



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 2005 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.

- The B'nai Abraham Museum & Cultural Center is located at 328 5th Street South, at the corner of 4th Avenue & 5th Street South.
- For updated information visit the B'nai Abraham website: www.ironrangejewishheritage.org

A few upcoming summer highlights

AT THE **B'NAI ABRAHAM MUSEUM AND CULTURAL CENTER** - by Ann Phillips

We are looking forward to another spectacular summer of music at the BA – music for everyone, young and older...classical, jazz, and bluegrass. *“These activities are made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund”*



CONNIE EVINGSON

Tickets will be available at the door, and will be priced at \$10.00 per person. Doors open at 6:30, so don't miss a note!

The season opener will be a return visit to B'nai Abraham of **CONNIE EVINGSON** and her great jazz group on Friday, June 27, 2014, at 7:00. Connie, the famed Twin Cities and international vocalist has been a great draw every year she and her group have performed in Virginia, and this year will be no exception.

Besides the lovely Connie, the musicians will include Dave Karr, on sax, Tanner Taylor on piano, Gordy Johnson on double bass, and Jay Epstein from Duluth on drums.

There is always a standing ovation for the group, and we know you will want to attend.



Veda Zuponic

On Saturday, July 12 at 7:00 pm we welcome back for the 5th year the **Northern Lights Music Festival** group under the direction of its founder and musical director, Veda Zuponic. The Festival draws large and enthusiastic audiences from all over the Range and as far away as New Hampshire! And again the audience claps, stamps their feet, and gives standing ovations for the remarkably talented young people from all over the world. **NOT TO BE MISSED** - and there is no charge.



Pat Surface

In August, we try to present some of the outstanding local musicians – of which the Range has many. This year, by popular demand, we bring back, on Saturday, August 16th, **Pat Surface and the Boundry Water Boys** with Pat's wife, Performance Sign Artist, Donna. They will perform nostalgic songs from the 60's and 70's, and Donna dances and translates the songs using American Sign Language. And surely there will be bluegrass as well! There is no charge for this event, and doors open at 6:30 with the program beginning at 7:00 pm.

A special exhibit coming in October *Transfer of Memory*

The Friends of B'nai Abraham are pleased to bring to Virginia a special exhibit, the **Transfer of Memory**, for the month of October 2014. This exhibit will take place at the B'nai Abraham Museum and Cultural Center.

The exhibit, in coordination with the Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dakotas, focuses on Minnesota survivors of the WWII Holocaust. The thirty-three framed colored portraits, each with an accompanying story, tell of survival during exceedingly difficult circumstances. From Europe to Minnesota, these survivors came with the hope for a better future. It was here they fashioned their dreams, their futures, and their families. Their lives are constant reminders about the value of freedom, and the enduring human spirit.

The exhibit will be provided to the community at no charge. Members of the Virginia Area Historical Society will be opening the building for classes and individuals to view the exhibit. An opening program and reception is being planned for the early part of October.

Educators in the Virginia area may contact Sue Devereux for information and / or to indicate they are interested utilizing the exhibit and related activities in their classroom in the fall. Sue can be reached at s.devereux@mesabirange.edu.



In mid September, please check with the **Virginia Area Historical Society**, at **218-741-1136** or **218-741-6613**, or on the web site of the Friends of B'nai Abraham, www.IronRangeJewishHeritage.org, for the exact hours the exhibit will be open to the public, and the date and time of the opening program. A notice will be posted at the building with dates and hours.



Sue Devereux

Courage to Teach Award

We are pleased to announce that Sue Devereux is the 2014 JCRC *Courage To Teach* award recipient. Sue is a teacher at Mesabi Range Community and Technical College in Virginia, MN. She was recognized for her outstanding efforts to teach and inspire young people about the lessons of the Holocaust. Sue was recognized at this year's Twin Cities *Yom HaShoah* (Holocaust Remembrance Day) Commemoration.

2014 Summer Exhibits at B'nai Abraham Museum & Cultural Center

by Harry Lamma



This summer's exhibits will feature Duane Bryers, Carl Gawboy and other local artists. Duane was born in Michigan in 1911, lived to be almost 102 years old and excelled in both athletics and art. When a teenager, the family moved to Virginia where he performed in the local boys' circus, went on to win the state pole-vaulting championship and held the record for 23 years. During the dark days of the Depression, he became a seasoned aerialist with the local Jingling Brothers Circus that performed in the tri-state region. Despite his athletic prowess, he never abandoned a love of art that included among its accomplishments 18 foot high sculptures of national figures, a 103 foot mural in the Virginia High School, first prize in a WWII poster contest featured in Life magazine, a syndicated Cokey cartoon, nation-wide magazine covers, popular Hilda calendars, and peer recognition as one of the country's top western painters.

