



# The Israelight

*Congregation Beth Israel of Media  
A Reconstructionist Jewish Community*

## **Another Year: An Introspection** by Alden Solovy 12/29/2016

Another year slips away,  
As do they all,  
Day by day,  
Hour by hour,  
Moment by moment,  
Many used wisely,  
Many wasted.

Another year opens,  
As do they all,  
With anticipation,  
With wonder and amazement,  
With excitement,  
With consolation.

Was last year so different from the one before?  
What will the New Year bring?  
What will I bring to the New Year?

This I pledge to myself:  
Love is my answer to grief,  
Hope is my answer to loss,  
Strength is my answer to fear,  
Honor is my answer to slander,  
Action is my answer to injustice.

This I pledge to you  
My sisters and brothers:  
To see you as you are,  
To respect your journey,  
To hear your truth,  
To stand with you in dignity,  
To walk with you as a companion and friend.

This I pledge to You  
G-d of my ancestors:  
To seek Your wisdom,  
To follow Your command,  
To obey Your Law,  
To observe Your Sabbath,  
To rejoice in Your works,  
To do Your will.

G-d of time and space,  
Another year slips away,  
As do they all.  
Another year opens before me,  
As they all do:  
With one hundred choices,  
One thousand possibilities  
And one sacred duty.  
Life. This life. My life.

© 2017 CCAR Press from  
*This Grateful Heart: Psalms and Prayers for a New Day*

Image by rawpixel.com on Freepik

<b>Sustainability Corner</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>Donations: November</b>	<b>9</b>
Climate Action Plan, Green Torah; Web Sit			Thank you	
<b>Congregation Retreat</b>	<b>4</b>		<b>Religious Practice Committee</b>	<b>10</b>
Save the Date			Hanukkah Celebration Pictures; Tu b'Shevat	
<b>In Our Community</b>	<b>5</b>		<b>Social Action Committee &amp; Coat Collection</b>	<b>10</b>
Israeli Dancing; Rabbinic Liason Committee meets			Report	
<b>Anti-Racism Committee</b>	<b>6</b>		<b>Shaloch Manot</b>	<b>11</b>
Film, Speakers, Discussion Module			Order Form	
<b>Adult Education</b>	<b>7</b>		<b>Leadership</b>	<b>12</b>
Torah Treks, Beit Midrash, JUST WAR THEORY			Two stories from CPP	
<b>Yahrzeits:</b>	<b>8</b>		<b>Hebrew School</b>	<b>13</b>
We remember them			Pictures	

Table  
of  
Contents

Rabbi's Column

Rabbi Nathan Martin



Finding our spiritual center

Friends, we begin January by also beginning the book of Exodus, the core story of liberation that animates us as a Jewish people. It is a story we refer to every day in our daily prayer when we sing the "Mi Kamocha."

As we cope with the Hamas attack of October 7, and the ensuing Gaza war

and its repercussions around the world, I have been wondering about what the spiritual teachings are that we can glean from our liberation story that might be useful for this time?

In one sense, it could be easy to place Hamas in the role of the hard-hearted Pharaoh wanting to rid Egypt of its Jews, the Egyptian bystanders as innocent Gazans caught up as collateral damage in the plague of war, and perhaps the hostages as the ancient Jews hoping for release and freedom.

But I know that the reality is more complex than this.

I know that I find myself pained by the precarious existence of the captured hostages and not knowing how many are still alive, along with the awful toll of the tremendous loss of lives of Gazan civilians in this conflict. And like you, I continue to pray for peace and a path towards the ending of this spasm of violence that leaves Israel more secure from any Hamas threat, but that also gets much needed aid and support (and eventual rebuilding) to Gaza. And I wish I knew what political arrangement will work to allow for a more peaceful coexistence on this border.

With such limited ability for me to influence political and military events in Israel, I turn to another aspect of Exodus Torah that may be useful at this moment.

The Hasidic masters often reinterpreted the plagues not only as a physical event, but more as a spiritual struggle for the Israelites to emerge from a state of mind where they were distant from and not aligned with the Divine. Egypt is our exile from our spiritual centers.

This perspective on Exodus calls to me at this moment. When we are not grounded as Jews and human beings we are likely to be more reactive, less patient, and less compassionate. And like the Jews living in ancient Egypt in our sacred story, there are many oppressions bearing down on us at this moment — a feeling of isolation from the international community, a growing fear of rising

antisemitism, a contending with the potential erosion of democracy in our country, and a growing sense of unease as we feebly contend with planetary challenges that could redraw the global map of where humans live in the next century.

