

The Israelight

Rabbi's Message

POSSIBILITIES
AS WE LOOK AHEAD:
GreenFaith,
Walking the Walk For Teens,
Monthly Healing Services,
Visiting RRC Students



by Rabbi Linda Potemken

What would you like to see Beth Israel create in the next year? As we continue to enjoy the wealth of programs/services for this year we are looking ahead to new initiatives for next year. Here are a few new ideas I recently shared with the Board. I would love to hear your responses to these initiatives and to hear your hopes for other programs and plans for Beth Israel.

continued on page 2

President's Message

I've been thinking about change recently. Sometimes changes are slow and easy to miss in the short term, and sometimes changes happen in the blink of an eye. At work, my situation is much different than it was in March, having changed for the better very quickly. I now have the freedom to choose my own direction, while still working for the same office. I have the time to also build a private practice, work for another attorney, or strike out in a different direction altogether. The world is my oyster. I have a catalyst to contemplate my career path, and to think about where I want to be in 20 years.



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Friday, May 3, 6:00 PM
Young Family Services

Saturday, May 4 & May 18
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Bi-annual Congregation Meeting
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Zayin Graduation
Robert Nichols Scholar Athlete Award

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Hebrew School Talent Show

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Shabbat Services with guest speaker
Jewish Views of the Afterlife

Honey orders page 12
Still collecting for CAADC page 5

Rabbi's Message Continued

GreenFaith: We are proud of the progress we have made toward the greening of Beth Israel. As this newsletter goes to press, the Board is working toward participation in a program called GreenFaith in order to take these efforts to the next level. GreenFaith is an interfaith environmental organization that offers a certification program involving coaching and resources. (<http://greenfaith.org/programs/certification>). This is a 2 year leadership program for congregations, in which Greenfaith supports us to complete various action steps to 'green' our community, and provides significant mentoring along the way to help us succeed. The 'greening' efforts are holistic and comprehensive, including, eco-themed services & religious education on the environment, interfaith and intergenerational activities, efforts to 'green' the building itself in the areas of energy, water, waste, etc., outreach to members about greening for the home and finally, environmental justice education and advocacy.

GreenFaith provides over 200 resources for support, one-on-one mentoring, webinars, and direct connections to many congregations across the country. Participating congregations have experienced thousands of dollars in savings, increased and new member involvement, and bigger and more effective environmental projects than ever in their history. We are excited about the possibilities for Beth Israel.

Walking the Walk: We are also exploring the possibility of a new offering for our teens. While we are fortunate to have teens involved in Midrasha, Mekom Torah and serving as assistants in our Hebrew School, we are wondering if there is a way to engage those teens who are not yet involved and to broaden and deepen the opportunities for all of our teens. "Walking the Walk" is an intergenerational interfaith dialogue and service initiative. It is a year-long program for a group of high school age youth comprised of representatives from several congregations within the same general geographical area. Participating students meet 12x per year with students from a variety of congregations to engage in interfaith dialogue and service projects. It is a nationally-recognized initiative that provides teenagers with experiences, skills and resources for living in a diverse world and for deepening their own identities.

Walking the Walk already has 4 networks of congregations in other neighborhoods. They are seeking to

build a network in our area and BI might avail itself of that opportunity for our teens. It is a project of the Interfaith Center - the organization that we partnered with this past year in the Gateways program.

A Monthly Healing Service For Members & For The Wider Community: A Weekday Evening

Imagine a monthly oasis, a short but soothing meeting/service where you have the opportunity to pray for healing or to say kaddish or to support your beloveds as they pray for healing or say kaddish. Imagine a service designed to hold our pain and our hope. Imagine a place for members of the community to gather when suffering private distress or having a place to turn when confronting the death or illness of a member. Imagine a place to reach out to folks who have yet to discover BI but still need a place to go when they are sick or scared.

Imagine a Ma'ariv service, embracing the components of the evening liturgy, but Reconstructed in lovely and original ways that emphasize healing and hope. Imagine musicians embellishing the service, one or two instruments in an evening. Imagine the room arranged in a way that is soft and embracing. Imagine a place where members connect and comfort one another and where outsiders may easily be embraced. If you would like such an offering I would be honored to create and provide this service on a monthly basis.

Rabbinical Students: Bringing New Voices and Perspectives

Beth Israel has had a long tradition of welcoming rabbinical students from the RRC to share their Torah and their style, providing training for them and variety for us. Would you welcome the opportunity to bring a student in several times throughout the year? This is also possible.

As we look to next year we will surely repeat some of the types of programs and services that folks enjoyed throughout 5773. Please know that May and June are planning months. Please speak to me or to a BOD member about your hopes for Beth Israel in the next year.

Then, let's make it happen.

