A message from Rabbi Gaber-

Two weeks ago, I officiated at the funeral of Dr. Rela Mintz Geffen, a prominent sociologist who focused her life’s work on the Jewish Family, Jewish Feminism and recently Jewish Grandparenting. She also focused on the importance of ritual in our lives and how we use them to celebrate and commemorate life’s most important moments. My connection to her was personal: her son, Uri, and I are close friends. His kids and my kids call each other “cousin.” At the funeral, another friend, David, shared with me the following piece of Torah which related to Rela. David told me that the recent Torah portions of Mishpatim (two weeks ago), Teruma (last week), Tetzaveh (this week) are the dream of a sociologist because they set out the legal, spiritual and emotional parameters of the Jewish community. These Torah readings teach us how to live in a society together, worship God with appropriate intention and respect, and how to give of ourselves to benefit the community and ourselves.

Dr. Geffen’s study of the Jewish family and David’s understanding of these Torah portions reminds me that as much as our society is in a continual state of change and fluctuation, we have Jewish principles and values to rely upon to guide us through the difficulties we may encounter. Dr. Gfen was devoted to family, she made it a point to attend as many family simchas as she could in her lifetime. She also “adopted” into her family many of her students who could then rely upon her to be there when needed. Both of her sons, Uri and Ami have learned that lesson from their mother. Ami’s involvement as a youth advisor is legendary. For the greater part of the last decade or more, if you were in USY or at Ramah, you knew Ami and he knew you. More then that, he cared for you and would help you no matter what you asked. And Uri, in his own way serves as a mentor and advisor to many, including me, helping many of us navigate our way to achieving our goals and our aspirations.

Uri and Ami completed sitting shivah for their mother this week. I can tell you Dr. Rela Mintz Geffen’s memories, her lessons taught, and her life’s work is like the Ner Tamid we learn about in this week’s Torah portion which symbolizes what we see in our sanctuaries. Her lasting impact upon the Jewish community is found in the way she helped her students and the community understand the importance of family and the use of rituals to create a framework for celebrating life’s best moments and commemorating the most difficult moments as well. She will be greatly missed by Uri and Ami’s family and by all of us who called her family as well. May her memory be for a blessing always.

CBOI Online Learning is now available on the CBOI website at https://www.cboi.org/zoom-meetings.html This series will take place live via Zoom every other Wednesday on February 20th, March 6th and March 13. Already available to you is: The Origins of Anti-Semitism, White Supremacy and Hate, Human Genome: Do We Have the Right to Play G-d? and Diminishing Gun Violence: Israel and the United States: A Case Study. Join Rabbi Gaber live on February 20th at 7:45pm for an online discussion on How to Bring Shabbat into Your Life or look for the recorded discussion the next day.

For more information, see our website at www.cboi.org

Shabbat Service Schedule
All services are held at
8:00pm on Friday night
and
9:30am Shabbat morning
Sunday morning minyan
Begins at 9:20am

Upcoming Services
Friday, February 15th
Kabbalat Shabbat at 8:00pm

Saturday, February 16th
Shabbat Services at 9:30am
Discussion of the Observant Life
During Kiddush: Individuals
With Disabilities

Friday, February 22nd
Kabbalat Shabbat at 8:00pm
Cantor May will be here
The Oneg is sponsored by the
Stinson family in honor of
Emily’s birthday

Saturday, February 23rd
Shabbat Services at 9:30am
Cantor May will be here

Friday, March 1st
Kindergarten Shabbat at 7:00pm
Kabbalat Shabbat at 8:00pm

Saturday, March 2nd
Shabbat Services at 9:30am

Friday, March 8th
Tot Shabbat at 5:30pm
Disney Shabbat at 7:15pm
Kabbalat Shabbat at 8:00pm

Rabbi Gaber has a new series on YouTube about prayer! Find it at https://www.cboi.org/take-time-for-prayer.html
CBOI Online:
Led by Rabbi Aaron Gaber

February 20th
7:45 PM - 8:45 PM

How To Bring Shabbat
Into Your Life
An Open Web Discussion

Join Zoom Meeting
https://zoom.us/j/7686776767

OR
1 646 558 8656
Meeting ID: 768 077 0707

Congregation Brothers of Israel
330 Washington Crossing Road
Newtown, PA 18940

Sisterhood

Please check your calendar:

You are invited to attend a CBOI Sisterhood Training Seminar on Monday, Feb 18 at 7:00 pm.

A Women’s League consultant will be there to facilitate a workshop on several topics, from goal setting and programming, to team building and membership.

