

Congregation Shaarai Shomayim

Kislev/Tevet 5775 December 2014



Chai V'Kayam

FROM THE RABBI

In just a little over a week, Risa and I will be off to Israel again. We'll be heading there to spend just a few days, more to visit Gadi than to see the sites. Nevertheless, it will satisfy my need and my desire to be in Israel, to hear the Hebrew, eat the falafel, and to know that wherever I look, I'm with our people. I am sometimes asked why I love it so much. How can I love a place that treats my Judaism as a second class Judaism? How can I love a place where I would have to struggle to have my credentials as a rabbi recognized? What about treatment of Palestinians? Israeli Arabs? A place where women are sometimes treated like something "less than?" I can see the flaws in Israel. I can also see the miracles of Israel. I choose to focus on the latter while not ignoring the former.

My experience is not unlike my feeling for the United States. My World War II veteran father taught me to love this country, to honor the flag and those who serve to protect it, not only to take off my hat, but to sing along when the Star Spangled Banner is performed at ball games. Nevertheless, we still live in a land that isn't free of racism, poverty, or sexism. I have no problem saying that the United States is the greatest country, perhaps in the history of the world, even as we still have work to do.

So I can argue with Israel, I can boycott Israel, or I can use the mechanism I have at hand to engage with and in Israel to effectuate change. I choose to get involved. I first spoke to you about the elections for the World Zionist Organization

elections at Yom Kippur. We distributed pledge cards asking for you to vote for ARZA in this election.

This is from the ARZA website:

In 2015, the American Zionist Movement (AZM) will hold elections to determine US Jewish representation to the World Zionist Congress (WZC), the highest legislative body of the World Zionist Organization (WZO). The WZO provides a forum for all the world's Jews to come together and deliberate about issues affecting both Diaspora Jews and the state of affairs in Israel.

145 seats in the Congress are dedicated to the AZM. The composition of the Congress has both financial and policy implications in Israel, as resources are directed to recipients in Israel based on the power each party holds within the Congress, and the policy positions of those parties.

In short, these elections are the strongest way for American Reform Jews to promote and encourage the ideals of justice, equality and democracy in Israel itself and help build the kind of Jewish state we all know is possible.

I hope our congregation will do our best to get out the vote. Look for more information to come. For now, see <https://www.reformjews4israel.org/>.

Chag urim sameach. Have a very happy Festival of Lights.

SERVICES & EVENTS

December 5

First Friday Erev Shabbat service 6 p.m.

December 4

Sisterhood Paid up membership dinner
See insert

December 6

NO Torah study & Shabbat morning service

December 1, 8, 15, 22

Adult Jewish Growth
"The Changing Face of the American Jewish Family"
see p. 5

December 12

Erev Shabbat service 7:30

December 13

NO Torah study & Shabbat morning service

Sisterhood latke making
See insert

Movie Night see p. 4

December 14

Sisterhood Ladies night out see insert

December 16

FIRST CANDLE OF CHANUKAH
See for p. 6-7 for prayers and details

December 19

Chanukah dinner see
Chanukah Shabbat service 7:30

December 20

Torah study & Shabbat morning service
9 a.m.

December 21

Religious School latke party

December 22—29

Volunteers at winter shelter see p. 10

December 23

Last candle of Chanukah

December 24

NO Hebrew

December 25

Temple office closed

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The Temple Bulletin is published monthly except July and is free to all members and prospective members. The deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month prior to publication. NO EXCEPTIONS. I really mean it. Seriously. THIS MEANS YOU!!

Continued from page 1

December 26
Erev Shabbat service 7:30

December 27
Torah study & Shabbat morning service 9 a.m.

December 28
NO Religious School

December 31
NO Hebrew

January 1
Temple office closed



TORAH AT HOME

Last year we started a new program, inviting members to host the Torah in their home for a week. From all the feedback we have received, the program has been successful and we, therefore, are going to offer it again.

For those who are new or do not remember the project, here is what the Rabbi told us in his bulletin article last summer:

"We want to bring Torah into your homes. We want to help you relate to Torah and Jewish learning in different ways. But how will we decide where the Torah goes? One of the requirements is that you must be prepared to invite a minimum of 10 congregants (more are welcome, non-Jews and non-congregants are welcome in addition to the 10) to your home on a specific date when I will come to your home to teach a class. We also ask that after the week, the members of your household write reflections on the experience that we will share with the congregation."

If you're interested, all you need to do is email Judy Shenk, jps87@comcast.net, with the weeks you're available. We will essentially draw names, and let you know which week is yours. Then you just need to find the people for the learning session. Of course, if you're so inclined, refreshments for your guests would be welcome as well.

The dates are listed below. The Rabbi will transport the Torah to your home in its own portable Ark. Once the families have been selected, you and the Rabbi will be able to select a time that is suitable to both of you.

Dates: 12/22/14 2/3/15 4/19/15 6/2/15



Our Temple Family

Keeping up with our Temple family

If in your travels through social media, you come across news about any of our congregants or their families, such as births, deaths, honors, illnesses, or any other items for which we can offer Mazel Tov, condolences, or a helping hand, please pass them on to us at jpaskoff@shaarai.org or office@shaarai.org.



To Michele & Perry Stiefel on the birth of granddaughter, Caroline Mia on October 29. Caroline's parents are Ben and Marni Stiefel.



Todah Rabah!

There is no adequate way to express our appreciation and thanks to all of you for your expressions of condolences to us after the passing of Stan Goldstoff. We must also offer our thanks to those who provided the meal of consolation following the funeral. *Helen Goldstoff and family*



Condolences

Rabbi Paskoff, President Heller, and the Board of Trustees of Congregation Shaarai Shomayim extend their sympathy to Sally Hart and family on the passing of Sally's mother, Rachael R. Garber on November 9.

