Purim 2020

A Night of Comic Relief

Monday, March 9

For more information & schedule of event, please go to page 10

Preparing for Passover

See page 12
FROM THE PRESIDENT
Joel Freedman

I am writing this article as I return to Cuba on another mission to support the Jewish community of Havana. Back when open observance of religion was not allowed in the Sixties, Seventies and Eighties, the Cuban Jews had to improvise in order to form a minyan. A “Cuban Minyan” was measured as eight Jews and two Torah’s in the open ark. Even with their amended rules, it was rare for the community to gather to pray. They were forced to compromise their traditions due to their fear of being seen inside a house of worship. This led to the loss of Jewish identity during this dark period due to the total lack of religious education and no way to congregate as a community.

One of the long-standing traditions at Temple Beth Hillel - Beth El is that we have a morning and evening service most days. These services provide our community the ability to pray together, observe Shiva and Yahrtzeit for departed loved ones, and to gather as a community. I hope to see you all at our minyanim and make a difference in the world. We are fortunate to live in an open society, I ask all of you to consider joining us at our minyanim and all our events that bring us together as one people. Since I cannot ask my fellow congregants to do something without my own participation, I now commit to attend at least one weekday service each week while I am President of the congregation. I hope to see you all as we gather throughout the year as a community.

One source of the idea of ten for a minyan comes from the verse (Vayikra 21:1b), “(G-d’s name) can only come about within the framework of the community of Israel. Ten sets represent a microcosm of that community. A minyan is a symbolic representation of the Jewish people.” According to Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, “In Judaism, community is essential to the spiritual life. Our holiest prayers require a minyan. When we celebrate or mourn, we do so as a community. Even when we confess, we do so together. Maimonides rules that ‘One who separates himself from the community, even if he does not commit a transgression but merely holds himself aloof from the congregation of Israel, does not fulfill the commands together with his people and shows himself indifferent to their distress.’”

Recently our Executive Director, Ken Krivitzky, sent an email regarding the endless volunteering opportunities at Temple Beth Hillel – Beth El. There are so many ways to join our community and be part of something bigger than each of us is as an individual. My personal view of the Minyan rule of ten is to inspire us to be at each other’s side during celebrations and sadness, so that no one is alone – it is only as a community that we can feel complete and make a difference in the world. We ask all of you to find a way to participate and to continue to build the warm and welcoming feeling at our synagogue. In addition to the daily minyan, you can volunteer to be a greeter or usher on Shabbat or participate in our Tikkun Olam programs such as the Hesed and Environment/Sustainability committees, Cook for a Friend, and Response to Hunger.

Now that religious observance is acceptable in Cuba, the Jews of Havana gather each Shabbat and all the holidays to rejoice in their community and the love of their Judaism. In a country where congregating is frowned upon, the synagogue is the only place our Jewish brothers and sisters can feel a true sense of community. Each time I visit, I am revitalized by the joyfulness of the Cuban Jews while they celebrate together. As we are fortunate to live in an open society, I ask all of you to consider joining us at our minyanim and all our events that bring us together as one people. Since I cannot ask my fellow congregants to do something without my own participation, I now commit to attend at least one weekday service each week while I am President of the congregation. I hope to see you all as we gather throughout the year as a community.

Condolences to:
Jill Altman-Caffery on the loss of her grandmother, Henrietta Gutman (z”l).
Deborah-Jo Essrog and Jay Dorsch on the loss of their aunt, Arlene Blustein (z”l).
Amy Rosner on the loss of her aunt, Helen Necowitz (z”l).
The Borish Family on the loss of Karl Borish (z”l).
Larry Arem on the loss of his mother, Rose Arem (z”l).
Marsha Yankelev on the loss of her brother, Mark Factor (z”l).
Stephen Fenning on the loss of his father, Edward Fenning (z”l).
The Nelson family on the loss of long-time congregant, Gloria Nelson (z”l).
Melanie Wolfson on the loss of her mother, Anita Schatz (z”l).

