



The B'nai Abraham Synagogue in Virginia Minnesota is a story of loss and reuse. Built in 1909-10, it was the last remaining active synagogue on the Iron Range until its congregation dwindled to a handful of members who could no longer maintain the handsome brick structure. It closed its doors in the mid-1990s. It was acquired in 2004 by a not-for-profit organization, The Friends of B'nai Abraham, who raised funds, and continue to do so, for the building's restoration and reuse in order to serve as a cultural center for all the citizens of Virginia, Minnesota and surrounding areas, and to preserve the history of its Jewish community, of which it was so much a part. Together with our partner, The Virginia Area Historical Society (VAHS), we look forward to seeing this lovely building used for many cultural and educational programs for the community.

SAVE THESE DATES

Summer Programs and Exhibits at B'nai Abraham Museum and Cultural Center

THE NEW DEAL FINE ART EXHIBIT – opens June 8, 2012

This exhibit will feature the artistic phase of the New Deal Projects. Check the Virginia Area Historical Society web site for additional programs www.VirginiaMnMuseum.com.

CONNIE EVINGSON AND HER QUARTET - JUNE 8 at 7:00 PM

Admission \$10.00 at the door or in advance at Virginia Area Historical Society

YEVGENI SHAPOVALOV – JULY 6 at 7:00 PM

Internationally acclaimed tenor. Admission free.

NORTHERN LIGHTS MUSICIANS – JULY 7 at 7:00 PM

Returning for their fourth fabulous year. Admission free.

MARK STILLMAN AND KLEZMER MUSICIANS – AUGUST 19 at 7:00

With Sima Shumalovsky, vocalist and Shelly Hanson, clarinet. Admission free.

Events are sponsored by the Friends of B'nai Abraham and the Virginia Area Historical Society.

Donations to the Friends of B'nai Abraham are warmly welcomed.

- The B'nai Abraham Museum and Cultural Center is located at 328 5th Street South, which is the corner of 4th Avenue and 5th Street South. Please check for parking restrictions.
- For updated information about the various programs visit our website at; www.ironrangejewishheritage.org
- If you plan to stay overnight, places to stay include Americinn 218-741-7839, Coates Hotel 218-749-1000, and the Holiday Inn Express 218-741-5075.
- **Event seating is limited. First Come First Serve.**

The voters of Minnesota make these musical activities possible through a grant from the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund. A generous grant was also received from the John T. and Elizabeth C. Adams Arts Fund administered through the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation.

VOCALIST, CONNIE EVINGSON AND HER JAZZ QUARTET!

Friday, June 8, at 7 PM

Admission \$10.00 cash at the door or in advance at Virginia Area
Historical Society or by phone 218-741-1136



Connie was born in Hibbing, and is still a regular visitor to the Iron Range. She performs regularly in the Twin Cities, and tours all over the world. The Quartet is made up of Dave Karr, Jay Epstein, Sam and Matthew Miltich. Dave Karr plays the sax, clarinet and just about everything else. Matthew Miltich, is the bassist and his son, Sam Miltich plays the guitar and Jay Epstein is the drummer.

YEVGENI SHAPOVALOV

The internationally acclaimed tenor
frequently called "The Golden Voice of Israel."

Friday, July 6 at 7 PM

This concert is **free** but donations are appreciated to
the B'nai Abraham Museum and Cultural Center.



Yevgeni Shapovalov was born in Belarus and trained in the Ukraine. He is a recipient of an America-Israel Cultural Foundation scholarship, and has appeared in leading roles with world-famous opera houses such as the Bastille Opera in Paris and the Metropolitan Opera in New York. He has recorded many gold records, which are sold worldwide. He will also appear in the Northern Lights production of "**Pagliacci**".

NORTHERN LIGHTS INTERNATIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL

Saturday, July 7 at 7 PM

This concert is **free** but donations are appreciated to
the B'nai Abraham Museum and Cultural Center.



