



## CONGREGATIONS OF SHAARE SHAMAYIM

**VOL. 55, NO. 6**

**March 2017**

**ADAR—NISAN 5777**

### **CONGREGATIONS OF SHAARE SHAMAYIM**

BETH JUDAH-BETH TEFILATH ISRAEL- RODEPH ZEDEK-BETH CHAIM-BETH EMETH-B'NAI YITZHOK-NER ZEDEK-  
ADATH ZION-BETH UZIEL-BOULEVARD PARK-BRITH KODESH-EZRATH ISRAEL-FOX CHASE JCC

Join us at KleinLife  
10100 Jamison Avenue  
for our annual

Sunday  
March 5,  
2017  
10am - 2pm

# PURIM CARNIVAL

Join us for a day of fun with arts and crafts,  
moon bounce, obstacle course, face painting,  
balloons, games, music, food,  
and much more.

### IN THIS ISSUE

Adult Education	page 7
Anniversaries	page 27
Announcements	page 18
Birthdays	page 27
Calendar	page 4
Caterers	page 20
Condolences	page 6
Donations	page 24
Kveller Korner	page 3
Library Shelf	page 9
Men's Club Time Out	page 22
Mitzvah Committee	page 6
President's Message	page 3
PTA	page 6
Purim Schedule	page 5
Rabbi's Study	page 2
Shabbat Shalom	page 20
Sisterhood Happenings	page 18
Thank You	page 18

[www.shaareshamayim.org](http://www.shaareshamayim.org)

**Game tickets 3 - \$1**

**Ride band for inflatables - \$5**

**Ride/Game Combo #1  
21 tickets & 1 ride band - \$10**

**Ride/Game Combo #2  
42 tickets & 1 ride band - \$15**

**Ride/Game Combo #3  
48 tickets & 2 ride bands - \$20**



Jewish Federation of  
Greater Philadelphia

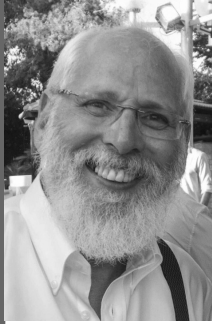
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Club, Association of Jewish  
Holocaust Survivors,  
and Jewish Family Services

# A FEW “EREV PURIM” WORDS FROM RAV BARRY



Enjoy “Ad D’loh Yada” (lit. until one cannot distinguish) - Purim Sameach. Please join us for Megillah Reading in costume with lots of Ruach.

## Intro to Purim

“The Jews ordained and took upon themselves and upon their descendants...that these days of Purim should not cease from among the Jews, nor the memory of them perish from among their descendants...to observe

these days of Purim at their appointed time” (Esther 9:27-31).

The festival of Purim is based on the story in the Book of Esther. While scholars have had difficulty in identifying the time and the characters of the story, there is no doubt that Jewish tradition and the Jewish people have accepted the event as authentic. Unlike Chanukah, which is post-biblical and is not even mentioned in the Mishnah, Purim is based on a book of the Bible; a tractate of the Mishnah and Talmud is devoted to it as well.

Purim attained great popularity because it reflected the perennial problem of the Jewish people—animosity against the Jew. Haman’s accusation—“There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the people...” (Esther 3:8)—has been repeated in every age. The celebration of Purim serves to strengthen our people, enabling them to face such accusations with dignity and courage, and inspiring them with the hope of final victory over their enemies.

Elaborating on this point, Professor Kaplan says, “Out of the reaction of the Jews in the past to their status as a minority everywhere in the Diaspora, there evolved a remarkable philosophy of life or system of spiritual values. It is remarkable not only for its influence in sustaining the courage of the Jew in desperate situations, but for its inherent worth. Being in the minority, Jews were expected to accept the life-pattern of a conquered people. They were expected to adopt the standards imposed on them by the majority, with good grace, if they could, or with sullen resentment, if they must. They did neither. Instead they formulated a philosophy of life which prevented the conquest from being consummated” (*The Meaning of God*, p. 363).

The corollary of this is not that we face hatred with faith and courage, but rather that we find meaning in the minority status that so often makes us the target for the slings and arrows of our enemies.

“It is therefore necessary,” says Professor Kaplan, “as it is appropriate, to make the Feast of Purim, and of the special Sabbath preceding it, an occasion for considering anew the difficulties that inhere in our position as ‘a people scattered and dispersed among the nations.’...Those days should make Jews conscious of the spiritual values which their position as a minority group everywhere in the diaspora should lead them to evolve, and of the dangers which they must be prepared to overcome, if they expect to survive as a minority group” (ibid., pp. 361-62).

It is perhaps for this reason that the rabbis said that even

when all the other festivals are abolished, Purim will remain (*Midrash Mishle* 9:2).

## Shabbat Zachor

The Sabbath preceding Purim is called Shabbat Zachor, the Sabbath of Remembrance. It is one of the arba parshiot preceding Pesach. Its association with Purim is based on the tradition that Haman was a descendant of the tribe of Amalek, which had a desire to annihilate the Jewish people. Both Amalek and Haman were frustrated in their designs.

## Mishte—(Seudat Purim) - The Festival Purim Meal

The “feasting and gladness” are expressed by the s’udat Purim, an especially festive meal held in the afternoon before sundown (O.H. 695:2). In order to heighten the joy at this meal, the rabbis even allowed an unusual amount of levity. Well known is the statement in the Talmud: “Rava said: A person should be so exhilarated [with drink] on Purim that he does not know the difference between ‘cursed be Haman’ and ‘blessed be Mordecai’” (B. Meg. 7b). The later authorities tried hard to lessen the exuberance of this command. Since they could not condone intoxication, they suggested that the passage means that one may drink more than he usually does (O.H. 695:2 in Rama).

The permissiveness in regard to imbibing on Purim was explained on the ground that imbibing was involved in the story of Purim. Vashti fell from grace when “the heart of the king was merry with wine” (Esther 1:10), which resulted in Esther becoming the queen. Afterward there was a similar banquet (Esther 2:18). Haman’s downfall started with the drinking of wine (Esther 7:1,2; O.H. 695:2 in M.D., note 1).

