

Partners in Excellence



Increased Classroom Capacity – The Abrams Story

By J. Peter Grover

Nestled on a hillside overlooking Yardley Borough sits Abrams Hebrew Academy currently educating over 350 day students from nursery through eighth grade. After relocating from Trenton, NJ twenty-five years ago, the Academy has gradually expanded its curriculum, facilities and enrollment.

Their stated objective, *"Abrams Hebrew Academy is committed to giving our students the academic skills and incentive to achieve, and the empowerment to fulfill their highest educational goals,"* seems to have also influenced and guided the Academy's growth and success. Within the last few years it became apparent to the board of directors that more classroom space would be required to meet current and future demands.

In the year 2000 Abrams turned again to Penn Valley Constructors, builder of its 6,000 SF gymnasium, for the design and construction of a three story 17-classroom facility to be named The Henrietta Milstein School Building. School principal, Rabbi Ira Budow, provided much of the direction to the design build team of McLean-Shortall Architects and Penn Valley Constructors. Ultimately, the 17-classroom design encompassed three 4,900 square foot air-conditioned elevator served floors. The exterior features brick with molded trim and Andersen insulated glass windows to match the original building.

For Rabbi Budow, an important adjunct of the design was a linking vestibule to serve as a connector for the 1920s historic school, the gymnasium and new classrooms. At the project's dedication Rabbi Budow was

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Artist rendering prepared by Michelle Folkman in the spring of 2005.



Six willing students (center) from Abrams break ground for the new classrooms. Penn Valley Constructors' Project Manager, Vilnis Ore (left) and Superintendent, George McCardle (right) "supervise" the excavation.



Front of building showing structural steel and light gage framing.



Second level. Floor deck (below) and open bar joist (above).



Linking corridor connecting the existing classrooms, gymnasium and new classrooms. Handicap ramp, behind brick wall, assures safe passage between floors.

"I get a big thrill going into the link.... It connects all the buildings- it connects the past, present and future."

Rabbi Ira Budow

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quoted in the Yardley News, *"I get a big thrill going into the link. It used to bother me as an educator that kids would have to go outside to get from one building to another. This puts it all together the right way. And the link is worth every penny. It's beautiful. It connects all the buildings - it connects the past, present and future."*

John DenBleyker, Vice President of Penn Valley Constructors also commented following the dedication on the fire sprinkler system. The school board's decision to install the system and a new 8" water line, while not required by code, represented its concern for the safety of the students.

Rabbi Budow recounted his experience with Penn

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Front of school building in full operation. Photograph taken from the Abrams website.



Bathroom contains full height ceramic wall tile.



The annual fund raiser, a time to reflect for Penn Valley Constructors' team. From left John DenBleyker, VP of Construction, Vilnis Ore, Project Manager and George McCardle, Superintendent.

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Valley Constructors and again was quoted in the Yardley News, *"They have built this building not at the sacrifice of the school year. Our students were not disrupted. Our teachers were not disrupted. They cared about our school like it was their own. And I am forever grateful."*

Penn Valley Constructors is grateful as well and considers it a privilege to have been a part of such a caring and prestigious organization as the Abrams Hebrew Academy.

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New Employees

By Chris Weight



Joe Petrasso

Penn Valley Constructors welcomes two new members to our staff.

Joe Petrasso brings to us over thirty years of construction experience. Joe holds the position of Project Manager/Estimator adding to Vice President, John DenBleyker's team.



Kathy MacPhee

Kathy MacPhee joins Penn Valley Constructors as an Administrative Assistant to Vice President, Mike McCormick's team.

Winter Starts and Completions

By Jonathan E. Otto

In the winter months, Penn Valley Constructors completed two projects in addition to the Abrams Hebrew Academy.

The **Ultra Pak** addition in Fairless Hills is an extension of the 20,200 square foot distribution center we constructed for Ron and Joan Howard in 1998. The 12,000 square foot expansion represents the seamless nature of additions to pre-engineered steel buildings. Look at the picture to see if you can find the end of the old and the beginning of the new.



Only a slight color differential tips off the line. We were unable to break ground on this project until mid December. However, with favorable winter weather, we reached completion in eleven weeks. Ron enjoyed his winter in Florida and was greeted by his newly expanded facility upon his return in March.

In neighboring Middletown Township, we completed the addition to the **Statesman Woods Assisted**



Living Facility. This project consisted of thirteen studios and four suites together with alterations to the site required by the township. Also the project included an activity center, an expansion to the existing kitchen facility and renovations to all the existing building's public areas.

In 1999 Penn Valley Constructors built the Holiday Inn Express for brothers Mahesh (Mike) and Kirit (King) Patel. Last fall, Mike asked us to inspect the

Trease Catering facility in Falls Township. Mike's plan was to give the 50 year old facility a face-lift on both the inside and outside. He ended up doing



Main lobby marble floor with an inlay of black and gold were used to form a medallion element.

much more than that. With his wife Rupa's fine eye for detail and good taste, coupled with our team of managers and subcontractors, a beautiful new facility, renamed **The Falls**, has been created.

Also this winter we started our third major project for **Reedman-Toll**. This project, which we call the "**Infill Showroom**", is a 19,300 square foot showroom building occupying some of the gaps left in the original construction. It will house showrooms for four separate manufacturers on different floor levels with a series of steps and ramps to create a controlled flow of traffic. The exterior will incorporate the Image design elements for each of the four manufacturers to include different metal wall panels, EIFS, storefront, and a slate panel tower. Completion is scheduled for August 2006.

Penn Valley Constructors would like to thank these valued customers for choosing us as their general contractor.

Isn't it time to call us
for your next project?
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