

STEPHEN S. WISE.

From Rabbi Leon Spitz, New Haven, Conn.

Editor The Indiana Jewish Chronicle:

It gives me very great pleasure to add a word of congratulation to my dear friend and esteemed colleague, Rabbi Isadore Goodman on the occasion of his installation as the Rabbi of Beth El Congregation. We all recognize in Rabbi Goodman a man of profound Jewish scholarship, of personal piety exemplified by only a few in our generation, a spiritual leader of influence, a preacher who wields in brilliant fashion noble thoughts. He is a courageous leader in Jewish life and a beloved friend of all whose pleasure and privilege it is to be associated with him.

I trust that Rabbi Goodman will find in Indianapolis a fruitful field for generous service, and numerous friends who will uphold his right arm at all times.

Signed:

Rabbi Leon Spitz,
New Haven, Conn.

From Isaac Siegel, New York City, N. Y.

December 7, 1925.

Morris Strauss, Editor,
The Indiana Jewish Chronicle,
937 Meyer Kiser Bank Bldg.,
Indianapolis, Ind.

Dear Sir:

At a time when Beth El Congregation dedicates its new edifice and installs as its spiritual leader Rabbi Isadore Goodman, it is most fitting and proper that as American Citizens we reiterate with all the emphasis at our command the paramount importance of placing God and religion foremost in our home and community life. In this way we can serve not merely our faith best but give to our country the most. Without the inculcation of religious faith in the rising generation, the present crime wave in the United States cannot be broken. It means also that it is the duty of Congregations like Beth El to re-awaken each and every parent to his responsibility not only to his children but to the community at large.

The synagogue was intended to and should be the center of all communal endeavors. In Rabbi Isadore Goodman, Beth El has one who is thoroughly imbued with the underlying ideas herein expressed and who is in every way eminently fit to effectively carry them out. Thus may Beth El spread the spirit of tolerance and brotherly love which is always characteristic of the real Jew proud of his faith and of our country.

Very truly yours,

Isaac Siegel,
Attorney.

gogue building for the foremost orthodox congregation in the State of Indiana, Beth El. I am sure that Rabbi Goodman, with his splendid intellectual and temperamental qualities for such work, will be stimulated to an even greater endeavor in his new field, if possible, by this new synagogue building. I know Rabbi Goodman and you know your new synagogue. Joining our favorable knowledges in this connection, I prophesy a great and prosperous future for Beth El. I do wish that I might be able to attend your dedicatory services, but since Congress has just convened I can not leave Washington.

With renewed assurances of my great interest in our worthy cause, and with fervent prayers for a successful work, I am,

Cordially yours,
Sol Bloom.

From Rabbi Leo Jung, Jewish Center, Inc., New York

December 7, 1925.

My dear Sir:

It was with genuine delight that I heard that Rabbi Isidore Goodman was appointed to your community. Rabbi Goodman is intellectually honest and unshakably Orthodox, industrious and idealistic. I have no doubt that his acceptance of the Rabbinate in your city justifies keen hopes for the rejuvenation and reassertion of genuine Judaism in your city. I look upon Rabbi Goodman as a Jewish missionary destined to reconcile the generations and to bring glory to our people in the state of his habitation. In co-operation with the Rabbanim of Indianapolis and the neighborhood, he will no doubt lead the forces which will make the Torah again a power and a center in Israel.

With all good wishes,
Sincerely yours,
(Rabbi) Leo Jung.

From Dr. Henry Keller

December 9th, 1925.

Mr. Morris Strauss,
Editor, Jewish Chronicle,
Indianapolis, Ind.

My Dear Mr. Strauss: I have known Rabbi Isadore Goodman for the last ten years and I can safely say that in the selection of Rabbi Goodman as the spiritual head of the Beth El Synagogue of Indianapolis, the directors and members of the Synagogue have done themselves honor.

Rabbi Goodman is a man of integrity, religious sincerity and proper mental poise, and destined to make his mark in spiritual leadership.

Please convey my good wishes to the Jews of Indianapolis and to their valuable acquisition—Rabbi Goodman.

Very sincerely yours,
HENRY KELLER.

of our merciful Father. This occasion marks also my installation as the spiritual leader of this holy congregation. "One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after, that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty (interpret our sages, the Synagog) of the Lord and to inquire in his Synagog." Psalm 24:4.

HISTORY OF CONGREGATION BETH EL Indianapolis, Indiana.

By Louis Sakowitz, Past President

It was during the fall of 1915 when the late Mr. Alexander Cohen gathered together a small group living in the vicinity of Sixteenth and Illinois streets for the purpose of holding services on the High Holy Days. A house in the neighborhood was rented; a cantor was engaged and there was barely a Minyan present. Mr. E. Herwitz acted as Shamas. The following year a place at Twenty-first and Talbot streets was rented. There were present about fifty

From Rabbi C. David Matt, Minneapolis, Minn.

December 7, 1925.

Mr. M. Strauss,
Editor, The Indiana Jewish Chronicle,
Indianapolis, Ind.

My dear Mr. Strauss:

I take pleasure in felicitating your community on the double "Simchah" of the dedication of the beautiful new edifice of Beth El Congregation and the installation of its spiritual leader, Rabbi Isadore Goodman. From what I have heard of Beth El and from what I know of Rabbi Goodman, the two-fold consecration of the synagogue and its Rabbi should be an epoch-making event in the Jewish life of your city and state. The dedication of a House of worship and the installation of a teacher and leader in Israel are a most happy coincidence of Chanukah week. That Rabbi Goodman may be able to accomplish all his desires for the advancement of Judaism in his chosen city is my sincere wish.

