

# The Israelight

## It's Time To Celebrate Chanukah

Rabbi Linda Potemken

Chanukah begins with the lighting of the first candle on the evening of the 25<sup>th</sup> of Kislev, which falls on December 20<sup>th</sup> this year. For eight nights we light the menorah, chant the blessings and celebrate.

Chanukah celebrates the miracle of the oil that burned for eight days rather than the expected one day, following the rededication of the Temple after its desecration at the hand of the Greeks. As such, Chanukah is a celebration of light and possibility and mystery.

Chanukah also commemorates the struggle led by the Maccabees against the Hellenistic overseer of the Land of Israel and against Hellenized Jews. Jewish practices, such as circumcision, kosher food and Shabbat had been outlawed. Some Jews had followed the direction of the Hellenistic king but others, committed to Torah, battled against the armies of Antiochus and against his collaborators in the Jewish community. Chanukah celebrates the resistance to coercion and repression as well as the right to engage our own faith tradition.

In Jewish homes all over the world, the menorah is lit each night, with a new candle added

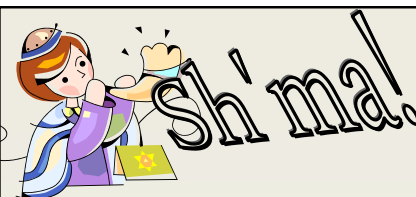
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## Presidents message

In the middle of October, Jennifer, Sammy and I took a trip up to Boston for Jen's cousin's wedding. It was a beautiful wedding, held on a historic farm, with autumn colors and smells all around. Jen and I looked at the pictures recently, and I was struck by how much every picture is a snapshot of a fleeting moment. Fortunately, there were some wonderful moments captured by the photographer. When this article is published, the December congregational meeting will be just weeks away (December 18<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM). I thought now would be a good time to take stock of where we are at this point in the synagogue year.

I am pleased to report that we are moving forward. While I'd like to exuberantly say that we are growing by leaps and bounds, that is not the case. I don't know that our peers are doing so either. The unfortunate truth is that the economic fallout from the recession continues to affect our community, including our synagogue members. We are trying to make some long-term financial decisions to ensure our fiscal health, while at the same time reducing our immediate expenses, and making expenditures which further our core mission. However, life intervenes, as always. Our roof will need to be either repaired (hopefully) or

*Continued next page..*



**Dec 1, 12:00pm – Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Linda**

**Dec 4 – High Holy Days Wrap-Up meeting, Winter Coat and Clothing Drive**

**Friday, Dec 9, 8pm – Tikkun Olam Shabbat . The Health, Education and Legal Assistance Project by BI member Dan Atkins and colleague, Laura Handel**

**Saturday, Dec 10, 12:30pm – Torah Treks with Rabbi Linda – the book of Judges**

**Sunday, Dec 11, 10:15am – Jewish Approaches to Mediation and Stress Management taught by Rabbi Linda**

**Tuesday, December 13, 7:30pm – Opening Judaism with Rabbi Helen Plotkin**

**Thursday, Dec 15, 2pm – Meditation with Rabbi Linda**

**Friday, Dec 16, 6:15pm – Young Family Shabbat with Rabbi Linda**

**Tuesday, Dec 20 – First Light of Chanukah and beginning of 8 nights of Chanukah Chavurot**

**Thursday, Dec 22 10:30am – Latke making crew**

**Friday, Dec 23, 6:30pm – Chanukah Shabbat followed by potluck and latke dinner. Bring menorahs!**

**Saturday, January 7 12:30pm – Jonathan Raz Memorial Lecture by Rabbi Daniel Grossman.**

**Rabbi, continued**

each day. Gifts are often exchanged and fried foods such as potato latkes or doughnuts are eaten in honor of the miracle of the oil. Dreidls are spun, with the four letters on the dreidl representing the phrase, “a great miracle happened there.” People relax while the candles burn down, adding to the festive atmosphere of the week.

The meaning of the word Chanukah is dedication. This minor festival invites us to consider the commitments that we have made in our lives and to dedicate or re-dedicate ourselves to that which is important. It reminds us that miracles are possible and that by bringing a small amount of light into this world, we can create abundant goodness. Chanukah also invites us to take a look at ourselves and at our community. How are we holding the tension of living a Jewish life versus the constant call of competing activities?

As you move through the eight nights of Chanukah, you may want to consider any of all of the following practices. Please feel free to add your own and to send me an email and let me know what you did.