Mazel Tov to:
Deborah-Jo Essrog & Jay Dorsch on the marriage of their daughter, Samantha to Matthew Gerson and the birth of their granddaughter, Ziva Elishева.
Roberta & Avi Shaked on the birth of their grandson, Samuel Eliezer Shaked.
Richard and Judith Ross on the birth of a granddaughter, Riley Rose Goldman

Weekly Minyan

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Sign up to attend a minyan at www.tbhbe.org

In Memoriam

Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El mourns the loss of its long-time members:

- Gloria Nelson (z”l)
- Karl Borish (z”l)

May their memory be for a blessing.
When Patience & the “Deal of the Century” Meet

Among the many lessons learned from the stories told on Pesach, I would like to focus on an important, though often overlooked, message about the role and value of patience. The story told on Pesach leads us from a hasty departure from Egypt to the miraculous splitting of the Red Sea. I would like to focus on what comes next.

The Torah reminds us that,

When Pharaoh let the Children of Israel go (Ex. 13:19), God did not lead them by way of the Philistines although it was near… Instead, God led his people round-about, by way of the Wilderness by the Red Sea (Ex. 13:14).

Here we ask: Why did not God choose a more direct route for the Children of Israel? Why go round-about? The Midrash answers this question:

This can be compared to a King who had a young son to whom he wished to bequeath his inheritance. He thought, “if I give it to him now, he will not know how to take care of it. I will, therefore, wait until my son learns how to read and write and can understand the value of property. Then I will bequeath it to him.” And so, this is what God said, “if I bring Israel into the land now, before they have occupied themselves with my commandments, they will not understand the meaning of their obligations. No, better I give them the Torah first and only then bring them into the Land.” (Ex. Rabbah)

In recounting the Pesach story, our Sages want to teach us the lesson of patience. It was not an easy lesson to learn. Patience requires the insight to see and work toward an ultimate goal. Patience requires the appreciation that there is a destination, but it will take time to get there. Patience begins with an understanding that sometimes we must wait, age, mature and grow before we are ready to reach that for which we have yearned.

When the Children of Israel left Egypt, they had neither vision nor the appreciation of the responsibilities which accompany freedom. They did not understand the notion of adherence to laws and obligations, the idea that they would not be forced to comply to obligations. Rather, they would choose to comply. God said, “They are not ready at this moment.” The Israelites needed to learn patience. They needed to wait.

The attribute of patience is what Palestinians today must develop as well. Their future can be bright, but they must create a new vision, one not based on the prospect of dead Jews, one not based on the annihilation of Israel. Palestinians need a vision which gives them the prospect of a better life and the possibility of a peaceful and harmonious existence with Israel.

The “Deal of the Century” which the Trump Administration presented several weeks ago to both the Palestinian Authority and Israel, is being rejected by the Palestinian leadership. On the one hand, we can understand their dissatisfaction with the plan and their inclination to reject the offer, but I believe it would be a serious mistake to do so.

There are many aspects included in the plan which are like those of past plans, but there are differences as well. This Plan for instance, gives Palestinians sovereignty over less areas in the West Bank. Their capital, in Jerusalem, will be shared with Israel, but not in the portions of East Jerusalem they had envisioned for themselves. This is a plan with Israel’s security in mind for good reason. The deficits in the plan are traceable directly, not to Israel or the US, but to the failed Palestinian leadership, a leadership which has deprived the Palestinian People of a
rightful and viable place in society. The Palestinian leadership has transgressed the cardinal principle of a government. They have betrayed their own people for personal benefit. They have enriched themselves by pocketing millions of dollars earmarked for the Palestinian people while maintaining the future must take history into account. Finally, it is important to remember that the ultimate Deal has not yet been written. That final version will take creativity, compliance, maturity, and patience. According to the Midrash, the Children of Israel were not ready to enter the Land. They waited 40 years. The Palestinians are neither ready to enter a final deal with Israel, to offer guarantees, to make promises, nor to unify their own people. It took forty years until the Children of Israel were ready for their Deal of that Century. At this rate, it may very well take that long or longer for the Palestinians to negotiate and create their Deal of the Century. May all our Pesach celebrations bring us the joy, the hope and the peace for which we patiently wait. Lori joins me in wishing you a sweet and happy Pesach.


**SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

TBH-BE is proud to offer various opportunities to support our congregation! Below please find simple and easy manners in which you can assist our efforts in ensuring quality programming for our community.

**Kiddush**
1. Contributor $54, contributes to our ‘basic’ kiddush
2. Supporter $180 supports our Kiddush enhancement
3. Sponsor $750, supports an extended Kiddush

**Friday Night Oneg:** $180

*Includes a bottle of scotch, frozen appetizers, fruit or veggie tray*

**Post Minyan Breakfast** $50

*Includes coffee/tea set up, two-dozen bagels, cream cheese, and egg or tuna salad*

**CONTRIBUTIONS**

In memory of William Konin, beloved father of Kelly Dash
Elliot and Jill Kaplan
Josh and Reni Kopelman

In loving memory of Franklin Maurer
Alan Maurer and Family

In loving memory of Sheila Grossman-Ott
Deborah Grossman

In loving memory of Martin Sheintoch
Jill Siegal

In loving memory of Louis Sherwood
Jennifer Sherwood

In memory of Joseph Winkler, beloved father of Cindy Hirsch
Elliot and Jill Kaplan
Simon and Lynne Salonz

Irwin Ship Adult Education Fund
In honor of the birth of Caleb, son of Bob and Morgan Dignazio
Virginia Gross Levin

The Rabbi Neill and Lori Cooper Israel Advocacy Fund
In honor of Marina Furman
Adam Soll and Susan Bleiman-Soll

In loving memory of Abraham Margent
Gabriel Margent

In memory of Joseph Winkler, beloved father of Cindy Hirsch
Mitchell and Bonnie Benson
Jane Bender

Sydney & Esther Lazarus Memorial Fund for the Study of Jewish Ethics
In memory of Zolman Eisenstadt,
beloved father of Leora Eisenstadt
Barry Moss

L’Chaim Group Fund
In loving memory of Morris Dion, Jennie Futornasky, Lillian Mann-Hun, and Abraham Futornasky
Melvin and Marlene Dion

In loving memory of Lillian Lotman and Albert Lotman
Estelle Benson

Men’s Club Fund
In honor of Jeremy Heller as the Silver Circle Award recipient
Tall Shulsatf

In loving memory of Samuel Wilf
David and Leslie Ufberg and Family

Prayer Book Fund
In loving memory of Betty Shusterman
Neill and Cheryl Shusterman

Rabbi Neill Cooper’s Discretionary Fund
In honor of the birth of Adam Busis Cohen, son of Sarah Busis and Matthew Cohen, grandson of Richard Busis and Judy Reck, great grandson of Tim and Phyllis Beck and nephew of Sam Busis
Lewis and Susan Gantman

In loving memory of Marvin Comisky
Abeleardo and Lynne Letcher

In honor of Rabbi Neill and Lori Cooper’s 40th wedding anniversary

Howard and Randy Goldberg
Barnett and Merle Kamen
Ted and Linda Schwartz

In loving memory of Samuel Goldstein
Barry Goldstein

In memory of William Konin, beloved father of Kelly Dash
Lewis and Susan Gantman

In memory of Helen Necowiz, beloved aunt of Amy Rosner
Lewis and Susan Gantman

In honor of the naming of Stevie Brooke Raivet
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Koffler

In loving memory of Meyer Ross
Rita Ross

In honor of Ellen and Joe Siegel’s 60th wedding anniversary
Ted and Linda Schwartz

In loving memory of Milton White
Shirley White

In memory of Joseph Winkler, beloved father of Cindy Hirsch
Lewis and Susan Gantman

