

REMARKS BY MARTIN WALDMAN AT TEMPLE EMANUEL-COPAY PRESENTATION

THANK YOU, RABBI WIDOM. IT IS MY HONOR AND PLEASURE (AS THE FIRST PRESIDENT AND ONE OF THE FOUNDERS OF COPAY) TO PARTICIPATE IN THESE CEREMONIES <sup>OF ACCEPTANCE FOR</sup> ~~ACCEPTING~~ THE AWARD TO TEMPLE EMANUEL FOR ITS ROLE IN THE CREATION OF A COMMUNITY-WIDE ORGANIZATION WHICH HAS COME TO BE A VITAL RESOURCE IN GREAT NECK.

COPAY IS NOW <sup>APPROACHING</sup> ITS 12TH YEAR...NOT QUITE READY FOR A BAR MITZVAH... BUT ALREADY WELL PAST ITS BIRTH PANGS AND ITS EARLY GROWING PAINS. IT IS NOW AT A POINT WHERE IT STANDS ON ITS OWN FEET AS AN INSTITUTION SERVING THE COMMUNITY EFFECTIVELY IN A VARIETY OF AREAS.

AS ONE WHO WAS THERE..AS THE SAYING GOES.."IN THE BEGINNING," I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE UNION FOR ITS RECOGNITION OF THE CREATION OF COPAY AS A FORM OF SOCIAL ACTION IN WHICH TEMPLES SHOULD BE INVOLVED -- SERVICE NOT ONLY TO AN INDIVIDUAL CONGREGATION, BUT TO AN ENTIRE COMMUNITY.

IT MIGHT BE ENLIGHTENING FOR US TO TAKE JUST A FEW MOMENTS TO LOOK BACK AT THOSE BIRTH PANGS...AND WITHOUT BECOMING OBSTETRICAL ABOUT IT...TO SEE HOW COPAY CAME TO BE.

IT WAS BACK IN 1969...A PERIOD OF FERMENT IN OUR COUNTRY, AND OF CHANGES IN OUR COMMUNITIES. YOUNG PEOPLE WERE DEEPLY TROUBLED BY A WAR THAT EVEN ADULTS HAD TROUBLE JUSTIFYING. THERE WERE NEW GENERATIONAL CONFLICTS.. UNCERTAINTY ABOUT THE FUTURE...CHANGES IN FAMILY LIFE...FOR SOME, LACK OF DIRECTION. AN UNFORTUNATE COMPONENT OF THE FERMENT THAT RESULTED WAS THE SPREAD OF TEENAGE DRUG ABUSE...AT FIRST IN THE CITIES, AND THEN TO AFFLUENT SUBURBIA.

IN GREAT NECK, SOME PEOPLE HAD RECOGNIZED THE PROBLEM, AND SMALL ATTEMPTS HERE AND THERE WERE MADE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT...BUT THERE WAS NO BROAD COMMUNITY-WIDE EFFORT. IN FACT, SOME PEOPLE WANTED TO PRETEND THAT THE PROBLEM DID NOT EXIST.

AT THE TIME, I WAS A TRUSTEE OF THIS TEMPLE, AND MY WIFE SANDRA AND I WERE VERY INVOLVED IN NUMBER OF COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES, BUT FORTUNATELY HAD NO CONTACT EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY WITH THE DRUG ABUSE PROBLEM. ONE DAY, I WAS APPROACHED BY CHANNA FRIEND, WHO WAS THEN CHAIRMAN OF THE NASSAU COUNTY DRUG ABUSE ~~COMMITTEE~~ <sup>COMMISSION</sup>, AND BY RABBI WIDOM. THEY TOLD ME THAT THERE WAS A NEED FOR AN ORGANIZATION TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE DRUG ABUSE PROBLEM IN GREAT NECK, AND, BECAUSE OF MY INVOLVEMENT IN OTHER COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES, IT WAS MY DUTY TO LEAD THIS IMPORTANT VENTURE. BECAUSE RABBI WIDOM AND CHANNA FRIEND CAN BE VERY PERSUASIVE.. VERY, VERY PERSUASIVE.. I AGREED. LITTLE DID I KNOW WHAT I WAS GETTING INTO.

RABBI WIDOM INDICATED HE WOULD WORK CLOSELY WITH ME IN THE FORMATIVE STAGES IN WHICH WE WOULD SEEK TO CREATE A TRULY COMMUNITY-WIDE ORGANIZATION. LITTLE DID HE KNOW WHAT HE WAS GETTING INTO.

THE MONTHS THAT FOLLOWED BECAME A CONSTANT FRENZY OF ACTIVITY, MEETINGS, PUBLICITY, ORGANIZING, PERSUASION, ARGUMENTS, POLITICKING, NEGOTIATIONS AND STRUCTURING...ALL DESIGNED TO CREATE AN ORGANIZATION THAT WAS BROAD-BASED, COULD OBTAIN COUNTY FUNDING AND WOULD HAVE ACCEPTANCE AND A POSITIVE CHANCE FOR SURVIVAL.

ABOVE ALL, WE WANTED TO CREATE A PROFESSIONALLY-RUN ORGANIZATION... AN ORGANIZATION THAT COULD GO BEYOND THE INDIVIDUALS WHO CREATED IT.

