

DEDICATION JOURNAL

of the

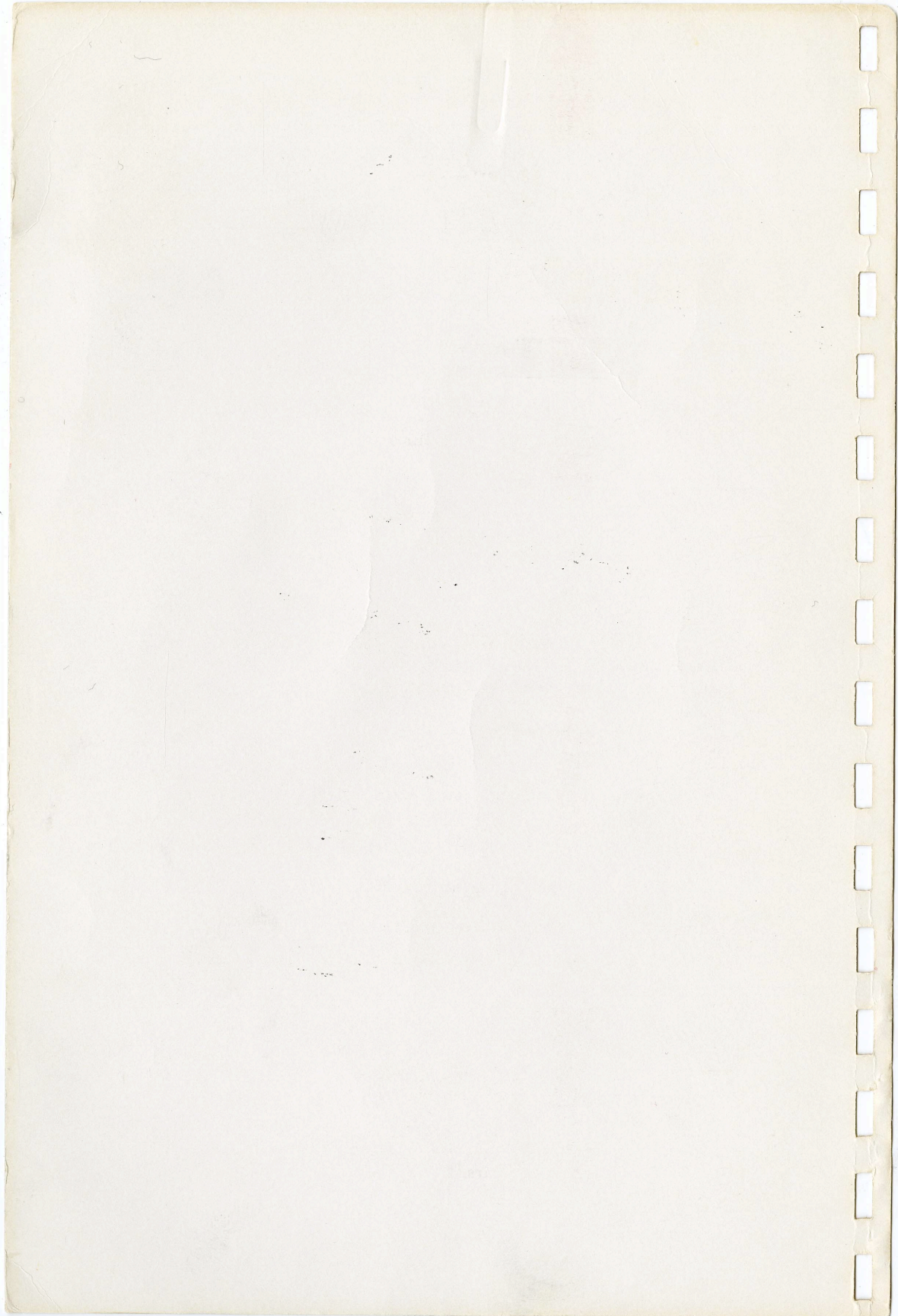
Beth Jacob Congregation

1040 Kenneth Avenue

New Kensington, Pennsylvania



1965



President's Message

It is with sincere pride that I take this opportunity to congratulate our Rabbi, the officers and members of our Congregation for a job well done.

