



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!

2019 SUMMER MUSIC PERFORMANCES AT B'NAI ABRAHAM MUSEUM AND CULTURAL CENTER

We are looking forward to another wonderful musical series this summer. So, mark your calendars and join in the fun. All concerts are free.

Sunday, May 19th, 3:00 PM
A Touch of Class
Greg Barnes, Director



A group of male and female voices from across the Iron Range. They sing choral jazz music, as well as other popular music from the last few decades. They have been performing for almost two years. We are pleased to welcome them to B'nai Abraham.

Saturday, June 8th, 7:00 PM
Steven Solkela



Steven Solkela is a 22 year old musician from the Range community of Palo, Minnesota! He is a recent graduate with a major in music from Rowan University in Glassboro, New Jersey. He was a regular in The Rowan Opera Company, and several choirs and bands. He has traveled all over the Midwest, Finland, and New Jersey with his band called "Overpopulated" which dabbles in genres spanning Opera, Polka, Heavy Metal, and Folk. He will be performing solo and will often accompany himself on an accordion.

Saturday, June 13th, 7:00 PM
Northern Lights Festival Musicians
Under the Direction of Veda Zuponicic



The Northern Lights Music Festival is a three-week classical music performance program and music school, which is held each summer on the Minnesota Iron Range.

Founded fourteen years ago by concert pianist and Aurora native Veda Zuponicic, Northern Lights brings together award winning students and internationally known performers and teachers in a unique program that includes daily lessons, chamber music coaching, master classes and numerous performance opportunities.

Northern Lights is fortunate to have access to an array of historic performance venues such as B'nai Abraham for its concerts and operas. By performing in these unique venues, Northern Lights is not only able to bring the highest level of classical music to Iron Range communities but to celebrate and showcase the architectural gems found in Northeastern Minnesota.

Saturday, July 27 2:00 PM
Singing Slovenes Under the Direction of Frank Bucar



The mission of this Minnesota group is to preserve Slovenian music and cultural heritage. Slovenia is an alpine country nestled between Italy, Austria, Hungary, and Croatia. Though the name of the troupe is indicative of the Slovenian heritage, the group "Singing Slovenes" represents countries far and wide: Slovenia, Croatia, Italy, Germany, Denmark, Poland, Finland, Sweden, France and Norway.

Sharing the joy of their musical heritage helps promote good fellowship and love of their neighbors. These performances are educational as well as entertaining. There are also geographical and language lessons that transpire while entertaining at centers, nursing homes, as well as, area churches with their musical ministries. "The Singing Slovenes" promote fellowship through music and cultural education, sharing across generations.



Saturday, September 28th, 3:00 PM
Harbormasters with Steve Lapatka



The Duluth-Superior Harbormasters Barbershop Chorus will present "Home on the Range", an afternoon of barbershop harmony on Saturday, September 28th, 2019 at 3:00 P.M. The chorus and quartets will be singing four part harmony in the barbershop style. The chapter has been performing for a wide variety of events in the north-eastern Minnesota area since 1953.

There will be no admission charge, and a portion of the donations will be given to a worthy cause in the Virginia area.

Upcoming Exhibition - Opens Mid May

The exhibit this summer is a photo exhibit focusing on the Jewish businesses that once existed in Virginia and surrounding communities. The exhibit also includes a selection of places of worship in Virginia and nearby communities. Here is a preview of some of the photos and posters in the exhibit.



ARCHITECTURE OF REGIONAL HOUSES OF WORSHIP

B'NAI ABRAHAM SYNAGOGUE NOW A MUSEUM AND CULTURAL CENTER IN VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA



B'nai Abraham 1927

Originally built and dedicated in 1909.



It was acquired by the Friends of B'nai Abraham in 2017. This wooden shell had been attached at earlier years to keep out the cold.



Restoration was well underway by 2015. It became a museum and cultural center for the communities of Virginia and the Iron Range.

The building is on the National Register of Historic Places.



One of the many inside stained glass windows. They were originally donated by members who built B'nai Abraham.



The Ark, which once contained Torah scrolls, is now with the 10 commandments and Laws of Jewish ethics.



Interior view of B'nai Abraham photographed at a Northern Lights concert. Many exhibits and other cultural events take place at the B'nai Abraham and Cultural Center under the auspices of The Virginia Area Historical Society and The Friends of B'nai Abraham.

PHOTO BY JEFFREY J. HARRIS
FOR THE FRIENDS OF B'NAI ABRAHAM

ARCHITECTURE OF REGIONAL HOUSES OF WORSHIP

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church and
Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church merged into
Holy Spirit Catholic Church in 1975



St. John the Baptist Catholic served as Virginia's first Catholic Church. The Polish congregation moved it and used it as their Catholic Church.



