

The Israelight

OPENING TO SHABBAT, OPENING TO STUDY

A Few January Opportunities

by Rabbi Linda Potemken

On the Shabbat of January 6 and 7, we will finish the book of Genesis, share the Jonathan Raz Memorial Lunch and Learn, and enjoy a different type of Shabbat experience on Friday night. As the book of Genesis comes to a close, we will bring in Shabbat in a slightly different way. How will this night be different from all other nights?

The first Friday of the month we generally gather for a 6:30 service followed by a 7:30 dinner. On the first Friday of this January, we will combine our prayer, meal, and singing. We will begin and end around the table, sharing blessing, food, and conversation. The evening will be a bit like the Passover seder where the eating takes place within the context of prayer, song, and teaching and where the prayer takes place in the context of the meal.

We hope to bring in Shabbat in a cozier fashion, to eat earlier, to know one another better and to have another vehicle to help us connect with the beauty of Shabbat. The meal will still be a potluck, but plan to bring your most delicious vegetarian (or dairy, fish) recipes. I will be creating the Shabbat seder, but I need your help.

Two members of the RPC, Marion Hamermesh and Libbie Soffer, have volunteered to set up the room to reflect the beauty and intimacy of the Shabbat seder. (Thank goodness for artists) Arlene Benz, in our office, will be accepting your RSVPs so that we have some idea of how many to expect.

Rabbi's message continued on page 2

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Winter tends to be a tough time in my household. It's cold outside; it gets dark early, and it's easy to feel kind of... blah. We don't have friends over for an impromptu summer barbeque. It's long past time to gaze at the different colors of the leaves and way too early to think about spring bulbs popping up (our snowdrops are a harbinger of spring). It's a great time of year for eating brisket or chicken soup and spending quality time near the fireplace or under a warm blanket, or both.

Congregation Beth Israel tends to suffer from these same winter doldrums to a small extent. Hanukah has passed; Purim and Passover aren't yet here (come to think of it, the Purim schpiel folks have to get to work), and the board has a couple of months when we don't yet have to think about plan-

President's message continued on page 2



Pot Luck Dinner and
Games Night!
Jan. 6, 6:30 pm

Jonathan Raz
Memorial Lecture
Jan. 7, 12:30 pm

Torah Treks - I Samuel
with Rabbi Linda
Jan. 14, 12:30 pm

Our Bodies, Our Health
Robin Cohen and
Andrea Bruno
Jan. 22, 2012, 10-12 pm

Young Family Shabbat
with Rabbi Linda
Jan. 27, 6:15 pm

Torah Treks
Deborah Baer Mozes and
Rabbi Linda
Jan. 28, 12:30 pm

Israeli Wine Tasting Night
Jan. 28, 7 pm

Rabbi's Message continued from page 1

It would also be helpful to know what you plan to bring for the meal if you can commit to that in advance. (Tell Arlene)

If there is a Shabbat reading, poem, prayer, or song that you would like to include in this new Shabbat seder, please let me know. I would love to include your creativity as well. After we have finished our seder, meal, and prayers, we are all encouraged to stay and enjoy game night with one another. What a great way to spend Erev Shabbat!

One week later, on Shabbat Shemot, the Shabbat where we begin to read our birth story, Exodus, we will gather on Friday at 8 pm to celebrate Shabbat and to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We will enjoy Shabbat prayer and special music and meet some of the new RRC students who will join us for the evening. I will speak on the issues of justice and tikkun olam themes that Dr. King has left for us to address.

The following day, January 14, and again on January 28, I will have the privilege of teaching the next two sessions of Torah Treks. We have had a wonderful time for the first three sessions, exploring lesser known books of our Bible. On the 28th, I will co-teach the session with Philadelphia's Deborah Baer Moses, creator of Jewish theater in our city. While I will teach the more "academic" part of the session, Deborah will lead us in an artistic understanding of these dynamic books that we are tackling.

I look forward to exploring Shabbat, study, and Jewish life with you.

L'Shalom, Rabbi Linda

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President's Message continued from page 1

ning next year's budget.

But there are still great events happening at BI, even in the depths of winter! We have a Potluck and Games Night on January 6, which is a terrific way to spend some low-key fun time with long-time friends or to get to know new and better friends. Yes, I am checking to see if you're paying attention, deep into the second paragraph of this article.

Another event which I'm looking forward to is the Jonathan Raz Memorial Lecture on January 6. The Raz lecture honors the memory of a wonderful human being by bringing to Beth Israel thought-provoking speakers, and this year is no different.

This year's theme is "Ensuring Access: Becoming a Synagogue that Could Include Moses, Isaac, Leah and David." The speaker, Rabbi Daniel Grossman, is from Adath Israel Congregation in Lawrenceville, New Jersey, and focuses on bringing the Jewish experience to all of us, including those who have special needs. He has focused on those with special needs both visible and invisible, including work on special education, understanding the world of the Jewish deaf community, and as the Adath Israel website phrases it, "a commitment to make Jewish life accessible for those groups sometimes seen as existing on the fringe of Jewish life."

Rabbi Linda and Beth Israel as a whole have been focusing on bringing the Beth Israel experience to all of our members and guests, including those with special needs. I look forward to his lecture, and hope to see you there.

In addition to these events, feel free to drop in to Torah Treks after Shabbat morning services (while I'm sure that Rabbi Linda would love to see you at services, it's not required). Enjoy a potluck lunch at 11:45 and Jewish learning at 12:30. Check the *Israelight* and the website for our calendar of events and for more information about events or classes that interest you.

