

HISTORIC B'NAI JACOB SYNAGOGUE



Nissley at Water Streets

Middletown, Pennsylvania 17057

AUGUST 2014

Services

Calendar

Shabbos Service:

Fri. Sept. 5, 2014 -
7:30 p.m.

Erev Rosh Hashana:

Wed. Sept. 24, 2014 -
7:30 p.m.

Rosh Hashanah:

Thurs. Sept. 25, 2014 -
9:15 a.m.

Rosh Hashanah:

Thurs. Sept. 25, 2014 -
7:30 p.m.

Yom Kippur/Kol Nidre:

Fri. Oct. 3, 2014 - 7:00 p.m.

Yom Kippur/Yizkor:

Sat. Oct. 4, 2014 -
9:00 a.m./11:00 a.m.

Yom Kippur/Mincha/

Ne'ela/Break-the-Fast:

Sat. Oct. 4, 2014 - 5:00 p.m.

Shabbos and Simchas

Torah Service:

Fri. Oct. 17, 2014 - 7:30 p.m.

Shabbos Service/

Honoring Veterans:

Fri. Nov. 7, 2014 = 7:30 p.m.

Shabbos Service:

Fri. Dec. 5, 2014 - 7:30 p.m.

Hanukah Party:

Sun. Dec. 21, 2014 - Noon

Services are posted on the
Shul Website at
www.bnai-jacob.org

CHANGES IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

This year marks the 110th Anniversary of the founding of our Congregation, which we celebrated during services in July. This 110th Year has also brought a number of changes and challenges.

The shopping center across Water Street from the Shul, where the Middletown Post Office is located, is being redeveloped as part of the relocation of the Middletown Amtrak Station to a new site just north of the shopping center, between Main Street (State Route 230) and the Harrisburg-Middletown Airport (MDT), and south of the Ann Street Bridge. The redevelopment project, expected to take two years to complete, includes a new restaurant/pub -The Hop Yard Sports Pub - for which the PLCB has approved a license relocation from Union Street to a site directly across from the Shul, with the new address of 300 West Main Street (the site has been prepared but no construction has begun yet).

While the redevelopment project has eliminated previously available parking spaces and a connecting walkway immediately across from the Shul, next to the bank, there will continue to be sufficient spaces in the area for parking during our services. Our Shul is working with the Borough of Middletown

and the owner of the new pub on coordination after the opening for our services, including valet parking assistance during the High Holy Days.

The Penn State-Harrisburg Campus has significantly increased its housing units for students on the hill directly across Main Street from the shopping center. Our Shul has been visited by several Penn State students during the past year and we are exploring future programs that make use of our Shul's close location for Jewish-related campus activities.

The year also brought some new underground challenges for our Shul, as ground water was redirected into the Shul's foundation causing damage to the Social Hall floor and requiring a new sump pump system below the floor to prevent further damage and flooding. This project took several months to complete, including repairs to damaged flooring and the concrete and electric work for the sump pump system. The project was funded through the Jake Zuck Trust and donations from the Congregation. The Jake Zuck Trust and Zacks Family Fund also provided funds for our Shul to update the windows on the Nissley Street side of the Shul and to replace our old oil furnace with a new gas furnace and updated air-conditioning system.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

Our Shul provided two scholarships this year. Our Congregation provides an annual award in honor of Ida Betty Orstein, z'l, to a graduating senior at Middletown High School who will be attending college and is nominated by the school guidance staff for overcoming difficult circumstances. This year's scholarship was awarded to Jessica Shipkowski, who lost both her parents to cancer and lived with her aunt and uncle in Middletown. Jessica was on the soccer team at Middletown and graduated with an A average. She will be attending Jacksonville University in Florida in their Physical Therapy Degree Program.

This year, our Shul also provided a new scholarship for members of the Congregation; the first awarded to Maxwell Hess, the son of Mark and Annette Hess of Annville, toward completion of his undergraduate degree program at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing.

Another member of our Congregation was honored this year with a grant from the Women of Vision Philanthropic Fund. The Fund, through the Jewish Federation of Greater Harrisburg, asks area congregations to nominate women who have shown courage and acts of lovingkindness in dealing with difficult events or would otherwise benefit for grant awards that may be of assistance to them. The names of the grant winners are confidential. This was the second grant awarded to a member of our Congregation by the Fund.

OUR SHUL: IN PRINT, ONLINE AND LIVE

Our Shul is on the back cover and in the text of the recent publication by Julian H. Preisler, "The Synagogues of Central and Western Pennsylvania." More information about this new book can be found on our Shul Website.

Photographs of our Shul will also soon appear online at the website of the Beit Hatfutsot Museum of Tel Aviv collection of photographs of synagogues from all of the world, thanks to a recent visit by photographer Louis Davidson. The Museum's photo site is at: www.synagogues360.org.

Tours of our Shul, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, continued through this year, including a tour this past June conducted by our Shamus for a potential wedding party, as well as the annual Middletown Historical Society Walking Tour.

our Shul Board is working on a series of live lectures at the Shul, beginning this Fall, with the first being focused on the history of the Shul.

We also have been collecting some additional oral history about services at the Shul and its members during our first 100 years. If you or your family members have some good stories to share, please contact us through the Shul website or by mail. There are some works about the architectural features of our Shul already on our Website; and, some of our Shul's early history is collected in our 100th Anniversary Book.

MAZEL TOV!

Marlin and Roxanne Toser celebrate their 58th Wedding Anniversary this month.

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> AND ALSO CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE AND "THE COMMUNITY REVIEW" FOR OUR SCHEDULE OF SERVICES.

2014 Executive Committee Officers:
President - Kevin Snell
Vice President - Marlene Snell
Treasurer - Larry Kapenstein
Secretary - Bruce Baron