

were concerned about his health. I had questioned his Dr. and was reassured that he was in excellent health despite his chronological age. He swam daily in our Municipal pool and had been a boxer in his college days.

He turned out to be one of the best Rabbis we ever had. He remained with us until his wife died in 1974. Rabbi Leonard Helman was interviewed for the position. He was engaged and served the congregation until his departure in 1991. Although Rabbi Leonard who had also earned a Law degree and worked for the State of NM in the utilities rate disputes was considered to be a part time Rabbi he was ready at a moments notice to respond to his congregations pastoral needs.

Some of our early presidents were: Daniel Taichert, David Schwartz, Gerald Bell, Irving Bell, Abe Silver, Gene Petchesky, Al Kempenich, Charles Solomon, Fred Reid, Ray Jones, Karl Sternberg, Walter Kahn, Marcel Pick, Sam Pick, Emil Pollock, Jody Ellis, Fred Mann and others.

During Rabbi Helman's tenure of 1974 to 1991, he built the congregation from about 75 families to 285 family units. On High Holy Days we used the First Presbyterian Church on Grant for several years and also the Mormon Temple. We were made to feel welcome and wanted. There was an active Ministerial Alliance and Rabbi Helman was a well respected member. In 1986 the new Temple was dedicated. Ed Mazria was the architect and used a Sephardic style throughout the magnificent structure. Generous donations flowed into the coffers and the Religious school was built at the same time as the Temple.

We had a sisterhood from the start which as I recollect Marian Silver and I seemed to alternate as presidents. The B'nai Brith and its auxilliary B'nai Brith Women were faltering for lack of leadership. My late beloved brother-in-law, Irving Bell and the late Fred Mann took turns at the presidency. We women tried to combine the two functions of Sisterhood and B'nai Brith but that did not work well and B'nai Brith became history, as did the sisterhood, in fact.