1Volume 40 No. 9

May 2017
Iyar/Sivan 5777

The Israelight

Congregation Beth Israel of Media
A Reconstructionist Jewish Community

Our journey with our scroll began at Selichot, when our sofer (ritual scribe) Rabbi Kevin Hale, spoke to us about the scribal tradition and some of the features of our particular scroll. Our *Hora for the Torah* on December 10 celebrated the culture of Eastern European Jewry. A talk given by Richard Remenick and Rabbi Helen Plotkin in February provided some of the history of the region where our scroll was first inscribed. In one of our "Facts of the Week" we learned about the circumstances of the scroll's rescue from destruction during the Shoah.

Now the journey takes us to the present day, when we ourselves are responsible for the well being, not just of the physical scroll, but of the principles and life that the scroll represents. In the current polarized political and social climate, are there currents that threaten to repeat events in the past? Does the resurgence of anti-semitism, demagoguery, and xenophobia mean that our scroll will be at least symbolically threatened? What can we as Jews do to avoid the need for our scroll (and all that it represents) to be "rescued" again?

Rabbi Steve Gutow, former president of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, and prominent community activist will draw on his extensive experience in addressing these pressing issues.

Rabbi Joshua Gutoff is Assistant Professor of Jewish Education and Director of the Master of Arts in Jewish Education Program at Gratz College. His research has "explored the intersection of reading strategies, spiritual practice, and ethics."

Table of Contents

Rummage Sale Recap 3
Thanks to all who helped
Religious Practice 4,5
Shavuot, Fridays, Hard Conversations
Adult Education 7
Torah Trek, Reconstructionist Judaism
Congregation Meeting 7
May 21, 2017
Yahrzeits 8
We remember them
Donations 9
Thank you
Religious School 10,11 , 12
Happenings and pictures; Tot Shabbat
Social Action Committee 13
Feeding the hungry

Rabbi's Message

HONORING HELENE COHEN & SHAVUOT

On the festival of Shavuot we celebrate the giving of the Torah. (see page 4) We tell the story of the dramatic revelation at Sinai, study different sections of the TaNaKh, eat ice cream (or other dairy treats) and explore the many wonderful midrashim about the giving of the Torah.

One of my favorite Shavuot midrashim imagines God giving the Torah to the people in a voice that transmitted and modulated the message according to the strengths of each person. Each one had his or her needs and learning styles. In God's wisdom, God made Torah accessible and relevant to each person.

This Shavuot teaching comes to mind when I think about our beloved principal Helene Cohen. Time and again I've heard parents speak about the ways in which Helene "gets" their kid. She thoughtfully identifies the needs and capacities of each of her students and makes decisions that will bring out the best in each of them - from the littlest Mechina kids to the oldest Madrichim/Hebrew School Aids.

Her appraisal and support of the teachers is no less adept. She knows how to support teachers to work from their strengths, bringing out the best in her staff. They in turn, adore her.

For the last sixteen years she has been my colleague, my friend and a ray of sunshine around Beth Israel. Helene has the energy of a teenager and the wisdom of a grandmother. She is flexible and fun-loving and passionate about her work. And she is retiring after this school year. I will miss her a great deal.

Rabbi Linda & Helene Cohen enjoy Purim

We have been fortunate to have Helene Cohen with us for so many years. She came to us from a much larger congregation and took a risk on a small shul with an even smaller budget. It was worth it all around. She fell in love with us and with our children and gave them her loving guidance through Hebrew School.

We fell in love with her too. Helene - thank you for sixteen years of devoted service to our community. We wish you good mazel and much sweetness and joy with your family in your retirement.

President's Message:

Fiduciary responsibility.
Fiduciary responsibility!
Fiduciary responsibility?

Try saying that five times fast! It's a cool term that I learned when I joined BI's Board and knowing it made me feel rather sophisticated. It's a term that just rolls off the tongue.