On a separate note, members sometimes have questions or concerns about Beth Israel. Whether it's a small or large problem (or a compliment!), please feel free to call or e-mail me or another member of the Board of Directors. We have a pretty good system in place, but we do rely greatly on the work of volunteers, and we are neither instant nor flawless. Our overarching goal is that we want our members to be satisfied with who and what we are as a community. If something's not working as well as we'd like, we want to hear about it, and if something that you experienced at Beth Israel touched your heart, we'd like to hear that too. My e-mail is josh@jwaterston.com, and I hope to hear from you.

Enjoy your winter, come to an upcoming Beth Israel event, and stay warm and dry. In the meantime, I'll look forward to seeing snowdrops in just a couple of months

In friendship,
Josh Waterston

RPC HIGH HOLIDAY WRAP UP

At the December RPC meeting, we conducted our annual High Holiday Wrap Up meeting in which we evaluate the entire High Holiday season from soup to nuts (or rather, Selichot to Simchat Torah in our case). Certainly the overall impression of those who responded in conversations, via email, and at the meeting is that the services were truly inspiring and moving. 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. One short-coming we identified is that we may not always do a good enough job as an institution of acknowledging our gratitude to the efforts of our members. At the risk of leaving someone out and with a sincere request for forgiveness if we have inadvertently done so, 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 those who came to participate in the service.

Our professional staff deserves the place of honor at the start:

Rabbi Linda pours her heart and soul into every aspect of preparing for and leading High Holiday services. Many members felt that her Erev Yom Kippur sermon, in particular, created a transcendent moment.

Cantor Juliet has graced our bima for many years and yet somehow each year lifts us up yet another rung as she captures the many emotions of the services through her beautiful voice.

Student rabbi Lauren Brody-Hyatt helped make the message of the haggim accessible to our children.

Working behind the scenes Helene Cohen, Arlene Benz, Suzanne Davis, Deenie Block, Keith Mason, and Caroline Byrd keep our Hebrew School and synagogue up and running all year long.

Congregants who participated in services and saw to the many tasks involved in the haggim provided us all with a smooth and meaningful experience:

Our president, Josh Waterston offered a moving Yom Kippur appeal based on his own experience growing up at BI

Congregants who served as service leaders include Noah Arnold, Reisa Mukamal, Randi Raskin Nash, Elan Nash, Laura Lee Blechner, Randy Tiffany, Meira Pitkapaasi, Wendy Waterston, Alan Fink, and Steve Smith.

Music is an integral part of the holidays. Buzz Waterston opened up Yom Kippur for us with his Kol Nidre chant. BIMAS members Reisa Mukamal, Larry Hamermesh, Rich Block, Harry Chen, Andrea Apter, Ron Romoff, Eric Rangell, Selene Platt, Linda Cohen, and Carol Briselli helped set the mood. Other instrumental pieces were played by Carol Briselli, Andrea Apter, Andrea Bruno, Larry Hamermesh, Mitchell Margolis, Liliya Maslov, and Ron Romoff. Our vocal group included Laura Lee Blechner, Chris Pragman, Reisa Mukamal, Katie Sibley, Selene Platt, Carol Cowan, Karen Vesely, Miriam Sigler, Lauri Mansky, Meira Pitkapaasi and Linda Cohen.

Our Torah portions were chanted beautifully by Ron Romoff, Susan Robinson, Sharon Kleban, Joyce Romoff, Randy Tiffany, Wendy Waterston, Andrea Bruno, Helen Plotkin, Laura Lee Blechner, Marilyn Verbits, Shoshanna Gottlieb, Meira Pitkapaasi, Reisa Mukamal, Bob Stone, Jonathan Krinick, Steve Smith, Larry Hamermesh, Susan Meyer, Nancy Handwerger and Rich Block.

Our Haftarah selections were read by Steve Smith, Susan Meyer, Alisa Herman-Liu, Reisa Mukamal, Noah Arnold and Jacob Manaker.

Our Torah scrolls were lovingly held and carried by Jackie Lesser, Jackie Gelman, Lynn Cashell, Marilyn and Mel Drukin, John Greenstine, Steve Platt, Helen Plotkin, Kathy Fink, Josh Waterston, Jennifer Lenway, Merle Saft, Alan Soffer, Burt and Linda Cohen, Michael Fishkow, Candy Berlin and Sharon Kleban.

Hebrew prayers and songs were led by Jean Fleschute, Rich Block,

Wendy Waterston, Laura Lee Blechner, Sarah Shulbank-Smith, Joyce Romoff, Helen Plotkin, Linda Cohen, Steve Smith, Andrea Bruno, Joyann Kroser, Carol Cowan, Debbie Wile, Ben Alouf, and Jared Brown.

We were lead in English readings by Kim Dresner, Miriam Sigler, Jane Laffend, Karen Vesely, Loren Ellis, Michelle Atkins, Andy Coleman, Randy Tiffany, Cheryl Siskin, Judy Goodrobb, Marcia Plotkin, Steve Plotkin, Katie Sibley, Selene Platt, Debbie Wile, David Gaieski, Jill Gaieski, Paula Block, Lois Deutsch, Lynn Cashell, Elaine Wasekanes, Bob and Bobbi Coleman, Stuart Isaacs, Margo Zitin, Randee O'Donnell, Sandy Peitzman, Joyann Kroser, Louise Gilbert, Amy Strauss, Debbie Sherman, Alex Brown, Jean Fleschute, Anne Raunio, Scott Gilbert, Steve Arnold, Stephen Carp, Alison and Scott Manaker, Arnie Schwartz, Liz and David Shore, Kathy Trow, Deborah Dymond Markman, Larry Green, Bob Stone, Joyce Romoff, Natalie Finkelman, Rae Roeder, Jackie Northime, Gloria Rabinowitz, Nancy Burlan, and Marion Hamermesh.

