1 Volume 39 No. 7

May 2016
Nissan/Iyar 5776

The Israelight

Congregation Beth Israel of Media
A Reconstructionist Jewish Community

Delaware County Jewish Community Spring Concert Series

MAY AND JUNE, 2016

In cooperation with and funded by the
Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia
One People ■ One Community ■ One Federation™

Everyone is welcome to celebrate our Jewish heritage and community at one – or all – of these concerts featuring outstanding Jewish music and musicians.

Yom Ha'atzmaut Celebration Featuring Six13
Sunday, May 15, 2016
Beatboxing and A Capella Workshop for children and teens with Six13
from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.; dinner is included
Concert at 7:30 p.m.; dessert will follow the concert
Congregation Beth El - Ner Tamid, 715 Paxon Hollow Road, Broomall, PA • For more information: 610.356.8700

Anchored by their strong Jewish identity, Six13 is a six-man vocal band that brings an unprecedented style of Jewish music to the stage with songs from hip-hop dance music to rock anthems.

Congregation Beth Israel of Media Blue Grass Shabbat featuring Nefesh Mountain
Friday, June 17, 2016
7:00 p.m.
542 S. New Middletown Road, Media, PA 19063 • For more information: 610.566.4645

Husband and Wife team Eric Lindberg & Doni Zasloff are pioneering this blend of Jewish Americana throughout the country, bringing their unique knowledge and passion for both Jewish and Bluegrass traditions to the fore, singing English and Hebrew songs alike.

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In the Rabbi's Study, Raz Lecture, Meditation

Rabbi's Message

L'Dor V'Dor: Celebrating The Next Generation

The mitzvah - the practice or obligation - of passing on Judaism to our children is one that is held by all of us, whether or not we are parents.
The synagogue as a whole proudly supports the Hebrew School with full awareness that the obligation of raising up the next Jewish generation requires a village. For our families with children we are that village. It is an honor, a privilege and a sacred responsibility.

Occasionally I hear a member lament that there isn't a full integration of our adult community with our school community. On May 6th you can do something about that.

What is happening on May 6th?

Our zayin class, our 7th graders, celebrate their graduation from Hebrew School at a 6:30 Friday night service. With music and prayer we will honor Shabbat and mark a moment in the lives of our 13 year old members. They will share their reflections based on their years at BI.

We'd like you to share your thoughts as well. Tell these young people why you belong to and support a synagogue. Share your hopes, dreams and wisdom for them. Or simply show up and give them the most profound gift of all - the gift of your presence.

PURIM APPRECIATION & CORRECTIONS

Our awesome community did it again - pulled off another spectacular Purim.

Many thanks to all - those who had a role in the Purim bags, the reading of the scroll of Esther, the writing and performing of the shpiel, the wine tasting, the pizza dinner - the whole megillah! :)

We thank everyone who participated by purchasing Purim bags - whether for a few people or for many. Special thanks to those who donated for the entire congregation.

Two generous souls who donated for the entire congregation were mistakenly left off the list of names. The leadership of BI thank Karen Vesely and Ben Alouf for supporting the project and for donating for the entire membership. Thank you for your generosity and apologies for this mistake. We sincerely hope that no one else was left off the list.

President's Message:

MUSIC... AND MORE MUSIC... BRINGS US TOGETHER

Recently Beth Israel hosted a wildly successful concert with The Ken Ulansey Ensemble's performance of "From Beersheba to Broadway." There were over 120 people in the audience, and if you were one of them, you can attest to the great energy of the evening. I'd like to thank Arnie Schwartz, Laura Lee Blechner, Kim Dumoff, and Michael Lefkowitz for their organizing efforts. I'd also like to remind everyone that the event was underwritten by *Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia.*

What made the March 12 concert such a success? I believe it was the unbridled joy that everyone experienced... together. With so many participants, we could share the musical experience with old friends and mingle with people whom we didn't know. The atmosphere was relaxed and celebratory. The music was superb. We listened, we clapped, and some of us even danced! While most attendees were BI members, there was a contingent of folks who came because they'd heard about the music. It was heartening to share the BI experience with these newcomers, to welcome them, and k'vell about our community. In all, it was a wonderful evening.

Many attendees talked about coming because they received a special invitation from a Board member. I want to thank the Board members who invited people and also highlight the importance of making invitations. It's always wonderful to know that someone wants you to be there, that you're bringing joy to others just with your presence. This joy that attendees brought because of being invited is part of what made the event so magical.

