

The Israelight

RABBI'S MESSAGE

TMICHA & A LESSON FROM CHANUKAH ON AVOIDING BURNOUT

by Rabbi Linda Potemken

Chanukah falls at the darkest time of the year, when we are particularly grateful for an opportunity to light candles, to socialize and to bring some joy and levity into our long nights. As the haftarah for Chanukah reminds us - we will prevail through the dark night, but not by might, not by power, but by spirit. But how do we prevail when the spirit is depleted?

At Beth Israel we formed an entity many years ago called "tmicha", which means support. Members volunteered to be agents of tmicha, carrying out the work of comforting mourners, supporting the sick and running errands or helping out as needed. Of course the deepest truth of tmicha is that at one

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President's Message

By Josh Waterston

For Forrest Gump, life was like a box of chocolates – you never know which one you're going to get. For me, life is often like a box of Bertie Bott's jelly beans (from the Harry Potter books). Sometimes you get a marshmallow one, and sometimes an earwax one... When it comes to Beth Israel, I feel that things are more like a pinball machine. It takes a long time to get everything lined up and ready to go, and then the ball is released into the wild, to hit whatever bumpers and bells are in its path.

In 2012, we've been working on several large projects at Beth Israel, which are the result of months or years of planning. The Hebrew School ceiling and lighting renovation is complete. Two other projects are now well underway. First, the gas conversion project will be complete, barring any major snags, near the end of December. I've been very touched by the tremendous financial support we've received from congregants, which will enable this project to have no impact on our operating budget for the next 5 – 6 years as we pay for the installation and equipment costs. Following this, we'll be saving over \$10,000 per year to heat our synagogue – and the building will be more comfortable, as the zones and equipment will be more efficient.

The second project is one which really has me psyched, since it will have a less tangible impact than the gas conversion, but potentially an even greater impact overall. We have completed the transition from Temple Tracker to

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Highlights! See the Calendar for all dates

Hazon Shabbat Biking, Fri., Nov. 30, 8 pm, p. 7

Going Green, Sun., Dec. 2, 9:45 am, p. 4, 10 and Mitzvah Mall, 10:30 am, p. 13

Chanukah Chaverah begins Sat. Dec. 8, see p. 9 for schedule

R. D. Teutsch speaker, Sun., Dec. 9, 10:00 am, p. 6

National Courage Award Dinner Honoring Teresa Heinz, Mon., Dec. 10, 5:30 pm, p. 12

Latke Making, Wed., Dec. 12, 10:30 am, p. 5

Lunch & Learn, Thur., Dec. 13, noon, p. 4

Shabbat services and Chanukah potluck, Fri., Dec. 14, 6:30 pm, p. 8

Torah Treks, Sat., Dec. 15, 12:30 pm, p. 4

Congregational Meeting, Sun., Dec 16, 10am—12 noon, p. 4

Meditation, Thur., Dec. 20, 2 pm, p. 4

Book Club, Sat., Dec. 23, 10:30 am, p. 19

Food Service, Mon., Dec. 31, 5:45 pm, p. 5

Rabbi's message continued...

time or another we all find ourselves on both ends of this mitzvah. At times we are the givers and at times we are the ones who are sick, in mourning or otherwise in need.

Then there are those who are personal tmicha agents within their own families or social networks. Some of us are primary caregivers for sick children or aging parents or infirm spouses and other beloveds who have become dependent. How do we keep the spirit of tmicha aflame when the demands exceed our energy or resources? And how do we, as a Jewish community committed to acts of loving kindness and mutual support, honor both the spirit of giving and the reality of our finite ability to give? While the act of supporting another human being in need is sacred and rewarding, it can also, at times, be depleting.

How might the practices of Chanukah inform our work of tmicha, within family and amongst community?

The first lesson comes from the shamash, the helper candle on the menorah. The shamash is never the only light, but the shamash brings more light into the world, candle by candle. Perhaps all of our efforts to support our loved ones and each other require a shamash whose job it is to activate other lights. If the burden falls on one alone, that one, like a candle, will burn out resulting in no more light, no more help. The light needs to come from many sources. Mobilizing resources creatively is crucial to effective tmicha.

This is true in our personal lives and in our communal efforts as well.

There is another lesson from the practice of lighting the menorah. We are taught that while the candles are burning we are to pause and enjoy them. How amazing to take that time every night, for eight successive nights, to relax with candlelight. Those who are in ongoing caregiving situations might be inspired by this practice to carve out some time every day that is not caregiving time but instead is a time to breathe or to engage in a nourishing activity.

Rabbi's message continued on the next page



President's message continued...

Shul Suite. As I've mentioned in past articles, Shul Suite is a customer relationship manager for synagogues – like Salesforce.com, for example. It enables us to have a better day-to-day understanding of our synagogue's logistics, with a modern website to boot. I did plenty of research over the past couple few years into the available packages to replace Temple Tracker, and am thrilled that Shul Suite was available just when we needed it. Ironically, I had been looking at one leading program, named "Rakefet" – which has now discontinued its service and moved its clients over to... Shul Suite!



The new website went live on November 8, and is a tremendous improvement. I am pleased to thank Sharon Kleban, who has done a wonderful job as our new webmaster, Michael Fishkow, who kept the old site going "temporarily" as we looked at first one package, then another – which took much longer than we intended, Robin Schaufler, who worked with Pogstone (the vendor) to nail down exactly what we needed, and then to move forward with the project, and Marion Hamermesh, who created much of the navigation and design elements for the website. Steve Goldfield, Suzanne Davis, and Andrew Bennett have each spent a great deal of time laying the groundwork for moving our billing system over to Shul Suite, and that process was just completed in early November. We will need to learn how to use the new back-office system without overwhelming our administrator, Suzanne Davis, our secretary, Arlene Benz, or the many other people who will be using the system.

However, once we have everything up and running, we will be leagues ahead of our prior capabilities. Right now, you can subscribe to the BI calendar's event feed, read The Israelight online, pay dues and tuition, donate to BI, and see updated news and information. You can even "like" an event or page on Facebook and other social media sites, and share it with your friends. Rabbi Linda is looking forward to having a blog, and I know that committees are looking forward to having another way to easily promote activities.