Individual Kavanot were crafted and offered by Andrea Bruno, John Greenstine, Deborah Dymond Markman, Josh Waterston, Alan Soffer, Elaine Wasekanes, Randy Tiffany, Meira Pitkapaasi, Joyann Kroser, and Jane Laffend.

We heard the sound of the Shofar blown by Joyce Romoff, Ron Romoff, Alan Fink and Wendy Waterston. They were assisted by Sharon Kleban, Sharon Boyd, Michelle Atkins, Reisa Mukamal, David Cashell, Karen Vesely, and Peter Bernstein who provided the Shofar calls.

We were honored as Heidi Carp, Alisa Herman-Liu, Shawn Dresner, Jared and Jordan Siskin, Eve Atkins, Jennifer Waterston, Selene Platt, Susan Klein, Stu Pittel, David and Moriah Gornstein, Dottie Jenkins, Eric Rangell, Bob Stone, Judy Kinman, Steve Goldfield, Marion Hamermesh, Jane and Ken Laffend, Deborah Dymond Markman, David Markman, and Harris Fogel opened and closed our ark at solemn moments in the service.

Assisting the Torah readers, Steve Smith, Laura Lee Blechner, and Randy Tiffany served as gabbaim.

Our Torah scrolls were lifted and dressed (Hagbah and Gelilah) by Alex Dresner, Amy Strauss, Randy Tiffany, Jackie Northime, Josef Deutsch, Lois Deutsch, Alan Fink, Lisa Matika, Laura Lee Blechner, Libbie Soffer, Elaine Feldman, Denny Waldman and Randi Raskin Nash.

Josh Waterston, Jennifer Lenway, Marion Hamermesh, Laura Lee Blechner and Randy Tiffany served as represented the board at services.

As we entered the sanctuary, we were greeted by Randy Tif-



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ARE PHOTOS KOSHER ON HOLIDAYS?

Reconstructionists take the process of community decision-making very seriously. Our method is to understand the different values involved in any policy or community practice then clearly articulate how decisions we make flow from those values. In the process, we recognize that there may be competing values which are mutually exclusive, and we strive to acknowledge the importance of all the values involved even when we are forced to choose between them. When questions arise regarding our ritual life, the Religious Practice Committee (RPC) is delegated with the task of studying the question with regard to Jewish tradition and our values as Reconstructionists and determining what our communal practice should be.

The advent of new technologies has created interesting dilemmas for the orthodox world, and the same is true for liberal Jews such as ourselves. The current example is that during our Simchat Torah service, one of our members photographed the visually dramatic scene of our Torah scroll completely unrolled and held up by congregants in a giant circle nearly as large as the sanctuary. Using the BI Forum, our member generously shared the images so that those who were unable to attend could gain some appreciation of the joy we felt and the power of the ritual we experienced that evening. While many members responded positively to the posting, another member questioned whether photographing the service was compatible with our synagogue's policies. We do request that service participants refrain from recording Shabbat and High Holiday services, but as far as we are aware, we have not addressed whether that policy should apply to holidays such as Simchat Torah which do not fall on days on which traditional Judaism proscribes the use of electronics. Thus the well-meaning action of a member using relatively new technologies presents the RPC with the need to consider how to clarify what our communal norms should be.

After the bizarre experience of having our October meeting canceled due to snow, the RPC met on December 4 and began a discussion of this issue. We plan to continue the discussion at our January meeting and will keep you up to date. In the meantime, remember that we are all in this together as a community. In orthodox circles, a rabbinic *posek* would make a halachic decision for the community. Our process may be messier and more complicated, but it expresses our deepest values about how a Reconstructionist community should function.

Kol Tuv,
Laura Lee Blechner
Randy Tiffany
RPC Co-Chairs

RPC, Continued from page 3

fany, Barbara Kaplan, Alan Fink, Lynn Cashell, Marion Hamermesh, Alisa Herman-Liu, Alan Soffer, Jennifer Lenway, Kathy Anderson, Allan Feldman, Jackie Gelman, Josh Waterston, Laura Lee Blechner, Steve Goldfield, Ann Green, Larry Green, Sharon Kleban, Alison Manaker, Leslie Ann Alpert, John Greenstine, Jean Fleschute, Stuart Isaacs, and Steve Blum

The Yizchor book was compiled by Alison Manaker and read by Marilyn Verbits.

The food baskets were prepared by Laura Lee Blechner, Alex, Kimberly and Shawn Dresner and the Alep/Bet class. The Yom Kippur decoration was created by Libbie Soffer.

Suzanne Simenhoff organized a remarkably varied and interesting set of activities for our children and supervised child care.

Mark Rosenberg led the teen chats.

The food drive was organized by the Social Action Committee.

RPC members who organized services include: Laura Lee Blechner, Allan Feldman, Marion Hamermesh, Stu Pittel, Libbie Soffer, Leslie Ann Alpert, Jackie Northime, Bob Stone, Eleanor Skale and Randy Tiffany.

Marion Hamermesh worked with Rabbi Linda to create the poetry collage which served as our Dvar Torah on the 2nd day of Rosh Hashanah.

Our Tashlich service was led by Alan Fink.

On Yom Kippur afternoon our discussion group was facilitated by Randy Tiffany and our drum circle was led by Larry Hamermesh.

We were expertly assisted as we parked on sometimes muddy grass by Chris and Rachel Pragman, Lauri Mansky, Denny Waldman, Josh Waterston, Alan Fink, Dave Cashell and John Greenstine.

