

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's 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.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

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