

A L B A N Y P A R K B E T H I T Z C H O C K

When we were first married in the 1930's, I lived in Albany Park and attended Beth Itzchock, the Drake Avenue Shul. Our synagogue was and is still orthodox. Every year we would dress up in our best attire for the High Holidays. Our Rabbi at the time was Rabbi Siegel. Because we were newlyweds, and the holidays were spent all day in shul, my sisters and I decided to ask the Rabbi a favor. Rabbi Siegel, "You know we sit all day long in shul on the High Holidays, and we really, really would like to sit with our men. You have to understand, Rabbi, this is a very long day, and we are not complaining. Would it be such a crime to sit with our men? I mean I really want to sit with my man."

Rabbi Siegel's reply went something like this, after all it has been a long time, and you are testing my memory . "Lillian, let me explain my position. I do understand what you are asking, and I am not unsympathetic to your feelings, and that of your sisters, but! ! ! Let's forget about the biblical injunction that states since the time of Moses when the men and women danced and celebrated separately after passing thru the Red Sea. It is known in our little shul, that I am given to long sermons, and it has come to my attention that from time to time many members our congregation have been known to doze off during such times, I will not it have be known, that in Rabbi Siegel's shul, men and women are sleeping together! Period!"

Lillian, age 84, 2004

ALBANY PARK



Beth Itzchock
4645 N. Drake
1922

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