The coolest part, though, is that for as fancy as the term sounds, the concept behind it is pretty simple. In fact balancing the budget, keeping track of income and expenses, bringing in more funds than are spent, are all concepts that my parents drilled into me from a very young age and seem quite natural. Going with Mom to take our extra change to the bank and chatting with the teller prepared me for collecting dues at BI. Dad showing me how to record transactions in my first checking ledger helps me read BI's Profit and Loss Statement. They're all the same, except that the number in BI's "total" column is much larger

Well... not exactly the same. There's another big difference. I was taught not to spend more than I earned. If I wanted something extra, I needed to work more and save. If I had an unexpected expense, (like when I broke a window playing ball in the wrong place) then I couldn't get special treats. At Beth Israel, though, when we want something extra or have an unexpected expense, I can't fix it by myself. I can't go out and babysit another night. I can't simply whip up a fundraiser... without help.

All I can do is ask YOU, BI members, to help balance our budget.

In these last few months of our fiscal year, we are struggling to pay our bills. It's just regular expenses, nothing unexpected. But because voluntary donations are down, this year it's especially challenging.

Please consider making an additional contribution to our general fund. Honor a mom, a dad, a grad, a friend. Every little bit helps.

To those who have already paid in full and given extra, I thank you wholeheartedly on behalf of the Board. You enable us to succeed. Meanwhile when you get your next bill, please fulfill your financial obligation so the Board can fulfill its fiduciary responsibility.

Rummage Sale Recap

Once again, thanks to the generosity of the Beth Israel community, we had another successful Rummage Sale. Much appreciation to everyone who donated items to the cause, baked for the sale, schlepped our goods from the green house to the sanctuary, cashiered, packaged, organized, and cleaned up afterwards. A special shout-out to Ben Alouf who dug out the path from the green house to the sanctuary after Mother Nature finally decided to show up for winter days before the sale.

A note of gratitude to Alisa Herman-Liu and Jennifer Waterston for organizing and selling sweet goodies, water, and pretzels at the bake sale and to all those who spread the word about our Rummage Sale via multiple social media sources. As our Communications VP, Jennifer certainly led the charge and inspired many of us to reach out in more ways than ever before and I believe that added to the number of "outside" shoppers. Candy Berlin was posting and selling items on our BI forum prior to the sale with all of the proceeds going to BI.

I don't know if anyone appreciates that amount of work that is accomplished before the actual event and behind the scenes by Joe Deutsch. He picks up items from members' homes, prices our donations, posts items on Craig's List, sets up the pick up of the remaining items, and takes some of the more valuable remaining items to sell at his flea markets, sending the proceeds back to BI.

This effort could not be accomplished without the amazing Beth Israel community. A debt of gratitude to all of you.

Lynn Cashell, Rummage Sale Co-chair

As of this printing, our total collected was around $3,200!

Editor's note: Thanks to Lynn Cashell for her contribution to this event.

The Rabbinic Liaison Committee exists in most Reconstructionist communities to ensure the maintenance of a good working relationship between the rabbi and the congregation. While congregants are always welcome and encouraged to discuss questions or concerns directly with Rabbi Linda, they may at times feel more comfortable talking to the Rabbinic Liaison committee. Issues raised by congregants are discussed confidentially and, when appropriate, are shared with the Rabbi in a constructive manner. To discuss a question or concern with a lay member of the committee please feel free to contact:

Michelle Atkins (atkins332@gmail.com); Emily Levine(emily@emilysquireslevine.com);
Linda Cohen lhc@comcast.net. or Julian Yates (jyates@udel.edu)

BI Board of Directors

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Debbie Wile, President
Joyce Romoff, Executive VP
Dave Gornstein, VP, Finance
Jennifer Waterston, VP, Communications (pending)

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Membership	Susan Robinson, Dina Jacobs
Hebrew School Education	Katie Sibley, Lauren Forbes
Religious Practice	Laura Lee Blechner, Larry Hamermesh
Social Action	Carol Briselli
Adult Education	Marion Hamermesh, Rich Remenick
Facilities Co-ordinators	Chris Pragman, Arnie Schwartz
Immediate Past President:	Jennifer Lenway,
Council of Past Presidents:	Lynn Cashell
MEMBERS AT LARGE:	Deb Erie, Ala Hamilton-Day, Michael Lefkowitz, Julie Mayer, Wendy Waterston

Modifying the Friday night experiment
Based on some feedback we have already received about our Friday night 7 pm experiment, we will be modifying the experiment for April and May. We will start nearly all of the Friday night Shabbat services at **7:30 pm.** Young Family Shabbat evenings will remain as is, with potluck dinner at 6:15 pm and service at 7:00 pm. Please let us know what you think about these time experiments.
Thank you. Laura Lee Blechner and Larry Hamermesh, RPC co-chairs.