We want to welcome you to our Temple family!

We are the Reform synagogue in Lancaster County; we offer a wide range of spiritual, educational, and social activities for all. Please visit us to see our beautiful building, attend a Friday night Shabbat service (see the calendar insert) or Saturday morning Torah study-service.

Ask about our school program for infants through senior high school, our adult education programming, Tikkun Olam projects, our youth and adult auxiliaries.

We have music, plays, holiday observances, dinners, and field trips.

Please contact us at 397-5575, mrowley@shaarai.org, or visit our website, www.shaarai.org, for more information, and share with unaffiliated Jewish friends, neighbors, and family.



Miller Music Festival January 16-17

Scholar in Residence January 30-February 1

Watch for details soon!

NEW DIRECTORIES — INCLUDING NEW MEMBERS AND UPDATED CONTACT INFORMATION — ARE BEING EDITED AND WILL BE MAILED TO EACH CONGREGANT THIS MONTH. PLEASE MAKE SURE THE TEMPLE OFFICE HAS ALL YOUR CORRECT CONTACT INFORMATION!

WE WILL MAIL ONE BOOK PER HOUSEHOLD, BUT YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO HAVE MULTIPLE COPIES TO KEEP IN VARIOUS PLACES. EXTRA COPIES WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE TEMPLE OFFICE.

ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS TO THE DIRECTORY ARE PUBLISHED IN THE MONTHLY BULLETINS. PLEASE BE SURE TO TRANSFER THESE MONTHLY ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS TO YOUR COPIES...

Musically Speaking

The Cantor's Role in History

In my September column I began to write about the cantor's role in leading music or prayer chanting. This month, we'll look at a little history as a way to begin to understand what a cantor can do for her congregation. The word "cantor" comes from Latin, originating in the mid-16th century. Johann Sebastian Bach may have been the first to use this term in his role of leading the singing of prayers in his church. The root, *canere*, means "sing."

I prefer the Hebrew, *hazzan*, because it translates differently than cantor and also because of its likeness, historically but not in definition, to the title *rabbi*. The word *hazzan* comes from the root *hazzon* which means vision, and in ancient days, many *hazzanim* wrote sacred poems, known as *piyutim*. The word *hazzan* has roots in Talmudic discussions, specifically the Jerusalem Talmud, which seems to indicate that the *hazzan* also led the prayers in the synagogue. Especially in smaller congregations, even in early Talmudic times, one person discharged the duties of preacher, judge, schoolmaster, and *hazzan*.

Much has been written about the qualifications required of the *hazzan* in early times. In addition to knowledge of Biblical and liturgical literature, a *hazzan* was required to have a pleasant voice and an artistic delivery. He (in those days, all *hazzanim* were men) was required to possess a pleasing appearance, to be married, and to wear a flowing beard. Maimonides decided that the *hazzan* who recited the prayers on an ordinary Sabbath and on week-days need not possess an appearance pleasing to everybody; he might even have a reputation not wholly spotless, provided he was living at the time of his appointment a life morally free from reproach. Still, on the High Holidays and other especially sacred days, an especially worthy *hazzan* was demanded and required, one whose life was absolutely irreproachable, who was generally popular, and who was endowed with an expressive delivery.

While it's something new, here at Shaarai Shomayim, to combine the roles of Educator and Cantor, history tells us that this is an old custom in our heritage. How we live it today is a little different than centuries ago. Most notably, we see many women who are cantors or *hazzanot*. As a published poet I feel my artistic vision is an important piece of who I am as a *hazzan*. In September I wrote a poem about *Havdalah*, which I dedicated to our Lancaster Jewish community. It was an honor to read my poem at one of the Shabbos Project community gatherings. My educator knowledge helps inform my Cantorial work and I enhance my educator role with my music – much of this flows together for me as I hope it will for you as we get to know each other more. I look forward to finding our Shaarai definition of *hazzan* as we pray, sing, learn, love, and live Jewishly together.

B'shira (with song),

Marian

YOUTH GROUP ACTIVITIES

SHARE YOUR HOUSING!

WINSTY – the NFTY Winter Social Action weekend – will bring over 100 NFTY teens from the PA Area Region here for a weekend of fun, learning, praying, and social action/ community service projects.

Friday, January 16 – Sunday, January 18, 2015

We are asking our Congregational families to provide housing for up to 100 NFTY PAR out-of-town Youth Group members along with transportation to/from the Temple, two breakfasts and dinner on Saturday

To volunteer, please contact Gary Kroot at [garylk1@aol.com](mailto:garyl1@aol.com) or 898-3048. Gary will give you the link for the required online registration form.

For all NFTY has done for so many of Shaarai's kids, please let us know if we can count on you to help with housing to make this another outstanding weekend for our youth at Shaarai Shomayim!



WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM
stronger together

OUR WOMAN OF VALOR

At the WRJ Atlantic District Convention, we were able to honor a member of our Sisterhood as Our Woman of Valor. This year Jill Weisberg was our nominee!

Jill Weisberg is an active member of our Sisterhood at Shaarai Shomayim. She is a Past President and continues to serve on the Board. Her service to our Sisterhood has been a long one with diverse facets! Jill is always a very welcoming woman in our Temple and Sisterhood. She reaches out to people to make them feel at home. She shows exceptional leadership, gives of herself selflessly, and always with a smile. Jill offers her service time and time again, taking on added responsibility. She never stops. She continues to enrich our lives spiritually. Her D'Vars are always interesting and informative. Her commitment both to Judaism and to Sisterhood are remarkable. Her enthusiasm, delightful disposition and willingness to be a part of the solution is so helpful. Jill is our Woman of Valor! Congratulations Jill!

