

Continuation of the Ike Azose Story

THE SEPHARDIC BIKUR HOLIM BRANCH

By 1962, many members of Sephardic Bikur Holim had moved to the Seward Park area because of minor riots in the Central Area where the Sephardic Bikur Holim was located. S.B.H. had purchased land on the Southeast Corner of 52nd Avenue and Morgan Street. On the Morgan Street side of the property was an old ramshackle house, which many of us converted into a small branch synagogue by adding carpeting, fluorescent lights, a Tevah and Ehal Akodesh. We also borrowed folding chairs and conducted Minha and Arvit (afternoon and evening services) during the week, plus prayers on Sunday, Friday night and the Sabbath. Because of the experience Hazzan Azose had gained over the years, we were able to have prayers there, with a lot of help from some of the more knowledgeable members, particularly when it came to reading the Torah. We had prayers there in 1962 and 1963. Construction of the new synagogue began, and another house across the street, which was

available for rent, became our temporary quarters. For the High Holidays of 1964, the religious staff of S.B.H. came from the Central Area to Seward Park to conduct services, and, by 1965, construction was completed.