Very truly yours,

C. David Matt,
Rabbi, Adath Yeshurun Congregation, Minneapolis.
Associate Editor, The American Jewish World.

to twenty worshippers. A Rabbi was engaged who spoke in Yiddish and who also acted as Cantor. The following year services were held at the Masonic Temple, Twenty-first and Central avenue. It was during the fall of 1918 that the late Mrs. Henry Marks died and her sons attempted to have services daily and hired individuals to attend services.

Services were held there on Saturdays for a few years thereafter, and on the High Holy Days a student of the Jewish Theological Seminary occupied the pulpit.

About the year 1920 we were forced to seek new quarters, and a hall at Thirtieth and Talbot was rented. During the summer of 1921 the late Mr. Joseph A. Borinstein and a small group decided to purchase a lot at Thirtieth and Talbot.

During the year 1922 we elected our first Rabbi, and it was in that year when the sisterhood was organized, headed by Mrs. Louis Sagolowsky, as President.

In the fall of 1922, on Kol Nidre night, an appeal was made for building fund, and the sum of \$55,000 was pledged. Mr. Joseph A. Borinstein, who was then our President, died, and was succeeded by Louis Sakowitz as Vice-President.

A lot at Thirty-fourth and Ruekle streets was selected and building contract signed in the summer of 1923. Remonstrance was filed by property owners in the neighborhood; and construction work was held up.

Another appeal for funds was made on Kol Nidre Night in the fall of 1924, when \$35,000 in pledges were raised towards the building fund.

The Synagogue was completed the early part of 1925, at a cost of more than \$125,000. It was during this year that the late Mr. Abraham Goodman died and bequeathed the sum of \$25,000 and \$2,000 additional toward equipment of Sunday School.

In the fall of 1925 Rabbi Isadore Goodman was elected Rabbi, and Mr. J. A. Goodman as President, and Samuel Falender as Vice-President.

This is evidenced by the fact that our youth are drifting away from the faith of their fathers and thinking of everything else but religion. And the few who have become wayward have become so because they were separated from any religious influence of the home and synagogue."

Rabbi Feinberg deplored the fact that Reform Judaism, sincere when it started, had failed to retain a hold upon our youth, and even so had the orthodox. He declared that we do not want a childless synagogue; that would be tragedy; neither do we want a synagogue for the young only;

And so, Rabbi Feinberg said, that there are many Esaus today who preach the gospel of hatred and intolerance, who place obstacles in your path because you are not of their belief of faith. Only by showing such people that we are sincere in our belief, friendly and considerate toward all, and by becoming better Jews, that some day they too "will fall upon our necks" and see the errors of their ways, and realize that after all we are the children of One Creator, and admit we have enriched their community and country's welfare.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Mr. J. A. GOODMAN, President
Beth El Congregation

We dedicate Beth El Congregation to God and Country. In doing so, I am sure I express the feelings of my fellow congregants. In this act of dedication, it is our sincere hope that it will bring with it a revived interest in the ideals of the Synagogue. We need be quite conscious of the sacred trust we have inherited from our ancestors. We need become aware of our obligations in preserving the heritage, and passing it on to our generations, undimmed, undiminished, undefiled. The difficulties that we had to encounter during the past years in our building and organization problems should be relegated to the past. What we need is to make up our minds and hearts at this juncture of our journey to work for a Jewish religious regeneration. The burden cannot be borne by a few. All must share in the responsibilities, then all can share in the privileges.

We behold at Beth El a Synagogue building that is a delight to the senses and an encouragement to the soul. But we may not sit back and be content with this great achievement, for the work of our Synagogue must go higher and higher. "A city whose housetops are higher than that of the temple is destined to destruction," say our sages in the Talmud. If I may interpret the thought, this does not mean in a literal sense, but it may be understood in a figurative sense that the ideals of our Synagogue must be higher than the buildings of our homes; that in our lives we must attempt to live the ideals set forth in the Synagogue.

We realize the obstacles that confront the individual in the performance of his religious duties, yet on special occasions set aside for public worship and public enlightenment it is hardly conceivable that one can find an excuse to keep himself away from the spiritualizing moments.

We are conversant with the fact that it takes time for a tree to grow. So does it take time for an idea to take hold and stir us to sublimation.

May the present officers, Board of Directors and its members live to see Beth El prosper, and WATCH US GROW should be the Watchword.

H. T. Cohen.

To facilitate this religious development, we are happy in the fact that one of America's leading scholars has accepted the call to Beth El, and to lead our congregation in spiritual matters. Under the able leadership of Dr. Isadore Goodman, who becomes officially installed Rabbi of Beth El Congregation at this festival occasion, we look forward to a greater interest in the faith of our ancestors, that it may also become the faith of our descendants.

We look forward to the strengthening of our ranks with Jews and Jewesses who hold our ancient traditions sacred.

We pray and hope that the Almighty may grant all the members of our congregation, their families, and all Israel, strength and peace. Again, may the ancient glory of our people shine forth, as the rising sun, to give warmth and light to mankind.

GREETINGS TO BETH EL

After eight years of patient waiting and hard work, our dreams have been fulfilled, for Beth El is now a reality. It is indeed a proud feeling, especially to one who has held the Vice-presidency for five years, and shared all obstacles from its infancy. And now to be able to look at this beautiful Temple and breathe in its holy atmosphere.

It is with sincere and heartfelt joy that I offer on this occasion a prayer to the Omnipotent Lord above, who has made Beth El possible. Let us hope that it be dedicated to Prayer, Harmony, Love and Charity for all.

May the present officers, Board of Directors and its members live to see Beth El prosper, and WATCH US GROW should be the Watchword.

H. T. Cohen.