

HISTORIC B'NAI JACOB SYNAGOGUE



Nissley at Water Streets

Middletown, Pennsylvania 17057

JULY 2007

Services

Calendar

Bar Mitzvah of Julian Armstrong:

Sun. Aug. 5, 2007 -

11:00 a.m.

Selichos:

Sat. Sept. 8, 2007 - 7:30 p.m.

Erev Rosh Hashana:

Wed. Sept. 12, 2007 -

7:30 p.m.

Rosh Hashanah:

Thurs. Sept. 13, 2007 -

9:00 a.m.

Rosh Hashanah:

Thurs. Sept. 13, 2007 -

7:30 p.m.

2nd Day Rosh Hashanah:

Fri. Sept. 14, 2007 - 9:00 a.m.

Yom Kippur/Kol Nidre:

Fri. Sept. 21, 2007 - 6:30 p.m.

Yom Kippur/Yizkor:

Sat. Sept. 22, 2007 -

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

Ne'ela Service/Shofar/

Break-the-Fast:

Sat. Sept. 22, 2007 - 5:15 p.m.

Shabbos and Simchas

Torah Service:

Fri. Oct. 5, 2007 - 7:30 p.m.

Services are posted on the
Shul Website ---

www.bnai-jacob.org/calendar

A GIFT THREADED WITH MEMORIES

Dorothy G. Kapenstein

We Jews consider the Torah to be the focal point of our way of life and of our religious ceremonies. We say that it is a tree of life to those who grasp it. On every day of the Jewish calendar, a specific portion is designated to be read aloud. During the course of the year, the entire scroll is read. It is a great honor to make a gift of a Torah scroll to one's Synagogue or to provide a cover or "mantle" to ornament and protect the scrolls.

Members of Historic B'nai Jacob are delighted with the recent gift of a Torah mantle from Joyce Kaplan Lender, a former resident of the Harrisburg area.

Mrs. Lender designed the piece and did the embroidery with her own hands.

She consulted with a Judaic needlework artist as she prepared to create the design for her project. The mantle is made of a combination of silk and wool and contains more than a million hand worked embroidered stitches, taking more than 9 months and 3,000 hours to complete this labor of love, but it was never stitched on Shabbat.

The base color is a soft pink. The front of the mantle contains a series of musical notes forming the melody of "Torah, Torah, Torah" and embroidered Hebrew words that, in English, read, "Now, therefore, write down this song and sing it to the people of Israel".

Jacob's Ladder is embroidered on the back, based on the story in Genesis of Jacob's dream of a ladder stretching from heaven to earth, with angels climbing up and down the ladder. In the mantle design, a multitude of beautiful blue stitches fill in the spaces between the rungs of the ladder. Graceful swirls of abstract white wings represent the angels. The names of Jules and Florence Kaplan, Mrs. Lender's parents, are embroidered on the lining of the mantle.

Mrs. Lender's parents and grandparents came from the Harrisburg area, but moved to Anderson, South Carolina, where Joyce grew up. Her father was a shirt maker and owned a factory in the town. Joyce's mother was quite handy and creative and passed on all of her talent and knowledge to her three daughters. The Torah mantle with its million or so stitches is a fitting tribute to her parents.

Joyce originally donated the mantle to Congregation

B'nai Jacob in Woodbridge, Connecticut, where she and her husband, Murray Lender, made their home. When she learned that the mantle was to be retired from use there, she searched out our own Historic B'nai Jacob as its new home, near the area where her family once lived. Joyce made the trip to Middletown to personally present her precious gift and recently wrote us about that experience:

"Placing the mantle on the Torah in preparation for the Simchat Torah Service was so meaningful to me. As I may have told you,

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IN MEMORIAM -- JACK RABIN

Our Shul's beloved President and spiritual leader for more than a decade, Dr. Jack M. Rabin, died on November 20, 2006 at the age of 61. Dr. Rabin was a professor of public administration at Penn State Harrisburg, its coordinator for the Master in Public Administration Program and a treasured mentor for many students. Dr. Rabin authored many books and established a major archive of civil rights movement documents and photographs.

While not an ordained rabbi or cantor, Dr. Rabin led our Shul's services for many years, including his special renditions of Jewish songs and short talks on the Torah and modern events. Dr. Rabin, along with his wife Sandy, wrote a history of our Shul and worked with the Middletown Historical Society and Middletown High School students to create a 100th anniversary book and accompanying videotape to celebrate our Shul's continuing role in our Community. Dr. Rabin's warm and welcoming voice helped to expand the membership of our Shul to other communities and to become a home for out-of-town visitors looking for a place to attend services.



A plaque honoring Dr. Rabin's many contributions to Historic B'nai Jacob Synagogue has been placed in the sanctuary near the "Tree of Life." A picture of Dr. Rabin will also be added to those of other spiritual leaders (zt"l) on the wall of the community room.

COMMUNITY NEWS

GIFT (continued)

it was also my mother's yahrzeit and her name is embroidered in the lining. You were so thoughtful to place the history photos and writings on a table for all to share. It really was an incredible journey for the mantle and for me. I truly believe that everything happens in life for a reason and I feel that I have taken the memorial for my parents' home. It was 'bashert'. B'nai Jacob is everything I expected and more. What a beautiful house of worship. The care is meticulous and I know the dedication of our congregation will always maintain integrity. See, already I am including myself. I enjoyed meeting everyone who attended and I know I will return for another visit."

Our new mantle will be used for services on a rotating basis with our three others. Come join us!

Our Shul Community will be celebrating the Bar Mitzvah of Julian Armstrong on Sunday, August 5, 2007 at 11 a.m. Julian has helped lead our Shul in prayers and songs during services this past year along with Dr. Jack Rabin (זיכרונו לברכה) and Dr. Mike Eckstein.

Dan McGlone is the recipient of the 2007 Betty Orstein Annual Scholarship awarded by our Shul to a graduating senior at Middletown High School who overcame adversity and is going to college. Dan will be attending Penn State Harrisburg after recovering from a near fatal bout of bacterial meningitis last Winter. Dan, who was starting goalie for the Middletown soccer team, also coached a 9-year olds team and is now working with the Olmstead Association 10-year olds team.

Chevrie B'nai Jacob, the association our Shul's founders formed to build the Shul, is now remembered on a plaque above the sanctuary door donated by Kevin and Marlene Snell.

Our Shul's new front doors, were donated and installed by Dr. and Mrs. Loren Barish. Deb and Todd Armstrong have donated additional additional bookcases for the community room of the Shul.

A local workman is donating repairs to the concrete header in the front stairway recently damaged in a hit-and-run truck

collision.

The B'nai Jacob basketball team is 4-0 and will be playing for the championship A (again) on July 22, 5:45 p.m., at Main Street Gym in Middletown. Harry Kapenstein is the leading scorer and has a shot to be the league MVP. Dylan and Rachel Kaplan, who now live in Annville, play on their local midget division teams (Dylan's team won that division championship last year).

The Shul participated in the Ecumenical Passover Dinner at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Middletown, which included Seder readings, foods prepared from some old Shul recipes and a group rendition of some Pesach songsa group rendition of some Pesach songs.

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 (2007-2008):

Mike Eckstein (President)
Todd Armstrong (Vice President)
Bruce Baron (Secretary)
Larry Kapenstein (Treasurer)