In loving memory of Sarah Poncz
Alain and Helene Zeiger

In loving memory of Henri Winter
Stephen and Dawn Schork

Rabbi Marshall J Maltsman Camp
Ranah Scholarship Fund

In loving memory of Charles Levitan
Jonathan Levitan

In loving memory of Henry Rosenfelt
Gene and Barbara Specior
CONTRIBUTIONS

The Ann Altus Bright Horizons Fund
In honor of the birth of Adam Busis Cohen, son of Sarah Busis and Matthew Cohen, grandson of Richard Busis and Judy Beck, great-grandson of Tim and Phyllis Beck and nephew of Sam Busis
Jay and Fran Perlman
Paul and Jen Shandelman

Capital Campaign Fund
In loving memory of Jerome Eisner
Joel and Judy Eisner

Charlotte & Nathan Becker Holocaust Endowment Fund
In honor of the marriage of Abby Spitzer to Dean Krebs
Avi and Roberta Shaked

In memory of Joseph Winkler, beloved father of Cindy Hirsch
Reeva Golub

Fine Arts Fund
In honor of the marriage of Rebecca Zoler to Alexander Cohen
Joseph Loewenberg and Ann Kruppick

Honors and Memorial Fund
In memory of Estelle Borish, beloved wife of Karl Borish
The Yalof Family
In honor of the birth of Adam Busis Cohen, son of Sarah Busis and Matthew Cohen, grandson of Richard Busis and Judy Beck, great-grandson of Tim and Phyllis Beck and nephew of Sam Busis
The Mauffer Family
In memory of Zelman Eisenstadt, beloved father of Leora Eisenstadt
Ari Sinner and Rachel Hollander

In loving memory of Tziporah "Eppy" Epstein
David and Irene Bolts
In appreciation of honor
David and Lenore Forst
In loving memory of Mona Jacobs
Lauren Gaspari

Cherie, Lauren and Serena, Molana Hair Design
The Nachman Family
Norman and Holly Nelson
Michael and Debbie Ruckenstein
Paul and Jen Shandelman

In loving memory of Diane Oriol
David Oriol

In memory of Joseph Winkler, beloved father of Cindy Hirsch
Reeva Golub

Fridays

Friday, March 6
5–4 PM Candle Lighting
5:30 PM First Friday Pre-Shabbat refreshments sponsored by an anonymous congregant
6:00 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Services

Shabbat, March 7
Torah Portion: Tetzaveh—Shabbat Zachor
8:45 AM Mishneh Torah Study Group
9:30 AM Shabbat Services: Bat Mitzvah of Dylan Silverman, daughter of Missy & Sam Silverman
9:30 AM Lay-Led Service coordinated by the Havurah
10:00 AM Shabbat Babysitting
11:00 AM Tot Shabbat
12:00 PM Kiddush sponsored by Missy and Sam Silverman in honor of Dylan becoming a Bar Mitzvah
5:45 PM Havdalah Bar Mitzvah of Samuel Fenning, son of Lauren & Stephen Fenning

Friday, March 13
6:48 PM Candle Lighting
5:30 PM First Friday Pre-Shabbat refreshments sponsored by an anonymous congregant
6:00 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Services

Shabbat, March 14
Torah Portion: Ki Tisa—Shabbat Parah
8:45 AM Mishneh Torah Study Group
9:30 AM Shabbat Services: Adult Bat Mitzvah of Sarah Fask, sermon by Professor Richard Hirsh
10:00 AM Shabbat Babysitting
10:30 AM Oreo Minyan
11:00 AM Tot Shabbat
12:00 PM Congregational Kiddush Lunch sponsored by Michael & Robert Rabinowitz in honor of Benjamin becoming a Bar Mitzvah
6:00 PM Third Grade Havdalah Program, Seudah Shlishit
8:00 PM Religious School-wide Event

Friday, March 20
6:55 PM Candle Lighting
5:30 PM Pre-Shabbat refreshments sponsored by Rabbi & Jeremy Goldberg in honor of the B’not Mitzvah of their children, Miriam & Rebecca
6:00 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Services