As president of the Beth Jacob Synagogue I share the honor of achievement and accomplishment with my predecessors in this post, starting with Mel Steinberg in whose administration the plans started to sprout and Mel Goldberg, Attorney Irv Green, Sid Zinamon and James Weissburg who carried the ball till now.

Now that we have this beautiful edifice I ask your continued support to utilize the facilities to their fullest extent. Help us to maintain the high standards that now prevail for the benefit and full strength potential of our Jewish Community. We have a full and inspiring program, for our adults and youth alike, let us then continue to march forward from strength to strength.

Joseph Herman

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Nathan Weisband
Arthur Weisz
Harold Grossman

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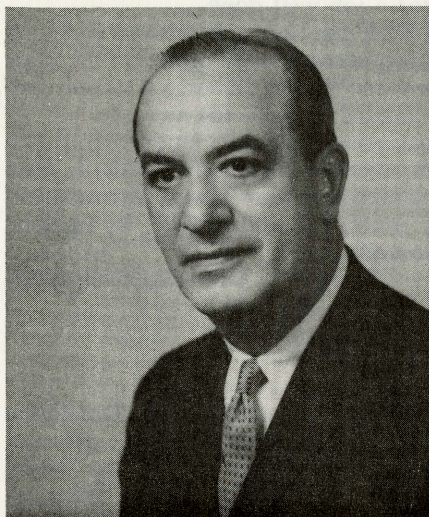
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"History of Beth Jacob"



Maurice Claster

Just as the small group of Jews came to the soil of America some 300 years ago as pioneers in the early settlement of this country, so did a small settlement of Jews arrive in New Kensington in the early years of its beginnings.

New Kensington was laid out in 1891 when the first lot was sold, and the community became incorporated as a Borough on November 28, 1892. During the summer or fall of 1891 my father, Isaac Claster, originally a peddler who carried a pack on his back came into the community, purchased a lot and immediately began constructing his small store on Tenth Street near Fourth Avenue. The New Kensington Dispatch dated February 20, 1892, under the heading "Local Twinklings" notes that a Mr. I. Claster would soon open his clothing store as of April 9, 1892. This business was the first clothing store in New Kensington.

The Isaac Fisher family was the next Jewish family in the small community and an announcement in the Dispatch edition of March 4, 1893, indicated that Fisher's would open their store in this thriving metropolis on March 6th of that year. I am advised that Phillip Fisher, Mr. Isaac Fisher's brother, also came at this time.

However, for more lasting names, David Solobodsky came as a cigar maker on January 12, 1894, and with his family settled on Second Avenue and Tenth Street, opening his cigar factory there in a small hotel. Some time before August 24, 1894, Harris N. Miller settled here as a tinner and grocer, The Dispatch edition of that date notes that a license to marry was procured in Allegheny County the previous Tuesday by the said Harris N. Miller of New Kensington and Mary Rosenberg of Pittsburgh. This was probably the first marriage of a Jewish native, and this Miller was evidently the forerunner of the many Millers to follow. From that time and during the next year or so we find that the families of Davis Miller, a shoemaker, and Hytovitz, a cigar maker, evidently settled here. A news item in one of our first Jewish publications indicates that the first "minyon" was held in the residence of I. Claster and it was conducted by a Rabbi Herman Levendorf. This same Rabbi Levendorf later became the community's Rabbi. The occasion was the reading of "Megilos Esther" on Purim Eve of 1895. At those services, the article states, there were present the members of the families of Isaac Claster, Isaac Fisher, Philip Fisher, Davis Miller, Hirsch Miller, David Solobodsky and Mr. Hytovitz.

Teres Myers settled here in 1896. The family of Davis Miller states that he came to New Kensington in the year 1898 which indicates a discrepancy between the two dates listed. In 1898 the family of Hyman Kopelman was met here by Mr. Kopelman's brother Max, who preceded him by a short time, and who soon left to live in Vandergrift. Just about this time, too, did the H. Kubrin and the Mofsovitch families arrive. Within the next few years there were additional names

of early Jewish settlers mentioned such as Harry Simon, Bert Beigel, Samuel D. Cohen, (1900), Harry Frankel, Louis Serbin, Morris Miller (1899), Jacob Margolis, Sam and Morris Herschkovitch, Jacob Freedman, Harry Harris, and the Abe Wayne family. From these beginnings our community has now grown to close to 200 families.

