

Temple Bulletin

Cheshvan/Kislev 5774

November 2013

FROM THE RABBI

40 years and a few weeks ago, on Yom Kippur in 1973, Egypt and Syria attacked Israel. American Jews responded with a sense of passionate commitment, raising money and awareness. Had Israel not been the recipient of an emergency shipment of weapons from the United States, that war could have finished what Hitler started. American Jews (and America itself) were staunchly pro-Israel. That was beyond question. That spirit was renewed on July 4, 1976. Our American Bicentennial was a double celebration for Jews, as it was the day that Israel rescued Jewish hostages being held at the Entebbe Airport in Uganda. The post 6 Day War pride and euphoria returned. But then the summer of 1982 saw Israel invade Lebanon to clear the Palestinians from striking distance of Northern Israel. There were the massacres at the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps. Overnight, Israel became the bully of the Middle East. That was so in the eyes of the world, and it became so even for many American Jews. Our unwavering support started to diminish to the point of disinterest, and even blanket criticism.

November gives us the opportunity to re-evaluate our positions on and feelings for Israel. In our Monday evening Adult Jewish Growth programming, we will spend the 4th and the 11th looking at current issues in Israel. With tremendous gratitude to Barry Kornhauser, on Friday night, November 15, we will hear from the Israeli Consul General in Philadelphia during services. Back to Monday nights, on the 18th and 25th, Dr. Jack Fischel will join me in looking at the aftermath of the Yom Kippur War.

Most of you know that I am a lover of Israel who is not a blind supporter of Israel. I believe Israel needs to be held to the highest ethical standards, and cannot excuse bad behavior by saying that their neighbors are worse. It is undeniable, however, that Israel is the place of refuge for Jews from around the world. It is a place of refuge for many non-Jews too. It has moved past the American Jewish community as the creative center of Jewish life around the world. It is a land of miracles. Yes, I still marvel at the Zionist slogans about turning the deserts green. I still marvel at the country's ability to absorb Jews from all over the world, speaking all different languages, creating one of the global hi-tech centers for the entire world. If I quarrel with Israel, it is a lovers' quarrel. As I shared on Yom Kippur, Israel will not always get my blind allegiance, but she will always get the benefit of the doubt. Yes, we are our brothers' and sisters' keepers.

I hope you'll commit yourselves to exploring the nature of our relationship with Israel throughout this month. While you're at it, plan on joining us in Israel in late December, 2014. More details to come!

During this month as well, vote on Election Day, remember our veterans on Veterans' Day, give thanks on Thanksgiving, and celebrate the joy, the light, the latkes, and the miracles of our people on Chanukah.

SERVICES & EVENTS

November 1

First Friday Shabbat service 6 p.m.
Tikkun Olam dinner to follow.
See p. 4

November 2

Torah study & Shabbat service 9 a.m.

Movie night
See back page

November 3

Religious School 9:15-noon
4th grade Family Ed

November 4

Adult Jewish Growth Monday night series
See p.4

November 8

SSTY Shabbat service 7:30

November 9

Torah study & Shabbat service 9 a.m.

November 10

Religious School 9:15-noon
Chanukah Boutique
See p. 6

November 15

Tot Shabbat, 6:30
Erev Shabbat services 7:30
Select Klezmer band for 3rd Friday
Guest speaker Israeli consul general

November 16

Torah study & Shabbat service 9 a.m.

November 22

Charter Shabbat service 7:30 p.m.
See p. 10

November 23

Torah study & Shabbat service 9 a.m.

Alternative Gift Fair
See p. 8

November 24

Religious School 9:15 a.m.-noon
Religious School Latke Party

November 27

1st Candle of Chanukah

NO HEBREW CLASSES

(Continued on page 2)

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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!!

November 28
Thanksgiving Day
Temple office is closed

November 29
Erev Shabbat Chanukah family service 7:30
See insert

November 30
Torah study 9 a.m. Shabbat service & adult Bat Mitzvah of
Colleen Stameshkin 10:30



Please join us on each Third Friday of the month for a special musical component to the service. On November 15, members of the Chopped Liver River Band will play.

Just the FAQs, ma'am

by Noah Lot

Each Bulletin, we will be posting a "word of the month" to define some words and terms and what they mean in the context of Shaarai Shomayim ritual.

Editorial Privilege

Speaking of new directories (yes, I am! please see p. 3,) the editor is co-opting this space to post a plea for the office.

Every month for the past couple of years, we have been getting mail returned. We have to pay 50-55 cents for each Bulletin, midmonth, letter, or flyer sent out by bulk mail that is returned because of a bad address. One or two of the pieces are office mistakes—typos, etc. (tsk, tsk) or the Post Office (gasp!) makes a mistake, but the great majority are because the addressee has moved. The piece itself has been forwarded to the new address and we get a photo copy with the new address thoughtfully provided. But we still have to pay.

PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE LET THE TEMPLE OFFICE KNOW WHEN YOU MOVE

If you don't want to send one of those nifty little change of address cards the Post Office provides, shoot us an email at office@shaarai.org or call 397-5575. Give us a few weeks' heads up and your anticipated move date so we can update our file. Thank you very much to those members who have provided us with this information. If you no longer wish to receive our mailings, let us know that as well. Thank you for your cooperation!

Our Temple Family

Rabbi Paskoff and other members of the Shaarai family wish to acknowledge good news and provide support in times of illness and grief. To let us know, please call 397-5575 or email paskoff@shaarai.org.



To Gail & Larry Stender on the engagement of their son Greg to Danni Miltz.

To Beth & Brian Melamed on the marriage of their son Zachary and Courtney Conrad on September 26.

To Emily Ritholz and Tim Reusing on the marriage of their son Alex Reusing and Emily Zilber on October 5.

To Margaret and Steven Parker on marriage of their daughter Lauren and Nick Duca on October 5.

To Allan & Carole Gore on the birth of a great granddaughter, Lyla Grace O'Melia. Lyla is the granddaughter of Tanya and Scott Gore and daughter of Cassandra Martin and Jacob O'Melia.

To Art and Linda Sommer on the birth of a granddaughter, Parker JoJo Sommer. Parker's parents are Brad and Stephanie Sommer.

Todah Rabah!