L'Shalom, Rabbi Linda

President's Message Continued

Synagogues don't always have such a catalyst that causes them to contemplate their path forward. When they do, that catalyst is often decreased membership, lower member satisfaction, less revenue, higher expenses, or personnel changes (the loss of a long-time rabbi, executive director, principal, etc.). At Beth Israel, we've been blessed for many years by having a generally stable membership and personnel situation. Then the Great Recession hit, and brought with it serious fiscal challenges. Prior Boards have laid the groundwork for where we are today, and I've worked hard to lay the groundwork for the next several years. Like many organizations, the things that were sufficient, if not efficient, when times were good, have become glaringly obvious when money became tight. Those things included many of our expenses, but we were never going to only "shrink" our way to prosperity; we would have to combine our efforts with additional outreach to members and prospective members.

This is where Shul Suite came in. We've started with things that are obvious to members: a brand new fresh and easily-updated website and e-mailing bills. We've spent significant amounts of time addressing how we can collect and use information more effectively. Those efforts will begin to bear fruit in the coming years, both by letting members know that we do care about their needs, and by making it easier for members to support us.

Speaking of supporting us, there are still some member households who are behind in dues payments, and even some who haven't paid at all. If you haven't paid your dues or tuition, today is the day to do so. This issue always puts the Board in a difficult position; we try very hard to ensure that members can contact us when they're in need and I feel that some members don't reciprocate. This isn't an issue that Shul Suite will solve. It's one that the Board must address. For two years, I've been blessed with having the guidance of Steve Goldfield, who helped make sure that we had enough money to pay our bills at the end of the year. This year, I think the end of the year will be tight, and that's due both to losing some members and due to some members not paying dues but not communicating with us. This is a problem that won't go away without Board action. I urge the incoming Board to address this issue head-on. We welcome all who

want to experience what Beth Israel has to offer, but we ask for support in return, to ensure that we're around for the next 20 years.

The past two years have been a time of great change for me, as you know. They have also been a time of change for Beth Israel. Some changes have been gradual, and some have been rapid. But we still need to take the steps we can, whenever we can, so that we can remain in charge of our destiny – both as individuals, and as a congregation. To quote Ferris Beuller, "Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it."

In friendship,
Josh Waterston

Social Action Committee

A Spring Clothing Drive was coordinated by Jake Citrenbaum and his family for his tikkun olam project for his Bar Mitzvah. Thanks to everyone who has donated clothing for this cause. Clothing was donated to the Eastside Ministries in Chester.

The Passover food collection took place in 3 parts. The first part was collected prior to the holidays, part 2 was collected at the Progressive Dinner on April 13, and the third time when we honored Eve Klothen. All food was donated to Second Harvest in Media.

The next **food service** is Monday, July 29. Watch for an email from Stu and Susan.

Ohev Shalom and Beth Israel, along with other community groups are learning more about **gun control**. Elaine Wasekenas has been representing SAC at meetings. The SAC is going to disseminate information to our community.

For his tikkun olam Bar Mitzvah project, Harrison Fink and his family continue to collect toiletries, cleaning supplies, baby supplies, and other personal care items for *The Community Action Agency of Delaware County*. There is a large blue container in the lobby. SAC's Barbara Kaplan is the liaison for this project. Thanks to everyone who donated and continues to donate to help those in need.

SEE PAGE 12 TO ORDER HONEY!!!!!!

ZAYIN GRADUATION May 10th at 6:15 Shabbat Services

Come welcome the newest group of Hebrew School graduates into the adult community of Beth Israel. Celebrate Shabbat, support our Hebrew School families and enjoy the music of the BIMAS. Then stay for Shabbat dinner to begin at 7:15.

Things have been really busy at the Hebrew School so far this spring! In addition to regular classes and a special Shabbat morning program with Rabbi Linda, the students have also been busy celebrating holidays and practicing Tikkun Olam. In March our younger classes visited Fair Acres to sing for the residents, and our older students (Dalet through Zayin) sang for the residents at Elwyn in April. One of the students' favorite activities, of course, was participating in a model Seder. Many thanks to Debbie Sherman for organizing it again this year, and to Theresa Citrenbaum, Wendy Waterston, Don Huddler and Suzy Long for their help.

Lots of thanks to Kathy Trow for coordinating our online Passover candy sale, to Arnie Schwartz for organizing the Dalet class dinner, and to Moriah Gornstein for organizing the Mechina class dinner.

Can't believe the school year is almost over! All are invited to attend our end-of-year festivities on May 19th. We will be holding our first annual "Kids Clothing Swap" from 10-11 and then the students will be putting on a talent show from 11-12. (\$5 per bag of clothing from the Swap, and \$5 suggested donation for the talent show - all proceeds will go towards the creation of a BI gaga court.)

Beth Israel Hebrew School Field Trip to Elwyn

On Tuesday, April 9 2013 the Dalet through Zayin classes of Beth Israel Hebrew School went to Elwyn to perform for the residents.

The children, led by music teacher Amy Jo, sang songs for the residents including Puff the Magic Dragon and Zum Gali Gali. Lily Forbes performed a beautiful dance and Jessica Cantor sang "Lean on me" accompanied by the rest of the students. Rachel Sherman, Alana Haber, Jennifer Weinberg, and Harrison Fink sang Journey's "Don't Stop Believing" accompanied by the students. The residents enjoyed the show so much.

