

The Israelight

Dear Friends,

We will soon be entering Passover, one of the biggest holidays on the Jewish calendar, and the end of May ushers in the holiday of Shavuot. Overall I like to think of Jewish holidays in terms of opportunities:

For family gatherings

For connection with our Jewish community

For honoring Jewish tradition and history

For study - discovering new prayers or texts or practices of the holiday

For engaging in social action connected with holiday themes

For a deepening of devotional practices

And so on...Choose your passion!

I also like to observe the holidays through the lens of spiritual themes in Jewish tradition.

Some big spiritual themes for Passover are freedom, rebirth and renewal. The narrative of our Torah – and our Passover Haggadah – tells us how the Israelites were liberated from Egypt, passed through the Sea of Reeds and then prepared to receive the Torah and the Commandments at Mt. Sinai. Rabbis and other Jewish scholars over time have noted that this story represents the rebirth of these former slaves into an independent Jewish people. Because we map the Exodus/rebirth story over the annual celebration of Passover and over Spring as a season in general, it's been called *Z'man Cheiruteinu* in Hebrew – or the “Season of Our Freedom” in English. This invites us to see the Passover-Shavuot season as an annual opportunity for celebrating rebirth and renewal in our lives.

The Sfat Emet, a 19th-Century Hasidic sage from Poland, taught about Passover as an opportunity for renewing and recharging our spiritual practices, our connection with God or our sense of holiness and divinity in our lives. “Our freedom needs to be renewed each year,” he taught, “and through this we are able to renew our acceptance of divinity.”

How can we experience renewal as a concrete spiritual practice over these Spring Holidays? The Passover Seder, of course, offers an annual opportunity to reflect on liberation. Some households also use the Seder as a vehicle for social action, for pursuing freedom and justice for ourselves, for others, for our planet. The pursuit of food justice – helping communities exercise their right to grow, sell and eat healthy food – involves the theme of renewal, the season of Spring, as well as many common traditional practices of Passover or Shavuot.

Some households like to engage in an annual Spring Cleaning at Passover or Shavuot as a vehicle for spiritual cleansing and renewal. The Beth Israel

Student Rabbi continued next page..



April 6— First night of Passover, no services at BI

April 15 — Mitzvah Mania

April 19— Yom HaShoah Observances

April 20 — Friend of the Community Award Night

April 22— Book Discussion

April 21—Torah Treks with R. Alan LaPayover— I Kings

April 28— Progressive Dinner

April 28-29 — Limmud Philly Jewish Learning

April 30—Food Service, donations and servers needed

May 26—Shavuot tikkun with Ohev Shalom

June 5— Jewish Heritage Baseball Night

June 15—17 Beth Israel Retreat at Camp Kweebec

Student Rabbi, continued

Rummage Sale is a great annual opportunity for cleaning and de-cluttering our lives, that also benefits the Beth Israel community, but this practice can certainly be taken on any time during the Spring holiday season. It's never too late or too small to make a fresh start!

Others may honor the idea of interpersonal renewal – renewal of relationships with loved ones, or reflection on interpersonal patterns and behavior traits we'd like to develop. Some households have reclaimed the Jewish tradition of counting the Omer – the 49 nights that fall between the Second Night of Passover and the holiday of Shavuot – as a period of annual self-reflection and interpersonal inventory.

There are many books, email services and even smart-phone apps available to help guide us in these ideas and practices. For Omer counting, for example, do an online search for "Omer Counting Books" or "Omer Counting Email" and you'll find several good options.

Please know that I'm also available for any questions or thoughts you may have about any of these practices, about Passover or Shavuot in general, or other topics of interest. Please feel free to contact me through Arlene Benz at (610) 566-4645 ext. 7 or at arlene_benz@bethisraelmedia.org.

May this Season of Our Freedom 5772 be one of renewal – one in which we take stock of our loved ones and our blessings, and one in which we reach out to share those blessings with others, in our families, our neighborhoods, our communities, our people, and our planet.

Chag Sameach! Happy Holidays!

Student Rabbi Leslie Hilgeman

Chevre:

It's a perfect storm of a weekend from April 6 through April 8. Friday night, the 6th, is the first Seder and Sunday, the 8th, is

Easter. Many will be traveling for spring break. Every day is busy!

Saturday, April 7th, is the absolutely perfect time to take a deep Shabbat breath, *come to services*, contemplate what we've learned during the first Seder and think about what we're going to learn at the second, whether it be at home, with friends/family or with the community.

It's "traditional" to read and study the Song of Songs at Pesach. Come, let's worship together, study the Song, hear the voice of the turtle(dove?) in the land and celebrate each other's inner and outer beauty. We are comely, oh ye daughters of Jerusalem...

B'shalom,
Joyce Romoff



Passover Seder
Matchmaking

“Let all who are hungry, come and eat.”
Do you have room at your Passover seder?
Do you need a place to go for a Passover seder?
First Passover seder is Friday, April 6, 2012
Second Passover seder is Saturday, April 7, 2012.

If you have room or need a place, please contact
Laura Lee Blechner 610-495-0611 llblechner@verizon.net
or Randy Tiffany 302-529-8765 rabbimy@comcast.net

Dear Chevre,

As you read this, Pesach (Passover) is rapidly approaching and we hope you are getting ready to participate in a Seder or two on the nights of April 6th and 7th. The word Seder means order and the general outline of the Haggadah is built around biblical texts having to do with remembering the liberation from Egyptian slavery. The Haggadot we use today have evolved from rabbinic times but continue to be centered on those same Biblical touchstones. Our task at the Seder is about exploring those texts, finding messages within and between the lines which inform us of our people's past and *our* dreams for the future. There are, of course, multiple meanings to be considered; there is no limit to how we understand the ancient texts as our lives and the events around us continue to unfold.