In the coming weeks and months, you will be able to access a members-only section, update your personal information, see your past payments and any balance owed, make recurring dues/tuition payments on a schedule that works best for you, create a Bar/Bat Mitzvah project page or class project page, where people can find out about your project and donate to support it. You'll be able to

Rabbi's message continued...

The word Chanukah means dedication. We are dedicated to maintaining a culture of chesed, of loving kindness, in our community. We can each support that goal by discerning how and when we are able to offer tmicha and when we need to put other priorities first. The text from TaNaKh (our Hebrew Bible), Kohelet, says it best. There is a time for every experience under heaven. Tmicha works best when we are able to carve out a time when we are available to help and a time when we are not. Our goal of maintaining a culture of caring will be best served if we are all honest about our capacity and our limitations when it comes to giving.

Finally, the four Hebrew letters on the dreidel remind us that Chanukah is about a miracle. They stand for the phrase that translates:

" a great miracle happened there". Perhaps at this time of year we are reminded to believe in miracles - the miracles of the unexpected wonder and the ability to perceive the miraculous in the seemingly mundane. One simple act of kindness offered by one person can be experienced as a miraculous wonder for someone else. When we act as shamash or when we give of ourselves we carry that potential. We just need to remember that every shamash, every helper, needs a rest.

AMY FANTALIS, M.S., M.S.W., L.C.S.W.

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President's message continued...

register and pay for events at the same time. We will be able to send reminders for events, and to easily reach out to prospective members who have attended past events and may want to see what else we have to offer.

In short, we will be moving into the 21st century. Our competition is not only other synagogues, but also other activities in life. We need to work harder to compete and attract members, and we need better tools to do so. This is one large step forward. I'm looking forward to the efficiency of the new system, because Suzanne D. will be able to spend less effort in making the system do what it needs to do, and spend more time helping other synagogue stakeholders use the system to answer questions about how we're doing, in real time. I hope she's not reading this, because I might have to get her a box of chocolates. She has been a trooper through this process, which definitely has a learning curve, and I appreciate her dedication to BI. OK, perhaps now I just need a smaller box of chocolates. Not the assorted kind, because then she'll run into the Forrest Gump problem...

We've also completed gathering data for the BI survey. Thank you to Alisa Herman Liu, Susan Klein, Jennifer Lenway, and to the many, many people who provided insightful and thoughtful responses. The Strategic Planning Committee will be analyzing the results and seeing how we can use them to improve and strengthen Beth Israel.

We have a few other irons in the fire, and I'm excited about our potential as a community. This fall has been very busy, and I encourage you to take advantage of our many offerings in November and December – check out the website for more information, and thank the many people who work on the committees which make our activities and accomplishments happen.

It's been a long road to get to this point, and I'm enjoying – however briefly – the chance to step back and watch the pinballs whiz around, with their cacophony of sounds. I'm no wizard, but I look forward to what lies ahead.

In friendship,
Josh Waterston

Don't forget to check out our
new website at the usual address
<http://bethisraelmedia.org/>

Adult Education

Torah Treks -

Dec 15 Isaiah R. Linda.

Jan 5 Isaiah R. Donna Kirshbaum

Torah Treks: A Multi - Year Journey Through the Bible
Torah Treks is an amazing journey through the Hebrew Bible.

Years 1 – 5 Torah: The Five Books of Moses

Years 6 - 8 Nevi'im: The Prophets

Years 9 - 10 Ketuvim: The Writings

We begin each year with an overview of whichever Books we are studying and then continue with an in-depth look at each individual Book. Each session is held after Shabbat morning services and is taught by Rabbi Linda or our guest faculty. (Presented with the RPC)

9:45 Shabbat services 11:45 Kiddush & lunch

12:30 – 2:00 Torah Treks

Each program is independent. Come for all the sessions or attend selectively. There is no charge for lunch or the study sessions and RSVPs are not necessary. Whether you are able to attend services or not, you are welcome to come for lunch and Torah Treks.

In the Rabbi's Study

Lunch & Learn

Thursdays 12:00 – 1:30

12/13, 1/3

Join us as we share Torah, lunch and one another's company once a month. We will explore various Jewish practices and texts. Curriculum will be guided by the interests of the participants. RSVP at least 2 days in advance to Arlene Benz, 610-566-4645

SPIRITUAL NOURISHMENT IN TIMES OF TRANSITION

In this difficult economy many are facing uncertainty and making professional or personal changes. Come to learn stress management techniques and wisdom from Torah on managing change, to share our stories and exchange information and resources.

Next Spiritual Nourishment In Times Of Transition: January 17th at 3pm

TMICHA: OPPORTUNITIES FOR ORGANIZED SUPPORT

In the weeks ahead our tmicha group will be reorganizing in order to better serve our community and in order to take better care of the caregivers. Please contact Rabbi Linda if you would like to be part of these efforts.

**Next Meditation Class:
Dec 20th at 2pm, BI w/ Rabbi Linda**

**Looking Ahead:
Torah and Literature: Exploring Judaism and
Life Through the Contemporary Short Story**
Tuesdays 4:30 - 5:45 1/22, 1/29, 2/5

**December 2 9:45 - 11:45
A Few Steps to Greener Living
(with SAC)**

Join Beth Murray of aFewSteps.org to discuss the decisions that we make each day and how they affect the environment - and our pocketbooks.

Many of us are interested in shrinking our carbon footprints—and energy bills—but we're not sure where to start. Should we replace the windows in our home? Buy a hybrid car? Put up a clothesline? Become a vegetarian? It may not be as hard as we think, if we take it a few steps at a time.

Note: **Breakfast will be served at 9:45** followed by the presentation and discussion. This activity is offered jointly by the Social Action and Adult Education Committees.

**Congregational Meeting Sunday,
December 16, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm**

Please come to the semi-annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 16 at 10:00 am. The meeting is a great opportunity to meet and share with our synagogue's current leadership and find out what is going on behind the scenes. The board will present on the gas conversion project, the website and information system, financial reports, new bylaws proposals, and other big projects.



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Latke Making

Bonanza!!

