

# HISTORIC B'NAI JACOB SYNAGOGUE



**Nissley at Water Streets**

**Middletown, Pennsylvania 17057**

**SUMMER 2017 NEWSLETTER**

## Services Calendar

### Shabbat Service:

Fri. Sept. 8- 7:30 p.m.

### Erev Rosh Hashana (5778):

Wed. Sept. 20 - 6:45 p.m.

### Rosh Hashana:

Thurs. Sept. 21- 9:15 a.m.

### Erev Yom Kippur

#### Kol Nidre:

Fri. Sept. 29 - 6:45 p.m.

### Yom Kippur

Sat. Sept. 30 - 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

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

### Shabbat Service for Veterans:

Fri. Nov. 10- 7:30 p.m.

### Shabbat Service:

Fri. Dec. 1- 7:30 p.m.

### Hanukah Party

Sun., Dec. 17 - Noon

## B'NAI JACOB CELEBRATES AND DEDICATES RENOVATED FRONT STEPS AND BRICK FAÇADE



On Sunday, May 21, 2017 (25 Iyar 5777) our Shul dedicated our renovated front steps and brick wall façade, accomplished through the support of our Congregation and many others. The Dedication, scheduled the same day as our annual Shul picnic in Hoffer Park, included marching one of our Shul Torahs down and around and up the completed renovations as we chanted the Shema and sang Havu L'Adonoi (the 29<sup>th</sup> Psalm). Shul Shamus Larry Kapenstein led the proceedings. Middletown Mayor James Curry joined us and presented some remarks, as did Ben Kapenstein, representing the Borough Council, and Jenny Miller, representing the Middletown Area Historical Society of Dauphin County. Former Mayor Robert Reid also joined us.

There are photographs on our Shul's Website, [www.bnai-jacob.org](http://www.bnai-jacob.org), taken by Ali Waxman, an award-winning photographer from Hershey, including the photograph above of members of our Shul Board (from left to right in picnic-ready attire: Dr. Ed Beck, Dr. Paul Gottfried, Dr. Joseph Abraham, Larry Kapenstein (Treasurer and Shamus), Keith Barash, Marlin Toser, Marlene Snell (Vice President), Roxanne Toser, Elisabeth Ellenbogen, and Bruce Baron, Esq. (Secretary). Kevin Snell (Shul President) was not able to attend due to illness. Also absent were: Dr. Loren Barisch (Assistant Treasurer) and Deb Barisch).

The renovation reset the original plaque commemorating the addition of the wall in 1921 in honor of Israel Cohen, one of our Shul's Charter Members. Israel Cohen's great-grandson, Sandy Cohen, joined us for this occasion, as did Hannah Kaufman, the granddaughter of Charter Member Albert Prouser along with her daughter, and Board Member, Roxanne Toser, the granddaughter of Charter Member Sam Payne, along with one of her sons. With members of our Congregation and friends, including third and fourth generation Shul family members, we concluded the Dedication by chanting the Prayer of Thanksgiving for the gift of reaching this great occasion



### ORSTEIN AWARD

Kelsey Dworchak is the winner of this year's Ida Betty Orstein/B'nai Jacob Synagogue scholarship, along with some other awards, at Middletown High School's June 1, 2017 Honors Night.

Kelsey battled her entire life with brittle bone disease that stunted her growth and confined her to a wheelchair. She excelled in both academics as well as extra-curricular activities. She is 20th in her class and is active in clubs and activities, as well as taking part in school musicals. In the Fall she will be attending Penn State Harrisburg majoring in communications. The scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior selected by the Guidance Counselors for overcoming difficult odds.

### GRANTS

Our Shul's thanks and recognition to The Jewish Community Foundation of Central Pennsylvania for the \$600 grant through the Harrisburg Haverim Society to complete the updating of our stained glass windows. The windows project was begun two years ago with successive gifts

from the Lorena Feidt Lemons Endowment Fund of The Foundation for Enhancing Communities (see Summer 2016 Newsletter on Shul Website, [www.bnai-jacob.org](http://www.bnai-jacob.org)), and supplemented with funds from The Harry K. and Anna Hershey Alwine Residuary Trust and the Zack's Family Fund. Our Shul Treasurer, Larry Kapenstein, prepared the grant proposals.

### NEW ENDOWMENT FUND

This Summer, with leadership from Board Member Ed Beck, in consultation with The Jewish Community Foundation of Central Pennsylvania, our Shul established the Historic B'nai Jacob Endowment Fund. This new Endowment Fund will provide both annual income to support the Shul's operations and mission, as well as an emergency source of funds to supplement regular fundraising and insurance for major capital improvement needs.

The new Endowment Fund will supplement and not replace annual giving to the Shul's general fund and will be an option for legacy giving to the Shul through wills and retirement fund distributions. The Foundation developed a circular with information about the new Endowment Fund that will be sent to the Congregation.

Ed Beck and Larry Kapenstein have volunteered to be the Shul's contact persons for questions and to work with individuals, families and companies interested in contributing to the Fund. Ed Beck can be contacted at (717) 576-5038.

### FLASH FLOOD!

There was record rainfall in Middletown on July 23-24, 2017 (over 4 inches in one hour), causing severe flash flooding throughout the Borough. The Shul was not flooded thanks to the care and tending of our sump pump system by our Shul's handyman, Ricky Eby, who drove through the flooded areas to make sure that things stayed dry at the Shul and that the mud buildup around the Shul was cleared away. Toda!

### IN LOCAL NEWS

The neighborhood around the Shul is developing in anticipation of the relocation of the local AMTRAK Station, close to the Airport and the Ann Street Bridge. In addition to the new sports bar (The Hop Yard), a new AT&T Store has opened across from the Shul, soon to be joined by Chinese food and pizza eateries. A hotel is planned for across from the Airport, plus another hotel at the AMTRAK station, along with a walking bridge to the AMTRAK station from the Penn State Harrisburg campus.

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

If you have news that you want to share or would like to be added to our mailing list, PLEASE send that information through the e-mail link at:

<http://www.bnai-jacob.org>

2017 Executive Committee Officers:

President - Kevin Snell

Vice President - Marlene Snell

Treasurer - Larry Kapenstein

Secretary - Bruce Baron