It might be interesting to discuss for a moment the spiritual side of the community where we find that services prior to the building of a Synagogue were held in a hall over Bloser's Jewelry Store on Fourth Avenue between Ninth and Tenth Streets; then on the second floor of a building at Fourth Avenue and Tenth Street; and still later at a store room on Third Avenue between Eleventh and Twelfth Streets in 1905. However, the charter of incorporation of "Beth Jacob of New Kensington" was not applied for until May 17, 1907, and the charter was granted on June 15th of that year. The Directors for the first year were I. Fisher, Isaac Claster, David Solobodsky, Harry Simon and Peter Richest. In addition to these men, the incorporators were L. Sahn, D. Miller, T. Myers, H. Kipelman, H. N. Miller, Simon Steiner, Jacob Sakulsky, Moritz Hershovitz, Morris Miller, and Harry Kubrin. After the sale of this Synagogue, services were held in the Adolph Building on Ninth Street, and then at Kenneth Avenue and Ninth Street Extension in a home purchased temporarily by the Congregation for services.

Our present Synagogue at 1040 Kenneth Avenue was constructed in 1925, and the cornerstone laid on February 15th of that year. Some of our spiritual leaders, the names of whom many of you will remember, are Rabbis Mofsewitz, Issac Cooper, Mendelsohn, Lipschiyz, Joseph Bachrach, Herman Levendorf, Henry Goldberger, Mordecai Thurman, N. N. Hurwitz, Morris Lyons, Noah Golinken, Judah Washer, Julius Berger, Leon Wengrovski, Herbert Panitchand our present Rabbi Harold B. Konovitch who helped us realize this dream.

The first Jewish child born in New Kensington was Ben Claster on January 30, 1893.

Louis Claster has resided in New Kensington longer than any other person, dating from April 7, 1892.

Mrs. Matilda Perlus was probably the oldest living resident here at the age of ninety.

The first person laid to rest in our cemetery was Peter Herskovitz on October 16, 1913.

Please forgive me if I have omitted the names of other early residents. It was not intentional. We should expand upon this history and I will ask that those of you who have additional data please make it known, and I will gladly enlarge upon this brief history. For the benefit of our archives and for future reference we should have a complete compilation.

Maurice Claster

Note —

Other pertinent facts are to be found in the Fiftieth Anniversary Journal.

Dedicating The Corner Stone



The congregation gratefully acknowledges the fine work done by our Building Committee which was guided by Mr. Isadore Frank, our general contractor, and the late Mr. Harold Schwartz, his architect.

BUILDING COMMITTEE

J. Robert Myers
Isadore Frank
Rabbi Konovitch
Harry Stein

Mathan Weisband
Ruth Weisband
Dorothy Flegler
Tille Malyn
Harold Schwartz

Irv Green
Abe Green
Sid Zinamon
Mel Goldberg

Dedication Weekend

The Dedication weekend was ushered in with a special Friday night service prepared by Rabbi Konovitch. The presidents of the various Jewish organizations participated.

Joseph Herman for Beth Jacob; Mrs. Bernard Eger, Sisterhood; Raymond Wikes, B'nai B'rith; Mrs. A. Gordon, B'nai B'rith Women; and Mrs. Bennett Sack, Hadassah.

Following the services an elaborate Oneg Shabbat sponsored by Sisterhood was guided by religious chairman, Max Schwartz. The Program "I Remember When", was carried out by: Mace Claster, Mrs. Ben Elfont, Mrs. Bernard Eger, Mrs. Jerry Horowitz and Mrs. Irving Miller.

SATURDAY MORNING SERVICES - NOVEMBER 7, 9:00 A.M.

