



Office of the Mayor

City of Woodbury
Woodbury, NJ

VOLUNTEERS: WOODBURY COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT THEM!



As 2021 is coming to an end, we need to take a moment to acknowledge all the volunteers that have made our special events possible and enriched the lives of SO MANY in our community.

It is these self-less men, women, and children, who offer their priceless gift of time and energy, that provide the heartbeat of the city's events.

They are the ones that answer the call, come forward with creative ideas and the desire to make our city better. Whether assembling, together, to clean up our parks and lakes, organizing to make a parade possible, or spearheading events that bring outsiders to Woodbury to share our city, without them it would not be possible.

Below is just a small list of organizations within the City of Woodbury, staffed with citizens who volunteer their time. We are forever indebted to them.

The FIREWORKS COMMITTEE, FALL FESTIVAL & PARADE COMMITTEE, CAR SHOW COMMITTEE, GREEN TEAM CITIZENS CLEAN UPS COMMITTEES, FAF COALITION, GWCC, HEART & SOUL, MAIN STREET, WORC, WOODBURY COMMUNITY GARDEN, ROAD RUNNERS, COOPERATIVE MINISTRIES FOOD BANK, WOODBURY CHEER LEADERS, 21 ST. CENTURY CIVICS GROUP & PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP, HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION, HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE.

Besides the numerous committees and non-profits that are filled with lots of volunteers that makes so many amazing things happen in our great city, we also need to give thanks to the houses of worship in Woodbury. Every day, week, and month all year long our houses of worship and their parishioners volunteer within our community very quietly looking after many of our citizens. So, please let's all take a moment and just be grateful for the kindness that gets bestowed on us, so often by strangers.

It is said, "the greatest gift you can give is your time." For those who so generously give of yours – Thank you!

All of you are what make our City of Woodbury so special. Have a beautiful and blessed holiday season.

Sincerely yours,

Mayor Peg Sickel



Hanukkah



BE A PART OF THE FUN! ‘FIRST ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS’ SATURDAY December 4: FROM 6-8 p.m. at City Hall

It’s going to be a dazzling holiday celebration in Woodbury this December 4th!

The public works department has installed the decorations in the front of City Hall and the Police Department. The fire department will be illuminated!

Our community is gathering, together, to celebrate Hanukkah, Christmas and Kwanzaa!

Santa has enlisted some helpers to accompany him to City Hall in the form of a pair of holiday bedecked horses (thanks to the Mason family!) and a Woodbury’s police escort.

Other ‘elves’ are working to provide a great evening for the local children!

Visit with Santa, write him a letter to take back to the North Pole after he leaves Woodbury.

The Woodbury School Choir will be adding ambience to the occasion with holiday carols.

The “21st Century Program” (a state funded after school program for students age 6-12) has volunteered to host a crafts activity for the children, as well as to serve hot chocolate and sugar cookies to the children.

In addition, if anyone brings a canned good for the WOODBURY COLLECTIVE HOLIDAY GIVING EVENT, they will receive a decorated holiday ornament from the “21st Century Craft Club”! There will be a TOYS FOR TOTS box available for new, unwrapped toy donations.

FREE FACE PAINTING by Rachel Beatty and Julie Otto will be a part of the FUN! Make sure you mark your calendar to COME!



The AV Club from Woodbury High School (under the direction of Mr. Doud) will be live streaming the event on the Woodbury Herd's youtube channel!

This holiday "festival of lights" event is funded by private donations. No taxpayer dollars were used.

WELCOME HOME, CHARLIE BROWN'S!



It is with great anticipation that we can announce that it is official – **CHARLIE BROWN'S FRESH GRILL is returning to Woodbury!**

The iconic chain has been around for over 50 years and built its reputation on offering "signature and aged hand-carved, slow-roasted prime rib, delicious USDA Choice Steaks, juicy USDA burgers and their famous unlimited Farmers Market Salad Bar."

The coronavirus pandemic's took its toll on the franchise and forced the closing of all but the Scotch Plains, NJ location.

The empty building on Broad Street was a somber reminder to our residents of the loss of one of our beloved restaurant locations. Woodbury residents would reach out to the owners on their website to tell their own stories of special events that took place in those walls.

Woodbury's voices were heard and it is the FIRST location to be reopened with the others being evaluated for their viability.

"Woodbury has always been good to us and it is a tight-knit community," explained Director of Business Development, Max Drattell, who had been working closely with the Mayor, City Council and city administration to make this a reality.

It will be sometime in the first quarter of 2022 when we can savor the flavors of their delicious food! The renovations plans are being laid out with improvements to the exterior (new awnings, paint, signage) and interior upgrades to the flooring and the bathrooms.

Stay tuned for more updates!