Youth Education

Bar Mitzvah (or Bat Mitzvah) – A Beginning

It's a delight, a pleasure, and an honor to teach the b'nai Mitzvah students here. I once read somewhere that "the biological energy of 50 leaves is necessary to produce one apple." We rarely take the time (unless you're a botanist or scientist) to count how many leaves are necessary to produce fruit; we rarely examine the energy it takes to help a child understand an important concept.

Jean Piaget, a Swiss psychologist, created a framework of stages of intellectual development. He determined four stages: sensorimotor (birth to age 2), preoperational (ages 2-7), concrete operational (ages 7-12), and formal operational (ages 12 and up). Today's psychological research states that the formal operational age of growth does not end until someone is in the mid-20s to early 30s.

It's fascinating to me to see that Piaget describes the "formal operational" stage as beginning at age 12, just a year before a Jewish child reaches Bar/Bat Mitzvah. Age thirteen is the start of "adult" Jewish life. Becoming Bar/Bat Mitzvah is only the start of an important stage in Judaism, and it's a time when teenagers need the continuing guidance of parents, Jewish teachers, learning, and community.

Here at Shaarai Shomayim, we celebrate Confirmation at the end of Grade 12. The five years following Bar/Bat Mitzvah are foundational years, empowering and important to our Jewish youth. As with most things in life, it takes time to do anything worthwhile. Becoming Bar/Bat Mitzvah isn't the end goal – it's the starting place for Jewish adulthood. In ancient times, on the first day of religious school, young children were fed honey cakes shaped as the letters of the Hebrew alphabet, so that they would associate learning with sweetness. Today we teachers and parents should consider this example – not by handing out sweets all the time, of course! Education has historically been a primary goal of Judaism, and with conscientious parental support for continued learning, we can competently cultivate the next generation of Jewish leaders.

Before writing this article I polled some of my Cantorial colleagues about their goals for B'nai Mitzvah studies. A notable detail is that none of our answers said "to read Torah and Haftarah at the Bar Mitzvah." Instead, the unifying thread of our answers was about engagement and connection with Judaism. This goal is why, even as becoming Bar Mitzvah (or Bat Mitzvah) is a huge milestone, it's only a beginning. I hope to see your children continue their Jewish education throughout their lives, and I hope you will team up with Rabbi Paskoff, our Shaarai School teachers, and me in nurturing and building their Jewish engagement.

Kol tuv (All the best),

☺ Marian



December 13

Shaarai Shomayim Movie Night presents

“The Attack”

An Arab surgeon living in Tel Aviv discovers a dark secret about his wife in the aftermath of a suicide bombing.

2012•not rated•102 minutes
Begins with Havdalah at 7 p.m.
Movie refreshments

Adult Jewish Growth

5775 Programming

All sessions at the Temple, Monday evenings, 7:30-9 p.m.

December 1,8,15,22: “The Changing Face of the American Jewish Family”

Discuss with fellow congregants topics such as: the "Sandwich Generation," dealing with aging parents, families where both adults are Jews by Choice, raising grandchildren, raising adopted children, living as a blended family, an interfaith family, or an interracial family.

Please contact Nicole Kaplan, 569-7781 or nurse94@comcast.net for more information.

The Chanukah Story



The Chanukah Story

The word “Chanukah” means “dedication”. The holiday begins on the 25th of Kislev (the 9th month in the Jewish calendar), the day that the second Temple was re-dedicated after having been used by the Greeks for pagan rituals and then cleansed and

made usable again by the Jews. This year, that’s Tuesday evening, December 16.

Wait – Rosh Hashanah was just two of months ago. How can Kislev be the 9th month? Let’s discuss Chanukah, and then we’ll get to the calendar.

Let’s start at the beginning: in 164 BCE King Antiochus IV declared that Jewish practices – Torah study, circumcision, and observance of Shabbat – were illegal, punishable by death. In addition, the Greeks took over use of the Temple. Of course, this didn’t go over too well with the Jews. A family of men (Mattathias and his sons – Johanan, Simeon, Eleazer, Jonathan, and Judah) took to the hills to avoid complying with the new laws. As time went on, they were joined by others and began a battle with the Greeks. Led by Mattathias, and later Judah the Maccabee, the Jews eventually won the battle against the Greek army. They returned to the Temple to find it desecrated and filled with pagan statues.

In order to re-dedicate the Temple, the eternal light had to be lit with special oil. Only one day’s worth of oil was found, but it miraculously lasted for eight days until new oil was available. That’s one story of why Chanukah lasts for eight days. As with most things in Judaism, there’s another explanation. While the Maccabees were fighting the Greeks, they missed the holiday of Sukkot. Their initial celebration at rededicating the Temple lasted for eight days, based on the eight days of Sukkot and Shemini Atzeret (Shemini Atzeret is the day after the seven day fall harvest festival of Sukkot).

Now, what about the calendar? We all know that Rosh Hashanah is the beginning of the New Year, so how can Kislev be the 9th month? Are months on the Jewish calendar that short? Rosh Hashanah is the anniversary of creation and when we celebrate the New Year. This is also when we add one to the current year. It is now 5,775 years since creation, as described in the Torah. But in Exodus chapter 12, the Torah also calls Nissan the first month. “This month shall mark for you the beginning of the months, it shall be the first of the months of the year for you.” Passover is celebrated during Nissan, the first month.