Wednesday, December 12 from 10:30 am - 2:30 pm or so

Join Lauri Mansky and Laura Lee Blechner to make the latkes for the BI Chanukah Potluck. We can use all the helpers we can get to make close to 400 latkes. No prior experience necessary - **we'll teach you what you need to know!** If you can come, please let Laura Lee know at llblechner@verizon.net. Or, feel free to drop in to help.



Ohev Shalom has a Gift Gallery!



Bar/Bat Mitzvah Central
Talitot, Tallis Clips, Torah Pointers
 Hospitality, Wedding and Baby Gifts
 Jewelry and Judaica
 Gourmet Coffees – Soaps – Pashminas - Vases
 Kosher wines priced from \$10-\$18/bottle

Staffed Hours: Sundays 9-12
 Wednesdays 4-6

Daily during Office Hours
 By Appointment: giftshop@ohhev.net
 Congregation Ohev Shalom
 2 Chester Road, Wallingford

BETH ISRAEL SURVEY

The first on-line Beth Israel Survey has been completed. Thanks to your commitment to BI we received 86 questionnaires and the Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) is in the process of analyzing your responses. Once the information is organized we will share what we have learned with both standing committees and the community as a whole. The goal of the SPC is to use this tool and the information it provides to plan for BI's future and address the needs of our membership.

New Year's Eve Food Service, Monday, December 31: Food donations and servers needed. Information will be forthcoming.



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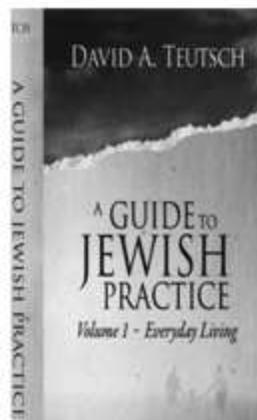
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Sunday

December 9, 2012

Catered Brunch: 10:00 a.m. Program: 10:30 - noon



Rabbi Teutsch will present material from *A Guide to Jewish Practice: Everyday Living* recently published by RRC Press. Based on more than seven decades of cutting-edge scholarship from the Reconstructionist movement, this volume is a comprehensive tool for navigating contemporary issues ranging from sexual ethics and gender identity to end-of-life decisions. It is an invaluable resource for crafting a personal approach to the important questions that confront us every day. (Books will be available for purchase.)

Rabbi David Teutsch, editor in chief of the groundbreaking seven-volume *Kol Haneshamah* prayer book series, is The Louis and Myra Wiener Professor of Contemporary Jewish Civilization at Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and the director of the Levin-Lieber Program in Jewish Ethics.

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Telephone: (610) 566-4645 | www.bethisraelmedia.org

TIKKUN OLAM SHABBAT
 FRIDAY NOVEMBER 30TH 8:00 PM
 CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL OF MEDIA

HAZON SHABBAT: BIKING TO SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

Hazon, which means vision, creates healthier and more sustainable communities in the Jewish world and beyond, effecting change in the world through transformative experiences, sharing ideas and capacity-building, supporting great people and projects in North America and Israel.

Hazon's programs are multi-generational and give entry points for Jews of all backgrounds who are concerned about the environment and the world. Hazon serves a national and international population; members of every denomination and those who are unaffiliated; intergenerational from children to seniors - including families and singles, with a particular focus on young adults interested in developing the skills to take on leadership roles in their communities and make a difference in the world.

A National View from a Bike:

Jeremy Brochin and Steve Masters will join Rabbi Linda Potemken at services to talk about their experiences this summer on the HAZON Bike Ride. Jeremy Brochin cycled for 2,300 miles over 6 weeks and Steve Masters road over 1,100 miles over 3 weeks as part of Hazon's Cross-USA bike ride to promote sustainability. They joined almost 60 riders in total, 9 of whom rode the entire 3,600 mile route in 10 weeks, from Seattle to Washington DC.

Please
 bring non-perishable,
 healthy food to donate to the
 Greater Media Area Food Bank

Jeremy and Steve will share some of their stories from the backroads of America and reflect on what they learned about themselves, our nation's broken food system and the work of Hazon.

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Light Up The Night!



Celebrate Chanukah at Beth Israel

Seventh Night: Friday, December 14th at 6:30 pm

Chanukah Party, Potluck Supper & Latkes!

Bring your menorah & candles to light together before we celebrate Kabbalat Shabbat.

Join us to sing Chanukah songs with BIMAS & the chorus & play Chanukah games.

Please bring a dairy or vegetarian dish to share.



RSVP so that we'll have enough latkes.

610-566-4645 or arlene_benz@bethisraelmedia.org



Beth Israel's Chanukah Chavurah 2012 / 5773

Celebrate with BI members. Light menorahs (BYO Menorah & Candles). Sing Chanukah songs. Schmooze with BI friends, old & new. Thank you to our hosting members and RSVP directly to them (including any food allergies, please). Get phone numbers, emails & addresses from the BI directory or through the office.

1st night (Sat. 12/8)
Platt/Schaufler in Swarthmore

6:30 pm Buffet dinner provided. Please bring dessert & drinks. Adults & teens only. Many steps. Cats. RSVP to robin@likethebird.com.

2nd night (Sun. 12/9)
Gelman/Haber in Wallingford

5:30 pm Dinner provided, please bring a side dish. Child friendly. Porch steps. Cats.

3rd night (Mon. 12/10)
Vesely in Media

7:00 pm Latkes & drinks provided. Please bring a dessert and/or drink. Adults & teens only. Steps. Cats.

4th night (Tues. 12/11)
Gornstein in Brookhaven

6:30 pm Potluck dinner, latkes provided. Child friendly. 3 steps. Cat in basement.

5th night (Wed. 12/12)
Blechner/Pragman in Limerick

6:00 pm Stew & latkes provided. Please bring a veggie or dessert to share. Cats. Few steps.

6th night (Thurs. 12/13)
@ Tiffany/Yudkin in Wilmington
(Hamermesh cohosting)

6:00 pm Potluck dinner, latkes provided. Child friendly. Accessible. No pets.

**** 7th night (Fri. 12/14) ****
** Beth Israel in Media **

6:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat & Candlelighting. BIMAS & Chorus. Potluck Dinner. Latkes provided. See flyer. RSVP to office.

