

# IN THE BEGINNING...



**September 1949**  
**O.J.C. Founded**

April 1950

**O.J.C. Incorporated**  
**Land Purchased**

June 1950

**SISTERHOOD FOUNDED**

September 1950

*First High Holiday Services*

November 1950

**Rabbi Isaacson Engaged**

June 1951

**Ground Broken for Building**

June 1953

**BUILDING DEDICATED**

September 1953

**Educational Director Engaged**

December 1953

**GOLDEN AGE CLUB**

April 1954

*First 3rd Seder Held*

July 1954

**Cantor Burger Engaged**

December 1954

*5th Anniversary Dinner Dance*

January 1955

*First Bas Mitzvah at O.J.C.*

March 1955

*O.J.C. Joins United Synagogue*

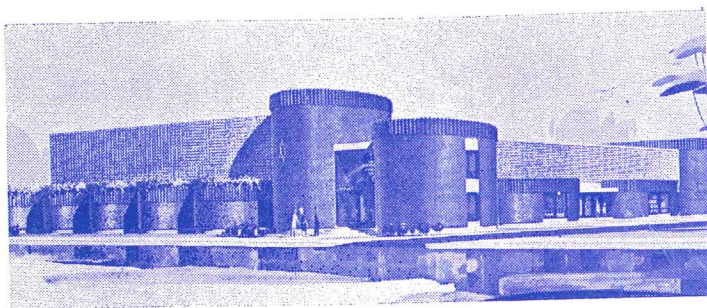
June 1955

**MEN'S CLUB FOUNDED**

July 1955

*First Caterers Selected*

# TO AGE 25



March 1975  
O.J.C. Today

February 1956

Sholom Secunda Symphony  
Orchestra At O.J.C.

November 1956

First Thanksgiving Day  
Family Service

February 1958

*Construction of Additions to  
New Building Completed*

November 1958

Dedication – New Addition  
of Building

November 1959

Rabbi Isaacson Honored at  
10th Anniversary

February 1960

Minyan Club Commences  
Work on Little Bais Medresh

April 1961

Dedication of Bais Medresh

August 1963

*First Executive Director Engaged*

November 1967

Membership Approves  
Building Renovation for  
Permanent Synagogue

November 1969

Ground Breaking Ceremonies  
For New Building

January 1970

*Construction Begins  
On New Building*

September 1971

Dedication of New Building

July 1972

O.J.C. Begins Bingo  
At Bayside Hall

May 1973

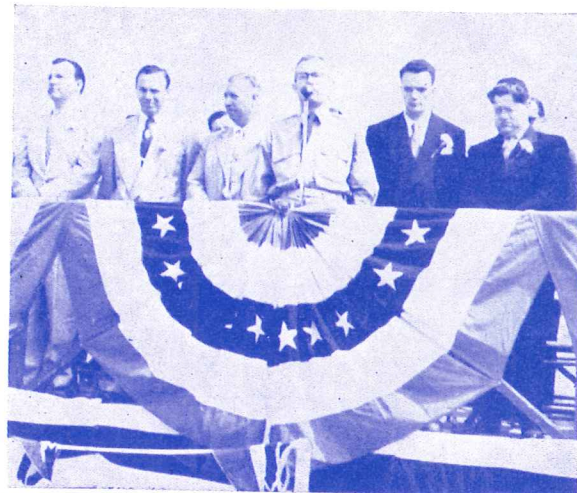
O.J.C. Celebrates Israel's  
25th Independence Day



# GROUND BREAKING - 1952



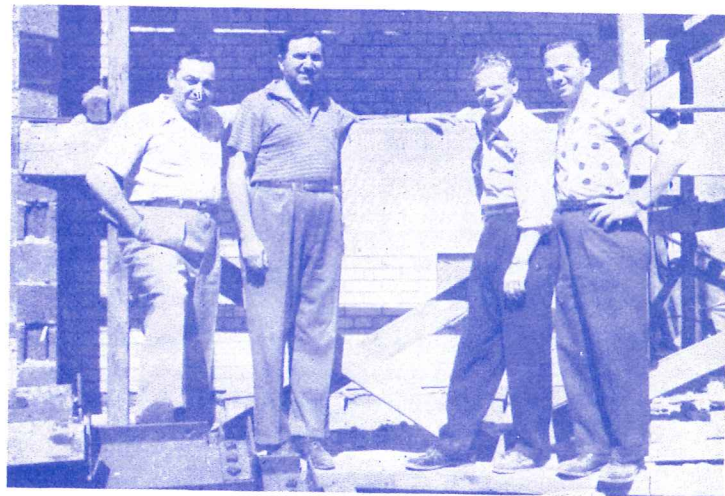
SHERRIE STEMLER, PRINCIPAL McNALLY (P. S. 46)  
and RABBI ISAACSON DIGGING IN



