

The congregation grew quickly and needed a larger, more permanent space to worship. A small house and barn built the previous century was purchased in 1923. Congregation members took down the house and rebuilt the barn into a more suitable place of worship. Services began the following year and the congregation changed its name to Temple Beth-El. This change symbolized both the beginning of a more permanent congregation, as well as pride in their Town: Bethel, New York. As their tale goes deeper than the story of how a barn became temple. The story of the Sisterhood of Temple Beth-El is equally inspiring. They began in the 1940's as a small group of women who organized to provide economic support to their temple. Due to the Orthodox nature of the congregation, women and men were not allowed to sit together during worship. The women endured balcony seats during summer services and were subjected to poor ventilation and buzzing hornets for their faith. In the 1970's the congregation turned conservative, and the women were allowed to join the men on the main floor of the temple. They continued to host pancake breakfasts and barbeques to raise money for both their temple and community. They opened a second hand store to both assist the poor and their congregation.

From these humble beginnings in a barn behind a home, this congregation has grown and thrived. It has hosted more than ten rabbis, endured threats from the Ku Klux Klan, and yet persevered and remained true to the Hebrew meaning of its name, House of God.

I am especially moved by the fond memories members had not only of the services themselves, but the card parties and penny socials hosted by those involved with the temple. It is the tales of Bar Mitzvah's and weddings, births and deaths, which touch me the most. They show the extent to which the temple nourished both the spiritual and social needs of the community.

Praise is best expressed by my constituent Edward Brender in his poem, "The Barn That Became a House of Worship", which reads as follows:

The temple once a farmer's barn; part of America's rural farm  
Furnished with a century-old church's pews,  
yet filled with devout and dedicated Jews.

At Temple Beth-El, we like to stay with American uplifted heart's we pray.

For 75 years, the temple filled our spiritual needs, while rabbis planted righteous seeds.

The halls resounded with Chief Justice Lawrence H. Cook's praise, reminding us of Hebrew sacrifices during America's revolutionary phase.

During the time of our country's greatest need, recounting tables of Jewish patriots' deeds.

High on a majestic verdant hill stands stately Temple Beth-El; For 75 years a beacon of freedom's faith, spreading boundless love and tales to tell.

I believe that Congregation Temple Beth-El serves as an example to all Americans in our nation hoping for the simple joys of faith and family.

Mr. Speaker, I invite our colleagues to join with me in applauding this congregation for its dedication to both its faith and its community as a whole and extending our best wishes on the occasion of their 75th anniversary and

may Temple Beth-El, enjoy many more years of growth and community service.

## PUBLIC EDUCATION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

### HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 9, 1998*

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, today President Clinton visited my home state of Florida to promote the Administration's education initiatives as education policy moves into the 21st Century. While we have made significant progress in recent years, there is a lot of work yet to be done. I rise today to wholeheartedly support the strengthening of public education through these initiatives. In order to meet the high education standards that we are setting for our children today, we need to provide public schools with the tools for preparing our children for the challenges of the next millennium.

Class sizes must be reduced, new teachers must be hired, and new schools must be built. Schools must also be made safer and, therefore, more conducive to learning. I believe that the expansion of charter school programs is a positive trend which will benefit children throughout the United States. Lastly, federal tax credits will be a crucial to support the renovation and modernization of our schools, many of which have become plagued by structural and age-related problems.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Administration's program for public education. In so doing, Congress will fulfill its commitment to America's future.

## TRIBUTE TO CADMAN TOWERS AT 101 CLARK STREET IN BROOKLYN HEIGHTS BROOKLYN ON THEIR 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

### HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 9, 1998*

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to the residents of Cadman Towers at 101 Clark Street in Brooklyn Heights, Brooklyn on their 25th Anniversary Celebration of the founding of the Towers.

For twenty-five years, families have grown and prospered in this supportive and unique community in Brooklyn Heights. Cadman Towers is the eastern border of Brooklyn's historic Brooklyn Heights neighborhood and its residents have added diversity and vitality to this already thriving area.