8th night (Sat. 12/15)
Sigler in Wilmington

4:00 pm Potluck dinner, latkes provided. Children birth to 110 are welcome. 2 steps. Cats & dog. Please call with what you are bringing.

News from the Social Action Committee

Upcoming/Ongoing Activities

aFewSteps to Greener Living, Sunday, December 2, 9:45 to 11:45 am: Many of us are interested in shrinking our carbon footprints—and energy bills—but we're not sure where to start. Should we replace the windows in our home? Buy a hybrid car? Put up a clothesline? Become a vegetarian? **Join Beth Murray of aFewSteps.org** to discuss the decisions that we make each day and how they affect the environment—and our pocketbooks. aFewSteps is a new, local volunteer organization whose mission is to raise awareness of energy use in our community and to provide our residents, schools, businesses, houses of worship, and governments with the know-how to save money and reduce greenhouse gases 20% or more by the year 2020. It may not be as hard as we think, if we take it a few steps at a time. **Note: Breakfast will be served at 9:45 followed by the presentation and discussion, beginning at 10:15.** *This activity is offered jointly by the Social Action and Adult Education Committees.*

Food Service, Monday, December 31: Food donations and servers needed. Information is forthcoming.

Swarthmore Coop Food Service, Sunday evening, February 3 (cooking), Monday, February 4 (delivery):

Last March BI participated in a special project organized by Swarthmorean Helen Nadel and others. Each month a group gathers after hours on a Sunday evening at the Swarthmore Coop to cook nutritious meals made from delicious, fresh food. The following day, the meals, about five days' worth, are delivered to seniors and others in need in the area. Once again, SAC is facilitating BI's participation in this *tikkun olam* project. All BI members, aged 16 and older, are welcome to participate. Helen Nadel will be there to teach and supervise. Social Action Committee member John Greenstine will be the point person for BI. More information about how you can participate is forthcoming. If you know of anyone in the Wallingford-Swarthmore-Media area who is in need of this food program, please contact Jean Fleschute at jean-fleschute@verizon.net.

Preparing for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service:

SAC member Elaine Wasekanes is gathering a list of service activities in the area, which she will accumulate, organize, and send to the Congregation. Please let Elaine know of any such events or useful websites: catwasekanes@yahoo.com.

MLK, Jr. Day of Service Activity at BI, Monday, January 21, 2013, 1:00 to 3:00 pm: Now that the weather is turning, it's a good time to take out your knitting needles and crochet hooks and make a few hats for those in need. As she has in the past, SAC member Judy Kinman is organizing the once-a-year afternoon of knitting and crocheting hats for Back on My Feet (BOMF) and Community Action Agency of Delaware County (CAADC). BOMF needs hats for their homeless men who run throughout the winter, and CAADC needs hats for their families (all ages) who reside in their shelters. Yarn has been donated, Judy has an easy hat pattern for knitting, and SAC member Lynn Cashell can give instructions for crocheting hats. Anyone who wishes to meet before then for a learning session, or just wants company while knitting or crocheting, should contact Judy Kinman: kinman@upenn.edu. *Beginners are welcome.*

Recent Activities

Food Service, Monday, October 29: Neither snow nor rain nor hurricanes stay these SAC members: Lynn Cashell, John Greenstine, Susan Klein, Lauri Mansky, and Stu Pittel were not about to let the rains and winds of Hurricane Sandy stop them from making sure that the needy had a meal last Monday. Despite the obstacles, these folks went to heroic efforts to deliver your contributions to Community Action Agency of Delaware County (CAADC). And a big thanks to all the others who helped to support the food service.

Future Social Action Committee Meetings

Are you interested in furthering social action in the community? We're always looking for new committee members to help plan activities and take on responsibilities. We generally meet the first Thursday evening of the month at 7:30 pm. See the BI directory for address information or contact Jean Fleschute: 610-328-4824 or jean-fleschute@verizon.net. Please join us:

Thursday, December 6, 7:30 pm: Susan Klein and Stu Pittel will host.

Please remember to donate toiletries etc. for Community Action Agency of Delaware County in the blue bin in the lobby. Thank you



RPC High Holiday Wrap

Dear Beth Israelites,

At the October RPC meeting we conducted our annual High Holiday Wrap Up meeting in which we, as a community, review the entire High Holiday season from Selichot to Simchat Torah. Certainly, the overall impression of those who responded in conversations, via email, and at the meeting is that the services helped many of us reach a high point on our spiritual journeys.

We are blessed with clergy who strive to bring the ancient and modern liturgy of our machzor alive, and offer us a path to a holy experience. Rabbi Linda pours her heart and soul into preparing for and leading High Holiday services, and does so with grace and thoughtfulness. Cantor Juliet has graced our bima for many years and continues to lift the words off the page and make them resonate, as she uses her voice to capture the many emotions of the services.

One of our great strengths as a community is the breadth and depth of members' involvement in so many aspects of the Yamim Nora'im. We would like to thank all who gave of their time and talent to make the haggim the special experience that they are, as well as everyone who came to participate in the service. So many members led services, read Torah or Haftarah, sang or played instruments, led prayers and English readings, offered Kavanot, blew

shofars, held, carried, lifted, and dressed Torah scrolls, offered announcements, acted as greeters or directed cars, opened and closed the ark, and assisted Torah readers. We are especially grateful to those, adults and teens, who stretched themselves this year to offer something that was new to them.

Many people work outside the walls of the sanctuary. Thank you to Helene Cohen, Arlene Benz, Suzanne Davis, Deenie Block, Lauri Mansky, Keith Mason and Caroline Byrd, the board and various committees and individuals who keep our Hebrew School and synagogue up and running all year long. We are indebted to the folks who organized and ran children's and teen programming, helped with parking, collected food for the food drive, decorated the sanctuary, built and decorated the Sukkah, helped with food preparation, setup and cleanup and organized various details which allowed services to flow smoothly.