•Chanukah Suggestions:

- Dedicate the first night to celebrating for all eight nights.
- Make potato latkes with friends or family.
- Learn a new Chanukah song.
- Study a Jewish text while the candles burn.
- Instead of a nightly gift exchange, collectively designate organizations to receive your tzedakah as the Chanukah gift, for at least one night
- Buy a mezuzah and dedicate your doorpost if you have not yet done so.
- If you have a mezuzah outside, buy or make a mezuzah to affix to an inner doorway.
- Visit at least one Chanukah chavurah sponsored by BI
- Spend Shabbat Chanukah, Friday night and Saturday morning with Beth Israel
- Decide how you or your family/cohort of friends will bring light into your own lives through the long dark winter
- Commit to bringing light into the lives of others through tikkun olam (world repair), acts of chesed (lovingkindness) and tzedakah

*Best wishes for a joyous Chanukah.*

*Rabbi Linda*

**President, continued**

replaced, and that will cost money that I’d much rather use to improve the Hebrew School or other areas of our building. Our membership is holding steady, but we still need to shrink expenses in order to stay ahead. We may be fortunate, and have heating expenses that aren’t as high as last year, if current oil trends continue (Note to the Almighty: please don’t let another Middle East crisis erupt until after the end of this fiscal year. Thank you.). The fact that we’re in decent shape speaks well of our prior leaders and members. There is, however, plenty that you can do to help us out.

Acme certificates and eScrip.com: When you purchase Acme supermarket cards from Beth Israel, our synagogue earns a percentage on the sale. It’s a great, ongoing, fundraiser, which needs more participation in order to be successful. To request Acme cards, look for Lynn Kelly on Sundays, ask a Board member, or call Arlene Benz between Tuesdays and Fridays. We also benefit from congregant participation in the eScrip.com program. Beth Israel benefits when you register your credit and debit cards and then shop at Genuardi’s, dine out, or shop online. Look for an article with more information in this month’s Israelight.

Introduce us to your friends and relatives: We don’t have a large advertising budget, so we rely on small ads, through the efforts of our outgoing Public Relations chair and past president, John Greenstine. We are greatly indebted to him for finding the perfect “bang for the buck” in our advertising, and for helping capture the essence of who we are and what we do. However, in order to really see who we are, you have to be here! I am asking you to introduce us to those you know. We rely on new energy and new members to keep us growing, and your efforts can certainly help us move in that direction. Please tell your friends about our new Chaver (Associate) membership. Members within 75 miles of BI who are primary members of another synagogue can pay \$500/year to be members of BI. Members who live farther than 75 miles from BI can pay \$180/year to be members, which includes perks such as the Israelight, membership on the Beth Israel Forum, and High Holy Day tickets. Please spread the word!

*Continued next page..*

*President, continued*

Be an active member. We live in a busy society which pulls us in many directions. We welcome you if you only come for our Hebrew School, or if you only come for an occasional Shabbat service. But you may be missing out on a deeper experience. Our committees need energy, ideas, and enthusiasm in order to remain vibrant. What we have done in the past doesn't always continue to succeed, and we need our members to help us change and adapt. Our Members' Handbook and Directory includes information on who does what, and has contact information for all of us. Call or e-mail a committee chair to get involved, even if it's just to dip your toe in the water.

Thanks for doing your part to make Beth Israel such a unique and special community. Now go tell others about us!

*In friendship,*

*Josh Waterston,*

*President*

**UPCOMING ADULT EDUCATION**

**LUNCH AND LEARN** w/ Rabbi Linda December 1, 12-1:30

**TORAH TREKS**, The book of JUDGES from the PROPHETS, w/ Rabbi Linda, December 10, 12:30

**JEWISH APPROACHES TO MEDITATION & STRESS MANAGEMENT** w/ Rabbi Linda December 11, 10:15

**OPENING JUDAISM** w/ Rabbi Helen Plotkin, not too late to enroll, December 13, 7:30

**MEDITATION** w/ Rabbi Linda December 15, 2:00 pm

**A SUPPORT GROUP:** Spiritual Nourishment In Times of Transition, w/ Rabbi Linda, Dec 15, 2:45 pm

**THE JONATHAN RAZ MEMORIAL LECTURE**  
Ensuring Access: Becoming a Synagogue that Could Include Moses, Isaac, Leah and David. Saturday, January 7th, 12:30 (following Shabbat Services and catered Kiddush/Lunch) (please RSVP to 610 566-4645 x 7) Rabbi Daniel Grossman, has dedicated much of his career to making Jewish life accessible for those who may be seen as existing on the fringe of Jewish life thereby enriching

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### Cleaning out your attic, basement or garage ....

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jdbugeye@hotmail.com

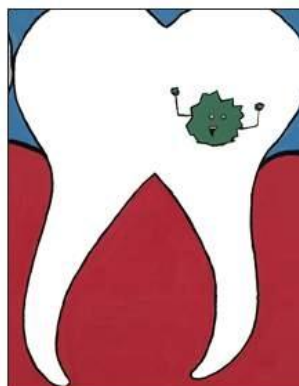
I can help you set up a yard sale or just determine which items you have are salable. I am interested in buying old magazines, documents, photos, toys, games, trains, etc. Please call me before disposing of what you may think is junk.

