

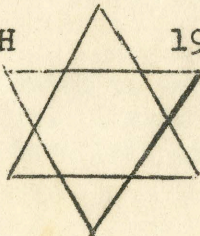
HISTORY  
DIRECTORY

BETH ISRAEL CONGREGATION

LATROBE PENNSYLVANIA

MARCH

1957





## I N T R O D U C T I O N

"Old Mother Hubbard went to the cupboard to fetch her poor dog a bone; but when she got there, the cupboard was bare and so the poor dog got none".

I have had need on many occasions for information and statistics concerning our congregation, and, like Mother Hubbard of nursery rhyme fame, I, too went to the cupboard only to find the cupboard all too bare. The barren cupboard to which I refer, however, being our Synagogue files and records. My visits to our files in search of information on events occurring prior to 1954 have been hopeless and discouraging. Records are non-existent, having been lost, misplaced or destroyed. Any data needed, therefore, had to be obtained through personal contact with those that "knew when" or "heard that".

It was my hope that some member of our congregation better qualified to do research and writing would someday set about the task of bringing our files up-to-date. But watchful waiting alone accomplishes little and becoming either forewarned or inspired by an old but wise saying from "Ethics of The Fathers" that: "The day is short and the work is great, and the laborers are sluggish, and the reward is much", I threw all caution to the winds and plunged most industriously into the task of bringing into existence these chronicles of Latrobe's Jewry.

Aided by much choice information obtained from the fine little history compiled by Jerry Lowenstein in 1953-54 and many additional statistics secured from the files of The Synagogue Bulletin maintained by Editor Art Goldman, I have succeeded in piecing to-gether a somewhat belated accounting of our early and current history.

This booklet is being presented to you with the hopes that you will read it and preserve it. I also hope that it might lead others to take up where I have left off and complete a much needed project.

March 1, 1957

Louis Goldman



## OUR HISTORY

American life and Jewish life have always been very closely related. History tells us that there were Jews with Columbus when America was discovered.

Since the time of Jacob Barsimson, who led the first group of Jewish settlers to New York in the year 1654, Jews have played an important part in the development of our country.

This historical report concerns the Jews of Latrobe, their past history, their accomplishments and the part they have played in the development and progress of our community.

Before Latrobe was settled, Jewish peddlers traveled the roads to the different farms and settlements bringing the people the merchandise they needed and also acting as a contact with the outside world. To these rural inhabitants, our Jewish peddler or itinerant merchant, was the only link with the city dweller and the world at large. They were eagerly awaited and welcomed on these scheduled trips to their customers, for they brought not only material things, but news and gossip and stories of what was transpiring on the outside.

The greatest drawback to our early Jewish settlers in establishing themselves and their families permanently in any of these smaller communities or towns, was the lack of sufficient Jews to form a minyan or quorum essential for conducting religious services.

In searching for details about our pioneer settlers in Latrobe, we find that a history of our Jewish people has never been compiled although our Latrobe community is now over one-hundred years old, and several histories of the town are in existence. The scanty facts and information recorded and at our disposal have been assembled from time to time from "word-of-mouth" stories and recollections of our pioneer residents. Although very interesting and accurate, they are too meager and insufficient with which to build a satisfactory history of our Jewish community.

Jews were among the early settlers of Latrobe. The first Jew of whom we have record was one Henry Fellheimer. Mr. Fellheimer was, by the year 1864, such a substantial citizen of the town, that he

was elected to the office of assistant burgess by the Democratic party. He owned and operated a clothing store at the corner of Depot and Ligonier Streets, the present location of the Sun Drug store. Records show that his wife was a milliner and had a shop where the news stand is today.

The second Jew to settle in Latrobe was Mr. Simon Schott, who, with his brother conducted a clothing store on the corner where the Commercial Bank now stands. He remained here but for a short time.

Benjamin Strouse came to Latrobe in 1892 and also operated a clothing store for many years in the Miller Hotel building. Later, his son continued to operate the business until the family left Latrobe.

From 1892 and during the next few years, many Jewish families moved to our community to make their homes. Quite a number of these were Jews who had left Eastern Europe to escape the horrible pogroms and forced military service, emigrating to America, "the promised land", and the only safe haven for the oppressed. The majority of these families lived in one section of the town, the first ward, and in time this section became known to many as "Jew town". They engaged in buying scrap, peddling, huckstering and in the operation of small stores. We find that at least one was a blacksmith.