The Northern Lights Musicians directed by Veda Zupancic will perform for the fourth year to great accolades at B'nai Abraham. The Northern Lights International Music Festival is an intensive 20 day classical music performance program that will take solo and chamber music before large and enthusiastic audiences in seven northern Minnesota cities this summer including in Aurora, Virginia, Gilbert, Hoyt Lakes, Duluth, Minneapolis and the resort city of Ely. Check their website, www.northernlightsmusic.org, for dates and locations of other performances including the opera, "**Pagliacci**".

KLEZMER CONCERT

Sunday, August 19, at 7PM

This concert is **free** but donations are appreciated to
the B'nai Abraham Museum and Cultural Center..



We are pleased to bring you THREE very popular Klezmer musicians from the Twin Cities who will perform a variety of styles and music from a variety of cultures. Mark Stillman on accordion, Sima Shumalovsky, a famous vocalist from Odessa who sings in Russian, Ukrainian and Yiddish and Shelly Hanson, who plays the clarinet.

Restoration Progress Report

The Restored Foyer Entry and Balcony Windows

by Mike Blehert, Project Manager



Foyer Entry



One of two Balcony Windows

The many visitors to the B'nai Abraham Museum and Cultural Center will now enter through the restored entrance foyer. Now the walls and ceiling are complete and painted to match the sanctuary. A hardwood floor is being installed in the foyer and quarry tile is being laid in the vestibule.

The restored two small arch-shaped stained glass windows in the balcony will be reinstalled just before Memorial Day. It's been a four - year journey to restore the beautiful windows that are some of the highlights of B'nai Abraham. This window restoration, as well as many other portions of the restoration has been made possible, in part, by the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the vote of Minnesotans on November 4, 2008, administered by the Minnesota Historical Society.

The main banquet/meeting space on the lower level is substantially complete with new walls, floor tile and ceiling with strips of lighting.

With the entrance foyer nearing completion, our sights are now set on completing the small lower level social hall kitchen. The plumbing was roughed in several years ago, but the space has no walls other than the stone foundation, open ceiling joists and a concrete floor. The serving kitchen will be a great addition enabling B'nai Abraham to include a social hour before or after events. Grants will be written that require a \$6000 match for this project with the hope that generous contributions to complete this project will be forthcoming.

NEW DEAL FINE ARTS EXHIBIT

The exhibit will be open daily from **June 8 to July 7.**
From **July 8 to Labor Day** it will be open two afternoons a week.

HOURS will be posted on the building or call the **VIRGINIA AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY** 218-741-1136, Harry 218-218-741-6613, or Louise 218-749-2037. The exhibit can also be open by appointment with advance notice.

This summer the Friends of B'nai Abraham and the Virginia Area Historical Society will present the exhibit "New Deal Fine Arts." The New Deal was a series of economic programs implemented in the United States beginning in the 1930s during the Great Depression and focused on what historians call the "3 Rs": Relief, Recovery, and Reform. The numerous public funded programs were to provide Relief for the unemployed and poor; Recovery of the economy to normal levels; and Reform of the financial system to prevent a repeat depression. The exhibit will also include original plant and town photos from the Frank Emanuelson collection of 1921-1922.



This exhibit, in collaboration with the Minnesota Discovery Center (Iron World), will include original paintings and reproductions by New Deal artists, sixteen inch tall ethnic dolls representing many different countries, original works by WPA woodcarvers, WPA posters, and even WPA fabrics including quilts, wall hangings, table runners, pennants and flags. Look for WPA turned candelabrum, commemorative plates, the work of WPA writers and other WPA funded programs.

Another major component of the New Deal exhibit will be "Babbitt, The World's First Commercial Taconite Plant 1920 - 1924" consisting of Babbitt, Minnesota photos taken by Farm Security Administration photographers during the 1930s and now stored at the Library of Congress.

Alan Stone and his Model Railroad Layout: All Aboard for Nashwauk and Cooley!

By Danny Milavetz

Underneath the Mesabi Iron Range is a long thin deposit of iron ore, but I didn't realize that it ran from the northeast, near Gunflint Lake, all the way southwest to Minnetonka! In reality, its southwestern edge comes to an end in the Nashwauk area, which has been recreated by Alan Stone in his Minnetonka home, along with the town of Cooley, and even an ore ship and pier from the harbor in Duluth-Superior! A close look at Alan's model railroad layout, which is set in the 1950's, can teach a lot about Iron Range History.

