



The Israelight

*Congregation Beth Israel of Media
A Reconstructionist Jewish Community*



*You are cordially invited to attend The King's Banquet.
6:30 in the Evening on Saturday, March 23*

*Prepare to be captivated by the King's Troupe of
JESTERS, JUGGLERS, AND JONGLEURS.*

Expect to be delighted by the King's surprise announcement.

Enjoy a feast of the Royal Kitchen's sweet stuffed triangular delights.



Pizza Dinner
6:00
Details TBA

Give: Matanot L'evyonim
Nutritious food
for the food bank

In person
Or streamed
Come in Costume!

Receive: Mishloah Manot
Pick up your
Purim bag

Megillah Reading & Purim Spiel

6:30 Saturday, 14 Adar

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Rabbi's Column

Rabbi Nathan Martin



Creating Holy Community

After the dramatic story of the Exodus from Egypt and the receiving of the Ten Commandments at Sinai, the Torah portions in the latter part of the book of Exodus cover a tremendous amount of details concerning the material requirements for designing and building the desert Tabernacle, the mobile sanctuary that accompanied the Israelites on their wilderness journeys.

One of the takeaways from this description is simply the observation that details matter. That, if there were an incorrect number of planks for the tabernacle structure on one side, the whole structure might not stand.

We believe that this same lesson is relevant for our community of Beth Israel as well. At our December congregational meeting, Rabbi Linda and I shaped an exercise where we asked the assembled members to go into detail about what is working well for them and where our community might want to do more to support our core elements as we work to construct the sacred, those elements being: Nurturing our members, Being a welcoming community, Celebrating Jewish spirituality and culture, Engaging in lifelong learning, and Working to repair the world. Each of these elements can be considered as if they are an element of our mishkan, our sacred community, and that here too, by paying attention to the details on how we engage in these activities, we can enhance the sacredness of our work together.

We so appreciated the many and varied responses that people shared in this particular exercise. It was as if each response was a different thread helping us to create a multi-colored canopy of creative thought. Some really interesting suggestions, in particular, of new ideas and directions for our community included:

• Deepen the support and opportunities for BI members to learn more about our collective Jewish ritual life, the prayers we say, the holidays we celebrate, and connecting to contemporary spiritual practices as well.

• Explore teaching and learning models that can draw from expertise within our community, that can bring together members intergenerationally, that might connect us to other parts of Jewish Philadelphia, and/or that might speak to particular subgroups in our community (e.g. parenting in interfaith families).

• Continue to work on approaches that help new members feel welcome and more integrated into synagogue life, whether this would mean being hosted for a home Shabbat, connected to a more seasoned member as a buddy, or other approaches

• In addition to our spiritual practice and connection, find ways to further accentuate our social connections with one another with initiatives and programming that can build upon or expand some of the connections we have been making in our "Fourth Friday" gatherings this year.

• Continue to explore ways in which our community can connect to and have an impact on issues of fairness and justice in the world.

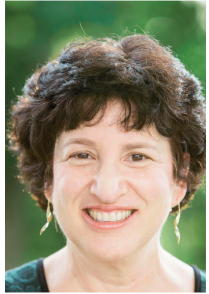
While we are contending with very challenging situations that are confronting us in the world right now, we found that having the opportunity - in spite of these challenges - to stop and reflect on ways we could continue to build our holy community was a powerful and positive exercise.

When the wilderness Tabernacle was finally constructed the Divine presence dramatically came into the camp and dwelled among the people. We too believe that if we can construct our community on firm foundations, that help us to welcome each other, grow and learn together, and care for the brokenness in the world, that we too will create a place for the Divine to dwell amongst us as well.

And of course, it almost goes without saying that each of us has a role to play in making this happen. We would like to invite you to consider how you might want to help our community continue to grow and thrive. Perhaps one of the ideas shared above is sparking your interest. We would love to talk with you about your ideas! And we look forward to this endeavor of together creating an enduring, vibrant, and holy community.

