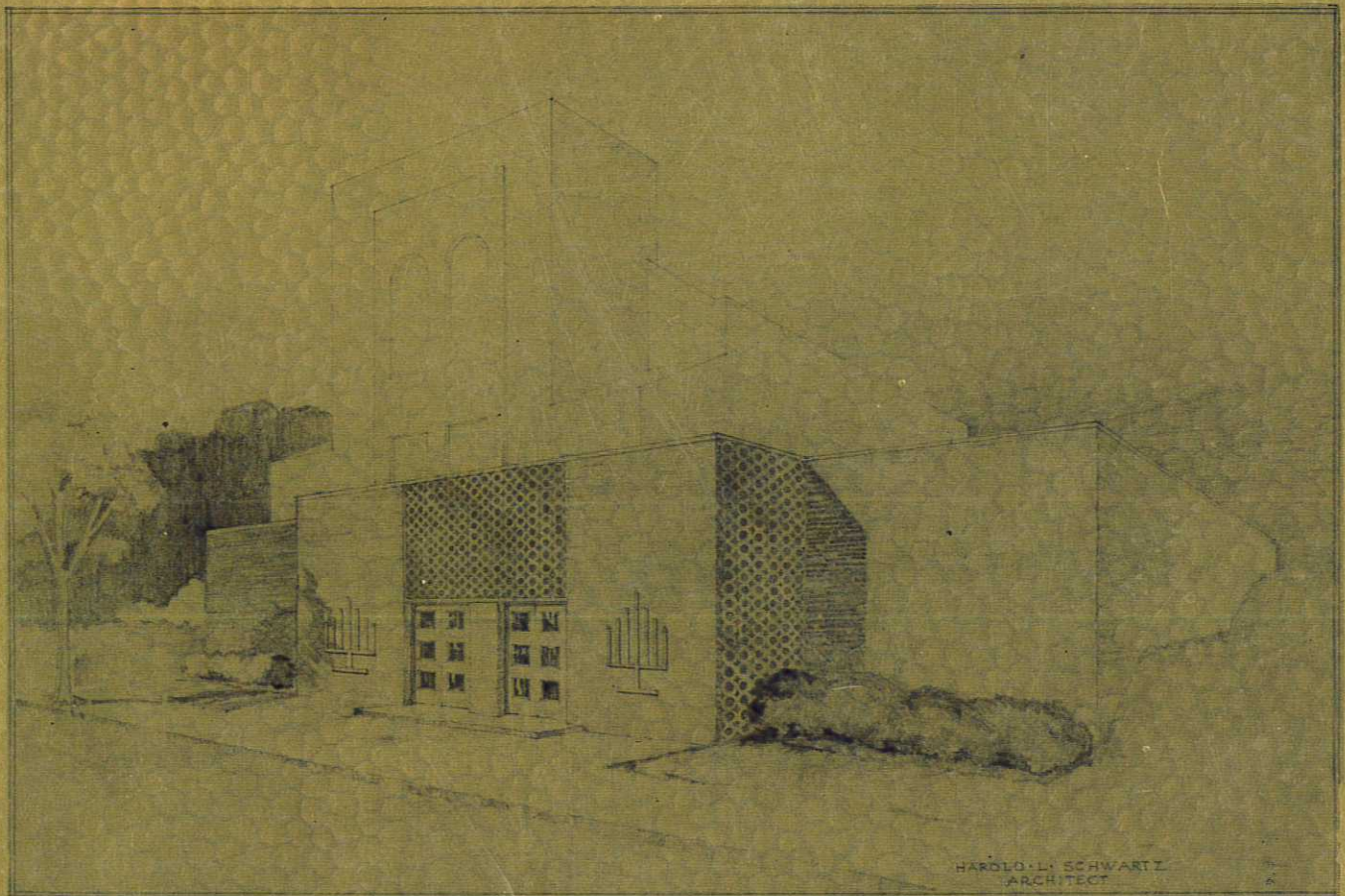


50th ANNIVERSARY
BETH JACOB
CONGREGATION

NEW KENSINGTON, PENNSYLVANIA

1908 - 1958

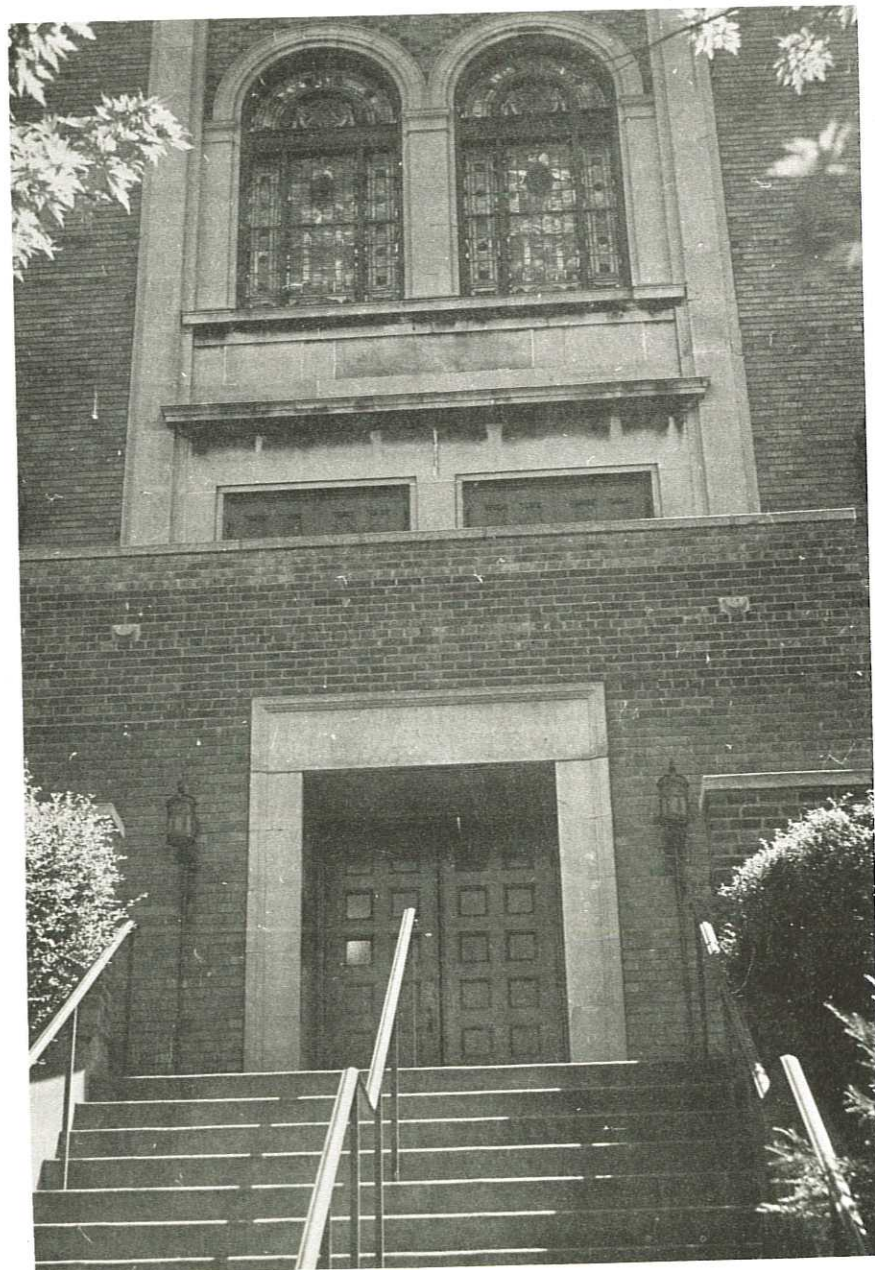
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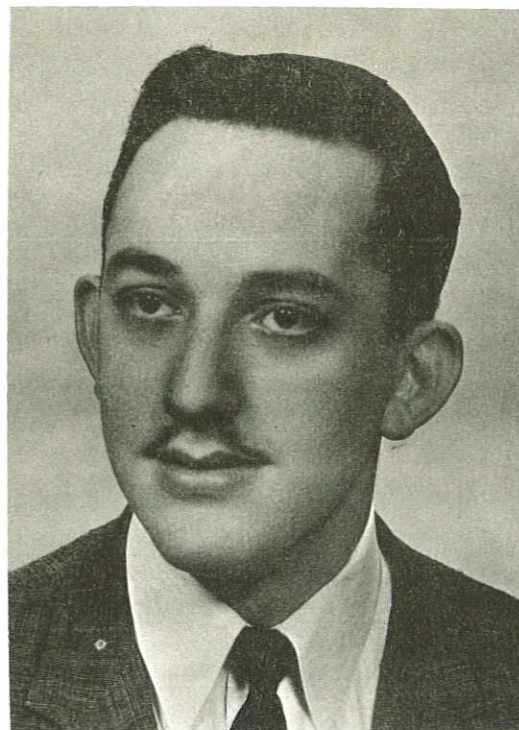
THE FUTURE BETH JACOB SYNAGOGUE

qBM225
N548
B562
1958

Dedicated to the founders of Beth
Jacob Congregation and to all the
fine people who have toiled in its
behalf for a half-century



BM 225
NS48
B562
1958
C.3



MESSAGE FROM RABBI PANITCH

As we celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of our synagogue, I wish to congratulate all residents and former residents of our city, for service rendered in making Beth Jacob the institution which it is today. Mazel tov for all past labors and for great success in all future endeavors. Above all else, let us always remember the underlying principles which guide the destiny of our synagogue.

The name "Beth Jacob-House of Jacob" in itself is the greatest symbol of its purpose and philosophy. Beth Jacob as an institution is not interested purely in metaphysical speculations nor mere theory. The philosophy of our synagogue has always been that theory must be translated into practice, being into doing, and learning must lead to moral and ethical disciplines based upon the divine and universal law of the Torah. The Teaching of our synagogue is primarily dedicated to the spiritual and moral purposes of our daily lives.

There may have been moments, and there may yet be times when we wonder whether our efforts have been appreciated and rewarding. When stock is taken after a passage of years however, I am sure that what Beth Jacob has contributed to those who have contributed and cling to it, will be assessed in terms of enrichment and beauty added to our lives and to the lives of our children.

A very beautiful thought was expressed by Heinrich Heine as he viewed the great Houses of Worship in Europe. "Often in regarding these old buildings, I know not which most to admire, the beauty of their vicinity, their great size, or the equally great and rocklike firm souls of their builders. They well knew that only their faroff descendants could complete the work; yet they calmly placed one stone upon another until death called them from their work."

Let us, too, remember, "Ours is not the obligation to complete the work, but neither have we the right to desist from it."

I have abiding faith that we will continue to govern our lives by the standards of the Torah, and by our American way of life; That we will rededicate ourselves to fifty additional years of consecrated service to God and our fellowmen.