What brings us back to our center?

In teaching about the process of spiritual redemption the Netivot Shalom, R. Shalom Noah Berzovsky, focuses on the amorphous cries and groans of the Israelites under the weight of slavery as being the beginnings of liberation. He draws this teaching from Ex. 2:24, "God heard their moaning." Even before finding words of prayer, the Israelites with their moaning still articulated a deep sense of pain, loss, and isolation which triggered a response from the Divine. We too are in a moment of deep pain and loss, of fear and distress. And perhaps the first step to alignment is even pre-verbal; perhaps it is recognizing and simply sitting with the tremendous pain we are experiencing. A cry may be a sufficient prayer at this time.

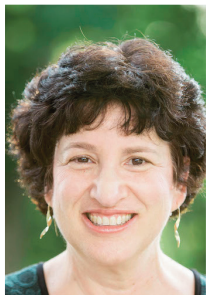
Additionally, it is important to remember that the exodus narrative focuses on the formation of a new people. The strength of our ability to withstand the constriction we currently face in the world lies in our ability to stay connected and supportive of one another. We need to keep working the "muscles" of listening and compassion, perhaps starting with friends, family, or fellow BI'ers before venturing out into the wider world. The degree that we can hear and respond to each other's cries is what can move us along the path of compassion. This too is the work of leaving our narrow places of Egypt.

Finally, our story of liberation is one of big vision. I had the privilege once of having dinner with Desmond Tutu when I served as a Hillel Rabbi in Michigan. Bishop Tutu noted that the most radical weapon that the South African liberation movement used was the Bible and the story of Exodus because it planted the seed of belief in the worth and dignity of all. We have to hold onto a bigger vision of what long-term liberation for both Israelis and Palestinians could look like, even in this moment. What would it mean for each to have a national home even if we don't know what that looks like politically? What would it mean for collaborative economies to grow? After the current conflict, this may be a generation away after trust can be rebuilt, but it is still incumbent to keep reaching for and cultivating visions of the possible.

So, as we re-enter this moment of our exodus narrative, may we take the time to acknowledge our pain, to stay connected with each other, and to hold a big picture of the possible in an impossible time.

## Rabbi's Note

Rabbi Linda Potemken

**Antiracism, Exodus & This Moment**

The AntiRacism Coordinating Committee has planned a full program for the upcoming winter months, including a movie night, a guest speaker, a zoom conversation on a learning module and a focus on an important book. Most of these programs center the theme of racial justice in the criminal justice system.

As the Jewish community grapples with rising antisemitism, this work feels more important than ever. (\*) As our concerns for Jewish safety increase, I feel even greater empathy for and urgency to address the racism that exists in our justice system. I find myself thinking, what if in the face of rising antisemitism we also had to fear structural antisemitism in our justice system? White Jews do not have that particular hardship but people of color, including Jews of color, bear that extra burden.

This January we begin reading and studying our liberation story in the book of Shemot (Exodus). We also celebrate MLK day this month. It is a fitting time to join together in our work of antiracism. I hope to see you on January 13th and for all these upcoming events. See page 6 for details.

(\*) Please note - we are working on other programs to help us grapple with antisemitism and related issues in the months ahead)

**In the Senior Rabbi's Study** *Mussar (closed group but... interested? Please contact Rabbi Linda for more information)*  
The 3rd Thursday of each month September - June

## Sustainability Corner

Some great updates to report to the BI community on our sustainability work!

\* Mazel Tov to the BI board for approving Beth Israel's first **Climate Action Plan**! The plan was recently presented at our Congregation Meeting as well and will be submitted to Adamah as part of BI's membership in the Jewish Climate Leadership Coalition in the coming weeks.

\* Thanks to support from the **Whole Kids Foundation**, BI has been able to upgrade our raised bed gardens with a drip irrigation system. We also added a fourth raised bed. Our next steps for our grant work are to do more integrated garden education into our Hebrew School curriculum.

\* Mazel Tov to the BI community for a successful first full year of the operation of our **solar array**! By the end of November our array had generated nearly 30 MWh of electricity, while BI's usage was only 25 MWh, so we are currently able to consume all clean electricity on the premises!

\* Thanks to our office manager Mikayla's efforts, you can get more information and **updates on our sustainability work** in the "Sustainability" section (under the "Engage" Tab) on our website! Take a look!