To Martha Rowley, Dianne Greenwald, Beth Deliver, Elyn Brundage Perry, Beth Adland, Judy Shenk, and Kathy Levine for making apple cakes and helping to make the high holidays a sweet one for our college students away from home. *Carol Woodman*

To Brotherhood for the candlesticks; Temple for the Kiddush cup; & Sisterhood for the Uniongram, membership, & Tanach. Thanks also to everyone for supporting me in becoming a Bat Mitzvah. *Katharine DeSantis*

To everyone who participated in the Uniongram for our 10th wedding anniversary. Thank you also, Miriam, for all of your hard work. The Uniongram is beautiful and helped to make the day even more special. *Damon and Stefanie Heller*

My heartfelt appreciation to all who signed my 70th Happy Birthday WRJ Temple Uniongram - it's wonderful that many in our Congregation wished for me to have a happy day. Thank you, *Karen Ann Dickman*

To everyone at Shaarai Shomayim who came together to make my Bat Mitzvah a wonderful day. From Rabbi Paskoff and the choir who made the service very meaningful; to Sisterhood and Brotherhood for their wonderful gifts; to Rick, Gladys, and Martha who worked behind the scenes to make sure everything was picture perfect; and to my classmates and teachers who supported me by attending services. I would also like to thank everyone who supported my service project - The Phoenix Assistance Dogs of Central PA. With your help, I raised almost \$1600! Thank you all. *Caroline Ulrich*

Thank you to all who donated to Project Linus for last month's delivery. The Lancaster/Lititz chapter of Project Linus continues to distribute hundreds of blankets to children and teenagers in need. We continue to gather unused cotton and synthetic yarns -- NO WOOL, please, and no novelty yarns.

And, of course, we'll take blankets made of cotton or synthetic yarns, 36" square and larger, and quilts made of cotton or synthetic materials. The bin is in the Mitzvah Closet. Questions? Contact *Sandy Asher* at sandyasher@gmail.com.

To everyone whose names were included on the beautiful Uniongram in honor of our 55th wedding anniversary. It was delightful to receive, and made our day more special because of all our thoughtful friends, even though we are far away. Special thanks to Miriam for a fantastic job. *Iris & Irv Moss*

Thank you for your generous donations toward my Walk to End Alzheimer's! This year, I turned in \$1,604.00, making this my highest donation year to date, with a total of \$12,421.51 donated over the last 10 years. My Dad, Dick Bloom, and my son Logan walked with me. It's always a hard day for me and a proud day doing this Mitzvah.

I heard from even more relatives that this disease is running through other branches of my family. My Mom's Yahrzeit was on September 26th. I miss her dearly and as long as I have my memory, she is not forgotten and still very much loved! I hope that a cure is found and that we don't need to walk again next year because our future will be without this debilitating disease. If not, you know where I'll be, and I hope that you will still be able to support me.

Sincerely,
Missy DePietro

A very special thank you to Nikki Wilson for creating a beautifully illustrated new weekday morning service for our religious school.



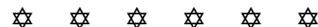
Condolences

Rabbi Paskoff, President Heller, and the Board of Trustees of Congregation Shaarai Shomayim extend their sympathy to David Krouse and family on the passing of David's brother, Brian Boyle, in September.

Condolences go to Ruth Wunderlich on the passing of her father, Marvin, on September 27.

Sympathy is extended to Ileen Herdemian and family on the passing of Ileen's mother Miriam "Bebe" Willer on October 7.

Condolences go to Sandy Asher and family on the passing of Sandy's brother, Bob Fenichel on October 11.



The NEW 2014 Temple Directory and Yellow Pages will be coming out in NOVEMBER. If you are moving, if your contact information has changed—phone, email, etc. PLEASE CONTACT THE TEMPLE OFFICE, office@shaarai.org or 397-5575. As always, after you receive your new, up-to-date directory, remember to KEEP it updated with information published in the monthly Bulletins.

Ed. note: We will mail one directory per household, but you are welcome to as many additional copies as you can carry out of the office! Just let me know ahead of time so I can print them.

Adult Jewish Growth

5774 Programming

Mondays 7:30-9 p.m. at the Temple

November 4, 11--"Current Issues in Israel." This will lead into a special guest at Friday night Shabbat service on Nov. 15, the Israeli Consul General in Philadelphia.

November 18, 25 - Yom Kippur War-40 Years later.

December 2, 9--Resolutions to be presented at URJ biennial

December 16--Report from the Biennial

January 6, 13--Jews and disabilities--text study, law, tradition.

January 27, Feb 3, 10: Building better relationships through Judaism - Strengthening relationships in caregiving, with ourselves, and our relationship with God

February 24, March 3,10--Jews in the arts.

March 17, 24--prep for Scholar in Residence ,

March 31--Wrap-up of weekend with Norman Cohen.

April 7--Ethiopian Jewry

April 28, May 5, 12, 19--Listening in.

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

The Friday night Oneg celebrates Shabbat!



Make it extra special by hosting an Oneg Shabbat in honor of family and friend special occasions such as birthdays and anniversaries; or pay a loving tribute in memory of a beloved family member or friend. Your Oneg Shabbat will be announced during Friday night services as the congregation is invited to join your observance. Oneg Shabbats can be hosted by individuals or groups! Friday dates are available December 2013 through December 2014. Contact Jill Weisberg at bellallure1@aol.com or 717-917-3748 for details and to schedule your special Oneg Shabbat.

Shabbat Honors

The Ritual Committee members are tasked with assigning Shabbat service honors each Friday evening. We rotate that responsibility monthly among members.

The four honors include: lighting the Shabbat candles, blessings before and after the Torah reading, and a Torah holder. We try to contact congregants who may have a special occasion that particular week or month to see if they would like to commemorate that occasion. We are not always aware that an individual is celebrating, however.

So, if you would like to have an honor for any reason or for no reason, please let us know. Try to give us eight weeks since we begin our search around then, and since we typically give Bar and Bat Mitzvah families a preference on the Friday evening of their simcha weekend; or there may be some other reason. This way we can adjust your request to another service.

Contact Miriam Baumgartner at jimnmir@verizon.net or 392-1245 and she'll take care of the rest.

You can also ask any one us on the committee if you have any questions regarding an honor. We will be happy to guide you step by step through the process. It really IS an honor. The Ritual committee encourages you to accept it when asked.

Please join the Tikkun Olam Committee on Friday, November 1, for dinner following the First Friday Shabbat service at 6. The committee is pursuing the topic of racism in America. Cheryl Holland-Jones, executive director of Crispus Attucks, will speak of her experience as an African American growing up in Lancaster.

Dinner is \$8.00 per person. Please reply to Marilyn Stein or Rhea Starr by October 25 if you plan to attend.

Temple Brotherhood presents:

A Special Meet & Greet Event and Mixer

**Sunday, November 24, 2013
4 – 7 p.m. in the Wise Social Hall**

All Brotherhood members and prospective members are welcome to attend this no charge event featuring:

THE MARTINI CZAR

**Famous Mixologist Extraordinaire -
"He's not just a bartender, he's an experience in
good taste!"**

Come enjoy original & traditional martinis
& mixed drinks.

Cold beer, soft drinks, and snacks will also be served.

The afternoon's football games will be presented on the big screen in HD so you won't miss any of the scheduled gridiron excitement. Playing cards will be available.

Come and meet some new folks, learn about our Temple Brotherhood, and enjoy the fun and fellowship.

**All men of Shaarai Shomayim are
cordially invited!**

Mark your calendar - Plan to be there!

