

LAWNDALE NEIGHBORHOOD

This was 1930's, and my parents belonged to Kehilath Jacob on Douglas and Independence blvds. I went to Hebrew school there when I was a little girl. My family was very observant, and the High Holidays was an especially meaningful time. However, not all our family members felt this religious pull. In fact my uncle would play pool all the time, it did not matter what holiday it was, or anything else. But he had respect for the Jewish Holidays, so he would put newspaper up on the windows so he would not offend anyone passing by on their way to shul.

Rose Ann Cope, age, 2004

It was 1939, Mr. Shultz, who was my Hebrew schoolteacher at Kehilath Jacob on Douglas Blvd. and Independence Blvd., always walked around with a big stick. When he was angry he would bang the stick on the floor or an empty desk or whatever was at hand. The kids hated it.

One day he banged the stick so hard, that it broke in two and a piece flew across the room. We had a boy in the class who was the class jester and who equal to the situation. He grabbed the end and pretended it had hit his eye. Poor Mr. Shultz. Remorse was all over his face. He couldn't apologize enough. That was the last day he ever brought a stick to class.

Rosalyn Witten Bogen, age 73, 2004*

LECH LACHA AND ME

It was 1941, I had an emergency appendectomy when I was about ten years old and of course I missed a lot of Hebrew school. Mr. Lebenson, the teacher, wanted to fail me. Horrors! I had never failed in my life. What could I do to make up for the absence I wanted to know? "Well", he said, "the class is studying Lech Lacha." If I could explain it in front of the class, I would pass."

My uncle who was an expert Hebrew scholar tutored me on "Lech Lacha". During class time I explained it so well that I remember Mr. Lebenson saying out loud to himself, "she knows it better when she doesn't come than when she does." To this day whenever I hear "Lech Lacha" read in synagogue I remember this story.

Rosalyn Witten Bogen, age 73, 2004*

*of blessed memory



Kehilath Jacob
3757 W. Douglas Blvd.
1915