HERBERT G. PANITCH, Rabbi

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

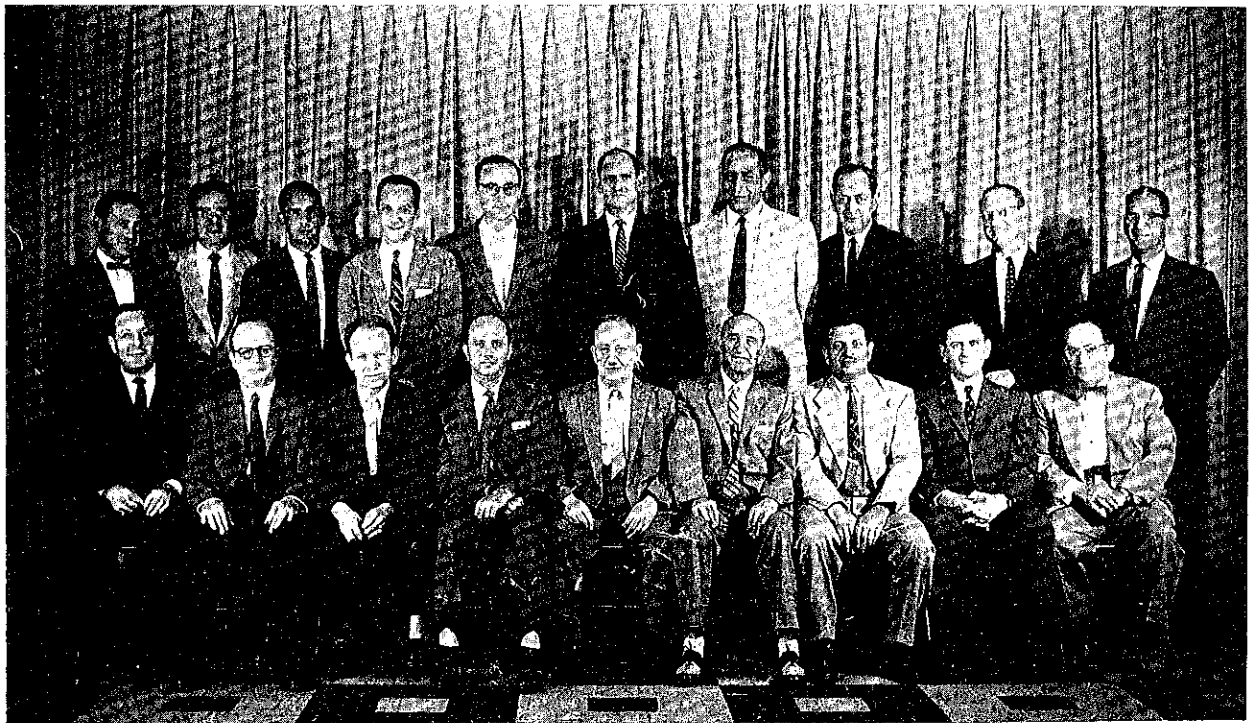
May I take this opportunity to greet you on the occasion of our fiftieth anniversary. It is indeed a privilege to serve as president during such a momentous year in our history. I thank all the men and women who to date have made the name Beth Jacob, paramount in their lives. I express my gratitude to all the past presidents and officers of both Congregation and Sisterhood for having guided our destiny over the course of years, that our walls might resound with the voice of Torah. We pay tribute too, to those individuals no longer in our earthly midst who gave of their energies that Beth Jacob might become a permanent institution in the lives of New Kensington Jewry.

It is not often in our life span that we can chant our thanks to God "for having kept us in life that we might reach this time," the completion of a half century in our shule history. With each of these years are bound up treasured memories, some which may bring tears to the eyes, others which may bring laughter to the face. It is in these reflections that we realize the swiftness of time, and the importance of accomplishment.

I am sure that this book will serve as a permanent testament to all those who have had a hand in the making of a glorious past, and will serve as an inspiration for us, the holders of the keys to the future.

May we all live to see our congregation grow from strength to strength and continue to be an inspiring factor in our lives.

MEL STEINBERG, President



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IRVING GREEN
Second Vice-President:
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2013-0082 9 Rev of Shulem 3-15-17 etc

PRESIDENT'S GREETINGS

It is indeed a great honor and personal privilege to share in the glory and rejoicing of the fulfillment of our Golden Anniversary.

My congratulations to all who ever held office or are now holding office in our Congregational Family.

The good old faithfuls of yesteryear who worked so hard to achieve this goal know full well what it took in the way of effort, time, energy. But each one of us is receiving our reward now in the knowledge that we have become a real congregational family and an integral unit in our community by adhering to the tents of our Torah and clinging to the way of real Jewish Life.

Let us therefore congratulate one another and pledge not only to re-new, but also to increase our interest and efforts for Beth Jacob in the next 50 years.



MRS. NATHAN WEISBAND

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 Mrs. Ben Elfont
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 Mrs. Isadore Herman
 The above Past Presidents are also members of the Board of Directors.

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 Mrs. Irving Miller
 Mrs. Milton Myers
 Mrs. Millie Ockner
 Mrs. Sidney L. Silverman

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BETH JACOB SISTERHOOD
 OFFICERS and DIRECTORS 1958

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SOUVENIR JOURNAL

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Mrs. Herbert Goldberg
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HISTORY OF BETH JACOB CONGREGATION

The history of Beth Jacob Congregation through the first half century of its existence parallels the growth of our community. In 1892, New Kensington was incorporated as a borough. That same year saw the arrival of an immigrant, Isaac Claster, who settled here and opened the first clothing store in New Kensington. Soon more families came, and within three years (1895) it was possible to hold the first Minyan in the Claster home.

By 1905, there were approximately twenty-five Jewish families in this area. However, there was no permanent location for religious services, and consequently they were held above downtown storerooms. In August of that year the first synagogue was founded in the 1100 block of Third Avenue. The Charter of Incorporation of Beth Jacob of New Kensington, however, was not granted until June 15, 1907. Isaac Claster became the charter president and his board of directors consisted of: Isaac Fisher, David Slobodsky, Harry Simon, and Peter Richest. Other incorporators were: Louis Serbin, Davis Miller, Teres Myers, Hyman Kopelman, Harris N. Miller, Simon Steiner, Jacob Sakulsky, Morris Hershkovitz, Morris Miller, and Henry Kubrin.

It is interesting to mention here, that since Beth Jacob Synagogue was the only Jewish house of worship in this vicinity, it was customary for the families from Tarentum and Natrona to come here by "horse and buggy" or "train" and spend the high holidays with relatives and friends.

During the next two decades progress continued in the various phases of congregational activity. The women, too, became an integral part of the affairs of the synagogue and the Beth Jacob Sisterhood was formed in 1912. Later, the Sunday School and Cheder were developed to the point where the first Confirmation class was graduated in 1920.

Due to the growth of the Jewish congregation, the facilities of the Third Avenue building soon became inadequate. A residence at the corner of Kenneth Avenue and Ninth Street extension was first rented and later purchased to serve as a recreational center, Sunday School, and Cheder. After the sale of the Third Avenue Synagogue, the religious services had to be temporarily included into the functions of this community house.

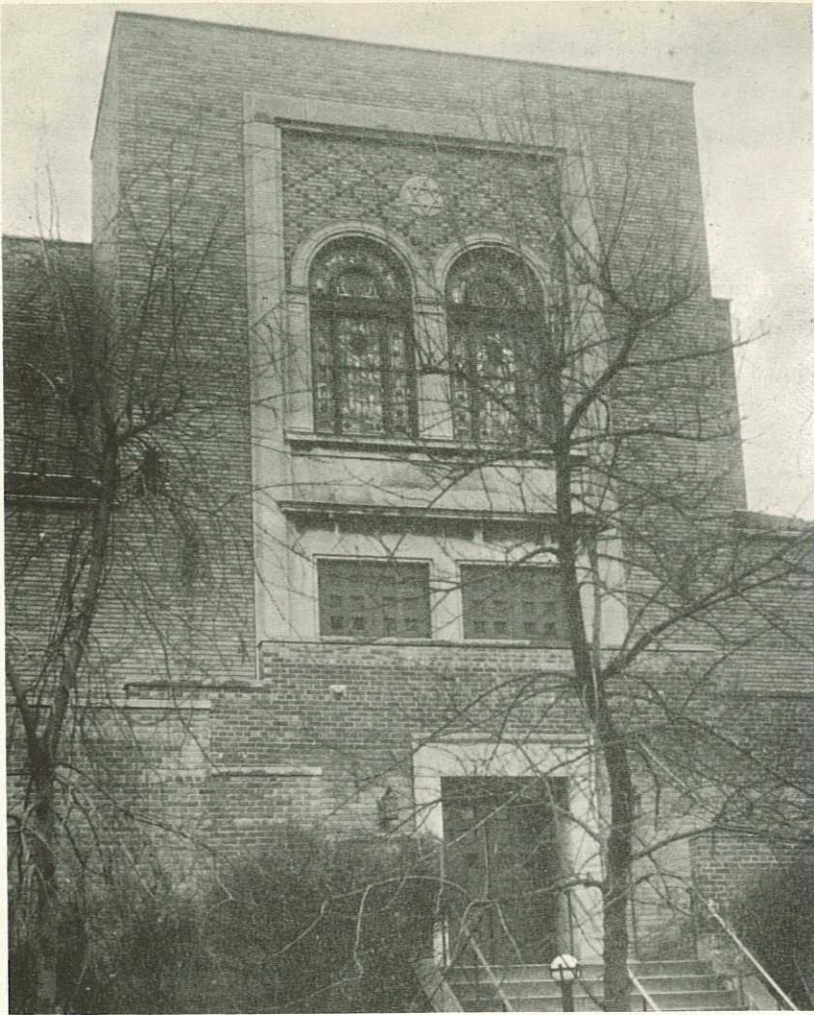
After an exhaustive survey, a lot was purchased at 1040 Kenneth Avenue from Joseph Ashor, local building contractor, and plans for a new structure were drawn by architect Alfred Marks. Meyer Hart's philanthropic efforts were manifested in getting this new project underway. Mr. Julius Eiges, president of the congregation also served as chairman of the building committee.



Isaac Claster

FIRST HOME OF BETH JACOB CONGREGATION





MEYER HART



PAST PRESIDENTS OF BETH JACOB

On December 9, 1924, amid great fanfare and acclaim and with Rabbi Benjamin Lichter presiding over the ceremonies, ground was broken for the new edifice. The total cost of the building was approximately \$75,000 with Powell Brothers receiving the general contract. The ingenuity and resourcefulness of this pioneer group was evidenced by their unique sale of "printed bricks" to wholesalers and manufacturers . . . to raise money for the building fund. Additional funds were made available through the sale of "stained glass windows" to the membership.

The officers at the time of the cornerstone laying were: President, Julius Eiges; Vice-President, Davis Miller; Treasurer, Max Max Schwartz; Financial Secretary, H. A. Westerman; Secretary, Ben H. Ockner. Board of Trustees were: Jacob Margolis, Chairman, Morris Miller, Benjamin Cohen, Hyman Kopelman, and Teres Myers.

The dedication ceremonies were held June 6, 1926. Those participating in the program were: Rabbi G. Mendelsohn, Meyer Hart, Judge Benjamin Lencher, Bere Mayer Miller, and Burgess Daniel Burns. Rabbi Goodman A. Rose of Beth Shalom Congregation, Pittsburgh, delivered the dedicatory address. At this time Meyer Hart assumed the office of president, and the other officers retained their respective positions.