The experience of actively participating and helping to create the many events that collectively make up the high holiday season is a key aspect of our strength as a community. When everyone contributes, in whatever way and to whatever extent, we collectively achieve a magnificent result. By engaging actively, we gain added meaning to our lives and connection to our tradition. Again, our deepest thanks to everyone who helped out in any way and for being a part of this extraordinary community. Kol Tuv, Laura Lee Blechner and Randy Tiffany
RPC Co-Chairs



Be our guest for lunch or for one of our monthly informational sessions.

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2012 AJC National Courage of Belief Award Dec 10 honoring Teresa Heinz

The American Jewish Committee (AJC) presents the National **Courage** of Belief Award to recognize outstanding members of the community who have distinguished themselves through personal achievement and dedicated community leadership. This is a very special year as we are commemorating the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the **Freedom Rally for Soviet Jewry**, in which Teresa played such a key role. In selecting Teresa for this award, our nominating committee cited her lifelong commitment to giving and caring, and her contributions to, not only the Soviet Jewry movement, but to many of the organizations and institutions that enhance the quality of life in the Philadelphia area.

We hope you can join us to celebrate Teresa!

AJC's National Courage of Belief Award Dinner Monday, December 10, 2012 Rittenhouse Hotel 5:30 - 8:30 PM

EVENT Co-CHAIRS:
Robert A. Fox

Steven G. Blum and Associates, LLC
Science and Ethics in Wealth Management

Steven G. Blum, Esq.
EdM, JD, LL.M. (in Taxation)

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Cleaning out your attic, basement or garage
Joseph Deutsch

213 Willow Road 610-368-5671 (cell)
Wallingford, PA 19086 jdbugeye@hotmail.com

I can help you set up a yard sale or just determine which items you have are salable. I am interested in buying old magazines, documents, photos, toys, games, trains, etc. Please call me before disposing of what you may think is junk.

Back to Hats -- for BOMF and CAADC

Now that the holidays are over and the weather is turning cooler, it's a good time to take out your knitting needles and crochet hooks and make a few hats for those in need. **Back On My Feet (BOMF)** needs hats for their homeless men who go running throughout the winter. **Community Action Agency of Delaware County (CAADC)** needs hats for their families (all ages) who reside in their shelters.



BACK on my Feet is a program in center city for homeless people, to bring discipline into their lives. They run each morning. BOMF tries to supply them with warm hats, gloves and socks for the run. They also help with other aspects of their lives as well, such as jobs.

They are a nonprofit organization that promotes the self-sufficiency of homeless populations by engaging them in running as a means to build confidence, strength and self-esteem.

The Community Action Agency of Delaware County operates the shelters in Delaware County. Beth Israel collects items for them - toiletries, blankets, diapers, etc. The box in the lobby has a list of items that are needed. When we brought BI's donated items to them last spring, they said that warm hats were always needed by the shelter residents.

If you need yarn: Yarn has been donated to BI so we may serve these needs. Joyce Romoff has yarn that is appropriate for the BOMF hats. Judy Kinman has yarn appropriate for all ages and genders. An easy pattern for knit hats is also available from Judy. Crochet instructions can be obtained from Lynn Cashell.



In one year, Beth Israel members have donated 49 hand-made hats to BOMF. They were greatly appreciated.

We meet only once a year as a group, on Martin Luther King Day. Plan to join us at BI on Monday, January 21st, 2013, 1:00 to 3:00 PM, to honor the day of service by making warm hats for those in need. Beginners are welcome.

Anyone who wishes to meet before then for a learning session, or just company while knitting or crocheting, should contact Judy Kinman: kinman@upenn.edu.

**BRING FAMILY AND FRIENDS... THE *MITZVAH MALL* IS COMING TO
BETH ISRAEL**

SUNDAY December 2, 2012 18 KISLEV 5773

10:30 - 12:00 IN THE BAYIT (THE HOUSE)



Students will be brought to the Mall by their teachers. All families are invited to visit the Mitzvah Mall anytime during that period.

At a time of year when so many are thinking about presents soon to be **received**, we are encouraging your children to think about the "presents" they will GIVE in the form of tzedakah. Here is how you can help:

Encourage your children to bring in money for the different organizations represented at the Mall. We will convert checks made out to Beth Israel into Mitzvah Money.

Discuss with your child the different organizations. Students will already know about each "mitzvah opportunity". The children will decide how much they wish to give to each organization using their Mitzvah Money and to whom to send the cards.

Discuss the importance of their contribution to improving the lives of so many people.

Discuss with your child the number of cards he/she would like to send as gifts to special people. They may have as many cards as they wish telling the recipient that a contribution has been made in their honor. There will be a seasonal card as well as a Chanukah card to choose from at each booth.

Come and "shop at the Mall."

Remind your children that we are taught that the world is based on three things: study, prayer, and deeds of loving kindness. Tzedakah comes from the Hebrew meaning justice or righteousness and a mitzvah is not merely a "nice thing to do", but a commandment.

NO CHILD WILL BE EXCLUDED FROM PARTICIPATION.

At the end of the Mall we will calculate how much was collected at each booth and send the contribution to the particular organization. The 4 organizations that will be represented at the Mitzvah Mall on December 11, 2011 are:

- **Mazon**, the Jewish response to hunger
- **HIAS- Hebrew Immigration Aid Society**
- **Second Harvest**

CAADC- Community Action Agency of Delaware County

Please find enclosed check or cash in the amount of _____

Name of child _____ Grade ____ Phone # _____

I would like to work at the MM _____ Name _____

Children will be given "Mitzvah money" to spend before they go to the Mitzvah Mall.