I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Cadman Towers and its three hundred residents on this milestone and wish you many happy anniversaries to come!

## PUNJAB GOVERNMENT TRIES TO SHUT DOWN PEOPLE'S COMMISSION FOR EXPOSING GENOCIDE

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 9, 1998*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I was disturbed to learn recently that the Chief Minister of Punjab, Parkash Singh Badal, and many political leaders there are trying to outlaw the Punjab People's Commission, which is exposing the genocide against the Sikhs by the police and security forces.

The Punjab government tried to prevent the commission's first meeting by canceling the meeting space that the commission had reserved. However, one of the local Gurdwaras in Chandigarh offered its meeting space and the meeting was held anyway.

During that meeting the People's Commission issued citations in more than 90 cases against police officers who have committed atrocities against the Sikhs of Punjab, Khalistan. It took up more than 3,000 other cases. This shows the pattern of repression, terror, and genocide against the Sikhs in Punjab, Khalistan. That is why the Badal government and the political leaders there want the commission closed down.

We cannot sit idly by while this vital commission is destroyed. It is the only group within Punjab, Khalistan that is exposing the genocide. The Council of Khalistan has issued an excellent Open Letter on this issue. I urge my colleagues, especially those who are always lecturing us about how wonderful Indian democracy is, to read it carefully.

In light of the facts presented in this letter, I call on my colleagues to maintain sanctions against India and to support an internationally-supervised plebiscite in Punjab, Khalistan so that the Sikhs of that troubled state can vote on whether they should chart their own course separately from Indian tyranny.

I would like to insert that Open Letter into the RECORD.

OPEN LETTER TO THE SIKH NATION  
(From Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh)

SUPPORT THE PEOPLE'S COMMISSION—ATTACKS ON COMMISSION BY BJP, CONGRESS, AND CPI SHOW WHO IS BEHIND SIKH GENOCIDE AND DEEPEN THE SIKH NATION'S WOUNDS

To the Khalsa Panth:

The BJP, Congress, and CPI have finally exposed themselves. They have revealed their own involvement in the genocide against the Sikh Nation. They don't want the truth to come out because it will show their immoral deeds. That is why they want to shut down the Peoples' Commission. Even the Badal government seems to agree. It made every effort to prevent the commission's first meeting from occurring. It is no wonder. The commission issued 90 citations against police officers and received 3,000 more cases. Evidently it is making the political leaders of all stripes nervous. They are now shivering with fear that their part in supporting the genocide against the Sikh Nation will be exposed.

Do not let these corrupt leaders succeed in their effort to shut down the Peoples' Commission. The work that it is doing is too important to the Sikh Nation and all of humanity. The Armenians will not let the genocide against them 80 years ago be forgotten; the Jews will not let the world forget the Holocaust 50 years after it happened. How can the

genocide against the Sikh Nation, which occurred during the last 15 years, be forgotten, even by so many Sikh leaders? On March 20, the BJP promised a "transparent" government. That is not what they have delivered. As Ram Narayan Kumar of the Coordination Committee on Disappearance in Punjab asked, "How can the Government ignore the necessity to determine the facts?" The truth will come out; the government's effort to suppress it is futile.

When Badal was running the Punjab state election, he promised to appoint a commission of inquiry into the genocide. He has broken that promise. Not only has he not appointed the commission, he has boasted that his government has taken no action against the police officials who were responsible for the genocide. He has sat idly by while plainclothes police continue to patrol the Golden Temple and thousands of Sikh youth are still sitting in jail. It is no surprise that such a corrupt leader would oppose the Peoples' Commission.

The human-rights community in Punjab, Khalistan tried to give Badal time. They wrote him a letter asking him to keep his promise. When he did not, the Coordination Committee on Disappearance in Punjab, comprised of all the human-rights groups and the World Sikh Council, appointed the People's Commission.

