



HISTORIC B'NAI JACOB SYNAGOGUE

Nissley at Water Streets
Middletown, Pennsylvania 17057

SUMMER 2019 NEWSLETTER

Services Calendar

Shabbos Service

Fri. Sep. 6 - 7:30 PM

Erev Rosh Hashana Service (5780)

Sun. Sep. 29 - 7:00 PM

Rosh Hashana

Mon. Sep. 30 - 9:15 AM

Kol Nidre Service

Tue. Oct. 8 - 7:00 PM

Yom Kippur

Wed. Oct. 9 - 9:15 AM

Yizkor Service - 11:00 AM

Mincha Service - 5:00 PM

Ne-eila - 6:00 PM

Break-the-Fast - after sun-down

Shabot Service for Veterans

Fri. Nov. 8 - 7:30 PM

Shabot Service

Fri. Dec. 6 - 7:30 PM

Hanuka Party & Board Meeting

Sun. Dec. 29 - NOON

Once Again, We Have Made History!



Professor Ambrose Klain of Penn State University and his students did a magnificent job researching and recovering the history of our venerable Synagogue at the time when membership had dwindled and there were very few to remember the glories and achievements of our past. In 1985, the research team crowned their activities with having the name of our building placed on the National Register of Historic Places by the U.S Dept. of the Interior. A small plaque on the building front commemorates this great honor.

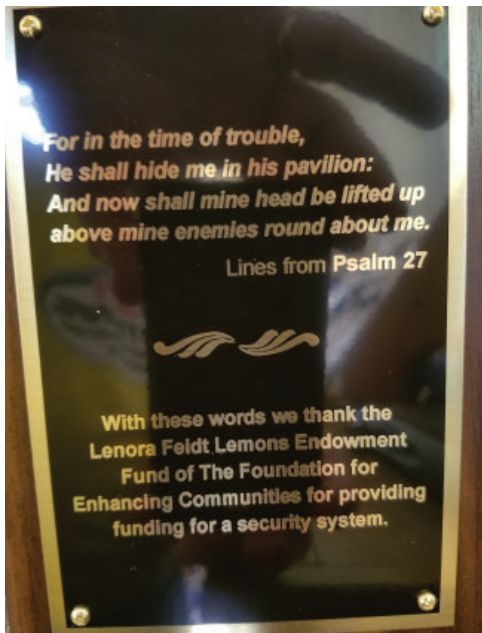
We recently acquired a large impressive and much more easily read sign board to footnote our history. It has been placed on our grounds in the front yard to the right of the synagogue building. We received the historical marker sign through a grant from the William G. Pomeroy Foundation. They supply signs to buildings that are designated as being on the National Register. The marker was designed by the Sewah Studios. All expenses including shipping were paid for by the Pomeroy Foundation with the exception of installing it into the ground.

Friday Night Services

Usually on the first Friday of the month (see calendar), a service is held at B'nai Jacob. Marc Bluestein is our prayer leader and the easy to follow service begins at 7:30 and lasts approximately 45 minutes. After the service, an Oneg Shabbot is held in the downstairs social hall. It is a very friendly gathering and the refreshments are donated by those in attendance. Sometimes the Oneg is entirely sponsored by one family and other times, several families bring items. Also enjoyable social events are held after the Yom Kippur service (this year on October 9) for the Break Fast—bring a dish and eat before traveling home—and the Hanukah Party (this year on December 29)—you will really enjoy Bruce Baron's delicious latkas! Contact roxannetosser@gmail.com to say you are coming and to say what you will bring. Looking forward to seeing you.

About Our New Security System

We hope to have earned respect from our neighbors and friends by taking part in community activities and working with citizens to bring good things to this area. However, day after day, the news media is filled with accounts of acts of violence committed by terrorists against their fellow human beings. Jews are often targets for these acts of evil. We have, therefore taken steps to protect our congregation by investing in a new security system. It was installed by ADT. It includes two cameras with thirty day recall and two motion detectors. The first three years of payments and the installation were completely paid for through a grant from the Jewish Community Foundation of Central PA's Harrisburg Haverim Society Endowment, the residual share of our portion of the Lorena Feidt Lemons Fund of the Foundation for Enhancing Communities on behalf of Lorena Feidt Lemons, and our annual portion of the interest from the Harry K. Alwine Residuary Trust.



