

## **Recollections and Comments after the Adas Israel Synagogue Fire by Ida Krovitz Davis - September 2019**

Allan and Karen, you both need to know that my family and I, Adas Israel congregants, along with descendants of the Adas Israel founders, owe you, along with Jack Abramson, z'l, a huge debt of gratitude for the daunting task you put forth in pursuing the gathering of data along with photos, and preserving this valuable historical information not only of Adas Israel, but of so many avenues taken by the Jewish settlers in Duluth from past to present. This information will be invaluable for future generations.

I have been a small part of Adas Israel for almost 70 years and my sadness over its loss is profound; however, I know there will be beautiful lasting memories for me, family members, and so many others. From the time I was a young child, I began attending Shabbat services with my father, Maurice Krovitz, z'l, and brother Benjie, along with going to Sunday School. I always loved the Chanukah dinners where the aroma of delicious Jewish cooking wafted through the kitchen into the social hall where every chair was filled for these events. My father was synagogue Vice President and President for a number of years, and my mother, Esther Goldish Krovitz, z'l, was heavily involved in Sisterhood. I smile as I think of my Grandma, Hattie Goldish, z'l, in charge of Synagogue rummage sales and her excitement upon receiving donated articles from Jewish merchants, and remembering my mother taking my sisters, Diane and Sue, and me to be a part of it. I remember how filled the Synagogue was during the High Holiday services, sitting upstairs with my mom and wandering the creaky floor to kiss and hug my Boba, Lena Krovitz, z'l, aunts, and great-aunts, then looking down and seeing my dad, brothers, zeyda, uncles, and great-uncles praying. The special events of my brothers, Benjie's and Steve's Bar Mitzvahs, along with my wedding and my sister, Diane's, will continue resonating with me forever.

For me, Adas Israel was centered around prayer, happy events, along with the sad. It was an exceptionally beautiful building, the interior built of dark mahogany, surrounded by gorgeous stain glass windows which incorporated beautiful colorful hues, and of course the bema with its stunning, irreplaceable artifacts. Karen, your photos of the stain glass windows are beyond extraordinary and now irreplaceable.

To you both, Allan and Karen, thank you for making such an incredible contribution to the Jewish Community of Duluth, and giving so many of us the gift to go back in time to its Jewish history!

Wishing you and your families a "Healthy, Happy, and Sweet New Year"!  
My best to you.....  
Ida Krovitz Davis