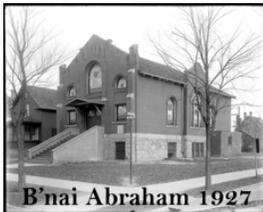




The B'nai Abraham Synagogue in Virginia, Minnesota is a story of loss and reuse. Built in 1909-10, it was the last remaining active synagogue on the Iron Range until its congregation dwindled to a handful of members who could no longer maintain the handsome brick structure. It closed its doors in the 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

Summer Performances 2016 at B'nai Abraham

All events have free admission though donations are appreciated

Sunday, June 26, 2016 - 7:00 pm **Program: An evening with Alan Phillips featuring Brent Saari**



Both musicians were born and raised on the Mesabi Iron Range. Alan is a guitarist and his repertoire is vast and spans over five decades. He plays Golden Oldies, Beatles, and contemporary music. His versatility empowers him to perform and delight audiences of all ages. Brent Saari is known as the "Piano Man" by many and can be found tinkling the ivories around the Iron Range.

Saturday, July 16, 2016 - 7:00 pm **Program: Northern Lights Music Festival under the direction of Veda Zuponic, founder of the program**



Northern Lights combines award winning students and internationally known performers and teachers in a unique program that has performed at B'nai Abraham for the past five years to enthusiastic audiences. Northern Lights brings the highest level of classical music to Iron Range communities as well as choosing their venues to showcase the architectural gems found in Northeastern Minnesota.

Veda Zuponic, Music Director

Special Guests - Harlan and Gwynn Simon and their family will be presenting a generous contribution to B'nai Abraham at the request of Kenneth Simon, Harlan's father, who passed away recently. Kenneth Simon grew up in Virginia and he and his family were members of B'nai Abraham. Kenneth Simon was a successful businessman and lived in Los Angeles until his death. The brief presentation will precede the Northern Lights concert.

Saturday, July 30, 2016 - 7:00 pm **Program: Sam Militich and the Clearwater Hot Club featuring Charmin Michelle**



Sam Militich is a gypsy jazz guitarist born and raised in the woods of northern Minnesota. There will be five band members: Sam Militich, guitar, Evan Price, violin, Charmin Michelle, vocals, Matthew Militich, upright bass, Jay Epstein, drums. Charmin Michelle will be featuring the music from Adelainde Hall, a jazz singer from the 1930s and 1040s. Her conversational style recalls the late Billie Holiday and other legendary ladies of jazz.

Saturday, August 20, 2016 - 3:00 pm **Program: Our Finnish Festival featuring Kanteleen Soittajat and Jarvenpaa Singers**



Kanteleen Soittajat is a group of 18 enthusiastic Finnish Americans from Duluth and surrounding area who perform on the kantele, an ancient instrument that originated two thousand years ago and is now Finland's national musical instrument.

The Javenpaa Singers is a group also from Duluth who sing in the Finnish language and who dedicate their music to uphold and promote the Finnish culture whenever they can.

Saturday, September 10, 2016 - 7:00 pm **Program: Full Range Quartet**



Full Range, is a male quartet, formed in the Spring of 2009. The members include: 1st Tenor – Ken Bouchie (Chisholm), 2nd Tenor – Mark Olson (Virginia), Baritone – Mark Muster (Gilbert), and Bass/Accompanist – Jason Hagolin (Gilbert). The group is exclusively an acapella group. They perform a “full range” of music including everything from Gospel to Doo-wop to Folk and Traditional music and even an occasional Barbershop number.