THEY ARE THE CHAMPIONS!

THE THUNDERING HERD HAS RUN OVER THE COMPETITION!

*Undefeated Woodbury High School football team clinches the
SJ Group 1 final of the NJSIAA Tournament after defeating Woodstown 8-6 November 20*



Oh, the absolute **JOY OF VICTORY!** Woodbury's 2021 team, under the direction of coach Anthony Reagan, have a lot to celebrate and reflect on after they won their home playoff game against Woodstown on 11/20/2021 by a score of 8-6. Adding that win to their column, the Thundering Herd has been undefeated in their regular season and has their eye on a State Championship.

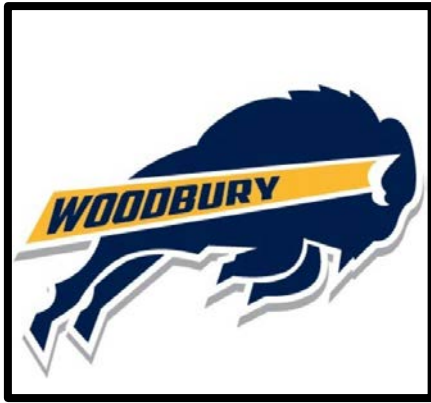
The "force" also showed their dominance on Thanksgiving Day when they beat Gateway 34-7.

The Thundering Herd has melded together as an unstoppable force to be undefeated in their regular season.

As coach Anthony Reagan explained to a reporter in October, "This group has been all together, just connected in everything we do and executing the game plan."

Woodbury is honored to cheer for this outstanding team!

The competition continues December 5th when Woodbury travels to meet Salem High School's football team for a match-up in the Regional Championship games that will be played at Rutgers SHI Stadium in New Brunswick.



The THUNDERING HERD is heading to RUTGERS SHI stadium, December 5th at 10 a.m. to play Salem High School

Help Fund the “freshman” (5-7 year old) Football Team Play in the 2021 Pop Warner Super Bowl in Orlando!



THIS IS SOMETHING TO ‘CHEER ABOUT!’

The undefeated Woodbury Steelers “Freshman” (5-7 year old) Football Team has a life-inspiring opportunity to compete in the sport they love at the Pop Warner National Football Championships in Orlando!

Their invitation came on short notice and now the team and its supporters are rallying to raise the \$20,000 needed to make this opportunity a reality. Funds will go toward the registration fees, flights and hotel stays.

The team, if they can assemble the funds, will have an opportunity to compete at Orlando's premier sports and entertainment venues.

Football teams will play for a Super Bowl title in the 60,000-seat Camping World Stadium, which has been the recent home to the NFL Pro Bowl and a longtime college Bowl game site, including the Vrbo Citrus Bowl and Cheez-It Bowl.

The event takes place in mid-December and the team has until December 4th to raise the funds to make this dream a reality. To donate, go to their "[GoFundMe](#)" page or contact Morgan Miller at 609-617-1542 or Mmiller0211@gmail.com.

Go Team Woodbury Steelers and a special thanks to the families and cheerleaders that have seen them through this memorable WINNING SEASON!

WOODBURY EIGHT & SAND BREWERY IS GETTING IN THE SPIRIT...AND FUN...OF THE HOLIDAY SEASON!



Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer/Getty Images)

Santa: "You'll shoot your eye out, kid!"

With a nod to the classic holiday film, "The Christmas Story" where Ralphie tells Santa that he *really, really* wants a Red Ryder BB Gun for Christmas, the brewery has canned a 6.5% red lager with grapefruit peel.

This limited concoction will only be available in November and December.



In addition, a commemorative “You’ll shoot your eye out!” graphic glass will be available in Mid-December for an \$8.00 purchase.

The local brewery’s hours are Thursday, 5-10 p.m., Saturday 12-10 p.m. and Sunday 12 – 7 p.m. They will be open on Christmas Eve and New Year’s Eve from 12-5 p.m.

Check out their Facebook page for details of the holiday trivia night sometime in late December!

Help support Woodbury’s local brewery (they even have a beer garden with heat lamps and fire pits!) and order your food from your favorite Woodbury restaurant while you are enjoying your ale!

A TOYS FOR TOTS box will be located inside the Brewery for toy donations for needy children!



An interesting footnote:

We are all familiar with the current news stories about the supply chain issues and manufacturing shortages.

In Woodbury circa December 28, 1911, the A.A. Stokes Store specifically advertised well stocked shelves!

This ad was printed in Gloucester County Democrat Newspaper.



Jacob Bibo and the History of Woodbury's Beth Israel Synagogue



Jacob Herman Bibo

WOODBURY'S FIRST JEWISH RESIDENT ARRIVES IN WOODBURY IN 1867 AT THE AGE OF 14

In 1867, German born Jacob Herman Bibo had a burning desire to come to America.