Fundamentally, Pesach is a sacred story of redemption - the middle matzah in the Jewish mythic history (creation/redemption/revelation). When we read the Haggadah, the question is not whether it is true or false, but rather what meaning we take from it. There are characters in the narrative of the Haggadah and, particularly in the traditional text, the chief character is God. (In the Reconstructionist Haggadah there is an increased emphasis on human action, including Moses and Miriam.) Try not to get hung up about whether God "really" takes the actions described in the text; do not assume that God's actions are part of a coherent theology. It's a story; try to figure out what it means to you.

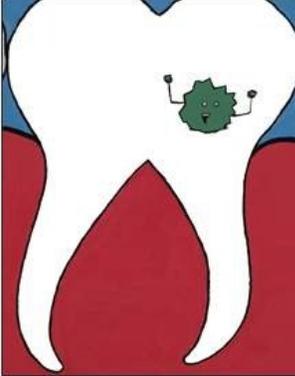
Pesach is the most home-centered of the Jewish holidays. Many will gather with friends and family for a Seder. As always, we will try to help coordinate "matchmaking" for private Seders. Please contact Laura Lee Blechner if you would like a Seder invitation, especially for April 6th. or if you can offer room at your table for guests.

Hag Samach!

Randy Tiffany

Laura Lee Blechner

RPC Co-Chairs



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Shabbat Across America

On Friday, March 2 we gathered for Shabbat Across America and celebrated a Dr. Seuss-themed service. Red and white striped top hats and favorite Dr. Seuss books were spotted all around the dinner tables and Lynn Cashell and Laura Lee Blechner led Shabbat services with extra readings from beloved Dr. Seuss stories that delighted all ages. Lynn offered a Dr. Seuss Dvar, and now we offer it to you.

Tetzaveh

(You shall command)
Exodus 27:20 -- 30:10

The sun always shone.
It was too hot to play.
So they sat in their tents
All that hot, hot, dry day.

Moses was there with Aaron
They sat there those two.
And Aaron said, "How I wish
We had something to do!

Too hot to go out
And too dry to play ball
So they sat in the tent
They did nothing at all.

So all they could do was to
Sit! Sit! Sit! Sit!
And they did not like it,
Not one little bit.

And then
Something went BUMP!
How that bump made them
jump!

They looked!
Then Moses heard Him on the
mountain!
They looked!
And they heard Him!
The Lord our G-d!
And He said to us,
"Why do you sit there like
that?"

"I know it is dry
And the sun is too sunny.

But we can have
Lots of good fun that is fun-
ny!"

"I know some good games
we could play,"
Said the Lord.
"I know tricks,"
Said the Lord our G-d
"A lot of good tricks.
I will show them to you.
The Israelites
Will not mind at all if I do.

Then Moses and Aaron
Did not know what to say.
The Lord our G-d was in
their midst
For the day.

"Now! Now! Have no fear.
Have no fear!" said the Lord.
"Bring clear oil from beaten
olives
For lighting the lamps
Keep them kindled regularly
In our tents
In our camps."

From evening to morning
Over the Ark of the Pact
Lamps burned for all time
Reminding us how to act.

"Have no fear!" said the
Lord.
"I dwell among you.
I will hold you up high
And that is not all I can do."

"Bring forward your brother
Aaron and his four sons
They will serve Me
as a priests like no other."

"Listen to me!
Listen to me now!" said the
Lord.
"Make a breastpiece and an
ephod,
Make a robe and fringed
tunic
A headdress, and sash!
And listen
That is not all!
Oh, no.
That is not all..."
Listen to me!
Listen to me now!
It is fine to serve Me
But you have to know how.

Use gold and blue
Crimson and purple
For all that is Mine.
Use fine twisted linen
Worked into designs.

Make an ephod of gold,
Blue, purple and crimson.
And two shoulder pieces!
Attach a decorated band,
Where the ends of each ceas-
es!
Engrave two lazuli stones!
And listen! Etch the names
In their birth order
The sons of Israel
With gold on the border.
But that is not all,
Oh, no.
That is not all..."

That's what the Lord said...
Then He said more!
Make frames of gold
Braided like cord...

Gold cord
Blue Cord
Purple cord
Crimson cord

Orange stone
Green stone
Red stone
Brown stone.

One will have a little sap-
phire
One will have crystal like
fire.
Say! What a lot of stones
there are.

You get the idea...
The Lord gave very specific
directions for making the
high priest's garments. The
passage reads like G-d is an
amazing fashion designer
who would definitely win
Project Runway. The gar-
ments for the Kohan Gadol
were for glory and majesty,
honor and beauty. The Tem-
ple was to inspire awe and
bring one closer to G-d.

The garments could not be
laundered or reused if soiled;
they had to be replaced.
There was to be no loss of
respect for the Kohan, and it

was thought that blemishes
would be distracting. The fo-
cus should only be on the
soul. Everything had to be
beautiful. Bells were sewn in
to the garment to alert others
of the High Priest's presence
so he could not enter unex-
pectedly so he would not
make anyone uncomfortable.
If we value, honor, and re-
spect others, then more honor
returns to us.