Regarding drinking on Purim the Chafetz Chaim, Rabbi Yisrael Meir Hachen (1839-1933) wrote the following, “Since the entire miracle of Purim came about through wine, our sages obligated us to get drunk, or at least to drink more than what we are used to, in order to remember the great miracle. However, if one knows oneself, and is likely to neglect the performance of a mitzvah [commandment], such as washing one’s hands before eating bread, or making a blessing over food before and after eating, or that one might forget to pray, or might act in a light-headed way, it is better not to get drunk (Be’ur Halakhah, O.H.695).

## Mishloach Manot

People exchange gifts of food, drink and or pastries (see O.H. 695:4).

## Matanot L’evvonim

In ages past, it was ordained that on Purim, people were to be extra generous, giving to all who asked without question (O.H. 694:1, 3). It is still customary in many congregations to put collection plates on a table in the vestibule of the synagogue. The contributions are called *machatzit hashekel* money, in memory of the half-sheqel that was collected in ancient days around Purim-time for the upkeep of the Temple in Jerusalem.

...continued on page 5

# MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Dear Friends,

Excitement is all around us as we joyfully welcome the Congregations of Ner Zedek to our synagogue family.

I've heard from new members who appreciate our welcoming phone calls, letters, and all the other ways we are helping new people "unpack" memories and get involved in the vibrant life of Shaare Shamayim.

Many of us have spent hours in Ner Zedek gathering up and packing those memories from all corners of the building.

The hard work of congregants, both old and new, along with our special project team and our dedicated custodial staff, enabled the transport of the many sacred objects, books, and memorials that are clearly important to us to Shaare Shamayim.

In packing Ner Zedek and spending hours emptying its many rooms, I found memories in every corner. I spent a great afternoon walking the building and listening to the stories of Joseph Rokacz and his friend, Rob Grossman. Joseph, son of longtime Ner Zedek congregants, Mr. and Mrs.

Marian Rokacz, of blessed memory, came down from New York to retrieve a plaque which acknowledged his parents' generous donation of the original

Ner Zedek building.

Joseph and Rob are lifelong friends who met as part of Ner Zedek's original Hebrew School. I followed them through the building as they stood in spaces that evoked memories of life in Hebrew School, Junior Congregation, Shabbat, and Holiday Services at Ner Zedek.

I learned of the harrowing story of Marian Rokacz, father of Joseph and his brother John, who avoided death at Tremblinka, escaped a train bound for Maidenek labor camp, and eventually made his way back to the Lodz ghetto where he and his future wife evaded capture. The legacy of the Rokacz family was evident in dedications throughout the building. This is one family's story of family, courage, and Tzedakah; there were hints of great stories throughout the building.



And most unexpectedly, a little personal surprise. In a dusty corner, behind a stack of tables, there was a nearly 50 year old cold counter unit with a label indicating it would have been made by my Dad, of blessed memory, in the 70s at Star

Metal.

Come and be a part of our evolving story! We are stronger as we create memories together.

Fran Gabriel  
President

[Francesgabriel@comcast.net](mailto:Francesgabriel@comcast.net)



## KVELLER KORNER

*Introducing a new feature for the Scroll. We invite you to let the office know if you have something to share that we can include in our monthly newsletter. Please send happy announcements to [Debbie@shareshamayim.org](mailto:Debbie@shareshamayim.org). If you have any questions, please contact Debbie in the office.*



Mazel tov to Cindy and Jack Bienenfeld on the upcoming induction of their son Joshua to the Philadelphia Jewish Sports Hall of Fame. Joshua was an All-American soccer player while attending Duke University. Josh is also a graduate of our Religious School & Lower Moreland High School.



Very excited to see a feature on our own Michael Levin (son of Tobi & Glenn) on the front page of the Sunday, February 12th Philadelphia Inquirer Sport's section. Michael is part of a two man podcast, "The Rights to Ricky Sanchez", where he, along with Spike (Brett) Eskin talk about the 76ers and their rebuilding process. Their podcast can be found on iTunes & Google Play, among other places.

Michael is also a contributing writer for Liberty Ballers, a Sixers blog. Michael is a graduate of the CSS Nursery School, Religious School and Gratz Community High School.

# Congregations of Shaare Shamayim

March 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 (3 of Adar) MDRASH BREISHEET RABBA 7AM	2 (4 of Adar)	3 (5 of Adar) 5:36p Candle Lighting Traditional Service 5:40PM Egalitarian Service 7:45PM  SHABBAT ACROSS AMERICA 6PM	4 (6 of Adar) Parshat Terumah Trad. Service 9AM & 4:30PM Egal. Service 9:30AM Jr. Congregation 10:45AM  SILENT WAS THE JESTER 7:30PM
5 (7 of Adar)  PTA MEETING 9:15AM  PURIM CARNIVAL 10AM  SILENT WAS THE JESTER 8PM	6 (8 of Adar)  LIVING JEWISHLY 6:45PM  JEVS SEMINAR: NETWORKING MADE SIMPLE 7PM	7 (9 of Adar)  PARSHA CLASS FOR HEBREW SPEAKERS 6:45PM	8 (10 of Adar)  MDRASH BREISHEET RABBA 7AM  PRE-PURIM SEMINAR 6:45PM  MEN'S CLUB BOARD MTG 7PM  EXECUTIVE BOARD MTG 8PM	9 (11 of Adar)	10 (12 of Adar) 5:44p Candle Lighting Traditional Service 5:45PM Egalitarian Service 7:45PM  TOT SHABBAT 4:30PM	11 (13 of Adar) Parshat Zachor Tetzaveh Trad. Service 9AM & 4:30PM Egal. Service 9:30AM Jr. Congregation 10:45AM  MEGILLAH READING 7:15PM
12 (14 of Adar) Daylight Saving Time Starts Purim  MEGILLAH READING 8AM	13 (15 of Adar)  LIVING JEWISHLY 6:45PM	14 (16 of Adar)  SISTERHOOD GENERAL MTG 7PM	15 (17 of Adar)  MDRASH BREISHEET RABBA 7AM  MEN'S CLUB PRESENTATION OF EMPTY BOXCARS 7PM	16 (18 of Adar)	17 (19 of Adar) 6:51p Candle Lighting Traditional Service 6:55PM Egalitarian Service 7:45PM	18 (20 of Adar) Parshat Parah Ki Tisa Trad. Service 9AM & 4:30PM Egal. Service 9:30AM Jr. Congregation 10:45AM
19 (21 of Adar)  RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE 8AM	20 (22 of Adar)  LIVING JEWISHLY 6:45PM  EDUCATION COMMITTEE MTG 7PM	21 (23 of Adar)  SISTERHOOD BINGO 6PM	22 (24 of Adar)  MDRASH BREISHEET RABBA 7AM  CONGREGATION BOARD MTG 8PM	23 (25 of Adar)  CHALLAH BAKING 6:30PM	24 (26 of Adar) 6:59p Candle Lighting Traditional Service 7:00PM Egalitarian Service 7:45PM	25 (27 of Adar) Parshat Hachodesh Vayakhal-Pekudei Trad. Service 9AM & 4:30PM Egal. Service 9:30AM Jr. Congregation 10:45AM  SING A LONG SHABBAT 10:45AM
26 (28 of Adar)  CONGREGATION BRUNCH 10:30AM	27 (29 of Adar)  AARP DRIVER SAFETY TWO DAY COURSE 10:30AM  LIVING JEWISHLY 6:45PM	28 (1 of Nisan) Rosh Chodesh  AARP DRIVER SAFETY TWO DAY COURSE 10:30AM	29 (2 of Nisan)  MDRASH BREISHEET RABBA 7AM	30 (3 of Nisan)  AARP DRIVER SAFETY REFRESHER COURSE 10:30AM	31 (4 of Nisan) 7:06p Candle Lighting Traditional Service 7:10PM Egalitarian Service 7:45PM  TOT SHABBAT 4:30PM	