Oneg and Kiddush Hosts Needed
Bringing a nosh to share after Shabbat services is a great way to offer hospitality to the members of our community. We need hosts for nearly all of the service dates in April. Please contact Debbie Sherman if you would like to host one of the upcoming dates. debbiesherman@verizon.net

Shavuot Tikkun and Service

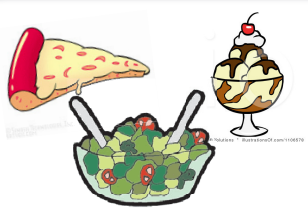
Tuesday, May 30, 2017 at 7 pm

7:00 pm Tikkun (Study): Musical and literary insights from Shir HaShirim (The Song of Songs) with Cantor Juliet Spitzer

Children's programming and/or babysitting if there is sufficient interest (RSVP by May 12 is a *must* for planning)

Sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Philadelphia

8:00 pm Shavuot Service: including Yizkor, with Rabbi Linda Potemken



6:15 pm Come early if you can!

Pizza Dinner with Ice Cream Sundae desserts (no cost, but RSVP by 5/29 is a *must,* so we have enough food)

Don't forget – RSVP for Children's Program by 5/12 and/or dinner by 5/29
www.bethisraelmedia.org or (610) 566-4645

A Conversation about Racial Tensions and the Criminal Justice System: Raising Awareness and Sharing Perspectives with BI member Nancy Blank

Saturday May 6 at Shabbat Services (services with Rabbi Linda begin at 9:45; Nancy will speak at ~ 11:00)

Join us in a dialog about the racial tensions that have dominated national discourse following police shootings. Discussion will focus on how individuals could move forward to combat racism and work toward an understanding of what the black struggle means to African Americans

Nancy Blank is an Associate Professor at Widener University in Chester, PA. Her teaching interests focus on diversity, experiential and service-learning. In partnership with the School of Education at Widener, three community-based organizations and Delaware County Juvenile Court, she developed the Widener Literacy Collaborative for youthful offenders. Her research interests include the effectiveness of varied pedagogical experiences among undergraduate students, assessment of the Widener Collaborative literacy program for youth and university students and mental health issues among justice-involved youth. She has provided diversity training to local camps and municipalities.

It is not your responsibility to finish the work but neither are you free to desist from it.

Pirkei Avot 2:21

AN OPINION (A d'var on the parsha Vayikra which Rich Reminick offered at the March RPC meeting)

Parsha Vayikra outlines detailed procedures for the sacrifice of animals. To our modern ears, these instructions sound at best, distant and irrelevant, and at worst, cruel.

But more than one commentator suggests that the act of sacrifice symbolizes an effort to transform the "animal nature" within ourselves; the burning of animal flesh results in smoke that rises to a higher, holier realm. This sublimation of base impulses into more social and refined impulses, is process which Freud considered the basis of civilization.
An image that comes up more than once in the commentaries is of a bull or an ox which has slipped away from its pen and is trampling property and goring innocent people. This image captures very well the current presidential administration. This administration tramples on all standards of civility as well as the constitution and exercises the most shameless and egregious violence upon the most vulnerable members of our community.

But the rise to power of a demagogue cannot come from nowhere. It is only the emergence of currents that have been flowing through our body politic, and perhaps even through ourselves, for years. Maybe this is because the notion of sacrifice which is so essential to the civilizing process itself, and which sounds so alien to our ears, has been forgotten and belittled. This forgetting has allowed a tide of barbaric muck to penetrate the most respected structures of society.

<u>This is why it is so important to maintain, cultivate, and strengthen our mishkan.</u> It is in our sacred space that we can offer our own version of sacrifice, daven and cultivate the highest aspect of ourselves. To maintain the mishkan, to come together in it in whatever way we can, is an act of resistance just as powerful and meaningful as attending a protest rally or writing a congressperson.