Carl Gawboy was born in Cloquet to a Finnish mother and an Ojibwe father and raised in Ely. He graduated from UMD, earned a master's degree in Indian studies at the University of Montana and taught at the College of St. Scholastica for many years. He realized at an early age that he was destined to be an artist and depicts Indian life as he saw and experienced it. He has produced many murals for public spaces and has exhibited statewide and in Arizona.

Other events are being planned; please check as dates approach

Friday, June 13, 2014 2:00 p.m. A talk about Duane Bryer, the artist featured in the exhibit at B'nai Abraham. Darwin Alar, Duane's nephew, will provide his insight and will also sing with his musical group, the Discords.

Friday, August 15, 2014, 6:00 p.m. The annual "Shabbat on the Range" will take place in the historic B'nai Abraham building led by Rabbi David Steinberg, from Temple Israel in Duluth.

Saturday, September 20, 2014 3:00 p.m. Enjoy an afternoon of music by the Harbormasters, Full Range Quarter, and Ripple Effect. There will be a charge for this event.

WHAT'S ON THE MENU?

By Mike Blehert

A NEW KITCHEN!! In 2010, the lower level old and deteriorated concrete floor was removed so that plumbing could be installed for new handicap accessible restrooms and a small serving kitchen. The restrooms were completed at that time, but the funding for the kitchen was not found until just a few months ago when the Friends of B'nai Abraham were awarded a matching grant to begin to build a serving kitchen. This kitchen will augment the many programs and exhibits held at the B'nai Abraham Museum and Cultural Center every year.

So, the drains and water pipes laid in 2010 have been uncapped and preparations made to complete the serving kitchen. The new kitchen with washable epoxy coated walls, suspended ceiling and quarry tile floor will be completed in accordance with code. Electrical receptacles have been installed for a refrigerator, microwave, convection warming oven, and other small appliances, such as a coffee maker. Appliances will be purchased as funds become available and must be NSF (National Sanitation Foundation) approved which adds significantly to their cost. New stainless steel commercial sinks and counters will be installed in the coming weeks. In addition, shelves, drawers and a serving window to the social hall will be installed.

With this new clean and functional space, we'll be able to serve wine and cheese, fruit, cake and cookies or other similar fare this summer and as more funds become available, the capabilities will be expanded. Our serving kitchen license will not allow cooking meals, but food can be warmed or kept cold for events. Paper/ disposable plates, cups and utensils will be used to simplify use of the kitchen.

Enjoy the coffee and rolls.

If you would like to receive emails of our upcoming programs and events or you would like to receive our newsletter by email, please send your email address to Ann Phillips phillo37@umn.edu.

Board of Directors of the Friends of B'nai Abraham

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Jo Doig

Grants awarded to the Friends of B'nai Abraham for 2013-14 restoration

Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund (legacy Funds) – \$8,438 for balcony stairs and window trim

This project has been financed in part with funds provided by the State of Minnesota through the Minnesota Historical Society from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board – matching grant - \$8,481

Grants awarded to the Friends of B'nai Abraham for 2013-14 programming

Arrowhead Regional Arts Council - \$2950

Legacy Funds are made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Fund.

Individual Contributions: November 2013 – May 2014

Anonymous	Bert and Susan Gross	Roberta Palen
Stuart Appelbaum and Jean King	Jon and Judy Harris	JoAnn Pasternack
Sandy and Sande Berman	Thomas and Vicki Hurwitz	Judy and Ben Perry
Susan and Dale Berns	Sam and Sylvia Kaplan	Charles Pitzele
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Marjorie Goldberg	Allen and Marcia Oleisky	
Rivoli Golden	Charles and Margie Ostrov	
John Goodman		