Fourteen-year-old "Jake", with 50 cents to his name, had been energized by the oratory of the steamship and railroad company agents who would travel through Europe, enticing residents to begin a new life in the United States.

The youth found his way to Woodbury, NJ, a city that was formerly established only thirteen years before.

Bibo's ability to speak perfect English (reportedly the result of "generations of rabbis in his ancestry") was his most tangible asset to help him assimilate into the new world.

Interestingly, he was the first Jewish resident recorded in Woodbury's history. It would not be until 1904 when Harry Polsky arrived (Polsky's store, est. 1906) and became the city's second Jewish family, followed by the Herman family in 1906 and the Cohen family, who would later open a "Tea House" on Broad and Delaware Streets.

About thirty other Jewish families arrived in Woodbury between 1915 to 1930.

Jacob Bibo methodically paved his own version of the American Dream.

Twenty-three years after his arrival, Jake had saved enough money to purchase a building on Broad Street to manufacture his "Jumbo" cigars. A clever marketer, the slogans "Smoke Bibo's Jumbos" and Bibo's Jumbos are better than ever" were often seen on local billboards and in the

newspaper. Jacob would travel along the country roads by horse and buggy selling his cigar and cigar products.

Ironically, though the entrepreneur made his money through his cigar sales, he drew the line at smoking “cigarettes,” declaring they were “coffin nails.”

With his business established, Jacob Bibb set his sights on love. In 1892 he married Miss Caroline Firetag in New York City. They would have seven children and Bibb would live in Woodbury for a total of fifty years before the family moved to Brooklyn.

JACOB BIBB HELPS WITH MEDIATION AS PROBLEMS ERUPT IN ZIONTOWN

HEBREW SETTLEMENT

Jacob Bibb was a social man who made fast friends and didn’t discriminate based on religious preference.

It is noted that he often was spotted in deep conversations with other religious leaders. They often quipped, “If you want a minister in Woodbury, try Bibb’s Smoke Shop first!”

His level head and mediating skills were enlisted when trouble erupted at the Hebrew settlement, Zionsville, that was founded in Gloucester County in the early 1890’s.

A group of developers, including Israel Zion had ambitious plans for an industrial settlement with Zion’s three-story shirt factory as the anchor and main employer. The investors all signed their name on the lease in Hebrew.

The vision was a town with wide boulevards, a hotel, school, and a theater interspersed with the homesites that would be sold as standard lots of 25 feet by 150 feet for \$75.00. The master plan included inviting New Jersey Railroad to run a line through the town. The residents lived in adobe huts, anticipating their fate to change for the better as the town thrived.

The optimism didn’t last long.

In 1892 there were 78 people employed at the factory. By the summer, when Israel Zion couldn’t make payroll, angry employees raged against their employer and rioted in the streets. Fights broke out and the local authorities had to enlist the help of the Woodbury police Department to keep order.

The hopeful promise of the Jewish settlement had deteriorated to having the residents starving from lack of provisions and wages.

Jacob Bibb was enlisted to function as a mediator.

He assisted the settlers in securing groceries and supplies to meet their most desperate needs. The Philadelphia Jewish community came through to aid the fifty families in the Ziontown settlement.

The next year saw many of the residents moving to nearby Malaga to farm the land and the post office was closed. Though some Jews stayed in Ziontown into the early 1900's, it was the children of these early pioneers who ultimately sold the last of the lots to the newly arriving Italian immigrants.



Jacob Bibo

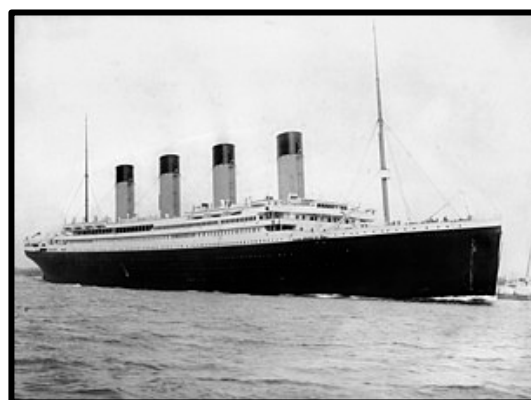
BIBO VISITS HIS HOMETLAND IN GERMANY AND MAKES A FATE-FILLED DECISION

In 1912, Jacob Bibo returned to tour Europe and visit the German countryside of his homeland. For all of his affection for the land of his birth, Bibo was known to be an American patriot who was ever grateful for his "special dream come true."

His sentimentality may have saved his life.

At the steamship office, he was given two choices for his return journey.