Congregations of Shaare Shamayim

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email: office@shaareshamayim.org

www.shaareshamayim.org



# Purim 5777—2017

## Services Schedule

Saturday, March 11, 2017      Leil Purim  
 Motzaei Shabbat and Megillah Reading      7:15pm

Sunday, March 12, 2017      Purim Day  
 Shacharit and Megillah Reading      8:00am

### Purim Services

The services on Purim are the same as on other weekdays except for the following variations, *al hanesim* is added before *v'al kulam* in the *Amidah* and before *v'al hakol*, in the *Birkat Hamazon* (O.H. 693:2,3); *Tahanun* is not said at *Mishnah* the night before, in the morning or in the evening (O.H. 693:3, 697:1); *lam'natseach* is also omitted (O.H. 693:3).

The Torah is read in the morning, with three people given *aliyot*. The reading is from Exodus 17:8-16, beginning with *v'yavo* (Amalek O.H. 693:4).

The Talmud explains that *Hallel* is not recited on Purim because the redemption represented by Purim was not complete (O.H. 693:3). True, the Jews were saved from Haman's annihilation plot, but they still remained subject to Ahasuerus (B. *Meg.* 14a), whereas after the redemption commemorated by *Pesach* they ceased to be subjects of Pharaoh, and after *Chanukah*, they were no longer subject to Antiochus (*Levush*, O.H. 693:3; O.H. in M.D.2).

*Shushan Purim* is celebrated as a semi-holiday; *Tahanun* is not said, and one should not fast, give a eulogy, or say *tseduk hadeen* (O.H. 696:3, 697:1).

Opinions differ as to whether a person who is sitting *Shiv'ah* should continue to observe *Shiv'ah* on Purim (O.H. 696:4). The prevalent practice is for mourners to come to the synagogue, sit on a regular chair, and wear their shoes. As on the Sabbath, however, they should observe *d'varim shebtsenah*, and the day of Purim counts as one of the days of *Shiv'ah* (Rama on O.H. 696:4; *Hayyei Adam* 154:36).

### The Mitzvot of Purim—The Four Mem

"And Mordecai wrote these things, and sent letters unto all the Jews that were in all the provinces of the King Ahasuerus both nigh and far to enjoin them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month of Adar, and the fifteenth day of the same, the days wherein the Jews had rest from their enemies, and the month which was turned unto them from sorrow to gladness and from mourning unto a good day; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, and of sending portion one to another and gifts to the poor" (Esther 9:20-22).

### מגילה, משתה, משלוח מנות, מתנות לאביונים

### Megillah—the Reading of the Megillah

The primary observance connected with Purim is the reading of the Book of Esther, usually called the *megillah* (scroll). It is read twice: in the evening, after the *Amidah* of *Ma'ariv* and before *alenu*; and in the morning after the Torah reading (B. *Meg.* 4a; O.H. 687:1).

The *Megillah* is read from a parchment scroll that is

written the same way a Torah is written—i.e. by hand, and with a goose quill (O.H. 690:3). If there is no such scroll available, the congregation may read the Book of Esther from a printed text without the accompanying benedictions.

The *Megillah* is chanted according to a special cantillation used only in the reading of the Book of Esther. If no one is present who knows this cantillation, it may be read without the cantillation, as long as it is read correctly (*Quitsor Shulhan 'Arukh* 141:18). It may be read in the language of the land (O.H. 690:9). In practice, however, reading the *Megillah* in any but the original language is to be avoided (*'Arukh Hashulhan*, O.H. 690:16).

Before the reading, the scroll is unrolled and folded to look like a letter of dispatch, thus further recalling the story of the great deliverance (Maimonides, *Hil. Megillah* 2:12). The reading is preceded by three benedictions and followed by one (O.H. 692:1). The three before the reading are *sheasa nesim*, *al mekra megila*, and *shehechianu*. The benediction following the reading is *harav et revnu*.

The *Megillah* must be read standing and from the scroll, not by heart (O.H. 690:1,7). During the reading, four verses, termed "verses of redemption" (*peuke g'ula*), are said aloud by the congregation and then repeated by the reader. The verses enumeration of the ten sons of Haman (Esther 9:7-10) are said in one breath to signify that they died together (B. *Meg.* 16b). Another reason has also been suggested: We should avoid the appearance of gloating over their fate, even though it was deserved (Vainstein, *Cycle of the Jewish Year*, p.135).