Congregation Beth Israel

CLOTHING DRIVE

Fundraiser

Sunday, May 21, 2017
9:00 AM – 11:00 AM
In the Lobby

Empty your closets and help raise money for Beth Israel! Clothing items and bedding listed below will be accepted. All items must be in a bag or box. We will earn $0.20 per pound. The collected items will be sent to Clothing for Kid's Sake, an organization affiliated with Big Brother Big Sister.

All ages, genders, and sizes are gladly accepted. Examples include:

- Blouses, Shirts, Sweaters, Jackets, Coats
- Shoes
- Purses
- Pants, Jeans, Skirts, Slacks, Dresses
- Snowsuits, Raincoats, Bathing Suits
- Pajamas, Fur Coats, Slippers
- ETC!

Also accepted:

- Bedding, Bedspreads, Sheets
- Quilt, Blankets
- Curtains, Drapes, Tapestries
- Chair/Sofa Covers
- Towels

For more information contact Lynn Cashell, davidlynncashell@gmail.com

Thank you for supporting our community!

TORAH TREKS:
The Next Generation
Getting to Know The Rabbis

Rabbinic views on
the Environment, Kashrut, and
Everyday Holyness

12:30 - 2:00 ... after Shabbat Services
and Pot Luck Lunch

myjewishlearning

TORAH TREKS 5777
May 6 Rabbi Michael Ramberg

Reconstructionist Judaism
7:30-9:00 Thursdays May 7, 14, 21
with Rabbi Linda Potemken,
Rabbi Nathan Martin
Rabbi Helen Plotkin

A Series To Explore
Our Roots and Our Relevance

Part I:
The Birth of Modern Judaism & The Roots of Reconstructionism

Part II:
Reconstructing Prayer

Part III:
Engaging Reconstructionist Process to Inform Our Communal Practice

IN THE RABBI'S STUDY
with Rabbi Linda

May 9 5:00

Mussar is a Jewish spiritual practice that is an approachable and practical set of teachings for cultivating personal growth and spiritual realization in daily living. The ultimate goal is to help us to achieve greater wholeness and goodness.

Prerequisite: Participation in a previous mussar group or permission of instructor; please contact R. Linda.

12:00 – 1:30 May 25

Lunch & Learn Join us for a lively session as we share ancient and contemporary texts, brown bag lunch, and one another's good company. Regulars and newcomers most welcome! No RSVP needed.

CONGREGATION MEETING
SUNDAY MAY 21 10:00 - NOON
COME FOR THE NOSH. STAY FOR CONGREGATION BUSINESS
APPROVAL OF BUDGET
ELECTION OF OFFICERS

(Slate: EVP: Lynn Cashell. Communications VP: Jen Waterston)

and other programming to be announced

then at NOON after the MEETING
there will be a celebration and farewell for
Helene Cohen, our Religious School Principal.