Rabbi's Note

Rabbi Linda Potemken

Invitation To Joy In The Hebrew Month of Adar

On the Jewish calendar the Hebrew month of Adar is an invitation to cultivate joy. In the book of Esther, read on Purim, the text states: "That month was reversed for them from grief to joy" (Esther 9:22). In other words, the month of Adar was declared a month of happiness, not because the people were already joyful but because they were full of grief that shifted to joy.

In the cold, dark winter, with the news of the world bringing pain and worry, we are in a Jewish season that invites us to locate joy within ourselves, if even for a moment. The Baal Shem Tov teaches that when we create joy in our lives, we arouse the Divine joy which leads to the opening of the channels of even more blessing, bringing more joy. In short, there is momentum to this, if we can cultivate gladness, it will lead to more joy.

So how might we do that? We might notice that the days are getting longer and savor the added daylight. We might develop a daily practice of cultivating gratitude. We might spend time with that which nourishes the spirit - community time, nature time, spiritual practices, kind deeds, connecting to our inner mission, whatever it is that truly sustains you.

Life is difficult and the world is wildly imperfect. But even as we struggle for healing, for tikkun olam, we are encouraged to let in joy and goodness, wherever we are able. As you read this newsletter you'll see many opportunities to cultivate comfort and joy here at Beth Israel. May you find your way to moments of joy and healing and may you have a Happy Adar!

HEALING THROUGH SINGING

with Rinat Levinson

Israeli singer, therapist and prayer leader

Tuesday March 12th 7:30 pm in the sanctuary



Rinat Levinson is an Israeli therapist, singing circle facilitator and guitarist. She has facilitated SONG/PRAYER circles and personal development retreats over the past four years around the world including- Israel, Egypt, Netherlands, US and India. She believes that singing together, with guided intentions, can change ways of thought and connect each person with their inner strength. She invites us to bring our hope and our despair as we gather to strengthen ourselves and to build connections. Rinat will bring a taste of the Israeli experience, while holding all at this tender time. Her range is as wide as her heart, bringing songs in Hebrew, English, and Arabic. Her aim is to create unity and to uplift her participants. Bring your friends. We hope to create a wide circle.

President's Message:

Mark Rosenberg



Dear Friends,

You probably know that this is a leap year where we have an extra day in February and an extra month of Adar (Adar II - clever isn't it?). What I really hope you know is that our Purim celebration will take place on Adar 13th, the evening before Haman had planned to exterminate the Jews many years ago.

I think most of you remember that day in the fourth century BCE in Ancient Persia. Right? What is that? You don't remember? Oh, well, let me tell you about it. On second thought, maybe I won't share the story this year. Instead, let's go in a different direction.....

Did you know that almost 50 years ago Time magazine claimed that 80% of all stand-up comedians in the United States were Jewish? Comedy is a very Jewish thing. Here are some famous one liners from a few of them.

Groucho Marx: "Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend. Inside of a dog, it's too dark to read."

Roseanne Barr: "I'm not going to vacuum 'til Sears makes one you can ride on."

Billy Crystal: "At 60, I could do the same things I could do at 30, if only I could remember what those things are."

Sarah Silverman: "I have no religion, but I can't escape being extremely Jewish ethnically - that is, culturally. In other words, I'm not religious, but I worry and I'm neurotic. And I'm very good with money."

Jackie Mason: "My grandfather always said, 'Don't watch your money, watch your health.' So one day while I was watching my health, someone stole my money. It was my grandfather."

Joan Rivers: "I'm Jewish. I don't work out. If G-d had wanted us to bend over, he would have put diamonds on the floor."

Rodney Dangerfield: "My wife and I were happy for twenty years. Then we met.."

Milton Berle: "My wife and I have a perfect understanding. I don't try to run her life, and I don't try to run mine."

Why all the talk about comedy? Come to the Purim celebration on Saturday, March 23 that includes The King's Banquet, Megillah Reading, and Purim Spiel to find out. You will be entertained. I hope to see you there.