Everyone did an outstanding job and it felt so good to perform this wonderful mitzvah!

**ROBERT NICHOLS SCHOLAR ATHLETE AWARD
GOES TO MOLLY ANDERSEN**

Come and kvell. Please join us at services on Friday May 10th at 6:15, when we celebrate Shabbat, the Zayin Class Graduation, and the presentation of the *Robert Nichols Scholar Athlete Award* to BI's Molly Andersen. BI member Adam Nichols will present the award which is named after his late father and presented every year to a deserving senior in Delaware County.

We are honored to host the Nichols award this year and to celebrate with Molly and her family. Mazel tov to Kathy and Dan Andersen as we celebrate this honor.

★ BI SHREDDING EVENT

GET OUT OF BED, COME TO BI, AND SHRED!

Come to the Congregation Meeting at 10:00 and drop off your paper at the shredding event afterward.

The money goes to a gaga court for BI

- safely dispose of your sensitive documents
- keep Beth Israel green
- get BI a gaga court!

Shredding Event -

Date & Time

Sunday, May 5th, 2013
11am - 1pm

\$5 a box

Unlimited Boxes

Questions? reisa.mukamal@verizon.net



At the Fireside Concert, Saturday, April 6



Thanks to Harry Chen and Andrea Apter for their hospitality and organizing.

And to all the performers (in order of performance) : Andrea Apter & Andrea Bruno; Louis Friedler; Harry Chen; Andrea Bruno & Talia Liu; Karen Schwartz; Laz & Melony Herrera; Josh Mitteldorf, Andrea Apter & Harry Chen; BIMAS: Josh Mitteldorf, Linda Cohen, Rich Block, Andrea Apter, Andrea Bruno, Ron Romoff, Eric Rangell, Larry Hamermesh & Harry Chen; Ron Romoff.



★ WE'VE ENDED ANOTHER HEBREW SCHOOL YEAR

Join us at BI to celebrate on May 19th



10-11:00

*First Annual BI Kid's Clothing Swap
(\$5 per bag of clothes)*

11-12:00

*Hebrew School Talent Show
(\$5 donation greatly appreciated)*

Refreshments will be served

Money goes to a gaga court for BI

We can't wait to see you there!

TEEN CORNER

How might our synagogue community support you as you navigate middle school and high school? How would you like to support the important work of Beth Israel?

What tikkun olam issues are near and dear to your heart? Contact Rabbi Linda or any member of the Board to share your ideas and hopes.

Did you enjoy reading Torah or leading prayers at your Bar or Bat Mitzvah? We'd love to hear your voice on the bima. Contact Rabbi Linda or RPC chairs Randy Tiffany or Laura Lee Blechner if you would like to enjoy those privileges again. We will give you all the support you need to succeed and to enjoy the experience.

Midrasha Aleph (for 8th-10th graders) and **Midrasha Bet** (for 11th and 12th graders) continue to meet monthly with Rabbi Linda for bagels, laughter and Torah. (BLT)

Whether you are a veteran member of these groups or coming for the first time, all BI teens are welcome to have a

"Reconstructionist BLT "

Exploring Torah, contemporary issues and matters close to your heart. Adult meetings tailored for Beth Israel teens. Join us. For more information contact Rabbi Linda Potemken or our principal Helene Cohen.

Would you like to meet teens from other groups in Delaware County? **Mekom Torah High School** (MTHS) meets at BI or at Ohev and is run by BI member Rabbi Helen Plotkin. MTHS is open to teens from all over Delaware County and meets on Sunday afternoons. For more information contact Helen@mekomtorah.org.

BI TEENS TO LEAD

SHABBAT SERVICES ON MAY 17th 8pm

Join us on May 17th as our BI Teens take over the bima and lead services, give the d'var Torah and even prepare the oneg!

Yasher koach in advance to Jared Brown, Shawn Dresner and Thomas Fogel who have taken the lead in organizing this service.

We are proud of all of you!

On March 8th Randy Tiffany and Larry Hamermesh spoke at Shabbat evening services about their work with the Delaware American Civil Liberties Union. Below are edited versions of the 2 talks for the benefit of those who were unable to attend. Unfortunately we were not able to capture the spirited discussion that followed, but suffice to say that some excellent questions were asked.

Randy Tiffany: Civil Liberties and Jewish values

230 years ago the framers of our American constitution proposed a radical notion: that the role of state is to safeguard the rights and liberties of its citizens. This was a fundamental break from the understanding in non-democratic systems that role of the citizen is to serve needs of the ruler or state. Of particular importance in this new definition of government was the Bill of Rights and certain other later amendments which enshrined basic civil liberties as the supreme law of the land. Those amendments of particular importance include:

1st: freedom of speech/separation of church and state	6th: right of criminal defendants to a fair trial
4th: prohibition of unreasonable searches	8th: prohibition of cruel and unusual punishment
5th: due process of law required to deprive a citizen of rights	14th: equal protection for all citizens
	19th: women's right to vote.