NEW SHAAARAI CAMP LOCALE

With the closure of the JCC, we are in need of a place to hold Shaarai Day Camp. Ideally, the location will have: outdoor space for play, pool, locker room, indoor space in case of rain, available for the right dates for one week in June, reasonable rent, rest rooms, place to hold an overnight, place to hold a barbecue, place for storage of lunches. If you know of any place that might be a possibility, please contact Rabbi Paskoff.

Listed below are the standing committees of Congregation Shaarai Shomayim, with each chair and the Board of Trustee member on the committee. If you have any questions about these committees please do not hesitate to contact the chair or member.

- Archives.....Ellen Pike, Chair
Rhonda Kleiman
 - Building Utilization.....Emily Ritholz
 - By-lawsDavid Stameshkin
 - Cemetery.....Jim Baumgartner, Chair
 - Congregational Life Rick Lynch, Chair
Melissa DePietro
 - FinanceStu Blumenthal, Chair
 - Hospitality.....Jill Weisberg, Chair
 - Hineini.....Alice Yerman, Chair
 - House.....Matt Freedman, Chair
 - Investment..... Alan Loss, Chair
 - Music Task Force.....Sally Hart, Chair
 - Ritual.....Judy Shenk, Chair
Nikki Wilson
 - Technology.....Brian Kresge, Chair
 - Tikkun Olam Marilyn SteinChair
Randi Jacobson
 - Youth CommitteeJen Finkelstein
- For the Executive Board, Education Director, Youth Advisor, and auxiliary heads, see p. 2

**Please join us for SSTY Shabbat
on November 8
as members of our
senior youth group
lead the Friday night service.**

Chanukah Boutique

Sunday, November 10,

9 a.m. — 1 p.m.

in the Wise Memorial Hall

We are looking for volunteers to make baked goods to sell and work the boutique. Please contact Beth Deliver at 481-9919 or bdeliver@comcast.net.

Featuring Israeli Artisans - beautiful handcrafted jewelry which would make wonderful gifts for Chanukah or B'nai Mitzvah presents.



Religious School students have a chance to shop during the morning. Please be sure to supply your student with shopping money. Adults will be there to help supervise and to gift wrap presents.

Come browse and shop the wide and exciting variety of chanukiah, candles, toys, games, gelt, and wrapping paper.

Credit cards cannot be accepted, cash or checks only.

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

Don't forget the cancer support group meetings
at the Temple, the third Thursday of each month,
7 p.m.



Calling all shleppers and packers! Under the direction of the Tikkun Olam committee, we are now supporting the Power Packs Project at Central Manor Elementary School in Millersville. If you are not familiar with the fantastic organization:

Power Packs provides weekend food and nutritional information to families who are food insecure when the school's lunch program is not available to them. Families are taught how to stretch their limited food dollars using the food provided by PPP. The goal of the program is to empower families to regularly provide healthy meals and that children return to school, well-fed and ready to learn. Power Packs provides long-term solutions to end childhood hunger.

Franklin & Marshall College presents the Klehr Center for Jewish Life Reading Group 2013-14 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.

New readers always welcome!

All sessions meet 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.

Dec. 12 *Legacy: A Genetic History of the Jewish People*
by Harry Ostrer

Jan. 23 *The Missing File* by D. A. Mishani

Feb. 20 *My Name is Asher Lev* by Chaim Potok

Mar. 20 *The Middlesteins* by Jami Attenberg

May 15 *The Innocents* by Francesca Segal

Our responsibility is to pick up a two-week supply of weekend food items at the Power Packs downtown warehouse usually on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at 1 PM and deliver them to Central Manor Elementary School. At the school, you will work with the school social worker and 5th graders to make up boxes for families who have signed up for this program. Distribution is over by 3:45 PM. There are 28 families signed up at this point.

Because the school provides so much help on their end, this mitzvah can be done by one person with a van or small SUV. It can also be done with two volunteers with smaller vehicles, but both would not have to stay for distribution. There is some lifting involved, up to 25 lbs.

Our goal is to have core group of volunteers sign up for dates beginning in January, so you may be volunteering once every month or two. Since I don't have the exact dates yet, at this point, I am looking for a general commitment and availability on Thursday afternoons. Please email me at RandiJ57@aol.com or call 560-6541 and leave a message and I'll call you back.

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE AND MATTHEW 25

Each year Jewish Family Service receives \$1000 or more from Matthew 25 Thrift Shop. Since August 2000, Matthew 25 has given \$18,000 to JFS and \$1.8 million to non-profits in our community.

Matthew 25 sells used clothing in good condition as well as books, household goods, pictures, and pre-school materials such as children's books and other appropriate items. If you have any of these items to donate, Matthew 25 is located at 48 E. Main Street in Lititz and their phone number is 626-4451. Mentioning JFS' name as having referred you will be appreciated.

FROM THE GREEN COMMITTEE

Make those around you aware of the problems.

Not everyone has the same level of awareness of environmental problems, although there is general agreement that the planet should be preserved. It is up to you to convey the urgency of the problem.

Share your knowledge and help those around you (family, friends, neighbors, and colleagues) become aware of the need for a good quality environment, and to conserve resources. Encourage them to take simple actions with this in mind.

365 Ways to Save the Earth
by Phillippe Bourseiller

more Mitzvot Opportunities and Community Events



Community Days are back!

Bon-Ton Community Days, offering you a bargain-filled, fun way to raise money for the Temple, will be held November 15 & 16.

Pick up a savings booklet at the Temple or—new this year!—online at <http://bit.ly/17rvW3N>, for \$5 and pick up savings on multitudes of items at any Bon-Ton store or www.bonton.com. (some exclusions may apply)

Contact Missy DePietro, melissadepietro@embarqmail.com for more information

Save the date!

We are tentatively scheduled for a return trip to McRoberts, Kentucky July 13-17, 2014.

Contact Rabbi Paskoff 397-5575 or Paskoff@shaarai.org for more information

Lancaster's Alternative Gift Fair



GIFTS THAT GIVE HOPE

Sharing ways of meaningful giving through giving gifts of hope and restoration to our community and world.

The Gifts That Give Hope Alternative Gift Fair is held the Saturday before Thanksgiving each year. This festive, family-friendly Gift Fair provides you with a unique shopping experience. In one place, you can learn how your unique gifts (donations) sustain and provide for others, while developing new relationships with organizations who are the forefront of helping tackle some of our world's most pressing needs.

- Explore** Visit with 30+ community and global nonprofit organizations as you shop alongside hundreds of others who are focused on a new way of giving.
- Discover** Experience hands-on demonstrations, activities and entertainment for children, youth, and adults.
- Learn** Learn how you can make a difference to get involved beyond the gift fair with our nonprofits.
- Taste** Enjoy an amazing array of foods with an international flair, served up by our excellent local restaurants, caterers, and bakeries.
- Shop** Purchase alternative gifts from a variety of non-profits and buy fair trade items such as Beads For Life, chocolate, tea, & coffee.

