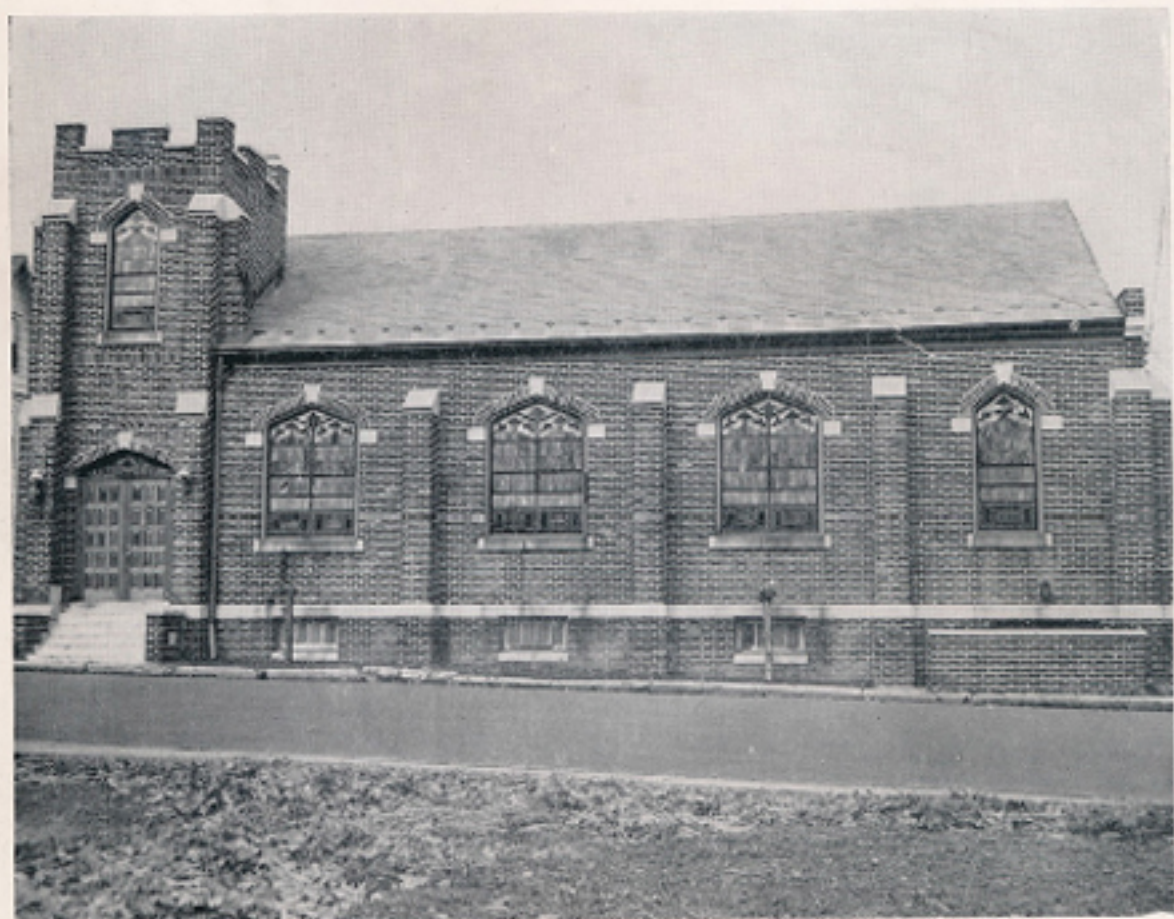


Dedicatory Program



Beth Shalom Congregation
FREELAND, PA.

Sunday, December 2, 1951

DEDICATION



An old man going on a lone highway
Came at the evening cold and gray
To a chasm vast, and deep and wide,
The old man crossed, in the twilight dim,
The sullen stream had no fear for him,
But he turned when safe on the other side
And built a bridge to span the tide.
"Old man," said a fellow pilgrim near,
"You're wasting your time in building here,
You never again will cross this way,
Your journey will end with the close of day,
You have bridged the chasm, vast and deep and wide,
Why build you this bridge at evening tide?"
The old man lifted his old gray head,
"Good friend, in the way that I have come," he said,
"There followeth me after today
A youth whose feet must pass this way.
This stream that has been as naught to me
To the fair-haired youth might a pitfall be.
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim.
Good friend, I am building this bridge for him."

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Today We Are Dedicated a Dream

We are proud and humble in our achievement, for it is not often that man dreams and has his dreams come true.

For many, many years we of the Jewish faith in Freeland have dreamed of having a house of worship of our own. Today that dream is a reality.

For two thousand years in the most remote corners of the world Jews have clung to their faith whether there were one or many. It is part of our heritage to worship in our faith regardless of circumstances and always to dream of a Temple.

We are grateful to our great country which gives us Freedom of Worship. This is one of the tangible evidence of the American Freedoms. May they never cease to endure.

We appreciate the help of our Christian friends and neighbors without whose encouragement and support we could not have achieved our goal.

We wish to express our sincere appreciation for the warm cooperation of all our members who gave so unstintingly of their time and their patience, all of which made this undertaking a success.

To our friends in nearby communities we wish to express our heartfelt appreciation for their sincere interest and support.