Rights granted in a constitution, while essential, are not sufficient to guarantee the kind of fair and decent society we desire to live in. The rights of minorities and unpopular groups or individuals are always in danger of being abrogated by the state and the majority. The ACLU was founded to be constantly vigilant in protecting civil liberties and to challenge violations whenever they occur. Much of what we do is reactive: federal, state and local governments, school boards, police departments, prisons, and private businesses regularly act in ways that we believe are in violation of civil liberties. The ACLU engages in education, legislative advocacy, and legal action to safeguard and expand civil liberties.

The ACLU is a secular organization, and is often accused by the religious right of being anti-religious. However, I believe it is an organization which is actually deeply rooted in religious values. In my own involvement with the organization, I have come to have a more profound appreciation of the connection I see between civil liberties and my Jewish values. I would like to explore this connection with regards to 2 bills which will be introduced in the Delaware legislature this spring to abolish the state death penalty and to extend marriage equality to the LGBT community.

Capital punishment: On the pshat (straightforward) level, it would appear that Judaism supports capital punishment. After all, the Hebrew Bible specifies a death sentence for a long list of offenses including violation of Shabbat and insulting one's parents. I agree with many who argue that the real message here is about the value of honoring Shabbat and parents rather than when capital punishment should actually be employed. There is good evidence that imposition of a death sentence was extremely rare in ancient Israelite society. In the rabbinic era, an extraordinary effort was made to effectively reverse the p'shat meaning of text and make it impossible under Jewish law to ever carry out a death sentence. What the rabbis raise up is the extremely high value of human life.

While there are important arguments against the death penalty on practical grounds (what good does it do, can it be fairly applied), I would like to focus on the philosophical questions the rabbis seem to be addressing in effectively outlawing the death penalty. But first we return to the upcoming legislative session in Dover which we hope will pass a bill extending marriage rights to same-sex couples.

LGBT rights: Once again, the Torah appears on the pshat level to prohibit a male homosexual act (Vayikra/Leviticus 20:13). In context, it can be argued that the concern here is with avoiding the idolatrous rituals of competing local religions rather than a prohibition of male homosexuality per se. Regardless of the attitudes expressed by ancient Israelites regarding expressions of sexuality, I believe that the core Jewish value that is applicable to discussions of both the death penalty and recognition of same sex relationships is located in the first creation story.

Breisheit/Genesis 1:27 reads: *Vayivra elohim et ha adam B'tzalmo, B'tzelem elohim bara oto.* "God created the human in the divine image, creating the human in the image of God". Ha Adam, the first human, is singular and not yet divided in any way, even into two genders. It is this undifferentiated and thus universal person which is created B'tzelem elohim, in the image of God. Each individual human has an inherent holiness which must be respected. This idea developed much more fully within the biblical, prophetic, and rabbinic traditions. To me, this is the fundamental basis for civil liberties and the basis for struggling against all forms of oppression.

Larry Hamermesh: Tikkun Olam and the ACLU

A news story earlier this year reported a study identifying the happiest countries in the world. How do you measure happiness, you ask? The story did identify some obvious things: “being healthy, having enough food to feed yourself and your family and enough money to do what you want and buy what you want” – but continued: “Furthermore, happiness means being able to speak what's on your mind without fear, to worship the God of your choosing, and to feel safe and secure in your own home.”

Well, that sounded familiar. In our country, what do we associate with protecting “being able to speak what's on your mind without fear?” And what do we associate with protecting the ability “to worship the God of your choosing?” At least for me, the answer to both is the First Amendment to our Constitution. And only somewhat less obvious, what do we associate with protecting our ability “to feel safe and secure in your own home?” Likewise, the Fourth Amendment to our Constitution: “The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated”

So if Tikkun Olam includes contributing to individual and collective happiness and dignity, and happiness and dignity are defined and protected in major ways in our Bill of Rights, then doing the work of the American Civil Liberties Union is surely at least one way to contribute to the task of Tikkun Olam.

I've seen lots of ways the ACLU does this, but the ones that have been the most rewarding to me involve doing things that most directly protect human dignity. To illustrate, I could talk about some of the non-controversial but important work we have done to prevent evangelical Christian groups from using the tools of government to promote their own religion (and, of course, not ours). But I have a different and probably more controversial story to tell tonight, one that involves some graphically unpleasant descriptions.

Does anybody watch “Elementary,” the TV show about Sherlock Holmes in modern day New York? Last month, the show began with perhaps the most horrible murder I think I've ever seen depicted on commercial TV. The killer was clearly a psychopath, who methodically and calmly bound and gagged his victim, tied his feet together, set up a 7 foot tall tripod, hoisted the victim by his feet so that he was hanging upside down, and slit his carotid artery. That's all they showed, except the aftermath of his having bled to death. It was appalling. It was so contrary to every sensibility about how people should behave. And it got me started thinking about another way of killing: as in Elementary, binding and gagging the victim, but, instead of suspending him upside down, tying him to a gurney, and injecting paralytic drugs that terminate the functioning of the cardiac and nervous systems.