It is a widespread Purim custom for the listeners at the *Megillah* reading to make noise, usually with special noisemakers called *graggers*, whenever Haman's name is mentioned. This is an outgrowth of a custom once prevalent in France and the Provence, where the children wrote the name on smooth stones, then struck them together whenever Haman was mentioned in the reading so as to rub it off, as suggested by the verse, "the name of the wicked shall rot" (Prov. 10:7; *Abudraham Hashalem*, p. 209; O.H. 690:17 in Rama). In some places, this practice is discouraged because it makes it difficult for worshipers to hear the reader (*ibid.* and also in *Mishnah Berurah*, n.59 and n.57 thereto of Sha'ar Hatsiyun). Those who cannot attend service in the synagogue may read the *Megillah* at home (Rama on O.H. 690:18).

Rav Barry

## PTA

Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow so now we are stuck with a few more weeks of winter. The PTA parents are making the most of it by planning for an awesome PURIM CARNIVAL! We think this will be the best carnival yet! We will have huge inflatables, games, prizes, face painting, balloons, air brush tattoos, raffle baskets, yummy kosher food, and lots and lots of Hamantaschen.

But we can't do it without your help!

We are looking for a few good men and women to help set up for the carnival on Saturday evening, March 4<sup>th</sup> and to volunteer during the carnival on Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup>. The carnival will take place at KleinLife on Jamison Ave. between 10am-2pm. Come out and join the fun! Please call the office at 215-677-1600 and let us know you can help!

Important: Parents, please remember to bring your kids to KleinLife instead of CSS on Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 9am as usual. Parents, friends, and family are all welcome and encouraged to attend! We will be offering special priced game/ ride combos starting at \$10/ person and food combos. Stay and have lunch and fun....

A big SUPER sized thank you to everyone who supported the PTA by purchasing the Super Bowl of snacks. The money raised will be put towards providing fun activities that encourage Jewish learning. Thank you to Mr. B for his generous donation in spite of not liking the goodies we offered. As always, Chai donations are always welcome and appreciated.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Purim Carnival Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup>!

Carolyn Sweeney  
PTA Co-President

## MITZVAH COMMITTEE

In the winter, Gary and I had the privilege to visit ten countries in the Americas. In almost every one, there were either homeless people or beggars. Their skin may have been darker than mine and they spoke Spanish but their problems, their life's necessities, were no different than yours or mine and our congregation's. They needed food, clothing, and shelter. Any one of the above can be broken down to smaller areas.

And so, dear folks, the people of Shaare Shamayim, were not far from my mind. I wondered was Jane Doe able to pay her gas bill? Does John Doe have real food to eat, not just cereal? Did they have enough money left to purchase shoes for that gorgeous little one? My own question: Was there enough money in the fund to help our friends, some of whom are quite desperate. I know the answer. Only you can assure that there is money in the fund. Only you can make sure that anyone in the congregation who wants a kosher Pesach will have one. Thank you in advance.

Rosalie and the Ladies of the Mitzvah Committee

## STUDENT TRIPS TO ISRAEL

Are you a student planning a trip to Israel? If so, contact the shul office. The Jeffrey Allen Memorial Fund is set up to help students fund their trips to Israel.



### Earn cash for our school with Box Tops

*Bring your box tops for education to the Office so we can redeem them!*

## CONDOLENCES

*May you be comforted among the other mourners for Zion and Jerusalem.*

Condolences are sent to Marlene Tobin on the loss of her husband, Sidney Tobin.

Condolences are sent to Lisa Gave and Izzy on the loss of their mother and grandmother, Sue Gave.

Condolences are sent to Gail Rubin on the loss of her mother, Betty J. Meltzer.

**Join us for a Traditional  
 Shabbat Dinner followed  
 by Shabbat Services at  
 8pm**

**\$12/adult, \$6/child**

**\$30/family (includes  
 parent(s) and their  
 children under age 18)**

## SHABBAT ACROSS AMERICA

**Friday night, March 3, 2017 6:30pm**

**Hundreds of synagogues across America will take  
 part in an event to celebrate what unifies all Jews  
 ....SHABBAT**

**Please RSVP to the synagogue  
 office 215-677-1600**

## ADULT EDUCATION

**Educational – Inspirational – Entertaining –  
 Exciting – Colorful – Rewarding**

These are some of the adjectives I hope TO BE HEARING during our Israeli Arts Festival beginning on Wednesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. Renown artist Mordechai Rosenstein will be the featured artist in residence for this series of events. Events will include an opening luncheon, featuring a Mediterranean buffet. Mr. Rosenstein will speak about the creation of the Hebrew Alphabet at this event, followed by a creative project that we can all participate in.

On Thursday, our kindergarten students will have a chance to work with Mr. Rosenstein. Imagine sipping wine, nibbling on cheese, crackers & fruit while creating your own piece of art based on the Hebrew Alphabet. If you can picture this, then come to our 'Pinot & Painting' event on Thursday evening. On Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, all are invited to a 'Creative Open House' during the day where you can watch as Mr. Rosenstein creates an original painting that will be presented to our Congregation. Viewers will have a chance to add their own brush stroke to the painting.

Saturday will feature a Shabbat Lunch & Learn. Following lunch, Mr. Rosenstein will speak about 'The Art Within Shabbat'. On Sunday our Hebrew School students will have a chance to work with Mr. Rosenstein. Later in the day, he will be the honoree at our annual Congregation Fund Raising event. Because he lives nearby, he just might come back for an extra evening on Monday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>. At that time he will do a PowerPoint presentation of unusual art which he created

and special pieces that have been commissioned for famous individuals. During this Israeli Festival there will also be several opportunities for you to purchase pieces of art done by Mordechai Rosenstein.

I am so excited by the many events that feature Mr. Rosenstein, I failed to mention that we will have an evening of multi-generational folk dancing with Rak Dan on Wednesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. This should be a fun event for all.

Please be on the lookout for a brochure that will highlight all the above events and will include a pricing guide. It will also let you know which events you can 'drop-in' and which events will require advanced reservation.

Rav Barry is continuing his many different classes. 'Living Jewishly' is being a very well received class. Sessions are held in the small chapel Monday evenings at 6:45pm. There is always something new to learn in this class. Once monthly, at 6:45pm, Rabbi sponsors a Hebrew discussion of the weekly Parsha portion at his home. Join Rav Barry and Shira for a light breakfast of bagels and cream cheese on Wednesday mornings following morning minyan as he leads a discussion on the Midrash.

Check your Scroll, weekly Shabbat bulletin, weekly congregation e-mails and new website for updated information on educational events.