A MOMENT OF REFLECTION AT GROUND BREAKING



BRICK DAY — JUNE 1952



SOMEWHERE ALONG THE WAY



PROGRESS — NOVEMBER 1952



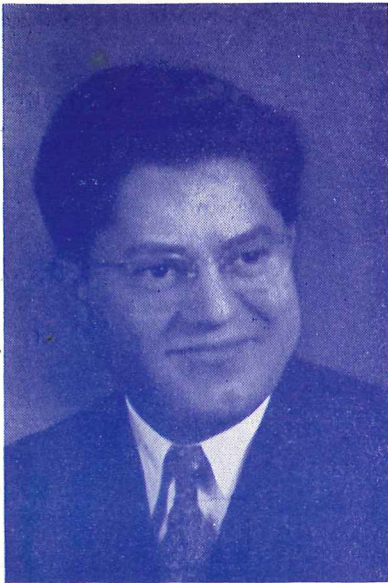


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## *Our Rabbi's Message*

Through the medium of the Journal, I extend greetings and felicitations to the many members and friends of the Oakland Jewish Center on this historic occasion, our first annual banquet.

Though young in years the Oakland Jewish Center has, in the short time since its inception, made remarkable strides. Our religious, education, and social programs are being continually expanded to meet the needs of a community which has, relatively speaking, grown up overnight. Nothing represents more eloquently the confidence, faith, and esteem that the Jewish community has placed in the Oakland Jewish Center than the fact that our paid-up membership rolls list approximately 700 families "kain yirbu" who have actively associated themselves with the Oakland Jewish Center. The very fact that we have committed ourselves to the construction of a building which will fill the hearts of our community with pride is a concrete manifestation of the courage, zeal, and foresight of our leaders and officers.

Despite our inexperience and youth, we have forged ahead. In retrospect the past year has been marked by growth and progress. Our first annual banquet finds us on the threshold of a still greater future.

But growing up too fast also has its pitfalls and disadvantages. Unless our growth is accompanied by a corresponding measure of vision, foresight, and a willingness to assume the responsibilities conferred upon us by our community, we will have failed in our ministry. The inescapable fact is that we are today one of the largest Jewish centers in New York City. If we want to continue to grow and flourish we must adjust our thinking in accordance with this realization.

Neither our magnificent achievements of the past nor the immediate building problems of the present should in any manner obscure from our visions the central purpose behind the Oakland Jewish Center. It would be indeed the height of folly if in our zeal to pursue a building program for the future, we would neglect our immediate tasks and duties.

During the short time that it has been my privilege to serve you as spiritual leader, I have discovered deep sources of strength and encouragement. This does augur well for the future. We have accepted the challenges of the past with heroism, courage, and self-sacrifice. Motivated by this faith and spirit, and with the help of G'd, we shall go forward.

It is my sincere hope and prayer that we will celebrate many more happy annual banquets in a world of peace and brotherhood.

RABBI IRWIN ISAACSON





## *A Message from the First President of the Center*



The last time I had the privilege of addressing you via the printed word was approximately two years ago. At that time we published our first "Bulletin". Since then the years have been filled with memorable events. Both the infant "Bulletin" and the Oakland Jewish Center have grown tremendously. At that period we were absorbed in raising the gigantic sum of six thousand dollars with which to purchase the site for our present building. Our membership at the time, one hundred and sixty families, considered this a tremendous undertaking.

In the past we have overcome the many difficulties that faced us. The problems of growing pains — the formation of our Sisterhood — organization of our Hebrew and Sunday Schools — the activating of a Boy Scout troop — the sponsoring of a Youth Group — organizing regular Friday and Saturday services — and planning for our High Holy Day Services. Finding qualified teachers and leaders for these groups were some of the many tasks that had to be coped with.

These and many other accomplishments were achieved by you — the membership — the hard working men and women of the Oakland Jewish Center. It is because you saw fit to devote your time, energy and money that we have made such great progress. Your continued support will make possible the completion of our new building and insure the increased growth of the Oakland Jewish Center. It has been the aim of the Oakland Jewish Center to truly become "The hub of the community." You have accomplished that aim and have built an organization that we and the entire community may well be proud of.

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## *A Message from the*

## *First President of the Sisterhood*



Like the parents of a new born child on occasions such as these, we the parents, members and friends of the Oakland Jewish Center, grow pensive and turn our thoughts to the future of our new born child.

In our minds and in our hearts, we fashion our aims, we set our goals, and we dream our dreams of what our progeny will achieve. And what are our dreams made of?

We dream of a Center which will serve as a unifying home for all Jews and for all things Jewish in our community of Bayside. We dream of a Center which will integrate and unify the diversified currents in our American Jewish life.

We hope for a Center where Zionist and non-Zionist, where religious and secular Jews, and where Jews with differing political and social ideologies can, through the Jewish Center, express their Jewishness in their own individual way.

We dream of a Center which will serve as our bridge to the larger Jewish community in the United States and throughout the world.

And above all, we fervently hope that the Oakland Jewish Center will add to the happiness and self realization of its members as human beings and as Jews.

CHARLOTTE FRIEND