

Anticipating the Club's 50th anniversary celebration

By Jack Rosenfeld

In anticipation of the 50th anniversary of the Sholom Aleichem Club it was requested that I give my impressions of the contributions made by the Club's members to the Jewish community and the general community. On the 25th anniversary of our Club, in 1979, the Leadership Group (now called the Officer Group) — Eugene Bloomfield, Bea Katz, George Keller, Ted Levine, Sylvia Mahler, Jack Rosenfeld — said the following:

“... In 25 years we have accomplished a great deal, and we are thankful to our many members... Our aim is to continue to bring forth within our Club additional strength and vitality so that we may go on contributing our best for the NEXT 25 YEARS.”

Here we are — our 50th Anniversary! The Sholom Aleichem Club continues to make its contributions. A little weaker in some areas but a little stronger in others — the reality of life.

MAZEL TOV TO US

What the Sholom Aleichem Club has meant to me

By Florence Olivenbaum.

Harry and I joined the Club 46 years ago. We had moved from South Philadelphia with our three children to Germantown. A friend had told us about this newly formed Jewish Cultural Group which, along with Jewish culture, also had programs about such subjects as discrimination, peace, community, Israel, etc.

At first the group was small enough to meet in the homes of individual families. The first time Harry attended the group was looking for a secretary. Somebody suggested Harry. "Hey," he said, "I'm not even a member!" "So you'll become a member," they said. And he did. We found the members to be friendly, stimulating and eager to be active as the Club grew. Our Sedorim each Passover became a highlight of the year, with a Haggadah especially written and contributed to by our own members.

And fun! Each summer we'd have a picnic - big family affairs in which our children got to know each as they participated in various games. Then there were our famous "May Productions," skits, musical programs, etc., designed and produced by Jack Rosenfeld,

our director "Extra Ordinaire." Club children and adults filled the roles. It was all so exciting and appreciated by our audience that we forgot to be nervous!

The Club became our way of life. Our social lives were with our Club members. We felt like an extended family. This point was particularly brought home to us when our kids began their college lives. Our son Joe told us that he was surprised to learn that we were unique as he discussed his background with other students. He thought everybody lived that way.

During the "Civil Rights Summer," we supported children of two of our families who went to the South to help African-Americans gain the vote. Some of our kids attended the demonstration in Washington, D.C. at which Martin Luther King made his famous speech.

Our monthly publication NEWS AND COMMENT, on which Harry served for a long period of time, is a voice of the Club and is thought to be stirring and informative.

It has been a privilege to know some of our talented and articulate members.

These are only some of the reasons the Club has meant so much to me.