The teenagers conducting the service were Howard Weisband, Alan Steinberg, Rickey Herman, Harris Miller, Mark Rosenblum, David Konovitch, Larry Weiss, and Paul Schwartz.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON - NOVEMBER 7

Community Oneg Shabbat and Special Youth Programs.

SUNDAY MORNING - NOVEMBER 8

Sunday school open house for parents with special assembly program.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON - NOVEMBER 8, 2:00 - 5:00 P.M.

Open house for viewing of dedication plaques and picture taking.

SUNDAY EVENING - NOVEMBER 8, 5:30 - 6:00 P.M.

Dedication service in sanctuary.

The dedication services conducted by the Rabbi were conducted with a summary of the memorials presented in the form of an oral tour thru the Synagogue. The rooms and items dedicated were mentioned and their donors acknowledged.

The Rabbi's sermon "This Sacred Moment" concluded the services.

Cocktail Hour from 6:00 to 6:45 P.M.

Dedication Banquet 7:00 P.M.

Dedications

LOWER LEVEL

THE DAVID H. EGER CHAPEL

In loving Memory by:

Mrs. Fannie Eger

Mr. & Mrs. Bernie Eger

Mr. & Mrs. Albert Eger

Mr. & Mrs. Fred Levenson

Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Goldberg

Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Goldberg

Mr. & Mrs. Nelson Goldberg

Dr. & Mrs. Saul Block

Mr. & Mrs. Alex Sloan

Mr. & Mrs. Lou Hirsch

SACRED ARK IN THE NEW CHAPEL

In loving Memory of Isadore Fleegler

Dr. & Mrs. Samuel C. Fleegler

ETERNAL LIGHT IN THE NEW CHAPEL (downstairs)

In loving Memory of Joseph Bleier and Ben & Rose Linder

Mr. & Mrs. Abe Bleier

MENORAH IN NEW CHAPEL (downstairs)

In Memory of Ruth Rose Gordon

Mr. & Mrs. Julius Gordon

Dr. & Mrs. Milton Gordon

Norman Gordon

TORAH TABLE IN NEW CHAPEL (downstairs)

In loving Memory of Herman Marcus

Milton Marcus

MENORAH IN NEW CHAPEL (downstairs)

In Honor of Mr. & Mrs. Sam Slomoff

Slomoff Family

DOWNSTAIRS ENTRY LOBBY

FRONT DOORS

In loving Memory of Abraham Schwartz

Mr. & Mrs. Max Schwartz

Mrs. Abraham Schwartz

Mr. & Mrs. Hy Lutsky

DOWNSTAIRS ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

In loving Memory of Joseph and Ida Breman

Mr. & Mrs. Ted Breman

Mr. & Mrs. Ben Breman

Mr. & Mrs. Meyer Braun

MAIN AUDITORIUM OR SOCIAL HALL

THE DAVIS AND ANNA LENA MILLER AUDITORIUM

In loving Memory by:

Mr. Donald Miller

Mr. & Mrs. Howard Miller

Mr. & Mrs. Harry Braun

Dr. & Mrs. Howard Dunhoff

Mr. & Mrs. Irving Miller

Mr. Harry Miller

Mr. & Mrs. Milton Miller

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Miller

Mr. & Mrs. Meyer Braun

Dedications

AUDITORIUM LOUNGE (entrance to Social Hall)

The Beryl Mayer and Blanche R. Miller Lounge

In loving memory by:

Mr. Archie Miller

Mr. Dave Miller

Mr. Max Miller

Mr. & Mrs. Lee Schwartz

Dr. & Mrs. Herbert Miller

CLOAK ROOM (adjoining Social Hall)

In loving Memory of Isaac Cohen

Mrs. Ida P. Cohen

Mr. & Mrs. Louis Goldberg

Miss Lillian Cohen

Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Rosenblum

Mr. & Mrs. Irving Miller

Mr. & Mrs. Isadore Herman

STAGE

In loving Memory of Minnie Zinamon and Morris I. Zinamon

Mr. & Mrs. Sidney Zinamon

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Kanselbaum

STAGE CURTAINS (in Main Auditorium in Social Hall)