Please RSVP to Diane Strauss at trentondrs@aol.com

DISNEY SHABBAT
Friday, March 8th
7:15 PM

Dress as your favorite
Disney Character
Appetizers and Cocktails followed by Shabbat Services

Please RSVP by March 1st

Congregation Brothers of Israel
530 Washington Crossing Road
Newtown, PA 18940
www.cboi.org 215 579-2208
sharon.segarra@cboi.org
Please join us for services on Friday, February 22 at 8 pm as we celebrate

Emily Stinson’s 10th Birthday

Please bring a can of Kosher food to donate for a Food Pantry

Sunday, March 17
10:30-12:30 PM

Pretzels. Popcorn. Hamantaschen
Donated by the Men’s Club

RSVP by March 10th
receive a special prize at the Carnival
sharon.segarra@cbiol.org

Join us at Super Sunday, the Jewish Federation’s largest day of community fundraising, at a location near you.

February 24, 2019
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. all locations
Additional Philadelphia shift 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Make the calls that make a difference on Super Sunday. the day when, working together, we secure vital resources that make a difference. Spend time with your friends and neighbors while helping to keep our Jewish community strong as we kickoff our 2019 campaign.

Super Sunday Co-Chairs/Philadelphia Site Captains: Amanda and Marc Prine

For more information and to register
jewishphil.org/supersunday
215.632.0900

Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia

*Children will be allowed at these locations

RSVP by March 15th
Name: ________________________
Number: ______________________
Number attending: (5 and older) ____ x $12 ________________
(family maximum of $36)
Total Enclosed: $ ___  Bill My Account: $ ___
The Kessel-Young Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in June 1976 by Ida Kessel and the late Joseph Kessel in memory of their parents, Lena and Louis Kessel and Dora and Louis Young.

A scholarship will be awarded to a member of our Congregation graduating from high school, on the basis of need, to further the student’s education. Applicants must be “hard workers” who will benefit from this assistance. The intent is to encourage students to continue their education. Academic excellence is not a criteria for this award.

In establishing this special Fund, the Kessel Family has recognized that awards are usually made to outstanding students in either sports or academic work. All too often, many students who show promise and are willing to work are denied assistance. To receive an application for the Kessel-Young Memorial Scholarship Fund, contact the Synagogue.

George S. Weiner Religious School Scholarship Fund

The George S. Weiner Religious School Scholarship Fund has been established to aid youngsters from Congregation Brothers of Israel to attend the Rabbi Howard Hersch Religious School. Scholarships will be given out based on need. Contact the CBOI office for information.
Services This Weekend:

Friday, February 15th
Candlelighting: 5:15pm
Kabbalat Shabbat at 8:00pm

Saturday, February 16th
Shabbat Services at 9:30am
Torah Reader: Anne Pettit
Parasha: Tetzaveh, page 503, Exodus 27:20
Haftorah: Ezekiel 43:10

Yahrzeits


Donations

We thank you for your generosity-

To The General Fund from
Diane and Gerald Novik in memory of Albert Chasin
Eric Barash to salute Ralph Floyd for capturing our great Superbowl party
Maxine and Brian Goldsmith in memory of Susan Wartenberg

To the Yahrzeit Fund from
Sydney Silverman in memory of Molly Rubin
Paula Freedman in memory of Melvin Freedman

To the Russ Education Fund from
Linda and Robert Gunther in memory of Henry Tarshis

To the Alvin Berger Fund from
Gloria Berger in memory of Susan Wartenberg

To the Caring Committee Fund from
Bernice Rosenthal in memory of Louis Rosenthal
Jen and Brandon Wind in memory of Susan Wartenberg
Nancy and Alan Agree in memory of Susan Wartenberg
Michelle and Eddie Goldberg in memory of Susan Wartenberg
Judith and Fred Young in memory of Susan Wartenberg

To the Melvin Kushner Fund from
Helene Plapinger in memory of Allan Plapinger

To the Passport to Israel Fund from
Nan and Jeff Weiss in memory of J. Leonard Weiss

To the Dr. Seymour Cohen Fund from
Vivian Cohen in memory of Martin Alan Cohen

To the Cemetery Fund from
Michele and Mark Cooper in memory of Henry Tarshis

To the Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund from
Rebecca, Eric, Aria and Owen Hall

Are you having an anniversary or wish to commemorate a yahrzeit? Is it your child’s birthday? Why not sponsor an Oneg or Kiddush?
Contact the office at 215-579-2200 or sharon.segarra@cboi.org
At a Glance
2018-2019 5779

PRAYER PARTNERSHIP
Students will have the opportunity to lead the Congregation in the prayers they've learned in their classes! A calendar of assigned Prayer Partnership dates will be sent home.

