
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 193 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY TEPLITZ, DINNIMAN, GREENLEAF, TARTAGLIONE,
FONTANA, WILLIAMS, HUTCHINSON, RAFFERTY, COSTA, YUDICHAK,
SCHWANK, AUMENT, MENSCH AND VULAKOVICH, SEPTEMBER 18, 2015

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, SEPTEMBER 18, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of November 29 through December 5, 2015, as
2 "Jewish Community Center Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The Jewish Community Center Movement started in 1854
4 when the first Hebrew Young Men's Literary Association opened
5 its doors in Baltimore, Maryland, to provide support for Jewish
6 immigrants, help ensure Jewish continuity and provide a place
7 for celebration; and

8 WHEREAS, Similar associations opened soon after, serving as
9 libraries, cultural centers and settlement houses; and

10 WHEREAS, The first Jewish community center in Pennsylvania
11 was founded in 1875 in Philadelphia, now known as the Charles
12 and Elizabeth Gershman Y; and

13 WHEREAS, There are eleven Jewish community centers throughout
14 this Commonwealth that serve Pennsylvanians and their
15 surrounding communities in areas including Allentown, Altoona,
16 Harrisburg, Lancaster, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Scranton,
17 Wyoming Valley and York; and

1 WHEREAS, The eleven Jewish community centers serve more than
2 50,000 Pennsylvanians of all denominations each year; and

3 WHEREAS, Jewish community centers continue to foster the same
4 growth and advancement of its members as it did more than 110
5 years ago by offering arts and culture, English as a second
6 language, preschool, summer camps, sports and athletics,
7 programming for older adults and many other programs for all
8 ages, backgrounds and interests; and

9 WHEREAS, The year 2015 marks the 100th anniversary of the
10 founding of the Harrisburg Jewish Community Center; and

11 WHEREAS, In the 1840s, Jewish immigrants from Germany and
12 England settled in central Pennsylvania; and

13 WHEREAS, The Jewish settlers regularly met for Sabbath under
14 the leadership of Lazarus Bernhard starting in 1853; and

15 WHEREAS, In 1915, the Harrisburg Jewish Community Center,
16 then known as the Young Men's Hebrew and Kindred Association,
17 was founded by Leon Lowengard; and

18 WHEREAS, The center has been located in the same building
19 since 1956; and

20 WHEREAS, The Harrisburg Jewish Community Center and the
21 Jewish community centers across this Commonwealth provide a
22 central location that promotes unity within the community, as
23 well as the values of Jewish life, and serves as a cultural,
24 financial and physical support system for their organizations
25 and for their members; and

26 WHEREAS, The 100th anniversary celebration of the Harrisburg
27 Jewish Community Center will take place all year with a
28 celebratory event each month; and

29 WHEREAS, The celebration will conclude with the Big Night
30 event on Saturday, December 5, 2015; therefore be it

1 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the 100th anniversary of
2 the Harrisburg Jewish Community Center; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the week of November 29
4 through December 5, 2015, as "Jewish Community Center Week" in
5 Pennsylvania and express congratulations and appreciation to the
6 Harrisburg Jewish Community Center on its 100th anniversary and
7 to Jewish community centers across this Commonwealth; and be it
8 further

9 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
10 the Harrisburg Jewish Community Center, 3301 North Front Street,
11 Harrisburg, PA 17110 and to the Jewish Community Center
12 Association, 520 8th Avenue, New York, NY 10018.