The verses continue with the
bringing of a bull, rams, un-
leavened breads and cakes, a
bit of anointing of Aaron and
sons, more description of puri-
fying the altar to consecrate it,
burning of incense, and mak-
ing anything and everything
holy in the Tent of Meeting.

Back to our story....
Then the Lord our G-d spoke
And He said to Aaron
"Did you have any fun?
Tell me. What did you do?"

And Aaron and his sons did
What was most holy for the
Lord.
So the Lord could abide
among the Israelites
And be their G-d
Who brought them out of the
Land of Egypt.

So, I've told you about it
Now what could I do?
Well...What would you do
If the Lord asked you?





Purim Zemershpriel

Bi Purim Zemershpriel was a hootin' hollerin' good time.

Opera Diva Leslie Hilgeman treated us to a command performance of song and mime, then we took a trip to the wild west.

The cast of characters Ahashueros, Vashi, Esther, Haman, Mordechai, and the horse came to life as the Sheriff Ahashuerus, the barmaids Vashti and Esther, the Deputy Haman, and the singing Mordechai who wouldn't bow down.

This year's musical rodeo featured the talents of many, the assets of one RT, and the playwriting team of Hamermesh and Hamermesh.

The night was rounded out by hamentaschen baked by Laura Lee Blechner and a crew of eager chefs, Israeli wine tasting led by Larry and Ann Green, and distributing the Shalach Manot bags that were designed by Rissa Sklar and packed by a whole team of BI volunteers. Incidentally, our Shalach Manot bags are the second largest fundraising effort of the year and this year we met our goals.

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Purim festivities!



Come to Limmud Philly!

Mekom Torah extends an invitation

The annual Philadelphia Jewish “Learningfest”, a.k.a. Limmud Philly, <http://limmudphilly.org>, will take place Saturday night April 28 and all day Sunday April 29, at Friends Select school in Center City. Beth Israel is an official partner, and Mekom Torah has snagged a special group rate, so we hope you will join us. (Contact Rabbi Helen Plotkin – hel-en@mekomtorah.org, 610-368-4065 – to find out how to register with the special price.)

Limmud Philly is a terrific event. Saturday evening there are performances and lots of other things, fun and serious. The whole schedule is not out yet, but the Maccabeats are performing in the evening. (Sadly, this is the same night as the BI Progressive Dinner. So you may want to skip the Saturday portion of Limmud and only attend for the Sunday sessions. At the Mekom Torah reduced rate, it’s still worth it!)

On Sunday, there are lots of simultaneous sessions for the whole day, with presentations on every topic you can imagine, from history to comedy, from Yiddish to cooking. The problem is picking which things to see.

Mekom Torah is presenting two sessions on Sunday, one featuring our adult participants and one featuring our teens.

Our teens will present a panel discussion entitled “Ask Us Anything: What it’s Like to be a Jewish Teen in a World of Choice.” (The bad news is that I promised them that their parents, and people who know their parents, will not attend this session! Sorry.)

Members of Mekom Torah adult study groups will staff a drop-in Beit Midrash (House of Study) throughout the day. Visitors will spend anywhere from 15 minutes to several hours studying a set of texts from the Bible and Jewish commentaries. In the late afternoon, Rabbi Helen Plotkin will lead a session during which participants will discuss all the questions, interpretations, and insights that came up during private and small group study.

The topic will be biblical and rabbinic answers to the

question: “What went wrong in Sodom and Gomorrah?”

Completely unrelated to Mekom Torah, there will be lots and lots of fun and interesting sessions, social action opportunities, food...

Hope to see you there!

A Special Invitation: Looking Ahead to Shavuot

Do you have a Jewish teaching (Torah) that you have learned and would like to share?

Have you been studying Torah at Torah Treks, Mekom Torah or family education this year?

At our Shavuot tikkun (learning) on Saturday night May 26, we would love to have you share your 3 - 5

minute teaching so we can learn Torah from each other. This year, BI will be joining with Ohev Shalom and Mekom Torah members to celebrate Shavuot at Ohev Shalom.

Contact Randy Tiffany at rab-bimy@comcast.net or (302)529-8765 if you

are interested in sharing that night.



שבועות

Mekom Torah High School expresses gratitude to the Jewish Federation of Delaware County for providing Beth Israel students with tuition assistance through a generous grant from the Keren Chinuch Scholarship Program.

Ann E. Green

Attorney at Law

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Swarthmore, PA

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News from the Social Action Committee

News from the Social Action Committee

Mitzva Mania, Sunday morning, April 15, 9:30 a.m. to noon: Join us in the mitzvah of assembling brown bag lunches. All BI congregants, including adults and Hebrew school children, will come together to make 200 brown bag lunches. The lunches will be donated to the Eastside Ministries of Chester; Reverend Warren will distribute them to her after school programs and to adults coming to the on-site food bank.

Beth Israel Friend of the Community Award, Friday evening, April 20, 8:00 p.m. services: The Social Action Committee is pleased to announce the winner of the 2012 Friend of the Community Award—Neighborhood Bike Works. A representative of NBW will speak at services and accept the award.

Food Service, Monday, April 30: Food donations and servers needed. Watch for congregational email.

Honoring Charlotte and Dottie Jenkins, Saturday, May 5: Join us at Saturday morning services as we honor Charlotte and Dottie Jenkins. They started the BI coat drive about five years ago as part of Charlotte's *tikkun olam* project for her bat mitzvah. It has now become their legacy and has been passed to the Fogel-Burlan family as part of Jonathan Fogel's *tikkun olam* project for his bar mitzvah.

