



A History of Jewish Scouting in the Cradle of Liberty Council

By Rhys Wallace

Scouters

By S. Kurtz Hingley

They never once asked where my folks were
 When the Liberty Bell first rang,
 But yelled with a vim,
 "Close the door, come in!"
 "Grab a chair and join the gang"

On my right was a young mechanic
 To the left, a frocked D.D
 And their talk was not
 Of Engines or God
 But of camp and bird and tree.

By the open fireplace squatted
 A lad from the County Clare
 A 'big church' man
 Of the clan, McCann
 With a Jew from Washington Square.

And I smiled as I thought of the proverb
 'The lion shall lie with the lamb'
 This Scouting breed
 Think naught of creed,
 But only, are you a man!

S. Kurtz Hingley (1895-1964) was active in Scouting and Sea Scouting for more than forty-five years. His poem "Scouters" speaks to the many different religious groups that were active in Philadelphia Council from the very beginning. By 1930 or 1931, he became the Field Executive for Sea Scouting.¹ His poems and short stories were published in a number of magazines, including Boys Life, Scouting, and American Boy.² He regularly wrote for The Quaker City Scout, the newsletter of Phila. Council. Many of his nautical writings were published under his pseudonym "Barney Buntline." His poem "The Eagle Scout" — often recited at Eagle Courts of Honor — was written in 1931, when his son, Coulter Hingley, became an Eagle Scout.³

¹ Twenty-Five Years of Scouting in the Philadelphia Council, 1919-1935 (Philadelphia, PA: Philadelphia Council, BSA, 1935)

² S. Kurtz Hingley Obituary, undated.

³ Hitner, Philip. Interview of Carol Parillo. Personal, 2021

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History of Jewish Scouting

in the Cradle of Liberty Council

Introduction

This history of Jewish Scouting in the Cradle of Liberty Council and its predecessors was inspired by **Maitri**, which means loving-kindness. In my own practice of Buddhism Maitri is key. This principle also inspired my publication on the history of Catholic Scouting in the Council. A few things to note: I worked with the few sources I had and the memory of several Scouters thus things may be missing due to these limitations. The list of Jewish units at the end is not meant to be an exhaustive list but rather a starting point. A special thank you goes to Len Brownstein and Phil Hittner for their assistance in this publication.

Peace be with you,

Rhys Wallace

Acknowledgements

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Photo Credits: Rob Zipkin (cover photo — Korman Chapel); Phila. Yearbooks; Troop 95, Dan Fein, Ben Goldberg

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Jewish people have been a part of Scouting since the beginning of the movement in the United States and they do everything that every other Scout does. They sold Liberty Bonds during WWI, assisted in the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg, and went to Presidential inaugurations.⁴ Jewish Scouts served on the Honor Guard for the dedication of Resica Falls Scout Reservation.⁵ Thus the history of Jewish Scouting is largely Scouting history but it also revolves around the few differences between Jewish Scouts and other Scouts. But let's look at the beginning of Jewish Scouting in the council.

The earliest Jewish unit in the Council that we have a record for is for Troop 95 which was founded on April 9, 1912.⁶ Based on the limited information that is available, it appears that by 1916 there were at least eight Troops which were either sponsored by Jewish organizations, or had a significant level of Jewish membership.

At the end of the roster of Troops listed in the **1919 Phila. Council Yearbook**, there is a summary of the 251 registered Troops (In Phila.) by sponsoring institutions — seven sponsored by synagogues, and one by the Y.M.H.A., again for a total of eight. Additionally, at least some of the non-religious organizations (recreation centers, settlement houses, schools, libraries, police stations, community organizations) located in Jewish neighborhoods are very likely to have had a significant level of Jewish membership.

The first suburban Troop that we have a record for is Norristown No. 7 from 1921 which was simply labeled as being chartered to "Jewish Synagogue".⁷ The last "early" Troop we have a record for is from Pottstown No. 13 in 1926 which was labeled as chartered to "Mercy of Truth Synagogue".⁸

To summarize, by 1930, at least 18 Troops — including one in Norristown and one in Pottstown — were sponsored by Jewish organizations, or had a significant level of Jewish membership.

Although these are the first records of Jewish units in the Council it is likely that Jews joined Scouting earlier in other units. With respect to sponsorship, in some instances, it is known (or assumed) that the original sponsor was not a Jewish organization, but over time the Troop is known to have had Jewish sponsorship. Additional confusion enters the picture as Troop numbers were reused (after a Troop folded) much earlier than was previously thought. In some instances, a Troop moved from one sponsor (or meeting place) to another, and it is not obvious that the Troop had continuous registration.

⁴ Troop 95, "TIFF" (Philadelphia, 1937).

⁵ "A Brief History of Troop 18," Philadelphia: Troop 18, n.d.

⁶ Troop 95, "TIFF" (Philadelphia, 1937), 1.

⁷ Delaware and Montgomery Counties Council 1921 Annual. Edited by Edgar S. Nash. Philadelphia, PA: Delaware and Montgomery Counties Council, 1921.

⁸ Delaware and Montgomery Counties Council 1926 Annual. Edited by Edgar S. Nash. Philadelphia, PA: Delaware and Montgomery Counties Council, 1926.

The main difference between Jewish Scouts and other Scouts is diet and this created an obstacle when it came to attending summer camp. The first known accommodation of Jewish Scouts in the Council was at Camp Delmont in 1928. The camping committee allowed Jewish units to bring their own meat, utensils, and dishes in order to keep kosher while they stayed at Delmont. The Scouts cooked their meals separately at the Belfield House to ensure things kept kosher. The cook in this kitchen was always one of the Scouts from the Jewish units, a cook was not provided by the camp.⁹

A similar arrangement was made at Camp Hart. East Hart was popular with Jewish units due to its "cook your own" model where Troops cooked their own meals.¹⁰ This model allowed Jewish units to keep kosher while attending summer camp. But the familiarity of Hart East from summer camp also caused Jewish Troops to camp year-round at Hart East.¹¹

The next difference between Jewish Scouts and other Scouts is that of worship. The only example of a separate facility for Jewish Scouts to conduct services in the Council was at Hart Scout Reservation. This took the form of the Korman Memorial Jewish Chapel in East Hart which was dedicated on August 22, 1962. The following excerpt from the Hart 75th Anniversary Packet details the chapel:

