



HISTORIC B'NAI JACOB SYNAGOGUE

Nissley at Water Streets
PO Box 118
Middletown, Pennsylvania 17057

on the National Register of Historic Places (built in 1906)

SUMMER 2024 NEWSLETTER

Services Calendar

Erev Rosh Hashana (5785)

Wed. Oct. 2 - 7:00 PM

Rosh Hashana

Thu. Oct. 3 - 9:00 AM

Kol Nidre

Fri. Oct. 11 - 7:00 PM

Yom Kippur

Sat. Oct. 12 - 9:00 AM

Yizkor - 11:00 AM

Mincha - 5:00 PM

Ne'eila - 6:00 PM

followed by Break the Fast

Shabbos Service Honoring Veterans

Fri. Nov. 8 - 7:30 PM

Shabbos Service

Fri. Dec. 13 - 7:30 PM

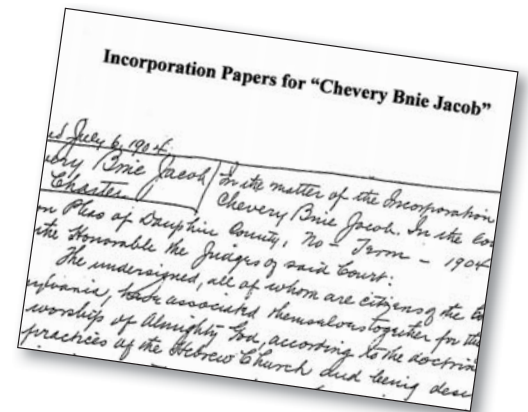
Hanukkah Party & Board Meeting

Sun. Dec. 29 - NOON

Historic B'nai Jacob Celebrates 120th Anniversary

After the Friday night service led by Marc Bluestein on July 12, 2024, our Shul celebrated the 120th Anniversary of the incorporation of our Congregation on July 6, 1904 with the presentation of a Documentary video that included interviews with several current members of the Congregation and other who have been a part of our Shul's life and history, as well as interviews from our 100th Anniversary Video (produced in 2004) for Jake Zuck, z'l, Ida Betty Prouser Orstein, z'l, and Ambrose Klain, z'l. The video was produced by Larry Kapenstein and Bruce Baron and taped and edited by Jesse Edward Goranson. The premiere showing of the video was attended by forty (40) guests in the Shul's Singer Family Social Hall and was followed by an Oneg. The event received news

coverage in the *Community Review*. The video will remain a remembrance of this historic event and is available for viewing on our Shul's YouTube Channel at: <https://youtu.be/ZrRKvk4hhXQ>.



New Jewish Learning & Discussion Group Programs

Adult Jewish education nurtures and deepens the Jewish community worldwide. These programs help us find Jewish texts and current events accessible and relevant to our lives and to become part of movement of committed learners empowered to enrich Jewish life.

Starting in December 2023, Historic B'nai Jacob Synagogue offered an initial 4-part group discussion series. Once a month, an hour before the Friday Service, we explored a current event, a value, or a concept that related to Jewish life. The group discussion, offered in-person and on Zoom, was led by members of our synagogue: Dr. Joseph Abraham (Israel at War through Jewish Lens), Dr. Ilana De Laney (Tu B'Shevat - Judaism & the Environment), Dr. Paul Gottfried (The Origins of Jewish Monotheism) and Patsy Mock (Leadership). These programs, attended by members of our Congregation and others from the community were very successful and well-attended and inspired us to continue.

The next learning series is planned for December 2024 through August 2025 with topics such as the "Israeli Palestinian Conflict, Terminology, Origin & Development", "How to Keep Kosher in Harrisburg", "Why I am Glad I Visited Israel", "How to Keep Shabbat in the Modern Age", "Jewish Views on Organ Donation", "American Jewish Leadership in response to Israel-Post Oct 7th", and "Combatting anti-Semitism in Harrisburg." Each of these programs will be available for participation on Zoom and in-person. For more information, contact Dr. Ilana De Laney at ililid@aol.com and check on our Shul's Website Calendar at www.bnai-jacob.org. Scheduled topics, time and Zoom links will be provided after pre-registration by email and in response to inquiries through our Shul's website contact form.

Please join us for these programs. There is no charge or registration fee to attend and program materials are provided for each session.

