

925 Ohio Avenue
Midland, Pennsylvania
September 17, 1956

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I submit this information, a condensed history of our Congregation and its affiliated organizations, their memberships, officers, and the part they have played in the growth and progress of Midland.

We hope it will serve as an inspiration for our people to become even better citizens.

B'NAI ISRAEL SISTERHOOD
Corresponding Secretary
Mrs. Albert Silverberg

VS:mr

Mrs. Albert Silverberg

1915-1918:

The original congregation being organized in 1915 and receiving their Charter in 1918 under the name of Sons of Israel Congregation, conducting services in the Orthodox Hebrew Church (being called under this title at that time).

The original trustees being:

Benjamin Bonn
Ross Deutch
Louis Goldstein
Philip Silverberg

Milton Firestone
Bernard Silverman
Himan Sigal

Two of the original trustees--Himan Sigal and Philip Silverberg--are conducting business in Midland at this date.

The first services were held on the third floor of the Midland Borough Building, being conducted in this building until the year 1918.

1918:

Philip Silverberg, a pioneer of Midland, (arriving in Midland in 1905) who is also the oldest living member at this time (1956), had the foresight to purchase the first and only permanent location for our present building, located at Seventh Street and Beaver Avenue. Philip Silverberg, financed the purchase of same with the consent of the above trustee members. The property consisted of a double lot and a frame building. This building was remodeled in order to be able to conduct services in same. The Rabbi serving our congregation was Rabbi Rabinowitz, and the succeeding Rabbis were Rabbi Finkelstein, and Rabbi April.

1926:

Ground was broken for our present building, and the Cornerstone laid under the name of B'Nai Israel Synagogue. The building was completed and dedicated on March 27, 1927, by Rabbi B. A. Lichter, Rabbi of the B'Nai Israel Temple, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The congregation conducted a Hebrew school, under the supervision of Rabbi April. The Sunday School was conducted by local members under the supervision of the Western Pennsylvania Religious Schools, sponsored by the National Council of Jewish Women of Pittsburgh. The Sunday School received and used all their religious books, materials, and instructions. (guidance).

The last Confirmation Class being confirmed in June, 1927.

1942:

A Congregational Dinner held, in honor of the burning of the Mortgage.

1942-1945:

During the Great Conflict of World War II, our congregation sent the following boys and girl to serve their country:

*Donald Green
*Melvin Green
Sidney Harris
*Edward Hepps

*Maurice Newman
*David Silverberg
Nathan Silverman
Donald Silverman

Esther Megdal

*Served overseas.

1946:

Found a great change in the conduction of our services to a more liberal way, from Orthodox to Conservative.

Aaron Green, a past President, still resides and conducts business in Midland, together with his Brother Harry Green.

1956:

Alfred Bahm, Treasurer, has been Acting President of the B'Nai Israel Congregation for the past five (5) years.

The present Membership:

Alfred Bahm	Nat Moll
Milton Hartstein	Harry Lampenstein
Aaron Green	Albert Silverberg
Harry Green	Philip Silverberg
Jacob Hartstein	David Silverman
William Kuntz	Nathan Silverman
	William Silverman

MEN'S CLUB

1953:

The Men's Club was organized in order to bring the Jewish families of Midland closer together socially and to give financial support to the Synagogue.

Officers of the Men's Club are:

President-----	Albert Silverberg
Vice President-----	William Silverman
Secretary-----	William Kuntz
Treasurer-----	Maurice Newman

Membership includes:

Alfred Bahm	William Kuntz
Marvin Bahm	Harry Lampenstein
Paul Berman	Nat Moll
Joseph Berman	Maurice Newman
Aaron Green	William Orr
Harry Green	Theodore Replane
Donald Green	Albert Silverberg
Abraham Gottlieb	David Silverman
Milton Hartstein	Nathan Silverman
Harry Henkin	William Silverman
Jacob Hartstein	Harry Solomon
	Walter Solomon

B'NAI ISRAEL SISTERHOOD

1915:

The first Ladies' Organization was organized by Mrs. Himan Arkin, under the name of the Ladies' Aid Auxiliary. The same changed in 1927 to the Ladies' Aid Society.

ARTICLES AS THEY APPEARED IN THE MIDLAND NEWS:

April 7, 1927:

The Hebrew Ladies' Aid Society held their last meeting of the season on Tuesday evening, June 7, 1927, at the home of Mrs. Myer Silverman. The President, Mrs. H. Arkin, presided. Arrangements were made for the annual Sunday School Picnic, same to be held on Sunday, June 26 at Darlington Lake.