I hope you see where I'm going with this. This form of killing is what we euphemistically describe as the death “penalty” (as if it were \$25 for paying your credit card bill late, or 5 yards for being offside). Instead of a psychopath carrying out an appalling (although no more painful) murder, we do this in the name of the State and its citizens.

I know people have different opinions about this practice. But in the belief that Tikkun Olam is not aided by killing, even in the name of revenge, and knowing that the rabbis viewed an execution more often than once in every 70 years as a “bloody Sanhedrin,” and knowing that there is no scientific evidence that state-sponsored execution operates to deter any violent crime, and knowing that deciding whom the state should kill requires imperfect human institutions to engage in impossible exercises in discrimination, I have come to support the ACLU's long-standing position that state-sponsored killing in the name of criminal justice should end. This has not been a popular position, and may not even be popular here, even in this bastion of sensibility to minority concerns and human life and dignity. No one particularly likes to protect the victims of state-sponsored killing. They are almost always murderers themselves. Many of them – like the serial killer whose execution I tried to prevent in 1992, when Delaware reinstated use of the death penalty – in addition to being horribly deranged persons, are volunteers who resist lawyers' efforts to terminate the death process.

The ACLU doesn't have a monopoly on efforts to oppose state-sanctioned murder in the name of criminal justice. Our own Judy Ritter and Michael Wiseman have done extraordinary work in the Philadelphia area. I mention the subject only to illustrate the relationship between civil liberties work and Tikkun Olam, and because the ACLU Delaware is now actively engaged in a project to secure the repeal of the death sentence in Delaware.

So to conclude, I pose this question related to Tikkun Olam: do government-sponsored executions in the name of criminal justice serve a legitimate purpose? Right now, I don't see how; and I hope that our work for the ACLU will advance, and not hinder, the repair of the world.

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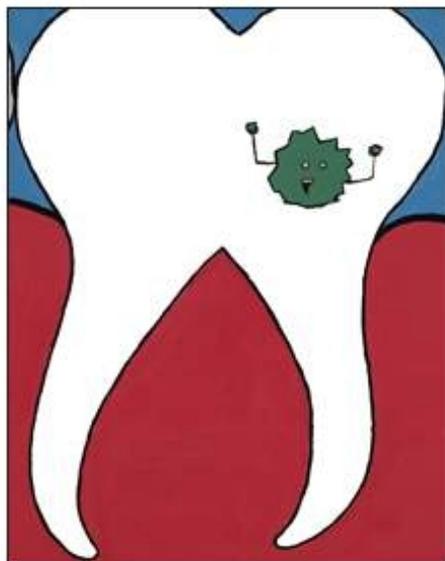
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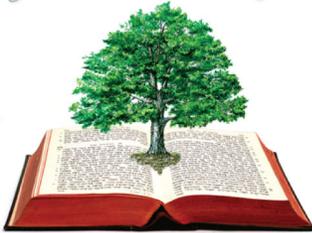
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Honey Will Be Back for High Holidays. Order Yours Now!

This fall you can support Beth Israel, small-farm, sustainable agriculture and special needs workers while giving sweet wishes for the New Year. B I Social Action is again offering this unique gift idea for the holidays for our members, friends and families. We're still holding down the cost—for just \$10 you can send a bottle of kosher American honey, from Katelyn's Honey of Burlington, KY, with holiday wishes from you and Beth Israel on our custom label.



This offer includes personalized greeting, shipping & handling anywhere in the continental US. Overseas orders are still only \$28. Katelyn's Honey partners with a local sheltered workshop to package and ship your orders. Because High Holidays are so early this year—Rosh Hashanah begins September 4--we need to close the orders by June 21, so don't delay! Contact Susan Klein (StususanBI@comcast.net) or call (610) 891-6844 for more information.

Use the convenient order form below. Checks made out to Beth Israel are welcome, and you can also pay with your credit card (add \$1.00 per bottle for service fee) on the Beth Israel website, under the "Donate to BI" tab. Click "Social Action Fund" when paying by credit card.

Send as many gifts as you wish. Forward the order form to your friends. The more you give, the more "nachas" you feel! Proceeds benefit the Beth Israel General Fund and BI Social Action programs. Instead of a Hallmark card this Rosh Hashanah, give the gift of sweet wishes for health, happiness and peace in 5774.

Beth Israel Honey for Rosh Hashanah Order Form 2013

Benefits the Beth Israel General Fund and BI Social Action Programs

Number of bottles of honey, US delivery _____ @ \$10 (+ \$1 each for credit card purchase)

Number of bottles of honey, overseas delivery _____ @ \$28 (+ \$1 each for credit card purchase)

Check Enclosed Paid by credit card at Bethisraelmedia.org

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Your name on gift card _____

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Duplicate this form as needed. Return this form and check made out to Congregation Beth Israel for \$10 (\$28 international delivery) per bottle to: Susan Klein, 5 E. Rose Valley Road, Wallingford, PA 19086 (610 891-6844) **before June 21, 2013.**

You may pay with a credit card at <http://www.bethisraelmedia.org/support/donate.htm>. Designate "Social Action Fund" and add \$1 per bottle service fee.