Yahrzeit List - Kislev/Shevat - 5773 - Dec. 2012



Member	In Memory Of	Heb./Eng. Date	Syn. Obs
Joyce Romoff	* Samuel Weizer, father	Kislev 17/Dec. 1	Dec. 1
Burton Cohen	* Jacob Cohen, father	Kislev 18/Dec. 2	Dec. 1
Richard Strauss	Erna Strauss, mother	Kislev 19/Dec. 3	Dec. 1
Miriam Sigler	Miles Harold Sigler, M.D., father	Kislev 22/Dec. 6	Dec. 1
Brian Randall	Marc Randall, brother	Kislev 23/Dec. 7	Dec. 1
Joe Burak	Lillian Burak, mother	Kislev 23/Dec. 7	Dec. 1
Robert Stone	Elizabeth Stone, mother	Kislev 25/Dec. 9	Dec. 8
Jennifer Stiller	Jim Smith, friend & mentor	Kislev 27/Dec. 11	Dec. 8
Jennifer Stiller	Joy Dancis Stiller, mother	Kislev 28/Dec. 12	Dec. 8
Sylvia Baker	* Irene Cann, mother	Kislev 28/Dec. 12	Dec. 8
David Cashell	Charles Naylor, father	Kislev 29/Dec. 13	Dec. 8
Alan Soffer	* Zelda Sommers, mother	Kislev 30/Dec. 14	Dec. 8
Miriam Sigler	Anna Aser, grandmother	Tevet 2/Dec. 15	Dec. 15
Marilyn Drukin	* Franya Lichtman, mother	Tevet 3/Dec. 16	Dec. 15
Deborah Erie	Elsie Magnus, grandmother	Tevet 4/Dec. 17	Dec. 15
Deborah Erie	Samuel D. Erie, father	Tevet 5/Dec. 18	Dec. 15
Stephen Plotkin	Murray Plotkin, father	Tevet 6/Dec. 19	Dec. 15
Ronald Levine	Morton Levine, father	Tevet 7/Dec. 20	Dec. 15
Suzanne Simenhoff	* William Deitch, grandfather	Tevet 8/Dec. 21	Dec. 15
John Greenstine	* Morris Greenstine, father	Tevet 9/Dec. 22	Dec. 22
Susan Meyer	Lois Sauve, mother	Tevet 9/Dec. 22	Dec. 22
Joyce Romoff	Jessica Miriam Weizer, niece	Tevet 10/Dec. 23	Dec. 22
Sylvia Baker	* Benjamin Cann, father	Tevet 11/Dec. 24	Dec. 22
Brian Randall	Abraham Randall, grandfather	Tevet 11/Dec. 24	Dec. 22
Suzanne Simenhoff	* Leon Simenhoff, grandfather	Tevet 12/Dec. 25	Dec. 22
Judy Goodrobb	Leon Goodman, father	Tevet 12/Dec. 25	Dec. 22
Randee O'Donnell	Ed O'Donnell, husband	Tevet 12/Dec. 25	Dec. 22
Philip Mansky	Joseph Mansky, father	Tevet 13/Dec. 26	Dec. 22
Richard Block	Jack Block, father	Tevet 13/Dec. 26	Dec. 22
Andrea Bruno	Rita Pollinger, mother	Tevet 13/Dec. 26	Dec. 22
Gloria Rabinowitz	Jeanette Kadvansky, mother	Tevet 15/Dec. 28	Dec. 22
Leslie Ann Alpert	Lena Alpert, grandmother	Tevet 17/Dec. 30	Dec. 29
Leslie Ann Alpert	Edwin Freed, father	Tevet 20/Jan. 2	Dec. 29
Steven Blum	* Tonia Spiro, grandmother	Tevet 20/Jan. 2	Dec. 29
Randi Raskin Nash	* Abraham Belsky, grandfather	Tevet 21/Jan. 3	Dec. 29
Randi Raskin Nash	Al Belsky, grandfather	Tevet 21/Jan. 3	Dec. 29

- An asterisk (*) indicates that a plaque exists at BI for the deceased.

- "Heb./Eng. Date" refers to date of death as it falls on this year's calendar.

- "Syn. Obs." is the synagogue observance date, the Saturday PRIOR to the Hebrew date.

DONATIONS November, 2012**BIMAS**

Shoshanna Gottlieb and Ronen Marmorstein

*In honor of Jason's Bar Mitzvah***The Prayer Book Fund**

David and Lynn Cashell

To: Andy, Merdie, Amanda and Brandon Coleman

In memory of Gilbert Coleman, beloved father and grandfather

Mel and Marilyn Drukin

To: Kathy Andersen and family

*In loving memory of your mother, Ruth Silberman***The SAC Fund**

Randi Raskin Nash and Kevin Nash

*Donation to Food Service***The Torah Fund**

Blechner-Pragman Family

To: Shawn & Samantha Dresner, Thomas & Jonathan Fogel, Randi Raskin Nash & Elan Nash, Jared Brown, Andy Coleman, Alan Fink, Steve Smith, Helen Plotkin, Reisa Mukamal, Andrea Bruno, Randy Tiffany, Joyce Romoff – *Thank you so much for leading Hebrew prayers on the Yamim Nora'im. Y'asher Koach!*

Jacob Manaker, Noah Arnold, Rich Block, Joyce Romoff, Julianna Bakker, Max Carp, Judy Ritter – *Thank you so much for chanting Haftarah on the Yamim Nora'im. Y'asher Koach!*

Shoshanna Gottlieb and Ronen Marmorstein

To: Reisa Mukamal

*Thank you for being a great tutor***Endowment Fund**

Josh and Jen Waterston

To: Suzanne Davis

*In memory of John Keiser, brother of Suzanne Davis. Jen and I wish you strength and support. May his memory be a blessing.***The Jonathan Raz Fund**