\* Our **Green Torah** group successfully completed a Fall series of classes and meetings! We will be gathering on January 7 at 1:00 pm at BI to explore the next directions with our learning and engagement. All are welcome.

If you would like to be involved in any aspect of our sustainability contact Rabbi Nathan -[rabbinate@bethisraelmedia.org](mailto:rabbinate@bethisraelmedia.org) for more information.



## President's Message:

Mark Rosenberg



Dear Friends, I found a poem by Wendell Berry that I thought was very appropriate for these difficult times. Between October 7 and December 7 anti-semitic incidents reached the highest number since they have been tracked. There were over 2000 recorded by the Anti-Defamation League in those two months. Obviously, this is alarming.

I know it is winter and getting outside may be more difficult. But when my head is filled with unpleasant thoughts, the outdoors are often a place I turn to for comfort. Most of us have experienced the beauty and serenity of a sunrise and/or sunset, the excitement of squirrels gathering acorns for when few will be available, and the wonder of a young animal with its mother. This might be a great time to rediscover the outdoors and enjoy what it offers us in peace, serenity, and hope.

## The Peace of Wild Things by Wendell Berry

When despair for the world grows in me  
and I wake in the night at the least sound  
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,  
I go and lie down where the wood drake  
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.  
I come into the peace of wild things  
who do not tax their lives with forethought  
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.  
And I feel above me the day-blind stars  
waiting with their light. For a time  
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

I'm hoping you can make time for a walk outside, and that it brings you comfort.

Best, Mark

**Save the date for the Congregation Retreat!**  
**May 31st ~ June 2, 2024**

**Pendle Hill Retreat Center**  
**338 Plush Mill Rd., Wallingford, PA 19086**

**More details coming soon...**

**BI BOARD OF DIRECTORS****EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

President

Mark Rosenberg

Executive VP

*open*

VP, Finance

Larrye Loss

VP, Communications

Sea Amundsen

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Membership

Hebrew School Education

Religious Practice

Social Action

Adult Education

Facilities Co-ordinators:

Immediate Past President: Emma Lefkowitz

Council of Past Presidents: Jennifer Lenway

MEMBERS AT LARGE:

Jackie Gelman, Lynn Cashell

Lisa Blaskey deCamp, Natalya Zhukovskaya

Larry Hamermesh

John Greenstine

Marion Hamermesh, Rich Remenick

Elaine Feldman, Ron Romoff

Emma Lefkowitz

Jennifer Lenway

Marissa Band, Harry Chen, Jeff Golan, Adam Nicol,  
Jonathan Washington

**Come dance! Israeli Dancing at BI taught by Andi and Sharon! January 9 7:00** We will meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month from 7:00 to 8:30 in the sanctuary. Ring and enter at the main entrance or phone Sharon. (RSVP to SharonLKleban@gmail.com; she will send her cell number)



No partner or experience is needed. The evening will include both beginner/liturgical dances and intermediate/modern dances. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes and bring your own water bottle. You may bring your own smile or one will be provided for you :) Contact andiwallach@gmail.com or sharonkleban@gmail.com for more information.



### REMINDER - PLEASE DON'T PROP OPEN ANY EXTERIOR DOORS AT BETH ISRAEL

Unfortunately in the world in which we live, it is necessary to consider the security of our building and our congregants. When we prop open doors, we expose ourselves to anyone with bad intent. If you do not currently have a fob for entry into the building, please contact our Safety and Security chair, Alan Ross, or our administrator, Mikayla Losanowych, to get a personalized fob for entry. Please don't prop open any exterior doors or leave the main entrance door in the unlocked (orange button) mode at Beth Israel.

As usual, check your email for more information and for zoom links.

Please remember to donate personal care items and toiletries for the homeless shelters and the Community Action Agency. The collection box is on the main floor, under the coat rack. Thank you –

### How to Reach our Rabbis

By phone: (610) 566-4645, choose option 1 if Mikayla does not answer. A voice message left for either Rabbi will reach them quickly.

By e-mail: Rabbi Linda: ravltp@bethisraelmedia.org      Rabbi Nathan: rabbinate@bethisraelmedia.org

Not sure who's 'on' this weekend? Check the calendar, easily available at bethisraelmedia.org and on the penultimate page of this Israelight. Also, each rabbi's e-mail account responds with a message indicating which rabbi is 'on.'

In cases of a real emergency...