Mark



BI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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open

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Larrye Loss

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Sea Amundsen

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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Religious Practice

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Facilities Co-ordinators:

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Council of Past Presidents: Jennifer Lenway

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Jackie Gelman, Lynn Cashell

Lisa Blaskey deCamp, Natalya Zhukovskaya

Daniela Eskenazi

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! **March 19 7:00** We will meet the 2nd Tuesday of every month **except this 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).

The AntiRacism Coordinating Committee Presents
The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Color Blindness
by Michelle Alexander
With Katie Sibley
Shabbat morning March 16

On March 16, BI congregants are invited to participate in a Shabbat morning discussion of Michelle Alexander's bestselling book, *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*, as part of our Antiracism Coordinating Committee's yearlong focus on incarceration. Katie Sibley will highlight passages of the book (already more than a dozen years old but sadly as timely as ever) for discussion and reflection.

In advance of our Shabbat discussion, you may wish to watch this brief video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XCyFKRB564A>

More humorously, and quite devastatingly, the book's author takes on the Colbert Report's host here:

<https://www.cc.com/video/ad10bn/the-colbert-report-michelle-alexander>

and for a slightly longer (13 minute) piece, you may wish to explore this interview:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gLdjVOswjRQ>

Also this 2020 interview with David Remnick (and New Yorker radio hour podcast) will give you a more recent take on the author's views and her perspectives on writing the book:

<https://www.newyorker.com/news/the-new-yorker-interview/ten-years-after-the-new-jim-crow>

Whichever resources help you prepare, we also hope you will read the book (or as much of it as you find you can) so we can have a full-throated discussion! The book is available in pretty much any library as well as Kobo, Amazon etc. and the editor's favorite site for used books, <https://www.betterworldbooks.com>

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...

We are looking forward to enjoying Shabbat together in a relaxed setting at Pendle Hill, a short 10-minute drive from Beth Israel! We hope you can come be there for the whole weekend! There is also a Saturday only option as well!

The weekend will include a variety of activities, including:

Friday night dinner followed by services and fun activities

Saturday morning services with afternoon options for hiking, outdoor play, indoor games, and learning

Saturday evening improv performance or other fun interactive activity

Sunday morning mitzvah activity

To register for this year's retreat go to our online registration page:

<https://www.bethisraelmedia.org/form/beth-israel-retreat-2024>

For more information, please contact Alissa Herman-Liu: ahermanliu@gmail.com

Friends, we wanted to share some highlights from Beth Israel's sustainability work!

* Our raised bed gardens continue to fare well and we are looking forward to our first season of using the new drip irrigation system we installed just before winter using monies from our Whole Kids Foundation grant. Additionally, we are planning on bringing in a garden educator to organize several programs this winter/spring for our Hebrew School students, and possibly for others in the community as well! Stay tuned for more details on this.

* Mazel Tov again for Beth Israel becoming a member of the Jewish Climate Leadership Coalition being organized by Adamah, and submitting our first ever Climate Action Plan. You can see details of our plan and other synagogue initiatives in the sustainability section of our website. As Adamah shared in a press release on Tu B'shvat, Beth Israel is part of 280 Jewish organizations who have created climate action plans, have collectively installed 49 MW of Solar Energy capacity, and are engaging over 65,000 people in climate focused programming!

* Mazel Tov to BI for hosting this year's DelCo Kehillah Tu B'shvat seder, co-led by Rabbi Kelilah Miller (Ohev Shalom) and Rabbi Nathan (BI)! *(See page 9 for a couple of pictures)*

* Stay tuned for more details in the coming weeks as well on Winter and Spring programming being organized by members of BI's Green Torah group!