Chanukah at Shaarai Shomayim

Chanukah is celebrated in many ways at Shaarai Shomayim. We start with Sisterhood’s Chanukah Boutique – this year it was on November 23. This gives everyone, including our religious school students, an opportunity to purchase gifts and holiday supplies.

The annual Religious School potato latke party, sponsored by Sisterhood, will be held on Sunday, December 21. Our students will be able to enjoy homemade latkes* provided by Sisterhood members.

There will be a Shabbat dinner before services on Friday, December 19 at 6 p.m. Reservations are due to Emily Ritholz (285-4489, emily.ritholz@gmail.com) by December 10. See your November mid-month mailing, or contact John Perry, 518-1908 or thorfin44@yahoo.com, for more information. In addition, everyone is invited to bring a chanukiyah (AKA menorah), along with five candles and matches to the service. We will all light our chanukiyot (that’s the plural of chanukiyah) together.

Chanukah at Home

The holiday of Chanukah is celebrated mostly in the home. This is where the chanukiyah is lit each day at sunset, songs can be sung, and dreidel played.

The chanukiyah is an eight branched menorah, with an extra spot for the shamash or servant candle. Since the lights of the chanukiyah cannot be used for anything, such as light to read by, an extra candle is used to light the others. The shamash is separated from the other candles on the chanukiyah. It might be in the center and/or raised above the others.

*Potato latkes are shredded potatoes, usually mixed with egg, onion and matzah meal or flour, and fried. Latkes can be made with other vegetables as well. Recipes are all over the Internet, and can be found by searching for “latke recipes” at any search engine, any recipe site such as www.allrecipes.com or Jewish sites such as http://www.reformjudaism.org/recipe-search?keyword=hanukkah&ff01=im_field_tags%3A1371, or http://www.myjewishlearning.com/holidays/Jewish_Holidays/Hanukkah.shtml. Or, check with your mother or grandmother. Some gluten free Chanukah recipes can be found at <http://rjmag.org/Articles/index.cfm?id=2926>.



So, which side do I start on? I never remember! The first candle goes in the far right spot, as you are facing the chanukiyah.

On the first night, this and the shamash are the only candles. You light the shamash with a match; use the shamash to light the other candle, and then recite or sing the blessings including Shehecheyanu.

On the second night, there are two candles on the far right of the chanukiyah, and the shamash. Again, light the shamash with a match. Then, light the new candle (the one on the left) first. Then the light other candle, and recite or sing the blessings, without Shehecheyanu.

The following nights continue the same. Add a new candle to the left of the previous night's candles, light the candles from left to right and then recite or sing the blessings. A video with these instructions and the blessings can be found at <http://www.reformjudaism.org/jewish-holidays/hanukkah>

The blessings that are read or sung are:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק
נֵר שֶׁל חֲנֻכָּה.

*Baruch Atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech ha-olam asher
kidshanu b'mitzvotav Vitzivanu l'hadlik ner shel
Chanukah.*

Blessed is the Eternal our God, Ruler of the universe,
Who hallows us with Mitzvot and who commands us to
kindle the Chanukah lights.



בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם
בְּזִמְנֵי הַזֶּה.

*Baruch Atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech ha-olam, She-
ah-sah nisim la-avoteinu bayamim hahem bazman
hazeh.*

Blessed is the Eternal our God, Ruler of the universe,
who performed miracles for our ancestors in days of old
at this season.

First night only:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
שֶׁהֵחֵינּוּ, וְקִיַּמָּנוּ, וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזִמְנֵי הַזֶּה.

*Baruch Ata Adonai, Eloheinu Melech ha-olam She-
hecheyanu, ve-kiyemanu, ve-higiyanu laz'man hazeh.*

Blessed is the Eternal our God, Ruler of the
Universe, who has given us life, and has
preserved us, and enabled us to reach this
season.



The dreidel is a spinning "top" type of toy that comes
in various sizes. Each of the sides has a Hebrew letter on
it, nun, gimme, hay, and shin. This stands for "Nes gadol
haya sham" – A great miracle happened there (meaning
in Israel). Dreidels in Israel (meant to be used in Israel,
not those for the tourists) have a peh instead of the shin.
This stands for po, here, meaning a great miracle
happened here.

Dreidel is a traditional Chanukah game. Any number
of people can play. Each player begins with an equal
number of game pieces (about 10-15) such as pennies,
nuts, M&Ms, Hershey's Kisses, or whatever you like.
Chocolate chips can be used, but probably get messy –
they melt easily.

At the beginning of each round, everyone puts one
game piece into the "pot" (the center of the table).
Everyone puts a piece in the pot during the game
whenever the pot is empty or has just one piece left.

Each person takes turns spinning the dreidel. Your
action depends on the letter that faces up.

Nun means "*nisht*" or "nothing" [in Yiddish]. The
player does nothing.

Gimmel means "*gantz*" or "everything" [in Yiddish].

The player gets everything in the pot, and each
player then puts one piece in to create a new pot.

Hey means "*halb*" or "half" [in Yiddish]. The player
gets half of the pot. (If there are an odd number of
pieces in the pot, the player takes the additional
piece).

Shin (outside of Israel) means "*shtet*" or "put in" [in
Yiddish]. *Peh* (in Israel) means "pay." The player
adds a game piece to the pot.

When you have no game pieces left, you are either
out of the game or you may ask another player for a loan.
When one person has won everything the game is over,
and a new game begins. Or you enjoy the treats that you
have won!