During the past thirty years the synagogue has undergone a modernization and improvement program to keep pace with the growing needs of the congregation. The social hall has been considerably enlarged, a new kitchen installed, approximately six new classrooms added, the Rabbi's study renovated, a home for the Rabbi, acquired at 620 Ridge Avenue, and the purchase of the property adjoining the present site for more extensive educational purposes and synogue expansion. This period witnessed the economic depression of the 1930's that played havoc with the financial structure of Beth Jacob, but able leadership made it possible to withstand this crisis.

About ten years later, during World War I, about one hundred men and women from our Jewish community answered the country's call. Morris Zinamon, son of Mr. Abe Zinamon, heroically gave his life in this conflict.

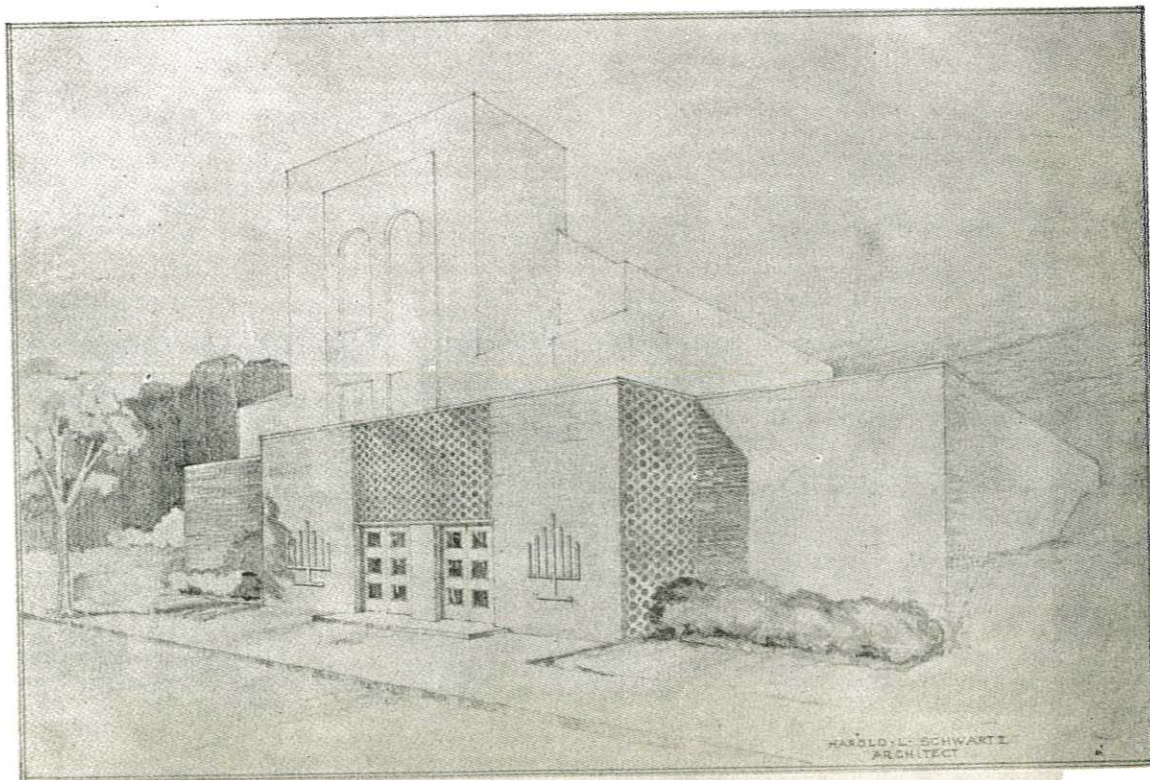
Beth Jacob Synagogue has been served by many able spiritual leaders among whom were: Rabbis Isaac Mofsewitz, Isaac Cooper, G. Mendelsohn, A. Lipschitz, Joseph Bachrach, Herman Levendorf, Henry Goldberger, Mordecai Thurman, H. N. Hurwitz, Maurice Lyons, Noah Golinken, Judah Washer, Julius Berger, Bernard Beigeleisen Leo Goldfetter, Leon Wengrovsky, and Herbert G. Panitch (our present Rabbi).

And now, 1958 . . . "We have grown to 160 member families strong . . . 100 children enrolled in the Sunday School . . . 60 students in Hebrew School . . . faced with inadequate recreational and educational facilities" . . . How does Beth Jacob look to the future? Architectural plans are now being formulated envisioning an extensive building program to meet these ever growing needs.

All of us must pledge and dedicate ourselves to the task of emulating the ideals and worthy achievements of our predecessors. This noble heritage and civic pride, demand that we must and will accept the "challenge" that lies ahead!



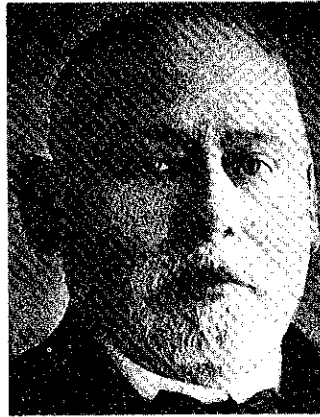
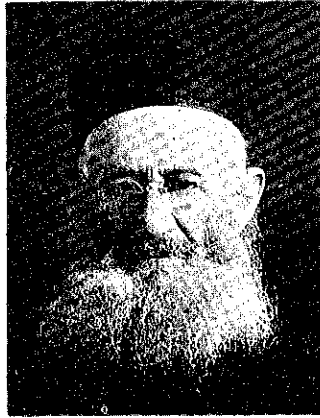
MELVIN STEINBERG



HAROLD L. SCHWARTZ
ARCHITECT

THE FUTURE BETH JACOB SYNAGOGUE

Early Leaders of Our Congregation



HYMAN KOPELMAN, LOUIS KREMER, MORRIS LINTZ, JACOB MARGOLIS, MORRIS MAZERISKY, BAER MAYER MILLER, DAVIS MILLER, HARRIS NATHAN MILLER, MORRIS MILLER, TERES MYERS, MICHAEL PERR, JACOB SAKULSKY, HARRY SIMON, BENJAMIN STEIN

GAY BLADES



GIRL SCOUTS



RABBI and MRS. HENRY GOLDBERGER, MR. and MRS. BEN STEIN.



75th BIRTHDAY OF IDA COHEN



SIMCHAS TORAH BANQUET 1925



HISTORY OF B'NAI B'RITH WOMEN

The first auxiliary of the B'nai B'rith Women was called Daughters of Judah, and was organized in August 1897 in San Francisco, California.

We are affiliated with the worlds largest and oldest Jewish organization devoted to Service. The impact of continued growth culminated the establishing of a National Organization following the same pattern and divisions of the Men's District Grand Lodges. On October 2, 1940, the executive committees from five Womens District Grand Lodges, met in Chicago with the late Henry Monsky, developed the framework within which, the Women's Supreme Council of B'nai B'rith was established. In our short 18 years our membership has grown from 17,000 to 135,000 women, with 8 District Councils, and 750 Chapters.

Our concern with human relationship extends to all levels of society, giving people world over, renewed hope and added meaning to their lives.

In Israel we care for victims of persecution from World War II. We are the founders and fully maintain the "Home for Maladjusted Children", with 7 active chapters in Israel, and 23 chapters in other European countries, there are no barriers of service through our organized efforts.

We support a dynamic program on Anti-Defamation, and continue to build better human relations to give dignity to every minority group, against bigotry, prejudice, and hate.

In the National Jewish Hospital, in Denver, a non-secretarian institution, we maintain the entire Children's Wing. In the Leo N. Levi Hospital in Hot Springs, Arkansas, we have the only free National Non-Sectarian Arthritic and Rheumatic Medical center in North America, for all people of all ages, all faiths, all creeds. At Rochester Center, Mayo Clinic, patients seeking health are never alone in their hour of need.

We service 170 Sick and Disabled Veteran Hospitals throughout the country. New Kensington and Tarentum B'nai B'rith Women service Deshone Hospital in Butler, Pa.

Our B'nai B'rith Youth Organizations features the Hillel foundations now on 210 University Campuses. It is a Jewish Social Center for students away from home. There is a Hillel foundation at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

We of B'Nai B'rith Women serve you, your family, and your country, by supporting the Four Freedoms.

"Freedom of Fear—Freedom of Want—Freedom of Speech— Freedom of Religion."



MRS. HENRY B. LIPMAN

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Corresponding Secretary	Mrs. Daniel Silverman
Assitant Corresponding Secretary.....	Mrs. Milton Miller
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Sentinel	Mrs. Fannie Goldberg
Guardian	Mrs. Louis Miller
Counselor	Mrs. Albert Pipman
Deputy: Pittsburgh Council	Mrs. I. Binstock

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The Allegheny Valley Lodge of B'nai B'rith, in keeping with the traditions of the Order, has maintained a long record of service to both the Jewish and general communities. Chartered originally in 1917, the chapter functioned only for a few years. It was reorganized some ten years later, but again, after a brief period, lapsed into inactivity. In 1940, just before the outbreak of World War II, a small group under the leadership of Dr. I. H. Wachs brought the organization into existence for the third time, with the chief purpose of creating closer relations between the Jewish communities of New Kensington and Tarentum. During the war, the chief endeavors of the group were devoted to the sale of war bonds and support of the Red Cross Blood Program. The membership supported these programs so enthusiastically that citations were received both from the United States Government and the American Red Cross.

During the war years and for several years immediately following, a forum series under the chairmanship of Dr. S. C. Fleegler, which received wide community support, was conducted at the Main Street Auditorium. A great cultural contribution was made by making it possible for the community to hear many noted authors, lecturers, and correspondents.

Through the years a great effort has been made towards the betterment of inter-faith relations. This effort was highlighted with the conducting of two interfaith rallies in cooperation with Protestant and Catholic groups during Brotherhood weeks of 1950 and 1951. The first was held in the main sanctuary of the Synagogue, with only clergymen participating, and the second one in the Main Street auditorium, with only laymen engaged. With the growing awareness of the value of positive education, the Anti-Defamation efforts in this community have resulted in books, pamphlets and movies being distributed to schools, Clergymen, libraries, and various organizations.

Unfortunately, all lodge activities cannot be detailed but some of the most important projects that have been accomplished in the past are: contribution of \$2700 to the Citizens General Hospital Building Campaign, a gift of \$1000 toward the completion of the new YMCA; the sponsoring of a team in Little League Baseball; providing entertainment for hospitalized veterans; sending gifts to boys in service; support and contributions to United Jewish Appeal, Community Fund, Red Cross, March of Dimes, and giving support and financial help toward every major project aimed towards betterment of the community.

The Allegheny Valley Lodge is proud that it has faithfully fulfilled all of its obligations to the Supreme Lodge. This financial aid has helped make possible the many aims of B'nai B'rith: Hillel, The Anti Defamation League, Veterans Affairs, Adult Education, B'nai B'rith Youth Organization, National Jewish Hospital at Denver, and the Leo N. Levy Hospital at Hot Springs.

In 1958, Allegheny Valley Lodge, with over one hundred members, looks to the future with an ever increasing conviction that the principles of B'nai B'rith are vital to our people and the community, and their implementation will constantly be their goal.



**1958-1959 OFFICERS
AND BOARD MEMBERS
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STORY OF OUR HADASSAH

On February 20, 1930, at the home of Mrs. Ben Cohen, a group of about 40 women from this area met and formed our Chapter of Hadassah.