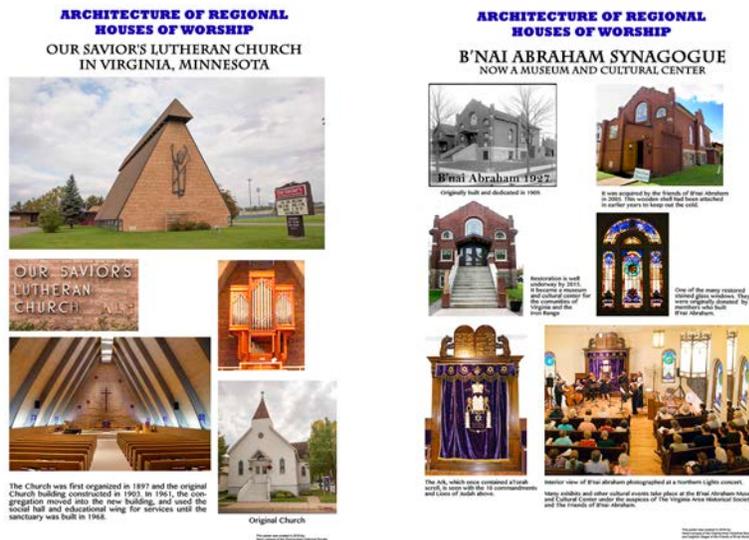


These events are made possible in part by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Fund.

Friday, July 15th Shabbat on the Range Rabbi David Steinberg, of Temple Israel in Duluth, will lead “Shabbat on the Range” at the B’nai Abraham Museum and Cultural Center in Virginia. This celebration of the Jewish Sabbath will begin at 6:00 p.m. for members of Temple Israel and others wishing to join with them.

In sadness, we mourn the recent death of John Goodman of Minneapolis, Minnesota. John was a generous and caring man, who never forgot his roots. His grandfather was Henry Shanedling, who in the early twentieth century, was one of the founders of the B’nai Abraham Synagogue, now known as the B’nai Abraham Museum and Cultural Center. John was a generous benefactor, and his many contributions to the B’nai Abraham made possible the restoration of some of the beautiful stained glass windows.

SUMMER - 2016 – Exhibit at the B'NAI ABRAHAM MUSEUM AND CULTURAL CENTER ARCHITECTURE OF REGIONAL HOUSES OF WORSHIP



This year the Friends of B'nai Abraham and the Virginia Area Historical Society embarked upon an ambitious exhibit, the ***Architecture of Regional Houses of Worship***. In the early days houses of worship reflected homelands and religious practices, but after a century of assimilation, nativity lost its importance, congregations merged and architecture changed.

A few towns still use and maintain grand structures reminiscent of the old world--buildings with high ceilings, prominent steeples, impressive stained glass windows and commanding statuary. In contrast, other buildings have limited aesthetics and emit an air of austerity. In recent years new construction has emphasized usefulness rather than beauty, has integrated local materials such as taconite rock and fieldstone into construction and made facilities available to both congregation and community.

The photo exhibit will consist of over twenty posters displaying building exteriors and significant interior features such as timberwork and pipe organs. When available, artifacts will complement the photography. Any updates or corrections you have will be appreciated.

The exhibit will be open on Wednesday and Friday afternoons from 1 pm to 3 pm starting June 1st, and an hour before and after programs or by appointment by calling 218-741-6613 or 218-741-1136. Contact can also be made by emailing homeworks217@live.com.

**Exhibit created by Harry Lamppa of the Virginia Area Historical Society
and Leighton Siegel of the Friends of B'nai Abraham**