MITZVOT OPPORTUNITIES & COMMUNITY EVENTS

Mitzvot Opportunities are activities that give us the chance to do something positive for our Jewish and non-Jewish neighbors. Whether it is a 13 year old's Bar/Bat Mitzvah project, a collection for Jewish Family Services, a meal for the homeless, or money for a disaster relief fund; whether you call it Tikkun Olam, gemilut chasadim, or Mitzvot, it's all good.

HINEINI

We're here for you
Can we help you?
 With a ride? With a call? With a visit?
 With something we haven't thought of yet?
Can you help us?
 Be a driver. Be a caller. Be a visitor.
 Be a mentsch
 Contact ALICE YERMAN, 569-5554 or
 ayerm@juno.com

**Franklin & Marshall College presents the Klehr Center for Jewish Life Reading Group
 2014-15 Reading List and Discussion Dates**

Each month we will discuss the selected reading. All discussion sessions are free and open to the public. Discounted copies of the works may be purchased at the F&M Bookstore. All readers welcome – read one book, read them all.

- Dec. 11 — *The Wanting* by Michael Lavinge
- Jan. 22 — *The Kill Artist* by Daniel Silva
- Feb. 26 — *The Tinderbox* by Lisa Gornick
- Mar. 26 — *The Gallery of Vanished Husbands* by Natasha Solomons
- May 14 — *In the Courtyard of the Kabbalist* by Ruchama King Feuerman

All sessions meet on Thursday evenings from 7-8:30 pm in the Klehr Center for Jewish Life living room, 645 College Ave., at the corner of College & W. New Sts.

Please note: No meetings in November or April

Please watch for details on how you can participate—and make a difference!—in the WZO elections.

Register and vote between Jan. 15 & April 30, 2015

FROM THE GREEN COMMITTEE

Take your trash with you.

Some waste is biodegradable, which means that it decomposes easily in the environment. Other waste does so much less quickly. Bear in mind that a tissue dropped in nature takes 3 months to decompose, a piece of paper takes 4 months, and chewing gum takes 5 years; an aluminum can decomposes over 10 years, a plastic bottle takes at least 100 years, and a glass bottle requires several centuries.

No matter how quickly you think it will decompose, do not leave waste behind. Always take it with you and find a garbage can, or better yet, a recycling bin.

[365 Ways to Save the Earth](#)
 by Phillippe Bourseiller

Temple Contributions

Mitzvah Fund

In memory of Stan Goldstoff
Paula Abrahams

Memory of Alan Kosher
Marjorie and Bob Ruder

In honor of Lewis Marcus
Marjorie and Bob Ruder

In memory of Blanda May
Nadine Lyon

In honor of the birth of Caroline Mia Stiefel
Ronnie and Harvey Meyer

In honor of Bob Steinman's 93rd birthday
Lisa Rhode

In memory of Abram Busansky
Goldye Stiefel

In memory of Irwin A. Stiefel
Goldye Stiefel

In honor of and with thanks to Rabbi Paskoff
Allison & Martin Warzala and Rachel & Andrew Chesley

In honor of Peter becoming a Bar Mitzvah
The Freedman family

A donation has been received from Herbert and Enrica Wilsker

A donation has been received from Steven F. Kimmel

Chavrai Zamir Fund

In appreciation of being a part of Peter's Bar Mitzvah
The Freedman family

In memory of Rachael R. Garber
Judy and Syd Shenk

Paskoff Camper Fund

In honor of Kevin Babione's 50th birthday
Sharon, David, Anna and Sadie Keilly
Howie, Vicki, Laura and John Supnik

A donation has been received to the Annual Appeal by Bryna Paskoff

Sisterhood Contributions

Flower Fund

In memory of Stanford Goldstoff
Howie, Vicki, Laura and John Supnik

Religious School Fund

In memory of Lillian Adler
Betty and Burton Margolis.

TREE OF LIFE (Ilene Schenkel)

MAZEL TOV ON THE BAR MITZVAH
OF BENJAMIN MICHAEL JACOBS
NOVEMBER 1, 2014
FROM YOUR RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CLASS

MAZEL TOV ON THE BAR MITZVAH
OF ZACHARY NOAH LISS
SEPTEMBER 20, 2014
FROM YOUR RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CLASS

MAZEL TOV ON THE BAR MITZVAH
OF PETER WILLIAM FREEDMAN
OCTOBER 18, 2014
FROM YOUR RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CLASS

MAZEL TOV ON THE BAR MITZVAH
OF OLIVIA HOPE STERENFELD
OCTOBER 25, 2014
FROM YOUR
RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CLASS



Brotherhood Israel Scholarship Fund

In honor of Dr. Bob Steinman's birthday.
Miriam & Jim Baumgartner
Deb & Marty Herskowitz & family

In honor of Marilyn Stein receiving the Jean Feldstein
Volunteer of the Year award
Karen & Bobby Dickman

JACOB KLEIN
SEPT. 17, 1991 TISHREI 9, 5752

REMEMBER YOUR LOVED ONES

THE INSTALLATION OF NEW MEMORIAL TABLETS
IN THE SANCTUARY WILL PROVIDE
CONGREGANTS WITH THE
OPPORTUNITY TO COMMEMORATE
THE YAHRZEIT OF FAMILY AND LOVED ONES
WITH PERMANENT INDIVIDUAL PLAQUES.