During these 28 years of service to their community and synagogue, this small chapter grew large, nurtured by the love of our Jewish women for their brethren in Israel, in spite of the fact that there were times when it seemed impossible to go on.

Joining Hadassah has become a way of life, giving each active member a fuller life as a woman, a more vital life as an American citizen, and a more creative life as a Jew, crying over the impact of her enthusiasm and knowledge to her family, friends, community, and country.

Today, the New Kensington-Tarentum Chapter of Hadassah has grown to a membership of 135, comprising vital, active Officers and Board Members, and energetic loyal women who support Hadassah's magnificent social welfare program in Israel and enlightenment in the United States.



JEANNE FARKAS

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Second Vice-President	Mrs. Daniel Silverman
Treasurer	Mrs. Edward Wertkin
Recording Secretary	Mrs. Albert Malyn, Jr.
Corresponding Secretary	Mrs. Floyd Berkey
Financial Secretary	Mrs. I. Morris Friedman

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Mrs. Melvin Steinberg	Mrs. Ida Cohen
Mrs. Alex Weissburg	Mrs. Milton Cohen
Mrs. Lee Silverman	Mrs. James Weissburg
Mrs. Fred Levenson	Mrs. Edith Malyn
Mrs. Harry Miller	Mrs. I. F. Herman
Mrs. Allen Gordon	Mrs. Max Wikes
Mrs. Herbert Panitch	Mrs. Nathan Weisband

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Mrs. Ben Ockner	Mrs. Sam Myers
Mrs. Oscar Federbush	Mrs. Robert Kanselbaum
Mrs. Isadore Rogow*	Mrs. Carl Miller
Mrs. Louis Harris*	Mrs. Melvin Steinberg
Mrs. I. H. Wachs	Mrs. Henry Waitz
Mrs. David Perr	
Mrs. Henry Lipman	

*Deceased



NEW KENSINGTON-TARENTUM HADASSAH 1958
OFFICERS, DIRECTORS and PAST PRESIDENTS

CHEBRA KADISH CEMETERY

The Chebra Kadisha Cemetery Association was formed in 1908 by Aaron Steiner and Isaac Claster, and incorporated in 1911. It has grown from a handful of original founders to its present membership. The facilities have been steadily expanded to now include a modern Chapel, rest rooms, paved walks, storage space, and all necessary equipment.

Throughout the fifty years of its existence, the Chebra Kadisha Cemetery Association has always maintained the closest cooperation with the Beth Jacob Congregation.

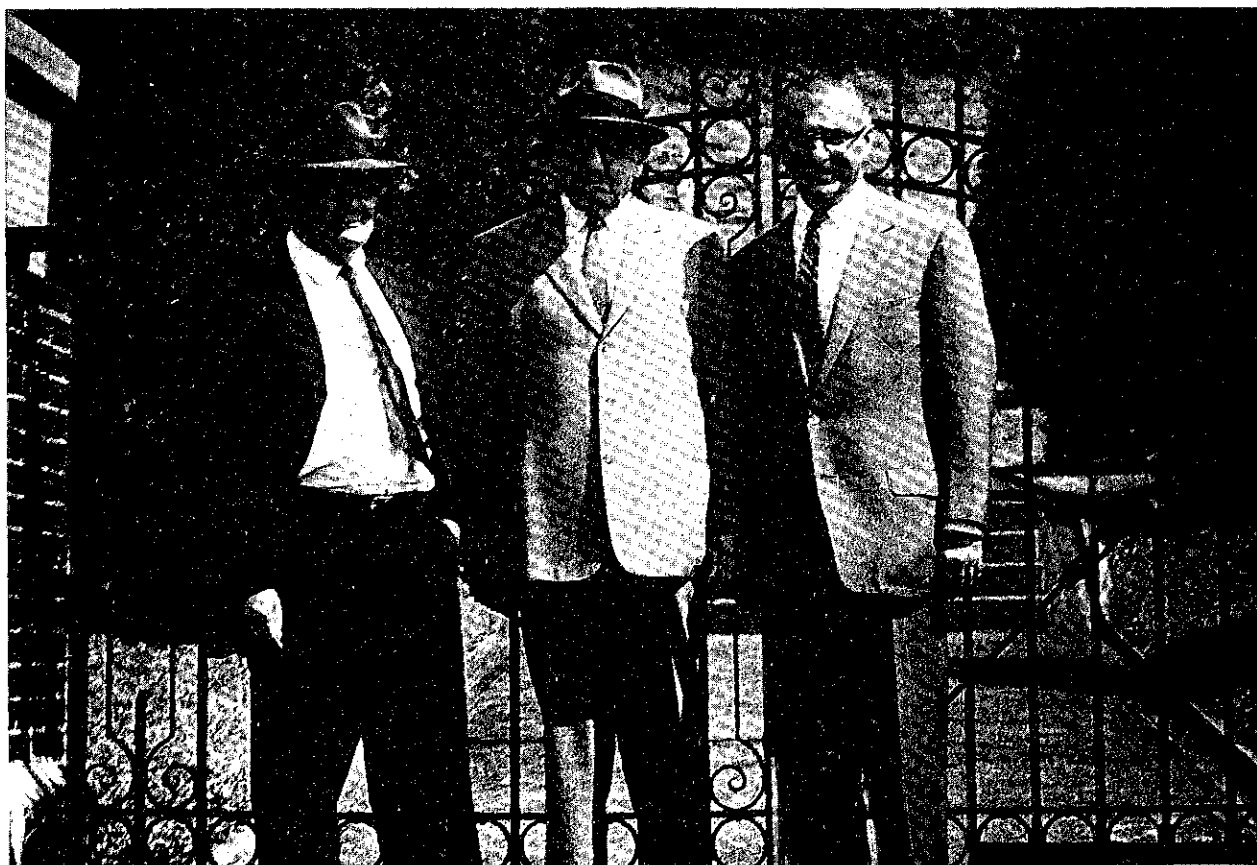
ORIGINAL FOUNDERS

Claster, Isaac	Steiner, Aaron
Eiges, Julius	Steiner, Arpad
Frey, H. A.	Steiner, Jos. J.
Kopelman, Hyman	Steiner, Julius
Lechner, Eugene J.	Steiner, Louis
Mazerlisky, Morris	Steiner, Simon
Myers, Teres	Venger, Issac
Sakulsky, Jacob	Weissburg, David

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Meyer Hart, Vice-President	Julius Eiges, Secretary

CHEBRA KADISHA CEMETERY ASSOCIATION
DIRECTORS: ABE GREEN, JULIUS EIGES, HARRY STEIN.



SISTERHOOD HISTORY

The formation of a woman's auxiliary in 1912 marked a new milestone in the history of our Jewish community. A few years prior to this, a Ladies Aid Society had been organized to take care of our philanthropic needs. The first meeting of the auxiliary was held at the home of Mrs. Ida Hart with the following ladies in attendance: Bessie Claster, Blanche Fisher, Anna Myers, Anna Kopelman, Anna Lena Miller, Mary Ethel Miller, L. Serbin, Leby Sarah Margolis, Sadie Friedman, Bella Cohen, Jennie Steiner, Margaret Steiner, Bertha Weinberg, and Miss Alice Slobodsky.

Mrs. Bertha Weinberg was made the first president of this auxiliary. It was this very membership which united with the Ladies Aid Society to form the present Beth Jacob Sisterhood. This energetic group of women not only took care of the needs of the Sunday School, but also the many charitable responsibilities with which the community was confronted at the time. The unanimity of this little band of people was manifested by their outstanding cooperation and attendance at all the meetings, card parties, dances, box socials, etc., by which the organization was financed.

And so through the years, our growth and development continued under the capable leadership of Mrs. I. Claster, Mrs. H. J. Crown, Mrs. Harry Horwitz, Mrs. I. Rogow, Mrs. Ben Elfont, Mrs. D. H. Eger, and Mrs. Pearl Federbush.

It was in 1939, under the presidency of Mrs. Irving G. Miller, the sisterhood undertook a remodeling and enlarging program for the Assembly Room. At this time, too, the New Year Journal was inaugurated. Even today this journal remains a pride to us, and a source of revenue toward the maintenance of our Sunday School.

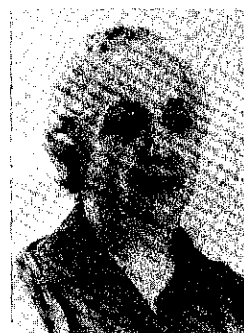
It was in 1949, we realized that the kitchen facilities were inadequate for our increased membership. At that time the kitchen was completely renovated and new facilities and equipment installed. Today, twenty years later, our social room is once again antiquated and too small for our present needs and so plans are under way to enlarge and modernize these quarters.

Mrs. Jerome Horwitz, Mrs. Manny Sparks, Mrs. Edwin Hart, Mrs. Milton J. Myers, and Mrs. I. F. Herman each in turn guided Beth Jacob Sisterhood to greater goals and achievements. Thus with less than a score of members, as a nucleus, our Sisterhood has grown to a membership of one hundred twenty five women.

Our present leader, Mrs. Ruth Weisband, has been very resourceful and untiring in her efforts toward "Sisterhood progress" and has truly dedicated herself to furthering the progress and making this organization an integral part of the Jewish life of our community.

In writing this summary of Sisterhood activities in such limited space, it is impossible to mention the names of all the persons who so diligently and faithfully worked with all these leaders, but their efforts are evident and gratefully appreciated.

Many additional projects and worthwhile activities prospered during the years when Mrs. Ben Ockner, Mrs. Hyman Silverman, Mrs. Sidney Silverman and Mrs. Maurice Claster were in office.



HONORARY VICE-PRESIDENTS

Mrs. Ida Cohen, Mrs. Max Schwartz, Mrs. Fannie Goldberg



PAST PRESIDENT'S OF SISTERHOOD

Mrs. I. F. Herman, Mrs. Milton Myers, Mrs. Irving G. Miller,
Mrs. Maurice Claster, Mrs. Ben Elfont, Mrs. David Ockner,

TALMUD TORAH SCHOOL

In keeping with the biblical dictate, "and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children," Beth Jacob established and has maintained a Talmud Torah, or Hebrew School, since its very beginning. Believing in the thought that it is the responsibility of the synagogue and the home to foster religious training, and realizing that Sunday morning training in itself is insufficient, Beth Jacob has trained countless numbers of boys and girls, in its half century history, with a sound grounding in the rudiments and tenets of Judaism.

In the current year of Beth Jacob's history, fifty-five youngsters are enrolled in Talmud Torah. These children attend classes twice weekly, and attend Junior Service on Sabbath Morning. The school is conducted by Rabbi Herbert Panitch under the supervision of the religious committee. It employs Mrs. Ben Sack as Hebrew teacher. The curriculum consists of reading and writing of the Hebrew Language, prayer in Hebrew, understanding of prayer, conversational Hebrew, Chuash (bible in Hebrew), and customs and ceremonies.

In addition to the five grades in Talmud Torah, a teenage Hebrew club is conducted by the rabbi, weekly.

The underlying principle of the school has been the philosophy expressed in the proverb, "Train us a child in the way he shall go, and even when he is old, he will not depart from it."



HERBERT G. PANITCH



NAOMI SACK, Teacher

PURIM PARTY, 1952





SUNDAY SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Herbert G. Panitch, Rabbi—Mrs. Howard Dunhoff—Mrs. Samuel C. Fleegler, Co-Chairmen—Joseph Herman, Superintendent.

