

## Memorial Service for Those Who Died During the Holocaust Temple Israel Cemetery, Conklin Avenue

In 1948, a group of thirteen German speaking Jewish women, mainly rural women and wives of cattle dealers who had resettled in the Southern Tier after fleeing Nazi Germany, formed the Get Together Club, a philanthropic and social club. Meeting for over thirty years, the Get Together Club tripled in membership and as it developed included urban German speaking Jewish women who also fled from Nazi terror.



The most ambitious project of the Get Together Club was the placement of a memorial stone in the Temple Israel section of the Conklin Avenue cemetery in November 1952, in memory of those who died during the Holocaust. The memorial stone was one of the earliest acknowledgments in the United States of the Holocaust. It is one of the few memorial stones of its kind in the United States that contains the names of loved ones lost to Nazism.

The monument was dedicated on Sunday, November 9, 1952. Over 250 names were inscribed on scrolls and placed in a copper box buried at the foot of the monument. The Get Together Club asked all the local rabbis to cite prayers at the unveiling of the monument. Each year thereafter, on the Sunday in between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, the Get Together Club sponsored a memorial service at the monument, with area rabbis taking turns at leading the service, and then one of the survivors read the names written on the scrolls. These services continued for over 20 years, well into the late 1970s.

Under the auspices of the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton the practice of meeting at the monument on Sunday between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur was revived in response to a presentation by Prof. Rhonda F. Levine about the history of the Club. Just as before Jews from the area and Binghamton University students who are third generation Holocaust survivors will come together in front of the monument and area rabbis will lead a memorial service. We not only remember the names of those buried in the copper box, but we remember all those who died during the Holocaust and do not have a proper grave marker. We stand, as the epitaph of the monument reads: "In Memory of The Victims of Racial Persecution Who Lost Their Lives in Europe during the Years 1933-1945. They Will Never Be Forgotten."

A digital copy of the original list of names buried in the copper box at the foot of the monument is available here: [Original Names.pdf](#). A list of additional names is available here: [Additional Names.pdf](#). If you would like to add a name of a loved one who died during the Holocaust and who has no grave marker to this on-line list of names or would like to make a donation, please contact the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton.