

The Bradford (Pa.) Era, Monday, March 30, 1896, pg. 4

"Bar Mitzvah."

An interesting ceremony took place at the Kennedy Street Synagogue yesterday morning. It was the confirmation of Nathah, the 13-year-old son of S. Orange, the Congress street grocer. The address delivered by the youth reflected great credit on himself and his instructor, Rev. Liberman. Mr. and Mrs. Orange kept open house yesterday and received the hearty congratulations of their numerous friends.

The Bradford (Pa.) Era, Tuesday, November 2, 1909, pg. 5

TO BUILD A TEMPLE OF BRADFORD BRICK

Temple Beth Zion Congregation Has Perfected Plans.

The congregation of the Temple Beth Zion will soon have a new place of worship erected on the lot purchased for that purpose on South avenue. Architect E. F. Brickell has prepared plans for the new temple and it is expected that the excavation for the foundation will commence this fall. The specifications for the new building are now in the hands of the contractors for bids.

The structure will be built of Bradford brick and will be modern and commodious. In fact, it will be larger than the old temple. There will be an auditorium with a Sunday school room below.

The building committee was scheduled to meet last evening to receive the bids, but the contract for the new synagogue was not awarded.

The Bradford (Pa.) Era, Thursday, November 11, 1909, pg. 5
"Daily Developments" column

The excavating for the foundation for the new Temple Beth Zion on the Tibbetts lot on South avenue, will be commenced this morning. The pews of the old temple have been sold to the newly organized Hebrew congregation and are being moved to the headquarters of the latter at No. 21 Pearl street.

CORNER STONE LAID.

**Congregation of Temple Beth Zion
Attend Ceremonies of an Interest-
ing Character.**

The ceremonies of laying the corner stone of the new Temple Beth Zion on South avenue yesterday morning, commencing at 10 o'clock, were witnessed by a large assemblage of people. Rabbi S. Yasgour of the First Orthodox Hebrew congregation offered prayer after which Mr. A. M. Mayer, president of the Temple Beth Zion congregation, laid the stone in place. Within the receptacle in the stone were placed copies of the Bradford newspapers, copies of the Jewish Criterion, of Pittsburg; the American Israelite of Cincinnati, O., the Jewish Exponent of Philadelphia; historical sketch of the congregation the names of the members, also the names of the members of the Ladies' Auxiliary.

Secretary D. C. Greenwald read an interesting and detailed history of the congregation of Temple Beth Zion. The exercises which were very impressive, closed with a prayer by Rabbi Yasgour.

TEMPLE BETH ZION

A Handsome House of Worship Formally Dedicated

The handsome Temple Beth Zion on South avenue, free from debt, was last evening formally dedicated with appropriate exercises.

On Monday the indebtedness of the new structure was liquidated and as yesterday was the anniversary of Shebuoth, (The Feast of Weeks,) it was considered a very appropriate time for the dedication of the temple. The Feast of Weeks commemorates the giving of the divine law at Mount Sinai.

The interior of the temple was elaborately trimmed for the dedication, cut flowers, potted plants, ferns, palms, etc., being used with fine effect.

Last evening following the holiday services and sermon by Rabbi Menkes, David C. Greenewald, as secretary of the congregation of Beth Zion, gave a brief sketch of the congregation and the erection of the present building.

John Wise, chairman of the building committee, presented the key to President A. Mayer who accepted it on behalf of the congregation.

Mrs. S. Auerhaim who was escorted to the platform by Abraham H. Simons, made some appropriate remarks after which the last evidence of the indebtedness was burned. Mrs. Auerhaim's part in the program was very impressive.

Samuel Auerhaim on behalf of the congregation presented a loving cup to John Wise, the chairman of the building committee.

Rabbi Menkes followed with the dedicatory sermon and prayer.

The choir rendered appropriate music. In addition to the choir numbers, Mrs. Gus Werthman, who is the possessor of a fine soprano voice, sang "The Lord is My Shepherd." She was accompanied by Mrs. Benjamin Oppenheimer of Morgantown, W. Va., formerly Miss Rae Mayer of this city.

The members of the Temple Beth Zion congregation are receiving congratulations upon having their temple entirely free from indebtedness.

TO LEAVE BRADFORD

Rabbi Schwab Resigns Temple Beth Zion Pastorate

Rabbi S. J. Schwab of the Temple Beth Zion, will leave Bradford July 1, to accept a call to Sioux Falls, S. D. Rabbi Schwab's resignation, which was tendered on Sunday, has been accepted with regret by his congregation.