Gasland Screening and Breakfast, Sunday morning, May 6, 10:00 a.m. to noon: The Social Action and Religious Practices Committees will jointly sponsor a *tikkun olam* presentation led by Carr Everbach. Everbach is a Swarthmore College engineering professor who teaches courses in pollution prevention, energy, environmental policy, and the history of technology. He will be discussing Josh Fox's film *Gasland*, an exposé of the evils of hydraulic fracturing in Pennsylvania's Marcellus Shale. Prof. Everbach will explicate the tension between harm to the local environment and the benefits of replacing coal with lower-carbon fuels to avoid climate catastrophe. Breakfast begins at 10:00 a.m., followed by the screening and presentation. Join us for good food and an interesting, timely discussion.

Future Social Action Committee Meetings

Are you interested in furthering social action in the community? We're always looking for new commit-

tee members to help plan activities and take on responsibilities. We generally meet the first Thursday evening of the month. See the BI directory for address information or contact Jean Fleschute: 610-328-4824 or jeanfleschute@verizon.net. Please join us:

Thursday, April 12, 7:30 p.m.: (second Thursday of the month due to the timing of spring break): Meet at Ala Hamilton-Day's home.

Thursday, May 3, 7:30 p.m.: John Greenstine will host at his home.

Thursday, June 7, 7:30 p.m.: Meet at the home of Barbara Kaplan.

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.)

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Contributions for March, 2012

BIMAS

Rissa and Stan Sklar
To: Ron Romoff
*A speedy recovery to Ron Romoff
from the Sklars*

Larry and Marion Hamermesh
*In gratitude to Andrea Apter, Harry
Chen and Vincent van Gogh*

The Prayer Book Fund

Marjorie and Randy Tiffany
To: Rabbi Helen Plotkin
*In honor of our teacher, Rabbi Helen
Plotkin*

The Torah Fund

The Blechner-Pragman Family
To: Rachel Kroch, Laurel Ritter-
Wiseman, Samantha Dresner, Mi-
chael Atkins, Jonathan Fogel and
Ethan Van Metre
Mazal Tov of your B'nai Mitzvah

Adult Ed

Carol Cowan
To: Marilyn Verbits
*In memory of your dear mother, Ruth
Verbits*

Endowment Fund

Emily Squires Levine and Ronald
Levine
*In memory of Ron's father, Morton
Levine*

The Jonathan Raz Fund

The Blechner-Pragman Family

The Eliana Andersen Fund

Amy Strauss, Bill & Lorraine Gross,
Atkins Family, Amy Sepinwall, Rich-
ard and Eleanor Strauss, Adam Kozin,
Kathy Trow, Debbie and Walter Sher-
man, Susan and Milton Meyer, Amy
Fantalis, Emily Squires Levine and
Ron Levine,

The Blechner-Pragman Family
To: **The Ellie Festival Committee**
*Y'asher koach on another wonderful
festival! Meow!!*

Manaker Family
To: Reisa Mukamal
In honor of Reisa Mukamal

Rabbi Linda
In memory of Eliana Andersen

The General Fund

David and Lynn Cashell
*Healing wishes to Bob Stone and
Ron Romoff*
*Condolences to Marilyn Verbits and
Sharon Boyd and family*

Anita Weber and Mark Cary
To: The Boyd and Kahn families
In memory of Merton Sheppard

Deenie and Rich Block

The Golden Book

Marilyn and Mel Drukin
To: Ron Romoff
*With our wishes for a speedy and
complete recovery*
To: Marilyn Verbits
*In loving memory of your Mom,
Ruth*
To: Sharon Boyd and Family
In memory of Merton Sheppard

Candy Berlin and Ralph Kaufman
To: Marilyn Verbits
*In memory of your mother, Ruth
Verbits. With our condolences*

Rabbi Linda
To: Wendy Waterston
*In memory of your brother, Warren.
May his memory be a blessing.
Thinking of you.*
To: Jonathan Fogel
*Mazel Tov on the occasion of your
Bar Mitzvah*
To: Ethan Van Metre
*Congratulations on becoming a Bar
Mitzvah*

Rissa and Stan Sklar
To: The Boyd Family
*In memory of Merton Sheppard.
Our condolences to the Boyd family.*

Emily Squires Levine and Ron Lev-
ine
To: Marilyn Verbits
*In memory of Ruth Verbits, your be-
loved mother*

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Anita Weber and Mark Cary
To: Marilyn Verbits
*In memory of your beloved mother,
Ruth*

Peter Bernstein and Ala Hamilton-
Day
To: Marilyn Verbits
*In memory of your beloved mother,
Ruth*
Barbara Kaplan
To: Marilyn Verbits
*In memory of your beloved mother,
Ruth Verbits*

The Blechner-Pragman Family
To: The Boyd Family
*In memory of your grandfather,
Merton Sheppard*
To: Wendy Waterston
*In memory of your brother, Warren
Reier. May memories of your times
together bring you comfort.*
To: Ralph Jacobs
*In memory of your mother, Claire
Jacobs. May her memory be a bless-
ing*
To: Kevin Nash
Wishing you a refuah sheleymah!