Summary of 2023 Results for the Beth Israel/18 Rays Solar Project

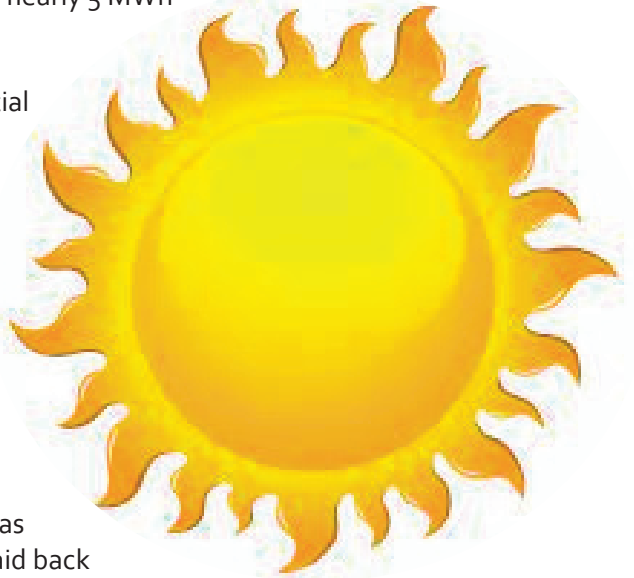
It has been nearly a year since the Beth Israel solar project, an array that is currently owned by "18 Rays" LLC, was granted permission to operate. The \$71,000, 26 kW project has now been generating consistent clean electricity. This past year, 2023, our array generated about 31 MWh of electricity, nearly 5 MWh more than BI consumed!

The array is currently owned by 18 Rays LLC which is recouping its initial investment and purchase of the array through Federal Tax credits (a 30% credit of the total project cost), Solar Renewable Energy Credits (these were about \$1,000 last year) as well as by payments by BI to the LLC for the electricity that the array generates (about \$1,800).

Eventually, once 18 Rays pays back its primary lenders, it will sell the array back to Beth Israel which will then own the array outright. This arrangement has still allowed Beth Israel to save about \$2,200 this year from reduced utility costs, and eventually will save even more once it takes over ownership of the array.

We are grateful for the Beth Israel members who stepped up to serve as lenders to help capitalize 18 Rays. We expect that all lenders will be paid back within 10 years or less for the project!

We hope and expect that our solar array will continue to generate clean electricity for 25 years and possibly beyond!



- The Social Action Committee is grateful for the incredible dinner foods, desserts, lunch and breakfast items, paper products, and toiletries that were provided by our amazing community for food service at the Life Center in Upper Darby on Monday, January 29. Thanks to John Greenstine, Beth Ruby, Elaine Feldman, Reisa Mukamal, Jane Laffend, Jen and Madeline Katz-Buonincontro, Amy Strauss, Carol Briselli, Lydia Kendis, Katie Sibley, Marilyn Verbits, Heidi Carp, Lois Deutsch, Joyce Romoff, Linda Cohen, Wendy Waterston, and Selene Platt for cooking, baking, and purchasing paper products for the clients. A special shout out to Joe Deutsch for helping with the collection of the food at BI. --Lynn Cashell
- The Social Action Committee hosted its annual knitting for MLK Day on January 15. 13 BI members and guests participated to chat and knit hats for the A Better Start for Babies program and Operation Gratitude, benefiting first responders.
- SAC and the Anti-Racism Coordinating Committee teamed up to show the movie "13th" on January 13. 28 people attended to watch and talk about the film, with Julie Mayer leading the post-film discussion.
- The Social Action Committee participated in the February 3 "Refugee Shabbat" led by Rabbi Linda and SAC member Miriam Sigler. 30 members and guests attended the service, which focused on our historic relationship with being refugees and on current affairs, with guest speakers Lev Cerbov and Mohammad Sadiq Sadeed describing their experiences of becoming refugees from their home countries due to sudden political and societal upheaval.
- SAC hosted its "Gefilte Flicks" movie night on Saturday, February 17th, featuring the Israeli film "Cinema Sabaya." SAC member Louis Friedler hosted the screening and lead the discussion afterwards.
- A Better Start for Babies delivered its first batch of bags of baby supplies to ChesPenn on February 2. A packing team of Julie Mayer, Lois Deutsch, Carol Briselli and Lisa Karlin of Ohev Shalom put together 60 bags, including special bags for breast-feeding mothers. The team will continue to collect donated items and will buy supplies with funds from donors and the Foundation for Delaware County. It's hoped we can get to 200 bags by the end of 2024.