A perfect place to shop for Chanukah, other holidays, and special gift-giving occasions throughout the year.

Saturday, November 23, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Farm & Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster, PA 17601

Temple Contributions

Mitzvah Fund

In memory of Susan Samaritano
Bob Steinman

Speedy recovery to Dave Abrahams
Iris and Irv Moss

In memory of Marian Kresge
Bob Steinman

In memory of Brian Boyle
Bob Steinman

In memory of Marvin Wunderlich
Rachel Rosenzweig and Yuri Reingold

In honor of the Heller and Oxenberg families
Rhoda and Marvin Gottlieb

In memory of James Glosser
Julia and Chuck Powers

In memory of Marvin Wunderlich
Julia and Chuck Powers

In memory of Florence Parman
Gale and Eugene Klupt

In memory of Miriam Willer
Shirley Gitomer

In memory of Edith Thall
Yvonne Stein

In memory of Lore Homburger
Frank Homburger

In memory of Ida Jaspan
Diane Librach

A donation was received from Sidney Packer

Chavrai Zamir Fund

In honor of Rachel Rosenzweig & Yuri Reingold's 50th birthdays
Miriam and Jim Baumgartner

In memory of Robert Eckstein
Margaret and Steve Parker

Paskoff Camper Fund

In honor of all who participated in the "Tapestry" Service for
Rosh Hoshanah
Tamara Goeglein and Daniel Frick

A donation was received from Dr. Herbert Wilsker

Miller Music Fund

In memory of Morton Taub
Julia and Chuck Powers

In memory of John Rhodes
Julia and Chuck Powers

Tikkun Olam Fund

In memory of Brian Boyle
Rachel Rosenzweig and Yuri Reingold

In honor of the marriage of Alex Reusing and Emily Zilber
Rachel Rozenzweig and Yuri Reingold

In honor of the birth of Tali Cohen
Rachel Rosenzweig and Yuri Reingold

Chopped Liver River Band

In memory of Marvin C. Wunderlich
Ruth Wunderlich and Brett Wunderlich

Peitzman Technology Fund

In memory of Brian Boyle
Judy and Syd Shenk

In memory of Miriam Willer
Judy and Syd Shenk

Sisterhood Contributions

Sofian Youth Fund

In memory of Ileen Herdemian's mother Miriam "Bebe" Willer
Randi and Bill Jacobson

In honor of Emily Ritholz and Tim Reusing's son Alex Reusing's
marriage to Emily Zilber
Randi and Bill Jacobson

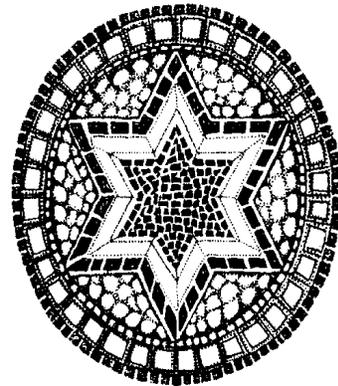
In memory of Leslie Jacobson
Randi and Bill Jacobson

In memory of Sandy Asher's brother Bob Fenichel
Randi and Bill Jacobson

Brotherhood Israel Scholarship Fund

In memory of Rick Lynch's father
Charles & Julia Powers

In appreciation of the Shaarai Shomayim Community
Ruth Levenstein Wunderlich & Brett Leach Wunderlich



YAHRTZEIT

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

<p><u>November 1</u> Hattie S. Levin Hannah Leah Chertcoff Sylvester Louis Levy A.B. Cohen Leslie Jacobson Samuel Harry Livingston Bertha N. Fox Max Keil Ida L. Forbes Anna L. Lazarus Herman Migdon</p>	<p><u>November 8</u> Herman Miller Morris Rosenthal Anita Wolff David Degenstein Esther S. Law Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin Harold S. Sandhaus, MD Sarah Loss Mary Rabinowitz Ethel Albert Andrew C. Kirschner Florence Parman Norton Solomon Tillie Alboum Ruth Loeb Greenstein Bertha Richman Sarah Steinfeldt</p>	<p><u>November 15</u> David Elins Joseph S. Joseph Emma Pirosh Bessie G. Lyons Blanche L. Stein Jules Elfenbein Abe Goldring Jacob Israel Silver Benjamin Kulman George Kupersmidt David Rosenthal Anne F. Wascou Etta Yablonovitz Samuel Alboum Sydney D. Brener Martha R. Glaubman Goldie Friedman</p>	<p><u>November 22</u> Alexander E. Loeb Florence A. Feifer Pauline Lien Myers President John F. Kennedy Leonard C. Ryder Sara G. Wascou Josef B. Klein</p>	<p><u>November 29</u> Alice B. Holland Jacob Lyons Martin Sommer Monroe Hirsh Joseph Knigin Samuel Morris DeWecke Hulda Apt Brodsky Lionel Geisenberger Jacob James Miller Mary Zweifler Sherry Rebert Shirley Kimmel Herbert S. Levy</p>
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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.

REMEMBER YOUR LOVED ONES

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

PLAQUES CAN BE PURCHASED
 FOR \$180 EACH

A BROCHURE WITH FORMS FOR PURCHASING PLAQUES
 HAS BEEN MAILED TO EACH HOUSEHOLD. IF YOU NEED
 ADDITIONAL FORMS, PLEASE CONTACT THE TEMPLE OFFICE.

FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT PLAQUES, CONTACT
 EMILY.RITHOLZ@GMAIL.COM

JACOB KLEIN
 SEPT. 17, 1991 TISHREI 9, 5752

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

Join with us to continue tradition at
 Shaarai Shomayim:
 the annual Charter Shabbat.
 "Standing on the Shoulders
 (of those who went before us.)"
Doug Cotler
 Honoring some heroes and heroines
 of Shaarai's 20th century history.

Our original charter was granted by the state
 on November 18, 1856.

On November 22, 2013, at 7:30, we will have a
 special Shabbat service to celebrate
 and honor the rich tradition of our
 congregation.

Please plan to join us!

The Mitzvah of Tzedakah

Over the years, various funds have been set up by individuals, Sisterhood, the Temple, and Brotherhood for the benefit of Congregation Shaarai Shomayim, its members, and the community. A donation to any of these funds serves a three-fold purpose:

- ☆ It benefits the purpose for which the fund was established.
- ☆ It benefits the one for whom you are donating.
- ☆ It benefits you by giving you the opportunity to fulfill the Mitzvah of Tzedakah.

SISTERHOOD

These funds are chaired by Natalie Freedman, 1600 Aldred Circle, Lancaster, PA 17601

Children's Library Fund
Religious School Fund
Sisterhood Improvement Fund

Sofian Youth Fund
Social Welfare Fund

Prayerbook — Torah Commentary Fund, handled by **Heidi Cohen** 608 Fleetwood Dr, Lititz PA 17543. Prayer books are \$36, Commentaries are \$45.