IT WAS NOT ALL FUN AND GAMES. ANYONE WHO IS A STUDENT OF THE FORMATION OF ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD TAKE NOTE-- WHEN A COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION IS FORMED TO MEET A PROBLEM..EVEN WITH THE MOST NOBLE OF MOTIVES..THERE WILL ALWAYS BE A FEW PEOPLE WHO WILL FIND IT THREATENING...SOME, <sup>IN THIS CASE,</sup> BECAUSE IT REMINDED THEM OF THE PROBLEM THEY DID NOT WANT TO HEAR ABOUT...SOME WHO WANTED TO POLITICALLY EXPLOIT THE PROBLEM...SOME LEADERS WHO TOOK OFFENSE BECAUSE THEY FELT THAT THE CREATION OF A NEW GROUP SOMEHOW IMPLIED THAT EXISTING ORGANIZATIONS OR INSTITUTIONS HAD FAILED TO MEET THE PROBLEM. FORTUNATELY, MOST PEOPLE UNDERSTOOD THE NEED, AND THE BALL WAS ROLLING.

As I look back at that year, I see a kaleidoscope of images--- I remember Rabbi Widom working on the phone till all hours to obtain the support of other clergy in the community who agreed to serve on our advisory board and encouraging several temple members to also serve on the initial board.. as I recruited other leaders from outside the temple to also serve.

I remember Sol Friend, who we had drafted as our free attorney, sitting with me as we seriously discussed the name for the organization. It was vital that the word and in "Community Organization <sup>FOR</sup> ~~AND~~ Parents and Youth" be stressed. If we didn't, COPAY might have been called COPY...NOT THE BEST NAME FOR A NEW ORGANIZATION.

I remember our wonderful advisory committee of physicians and social workers spending countless hours <sup>AS WE INTERVIEWED</sup> ~~INTERVIEWING~~ candidates for the post of professional director. County funding ~~WAS OBTAINED WITH THE~~ ~~HELP OF CHANNA FRIEND~~ could only be applied to the professional staff. I well remember the team of Widom and Waldman begging, pleading and cajoling people for rent money and contributions for other expenses to get us rolling with the first contribution coming from the Temple's own Social Action Committee.

I remember Channa ~~FRIEND~~ and I appearing before the Mayors of the nine villages to seek their support. I remember my wife Sandra calling everyone she knew through her years of involvement to form a brigade of volunteers who would answer the phones, who could be called upon for a variety of tasks, who could become the core of the future leadership of COPAY. I remember temple members bringing in paneling and providing free electrical work to make COPAY's first offices pleasant and attractive.

I remember too, when my wife and I took part in a symposium on drug abuse on Channel 13, being asked by a representative of another com

"DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT A COMMUNITY GROUP CAN DO ANYTHING ABOUT THE DRUG ABUSE PROBLEM?" I COULD ONLY ANSWER, "I DON'T KNOW..BUT ALL WE CAN DO IS TRY." AND WE DID TRY..AND SO HAVE MANY VOLUNTEERS AND BOARD MEMBERS AND WORKERS THROUGH THE 12 YEARS OF COPAY'S EXISTENCE.

THE MOST AMAZING THING OF ALL IS THAT COPAY HAS SURVIVED. I LIKE TO THINK IT IS BECAUSE OUR ORIGINAL CONCEPT WAS BASED ON FLEXIBILITY AND ON ADAPTING TO CHANGING NEEDS. WE KNEW THAT DRUG ABUSE WAS A SYMPTOM OF OTHER PROBLEMS, AND THAT THE STRUCTURE THAT WE CREATED HAD TO ENABLE THE ORGANIZATION TO GO BEYOND THE DRUG ABUSE PROBLEM INTO MANY AREAS INVOLVING ADOLESCENTS AND THEIR RELATIONS WITH THEIR PARENTS. I LIKE TO THINK THAT COPAY SURVIVED, IN PART, BECAUSE RABBI WIDOM, CHANNA AND THE MANY OTHERS OF US WHO WERE "PRESENT AT THE CREATION" BUILT A STRUCTURE THAT FORMED THE BASIS FOR ITS SURVIVAL LONG AFTER OUR OWN INVOLVEMENT. I LIKE TO THINK THIS, BUT I KNOW THAT THERE IS MUCH MORE.

COPAY HAS SURVIVED BECAUSE THERE IS STILL A NEED FOR ITS EXISTENCE, AND BECAUSE THERE HAS BEEN A STEADY PARADE OF UNSUNG, PUBLIC-SPIRITED AS WELL AS DEDICATED STAFF, CITIZENS/WHO HAVE GIVEN OF THEIR TIME AND ENERGY IN SERVICE TO COPAY.. AND THROUGH COPAY TO THE PEOPLE OF GREAT NECK.

AGAIN MY THANKS TO THE UNION FOR THE RECOGNITION IT HAS GIVEN TO THE TEMPLE AND TO COPAY.

AND NOW TO INTRODUCE MR. LANDSMAN, IT IS MY PLEASURE TO PRESENT ~~ONE OF THE FIRST OFFICERS OF COPAY, WHO LATER BECAME~~ ITS ~~PRESIDENT~~, AND WHO IS NOW CHAIRMAN OF THE TEMPLE'S SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE -- ARNOLD PRENSKY.



## THIRD ANNUAL DINNER DANCE

*Tuesday, June 2, 1998*

- 7:45 p.m. Introduction of Executive  
Director of COPAY by Suzette  
Gross, President of COPAY
- 7:50 p.m. Welcoming Remarks:  
Maria Cuadra, A-CSW-R, CASAC
- 8:00 p.m. Dinner
- 8:45 p.m. Bart, COPAY Youngster
- 8:50 p.m. Bruce, COPAY Client



## THIRD ANNUAL DINNER DANCE

*Tuesday, June 2, 1998*

- 9:00 p.m. Presentation of Honorees:
  - Donna & Bernie Kass  
by Suzette Gross
  - Lilo & Gerard Leeds  
by Maria Cuadra
  - Sandra & Martin Waldman  
by Rita Haberman
- 9:15 p.m. Keynote Address:  
Dr. Mathilde Krim
- Dessert, Coffee, Dancing