Lauri Mansky provided the Rosh Hashanah Kiddush.

Kathy Anderson served as our liaison with the fire department to arrange for our safe entrances and exits.

Reisa Mukamal saw to it that our piano was tuned prior to the haggim.

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

GUIDE FOR LEADING SERVICES

Creating and leading a Friday night service gives you the opportunity to learn and share something with our community and to be creative about finding ways for people to engage with the opening hours of Shabbat. Erev Shabbat services at Congregation Beth Israel have a long tradition marked by informality, spontaneity and discussion.

- We build community.
- Share the experience of welcoming Shabbat, and
- Get better acquainted with one another.

The service provides a space for connecting, refreshing, learning, and remembering for all who join together in that moment.

The Friday night subcommittee of the Religious Practice Committee has created a guide for anyone who would like to learn more about the Friday night service with advice on how to create and lead (or co-lead) a Kabbalat Shabbat service. This guide provides an introduction to help you understand the parts of the service and some details to think about when planning and conducting an Erev Shabbat service. If you would like a copy, they are available in the office or via email (contact Laura Lee Blechner or Stu Pittel).

Rabbi Linda and members of the subcommittee (Stu Pittel, Burt Cohen, Libbie Soffer, Laura Lee Blechner) and Religious Practice Committee are happy to help anyone who might like to learn more about and possibly lead or co-lead a Friday night service. Give us a call (or send us an email) and join the cadre of lay leaders.

Midrasha Bet

This wonderful cozy group will meet this month on Jan. 22. These Beth Israel members are in high school and meet with Rabbi Linda once a month for a bagel brunch (or the occasional ice cream cake) and conversation on Jewish themes. We have a good time. New members welcome. Contact Rabbi Linda if you would like to join the group.

Young Family Shabbat

Jan. 2. This is our last young family Shabbat service until May. All young families are encouraged to participate.

Upcoming Sabbatical from Rabbi Linda

Dear Fellow Beth Israelites,

In February, March, and April, I will be on sabbatical, completing the sabbatical that I began last year. I have worked with a planning committee to hire a terrific rabbinical student to serve BI while I am away and to put some plans into place.

We will elaborate in the next issue, but I wanted to let you know a month in advance, in case you need to contact me about anything before I take this three month leave. You will be in good hands in my absence. I am grateful for the upcoming sabbatical and for the opportunities it offers and even more grateful for this wonderful community to return to and to serve when the sabbatical is completed.

L'Shalom, Rabbi Linda

Buzz Waterston

Noted biblical non-scholar Buzz Waterston will lead services Jan. 20. Expect lots of singing at this Erev Shabbat service. Instead of a sermon-dialogue or d'var, I'll be talking about Yiddishkeit. Do you have it? Do you wish you knew more about Yiddish? Please invite any Yiddish speakers in your circle. The more discussion participation, the better.

Buzz (AKA Josh's Dad)

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HOSTS FOR ONEGS AND KIDDUSHES JANUARY 2012

- Fri. Jan. 6 Dinner and Game Night
Mark Cary and Anita Weber
- Sat. Jan. 7 Raz Lecture and Lunch Jennifer Lenway
- Fri. Jan. 13 Larye and Pamela Loss, Karen Vesely
- Sat. Jan. 14 Torah Treks Leslie Ann Alpert
- Fri. Jan. 20 Francesca and Joel Bernstein,
Richard and Shelly Epstein
- Sat. Jan 21 Steven and Elizabeth Cantor,
Michael and Theresa Citrenbaum
- Fri. Jan. 27 YFS David and Moriah Gornstein
- Sat. Jan. 28 Torah Treks Steven and Louise Cohen

Thank you and Yasher Koach to our hosting families!
Please contact the BI office (610-566.4645) if you would like to schedule a date to host an oneg or kiddush.

Torah Treks

Torah Treks is an amazing multi-year journey through the entire Hebrew Bible. 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

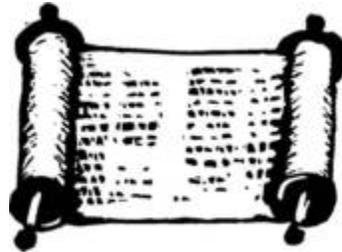
11:45 Kiddush & lunch

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.

January 14 I Samuel, part I with Rabbi Linda

January 28 I Samuel, part II with Theatre Ariel's Deborah Baer Mozes and Rabbi Linda



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PLAQUE LIST
TEVET/SHEVAT – 5772
JANUARY 2012

| In Memory of | Heb/Eng date | Synagogue Observance |
|-------------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Lewis Greene, | Tevet 13/Jan. 8 | Jan. 7 |
| Samuel Lampert, | Tevet 15/Jan. 10 | Jan. 7 |
| Isaac “Fritz” Fredland, | Tevet 16/Jan. 11 | Jan. 7 |
| Ida Wolkov, | Tevet 19/Jan. 14 | Jan. 14 |
| Leon Wolkov, | Tevet 21/Jan. 16 | Jan. 14 |
| Jack Jacob Rehfeld, | Tevet 23/Jan. 18 | Jan. 14 |
| Matt Coburn, | Shevat 2/Jan. 26 | Jan. 21 |
| Reba Lampert, | Shevat 4/Jan. 28 | Jan. 28 |
| Isadore Lehrfeld, | Shevat 4/Jan. 28 | Jan. 28 |
| Hannah Rudnick, | Shevat 10/Feb. 3 | Jan. 28 |

The “Plaque List” includes those deceased for whom a plaque exists, but for whom there are no longer any BI congregants to notify.