It is said that when you get ten Jewish men together in one room, you automatically form a congregation. This is a natural outcome of the Jewish heart and mind in it's continual search for spiritual sustenance through religious affiliation. So it is no surprise to learn that in 1906 this pioneer group made plans for a synagogue of their own and a congregation was formed under the name of Beth Israel, headed by the following officers: Meyer Levine, President; Harry Tapolsky, Vice-President and Mendel Korman, Secretary. The charter members as listed below, included some of the pioneer families of Latrobe:

Morris Altman	Sam Fiske	Isadore Lipnitz
David Berkofsky	Reuben Glick	Rubin Lucker
Frank Breeton	Isadore Glick	Samuel Radin
Meyer Cohen	Hyman Glick	Ben Selekman
Mrs. Elishoff	Benjamin Glenn	Wm. Selekman
Isadore Fleegler	Morris Goodman	Barney Wolfe

In 1907, on ground donated by Mr. Harry Tapolsky, a synagogue was built on Miller Street. It is interesting to note that all of the charter members of our first synagogue lived in one section of the



town, the first ward. Other families, however lived in Latrobe at the time, including the Bigg, Goldenson, Lowenstein and Miller families, all being active in synagogue affairs.

The Miller Street Synagogue served as the center of our religious life until 1954 when the congregation dedicated a fine, new synagogue and center at 418 Weldon Street. As the erection and dedication of this new edifice marked the turning point in the history of our congregation and the beginning of a new era for Latrobe Jewry, our history from 1954 on will be treated separately in another section.

Our people have always been interested in all civic enterprises. No project for the betterment of Latrobe has ever lacked our help and backing. Our Jewish people have been prominent in the Community Chest organization. Both of our men and women have been officers in the Civic Club, Red Cross, Chamber of Commerce, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and many other groups. In several instances, they have been elected the presiding officers of the organization. A complete resume of many of the activities of our Jewish citizens and the contributions they are making toward achieving a better community in which to live may be found in some interesting facts and statistics quoted in another section covering current history.

The Jews of Latrobe have been welcomed into most fraternal groups and by their devoted services and actions have been deemed worthy of election to the highest office of these organizations.

In evaluating our early history, it is important to note the active part played and the valuable contribution made by such a small minority group towards the civic and communal life of Latrobe. The many signal honors received by our people refute the claims made by some that the Jews are a "unwanted people". They have been welcomed into most groups and have always commanded respect by their willingness to help and co-operate.

The Latrobe Public Schools have graduated a great number of our children. The first Jewish graduate was Benjamin Selekman, a member of the class of 1912. He was valedictorian of his class and was awarded a scholarship to the University of Pittsburgh for out-standing ability. He went on from there to

acquire a Masters and Doctors degree from Columbia University. After teaching in various schools and serving in several social agencies, he became a prominent professor at Harvard University.

Our boys and girls have always rated highly in all branches of school activities. Many have been honor students and have held high offices in their classes. Others have been prominent as editors and managers of school publications and members of different athletic teams. It is to their credit that we can proudly note that they have taken honors out of all proportion to their numbers.

On the distaff side of our life, our Latrobe Jewish women have always been active. In 1919, Mrs. I. Arnold of Philadelphia, organized The Latrobe Section of the Council of Jewish Women. The following women served as the first officers of this fine organization, which was destined to play such an important part in Jewish affairs: Mrs. Fred Lowenstein, President; Mrs. M.H. Goldenson, Vice-Pres.; Mrs. Ben Ratner, Secretary. This group later became known as The Beth Israel Sisterhood.

In 1920, the Council invited Miss Miriam Schoenfield of the Southwestern District Religious Schools, to organize a religious school. In previous years attempts had been made to establish a school but they lacked proper guidance and co-operation and had not been successful. These women, so devoted to their families and people and knowing that the very foundation of Jewish family and religious life has always been established on education and enlightenment, gave both moral and financial support to this worthy project. Our religious school has always assumed a prominent place in the Southwestern District group, under whose supervision it has remained until the present time.

Teachers and superintendents have been, for the main part, members of our Latrobe families, each having contributed their fair share of time and support to our school. From time to time our school has enrolled children from the neighboring towns of Blairsville, Derry and Ligonier.

Until 1955, all of our confirmants have been members of joint confirmation groups of the district. In May, 1955, Superintendent Jerome Lowenstein and his staff staged our first confirmation exercises in our new synagogue with Rabbi Robert Port of Jeannette officiating.



During the years of our early history, numerous men's fraternal groups have been started in Latrobe. Their records, however, are not available and the details at hand are very scanty and unreliable. An almost forgotten organization was the Y.M.H.A. formed in 1916 with Harry Marks and Max Breeton serving as president and vice-president. Other clubs have since sprung up from time to time but none of them have been recognized as having contributed substantially towards our growth and general well-being.