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

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**TIKKUN OLAM SHABBAT:****FRIDAY DECEMBER 9th****BETH ISRAEL PRESENTS****BI member Dan Atkins and****his colleague, Laura Handel****THE HEALTH, EDUCATION & LEGAL  
ASSISTANCE PROJECT**

Friday, December 9th, 8:00 p.m Shabbat Services  
with Rabbi Linda

THEME: Tikkun Olam Shabbat

Dan Atkins and Laura Handel will co-present on their work in Chester, Pa. with the Health, Education, and Legal assistance Project: A Medical-Legal Partnership at Widener University. They will discuss how HELP: MLP improves the health and well-being of Chester residents.

**Dan Atkins** has twenty years of experience as a poverty and disability rights lawyer—representing people who are poor and people with disabilities in civil matters. He is currently the Legal Advocacy Director for the Disabilities Law Program of Community Legal Aid Society, Inc. in Delaware. In 2009, he founded and now co-directs the Health, Education, and Legal assistance Project: A Medical-Legal Partnership (“HELP-MLP”) at Widener University, which provides free legal services to people who are poor in Chester, Pa. Dan is also an Adjunct Professor of Law at Widener University where he co-teaches courses in medical-legal partnerships, poverty law, disability law, and law and inequality. Dan is admitted to practice law in Delaware and Pennsylvania.

**Laura Handel** is a staff attorney at HELP: MLP, providing legal representation to participants in Chester’s Healthy Start program. Healthy Start provides social services to women who are pregnant and parents of children under two years of age in an effort to reduce infant mortality and improve the health of children and their parents. Laura graduated from Widener University School of Law in 2008. In 2009 Laura won the Christine M. McDermott Legacy Award for Outstanding Performance in Widener’s Clinical Program and Ongoing Dedication to Pro Bono Legal Service. Laura is an Adjunct Professor of Law at Widener University where she co-teaches courses about medical-Legal partnership. Laura is admitted to practice law in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

**Light Up the Night!**

**Celebrate  
Chanukah  
at Beth Israel**

Fourth Night - Friday, December 23rd - 6:30pm

Chanukah Party, Potluck Supper & Latkes!!

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

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

Please bring a dairy or vegetarian  
dish to share.



RSVP so that we'll have enough latkes.

610-566-4645

**Latke Making Bonanza!!**

Thursday,  
December  
22 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.



## Winter Coat & Clothing Drive: Last Chance to Donate is December 4th

My tikkun olam project this year is to collect as much warm winter clothing as I possibly can, and deliver it to those who really need it. Thank you to those of you who have helped me! For those who didn't get a chance to drop off your gently used, clean winter wear, I have added an extra drop off date.



Please bring your items to Beth Israel on **Sunday, December 4th between 9:30 am and noon**. Men, women's and children's clothes all needed including coats, sweaters, hats, gloves, scarves, snow clothing, and warm socks (NEW socks only please).

If you can't make that date or have questions please email my mom, Nancy Burlan, at [burlan@aol.com](mailto:burlan@aol.com).

Your donations are greatly appreciated - thank you!!!!!!

- Jonathan Fogel, Zayin student

## High Holy Day Wrap Up & Brainstorm Rescheduled Due To Way Too Early Snow!

**Sunday, December 4, 2011**

**10:30 am - 12 noon**

While all Religious Practice Committee meetings are open, we especially invite you to join the RPC for our next meeting:

**Personal Reflection:** What are you inspired to work on in your life or in the world in this New Year? How did the High Holy Days help you in your work of teshuvah?

**Share Your Experience and Ideas:** While our experiences are still fresh in our minds, bring your reflections and ideas to this meeting. If you are unable to attend, we welcome comments via phone or email. Our usual business meeting will begin at 10:00 am for those who are interested.

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## Support Beth Israel when you buy groceries, dine out or shop online!

*Food Certificates and EScrip.com*

Beth Israel is always looking for new ways to raise funds to support our Hebrew School, our religious life, and our overall budget (heating oil isn't cheap, unfortunately).

During this holiday season (and throughout the year), when you do your grocery shopping or when you shop online, you can support Beth Israel. There are two great ways to contribute to Congregation Beth Israel of Media that are incredibly easy.

First, if you shop at Acme or Pathmark, you can buy \$100 Cards, for...wait for it... wait for it...\$100. So, what is the catch? Beth Israel buys these cards at a 5% discount so that the Synagogue earns money with every purchase. That's all there is to it. You can buy these cards on Sunday from Lynn Kelly, stop into Arlene Benz's office, or drop any board member a line and we can make arrangements for you.