Shabbat, March 21
Torah Portion: Truah—Shabbat Parah
8:45 AM Mishneh Torah Study Group
9:00 AM Shabbat School
9:00 AM Havruta Parshat Hashavua led by Michael Elkins & Paul Gaspari
9:30 AM Shabbat Services: B’not Mitzvah of Miriam & Rebecca Goldberg, children of Rachel & Jeremy Goldberg
9:30 AM Lay-Led Service coordinated by the Havurah
9:45 AM Family Minyan
10:00 AM Shabbat Babysitting
11:00 AM Tot Shabbat
12:00 PM Congregational Kiddush Lunch sponsored by Rabbi & Jeremy Goldberg in honor of the B’not Mitzvah of their children, Miriam & Rebecca

Friday, March 27
7:02 PM Candle Lighting
5:30 PM Pre-Shabbat refreshments sponsored by an anonymous congregant
6:00 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Services

Shabbat, March 28
Torah Portion: Vayikra
8:45 AM Mishneh Torah Study Group
9:30 AM Shabbat Services, Bar Mitzvah of Benjamin Rabinowitz, son of Michal & Robert Rabinowitz
9:30 AM Lay-Led Service coordinated by the Havurah
10:00 AM Shabbat Babysitting
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12:00 PM Congregational Kiddush Lunch sponsored by Michal & Robert Rabinowitz in honor of Benjamin becoming a Bar Mitzvah
6:00 PM Third Grade Havdalah Program, Seudah Shlishit (Third Shabbat Meal)
8:00 PM Religious School-wide Event

Friday, April 3
7:09 PM Candle Lighting
5:30 PM First Friday Light Refreshments
6:00 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Services

Shabbat, April 4
Torah Portion: Tzav
8:45 AM Mishneh Torah Study Group
9:30 AM Lay-Led Service coordinated by the Havurah
9:30 AM Shabbat Services: Shabbat Ha’Gadol with speaker Professor Richard Hirsh.
Baby Naming of Sophia Congdon, daughter of Neala Gollomp and Jason Congdon, granddaughter of Randie & Stephen Gollomp
10:00 AM Shabbat Babysitting
10:30 AM Oreo Minyan
11:00 AM Tot Shabbat
12:00 PM Kiddush sponsored by Sisterhood

SHABBAT HIGHLIGHTS

The Early Childhood Center
Jay and Fran Perlman
In memory of Henrietta Guttman, beloved grandmother of Jill Altman-Caffery
Arlene Goldberg and Randi Grossel
The Early Childhood Center
Jay and Fran Perlman
In honor of the birth of Samuel Eliezer Shaked
Avi and Roberta Shaked
In honor of Barbara Spector’s special birthday
Mark and Sharon Raizvet
Cantor’s Music Education Fund
In memory of William Konin, beloved father of Kelly Dash
Mitchell and Janie Rosen
In honor of Cantor Eugene and Amy Rosen’s 30th anniversary at TBH BE
Herbert Engelberg and Margaret Carrillo
The Maurer Family
In memory of Jill Stone, beloved mother of Amy Eisen
Mitchell and Bonnie Benson
Mitchell and Janie Rosen
Paul and Jen Shandelman

Shabbat Highlights

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FROM THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
Hallie Chandler

Purim’s Mitzvot designed to heal loneliness –

One of my greatest memories growing up was annually making hamantashen and packing Mishloah Manot with my mother and sisters. We had overfilled baskets on the tables, paper plates stapled together in the shapes of hamantashen, and multiple types of teas, some unhealthy snacks and little packets of raisins. Building the gifts was exciting and delivering them was meaningful. My mother always picked people in our community to add to our list whom we had not seen or spoken to in a while. We would get in our packed van and drive around to spend quality time and catching up before moving on to the next person.

In today’s world, when loneliness is considered one of the world’s largest epidemics, it makes me reflect on this experience. When do we engage with our friends and community members to deliver the completed Mishloah Manot. It was important for us to spend quality time and catching up before moving on to the next person.

We read the Megillah, Mikra Megilah, collaboratively. We bring the community together to partake in the loud unified noises in order to remember the story of Purim. We host a festive Purim meal (Seudat Purim) encouraging laughter and conversation surrounding food. We send gifts, Mishloah Manot, motivating us to interact and intentionally spend time thinking of friends and community members, and we give gifts to the poor. Matanot L’Evyonim is the mitzvah to give two gifts of charity to two people in the form of food or money. This encourages us to think of others.