Yahrzeits

May 2017
Iyar/Sivan 5777

Mourner	Mourned	Relationship to Mourner	Yahrzeit 2017	Yahrzeit 5777
Ralph Kaufman	Dorothy Kaufman	Mother	May 02	6 Iyyar
Chris Pragman	Robert Pragman	Father	May 04	8 Iyyar
Randy Tiffany	Rabbi Marjorie Yudkin*	Wife	May 04	8 Iyyar
Shira Tiffany	Rabbi Marjorie Yudkin*	Mother	May 04	8 Iyyar
Talia Tiffany	Rabbi Marjorie Yudkin*	Mother	May 04	8 Iyyar
Marilyn Drukin	Libby D. Schiff*	Sister-in-law	May 07	11 Iyyar
Judy Kinman	Ken Kinman	Husband	May 10	14 Iyyar
Rabbi Linda Potemken	Bertram Potemken*	Father	May 10	14 Iyyar
Suzanne Simenhoff	Michael Simenhoff*	Father	May 10	14 Iyyar
Marion Hamermesh	Naomi Rosenhaus Yager	Mother	May 10	14 Iyyar
Amy Graves	Bill Bug	Husband	May 11	15 Iyyar
Christopher Tease	Joan Tease	Mother	May 12	16 Iyyar
Dina Jacobs	Fred Jacobs	Father	May 13	17 Iyyar
Stuart Pittel	Harry Pittel	Father	May 13	17 Iyyar
Naomi Sav	Julius Glassman	Father	May 14	18 Iyyar
Louise Cohen	Jean Marie Fennelly	Mother	May 15	19 Iyyar
Randi Raskin Nash	Sarah Tausher	Great Aunt	May 17	21 Iyyar
Richard Strauss	Elsa Kochmann	Sister	May 19	23 Iyyar
Jerome Blank	Harriet Blank	Mother	May 20	24 Iyyar
Sylva Baker	David Baker*	Husband	May 21	25 Iyyar
Stephen Friedman	Sylvia Friedman	Mother	May 21	25 Iyyar
Robert Colman	Miriam G. Colman	Mother	May 23	27 Iyyar
Richard Strauss	Fred Strauss	Father	May 23	27 Iyyar
Sheldon Bernick	Bella Glatstein	Grandmother	May 24	28 Iyyar
Deborah Erie	Jacob Erie	Grandfather	May 25	29 Iyyar
The congregation	Jennifer Stiller*	Friend	May 26	1 Sivan
Jane Laffend	Bonnie Mitsui	Friend	May 27	2 Sivan
Laura Lee Blechner	Frances Blechner	Grandmother	May 28	3 Sivan
Eve Biskind Klothen	Rosalind Biskind	Mother	May 29	4 Sivan
Susan Simenhoff	Marcia Aires Simenhoff*	Relative	May 31	6 Sivan

*after a name indicates that there is a plaque.

Yahrzeit begins at sundown the evening before the date shown.

Donations Thank You!
March 2017

Your generous support not only enables Beth Israel to provide a robust variety of programs that foster the spiritual needs of our community, your support also enhances our ability to bring about tikkun olam through our social action initiatives. Your generosity is appreciated now more than ever. Please consider honoring a friend or a loved one through a contribution to any of our designated funds.

The General Fund

David and Andrea Wasser in memory of Mel Drukin
Jay and Nancy Handwerger in memory of Mel Drukin
Harry and Marjorie Dunn in memory of Mel Drukin
Peter Burgum in memory of Mel Drukin
Ed and Barb McFadden in memory of Mel Drukin
Helene and Jerry Feldman in memory of our friend Mel
George and Sandra Keller in memory of Mel Drukin
Stan and Rissa Sklar in memory of Mel Drukin
Lynne Lieberman and Joseph Burak in memory of Mel Drukin with love to Marilyn and family
Diane and Ken Abrams in memory of Mel Drukin
Marvin and Barbara Klein in memory of Mel
Freda Wanner to Stephanie Sager in memory of your father Mel Drukin
David Gold and Bonnie Novak Gold, Haverford High School Class of 1971. In memory of Mel Drukin. He was simply a great man
Lee and Barbara Eppley in memory of Mel Drukin
Eve Epstein in memory of Mel Drukin
Leslie and Phil Katz in memory of Mel Drukin
Bobbi Cohen in memory of Mel Drukin
Mitch and Rebecca Marion in memory of Mel Drukin
Gerald and Linda Hogan in memory of Mel Drukin
Neil and Carole Hecht in memory of Mel Drukin
Eric and Esta Cutler in memory of Mel Drukin
Rodney Michel in memory of Mel Drukin
Richard and Eleanor Strauss in memory of Mel Drukin
Naomi and Bernard Klein in memory of Mel Drukin
Mr. and Mrs. Steven Arcidiacono in memory of Mel Drukin
Larry and Phyllis Sager in memory of Mel Drukin
Rabbi Linda Potemken & Randy Tiffany in memory of Mel Drukin
Frances Winkler in memory of Melvin R. Drukin
Rob and Helene Stavis
Sandra Young in memory of Mel Drukin
Stan Sklar in honor of Josef Deutsch for his commitment to the synagogue and its members
Jay and Nancy Handwerger in memory of Nancy's father, *Jacob M. Bluestone*
Roger Bash in honor of Eleanor Strauss