In loving Memory of Abraham and Eva Herman

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Herman

Mr. & Mrs. Isadore Herman

RABBI'S STUDY (off Social Hall)

In loving Memory of Bertha Breman Miller

Mr. Harry C. Miller

Mr. & Mrs. Meyer Braun

Mr. & Mrs. Ted Breman

Mr. & Mrs. Ben Breman

FOUNDERS HALLWAY

Dedicated to our Wonderful School Children

SISTERHOOD GIFT SHOP

In loving Memory of Benjamin Myers

Mr. & Mrs. Milton Myers

Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Myers

Mr. J. Robert Myers

LIBRARY — THE B'NAI B'RITH LIBRARY

by our local mens chapter of B'nai B'rith

Allegheny Valley Lodge No. 1233

KITCHEN

In loving Memory of Fannie Goldberg

By the Beth Jacob Sisterhood

LADIES LOUNGE

Furnished by Grandma's Bridge Club

CLASSROOM NO. 1

In Memory of Harold L. Schwartz

Mrs. Bertha Schwartz

Mr. & Mrs. John Meek

Mr. Stephen Schwartz

Mr. & Mrs. I. E. Sealfon

Mr. & Mrs. Max Schwartz (California)

Mr. & Mrs. G. D. Balch

Mr. & Mrs. Albert Schwartz

Dr. & Mrs. B. Kurtz

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Schwartz

Mrs. Leonard Snyder

Dedications

CLASSROOM NO. 2

Dedicated in loving Memory of Herman W. and Baille Milligram
and Hersh Meyer and Rebecca Wainberg

Mr. & Mrs. Alvin W. Milligram Mr. & Mrs. Seymour Solomon
Mr. Emerson Milligram

CLASSROOM NO. 3

Dedicated in loving Memory of Michael & Chana Perr
and David L. Perr and Morris Perr

Mr. Jacob Perr
Mrs. David Perr

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Perr
Miss Ethel Greenberg

CLASSROOM NO. 4

Dedicated in loving Memory of David Weissburg

Mrs. Celia Weissburg *Mr. Alex Weissburg*
Mr. & Mrs. James Weissburg *Mr. & Mrs. Jack Weissburg*
Mr. & Mrs. George Cohen

CLASSROOM NO. 7 (downstairs)

In loving Memory of Howard Berkey

Mr. & Mrs. Floyd Berkey *Mr. & Mrs. Saul Berkey*

CLASSROOM NO. 8

In loving Memory of Isadore Fleegler and Louis Goldblum

Dr. & Mrs. Saul M. Fleegler

SANCTUARY LOBBY

In loving Memory of Jacob & Miriam Weisband

Mr. & Mrs. Nathan Weisband

MAIN SANCTUARY

HOLY ARK

In loving Memory of Meyer Hart

Mrs. Ida Hart

Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Hart

BIMAH

In loving Memory of Abraham & Zeise Green

Atty. & Mrs. Irving Green
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Pipman

TORAH READING TABLE (main sanctuary)

In loving Memory of Louis Miller

Mrs. Bessie Miller
Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Steinberg

LECTERN NO. 1 (front and maine one in sanctuary)

In loving Memory of Samuel Levine and Morris Smith

Dr. & Mrs. Jacob Levine

LECTERN NO. 2 (on Bimah of main sanctuary)

In loving Memory of Isaac and Bessie Cluster

Mr. & Mrs. Morris Claster *Mr. Lou Claster*

Dedications

LECTERN NO. 3 (on Bimah of main sanctuary)

In loving Memory of Harris Mathan and Mary Ethel Miller

Mrs. Edith Malyn

Mr. & Mrs. Carl Miller

Mrs. Morris Miller

Mr. & Mrs. Irving Malyn

Mr. & Mrs. Albert Malyn

Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Malyn

Mr. & Mrs. Milton Malyn

Miss Sarah Miller

Mr. & Mrs. Herman Eiding

SPECIAL DEDICATIONS

CORNER STONE (outside)