"The chapel is a memorial to Rabbi Benjamin Korman, father of Hyman Korman and grandfather of Max William Korman, and Samuel Korman. The Chapel area, designed by Don Marder of Davis, Poole, and Sloan Architects, is laid out in the shape of the Star of David. The structure is two hyperbolic paraboloids. The Ark is similar in dimensions to the original Ark described in the Bible and it once sat on two large boulders symbolic of Mount Sinai. The Ark was blue and white, symbolic of the national colors of Israel, and was trimmed in scarlet as was the tent which contained the original Ark mentioned in the Bible. Seven rows of seats accommodated 200 worshippers. These seven rows represent the seven branches of the Menorah. The design of the Chapel won an architectural award. Currently Korman Chapel is long unused and the Ark was removed many years ago."¹²

At Hart, there were separate Jewish Chaplains for a time and Harry Lasker is of note. He served for quite some time in the 1950s and 1960s but the exact timeframe is unknown. After Harry Lasker, there were a series of Rabbis and rabbinical students (or laymen) who served as the Jewish Chaplain until the 1980s. After that Jewish camp staff members and/or the Israeli Scouts on staff would conduct Jewish services¹³.

At other Scout camps, there was no separate facility for Jewish services but services were still offered. For example, although there was no permanent Rabbi at Resica Falls, the staff have offered Jewish Services for at least the past nine years. For the past six years, staff member Dan Gottschalk conducted Jewish services

and before him, both Harry and Warren Brodsky conducted services.¹⁴ Of note, in addition to her Health Lodge and general staff responsibilities, in 2022 Rabbi Lisa Vernon served as the volunteer Camp Rabbi for Resica Falls.¹⁵

Beginning in the early 1970's, the Jewish Committee on Scouting (JCOS) made arrangements for an Israeli Scout to work on the summer camp staff at Hart Scout Reservation. This program lasted for about 40 years, and in the later years, we had two Israeli Scouts working at camp. Initially one worked at Hart or T.I. and the other at Resica, and then after 2008, both worked at Resica. Oren Baratz was one of the earliest of the Israeli Scouts, working at Hart Scout Reservation in 1975.

Beginning in 1973, the Delaware Valley Friends of Israel Scouts (FOIS) — with assistance by the JCOS — also brought the "Tzofim Friendship Caravan" to this area. Each Caravan is made up of a group of five girls and five boys and their two leaders. They bringing excitement, energy and friendship to North America through friendship and performance and both Jewish and non-Jewish venues — synagogues and churches, senior centers, and camps. They spend about two weeks in this area, hosted by local families.

Participants — high school juniors — are chosen based on their maturity, fluency in English, and of course their talent in the performing arts. After several rounds of competitive auditions and interviews, the Scouts spend a year training and rehearsing prior to spending about 3 months in the U.S. and Canada. From a single Caravan group in 1973, the program has grown to three Caravans travelling to different areas to bring a message of hope and peace for Israel,

⁹ Cornfort, Michael G., and Carl Greulich. *A Whale Boat on the Unami. Stories and Legends from a Long Time Ago*. Walsworth Pub. Co., (c) 1991, 60.

¹⁰ Wallace, Rhys. Interview of Philip Hittner. Personal, 2020

¹¹ Wallace, Rhys. Interview of Len Brownstein. Personal, 2020

¹² Hart 75th Anniversary Packet, Philadelphia, PA: Cradle of Liberty Council, 2005, 4

¹³ Wallace, Rhys. Interview of Philip Hittner. Personal, 2022

¹⁴ Wallace, Rhys. Interview of Daniel Gottschalk. Personal, 2021.

¹⁵ Wallace, Rhys. Interview of Daniel Gottschalk. Personal, 2022.

Memories of Jewish Scouting

Note: Regardless of the neighborhood they grew up in, many of these memories are common across the generations of Jewish Scouts and Scouters, especially those from Troops sponsored by a synagogue Men's Club or Brotherhood. These memories have been edited due to space limitations, and for clarity. In some cases, the memories have been extracted from a Troop History document.

☛ Troop 18 (excerpted from the Troop history, provided by Steve Mach)

Troop 18 was formed in 1927, and has had many sponsors and meeting places, in many different neighborhoods, in its 95-year history. During the time the Troop was sponsored by the Elks Fraternal Lodge (in North Phila.), and then the "F.D. & I.S. Clair Livingston Post #37" of the American Legion (in Strawberry Mansion) — the Troop had a drum & bugle corps, spent summer camp weeks at Treasure Island, and had weekend camping trips to Hart, Breyer Training Area, and College Settlement Farm. During the 1940's and 1950's, there was also an active Explorer Post 18. In 1957, Troop 18 served as part of the Honor Guard for the dedication of Resica Falls Scout Reservation.

In 1959, Troop 18 relocated to Farrell Elementary School (Bell's Corner section of Northeast Phila.) while still sponsored by the Clair-Livingston Post. Trexler became the summer camp destinations, and many weekends were spent at Pinemere Camp. During the 1970's the Troop relocated several times between Congregation Adath Tikvah Montefiore and the Paley Day Care Center, and Pinemere Camp became the sponsor after the closing of the Clair-Livingston Post.

Beginning in the 1990's, a rotation of summer camps was established that included Treasure Island, Ockanickon, and Resica Falls. From 2000-2013, Crew 18 served as a high adventure crew for older Scouts. When Adath Tikvah closed in 2003, Congregation Shaare Shamayim became the Troop's next home. Since 2019, St. Thomas Syro-Malabar Catholic Church has been our sponsor, and in 2019, Troop 18 formed a Girls Troop and continues to welcome boys and girls from all backgrounds.

There are two special Troop awards, honoring long-time Scoutmasters Bob Miner and Bernie Frazer: the "Bob Miner Honor Scout Award" — presented for displaying outstanding Scout ideals of Enthusiasm, Initiative, Cooperation, and Knowledge — honors Bob Miner (member 1938 — 2008; Scoutmaster 1948 — 1990) and the "Bernard Frazer Camping Award" for displaying outstanding Camping Leadership and a Passion for the Outdoors — honors Bernie Frazer (member 1952 — 2019; Scoutmaster 1990 — 2015.)