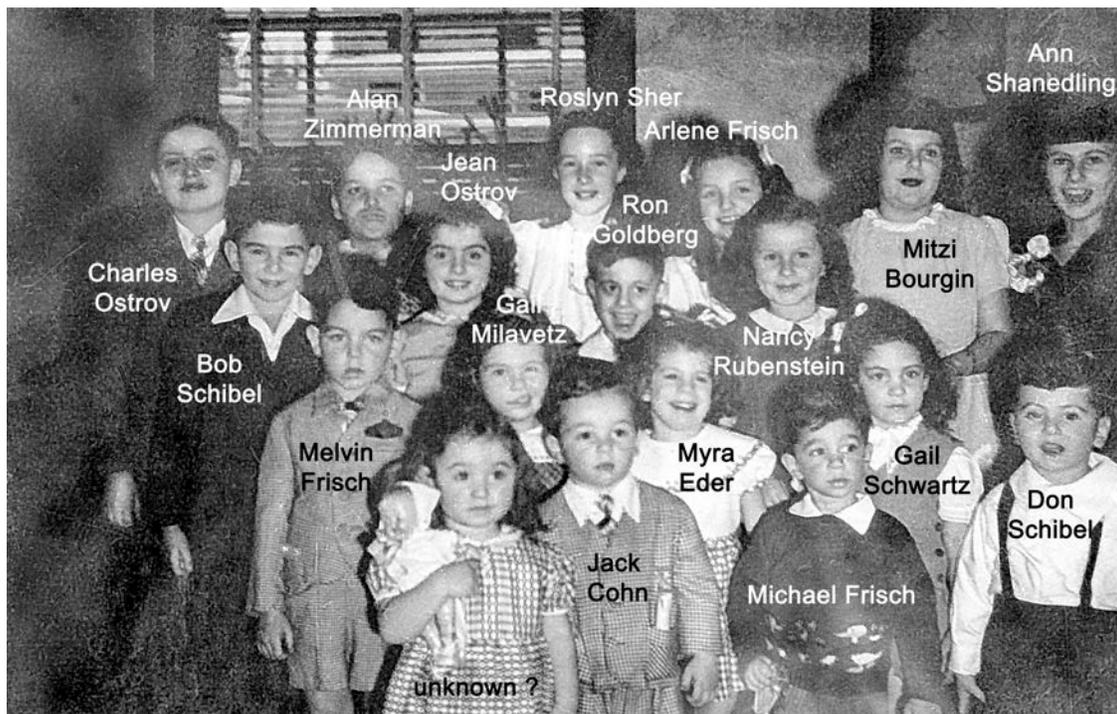
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From the Archives ***B'nai Abraham Sunday School students: December 22, 1946***



If you can identify the unknown girl on the lower left please let us know who she is.

Construction Report Spring 2016: by Michael Blehert

Last November I reported that the entrance foyer hardwood floor had been installed and that the front step's capstones and newel posts were completed. But more work was needed to finish the foyer floor and install custom made decorative and functional wrought iron railings to the steps. Thanks to many generous year-end contributions, this work is 90% done and will be completed by the first week in May.

The foyer floor was sanded, stained and sealed plus a carpet runner was laid between the new door thresholds as the weather warmed in March. The railings are almost finished and will be dip coated and installed in the first week of May. The completion of the permanent railings is especially important to comply with code and to save the cost of remaking temporary wood railings now that the newel posts with red brick to match the building have been completed.

Several of the remaining construction items will add a sense of completion to this wonderful building. Two examples are installing the sanctuary crown molding and trimming the last three stained glass windows in the balcony. The remaining more functional item is to complete tuck-pointing of the exterior brick before next winter.

Thank you as always for your generous contributions.

Grants awarded to the Friends of B'nai Abraham for 2016 programming

Arrowhead Regional Arts Council - \$3100

Individual Contributions: November 7, 2015 – April 30, 2016

Lorraine Goldish Astrin	Harry and Joan Lamppa
Lesley Baseman and Roz Rettman	Gerald Leener
Lenore Bear	Barbara Levie Charitable Fund
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Judy Karon	Mike and Toni Rosen Family Fund of the Mpls Foundation
Jean King and Stuart Applebaum	Dianne and Leighton Siegel
Laurie and Joel Kramer	Carolyn Sundquist