He was offered transit on the newest British steamship afloat or passage on a slower vessel called the "President Lincoln." He chose the latter and that made *all the difference*. Had he opted for the first option, the maiden voyage of the U.S.S. Titanic, he may have perished. Days after its departure from England. The "unsinkable ship" descended into the North Atlantic Sea after hitting an iceberg.



*"Two roads diverged in a wood and I,
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference."*

HENRY DAVID THOREAU

Woodbury's Jewish Trailblazers: BETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE

We must remember that one determined person can make a significant difference,

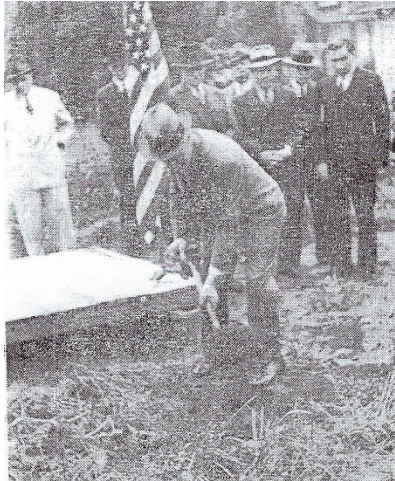
and that a small group of determined people can change the course of history."

Sonia Johnson

A group of fourteen passionate and prayerful Woodbury Jewish residents met, beginning in the early 1920's, at various local homes. The Torah was housed in the cupboard of Benjamin Snyder's kitchen.

By the 1930's the small congregation began looking for a permanent structure for its faithful. They leased the second story of a building on Broad Street and Aberdeen Place.

When the congregation expanded to twenty-two families in 1938, they broke ground on their own house of worship at W. Center and Harrison Street. The oldest Jewish Woodbury resident, Louis Rosen, ceremoniously broke the ground with the Jewish leaders surrounding him.



At the groundbreaking ceremony, Camden Rabbi Phillip Lipis of the Bethel Congregation of Camden, referenced the dissension in the world stating, “We tremble at the persecute ion in the world today and once again remind ourselves of our creed and belief – the tings of the spirit are the things that endure.”

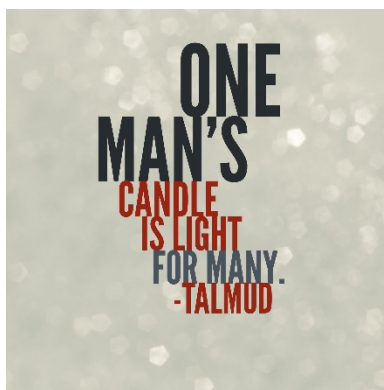
On May 28, 1939, the new building was dedicated.



In spite of the congregation’s joy with their new house of worship, the members were acutely aware and troubled by the anti-Jewish sentiments that were emanating from Germany. Just months after the synagogue’s dedication, Germany invaded Poland and the tragic fate of its Jewish residents would forever be told in historical accounts and stories. WWII and America’s involvement in that conflict was only a few years away.

The Jewish congregation strengthened and grew. Friendships were forged, religious education was available, the first confirmation service was held in 1959 when five boys would “pledge themselves to live a life of dedication.

As participation increased in the synagogue, expansion was discussed. In 1954, land was purchased for the new house of worship at the corner of S. Warner and King Street. By 1962, the new building was dedicated. At its height, there were close to 150 families pledged to the congregation.



Time took its toll. Over the next decades the numbers dwindled and the synagogue's leadership considered their options. By the beginning of 2000 the membership was down to 58 families. Lifelong member of Beth Israel, Marc Kamp, explained, "it's a traditional congregation, but it has become a lot more liberal." Older members were dying off and the younger families were part of the suburban sprawl. The building, expanded in 1972 to accommodate the faithful, was now too large to provide an intimate setting in which to worship.



ROSE HOWERTER / Inquirer Suburban Sta
Rabbi Robert Tabak (fourth from left) and others from Beth Israel
 toss bread into Bell Lake, symbolically shedding their sins.

Philadelphia Inquirer, September 23, 2001

A decision was made. Woodbury's Beth Israel congregation would now join with a Jewish congregation in Turnersville who had outgrown their synagogue. Both properties were sold and a new 'home' was purchased at 115 East Holly Avenue in Sewell. The building was updated to accommodate the handicapped with an elevator and handicapped accessible restrooms.

Currently, close to 150 families call Congregation B’nai Tikvah Beth Israel their spiritual home. They welcome other Jewish families in the Gloucester County to be a part of their community.



**To life, to life, l'chai-im!
L'chai-im, l'chai-im, to life!**

***A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE GLOUCESTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOR PROVIDING
THE RESEARCH FOR THIS ARTICLE.***

Donna Clementoni

December, 2021