And now, for even more good news: if you missed this event, there's another one coming up! Thanks to the same grant from JFGP, we will host a Bluegrass Shabbat with guest musicians, Nefesh Mountain. What? Yes, please join us on Friday, June 17 at 7:00 pm for a Shabbat service with professional Bluegrass musicians leading us in traditional prayers with anything-but-traditional melodies. It promises to be a blast for people of all ages. So put it on your calendar and invite your friends. YOU can bring them joy just by inviting them. See you then!

May 7th: Shabbat, Yom Hashoa, and Torah Treks

On May 7th we will remember the Shoah - the holocaust - through two pieces of music offered by BI's Lois Elman at the conclusion of services. Following this service, we will enjoy a pot luck lunch and the trek through Chronicles which was postponed due to snow.

Sunday May 15, 10 a.m.
Congregation Meeting
Brunch, Election of Officers,
Exploring a special opportunity.

SHAVUOT
June 11

7:00	Siyyum	Dr. Tamar Kamionkowski
	in honor of completing 10 years of Trekking through Torah	
8:30	Service with Yizkor	
9:00	Pot Luck Dessert	
9:30	Revelation through Art	Rich Remenick

SAVE THE DATE!

Friday, June 17
7:00 pm

in partnership with and funded by:

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NEFESH MOUNTAIN

BLUEGRASS SHABBAT with Nefesh Mountain

Nefesh Mountain is the place where the Jewish spirit and soul meet with Bluegrass and Old-Time musical traditions. Nefesh Mountain artists Doni Zasloff and Eric Lindberg will join Rabbi Linda Potemken for a one of a kind Bluegrass Music Shabbat.

Tot Shabbat

Friday
May 20, 2016
5:45 – 7:15 pm

Join us for a fun Tot Shabbat & family dinner.

We will play, sing, dance and celebrate Spring and the Torah.

Kids (& adults if they like) can wear their PJs to this casual Shabbat celebration.

All family members & friends are welcome, with activities geared toward infants through 6 year-old children.

The Tot Shabbat program & kid-friendly, allergy-sensitive family dinner is free of charge, but RSVP is a must so we have enough supplies & food for everyone.

RSVP on our website www.bethisraelmedia.org or Moriah (484) 802-1492.

This congregation is part of the Harold and Renee Berger Synagogue Network for Families with Young Children, a program of Jewish Learning Venture.

Congregation Beth Israel
542 South New Middletown Road, Media, PA 19063
(610) 566-4645 Fax: (610) 566-2240 www.bethisraelmedia.org

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Thank you to our Oneg and Kiddush Hosts for April 2016
If you would like to choose a date to host.
please Contact Debbie Sherman (wdsherman@verizon.net)

Friday, April 29	Available (8 pm Rabbi Nathan)
Saturday, April 30	Available (Rabbi Nathan)
Friday, May 6	Zayin class Graduation service and dinner
Saturday, May 7	Richard, Eleanor and Amy Strauss
Friday, May 13	Gelman – Haber family, in honor of Jake's Bar Mitzvah in June
Saturday, May 14	Available (Rabbi Nathan)
Friday, May 20	Jennifer Lenway and Lauri Mansky in honor of the Raz Lecture
Saturday, May 21	Cippola family, in honor of Tyler's Bar Mitzvah
Friday, May 27	Carol Cowan
Saturday, May 28	Shabbat At Home

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NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL

By Jackie Gelman

May 2016
Nissan/Iyar 5776

We had an exciting and fun-filled April. On April 10th we joined with our friends at Ohev for a community Zimriyah. On April 17th the Vav-Zayin class students participated in our annual Conversation with a Holocaust Survivor, and on April 17th and 19th all students participated in a model seder. (An annual favorite!) Thanks to everyone who purchased Fair Trade Kosher for Passover chocolate. The proceeds help support all of our school activities.

Looking forward to May, we want to congratulate our Zayin graduates:

Jessica Cantor	Tyler Cipolla	Jeremy Cohen	Abigail Grin	Nina Mesyngier	Jonah Horwitz
Jake Haber	Noah Yates	Ross Weiner	Adie Woolf	Sammy Woolf	Rose Schwartz

We will have a graduation ceremony for all these students on **Friday, May 6,** as part of Shabbat Services. Many thanks to Kim Woolf for organizing the class dinner.

