Reena is having an amazing experience on Eastern European Israel Pilgrimage. She shared with me this week an experience in Eilat. She and friends were in a Bazaar trying to decide where to go next when a 12-year-old kippah wearing boy approached her and asked, “Why you wear kippah? You no boy!” In his mind, girls don’t wear kippot and it is prohibited for a girl to wear a kippah. This conversation in broken Hebrew and English ended with Reena saying, “Because I want to!” and she walked away with her friends. When confronted, she did not shrink or become defensive about her beliefs instead her attitude was that “I wear my kippah as a proud Jew on a Jewish trip.”

This story adds extra meaning to a lesson from this week’s Torah portion. We will read about the deaths of Miriam and Aaron and the pronouncement that Moses will never enter the Promised Land as the Wilderness generation of Israelites will do so at the end of their journey. While Aaron’s death in this week’s Torah reading and Moses’s death at the end of Deuteronomy are recorded in detail, Miriam’s death is recorded with no detail. We do not know if she had any children because it is not recorded whether she ever married. The Israelites cried and mourned at the passing of Moses and Aaron, the Torah records, “Miriam died there [Kadesh] and was buried there.” (Number 20:1). The Israelites don’t even mourn her but complain to Moses that the water has disappeared.

Rashi’s question is, “Why isn’t there more detail?” Rashi’s own answer is, “She too died by a [divine] kiss.” Why does the text not say, ‘by the mouth of the Lord’ as it does with Aaron (Numbers 33:38) and Moses? Because this would not show proper respect for God.”

Baked into our history, our culture and society are the seeds of inequality which we continue to experience today. Miriam is an accomplished prophet in her own right. She was a great leader, reminding the Israelites to celebrate their safety and escape from Egypt. Her piety ensured the Israelites had water throughout their journey. And it is because of her quick thinking that baby Moses would float down the Nile river and the exodus from Egypt could begin. It is time to change the ingredients and re-bake our history and celebrate the accomplishments of both women and men equally.

Continued on page 2
Rabbi’s Message Continued...

Many have the custom of placing a Miriam’s cup on our seder table to recall Miriam’s accomplishments and her role in our journey to freedom and the promised land. This past year, CBOI added the matriarchs at the beginning of the Amidah during our prayer service. I resisted the addition for a very long time (there are several people who will confirm that) because I thought it did damage to the literary quality of the prayer but I have come to realize that if we don’t change that which was, we can never ensure the equality that will be for women and men. We need to be intentional in our effort to ensure that women and men participate equally in the leadership of our community and that decisions are made in a way that honors all our beliefs and our needs. Equality in religious worship, equality in recognizing the great accomplishments of biblical women fine but that is not enough, equality must be recognized in our workplaces and in our society not as an afterthought but as THE starting point.

The U.S. Law which requires equal funding for women and to allow equal participation is called Title IX. This opened doors for women like the recent World Cup soccer champions, but we are still not there. Equality starts at the beginning when we are intentional. If you have a men’s soccer team and women’s soccer team, they should receive equal pay, equal time, and equal opportunity without proving their worth or their success. And even more so, when one is successful, they should reap the benefits and be recognized with accolades and compensation to match.

This week, we should mourn Miriam’s passing, not as the sister of Moses and Aaron but as a fierce and dedicated leader who worked to meet the needs of her people in her time. With more Miriams, more world class women soccer players and more young women like Reena, we will create a society of equality for all.

**During the Summer**

**The Voice will come out every other week.**

**This weeks Voice has the Yahrzeits for this week and next week included.**
SHABBAT UNDER THE STARS
and KOSHER BBQ
and Israel Scouts

FRIDAY, AUGUST 9th 2019
5:45 pm Kosher BBQ Dinner
6:30 pm Israeli Scout Dancers
7:30 pm Shabbat Services

OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY
Bucks County's Only Performance
Don't Miss It!!!!

Adult Members $15
children (5-12) $6
children under 5

Our favorite
Water Ice
tuck will be here

Our favorite
Water Ice
tuck will be here

Please RSVP by August 2nd
Congregation Brothers of Israel. 530 Washington Crossing Road. Newtown, PA 18940
215 579-2200 www.cbol.org

Name: ______________________________________ Number: ____________________

Adults ($15) ________ Children 5-12 (6) ________ Children Under 5 Free ______

Number of Vegetarian Meals Requested________

Check Enclosed:_______ Please put on my account:______
Chaired by Roz Zucker, this Committee consists of Lauri Accardi, Diana Brandani, Michael Dubrow, Donna Nowicki, and Paula Raimondo.

Last year we created an interesting and informative website at cboi.org, that has gotten us a very positive response.

We are hard at work trying to have every aspect of our synagogue life included. Our calendar can be filtered to show Religious School activity &/or General activity. We have sections on Adult Education, Rabbi Gaber’s video online learning sessions and Kabbalat Shabbat videos, as well as a page devoted to audio learning of prayers if congregants are called to the Torah for an Aliyah. Our High Holiday Schedule as well as the schedule for Jewish Holidays for 2018-2020 are on the website.

It is easy to log-in to cboi.org and find information on your account and have access to our directory. This is only available to members and is not seen by the public. Non-members cannot log-in.

We are constantly updating information for you and all forms are easily found on our website as well.

Besides creating and updating CBOI’s website, the Communications Committee makes sure CBOI’s presence is publicized throughout Bucks and Mercer Counties.