Rabbi Schwab came to Bradford about 18 months ago after having been in the service during the war as a representative of the Jewish Welfare Board. Immediately previous to coming here, he was stationed at Fort Sill. During his residence in Bradford, Rabbi Schwab has been active in civic affairs as well as in his religious work.

Sioux Falls is a city of about 30,000 inhabitants. Rabbi Schwab will undertake the erection of a new \$75,000 temple with parsonage and community house.

The Bradford (Pa.) Era
Friday, June 25, 1920, pg. 1

LAST LOCAL SERVICE

Rabbi Schwab to Leave Soon for Sioux Falls, S. D.

Rabbi S. J. Schwab will officiate at his last service in Temple Beth Zion this evening, before ending his local pastorate to depart for his new home in Sioux Falls, S. D. Tonight's service, beginning at 7:30 o'clock, also will be the last of the summer. Visitors will be welcome.

Rabbi Schwab, who has been in charge of the local temple for 18 months, recently resigned to accept a call to the larger field in Sioux Falls. Prior to coming to Bradford, Rabbi Schwab was a representative of the Jewish Welfare Board at a western army post. During his residence in Bradford, the Rabbi has won many friends both in and outside his congregation.

The congregation of the Temple has presented to Rabbi Schwab a set of resolutions, as a testimonial to his faithful and efficient service. The presentation took place at a special meeting of the trustees. J. B. Menkes, former rabbi of the local Temple, made the presentation, in behalf of the congregation, and Rabbi Schwab responded in a brief speech voicing his appreciation. Rabbi Schwab will leave for Sioux Falls next Thursday.

The Bradford (Pa.) Era
Tuesday, June 29, 1920, pg. 5
"Daily Developments" column

Rabbi and Mrs. S. J. Schwab will leave Bradford tomorrow for New York, where Rabbi Schwab will take a summer course at Columbia university. At the close of this course, they will go to their new home in Sioux Falls, S. D. Rabbi Schwab's last official act as rabbi of the local temple will be the performance of a marriage ceremony tomorrow morning.

The Bradford (Pa.) Era, Monday, April 17, 1922, pg. 5
"Daily Developments" column

The First Bradford Hebrew Orthodox congregation has elected the following officers for the ensuing year: President, A. Greenburg; vice president, J. Rogalsky; secretary, J. M. Ertz; treasurer, Louis Kohn. The trustees are Joseph Marks, Daniel Yampolski, I. Friedman and Max Nesselson. The directors of the cemetery are: J. Rogalsky, chairman; Joseph Marks, Louis Yampolski and Solomon Brand.

WILL DEDICATE NEW SYNAGOGUE

Hebrew Orthodox Congregation Will Hold Solemn Services in New Edifice Sunday Afternoon

The beautiful new synagogue of the Hebrew Orthodox congregation at the corner of South avenue and Corydon street will be dedicated next Sunday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock with elaborate and impressive services conducted by prominent rabbis from out of town and in addition to the members of the congregation, it is specially desired to hereby extend a cordial invitation to all their friends to be present at the dedication.

Rabbi Eichler of the Temple Beth El of Buffalo, N. Y., and Rabbi J. B. Menkes of the Temple Beth Zion of Bradford, will have charge of the dedicatory services, assisted by Rabbi M. Levinson of the local Hebrew Orthodox congregation, and Charles Miller, the principal and teacher of the daily Hebrew school here. One of the principal features of the dedication program will be the presence of Cantor Schachtel of the Richmond avenue temple of Buffalo, N. Y., who will bring his trained choir to furnish special singing during the services.

The Holy Scrolls will be taken by automobile from the Kennedy street synagogue to the new one on South avenue as a part of the solemn rites, with all of the members and friends forming a procession following the scrolls in automobiles. Teacher Charles Miller will have charge of the children belonging to the Daily Hebrew school, who will march in the line following the scrolls, each child carrying American and Zion flags in their hands.

All members are asked to assemble at the Kennedy street synagogue at 2 p. m. Sunday, to proceed from there to the new and handsome synagogue where the formal dedicatory services will be conducted with solemnity and impressiveness befitting the auspicious occasion, marking a new epoch in the local Hebrew orthodox congregation, as well as reflecting progress and improvement in the religious life of our city.