Senior Rabbi Linda's and Associate Rabbi Nathan's home phone numbers can be found in the Member's Area of our website under How to Reach Our Rabbis and in our Directory.

**The Rabbinic Liaison Committee** exists in most Reconstructionist communities to ensure the maintenance of a good working relationship between the rabbis and the congregation. While congregants are always welcome and encouraged to discuss questions or concerns directly with Rabbi Linda or Rabbi Nathan, 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 a Rabbi in a constructive manner. To discuss a question or concern with a lay member of the committee please feel free to contact: Julian Yates (jyates@udel.edu) Deb Erie (debjoerie@gmail.com), Emily Levine (emily@emilysquireslevine.com), or Linda Cohen (lhc@comcast.net).

# ARCC'S RACIAL JUSTICE SERIES

Our theme this winter is racial justice and mass incarceration, which will culminate in a discussion of the book *The New Jim Crow* by Michelle Alexander, this coming March. Members are encouraged to read the book. Short readings will also be provided ahead of time.

## FREE FILM NIGHT WITH THE SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE - "13TH"

The movie "13th" is an in-depth look at the prison system in the United States and how it reveals the nation's history of racial inequality. The film will be followed by discussion and socializing.

**JAN 13**  
**7:00 PM**



**FEB 9**  
**7:30 PM**  
(Congregation)

OR

**FEB 11**  
**10:00 AM**  
(Hebrew School Parents)

## GUEST SPEAKER: STUDENT RABBI KOACH BARUCH FRASIER

Koach Baruch Frazier, 42, was once disconnected from religion; this changed after taking a college course on world religions. Frazier, from Kansas City, MO, came out as trans and queer, but coming out as Jewish was a unique experience. He earned a bachelor's degree at Saint Louis University and a doctorate in audiology at Central Michigan University. Frazier started activism after the 2014 shooting of Michael Brown and relocated to Philadelphia for the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. He was honored as an LGBTQ Jewish Hero by Keshet this year.

## ANTI-RACISM MODULE DISCUSSION

Join us for an anti-racism discussion of a new module with Julie Mayer and Rabbi Linda.

**FEB 29**  
**7:30 PM**

**MAR 16**  
**9:45 AM**

## THE NEW JIM CROW PRESENTATION

Katie Sibley, historian, presents at Shabbat services on *The New Jim Crow* by Michelle Alexander. The service begins at 9:45 am; Katie will speak at 11:00 am. Short readings and links will be provided ahead of time.





## FIRST SATURDAY MORNINGS

January 6  
February 3Rabbi Ilyse Kramer  
Rabbi Helen PlotkinFranz Rosenzweig  
Abravanel

9:45 Services 11:45 Kiddush &amp; potluck lunch Torah Treks 12:30 – 2:00

Each program is independent. Come for all the sessions or attend selectively. There is no charge for lunch or the study sessions and RSVPs are not necessary. Whether you are able to attend services or not, whether or not you are able to contribute to the pot-luck, whether or not you've engaged the texts before, you are welcome to come for lunch & study. Streaming will be available.

Teachers and topics TBA

## BEIT MIDRASH - Text Study with a teacher and a study partner (bring one or find one there.)

January 17

7:30 - 9:30

3rd Wednesdays October - May

Once a month we'll get together in the sanctuary for some old fashioned learning on contemporary issues. Our rabbinic intern, Nora Chernov, will be the main teacher but our Rabbis and members of our congregation will also teach. Following some introductory remarks, we'll sit and study with a chevruta (study partner), exploring translations of fascinating and relevant texts. If there are topics or texts that you'd like to explore, please send ideas to R. Linda, Nora Chernov, or Marion Hamermesh.

## The Torah of Now: Challenge and Response

tba Israel, anti- semitism

What guidance does Jewish tradition give us for thinking about some of today's most difficult issues? Stay tuned to hear about selected Friday night services that will include a speaker and discussion that will bring wisdom to our understanding of a challenge of contemporary life. tbe Israel, anti - semitism.

## Milt Meyer on Just War Theory Sunday, January 21, 10:30 in the Sanctuary

This family of theories develops principles that state how going to war can be just (jus ad bellum); what means used in war are just (jus in bello); and what moral requirements belligerents face after war is over (jus post bellum). The primary focus will be on jus in bello, but with some discussion of its relationship with jus ad bellum. Dr. Meyer will seek to explain the rationale of Just War Theory principles and how.