Hebrew School Fund

Linda Cohen in memory of Mel Drukin
Marion and Larry Hamermesh in memory of Mel Drukin

Prayer Book

Judy Kinman in memory of Mel Drukin

Golden Book

Reissa Mukamal and Steven Arnold in memory of Mel Drukin

Endowment Fund

Marilyn Drukin in loving memory of my husband, Mel. Perpetuating our shul and our heritage was very important to him.
Penny and Shel Bernick to Marilyn, Jeff, Stephanie and your families in memory of your most beloved husband, father and grandfather, Mel Drukin. We will always hold his memory in our hearts.
Marilyn Verbits in memory of Mel Drukin
*Randi Raskin Nash and Kevin Nash i*n memory of Mel Drukin

Torah Restoration

Randi Raskin Nash
Candy Berlin and Ralph Kaufman to Marilyn Drukin and Family "In Memory of Mel Drukin, beloved BI leader and mensch"
David Markman and Deborah Dymond Markman to Marilyn, Stephanie, Jeffrey and the entire Drukin family. Our heart-felt condolences in the passing of beloved Mel. We will think of him and smile.

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Mrs. Polly Gussman in honor of Rabbi Linda's presentation at Riddle Village
Mrs. Selma Schwartz with thanks for the presentation at Riddle Village
Eleanor and Richard Strauss – thanks to Rabbi Linda for sharing the joy of Purim with us at Riddle Village
Friends and colleagues of Jeff Drukin from New York Sports Medicine Institute in memory of Jeff's father, Mel.

Ellie Andersen Fund
Judy Kinman

BIMAS
Judy Kinman

Condolences to Marilyn Drukin and family on the passing of our friend Mel Drukin.

Sending you blessings for healing: *Naomi Sav, Alan Fink, Dottie Jenkins, Ron Romoff, Andrew Kelly, Deanie Heller, Jane Laffend, Lynn Kelly, Helena Landis*

Please be sure to let the Rabbis know when you or someone in the congregation is in need of a blessing for healing.

Hebrew school has been buzzing with activity throughout March and into April. In March, the older students and classroom aides ran a wonderful purim carnival. It included face painting, planting parsley, shaving cream covered balloons, bean bag toss, prizes, and more! Kids and teachers alike enjoyed dressing in costume for this fun event.

Tnuat No'ar students traveled to the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia on March 26th

On Sunday, April 2, Rabbi Linda led 2 model seders- one for Aleph, Bet, and Gimmel, and another for Dalet through Zayin students. The Tuesday students also presented an excellent Passover play. Thank you to Debbie Sherman and Moriah Gornstein for organizing the seders!

*On a solemn note, we offer our deepest condolences and support to our teachers, Gal and Lee Senderowitsch and their family on the recent passing of their father, Maxi Senderowitsch.

Coming up in May:
Stay posted for details regarding the closing Tnuat No'ar activity in May. It is sure to be a great event!

PLEASE ATTEND HEBREW SCHOOL ON SUNDAY, MAY 21 - In addition to it being the final day of Hebrew School for the year, the annual talent show, AND the congregational meeting - We will be offering an affectionate farewell to Helene Cohen, our wonderful principal, who is retiring after 16 years! We will miss her greatly.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Education Committee,
Lauren Forbes

Honor our Zayin graduates-
NOAH BECK, PAIGE BROWN, BEN HUDDLER & LEORA POTEMKEN
Friday, May 19
Dinner-6:30
Service-7:30

PURIM CARNIVAL 5777

JULIA KATCHER WINS B'NAI BRITH SCHOLAR-ATHLETE AWARD

This year's winner of the Robert Nichols Scholar-Athlete Award is Julia Katcher. Julia is the daughter of Ron Katcher and Romie Griesmer.

Adam Nichols, on behalf of the B'nai Brith chapter of Delaware County, will be presenting
The Robert Nichols Scholar-Athlete Award
to Julia during Shabbat Services Friday May 5, 2017 at Beth Israel. Julia will be presented with a stipend and a plaque.