Tree of Life, chaired by **Ilene Schenkel**, 1842 Sturbridge Dr., Lancaster 17601. \$55

Uniongrams, chaired by **Miriam Baumgartner**, 392-1245. \$1 per name.

Pulpit Flowers, chaired by **Rita Hallock**, 872-5127. Please check with Rita about the cost of a flower arrangement



BROTHERHOOD

Please send donations to Bobby Dickman, 111 Armstrong Lane, Lancaster 17603.

Israel Scholarship Fund - The men's auxiliary's major fundraising efforts go toward providing money for our Temple youth to travel to Israel on officially sponsored tours or study programs through NFTY, URJ, etc.



TEMPLE

These funds are chaired by Carole D'Ettorre, 962 Buckwalter Rd, Lititz PA 17543

<u>Building Fund</u>	<u>Jack Paskoff Camper Fund</u>
<u>Chavrai Zamir Fund</u>	<u>Cantorial Music Fund</u>
<u>Miller Music Fund</u>	<u>Klezmer Band</u>
<u>Endowment Fund</u>	<u>Mitzvah Fund</u>
<u>Historic Presr. Fund</u>	<u>Sha'ar L'Atid</u>
<u>L. Robinson Tikkun Olam Fund</u>	
<u>Gilat Zikkaron "Joy of Remembrance"</u>	
<u>Peitzman Religious School Technology Fund</u>	
<u>Nathan & Natalie Loss Lecture Fund</u>	



Unless requested otherwise, all donations will be published in the Bulletin.

In order for any donation to be properly acknowledged, please include the following information in your request:

Your name and address, email if applicable.

The name and address of the person for whom the donation is being made, and if there is a familial relationship. If you wish a note of acknowledgement to be sent to that person, please indicate that, also.

The reason for the donation.

The fund to which you wish your donation to be credited.

Written donations are requested, either by regular or e-mail.

All of our donations chairs are volunteers. Some of them have been doing this for years, some of them are brand new. Whether you have been donating for years, or this is the first time, please do not assume that the chairs know who you are, to whom you are related, or what your wishes are.

Donations are a minimum of \$5 (unless otherwise noted), and a check must be received before acknowledgments are sent or placed in the Bulletin. NEITHER SISTERHOOD, BROTHERHOOD, NOR TEMPLE WILL BILL FOR DONATIONS.

Sending your donation to the correct person will facilitate timely acknowledgment.

If you would like more information about any of these funds, **please contact the chairpersons listed.**

PLEASE DO NOT SEND DONATIONS TO THE TEMPLE OFFICE.



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November 2

Shaarai Shomayim Movie Night presents

"Inheritance"

The story of Monika Hertwig and her journey to accept the truth about her father, Nazi commander, Amon Goeth, who was portrayed by actor Ralph Fiennes in "Schindler's List"

2006 ♦ not rated ♦ 75 minutes

Begins with Havdalah at 7 p.m.

Movie refreshments



Latke Making on Nov. 23

in the Temple kitchen starting at noon. Please contact Elynn Perry at ElynnBrundage@comcast.net or 519-1908 if you can help.

Latke Party on Nov 24.

We will be serving the delicious latkes to Religious School. Contact Elynn to help set up and serve.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
						<p>1 <i>Cheshvan</i> 28</p> <p>First Friday Shabbat service 6:00</p> <div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 10px auto;"> <p>Deadline for all material for the Nov. mid-month flyers</p> </div>	<p>2 <i>Cheshvan</i> 29</p> <p>Torah study & Shabbat morning service 9:00</p> <p>Movie Night See back page</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Toldot</i></p>
<p>3 <i>Cheshvan</i> 30</p> <p>Religious School 9:15-noon Family Ed 4th</p> <p>End Daylight Savings</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Rosh</i></p>	<p>4 <i>Kislev</i> 1</p> <p>Adult Jewish Growth Israel See p. 4</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Chodesh Kislev</i></p>	<p>5 <i>Kislev</i> 2</p> <p>Election Day</p> <p>Executive Board meets</p>	<p>6 <i>Kislev</i> 3</p> <p>Hebrew class for grades 3-7 4:30- 6 p.m.</p>	<p>7 <i>Kislev</i> 4</p> <p>Sisterhood Board meets at the Temple</p>	<p>8 <i>Kislev</i> 5</p> <p>SSTY Shabbat 7:30</p>	<p>9 <i>Kislev</i> 6</p> <p>Torah study & Shabbat morning service 9:00</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Vayetze</i></p>	
<p>10 <i>Kislev</i> 7</p> <p>Religious School 9:15-noon 11-12th grades meet Sisterhood Chanukah Boutique 9 a.m.-1 p.m. See p. 6</p>	<p>11 <i>Kislev</i> 8</p> <p>Adult Jewish Growth Israel See p. 4</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Veteran's Day</i></p>	<p>12 <i>Kislev</i> 9</p> <p>Board Committees meet</p>	<p>13 <i>Kislev</i> 10</p> <p>Hebrew class for grades 3-7 4:30- 6 p.m.</p>	<p>14 <i>Kislev</i> 11</p>	<p>15 <i>Kislev</i> 12</p> <p>Tot Shabbat Third Friday Music Shabbat 7:30 Guest speaker</p> <div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 10px auto;"> <p>Deadline for all material for the December Bulletin</p> </div>	<p>16 <i>Kislev</i> 13</p> <p>Torah study & Shabbat morning service 9:00</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Vayishlah</i></p>	
<p>17 <i>Kislev</i> 14</p> <p>Religious School 9:15-noon</p>	<p>18 <i>Kislev</i> 15</p> <p>Adult Jewish Growth Israel See p. 4</p>	<p>19 <i>Kislev</i> 16</p> <p>Temple Board meets 6:30 p.m. at the Temple</p>	<p>20 <i>Kislev</i> 17</p> <p>Hebrew class for grades 3-7 4:30- 6 p.m.</p>	<p>21 <i>Kislev</i> 18</p>	<p>22 <i>Kislev</i> 19</p> <p>Charter Shabbat 7:30 See p. 10</p>	<p>23 <i>Kislev</i> 20</p> <p>Torah study & Shabbat morning service 9:00</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Vayeshev</i></p>	
<p>24 <i>Kislev</i> 21</p> <p>Religious School 9:15-noon Sisterhood Latke Party for school Brotherhood event See p. 5</p>	<p>25 <i>Kislev</i> 22</p> <p>Adult Jewish Growth Israel See p. 4</p>	<p>26 <i>Kislev</i> 23</p>	<p>27 <i>Kislev</i> 24</p> <p>NO Hebrew</p> <p>1st candle Chanukah</p>	<p>28 <i>Kislev</i> 25</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p>Thanksgiving Office closed</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>	<p>29 <i>Kislev</i> 26</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p>Chanukah Shabbat Service 7:30</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>	<p>30 <i>Kislev</i> 27</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p>Torah study 9am. Shabbat morning service & adult Bat Mitzvah of Colleen Stameshkin <i>Miketz</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>	

Cheshvan/Kislev 5774 November 2013

Save the Dates for Sisterhood...