Second, when you sign up at eScrip.com and shop at Genuardi's, Beth Israel will benefit from your purchases. eScrip will make a donation to Beth Israel of between 1% and 4% based on the value of your monthly purchases. For example, if you spend \$200 per month at Genuardi's, then Beth Israel gets \$2 just from you doing what you would have done anyway. If 20 members do this each month, that's almost \$500 per year that Beth Israel receives. It definitely adds up to a big help.

Another way that you can participate through eScrip is to register your credit and debit cards and then dine at participating restaurants. According to their web site, there are 144 restaurants within 15 miles of Media which would donate 2.5% of your total bill (including tip) to Beth Israel. These include Nifty Fifty's, Shere-E-Punjab, and Heng's Thai. There's even a smartphone app to help you find partic-

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## Shop at Genuardi's to earn money for our group

**Renew or sign up with your Genuardi's Club Card today!**

### Renew by Nov. 1

If you participated last year, renew so our group continues to earn contributions.

- Go to eScrip.com
- Click on "YES RENEW!"
- Enter either your phone number, email, or Club Card number

**OR**

### Sign up

Your participation can mean hundreds of dollars for our group.

- Go to eScrip.com
- Click on "1-Sign Up"
- Enter your Club Card number

### What's new!

Genuardi's wants to do what we can to help every child stay fit and have access to nutrition programs. So we are asking schools and groups that receive Genuardi's donations to allocate 20% toward fitness and nutrition activities.

icipating restaurants.

An additional way to benefit Beth Israel is to start your online shopping at <http://shopping.escrip.com/>, and then choose a participating merchant. For example, when you shop online at Nordstrom, Beth Israel will receive a 6.6% contribution from your purchases. Other examples are Amazon.com: 2.4%, Sephora: 4.2%, Petco: 5.4%, 1-800-Flowers: 10.2%, Restaurant.com: 16.8%.

The day-to-day fundraising that we do throughout the year helps reduce the financial pressure on our synagogue caused by the current economic recession. Please think of Beth Israel, buy Acme cards, and sign up at eScrip.com. We appreciate your help!

*In friendship,*

*Josh Waterston (President) and Steve Goldfield (Financial Vice President)*

## Sustainability Goals

Four years ago Beth Israel's Green Committee was established with the goal of having our congregation work towards sustainability with the intent of conducting its activities in a manner that optimally promotes the community while minimizing BI's impact on the environment. Since then a recycling program was initiated, new thermostats were purchased in order to use our HVAC systems efficiently and in late October and energy audit will be started by members of aFewSteps.org.

The largest project completed with sustainability in mind took place this past September.

If your eyes wandered upward during the recent High Holiday services you may have noticed a softer and warmer light coming from the ceiling. The Board of Directors passed, and Denny Waldman, our facilities VP, implemented the task of installing LED light bulbs in the sanctuary. The environmental benefits of using less electricity and not disposing of as many bulbs and the ongoing cost savings take Beth Israel one step closer to our goal of becoming a greener community. Please remember that these improvements to our community could not be made without your contributions to BI's capital fund.

***Sustainability Question for the month: What simple change can cut laundry energy use in half? The answer is on page 9.***



*The Landscape Committee arranged to have our backyard neighbor (the Linvilles) bring their grinding machine over and remove a meter or more of tangled brush and vines from the property edge. The goal is to eventually grass the area for more parking during the holidays and for a recreation and game area for the children.*

## Chanukah Blessing



Here is one translation of the blessings over the candles:

Blessed are you, Source of Light, our God, the spirit of all worlds, who has made us holy with these practices and empowered us to kindle the Chanukah light.

Blessed are you, The Redeemer our God, the hope of all worlds, who did miracles for our ancestors in those days at this season.

(First night only): Blessed are you, Eternal one our God, the light of all worlds, who breathed life into us, and lifted us up and carried us to this time

## Recycling at Beth Israel

Did you know that BI recycles? Just like you do at home, BI recycles everything from paper to plastic to aluminum and glass. Recycling bins are clearly marked in the kitchen area.



Please help us to keep BI green by looking for recycling bins at upcoming events, such as the Hanukkah potluck on Dec. 23rd. Please do your part by throwing trash in the trash cans and everything else in the recycling bins.

***Thank you for keeping BI green!***

## Serving Halloween Dinner at the Upper Darby Life Center

Beth Israel's Social Action Committee prepares and serves dinner at the Upper Darby Life Center on the fifth Monday of the month. The most recent BI dinner fell on Halloween night, so the SAC volunteers made a festive meal with costumes! Food contributions are always needed. The next BI food service is Monday, January 30. Won't you help by cooking a big tray of food or buy jugs of juice and milk or come and help serve? Meet at BI around 5:30 and perform this important mitzvah for the wider community.



