

HIGH HOLIDAY PLEDGE POEM

Annie Friedman

During a 1973 Yom Kippur
Six families discussed the future and more

Of the multitude of Jews coming to town
Without a Synagogue to be found

34 families contributed to start a fund
It was the beginning of much bigger things to come.

Their hard work and hopeful wishing
Finally came to a successful fruition.

On March 25th at 4:53
The State of NY recorded the decree

Whereas Congregation Beth Shalom
Received their certificate and could now find a home

The Jews in the area have now made their mark
And services will now take place in Clifton Park

The Synagogue flourished with families galore
Our membership list really started to soar

The religious school was about to thrive
As many children started to arrive

It was time to stop renting and find our own space
Clifton Park Center Road became our new place

Bar and Bat Mitvahs, weddings and more
Were taking place like a revolving door

Our Synagogue was growing at a rapid pace
That having a cemetery we would soon have to face

Our merger with Hebrew Sick Benevolent Association

Took place in late 1980's after much negotiation

But life has gone by, oh so fast
And now we must think of the present and how to last

So many years have passed us by
Our kids come to visit and then say goodbye

And keeping our membership up to par
With many people moving afar

With sadness there are those who have passed us by
To be terribly missed, not without a cry

Between Covid, mass killings and a war abroad
Many things in our country are terribly flawed

We do not know what the future will hold
Except keeping us going is in our control

My friends I hope you know how much we care
And hope you can depend on us to always be here

In times of celebration or times of need
So you can count on us to do a good deed

The past years have definitely taken their toll
And been hard for us to maintain our goal

But what needs to be done to keep us afloat
So we don't go down like a sinking boat

Times are tough but we have to dig deep
So this Synagogue family we can always keep

Let's make a pledge to keep us alive
So Beth Shalom will continue to survive