BETH JACOB SUNDAY SCHOOL

The first Sunday School was organized in 1912 by Martha Horwitz (now Mrs. A. N. Cohen of Rural Valley) and Mrs. Louis Weinberg, at the time when Rev. Cooper was head of the congregation. Five children were enrolled, but the number increased rapidly. In 1914 the first Sunday School picnic was held at a farm on the site now known as Mt. Vernon. Mrs. Jacob Margolis served as chairman and interestingly enough the refreshments for this picnic were transported by the Claster ponies.

In later years the Sunday School met in a house in the rear of the Synagogue located in the 1100 block on Third Avenue. The need for larger quarters presented itself again and in 1922 a Community House on Kenneth Avenue was acquired. Religious services were held there until 1925 when our present Beth Jacob Synagogue on Kenneth Avenue was built.

In 1927 the School, was supervised, by the late Rabbi Henry R. Goldberger. Under his leadership the enrollment rose from a few children to 120 students.

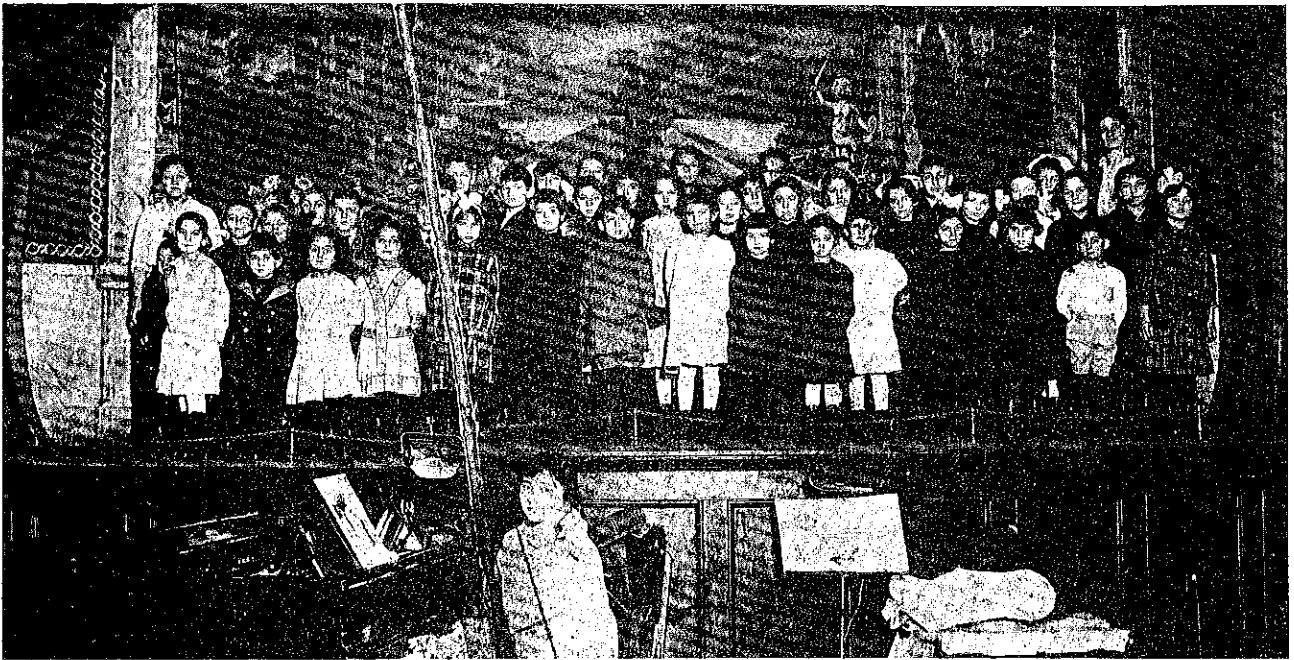
The Sunday School has always been a Sisterhood project. Each Jewish Holiday is celebrated with treats and programs for the children. The school was firmly established, so that after Rabbi Goldberger's departure, the school continued to prosper under a succession of Superintendents and Sisterhood Sunday School Chairmen.

However, during the years of World War II and shortly after, the enrollment began to drop until less than fifty students was reached in 1950. In that year, Sisterhood appointed Mrs. Samuel Fleegler and Mrs. Howard Dunhoff as Sunday School co-chairmen and Mr. Joseph Herman agreed to assume the responsibilities of superintendent. They have remained with us until the present time and our School now boasts an enrollment of approximately one hundred pupils with classes from nursery through tenth grade.



SUNDAY SCHOOL FACULTY 1958

Seated (left to right)—Ethel Greenberg, Annette Waitz, Nancy Dunhoff, Sylvia Rosenbloom, Evelyn Panitch. Standing (left to right)—Bernard Woodrow, George Wolfson, Lee Silverman, Charles Chriss, Benson Kane.



OUR FIRST SUNDAY SCHOOL
COLUMBUS THEATRE—1914

Boomie Kubrin
Ethel Kopelman Schwartz
George Steiner
Eva Kubrin
Ella Steiner
Bea Crown
Adeline Crown
Emory Steiner
Goldie Sloan
Eleanor Steiner
Sylvia Stein
Dorothy Margolis
Nellie Kubrin

Martha Horwitz (Teacher)
Sammie Kubrin
Sheffield Freedman
Joseph Cohen
Fred Stein
Alex Sloan
Mary Kopelman
Sarah Miller
Evelyn Kopelman
Jennie Wallach
Katherine Miller
Elsie Margolis
Bertrum Weinberg

Ida Belle Miller
Rose Wolf
Beatrice Sloan
Millie Rosen
Jessie Weinberg
Sally Foster
Rebecca Ockner
Selma Fisher
Alice Sloan (Teacher)
Fannie Goldberg (Pianist)
(Some Unidentified)



SUNDAY SCHOOL—1958

...Program...

CONFIRMATION EXERCISES

Beth Jacob Sabbath School

Under Auspices of

The Ladies' Auxillary

5680

SUNDAY, JUNE 13, 1920



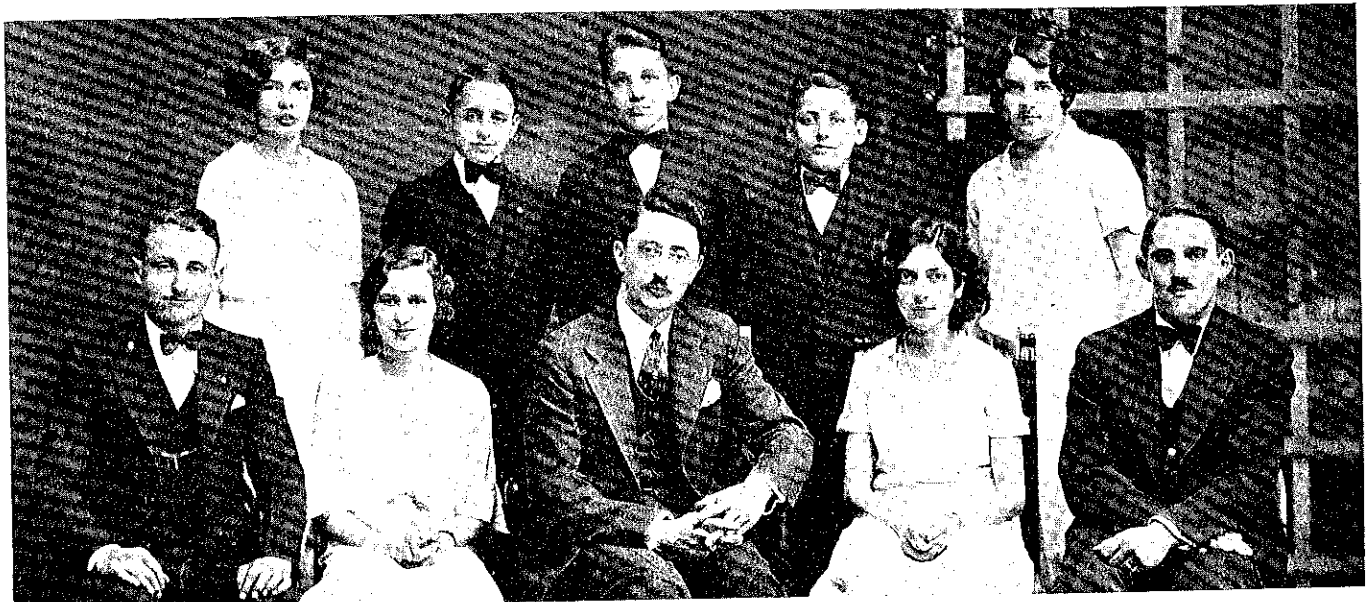
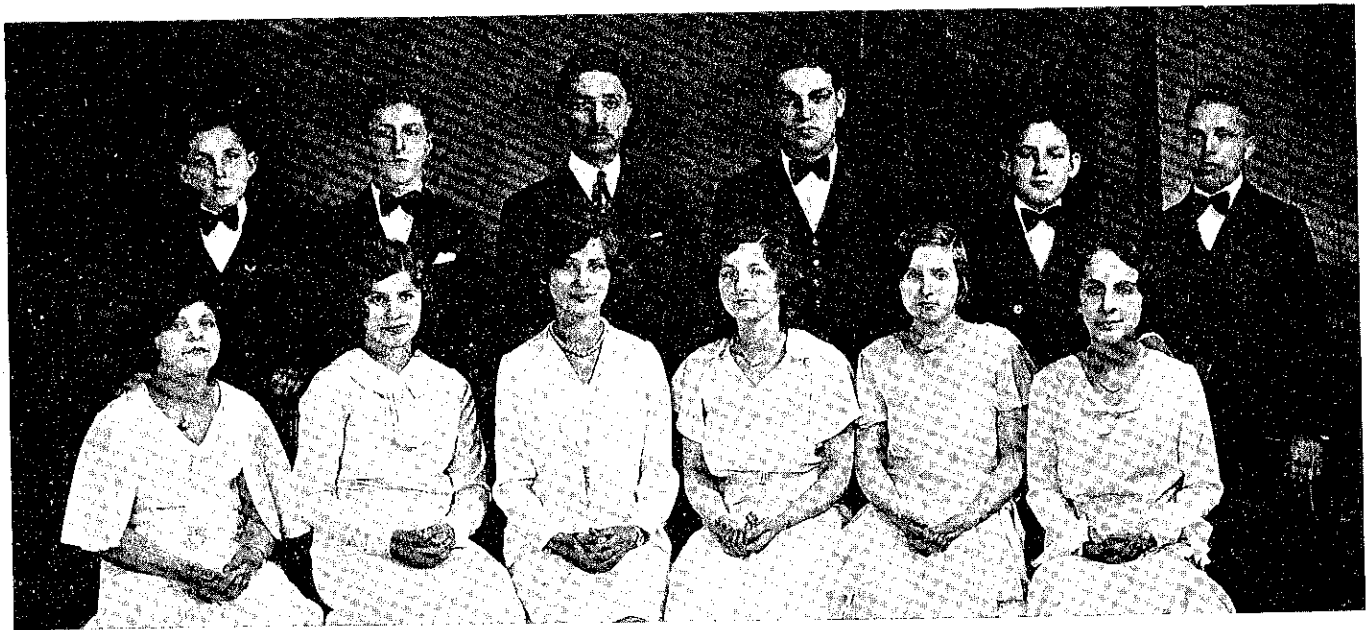
"The White Rose"

