

HISTORIC B'NAI JACOB SYNAGOGUE



Nissley at Water Streets

Middletown, Pennsylvania 17057

AUGUST 2008

Services

Calendar

Shabbos Service

Fri. Aug. 22, 2008 -

7:30 p.m.

Selichos:

Sat. Sept. 20, 2008 - 7:30 p.m.

Erev Rosh Hashana:

Mon. Sept. 29, 2008 -

7:30 p.m.

Rosh Hashanah:

Tues. Sept. 30, 2008 -

9:00 a.m.

Rosh Hashanah:

Tues. Sept. 30, 2008 -

6:30 p.m. (Special Service at
Cumberland Crossing
Retirement Community)

2nd Day Rosh Hashanah:

Wed. Oct. 1, 2008 - 9:00 a.m.

Yom Kippur/Kol Nidre:

Wed. Oct. 8, 2008 - 6:30 p.m.

Yom Kippur/Yizkor:

Thurs. Oct. 9, 2008 -

9:00 a.m./11:00 a.m.

Ne'ela Service/Shofar/

Break-the-Fast:

Thurs. Oct. 9, 2008 - 5:15 p.m.

Shabbos and Simchas

Torah Service:

Fri. Oct. 24, 2008 - 7:30 p.m.

Services are posted on the
Shul Website ---

www.bnai-jacob.org/calendar

THE CORNERSTONE OF MEMORIES PRESERVED IN OUR GARDEN

“Many synagogues, like Tiphereth Israel in Steelton, are only a memory – not even the building remains; while others, such as B’nai Jacob in Middletown, are maintained from a sense of family loyalty by the children of former congregants, who now live in Harrisburg.”*

The memories of “Congregation Tiphereth [“Splendor of”] Israel” (the Shul’s own spelling) are honored in the garden around Historic B’nai Jacob Synagogue where the cornerstone from the Steelton Shul is preserved as a result of the loyalty of the Yablon family (Alys Rho, Daya Aryn, Cheryl Yita, and Leonard Yablon), Steelton residents, who preserved and arranged for the



relocation of this historic cornerstone after the old building was demolished. Both synagogues, Tiphereth Israel and B’nai Jacob, were constructed in 1906. The Tiphereth Israel congregation met for several years before moving into the new Shul at the home of their spiritual leader, Rabbi M. Schless, at Locust and Pine Streets in Steelton. The Shul was located at 9 North Second Street, in Steelton (near the old post office) and was also known as Tiphereth Israel Orthodox Synagogue. The majority of its members were from Russia and other Slavic areas. The construction cost of the Shul was about \$8,000. The

congregation received their first torah scroll as a gift from members of Keshet Israel in Harrisburg. Tiphereth Israel was de-activated in the mid-1950’s, but the building continued to be used as a local public library until it was demolished in the mid-1970’s. The torah scrolls were donated to area synagogues.

There was a “Tiphereth Israel Congregation” in Pittsburgh and the Tiphereth Israel Cemetery is still located there on Hobart Street. A “Tiphereth Israel Synagogue” is located in Warren, Pennsylvania and a Congregation Tiphereth Israel in Kansas City, Missouri (formerly called Tiphereth Israel Hebrew Church). There is a Tiphereth Israel Synagogue in Bombay, India and one in Phoenix, Arizona. There are several “Tiphereth Israel” communities, including those in Bensalem, Pennsylvania; Washington, DC; San Diego, California; Des Moines, Iowa; Columbus, Ohio; and New Bedford and Malden, Massachusetts. The lot in Steelton remains vacant and undeveloped. Pictures of the Steelton Shul can be found in books about the history of Steelton and at the Penn State (Harrisburg Campus) Special Collections Archives.

*From: Bruce Bazelon, *Jews in Pennsylvania*, p. 6:

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission Website at: <http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/ppet/jews/>

**IN MEMORIAM:
ARTHUR AND ANNETTE K.
BERMAN**

Arthur Berman (z'l) passed away on August 15, 2007 at the age of 92, and his wife of 62 years Annette K. Berman (z'l) passed away on March 31, 2008 at the age of 83. The Berman Family includes original Founders of our Shul. Arthur's father, Maurice Berman (z'l), was our Shul's first Secretary-Treasurer, who along with Arthur's uncle, Max Krauss (z'l), was among the Founders who built the Shul; and, as Arthur Berman himself recounts on the History Page of our Shul Website, his grandmother, Leah Krauss (z'l), donated our Shul's first Torah (which is now more than 200 years old).