Denise Ellner  
 Adult Education Chair

שערי שמים  
CONGREGATIONS OF  
SHAARE SHAMAYIM

# Challah Baking

**Thursday, March 23 | 6:30pm– 9:00pm**

**Congregations of Shaare Shamayim  
9768 Verree Road, Philadelphia**

No  
experience  
necessary

Knead and bake  
your own  
challah for  
Shabbat



**Cost: \$15 per person**

**Pre-registration required. RSVP to the synagogue  
office at 215-677-1600 or online.**

**All ages welcome. This is not a drop-off program.  
This program will run approx. 2.5 hours.**

# THE LIBRARY SHELF



For me going away for five weeks takes a great deal of planning. After much thinking and packing, arranging plants, shutting off the water, and turning down the thermostat, we were on our way. Although I knew our five weeks would be filled with greatly anticipated adventures, I also knew that I would have lots of time to read. Checking out the library was one of my first activities, but I found it lacking. Fortunately, I brought my own assortment of books with me. They can be found at our library at Shaare Shamayim.

*The Last Runaway* by Tracy Chevalier (*Girl with a Pearl Earring*) takes place in Ohio in 1850. The Underground Railroad, Quakers, slavery, and much more are woven together to make an exciting historical novel with wonderful characters involved with some important events.

*Judy: A Dog In A Million* by Damien Lewis is the true story that takes place during WWII. Whether you are a history buff or a lover of dogs, this book will be a joy to read. Imagine a dog in a Japanese prisoner of war camp, especially in an area where dogs are a tasty morsel.

Jennifer Weiner has written another best seller in *Who Do You Love*. Two young people meet in a hospital ER at age eight. They each have interesting lives. Sometimes they are together but as often are not. It is, indeed, a page turner. If you are in the mood for a fun love story and you need a break from something serious, this book is for you.

I have in the past, mentioned books by Jennifer Chiaverini, whose original themes revolved around quilting (my love). She eventually slipped over to the

Civil War, *The Union Quilter's* being my favorite. *The Spymistress*, is a gem! It takes place in Richmond, Virginia. Every page is exciting. Although a novel, the story is based on some very real facts. Again, if you enjoy daring escapades, chutzpah, and tales of the Civil War, this book is for you.

Many of you remember, *Are You There G-d? It's Me, Margaret*. Well, that was the beginning for Judy Blume. *In the Unlikely Event* takes place in Elizabeth, NJ and is built on true events. Another page turning book! You cheer for Miri. You cry as another tragedy occurs. It's Judy Blume at her best!

Holocaust reading seems to be part of my vacation list of books. *Once We Were Brothers* by Ronald H. Balson is a different type of novel. It's the sort of story that draws you in and you find yourself wanting to read in lieu of doing important tasks, like eating. Read it. You'll love it.

Please do not bring boxes of books or bags of books to the library. If you peek in you'll see there is not one inch of space. At this point, I just have someone recycle the entire thing. I do thank those of you who call first. Rarely does an old book make it to our shelves. If you are downsizing or clearing out someone's apartment, recycle your own books. If you think you have a valuable book, call the Gratz College Library. They will know what to tell you. I do not! Your treasure may not be what our library needs.

Happy Reading,

Rosalie Cohen

## CSS has a new website!

Did you know there are a huge number of things you can do with our new website including:

- Make donations online
- Register and pay for select synagogue events
- Find Shabbat and holiday service schedules and candle lighting times
- See our entire calendar of events
- See the Rabbi's weekly "A Few Words From Rav Barry" in the Rabbi's Corner
- Take a virtual walk though both of our Sanctuaries
- Find contact information for clergy, staff, and leadership
- Subscribe to our weekly e-newsletter

If you need assistance or have any questions about using our website, please contact Debbie in the office at 215-677-1600.

**WWW.SHAARESHAMAYIM.ORG**



# Ner Zedek Torahs, Ark, and Plaques Come to CSS





The Fourth Annual Shaare Shamayim—Daniel M. Wolpe Theater  
Production Presents:

# *Silent was the Lester*



Saturday, March 4 at 7:30pm and  
Sunday, March 5 at 8pm

Written and directed by Daniel M. Wolpe.  
Starring Daniel M. Wolpe and Jo Mercer.

*When Charlie Meadow comes to say goodbye to the concert hall in which his career began, he meets a fan who forces him to confront his past, the major mistake he made as a teenager, and secrets he kept even from himself.*

\$10 per person

Reservations Requested. To RSVP, please call

215-677-1600 or go on our website at

[www.shaareshamayim.org](http://www.shaareshamayim.org).

שערי שמים  
CONGREGATIONS OF  
SHAARE SHAMAYIM

# 2017 Lottery Calendar

- Looking for a fun way to keep track of the date and have a chance to win cash every day of the year?
- Trying to find the perfect gift that's never the wrong size or color?



**Then NOW is the time to pick your 3-digit lucky number and order your 2017 Lottery Calendar!**

## **Here's How It Works:**

- Select a 3-digit number and send it in to the office. (In case of duplicate requests, you will get your second or third choice)
- If that number (played straight) matches the 3-digit number drawn at 7pm by the PA Daily Lottery, you're a WINNER!
- Cash award is determined by the amount printed on each calendar date, and the minimum prize awarded will be \$50 daily.

**No Hassle - We track the winners, and checks will automatically be issued on a monthly basis**



Once each month, the prize will double to \$100

## **Cost of the Calendar is \$36.**

**For less than 10 cents a day, you have a chance to win as many times as your number is drawn for the entire year!**  
**Please call the office for more information, or to participate at 215-677-1600**

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*Everything is personal.*



Information above is current as of 10/9/13. Rates shown are subject to change at any time and without notice. All applications subject to individual approval. This loan will be secured by an interest in your real estate. The maximum loan-to-value ratio is 80%. Property insurance will be required and title insurance is required on loans over \$400,000. The introductory Annual Percentage Rate is a fixed rate of 2.99% for the first six months and requires a minimum draw of \$25,000 at closing. After expiration of the 6-month introductory rate period, the APR today is 3.25% which is equal to the highest U.S. Prime Rate in the *Wall Street Journal* + 0%, this is a variable rate which may increase. Maximum interest rate is 25% and the minimum interest rate after the introductory period is 3.25%. A \$30 annual fee is waived the first year. A \$250 fee applies for loans closed within twelve months of opening.