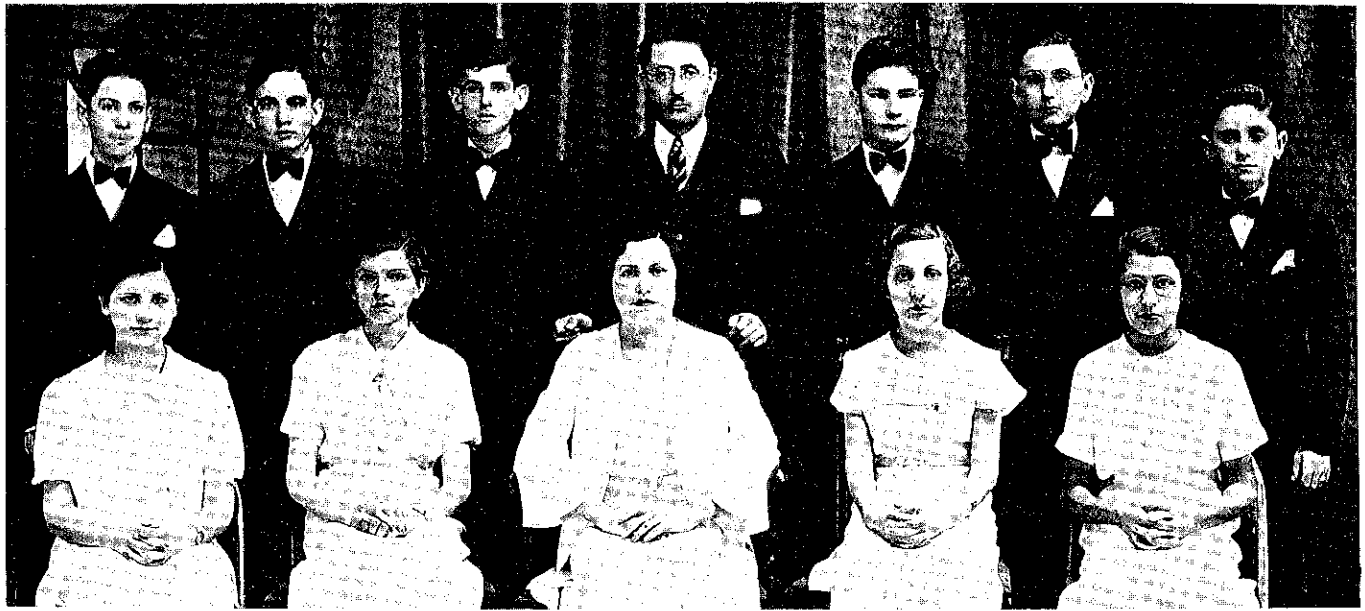
Your presence is requested at the
Confirmation Exercises
of the Sunday School of Beth Jacob Congregation
at the Synagogue on
Sunday Morning, June ^{13th} ~~sixth~~
nineteen hundred and twenty
at 10:30 o'clock

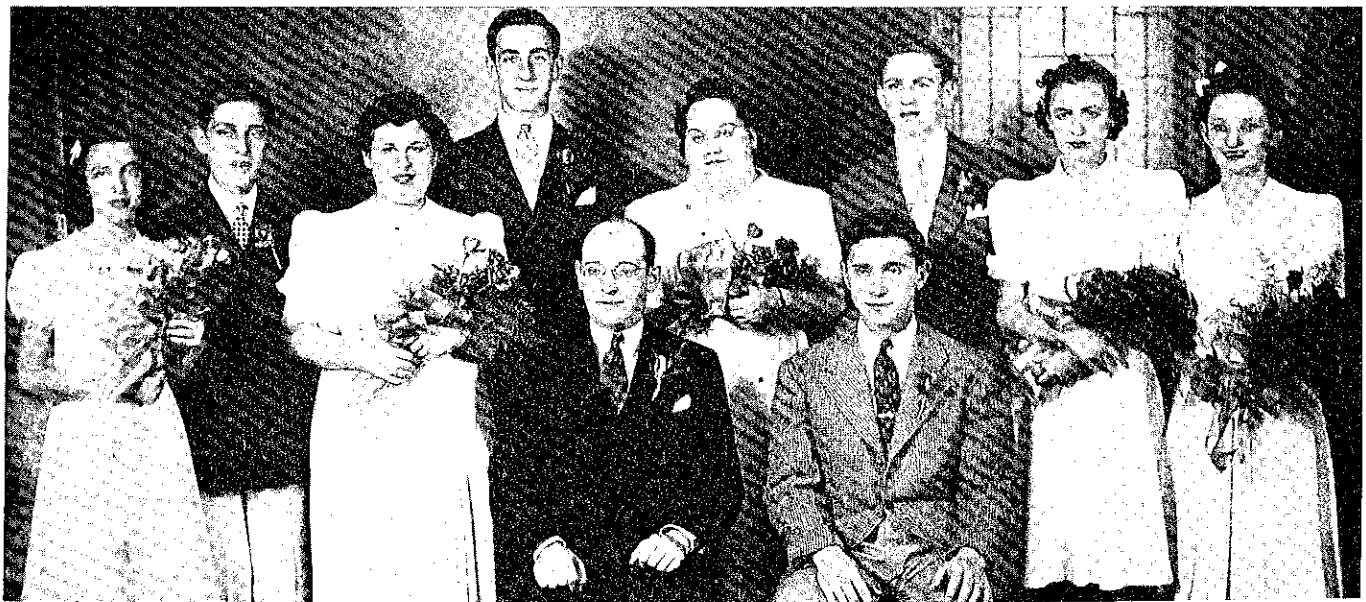
CLASS MOTTO:
"THE GRASS WITHERS, THE FLOWER FADES,
BUT THE WORD OF GOD SHALL STAND FOREVER."