☛ Troop 66 (Alvin Goldberg)

I was in Scouting at Congregation Beth Judah Synagogue, at 54th and Samson St., from 1949 to 1956 when I became an Eagle Scout.

The troop was Troop 66 and was meeting at The West Philadelphia Jewish Community Center on 63rd Street near Walnut. The troop was 95% Jewish. We had few restrictions but could not use the synagogue for meetings on Shabbat or holidays. We did store our camping equipment in a garage at the building. Many Scouts earned the Ner Tamid award.

We met on Tuesday night. Once I left my watch at the meeting on a window sill. Since the synagogue was on my way to West Philly H.S. I got up early and stopped to get my watch on the way. I arrived at the synagogue about 7:00 am and the morning minion needed a tenth man. I was it. It was a very significant event for me and them.

Our troop attended Treasure Island for summer camp and also camped at Hart for overnights and Camporees.

Many of our scouts were on the staff at Treasure Island Camp including me in 1954 and for many years later. I was on the TI staff and the Hart staff in 1954. I was moved to the Hart staff after two weeks because the needed staff at Hart, since this was the year they opened the West Camp (with dining hall). I am only in the Hart picture and directory for that year. In 1955 and until 1957 I was on the Hart Reservation staff.

After I was married, I worked at Camp Delmont and Camp Ockanickon, where we stayed at the family quarters (a small house trailer). While living and teaching in Bucks County, I was a Neighborhood Commissioner.

I recall that Troop 185 was at the East Camp at Hart. They came to camp on Friday before Shabbat and for the first week of camp. Saturday was turnover day and they arranged to come on Friday. By coming on the first week of camp season the kitchen was acceptable because it was not used for a year.

There was no Jewish Chapel at Ockanickon so we took the Jewish scouts to Treasure Island for services. It was only about 10 miles away.

☛ Troop 95 / 395 (excerpted from the Troop history — "The Chronicles of the Maroon and White" — provided by Allan Geller)

Troop 95 was formed on April 9, 1912 at the Starr Garden Recreation Center, and in its first year won a city-wide field event contest. Over the next few years, the Troop sent a delegation of 9 Scouts to the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg, where they were among many Scouts who came to assist the Civil War Veterans; formed a Fife and Drum Corps, participated in "Field Day" contests and other competitions — Fox Cup, Reihnheimer Cup, Binswanger Cup, National Tournament (for signaling), sold World War I "Liberty Bonds"; camped at Treasure Island in 1920, and was invited to attend the Inauguration for Woodrow Wilson's second term.

Like every active Troop, they went on monthly camping trips or hikes. Troop 95 alumni formed the "S.G.F. Club" — named for Scoutmaster Samuel G. Friedman — and the Club founded the S.G.F. Camp in 1922. The camp provided the opportunity for underprivileged children to spend about two weeks at the camp each summer, until it closed in 1978.

As with many Troops, over time they have various sponsors, and may meet in different locations — to the Vilna Synagogue, to Beth Zion Israel Temple, Pennypack Park Jewish Community Center (absorbing Troop 395), and Temple Beth Ami. Other the years the Troop participated in many district and council events — and for many years, the Troop attended summer camp for two weeks. Regardless of where they met and what district they were in, for over 85 years the Troop had members serving in leadership positions in the district, the council, summer camp staffs, and in Unami Lodge.

☛ Troop 185 (Neil G. Schmerling, Aaron Caplan, other sources)

Troop 185 was chartered in 1926 by Congregation Adath Jeshurun; briefly sponsored by Young Israel of Elkins Park, but only in the last four years of the Troop's existence. Merv Sluizer became ScoutMaster in 1947, serving in that role for over 50 years.

When the synagogue moved to Elkins Park, they changed the Troop's sponsor to "Adath Jeshurun **Cemetery**" so they could remain in Phila. Council. Later, there was a second Troop 185 chartered to the synagogue — but registered with VFC — so until the councils merged, there were (technically) two Troops, functioning as one.

In 1961, 31 boys from T-185 attend Israeli Scout Jamboree; it was the first time in the history of Scouting that so large a group from one institution made so lengthy a trip under its own leadership.¹⁶

☛ Troop 218 (Rob Zipkin)

Troop 218 was a Jewish Troop sponsored by the Men's Club of Congregation Beth T'fillah of Overbrook Park (Phila). We were so religious that we could not travel to arrive at summer camp on the usual Saturday move-in day but had to do it on Sunday. We could not eat the spam that they gave us for the 2nd class cooking test (at T.I.)

For weekend camping we had to arrive at our destination before sundown. We always had an annual Scout Sabbath in which the Scouts took turns leading various prayers and readings in the Friday evening service.

We had our annual Awards and banquet ceremony at "The Wynne" which was a KOSHER catering facility in Wynnefield.

We also took our WWII pocket siddurim [Jewish prayer books, provided to Jewish personnel in the US Armed Forces] with us when we went on weekend camping.

Although we were a Jewish Troop there were always a number of Scouts who were not of the Jewish Faith and who were fully integrated into the Troop. Many of us studied and received the Ner Tamid Award worn proudly on our uniforms.

☛ Pack and Troop and Pack 440 (Elliott D. Maser)

Two of my favorite memories from the past years are the Blue and Gold banquets held in the synagogue (Rodeph Zedek.) It was amazing to see how many mothers pitched in to make the meals and how many of the women did not know how to "keep kosher". I remember the Rabbi telling the group that the meatballs they were preparing were not allowed to have a pork base or filler.

The other memory is arriving at Treasure Island as a Jewish Troop and being able to get on the island on a Sunday (so that we could observe the Sabbath on Saturday). Most of the Troops on the island came and departed on Saturday and we would scavenge through the cleared out sites for hangars, any leftover food, or trinkets that were forgotten or discarded.

☛ Troop 395 (Allan Geller)

Troop 395 was founded in the spring of 1967 by 6 Scouts meeting in the chapel of Pennypack Park Jewish Community Center. The Troop would eventually grow to 35 Scouts. The longest serving leader of the Troop was Phil Devor, a well-known Scout Leader originally from Frontier District who moved to the other side of Roosevelt Boulevard and into Delaware District.

