After we became settled in our new home on Apple Tree Drive, and Bob started to attend class at Belltown School, our next move was to get involved in the community.

It was time for Bob to study for his Bar Mitzvah, so we joined Temple Beth El in the early fifties, and for many years, it was like a second home. I joined the Sisterhood and was soon invited to serve on the Board. Our entire family became involved in activities at the Temple.

Abe Hecht taught Bob and prepared him for his Bar Mitzvah. Rabbi David Pearlman officiated. When this service took place at the temple, it was followed by a delicious luncheon, catered by Ma Falk, in the Temple social hall, This was the appropriate way to celebrate, at that time, and Mrs Falk was the accepted caterer for TBE.

I was Program Chairman on the Sisterhood Board, and that meant finding a guest speaker for the monthly meetings, which were open to the entire congregation. Pat Marshall spoke on Urban Renewal, my brother, Bob Freedman' subject was plastic surgery, Joseph Viertel's was his recent book. Another, (whose name I don't remember) spoke on how to remember. Over the years, we had the pleasure of hearing many others. We attended Friday night services regularly, and our younger son, Larry came with us. He liked to put the prayer books in place after the Service, and then help Mr. Ginolfi in the kitchen At the request of Rabbi Pearlman, I greeted people as they arrived. In 1961-2, when I became President of the Sisterhood, I was also on the Temple's Board of Trustees, as was my husband, Joe. I also attended the monthly Interfaith meetings of Churches and Synagogues with the Rabbi. At Bar Mitzvahs and Confirmations, I extended the congratulations of the Sisterhood, gave a little talk, and presented the gift. I was always invited to the luncheon or party, as a courtesy, and did attend some. Luncheon was held in Temple.

Once a year, Rabbi Pearlman and Dr. McGowan of the Congregational Church, exchanged pulpits. The community also came together at the annual Interfaith dinner which was held at Pitney Bowes. One speaker who stood out in my memory, was Roy Innis, although every guest speaker was inspiring.

The Sisterhood was responsible for raising funds for the teaching staff, so we were always looking for new ideas. I spoke with Bea Wofsey, the president, about having a large art exhibition, open to the public, Bea and I were both artists, and we knew that although there was a substantial art community in Stamford, there had never been an event of this sort, before. The Stamford House Hotel, which was centrally located, welcomed the idea, since they had elegant accommodations for special events. We extended the invitation to every artist that we knew. They were all enthusiastic about the opportunity to show their works. We extended an invitation to Mayor and Mrs. Kennedy, and to other top officials. They, too, responded with enthusiasm. This was a wonderful way to get the community together.

We had a gala champagne party for the opening. The entrance fee was five dollars and it seemed as though the entire city showed up. It was a great success, socially, and we covered all our expenses. I wanted to make this an annual event, but the board voted against it, because we did not sell enough paintings. I felt that was a huge mistake because we had aroused enough public interest, as later years proved, and it was more important to be involved in the community.

I remember one meeting when Ida Lapine spoke about women attending Services and not wearing hats. The Board agreed that this was not being respectful. We all said we would wear hats from now on, but Lillian Meltzer would have to be excused because she couldn't possibly put a hat on top of her hug beehive hair, However, she could certainly use a veil, the board agreed.

.My father, Maurice Freedman, was not a Temple member, but when a new piano was needed, he supplied funds for it. Also, he gave Beth El carved walnut cabinet which was used, for years, to house the prayer books, I wonder what became of it when we moved from Prospect Street to Roxbury Road

When Rabbi Pearlman retired, he presented the portrait that I had painted of him, to the Temple, and it now hangs in the library. This happened to be the year of Larry's Bar Mitzvah, so the newly appointed Rabbi Gold, took over. Of course, we felt sad about this, since Rabbi David had officiated at Carol's confirmation and wedding. Also, his wife Bea and I became close friends. Bea always attended meetings and Sisterhood events. Joe and I visited them when they lived in Annapolis.

Rabbi Gold, a very nice young man, was with us for only one year. Rabbi Alex Goldman joined us and remained with TBE for years, until his death. When Rabbi Hammerman took over, we enjoyed getting to know him, and I can still read his inspiring sermons. We met with the Senior group regularly, but after volunteering at the hospital and Rehab for thirty years, teaching, and doing travelog programs for twenty years, I wanted to spend more time on my art interests. However, I do feel a permanent attachment here at Beth El, My parents and my husband are listed on the Memorial Placques, and hundreds of other folks too, who used to be my friends:

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