Sending you blessings for healing:

*Melissa Leder-Randall, Jeff Deitch,
Ed and Naomi Sav, Jenny Shulbank,
Dottie Jenkins, Jane Laffend, Ron
Romoff, Bob Stone, Kevin Nash*

Mazel Tov to the Congregation to:

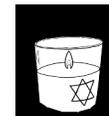
*Jonathan Fogel on becoming a Bar
Mitzvah*
*Ethan Van Metre on the occasion of
his Bar Mitzvah*

Condolences from the Congrega- tion to:

*Wendy Waterston on the passing of
her brother, Warren Reier*



Yahrzeits – Nissan/Iyar – 5772 – March 2011



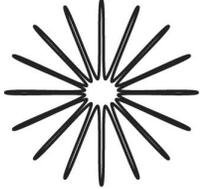
Member	In Memory of	Heb./Eng Date	Syn. Obs
Suzanne Simenhoff	* Philip Lehrfeld, grandfather	Nisan 15/April 7	April 7
Steve Platt	Felice Ruth Platt, mother	Nisan 16/April 8	April 7
Stuart Pittel	* Lee Pittel, mother	Nisan 16/April 8	April 7
John Greenstine	Sylvia Edelberg, aunt	Nisan 17/April 9	April 7
Helen Schachner	* Frank Skolnick, grandfather	Nisan 22/April 14	April 14
Meira Pitkapaasi	Jonah Elliott-Adelman, son	Nisan 23/April 15	April 14
David Wasser	Amy Keller, sister	Nisan 23/April 15	April 14
David Markman	* Shirley Markman, mother	Nisan 27/April 19	April 14
Donna Kirshbaum	Rhina Kirschbaum, mother	Iyar 3/April 25	April 21
Marilyn Verbits	Philip Verbits, father	Iyar 3/April 25	April 21
Helene Gumerman	Samuel Abrams, father	Iyar 3/April 25	April 21
Stan Sklar	* Rhoda Fantalis, sister	Iyar 4/April 26	April 21
Amy Fantalis	* Rhoda Fantalis, mother	Iyar 4/April 26	April 21
Alan Soffer	* David Soffer, father	Iyar 5/April 27	April 21
Christopher Pragman	Robert Pragman, father	Iyar 8/April 30	April 28
Mel Drukin	* Libby D. Schiff, sister	Iyar 11/May 3	April 28

Plaque List – Nissan/Iyar – 5772 – Apr. 2012

In Memory of	Heb./Eng. Date	Syn Onbs.
Mae Hirsh,	Nisan 16/April 8	April 7
Anna Glass,	Nisan 17/April 9	April 7
Samuel Datlof,	Nisan 20/April 12	April 7
Oldie Josephs,	Nisan 27/April 19	April 14
Max Lampert,	Nisan 28/April 20	April 14
Belva Horwitz,	Nisan 29/April 21	April 21
Anna Levin,	Nisan 30/April 22	April 21
Hannah Sobel,	Iyar 2/April 24	April 21
Edward Klavan,	Iyar 6/April 28	April 28
Benjamin Silberman,	Iyar 7/April 29	April 28
Louis M. Fink,	Iyar 8/April 30	April 28
Benjamin Klevan,	Iyar 8/April 30	April 28



The 8th Annual
**ELIANA
 ANDERSEN**
 Arts & Creativity
 Festival
 A Pajama Party with: *The Cat's Pajamas*



On Sunday, February 26th, 2012 *The Cat's Pajamas* rocked the house!

"Philly's favorite kid-rock band"* had our bewhiskered, pajama-clad students and families up on our feet with "Driving in My Car," "Building a Better World," "The Great Big Bug" and other classics.

After the show, Teacher Marc surprised the band by leading the children in a new arrangement of Oseh Shalom, and everyone enjoyed the brunch spread at Ellie's Café. Kids got creative with the song lyrics, making crazy clocks, playdough puppets, fish, and tarantulas- with the ingenious help of Lisa Schachner, Shayna and Sharon Boyd, Adam Boxer and Suzanne Simenhoff, and Nathan and Susan Meyer. Shout-out to the rest of the committee: Dan and Molly Andersen, Theresa Citrenbaum, Amy Fantalis, Vicki Goodman, Harris Fogel for all photography, Sharon Kleban, Lisa Liebman, and Randi Raskin Nash.

**And many thanks to all of you who made contributions,
 ensuring the continuity of this joyous festival**



* Kathy O'Connell, WXPB

It's time for the premiere Beth Israel social event of the year!

The Beth Israel Progressive Dinner

The dinner is scheduled for Saturday, April 28, 2012 at 6:30 PM

Everyone is welcome (members and non-members)... bring your friends to support the synagogue and have fun at the same time. **PLEASE RSVP by April 20th!**

Never been to a Progressive Dinner? Here's the low-down on how it works:

1st

The night begins at 6:30 PM with everyone meeting at Debbie Wile and Karen Giglio's house for appetizers. Meet your fellow diners, socialize and maybe get to know someone new. Debbie and Karen live at 402 W. Brookhaven Road, Wallingford, PA .

2nd

After appetizers, everyone goes to a member's house for a specially-prepared gourmet dinner. Eat, drink, and be merry.

3rd

Meet up at Ala Hamilton-Day and Peter Bernstein's house for delicious desserts and more socializing with all the attendees.

The cost is \$18.00 per person or \$36.00 per couple. Each host will prepare a chicken or vegetarian entrée. Each attendee will be asked to bring an appetizer or dessert to share for that portion of the evening. We will also be conducting a food drive – please bring a non-perishable item to the Wile/Giglio residence.