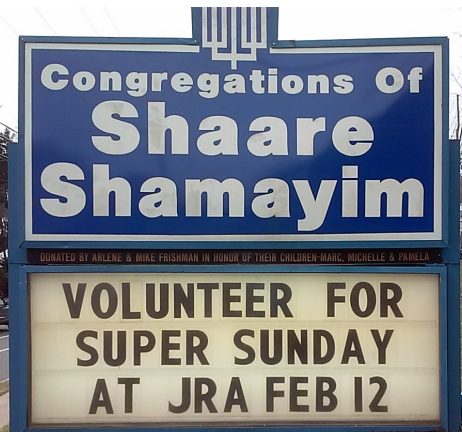


# PRESCHOOL FAMILY FUN DAY

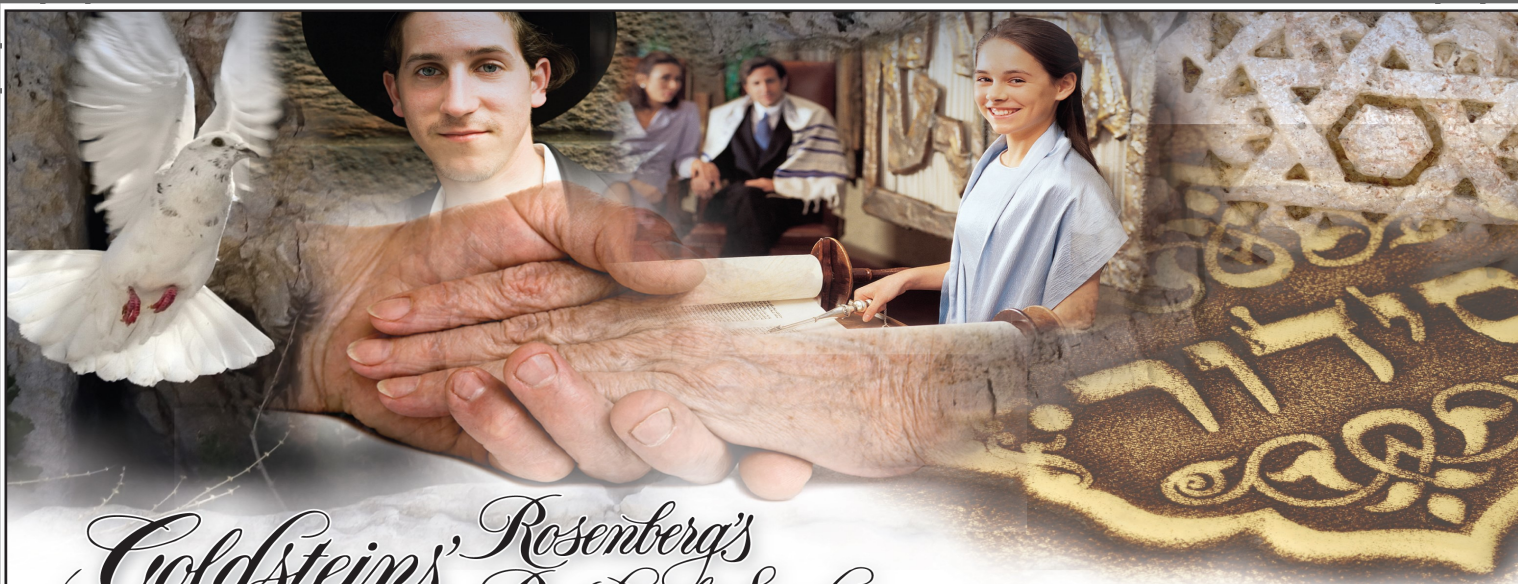




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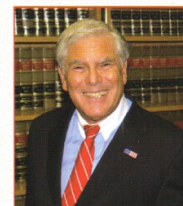
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Assistant District  
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Feasterville, PA 19053  
BOB'S PERSONAL LINE: (215) 260-0291  
Fax: (215) 355-0940  
Website: [www.dial-law.com](http://www.dial-law.com)  
Email: [rovner@dial-law.com](mailto:rovner@dial-law.com)

*There are 17 lawyers to serve you which includes my son Steven, my brother Howard, Jeffrey Schmidt, and Cheryl Wolf Applebaum, some of whom are members of the congregation.*

Listen to my radio show: "Senator Bob Rovner Talks To The Stars"  
every Friday 12 Noon to 1:00 p.m. on WWDB 860 AM  
(this show can be heard on my website: [www.dial-law.com](http://www.dial-law.com))



# Searching for a Job Means **EXPANDING YOUR NETWORK!**



Join **JEVS Career Strategies** and the  
**Congregations of Shaare Shamayim** for a Great Career-Boosting Workshop!

## **NETWORKING: ANYWHERE AND EVERYWHERE**

Held at **Congregations of Shaare Shamayim**  
9768 Verree Road, Philadelphia, PA 19115  
**Monday, March 6, 2017 • 7:00 pm**

Presented by:



**Gary Lachow,**  
*Job Developer*  
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A career counseling professional with a knack for breaking down the job search process, Gary has a very successful track record of helping jobseekers at all levels stand out and find their dream career.

Learn to carefully craft and pitch your talent in professional – and more casual – settings. Open to those in all stages of career transition, no matter if you're:

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**RSVP Required.**

To register, visit **shareshamayim.org**  
or call **215-677-1600**

**jevshumanservices.org/careerstrategies**

# SISTERHOOD HAPPENINGS



Things have been very busy the past few weeks. As you know, the merger with Ner Zedek has been finalized. The daunting task of packing up the books, memorial plaques, kitchen supplies has begun. Everyone is helping. Once again, but officially this time, we welcome all Ner Zedek members as members of CSS, and hope you will come to our Sisterhood meeting. We look

forward to meeting you.

The speaker at our February meeting was Naomi Adler, CEO of Federation of Greater Philadelphia. Naomi had many interesting and informative things to tell us. Everyone enjoyed hearing from her.