*Susan Klein and Stu Pittel ready for the Halloween Night Food Service at the Upper Darby Life Center*



*Louis Fiedler serving at the Upper Darby Life Center on Halloween*



*Above and below photos show Mark Rosenberg and Lynn Cashell at the BI Food Service at the Upper Darby Life Center on Halloween night*



*The minivan loaded with dishes from Beth Israel*





## New Member Brunch

On Sunday, October 16th, we welcomed some of our newest members with a brunch at Beth Israel. We met over bagels and coffee, and then Rabbi Linda led held a roundtable discussion about Reconstructionism and what it means to belong to BI. Each member was encouraged to share their particular journey to our congregation, and there was a wonderful dialogue. Our new members represent a diverse group of people with interesting backgrounds. We welcome all of you.

## Associate Membership

In order to accommodate friends and family members who have affiliations with other synagogues, Congregation Beth Israel has decided to introduce an associate membership program for those whose primary synagogue affiliation is elsewhere. This membership has two categories. It is designed for local families that have a primary membership at another synagogue and for families that have moved far away but would still like to be part of Beth Israel.

The first form of membership is for an individual or family unit who lives less than 75 miles from Beth Israel and who is a member in good standing and paying dues to another synagogue and is not interested in dual membership. As an associate member of Beth Israel, these members are entitled to all benefits and privileges afforded a full member. The dues for this membership are \$500 per year.

The second form of associate membership is for an individual or family unit who lives more than 75 miles from Beth Israel. These members are entitled to all the benefits and privileges afforded a full member. The dues for this form of membership are \$180.00 per year.

If you are interested, or know someone who may be interested, please have them contact Congregation Beth Israel at 610.566.4645 for more information or an application.

**Answer.** Switching your washing machine's temperature setting from hot to warm can cut energy use in half. Heating the water accounts for about 80 to 85 percent of the energy used in washing clothes.



Caption??



**The 2nd Annual Beth Israel Flea Market** will be on Sunday, March 18, 2012. Start cleaning out your books, household items, clothes, linens, and other goodies now! More details to follow after the "other" new year. Lynn Cashell and Joe Deutch, co-chairs



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\*Some restrictions apply



## ***Old testament scroll found in Negev; “Book of Dentists” Discovered!***

chap 6, v. 1-8

Naftali Tzvi lived in the Valley of Delaware, in the lush western edge called Delaware County.

His parents, Noach and Mindel, instilled in him a love of knowledge. He became a fine dentist and, over the years, he spent more than a calendar year of his life taking continuing education courses. He was exceedingly gentle with his patients (and was trained to sedate patients who felt themselves to be wusses) and had a nurturing staff; patients flocked to him as moths to a candle. Oy, his parents would have kvelled!

Naftali Tzvi had a beautiful office in Media, at the edge of the desert. He pampered his patients with a Capresso coffee machine, and a computer so they could study and print out parchments. He prospered and his patients prospered. His **preventive dentistry program** was so strong that most of his patients didn't need any restorative treatment at the vast majority of their checkups!

At the slave auction of the new moon, Naftali Tzvi bought two Ammonite dental hygienists with strange Ammonite names. He was proud of Michelle and Caroline and of their commitment to preventive dentistry. Patients listed to their wise teachings. Over the years, Naftali Tzvi began to realize that his preventive success had created a problem. His office was very dependent on new patients, since his existing patients tended to have few problems. What to do? Had a kinnehurrah been placed upon him?

Naftali Tzvi sought the wisdom of Morris, Prophet of Media. And Morris spoke these words: “You shall go to the Israelight and change your ad. You should offer the people a special incentive to come to you. This incentive shall be called a “limited time special offer.”

**And these were the words of Morris the sage: “For a limited time, I have instructed Naftali Tzvi to offer a cleaning, necessary X-rays, and a thorough comprehensive exam for 199 shekels.”**

And it was done.

Looking forward to seeing you in the office.

Naftali Tzvi Waterston, whose last name should have been Goldfarb (it's a long story).