Sunday Studies Hebrew for Adults Reading Practice

January 29, February 12, March 4, 10:00 – 12:00

After a successful round of *Read Hebrew America* this fall, Mark Cary will lead three follow-up sessions open to anyone who has the ability to decode the Hebrew letters and vowels. Sources for the practice reading will be the NJOP book, material from our Siddur, and inter-linear texts. The focus will be on reading prayers and songs such as Adon Olam, V’ahavta, Hashkivenu, the Torah Blessings, and the food blessings. The third session will focus on readings for a Seder including the four questions.

So that we may have materials available for all participants, please register for this course: 610-566-4645, x 7

Sunday Studies Our Bodies, Our Health

**Jewish medical and health perspectives
on taking care of our bodies**
January 22, 10:00 – 12 pm

We start with disease, and we conclude with ease. Spend a Sunday morning learning first about a disease that has a high risk factor in the Ashkenazi Jewish community and then about a technique for learning to work and live without pain.

We will begin with a brief introduction that will frame the morning’s discussion within the Jewish tradition of reverence for health and well-being. A guest speaker, using a multi-media presentation, will speak about determining risk and detecting and treating ovarian cancer. She will be accompanied by a woman who has survived this devastating disease. Then BI member Andrea Bruno will introduce us to some of the basic principles of the Alexander Technique.

Robin Cohen, executive director and co-founder of the Sandy Rollman Ovarian Cancer Foundation, will give an overview about ovarian cancer, talk about the genetic connection, and also about being your own best healthcare advocate.

Andrea Bruno, a certified Alexander Technique practitioner, will offer an introductory group lesson that will provide us with a basic understanding of how the technique came about, resources for learning more about the technique, and some experience of it’s principles. She will show us how the technique can teach us how to work and live without pain and stay out of pain by consciously choosing and applying new directions for everyday activities.



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BI Flea Market

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

New Members!

Please join the membership committee in welcoming new members Amy Sepinwall, Andy Seigel and Nathan Sepinwall (Gan) from Swarthmore; Deanie Heller from Devon; and Randy London and Mindy Frankfurt from Wilmington, Del.

Suzanne Simenhoff, Membership Chair



BI Book Group

New reading schedule!

Saturday, February 18
at Beth Israel

The List by Martin Fletcher
(the “one book, one community” book)

Sunday, April 22

Flowers in the Blood by Gay Courter
Host & discussion leader: Amy Strauss

Couples Torah

Once a month on Wednesdays, 7:30 - 9:30 pm, begins 1/25

Sign up with a friend or a significant other to engage together in Jewish learning. Topics for text study and discussions are aimed at inspiring ongoing conversation in your relationship with a friend or partner. Make it a date night, or just connect with a friend. Tuition: \$50/person.

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YAHRTZEITS
TISHRI/HESHVAN 5772
JANUARY 2012



| MEMBER | IN MEMORY OF | HEB/ENG DATE | SYNAGOGUE OBSERVANCE |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| Randee O'Donnell | Ed O'Donnell, husband | Tevet 12/Jan. 7 | Jan. 7 |
| Suzanne Simenhoff | * Leon Simenhoff, grandfather | Tevet 12/Jan. 7 | Jan. 7 |
| Judy Goodrobb | Leon Goodman, father | Tevet 12/Jan. 7 | Jan. 7 |
| Andrea Bruno | Rita Pollinger, mother | Tevet 13/Jan. 8 | Jan. 7 |
| Philip Mansky | Joseph Mansky, father | Tevet 13/Jan. 8 | Jan. 7 |
| Richard Block | Jack Block, father | Tevet 13/Jan. 8 | Jan. 7 |
| Gloria Rabinowitz | Jeanette Kadvansky, mother | Tevet 15/Jan. 10 | Jan. 7 |
| Leslie Ann Alpert | Lena Alpert, grandmother | Tevet 17/Jan. 12 | Jan. 7 |
| Steven Blum | * Tonia Spiro, grandmother | Tevet 20/Jan. 15 | Jan. 14 |
| Leslie Ann Alpert | Edwin Freed, father | Tevet 20/Jan. 15 | Jan. 14 |
| Randi Raskin Nash | * Abraham Belsky, grandfather | Tevet 21/Jan. 16 | Jan. 14 |
| Miriam Sigler | Paul Sigler, uncle | Tevet 23/Jan. 18 | Jan. 14 |
| Ruth Gottlieb | Charles Gottlieb, father-in-law | Tevet 23/Jan. 18 | Jan. 14 |
| Ruth Gottlieb | Julius Panzer, father | Tevet 24/Jan. 19 | Jan. 14 |
| Moriah Gornstein | Ebba Spector, grandmother | Tevet 24/Jan. 19 | Jan. 14 |
| Wendy Waterston | Irving Reier, father | Tevet 25/Jan. 20 | Jan. 14 |
| Arnie Schwartz | Esther Schwartz, mother | Tevet 28/Jan. 23 | Jan. 21 |
| Mark Schlam | Harry Schlam, father | Tevet 28/Jan. 23 | Jan. 21 |
| Louis Friedler | Saul Friedler, father | Tevet 28/Jan. 23 | Jan. 21 |
| Eleanor Strauss | Esther Braus, mother | Tevet 29/Jan. 24 | Jan. 21 |
| Judy Ritter | Frances Ritter, mother | Shevat 1/Jan. 25 | Jan. 21 |
| Mel Drukin | * Samuel Drukin, father | Shevat 1/Jan. 25 | Jan. 21 |
| Eleanor Strauss | Sylvia Rollin, sister | Shevat 5/Jan. 29 | Jan. 28 |
| Alex Dresner | Evelyne Newman, grandmother | Shevat 7/Jan. 31 | Jan. 28 |
| Harry Chen | Julia Chen, mother | Shevat 7/Jan. 31 | Jan. 28 |
| Ken Klothen | Miriam Klothen, mother | Shevat 8/Feb. 1 | Jan. 28 |
| Sharon Boyd | Gerald Kahn, father | Shevat 9/Feb. 2 | Jan. 28 |
| Burton Cohen | * Evelyn Cohen, mother | Shevat 9/Feb. 2 | Jan. 28 |
| Joyann Kroser | Vera Mandel Stein, grandmother | Shevat 10/Feb. 3 | Jan. 28 |