THE PRICE FOR A TRADITIONAL MEMORIAL PLAQUE
THAT IS PLACED ON DISPLAY ONCE A YEAR DURING THE
WEEK THE YAHRZEIT IS READ IS \$540. THE NEW
MEMORIAL PLAQUES THAT REMAIN ON DISPLAY
PERMANENTLY COST \$360

(PLAQUES ARE 2" X 10")
SAMPLE AVAILABLE IN TEMPLE OFFICE

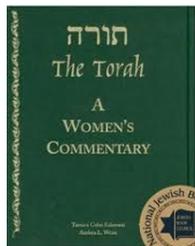
Yahrzeit

These names are perpetual memorial plaques displayed permanently or on the appropriate week of their Yahrzeits in our Sanctuary:

December 5	December 12	December 19	December 26
Herbert S. Levy Caroline Eckstein Israel Goldberg Rebecca Levin Esther Goldman Kathryn Brener Bella Greenstein Arnold Yerman Beatrice Weill Dr. Milton A. Feifer Rudy G. Bassist Joseph Eichhorn Robert Leonard Miller	Joseph Ostheim Jacob Aaron Firestone Helen B. Wolf George Baer Fannie Davis Charles s. Albert Frank B. Levy' Clara Ostheim Underwood Dee P). Caplan Nellie Mitchell Fannie Loeb Gertrude Stiefel Carrie Hoffman Levy Sara G. Giltman Cecelia G. Lapkin Mary Rosen Hirsh Klavansky	Rebecca Levy Marks Kessler Dr. Wilhelm F. Danziger Ralph Robbins Jacob Goldman Joseph Greenberg Carolyn J. Rachstein Dr. Carl Klein Philip Silverman Margaret K. Margolis Clarence J. Stein Harry J. Bash Dr. Arnold Millstein Toby Seidel Comer	Isaac Samler Augusta Hirsh Louis Henry Golden Bernard K. Bash Harriet S. Heineman Gerda Bassist Harry Caesar Scott D. Brener Irwin Stiefel Benjamin Mostovoy Esther Malbin Harry Yablonovitz Sara E. Lyons Blanda G. May



If you would like to have any names added to the Kaddish list, please notify the Temple office, 397-5575 or office@shaarai.org by Wednesday of the week you would like those additions read.



Women's Torah Study Sponsored by Sisterhood

Explore new perspectives from a woman's point of view on the great teachings of our faith.

All are welcome!

No prior Torah experience necessary

Thurs., Dec. 18 at 7 p.m.

(see schedule below for the next two sessions)

Temple Teen Lounge
Bring a dessert to share

Meetings are held each month – and we will alternate days between Sunday and Thursday evenings. Each meeting will begin with a short, beautiful Rosh Chodesh service

Sun., Jan. 18 ●●● Thurs., Feb. 19

Watch for emails for the Spring schedule and readings. Contact Tama Etra at tamaetra@gmail.com or Jill Weisberg at bellallure1@aol.com with questions.

Winter Shelter Volunteers Needed

As in past years, a winter shelter is being provided for homeless women and children; the YWCA will be providing space. We will still need five volunteers every night to stay over.

We will need our volunteers from Dec. 21 through the 29th. Please contact Marilyn Stein, marilynstein@aol.com or Phil Starr, philstarr149@gmail.com to sign up.

Please invite your friends who have not signed up to join you for an experience they will not forget.

A short orientation meeting will be held for new volunteers.

The Summer Experience Extra 2014 PART II

6 Points Sports Academy

My time as a counselor at 6 Points Sports Academy was literally, painful, cut short this last summer and that's no secret seeing as I came home and promptly had two surgeries on my shoulder. I can't say though that it was a lost summer because of my injury at camp. It was a summer with a lesson on dealing with real adversity on my own. And as a camp counselor there are very few skills that are more important than that. As a result I made relationships with some of my co-counselors I don't think I would have made if I wasn't without the use of one of my arms. Let me elaborate: Half of my time working at 6 Points I was in a sling and only able to use one arm. That made it impossible for me to do many things a camp counselor can do by themselves. So I had to suck up my pride and ask one of my co-workers to help me. It could have been as simple as taking my laundry up the steps at night or having somebody catch the baseballs coming in as I threw batting practice. And as simple as it may sound, just being next to another person all the time, you tend to talk to them. And the more I talked to my co-workers the more I got to know them and we developed a bond. A bond as a summer camp counselor, as a Jew and as an athlete.

One of those people I got to grow close to this last summer was one of my roommates, Moti Angel (yes, his last name is Angel.) He is an Israeli, done with his service in the IDF. So what does he do now that he is out of the military you may ask? He's the Israeli Handball Men's National Team Goalkeeper. And while my triumph to be top-tier athlete has been on hiatus due to my recent surgeries, it was nice to talk to someone who could relate to the intensity and dedication it takes to be an athlete at the highest levels albeit different sports (we don't run into other athletes at that caliber that often. Most of our time is spent practicing and sleeping). The more Moti and I grew as friends the more I found myself missing one of my best friends from last year. Another Israeli, Lev, was one of my dorm co-counselors last summer and when I took my Birthright trip to Israel in January I decided to spend the better part of a week after the trip in Israel with A'chi (my brother) as they say in Israel.

After I came home I learned Lev would be returning to the IDF as an active reserve and then around this last July I learned he would be going back as an active soldier stationed on the Gaza Strip. I became much more aware of the situation in Israel as it escalated in Gaza. As the weeks dragged on and I heard little from Lev I really came to appreciate the friendship I have.

So summer camp isn't just for campers to come and make friends for life. Counselors make friends forever, too.

Robert Gerofsky

My favorite aspect of camp

Being able to meet people from all over America, and everyone was Jewish. I met people from Seattle, DC, Virginia, Philly, Florida, Detroit, and that's only the beginning. I know the rabbi of the largest congregation in North America, and my roommate was the great-grandson of the founder of Kohl's, and I had a fantastic Israeli dorm counselor named Moti. But these relationships are now put on hold for a whole year. I have plans to meet friends in New Jersey, Philadelphia, and DC, at some point before camp starts again.