CLASS SHABBATOT
6TH/7TH GRADE SHABBAT 1/9
Kindergarten 1/17
5TH GRADE SHABBAT 3/9
ELEMENTARY SHABBAT 3/17

CONFIRMATION
All Classes Meet on Wednesdays
5:15-6:30 PM
5/26, 6/10, 6/24, 7/19, 9/6, 12/5, 12/12, 12/19, 1/9, 1/16, 1/23, 2/6, 2/13, 3/3, 3/10, 3/17, 4/7, 4/14, 4/21, 5/5
Ceremony of Confirmation June 17th

YOM TOV CELEBRATION DAYS
Rosh Hashanah Sept. 1-10
Yom Kippur Sept. 19
SuKKOT Family Party Sept. 24
Simchat Torah Oct. 1
Family Hanukkah Party Dec. 9
Tu B’Shevat Program Jan. 16
Purim Carnival March 17
Family Megillah Reading Mar. 20
Passover Program April 14
Yom Hashanah May 5
Lag B’Omer May 22
Shavuot June 9

Friday Nights at 5:30 PM
7/20, 8/24, 9/14,
10/19, 11/16, 12/7,
1/11, 2/8, 3/8,
4/12, 5/10, 6/7

PJ Library
for kids ages 6 months - 8 years
PJ Our Way
for kids ages 8.5 - 11

PJ Library sends your child the gift of free, wonderful, age-appropriate Jewish children’s books or music in the mail every month. All families in the Greater Philadelphia area raising Jewish children ages 8 months through 8 years of age are welcome to enroll.

Sign up Today!
Go to:
www.pjlibrary.org

PJ Our Way is the next chapter of PJ Library for kids ages 8.5 - 11. PJ Our Way books are chapter books, and kids get to choose which books they want to receive for free! Check out the PJ Our Way website designed for kids, by kids.

Sign up Today!
Go to:
www.pjourway.org

The Micah Initiative 6:8
Act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with your God

Program for 11th & 12th Graders
COME TOGETHER TO SOCIALIZE & LEARN

Confirmation is over, yet you still want some type of Jewish connection to socialize, discuss issues and have meaningful experiences with your Jewish peers...

This new program, brought to you by the Bucks County Rabbinic Council in partnership with local synagogues has everything you are looking for!

2 year community based program:
Meet 5 times per year...
rotating locations
Social Justice Conference
College prep advice and materials

Contact your Rabbi for more information or Sharon Bromberg at micahinitiative@gmail.com and 609-214-2543

BREAK the BREAD fast
BAGEL BRUNCH

April 28th
10:00 AM
Congregation Brothers of Israel
530 Washington Crossing Road
Newtown, PA
www.cboi.org 215-579-2200

Come break the 'bread' fast with bagels at Brothers of Israel
Join us for food and fun and good conversation to celebrate the return of bread!!!

COME HUNGRY
Sponsored by the Caring Committee
Contributions are always appreciated

Please RSVP by April 19th
sharon.segarra@cboi.org or 215-579-2200
COMMUNITY PORTRAIT 2019

Have your voice heard about unmet social service and community need across the Greater Philadelphia area!

As socio-economic and demographic characteristics of the population change across the Greater Philadelphia region, the needs of communities will shift. To help respond to these changes in a meaningful way, in early February 2019 you may receive a request to participate in a survey called Community Portrait.

It will only take a few minutes to complete the survey. Your participation will provide a wealth of information to help plan and provide services in real time.

USY Mizrach
KADIMA KONVENTION
MARCH 8-9
BETH EL YARDLEY

Spring Gala
Sunday, May 5, 2019
5 PM

Congregation Brothers of Israel - 350 Washington Crossing Road, Newtown, PA 18940
www.eboi.org  215.379.2200
Hearts for our Heroes

A Note from Barbara and Dan Aldouby—Report to all my friends—We've been here in Edenwald (Towson, Md) for about 14 months now, and we still can't get over the feeling that we're on a Cruise Ship.

It started over a century ago as an old age home for people of Baltimore's German community, but has changed over the years and about 25% of the inhabitants here are Jewish. We have Friday Night Services, and a community Seder. The population is extremely educated with a host of retired doctors, some lawyers, and a host of educators from every level from pre-k to University professors and Deans, etc. We have cultural and other kinds of trips and there is free shopping transportation. They provide apartment cleaning every two weeks, and a full inspection, duct cleaning, and repair service scheduled twice a year. We have great movies, and since we are near Towson University and Peabody (and the back and side of our apartment house faces Goucher University, we have a plethora of speakers and a most wonderful music performance schedule. Just last week we had Piatagorsky's grandson in a Cello recital which was a one hour feast for the ears. I've joined the Theater Reading group here, and we present a new production three times a year. It's fun, being an 88 year-old geezer. Barbara and I have a host of new friends and we're minutes (by car) from two of our children and our grandchildren. This is a marvelous place, worthy of one of the Great Catskill Hotels of the last century. If anyone is thinking of retiring, downsizing, and has relatives in the Baltimore area, give them my e-mail address and I'll see that they get all the info they need. Barbara and I spent about 2-3 years coming down here and looking at almost every facility of this kind, including individual little houses, high rises, etc. None could compete with Edenwald. From what I hear it is one of the best in the USA—and that's info gleaned from outsiders. Oh well.

Enough talk.

Regards to the Rabbi, Members of the Board, The Herschs, and to all the folks in the office who labor to make BOI what it is. Without you folks, I doubt that BOI would exist.

and Love to all