Article dated January, 1928:

A regular meeting of the Hebrew Ladies' Aid Society was held at the home of Mrs. Myer Silverman, newly elected President. Mrs. Abraham Stein was elected Secretary and Mrs. L. Blumenfeld, Financial Secretary.

Article dated November, 1934:

Re-organization of the Sisterhood of the B'Nai Israel Congregation (formerly known as the Hebrew Ladies' Aid Society) of Midland was effected at a meeting Monday evening at the home of Mrs. Myer Silverman. The Sisterhood had been inactive for a number of years and plans are now being made to resume its work.

1953:

Found the Organizations affiliated with the Synagogue holding a Silver Anniversary Celebration, holding an Open House, sponsored by the members of the Sisterhood, and compiling a Silver Anniversary Booklet, containing the many names of advertisers and contributors.

In March of 1953 found the Sisterhood undertaking a major remodeling job as follows:

The improvement project was financed entirely by the Sisterhood, with money raised by the members over a period of ten (10) years. The kitchen was remodeled and enlarged, the social room enlarged, which serves as the Center of all Jewish Community Affairs in Midland. A new floor was layed, a new furnace installed, and the downstairs entrance to the building relocated. The Social Room was completely refurnished by the B'Nai Brith Organization. (Information of this organization appearing further along in this Article).

1956: Officers of the Sisterhood:

Mrs. Nat Moll-----	President
Mrs. Ted Replane-----	Vice President
Mrs. David Silverman-----	Treasurer
Mrs. Maurice Newman-----	Recording Secretary
Mrs. Albert Silverberg-----	Corresponding Secretary

Membership:

Mrs. Alfred Bahm
Mrs. Harry Green
Mrs. Aaron Green
Mrs. Abraham Gottlieb
Mrs. Rose Goodman
Mrs. Bessie Harris
Mrs. Harry Henkin
Mrs. Jacob Hartstein
Mrs. Milton Hartstein
Mrs. William Kuntz
Mrs. Don Utescher

Mrs. Nat Moll
Mrs. Maurice Newman
Mrs. William Orr
Mrs. Harry Lampenstein
Mrs. William Rosenberg
Mrs. Ted Replane
Mrs. Albert Silverberg
Mrs. Philip Silverberg
Mrs. Leo Samuel
Mrs. David Silverman
Mrs. William H. Silverman

Past Presidents of Sisterhood residing in and around Midland:

Mrs. Nat Moil	Mrs. Ted Replane
Mrs. William Silverman	Mrs. Maurice Newman
Mrs. David Silverman	Mrs. Harry Lampenstein
Mrs. Alfred Bahm	

During forty-one (41) years of the organization's existance the membership have done their share in helping to build the community of Midland.

Accomplishments over a period of years have been gratifying. Our members have served as organizers and served as chairmen on Community Organizations and Committees of Charity Drives and Civic Projects throughout the years.

The following members have served as president of these named organizations:

Mrs. Harry Green-----	President of 4th & 7th St. P. T. A.
Mrs. Ted Replane-----	Organizer and President of Lioness Auxiliary.
	President of 7th St. P. T. A.
Mrs. Wm. H. Silverman-----	President of Business & Professional Women's Club
Mrs. Albert Silverberg-----	District Chairman, Girl Scouts of America
Mrs. Myer Silverman-----	President, Senior Civic Club
Mr. Ted Replane-----	President, Lion's Club; President of Community Chest; and organizer and first President of Band Booster's Club.
Mr. D. J. Silverman-----	President, Board of Trade
Dr. Zanvil Sigal-----	President, Rotary
<i>DOMINO GREEN ~ ~ ~</i>	

Another organization formed and non-existent this date was the Midland Chapter of B'Nai Brith of the National Organization of B'Nai Brith Brotherhood, the original organizer and first President of Midland Order of B'Nai Brith being Sidney H. Harris, with a membership of eighteen (18) members. And the first Brotherhood Civic Program being conducted by them in the High School Auditorium with all civic and religious organizations taking part.

Our accomplishments throughout the years:

A handful of people with a profound belief in their religion, themselves, and in their fellowmen, built a place of worship and have kept it up throughout the years. The congregation have served themselves and the community, and their country, individually and as a group, always willing to offer their services whenever the need arose.

Our predictions, our aims, and our wish: we hope to achieve by 1981:

To preserve for our children, the place of worship our fathers built; to instill the same high ideals in the future leaders of our congregation and community as in the past; and to keep alive, always, a way of life as was first given us five thousand seven hundred and seventeen (5717) years ago.

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