Julie Mayer and Carol Briselli packing baby bags at Julie's house on January 20 for "A Better Start for Babies."



Lisa Karlin, chair of Ohev Shalom's Social Action Committee joined the BI team packing baby bags at with SAC member Lois Deutsch.



Tu b'shevat Seder
with Ohev Shalom



Klezmer Jam

Mourner	Remembering	Relationship	Yahrzeit 2024	Yahrzeit 5784
James Wilson	James Wilson	Father	March 04	24 Adar I
Jeffrey Golan	Harold Golan	Father	March 04	24 Adar I
Ronald Romoff	Nathan Romoff*	Father	March 04	24 Adar I
Sharon Kleban	June Kleban	Mother -in-law	March 05	25 Adar
Rissa Sklar	Jeanett Kaplan Teitlebaum*	Mother	March 06	26 Adar I
Rena Starker	Miriam E. Ross	Mother	March 07	27 Adar I
Jennifer Waterston	Syma Kaufman	Grandmother	March 09	29 Adar I
Randi Raskin Nash	Samuel Raskin*	Father	March 04	3 Adar II
Lawrence Hamermesh	Madeline Hamermesh	Mother	March 16	6 Adar II
Lynn Cashell	Edward Schwartz*	Father	March 18	8 Adar II
Natalie Finkelman Bennett	Sarah Finkelman	Grandmother	March 23	13 Adar II
Robert Goldman	Sylvia Goldman	Mother	March 25	15 Adar II
Eve Biskind Kloth	Betsy Ackerman	Grandmother	March 29	19 Adar II
Randi Raskin Nash	Mac Tausher	Great Uncle	March 29	19 Adar II

*after a name indicates that there is a plaque.

Yahrzeit begins at sundown the evening before the date shown.



Poems for our Days ~ Israeli Poetry in the Wake of October 7 with Dr. Rachel Korazim

March 31, 2024 10am ~ 11:30am on Zoom

The calamity of October 7 and the war that followed, has left Israel and the Jewish world in shock and despair. While the response of many Israelis has been "there are no words" to describe the unimaginable horror and loss of that day, there are Israelis who have struggled to find words to express pain and anger, despair and abandonment. This session will feature the exploration of recent poetry from different parts of Israeli society that reflect a large variety of voices around the attack of October 7.

Dr Rachel Korazim is a Jewish education consultant in curriculum development for Israel and Holocaust education. Rachel opens for her audiences a window to Israeli society through literature; through stories, poems and songs of the best of Israel's writers, she invites listeners to engage with Israel in an innovative way. Since the beginning of the Covid 19 pandemic – Rachel created a global community of hundreds of learners who meet to study Israeli poetry online regularly. Rachel teaches at Israel's well known learning centers such as Pardes and the Shalom Hartman Institutes as well as numerous world Jewish communities.



Adult Education Fund

Renae and Samuel Starker

BIMAS Fund

Peter Bernstein and Ala Hamilton-Day, in memory of Florence Appel, beloved mother of Reisa Mukamal.

Burton J. Cohen Endowment Fund

Linda Cohen, in memory of Diane Calmis, beloved sister of Andrea Wasser.

General Fund

Sam and Beth Ruby, in memory of the parents of Steve Arnold and Reisa Mukamal.

David and Lynn Cashell, in memory of Lori Cowan, mother of Carol Cowan.

inge Winer, in memory of Florence Appel, mother of Reisa Mukamal.

Jay and Nancy Handwerker, in memory of Jacob M. Bluestone.

Hebrew School Fund

Linda Cohen, in Honor of the birth of Levon Bernard Mukamal Arnold to Ben and Emalie.

Prayer Book Fund

Renae and Samuel Starker

Rabbis' Discretionary Fund

Marilyn Drukin, to Reisa Mukamal in memory of your beloved Mom, Florence Sheila Appel.

Marilyn Drukin, to Susan Klein in memory of your much loved sister in law, Barbara Klein.

Reisa Mukamal and Steven Arnold, in honor of Rabbi Linda for leading a beautiful and heartfelt Shloshim virtual service for my mother, Florence Appel.