Dr. Milton Wachsberg Meyer, B.Phil., Philosophy Oxford University Ph.D., Philosophy Princeton University, has taught Philosophy at Notre Dame, Cornell and Penn for the past 44 years. One of his areas of specialization is Ethical Theory. He regularly teaches an Introduction to Moral Philosophy, in which he has a section on moral problems in war.

## Learning with Rabbi Richard Hirsh

SAVE THE DATES! March 7, 14, &amp; 21 7:00 - 8:30 on Zoom

**The Book of Ruth** is among the briefest books of the Bible. Its complex and nuanced story opens up many concepts with which contemporary Jewish spiritual life continues to engage:

the place of the voices of women; the diverse constructions of "family";  
the cultivation of ethical qualities; boundary-crossing identities, ethnic and religious;  
the ways in which "the Other" is viewed; joining the Jewish people, and questions of conversion.

In this three-session study, we will read through the entire Book of Ruth together, exploring how the story unfolds and continues to speak to contemporary Jewish life.

The Adult Education Committee supports the work of the Anti-Racism  
Co-ordinating Committee and the Beth Israel Green Torah Group

Are you interested in helping to plan and implement Adult Ed at BI? Please contact  
marion@hamermesh.com

Mourner	Remembering	Relationship	Yahrzeit 2024	Yahrzeit 5784
Steven Blum	Tonia Spiro*	Grandmother	January 1	20 Tevet
Randi Raskin Nash	Abraham Belsky*	Grandfather	January 2	21 Tevet
Cameron Vanore	Lee Wagner	Uncle	January 3	22 Tevet
Gwen Miriam Sigler	Paul Sigler	Uncle	January 4	23 Tevet
Adam Alper	Gertrude Sheckman	Grandmother	January 4	23 Tevet
Scott Manaker	Sheila Manaker	Mother	January 4	23 Tevet
Joy Horwitz-Fram	Bernard Horwitz	Father	January 5	24 Tevet
Wendy Reier Waterston	Irving Reier	Father	January 6	25 Tevet
Joshua Waterston	Irving Reier	Grandfather	January 6	25 Tevet
Arnie Schwartz	Esther Schwartz	Mother	January 9	28 Tevet
Louis Friedler	Saul Friedler	Father	January 9	28 Tevet
Judy Ritter	Frances Ritter	Mother	January 11	Shevat 1
Jean Fleschute	Eugene Kroch	Spouse (former)	January 11	Shevat 1
Steven Blum	Arthur Reichler Blum*	Uncle	January 12	Shevat 2
Selene Platt	Louis Routhenstein	Grandfather	January 14	Shevat 4
Steven Blum	Betty Reichler Blum*	Grandmother	January 14	Shevat 4
Sharon Boyd	Merton Sheppard	Friend	January 16	Shevat 6
Alex Dresner	Evelyne Newman	Grandmother	January 17	Shevat 7
Harry Chen	Julia Chen	Mother	January 17	Shevat 7
Linda Potemken	Suzanne Davis	Friend	January 18	Shevat 8
Sharon Boyd	Gerald Kahn	Father	January 19	Shevat 9
Marilyn Verbits	David Jay Verbits*	Brother	January 20	Shevat 10
Elaine Wasekanes	Joseph Wasekanes	Brother	January 21	Shevat 11
Rae Roeder	E. Nathan Jacobs*	Father	January 21	Shevat 11
Lauri Mansky	Maxwell Salzman	Grandfather	January 21	Shevat 11
Jonathan Krinick	Eugene Krinick	Father	January 21	Shevat 11
Elaine Wasekanes	Joseph Wasekanes	Brother-in-law	January 21	Shevat 11
Ronald Levine	Miriam Levine	Mother	January 21	Shevat 11
Steven Goldfield	Sylvia Goldfield	Mother	January 21	Shevat 11
Marilyn Verbits	Ruth Verbits*	Mother	January 23	Shevat 13
Leah Davidson Wolf	Shirley Wolf	Grandmother	January 23	Shevat 13
Allen Wolf	Shirley Poriles Wolf	Mother	January 23	Shevat 13
Judi Davidson Wolf	Shirley Poriles Wolf	Mother-in-law	January 23	Shevat 13
Peter Bernstein	Helen Bernstein*	Mother	January 25	Shevat 15
Selene Platt	Florence Silverman	Mother	January 27	Shevat 17
Steven Blum	Murry Blum*	Grandfather	January 27	Shevat 17
Barry Gross	Bill Gross	Father	January 27	Shevat 17
Eleanor Skale	Stephen H. Skale*	Brother	January 28	Shevat 18
Amy Binder	Evelyn Ann Binder	Mother	January 28	Shevat 18
John Greenstine	Evelyn Ann Binder	Mother-In-Law	January 28	Shevat 18
Jane Laffend	Edward Laffend*	Father-in-law	January 31	Shevat 21
Sharon Kleban	Ida K. Bluestone	Grandmother	January 31	Shevat 21
Nancy Handwerger	Ida K. Bluestone	Mother	January 31	Shevat 21



**General Fund**

*David and Lynn Cashell*, Mazel Tov to Rissa and Stan Sklar on their 60th anniversary!