It is our fond hope that our Jewish house of worship in Freeland will take its place as another moral and spiritual pillar in the community.

Philip Abrams

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HISTORY

"Hope is the dream of a waking man"

For many years the dream of the first Jewish settlers in Freeland—the dream of having their own house of worship—a Shul which would stand long after they were gone and would be used by their children and their children's children was unfulfilled.

In the year 1951 the dream became a reality and hope became endeavor—the synagogue came into being in Freeland.

On January 31, 1951, the first meeting of the Beth Sholom Congregation was called to order by the temporary chairman, Irving Abrams. The first officers were elected. President, Philip Abrams; Vice President, Louis Nassan; Treasurer, Joseph Kimmelman; Secretary, Roselyn Franklin.

The membership consisted of the families living in Freeland and one family living in Upper Lehigh.

Mr. and Mrs. Irving Abrams
Mr. and Mrs. Philip Abrams
Mr. and Mrs. Simon Abrams
Dr. and Mrs. Abe Ackerman
Mr. and Mrs. Max Besbris
Mr. and Mrs. Leon Franklin
Mr. Simon Franklin
Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Hurwitz

Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Kahn
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Kimmelman
Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Kimmelman
Mr. Morris Levine
Mr. and Mrs. Hyman Kline
Mr. and Mrs. Louis Nassan
Mr. and Mrs. Abe Refowich
Mr. and Mrs. Irving Refowich

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Skop

The junior congregation—those for whom they built and those who inspired the building:

Edward Abrams
Jere Abrams
Ann Abrams
Richard Abrams
Dianne Abrams
Roxanne Abrams
Jamie Ackerman

Susan Hurwitz
Marc Hurwitz
Joanne Kahn
Gerrie Kimmelman
Lynn Refowich
Harold Refowich
Grace Skop

How did all this come about? True there had been hope, but that isn't enough. There had to be opportunity and endeavor. The opportunity came when Mr. Philip Abrams heard that the building, in which we are now situated, was for sale. The endeavor came with the enthusiasm shown by the Jewish Community in Freeland—who gave money, time and effort—to secure the building—and from the Jewish community of Hazleton, who recognized our need and gave their moral and financial support.

And so it came to pass that in the year 1951 a Synagogue was dedicated to Judaism, in the town of Freeland.

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DEDICATION PROGRAM
BETH SHOLOM CONGREGATION
FREELAND, PENNSYLVANIA

December 2, 1951

Third Day of Kislev 5712

2:30 p.m.

Ceremony attending Opening of Edifice	
Cutting of Ribbon to Entrance.....	Mr. Philip Abrams President
Chanting of "Matovu".....	Cantor M. Kerpel
Congregation and Friends Enter Synagogue	
Chanting of "V'ayhi Bi'nesoah Ha-aron".....	Cantor M. Kerpel
Procession bringing Torahs to the Ark:	
Mr. Morris Levin	Mr. Max Besbris
Mr. Hyman Kline	Mr. Abe Refowich
Mr. Louis Nassan	Mr. Sam Kimmelman
Opening and Closing of Ark:	
Mr. Hyman Hurwitz	Mr. David Grossman
Congregation is to remain standing for the singing of America and Invocation.	
"America".....	Audience
Invocation.....	Rabbi Camillus Angel
Welcome.....	Mr. Philip Abrams President
Master of Ceremonies.....	Attorney Samuel Landy
Welcome.....	Mrs. Abe Ackerman
Greetings.....	Rev. G. W. M. Kobler
Greetings.....	Attorney G. J. Bruger
Greetings.....	Burgess James Ferdinand
Vocal Solo—"Mizmor Shir Chanukah Ha-Bayis".....	Cantor M. Kerpel
Dedicatory Address.....	Chief Rabbi I. M. Davidson of Wilkes-Barre and surroundings
Benediction.....	Rabbi Camillus Angel
"Hatikvah".....	Audience

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Committees in charge of Dedication

- GENERAL CHAIRMEN..... Mr. Irving Abrams
Mr. Joseph Kimmelman
Mr. Irving Refowich
- PROGRAM..... Mr. Philip Abrams, Chairman
Mr. Simon Abrams
Mrs. Abe Ackerman
Mrs. Leonard Hurwitz
- DEDICATORY..... Mr. Louis Nassan, Chairman
Mr. Sam Kimmelman
Mr. Philip Abrams
Mr. Max Besbris
Mr. Morris Levin
Mr. Hyman Kline
- ARRANGEMENTS..... Mrs. Leon Franklin, Chairman
Mrs. Lew Skop
Mrs. Joseph Kimmelman
Mrs. Irving Abrams
Mrs. Simon Abrams
Mrs. Irving Refowich
Mrs. Stuart Kahn
Mr. Simon Franklin
Mr. Leon Franklin
Mr. Lew Skop
Mr. Stuart Kahn
- PUBLICITY..... Mr. Irving Refowich, Chairman
Mr. Leonard Hurwitz
Mr. Joseph Kimmelman
Mrs. Abe Ackerman
- REFRESHMENTS..... Mrs. Sam Kimmelman, Chairman
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The Congregation and Committees wish to thank all those who in any manner helped make this program possible.

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