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

* A plaque exists at BI

Synagogue Observance is the date the Yahrzeit is acknowledged at services (the Shabbat PRIOR to the Hebrew date)

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR DECEMBER 2011

BIMAS

Jean Fleschute and Eugene Kroch
Thank you to the BIMAS for the beautiful music at Rachel's Bat Mitzvah

Judy Ritter and Michael Wiseman
In appreciation for the beautiful music at Laurel's Bat Mitzvah

Adult Ed

Frances and Dan Hamermesh
 To: Larry and Marion Hamermesh
In honor of the engagement of Naomi Hamermesh, daughter of Larry and Marion Hamermesh, to Matthew Scheinerman

The General Fund

Social Action – a portion of proceeds from Honey Sale and Movie Night

The Golden Book

Rabbi Linda
 To: Rachel Kroch
Mazel Tov on becoming a Bat Mitzvah
 To: Laurel Ritter-Wiseman
Mazel Tov on the occasion of your Bat Mitzvah
 To: Samantha Dresner
Mazel Tov on becoming a Bat Mitzvah
 To: Michael Atkins
Mazel Tov on the occasion of your Bar Mitzvah

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Leslie Ann Alpert
 To: Rabbi Linda
In appreciation

Mark Schlam
 To: Rande O'Donnell
In memory of Ed O'Donnell

Lois and Joe Deutsch
 To: Rachel Kroch
In honor of Rachel's Bat Mitzvah

Anita Weber
In gratitude for Life's Blessings

Philip Wachs
 To: Rabbi Linda
In honor of Juliet Spitzer's participation with you and the Congregation at High Holiday services. Our family appreciates greatly the warm hospitality afforded to all of us. Thank you for welcoming us so warmly.

Judy Ritter and Michael Wiseman
With gratitude to Rabbi Linda for making Laurel's Bat Mitzvah very special

Judy Kinman
 To: Rachel Kroch
In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Rachel Kroch

Stephen Platt and Selene Platt
 To: Rabbi Linda, Rabbi Helen Plotkin and Rabbi Donna Kirshbaum
Thank You!

Deborah and Walter Sherman
In gratitude for all my blessings and in hope for helping others.

Sending you blessings for healing:

Melissa Leder-Randall, Jeff Deitch, Ed and Naomi Sav, Jenny Shulbank, Dottie Jenkins,

2012 Beth Israel Retreat

Save the Date
June 15-17, 2012
It's about Community

The BI retreat is more than a weekend away. It's about building community and getting to know people better through shared experience.

At the retreat, we do fun stuff together. In fact, it's while swimming, paddling, dining, climbing walls, or sitting next to the lake to bait kids' fishing rods and enjoy nature that the richness of the experience unfolds. It is then that we have the opportunity for informal conversations, for being together. No, there's no high-brow entertainment or gourmet food; instead there's the opportunity to relax, hang out, and enjoy the simplicities of life in our community.

Imagine coming home from the retreat with a new friend! Each attendee has the opportunity to make meaningful connections with other community members. We can renew connections with familiar faces but can also get to know new people as well. Besides, at camp, it's inevitable that we see sides of people that we never imagined! Talk about building community!

The retreat is a unique opportunity for intergenerational interactions—a chance for young children, teens, adults, and seniors to participate in activities together. It's a chance for us to model and practice our belief that Jewish learning and Jewish community is a life-long blessing, one that brings joy and wholeness.

Yes, the setting is rustic, but it's not primitive. We sleep in cabins with built-in beds, showers, and flush toilets. There's even electricity so you can bring your favorite appliance. This type of setting makes the retreat affordable. And if you still can't imagine yourself in those accommodations, then you're welcome to come up for the day. We're going to a new camp this year, Camp Kweebec in Schwenksville, www.kweebec.com, one that promises to be nicer and more comfortable. So please put the BI retreat on your calendar: June 15-17, 2012.

Debbie Wile, Retreat Chair

Supermarket Gift Cards Support Beth Israel

Did you know that supermarket gift cards are an easy way to raise funds for Beth Israel? If you shop at Acme, Pathmark, or Giant, you can buy \$100 Cards, for... wait for it... wait for it... \$100. So, what's 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.

THE GRAND

NOA

Presented in partnership with the Jewish Federation of Delaware and the Consulate General of Israel for the Middle Atlantic Region

SUNDAY, MARCH 18, 2012 AT 7PM

\$32-\$41 TicketsAtTheGrand.org 302-652-5577

Bank of America Community Delaware Division of the Arts ING DIRECT

This program is made possible in part by grants from the Delaware Division of the Arts. A state agency dedicated to nurturing and supporting the arts in Delaware, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts. *All tickets subject to box office service charges. Artists, dates, times and programs are subject to change.