Please e-mail Jennifer Waterston (jennifer.b.waterston@gmail.com) or call 610-619-3588 by April 20th if you are able to host (4 to 8 guests). Hosts do not have to pay the event fee. If you plan to attend, please return the form below with your check, payable to:

Congregation Beth Israel, c/o Progressive Dinner
542 S. New Middletown Road, Media, PA 19063

Beth Israel PROGRESSIVE DINNER April 28, 2012 6:30 PM

Yes! I
want to
host!

(Please check if you are bringing an appetizer ____ or a dessert ____.)

It is my/our pleasure to host a dinner. I/we can accommodate ____ guests for a (circle one)
chicken or vegetarian dinner.

Name(s) _____

Yes, I
want to
attend!

Please contact me by phone/e-mail at _____

Address: _____ City/State _____

Please indicate your choice for entrée:



Chicken _____



Vegetarian _____

Number Attending: _____ @ \$18.00 per person = _____

Friend of the Community Award

Congregation Beth Israel of Media announces that Neighborhood Bike Works (NBW) has won its 2012 "Friend of the Community Award." Bike Works is being recognized for its innovative programs to help children around the Philadelphia area learn discipline and valuable life skills while enjoying refurbishing and riding used bicycles. NBW has branches in West Philadelphia, North Philadelphia, South Philadelphia, and Norristown, PA. Board Vice President Barbara Rosenberg will be present to receive the Friend of the Community award at a ceremony at Congregation Beth Israel on Friday, April 20 at 8:00 PM. The public is warmly invited to attend.

NBW is recognized by Congregation Beth Israel for its innovative programs for at-risk children that combine work and learning with reward and accomplishment. In the 16 session "Earn-A-Bike" program youth learn the basics of bike repair and maintenance, safe urban riding, and health and nutrition while refurbishing an abandoned bike. Students earn the very bikes they learn to repair, along with locks and helmets, by participating in the classes. Graduates of the program can continue to work in the shop, earning credit hours towards bikes, parts and accessories, and participate in other more advanced programs. These programs are free to the participants, ages 8-17, as all costs are covered by Neighborhood Bike Works and partner organizations. Adult bike riders are also able to participate in the NBW "Basic Bicycle Repair" course to brush up skills or begin learning how to repair and maintain their own bikes.

Fund-raising activities include the Ride of Dreams, a multi-day road trip for older graduates and adult volunteers, which this year raised over \$20,000, and the Bike Part Art Show, featuring bicycle-related art by local artists.

The program invites community participation. "Help with our Kinetic Sculpture Derby design and build program where we are constructing a four person, human-powered parade float" said David Cicero Bevacqua, NBW Acting Executive Director. "The program meets Fridays, from 4-7 at 40th street. The event will be on May 19. Give us a call about getting more involved or riding over to Kensington for the event!"

Neighborhood Bike Works also offers young people the opportunity to intern with its programs, completing community service hours while they learn valuable bicycle repair and bike safety skills and gain experience teaching younger children. NBW has hosted interns from Mastery Charter School, Science Leadership Academy and Upper Darby High School, among others. Projects include assisting instructors with classes, helping to manage rides, bike donation solicitation, and shop improvements.

Youth also perform community service at NBW through the District Attorney's Youth Aid Panel Program, a volunteer-run project that places first-time offenders in community service projects as an alternative to being charged with non-violent offenses. 80% of Youth Aid participants are not arrested again during high school.

Friend of the Community Award is given each year by Congregation Beth Israel to celebrate the efforts of volunteers and activists who have made a vital difference in the quality of life in Delaware County. The recipients of the award can be of any faith, but all exemplify the Jewish tradition of Tikkun Olam, or "repairing the world" through charity, volunteerism, and dedication to improving the lives of others.

Since 1998, the Social Action committee of Congregation Beth Israel has presented the "Friend of the Community Award" to individuals or groups whose work in Delaware County exemplifies the Jewish value of "Tikkun Olam," or repairing the world. Members of Beth Israel participate in a range of community projects, such as serving home-cooked meals at the Life Center of Eastern Delaware County in Upper Darby, collecting donations for MAZON, the Jewish Response to Hunger, organizing service activities on MLK Day, participating in the regional-wide Mitzvah Mania day, and holding numerous food and clothing drives through the year.

John Greenstine,
Beth Israel Social Action (610) 891-0806
jgreenstine@yahoo.com

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 listened 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).

200 East State Street, Suite 209, Media, PA
19063

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

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Community

Activities

It's All About the Community

2012 Beth Israel Retreat

REGISTER EARLY AND SAVE!

4 pm Friday, June 15 to 12 noon Sunday, June 17, 2012

At a new venue: **Camp Kweebec, Schwenksville, PA,**
only 60 minutes from BI (<http://www.kweebec.com/>)

Plans are underway for a relaxing weekend of community. Activities include:

- prayer
- ropes course and zip line
 - dancing
- campfire with Havdalah and s'mores
 - games
 - sports
- singing and music-making
- meditation, yoga, and drumming circles
 - arts and crafts projects
 - hiking and creek crawling
- swimming, canoeing and kayaking
- teen activities, kids activities, family activities

REGISTER EARLY AND SAVE UP TO \$20 PER PARTICIPANT

All meals will be Kosher. Vegetarian options at all meals. Will accommodate most dietary needs if known in advance.

Accommodations are camp cabins. While rustic, they have hot showers, inside toilets, and electricity. Beds are platform bunks with simple mattresses.