*Hal & Cheryl Bordy*, in honor of The Big 50 for our great friend, Josh Waterston.

David and Lynn Cashell, in memory of Kathe Smith-Rosenberg, beloved wife of Mark Rosenberg, mother to Sean, Doug, and Lara.

David and Lynn Cashell, In memory of Kathe Smith-Rosenberg, beloved sister-in-law of Lynn Kelly.

**Burt J Cohen Endowment Fund**

*Linda Cohen*, in honor of the marriage of David Cohen and Michael Lee.

*Reisa Mukamal & Steven Arnold*, in Memory of Diane Calmis, beloved sister of Andrea, sister-in-law of David, and aunt of Molly. May her memory be a blessing to the entire Wasser family

**Golden Book Fund**

*Rabbi Linda Potemken*, Susan Robinson: In memory of your wonderful mom, Helene Gumerman. May her memory be a blessing to you and yours.

*Rabbi Linda Potemken*, Reisa Mukamal & Steve Arnold: In honor of the birth of your grandson, Levon Bernard Mukamal Arnold, born to Emalie and Ben.

*Rabbi Linda Potemken*, In honor of the naming ceremony for Miriam Katherine Brook Battaglia daughter of Leah Davidson-Wolf & Chris Battaglia

*Rabbi Linda Potemken*, Andrea & David Wasser: In memory of Andrea's sister Diane. May her memory be for a blessing.

*Rabbi Linda Potemken*, Mark Rosenberg, Sean, Doug & Lara: In memory of Kathe Smith Rosenberg, beloved wife and mother.

**Rabbis' Discretionary Fund**

*Melissa Maxman* with gratitude to the Rabbis and Congregation for offering sustenance in these difficult times in the world and for my mother, Margo Zitin.

*David and Lynn Cashell*, In honor of Rabbi Linda's milestone birthday!

**Chester Children's Chorus**

*Larrye and Pamela Loss, Elaine Feldman, Judy Kinman, Marion and Larry Hamermesh, David and Lynn Cashell*

**Social Action Fund : A Better Start for Babies**

Judy Kinman, Marilyn Drukin, Shirley Weber

**Torah Fund**

*Andrea Bruno*, In honor of Levin Bernard Mukamal Arnold. Mazel tov!

**CONDOLENCES:**

to Mark Rosenberg and his family on the passing of his wife Kathe Smith-Rosenberg.

to everyone in Israel who are mourning the losses of the October 7 attack and its aftermath.

**REFUAH SHLEIMAH** There are many in the BI family in need of healing. Our blessings go out to everyone in need of refuah - healing of body and/or healing of spirit. Join us at Shabbat or weekday services where we pray for healing.

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

*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.*



## Celebrating Hanukkah!



Celebrate a Kehillah Community Wide Tu B'shvat Seder!  
Mark your calendars! Wednesday, January 24, 7:00 pm Beth Israel

Rabbi Nathan, Dr. Mirele Goldsmith (Founder of the Jewish Earth Alliance), Cantor Jaime Marx (Temple Sholom), and others will lead an engaging evening of learning, song, environmental engagement, and more!

## Social Action Committee

Thank you all for your amazing help in making this year's Winter Coat Drive a possibility!!! And special Thank You to Rabbi Nathan and Jodi Roth-Saks - who helped to sort and pack the clothing. That was amazing. You came to my rescue when I was about to be completely overwhelmed (and buried under) piles of coats :)

All winter clothing was donated to Chester Eastside, who support the Chester community. We dropped off all the bags last Thursday - and I think CEI were a bit shocked to see how much winter clothing they got!!!! I'll have to check with Joan at CEI to see how many pounds of clothing it was, but we had to bring 2 large cars (including an SUV with all but the driver's seat down) to fit everything in.