This is the 35th presentation of the Robert Nichols Scholar-Athlete Award which is awarded annually to a graduating Jewish high school senior who is both an outstanding athlete and scholar. The Simon Wolf Lodge of B'nai Brith created this scholarship fund in memory of Mr. Robert Nichols, a longtime member of the lodge and Ohev Shalom. Adam Nichols is the son of Robert Nichols. Please consider attending this 7:30 pm service to honor this outstanding young woman.

This fund is fully-funded by donations from the public. If you are interested in seeing this award continue, please contact Adam Nichols @ 610-566-7640 or aanichols@verizon.com

PURIM 5777: MODEL SEDER AND PASSOVER PLAY

On March 24 seven Tot Shabbat families got together to play, sing, eat, tell stories and enjoy each other's company. Many thanks to Rabbi Nathan for sharing an engaging Passover story, and to volunteer helpers: Jackie Gelman, Jennifer Lenway, Kathy Trow and Debbie Wile.

Tot shabbat

Friday
June 2, 2017
5:45 – 7:15 pm

Join us for a fun Tot Shabbat & family dinner.

We will play, sing, celebrate Shavuot and get ready for Summer!

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 call Jackie Gelman (484) 477-9847

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

Jewish Learning Venture™
proudly offering
jkidphilly

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL SOCIAL ACTION

On March 26. We made 200 lunches and donated them to the school lunch program at the Eastside Chester Ministries. Many thanks to the Social Action Committee, Alana Haber, and all the congregants who donated supplies and volunteered. Thanks also to our Hebrew School students and aides for helping make the lunches.

SOCIAL ACTION

Join members of the Social Action Committee on **Monday, May 29** as they organize a dinner meal for the Life Center Shelter in Upper Darby. All members of the congregation are welcome to prepare entrees, salads, pasta dishes, vegetables, and/or desserts. Food is dropped off at Beth Israel between 5:30 and 6:00 pm, then taken to the shelter where BI members serve the dinner to the residents and others in need of a good meal. Contact John Greenstine (Jgreenstine@yahoo.com) or Lynn Cashell (DavidLynnCashell@gmail.com) to volunteer to cook, serve or donate.

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.

Senior Living at its Best!

for more information, or to schedule a personal tour, call **610-222-6021**

Ask About our Move-In Specials!

WESLEY ENHANCED LIVING
Main Line
(formerly Martins Run)

100 Halcyon Dr · Media, PA 19063
www.WEL.org · 877-U-AGE-WEL

Wesley Enhanced Living (WEL) continuing care retirement communities are non-profit, with a mission to deliver a purposeful-filled life to residents

BENARI
JEWELERS

BETTER BRANDS. BETTER VALUE.
BETTER SERVICE.

Exton • Newtown Square
BenariJewelers.com

Ann E. Green
Attorney at Law

Wills, Trusts, Powers of Attorney
Estate Settlements

315 Maple Avenue **Tel. 610-544-8780**
Swarthmore, PA **Fax 610-544-5791**

AMY FANTALIS, M.S., M.S.W., L.C.S.W.
INDIVIDUAL, GROUP & FAMILY THERAPY
FOR ADOLESCENTS & ADULTS

42 EAST FRONT ST.
MEDIA, PA 19063

(610) 627-9060
FAX (610) 892-2774

DAN'S BARNSHOP
Furniture repairs, simple upholstery,
Minor electrical work (no major appliances or TVs)
Small building projects
BRING IT TO THE BARN
Cell: 610-675-6821 Dandersen43@verizon.net
321 Union Ave, Swarthmore, PA 19081

YES! I shop at Acme or Giant and I'm happy to purchase gift cards through BI! (for every card purchased, BI receives $5 - it adds up and makes a difference!)

# of Giant cards _____@100.00
# of Acme cards ____ @100.00

Total: $_____

Name: _____

Phone #: ( ) _____

___ I will pick them up on this date: _____

___ Call me to make arrangements to pick up the cards.

Mail this coupon with your check, made out to:
Congregation Beth Israel
542 S. New Middletown Road
Media, PA 19063

Please be sure to support our advertisers and let them know that you learned about them from The Israelight

SAVE THE DATE
Saturday May 6th 6:00PM
Learn how to
make your own sushi!
Details coming soon!

