

New Tree of Life Building Will Have Double Link With Palestine

Charles J. Rosenbloom, president of Tree of Life Congregation, which will inaugurate its \$600,000 Building Fund Campaign for a new synagogue in Squirrel Hill during the High Holidays, returned to Pittsburgh last week after a ten-week tour of Palestine.

Mr. Rosenbloom discussed enthusiastically many aspects of Tree of Life's new project and expressed confidence that the campaign would be a success.

When asked about the cornerstone for the new building, which Mr. Rosenbloom planned to procure in Palestine, when he left for the Holy Land, he replied:

"When Dr. Hailperin first suggested that the cornerstone of our new Tree of Life Synagogue consist of limestone taken from the Jerusalem quarries, the Building Committee approved the idea with enthusiasm. While in Palestine recently, I found it quite a simple task to negotiate for such a block of stone. Would that all our other problems related to Palestine could be settled so easily."

"It is certainly proper for a Synagogue like ours to have its cornerstone of Palestine limestone. Zionism is not mere philanthropy with us. It is an integral part of our religion.

This cornerstone will be a symbol of the intimate relation between Palestine and our people outside of Palestine. When our descendants will gaze upon that stone they will be reminded constantly of the immortal teachings that had their origin in Palestine, and then radiated therefrom throughout the civilized world of millions of Christians, Jews and Mohammedans. It will also give them a vision of Palestine's future contribution to world culture and social justice."

The cornerstone, however, will not be the sole link between Palestine and Tree of Life. The congregation now possesses two Shofars from Palestine which actually made history. Three days before Mr. Rosenbloom set out for home, Dr. Herman Hailperin, rabbi of Tree of Life, cabled him to bring two Shofars with him if they could be obtained. Mr. Rosenbloom not only succeeded in obtaining the Shofars, but flew them home with him so that they would be here in time for the High Holidays. Thus Palestine will be additionally symbolized in the new home of Tree of Life.

Co-chairmen of the Building Fund Campaign are Benjamin Raphael and Samuel M. Fischer, who will be assisted by several committees now in the process of formation.