For the Chester Children's Chorus

Katherine Sibley and Joe Horwitz

Renae and Samuel Starker

Social Action Committee Fund A Better Start for Babies

Samuel and Beth Ruby

Torah Fund

Linda Cohen, in memory of Florence Appel, beloved mother of Reisa Mukamal.

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.

Condolences

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

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.



Upland Baptist Church

Love God! Love Others!

Rev. Brenda A.B. Shaw, Pastor

January 28, 2024

Congregation Beth Israel
542 S New Middletown Rd
Media, PA 19063

Dear Congregation Beth Israel,

It is with heavy hearts that we write to you. As we watch the continued events unfolding in our nation, in Israel and beyond, we are grieved by what is happening. When we, as a congregation, discussed the antisemitism taking place in our own nation, we found ourselves appalled by this reality. It is our desire to stand with you, to build friendships, and to take a stand against this horrible reality.

We are a small American Baptist Church, located in Upland, PA. Though we do not know you personally, we are all aware of your location and proximity to us. Instead of only talking amongst ourselves, we wanted to offer our support to you, our neighbors, who are more directly affected than we are by these events.

It may not be possible for us to change the world, but we believe that by standing with you, we can begin to effect change. It is our desire to say that you are not alone, that we see the pain and struggles of the Jewish people, and that you have friends in your Baptist neighbors. We hope that we can build relationships between our congregations as we move forward.

Sincerely,

The Congregation of the Upland Baptist Church

Rev Brenda Shaw
Linda Cook
Dr. Susan Kulp
Frank Kulp
Charlene Miller

Lynda Miller
Betty Vandergriff
Joan Stecker
June B. Kapraht
John J. Sobott

R. C. C. C.
Iris L. Messick
Rose Richardson
Discella Mills
Dawn Rafalski
Sh A W

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uplandbaptist@verizon.net
fax: 610-874-5890



FIRST SATURDAY MORNINGS

March 2

Nora Chernov

Franz Rosenzweig

9:45 Services 11:45 Kiddush & 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

This month, Nora brings continuation of a study of the works of Franz Rosenzweig, whom we encountered in our January Torah Treks. We will be building off that learning and focusing specifically on the role of Jewish Adult Education in Revelation and Redemption. If you missed the January session not to worry, you will absolutely be able to follow and if you were with us for January this is a great time to understand more about a phenomenal and sometimes underrepresented thinker!

Learning with Rabbi Richard Hirsh

March 7, 14, & 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.

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

February 21

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.

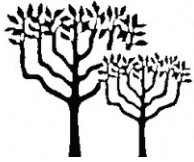
In the Senior Rabbi's Study *Mussar (closed group but... interested? Please contact Rabbi Linda for more information)*