Special Contributions: November 7, 2015 – April 20, 2016

Naomi and Neil Arnold: In honor of Dianne and Leighton's 50th Anniverary; **Trudy Bers:** In memory of her mother, Saragrace Kenner Haffron; **Marilyn Chiat:** In honor of the Friends of B'nai Abraham for the successful restoration of B'nai Abraham Musseum and Cultural Center; **Ben and Karen Deutsch:** In honor of Elayne and Larry Chait; **Jo Doig:** In memory of Marcella Rockler; **Dr. David Edelstein:** In memory of Melvin Edelstein; **Neil and Barbara Frank:** In honor of Dianne and Leighton's 50th wedding anniversary; **Gary and Linda Friedlieb and Family:** In Memory of Dr. Oskar Peter Friedlieb; **Melvin and Patti Frisch:** In memory of the Frisch Family; **Margie Goldberg:** In memory of Dr. Nelson D. Goldberg; **Renate and Dr. Paul Hiller:** In memory of Hannah Levinson; **Harriet Israel and Gene White:** In memory of Dr. Robert Karsh; In honor of Dianne and Leighton's 50 wedding Anniversary; **Colette and Peter Johnson:** In honor of Audra Keller and Frank Clayman; **Nancy Karasov:** In honor of granddaughters Zoe and Talia Milavetz and Birthday of Bonnie Resnick; **Miriam and Erwin Kelen:** In honor of Ann and Felix Phillips and family; **Gene Kishel:** In honor of Charlie and Margie Ostrov; In memory of Paul Ostrov and Karl Kaufman; **Audra Keller:** In honor of Ann Phillips birthday; **Robert and Judy Marans:** In memory of Ann Rose Siegel Marans and Rob Karsh; **Robert Maslansky:** In memory of Carolyn Phillips Maslansky; **The Mesberg Yashar Fund:** In memory of John, George and Bernard Mesberg; **Gary and Mary Milavetz, Judy Friedson, Barry and Judy Milavetz:** In memory of Frances and David Milavetz; Morris and Isador Kaufman; **Margie and Charlie Ostrov:** In honor of Harriet Israel's special birthday; In honor of Dianne and Leighton's 50th Anniversary; **Francie and Mark Paper:** In honor Ann Phillips "Big Birthday"; **Ann and Felix Phillips:** In memory of "Babe" Harold Zats; In memory of Dr. James Gavisser; **Gail Rosenberg and Andy Rosenberg:** In memory of Anne Milavetz; **James and Rosemarie Rubenstein:** In memory of Anne Milavetz; **Claudia (Bourgin) Sandonato:** In memory of mother Dorothy Bougin, who brought classical music and piano playing to the Iron Range; **Marv and Stefanie Segal:** In memory of Adolf Keller and all his wonderful descendents; **Delores and Mel Sigel:** In memory of Gisela Blatnick; **Dianne and Leighton Siegel:** In honor of Rick and Diane Smookler's special anniversary; In honor of Harriet Israel's special birthday; In memory of Mary Calof; **Dr. Richard and Diane Smookler:** In memory of Rob Karsh; **Jeanne and Barry Steiger:** In honor of Dianne and Leighton's 50th wedding Annversary; **Alan and Lou Ann Stone:** In honor of Ed and Bess Stone; **Jeanette Warner:** In memory of Arthur Warner, Jr.; **Karen and Richard Weiland:** In memory of Munroe Milavetz.

If we have inadvertently missed your name on the 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 Charlie

*Ostrov at: **costrov@gmail.com***

We need everyone to participate and help.



Ensure the preservation of this wonderful building.

WISH LIST - YOUR HELP IS GREATLY NEEDED TO COMPLETE

Crown molding, Baseboard trim, Balcony window trim, Finish sanctuary floor, Sand and finish balcony floor, Handicap lift entrance and walls, Finish exterior tuck pointing, Miscellaneous trim, Landscaping -- and we welcome contributions to the Endowment fund.

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="padding-left: 150px;">Address: _____</p> <p style="padding-left: 100px;">City, State, Zip: _____</p>			

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 Charlie Ostrov at costrov@gmail.com