Since the establishment of the new Beth Israel Congregation, many new groups have been formed among the men and women and they are taking a very active part in congregational affairs. These are listed in the directory which is part of this report.

These few fragments of Latrobe Jewry's past history are all that we have available at the present time. The Congregation now has the personnel and facilities for carrying on from this point and making a valuable contribution to our own generation and to those generations to follow, by recording in permanent form, all events of current history that are now "making history". We hope that such a project will have the necessary attention and support it warrants.

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It is worth noting that the Jew who derives his spiritual strength from his adherence to Jewish values, and who is conscious of the values inherent in his relationship to the Jewish people, is not disturbed by superficial social discrimination. The Jew who is alien to Judaism, however, who has set as his standard the degree to which he is "accepted" by non-Jews, finds rejection most alarming and disconcerting. ----- Exchange.

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"To a tree whose branches are few, but whose roots are many, so that even if all the winds in the world come and blow upon it, it cannot be stirred from its place".

-----Ethics of The Fathers.

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BETH ISRAEL CONGREGATION  
LATROBE PENNSYLVANIA  
Cordially Invites You To Attend The  
Dedication Of Their New Home On

Sunday, the fourteenth day of November,  
Nineteen hundred and fifty-four at 2:30 P.M.

This Invitation Must Be  
Presented At The Door

1954-BETH ISRAEL OFFICERS, COMMITTEES AND MEMBERSHIP-1954		
CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS	SISTERHOOD OFFICERS	MEN'S CLUB
President...Samuel Berkosky	Mrs. William Burke	Hymen Weiss
1st Vice Pres...Jerome Lowenstein	Mrs. Herman Bigg	Louis Goldman
2nd Vice Pres.	Mrs. Arthur Goldman	
Secretary.... William H. Burke	Mrs. Sol Lubelsky	Morton Kline
Treasurer...Ed. L. Friedman	Mrs. Jack Glick	Sol Lubelsky
Financial Secretary	Mrs. Walter Fine	

HONORARY TRUSTEES  
Mr. Bernard Bigg-Mr. Fred Lowenstein-Mr. Rubin Luckner-Mr. Harry Tapolsky

BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
Hyman Cahen William Kahanowitz Irving G. Lowenstein  
Louis M. Slomoff Herman Weiss

<u>DEDICATION COMMITTEE</u>	
Irving G. Lowenstein	Mrs. Samuel Berkosky
Sol Lubelsky	Mrs. William Kahanowitz
Harold D. Paull	Mrs. William H. Burke
Morton C. Sevel	Mrs. Sol Lubelsky
Mrs. William Dunhoff	
Samuel Berkosky	
Herman G. Bigg	
Arthur H. Goldman	
Mrs. Abe Witkin	



# Dedication Program-Con't.

## ASSISTING THE DEDICATION COMMITTEE

Barbara Paull	Ruth Lowenstein	Melton Goldberg
Allen Goldberg	Mark Witkin	Judith Weiss

## RELIGIOUS COMMITTEE

Samuel Berkosky, Ch.  
Ben Berkofsky  
Herman Bigg  
Samuel Davis  
Morris Glenn  
Louis Goldman  
Wm. Kahanowitz

## BUILDING COMMITTEE

Hyman Cahen, Ch.  
Samuel Aronson  
J. S. Frankel  
Wm. Kahanowitz  
I. Lowenstein  
Jerome Slomoff  
Hyman Weiss

## WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE

Louis Slomoff, Ch.  
Edward Friedman  
Jack Glick  
Irving Lowenstein  
Sol Lubelsky

## HOUSE COMMITTEE

Arthur Goldman, Ch.  
Mrs. S. Berkosky  
Morton Glick  
Morton Klein  
Morton Sevel

## SOCIAL COMMITTEE

William Dunhoff, Ch.  
William Buchman  
Samuel Davis  
Arthur Goldman  
Harold Paull

## 1954 - BETH ISRAEL CONGREGATION

William Altman	Jack Glick
Samuel Aronson	James Goldberg
Ben Berkofsky	Morris Goldenson
Sam Berkosky	Arthur Goldman
Bernard Bigg*	Louis Goldman
Herman G. Bigg	Morton Klein
William Buchman	Harry Klein
William Burke	Wm. Kahanowitz
Hyman Cahen	Mrs. F. Latanzio
Samuel Davis	Fred Lowenstein*
William Dunhoff	Irving Lowenstein
J. S. Frankel	Jerome Lowenstein
Samuel Frankel	Sol Lubelsky
Edward Friedman	Rubin Luckor*
Morris Glenn	Emil Mendler
Hyman Glick	Robert Mendler

