Jewish Sacred Spaces in a “City of Churches”
Classrooms at Florida Southern College, Lakeland, Florida
Tillie Barkin Estroff

October, 1925
Wolfson’s
Famous Department Store
Patterson Street Temple
Jewish Children in Munn Park, c. 1930
The Star of David Windows, Patterson Street Temple
Bea Trohn
Family Groves
Sam Pincus
Lakeland, c.1942
The party starts here!
• Sam Siegel was President in 1948
Tu B’Shevat

1953
Let Your Pledge Be Worthy of Your Vision

TEMPEL EMANUEL BUILDING FUND

In consideration of the gifts of others and of the obligation to be incurred in reliance on the pledges received, I hereby contribute to Temple Emanuel Building Fund, the sum of _______________ dollars ($________). To be paid ___________ weekly, ___________ monthly, ___________ quarterly, ___________ semi-annually, ___________ annually, or as follows:

TOTAL PLEDGE $600.00
Paid herewith $____

Signed: _____________________________
Date: __/13/58

Make checks payable to Temple Emanuel Building Fund.

Solicitor: _____________

Let Your Pledge Be Worthy of Your Vision

TEMPEL EMANUEL BUILDING FUND

In consideration of the gifts of others and of the obligation to be incurred in reliance on the pledges received, I hereby contribute to Temple Emanuel Building Fund, the sum of _______________ dollars ($1000.00). To be paid ___________ weekly, ___________ monthly, ___________ quarterly, ___________ semi-annually, ___________ annually, or as follows:

TOTAL PLEDGE $1000.00
Paid herewith $____

Signed: _____________________________
Date: __/17/57

Make checks payable to Temple Emanuel Building Fund.

Solicitor: _____________

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Date: __/2/58

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Solicitor: _____________
The neighborhood going to pot....
Rehearing Granted On Temple Permit

The Lakeland Zoning Board will hold a rehearing of the petition of Temple Emanuel to build a new temple on their present site on Lake Hollingsworth. A previous hearing ended in no decision when only four of the seven-member board voted. A majority of at least five is required in the granting of such permits.

Granting of the permit had been protested by some residents of the area around the proposed site, termed by real estate appraisers "one of the finest residential neighborhoods in Lakeland," on the grounds that expansion of the temple would lower real estate values in the vicinity.

The petitioners, however, maintained that they were merely building a new structure on a site already in use as a temple, and that the existing temple pre-dated most of the residences in the area.

In a lengthy hearing, testimony was taken and both sides said that they were planning to appeal the matter to the courts.

Friday, however, it appeared that opposition had been dropped. No one appeared to protest the rehearing.

Attorney Gordon Petteway represented the religious group.

Kelly To Speak At Haven Meet

WINTER HAVEN — State Sen. Scott Kelly of Lakeland tomorrow night will speak here at a public meeting, explaining the state's new reapportionment plan to be voted on Nov. 3.

The meeting will be held at the Jaycee Clubhouse at 8 o'clock. The public may attend the session which is sponsored by the Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Later, at a meeting of the Jaycees, plans will be furthered for the "Little Miss Winter Haven" contest in which a candidate will be selected to enter...
Newton’s Letter

Be Brief
Be Courteous
Be Fair
Be Constructive

Let Temple Emanuel Expand

Editor of The LEDGER:

Recently the Jewish people of our community were denied the privilege of expanding their already existant church and parish house on Lake Hollingsworth. Neighboring home-owners objected on the grounds such a project would tend to decrease the value of their property.

Temple Emanuel was already an established and active congregation before most of its neighbors purchased land and built homes around it, doing so in the certain knowledge the Temple was there and would likely remain there. They chose the Temple as a neighbor rather than the Temple choosing them as neighbors.

Like most churches in this “City of Churches,” the Temple has found it must expand its facilities in order to accommodate its growing membership. To an objective observer it looks as though those who would deny them this privilege are saying to them in effect: “Since you were here before we were, we cannot make you move. But we shall make things untenable for you by not allowing you to build.”

By far the majority of Lakeland’s churches are situated in residential areas, with hardly a residential area without a church. Why not Lake Hollingsworth with its college, its Yacht Club, its noisy, congested speed-boat races and ski shows?

What is this divisive spirit inflicting itself upon us? We are already suffering the antagonisms engendered by the recall affair. Now comes this further cleavage with all of its ugly implications. Our Jewish communion, composed for the most part of generous, civic-minded, cultured people, is being needlessly isolated and embittered. If the wretched spirit of anti-Semitism is rearing its nasty head, it must die aborning.

This is a plea of simple justice and fair-play in the spirit of “do unto others as you would be done by.”

JOHN L. NEWTON
Minister
First Presbyterian Church
Annie Pfeiffer Chapel, 1941
FSC Campus
Danforth Chapel, 1955

FSC Campus
Signing the Contract, 1962
TEMPLE EMANUEL CONSTRUCTION — The new Temple Emanuel is slowly taking shape at 599 Lake Hollingsworth Drive. Construction of the facility started in February. It is scheduled to be completed in September at a cost of more than $200,000. (LEDGER Photo By Harper)