That first year, and until the camp closed in 1971, the Troop went to Treasure Island. In respect for the sabbath the Troop traveled to and from camp on Sundays. Though not Kosher, the unit abstained from mixing milk and meat and eating pork. It was the practice of the Troop to have all Scouts attend their respective religious services while in camp. The Troop was active in its district and made a practice of hiking with full pack the meridian of Roosevelt Boulevard to participate in the annual spring camporee held at Byberry State Hospital.

In the mid-1970's, the Troop merged with Troop 95 from South Philadelphia, taking its venerable number.

☛ Troop 514 (Phil Hittner)

Troop 514 was sponsored by the Men's Club of Temple Beth Ami, in the Bustleton neighborhood of Phila. We were a block north of Pennypack Park, which made it very convenient for taking 5-mile hikes, or having outdoor meetings to practice Scout skills.

¹⁶ Arnold M. Siegelberg, "A Critical History of Organized Jewish Involvement in the Boy Scouts of America, 1926-1987: Based on Unpublished Archival Materials" (dissertation, 1988), pg. 95

As did many other Jewish Troops, we left for weekend trips before sundown Friday evenings, held services Saturday mornings when camping. In order to avoid having to carry two sets of cooking gear and utensils — one for meat meals, one for milk meals — our rabbi agreed that after cleaning them, we would dip our pots and vittle kits into boiling water, so that they would be kosher for the next meal.

As part of our Scout Sabbath observance, the Scouts took turns leading various prayers and readings in the Friday evening service. Over the years we had non-Jewish Scouts who belong to various churches — Roman Catholic, Polish National Catholic, Lutheran and probably others) — and for Scout Sunday, we would go to one of their churches.

Our first summer, we camped on the East Side of Hart, in Davy Crocket site — next to Korman Chapel, so there was no excuse for being late to Friday evening services. I remember Rabbi Lasker explaining the symbolism of the chapel, and the overlap between Judaism and Scouting — the chapel being in the shape of a Jewish star; 12 beams (12 Tribes of Israel; 12 points of the Scout Law; the bimah (reader's table) having 3 sections (3 parts of the Scout Oath; 3 groups within Judaism — Kohanim, Leviim, Yisraelim.

I also remember the distraction of all the toads that were hopping around during service — much more interesting (as eleven-year-olds) to me and my buddies than the service itself!

We were fortunate for many years to be a "two week Troop." The highlight of that middle weekend was to hike up to Kiwanis Lake, where we camped out — under the stars; our "vacation" from all the weekday camp activities.

☛ Troop 665 (Dan Fein)

Troop 665 was founded in Spring 1992, sponsored by Temple Sinai, Dresher by founding Scoutmaster Army Chassen and Assistant Scoutmaster Dan Fein. The Troop received extensive support from Herb Bilofsky, Chairman of the Valley Forge Council Jewish Committee on Scouting, and long-term member of the Philadelphia Council JCOS. The original members of the Troop came from Pack 665 which had been founded in 1988 by Ruth and Steve Siegel. The Troop exemplified Scouting is "outing" by camping every six weeks, and scheduling several long-distance Spring Treks. Troop 665 has a rich history of attending near and far summer Scout camps.

The Troop developed a Kashruth practice that was designed to respect individual family standards. All meals would be prepared in observance of strict Kashruth laws, however individual scouts would follow their own observance regarding their personal plates, bowls, cups, and silverware. This practice is employed on all camping trips, Scout camps, High Adventure, all other Treks, and Troop activities.

On the first camping trip to Camp Delmont, there was instruction on how to properly use a latrine. Two boys were quite scared after having seen a deer in the wild, they chose not to return. On the second camping trip, the Committee Chairperson, Dr. Glen Hyatt, had to inspect each Scout visually for "brown eye" if they were not using the latrine sufficiently which became a troop legend.

In 1997 Gary Risler joined Dan Fein and Army Chassen as part of the Scoutmaster Corps until 2009, when Dan Fein took over as Scoutmaster upon the retirement of Army and Gary. He held this position until 2021 when he was succeeded by Ben Goldberg, the current Scoutmaster.

The Assistant Scoutmasters over the years have been Dan Fein, Gary Risler, Chris Steinberg, Jeff Harth, Scott Hecht, Lyn Dennis, Bill Grant, Alan Fink, Kathy Fink, Scott Ratson, Ben Goldberg, and Robert Kushner.

Troop 665 has been a regular participant in all of the activities of the Jewish Committee on Scouting since its inception. A great many of its members have completed their religious awards and as of 2022 has had 28. Members regularly achieve the rank of Eagle Scout starting with David Landman in 1996. Troop 665 has had members attend the National Scout Jamboree every year from 1993 to 2017 with a high attendance in 1997 of 10 Scouts.

Notable Local Figures in National Jewish Scouting

Dr. Cyrus Adler — Dr. Adler was a board member of Philadelphia Council and one of the founders of the National Jewish Committee on Scouting.¹⁷ He served as the first chairman, from 1926¹⁸ until c. 1940.¹⁹ In 1933, he was awarded the Silver Buffalo Award, the BSA's highest award for adult volunteers — for distinguished service to youth, national in scope.²⁰

Rabbi Harry Lasker — Rabbi Lasker served as the director of Jewish Relationships at the Boy Scouts National headquarters from 1943 to 1980.²¹ He also served as the Jewish Chaplain for Treasure Island and Hart Scout Reservation for a number of years in the 1950s and 1960s.

Rabbi William H. Kraus — Rabbi Kraus replaced Rabbi Lasker as the director of Jewish Relationships in 1980.²² He served in this role until May, 1985²³; he had been a Scout and Scouter in Troop 185.²⁴

Rabbi Peter Hyman — during his tenure as National JCOS Chairman, Rabbi Hyman was at Temple Sholom, Broomall PA. He received the Bronze Wolf for his international Scouting leadership in 2021.

Camp Chaplains

The earliest documentation we have about Camp Chaplains is that in 1954, there were full-time Jewish Chaplains in Phila. and Long Island Scout Camps.²⁵

From various Phila. Council Camp Staff Yearbooks, we can identify so far at least ten individuals who officially served in this role. While most were rabbis or rabbinic students, some were laymen. Some years, knowledgeable camp staff members — which often included Israeli Scouts — would fill the role of chaplain.

