

RETROSPECT

Jews have resided in Easton since pre-Revolutionary days. Indeed, one of the founders of the settlement at the Forks, was its first Jewish Merchant, Myer Hart de Shira, who took the oath of allegiance to the Colonial Government in 1764. Another early resident was Michael Hart, born in 1738, who owned considerable property in this vicinity. On March 25, 1800, he deeded a plot of ground in Sixth Street to his son, Jacob, to be used as a Jewish cemetery.

Private services were conducted occasionally, but it was not until 1839 that the community grew large enough to warrant the organization of a congregation, BRITH SHALOM, which was chartered by the State on November 24, 1842. Ours is the third oldest congregation in Pennsylvania, and the tenth oldest in the United States. The synagogue which was erected that year still forms part of the present Temple building.

The records of the congregation, written in a scratchy German script, list these as the charter members: Samuel Abel, Louis and Samuel Bachenheimer, Moses Cohn, M. Gardner, Adolph Hirsch, Michael Lederer, Isaac Menline, Solomon Rhoda, Wolf Rosenbaum, Henry Rosenfelt, Solomon Scheit, Emanuel Schiff. The Rev. Moses Kahn was the first rabbi.

Some years later the old cemetery on Sixth Street was replaced by another, between Twelfth and Thirteenth Streets, at Washington and Butler Streets. In 1889, by agreement with the Easton Cemetery Company, a plot was there set aside for the burial of members of the congregation. The bodies buried in the old cemetery were later removed to the new ground.

In 1870 the Temple was enlarged and rededicated by Rabbi Isaac M. Wise, organizer of Reform Judaism in America. Up to this time the orthodox ritual had been followed scrupulously. Changes were now made to modernize the ritual and the English version of the MINHAG AMERICA was introduced, but the sermons continued for many years to be preached in German.

The Temple was remodeled again in 1907, and the front was redesigned in style of the great Synagogue of Florence, Italy. The building was rededicated with impressive ceremonies, Rabbi Solomon Foster of Newark, N. J., officiating. Further improvements have been made since then, largely with the aid of the Temple Sisterhood: in 1927 a new organ was installed, and in 1931 a Religious School annex with four modern classrooms was erected.

The ministers who have served the congregation since 1842 are: Rabbis Kahn, Kling, Putzel, Rubin, Moses, Meyer, Fass, Neustadt, Hertzman, Wurtzel, Epstein, Jacobson, Weiss, Gross, Schaumberg, Koplowitz, Bloch, Shulman, Kleeberg, Sadler, Levy, Hershon, Landman, Goldstein, Alpert, and Trachtenberg. Mr. Abraham Rothstein is the present sexton.

The congregation has had only four presidents since the beginning of the century: Emanuel Kahn, Moses Menline, Meyer Feinberg and Isaac M. Kahn, who has held this office since 1931.



Ninety-fifth Anniversary Celebration

Temple Covenant of Peace

Easton, Pennsylvania

1842 = 1937

Anniversary Dinner

Thursday, November 18, 1937



OFFICERS

ISAAC M. KAHN, *President*
ALEXANDER S. FRIEDMAN, *Vice-President*
HARRY KOHN, *Treasurer*
HARRY L. COHN, *Secretary*

TRUSTEES

EBNER S. ABRAMS HAROLD GETZ
MRS. BARRE BERNSTEIN LOUIS M. LEVIN
MEYER FEINBERG LOUIS M. RALPH
ARTHUR P. SIGAL
JOSHUA TRACHTENBERG, *Rabbi*

Anniversary Services

Friday, November 19, 1937



INVOCATION

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.....Isaac M. Kahn, President

CHAIRMAN.....Louis M. Levin

GREETINGS.....

Hon. Joseph Morrison,
Mayor of Easton

Rev. F. K. Fretz,
St. John's Lutheran Church

Rev. E. J. Halahan
St. Bernard's Church

Rev. John H. Elliott
First Presbyterian Church

Rabbi Murray Alstet
Cong. Children of Abraham

REMARKS.....Rabbi Joshua Trachtenberg

ADDRESS.....Rabbi Jonah B. Wise
Central Synagogue, N. Y. City

BENEDICTION

MELODY *Tschaikowsky*
Miss Bernice Moss, Violinist

THE GLORY OF GOD IN NATURE.....*Beethoven*
Miss Gladys Stubblebine, Contralto

SERVICES—Union Prayer Book, page 6.....Rabbi Joshua Trachtenberg

RENEWING THE COVENANT
Miss Gladys Stubblebine

SALUTATION.....Mrs. Barre Bernstein
President, Temple Sisterhood

SALUTATION.....Mr. Arthur P. Sigal
President, Temple Men's Club

SERMON.....Rev. Dr. Samuel H. Goldenson
Temple Emanu-El, N. Y. City

MEDITATION FROM THAIS.....*Massenet*
Miss Bernice Moss

ADORATION

AIN KELOHENU—Hymn No. 245

BENEDICTION
Mr. Mark Davis, Organist