Alan's display takes up an entire end of his home's lower level. There are several radio controlled steam locomotives, all operating over 100-iron ore cars simultaneously. The trains move between the towns of Nashwauk and Cooley. Why Nashwauk and Cooley? Because Alan grew up in Nashwauk, where his parents, Ed and Bess Stone lived with Alan, their son Art and their daughter Nancy. The Stones owned the Harrison Store in Cooley. Alan's layout is unique, in that it contains no passenger trains, as the train service at the western end of the range had stopped carrying passengers by 1937. By that time, the Hibbing-originated Greyhound Bus Company had taken over the passenger service between the towns on the Range. There is, of course, a Greyhound Bus parked on the Nashwauk side of Alan's layout. Alan recalls that there was "one way to ride the trains." He said that if you were friendly with the Engineer, you could catch a ride in front, which he remembers doing as a youngster.



For Alan, historical accuracy is important in his layout. Most people who think of the trains on the Iron Range think of the D.M.& I.R. (Duluth, Missabe & Iron Range Railroad)! Alan's train layout includes no D.M.& I.R. trains. He relates that wealthy families from the Eastern United States owned the mines on the eastern end of the range as well as the ore docks, the ships and the steel plants. On the western edge of the Range, where Alan grew up, the Butler Brothers mine in Cooley, was owned by the prominent Butler family who lived in St. Paul - just down Summit Avenue from James J. Hill, the C.E.O. of the Great Northern Railroad. A business relationship was created, and on the Western end of the Iron Range, and on Alan's Nashwauk and Cooley layout, there are only Great Northern trains...not D.M.& I.R.

Alan plans on visiting Nashwauk over the Fourth of July this year, as he does most every year. Like many others, Alan has wanted to preserve a part of Iron Range history, and he has done so with his model railroad layout. He began his efforts 8 years ago. When asked when he will be finished, he reflected on his future plans which include finishing his ore boat, and recreating a model of his parents' Harrison Store in Cooley, and said he didn't think that he would ever be finished.

Contributors to the Friends of B'nai Abraham

Individual Contributions: 2011 – 2012

Lesley Baseman and Roz Rettman	Alexandra Jacobs	Charles and Marjorie Ostrov
Sande and Sande I. Berman	Harriet Joseph	Ann and Felix Phillips
Mike and Sue Bleher	Miriam and Erwin Kelen	Zsu Zsa Phillips Magyar
Frank Claymon	Katherine and Jeffrey Tane	Charles Pitzele
Jeanne Corwin	Miriam Weinstein	Ellen Ratner
Gail and Berwyn Davies	Linda and Jon Ketokoski	Phil and Tammie Rosenbloom
Jill and Bob Edelstein	Laurie and Joel Kramer	Connie and Paul Ross
Tom and Priscilla Falkowski	Harry and Joan Lamppa	Linda and Leonard Schloff
Mimi and Sherry Gleekeel	Dina and Jerry Leener	Stanley Schweitzer
Rivoli Golden	Rhoda and Don Mains	Stefanie and Marvin Segal
David Harris	Judi and Aaron Nathenson	Dianne & Leighton Siegel
Lynn and Charles Hiti	Virginia Nelson	Morton and Artice Silverman
Thomas and Vicki Hurwitz	Eric and Heidi Olson	William E. Stark