After the Polish Church was moved off the corner, Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church was built and used until the New Holy Spirit Catholic Church was built in 1975.

HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC CHURCH IN VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA



Sacred Heart was Dedicated in 1965

PHOTO BY JEFFREY J. HARRIS
FOR THE FRIENDS OF B'NAI ABRAHAM

ARCHITECTURE OF REGIONAL HOUSES OF WORSHIP

HISTORIC SYNAGOGUES ON THE IRON RANGE WHOSE CONGREGATIONS HAVE CEASED TO EXIST



THE HERRING SYNAGOGUE, AGUDATH ACHIM
The congregation disbanded in the 1950s and the structure was sold and used for other purposes today.



THE EVERETT SYNAGOGUE, AGUDATH ACHIM
This was a reconfigured Catholic Church purchased in 1909. The congregation disbanded in the 1970s. The structure was transformed back into a church and later demolished.



THE CHISHOLM SYNAGOGUE, B'NAI ZION
It was built in 1913 and sold to a church in the 1960s. This is one of the only known surviving photographs which show it in the process of being demolished in the 1960s.



THE VIRGINIA SYNAGOGUE, B'NAI ABRAHAM
B'nai Abraham was dedicated in 1909. It was constructed of red brick with beautiful stained glass windows. Described in the local press at the time of its dedication as, "the most beautiful church [sic] on the Iron Range." It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in the 1980s, the only synagogue building in Minnesota to be so honored. The Friends of B'nai Abraham acquired it in 2017 and in order to restore it as a Museum and Cultural Center for the people of Virginia and the Iron Range.

PHOTO BY JEFFREY J. HARRIS
FOR THE FRIENDS OF B'NAI ABRAHAM

ARCHITECTURE OF REGIONAL HOUSES OF WORSHIP

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH IN VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA



The Church was first organized in 1897 and the original Church building constructed in 1905. In 1965, the congregation moved into the new building, and used the social hall and educational wing for services until the sanctuary was built in 1968.

Architects: Hills, Gilbertson & Fisher



Original Church

PHOTO BY JEFFREY J. HARRIS
FOR THE FRIENDS OF B'NAI ABRAHAM

Contributors to the Friends of B'nai Abraham

~ A Special Thank You To All Our Supporters ~

Individual Contributions: January 2019 - April 2019

| | | |
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| Alan Apter | Michael O'Connell and Sue Hayes | The Mesberg Yashar Fund |
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Special Contributions: January 2019 - April 2019

Stuart and Jean King Applebaum: In memory of Leighton Siegel.
Janice Chiat: In Memory of Rick Chiat.
Marilyn Chiat: In memory of Arthur Kliffier.
Ben and Karen Deutsch: In honor of Larry and Elayne Chiat.
Judith Dodd: In honor of her dear friend Marilyn Chiat.
David Edelstein: In memory of Brandon & Melvin Edelstein, in memory of David Rubenstein.
Bonnie and Gary Goldish: Thanking Margie and Charlie Ostrov for all that they have done.
Bert and Susan Gross: In honor of Ann Phillips.
Nancy Harvey: In memory of Richard Harvey.
Harriet Israel: In honor of my friends, Dianne Siegel, Margie and Charlie Ostrov.
Peter and Colette Johnson: In memory of Elsie Rubenstein Glass.
Nancy Karasov: In honor of the December birthdays of Zoe and Talia Milavetz.
Barb Knoop: In honor of Ann Shanedling Phillips.
Bob and Judy Marans: In memory of Leighton Siegel.
Linda Mack: In honor of Ann Phillips.
Linda Passon-McNally: In memory of Kenneth and Bebe Simon, Gwynn Simon and Aaron Belkin.
Dr. Charles and Marietta Pitzele: In memory of Leighton Siegel.
Gary and Mary Milavetz: In memory of David and Frances Milavetz, Morris Isidor Kaufman, and Judy Milavetz Freidson.
Jean & Joseph Rozinka: In memory of Carl and Marsha Kaufman
Robert & Linda Schibel: In honor of the Virginia High School Class of 1956.
Marilyn and Stefanie Segal: In honor of the great work by Margie and Charlie Ostrov and Dianne Siegel.
Dianne Siegel: In honor of Margie and Charlie Ostrov's grandsons Bar Mitzvah.
Judy and Morris Sherman: In honor of Margie and Charlie Ostrov.

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 we have are not able to make the building comfortable. We love our stained glass windows but, they cannot be opened for ventilation. 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.

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 enjoy it. The Friends of B'nai Abraham has under taken 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, PhD. Marilyn Chait: "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 2084 Sherwood Lane Minnetonka, MN 55305</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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