HEBREWS DEDICATE MODERN SYNAGOGUE

Orthodox Congregation Holds Impressive Ceremonies in New Edifice at Corner of Corydon Street and South Avenue.

The carrying of the holy scrolls from the old church home of the first Hebrew Orthodox congregation on Kennedy street to the congregation's handsome new edifice, Synagogue Beth Israel, at the corner of Corydon street and South avenue, and the dedication of the new place of worship, was impressively conducted yesterday afternoon.

Hundreds of people witnessed the ceremonies, which began on Kennedy street, when the scrolls were removed from the old synagogue, and closed last evening with a banquet. Those in charge of the important affair, which opens a new epoch in the history of the church, are to be congratulated on the success of their efforts, for the day was one which will long be remembered by all who participated and attended.

In the afternoon, members of the congregation and the children of the Hebrew school under the leadership of their teacher, Charles Miller, gathered at the Kennedy street synagogue and proceeded to the new home, carrying the holy scrolls. All of the congregation were conveyed in automobiles decorated with the American and Zion flags, while the little folks marched with their teacher, each carrying the two flags.

Hundreds were on Kennedy street to witness this part of the program, the beginning of the day's ceremonies.

When the procession reached the synagogue, Beth Israel, the doors of the splendid looking edifice were opened with ceremony by Adolph Greenberg, president of the congregation, who acted as master of ceremonies for the day. Many non-members were present at the solemn service.

A vocal selection was given by Cantor Schachtel and choir from Buffalo, after which the audience sang "America" and the benediction was pronounced by Rabbi Levinson of the Orthodox congregation. The rabbi at this point congratulated the congregation for its success in securing a new and fine place of worship and expressed his thanks to the residents of Bradford who had assisted in the enterprise.

Vice President Jacob Rogalsky conducted the opening of the ark and while the holy scrolls were placed therein the cantor and choir rendered

a magnificent and solemn selection of religious significance. Introductory remarks were made by President Greenberg, who called upon Robert P. Habgood, who, although taken by surprise, was equal to the occasion and responded in a felicitous vein, congratulating the membership upon the success of their efforts and speaking with pride of the fact that Bradford people are broad enough to work together for the common good, regardless of religious or racial differences. Rabbi Miller gave an address in Hebrew which greatly delighted the congregation. He was followed by Rabbi J. B. Menkes of Temple Beth Zion, who brought the congratulations of his congregation. He also offered his own. Dr. Menkes' address included a remarkably fine description of things he saw at Lemberg during his recent trip abroad. He spoke of the synagogue which he visited, where worship was conducted underground, the structure being thus arranged owing to the necessity for defense against implacable enemies. He gave a graphic description of the burned and ruined Jewish quarters of the city from which it has been impossible to remove all of the bodies of the murdered victims and told of the sufferings of the Hebrew people in that quarter. The rabbi stated that he did not intend to cast gloom on the happy occasion by relating these facts, but rather to impress on his hearers how happy is their lot when compared to the brethren across the water. He reminded them that when they feel inclined to complain about the sacrifices they are called upon to make to secure the beautiful church home, these sacrifices are nothing with what the Jews face in other countries.

The afternoon program was closed with the principal address which was made by Rabbi Eichler of Buffalo who spoke most enthusiastically. He said that the dedication of a synagogue always brought him joy as the building of any house of worship no matter what the denomination, was an asset to any community. He said that churches made for decency and morality. The speaker congratulated the congregation upon the completion of its temple, and then outlined briefly the history of the synagogue and stated that in spite of the most bitter persecution and hatred the synagogue was immortal, as it followed out the law of evolution which decrees survival of the fittest and that divine law which provides that useful things shall survive. The rabbi stated that the Jewish race had survived under this divine law and was destined to go forward through sacrifice to greater things if its mem-

bers proved true to their convictions and followed the path of manifest destiny. The Jews had upheld the doctrine of one God for centuries and would continue to carry the torch of truth to the end.

Rabbi Eichler impressed upon the congregation the importance of using their synagogue, not to visit it one day in a week or on holy days alone for then it will die. He said that congregations were apt to feel that after a strenuous building campaign, that their work was completed, and when this thing occurs the synagogue goes back and the work of decay starts among the members. The new temple, he said, should prove an incentive for greater work for the glory of the cause which it represents. This was a masterly address and was listened to most attentively by all present.

Special mention should be given the music provided by Cantor Schachtel and his choir, who provided some of the most beautiful music heard in this city in many years. The cantor possesses a glorious voice and his renditions, together with his choir members, without accompaniment, were delightful features of the day.