Please remember our next meeting, March 14 is at 7pm. Our own Cantor Don Samuels will entertain us. His program is always a hit. March 21, at 6pm, is our Bingo. Make reservations now. Dinner is always delicious, and we all have fun. You could be a winner, so don't miss out. April 5 is our trip to New York to see Cagney, which I have been told is terrific. We look forward to a day in New York with good food, good show, and good friends.

When we get back from New York, it will be time to get ready for Pesach. I guess I'm one of the few people that doesn't get tired of matzo.

Until next month, see you in shul.

Mindy Poliner  
215-677-7716

## THANK YOU

Thanks very much to our extraordinary Congregation, Office Staff and Clergy for your prayers, donations and loving support in making the passing of my mom Betty Meltzer less painful for our family.

Gail & Richard Rubin

## Sisterhood Calendar 2016 – 2017

**\*All meetings are held at 7pm  
unless noted**

### Board Meetings

Tuesday, March 28, 2017

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

Tuesday, May 17, 2017

Tuesday, June 27, 2017

### General Meetings

Tuesday, March 14, 2017

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

Tuesday, May 9, 2017

### Special Events

Tuesday, March 21, 2017, Bingo, 6pm

Wednesday, April 5, 2017, New York Trip,  
8:45am

Tuesday, May 10, 2017, Luncheon & Book  
Review

Tuesday, May 23, 2017, President's Dinner, 6pm

Tuesday, June 6, 2017, Donor Dinner, 6pm

Tuesday, June 13, 2017 Installation, 6pm

## SISTERHOOD TREASURES

The Sisterhood Treasures Gift Shop has been moved to the Coat Room. We're having a huge relocation sale. All regular priced merchandise is 50% off. All sale merchandise is an extra 10% off. All wine is 20% off. Gift Shop hours are Sundays 9am-12:30pm and Wednesdays, 11:30am-5:30pm.



Bobbie Slosberg  
215-969-0170 or

[bizeebobbie@verizon.net](mailto:bizeebobbie@verizon.net)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gwen & Jacques Lurie and Mildred Lurie announce the engagement of their daughter and granddaughter, Marlena Lurie to Koby Brandstein.

Paul and Ellen Brenner announce the engagement of their granddaughter, Hayley Alexa Tucker to Alexander Fleisher.

# Learning with Rav Barry

## Midrash Breisheet Rabba

Wednesdays following Morning  
Minyan beginning November 2

Enjoy a light breakfast of bagels and cream cheese in Rav Barry's home while learning about the Midrash, a book of ancient Rabbinic commentary and thought on the first book of the Torah.

No charge.

No Class April 12 and May 31

שערי שמים  
CONGREGATIONS OF  
SHAARE SHAMAYIM

## Congregation Brunch Sunday, March 26

Please join us for a delicious brunch

Featuring: French toast casserole, lox & bagels, frittatas, dessert and more.

Cost: \$18 per adult, \$9 per child

Entertainment Provided By Jeff Dershin

"A Century of Jewish Music"



Mr. Dershin presents songs beloved by all. Spanning the past century, his program contains selections from Broadway's *Fiddler on the Roof* as well as Yiddish theater and other traditional tunes.

RSVP to the synagogue office or online [www.shaareshamayim.org](http://www.shaareshamayim.org)

THE SCROLL  
Published September to June  
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Editor-Emeritus Henry "Hank" Walens  
Editor Debbie Hersh

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of Shaare Shamayim

## JOIN OUR MORNING MINYAN

**7 AM MONDAY TO FRIDAY &  
8AM ON SUNDAY**

WE SINCERELY THANK RUSSELL  
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GENEROUS DONATION OF BEAUTIFUL  
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# SHABBAT SHALOM



## ONE CONGREGATION WITH A SERVICE OPTION FOR EVERYONE!

Congregations of Shaare Shamayim is the oldest Traditional Conservative Synagogue in Northeast Philadelphia. Our families enjoy the options of Traditional, Conservative (women participate on the bima), and Jr. Congregation Services. We invite you to join us every Shabbat, daven in the service of your choice, and celebrate Shabbat as a united congregation with a lovely Shabbat Kiddush.

Aliyah and Torah honors are available in either service. Call the synagogue office to arrange an Aliyah for your upcoming Bar/Bat Mitzvah, Auf Ruf, Baby naming, Yahrzeit, etc.

### TRADITIONAL SERVICES

Rav Barry Schlesinger  
Cantor Don Samuels

Mon-Fri mornings 7:00 am

Sat mornings 9:00 am

Sun mornings 8:00 am

Sun-Thur evenings 7:45 pm

Fri & Sat evenings varies with sunset

### CONSERVATIVE SERVICES

Rabbi Daniel Wolpe  
Cantor Michael Bitton

Kabbalat Shabbat Fri evenings 7:45 pm

Sat mornings 9:30 am

### JUNIOR CONGREGATION

10:45am

We'd love to see all of our students every Shabbat.

Bagels served at 10:15 am Come and spend Shabbat with your friends!

Check the Calendar for Candle Lighting Times and Weekly Parasha



**Friday, March 10 and March 31 at 4:30 PM**  
 Celebrate Purim, Passover and the beginning of Shabbat  
 with us!

Learn about and honor Shabbat through crafts, songs,  
 and more fun activities. Dinner Included. No Charge

CONGREGATIONS OF  
**SHAARE SHAMAYIM**



**AARP Driver Refresher Course**  
 Held at Congregations of Shaare Shamayim

**March 30, 2017**  
**10:30am - 2:30pm**

**Cost**  
**\$15 for AARP members**  
**\$20 for non AARP members**

\*Checks should be made payable to AARP

**You must bring a check to the synagogue office in order to  
 hold your spot.**

**For more information call 215-677-1600**

**No Tests to Pass - Most insurance companies  
 provide a discount for completing the course**

CONGREGATIONS OF  
**SHAARE SHAMAYIM**



**AARP Two-Day Driver Safety Course**  
 Held at Congregations of Shaare Shamayim

**March 27 and 28, 2017**  
**10:30am - 2:30pm**

**Cost**  
**\$15 for AARP members**  
**\$20 for non AARP members**

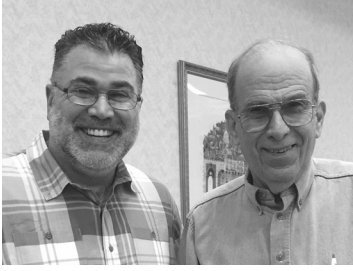
\*Checks should be made payable to AARP

**You must bring a check to the synagogue office in order to  
 hold your spot.**

**For more information call 215-677-1600**

**No Tests to Pass - Most insurance companies  
 provide a discount for completing the course**

# MEN'S CLUB TIME OUT



Please join us for our next board meeting on Wednesday, March 8th at 7pm.