Special Contributions: November 2013 – May 2014

Trudy Bers: In memory of her mother, Saragrace Kenner Haffron;
Myron Bright: In memory of Ben and Jackie Hoberman;
Ben and Karen Deutsch: In honor of Elayne and Larry Chiat;
Jo Doig: In memory of Ira Gordon;
Peter Friedlieb: In memory of Oskar Friedlieb;
Renate and Dr. Paul Hiller: In honor of Hannah Levinson;
Peggie Greuling: In memory of Winnie and Art Gurovitsch; In memory of Bud Sagen;
Steve Hunegs and Jennifer Robins: In honor of Margie and Charlie Ostrov and their work at B'nai Abraham;
Harriet Israel: In honor of my good friends, Margie and Charlie Ostrov and Dianne and Leighton Siegel;
Barbara and Marshall Johnson: In honor of Ann and Felix Phillips;
Colette and Peter Johnson: Happy Hanukah to Audra Keller and Frank Claymen;
Judy Joseph: In honor of Harriet Joseph;
Nancy Karasov: In honor of Granddaughters Zoe and Talia Milavetz's 18th birthday;
Audra Keller: In honor of Harriet Joseph's 100th birthday;
Gene Kishel: Wishing Margie Ostrov a Happy Birthday;
L. Robert Lieb: In honor of Jo Doig;
Bob and Judy Marans: In memory of Anne Rose Siegel Marans;
Shirley Olson: In honor of Ann Phillips;
Margie and Charlie Ostrov: In memory of Elliott Karasov;
Ann and Felix Phillips: In memory of Lynn Johnson; In memory of Larry Greenberg; In memory of Dr. Norton Rogin; In honor of Harriet Joseph's special birthday;
Michael and Julia Phillips: In honor of the birthday of Ann Shanedling Phillips;
Nancy and Steve Schachtman: In honor of Charles and Margie Ostrov;
Marv and Stefanie Segal: In honor of Logan Segal;
Judy and Moe Sherman: In honor of Charlie and Margie Ostrov;
Ellie Siegel and Bill Warren: In honor of Sophie Siegel/Warren's graduation;
Leighton and Dianne Siegel: In memory of Elliot Karasov;
Artis Silverman: In honor of Margie and Charlie Ostrov;
Will Stark and Kevin Olsen: In honor of Marilyn Chiat;
Sharron and Oren Steinfeldt: In memory of Maury Bernstein;
Allen and Anne Wolf: In memory of their son, Stephan

Gifts of kind and other aid: 2013-14

Richard and Karen Weiland - donation of book of cartoons and letters of Munroe Milavitz, a WW II cartoonist and artist

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

Endowment Fund Creation – help us preserve B’nai Abraham

Now that the building’s restoration is well on its way, **The Friends of B’nai Abraham would like to create an Endowment Fund** that will make certain B’nai Abraham can be well maintained long into the future. We have spoken to staff at several experienced community funds who have expressed an interest in being the repository for such an endowment and work with the Friends to assure that these dollars continue to be used to meet the goal of providing a community resource and ensuring that the contribution of the Jews of the Iron Range will not be forgotten.

To quote our Board member, Dr. Marilyn Chiat: B'nai Abraham represents our nation's great religious, cultural and ethnic diversity. When historic buildings such as B'nai Abraham are lost, our nation's magnificent mosaic (to quote Hubert H. Humphrey) loses some of its brilliant color.

This building in particular, the only extant synagogue left on the Range, and the only synagogue building in Minnesota to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places, provides people with a window into

understanding the history of the Range and the people who contributed so much to its unique character.

If you have suggestions or may wish to make such a contribution, please contact Margie or Charlie Ostrov at maostrov@aol.com. We need everyone to be a part of this.



Lets insure the preservation of this wonderful building.

WISH LIST - YOUR HELP IS GREATLY NEEDED FOR:

- *Providing the Interior trim around three stained glass windows in the balcony
- *Refinishing balcony floor
- *Purchasing NSF approved appliances for the kitchen
- *Completing baseboard trim in the Sanford I. Berman Social Hall and Sanctuary
- *Finishing the front entry with stonework and new railings
- *Repainting some areas of the building
- *Even More**

We are still short of our goal.	All donations are fully tax deductible.
<p>Please send your donation to:</p> <p>Friends of B’nai Abraham c/o Charles Ostrov, treasurer 1788 Maryland Ave. North Golden Valley, MN 55427</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Endowment: <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration:</p>	<p>Name: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>City, State, Zip: _____</p> <p>Amount: _____</p> <p>To contribute stock <i>-or-</i> appreciated securities, contact: Jackie or Daryl at Morgan Stanley 800-791-8360 <i>-or-</i> costrov@gmail.com</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Memory of: <input type="checkbox"/> Honor of: <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p> <p>Send acknowledgement card to: Name: _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Address: _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">City, State, Zip: _____</p>	