



MEMORY LANE # 53 (EDITED) **"STAINED GLASS WINDOWS" BY Jeff Rappoport**

Hymie Young was my friend, and a very special person, who was taken from us at a very young age. A thought for doing something in his memory kept passing through my mind.

I mentioned this to Rabbi Spiro and he suggested putting stained glass windows into the small Sanctuary. I felt this was a great idea and got Ron Silverstone and Stan Feldman involved.

We arranged a meeting with the artist who designed and installed the windows in the large Sanctuary and then got on the phone to our members. The response was unbelievable when people heard that it was in memory of Hymie Young, and money started pouring in. The project took on a life of its own. While we were raising money the artist was busy creating the artwork for the five windows that would tell the story of the history of the Jewish People. Within six months we had collected the funds needed not only for the windows, but enough for protective plexiglass panels on the outside, fresh paint for the small Sanctuary and still host a Kiddish after Rabbi Spiro blessed the windows.

Even though we had stopped canvassing at that time, money kept coming in for the next few weeks. At this time the artist made his final presentation to Rabbi Spiro and the committee. The drawings of the windows were spectacular and they were immediately accepted. The installation of the windows began shortly afterwards.

The Sunday morning of the dedication had finally arrived. It was a beautiful day and the sun was shining through the magnificent new stained glass windows. It was breathtaking and Hymie's friends and family were all there to share in this special happening.

Rabbi Spiro performed the blessing and we unveiled the wall plaque which read. "In memory of the Late Hyman Jacob Young from His Friends".

The story doesn't end there. After all the bills were paid, there remained \$1200.00 in the account of the project. I had been listening to the radio a few days later and heard the story of a young boy who passed away from cancer at the Children's Hospital and that his parents had created a special fund in his name. When the children were awaiting their treatments they had to sit on hard benches in the hallway. The hospital had agreed to give them a room providing that it would be equipped properly. Then it hit me! Wouldn't Hymie want us to equip that room with the remaining money from his fund! I mentioned it to Ron & Stan and they jumped at the idea, as did the hospital when I contacted them. We immediately withdrew the money and closed the account. The \$1200.00 was sent to the hospital for the room for the kids. A week later we got a call from the little boy's Father thanking us and letting us know that this was the largest single donation and it helped put them over the top. The room was furnished with games and toys, books and tables and chairs. He mentioned that they intended to erect a plaque on the wall honoring Hymie.

Those stained glass windows and Hymie had this in common. The windows were as beautiful as my friend Hymie's heart. He was a very special "mench".

(Yashor Koach to Fred Rudy for providing us all with these memorable historical moments, which some of us may still remember!)