Mourner	Deceased	Relationship	Yahrzeit 2013	Yahrzeit 5773	Plaque
Sylva Baker	David Baker	Husband	May 5	25 Iyar	✓
Robert Colman	Miriam G. Colman	Mother	May 7	27 Iyar	
Richard Strauss	Fred Strauss	Father	May 7	27 Iyar	
Sheldon Bernick	Bella Glatstein	Grandmother	May 8	28 Iyar	
Deborah Erie	Jacob Erie	Grandfather	May 9	29 Iyar	
Laura Lee Blechner	Frances Blechner	Grandmother	May 12	3 Sivan	
Lauri Mansky	Henry Goodman	Father	May 18	9 Sivan	✓
Brian Randall	Mordechai Midler	Grandfather	May 18	9 Sivan	
Marilyn Drukin	Herman Lichtman	Father	May 19	10 Sivan	✓
Susan Klein	Harry Klein	Father	May 20	11 Sivan	✓
Judy Kinman	Louis Lazarus	Father	May 21	12 Sivan	
Robert Stone	Henry Blitzstein	Uncle	May 24	15 Sivan	
Elaine Wasekanes	Bernard (Sonny) Kesselman	Father	May 24	15 Sivan	
Helen Schachner	Lillian Skolnick Rappaport	Aunt	May 27	18 Sivan	✓
Andrea Apter	Stanley Meriam Apter	Father	May 29	20 Sivan	
Steven Arnold	David Irving Arnold	Brother	May 31	22 Sivan	✓
Louise Gilbert	Pam Harrison	Daughter-in-law	May 31	22 Sivan	
Louise Gilbert	Andy Harrison	Son	May 31	22 Sivan	

ADULT ED

In the Rabbi's Study: Lunch and Learn Thursday May 2 12:00 -1:30

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

Torah Treks:

May 4
Rabbi Linda
The Book of Ezekiel

May 18
Rabbi Alan LaPayover
The Book of Ezekiel

(Next year: The Minor Prophets)



The Mah Jong fun continues! Anyone and everyone is welcome to join in: men or women, experienced players or novices, those who have joined us over the last few months or those who just thought about it. Just come when you can; we each put \$5 into the till for BI.

Mark your calendars for the following dates, starting at 12:30 and going until about 2:30 in the synagogue.

• April 21 • May 5 (after Congregational Meeting) • May 19 • June 2



SHAVUOT

THE FESTIVAL OF
RECEIVING TORAH

TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2013

8:00 PM

AN EVENING OF STUDY, PRAYER AND REFLECTION

BETH ISRAEL OF MEDIA, OHEV SHALOM,
SHIREINU & MEKOM TORAH

Teachers: Rabbi Linda Potemken, Rabbi Jeremy Gerber, Cantor Steven Friedrich, Rabbi Jeff Eisenstat, Rabbi Sarah Messinger, Rabbi Helen Plotkin and You!

Beginning with a Shavuot service, including Yizkor,
led by Rabbis Linda, Jeff, & Sarah and BIMAS.

We welcome you to share 3 - 5 minutes of Torah that has moved or informed you: traditional text, Jewish poetry, music, literature, or art. Contact Rabbi Linda if you would like to participate.

Please bring a dessert, drink, or fruit.

At Beth Israel of Media
542 S. New Middletown Road, Media, PA 19063

JEWISH VIEWS OF THE AFTERLIFE: Friday May 31 at 8pm Shabbat Services
with Rabbi Linda Potemken and Reb Simcha Raphael

While many often assume Judaism does not have a belief in life after death, it turns out there is a very rich legacy of Jewish afterlife teachings. In tonight's Shabbat presentation, Dr. Simcha Raphael will explore with us little-known Jewish teachings on the afterlife journey of the soul, as found in Jewish mystical traditions. Through an evening of study and discussion, we shall discover how Jewish afterlife teachings offer us a new spiritual perspective for understanding traditional Jewish rituals of death and mourning.

Reb Simcha Raphael, Ph.D. is Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Jewish Studies Program of Temple University, and works as a psychotherapist and spiritual director, affiliated with Mount Airy Counseling Center. Ordained by Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi as a Rabbinic Pastor, he is Director of DA'AT Institute for Death Awareness, Advocacy and Training, and author of the book Jewish Views of the Afterlife. His website is www.daatinstitute.net.