Our last day of Hebrew School for the year will be Sunday, May 15. We will be having a year-end talent show, which all are welcome to attend.

THANK YOU JACKIE!

Finally, I'm happy to pass the Ed Committee Chair "baton" to Lauren Forbes and Katie Sibley, who will be co-chairing next year. It's been a pleasure working with Morah Helene, our teachers and families these past five years. I'm very proud of the community we've built and the wonderful young adults our students are becoming.

Vav-Zayin class trip to New York by Zayin student Rose Schwartz

The Vav-Zayin class took a trip to the Lower East Side of New York to eat and visit the Tenement Museum. We ate at Katz's Deli and enjoyed food and sandwiches we had never had before. After that we went to the Tenement Museum to learn about the immigrant experience. Unlike other museums, we got to see Victoria Confino's real apartment and we got to ask her questions. Victoria was a real immigrant and she had a very interesting life. Overall, our trip to New York was one to remember.

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SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Monday, May 30 is the date of the next Food Service at the Upper Darby Life Center. Beth Israel Social Action will be collecting your home-cooked dishes and contributions at BI, between 5:30 and 6:00 PM. As al ways, we need your help to feed hundreds of hungry folks who gather there every night. Please contact Lynn Cashell if you can cook, contribute or serve that evening. (davidlynncashell@gmail.com)

Please remember to donate school supplies, toiletries (toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, soap), bath towels, wash cloths, etc. for the Community Action Agency of Delaware County. Collection box is the blue bin in the lobby. A complete list of needed items is on the bin. Thank you.

Yahrzeits

Mourner	Mourned	Relationship to Mourner	Yahrzeit 2016	Yahrzeit 5776
David Markman	Shirley Markman*	Mother	May 02	24 Nisan
Lisa Schachner	Bertha Rose*	Grandmother	May 06	28 Nisan
Helene Gumerman	Samuel Abrams	Father	May 11	3 Iyyar
Amy Fantalis	Rhoda Fantalis*	Mother	May 12	4 Iyyar
Stan Sklar	Rhoda Fantalis*	Sister	May 12	4 Iyyar
Marilyn Verbits	Philip Verbits	Father	May 12	4 Iyyar
Ralph Kaufman	Dorothy Kaufman	Mother	May 14	6 Iyyar
Christopher Pragman	Robert Pragman	Father	May 16	8 Iyyar
Randy Tiffany	Rabbi Marjorie Yudkin*	Wife	May 16	8 Iyyar
Shira Tiffany	Rabbi Marjorie Yudkin*	Mother	May 16	8 Iyyar
Talia Tiffany	Rabbi Marjorie Yudkin*	Mother	May 16	8 Iyyar
Mel Drukin	Libby D. Schiff*	Sister	May 19	11 Iyyar
Marion Hamermesh	Naomi Rosenhaus Yager	Mother	May 22	14 Iyyar
Judy Kinman	Ken Kinman	Husband	May 22	14 Iyyar
Rabbi Linda Potemken	Bertram Potemken*	Father	May 22	14 Iyyar
Suzanne Simenhoff	Michael Simenhoff*	Father	May 22	14 Iyyar
Dina Jacobs	Fred Jacobs	Father	May 25	17 Iyyar
Stuart Pittel	Harry Pittel	Father	May 25	17 Iyyar
Naomi Sav	Julius Glassman	Father	May 26	18 Iyyar
Louise Cohen	Jean Marie Fennelly	Mother	May 27	19 Iyyar
Randi Raskin Nash	Sarah Tausher	Great Aunt	May 29	21 Iyyar
Richard Strauss	Elsa Kochmann	Sister	May 31	23 Iyyar
Jerome Blank	Harriet Blank	Mother	June 01	24 Iyyar

*after a name indicates that there is a plaque.

Yahrzeit begins at sundown the evening before the date shown.

March Donations Thank You!

