

Suzanne Connell at the Bat

Rabbi David J.Small Emanuel Synagogue June 6, 2010

The outlook wasn't brilliant for Emanuel that day  
The Kiddush was not sponsored yet; the caterer was away  
A funeral was pending and the *kever* was not dug  
The Sanctuary lights were out, a stain defaced the rug

And Lollipop was on the line: the rooms needed a tweak  
The wax was off the corridor and the roof had sprung a leak  
The Hebrew High school graduates had lost their caps and gowns  
The payroll had gone haywire and the copier was down

Tomorrow morn the multitudes would come expecting lunch  
But only last week's kichel were in the pantry for to munch  
The phones were ringing off the hook; the bulletin was lost  
The post office might find it but they said that it would cost

So upon the stricken synagogue grim melancholy sat large  
They held out some slim hope, knowing that Suzanne Connell was in charge  
Without hesitation Suzanne went into motion  
employing practicality experience and devotion

The intercom was buzzing and the phonedlines they were humming  
Her ballpoint pen was moving and her fingertips were drumming  
Carolyn and Debbie bustled around the place  
JoAnn was there to lend a hand and help us win the race

Then Mercer sent Jack and Joseph to straighten out the rooms  
And Harry Plaut's guys arrived to open up the tomb  
Suzanne called Bob and Edna, the Crown would soon provide  
Jeff went to find the bulletin: the panic could subside

The payroll checks were re-cut  
The roofers came with tar  
Suzanne set off for BJ's in her Toyota car  
Art Fishman came to fix the rug  
The caps and gowns were found  
And in the halls of Emanuel hosannas did resound

Do not suppose that crises took up all of Suzanne's time  
She also worked in precincts that were far more sublime  
On the *chevreh kadishah*, the ultimate in *chesed*  
In minyan, helping others with her kindness we've been blessed

Reminding us that Emanuel is one big family  
Working the phones to stay in touch; this was really key  
Helping every group come in from the community  
To hold events, both large and small in our facility

Oh all across our synagogue the smiles are shining bright  
The Junior choir is singing and all our hearts are light  
Men and women are laughing and happy dogs they bark  
There is great joy in Emanuel: Suzanne knocked it out of the park!

Thank you, Suzanne for all you've done; you gave your heart and soul  
For lo these many years you worked to move us toward our goals  
And in retirement you and Myles may travel and may roam  
But please know that Emanuel will always be your home!