May 2013

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Apr 2013</p> <table border="1" style="font-size: small;"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Jun 2013</p> <table border="1" style="font-size: small;"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr> <tr><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> </div>			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					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							<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">1</p> <p>7:30 PM Executive Committee</p>	<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">2</p> <p>12:00 PM Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Linda</p> <p>12:00 PM Lunchtime Torah Downtown w/ R. H. Plotkin</p> <p>7:30 PM Social Action Committee</p>	<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">3</p> <p>6:00 PM Young Family Service Dinner - Aleph hosts</p> <p>6:45 PM Young Family Service with Rabbi Linda Potemken</p> <p>5th & 6th Gr. Retreat @ Camp JRF (5-3-5-5)</p>	<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">4</p> <p>9:45 AM Shabbat Services with Rabbi Linda</p> <p>11:45 AM Potluck Lunch</p> <p>12:30 PM Torah Treks w/ R. Linda Potemken</p>
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<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">5</p> <p>9:30 AM School</p> <p>10:00 AM Cong. Mtg.</p> <p>11:00 AM Gaga Court Paper Shredding Event at BI, 11 - 1:00</p> <p>12:15 PM BLT with RLP</p> <p>12:30 PM Mah Jong</p> <p>4:00 PM Mekom Torah High School BI</p>	<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">6</p> <p>7:30 PM Torah for Grownups @ BI w/ R. H. Plotkin</p>	<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">7</p> <p>4:15 PM Hebrew School Last Tuesday</p> <p>7:30 PM Buddies Torah @ Ohev w/ R. H. Plotkin</p>	<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">8</p> <p>7:30 PM Board Meeting</p>	<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">9</p>	<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">10</p> <p>6:15 PM Shabbat Services w/ R. Linda, Zayin Graduation & Robert Nichols Scholar Athlete Award</p> <p>7:15 PM Dinner</p>	<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">11</p> <p>9:45 AM Shabbat Meditation Services with Rabbi Linda</p>																																																																																											
<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">12</p> <p>Mothers Day</p> <p><u>No Hebrew School</u></p> <p>Race for the Cure in Philly "Team Beth Israel"</p>	<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">13</p> <p>7:30 PM Torah for Grownups @ BI w/ R. H. Plotkin</p>	<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">14</p> <p>8:00 PM Program at BI for Erev Shavuot</p>	<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">15</p> <p><u>BI Office Closed</u></p> <p>Shavuot</p>	<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">16</p> <p>12:00 PM Lunchtime Torah Downtown w/ R. H. Plotkin</p>	<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">17</p> <p>8:00 PM Shabbat Services led by Beth Israel Teens, coordinated by J. Brown, S. Dresner & T. Fogel</p>	<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">18</p> <p>9:45 AM Shabbat Services led by S. Smith</p> <p>11:45 AM Potluck Lunch</p> <p>12:30 PM Torah Treks w/ R. Alan Payover</p>																																																																																											
<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">19</p> <p>9:30 AM Hebrew School Last Sunday</p> <p>12:30 PM Mah Jong, upstairs</p> <p>4:00 PM Mekom Torah High School at Beth Israel</p> <p>7:30 PM Talent Show</p>	<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">20</p> <p>7:30 PM Torah for Grownups @ BI w/ R. H. Plotkin</p>	<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">21</p> <p>4:30 PM Mussar Group with Rabbi Linda</p> <p>7:30 PM The Prayerbook w. R. H. Plotkin @ BI</p>	<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">22</p> <p>12:30 PM Rabbi's Council Meeting & Luncheon for Delaware County @ BI</p>	<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">23</p>	<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">24</p> <p>8:00 PM Shabbat at Home</p>	<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">25</p> <p>9:45 AM Shabbat Services with Rabbi Linda</p>																																																																																											
<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">26</p>	<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">27</p>	<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">28</p>	<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">29</p>	<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">30</p> <p>12:00 PM Lunchtime Torah Downtown w/ R. H. Plotkin</p>	<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">31</p> <p>8:00 PM Shabbat Services with Rabbi Linda and Guest Speaker</p>																																																																																												

March 2013

The General Fund

Blechner-Pragman Family

To: Lauri Mansky, Reisa Mukamal, Michelle Atkins
and Moriah and Dave Gornstein

Thank you for helping clean out the kitchen for
Passover!

Rosella Linder

To: Richard Strauss

In honor of your 90th birthday

Ruth Kaplan

To: Richard Strauss

In honor of the 90th birthday of Richard Strauss,
with many good wishes.

The Golden Book

Helen Schachner

To: David Cashell

In memory of Dave Naylor, brother of David Cashell

Lauri Mansky

To: Arlene Benz

In memory of Elaine Quinn, your sister

Penny and Sheldon Bernick

In appreciation for honoring the long time
members of Beth Israel

Eleanor and Richard Strauss

Our wonderful spiritual home for well over 40 years.

Rabbi Linda

To: David and Lynn Cashell

In memory of Dave Naylor, beloved brother,
brother-in-law and uncle. I am so sorry for your
loss. May his memory be a blessing.