Andy Coleman and Family

To: Rabbi Linda and the Congregation

*With thanks to you all on the passing of my father***The Eliana Andersen Fund**

Reisa Mukamal and Steven Arnold

To: Andy, Merdie, Amanda and Brandon

In memory of Gilbert Coleman, beloved father and grandfather

To: Alyssa, Chris, Jacob, Maura and Rhiannon

In memory of Joan Tease, beloved mother and grandmother

To: Elaine, Ed, Eddie and Tyler

In memory of Corey Kesselman, beloved nephew and cousin

To: Lauri, Philip, Amy, Andrew and Erica

In memory of Lois Goodman, beloved mother and grandmother

To: Ross, Sharon, Gabriel, Shayna Elliot and Lauren

In memory of Desmond Boyd, beloved father and grandfather

To: Paul Block

In memory of Howard Block, beloved son

To: Lauren, Andrew, Lily and Ella

In memory of Henry W. Isenberg, beloved father and grandfather

Susan Garfinkel

To: Kathy Andersen and family

Condolences on the passing of Kathy's mother, Ruth Silberman

David and Lynn Cashell

To: Kathy Andersen and family

In memory of your beloved mother, Ruth Silberman

Larry and Ann Green

To: Kathy Andersen and family

In memory of Ruth Silberman

Josh and Jennifer Waterston

To: Kathy Andersen and family

In memory of Ruth Silberman

Ranee O'Donnell

To: Kathy Andersen and Family

In memory of your beloved mother, Ruth Silberman

Diane and Jack Scott

To: Kathy Andersen and family

In memory of Ruth Silberman

The Nash Family

To: The Andersen Family

In memory of Kathy's mom, may her memory be a blessing to you all

Randy Tiffany and Marjorie Yudkin

To: Kathy Andersen and family

In memory of Ruth Silberman

Helen Schachner

To: Kathy Andersen

In memory of Ruth Silberman, a life long friend

Cindy and Robert Savett
To: Kathy and Dan Andersen
In memory of Ruth Silberman

Amy Strauss
To: Kathy Andersen
In memory of your mother, Ruth Silberman

Shirley Conston
To: Kathy Andersen
In memory of Ruth Silberman

Anne Raunio and Scott Gilbert
To: Kathy Andersen and family
In memory of Ruth Silberman, mother of Kathy and grandmother of Molly and Ellie

Kathy Andersen
To: Lauri Mansky
Thank you to Lauri for all your help and support at my mother's shiva
To: Lauri and Phil Mansky
In honor of Lauri and Phil Mansky's becoming grandparents of Lucy Madeline

The Atkins and Simenhoff-Boxer families
To: The Andersen Family
You are in our thoughts during this difficult time

Blechner-Pragman Family
To: The Andersen Family
In memory of your mother and grandmother, Ruth Silberman. May her memory be a blessing

Eleanor and Richard Strauss
To: The Silberman Andersen Families
In memory of your beloved mother and grandmother, Ruth Silberman

The General Fund

The Blechner-Pragman Family
To: Coleman Family
In memory of your father and grandfather, Gilbert Coleman. May his memory be a blessing
To: Forbes Family
In memory of your father and grandfather, Henry. May his memory be a blessing
To: Suzanne Davis
In memory of your brother, John Keiser. May his memory be a blessing

The Golden Book

Rabbi Helen Plotkin
To: Andy Coleman
In memory of Gilbert Coleman
To: Juliet Spitzer
With Gratitude for the power of your prayer
To: Rabbi Linda
For leading us on a profound path through the high holidays
To: Randy Tiffany
With thanks for your leadership at BI
To: Laura Lee Blechner
With thanks for your leadership at BI

Rabbi Linda
To: Jason Marmorstein
Mazel Tov on the occasion of your Bar Mitzvah
To: Rhiannon Tease
Mazel Tov on becoming a Bat Mitzvah
To: Maura Tease
Mazel Tov on the occasion of your Bat Mitzvah

Shoshanna Gottlieb and Ronen Marmorstein
To: Laura Lee Blechner
Thank you for enriching Jason's Bar Mitzvah

Deenie and Rich Block
To: Andy Coleman and family
In memory of Gilbert Coleman, your loving father and grandfather
To: Kathy Andersen and Family
In memory of your beloved mother, Ruth Silberman

Randee O'Donnell
To: Stu Pittel
In honor of my "Newark Angel." Thank you so much!
To: Andy Coleman and family
In memory of Gilbert Coleman

Rose Torres-Zuppo and Family
To: Rachel Zuppo
Mazel Tov on being selected as Homecoming Queen at SHHS and also becoming President of the National Society of the Arts, The Art Club, and The Graphic Design Club

Mel and Marilyn Drukin
To: Lauren Forbes and family
In loving memory of your father, Henry Walter Isenberg
To: Andy Coleman and family
In loving memory of your father, Gilbert Coleman

David and Lynn Cashell
To: Andy Coleman and family
In memory of your father, Gilbert Coleman

Deenie and Rich Block
To: Lauri and Phil Mansky
In joyful celebration of the arrival of Lucy. Wishing you much happiness and good health

Laura Handel
To: Dan and Michelle Atkins
In memory of Lee Stewart Atkins

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Mark Cary and Anita Weber
To: Helen Cary
In memory of Harold Cary, beloved husband and father, on his yahrzeit

Josh and Jen Waterston
To: Andy Coleman and Family
In memory of Gilbert Coleman, father of Andy Coleman. Hugs and support to Andy, Merdie, Amanda and Brandon.

To: Lauren Forbes and Family
In memory of Henry Isenberg, father of Lauren Forbes. Condolences and support to Lauren, Andrew, Lily and Ella.

Shoshanna Gottlieb and Ronen Marmorstein
To: Rabbi Linda
With thanks for your support and guidance with Jason's Bar Mitzvah

Anita Weber and Mark Cary
Donation to help where needed

Linda and Burt Cohen
To: Gavri'el Pitkapaasi
Wishing Gavri'el a speedy recovery

Mazel Tov from the Congregation to:

*Don Lessem and Val Jones on their marriage
Lauri and Philip Mansky on the birth of their first grandchild, Lucy Madeline*

Sending you blessings for healing:

Ed and Naomi Sav, Dottie Jenkins, Jane Laffend, Ken Laffend, Ron Romoff, Bob Stone, Andrew Kelly, Ken Kinman, Randee O'Donnell, Gavri'el Pitkapaasi,

Plaque List - Kislev/Shevat - 5773 - Dec. 2012

In Memory Of	Heb./Eng. Date	Syn. Obs
Benjamin Goldberg,	Kislev 18/Dec. 2	Dec. 1
Ruben R. Wolkov,	Kislev 22/Dec. 6	Dec. 1
Dorothy Wasserman,	Kislev 22/Dec. 6	Dec. 1
Myer Harold Zabludoff,	Kislev 27/Dec. 11	Dec. 8
Marcia Sherrod,	Kislev 29/Dec. 13	Dec. 8
Miriam Luchansky,	Tevet 2/Dec. 15	Dec. 15
Esther Rich,	Tevet 4/Dec. 17	Dec. 15
Katie H. Herring,	Tevet 8/Dec. 21	Dec. 15
Irving Cooperman,	Tevet 8/Dec. 21	Dec. 15
Charles Toborowsky,	Tevet 9/Dec. 22	Dec. 22
Ann Silberman,	Tevet 9/Dec. 22	Dec. 22
Frances Solomon,	Tevet 13/Dec. 26	Dec. 22
Lewis Greene,	Tevet 13/Dec. 26	Dec. 22
Samuel Lampert,	Tevet 15/Dec. 28	Dec. 22
Isaac "Fritz" Fredland,	Tevet 16/Dec. 29	Dec. 29
Ida Wolkov	Tevet 19/ Jan. 1	Dec. 29
Leon Wolkov	Tevet 21/ Jan. 3	Dec. 29