The banquet which was held in the evening in the basement of the church, was attended by one hundred members. After the repast speeches were made by visiting clergymen and others. This part of the day's program closed at 11 o'clock.

The congregation of the Orthodox Hebrew congregation has expended considerable money in purchasing their new church home and in improving the property, formerly owned by the Universalist church. The church edifice stands today one of the finest looking buildings in the city, one that Bradford can well be proud of. The congregation has received numerous congratulations from Bradford residents on their enterprising spirit.

The officers of the congregation are: President, Adolph Greenberg; vice president, Jacob Rogalsky; secretary, J. M. Ertz; treasurer, Lewis Cohen; treasurer of building fund, Samuel Slif; trustees, Daniel Yampolski, J. Marks and L. Friedman.

The interior of the structure was handsomely decorated with American and Zion flags and presented a very attractive appearance with its new decorations and electrical fixtures.

JEWIS DEDICATE RESTING PLACE

The Jewish section of the Willow Dale cemetery was dedicated at ceremonies held yesterday afternoon with Rabbi Saul B. Appelbaum officiating. He gave a short address following reading of prayers. Mrs. Libbie Werthman sang "The Lord Is My Shepherd," accompanied by W. R. Davis at the organ.

"It is notable that Judaism has no word in its language for cemetery," Rabbi Appelbaum said. "Such a place is called either the pure or holy place or the house of eternity. It is the spirit of lasting peace to those who shall rest here that we hallow this ground today."

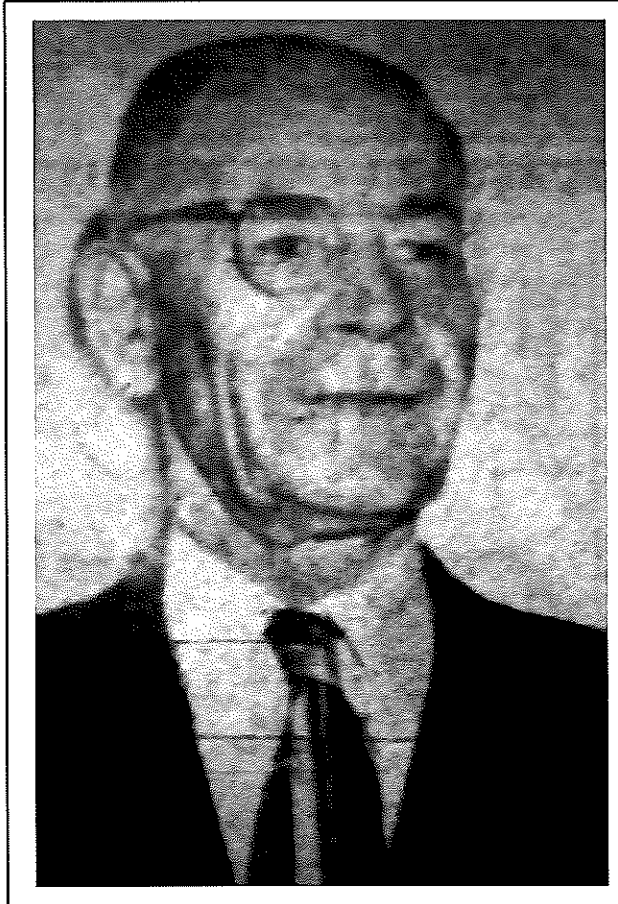
The Bradford (Pa.) Era, Thursday, January 27, 1949, pg. 2

Rabbi Siegel to Occupy Synagogue Pulpit Here

Rabbi Seymour Siegel will occupy the pulpit of Beth Israel Synagogue on Friday evening, at 7.30 o'clock, and on Saturday morning at 8.30 o'clock, it was announced by the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, New York City.

The Bradford (Pa.) Era, Tuesday, April 10, 1956

Heads Beth Israel
Congregation Officers



JOSEPH RUBIN

Joseph Rubin was elected president of the congregation of Temple Beth Israel at a meeting last night. He succeeds Theodore Reichenbach. Other officers are Dr. Leon Brodis, vice president; Hyman Reisner, treasurer, and Byron Ertz, secretary. Named trustees were Harry Goodman, Dr. E. R. Danny, Dr. Howard Miller, Jack Chodrow, Lester Popiel, Mr. Reichenbach, Dr. L. B. Silverstine, Mayer Brauser and Milton Yasgur.