May 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 19th day of the Omer 9:30 AM Hebrew School 9:45 AM Rosh Chodesh – upstairs 12:30 PM Tnuat No'ar Meeting	1 Yom HaZikaron 20th day of the Omer 7:00 PM Reading the Bible in Hebrew at Ohev with Rabbi Helen Plotkin	2 Yom HaAtzma'ut 21st day of the Omer 4:30 PM Hebrew School 7:30 PM Mekom Torah – Conversations 5: Psalms	3 22nd day of the Omer	4 23rd day of the Omer 7:30 PM Adult Education, Topic: Reconstructionism	5 24th day of the Omer 7:30 PM Shabbat Services with Rabbi Linda with presentation of Robert Nichols Scholar Athlete Award	6 Parashat Achrei Mot-Kedoshim 25th day of the Omer 9:45 AM Shabbat Services with Rabbi Linda and guest speaker Nancy Blank 12:30 PM Torah Treks – Adult Ed 6:00 PM Sushi and Social – details coming soon
7 26th day of the Omer 9:30 AM Hebrew School 10:00 AM Moving Forward From Never Again	8 27th day of the Omer 7:00 PM Reading the Bible in Hebrew at Ohev with Rabbi Helen Plotkin 7:30 PM Adult Ed: Connecting to More Prayer at BI	9 28th day of the Omer 4:30 PM Hebrew School 5:00 PM Mussar Group with Rabbi Linda 7:30 PM Mekom Torah – Conversations 5: Psalms	10 29th day of the Omer Pesach Sheni	11 30th day of the Omer 7:30 PM Adult Education, Topic: Reconstructionism	12 31st day of the Omer 7:30 PM Shabbat Services – leader to be announced	13 32nd day of the Omer Parashat Emor 9:45 AM Shabbat Services: Joyce Romoff & Andy Coleman
14 33rd day of the Omer Lag BaOmer	15 34th day of the Omer 7:00 PM Reading the Bible in Hebrew at Ohev with Rabbi Helen Plotkin	16 35th day of the Omer 4:30 PM Hebrew School – last Tuesday	17 36th day of the Omer 7:00 PM Board of Directors Meeting	18 37th day of the Omer 7:30 PM Adult Education, Topic: Reconstructionism	19 38th day of the Omer 6:30 PM Shabbat Services with Rabbi Linda – Zayin Graduation	20 39th day of the Omer Parashat Behar-Bechukotai 9:45 AM Shabbat at Home
21 40th day of the Omer 9:30 AM Hebrew School – last day: Talent Show 10:00 AM Congregation Meeting 12:30 PM Tnuat No'ar Meeting	22 41st day of the Omer	23 42nd day of the Omer	24 43rd day of the Omer Yom Yerushalayim	25 44th day of the Omer 12:00 PM Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Linda	26 45th day of the Omer 7:30 PM Shabbat Services with Rabbi Nathan	27 46th day of the Omer Parashat Bamidbar
28 47th day of the Omer	29 48th day of the Omer 5:00 PM Food Service	30 49th day of the Omer Erev Shavuot 7:00 PM Shavuot with Rabbi Linda	31 Shavuot I	1 Shavuot II	2 5:45 PM Tot Shabbat with Rabbi Nathan 7:30 PM Shabbat Services with Rabbi Nathan	3 Parashat Nasso 12:30 PM Tnuat No'ar Meeting

Congregation Beth Israel of Media
A Reconstructionist Jewish Community
542 South New Middletown Road
Media, Pennsylvania 19063-2240
Phi 610-566-4645 Fax 610-566-2240
http://www.bethisraelmedia.org

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

President	Debbie Wile
Rabbi	Linda Potemken
Associate Rabbi	Nathan Martin
Administrator	Hal Bordy
Editor, Content	Sharon Kleban
Editor, Production	Marion Hamermesh
Editor, Contributions List	Diane Longenecker

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/July 2017

GreenFaith Certification Program

RRC Jewish Reconstructionist Movement
In Association with the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College

FUSE
Fellowship of Urban Suburban Engagement

YES! COALITION

MAZON A Jewish Response To Hunger