Orstein Scholarship

This year's Orstein/B'nai Jacob Scholarship winner is Sarah Matincheck. She was selected because she is a student that has faced educational challenges throughout her high school journey. She has been successfully progressing and overcoming her educational challenges within Math and English and has been taking more challenging curricula over the past two years. She has matured and learned how to handle social challenges that can sometimes be difficult with her autism diagnosis. She is currently working at an elementary school through the Work Experience program at Middletown Area High School. Her goal is to work with elementary children after she attends HACC.

Our Beautiful New Memorial Board

For some years, the east wall of our Sanctuary has been adorned with three large memorial boards. From time to time metal plates have been affixed to the boards funded by families or individuals to honor the memory of a deceased member or loved one. These acts also provide a modicum of income for the Synagogue. Now the three memorial boards are completely filled with plates honoring departed loved ones. We have had the proud and happy task of purchasing and installing a fourth memorial board designed by W&E Baum, Inc. to receive the plates of the future. The price for each engraved plate has been raised slightly to \$300 in order to help defray the cost of the new board. In addition, we accepted advance orders for the top and bottom dedication plates which will also help defray the cost of the new board.



For those who wish to record happy family events such as births, Bar and Bat Mitzvahs, marriages, graduations or other good news, they can purchase a leaf for \$100 on our Tree of Life which can be found on our west wall in the Sanctuary.

For information about a plate on the new Memorial Board or placing a leaf of happiness on the Tree of Life, contact Larry Kapenstein, Treasurer at lkap@comcast.net.

Historic B'nai Jacob Benefits from Legacy Donations to Jewish Community Foundation of Central PA

Have You Made Your Legacy Commitment Yet to Historic B'nai Jacob for Future Generations?

Contact: Vice President Ed Beck at 717-576-5038 or friendlyensch@aol.com or Paulette Keifer or Rebecca Robinson at the Jewish Community Foundation of Central PA at 717-236-9555 or info@pajewishendowment.org.

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.

A Gift of Books



"Cover your bookcases with beautiful curtains and preserve them from dampness and mice and injuries for it is your books that are your true treasures."

—Judah Ben Saul Ibn Tibbon

These words were advice given by a medieval Jewish scholar to his son. They voice what has always been a core principle of Jewish life and thought, that books are true treasures. The Synagogue recently received a gift collection of Jewish books from Pennsylvania State University. They originally belonged to Professor Irving Hand who taught state and regional planning at Penn State from 1972 to 1999 when he retired and became Professor Emeritus. During his lifetime he received many honors and awards for his work in both of his careers, public planning and then university work. The list fills almost two pages.

Dr. Hand and his wife Mildred were strong supporters of Jewish life. They were active members of Ohev Sholom Synagogue. The library there is named for them and a fund also named for them supports the library.

We are honored to receive the gift of some of Irving Hand's books. All of our gift books are on topics of Jewish life, culture and history. They range from old classics like *The Jewish Wars* by Flavius Josephus to works on present day Israel. Following the advice of Ibn Tibbon, we will protect them from dampness and mice and injuries for they are indeed true treasures!

Shul Honors

- Deborah Irene Barisch, z'l, died on February 8, 2019. Deb was a long-time Board member and co-chair of our Building Maintenance Committee with her husband, our Shul Assistant Treasurer, Dr. Loren Barisch.
- Catherine Mary Kimmel, z'l, the long-time publisher and editor for the Shul Newsletter, died May 4, 2019.

2019 Executive Committee Officers

President—Bruce Baron
Vice President—Ed Beck
Treasurer—Larry Kapenstein
Secretary—Bruce Baron