## MEMBERSHIP - 1954

Harold Paull  
Jacob Rosenblum  
Charles Saxen  
Morton Sevel  
Jerome Slomoff  
Louis Slomoff  
H. Tapolsky\*  
Louis Tucker  
Hyman Weiss  
Abe Witkin

\*Honorary Members

## THE NEW BETH ISRAEL CONGREGATION

1954 - 1955 - 1956 - 1957

Contrary to the usual difficulties and controversy associated with any sudden or drastic changes made in the policies of any religious group, the transition of our Beth Israel Congregation from the old to the new, from the strict guidance of the older generation to the more liberal supervision of the present generation, was brought about without incident. Seemingly, most of our membership thought that it was bound to happen sooner or later, and when a meeting was called early in 1953 to consider immediate action to acquire a more suitable location on which to build a new Synagogue, the congregation responded enthusiastically.

Realizing the great need for a new, larger and more modern plant suitable for catering to both our religious and social needs and sensing the urgency of the situation as a "do it now or never" undertaking, immediate and favorable action was taken to raise sufficient funds from which to acquire a lot on Weldon Street, in the heart of town, ideally situated to serve all of our members.

A building committee, under the chairmanship of Hyman Cahen was appointed and it was but a short time before plans were drawn, the building contract let to Ridilla Construction Company and we were another step closer to our goal--a new, modern home for Beth Israel.

With the approval of the membership, a new charter was applied for changing our religious affiliation from the Orthodox to the Conservative form of ritual and worship.

From this point on, the history of our congregation is contemporaneous and all present members are familiar with each incident and event herein noted. However, these are being recorded in this permanent form to assure a complete and accurate source of information and reference to which future generations may look for historical guidance. If, on occasion, the writer chooses to employ a narrative form, it is only because he recognizes his shortcomings as a historian and reverts to the more natural narrative story sequence, as seen through the eyes of a contemporary.

The building was completed in the late fall of 1954 and through the generosity of several of our members, the finishing touches were



added to place it in condition for permanent occupancy.

The dedication committee under the leadership of Irving Lowenstein, with Arthur Goldman in charge of public relations and publicity, was in the meantime, busily engaged in formulating plans for the dedication. The week of November twelfth to seventeenth which corresponds to the Hebrew date of Heshvan, sixteen to twenty-first, the year of 5715, will go down in the history of Latrobe Jewry as the most momentous of its entire history. During this dedication week, Beth Israel Congregation played host to the entire community at large. As a congregation, we were now to assume our rightful place as an active member of the town's religious and civic groups. To our towns-people and Christian friends, the dedication proved a revelation of what a small but inspired group could accomplish through devotion to their religion and people. As a congregation, we now assumed the stature and influence which had been denied us by lack of necessary facilities and a united front.

Friday evening Sabbath Services, with Rabbi Morris Herzlich of Charleroi officiating, inaugurated our dedicatory program. Sabbath morning services followed the next morning with Mr. Rubin Lucker in charge.

On the afternoon of Sunday, November 14th, we gathered in our beautiful new Synagogue to dedicate our sacred Torahs, our Eternal Light and our Holy Ark, with Rabbi Nathan Kollin, Rodef Sholom Synagogue, Johnstown, officiating. Irving Lowenstein, chairman of the dedication committee, welcomed our guests, after which, Hyman Weiss presented the Synagogue key to President Samuel Berkosky, on behalf of Hyman Cahen, chairman of the building committee, who was unable to be present.

The beautiful dedicatory service and ceremony which followed, so impressively carried out in the traditional manner by Rabbi Kollin and Cantor Israel Horowitz, will ever be remembered by the members of our Congregation. Surrounded by our families, our friends and the special invited guests who represented our Christian towns-people, we sat in the hushed silence of our Sanctuary, filled with reverence and joy, as we witnessed the blessing of the holy symbols of our faith, the sacred objects we have cherished through the centuries.

Forever inscribed in our memories will be the beautiful scene that was unfolded to us on that memorable day when the three officers of the Congregation, each representing one of the oldest families of our

Latrobe Jewish community: Jerome Lowenstein, Willian Burke and Edward Friedman--proudly carried our Torahs in the procession that preceded the ceremonial blessing. Led by Rabbi Kollin, the procession slowly wended its way around the Synagogue to the beautiful chanting of the traditional liturgical prayers by Cantor Horowitz, and we of the present generation, knew that now we were to become the "Bearers of The Law", to hold aloft the sacred Scrolls, as our forefathers and our fathers had done before us.