The 3rd Thursday of each month September - June

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

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
25 Adar I 16 9:30am Regular Sunday Classes for Bet/Gimmel, Dalet/Heh, and Vav/Zayin classes 10:00am Gan Session	26 Adar I 17	27 Adar I 18 7:30pm Green Torah: "Exploring Our Food Choices" (on Zoom)	28 Adar I 19 8:30am Morning Spiritual Practice (on Zoom) 7:30pm SAC Meeting (on Zoom)	29 Adar I 20 7:30pm Antiracism Discussion of Module #14	1 Adar I 21 9:30am Religious Practices Committee Meeting (on Zoom) 5:36pm Candle Lighting 7:30pm Shabbat Services led by Rabbi Nathan (on Zoom)	2 Adar I 22 Ki Tisa 9:45am Shabbat Service with Rabbi Nathan (in person) 11:45am Potluck Shabbat Lunch 12:30pm Torah Treks Study 6:46pm Havdalah
3 Adar I 23 RRA Biennial Convention 9:30am Regular Sunday Classes for Bet/Gimmel, Dalet/Heh, and Vav/Zayin classes 10:00am Mechina Session 10:00am Hebrew School Parents Get-Together	4 Adar I 24 RRA Biennial Convention	5 Adar I 25 RRA Biennial Convention	6 Adar I 26 RRA Biennial Convention 8:30am Morning Spiritual Practice (on Zoom)	7 Adar I 27 7:00pm Adult Education with Rabbi Richard Hirsh: The Book of Ruth (on Zoom)	8 Adar I 28 5:44pm Candle Lighting 5:45pm Tot Shabbat (In Person) 6:00pm Hebrew School Friday Night! 7:30pm Shabbat Services with Rabbi Nathan (in person)	9 Adar I 29 Shabbat Mevarchim Parashat Shekalim Vayakhel 9:45am Shabbat Services with Rabbi Linda (on Zoom) 6:53pm Havdalah
10 Adar I 30 Rosh Chodesh Adar II 9:30am Regular Sunday Classes for Bet/Gimmel, Dalet/Heh, and Vav/Zayin classes	11 Adar II 1 Rosh Chodesh Adar II	12 Adar II 2 7:30pm "Healing Through Singing" with Israeli singer, therapist, prayer leader Rinat Levinson	13 Adar II 3 8:30am Morning Spiritual Practice (on Zoom) 7:00pm Board of Directors Meeting (on Zoom)	14 Adar II 4 12:00pm FUSE Steering Committee with Rabbi Linda (closed group) 7:00pm Adult Education with Rabbi Richard Hirsh: The Book of Ruth (on Zoom)	15 Adar II 5 6:51pm Candle Lighting 7:30pm Shabbat Services led by Congregation (on Zoom)	16 Adar II 6 Pekudei 9:45am Shabbat Services led by Aya Baron, with BI's Own Katie Sibley as Speaker: "The New Jim Crow" 8:00pm Havdalah
17 Adar II 7 9:30am Purim Celebration at Hebrew School 10:00am Gan Session	18 Adar II 8	19 Adar II 9 7:00pm Membership Committee Meeting (On Zoom) 7:00pm Israeli Dancing (in person) 7:00pm Executive Committee Meeting (on Zoom)	20 Adar II 10 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.	21 Adar II 11 Taanit Esther 12:30pm Mussar with Rabbi Linda in person (closed group; contact Rabbi Linda for more information) 7:00pm Adult Education with Rabbi Richard Hirsh: The Book of Ruth (on Zoom)	22 Adar II 12 6:59pm Candle Lighting 7:30pm Shabbat Services with Rabbi Nathan (on Zoom)	23 Adar II 13 Erav Purim Parashat Zachor Vayikra 9:45am Shabbat at Home (at home and offline) 6:00pm Pizza Dinner 6:30pm Purim Celebration with Rabbi Linda and Rabbi Nathan 8:08pm Havdalah
24 Adar II 14 Purim No Hebrew School - School District Spring Break	25 Adar II 15 Shushan Purim	26 Adar II 16 4:30pm Strategic Planning Meeting (on Zoom)	27 Adar II 17 8:30am Morning Spiritual Practice (on Zoom) 7:30pm SAC Meeting (on Zoom)	28 Adar II 18	29 Adar II 19 5:45pm Fourth Friday Shabbat Celebration with Rabbi Linda 7:06pm Candle Lighting	30 Adar II 20 Parashat Parah Tzav 9:45am Shabbat Services led by Aya Baron (on Zoom) 8:15pm Havdalah
31 Adar II 21 No Hebrew School - School District Spring Break Poems for our Days - Israeli Poetry in the Wake of October 7th with Dr. Rachel Korazim 10am - 11:30am on Zoom	1 Adar II 22	2 Adar II 23	3 Adar II 24 8:30am Morning Spiritual Practice (on Zoom)	4 Adar II 25	5 Adar II 26 7:13pm Candle Lighting	6 Adar II 27 Shabbat Mevarchim Parashat Hachodesh Shmini 9:45am Second Hebrew School Shabbat 10:30am Informal Tot Shabbat 11:45am Potluck Shabbat Lunch 12:30pm Torah Treks Study 8:22pm Havdalah



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

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Next Issue: March - Deadline: March 15



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