Condolences from the Congregation to:

*Lauren Forbes on the passing of her father, Henry Walter Isenberg
Andy Coleman on the passing of his father, Gilbert Coleman
Suzanne Davis on the passing of her brother, John P. Keiser
Kathy Andersen on the loss of her mother, Ruth Silberman*



dh **DIANE HARK ART**
www.dianeharkart.com

— AWARD WINNING DYNAMIC WATERCOLORIST —
DIANE HARK, PAFA ALUMNI
SIGNATURE MEMBER: PWS, MoWS, PHILA. SKETCH CLUB



**Martins Run Senior Living Community &
DIANE HARK**

Invite you to share their excitement and pleasure
in presenting a new exhibition
“SEARCHING FOR OUR JEWISH LEGACY”
a unique documentation of watercolors and acrylics
painted during a recent trip to Eastern Europe,
depicting the emotion, history and beauty of
these restored and rebuilt countries
PRAGUE, BUDAPEST AND VIENNA

Opening reception and talk
December 9, 2012 at 6:30 pm
11 Martins Run Media, Pa 19063

Followed by Klezmer Klassics Concert at 7:15
A portion of sales donated to Martins Run.

For more info contact
dianeharkart@aol.com
ablum@martins-run.org



December 2012

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																		
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<p>9:30 AM Going Green at BI (B. Murray, Sprkr)</p> <p>9:30 AM HS</p> <p>10:00 AM Mechina</p> <p>4:00 PM Mekom Torah High School at Ohev</p> <p>Mitzvah Mall</p>	<p>7:30 PM Torah for Grownups @ BI w/ R. H. Plotkin</p>	<p>4:15 PM School</p> <p>7:30 PM Buddies Torah @ Ohev w/ R. H. Plotkin</p>	<p>7:30 PM Executive Committee</p>	<p>7:30 PM Social Action Committee @ Stu and Susan's home</p>	<p>6:00 PM Young Family Service Dinner hosted by Vav</p> <p>6:45 PM Young Family Service with Rabbi Linda Potemken</p>	<p>9:45 AM Shabbat Services led by Randy Tiffany</p>																																																																																																		
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<p>9:30 AM HS</p> <p>10:00 AM Brunch - Spkr. R. D. Teutsch</p> <p>10:00 AM Mtg Sun.</p> <p>4:00 PM MTHS Ohev Chanukah</p>	<p>7:30 PM Torah for Grownups @ BI w/ R. H. Plotkin</p> <p>Chanukah</p>	<p>4:15 PM School</p> <p>Chanukah</p>	<p>Chanukah</p>	<p>12:00 PM Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Linda</p> <p>12:00 PM Lunchtime Torah Downtown w/ R. H. Plotkin</p> <p>Chanukah</p>	<p>6:30 PM Shabbat Services and Chanukah Party w/ R. Linda</p> <p>7:30 PM Potluck Dinner</p>	<p>9:45 AM Shabbat Services with Rabbi Linda</p> <p>11:45 AM Potluck Lunch</p> <p>12:30 PM Torah Treks w/Rabbi Linda</p> <p>8th Night of Chanukah</p>																																																																																																		
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<p>9:30 AM HS</p> <p>10:00 AM Cong. Meeting</p> <p>12:15 PM BLT. Midrasna Bet w/ Rabbi Linda</p> <p>4:00 PM Mekom Torah High School at Ohev</p>	<p>7:30 PM Torah for Grownups @ BI w/ R. H. Plotkin</p>	<p>4:15 PM School</p> <p>4:30 PM Mussar Group with Rabbi Linda</p> <p>5:45 PM Parents Attend Service</p> <p>7:30 PM The Prayerbook w. R. H. Plotkin @ BI</p>	<p>7:30 PM Board Meeting</p>	<p>2:00 PM Learn/Practice Meditation w/ RLP</p>	<p>8:00 PM Shabbat Services w/ Rabbi Linda</p>	<p>9:45 AM Shabbat Meditation Services w/ Rabbi Linda</p>																																																																																																		
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<p>10:30 AM BI Book Club "Stars of David" @ Strauss Apt. in Riddle Village</p> <p><u>No Hebrew School</u></p>		<p><u>No Hebrew School</u></p>			<p>Shabbat At Home</p>	<p>9:45 AM Shabbat Services with Leaders, Laura Lee Blechner and Joyce Romoff</p>																																																																																																		
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<p><u>No Hebrew School</u></p>	<p>5:45 PM Food Service</p>																																																																																																							

Congregation Beth Israel
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 Media, Pennsylvania 19063-2240
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Assistant, Production	—Open—
Yahrzeit Editor	Suzanne Davis
Contributions Editor	Arlene Benz

The Israelight is published on the first of each secular month. All submissions must be received by the editor by the 1st of the preceding month to guarantee inclusion. Articles may be submitted by mail to the synagogue office or by email to:

Israelight@bethisraelmedia.org

Next Issue:

Jan 2013

Return Service Requested

YES! I shop at Acme or Giant, and I'm happy to purchase gift cards through BI. (For every \$100 I purchase, BI receives \$5.)

# of Cards (\$100 apiece)	Store	Total \$
_____	Giant	_____
_____	Acme	_____

Name: _____

Phone number: () _____

___ I will pick them up from the BI office on the following date: _____

___ Please call me to make other arrangements to pick up the cards.

Mail this coupon with your check, made out to Congregation Beth Israel, to:
 542 S. New Middletown Road, Media, PA 19063

Don't forget to check out the new Beth Israel website at
<http://bethisraelmedia.org/>