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## Yahrzeits – Heshvan/Kislev – 5772 – Nov. 2011



Member	In Memory Of	Heb./Eng Date	Syn. Obs.
Alex Dresner	Alice Schlossberg, aunt	Kislev 7/Dec. 3	Dec. 3
Penny Bernick	Joshua Bornstein, father	Kislev 7/Dec. 3	Dec. 3
Suzanne Simenhoff	* Olive Simenhoff, grandmother	Kislev 7/Dec. 3	Dec. 3
Jeffrey Deitch	David Deitch, grandfather	Kislev 11/Dec. 7	Dec. 3
Helen Schachner	* Ida Skolnick, grandmother	Kislev 11/Dec. 7	Dec. 3
Stan Sklar	John Joseph Sklar, father	Kislev 15/Dec. 11	Dec. 10
Amy Fantalis	John Joseph Sklar, grandfather	Kislev 15/Dec. 11	Dec. 10
Arnie Schwartz	Sol Schwartz, father	Kislev 16/Dec. 12	Dec. 10
Joyce Romoff	* Samuel Weizer, father	Kislev 17/Dec. 13	Dec. 10
Burton Cohen	* Jacob Cohen, father	Kislev 18/Dec. 14	Dec. 10
Richard Strauss	Erna Strauss, mother	Kislev 19/Dec. 15	Dec. 10
Miriam Sigler	Miles Harold Sigler, M.D., father	Kislev 22/Dec. 18	Dec. 17
Brian Randall	Marc Randall, brother	Kislev 23/Dec. 19	Dec. 17
Joe Burak	Lillian Burak, mother	Kislev 23/Dec. 19	Dec. 17
Robert Stone	Elizabeth Stone, mother	Kislev 25/Dec. 21	Dec. 17
Jennifer Stiller	Jim Smith, friend & mentor	Kislev 27/Dec. 23	Dec. 17
Jennifer Stiller	Joy Dancis Stiller, mother	Kislev 28/Dec. 24	Dec. 24
Sylvia Baker	* Irene Cann, mother	Kislev 28/Dec. 24	Dec. 24
David Cashell	Charles Naylor, father	Kislev 29/Dec. 25	Dec. 24
Libbie Soffer	* Zelda Sommers, mother	Kislev 30/Dec. 26	Dec. 24
Felise Luchansky	Miriam Luchansky, mother	Tevet 2/Dec. 28	Dec. 24
Miriam Sigler	Anna Aser, grandmother	Tevet 2/Dec. 28	Dec. 24
Marilyn Drukin	* Franya Lichtman, mother	Tevet 3/Dec. 29	Dec. 24
Deborah Erie	Elsie Magnus, grandmother	Tevet 4/Dec. 30	Dec. 24
Deborah Erie	Samuel D. Erie, father	Tevet 5/Dec. 31	Dec. 31
Stephen Plotkin	Murray Plotkin, father	Tevet 6/Jan. 1	Dec. 31
Ronald Levine	Morton Levine, father	Tevet 7/Jan. 2	Dec. 31
Suzanne Simenhoff	* William Deitch, grandfather	Tevet 8/Jan. 3	Dec. 31
John Greenstine	* Morris Greenstine, father	Tevet 9/Jan. 4	Dec. 31
Susan Meyer	Lois Sauve, mother	Tevet 9/Jan. 4	Dec. 31
Joyce Romoff	Jessica Miriam Weizer, niece	Tevet 10/Jan. 5	Dec. 31
Sylvia Baker	* Benjamin Cann, father	Tevet 11/Jan. 6	Dec. 31
Brian Randall	Abraham Randall, grandfather	Tevet 11/Jan. 6	Dec. 31



## Donations

### **BIMAS**

Reisa Mukamal and Steven Arnold  
To: The Rosenberg and Kelly Families  
*In memory of Anne Rosenberg, beloved wife, mother, and grandmother to Ray, Mark, Kathleen, Lynn, Andrew, Sean, Lara, Doug, Amanda and Michael.*

Lisa Schachner  
*Funds remaining from musician's fees, donated to the BIMAS Fund*

### **The Prayer Book Fund**

Blechner-Pragman Family

### **Chumash Fund**

To: Anita Weber and Mark Cary  
*In honor of your conversions. May your Jewish journey be filled with Torah*

### **RPC Fund**

To: Laura Lee Blechner and Randy Tiffany  
Kevin, Randi Raskin and Elan Nash  
*For all you did, for all you do, thank you!!*

### **The Endowment Fund**

Alison and Scott Manaker

### **The General Fund**

Lisa Matika

Seymour Frank  
To: Louise Gilbert  
*In honor of Louise Gilbert*

### **The Torah Fund**

Blechner Pragman Family  
To: Alison Manaker  
*In memory of your father, Sandy Ehrlich*  
To: Larry and Marion Hamermesh  
*In memory of your mother, Naomi Rosenhaus Yager*

### **The Golden Book**

Ann and Larry Green  
To: The Jacobs Family  
*In memory of Ralph's mother, Claire Jacobs*

Linda and Burton Cohen  
To: Anita Weber  
*In memory of Florence Weber, mother of Anita Weber*