Dr. Baruch B. Katz Accepts Call From Gloucester Congregation

Dr. Baruch Bela Katz, spiritual leader of Temple Beth Israel for the last two years, has accepted an appointment from Temple Ahavath Achim, Gloucester, Mass., effective next Tuesday, he divulged last night. Rabbi Katz said he will preach his farewell sermon during the Friday evening service in the local temple. He and Mrs. Katz, who live at 10 E. Corydon St., plan to move to their new home as soon as arrangements can be completed next week. They have two daughters living in New York City.

Speaks 7 Languages

A facile linguist, Rabbi Katz reads and writes seven languages, English, Hebrew, Yiddish, German, Romanian, Hungarian and French, and is an accomplished cantor.

While occupying the local pulpit, Rabbi Katz has been active in community affairs. He has been a member of the local juvenile court and was the principal speaker at the 1955 Memorial Day services.

Joseph Rubin, president of Temple Beth Israel, said last night that no successor to Rabbi Katz has yet been appointed.

Gets Second Call

Rabbi Katz revealed last night that he rejected a call from a Sunbury congregation in favor of the appointment at Gloucester.

He was elected to the local charge on Dec. 1, 1954 and assumed his duties about five weeks later. Born in Celina, Romania, Rabbi Katz attended the University of Bucharest and received a doctorate in jurisprudence from University Pazmany Peter, also in Bucharest. He is the author of several books on religion and education.

Rabbi Katz's first charge came in 1926 when he was appointed by a congregation in Salonta, Hungary. He was captured by the Nazis in 1944, and following his liberation from a concentration camp, was named rabbi for Temple Beth Sholom in Budapest.

After serving a congregation in Paris, France, for one year, he came to this country in 1947. Before coming here, he was spiritual leader of two congregations in New York City and served there as executive secretary of the Academic Rabbis Association of New Americans.



DR. BARUCH B. KATZ
... leaving local temple

The Bradford (Pa.) Era
Friday, December 28, 1956, pg. 3

Rabbi Katz to Lead His Farewell Services

Dr. Baruch B. Katz will conduct his final Friday evening services tonight at Temple Beth Israel beginning at 8:30 o'clock. Rabbi Katz has accepted a call to Gloucester, Mass.

Following the service, Rabbi Katz will be honored at a special farewell Oneg Shabbat with Mrs. Abe Fishkin and Mrs. Lester Popiel as hostesses.

Saturday services will begin at 9 a.m. with Rabbi Katz in charge. There will be no classes for the Community Religious School this Sunday.

First Legal Steps Taken on Merging Two Jewish Units

The first, routine legal steps for the merging of Bradford's two Jewish congregations was taken Monday afternoon.

Attorney Murray R. Garber Monday night summed up the results of the 3 o'clock hearing before County Judge Charles G. Hubbard in McKean County Common Pleas Court at Smethport this way.

"It is anticipated that the legal procedures will be completed and filed, and the final court approval forthcoming within a day or so."

When that happens, Beth Zion Reform Congregation, and the First Bradford Orthodox Hebrew Congregation—both dating from the 1880s—will become the new Bradford Hebrew Congregation. The merger has been long discussed.

Directors of the now-forming congregation, which has yet to conduct an organizational session, are Hyman Relsner, Dr. Edgar Danny, Jack Chodrow, Harry H. Goodman, David Offenbach, Alan Meyers, Samuel E. Leshner, Joseph Rubin, Harry Goodman and Mr. Garber.

Rabbi Allan Levine Accepts Assignment in Rochester, N.Y.



RABBI ALLAN LEVINE
farewell address today

Rabbi Allan Levine will deliver his farewell address at 8:30 p.m. today to the Bradford Hebrew Congregation at Temple Beth El in Jackson Avenue. Rabbi Levine has accepted the assignment as spiritual adviser at Temple Emanu-El of Irondequoit, Rochester, N.Y. He assumes his new pastorate late this summer.

Rabbi Levine, a native of Montreal, Que., has been spiritual leader of Bradford Congregation for the past three years.

Accepted Fellowship

Before his graduation from McGill University in Montreal, he was chairman of the Montreal College division of the United Jewish Appeal and director of the Youth Group at Temple Emmanuel. He entered Hebrew Union College at Cincinnati, Ohio, where he studied for five years and was granted a one-year leave of absence to accept the Klausner Fellowship at Hebrew University. In Jerusalem he worked as a volunteer in the Psychiatric Clinic of Hadassah Hospital.