—Dr. Ilana De Laney

Additional Projects Funded By Grants

In addition to the grant from the Lipsett Foundation for the production of the 120th Anniversary Video, the Shul received a grant from The Foundation for Enhancing Communities Lorena Feidt Lemons Fund for several enhanced security improvements recommended in the Secure Community Network's Security Assessment Report prepared by Timothy Brooks, Regional Security Advisor. The security improvements, which will be installed prior to October 2024, include: an exterior floor light above the front door; security bars on the stained glass windows; a back door viewer and locking system and door kick security plate and door push plates for the doors to the Sanctuary.

Our Shul also receives a Weekly Incident Report from Mr. Brooks and the Secure Community Network with alerts on security issues. Our Board Member Patsy Mock also attended The House of Worship Safety and Security Symposium held by the Pennsylvania Office of Homeland Security on August 8, 2024 in Harrisburg and obtained security guidance documents and contact information to assist our Shul with security issues. Our Shul also works through the Middletown Area Interfaith Council on local issues.

More On Bequests, Endowments & Middletown Lore

Our Shul receives an annual distribution each year from the Harry K. Alwine Residuary Trust, which benefits all of the houses of worship in Middletown and others. Our Shul also receives income distributions, when available, from the Zack's Family Fund with the Jewish Community Federation of Central Pennsylvania. These are in addition to the grants previously noted in the Newsletter that require applications for awards. Our Shul has an Endowment Fund with the Federation (Fund # 342E). Information on the Endowment Fund (including forms for current or planning future contributions) is available on our Shul's Website and by contacting the Foundation by phone or email at: (717) 409-8220 or info@pajewishendowment.org.

We are also checking with the George Frey Trust in Middletown on whether any further "rent" payments are due to the Trust for the land on which our Shul sits, since we have not been receiving any bills for a while. The George Frey Trust for the benefit of the Emaus Orphans Home, established after his death in 1806, originally leased 1,400 acres owned by George Frey (born Johannes Eberhardt in Germany in 1732). Our Shul's deed, as recorded on December 6, 1905, states that it is "subject to the payment of annual ground rent of three and one-third dollars" to the Trust and to restrictions and stipulations of the Trust. While the orphanage is no longer operating, the Trust income from the "rents" is still used for local charities, including the Middletown Food Pantry and local Girl/Boy Scouts. The Borough of Middletown has dedicated a grave site for a memorial to George Frey and his wife, but to date their remains have not been found to relocate to the memorial.

New Mailing Address

Our Shul has a new Mailing Address: P.O. Box 118, Middletown, PA 17057. This is a P.O. Box at the nearby Middletown Post Office in the shopping center across from the Shul. The new address will appear on our Shul's stationary and the Newsletter. Donations, packages and correspondence can be mailed to the Shul at our new mailing address as well as through the Shul's Website at: www.bnai-jacob.org.

2024 Orstein/B'nai Jacob Scholarship Winner

Barakat Oloyede, this year's winner, moved to the U.S.A. when she was in 7th grade. While attending Middletown Area High School, she was consistently on the Honor Roll and a model student. She will be attending the University of Pittsburgh studying to become a lawyer. This year, our Shul installed a plaque with the names of all of the Scholarship Winners.



In Memory

Sandra "Sandy" Clar Rabin, Doctor of Audiology, z'l, was the wife of former Spiritual Leader and President of the synagogue, Jack Rabin. Jack and Sandy were instrumental in the resurgence of the Shul in the late 90's and early 2000's. They brought in several new members and were very involved in the day-to-day activities of our synagogue.

Sanford "Sandy" Cohen, z'l was the grandson of Israel Cohen whose name is engraved in stone on the façade of our synagogue. When the façade and steps were rebuilt, Sandy came and spoke at the re-dedication. Sandy has also been very generous in his support of our financial needs over the years. Sandy was interviewed for the 120th anniversary video. Unfortunately, he passed before he could see the final version.

Both will be missed greatly by our Congregation.

—Larry Kapenstein

Historic B'nai Jacob Synagogue is located in Middletown, PA near the Harrisburg International Airport. If you have news you want to share or would like to be added to our mailing list, please send that information through the email link at bnai-jacob.org.

2024 Executive Committee Officers

President—Bruce Baron

Vice President—Larry Kapenstein

Treasurer—Larry Kapenstein

Assistant Treasurer—Iлана DeLaney

Secretary—Bruce Baron