large stairway which would lead up to the sanctuary and down to the lower level. There would be a rotunda area for which the plans are not yet firm, but which could be used for a small chapel, Hall of Memories, etc.

He then went over the school building, illustrating the lower level parking area with direct connection to the lower level of the main sanctuary building; the upper level drive which will be closed up after drop-off and become part of the play area; and the basic structure of the School Building including classrooms and a rooftop play area and lunch room.

Larry then proceeded to discuss the presently planned location of the chapel, which would be on the lower level where the Mirror Room presently is. The chapel would start at the southern edge of the present main sanctuary building. The present sketch, which is by no means final, illustrated a central bima with an ark in the southeast corner. This was an attempt to have the ark facing east as much as possible. The basic chapel size would be 230 seats and there would be expansion capability through the present Mirror Room and Cocktail Lounge up to a maximum of 470 seats.

The present area of the Mirror Room and the Cocktail Lounge beyond the fixed chapel would be subdividable into up to four function rooms, so that in addition to meetings during the week, additional classroom space, junior congregation, childcare or other functions would be available. The purpose was to provide for maximum flexibility. Larry also pointed out that this would make for very close access to childcare, whether it was in the school building or in one of the multi-function rooms. On the upper level, the present Crystal Room and Blue Room would be able to seat up to 440 banquet seats, or could be separated for multi-functional uses. There would be one kitchen level with a remodeled meat kitchen and a new dairy kitchen and a serving area on the other level.

(continued on page 3)

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The floor was then opened for questions. A number of questions were asked regarding the possibility of getting additional space through a zoning variance and the concomitant expansion of the building plans. Dvora Colker and Larry Robbins both addressed the issue of the floor/area ratios (FARs) which limit the amount of floor space the Temple may built on its land area. Larry reviewed the current situation including "slow-growth" or "no-growth" initiatives, such as proposition "U", transportation and other requirements. He expressed his view that rather than attempting to provide additional floor for the school building through a zoning variance, it would be better to wait and see what the needs were over a period of years and consider what might be done with the new parking lot area, i.e., a possible multi-level/multi-function structure.

Questions were asked about access between the location of the new chapel and the school area where the children would be playing during services. Larry stated that although there was access provided in the present plan, he was not fully satisfied with what was available and was still considering a number of alternatives.

A question was asked about a possible timeline for the project. Harold Waterman suggested that plans could be submitted to the city for checking as early as some time in August of this year, that there then could conceivably be a November ground breaking and a 1 1/2 to 2 year construction period. A question was also asked about transition planning and both Harold Waterman and Larry Robbins answered that these were both being worked on, both at the committee level and with the appropriate authorities.

Another question asked was the reason for the chapel being on a different floor from the main sanctuary. Mitch Miller explained that the original plans had called for the two sanctuaries to be on the same floor. The Minyan representatives on the Building Committee had canvassed the opinion of Minyan members and it was felt that separate levels would be a better solution because of noise and congestion problems involved when both services led out nearly simultaneously. These suggestions were incorporated into the current plan.

Another question raised was the acoustical problem. It was pointed out that, at the present time, when the Minyan davens on the High Holidays in the Mirror Room, the main congregation can be heard as it stands or sits down. Larry stated that new sound-proofing would be provided to obviate this problem. It was further pointed that the Minyan does not use amplification, and the question was, what would be the impact on people sitting at the far end of the expanded area during the High Holidays.

Larry had been unaware that the Minyan did not use amplification and therefore he noted that he would have to bring in an acoustical engineer to the project in order to see the best possible solution to the problem. It was pointed out that the Minyan wanted to keep its options open in this area.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:00 p.m.

LETTER TO THE MINYAN

Dear Library Minyan,

This is just a note of thanks to so many of you who inquired as to my health after a recent bout with chicken pox. People I don't even know very well approached me after shul recently to ask how I was feeling and at that point I truly felt like I was part of a community. It was a nice change after feeling sick and ugly as a dog for more than a week. May the pox never find you, but if it does, may it be a mild and short-lived case. Again, TODA RABA for your concern and warm wishes.

On a completely different note: Glenn and I had the serendipitous good fortune to discover Theatre Forty, a theatre series which operates out of Beverly Hills High School. For the price of a movie we've been seeing live, professional theatre. All of the 93 seats are good, and it would be fund to see some familiar faces in them. If you'd like more information, feel free to call me or (213) 277-4221 to inquire about subscribing.

Shana Tova,  
Judy Massarano

LETTER TO THE MINYAN

Dear Library Minyan,

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all of you for the support and comfort I received from the Minyan on the passing of my mother. This has been the most difficult period of my life--one of great sadness and loneliness; yet there was also a deep sense of gratitude for the privilege of being part of the Library Minyan community.

Thank you to the people who helped to organize the Shiva services in my home, those who made phone calls to have people attend, those who led the services and those who came. It was a great honor for me to have you in my home, and a great blessing for my family and my mother to be with you all in this most profound of rituals.

Shana Tova,  
Susan Grinel

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Best Wishes to the Rabin family: Eddie, Ellen Isaac and Sherri on their move to Connecticut while Eddie attends Yale Business School. For those who would like to contact the Rabins in the next two years:

Eddie and Ellen Rabin  
386 Prospect St. #D-7  
New Haven, CT 06511  
(203) 498-7751

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**MINYAN COMMITTEES/RESPONSIBILITIES**

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**TREASURER'S COLUMN**  
**--Norman H. Green**

Thank you to Lavey and Alexandra Derby, and Susan Grinel whose contributions to the Minyan fund for sponsoring Milla and Roman Gen have not yet been acknowledged here. As of August 15, this fund has received \$4,722, over 93% of our \$5,000 goal.

Thanks also to Leon Kramer for his contribution in honor of a recent Aliyah.

The Minyan spent \$29.29 (including tax) to purchase supplies needed for the Kiddush Committee, and continues to spend approximately \$15 per week as our part of the congregation's weekly child care expense.

As of August 15, the Minyan's general fund stands at \$1,715.66

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 PLEASE SEND YOUR ARTICLES  
 OR STORIES TO THE  
MINYAN MONTHLY  
 Submission Deadline  
 September 20, 1991  
 Mail to: Susan Grinel  
 1127 11th St. #204  
 Santa Monica, Calif. 90403  
 Or Call: 445-4282 (H)  
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