*For those attending on Saturday only, we will offer a van ride option, leaving from the synagogue at 8:00 am and returning at 8:30 pm.****

DIRECTIONS, WHAT TO BRING LIST, ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE, ETC. WILL BE POSTED ON THE BI WEBSITE AND AVAILABLE IN THE SYNAGOGUE LOBBY.

ORGANIZERS/CONTACTS: Debbie Wile, debwile@gmail.com or (610) 565-0720
Carol Cowan, carolvcowan@comcast.net (302) 762-8708

EARLYBIRD 2012 BI RETREAT SIGN UP FORM

Family Name _____

Address/City/State/Zip _____

Contact Phone Number _____ E-mail address _____

Number of Adults: _____ Number of Children _____ Ages of Children _____

FEE OPTIONS:

		By April 1	By May 25	After May 25
Full weekend:	Per person (+7 yrs)	\$90	\$100	\$110
	Per child 3-6	\$70	\$80	\$90
	Children under 3 are free			
Friday only	Per person	\$15	\$20	\$25
Saturday only	Per person	\$30	\$40	\$50
Saturday + ride***	Per person	\$45	\$55	\$65

(Subsidies available if needed; please contact Rabbi Linda.)

Participant #1 Name: _____ Fee _____

Participant #2 Name: _____ Fee _____

Participant #3 Name: _____ Fee _____

Participant #4 Name: _____ Fee _____

Participant #5 Name: _____ Fee _____

Total Fee: _____

Make checks payable to "Congregation Beth Israel" Amount Enclosed \$ _____

CABIN ARRANGEMENTS – Please indicate your preference for type of cabin:

Women only Men only Families with young children
 Couples Families with teenagers Others

People with whom you'd like to bunk: _____

Accessibility needs _____

Dietary Requests _____

Complete & mail with payment to: Carol Cowan, 1610 Shadybrook Road, Wilmington, DE 19803

Kehillah

of Delaware County

Yom HaShoah ve'haGevurah Observance Holocaust Remembrance Day

Dedication of Martins Run's 130 year-old Lipnik nad Bečvou Torah

Thursday, April 19, 2012 ~ 27 Nisan 5772

1:30 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Martins Run

11 Martins Run, Media, PA 19063

Special Guest:

Dr. Jirik Schreiber, Holocaust survivor and last resident of Lipnik to become a Bar Mitzvah from this rescued Torah.



This event is free and open to the community.

Participating institutions:

Beth Israel, Congregation Beth El - Ner Tamid, Martins Run, Ohev Shalom, Temple Sholom

Contact Cheryl Barish Erlick for more information:

cberlick@jewishlearningventure.org / 215.320.0401

Book Discussion "Flowers in the Blood" Opium Trade

The tentative date for our next book discussion is Sunday, April 22nd at 10:30 AM.

Book: "Flowers in the Blood" by Gay Courter.

Host:

Amy Strauss

88-7 Ferne Blvd.

Drexel Hill, PA 19026

(Drexelbrook)

610-623-1438

amy2302@rcn.com

"Flowers in the Blood" is a story about a Jewish family in India at the end of the nineteenth century who are involved with the very profitable opium trade.

This is a relatively long book, so be advised to start it as soon as possible.

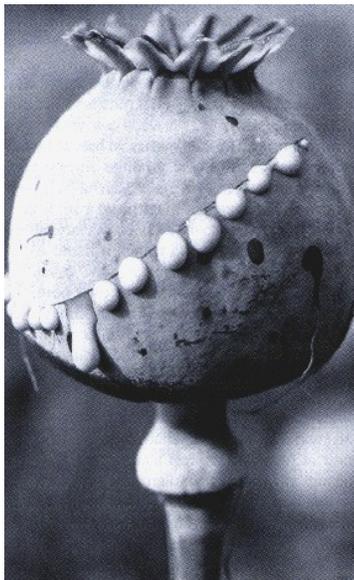
Any questions, contact Eleanor at 610-565-0740 or straussfam@aol.com or Amy at 610-623



Formerly Auerbach Central Agency for Jewish Education/Jewish Outreach Partnership

7607 Old York Road / Melrose Park PA 19027 / 215.320.0360 jewishlearningventure.org

Partners with Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia



Opium Trade in India (Photo: BBC)

Save the date for these exciting community events!



Sunday, April 22, 2012 • 1:00 PM

Philadelphia's Annual Memorial Ceremony for the Six Million Jewish Martyrs Monument to the Six Million Jewish Martyrs 16th Street & Benjamin Franklin Parkway

Dorothy Freedman Memorial Conversation with a Survivor Program A special program for middle and high school students beginning at 10 am. For more information: 215.832.0536



Sunday, May 20, 2012 • 1 - 5 PM ISRAEL IN OUR HEARTS



Join the Philadelphia Jewish community as we celebrate the 64th anniversary of the State of Israel! Shop at an Israeli marketplace, enjoy a wide variety of foods and special children's activities, and browse booths highlighting the programs and activities of many local community organizations.