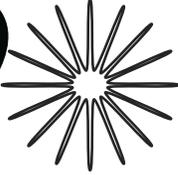
Make a Resolution to Make a Difference

Delaware County Literacy Council

If you have time, talent, and energy, you can make a difference by becoming a volunteer literacy tutor in reading or ESL to a Delaware County adult. The Delaware County Literacy Council provides free individual and small-group instruction to adults with low literacy skills. The next free tutor-training session will be held Monday and Wednesday evenings, January 23, 25, 30, and February 1, 2012, from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. at Delaware County Literacy Council, 2217 Providence Avenue, Chester, PA 19013. **Pre-registration is required.** To learn more, visit www.delcoliteracy.org or call Susan at 610-876-4811.

Thank you for helping us to improve literacy levels in Delaware County.

Susan Keller
Volunteer Coordinator
Delaware County Literacy Council

The 8th Annual **ELIANA ANDERSEN**
Arts & Creativity
Festival 
 Featuring **The Cat's Pajamas**

MECHINA, GAN, ALEPH, BET, GIMMEL, DALET, HAY CLASSES ~ Parents Welcome

Sunday, February 25, 2012

Congregation **Beth Israel of Media** has established a permanent fund to honor the memory and short life of **ELIANA ANDERSEN**, daughter of Kathy Silberman Andersen and Dan Andersen, sister of Molly and granddaughter of Ruth and the late Alexander Silberman.

Ellie, a beloved fifth grader in our Hebrew School, died on July 25, 2003 after a courageous battle with a brain tumor. Ellie loved school, her friends and family, and celebrations of all kinds.

The **Eliana Andersen Fund** supports an annual children's festival in her memory. By combining Ellie's loves in a festival of the arts, we give our children a joyous event to look forward to each year, as well as reflect the Jewish tradition of "hiddur mitzvah", enhancing community by creating beauty and art.

A festival for our Hebrew School that bears Ellie's name will continue to be a reality with your kind donation.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Please specify if you would like your donation to be in someone's honor or memory.

Checks payable to **Congregation Beth Israel Media** (designated to the **Eliana Andersen Fund**)

542 S. New Middletown Road Media, PA 19063

-Donations can be made online via Pay Pal -

www.bethisraelmedia.org/support/donate.htm

Mitzvah Mall

On December 11, we continued our Hebrew School tradition of reinforcing the importance of tzedakah and tikkun olam with our annual Mitzvah Mall. This year's event was very successful. We raised more than \$1,200 for four organizations: Chester Upland School of the Arts, 1 Acre Fund, Haiti Family Initiative, and Mazon. Every student participated. It was an extraordinary morning with enthusiastic BI students, parents, and teens raising money for organizations doing very important work.

Special thanks to our wonderful group of volunteers: Bankers: Shoshana Gottlieb, Nancy Burlan, Talia Liu, and Theresa Citrenbaum. Oversight of events in the bayit (house): Mark Rosenberg and Lara Rosenberg. Students who staffed each organization's table: Clay Gaeiski, Noah Arnold, Max Carp, Jason Marmorstein, Adam Boxer, Jake Citrenbaum, Julianna Bakker, Nathan Meyer.

Raffle: Thomas Fogel and Jared Brown. Photographer: Harris Fogel



Friday, February 10, 2012
Shabbat Dinner 6:15 PM
Services 8 PM

Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth
4412 Washington Blvd
Wilmington, DE 19802
(302) 762-2705

**FEDERATION
SHABBAT**

Join us for Shabbat Dinner
prior to services!

- Fabulous kosher chicken dinner
- Share the *ruach* of our community with family and friends



Jewish Federation
OF DELAWARE

Improving Our World, Together.

To make dinner reservations, mail your check to:
AKSE, 4412 Washington, Blvd., Wilmington, DE 19802
CHECKS MUST BE RECEIVED BY JANUARY 29, 2012

Please note that late registrations or walk-ins will NOT be accepted.

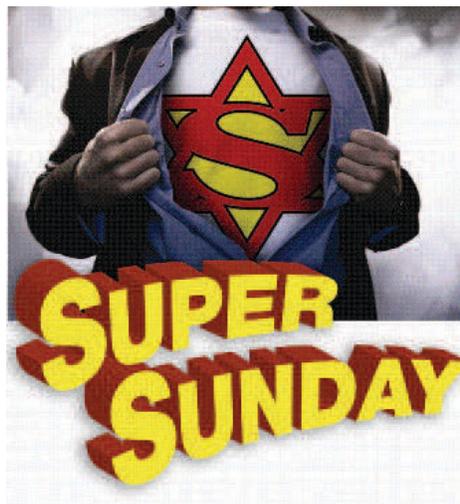
If you have questions about the dinner, please call AKSE office at 302-762-2705

Fee for dinner: \$25 per adult, \$20 per child ages 6-12, \$75 max per family

Be a Super Hero on Super Sunday

****SAVE THE DATE****

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2012



Call 302-427-2100

for more information

At the Siegel Jewish Community Center

Super Sunday is the Jewish Federation of Delaware's biggest fund-raising event of the year. More than 100 volunteers will gather to call our community and generate thousands of dollars that support our local Jewish agencies, programs and support needy people around the world.

To reduce the cost of this annual effort, we ask callers to please bring their fully charged cell phones.

If you would like to be a Super Sunday Sponsor, please contact Michele Burke (302)427-2100, ext. 25 or Michele.Burke@ShalomDel.org for more information.