Arthur and Annette Berman met in Paris during World War II. Arthur was a soldier-lawyer in the U.S. Army Air Corps and Annette was a Holocaust survivor and a heroine of the French Resistance. They returned to Middletown to be married after the end of the War. Arthur Berman became one of Pennsylvania's most distinguished lawyers and Annette Berman one of its most treasured teachers. Annette Berman taught French at the Katherine Sweeney Day School and later at the Harrisburg Academy for more than a quarter century; led the Holocaust Education Committee for the Jewish Federation; and was a frequent speaker on her Holocaust experiences at schools, universities, and civic organizations.

Arthur Berman continued his family's association with and support for our Shul throughout his life, including working to get the Shul protected as a National Register Historic Site. Arthur and Annette Berman are survived by their son, Mark R. Berman, and his wife Pamela; their daughter, S. Teri Berman and her husband, Keith Welks; and by their 6 grandchildren. Arthur Berman requested that, when he died, memorial contributions be made to the Shul; and, the Shul received generous donations in his honor. In gratitude for the devotion and service of Arthur and Annette Berman to the Shul, our congregation has placed memorial plaques in their honor in the Shul.

**WE ALSO HONOR THE
MEMORY OF:**

Dr. Gary A. Chase (z'l)
Shirley Hess (z'l)

**IN MEMORIAM:
RABBI DAVID Z. BEN-AMI**

Rabbi Ben-Ami (z'l) passed away on August 5, 2008 at the age of 83. Rabbi Ben-Ami was the founder of The American Forum for Jewish-Christian Cooperation and often called "The People's Rabbi." Rabbi Ben-Ami participated in services at our Shul and his wonderful presence will be missed. He is survived by his wife, Evelyn Ben-Ami; his son, Raphael Z. Ben-Ami and his wife Cheryl; his daughter, Aviva M. Bellan; and his grandchildren.

**IN MEMORIAM:
DR. HAROLD A. FLOM**

Dr. Flom (z'l) passed away on October 27, 2007 at the age of 88. Dr. Flom and his family are a permanent part of the history of our Shul. Dr. Flom was a major participant and contributor for our 100th Anniversary Book and Videotape, which include his discussion of his family's long support for the Shul. Dr. Flom was a podiatrist and a veteran of World War II. He is survived by his daughter, JoAnne Finestone. In gratitude for Dr. Flom's devotion and service to the Shul, our congregation has placed a memorial plaque in the Shul so that his name will be remembered and honored during our services.

GOOD NEIGHBOR

Our Shul is honoring Dale Boyer, one of our neighbors, for his many years of caring for the Shul's lawn at no cost.

ORNSTEIN SCHOLARSHIP

Miguel Guizado is this year's winner of the Ida Betty Ornstein/B'nai Jacob Synagogue Scholarship for graduating seniors at Middletown High School. Miguel came to Middletown from Peru as a 7th grader speaking no English. This Fall, he will be studying for a Business degree at Temple University,

DONATION

Our Shul received a \$828.56 donation this year from the income of the Residuary Trust set up by H.K. Alwine that is to be divided equally each year among the religious communities in the Borough of Middletown.

BASKETBALL TEAM

B'nai Jacob's basketball team did not repeat as champion in this year's Summer Slam Basketball League in Middletown, but once again took second in the championship game. Seeded #1 going into the playoffs and earning a bye into the championship game, the team could not overcome the loss of their starting center (due to vacation), and was outscored by a well prepared Jack's Auto team. The B'nai Jacob team was coached again this year by Ben Kapenstein, assisted by his younger brother Dan, with the scoring leader his youngest brother Harry (who is also the Shul's Honorary Assistant Shamus). Harry was named the division MVP for the second straight season, becoming the first player in the 13 year history of the League to achieve that honor in any division. Next year, the team will move up to the older division where the competition will be much more intense.

Julian Armstrong, the 13 year old son of Tom and Deb Armstrong, also played in Summer Slam this season, in the older (midget) division, on the Seven Sorrows Athletic Association team, which drafted him to fill out their roster. Seven Sorrows lost in an epic battle in the semi final game against the eventual division champion, K.R. MacDonald, on a 3-pointer at the buzzer, after they had been leading the whole game, in what would have been a big upset. Julian represented himself well in his first and last year in the league (he will be too old next year).

Historic B'nai Jacob Synagogue is located in Middletown, Pennsylvania, near the Harrisburg International Airport. 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>.

Shul Officers (2008-2009):

Mike Eckstein (President)

Tom Armstrong (Vice President)

Bruce Baron (Secretary)

Larry Kapenstein (Treasurer)