For more information ► 215.832.0536



Yom HaShoah

Annual Holocaust Day of Remembrance

AN INTERFAITH PUBLIC COMMEMORATION

Choosing to Act: Stories of Remembrance

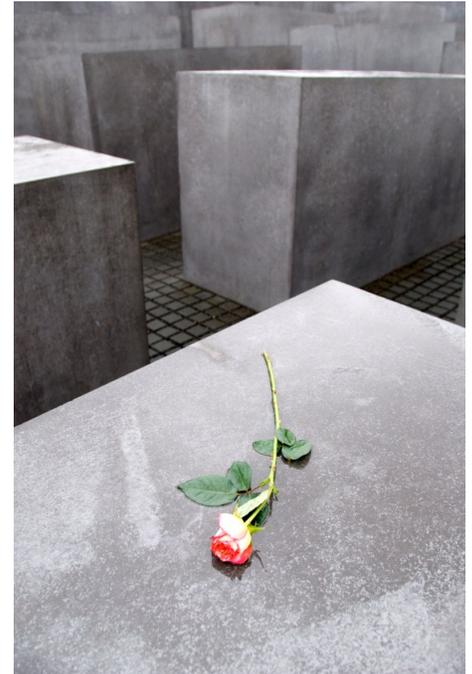
GUEST SPEAKER Dr. Alexander Vega

"Rescued Child" Holocaust Survivor



Thursday, April 19, 2012 at noon

Carvel State Office Building Auditorium 9th and French Streets, Wilmington, DE



SPONSORED BY:

The Delaware Rabbinical and Cantor's Association



The Halina Wind Preston Holocaust Education Center

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



Jewish Federation OF DELAWARE

For more information, contact Gina Kozicki Jewish Federation of Delaware (302) 427-2100 ext. 20

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 Congregation Ohev Shalom
 2 Chester Road, Wallingford

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# 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

**2012 JEWISH HERITAGE NIGHT
 WITH THE BLUE ROCKS**



**TUESDAY, JUNE 5TH @ 7:05 P.M.
 BLUE ROCKS VS. CAROLINA MUDCATS**



**Jewish Federation
 OF DELAWARE**

SPECIAL TICKET RATE OF \$7!

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 GROUPS@BLUEROCKS.COM WITH ANY QUESTIONS.**

**SIGN ME UP !
 JEWISH HERITAGE NIGHT
 TUESDAY, JUNE 5TH @ 7:05 P.M.**

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____ **PHONE:** _____

OF TICKETS _____ **@ \$7 EACH = \$** _____ **+ \$5 P/H =** _____

**PLEASE INCLUDE PAYMENT (CHECK OR CREDIT CARD):
 CHECKS PAYABLE TO: WILMINGTON BLUE ROCKS / CC _____ EX _____**

**MAIL ORDER FORM TO: GROUP SALES, 801 SHIPYARD DRIVE, WILMINGTON, DE 19801
 FAX ORDER FORM TO: 302-888-2032**

CALL 302-888-5358 TO ORDER!

April 2012

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																		
1 4:00 PM MTHS @ BI No Hebrew School	2 7:30 PM Mekom Torah for Grownups @BI	3 7:30 PM Mekom Torah Opening Judaism at Ohev No Hebrew School	4	5 12:00 PM Mekom Torah Lunchtime in Center City	6 1st night Pesach No Services at BI	7 9:45 AM Shabbat Services - Joyce Romoff will lead Pesach 2nd Night Seder																																																																																																		
8 No Hebrew School	9	10 No Hebrew School	11	12 7:30 PM Social Action Committee Meeting	13 8:00 PM Shabbat Services - Andy Coleman will lead	14 9:45 AM Shabbat Yiskor Services - Randy Tiffany and Meira Pitkapaasi will lead																																																																																																		
15 9:30 AM Mitzvah Mania 4:00 PM MTHS @ BI	16 7:30 PM Mekom Torah for Grownups @BI	17 4:15 PM Hebrew School Yom Hashoah ceremony 7:30 PM Mekom Torah Opening Judaism at Ohev	18 Executive Committee	19 12:00 PM Mekom Torah Lunchtime in Center City 1:30 PM Yom Hashoah at Martins Run "Holocaust & Heroism Remembrance Day"	20 8:00 PM Shabbat Services w/ Student Rabbi, Leslie Hilgeman Social Action Committee, Friend of Community Award to Neighborhood Bike Works	21 9:45 AM Shabbat Services w/ Student Rabbi, Leslie Hilgeman 11:45 AM Potluck Lunch 12:30 PM Torah Treks "Kings I" w/Rabbi Alan LaPayover																																																																																																		
22 9:30 AM Hebrew School Zayin class - breakfast with Holocaust Survivors 10:00 AM RPC/Ed. Mtgs. 10:30 AM BI Book Club "Flowers in the Blood" 1:00 PM Six Million Martyrs Ceremony in Philly	23 7:30 PM Mekom Torah for Grownups @BI	24 4:15 PM Hebrew School Yom Ha'Atzmaut ceremony	25 7:30 PM Board Meeting 7:30 PM Mekom Torah Couples @Ohev	26 Yom Ha-Atzmaut	27 8:00 PM Shabbat Services w/ Student Rabbi, Leslie Hilgeman	28 9:45 AM Shabbat Services w/ Student Rabbi, Leslie Hilgeman 6:30 PM Progressive Dinner																																																																																																		
29 9:30 AM Hebrew School 12:15 PM Midrasha Bet w/ Student Rabbi, Leslie Hilgeman 4:00 PM MTHS @ BI	30 5:45 PM Food Service 7:30 PM Mekom Torah for Grownups @BI	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="7">Mar 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> </tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td> </tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="7">May 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> </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>31</td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </table>					Mar 2012							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	May 2012							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		
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Congregation Beth Israel

542 South New Middletown Road

Media, Pennsylvania 19063-2240

Ph 610-566-4645 Fax 610-566-2240

<http://www.bethisraelmedia.org>

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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 email to:

Israelight@bethisraelmedia.org

Next Issue:

May