How camp affected my Jewish identity

I'm not alone. I have a few Jewish friends my age just from Shaarai, but nowhere else. And I met over 100 kids my age. In Lancaster, I had this idea that I was not alone, that there were more Jewish teens like me. But I never met more than a couple. Now I have the physical feeling of meeting all of those people. I now know what it is like to have so many connections to people around America, and I am a part of a huge family. Everyday I talk to my friend from St. Louis, and it reminds me that the "family" never leaves each other, and that I can always have someone to talk to. And I'm now not alone.

What I would tell someone interested in going to my camp who had never been

This is no normal camp. This is not just a Jewish camp, it's not just a sports camp, it's a Jewish sports academy. It's the most "Jewish" I have ever felt. And it's some of the best baseball I have ever played. I met the greatest baseball coach I have ever had. And had some of the best Jewish role models I have ever met. Al Ashkenazy expanded my baseball career beyond belief. My dorm counselors showed me more about my personality than I knew before. There is no other camp like this. Other camps are fantastic, but 6 Points Sports Academy will give you something you will never forget. You will make lifelong friends, and learn new skills that will change your sports career. There is no other camp like this. 6 Points will change your life for the better.

Simon Gerofsky



Congregation Shaarai Shomayim

75 E James St
Lancaster PA 17602

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Shaarai Shomayim Congregational Retreat

The Work of Creation

March 13-15, 2015

at Perlstone Center, Reisterstown, MD

Invitations have been mailed with full details on the weekend activities.

Please send your reservation form to the Temple office.

A nonrefundable deposit is due by January 15;
a 10% discount applies to reservations paid in full by that date.

Full payment is due by February 20.

Transportation is individual, or congregational carpooling.

Questions? Contact Emily Ritholz at
emily.ritholz@gmail.com

Would you like some more, please?

We are looking for people who would like to participate in this year's Purimshpiel, *Jews Glorious Jews*, in which the story of Purim meets the musical *Oliver!*

The shpiel will be presented on Sunday, March 8, 2015. We will be practicing every Sunday afternoon, 1-3 p.m. in the sanctuary, beginning on Sunday, January 4.

If you are interested, please contact David Stameshkin at david.stameshkin@fandm.edu for further information.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p>1 <i>Kislev 9</i></p> <p>Adult Jewish Growth 7:30-9 p.m. at the Temple See p. 5</p> <div style="border: 3px double black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 10px auto;"> Deadline for all material for the Dec. midmonth </div>	<p>2 <i>Kislev 10</i></p>	<p>3 <i>Kislev 11</i></p> <p>Minyan 7:45 a.m.</p> <p>Hebrew 3-7th grades 4:30- 6 p.m.</p> <p>Adult beginner Hebrew 5-6 p.m.</p>	<p>4 <i>Kislev 12</i></p> <p>Sisterhood paid up member dinner see insert</p>	<p>5 <i>Kislev 13</i></p> <p>First Friday Shabbat 6 p.m.</p>	<p>6 <i>Kislev 14</i></p> <p>NO Torah study/ service</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Vayishlach</i></p>
<p>7 <i>Kislev 15</i></p> <p>Sunday School 9:15-noon for PK-10th grades</p>	<p>8 <i>Kislev 16</i></p> <p>Adult Jewish Growth 7:30-9 p.m. at the Temple See p. 5</p>	<p>9 <i>Kislev 17</i></p> <p>Executive Board meets at the Temple 6:30</p>	<p>10 <i>Kislev 18</i></p> <p>NO Minyan</p> <p>Hebrew 3-7th grades 4:30- 6 p.m.</p> <p>Adult beginner Hebrew 5-6 p.m.</p>	<p>11 <i>Kislev 19</i></p> <p>Sisterhood Board</p>	<p>12 <i>Kislev 20</i></p> <p>Tot Shabbat 6:30 Erev Shabbat service 7:30</p>	<p>13 <i>Kislev 21</i></p> <p>NO Torah study/ service</p> <p>Movie night see p. 4</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Va-Yeshev</i></p>
<p>14 <i>Kislev 22</i></p> <p>Sunday School 9:15-noon for Early Childhood-10th grades</p> <p>Sisterhood Ladies night out see insert</p>	<p>15 <i>Kislev 23</i></p> <p>Adult Jewish Growth 7:30-9 p.m. at the Temple See p. 5</p> <div style="border: 3px double black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 10px auto;"> Deadline for all material for Jan. Bulletin </div>	<p>16 <i>Kislev 23</i></p> <p>Board committee meetings, see your chair for time and place</p> <p>1st candle <i>Chanukah</i></p>	<p>17 <i>Kislev 24</i></p> <p>Minyan 7:45 a.m.</p> <p>Hebrew 3-7th grades 4:30- 6 p.m.</p> <p>Adult beginner Hebrew 5-6 p.m.</p>	<p>18 <i>Kislev 25</i></p>	<p>19 <i>Kislev 26</i></p> <p>Chanukah dinner 6:00 & Chanukah Shabbat service 7:30 see insert</p>	<p>20 <i>Kislev 27</i></p> <p>Torah study & brief Shabbat morning service 9:00</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Miketz</i></p>
<p>21 <i>Kislev 28</i></p> <p>Sunday School 9:15-noon for Early Childhood-10th grades</p> <p>11 & 12 grades meet 10-noon</p> <p>School latke party</p> 	<p>22 <i>Kislev 29</i></p> <p>Adult Jewish Growth 7:30-9 p.m. at the Temple See p. 5</p> 	<p>23 <i>Tevet 1</i></p> <p>Temple Board meets at the Temple 6:30</p> <p>Last candle <i>Chanukah</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Rosh Chodesh Tevet</i></p> 	<p>24 <i>Tevet 2</i></p> <p>Minyan 7:45 a.m.</p> <p>NO Hebrew</p>	<p>25 <i>Tevet 3</i></p> <p>Office closed</p>	<p>26 <i>Tevet 4</i></p> <p>Erev Shabbat service 7:30</p>	<p>27 <i>Tevet 5</i></p> <p>Torah study & brief Shabbat morning service 9:00</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Vayigash</i></p>
Winter shelter at the YWCA 12/22 (evening) through 12/29 (morning)						
<p>28 <i>Tevet 6</i></p> <p>NO Religious School</p>	<p>29 <i>Tevet 7</i></p> <p>NO book group</p>	<p>30 <i>Tevet 8</i></p> <p>NO Talmud study</p>	<p>31 <i>Tevet 9</i></p> <p>NO minyan</p> <p>NO Hebrew</p>			