Rabbi Linda

To: Aviv Alouf

Mazel Tov on becoming a Bar Mitzvah

To: Eli Manaker

Congratulations on the occasion of
your Bar Mitzvah

To: Adam Boxer

Mazel Tov on the occasion of your Bar Mitzvah

To: Lauren Isaacs

Best wishes on becoming a Bat Mitzvah

Deenie and Rich Block

To: The Manaker Family

Congratulations on the occasion of Eli's Bar
Mitzvah and his outstanding achievement
on the Bimah. With best wishes!

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Amy Strauss

Eleanor and Richard Strauss

To: Rabbi Linda

Thank you for bringing the fun and joy of celebrating
Purim to Riddle Village

David and Lynn Cashell

To: Jackie and Henry Northime

Prayers for comfort

To: Joe Deutsch

The best Rummage Sale co-organizer around!

To: Larry Green

Wishing you a quick recovery so you can be
back on your bike soon!

Ann and Larry Green

To: Adam Boxer

In honor of your Bar Mitzvah

To: Eli Manaker

In honor of Eli Manaker's Bar Mitzvah

The Manaker Family

Laura Lee Blechner

In honor of Laura Lee Blechner for her lovely
singing of the amidah

To: Reisa Mukamal

In honor of Reisa Mukamal for her patient
tutelage of our family

BIMAS

The Manaker Family

For enlivening Eli's Bar Mitzvah service

Capital Campaign

The Manaker Family

In honor of Eli's Bar Mitzvah

The Prayer Book Fund

Lynne Lieberman and Joe Burak

To: Rissa and Stan Sklar

In honor of Rissa and Stan, who continue to be
our heroes. With much love and gratitude.

The Library Fund

Amy Strauss

To: David and Lynn Cashell

In memory of David's brother, Dave Naylor

Ga-Ga Court Fund

Arlene Benz

The Restoration Fund*Lynne Lieberman and Joe Burak*

To: Josh, Jen and Sammy

Thanks for making Pesach and every day zis!

The Eliana Andersen Fund*Penny and Sheldon Bernick*

To: Kathy and Dan Andersen

In memory of Ruth Silberman

Blechner-Pragman Family

Y'asher koach for another wonderful festival!

Mazel Tov from the Congregation to:

Adam Boxer on the occasion of his Bar Mitzvah

Lauren Isaacs on becoming a Bat Mitzvah

Richard Strauss on the celebration of his 90th birthday

Sending you blessings for healing:

Ed and Naomi Sav, Dottie Jenkins, Jane Laffend, Ken

Laffend, Ron Romoff, Andrew Kelly, Ken Kinman,

Penny Bernick, Lynn Kelly, Larry Green, and Meira

Pitkapaasi.

The Beth Israel Tikkun Olam Award

Congregation Beth Israel of Media bestowed the Beth Israel Tikkun Olam Award to congregant Eve Biskind Klothen at Friday night Shabbat services on April 26 at the synagogue. She was honored for her years of leadership work with the national organization MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger, Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network, City Year Greater Philadelphia, and other examples of public service. Attendees brought food donations that evening for Media's Second Harvest food bank, and/or made donations to MAZON.

Ms. Klothen is the Assistant Dean for the Pro bono and Public Interest Programs at Rutgers University Law School in Camden. She also teaches courses in negotiation and interviewing and counseling.

Early in her career Klothen worked as a legal services lawyer in Georgia and as a federal agency fraud litigator in Washington, DC.

As her son once wrote on a graduate school application, "Public service is the family business." "We're both so honored to have opportunities to serve," she said recently, speaking of herself and her husband Ken Klothen. "MAZON gives us a chance to serve in the Jewish context. Serving with MAZON and serving others is an important part of my Judaism."

Ms. Klothen served as the founding director of Philadelphia Volunteers for the Indigent Program a pro bono program in Philadelphia, and as director of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation, both of which have been honored with national and state awards. She has received numerous awards for her work.

Her other professional activities include consulting to law firms on their pro bono programs, and appointments to the Federal Judicial Nominating Commission for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania; the Civil Justice Advisory Committee for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania United States District Court; and membership, with a year as chair, on the University of Pennsylvania Law School Public Service Advisory Committee.

Other selected past and present board memberships include the Regional Council of the New Israel Fund and A Better Chance –Strath Haven, among others.

For the past 17 years, Ms. Klothen has been actively involved with MAZON: a Jewish Response to Hunger, first as a board member, as board Vice Chair, and then a three year term as the first woman board Chair. In that capacity, she has worked collaboratively with other Jewish social justice groups, as well as MAZON grantees.



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

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_____	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.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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<http://www.bethisraelmedia.org>

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Rabbi Linda Potemken
Editor, Content Sharon Kleban
Editor, Production Marion Hamermesh
Editor, Yahrzeit List Suzanne Davis
Editor Contributions List Arlene Benz

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

Next Issue June 2013

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

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

Name: _____

Phone number: () _____

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

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Mail this coupon with your check, made out to Congregation Beth Israel, to:
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<http://bethisraelmedia.org>

While you're there, please remember to register for a user account.