I hope this Purim is one of over-socialization, laughter, friends and family, and in order to get you started on your Mitzvot. I have included my family’s recipe for making hamantashen.

Hag Purim Sameach!

Cheryl Davidowitz’s Grandmother’s Recipe:

Cookie Dough

Sift dry ingredients into a large bowl:

2 cups flour
1 1/2 tsp baking powder
1/4 tsp salt

1/3 cup veggie oil
2 eggs
1/2 cup sugar

1/2 cup honey

Make a well in the center and drop in:

1 1/3 cup veggie oil
1 tablespoon lemon juice

(a bout 1/2 a lemon)

1/4 cup honey

Work together with hands until compact dough is formed

Roll out to 1/4 “ thick, cut with cup or into squares

Fill with filling (see to the right)

Fold right, left, up and bottom and pinch together

Brush with honey (use a little water, and use 2 fingers)

Bake 15 minutes at 350.

Cookie Dough

From the 2020 World Wide Wrap event.

MEN’S CLUB NEWS

Sam Brint

As of the time of this writing, this past weekend was our annual joint Sisterhood and Men’s Club Shabbat. A yeoman’s thank you to Larry Nathanson for being the Men’s Club point person in organizing and assigning all of the honors. Thank you to all who volunteered and participated. The service went smoothly, which was commendable given all of the moving parts and challenges, including both Sisterhood and Men’s Club sharing the bimah.

Speaking of point person, here is a fun fact! Did you know that a Yad is the name for the pointer that is used for reading the Torah? Yad is the Hebrew word for hand and is usually silver.

February 2 was the World Wide Wrap followed by the Silver Circle Award & brunch. During the World Wide Wrap, we joined Mens’ Clubs from around the world to put on tefillin and participate in a Sunday morning service.

Jeremy Heller was this year’s well-deserved Silver Circle Award honoree. We had a beautiful event, full of smiles and community building opportunities! Thank you to all who came out!

Upcoming events:

March 24 – Dinner, drinks, and discussion with Rabbi Cooper

April 21 – Cook for a Friend

March 3 & April 7 – Men’s Club monthly meeting (the 1st Tuesday of every month.) We will discuss about past events as well as planning for future events. All are welcome to attend. This is a great way to meet your fellow Men’s Club members as well as getting involved in our community. New ideas are always welcome. We hope to see you there!

Coming attractions that are in various stages of discussion are a NY day trip, going to a Phillies game, and having a past Phillies player speak with us at a Phillies watch (a road game,) and barbeque party.
SISTERHOOD NEWS
Robin Oriel

Upcoming Events:
March 1 at 9:30-11:30 & March 4 at 4pm: Assemble & deliver Purim bags
March 4 at noon - Book Club Meeting on The Alice Network.
March 26 at 7pm - Rosh Hodesh Nisan, chanting with Juliet Spitzer

Save the date! This year’s May 3rd Annual Torah Fund Event honors Past Sisterhood co-presidents Kelly Dash & Ellen Spector. A committee is forming now. Please contact Caren Dash carendash@comcast.net if interested.

A big Thank you to Sasha Coffiner and Sarah Schlossberg who chaired the well-attended Feb 6 Girls (Game) Night Out with drinks by Jill Cantor Burns.

MINYAN and Community MATTERS!

Hearing about the loss of hometown star athlete Kobe Bryant and his 13 year old daughter (bat mitzvah age to us,) reinforces the urgency of Sisterhood’s support of Wednesday morning Minyan in order to help achieve the ten-count minimum attendees. This is imperative so that others who have lost those close to them can pray. “There but for the grace of God goes I,” and “It takes a village” are two well-known sayings that come to mind which align with stressing the importance of the Jewish traditional minyan.

