



The History of Jewish Life on the Minnesota Iron Range

We appreciate your interest and support in B'nai Abraham Museum and Cultural Center. We would like to switch as many people as possible to receive this newsletter by e-mail.

To be added to our e-mail list please email: costrov@gmail.com or dsiegel005@gmail.com
We will send our newsletter and occasional announcement by email. ~Thank You!

“Preserving the Old Country: The Experiences of Croatians, Serbians and Slovenians in St. Louis County” was a very successful exhibit at B'nai Abraham during the summer of 2018. The display, from the St. Louis County Historical Society, included several large panels detailing the history of Yugoslavian people who settled in northern Minnesota. In addition, a number of other items were provided by families of those early settlers.



Iron Range Historian Harry Lamppa stated “This area of the world (the Old Country) has been ruled by many different empires and powers causing its boundaries to change multiple times. When Old Country immigrants began immigrating to Minnesota and St. Louis County, the area was still under Austro-Hungary rule in the north and Turkish-Ottoman control in the south.”

“Immigrants left the Old Country for political and economic reasons and to avoid being forcefully drafted into the military. Many had worked as farmers, but without a formal education, they were able to find work in the mines.” *Masabi Daily News*



The Gruden family fled when a communist government was established in Yugoslavia in 1945. After reaching America, the family of five traveled by train from New York to Gilbert with all of the family's possessions and belongings transported in one large wooden trunk that is part of the display.



Tom Sersha provided an old wooden wagon and barrel used by ninety-eight year old mother, Julie Sersha, and her family to pump and haul water before running water existed in Eveleth. The water in the barrel was needed for cooking, washing dishes, clothes, themselves and chores.



The exhibit also included dolls in ethnic costumes from Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia and surrounding countries as well as flags, traditional clothing and handcraft items.

Individuals from many Range communities visited the exhibit to learn about the heritage of those who came from “The Old Country.”

2018 Summer Musical Programs

Over 600 people came to enjoy the summer series at B’nai Abraham and at the same time visited the exhibit. The Friends of B’nai Abraham are pleased to be able to present this series free of charge and look forward to another wonderful summer.

On Friday, June 8, we began our summer series with the Front Porch Sinners, a country western group from Duluth.

On Saturday, June 23, we hosted from the Twin Cities, Bruce Stasch and his group, St. Anthony Main, who performed a capella contemporary jazz, rock and roll and blues.

On Saturday, July 14, Veda Zuponic brought her Northern Lights Festival Musicians to play classical music. The group has performed at B’nai Abraham since we began offering summer programs.

On Sunday, August 12, we heard Alan Phillips and Brent Saari, who played guitar and piano classic rock.

On Saturday, September 15, we hosted the popular Singing Slovenes, under the direction of Frank Bucar. This group performs music from the background of their Slovenian heritage.

On Saturday, September 29, we ended the season with the Harbormasters led by Steve Lapatka, who perform barbershop harmony.

From The Archives



The Eveleth Jewish Men's Curling Team,



Alex Berman, Fred Siegel, Carl Siegel in Carl's delivery cart around 1917

AIR CONDITIONING FOR B'NAI ABRAHAM

The Friends of B'nai Abraham are investigating installing air-conditioning. The summers have become hotter, perhaps from global warming, and the fans that we have aren't able to make the building comfortable. We love our stained glass windows, but they cannot be opened for ventilation. You may not be aware, but the city of Virginia is in the process of eliminating steam heat and requiring residences to install gas furnaces. The contractors have been so busy with installations, that we are still waiting for an estimate. The good news is that in the process of restoring the building, we made certain that the HV/AC unit that was installed could accommodate an air-conditioning unit in the future.

We would appreciate any contributions toward the instillation of an AC unit that would make the building comfortable for both the performers and those in the audience.

Individual Contributions: May 2018 – November 2018

BarOrn Investment LLC	Rhonda and Don Mains
Mike and Sue Beihart	Chana Mesberg
Joyce Giblin	Lauren Nelson
Lynn Hiti	Myrna Orensten
Juliet Jones	Charlie and Margie Ostrow
Joel and Laurie Kramer	Steve and Nancy Schactman
Harry Lamppa	Dianne Siegel
Donna Levitan	Kathy and Howard Zack

Special Contributions: April 2018 – November 2018

Alan Apter: Apter Family Fund for program support.

Marilyn Chiat:

In memory of Herb Fantle.

In honor of special birthday of Judy Cooperman.

In honor of Phil Pickman's 80th birthday.

In honor of Kara Rosenwald's 40th birthday.

Nancy Karasov: In honor of Alan Milavetz's 60th birthday and David Milavetz's 30th birthday.

Judy Karon: Best wishes to the Ostrovs on their new home.

Eileen & Jim Mitson: In honor of Audra Keller's special birthday.

Paul Sakol: In honor of Katie Sakol.

Dianne Siegel: In honor of Margie Ostrov's special birthday.

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Alan Stone: In memory of Melanie Stone Katt.

Irwin Weisman: In memory of Margery Weisman.

Karen and Richard Weiland: In memory of Monroe Milavetz.

Our Goal Is To Have Endowment Fund

It is very important to grow an endowment for the future of B'nai Abraham Museum and Cultural Center. Many who come for tours, exhibits and programs often leave donations as well. The Friends of B'nai Abraham has undertaken this project to ensure that the building remains a community resource and ensuring that the contribution of the Jews of the Iron Range will not be forgotten.

To quote our Board member, Marilyn Chait, PhD., "B'nai Abraham represents our nations great religious, cultural and ethnic diversity. When historic buildings such as B'nai Abraham are lost, our nations magnificent mosaic 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 to understanding the history of the Range and the Jewish people who contributed so much to its unique character.

WISH LIST - YOUR HELP IS GREATLY NEEDED

Tuck-pointing to close leaks and secure bricks, which will protect the beautifully restored building from harsh winters. The balcony floor needs to be sanded and refinished. Crown molding is needed in the sanctuary.

We welcome much needed 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 -or- appreciated securities, contact: Jackie or Daryl at Morgan Stanley 800-791-8360 or email 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:</p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>City, State, Zip: _____</p>	

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