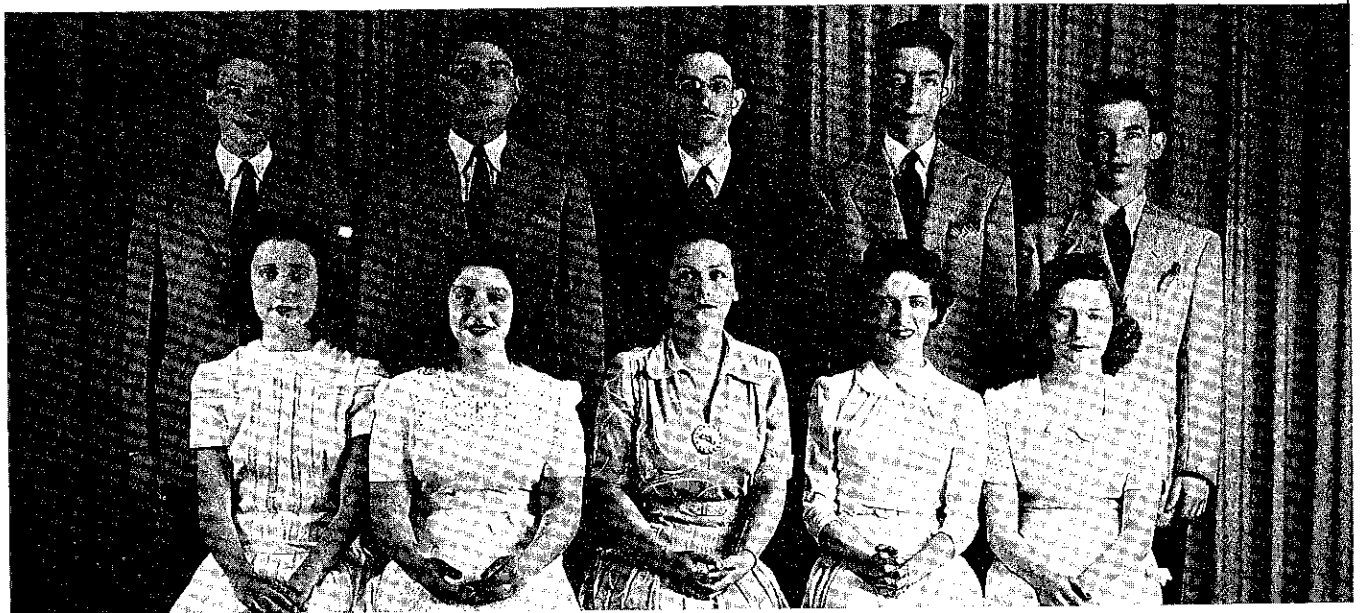










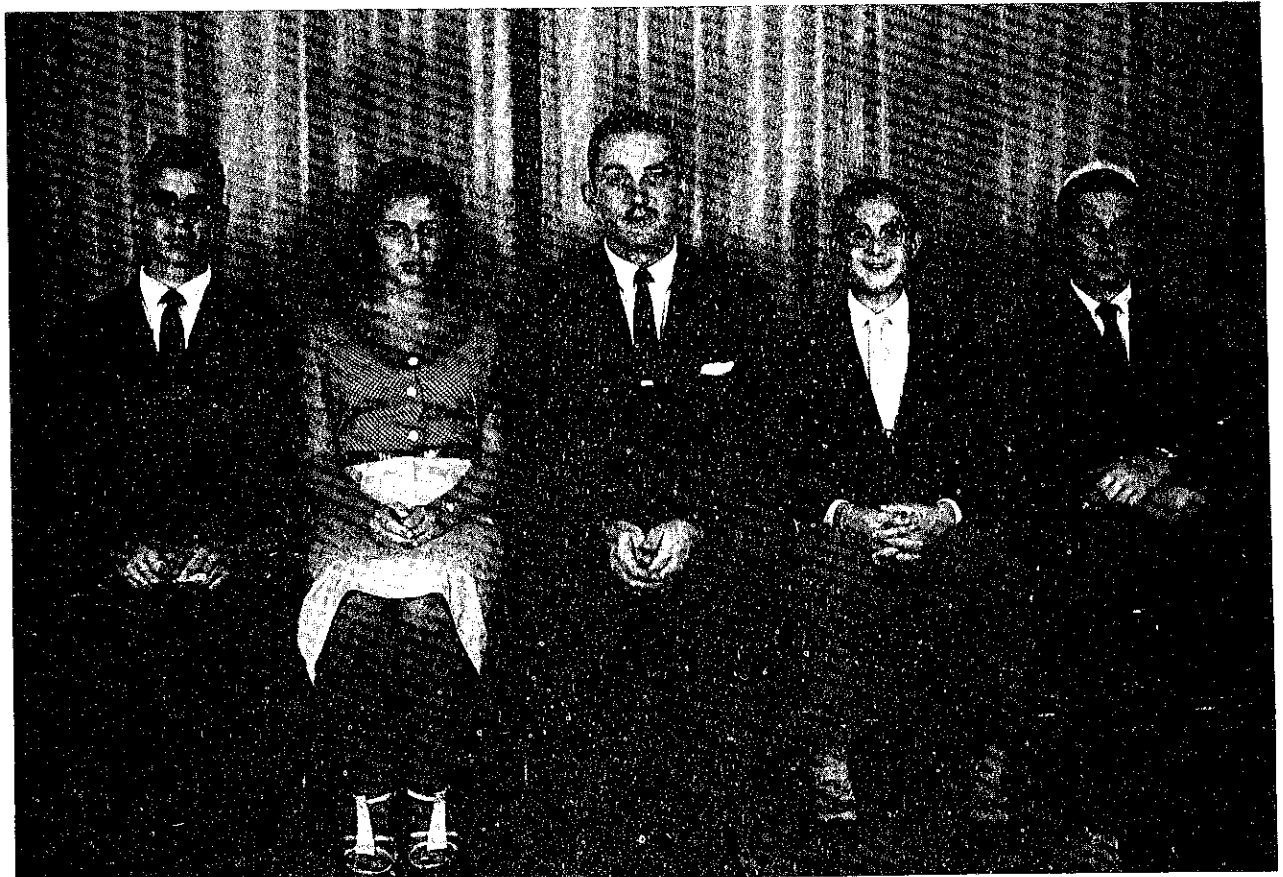




Confirmation Class of 1958



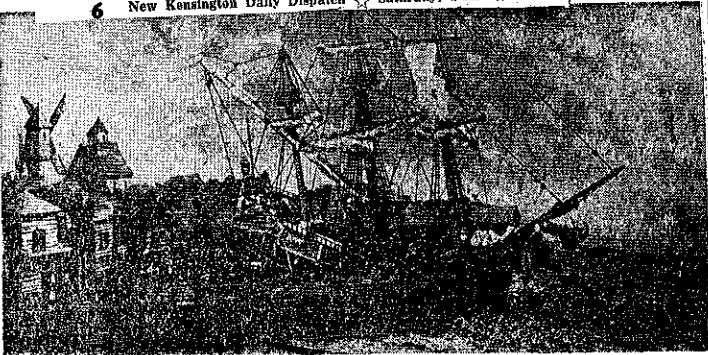
Confirmation Class of 1959



The three hundredth anniversary of the coming of the first Jewish settlers to America in 1654 was celebrated in a manner that will long be remembered by the community of New Kensington. It was a celebration that witnessed Jews, both young and old, from all segments of our Jewish community, uniting their energies and enthusiasm into one common effort to commemorate this most significant historical occasion.

On Washington's Birthday, the Tercentenary Observance was climaxed with the presentation of an historical Pageant, "Faith and Freedom", in the synagogue. That evening, over five hundred people jammed the main sanctuary, both main floor and balcony, with scores sitting in the aisles. Clergymen from twenty-four of the Allegheny Valley Churches were in attendance. The pageant vividly portrayed in authentic costume the arrival of the first settlers and the difficulties that were encountered in being permitted to remain along with their adjustments to their environment. This was followed by depicting an historical sequence of the contributions of the Jews to America from 1654 to the present day.

A photograph of an article from the Saturday, February 19th, 1955 issue of the Daily Dispatch graphically details the occasion.



THREE CENTURIES OF FREEDOM—The diorama depicting the arrival of the first group of Jews in New Amsterdam in Sept., 1654, is symbolic of the success American-Jews have built in the 300 years they have lived in a free country. Hard fought goals attained by Jews included: the right to remain in America, April, 1655; right of travel and trade in America, Nov., 1655; right to establish a Jewish burial ground, Feb., 1656; right to own homes, June, 1656, and the right to burghership, April 20, 1657.

* * * * *

U. S. Jewish Tercentenary Marks Beth Jacob Growth

The growth of the local Jewish Synagogue, and of the Jewish community which it serves, will be one of the highlights of the historical pageant, "Faith and Freedom," to be presented at Beth Jacob Congregation Tuesday at 8:15 p.m.

This pageant in the 1040 Kenneth Ave. Synagogue will be the main part of the American Jewish Tercentenary program, marking the observance of the arrival of the first group of Jewish settlers 300 years ago in what is now the United States.

All residents of this area are cordially invited to attend this program by the Tercentenary Committee, which includes representation from Beth Jacob Congregation, its Sisterhood, Allegheny Valley Lodge of B'nai B'rith, Women of B'nai B'rith, and the New Kensington-Tercentenary Chapter of Hadasah.

In extending this invitation to the entire community Rabbi Wengrovsky and General Committee Chairman Dr. Howard Dunhoff

listed the Tercentenary observance as "a tribute to the strength of American Democracy, for under its aegis Judaism and other faiths have become an integral part of our American way of life.

"It is our hope," the two report, "that out of an evaluation of 300 years of history there will arise serious and fruitful consideration of man's opportunities and responsibilities under freedom—the theme of this entire Tercentenary Year."

The historical pageant was adapted, produced, and directed by J. Robert Myers and Mrs. Bernard Eger, with one of the principal roles taken by Dr. Samuel M. Sparks. Maurice H. Claster, who has undertaken the painstaking task of Tercentenary historian, will present a brief history of the Beth Jacob Congregation.

The earliest recorded local religious service was held in 1895 when a small group gathered for the reading of the Megillah on Purim Eve. This group organized and received its charter June 15,

1907. Charter members included: I. Fisher, Isaac Claster, Davis Miller, Teres Myers, H. N. Miller, Simon Steiner, Jacob Sakulsky, Morris Miller, H. Kopelman, Henry Kubrin, and D. Slobodsky. Descendants of this group are now, for the most part, very active in congregational and community affairs.

The choir of the congregation will play a prominent role in the pageant and will be under the direction of David Loomis, with accompaniment by Mrs. Henry Waltz. Emerson Millgram will be soloist and Raymond Weiberg will be narrator.

The Rabbi Wengrovsky will be in charge of preparing an exhibit on local and national American Jewish history and ceremonial objects. The exhibit will be displayed in the social hall. Following the Tercentenary program refreshments, prepared by the Beth Jacob Sisterhood under the chairmanship of Mrs. Fannie Goldberg, will be served in the congregation social rooms.

The Jewish Community
of
New Kensington

... PRESENTS ...

"FAITH AND FREEDOM"

An Historical Pageant in Celebration
of the
American Jewish Tercentenary

BETH JACOB SYNAGOGUE

Tuesday, February 22, 1955 8:15 P. M.



MRS. GEORGE WOLFSON
MRS. BERNARD EGER
DR. SAMUEL M. SPARKS

The Tercentenary celebration created a lot of interest in our community and had a great affect on both Jew and Christian, alike. For the Jew it created a great sense of pride by realizing the part his ancestors had played in the early days of our nation and the many contributions to the American scene that have been made. For the Christian, he was made aware of the common bond that has existed between himself and the Jew in the building of America.

The effect of the Tercentenary can be summed up very well by quoting from the editorial page of The Daily Dispatch in the first issue following the Pageant.

"Yesterday, on Washington's Birthday we watched an historical Pageant presented by the Jewish Community of New Kensington. That marked the Tercentenary of Jewish life in America. Three hundred years ago the First Jews arrived in New York. Since that

time the history of the Jew has been the history of America.

In 1891 Isaac Claster moved to New Kensington—the first of his faith to settle here. That year, New Kensington became a borough.

Since that time the Jewish community has taken an active part in the civic and cultural affairs of the community. Their history is linked inseparably to the history of the city, state, and nation.

The ideals and purposes of the Jewish culture were graphically portrayed in the well staged production. The audience was given a much broader knowledge of the history and accomplishments of the American Jew. It was fitting that such a pageant was presented during American Brotherhood Week.

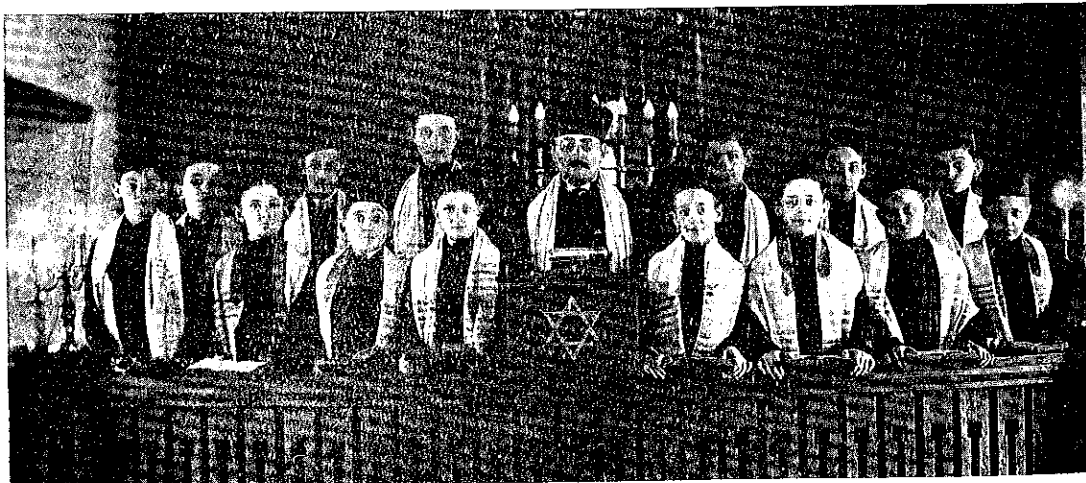
We salute the Jews of New Kensington and America.



MR. IRVING ROWE, CHOIR DIRECTOR
BETH JACOB ACAPELLA CHOIR, 1958



CHOIR 1940



OUR CHOIR 1927

THE NEW KENSINGTON
JEWISH CHRONICLE
A paper of Jewish affairs
Edited By
Dr. A. Levendorf

"ABRAHAM LINCOLN"

We cannot say less,
—Nor could we say more.

This issue of the Chronicle is the work of the Junior Class of the High School Department. The Editor feels that the proper handling of the paper calls for a participation of the various components of our Jewish Community. Ultimately the younger generation must take over the reins that the enfeebled hands of their elder's lay aside, and it is the duty of the younger generation to school themselves in order that they may not only do as well but also improve on the old. Obviously the older ones should not hold on too long. The editor is only too ready to pass on to the younger generation their share of the work. It is a duty but it is also a pleasure. My very best wishes for a fine issue go to the High School Junior Class.

—The Editor

NEW KENSINGTON JEWISH CHRONICLE

No. 3

New Kensington, Pa., Tuesday, February 12, 1935

VOL. I

PIDYAN HABBEN

Redemption for Joseph Robert, son of Dr. and Mrs. Sparks was properly ritualized in the Sparks home on Tuesday, February 29. The officiating Aaronite, or Cohen, was Mr. Kaplan, of Tarentum.

The "Pidyan Habben" or Redemption of the Son", according to Idelson, is a ceremony for the first born, if it be male. Among many ancient people the first born of the mother, man or animal was dedicated to the deity—either sacrificed or left at the sanctuary for sacred purposes. Conditions modified the law by declaring the first born of men redeemed by giving of a stipulated sum of money at the time when the boy is a month old. In case the parents or grandparents are Cohanim the child is exempt from the need of redemption. The ceremony consists of the giving of five shekaltin (now something like five dollars) to a Cohen (Aaronite) who, in the presence of witnesses recites a prescribed ritual.

DEDICATION

This issue we dedicate with all the reverence due them, to the seven Pioneer Families of the Jewish Community of New Kensington. To them we owe a debt of gratitude for laying the solid foundation upon which the present community is established.

NOTE: The first Minyan in New Kensington was conducted in 1895 in the home of Mr. I. Claster by Rabbi Levendorf. The occasion was the reading of the Megilloth Esther on Purim Eve of that year.