A few non-winter items were also donated to Jewish Family and Children's Services "Our Closet".

This was an overwhelming response from BI community -

THANK YOU!!!!

Bowen-Zhukovskaya Family



**If there are more recipients, please continue on the back of this page.**



**Unleashing Your Inner Leader** Throughout Jewish history, from the time of Moses, our greatest leaders have been reluctant to step forward. They hesitated, doubted their abilities, and questioned their worthiness. Yet, it was their very humility and willingness to serve that made them exceptional leaders.

Today, **Beth Israel needs leaders like never before.** Our community faces challenges and opportunities that demand a new generation of individuals willing to step up and guide us. We need leaders who are compassionate, empathetic, and committed to making a difference in our community.

But what if you feel you're not qualified? What if you don't have the experience or expertise to lead?

These are common concerns, and they're often the very things that hold us back from our full potential.

True leadership doesn't demand having all the answers or being the expert in every situation. Instead, it's about summoning the courage to face the challenges our community faces, inspiring others to join us, and working together to achieve our shared goals.



Leadership is a journey of growth and discovery. It's about learning from your mistakes, celebrating your successes, and constantly evolving as a person and a leader.

In the coming weeks we'll be sharing the stories of past leaders who have been willing to step outside their comfort zones and embrace leadership roles. They'll share their personal experiences, challenges, and triumphs, offering valuable insights and inspiration for anyone considering leadership roles.

We invite you to come with us on this journey of leadership exploration. Discover your hidden strengths, learn from experienced leaders, and recognize the potential within you to make a positive impact. Remember, leadership is not a privilege reserved for a select few. It's a calling that can be embraced by anyone who is willing to step forward and serve.



Photos of the Hebrew School Students by Harris Fogel.



HOLLYWOOD LANDSCAPING  
610-517-5398 KelleyJohnA@aol.com

Lawncare Treatment  
Garden and Landscape Design  
Planting, Seasonal Cleanup

Me'ira Pitkapaasi  
*Hebrew, B'nai Mitzvah,  
Math, Special Ed*

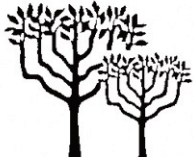
*M.A. Education, T.C. Math & Special Ed  
37 years experience  
484-470-5910 - meira77@att.net*

GROCERY CARDS ARE IN STOCK AT BETH ISRAEL —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!) Let Mikayla know if you'd like to purchase some. Phone 610-566-4645 or send her an email: mikayla.losanowych@bethisraelmedia.org