Paid up Membership dinner
will be held on Dec 19.

Details to follow.

Temple Sisterhood Retreat
April 4-6, 2014
Pearlstone Conference & Retreat Center,
Reisterstown, MD

**Congregation Shaarai Shomayim and
Sisterhood Present**

Swanky Bubbles Casino Night

**Saturday, February 1
at the JCC**

**Food, Adult Beverages,
Games! Auctions!**

Win (just to name a few)—

**A Day of Golf
Airplane Flying Lesson
Scuba Lesson
Fine Jewelry**

...and lots more!



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 Wednesday, November 27, the night before Thanksgiving. For the first time in history, Thanksgiving and Chanukah will overlap. It’s never happened before, and won’t happen again. Jewish physicist and calendar expert Jonathan Mizrahi explains how this happened and just how rare it is:

“The calendar’s synchronization with the solar year is not perfect. The calendar is drifting forward with respect to the solar cycle at a rate of four days every 1,000 years. Right now, the earliest that the first day of Hanukkah can fall is November 28. Coincidentally, this is also the latest that Thanksgiving can fall. This means that they can overlap, as they do this year. However, in another 150 years or so, the earliest Hanukkah will be able to fall will be November 29. They will therefore not be able to overlap again.”

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).

Chanukah at Shaarai Shomayim

Chanukah is celebrated in many ways at Shaarai Shomayim. We start with Sisterhood’s Chanukah Boutique – this year it will be on Sunday, November 10. 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, November 29. Our students will be able to enjoy homemade latkes provided by Sisterhood members.

There will be a Chanukah Shabbat family service on Friday, November 29. Everyone is invited to bring a chanukiyah, along with candles and matches to the service. We will all light our chanukiyot (that’s the plural of Chanukiyah) together in the front of the sanctuary.

* 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://urj.org/holidays/chanukah/101/>, www.myjewishlearning.com, or www.jewishrecipes.org/recipes/latkes/index.html. Or, check with your mother or grandmother. Other Chanukah recipes can be found at <http://reformjudaismmag.org/Articles/index.cfm?id=1081>



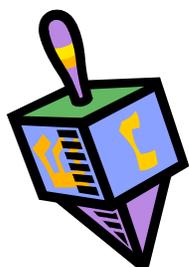
Chanukah at Home

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.

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 say 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 light the other candle, and say 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 say or sing the blessings. A video with these instructions and the blessings can be found at <http://urj.org/holidays/chanukah/101/>; the blessings are on the following page.



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, gimmel, 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!





The blessings that are read or sung are:

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

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

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

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם
בְּזִמַּן הַזֶּה.

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

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

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
שֶׁחַיָּינוּ, וְקִיָּמָנוּ, וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזִמַּן הַזֶּה.

First night only:

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

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



The Summer Experience Extra 2013

Mitzvah Corps

I returned home from Costa Rica over a month ago, and cannot believe what a great time I had. I can honestly say it was one of the best experiences of my life. Not only did I meet an extraordinary group of people, but I also got to help two different communities.

While on the trip we stayed in a rain forest for part of the time, and immersed ourselves in the Bri Bri culture. Although the Bri Bri are not Jewish, they share many of our values like tikkun olam, and a strong sense of community. We helped the Bri Bri build the floor of a soon to be kitchen so that people can get food who have to travel long distances. Not only did we help the Bri Bri, but they helped us; they taught us some of their language, how to use a bow and arrow and my personal favorite, how to make chocolate! Towards the end of the trip we visited a neighborhood called La Carpia, in San Jose. This is the most destitute neighborhood I have ever seen, and visiting it was very eye-opening. In La Carpia we helped mix and pour concrete so the people could have better sewage systems since the weather in Costa Rica is so rainy. Also in La Carpia we were able to play with some of the kids who lived in the community. Seeing the smiles on their faces and the happiness that we were able to bring them was so inspiring.

Aside from service, we got to do tourist-y things like visit a volcano, swim in a river and on the last day we vacationed on a private island! Additionally, there were Jewish aspects intertwined throughout the trip. Each night we would say the Shema before bed, which was a really special moment for me because I felt a lot closer to the rest of the group. We attended a Shabbat service in the city of San Jose and the service was held in Hebrew, English and Spanish. It was neat being in a different temple because I still knew most of the prayers and songs even though I was so far away from my home temple (the Oneg was nice too because it was something other than rice and beans). Another part I enjoyed was the Havdalah service. The service was a great ending to our day of rest and provided our group another great bonding experience. It's hard to believe my ten day trip to Costa Rica is already over, and even harder to believe I survived all the mud, bugs, and humidity. I cannot express how happy I am to have experienced these things and how lucky I feel to be Jewish. Being on this trip made me realize how proud of my religion I am and the special bond that Jews around the country, and even around the world, share. Mitzvah Corps Costa Rica was a trip I'll never forget!

Emily Murphy

6 Points Sports Academy

Okay, so this may sound kind of like a really cheesy advertisement but it's not, AT ALL. If you are a parent who feels the need for your child to be more involved in Judaism, send them to Harlam. But if your child is not only Jewish, but a Jewish athlete, send them to 6 Points Sports Academy. 6 Points is a Reform Jewish sports camp for

young Jewish athletes around the ages of 10 to 16.1 am not kidding when I say that it is one of the best things that ever happened to me.

Before 6 Points, I really had no desire to become more involved in my Jewish life, but after 6 Points, I embraced being Jewish and learning about my heritage more than ever.

This year, at age 15, I attended 6 Points for my second year in a row. As my family and I pulled in to American Hebrew Academy's campus, I immediately got butterflies in my stomach. I was overwhelmed with excitement. I remember walking into the check in line, seeing Eleanor, one of the head staff members and she said to me "Mel, it seems like it's been forever!" Then she pulled me in for one of her "mom" hugs. As I walked to my dorm all of the counselors from the previous year ran and gave me hugs. I felt at home again. You may think I am being over dramatic, but the truth is, the energy and the level of community inclusion is unexplainable. From morning stretch with the whole camp, to breaking off into your separate sport majors, you feel as if you're living in one huge family. It makes me more motivated to embrace my Jewish upbringing while at the same time, I get to improve my soccer skills and love of sports.

As I mentioned before, if you are a parent of a Jewish athlete send your child to 6 Points. 6 Points has top notch coaches with insight and knowledge that is just inspiring. For example, Barry Kaplan, the soccer coach at 6 Points, was the head coach for the USA Women's Maccabiah team. I have been inspired countless times by the stories and insight about Judaism, soccer and life this man has shared, from when it was storming and practice was called off, to motivating speeches he shared before Maccabiah.