We create materials o promote the synagogue using both traditional (i.e. newspaper advertise-ments) and electronic media (Facebook).
SHEVA BRACHOT CELEBRATION
FOR BEN & SARAH

HOST:  Rabbi Aaron Gaber & Sharon Bromberg
        267-364-5750

WHEN:  Tuesday, August 20th
        6:00 PM to 9:00 PM

WHERE:  Congregation Brothers of Israel
        530 Washington Crossing Road
        Newtown, PA 18940

You are invited to join us for a casual BBQ dinner as we celebrate Benjamin and Sarah’s wedding. The Jewish custom is to treat the bride and groom like a queen and king for seven days following the wedding. They are invited to dine at the home of a different friend or relative on each night. These festive meals are called “Sheva Brachot.”

Following dinner, the seven blessings that are recited under the chuppah are recited again—as long as a minyan is present and there is at least one new person (who hadn’t been at the wedding) present. The idea of the dinners is to have real community celebrations for the couple. (Adapted from Jewish Learning Library)

We hope you will join us.

Rsvp to rabbi.gaber@cboi.org or call the office
**Congregation Brothers of Israel Men’s Club**

$10. per person tickets will not be saved without payment

TRENTON THUNDER vs. BOWIE BAYSOCKS

August 8th - 7:00 pm
Jewish Heritage Night
Thirsty Thursday
Fireworks

Drop off or mail checks to office
Checks made out to CBOI Men's Club
For more information contact Mike Dubrow at MDubrow344@aol.com

**Please take some time to look over your Membership Packet and send back the forms.**

2% discount for dues paid in full by July 31st.

Membership & School Enrollment 2019-2020

**You can now register your child for the Rabbi Howard Hersch Religious School On-Line**

Go to our web-site cboi.org

**Join the Bucks County Jewish Community for a special TISHA B'AV service**
Saturday, August 10, 2019

Time: 9 pm with Havdalah, followed by services

Location: Ohev Shalom, 944 2nd Street Pike Richboro, PA 18954
Led by Bucks county clergy

Feel free to contact Cantor Ocanto-Romo for questions or for more information,
215-322-9595 ext 131 or cantorocanto@gmail.com

Ohev Shalom celebrates the uniqueness of each individual and family and welcomes diversity within our sacred community.
**Yahrzeits**

**July 7th—July 13th**

- Rae Abramson 4 Tammuz
- Rebecca Leah Deitz 4 Tammuz
- Anna Feuerstein 4 Tammuz
- Sarah Gerofsky 4 Tammuz
- Helen Held 4 Tammuz
- Stephen Kaskey 4 Tammuz
- Jerri Mandell 4 Tammuz
- Eric Rau 4 Tammuz
- Sarah Alkanati 5 Tammuz
- Hannah Bella Lentz 5 Tammuz
- Harry Olitsky 5 Tammuz
- Kate Wineberg 6 Tammuz
- Jean Siegle Wollner 6 Tammuz
- Sarah Alexander 7 Tammuz
- Esther Arwas 8 Tammuz
- Albert H. Millner 8 Tammuz
- Frank Jack Weinstein 8 Tammuz
- Joseph Alexander 9 Tammuz
- Nancy Alman 9 Tammuz
- Beatrice Cohen 9 Tammuz
- Ida Kessel 9 Tammuz
- Louis Zimskind 9 Tammuz

**Yahrzeits**

**July 14th—July 20th**

- Faith Gaber 13 Tammuz
- Kay Gertrude Halpern 13 Tammuz
- Rose Tarshis 13 Tammuz
- Henrich Hofman 14 Tammuz
- David Lavine 14 Tammuz
- Libby Rosenfeld 14 Tammuz
- Ida Factor Caplin 15 Tammuz
- Alan F. Markovitz 16 Tammuz
- Adrienne Cuttler 16 Tammuz
- George Nowicki 16 Tammuz
- Barbara Palefsky 16 Tammuz
- Sidney Sagotsky 16 Tammuz
- Aaron Davids 17 Tammuz

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**Donations**

*We thank you for your generosity*

- **Berger Memorial Fund**
  - Gloria Berger
  - In memory of Harris Myers
  - 
- **Caring Committee Fund**
  - Donna and Seymour Nowicki
  - In memory of Ruth Segen
  - Janet Barudin
  - In memory of Harris Myers
  - Get well wishes to Hilarie Altman
  - Get well wishes to Joan Hersch
  - Get well wishes to Francesca Axe
  - Thinking of you to Gloria Berger
  - 
- **Chasin Fund**
  - Rabbi Howard and Joan Hersch
  - In honor of the marriage of Zeva Young
  - In memory of Bonnie Kellner
  - 
- **Education Fund**
  - Donna and Seymour Nowicki
  - In memory of Harris Myers
  - 
- **General Fund**
  - Eric Barash
  - In memory of Harris Myers
  - 
- **Marci Scharf Fund**
  - Joyce and Martin Gometz
  - Thank you for all the misheberachs
  - Barbara and Sandy Dash
  - In memory of Harris Myers
  - 
- **Weiner Scholarship Fund**
  - Judi and Fred Young
  - In memory of Harris Myers
  - Maxine and Brian Goldsmith
  - In honor of the marriage of Zeva Young
  - In memory of Bonnie Kellner

*Our condolences go out to Carrie Packer and her family on the passing of her sister Bonnie Kellner*
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