The main responsibility of a Camp Chaplain is to meet the religious needs of the campers — and the camp staff — regardless of a person's faith. In addition to conducting weekly Jewish religious services, promoting the Jewish religious awards, securing kosher food, and the like, Jewish Chaplains would also be available to counsel home-sick campers, to help resolve the inevitable conflicts that arise during the camp season, and as a senior staff member — do whatever else the Camp Director needed assistance with

¹⁷ Sleutelberg, p. 21.

¹⁸ Sleutelberg, pp. 22, 45.

¹⁹ Sleutelberg, pp. 45.

²⁰ "List of Silver Buffalo Recipients," *Scouting Magazine* (*Scouting Magazine*, July 12, 2022). <https://scoutingmagazine.org/silverbuffalo/?msclkid=222a4da5b36411eca06835e09682581>

²¹ Sleutelberg, pp. 65-66.

²² Sleutelberg, p. 105.

²³ Sleutelberg, p. 114.

²⁴ Hittner, Philip. Interview of Neil Schmerling. Personal, 2022.

²⁵ Sleutelberg, p. 79.

Some years, Chaplains would also function as unofficial Commissioners — making the rounds "glad-handing" with Troops in their campsites, to help ensure that camp was running well for the Troop leaders, assisting with any questions or issues the Troop had.

If the Jewish Chaplain was based at Camp Hart and was there with his family, they would use Korman Lodge as their residence — located in the Family Quarters section of camp — as it had a full kitchen and two sets of kosher dishes. Otherwise, at Camp Hart, the chaplain would typically stay in what was then called the "Directors Cabin" which is now the (Graham) Park Lodge/ Infirmary; if at Treasure Island, the chaplain would stay in the Directors Cabin or Health Lodge.

The JCOS — for many years, with the support from the Jewish Chautauqua Society — provided a stipend for the Jewish Chaplain in camp, and funds to cover expenses for such things as sacramental wine and hallah for services.

A note about the prayer books uses at summer camp. For many years, probably the most widely used were the World War II "pocket siddurim" — "siddur" being the Hebrew word for "prayer book." The National Jewish Welfare Board provided these pocket-sized prayer books (and also pocket-sized Bibles) for Jewish personnel in the US Armed Forces. After WWII they were available as "army surplus" — and many (maybe most) Jewish troops would use them on camping trips, and they were also used at camporees and summer camp for many years. Unfortunately, these are no longer in print.

These are from Hart yearbooks, except as noted. Most chaplains probably covered Hart and T.I./E.I. when multiple camps were operational (pre-merger); post-merger, probably separate volunteer chaplains at each camp, when Jewish units in camp at the two camps.

? — Rabbi Harry Lasker (many years during the 1950's and 1960's)

1956 — Samuel Berkowitz

1957 — Rabbi Edward Tenenbaum

1968 — Fred Natkin

1970 (?) — Rabbi Seymour Panitz

1971 — Alan Klein (rabbinical student)

1972 — Rabbi Ivan Caine

1974 — Israel Benedict (rabbinical student)

1975 — Sanford Shudnow (rabbinical student)

1976 — Phil Hittner (layman)

1978 — and many other years — Sid Weitzman

1983 — David Lev (rabbinical student)

1984 — Craig Harris (rabbinical student)

Resica Falls

? Harry and Warren Brodsky

2016-2022 — Daniel Gottschalk (layman)

2022 — Rabbi Lisa Vernon

Reverent

By S. Kurtz Hingley

I was wandering in a restaurant, an humble eating place
And as I ate I looked to find some one familiar
face.
My roving glances rested on a young man,
clean and strong,
Who sat alone, with bended head, amidst that
hustling throng.

Just saying 'grace', a simple thing at home,
But seldom said,
Where thoughtless people gather in a hurry to
be fed
Little thanks they give the Master for His
Thoughtfulness and love,
But this young man stopped to murmur words of thanks to
Him above.

On his coat there gleamed an emblem, "Be
Prepared" was graven clear,
Then I knew him for a Scouter, clean and
reverent, without fear.
And I wondered just how many folks like me
have seen him pray
And had followed his example as they ate with
him each day.

Appendix A — Troops founded by 1930

List of Jewish Units

Please note that this list is a working list of Jewish units and is not an exhaustive one. Much of the list has been difficult to generate due to unit numbers being reused many times, so it is difficult to see if units are different, when/if they folded, or if it is the same unit with different sponsors. Troops 18 and 95 are two examples of units that changed chartered organizations throughout the years. If you know of any other Jewish units or have other corrections to this list, please contact history@unamilodge.org.

Based on the limited information that is available, it appears that by 1916 there were at least 13 Troops which were either sponsored by Jewish organizations, or had a significant level of Jewish membership or leadership.

At the end of the roster of Troops listed in the 1919 Phila. Council Yearbook, there is a summary of the 251 registered Troops (in Phila.) by sponsoring institutions — seven sponsored by synagogues, and one by the Y.M.H.A., for a total of eight. Additionally, at least some of the non-religious organizations (recreation centers, settlement houses, schools, libraries, police stations, community organizations) located in Jewish neighborhoods are very likely to have had a significant level of Jewish membership.

By 1930, at least 22 such Troops — including one in Norristown and one in Pottstown — had been sponsored by Jewish organizations, or had a significant level of Jewish membership.

In some instances, it is known (or assumed) that the original sponsor was not a Jewish organization, but over time the Troop is known to have had Jewish sponsorship. Additional confusion enters the picture as Troop numbers were reused (after a Troop folded) much earlier than was previously thought. For example, only one of these pre-1916 Troops (Troop 95) had the same sponsor listed here that was listed in the May 1913 "Third Annual Encampment — Philadelphia Troops" booklet.

In some instances, a Troop moved from one sponsor (or meeting place) to another, and it is not obvious that the Troop had continuous registration.

Troops founded before 1916 (all are in Phila.)