Sports aren't the only thing this camp revolves around though, it is still a Jewish camp. Every Friday night we have Shabbat dinner and services where campers have the opportunity to read from the Torah, and dorms are called upon to read their interpretations of the values that were taught that week. Your kids may hate services and Shabbat here at the temple, but at camp services and Shabbat are fun. Its a time when you let your body rest and heal, and connect with your inner spirituality. When I was at camp this summer, one Shabbat service we were asked to stand and pray and when we felt we were done we could sit down. The last people standing were, a counselor, and a ten year old boy with his head covered by a prayer book. Not only have I learned technique and skill to improve my soccer game, but I have learned life values and lessons because of this camp. As I said before, the energy and welcoming of the community is unexplainable. I hope your child is able to take part in this experience and gain the knowledge and love for life as a young Jewish athlete.

Melanie Cohen

At Six Points Sports Academy there are many things to do and many sports to play. My favorite parts were the grounds because they were absolutely amazing and the sports options and training.

They have 100 acres of land and 22 acres of it is a man-made lake. It is beautiful and the sports arenas are well cared for. There are options for almost all sports and the trainers know what they're doing and the education they give you is practical and lasts.

The services are shorter and less of an event than at Harlem but, spending time with people of the same faith made me feel more connected.

I highly suggest that anyone who loves sports should go there.

Sammie Kapushy

Summer Boost

This past summer, I had the wonderful opportunity of volunteering at the Summertime Boost camp. This camp provides students, for whom English is their second language, a medium by which to close the gap between the two academic years. Summertime Boost aims to reinforce and strengthen the English skills of the campers while providing them with a genuine camp experience. Many ESL students lose a large portion of their ability to communicate in English because they do not speak English at home over the summer; they have no need to speak English with their parents and family, who also speak the native language. As an immigrant, I understand the difficulty of learning a new language and adapting to a new society.

Volunteering at Summertime Boost allowed me to work with kids who are striving toward learning a completely new language and immersing themselves in a new society. I am glad that I was able to contribute to making that process easier for those who attended the program. Furthermore, the camp was meant to be a fun experience for the campers; this is one aspect of the program that I thought worked extremely well. The kids were not spending the entire day doing worksheets or other such exercises to learn English. Instead, the camp utilized a variety of interactive techniques that engaged the campers; it both entertained and reinforced the necessary skills. For example, we played a variety of team sports that required communication between the players. We played games like Boggle or Apples to Apples to improve vocabulary. There was also a game where the campers would throw a foam ball at a target and, depending on which section of the target they hit, they would have to spell out a word of varying length. These are only examples of the interactive games we played with the campers. Overall, there was never a dull moment; there was always something for everyone to do.

Apart from the interactive activities, the program invited a couple of guest teachers, Sandy Asher and Scott Feifer, to help the students improve their writing skills. With Mrs. Asher, the campers were able to put their life story on paper and create two poems about their favorite place and their favorite person. Later on in the program, the campers worked with Mr. Feifer to write a list of important questions in their lives, a story about a particular moment in their lives, and an "I am from..." poem. Both of the guest teachers were engaging and had a positive influence on the campers.

Furthermore, the program funded field trips for the campers every Friday. The day would start with two hours

at the pool, where we helped the campers strengthen their swimming ability as well as play engaging games. After the pool, we would go to another place where the campers could have fun and learn at the same time. One week, we went to the Science Factory. The next, we went to the public library. The last week, we went to Bent Creek so they could learn how to golf.

Overall, volunteering at Summertime Boost was a positive experience. It was extremely rewarding to know that I was making a difference in these campers' lives. Adjusting to life in a new country is extremely difficult, especially when it comes to learning a new language; I am pleased that there are programs out there, like Summertime Boost, that help to make this transition easier and that strive towards making these kids successful. That's why I think that it is important for people to contribute to such organizations in whatever capacity they can. Summertime Boost is a very rewarding program, both for the campers and the staff. I strongly encourage people to consider participating in this program; it is an incredibly memorable experience and a great form of Tikkun Olam.

Agustin Baler

This summer, I participated in a program called Summer Boost. The program helped students from Nepal maintain or improve their English speaking skills. Over the summer, these students often forget most of their English, because at home, they only speak their native language. If they do not know English very well, they will most likely fall behind in school, because they will not understand what the teacher is saying.

The program was held at McCaskey High School, Mondays through Fridays, from 9:00 AM to 1:15 PM. On Mondays through Thursdays, we helped reinforce English by playing educational games, like Boggle and Scattegories. The students also wrote two different stories about themselves with the help of two guests who came in. The program served lunch, which we all ate together.

Every Friday morning, we went swimming from 10:00 AM to 12:00. Most of the kids had never swum before, but that did not stop them from trying. They loved the pool, and they looked forward to going to the pool all week. After swimming, we ate pizza and then went on an educational field trip. We visited the Lancaster Science Factory, the Lancaster Public Library, and the Bent Creek Golf Course. Through this program, I met a lot of nice people, and I learned about different cultures. Also, the students seemed to enjoy it and benefit from it. I am looking forward to helping with this program next summer, and I hope that some new people will also get involved, because it is a great opportunity.

Jessica Hillard

Urban Mitzvah Corps 2013

This past summer, I went to New Brunswick, New Jersey to attend three weeks of Urban Mitzvah Corps. I am pretty sure that I was the last person to sign up for UMC because I was originally going to URJ Kutz Camp again until something changed my mind. I don't really know what changed but I thought it was for the better. The experience I had in New Brunswick is one that cannot be achieved by

any other program funded by the Union for Reform Judaism.

I knew a little bit about the program from the website and from talking to the director but overall, I was in for a surprise. I didn't know the staff, I didn't know the people, and I didn't know the area. I was expecting a lot because I had heard such good things about the other Mitzvah Corps programs.

When I arrived, so many new faces greeted me, but I wasn't overwhelmed; I felt at home. The experience at Urban Mitzvah Corps is one that is almost inexplicable; the bonds I made, the people I've touched, and the people who have touched me are not objects that I can hand to someone else. They are with me forever in my heart, and I will never forget them.

The way the program is organized is unique because the main purpose is to volunteer, but it was so much more than that. Yes, I loved everyone who was there and I loved where I worked, but there was one person who impacted me the most during my UMC journey.

My volunteer site was Play S.A.F.E., a summer camp for inner-city youth in New Brunswick. Most of the children speak Spanish as their first language, and the staff had all mostly been through the program as well. I worked with the eight-year-old group, about twenty kids, with one other counselor. I loved my kids, and I felt comfortable working with my co-counselor, but my site director was the one person who I adored the most. She had been the site director for many years, and she ran a tight ship. She was fully respected by her staff and she knew how to keep the kids in line, literally. If they weren't lined up and quiet, she would walk over and they would line up. She wasn't to be messed with, and I was amazed at her determination.

I knew she wasn't an emotional person from the beginning, so when she started crying when she thanked the volunteers on the last day, I knew that she really appreciated what we were doing. I was helping her help these kids, and I was so grateful to her for allowing us to do that. Before we left, she hugged each of us and thanked us as we were thanking her; I looked at her and knew how much she valued our time with her. I will never forget her because she has impacted my life and has shown me that anyone can do anything they want in life.

The primary lesson I learned from doing UMC is that you don't need to go to far away places to help out; there is need right in our own community. If we just reach out our hands to those in need, we can make the world a better place. I will never forget my experience at Urban Mitzvah Corps because of what it has taught me about volunteering, teaching, and life.

Hannah Viau

Camp Harlam

I had a great experience at Camp Harlam. I would recommend that you go to Camp Harlam next year or as soon as you can! Camp Harlam is a great Jewish experience. You will do many sport-like activities but you will also do Jewish Services! My favorite service is Friday night services. It is a great time to sing and bang your heart out! Some of my favorite activities at camp are the climbing tower, the rock walls and much, much, more!!! I

LOVE Camp Harlam and cannot wait to see you there next year!!!

Camp Harlam makes friends family!

Josh Freedman

At Camp Harlam there are Friday night and Saturday morning and evening services. There are so many things to do, like woodshop, dancing, art and many different types of sports. The food is great and every Friday night they cook FRiED CHICKEN for Shabbat. I highly suggest sending your kids to Camp Harlam. The staff can deal with any and all amounts of energy and enthusiasm. It also gives all you parents two weeks to two months to sleep-in and to have a quiet house!!!

Where Friends Become FAMILY

Peter Freedman

I had a great time at Camp Harlam!!!! There are so many fun activities and you will get to meet so many new people. Some of the fun activities are the tower, radio, (etc.). There is also great food including fried chicken on Friday nights, sliders, pizza and so much more. Every Friday night there are Shabbat services at Chapel on the Hill and every Saturday morning there are services in Chapel in the Woods. Plus every Saturday morning you get to cut your own bagels. I enjoyed my experience at Camp Harlam and if you decide to go then I hope you enjoy the experience too.

Ben Freedman

I liked Camp Harlam because of all the friends I made and all of the fun I had. I loved how all my friends supported me when my grandpa passed away. I also enjoyed being on the winning team of color war.

Ethan Valva

When I went to Camp Harlam, I had tons of fun if it was Frisbee, evening activity, or color war. I had trouble when my grandpa passed away but thankfully my friends at camp helped me get through it and not just spend the rest of my time being sad.

Frisbee was one of the most fun things at camp because it's just so fun. I liked Frisbee golfing so much, it was just fun trying to beat my old score. The evening activities were ok, but they were pretty fun. My favorite one was when we split into groups and we were on a boat and we all had a card to say what we were. You could only save three people.

Color war was definitely my favorite part of camp. The teams were Blue Weather Channel, Red Food Network, Green Animal Planet, and Gold Nickelodeon. I was on the Red team and I was chosen to be the lieutenant. I had to assign what people had to do. The best thing in color war for me would have to be the rope burning. Green burned their rope first then 30 seconds after, Red team (my team) burned the rope. I was part of the rope burning team. My generals were Gabe and Mel, they both were very energetic.

My favorite counselors were all of them. My least favorite part of camp was having to leave all of my friends that made that summer.

The Shabbat services weren't bad at all, they were just relaxing, as they should be. Havdalah was always a

thing that I enjoyed, it's just so relaxing and makes me feel good about myself.

My favorite thing about camp was all the friends I made and won't forget.

Cole Valva

Camp Harlam is amazing. You get some good food, play in the new ga-ga pit, learn about Jewish life (my second favorite thing,) then go to Dorney Park (my favorite thing!) Plus, the staff is so nice. So, in a nutshell, you can't hate Camp Harlam.

Josh Deliver

Kutz Camp

I arrived at the URJ Kutz Camp as a second year attendee, not expecting it to be the same at all. Different people, a different experience... or so that's what everyone had said. I wasn't really sure if I would like it, but I kept an open mind.

My parents and I pulled up to the gates in our Volkswagen and from the corner of my eye, I saw my best friend Brandon running at full speed towards us. I hopped out of the car and gave him a huge hug. That's when I knew I was home. Many of my old friends from last year attended camp again and I reconnected with everyone, and got to meet tons of new people!

I remembered that my favorite part of camp, was the community. Spending three and a half weeks in a bunk with 20 or so girls from all across the country is such a meaningful experience, as well as having services with the same people every single day. You have a completely different connection with people from camp than with the people you see every day at school. Having discussions with other Jewish teens, praying together, and laying on one another's beds at night talking about life really brings everybody closer.

We do so many things throughout the three week, five day period. But when I look back on it, just getting to know people and now having friends who live all over the United States was the most important.

Laura Supnik

Mitzvah Trip to McRoberts KY

The best decision I made this summer was participating in the Shaarai Shomayim service trip to Appalachia, Kentucky. I feel that the work we did there not only made a physical difference on the lives of the people we helped, but also a very strong emotional difference. I especially saw that the children in the camp did not really care what activities we did; they seemed to be glad simply at the fact that someone cares about them.

What really hit me was what some of the kids were exposed to; one child casually brought up that his uncle is a drug dealer. Last year, a child told me that as soon as he turned eighteen he was either going to the military or jail. Both of these kids were no older than eight.

Personally, I believe that I benefitted as much from this trip, if not more than, the people we helped. It gave me a perspective on what I have and the hardships, such as

extreme poverty and drug addiction, with which some people have to live.

Although I think what we have done was great, I am surprised that more communities and especially the government have not done much to assist this situation. I am glad I had the opportunity to help out in Kentucky. I would like to thank the Rabbi for providing me with this experience, and I encourage anyone who is even thinking about going to go.

Guido Baler

This year on my second year to McRoberts, Kentucky I was happy to help out the people there who were struggling to live there. I saw a few familiar faces and met some new ones. I was very much used to the environment down there. Last year when I went there I was in awe when I saw how bad the places were. There's not much of a change, either. The same buildings are in ruins, the same people are living in the places they call home. It's a sight that was not meant to be.

At times in my life I thought I had it tough, but looking at what these people have to work with is proving me wrong. I have a home, food, friends, a place to sleep. These people are lucky if they have a couch. When I go down there and I see what's there I value what I have so much more. It always makes me feel good to help other people. It makes me so happy when I can make people like this happy.

The one thing I have noticed is that everyone down there is not necessarily sad. They don't have money or anything much of value. But they seem to be happy with each other. I'm sure they would love a new car or some money, but they value their friendship a lot, too. I was always greeted with a smile.

Kentucky for the past two years has been a great experience for me. I got to work and learn about new skills. It was fun and I knew I was doing good and helping other people.

Ryan Scolnick

Next month we will publish more experiences of those who participated in the McRoberts Mitzvah Trip.