The inspiring dedicatory sermon, delivered by Rabbi Kollin to us that day, will be remembered by most of our members for many years to come. "We, like Jacob, have taken inert mortar and stone--suffused our hopes and dreams and prayers in them, and with our efforts and resources, we have infused life into dead structural matter and now it stands as a gateway to heaven", Rabbi Kollin stated.

His opening words were high with praise of our accomplishments as a small Jewish group in erecting such a fine Synagogue and Center. But, he challenged, "Unless the Lord establish the House, they labor in vain who build it". He fervently expressed his hope that we would never forget that we were Jews and prayed for us to carry out unswervingly the precepts of our great religion. Then, like the prophets of old, Rabbi Kollin mixed instruction with wisdom, praise with challenge, and hope with prayer, as he charged us with our responsibilities and duties.

He declared that these dedication services were not the real dedication of our new home, but just the beginning of a continuous dedication for each of us. For, every time we entered our House of Worship to pray, or each time we visited our Center in the interest and welfare of our Congregation, each time we performed a kind deed or helped some worthy charity, we would again and again dedicate our Synagogue.

And so, we dedicated our new edifice on that eventful day in 1954. What has transpired within its walls since that happy occasion, is now a matter of record.

The dedication banquet, attended by most of our members and their families, followed on Monday evening, November 15th. It was a very enjoyable, happy affair with Jerome Lowenstein as toast-master and Rabbi Joseph Levine, Temple Emanu-El, Greensburg as the guest speaker.



Open house for the people of Latrobe was held on Tuesday evening, November 16th. The entire Congregation played host to the public on this evening and hundreds of our fellow townspeople inspected our new Synagogue and Center.

The concluding event of the dedication week's program was held on Wednesday evening, November 17th, when we entertained our neighboring Jewish congregations with open house and a reception. Many of our friends and neighbors were on hand to offer their congratulations and best wishes.

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The one-story structure, housing our new Synagogue and Center is 60 feet wide and 70 feet deep, on a lot measuring 85 by 105 feet, located at 418 Weldon Street.

The construction is of modern design and of buff Roman type brick with a front facing and trim of redwood.

Our recreation room, leading directly from the foyer, is the largest room, being 28 feet wide by 50 feet long. This is the center of all social activities and general meetings, being well equipped with a portable stage, folding tables and chairs, a piano and a radio-phono combination unit for recorded music.

All religious activities and services are held in the chapel which measures 28 by 30 feet, with seating capacity for 85 persons. Leading off from it is a secretary's office or rabbi's study which measures 10 by 12 feet. This room also is equipped to furnish ample housing for our library and congregation records and files.

Three Sunday School rooms, each 10 foot square, lead directly off the recreation room, while to the right of these rooms is located the kitchen and utility room.

The kitchen, completely furnished and equipped by our Sisterhood, is one of the finest in this area and has facilities for serving some 100 people. All flooring is of mastic tile blocks, under which is concealed the radiant heating tubing, furnishing heat for the entire structure. Lighting is provided by the latest, modern indented ceiling fixtures and numerous skylights throughout the building. Rest rooms are located directly off the foyer.

## 1957 DIRECTORY

### 1957 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

President - Jerome A. Lowenstein  
Vice-Pres. - Hyman Weiss  
Secretary - Sol Lubelsky  
Treasurer - Edward Friedman

#### TRUSTEES

Samuel Berkosky Wm. Kahanowitz  
Herman Bigg Irv. Lowenstein  
William Burke Robert Mendler  
Hyman Cahen Mrs. H. Weiss\*  
Louis Goldman\*  
\*Representing Sisterhood and Men's Club.

#### AUDIT AND BUDGET

Morton Glick -Chairman  
Art Goldman  
Harold Paull

#### HOUSE

Morton Sevel -Chairman  
Sam Berkosky  
Mrs. Sam Berkosky  
Mrs. Herman Bigg  
William Buchman

#### MEMBERSHIP

Sam Berkosky -Chairman  
Herman Bigg  
Jack Glick  
Hyman Weiss

#### BY-LAWS

Wm. Kahanowitz-Chairman  
Samuel Berkosky  
Herman Freedman  
Irving Lowenstein  
Lou Slomoff

William Dunhoff  
Robert Mendler  
Abe Witkin

#### RELIGIOUS

Lou Goldman-Chairman  
Ben Berkofsky  
Sam Davis  
Edward Friedman  
Morris Glenn  
Mrs. Jack Glick  
Jack Glick  
Mrs. Wm. Kahanowitz