In loving Memory of Sarah Frank

Mr. Isadore Frank

Mr. & Mrs. Mitchell Stapen

Mr. & Mrs. Albert Weiss

TEN COMMANDMENTS

In loving Memory of Morris & Rachael Konovitch

Rabbi & Mrs. Harold Konovitch and children

Jonathan, David and Robin

FLAGS

Donated by Mr. & Mrs. Louis Goldberg

CHAPEL PEWS (downstairs)

In loving Memory of Fannie Goldberg

Friends

LADIES LOUNGE

By the Canasta Club

Mrs. Fannie Eger

Mrs. Edith Malyn

Mrs. Bessie Miller

Mrs. Pete Miller

Mrs. Sam Slomoff

The Late Mrs. Fannie Goldberg

CHAPEL MEMORAH

In Honor of Mr. & Mrs. Sam Slomoff

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Slomoff

Mr. & Mrs. Harry Stein

Erenstein & Cauff Family

REMEMBRANCE BOOK

In Honor of Mr. & Mrs. Sigmund Kein

Mr. & Mrs. George Wolfson and Family

SHOWCASE

In Honor of Ida Cohen's 80th Birthday

Ida Cohen Family

MEMORIAL TABLET

In Memory of Fannie Goldberg

The Eger and Levenson Family

GROUNDBREAKING SHOVEL

Purchased and Presented By

Rabbi & Mrs. Harold B. Konovitch



Mr. I. Frank dedicates cornerstone with daughters and granddaughters looking on.



The Perr family dedicating Class Room



The Weissburg family dedicating Class Room in memory of David Weissburg.



Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kanselbaum and Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Zinamon dedicating stage in memory of Minnie Zinamon and Morris Zinamon.



The Green and Pipman families dedicating Bimah in loving memory of Zeise Green.



The Rabbi and Mrs. Konovitch dedicating 10 Commandments Tablet in memory of Morris and Rachael Konovitch.

Dedication Banquet

SUNDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER EIGHTH
NINETEEN HUNDRED SIXTY-FOUR
SIX-THIRTY O'CLOCK



Beth Jacob Congregation

1040 Kenneth Avenue
New Kensington, Pennsylvania



"This is the day which the Lord hath made, on it we will rejoice and be glad."
(Hallel)

Program

Master of Ceremonies Robert Kanselbaum
Invocation Rabbi Mordecai Glatstein
Pitt Jewish Home for the Aged

DINNER

Address Rabbi Bernard Poupko
Shaare Torab Cong. Pitt.
Liturgical Gems Cantor Jacob Lefkowitz
Shaare Torab Cong. Pitt.
Greetings Joseph Herman
President, Beth Jacob Congregation
Greetings Mrs. Bernard Eger
President, Sisterhood
Musical Interlude Ricky Green
Piano Accompanist - Alan Wolk
Address Rabbi Harold B. Konovitch
Beth Jacob Congregation
Felicitations James Weissburg
Dedication Chairman
Benediction Rabbi Benjamin Krühn
Oaklands Obarc Zedeck Cong.

HAROLD B. KONOVIATCH, RABBI

Menu

HORS D'OEUVRES

ROAST CORNISH HEN

WILD RICE WITH HERBS

PETIT POIS PEAS

BAKED FRUIT JUBILEE

RELISH TRAY

ASSORTED ROLLS

CHERRY TART

COFFEE

PAREVE MARG. and CREAM

COCKTAILS

WINE

Officers 1964-1965

BETH JACOB CONGREGATION	BETH JACOB SISTERHOOD
Joseph Herman President	Mrs. Bernard Eger President
Hy Lutsky 1st Vice President	Mrs. Carl Miller 1st Vice President
Max Schwartz 2nd Vice President	Mrs. Arthur Weiss 2nd Vice President
Robert Miller Treasurer	Mrs. Sylvia Rosenblum Treasurer
Edwin Hart Fin. Secretary	Mrs. Floyd Berkey Fin. Secretary
Joseph Petr Rec. Secretary	Mrs. Sonia Siegel Rec. Secretary
Corres. Secretary	Mrs. Hy Kurren Corres. Secretary