At the services there were present members of the families of Mr. I. Claster, Mr. I. Fisher, Mr. P. Fisher, Mr. D. Miller, Mr. Hirsch Miller, Mr. Hytovitz, and Mr. Slabodsky. Of these Mr. Slabodsky has since passed away and Mr. Hytovitz has moved from New Kensington. The rest are still living in New Kensington, surrounded by their sons and daughters and grandchildren.

SILVER ANNIVERSARY

Rabbi B. Lichter of B'nai Israel Congregation of Pittsburgh will celebrate the Twenty Fifth Anniversary of his Service in the Rabbinate, on March 9.

Elaborate plans have been laid by his congregation to properly celebrate this occasion and the New Kensington Jewry will take pleasure in doing its part to honor this sterling man, whose length of service may be expressed in silver but the quality of which is comparable to gold.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The G. C. Association held its annual meeting on January 22 for election of officers.

The following were elected: Pres. Dr. Levendorf; Vice Pres., Mr. J. Margolis; Secretary, Mr. O. Federbush; Treasurer, Mr. D. Ferr.

Directors: Mr. A. Green, Mr. J. Eiges (3 years); Mr. A. Wolfson, Mr. J. Seigel (2 years); Dr. S. M. Sparks, Mr. A. Herman (1 year).

SYDNEY EIGES IN HARRISBURG

From Harrisburg comes the information that Sydney Eiges, as head of the Harrisburg Bureau of the International News Service, is steadily rising in the journalistic world. Syd, who entered journalism through the medium of the "Kentonian", the local high school paper, is now "in the know" of the important matters of the Commonwealth which occur on and about Capitol Hill. Among other things he was on January 15 one of the invited guests to Governor Earle's inaugural ball.

In spite of his many duties he must perform, Syd has never forgotten his fellow Jews. At present he is an active member of the Temple Beth El of Harrisburg. His recent address to the Men's Club of the Temple on the subject "Youth and Religion" was so well received that he immediately received another invitation to speak.

SOUVENIR PROGRAM VICTORY DANCE

Under the Auspices of
THE LADIES' AUXILIARY
Of Beth Jacob Congregation



Elks' Hall, New Kensington
June 18, 1919

Have you been attending our Friday evening services at the Shul? A pleasant evening and no collections. Come one, come all.

THINGS THAT WOULD SURPRISE US

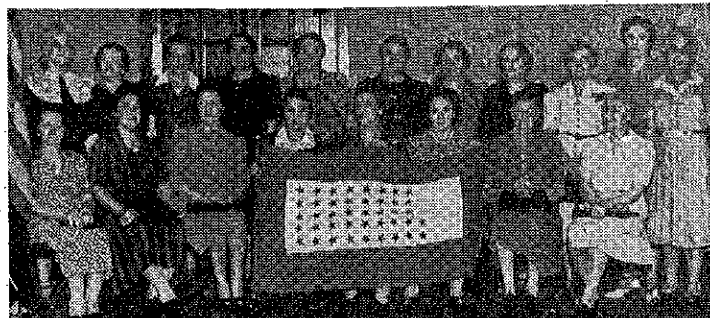
Jeannette Silverman not going to New York.
Martha Horwitz miss Sunday School.
Hilda Brandy miss a dance.
Rose Cohen without Lillian Silverman.
Mr. Crown without a Bulok.
Rebecca Oekner talking loud.
Alex. Goldstein winning.
Tillie Slobodsky without a friend.
Rebecca Harris get up early.
Leah Claster ignoring children on the streets.
Alice Slobodsky not being obliging.
Elsie Wollak in a bad humor.
Dr. Levendorf not being touchy.
Goldie Moffit not look demure.
The congregation build a Shul.
Mr. Kopelman forget the war sufferers.
Mr. I. Claster make a speech.
Mrs. Silverman making a motion at the meeting.
Mrs. Crown without a headache.
Mrs. J. J. Steiner without hubby.
Mrs. Ledner in bad humor.
Mrs. I. Cohen refusing a favor.
Mrs. Louis Steiner not solliciting funds.

Mrs. Woinberg, as a minister, bids well to supplant our Rabbi when it comes to performing a marriage.

CH, NEW KENSINGTON, PA., FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1942

MEN'S CLUBS + SOC

Service Flag of Beth Jacob Congregation



—Dispatch Photoplate of SI Eldot Picture.

Pictured above with the new service flag of Beth Jacob congregation presented by Mrs. Benjamin Myers, are mothers of 44 of the boys in service and the wife of Major A. Levendorf. There are three stars yet to be added to the flag.

In the front row, left to right, are, Mrs. C. Levitt, Mrs. I. Frank, Mrs. White, Mrs. L. Greenberg, Mrs. D. Perr, Mrs. M. Malyn, Mrs. C. Conman, Mrs. M. Schwartz. Second row, from left Mrs. A. Levendorf, Mrs. A. Brill, Mrs. M. Roznick, Mrs. A. Gordon, Mrs. M. Brenstein, Mrs. S. Slemoff, Mrs. J. Kamons, Mrs. L. Steiner, Mrs. B. Cohen, Mrs. Myers and Mrs. E. Goldberg.

Brotherhood Night

BETH JACOB SYNAGOGUE

NEW KENSINGTON, PA.

Monday Evening

February 13, 1950

8:30 P. M.



SPONSORED BY

New Kensington Lodge of B'nai B'rith

Allegheny Valley Lodge B'nai B'rith

New Kensington Lodge of B'nai B'rith Women



FRONT ROW: MRS. C. E. HARRIS, REV. WERNER EBERBACH, RUSSELL BRADLEY, DIR. NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CHRISTIANS AND JEWS, REV. FR. FRANCIS GINOCCHI, DR. H. J. DUNHOFF, REV. R. V. HARTMAN, MRS. RALPH PARIS.

IN HONOR OF THE
60th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY
OF
MR. and MRS. JACOB WEISBAND



BY
MR. and MRS. NATHAN WEISBAND
HOWARD, BILLY, PHYLISS
and BARRY

50th ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS
TO
BETH JACOB CONGREGATION
ON THE CELEBRATION OF OUR
50th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY
MR. and MRS. ISADORE FRANK



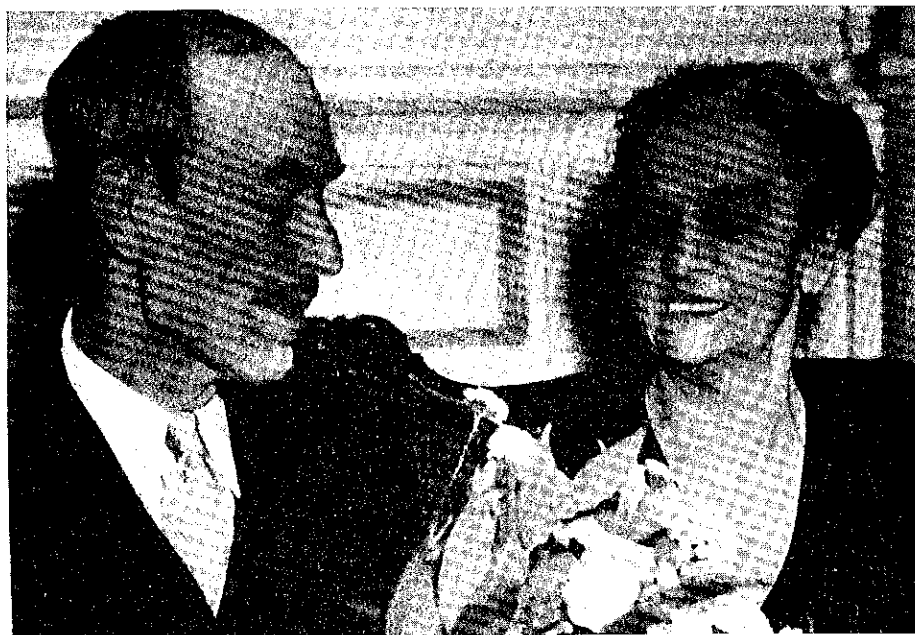
50th ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS
TO
BETH JACOB CONGREGATION
ON THE CELEBRATION OF OUR
45th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY
MR. and MRS. DAVID PERR



50th ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS
TO
BETH JACOB CONGREGATION
ON THE CELEBRATION OF OUR
50th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY
MR. and MRS. HARRY HORWITZ



In loving memory of
our dear parents
Mrs. Bessie Claster
Mr. Isaac Claster



BY
THE CLASTER FAMILY

In loving memory of
Benjamin Cohen



BY
ESTHER COHEN and FAMILY

In loving memory of
husband and father

Isaac Cohen

BY

MRS. IDA D. COHEN and CHILDREN

In loving memory of
Herman J. Crown

In loving memory of

David H. Eger

devoted husband and father



In loving memory of
Blanche and Isaac Fisher



In loving memory of
Zisla Green

In loving memory of
Harriet Lois Margolis
and
Lehy Sarah Margolis



In loving memory of
husband and father

Max Ganelin

In loving memory of
Benjamin Miller

In loving memory of
Samuel Lutsky

In loving memory of
mother and father

Anna Lena Miller
Davis Miller



BY THEIR CHILDREN
ROSE MILLER DONOFSKY
IRVING MILLER
DOROTHY MILLER ERENSTEIN
HARRY MILLER
IDA-BELLE MILLER BRAUN
HOWARD MILLER

In loving memory of
mother and father
Blanche R. Miller
Bere Mayer Miller



BY
ARCHIE, MAX and DAVE

In loving memory of
Mary Ethel Miller
Garris Nathan Miller



In loving memory of
our father
Benjamin Myers



BY
MILTON, SAMPSON,
J. ROBERT MYERS

In loving memory of
our dear parents

Anna Herr

Michael Herr



In loving memory of
my devoted husband
Phillip H. Sack



In loving memory of
mother and father
Anna Sakulsky
Jacob Sakulsky

In loving memory of

Anna Silverman
Sol Silverman
Sidney Lee Silverman
Oscar Silverman

BY

MR. and MRS. SAMUEL I. WARD
MR. and MRS. MILTON B. BERKMAN
MR. and MRS. MOSE E. BOIARSKY
MRS. SIDNEY LEE SILVERMAN

In loving memory of
Ben Herron Ockner

BY
HIS WIFE MILDRED
AND
DAUGHTER SYLVIA FIREMAN

In loving memory of
our dear parents

Isaac Honick
Molly Honick

BY

DAVID HONICK
MAURICE HONICK
IRVIN HONICK
YOLANDA GOLDENBERG
ADELINE LAUB
AL B. HONICK

In loving memory of

Hannah and Morris Mazerisky

Benjamin Stein

Louis Bernard Stein

Ida Stein Morgan

Max R. Morgan

IN LIVING MEMORY OF
Julius A. Siegal

DEVOTED BROTHER

BY ROSE WEISBURGH
FANNIE LEVINE

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
Leon Robert Greenberg
Morris Efrom Greenberg

BY

MRS. SARAH GREENBERG
ETHEL GREENBERG
MRS. FREDA SPIEGEL

IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR
DEAR PARENTS

Pauline and Max Rackoff

BY

HERBERT RACKOFF
FRANCES MYERS
S. RAYMOND RACKOFF