#### PUBLICITY

Art Goldman

#### BUILDING

Hyman Cahen - Chairman  
William Burke - Irving Lowenstein  
Lou Goldstein - Lou Slomoff  
Hyman Weiss

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I AM THE SYNAGOGUE-- I am the heart of Jewry. I have sheltered you for more than two thousand five hundred years. Through all these cruel ages, swept by wrath of fire and sword, I nursed you with the Word of God, healed your wounds with the balm of faith, steadied your minds and hearts with the vision of the Eternal. I am old and I am young. I am older than the memories of the historians; and as young as the youngest child. Behold, a good doctrine do I give unto you; forsake it not.

--Exchange



## 1957 DIRECTORY

### BETH ISRAEL SISTERHOOD

Affiliated with the National Women's League Of The United Synagogue of America.

Officers: Pres. Mrs. H. Bigg; V.P., Mrs. A. Goldman; Second V.P., Mrs. W. Dunhoff; Sec., Mrs. R. Mendler; Fin. Sec., Mrs. B. Berkofsky; Treas., Mrs. J. Glick; Trustee, Mrs. H. Weiss  
Membership: 43  
Meeting: Monthly-First Wed. each month, Recreation Room.

### BETH ISRAEL MEN'S CLUB

Officers: Pres., Wm. Dunhoff, Vice Pres., Morton Sevel; Sec., Dave Balk; Treas., Ben Berkofsky; Trustee, L. Goldman

### BETH ISRAEL RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Staff: Sup't., J. Lowenstein; Teachers: Mrs. M. Barsky; Mrs. Wm. Dunhoff; Harry Kline; Morton Sevel; Judith Weiss; Mark Witkin  
Supervisor: Mrs. Wm. Kahanowitz

### THE SYNAGOGUE STAFF

In charge of all religious services. Friday evening Sabbath Services held twice monthly at 8:15 P.M. Social hour in charge of Sisterhood, held every other service.

Committee Chairmen: Religious School, Mrs. W. Kahanowitz; Ways & Means, Mrs. W. Burke; Program & Education, Mrs. A. Witkin; Social Action, Mrs. T. Schaeffer; Membership & House, Mrs. S. Berkosky; Torah Fund, Mrs. I. Lowenstein; Publications & Gifts, Mrs. E. Friedman; Social, Mrs. S. Lubelsky; Branch Publicity, Mrs. J. Lowenstein; Friday Eve Services, Mrs. W. Dunhoff.

Membership: 36  
Meeting: Third Thursday of each month in Recreation Room.

Affiliated with The Southern District of Pennsylvania Jewish Religious Schools.  
Classes held every Sunday morning at Center. Enrollment: 27

The Staff: E. Friedman; J. Glick; L. Goldman; J. Lowenstein; H. Glick; S. Lubelsky.

## 1957 DIRECTORY

Con't.

### THE TORAH FUND

Affiliated with the Western Penna. Branch. A Sisterhood project. All moneys go to The Torah Fund of The Jewish Theological Seminary of America in New York City. Chairman: Mrs. I. Lowenstein.

### THE GOLDEN BOOK

A project of The Bridge Club, composed of nine women, members of our Sisterhood. The installation, planned, designed, and installed by The Club for the Congregation. All moneys donated to The Golden Book go to the general fund of the Congregation.  
Chairman: Mrs. H. Cahen  
Maintenance: Wm. Buchman

### THE SYNAGOGUE BULLETIN

A non-profit enterprise of The Congregation supervised by Arthur Goldman. Issued monthly for ten months each year at no cost to members.  
Editor-in-chief: Art Goldman  
Average monthly circulation: 51.

### THE SISTERHOOD GIFT SHOP

Maintained and supervised by The Sisterhood, offering for sale a complete line of gifts, ceremonial objects, prayer books, etc. Display and sales room at The Center. Profits go to general fund of Sisterhood. Chairman in charge: Mrs. Irving Lowenstein.

### SISTERHOOD REMEMBRANCE FUND

Supervision of the Sisterhood. All contributions go to the Sisterhood general fund.  
Chairman:

Mrs. Ben Berkofsky.

### THE FLOWER FUND

Supervision of Flower Fund Committee of Men's Club. Contributions pay for flowers used to decorate chapel at services. Chairman: Lou Goldman.

### SYNAGOGUE FUND

Supervision of the treasurer and Religious Committee. Includes all donations to The Synagogue for Yahrzeit and special services.