Social Action Fund
Elaine, Ed, Eddie and Ty Wasekanes in memory of loving aunt Yetta Liberatore

The Eliana Andersen Fund
Richard & Eleanor Strausss,
The Wasekenas Family,
Judy Kinman,
The Kroch-Fleschute Family in Burt Cohen's memory

The General Fund
Eileen and Jeffrey Kosterich
Beth Silver-Cummons and James Cummons in memory of Sam Raskin

The Golden Book
Reisa Mukamal and Steven Arnold to Andrew Weiner, Susan Robinson, and Ross in memory of Selma Weiner, beloved mother and grandmother

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund
Kimberly Dumoff
Steven Blum in memory of Sam Raskin
Meira Pitkapaasi

Adult Ed Fund
Laura Lee Blechner

Mazel Tov to:
Abigail Grin on the occasion of her Bat Mitzvah

Sending you blessings for healing:
Naomi Sav, Dottie Jenkins, Ron Romoff, Andrew Kelly, Mel Drukin, Alan Fink, Ray Rosenberg, Linda Cohen, Deanie Heller, Jane Laffend, Lynn Kelly

Condolences the Congregation to:
Randi Raskin Nash, Kevin Nash and Elan Nash on the passing of Randi's father, Sam Raskin.

Join us in celebrating Jewish culture and heritage at one of our *FREE* events!

MAY

Hillel Zaremba, Director of Community Relations, Consulate General of Israel to the Mid-Atlantic Region, presents, **"Israel: Isolated or Integrated Within the Community of Nations"**
Monday, May 2 at 6:45pm

Yom HaShoah Memorial; Service and presentation by Holocaust and Auschwitz Survivor, Michael Herskovitz who will address, **"We Must Never Forget; Early One Saturday Morning"**
Thursday, May 5 at 6:45pm

JUNE

Kamishbroit Bake Sale! Stop by for 3 for $1 homemade kamishbroit filled with chocolate chips, raspberry and chocolate chips, or apricot and raisin!
Wednesday, June 8 at 3:30pm

RSVP to one of our cultural events today!
***Call Chrissy at* 610-222-6021 *or* visit.wel.org/mainlineculture**

Come and experience our community culture! RSVP for a personal tour and lunch in your choice of 3 on-site restaurants is on us! Call 610-222-6021

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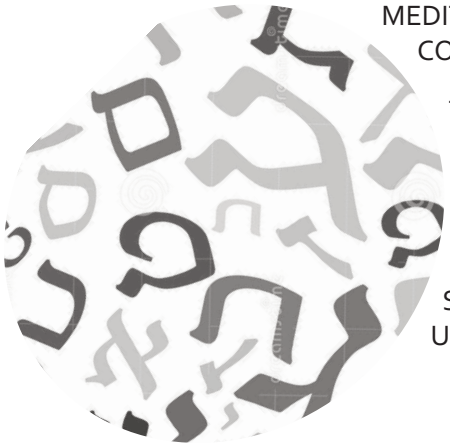

MEDITATION WITH THE HEBREW LETTERS.
CONNECT WITH THE 'BUILDING BLOCKS OF TORAH AND CREATING

Through chanting, meditation and creative play we'll invite in timely teachings... gifts of the Hebrew Letters. As a friend, each Letter may offer personal, communal and/or universal awareness that enriches your daily life.

Following our meditation you may choose to join our Torah service in the sanctuary.

Shabbat mornings **May 7, 14 & 21** 9:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.
Upstairs in the library led by Kohenet Nancy Handwerger

SUNDAY MORNINGS with Rabbi Nathan

10:00 ~ 11:00 11:00 ~ 12:00

May 1 Torah and Food: Food Ethics & Contemporary Kashrut Meet the Rabbi

IN THE RABBI'S STUDY with Rabbi Linda

12:00 – 1:30 *Thursday 5/12*
Lunch & Learn Join us for a lively session as we share ancient and contemporary texts, brown bag lunch, and one another's good company. No RSVP needed.

THE END OF THE TREK, for now!

(stay tuned for news of future trekking)

May 7 Chronicles R. Michael Ramberg

We will celebrate the conclusion of Torah Treks on Shavuot:
JUNE 11, 2016 SHAVUOT SIYYUM
7:00 - 8:30 pm with Dr. Tamar Kamionkowski

Torah Treks Ketuvim: The Writings, Year 2

THE FINAL YEAR OF OUR TREK !

Psalms Proverbs Job Daniel

Ezra Nehemiah I&II Chronicles

Everything Except The Five Megiloth

photo: http://www.theignorantfishermen.com/2011_05_01_archive.html

PURIM 5776

Hamantaschen feast, wine tasting, and the schpiel. A good time was had by all.