The effort to shut down the Peoples' Commission show that there is no place for Sikhs in Indian democracy. As U.S. Congressman Edolphus Towns (D-N.Y.) has said, "The

mere fact that Sikhs can choose their oppressors does not mean that they live in a democracy." Whether the government is run by Congress or by the BJP, Sikhs and other minorities continue to be abducted, tortured, raped, and murdered. How can our Sikh leaders turn a blind eye to the genocide.

We recite every day the words "Raj Kare Ga Khalsa," the Khalsa shall rule. Yet our Sikh leaders join Hindustan in its effort to stop the exposure of the genocide. Yet the Sikh Nation can never forget the genocide that Hindustan has inflicted upon us. It is time for the Sikh Nation to reclaim its freedom.

It is only when Khalistan is free will the Sikh Nation be free of India's genocide and tyranny. The effort to suppress the People's Commission shows that it is time to begin a *Shantmai Morcha* to liberate Khalistan by peaceful, democratic, nonviolent means.

India is destined to break up; their genocide and tyranny will not keep their corrupt, tyrannical empire together. The Sikh leaders who collaborate with their effort to escape the consequences of their actions will be remembered by the Sikh Nation as traitors to the Panth.

The Sikh Nation is disgusted by the continual betrayals of the Khalsa Panth by Indian *chinchas* Badal, Tohra, and their allies. In 1984 Tohra and Badal told us that anyone who attacked the Golden Temple would have to walk over their dead bodies. Yet we saw Tohra with his hands in the air surrendering to the Indian troops. We know whose side

these people are on. Even Tohra is now supporting the People's Commission. I hope he realized that the Guru will not forgive him for his betrayal of the Khalsa Panth.

South Africa's Truth Commission exposed the evils of apartheid to the world. We must support the People's Commission to expose the genocide against the Sikh Nation.

The work of the People's Commission must continue so that those who have collaborated with the genocide can be brought to justice. It must continue so that India's genocide against the Sikhs can come to light. It must continue so that our Sikh brothers and sisters can finally live in freedom. The Sikh leaders and grassroots Sikhs must speak and work in support of the commission and its efforts.

The leadership must speak out forthrightly for a free Khalistan. It must commit itself to achieving this most important goal through peaceful resistance to India's brutal tyranny and by means of an internationally-supervised plebiscite so that our future can be determined democratically. That is the only way that the dignity of the Sikh Nation will be restored.

Only in a free Khalistan will the Sikh Nation finally live in peace, freedom, prosperity and dignity. Only when Khalistan is free will the rights of all people be ensured.

In Service to the Panth,  
DR. GURMIT SINGH AULAKH,  
*President, Council of Khalistan.*

## SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, September 10, 1998, may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

## MEETINGS SCHEDULED

## SEPTEMBER 14

1:00 p.m.

## Special on Aging

To hold hearings to examine criminal background checks for nursing home employees.

SD-628

## SEPTEMBER 15

9:30 a.m.

## Small Business

Business meeting, to consider pending calendar business.

SR-428A

10:00 a.m.

## Armed Services

To hold hearings on the nominations of Bernard D. Rostker, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of the Army, James M. Bodner, of Virginia, to be Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, and Vice Adm. Dennis C. Blair, USN, for appointment to the grade of Admiral, and to be Commander-in-Chief of United States Pacific Command.

SR-222

## Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings on the nominations of Robert Clarke Brown, of Ohio, John Paul Hammerschmidt, of Arkansas, and Norman Y. Mineta, of California, each to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, Eugene A. Conti, Jr., of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary of Transportation for Transportation Policy, and Peter J. Basso, Jr., of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary of Transportation for Budget and Programs.

SR-253

## Foreign Relations

To hold hearings on certain extradition and mutual legal assistance treaties.

SD-419

## Judiciary

Antitrust, Business Rights, and Competition Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine consolidation issues within the telecommunications industry.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

## Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings on S. 2390, to permit ships built in foreign countries to engage in coastwise in the transport of certain products.

SR-253

## SEPTEMBER 16

9:00 a.m.

## Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings on S. 1576, to permit the exclusive application of California State regulations regarding reformulated gasoline in certain areas within the State, focusing on the use of methyl tertiary-butyl ether in gasoline.

SD-406

9:30 a.m.

## Foreign Relations

Western Hemisphere, Peace Corps, Narcotics and Terrorism Subcommittee

To hold joint hearings with the United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control to examine anti-drug interdiction efforts.

SH-216

## Governmental Affairs

Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

To hold hearings to examine the National Cancer Institute's management of radiation studies.

SD-342

United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control

To hold joint hearings with the Committee on Foreign Relations' Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Peace Corps, Narcotics and Terrorism to examine anti-drug interdiction efforts.

SH-216

10:00 a.m.

## Indian Affairs

Business meeting, to consider pending calendar business; to be followed by a hearing on the nomination of Montie R. Deer, of Kansas, to be Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission, Department of the Interior.

SR-485

2:00 p.m.

## Judiciary

## Immigration Subcommittee

To hold oversight hearings on the implementation of the Immigration and Naturalization Service and proposed reform issues.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

## Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the extent of fatigue of transportation operators in the trucking and rail industries.

SR-253

## Select on Intelligence

To hold closed hearings on intelligence matters.

SH-219

## SEPTEMBER 17

9:30 a.m.

## Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the Department of Commerce involvement in the transfer of satellite technology to China.

SR-253

## Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings on the nominations of Gregory H. Friedman, of Colorado, to be Inspector General, Department of Energy, Charles G. Groat, of Texas, to be Director of the United States Geo-

logical Survey, Department of the Interior, and other pending nominations.

SD-366

10:00 a.m.

## Judiciary

Business meeting, to consider pending calendar business.

SD-226

2:00 p.m.

## Energy and Natural Resources

National Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation Subcommittee

To hold hearings on miscellaneous bills, including S. 1175, S. 1641, S. 1960, S. 2086, S. 2133, S. 2239, S. 2240, S. 2241, S. 2246, S. 2247, S. 2248, S. 2285, S. 2297, S. 2309, S. 2401, and H.R. 2411.

SD-366

## SEPTEMBER 22

9:30 a.m.

## Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings on the nominations of Sylvia De Leon, of Texas, Linwood Holton, of Virginia, and Amy M. Rosen, of New Jersey, each to be a Member of the Reform Board (AMTRAK).

SR-253

10:00 a.m.

## Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings  
To examine the quality of care in the VA health care system.

SR-418

## SEPTEMBER 23

9:00 a.m.

## Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine public and private forestry issues.

SR-328A

## Indian Affairs

Business meeting, to consider pending calendar business; to be followed by a hearing on H.R. 1833, to amend the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to provide for further self-governance by Indian tribes.

SD-562

9:30 a.m.

## Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Business meeting, to consider pending calendar business.

SR-253

## Energy and Natural Resources

Business meeting, to consider pending calendar business.

SD-366

## SEPTEMBER 24

9:30 a.m.

## Governmental Affairs

Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

To resume hearings to examine the safety of food imports, focusing on legislative, administrative and regulatory remedies.

SD-342

10:00 a.m.

## Energy and Natural Resources

To hold oversight hearings to examine recent Midwest electricity price spikes.

SD-366

2:00 p.m.

## Energy and Natural Resources

National Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation Subcommittee

To hold hearings on S. 1372, to provide for the protection of farmland at the Point Reyes National Seashore in California.

SD-366

SEPTEMBER 25

9:30 a.m.

Governmental Affairs

Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

To continue hearings to examine the safety of food imports, focusing on legislative, administrative and regulatory remedies.

SD-342

SEPTEMBER 30

9:00 a.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold hearings on H.R. 1805, to amend the Auburn Indian Resoration act to establish restrictions related to gaming on and use of land held in trust for the United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria of California, and S. 2010, to provide for business de-

velopment and trade promotion for Native Americans.

SR-485

OCTOBER 6

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs on the legislative recommendations of the American Legion.

345 Cannon Building