### MEMORIAL AND FOYER PLAQUES

Supervised by The Synagogue, Maintained by The Religious Committee.  
Chairman: Lou Goldman  
Plaques ) -33 Memorial  
Installed) -17 Foyer

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# CENSUS & STATISTICAL RESUME OF THE LATROBE JEWISH COMMUNITY

Total Jewish population: 140	Home owners : 35
" Adult " : 99	Owners of business property : 23
" Children (under 21): 41	Professions in which our people are engaged:
" Number of families: 47	Wholesale-Retail Business: 31
" Number of families members of Cong. : 44	Dentists: 1; Lawyers: 1

Civic organizations in which we are represented: Chamber of Commerce, Civil Defense, Parking Authority, Juvenile Commission, Red Cross, Music Club, Choral Society, Rotary Club, Lions Club, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Hospital Aid, American Legion, Legion Aux., V.F.W. Ass'n., Amvets, Community Chest

Store Managers : 2  
Contractors : 1  
Radio: 1; Salesmen : 1  
Tech. Engineers : 1  
Office Workers : 2  
Retired : 5  
In our Armed Services: 2

## OUR RELIGIOUS PROGRAM

Under supervision of The Religious Committee, our religious activities began prior to our dedication. Our Friday Evening Sabbath services were inaugurated on September 17, 1954. Since then, our Synagogue Staff has conducted a total of forty-two such services, with a total attendance of 707, or an average of 47 per service.

High Holy Day services were held in 1954-55-56 with visiting Rabbis officiating but assisted by members of our regular staff.

Yahrzeit minyans are held under supervision of the Religious Committee. Our Synagogue has also been the scene of two Bar Mitzvah ceremonies and one Confirmation service.

"May this, Thy House, be our fortress of strength, to give us courage for the challenges of life".

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## IN MEMORIAM

1954 1955 1956  
HARRY TAPOLSKY - BESSIE TUCKER - MORRIS GOLDENSON

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The following Memorials have been established on our Synagogue

Yahrzeit Plaque:

Louis Lachman	- 1 Tishri	Simon Miller	-30 Ab
Anna Berkosky	- 5 Iyar	Joseph M. Rosenblum	-15 Tammuz
David Berkosky	-12 Nisan	Rachel Goldie	
Ja. Sanford Berkosky	-28 Tebeth	RR Rosenblum	-14 Nisan
Michael Warren Buchman	-22 Iyar	Jennie Ida Savitz	- 9 Adar
Jacob Zelig Cahen	-29 Adar	Harry Saxen	-15 Nisan
Miriam Cahen	- 1 Heshvan	Morris Saxen	-13 Tishri
Isaac Diamondstone	-11 Kislev	Noah Saxen	- 2 Kislev
Miriam M. Frankel	- 9 Tammuz	Hyman Silverblatt	- 5 Ab
Herman Friedman	-25 Iyar	Solomon Skoverinsky	- 5 Tishri
Anna Sarah Glick	-18 Nisan	Harry Tapolsky	-29 Ab
Morris Nathan Glick	-21 Ellul	Sadie Lena Tapolsky	- 6 Heshvan
Samuel Reuben Glick	- 1 Tebeth	Fannie weiss	-10 Sivan
Morris Henry Goldenson	- 1 Heshvan	Joseph Weiss	-25 Nisan
Jacob Goldman	-20 Nisan	Sarah Ethel Weiss	- 6 Iyar
Fannie Lowenstein	-18 Adar	Samuel Isadore	
Joseph Lowenstein	-13 Heshvan	Zelansky	- 8 Nisan
Edith Lucker	-29 Kislev		

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KADDISH is not a prayer for the dead, but a pledge from the living; not a superstitious phrase, but a man's motto of life.... Kaddish is the eternal appeal to the divine spark in the heart of every Jewish soul. It is the "river of light", the stream of idealism in which the elect bathe for eternal rejuvenation, from whose light the groping millions are illuminated; from whose fire the historical body of our people draws the secret of eternity. The Kaddish is the living consciousness of our obligation to add Jewish assets to those acquired by the generations before us, to save God for the world. ---Rabbi Leo Jung

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The Congregation is invited to memorialize the names of departed ones by establishing a memorial plaque. All plaques ordered now will be placed in time for the High Holy Day services this Fall.



## IN RETROSPECTION

As we look back over the history of The New Beth Israel Congregation, we find the most fruitful years were those of 1953-'54-'55. Under the leadership and untiring efforts of President Sam Berkosky, we became firmly established in our new home. Our religious, social and financial programs were inaugurated and much was achieved during these years. The year just passed, 1956, was not quite so productive of worthy accomplishments. This became a period of indifference and laxity. Only through the devotion and executive ability of President Jerry Lowenstein, we finished the year in fair standing. 1957 should be a big year if our President and officers are given proper support and encouragement.