Troop #	Founded	Sponsor
25	< 1916	Montefiore Synagogue; 2911 North 8th St.
27	1915	sponsor unclear; (1923) — Cong. Beth El, 58th & Walnut
42	1913 (or earlier)	1913-14: 1942 Moyamensing Avenue (Jewish leaders) 1916 — The Young Women's Union and Neighborhood Centre, 5th & Bainbridge
62	1914	Beth Judah Synagogue at 54th and Samson Sts.
64	1914	38th Police District Stn., 55th & Pine Sts. (Jewish leader)
78	1915	Keneseth Israel Library / Synagogue, Broad St. above Columbia Ave.
92	1915	Keneseth Israel Library / Synagogue, Broad St. above Columbia Ave.
95	1912	Starr Garden Recreation Center; 7th & Lombard Sts.
97	< 1916	YMHA — 16th & Master Sts.
101	< 1916	Temple Beth Israel; 32nd & Montgomery Sts.
103	< 1916	YMHA — 16th & Master Sts.
127	< 1916	Downtown Hebrew Day Nursery; 362 Snyder Ave.
139	< 1916	Jewish Foster Home (various locations in Mt. Airy)

Additional Troops formed by 1930 (Phila., except as noted)

Troop #	Founded	Sponsor
Norristown No. 7	1921	a Jewish Synagogue — Norristown
Pottstown No. 13	1926	Mercy of Truth Synagogue, Pottstown
18	1927	Elks Fraternal Lodge (North Phila.)
34	1926	Jewish Neighborhood Center; 1901 S. 6th St. / 6th and Mifflin Sts.
72	<1919	Shaari Zedek Congregational; 52nd & Columbia Ave.
73	<1919	Adath Jeshurun
152	<1919	Jewish Sunday School
182	1923	Hebrew Sunday School; 815 S. 6th St.
256	1923	Beth Shalom Synagogue; Broad & Courtland

Appendix B — Jewish Sponsored Units (including those with a large number of Jewish members)

Based on the limited information that is available, these units — Cub Scout Packs, Boy Scout Troops, Explorer Posts, Venture Crews — are known, or believed, to (a) have had Jewish sponsorship for at least one year, or (b) have had a large number of Jewish members in the unit at some point in their history. Where known, we indicate which types of units were sponsored. These units are included, even when we do not know the name of the sponsor.

Delaware and Montgomery Counties

Unit #	Cub Pack	Scout Troop	Explorer Post	Sponsor
1		yes		(?) Bala Cynwyd; some Jewish Scouts
7		yes		a Jewish Synagogue — Norristown (officially called Norristown No. 7 — founded 1921)
9		yes		Norristown JCC
13		yes		Mercy and Truth Synagogue, 575 North Keim St., Pottstown (officially called Pottstown No. 13 — founded 1926)
53	yes			Solomon Shechter Day School, Merion
101		yes		Main Line Reformed Temple, 410 Montgomery Ave., Wynnewood
281		yes		Cong. Or Ami, Lafayette Hill
351	yes	yes		Cong. Beth Or, Pennlyn Pike and Dager Road, Spring House
359		yes		Suburban JCC, 560 Mill Rd., Havertown
466	yes	yes		Cong. Beth El Suburban, Broomall (later: Beth El Ner Tamid)
478		yes		Har Zion Temple, Radnor (later: 715 Pax Hollow Rd., Broomall)
492		yes		Keneseth Israel, 8231 Old York Rd., Elkins Park 8231 Old York Rd., (formerly Phila. #92, until 1958)
498		yes		Tiferet Bet Israel — 1920 Skippack Pike, Bluebell
526		yes		Old York Rd. Temple Beth Am, Abington
539		yes		539 (or 579?) Temple Beth Tikvah B'nai Jeshurun, 1001 Paper Mill Rd, Erdenheim
584		yes		Melrose B'nai Israel, 133 Cheltenham Ave., Melrose Park
655				Jarrettown Elementary School
656		yes		B'nai Brith Upper Dublin Lodge #2781, Dresher
665	yes	yes		Temple Sinai, Dresher
789		yes		Temple Shalom, Broomall
1958	yes			(?) synagogue
?		yes		Valley Forge Military Academy; some Jewish Scouts

Philadelphia

Unit #	Cub Pack	Scout Troop	Explorer Post / Crew	Sponsor
6		yes		Pinemere Camp (sponsor) — many Jewish (and non-Jewish) meeting locations over the years
18		yes	yes	
25		yes		
27		yes		Montefiore Synagogue; 2911 North 8th St.
34		yes		Cong. Beth El, 58th & Walnut
		yes		Jewish Neighborhood Center; 1901 S. 6th St. / 6th and Mifflin Sts.
42		yes		(1913-14, sponsor unknown) — 1942 Moyamensing Avenue; (1916) The Young Women's Union and Neighborhood Centre, 5th & Bainbridge
55		yes		The Jewish Educational Center #2, Marshall & Porter Streets (South Philadelphia)
62		yes		(1914) — Beth Judah Synagogue at 54th and Samson Sts.
64		yes		(1916) — 5100 Parkside Ave.
66		yes		38th Police District Stn., 55th & Pine Sts.
69	yes			Congregation Beth Judah Synagogue at 54th and Samson St.; mid-1950's, move to West Phila. JCC near 63rd and Chestnut
71		yes		Community Center — 19th & Green Sts.
72		yes		Cong. Oheves Chessed; 29 W. Rittenhouse St.
73		yes		Shaari Zedek Congregational; 52nd & Columbia Ave.
76	yes			Adath Jeshurun, Broad and Diamond Sts.
78		yes		Settlement Music School, 4th & Christian Sts.
92		yes		Keneseth Israel Library / Synagogue, 1717 N. Broad St.
95	yes	yes		Starr Garden Recreation Center (7th & Lombard Sts.); various other meeting places; PPJCC (Pennypack Park J.C.C.; Beth Tefillah Israel — Rodelph Zedek of Pennypack Park) — 2605 Welsh Rd., Phila. 19152
97		yes		YMHA — 16th & Master Sts.
99		yes		Temple Sinai; Limekiln Pike & Washington Lane
101		yes		Temple Beth Israel; 32nd & Montgomery Sts.
103		yes		YMHA — 16th & Master Sts.
104	yes			Germantown J.C.C., 400 W. Ellet. St.
124	yes	yes		Temple Shalom; Large St. & Roosevelt Blvd.
127		yes		Downtown Hebrew Day Nursery; 362 Snyder Ave.; Neighborhood Center; 428 Bainbridge St.
139		yes		Jewish Foster Home (various locations in Mt. Airy)
144	yes			Beth Emeth (?) — Bustleton Ave. and Unruh Ave.
152		yes		Jewish Sunday School
160		yes		Neighborhood Center