We are going to have a very interesting and powerful general meeting on Wednesday, March 15th. We will be

showing the movie "Empty Boxcars". This movie tells the amazing story of the survival of over 50,000 Jews in World War II and the mass murder of 11,393 Jews from territories under Bulgarian control in Greece and Macedonia. The meeting will start at 7pm and we will be serving light refreshments. There will be no charge for attending.

On Sunday, March 19th, our annual blood drive will be taking place from 8am-2pm. Please call Jerry Zwerling at 215-815-7011 to make your appointment.

On Sunday, March 26th, come on out and join us for the annual Congregations Brunch. The brunch starts at 10:30am and the cost is \$18 per adult, \$9 per child. Entertainment will be provided by Jeff Dershin. Mr. Dershin's music spans the past century with selections from Broadway's Fiddler on the Roof as well as Yiddish theater and other traditional tunes. Please call the office to RSVP.

Please mark the following future events on your calendar:

Friday, April 21st—Men's Club Shabbat—Please contact Barry Leiber to let him know if you would

## COLLEGE OUTREACH

Our college students receive packages from us several times a year. It's a wonderful way to let them know they are still connected to their Jewish community while they are away from home. This project is supported by the William and Lois Gross Memorial Fund and the Sisterhood's Barbara Dratch Fund.

Be sure we have their current mailing and email addresses. Send them to [gwenlurie@aol.com](mailto:gwenlurie@aol.com).

like a part during the service (Hebrew or English!).

Wednesday, May 17th—Our Spring trip to New York City. The cost of the bus is \$37 per person. The bus leaves the synagogue promptly at 8am and will leave NYC at 5:30pm. Please call Sheldon Stein at 215-346-2302 to book your reservation.

We would like to officially welcome the members from Congregations of Ner Zedek. We are thrilled that you have decided to join our shul and we hope you come out and participate with us at all of our events.

Have a great month and stay warm!

Barry Leiber and Howard Rosen  
Men's Club Co-Presidents

Get rid of unused medications at the 7th District Police Station. A box is provided specifically for this purpose. Please do not flush old or unused medication down the toilet as it can contaminate the water.

### LAND VALUES ARE INCREASING!

Over the past 20 years, values of grave plots have risen from low *hundreds* to the low to mid *thousands* and will continue to rise.

Sites are now available in the headstone area, Section H (near Bristol Road) at:

**King David Memorial Park**  
3594 Bristol Road  
Bensalem, PA 19020

### Costs through CSS are:

\$750 for a single grave  
\$1400 for a double grave  
\$2800 for a plot of four graves

*For further information contact:*  
Jacques Lurie 215-677-1600





**The Men's Club  
of the Congregations of  
Shaare Shamayim**

***A Day in New York City***

**Wednesday May  
17, 2017**

**\$37 Per person  
(bus driver's tip included)**



**Go shopping around town!  
Get discounted theater tickets  
Visit museums, the U.N., quaint  
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**Round-trip bus leaves from C.S.S. at 8:00 am  
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**For reservations please call  
Sheldon Stein  
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Phyllis Schlesinger	Sarah Meller
Phyllis Schlesinger	D/M Don Stoltz
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Gwen and Jacques Lurie in honor of Marlana's engagement are honored by Susan Steinberg

Judi and Steven Shapiro in honor of Josh's appointment as Attorney General are honored by the Lurie Family

Lurie Family in honor of Marlana's engagement is honored by the Goldinger Family

Lurie Family in honor of Marlana's engagement is honored by Fran and Jerry Gabriel

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Mira and Gene Klein in honor of birth of granddaughter Adira Bracha are honored by Susan and Harry Schmidt

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Jacques and Gwen Lurie in honor of Marlana's engagement are honored by the Goloff Family

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Gwen, Jacques and Mildred Lurie in honor of Marlana's engagement to Koby are honored by Mindy and Ray Poliner

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Sheila Tepel in honor of daughter's engagement is honored by Andi Miller

Jacques and Gwen Lurie in honor of Marlana's engagement are honored by Andi Miller

Jacques and Gwen Lurie in honor of Marlana's engagement are honored by Sheila Tepel

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3/1 Heather Demar  
3/1 Ellen Kaplan  
3/4 Jake Tyer  
3/5 Jerry Rosenzweig  
3/6 Sheldon Sackner  
3/8 Bart Benoff  
3/9 Debra Liberman  
3/9 Barry Lebowitz  
3/10 Valerie Mermelstein  
3/11 Bryna Rosenthal  
3/11 Shira Schlesinger  
3/12 Reva Mindel  
3/12 Linda Joseph  
3/12 Mark Keller  
3/12 Chad Kanner  
3/13 Susan Poland  
3/13 Charles Freeman  
3/14 Stephen Britchkow  
3/15 Barry Charles Leiber  
3/15 Shayna Cayla Feldsher

3/16 Melissa Birnbaum  
3/16 Susan Leiber  
3/17 Leslie Golsten  
3/17 Joanne Wolf  
3/17 Lisa Berkowitz  
3/18 Scott Wolf  
3/18 Roberta Pogach  
3/20 Terry Weisberg  
3/20 Yetta Erlich  
3/22 Lorraine Brill  
3/22 Bernard Lyons  
3/22 Murray Rubin  
3/23 Doris Koller  
3/23 Harriet Barsky  
3/24 Julie Herskovitz  
3/27 David Gellert  
3/27 Louis Sandberg  
3/29 Jerry Frank  
3/29 Ben Dyer  
3/30 Helene Gordesky  
3/30 Harry Schmidt  
3/31 Arnold Rosenthal  
3/31 Susan Schmidt

# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

3/4 M/M Glenn Segal  
3/7 M/M Howard Goodman  
3/14 M/M Elie Rosenblatt  
3/23 M/M Morton Kushner  
3/23 M/M Edward Simon  
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