**\*\*RELIGIOUSLY** we have made some progress. Our religious program has been good but should be broadened to include informal discussion groups or classes. Yahrzeit minyans must have better attendance; it takes ten men to make a minyan at morning services too. There is great need for a Synagogue Choral Club or singing group to lead and improve our congregational singing at our services and to lead group singing at Friday Eve Oneg Shabbats following the regular service, Hebrew study classes for the children can be established if parents will assume greater responsibility and financial backing. Our Religious School continues to be a shining example of what a few devoted workers can accomplish year after year. The Religious Committee definitely should not make any further concessions to please, pacify or "keep peace in the family". We are a Conservative Congregation and every decision affecting our religious activities must be based solely on Conservative law and ritual.

**\*\*SOCIALLY** we depend too much on our Sisterhood to "carry the ball" and the burden. They should be commended for carrying out almost single handed this important part of congregational life. All activities have been good and well planned but support has been spotty. Such a small group of ardent workers should not be asked to shoulder the entire burden. Our Men's Club to date has not assumed any responsible part of our social or fraternal program. Their programs and meetings have been planned and supervised carefully but interest and support has been lacking. Perhaps what is needed for this organization is "more aggressinn" and "less fressing".

**\*\*FINANCIALLY** for a small congregation, we have done well. The first physical inventory of our total assets and the 1956 audit were most revealing and gratifying. But past accomplishments must not induce an over-dose of self-satisfaction and inactivity. We are now ready to close our books on the first phase of our original financial program. Pledges will soon have been paid in full and we must, therefore, seek new sources of revenue. Annual dues are not sufficient to meet our needs. A look at the 1957 budget, just adopted by our Board of Trustees, shows that estimated income will barely cover our estimated expenditures. The decision of the Board to meet the costs of the new storage addition to our plant by further borrowing, means that we are now about to embark on a policy of more "deficit spending". The old and much repeated saying that "it's good business to be in debt" is mere fallacy. Some 62½% of our budget now goes for mortgage payments and interest. Our Ways and Means Committee which was discarded in 1956 should be restored immediately and instructed to formulate a building fund program and campaign. Although our Board of Trustees expresses no desire to become a collection agency, "schnorring" is still the backbone of all institutional financing. Only other sources of revenue are a hike in our dues or an additional dues assessment for the year. Neither will prove very popular and will meet with stiff opposition.

"A religion that does nothing, that costs nothing,  
that suffers nothing, IS WORTH NOTHING".

Each members original investment in The New Beth Israel has already paid off in big dividends: "Peace of mind; that feeling of belonging; greater spiritual security", are but a few. Any dissatisfied customers should just glance back a few years to what we had and then take stock of what we now enjoy.

**\*\*GENERALLY SPEAKING** we have much to be thankful for and to work for. Let us all join our talents and efforts in making 1957 a good, progressive year.

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"When industry goes out the door, poverty comes in at the window"  
-----Ethics of The Fathers.



1957-1958

H O L I D A Y S

5717-5718

Purim .....	March 17
Passover .....	April 16-23
Shavouth .....	June 5-6
Fast of Av .....	August 6
Rosh Hashanah .....	September 26-27
Yom Kippur .....	October 5
Succoth .....	October 10-18
Hanukkah .....	December 18-25

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T H E S A B B A T H K I D D U S H

The Kiddush is the formal consecration of home life. It is the ceremony and prayer by which the holiness of the Sabbath is proclaimed by the Jew in his home. At the beginning of the first Sabbath-meal, the wife, children and dependents take part in this ceremony which brings out the double significance of the Sabbath--the religious and the historical. The Sabbath proclaims the basic truth that this universe is not the product of chance, but the work of a Divine Power. It is also a reminder of the Deliverance from Egypt and of God as Israel's Redeemer. As wine gladdens the heart of man, our Sabbath meal begins with a cup of wine, in honor of the day, accompanied by the blessings. Wine also emphasizes the joyous side of life as an important and significant part of the Sabbath.

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L A T R O B E R E L I G I O U S C E N S U S

May 20, 1956

Roman Catholic .....	2928*
Protestant .....	2921
Greek Orthodox .....	149
Jewish .....	42
Miscellaneous .....	238

Total ..... 6278

\*Memberships

Our Beth Israel membership is less than one per-cent of total census.