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

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>31</b> <b>Tevet 19</b> No Hebrew School - Winter Break	<b>1</b> <b>Tevet 20</b>	<b>2</b> <b>Tevet 21</b> 7:00pm Board of Directors Meeting (on Zoom)	<b>3</b> <b>Tevet 22</b> 8:30am Morning Spiritual Practice (on Zoom)	<b>4</b> <b>Tevet 23</b>	<b>5</b> <b>Tevet 24</b> 4:33pm Candle Lighting 7:30pm Shabbat Service with Rabbi Linda (on Zoom)	<b>6</b> <b>Tevet 25</b> Shabbat Mevarchim Shemot 9:45am Shabbat Service with Rabbi Linda (in person) 11:45am Potluck Shabbat Lunch 12:30pm Torah Treks with Rabbi Ilyse Kramer 5:42pm Havdalah
<b>7</b> <b>Tevet 26</b> 9:30am Hebrew School Session 10:00am Mechina Session 1:00pm Green Torah	<b>8</b> <b>Tevet 27</b>	<b>9</b> <b>Tevet 28</b> 7:00pm Israeli Dancing (in person)	<b>10</b> <b>Tevet 29</b> 8:30am Morning Spiritual Practice (on Zoom)	<b>11</b> <b>Shevat 1</b> Rosh Chodesh Shevat 12:00pm FUSE Steering Committee with Rabbi Linda (closed group)	<b>12</b> <b>Shevat 2</b> 4:40pm Candle Lighting 5:45pm Tot Shabbat (In Person) 7:30pm Shabbat Service with Aya Baron (in person)	<b>13</b> <b>Shevat 3</b> Vaera 9:45am Shabbat Service with Aya Baron (on Zoom) 5:49pm Havdalah 7:00pm Free Film Night - "13th", followed by discussion and socializing
<b>14</b> <b>Shevat 4</b> No Hebrew School - MLK Day Weekend 12:30pm Rosh Chodesh Meeting (at home of Wendy Waterston)	<b>15</b> <b>Shevat 5</b> 1:00pm MLK Day of Service - SAC Knitting/Crocheting Activity	<b>16</b> <b>Shevat 6</b> 10:00am Executive Committee Meeting (on Zoom) 7:00pm Membership Committee Meeting (On Zoom)	<b>17</b> <b>Shevat 7</b> 8:30am Morning Spiritual Practice (on Zoom) 7:30pm ADULT ED TEXT STUDY: BEIT MIDRASH in the sanctuary with a teacher and a study partner.	<b>18</b> <b>Shevat 8</b> 12:30pm Mussar with Rabbi Linda in person (closed group; contact Rabbi Linda for more information)	<b>19</b> <b>Shevat 9</b> 4:48pm Candle Lighting 7:30pm Shabbat Service with Rabbi Nathan (on Zoom)	<b>20</b> <b>Shevat 10</b> Bo 9:45am Shabbat Service with Rabbi Nathan (in person) 5:57pm Havdalah
<b>21</b> <b>Shevat 11</b> 9:30am Hebrew School - Tu B'shvat Celebration 10:00am Gan Session 10:30am Adult Ed In The Sanctuary: Milton Meyer, PhD, on the "Just War Theory" 5:00pm BI Teen Group Meets with Costa Rican Teens (on Zoom)	<b>22</b> <b>Shevat 12</b>	<b>23</b> <b>Shevat 13</b>	<b>24</b> <b>Shevat 14</b> 8:30am Morning Spiritual Practice (on Zoom) 7:00pm Community-wide Tu B'shvat Seder (in sanctuary) 7:30pm SAC Meeting (on Zoom)	<b>25</b> <b>Shevat 15</b> Tu B'Shvat	<b>26</b> <b>Shevat 16</b> 4:56pm Candle Lighting 5:45pm Fourth Friday Shabbat Celebration with Rabbi Nathan	<b>27</b> <b>Shevat 17</b> Beshalach 9:45am Shabbat Services with Hebrew School (in person) 6:05pm Havdalah
<b>28</b> <b>Shevat 18</b> No Hebrew School Today! 10:00am Leadership Meeting with Council of Past Presidents (in person in the Green House)	<b>29</b> <b>Shevat 19</b>	<b>30</b> <b>Shevat 20</b>	<b>31</b> <b>Shevat 21</b> 8:30am Morning Spiritual Practice (on Zoom)	<b>1</b> <b>Shevat 22</b>	<b>2</b> <b>Shevat 23</b> 5:04pm Candle Lighting 7:30pm Shabbat Service with Aya Baron (on Zoom)	<b>3</b> <b>Shevat 24</b> Shabbat Mevarchim Yitro 9:45am Shabbat Service with Rabbi Linda (in person) 11:45am Potluck Shabbat Lunch 12:30pm Torah Treks with Rabbi Helen Plotkin 6:13pm Havdalah





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

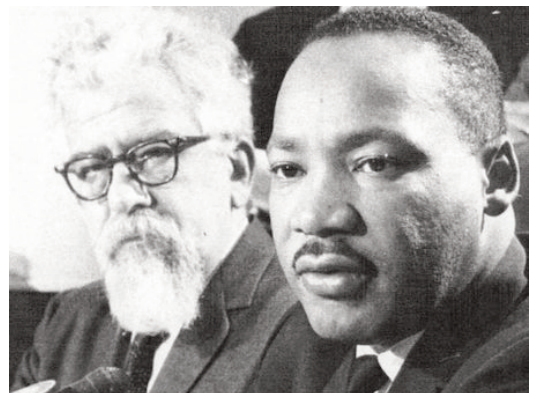
OR CURRENT RESIDENT

President	Mark Rosenberg
Senior Rabbi	Linda Potemken
Associate Rabbi	Nathan Martin
Editor, Content	Sharon Kleban
Editor, Production	Marion Hamermesh
Editor, Contributions List	Mikayla Losanowych

The Israelight is published on the first of each secular month. All submissions must be received by the editor by the 15th of the preceding month to guarantee inclusion. Articles may be submitted by mail to the synagogue office or by email to:

[Israelight@bethisraelmedia.org](mailto:Israelight@bethisraelmedia.org)

Next Issue: January - Deadline: January 15



<https://drsethward.wordpress.com/>



**Jewish Reconstructionist Movement**  
In Association with the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College



**MAZON** | A Jewish Response  
To Hunger