Unit #	Cub Pack	Scout Troop	Explorer Post / Crew	Sponsor
169	yes	yes		Congregation Emanu-El, Old York Rd & Stenton Ave
182		yes		Hebrew Sunday School; 1815 S. 6th St.
185	yes	yes		Adath Jeshurun Cemetery; Cong. Adath Jeshurun, 7763 Old York Rd. & , Elkins Park
218		yes		Mens Club of Congregation Beth T'fillah of Overbrook Park (Phila); 7630 Woodbine Ave.
241		yes		Temple Judea, 6929 N. Broad St., East Oak Lane
253		yes		Marshall & Porter Streets
256		yes		Beth Shalom Synagogue; Broad & Courtland
275		yes		Beth Zion Congregation
285		yes		Mens Club, Brith Shalom, C.C.
293		yes		Bnai Jeshurun, 33rd and Diamond Sts.
297		yes		West Oak Lane J.C.C.
320		yes		Hebrew Sunday School Society
356	yes	yes	?	Oxford Circle J.C.C., 1009 Unruh Ave.
369	?	yes		Brith Israel; "D" St. & Roosevelt Blvd.
371	yes	yes		S. Solis-Cohen Home and School Assn; Kelky Post, JWV.
387		yes		synagogue on N. 16th St or N. 18th St + West Oak Lane (West Oak Lane J.C.C. ?)
395		yes		PPJCC (Pennypack Park J.C.C.)
408	yes			
409	yes	yes		Congregation Beth Judah (Logan)
440	yes	yes		Temple Rodeph Zedek (Logan)
513	yes	yes		Rhawnhurst Jewish Community Center / Adath Tikvah — Montefiore; Hoffnagle & Summerdale; Phila. 19152
514	yes	yes	yes	Temple Beth Ami; 9201 Old Bustleton Rd.
648	yes	yes	yes	Ner Zedek — Ezrath Israel; Bustleton & Oakmont Sts. (19152)
653	yes	yes		Cong. Shaare Shamayim; 9768 Veree Rd. (19115)
696	yes	yes		Loeshe Elementary School; 7th Police District
708	yes	yes		Beth Torah Mens Club; 608 Welsh Rd. (19115)
709		yes		(?) Max Slepian post of the Jewish War Veterans (Overbrook Park)
746	yes			Jacobs School (public grade school)
871	yes			Kelky Post, JWV.
970	yes	yes		Cong. Beth Judah of Bustleton-Somerton; Tomlinson & Ferndale St.
1040	no	no	yes	Internal Revenue Service Center, Roosevelt Blvd.
?		yes		Klein Branch JCC (~1987/88)
?		yes		Har Zion Temple, 54th St. and Wynnefield Ave.

Appendix C – Other Units (with one or more Jewish Scouts)

Based on the limited information that is available, we know that these units had at least one Jewish Scout who earned one of the Jewish religious awards. While most of these are known to have had non-Jewish sponsors, some may have had Jewish sponsors who are unknown to us.

Philadelphia: (unless noted otherwise)

Unit #	Cub Pack	Scout Troop	Explorer Post / Crew	Sponsor
12		yes		Chestnut Street Recreation Pier; Delaware Ave + Chestnut St.
21	yes			Beth Eden Bible School; New Market & Brown Sts.
22	yes			Church
24		yes		1916-17 – Camp Shuman (Tacony); "Scout Cabin" (Disston & Walter Sts.); 1923 – American Legion
36		yes		B.B. Hackett School; Sepviva & York Sts.
37	yes			80th and Harley Sts. (near airport)
44	yes			Lyceum Hall (Branchtown)
49	yes			church, per 1916 – 23 yearbooks
65	yes			Church
87	yes			Boys Club of Church Club
90		yes		church, per 1916 – 23 yearbks
91		yes		Friends Guild Rec. Center; 4th & Green Sts.
107	yes			Presbyterian Orphanage ;58th & Chester Ave.
108	yes			Funfield Playground; 22nd & Cumberland Sts.
109		yes		1917 & 19 – Spring St. Settlement; 1225 Spring St. (Society of Friends / Quakers) 1944 – St. Helena's church
116		yes		A 1913 article about "Nautical Troop" 116 mentions that there are 1 or 2 Jewish Scouts
122	yes			1916 – Oak Lane
131	?	?		B.F. Teller Memorial School; Broad & Jefferson
133		yes		Wheatsheaf Lane & Coral St.
134		yes		West Oak Lane Church of God, Mt. Pleasant & Thuron Sts.
168	yes			
174	yes (later)	yes		1919, 1920 – church; 1923 – Workmans Place House; /56 Front St.; (later) – Maternity B.V.M.
190	yes			1919 – At Scout's House
195	?	?		Belfield Improvement Assn.; Washington Lane & Belfield (Germantown)
200	?	?		
204	?	?		Buist Park Community House (SW Phila)

Unit #	Cub Pack	Scout Troop	Explorer Post / Crew	Sponsor
210	yes			
216	yes			
221	yes			
236	yes			
241	?	?		
247	yes			
284		yes		
288	yes	yes		
293	?	?		
304	yes			F.S. Edmonds Elementary School, 8025 Thouron Ave.
332	yes			
338	yes			
346		yes		
351	yes			
394		yes		
399		yes		
416	yes			St. Andrews In-the-Field Episcopal Ch.
461	yes			Trinity Lutheran
477	yes			St. Anselem R.C.C.
500	yes			
551	yes			
577	yes	yes		(Dresher, PA) – PTO, Thomas Fitzwater Elementary School; Sunny Willow Swim Club
595	yes			
802	yes			
841	yes			
908		yes		

Photos



Troop 95 — 1912 from 1922 yearbook, at Starr Garden Recreation Center



Troop 95 — 1912 from 1922 yearbook



Troop 95



Troop 95 — 1977



Troop 95 — Inauguration trip to DC



Troop 95 — Merit Badge Pageant



Korman Chapel — before the Ark installed (early Aug. 1962)