While in Cincinnati, Rabbi Levine was chaplain of Dunham Hospital for Tuberculosis and the Longview Mental Hospital. He also was rabbi of B'nai Brith Hillel and has conducted services at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, and at Victoria, Texas.

Since his assignment in Bradford, Rabbi Levine had a major role in the building of the new modern Jewish temple in Jackson Avenue.

Today's Services

Rabbi Levine announced that Shavouth services will be conducted at 10 a.m. today and that his farewell sermon will be at the 8:30 o'clock Sabbath services at the Jackson Ave. Temple. The choir will be directed by William R. Davis.

Following the services a special Oneg Shabbat will be held with the hostesses being Mrs. Manuel Ellison, Mrs. Louis Nichols, Mrs. Louis Rosenfield, Mrs. Walter Fleishhacker and Mrs. Carl Goodman.

Saturday at 8:30 a.m. a Yis-kor services will be held.

Jewish community goes to new location on Clarence Street

By TAMMARRAH MILES
Era Reporter

Members of Temple Beth El held a rededication ceremony Friday night at the congregation's new location on Clarence Street.

The two-hour, invitation-only rededication service took place between 7:30 and 9:45 p.m., with a celebration following.

Rabbi Steven Mills, regional director of the Union for Reform Judaism, officiated during the services, and Rabbi John Bush of Temple Anshe Hessed of Erie was also in attendance, reports indicate.

Temple Beth El president Dr. Edward Epstein said at the post-service reception the services were "beautiful," and that he was pleased with the turn-out, which included members of all ages.

"We were very lucky to have Rabbi Mills come here and support us," Epstein said.

The conference/kitchen area on the second floor of the Clarence Street building was filled with congregation members visiting, enjoying traditional Jewish dishes and listening to music sung in Hebrew.

"I am so happy for the Jewish community," the Rev. Leo Gallina, pastor of St. Bernard Catholic Church, said. "This is a beautiful place to worship and carry on traditions. May they have many happy and wonderful years here."

The relocation of Temple Beth El from its former Jackson Avenue site was announced to the public in

(See TEMPLE, Page 12)

Temple

June of 2005, when officials at the local Salvation Army first made it known they wanted to buy that building and relocate themselves.

Then-president Dave Zuckerman wrote in a letter to the editor for *Other Voices* in *The Era* stating that the congregation's decision to move was based on the reduction of the membership and relative financial capabilities.

Zuckerman wrote in the letter that in the early 1960s, the congregation boasted at least 300 members (families) and had dwindled to a mere 30 or so. He went on to say the Temple simply could not maintain the very large building on Jackson Avenue.

It was reported at that time that the Salvation Army's interest in the building and talks about a sale had already been going on "for a few years" at that point.

Epstein, who became president of Temple Beth El early this year, announced in February that the sale of the Jackson Avenue building to the Salvation Army was official and that the Temple would move to the end of Clarence Street, at the site of the former Apostolic Church of North America.

Rhoda Silverberg of Bradford, a long-time member of Temple Beth El, told *The Era* Friday afternoon from her home that prior to the construction of the Jackson Avenue building, there were two Jewish temples in Bradford that eventually merged into one — Temple Beth El. The Jackson Avenue building was constructed for the newly formed congregation in the early 1960s, she said.

She said Temple Beth Zion was located on South Avenue just past its intersection with East/West Corydon Street and was a "reformed" congregation. Congregation Beth Israel, she said, was a "conservative" temple on the corner of South Avenue and East/West Corydon Street where Hollenbeck-Cahill Funeral Home is now.

Ann Markowitz recounted the same version of the history of the temples in Bradford, adding Congregation Beth Isreal was eventually sold to the Grace Lutheran Church. When the Grace Lutheran Church moved to Mechanic Street where the former A&P Grocery Store was situated, Hollenbeck-Cahill Funeral Homes bought the site where Beth Isreal was located.

The former Temple Beth Zion, they both said, is still standing on South Avenue. In the last 20 years, it functioned as a facility for Humble Pie, a performance theater program, before being purchased by a University of Pittsburgh at Bradford fraternity.



Era photo by Wade Aiken
Dorene Epstein places a piece of smoked whitefish on the plate of Nancy Rounsville at the reception following the rededication service at the new Temple Beth El on Clarence Street Friday night.