

INSTALL OFFICERS AT TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM

The Hon. Mike O'Callaghan, former Governor of the State of Nevada, was the Installing Officer at the Installation Ceremonies for the Officers and Board Members of Temple Beth Sholom and its Sisterhood Auxiliary, held on Wednesday evening, June 17th past, in the Temple's Entratter Social Hall. A champagne reception followed the ceremonies.

Herb Kaufman, President of the Wonder World Department Stores, noted business man, philanthropist and community leader, was installed as President of the Temple for the third consecutive year. Florence Sabbath was installed as President of Sisterhood.

Leo A. Wilner, Executive Director of the Temple, was the Master of Ceremonies and assisted the Governor by acting as Marshal during the program. Rabbi Kalman Appel, spiritual leader of the Temple, opened the festivities with the invocation, and then also helped bring the program to a close with a champagne toast, wishing success and accomplishment to the newly installed officers and board members.

Cantor Simon Bergman led the audience in the singing of the National Anthem and the Hatikvah.

The committee in charge consisted of Sandra Brown, Gerri Cramer, Etta Harmell and Linda Wilner. Music for the

evening was supplied by Ed Lavietes and his orchestra.

Elected to serve with the Presidents of the two groups were the following: For the TEMPLE: Charles Levinson, First Vice President; Jerry Gordon, Second Vice President; Larry Nelson, Treasurer; Sandra Brown, Secretary. Board of Directors: Joan Brooks, Gerri Cramer, Mark Fine, Irene Fisher, Etta Harmell, Laurie Levine, Stuart Mason, Helen Perlmutter, Arne Rosencrantz, Dennis Sabbath, Florence Sabbath, Jared Shafer, Louis Silverman, Irving Steinberg.

For SISTERHOOD: Babe Lieb, Cultural V.P.; Marion Engel, Fellowship V.P.; Janice Riceberg, Program V.P.; Alice Schwartz, Public Relations V.P.; Laurie Levine, Torah Fund V.P.; Beverly Eisen, Ways & Means V.P.; Roslyn Sbarra, Recording Secretary; Lil Seidman, Financial Secretary; Liz Seidman, Corresponding Secretary; Gloria Matasow, Treasurer; Joan Brooks, Temple Board Representative; Gerri Cramer, Counsellor. Board of Directors: Lois Bergman, Faye Cramer, Geri Elgarten, Barbara Figler, Sylvia Goldstein, Etta Harmell, Lil Kronberg, Margaret Marlow, Debbie McKinnon, May Mushkin, Ann Ratner, Sharon Rosenberg, Esther Sincoff, Faye Steinberg, Liz Stewart



IN THE INSTALLATION CEREMONIES AT TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM, PICTURED FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: SEATED: RABBI KALMAN APPEL, FLORENCE SABBATH, CANTOR SIMON BERGMAN; STANDING: LEO A. WILNER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, HERB KAUFMAN, SANDRA BROWN, GOV. MIKE O'CALLAGHAN, JERRY GORDON AND CHARLES LEVINSON.

IRVING, TEXAS (WNS) -- The Boy Scouts of America have announced that kosher food will be available at the 1981 National Scout Jamboree, July 29 - August 4. Officials said an army field kitchen will be made kosher at Fort A.P. Hill, Va. by Rabbi Louis Tuchman of Peoria, Ill., who will be serving as rabbinical supervisor.

In Search of Argentina's Jews

BY LAWRENCE J. EPSTEIN

The largest Jewish communities in the world are in the United States, the Soviet Union, Israel, France and...Argentina. Close to half a million Argentine Jews have tried to sort out their identities with little observation from the Jewish world outside.

In 1979, Robert Weisbrot decided a full-scale study in English of Argentinian Jewry was long overdue, and so he wrote this book. The book, though now two years old, remains vital and even timely as the world ponders the accusations of released Argentinian Jewish newspaper editor and former prisoner Jacobo Timerman. Timerman's claim that Jews in Argentina face a peril comparable to the early days of Nazism, and his impassioned pleas for an emphasis on human rights in American foreign policy have focused attention on that once quiet community.

This book provides the perfect background for a discussion of Timerman's claims. The book is scholarly and historical. Often the writing in such books is dull and uninteresting. Happily, the author of this work has blended his scholarship with clarity and a writer's concern for language best seen in a variety of vignettes in which the author details a person's life or historical event in a few pages. These novel-like intrusions into the narrative are particularly fascinating.

One such vignette, for instance, described Henry Joseph, the first Rabbi in Argentina. Joseph, it turns out, barely knew the most basic Jewish customs, had no knowledge of Talmud, and was intermarried! Rather disturbing, but simultaneously revealing, was an account of Zevi Magdal, an organization of Jewish "white slavers" who, despite their unsavory business, did not want to be cut off from the Jewish community.

Weisbrot's approach to his subject is thorough. He discussed early Jewish settlers, most of whom were New Christians (or Marranos) who retained their Jewish identity underneath the appearance of Christianity. The crucial influx for Argentina was of East European Jews who sought to transport a shtetl atmosphere to Latin America.

After an historical introduction, Weisbrot discusses the culture of the Jewish community

and concludes that Jewish identity in Argentina is not grounded in the Jewish religion but rather in Zionism and a literary tradition both in Yiddish and Spanish. Argentinian Zionism was so strong that for many years there was more aliya from Argentina than the United States, not only per capita but also in absolute numbers.

More on Zionism's introduction to the community would have been useful. While Baron Maurice de Hirsch is briefly mentioned, the Baron's rejection of Herzl's idea of a Jewish state is not. Since a segment of Argentine Jews had travelled there under the auspices of the Baron, their subsequent Zionism becomes particularly interesting. The account of Zionism outside Argentina, then, is deficient.

The lack of religion is carefully analyzed. Argentinian Jews, Weisbrot says, think of religion's significance on two occasions: birth and death. There is barely nominal adherence to Sabbath observance or dietary laws.

Perhaps the most significant part of the book deals with anti-Semitism.

Weisbrot details the existence of severe anti-Semitism in Argentina. Indeed he uses that anti-Semitism and its accompanying economic insecurity as a powerful component of the Argentinian Jewish consciousness that places social activism rather than religion as the most prominent mode of Jewish expression. Argentinian Jews have suffered, he says, in a way American Jews have not.

Argentina is perhaps more well-known as a haven for anti-Semites than for its anti-Semitism. Nazis and neo-Nazis are the most notorious of these anti-Semites but they are not the only ones. There are, besides the Nazis, large numbers of Arabs (estimates range up to a million Arabs) who substantially outnumber the Jews, extremists of both the left and right, and government officials.

(The book is called, *The Jews of Argentina*, Robert Weisbrot (Jewish Publication Society of America, \$12.50).

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