Korman Chapel — On the left wall — A Scout is Reverent sign



On the right wall — Korman Memorial Chapel sign



Members of the Korman Family, following the dedication



Korman Chapel — dedication (Aug 22, 1962)
Scout Executive H. M. Privette

Photos



Troop 514 — HSR — 1967



Cub Pack 708 — CubMaster Mel Satinsky



Pack-708 — presentation of Maccabiah Awards (11 22 1997)



Troop 708 — 1999 summer camp



Troop 665 — service project at Surrey Services, (1 of 2)



Troop 665 — service project at Surrey Services, (2 of 2)



Troop 665 — service project — Cub Pack 498 storage shed (before)



Troop 665 — service project — Cub Pack 498 storage shed (after)



Troop 665 — Eagle Project — Seth Miller, 2019



Bnai Abraham synagogue — Scouting For Jewish Roots hike, November 20th, 2016



Troop 665 — the Pulpit outlook on the Appalachian Trail — 2014



Troop 665 — caving and hiking trip — Woodward Cave and Camp grounds



Troop 665 — hiking at Gettysburg



Troop 665 — Temple Sinai recruiting event 2019

Jewish Awards

The National Jewish Committee on Scouting has developed a program of four awards (emblems) as a unified, graduated program that teaches Judaism in age-appropriate increments.

Program	Age / Grade	Emblem	Description
Lions and Cub Scouts	grades K-1		Aryeh is the Hebrew word for Lion. Young Lions are wild and untamed. A young Lion in nature begins the journey to become King of the Jungle. As a young Lion, you have begun to prepare yourself for whatever your life will bring. As a young Aryeh, you have also begun your journey through Judaism.
Tiger Cubs and Cub Scouts	through grade 3		The Maccabee emblem helps Tiger Cubs and Cub Scouts learn more about Judaism and sets the pathway toward earning further emblems.
Cub Scouts and Webelos Scouts	through age 11		The Aleph emblem helps Cub Scouts and Webelos Scouts learn more about Judaism. Working on the Aleph emblem will help Scouts get to better know their rabbi or religious school teacher.
Scouts, Explorers, Venturers, Sea Scouts	through age 14 or through grade 9 (whichever is later) (through age 18 if they also obtain the Etz Chaim and it is presented at the same time)		The Ner Tamid (Eternal Light) program helps Scouts grow spiritually. It will aid in practicing the twelfth point of the Scout Law, "A Scout is Reverent."
Scouts, Explorers, Venturers, Sea Scouts	Scouts (age 14 to 17) Venturers, Explorers, and Sea Scouts, (age 14 to 20)		The Etz Chaim (Tree of Life) religious emblem is designed for Scouts in high school, ages 14 to 17, and registered Venturers and Sea Scouts, ages 14 to 20. This emblem encourages young adults to explore adult Jewish roles in the context of family, community, and Jewish people.

The National Jewish Committee on Scouting has also developed the Shofar Award to recognize outstanding service by adults in the promotion of Scouting among Jewish youth.

Shofar Award



Just as the Shofar (Ram's Horn) calls people to the service of God, so the Shofar Award is a recognition of the individual who has answered the call to serve Jewish youth in Scouting. A Shofar recipient should:

1. Promote the use of Scouting in synagogues, Jewish Community Centers, and other Jewish institutions.
2. Encourage Jewish youth to join the Boy Scouts of America as Tiger Cubs, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Varsity Scouts, and Explorers.
3. Recruit Jewish leaders on unit, district, and council levels.
4. Encourage and assist Scouts in earning the Maccabee, Aleph, and Ner Tamid emblems.
5. Promote religious observance on camping trips and at camporees, summer camp, Scout Sabbath, and other functions.
6. Exemplify religious convictions by personal participation in the ideals of Jewish Life.

Jewish Committee on Scouting (JCOS)

Locally, the Cradle of Liberty Council JCOS supports Jewish involvement in Scouting and coordinates the following programs and activities as part of these efforts:

- **Camperships:** beginning in 2005, the JCOS has been able to offer camperships to over 600 Jewish boys and girls in Cub Scouts and Scouts to go to BSA district Cub Day Camp and to BSA summer camps. We have extended this program to now include Sea Scouts, Venturers and Explorers.
- **Eagle Scout Project Grants:** the JCOS will make grants (\$50 to \$250) to Jewish Scouts for approved Eagle Scout Projects, or equivalent Venture, Explorer or Sea Scout projects.
- **Post High School Scholarships:** the JCOS will grant up to two scholarships (each \$500) to graduating Jewish high school seniors. This is to assist with their post-high school education — college, trade, or technical school.
- **Religious Awards:** the JCOS will provide reimbursement to cover the cost of the Maccabee, Aleph, Ner Tamid, and Etz Chaim religious awards.
- **Kinnus (Retreat):** in addition to covering the full cost of attending the Kinnus (Retreat) for each boy who receives a campership, the JCOS also covers about half the cost of the Kinnus for other attendees.
- **New Unit Support:** in addition to assisting Jewish organizations in starting new units, the JCOS will also support new units with a grant to help cover the cost of training materials
- **Friends of Israel Scouts:** the JCOS also assists the Delaware Valley Friends of Israel Scouts (FOIS) in bringing Tzofim (Israeli Scouts) to this area. While some of the Israeli Scouts have served on our summer Camp Staffs, most come as part of the "Tzofim Friendship Caravan" program.

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Acknowledgements

Additional sources used to create the list of Jewish Troops

Main sources:

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- local JCOS meeting minutes — Phila. JCOS minutes from 1976, and 1981-94, and COL-BSA JCOS minutes from 1996 — 97, 2002.
- Phila. Council newspapers ("Philly Scouter") and COL-BSA newspapers ("BSA Today") — 1976 to 2002
- Northeast Region Jewish Committee on Scouting ("JCOS") newsletters (~20 issues, 1988-96)

Minor sources:

- "BSA Today" — newsletter of the National BSA Relationships Division, which coordinated relationships with all faiths. (~50 issues, ~1987-98)
- Ner Tamid News Bulletin (1974-76) — newsletter of the National Jewish Committee on Scouting ("NJCOS")
- "HaTsofe" — ("The Observer") — National Jewish Committee on Scouting ("NJCOS") newsletters (~25 issues, mostly 1980's/90's)