NEWS FROM WRJ DISTRICT

In October, WRJ Atlantic District held its meeting in King of Prussia. We would like to congratulate Rachel Rosenzweig on becoming the Corresponding Secretary and Beth Adland on becoming one of the Area Directors. We wish them a big Mazel Tov !!

We also had several Sisterhood members who attended the meeting for the first time. They have chosen to write about their experience at the meeting.

Beth Adland & Stacey Kapushy

Think of it — over 100 Reform Jewish women in one room, all there to share their experiences, learn from one another and teach one another. To call it magical is an understatement. There is something incredible that happens when that many like-minded people celebrate Shabbat together, or sing old songs together, or just share with each other. I've heard it happens at NFTY gatherings and the URJ Biennial. It can't happen to every person each Shabbat — then it wouldn't be special (as if Shabbat wasn't special to begin with.) But Erev Shabbat, that night in King of Prussia, was something special.

So, what am I trying to say? I picked up some leadership skills, I met lots of women who are Jersey Girls just like me (the Atlantic District includes NJ, PA, and parts of WV), I reconnected with women I had met at other WRJ and Atlantic District events, and I saw a rabbi completely immersed in the beauty of Shabbat prayer. It is those intangible aspects of the day that makes waking up way too early in the morning and going to bed way too late at night worth it, and I would do it again in a heartbeat.

Miriam Baumgartner

I enjoyed the WRJ Atlantic district conference. I really did not know what to expect and within a few minutes of being there I felt at ease. Being relatively new to the Reform movement I gained a deeper understanding of what WRJ is about by being at this conference. Listening to the speakers and casually chatting with the women sitting near me, I was inspired by the leadership roles these women hold. There is a comforting connection being with a large group of Jewish women and I found everyone to be warm and welcoming. The Rabbi and Cantor that led the services were fantastic and I was humming Jewish music for a few days after the event.

Sue Barnes

Sisterhood Paid Up Membership Event
(Reserve now and pay at the door)

Stacey Irwin, PhD, Associate Professor,
Communication and Theatre Department
will discuss Social Media, You and our Children, what we should know
as Individuals, Aunts, Sisters, Mothers and Grandmothers

Thursday, December 4, at 6 p m
at the Bolger Center (University Room) at
Millersville University, 30 S George St,
Millersville PA 17551

For reservations contact Stacey Kapushy, skapushy@hotmail.com or
468-2950 by 11/28/2014

Transportation gladly available upon request.

Ladies Night Out
Sunday, December 14, 6 pm
at Tokyo Diner,
1625 Manheim Pike, Lancaster
Please reply to Rachel Rosenzweig at
guamwoman@gmail.com
by December 10.

Latke Makers Needed!!! Saturday, Dec. 13 9 a.m. at the Temple. If you are interested in helping, please contact Ellyn Perry, el-



**STEP UP TO THE PLATE....
.....THE CHANNUKAH DINNER
PLATE, THAT IS!!!**



Join in the fun and help Shaarai at the same time!

Enjoy a community Chanukah dinner with all the trimmings! Then light your menorah for the 4th night at Shabbat services



DINNER MENU

LATKES, LATKES, AND MORE LATKES!

FRIED CHICKEN (love that Chanukah oil!)

SALAD AND SEASONAL VEGETABLE

ADULTS: \$18

CHILDREN UNDER 13: \$10

FAMILY MAXIMUM: \$56

Questions? Contact:
John Perry 519-1908 or
thorfin44@yahoo.com

Date: 12/19

Time: 6 p.m.

PLEASE REPLY BY DEC. 10

Mail checks to:
Emily Ritholz
674 Hershey Mill Road
Mountville, PA 17554

We will be cooking and buying food based upon the number of reservations, so please help us out here!



Bingo Night!

**SOUPS, SALAD & DESSERT BAR!
WINE & BEER!**

**January 24, 6:30PM
GAMES BEGIN AT 7:15PM**



**SISTERHOOD FUNDRAISER!
\$15 PER PERSON
Adults only please.**



RSVP by sending your check payable to Sisterhood to:
Emily Ritholz
674 Hershey Mill Rd
Mountville PA 17554

You may also reserve by emailing emily.ritholz@gmail.com and pay at the door

**Price includes dinner, one bingo card, and five tickets to spend on beverages. Add'l bingo cards for sale for \$3 each.
\$1 tickets for drinks and raffles will also be sold**

We will play 15 bingo games, for prizes!

