

HISTORIC B'NAI JACOB SYNAGOGUE



Nissley at Water Streets

Middletown, Pennsylvania 17057

SUMMER 2015 NEWSLETTER

Services

Calendar

Shabbat Service:

Fri. Sept. 4 - 7:30 p.m.

Erev Rosh Hashana (5776):

Sun. Sept. 13 - 7:00 p.m.

Rosh Hashana:

Mon. Sept. 14 - 9:15 a.m.

Erev Yom Kippur

Kol Nidre:

Tues. Sept. 22 - 7:00 p.m.

Yom Kippur

Wed. Sept. 23 - 9:15 a.m.

Yizkor Service - 11:00 a.m.

Mincha - 5:00 p.m.

Ne'eila - 6:00 p.m.

Break-the-Fast - after sundown

Shabbat Service for

Sukkot:

Fri. Oct. 2 - 7:30 p.m.

Shabbat Service for

Veterans:

Fri. Nov. 6 - 7:30 p.m.

Shabbat Service:

Fri. Dec. 4 - 7:30 p.m.

Hanukah Party:

Sun. Dec. 13 - 12:00 p.m.

STEPPING UP FOR OUR SECOND CENTURY

Our Shul, the oldest synagogue in continuous use in Dauphin County, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and was built by hand in 1906 by its founding members, who were immigrants from Pusolatas, Lithuania. To sustain the Shul for our second century, the Congregation has put on a new roof, updated the heating, cooling, plumbing and drainage systems and some of the windows. In June 2015, the Congregation began a historic renovation of the front steps and brick covering façade in cooperation with Historic Restorations of Lancaster, PA. The project should be completed before our High Holy Days Services in September. Many of the replaced original Royaltan bricks will be presented to donors for the project.



The Steps Restoration project is being financed by a line of credit loan. A granddaughter of one of our founding members, along with her family and friends, developed new fundraising outreach for the project: the B'nai Jacob Mitzvah Campaign on "GoFundMe.com" and a "Step up to Knishes" luncheon at the JCC on Sunday, September 27 featuring Laura Silver, author of *The Knish: In Search of the Jewish Soul Food*. An anonymous donor established a \$5,000 challenge fund to match total donations up to that amount made from July 20 through August 31, 2015. Donation checks can be mailed directly to the Shul c/o 121 Shirley Drive, Middletown, PA 17057-3345 or made online at www.bnai-jacob.org or the new site at GoFundMe.com/wrss4vw. (continued on next page.)

THIS YEAR'S ORSTEIN SCHOLARSHIP WINNER, Madison Lewis, was presented with the award by our Shul's Treasurer. Madison is a cancer survivor, diagnosed in 8th grade, who underwent treatment and began high school first in a cyberschool and then at Middletown in the 2nd half of 9th grade. She maintained exemplary attendance and grades from that point on. In the fall she will be attending York College in their nursing program.



AND THERE IS ANOTHER AWARD WINNER THIS YEAR TOO!

Our Shul's nominee received a grant from the Women of Vision Philanthropic Fund at the Jewish Community Foundation. The Fund is an endowment and Tzedakah collective for women to bring about change for area women by making grants that respond to the social welfare and other needs of women and children, while also empowering women as philanthropists and decision makers. The Fund keeps winners anonymous.

STEPPING UP

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At the beginning of each Friday night service at our Shul, we chant **Ma Tov** and recall our love for the synagogue as a place to give thanks to the Lord. In *Ruth 2.12*, we find the blessing: "*May the Lord reward your deeds.*" The deeds and love of the Shul displayed in our Congregation's efforts to sustain the Shul for our second century and in the broad based response we have received have been heartwarming and merit some chronicling here, as we continue our efforts to fund our historic restoration projects. Our Shul's President and Shamus have organized and monitored the restoration projects, including photo updates of the work.

While our entire Congregation is supporting the project, our fundraising has been enhanced by articles in *Kol Harrisburg*, the on-line blog of Dr. Ed Beck, and by the social media outreach organized by Roxanne Toser, whose grandfather helped build the Shul in 1906. Roxanne, her son Harris, and their friends scripted and made the video for the Bnai Jacob Mitzvah Campaign. They also put the Shul on Facebook (Historic BnaiJacob) and Twitter @BnaiJacobShul. The Campaign has gotten a national response, including from family members of the Shul's Founders and that \$5,000 challenge grant.

Roxanne's chance meeting with Laura Silver during a trip to New York grew into "the Knish Event" fundraiser on September 27 at 1 pm at the JCC. Roxanne and our (continued next column)

Shul's officers got sponsors for the luncheon, support from Wegman's and the JCC, and donation items for a raffle and door prizes, as well as a free room for Laura Silver from the Harrisburg Hilton. More on the event and tickets can be found online at: <http://step-up-to-knishes.eventbrite.com>. **Love and deeds are helping us STEP UP for the future. AMEN!**

THE ELEPHANT IN THE CABINET IS A THANK YOU GIFT

At our March Annual Meeting, the Shul received a miniature colored bead elephant as a thank-you gift from **Roy Yacobovich**, a student from Zimbabwe at nearby Penn State-Harrisburg, who attended services at our Shul and will be transferring to a new program this Fall.

L'CHAIM ON THEIR 59TH

Best wishes and thanks to Marlin and Roxanne Toser for celebrating their 59th Wedding Anniversary with a wonderful *oneg* at the Shul after our August 7, 2015 service.

Historic B'Nai Jacob Synagogue is located in Middletown, Pennsylvania, near the Harrisburg International Airport. There are no dues or admission fees. If you have community news that you would like to share in the next Shul Newsletter or would like to be added to our mailing list, PLEASE e-mail that information on the Website e-mail link at: <http://www.bnai-jacob.org>, which also includes our schedule of services.

2015 Executive Committee Officers:

President - Kevin Snell
Vice President - Marlene Snell
Treasurer/Shamus - Larry Kapenstein
Assistant Treasurer - Loren Barisch
Secretary - Bruce Baron