

## **May 9, 2011: Press Release**

### **One of Chicago's Oldest Conservative Congregation Moving**

CHICAGO: On **Sunday May 15<sup>th</sup> at 10AM**, members and friends of Congregation Shaare Tikvah B'nai Zion, one of Chicago's oldest conservative congregations, will gather for a Torah Procession and dedication ceremony, known as a Torah Hachnasa. Accompanied by musicians from the Maxwell Street Klezmer band, a lively procession will begin from our longtime Shul, which was recently sold, **at 5800 N. Kimball**, to our new home at 3500 W. Peterson. The ceremony has aspects of a Jewish wedding, with the Torah assuming the role of bride, as the sacred scrolls are carried under a chuppah.

This ceremony will be a confirmation that this congregation WILL survive. It has been a tragic and trying year, with the sudden and unexpected death of our beloved Rabbi, Dennis Katz, ZT"L, as well as the sale of our longtime building.

As the Milton Levy Hebrew School held their last class in our previous synagogue, parents watched as students said their goodbyes to the Shul that has been home to this congregation for sixty years. Students went into the beautiful main sanctuary with the Shul's famous stained glass windows depicting the major Jewish holidays, and were allowed to go up a stairwell behind the Bimah to view the large Magen David, the massive Jewish Star that has been a fixture of the landscape on the 5800 N. Kimball block for more than half a century.

Once one of the largest congregations in Chicago, membership is now significantly smaller as large segments of the Jewish community have moved to the suburbs. West Rogers Park, at one time a diverse Jewish landscape, is now predominantly Orthodox. But decades after many congregations have followed the population shift to the suburbs, STBZ has proudly remained rooted in the city.

STBZ has begun to see a reversal in the "city to suburbs" migration, as young people are returning to the city to raise families. So, although the congregation can no longer support the massive building at 5800 N. Kimball, we are committed to staying in the city, and are moving only a few blocks away, where we will occupy an entire floor in the multi-use building at 3500 W. Peterson. Our Hebrew school is up and running and we are enjoying services in our new space.

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[www.chicagosynagogue.org](http://www.chicagosynagogue.org)