Helen Schachner  
To: Lynn Kelly and family  
*In memory of your beloved mother, Anne Rosenberg*

Rabbi Linda  
To: The Rosenberg and Kelly families  
*In memory of Anne Rosenberg. May her memory be a blessing to all of you.*

The Herman-Liu Family  
To: Alison Manaker  
*In memory of Sandy Ehrlich, Alison Manaker's father*

### **Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**

Sylvia Backhaut  
To: The Wasekanes Family  
*In honor of the Wasekanes family for the New Year holidays*

Blechner-Pragman Family  
*In memory of Grumpy Runkel, Aunt Bessie, Uncle Av, Dad*  
*In memory of Margie Sokoloff. Her memory will be a blessing*

To: Mark Schlam  
*In memory of your beloved aunt, Rebecca Lutto*  
To: Linda Cohen  
*In memory of your mother, Helen Handloff. May her memory be a blessing*

To: Judy Kinman  
*In memory of your sister, Edie Schwartz. May memories of your times together bring you comfort.*

To: Anita Weber  
*In memory of your mother, Florence Weber. May her memory be a blessing*

Anita Weber and Mark Cary  
*In memory of Harold Cary, beloved father and father-in-law*

Barbara Kaplan

Rabbi Linda Potemken

The Blechner-Pragman Family  
To: Lynn Kelly, Mark Rosenberg and Rayfield Rosenberg  
*In memory of your mother and wife. May her memory be a blessing*

Linda Cohen  
*In honor of 63 years of life and the blessing of being part of this community*

### **Sending you blessings for healing:**

*Melissa Leder-Randall, Jeff Deitch, Louis Friedler, Deenie Block, Ed and Naomi Sav, Jenny Shulbank, Dottie Jenkins,*

**Mazel Tov from the Congregation To:**

*Rachel Kroch on the occasion of her Bat Mitzvah*  
*Laurel Ritter Wiseman on becoming a Bat Mitzvah*  
*Samantha Dresner on the occasion of her Bat Mitzvah*  
*Michael Atkins on becoming a Bar Mitzvah*

**Condolences from the Congregation to:**

*Lynn Kelly on the passing of her mother, Anne Rosenberg*  
*Mark Rosenberg on the passing of his mother, Anne Rosenberg*  
*Rayfield Rosenberg on the loss of his wife, Anne Rosenberg*

**Plaque List December 2011 Kislev Tevet 5772**

In Memory Of	Heb./Eng Date	Syn. Obs.
Katie S. Weiss	Kislev 12/Dec. 8	Dec. 3
Brina Katz	Kislev 13/Dec. 9	Dec. 3
Cyrus Rothberg	Kislev 13/Dec. 9	Dec. 3
Ronie Reber	Kislev 14/Dec. 10	Dec. 10
Irving Harris Brandow	Kislev 15/Dec. 11	Dec. 10
Benjamin Goldberg	Kislev 18/Dec. 14	Dec. 10
Ruben R. Wolkov	Kislev 22/Dec. 18	Dec. 17
Dorothy Wasserman	Kislev 22/Dec. 18	Dec. 17
Myer Harold Zabludoff	Kislev 27/Dec. 23	Dec. 17
Marcia Sherrod	Kislev 29/Dec. 25	Dec. 24
Esther Rich	Tevet 4/Dec. 30	Dec. 24

## THE JONATHAN RAZ MEMORIAL LECTURE

The Raz Memorial Lecture was established to honor the memory of Beth Israel member Jonathan A. Raz, who passed away in February of 2000. Jonathan had joined BI with his wife Jennifer Lenway and their 2 daughters shortly after their move to Swarthmore. Dr. Raz was a devoted husband and father and was renowned in the field of biostatistics. He was also an award-winning poet, science fiction writer, amateur astronomer, gourmet cook and art collector. Jonathan Raz was to begin studying for adult Bar Mitzvah the week he died. We honor his memory through ongoing learning and celebration.



### Ensuring Access:

Becoming a Synagogue that Could Include  
Moses, Isaac, Leah, and David



Guest Speaker: Rabbi Daniel Grossman

Enriching synagogue life for everyone, Rabbi Daniel Grossman has dedicated much of his career to making Jewish life accessible for those who may be seen as existing on the fringe of Jewish life.

Rabbi Grossman serves as the rabbi at Congregation Adath Israel in Lawrenceville, NJ. He has served on the Special Education Committee of the United Synagogue. He co-wrote and participated in the video *Someone is Listening*, the story of a young deaf Jew and his search for fulfillment as a Jewish adult. Rabbi Grossman and his wife Elayne perform *Simon Tov*, an educational program that uses sign language, mime, music, and storytelling to bring the audience closer to the world of the Jewish deaf.



