

Shabbat Shalom

What if Dorothy Oliver and Phyllis Sandler, of blessed memory, hadn't volunteered to arrange, prepare trays and set up all the Kiddush and Onegs for the Bar/Bat Mitzvah's on Sat. at Temple Beth Israel?

The TBI catering committee would never have been discussed, formed or implemented.

In 1984 and 1987, our sons had their Bar Mitzvah's at TBI. Phyllis Sandler was in charge of the Kiddush immediately following the service. Challah, wine, grape juice and cookies were the items to be brought in by the family and Phyllis took care of beautifully arranging everything on trays!

After several years a small group met and came up with an idea. What if we continue to provide a service to our congregants, become an arm of the temple and offer to order, arrange and create a **small** catering service. Flo Berman and I became partners, supervisors and leaders. In 1993 the catering committee was created.

Our Journey had just begun.

The goal & idea was to cater **1 or 2 onegs a year**, make a few dollars for the temple and encourage friendly men & women to volunteer to help set up, make calls and serve. The committee was excited to offer a service to our congregants, always adding & encouraging more volunteers and raising money for the general fund of the temple.

We were prepared but quite concerned, what if no one called, wanted, or needed our service. To our amazement, the congregation responded & we had our first call. **We were in business!** Lenore Wolf was planning an auf ruf for her son and fiancé! Lenore was hiring us!

The committee immediately started to plan. We brought to temple silver trays, coffee carafe's, platters and serving pieces from home. We had polishing parties to ensure the silver trays were gleaming, to enhance the event.

Instead of using the paper tablecloths, the committee decided that colored linen cloths definitely needed to be purchased. We decided to buy 1 set of tablecloths and 1 matching skirt.

Our small group started to grow, encouraging each other to ask a TBI acquaintance or a friend to help pour coffee, arrange pastries, shop or simply wash tablecloths. We were excited to meet and work with new faces from the congregation. We were doing our job, and having a fun time working together.

What a surprise, we had calls for birthday celebrations, anniversaries, baby namings, wedding receptions, parties & dinners, all life cycle events. We would discuss every event many times & try to customize for each individual that hired us.

Our tablecloth inventory expanded to offer more choices to the congregation for their simcha's.

Over the years after every catering event the tablecloths are taken home by the volunteers, washed, folded or returned on hangars, ready for the next event. Taking them to the cleaner was out of the question – the money was going straight to the temple!

This small dedicated group has not only serviced the congregants but has also helped the temple financially.

In 1993-94 the first check for \$1,930 was presented to the temple. Since then the committee has given an additional \$139,355.00

We continue to learn from each other, gathering ideas and always looking for ways to improve.

Over the 24 years of being in existence, it took many dedicated people to organize, arrange, coordinate and supervise the numerous events. Many thanks to those that have been a huge part of the catering committee. We have provided a service for our congregants to enjoy and be a guest at their own Simcha.

The continued participation by so many is the growing force of our future at TBI.

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