Dedication Committee

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Mrs. Bernard Eger Pres., Sisterhood
James Weissburg Past Pres., Beth Jacob Congregation
Mrs. George Wolfson Past Pres., Sisterhood
Al Eger
Lee Schwartz Co-Chm. Dedication Plaques
Isadore Frank
Marvin Rosenblum
Mrs. L. Goldberg Co-Chm. Ads Committee
Atty. Harold Grossman Chm. Patrons Committee
Hy M. Kurran Chm. Planning Committee
Mrs. I. Miller
Mrs. J. Weissburg Co-Chm. Reservations Committee
Hy Lutsky
Max Schwartz Co-Chm. Religious Planning Committee
George Wolfson Chm. Banquet Committee
Rabbi Harold B. Konovitch General Chairman

Catered By: BETH JACOB CONGREGATION SISTERHOOD

Dedication Banquet

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1964



Dedication weekend was a memorable one at the Beth Jacob Synagogue. Preparations for beautification and decoration of our elegant synagogue, classrooms and social hall were carefully made and there were services, youth activities and celebrations to excite young and old alike.

After the formal dedication service and the placing of the plaques, the highlight of the evening was the Dedication Banquet — a simcha we were all looking forward to with much anticipation as the joyful reward for the work and efforts that evryone devoted to our building campaign.

The banquet got under way with introductory remarks by the toastmaster, Robert J. Kanselbaum. The invocation was given by Rabbi Mordecai Glatstein, of the Jewish Home for the Aged. The women of the Sisterhood went overboard by serving a sumptuous meal befitting such a magnificent occasion. From the cornish hen to the appropriate wines and dessert, everyone enjoyed the festive mood of the evening.

A special table covered with a golden table cloth was set up in the center of the banquet hall. At this table were our honored guests — a group of "*Golden Agers*" whose service and devotion to our congregation and community dates back

to the turn of the century. Among these distinguished guests were Mr. Jacob Margolis, Mr. Julius Eiges and Mr. Abe Simon. We were sorry that last minute changes prevented Mr. Gustav Gottschall from joining us.

Many life long friends — former residents of our community — did the honor of participating in this simcha. Mrs. Ben Stein met old friends and shared reminiscences with other members. She was accompanied by her children, Mr. and Mrs. Milton Banov (Blanche Stein) and Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Moss (Mickey Stein). Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Hyman occupied a table with members of their family. Celebrating with the Weisband family were our perrenial guests, Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Fireman and also Dr. and Mrs. Ben Weisband, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Weisband and Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Polonsky. Mrs. Harold Schwartz was joined by her son, Stephen and other members of her family.

Our general contractor, a gentlemen who came out of retirement to supervise the construction of our edifice was Mr. Isadore Frank, he occupied a table with his children for this gala evening.

Principal speaker of the evening was Rabbi Bernard Poupko of the Shaare Torah Congregation in Pittsburgh. His eloquent address inspired all of us to rededicate ourselves to service of God, Family and Community. Musical entertainment was provided to add to the joviality of the evening. Cantor Jacob Lefkowitz of the Shaare Torah Congregation presented a program of inspiring musical selections. Most fitting for the evening was his rendition of "Yiboneh Beis Hamikdosh". In a lighter vein, a team of talented teen-agers presented a musical program that drew the applause of everyone. Ricky Green captivated his audience by singing "Eli Eli", "Havah Nagilah" and "Over the Rainbow". He was accompanied at the piano by Allen Wolk.

Special greetings and remarks were given by Joseph Herman, president of Beth Jacob Congregation; Mrs. Bernard Eger, president of Beth Jacob Sisterhood and by James Weissburg, Dedication banquet chairman.

Rabbi Harold B. Konovitch gave a brief and inspiring address and was saluted for his untiring efforts as general chairman of the dedication. Rabbi Benjamin Krohn of the Chave Zedeck Congregation in Pittsburgh gave the closing benediction.

Activities of the evening were filmed for viewing on television Channel 4 of Pittsburgh. Many local photographers recorded the highlights for future enjoyment. Following the conclusion of the banquet, guests exchanged greetings with old time friends, inspected and admired the new building facilities and one and all agreed that a grand time was had by all.

In Memory of

Our Beloved Parents

Hanna and Max Erenstein