Saturday, January 7th, 12:30

(following Shabbat Services & a catered Kiddush Lunch)  
 (Lunch RSVP to 610 566-4645 x 7  
 or [arlene\\_benz@bethisraelmedia.org](mailto:arlene_benz@bethisraelmedia.org))



# December 2011

## Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
<div>Nov 2011</div> <table> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>		S	M	T	W	T	F	S			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30				<div>Jan 2012</div> <table> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>		S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					<div>1</div> <p>12:00 PM Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Linda</p> <p>12:00 PM Mekom Torah Lunchtime in Center City</p> <p>7:30 PM Social Action Committee Meeting</p>	<div>2</div> <p>8:00 PM Shabbat Services w Rabbi Linda</p>	<div>3</div> <p>9:45 AM Shabbat Services - Bat Mitzvah of Samantha Dresner</p>
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<div>4</div> <p>9:30 AM Hebrew School</p> <p>10:00 AM RPC/Ed, Mtgs.</p> <p>10:30 AM High Holiday Wrap-up and Brainstorm</p> <p>Craft Fair</p>	<div>5</div> <p>7:30 PM Mekom Torah for Grownups @ BI</p>	<div>6</div> <p>4:15 PM Hebrew School</p>	<div>7</div> <p>Executive Committee</p>	<div>8</div>	<div>9</div> <p>8:00 PM Shabbat Services w/Rabbi Linda, Tikkun Olam Shabbat, "The Health, Education &amp; Legal Assistance Project" w/ Dan Atkins &amp; Laura Handel</p>	<div>10</div> <p>9:45 AM Shabbat Services w/Rabbi Linda, Gim. &amp; Hay participate</p> <p>11:00 AM Kid's Minyan</p> <p>11:45 AM Potluck Lunch</p> <p>12:30 PM TT "Judges" w/ Rabbi Linda</p>																																																																																				
<div>11</div> <p>9:30 AM Hebrew School Mitzvah Mail</p> <p>10:00 AM G &amp; M</p> <p>10:15 AM Adult Ed Jewish Approach to Meditation &amp; Stress Mgt. w/RLP</p> <p>12:15 PM Midrash Bet with Rabbi Linda</p> <p>4:00 PM MTHS 5772 @ Ohev</p>	<div>12</div> <p>7:30 PM Mekom Torah for Grownups @ BI</p>	<div>13</div> <p>4:15 PM Hebrew School</p> <p>7:30 PM Mekom Torah Opening Judaism @ BI</p>	<div>14</div> <p>7:30 PM Board Meeting</p>	<div>15</div> <p>12:00 PM Mekom Torah Lunchtime in Center City</p> <p>2:00 PM Meditation w/Rabbi Linda</p>	<div>16</div> <p>6:00 PM YFS Dinner, Vav hosts</p> <p>6:45 PM YFS with Rabbi Linda and Vav</p>	<div>17</div> <p>9:45 AM Shabbat Services w/Rabbi Linda - Bar Mitzvah of Michael Atkins</p>																																																																																				
<div>18</div> <p>9:30 AM Hebrew School</p> <p>10:00 AM Congregation Meeting</p> <p>4:00 PM MTHS 5772 @ Ohev</p>	<div>19</div> <p>7:30 PM Mekom Torah for Grownups @ BI</p>	<div>20</div> <p>7:30 PM Mekom Torah Couples @Ohev</p> <p>1st Night Chanukkah</p> <p>Chanukah Chavurah</p> <p>No Hebrew School</p>	<div>21</div> <p>2nd Candle Chanukah Chavurah</p>	<div>22</div> <p>3rd Candle Chanukah Chavurah</p>	<div>23</div> <p>6:30 PM Shabbat Services - Chanukkah w/Rabbi Linda</p> <p>7:30 PM Chanukkah Dinner</p> <p>4th Candle</p>	<div>24</div> <p>9:45 AM Shabbat Services with Rabbi Linda</p> <p>5th Candle Chanukah Chavurah</p>																																																																																				
<div>25</div> <p>6th Candle Chanukah Chavurah</p> <p>No Hebrew School</p>	<div>26</div> <p>7th Candle Chanukah Chavurah</p>	<div>27</div> <p>8th Night of Chanukkah</p> <p>Chanukah Chavurah</p> <p>No Hebrew School</p>	<div>28</div>	<div>29</div>	<div>30</div> <p>8:00 PM Shabbat Services, Leaders TBA</p>	<div>31</div> <p>9:45 AM Shabbat Services, Randi Raskin Nash and Joyce Romoff will lead</p>																																																																																				



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[Israelight@bethisraelmedia.org](mailto:Israelight@bethisraelmedia.org)

**Next Issue:**

January— Tevet/Shevat 5772