

# "THE ANSHE LIDA SYNAGOGUE"

BY

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The average person attending this synagogue might fail to appreciate the significance of the marble plaque built in the south wall. On it is inscribed "These Are The Founders," namely, H. Litowitz, H. Garshon, D. Salamansky, J. Wiener, S. Eknowitz, N. Litowitz, B. Moskowitz. This bit of artistry reflects the history of this synagogue by these men, who fled from tyrant and anti-semitic infested country, to seek peaceful living. They settled in Toronto at the turn of the twentieth century, where they congregated a "minion" or a group of ten men, organized a place of worship on Terauley Street, now Bay Street.

This was the beginning of the Anshe Lida Synagogue. Their sincerity and brotherhood attracted many others to this organization, and found it necessary to obtain a larger place.

Some of this congregation gradually moved to the centre part of the city and made it difficult to attend the daily services. They appointed a committee to seek a more suitable and permanent home for the congregation. A frame cottage was purchased on Augusta Avenue, on which the present synagogue is located. A new life began for this Shule. Its members steadily increased. It became an organization within a congregation, such as: the purchase of a cemetery on Roselawn Avenue, and the organizing of various religious groups, namely:—

Chevra Mishnias (group of religious learning).

Chevra Kadisha (cemetery group).

Bicku Chailim (visiting the sick).

Collecting for the poor, and others.

One cannot but help to glorify the wisdom of the rabbi on the Sabbath afternoon, people would crowd into this small cottage beyond the seating capacity to hear his teaching and his various interpretations of the Sages. The writer can well remember this clearly, without any exaggeration, trying to get into one of the sessions, by opening the door and finding men standing in rear of the synagogue for lack of a place to sit. Later this synagogue was rebuilt as it is now.

Many of our fathers lived for this synagogue and what it meant to them as Jews and their religion. They gradually built up a library of books, which encouraged religious learning, and became a centre of rabbinical teachings. People from all parts of the city and from other synagogues would come and partake in various activities of religious interests. Members or non-members were welcomed. It is more than one can comprehend the efforts and achievements this synagogue has made in bringing about the combination of religion, friendship and brotherhood among many.

Now, the Anshe Lida Shule has an organized Young Men's Club and a Sisterhood who are doing a fine job in the interest of the synagogue. They get together in various activities to raise funds for various occasions, such as Purim and Chunuka parties, etc., for the children. At this moment their efforts are focused on building a new synagogue and all that goes with it. Their hopes and ideals are high in this tremendous undertaking, and in the near future, with God's help the first sod will be turned in the building of the new Anshe Lida Synagogue.