First Thursday of every month



Israel and sports

**Talk on Israel with
Onn Halfon
Israeli shaliach**

January 5th from 7-8 pm in the Siegel JCC

**Every one welcome
Coffee & Snacks will
be served**

A tremendous health advance

- I am one of about two hundred dentists in the country who is trained in the **medical/dental use of ozone**. When you hear the word “ozone,” your first thought is probably of an industrial pollutant. Ozone is used around the world (the U.S. lags behind the rest of the industrialized world in this area) to disinfect bathrooms, hot tubs, and municipal water supplies. I use ozone in a very controlled and safe way. It flows through the narrow water tubing in our dental units, eliminating potentially dangerous biofilm. My Cavitron ultrasonic cleaners (which remove the tartar from your teeth) emit ozone-fortified water to **kill dangerous anaerobic bacteria** from your mouth. This lessens the chance that these bacteria can migrate to your coronary vessels. **Ozone is the best germ-killer ever discovered**. It kills MRSA, prions (those tiny things that cause Mad Cow disease), yeasts, bacteria, and viruses. It sterilizes herpes cold sores in one minute, eliminating pain and encouraging amazingly quick healing. It kills the bacteria that cause cavities. When a close family member was recently injured, I treated his leg cuts with ozone gas. All the cuts had crusted over and started to heal **the next day. Give ozone a try!**
- How would you like to save money on your dental expenses for the rest of your life? Our **preventive dentistry program** is so strong that most of our patients don't need any restorative treatment at the vast majority of their checkups!
- Ozone isn't the only great thing about my office. My staff is terrific, experienced, and knowledgeable. We welcome phobics and are trained to give IV sedation—wouldn't a relaxing trip to lala land be more relaxing than white-knuckling your visit because you're phobic? We're high tech and very high service. **Why not give us a call today?**



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Phone 610-891-1718 Fax 610-891-9048

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value their teeth©**

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 Toy*, an educational program that uses sign language, mime, music, and storytelling to bring the audience closer to the world of the Jewish deaf.

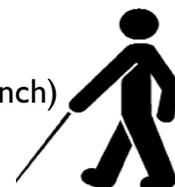


Saturday, January 7th, 12:30

(following Shabbat Services & a catered Kiddush Lunch)

(Lunch RSVP to 610 566-4645 x 7

or arlene_benz@bethisraelmedia.org)



January 2012

Monthly Planner

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 1 No Hebrew School | 2 | 3 4:15 PM Adult Ed, Mussar Group w/Rabbi Linda 4:15 PM Hebrew School | 4 Executive Committee | 5 12:00 PM Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Linda 7:30 PM Social Action Committee Meeting | 6 6:30 PM Shabbat "Seder Around the Table" Services with Rabbi Linda 7:30 PM Shabbat Potluck Dinner and Game Night RSVP to office | 7 9:45 AM Shabbat Services with Rabbi Linda 12:30 PM Raz Lecture Catered Lunch & Learn, Rabbi Daniel Grossman, "Ensuring Access for All" RSVP to office | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8 9:30 AM Hebrew School 4:00 PM MTHS 5772 @ Ohev | 9 7:30 PM Mekom Torah for Grownups @BI | 10 4:15 PM Hebrew School 7:30 PM Mekom Torah Opening Judaism @ BI | 11 | 12 12:00 PM Mekom Torah Lunchtime in Center City | 13 8:00 PM MLK Shabbat Services with Rabbi Linda and new RRC students | 14 9:45 AM Shabbat Services with Rabbi Linda 11:45 AM Potluck Lunch 12:30 PM Torah Treks "Samuel I" w/Rabbi Linda | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 15 Media Interfaith MLK Observance No Hebrew School | 16 7:30 PM Mekom Torah for Grownups @BI MLK Day of Service | 17 4:15 PM Hebrew School | 18 6:30 PM Board Meeting & Retreat | 19 1:30 PM Meditation w/Rabbi Linda | 20 8:00 PM Shabbat Services, Buzz Waterston will lead | 21 9:45 AM Shabbat Services, Steve Smith will lead | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 22 9:30 AM Hebrew School 10:00 AM Adult Ed, Health & Wellness 10:00 AM Gan & Mechina 12:15 PM Midrasa Bet with Rabbi Linda 4:00 PM MTHS 5772 @ Ohev | 23 7:30 PM Mekom Torah for Grownups @BI | 24 4:15 PM Hebrew School 7:30 PM Mekom Torah Opening Judaism @ BI | 25 | 26 12:00 PM Mekom Torah Lunchtime in Center City | 27 6:00 PM YFS Potluck Dinner, Dalet hosts 6:45 PM Young Family Shabbat Service w/Rabbi Linda & Dalet | 28 9:45 AM Shabbat Services with Rabbi Linda & Post Zayin - Yav class Torah service 11:45 AM Pot. Lunch 12:30 PM Torah Treks "Samuel I" w/RLP & Deborah Baer Mozes 7:00 PM Israeli Wine Tasting @ Hamermesh Home | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 29 9:30 AM Hebrew School 10:00 AM Beginning Hebrew with Mark Cary 10:00 AM RPC/Ed, Mtgs. | 30 5:45 PM Food Service 7:30 PM Mekom Torah for Grownups @BI | 31 4:15 PM Adult Ed, Mussar Group w/Rabbi Linda 4:15 PM Hebrew School 7:30 PM Mekom Torah Couples @Ohev | <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">Dec 2011</th> <th colspan="7">Feb 2012</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td> <td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td> <td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td> <td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td> <td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | | | | Dec 2011 | | | | | | | Feb 2012 | | | | | | | S | M | T | W | T | F | S | S | M | T | W | T | F | S | | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | | | |
| Dec 2011 | | | | | | | Feb 2012 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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<http://www.bethisraelmedia.org>

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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 **10th** of the preceding month to guarantee inclusion. Articles may be submitted by mail to the synagogue office or by e-mail to:

Israelight@bethisraelmedia.org.

Next Issue:

February 2012 - Shevat/Adar 5772