Special Contributions: 2011 – 2012

Curt and Diane Axen: in appreciation of Leighton Siegel's photography;
 Marc Bleher: In honor of Amy Bleher's new job;
 Hon. Myron Bright: In memory of two WWII veterans from the Iron Range: Joe Mason and Dr. Dan Simon;
 Lorriane Cannon: In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Cannon and sons of Eveleth, MN;
 Elaine and Larry Chiat: In memory of Barbara Edelstein Goldstein;
 Marilyn Chiat: In honor of Aunt Sylvia Segal's 100th Birthday; In memory of Clayton Kaufman;
 Frank Claymon: In memory of Holly Sigel;
 Ben and Karen Deutsch: In honor of Larry and Elaine Chiat;
 Sandy and Mort Greenberg: In honor of the birth of a new great granddaughter;
 First Covenant Church: In memory of Dorothy Karon;
 Peter Friedlieb: In memory of Oskar and Connie Friedlieb;
 Dana Fox: In honor of Ann Phillips;
 Dr. Stanley and Luella Goldberg: In honor of Ann and Felix Phillip;
 Harriet Joseph: In memory of Irene and David Schibel;
 Audra Keller: In honor of Ann Phillip's special birthday and her devoted work on behalf of B'nai Abraham; ;
 In memory of Dr. Dan Simon;
 Gene Kishel: In honor of Margie and Charlie Ostrov's anniversary;
 Anita and Myron Kunin: In memory of Sheldon Kaplan; In honor of Zsuzsa Magyar's Bat Mitzvah;
 Barbara Levie: In honor of the engagement of Shelby Steinman to Sean Wesenberg;
 Virginia McBride: In memory of Burton Flax;
 Linda and Warren Mack: In honor of the family of Ann Phillips;

Bob and Judy Marans: In memory of Ann Siegel Marans;
 Robert Maslansky: In memory of Carolyn Maslansky;
 John Mesberg: In memory of ancestor, John Mesberg;
 Sandi Marcovich Morris: In memory of Susan and Ben Marcovich;
 Eric and Heidi Olson: Congratulations on the near completion of a project that preserves an important part of Iron Range and Minnesota history!
 Margie and Charlie Ostrov: In memory of Ada Walt;
 Ann and Felix Phillips: In memory of Dr. Daniel Simon; In memory of Richard Siegel;
 James and Rosemarie Rubenstein: In memory of Elsie Glass;
 Jonathan and Marlene Sakol: In memory of Pearl Sakol;
 Dianne and Leighton Siegel: In memory of Dr. Adam Liston; In memory of Ada Walt: In honor of Toni Rosen's special birthday;
 Delores and Mel Sigel: In honor of Marilyn Chiat;
 Artis Silverman: In honor of Margie and Charlie's 50th Anniversary;
 Alan and Lou Ann Stone: In memory of Ed and Bess Stone;
 Jerry and Elaine Stulberg: In honor of Aaron Stulberg's Bar Mitzvah;
 Bob Weil and Mary Moos: In memory of Ira Weil Jeffrey who was the first Minnesotan to die in WWII at Pearl Harbor;

Gifts of kind and other aid: 2011 – 2012

Sheila Stageberg donated Bernard Dorfman's purple heart, commendation and a picture. Bernard Dorfman died in WWII. These items were displayed as part of the WWII exhibit this past summer.

If we have inadvertently missed your name, please let us know so that you can be included in our next newsletter

**We've made great progress but are still short of our goal.
 Your continued interest and contributions are vital to our success.**

The Friends of B'nai Abraham hope that you were pleased with all of the work that has been done to restore this beautiful building and to help preserve it for future generations.

The *B'nai Abraham Museum and Cultural Center* has seen many events and visitors in the last year and restoration work has proceeded. There is still more to do. We need to create a serving kitchen in the lower level and work toward an endowment fund to maintain the building in the future. Please remember this project as you do your estate planning and donate whatever you can to help complete our work.

As you consider a possible donation, remember that we have no staff costs. The entire project is managed by a dedicated group of volunteers, and the building is maintained through your donations.

May we have your email address to keep you up to date. Please send it to BAFriends@ironrangejewishheritage.org

We've made great progress but are still short of our goal.		All donations are fully tax deductible.
Please send your donation to:		
Friends of B'nai Abraham c/o Charles Ostrov, treasurer 1788 Maryland Ave. North Golden Valley, MN 55427		Name: _____ Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____ Amount: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Endowment Fund: <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration:		To contribute stock contact: York Securities, Inc. 800-221-3154 directed to Kathleen -or- costrov@gmail.com -or- phill037@umn.edu
<input type="checkbox"/> In Memory of: <input type="checkbox"/> In Honor of: <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____		
Send acknowledgement card to: Name: _____ Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____		