

# A last hurrah for B'nai Israel

By JOEL ROTEMAN, Executive Editor

After 92 years, Congregation B'nai Israel will celebrate its final weekend on North Negley Avenue on June 29 and 30. The Shabbat morning service will honor Rabbi Richard M.E. Marcovitz, spiritual leader, as well as Congregational leaders. An extended kiddush, sponsored by the Sisterhood, will follow.

Rabbi Marcovitz has served as spiritual leader since 1976 and has been key to the special events and programming over the years at the synagogue.

He and his wife Marilyn

have raised five children, the youngest of whom, Elizabeth, celebrated her Bat Mitzvah last weekend. Rabbi Marcovitz, who holds a graduate degree in pastoral counseling from Duquesne, holds an honorary doctorate from Jewish Theological

Seminary for 25 years in the rabbinate.

B'nai Israel will hold a tribute dinner Sunday, June 30, at 5:30 p.m., with an extensive display of souvenirs, photos, memorabilia, as well as entertainment around the weekend's theme of, "LChayim - To Life at B'nai."

B'nai Israel is now part of the merged congregation of Adat Shalom-B'nai Israel-Beth Jacob (of New Kensington) on Guys Run Road in Fox Chapel. The new Adat Shalom Congregation is located on 17 acres that once was the Divine Providence High School for Girls and more recently a part of Harmarville Rehabilitation.

The new congregation which has 250 members relocated at a cost of \$1.3 million. "It needed some renovation," Maxine Horn, part of a five-generation B'nai Israel family and co-chairperson of the Tribute weekend, told The Chronicle.

"Renovation was set for three phases," added Linda Levine, B'nai Israel president and vice president of Adat Shalom. "Phase one has been completed and phase two should be completed by September 1," in plenty of time for the High Holy Day services.

"Our first sanctuary will seat 385, and we plan to have parallel services in the social hall for the High Holidays," she said.

The congregation celebrated its first wedding last week—that of Cantor Adriane Caplowe, who is educational director-administrator for the congregation.

The Sunday School serves 140 youngsters, with 180 expected for next year. There are also 46 in the pre-school and 60 attending the summer day camp.

It is a particularly hectic time for the new-old congregation, with two synagogue buildings for sale—one in the East End and one in New Kensington—as well as a search for a full-time rabbi. Rabbi Ir-

ing Dick is serving as interim rabbi.

"The energy level of the people involved here is incredible," Horn stated, "for us, from a dwindling congregation where the same people always did the same jobs."

Levine noted: "Last year's High Holiday services were completely run by volunteers. Our parallel services this year will also be lay-run. There is a real spirit of co-operation."

Cynthia Kischler is Adat Shalom president; Shulamit Harel is school principal.

"We are very proud of the congregation's commitment and enthusiasm. In 13 months, we bought a building, started a Sunday and pre-school and had a fundraising campaign," said Levine.

Horn pointed out that "we offer a daily morning minyan at the Negley Avenue site for as long as possible, even after the building's sold."

After June 30, all other synagogue activities will take place at the new facility.

B'nai Israel has been a landmark presence since the sanctuary was dedicated in 1920. It is considered an outstanding example of Moorish synagogue architecture. The Oren Kodesh and all other appropriate artifacts will be relocated to the new facility. An open house for interested members of the community to see B'nai Israel for a final time has been scheduled for June 23, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Tribute weekend co-chairperson, along with Horn, is Iris Silverman, with Ann Gould as vice chairperson. The kiddush on Shabbat is complimentary but reservations are urgently requested. Dinner reservations also can be made by calling 661-0252.

## Kollel fetes

### Greenwalds

On May 19, a dessert reception by the Kollel Bais Yitzchok was given to acknowledge the work of Jay and Pam Greenwald. Over 250 people from the Pittsburgh Jewish community attended, expressing wishes on the Greenwald's one-year move to Israel.

Rabbi Nachman Jaeger greeted the guests and Rabbi Joseph Weiss of B'nai Emunoh spoke of the contributions Jay and Pam have made through the years to the growth and development of their shul.

Rosh Kollel Rabbi Shaul Kagan presented Jay and Pam with the Avodes HaKodesh plaque.




JUNE will mark the end of B'nai Israel as a home to its congregation. Final services will be held there June 29-30.



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