2016 Raz Lecture
Friday May 20, 8:00 pm
Defending the Founders' Zionist Vision:
The New Israel Fund and the Fight to Save Israeli Democracy
Speaker Ken Klothen

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

Speaker's statement:

The framers of Israel's Declaration of Independence were steadfast in their insistence that Israel would be a Jewish state bound by principles of freedom, equality and tolerance for all of its inhabitants regardless of gender, religion, beliefs, race, or culture. They believed that the inherent tension between these two aspects of the new state - being a state of and for the Jews and allowing the full and equal development and civic participation of non-Jewish minorities -would be held in balance by representative government and the rule of law.

But over the state's brief history, a number of factors have combined to create a situation in which a different view has become increasingly prevalent and now is essentially the policy of the current governing coalition. This view holds that it is necessary to continuously occupy the lands conquered in the Six Day War, denying their Arab residents the right to self-determination; that it is proper to settle on and Judaize those lands; that the Arab population within the Green Line and non Jewish immigrants are a potential fifth column threatening the integrity of the state; and that anything other than exclusive Orthodox control of Jewish religious life dilutes the Jewishness of the state.

I will briefly discuss these factors, and assess the current state of Israeli democracy and its distance from the vision of the founders. I will describe the contrasting vision of the New Israel Fund and its work promoting a wide variety of organizations of Israeli civil society fighting for civil rights for all Israelis, for religious pluralism, for social equity, and for an end to the occupation and implementation of two states for two peoples. I will address the increasing alienation of American liberal Jews from Israel, and relate how involvement with and support of the work of the many Israelis fighting for a return to the founders' vision is the way back to maintain the engagement with Israel and its people that is incumbent upon us as Jews.

Ann E. Green
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Dandersen43@verizon.net
321 Union Ave, Swarthmore, PA 19081

May 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 AM Adult Hebrew with Susan Robinson - Upstairs 9:30 AM Hebrew School 10:00 AM Adult Ed with Rabbi Nathan: Torah and Food 11:00 AM SAC Meeting at Beth Israel	2	3 4:15 PM Hebrew School 7:30 PM Jewish Conversations with R. Helen Plotkin @ BI	4 7:30 PM Executive Committee Meeting	5	6 6:30 PM Shabbat Services, Rabbi Linda - Zayin Graduation	7 9:45 AM Shabbat Services with Rabbi Linda 9:45 AM Meet, Create and Meditate with Hebrew Letters 9:45 AM Shabbat Services - Rabbi Linda 11:45 AM Potluck Lunch 12:30 PM Torah Treks: Chronicles with Rabbi Ram-
8 9:30 AM No Hebrew School - Mother's Day - Race for the Cure	9 7:00 PM Connecting to Prayer-Mekom Torah	10 4:15 PM Hebrew School - Last Tuesday class	11 7:00 PM Board Meeting	12 7:30 PM Opening Judaism, Rabbi Helen Plotkin @ BI ***12:00 – 1:30*** Lunch & Learn	13 8:00 PM Shabbat Services, Rabbi Nathan	14 9:45 AM Meet, Create and Meditate with Hebrew Letters 9:45 AM Shabbat Services with Rabbi Nathan
15 9:30 AM Hebrew School - Last Sunday class 10:00 AM Congregation Meeting	16	17 7:30 PM Jewish Conversations with R. Helen Plotkin - Location TBA	18 1:00 PM RPC Meeting	19	20 5:45 PM Tot Shabbat 8:00 PM Shabbat Services with Rabbi Linda & Jonathan Raz Lecture with Guest Speaker Ken Klothen	21 9:45 AM Meet, Create and Meditate with Hebrew Letters 9:45 AM Shabbat Services, Rabbi Linda - Bar Mitzvah of Tyler Cippola
22	23	24	25 7:00 AM Lag B'Omer	26 7:30 PM Opening Judaism, Rabbi Helen Plotkin @ Ohev	27 8:00 PM Shabbat Services, Rabbi Nathan Martin	28 9:45 AM Shabbat at Home
29	30 7:00 AM Memorial Day 5:45 PM Food Service	31	1	2	3	4 9:45 AM Shabbat Services, Leader to be announced

May 2016
Nissan/Iyar 5776

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Israelight@bethisraelmedia.org

Next Issue June /Summer 2015

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In Association with the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College

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