We NEED your help as we have NOT always been making our ten-count minyan, especially during these winter months when long-term regulars are away! Please commit to one or two mornings a month for a brief thirty-minute period, 7:45-8:15, to stop in to count! Help yourself to warm coffee and start your day or join others for breakfast. Come by, or contact minyan regulars, Les Krawitz at Lkrawitz@gmail.com and Elaine Beck at ebeck624@yahoo.com, and please stress you are emailing about attending minyan. Hope to see you there!

Wishing every one a happy Purim!
Robin Oriel, Sisterhood President rcoriel@gmail.com, 610-529-0968

Testimonial: Importance of Attending Minyan!
By past Sisterhood president and regular Wednesday minyan participant, Elaine Beck:

When you lose someone, you may find it important to say Kaddish for your loved one. Don’t you want others to be there, so you can do the same? Be part of the needed ten people for minyan. Start with once or twice a month.

I still remember when a community person came crying and upset to a minyan because she suffered a horrible loss. It was painful to say kaddish at her synagogue because she did not want to be recognized during her pain. She was consoled by our caring actions. More often, we provide minyan comfort for those we know in our congregation, but also to our extended community as well.

The Sisterhood-supported Wednesday morning minyan has provided comfort through varied life-cycle events. When you come to minyan, you learn about davening and meet interesting and knowledgeable people.

Do a Mitzvah! Be Counted!

Filling (from Jewish Living Magazine, 1980)

Apricot
1 1/4 cups orange juice
1 1/2 cups dried apricots
2 teaspoons grated orange rind
1 orange
1/2 apple peeled, cored and quartered
6 Tablespoons sugar
1/2 cup raisins
1/3 cup chopped almonds

In medium saucepan, combine orange juice and apricots. Bring to boil, cover and simmer ten minutes until apricots are tender (there should be about 2 tablespoons juice left in the pan.) Meanwhile, grate an orange rind, also peel and cut up the orange. Pour the apricots with juice into a blender jar; add orange rind and pieces, quartered apple, and sugar. Blend or food process thoroughly. Pour into a bowl and combine with raisins and almonds.

Prune:

Omit raisins and apple: substitute prunes (without pits) for apricots and 2 Tablespoons honey for the sugar; use only 1 cup of orange juice and 1/2 cup of chopped nuts; add 1/4 teaspoon of cinnamon.

Prepare as for the apricot filling.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

OF THE MIKVEH

Lori Cooper

After eighteen years of directing the mikveh, and keeping a journal of the rituals and experiences, I decided to write a book. During this past year I have continued journaling. I will be sharing these meaningful short stories from time to time in the Pharissee. I hope you enjoy them.

Susie

Susie arrived at the Mikveh 34 weeks pregnant on the day of her conversion. She was understandably a bit nervous and excited. On that day, she would immerse in the mikveh pool and become a part of the Jewish people with the little baby girl she was carrying.

When Susie stepped outside of the mikveh she exclaimed, “I never thought this experience would be so special!” I asked her what made it so special? She answered as she held the life inside her, “We did it together. This is the best gift I could give to my daughter.”

Anytime a person comes to the mikveh, they carry within them gifts from God. At the mikveh we celebrate those gifts and the story that goes with it.

Another successful annual retreat at Capital Camps! Meaningful readings were enjoyed and thought-provoking discussions were had. We very much look forward to the next one and hope you will join us!
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL
Lisa Richman

Inclusion: More Than Four Types of Children

February was JDAIM, Jewish Disability Awareness and Inclusion Month. A dedicated month helps us to be enlightened about tending to those with visible and invisible needs. Believe it or not, it is the holiday of Passover that provides us with the roadmap for truly attaining the goals we hope to accomplish in being aware and inclusive.

In chapter 2 of Proverbs/Mishlei, we learn, חנוך לנער על דרכו גם

Train a child according to his or her way; even when they grow old, they will not turn away from it.

What is his or her way? And how does Religious School respond when all four types of children are in a single classroom?

If there is a student like the wise son who asks what we mean by all the knowledge and professional experience with them. It is truly a joy to talk with them about strategies that help meet the needs of all our students. Each student deserves to be educated in ways that enable him or her to learn. Indeed, that is where inclusion begins.

However, these students may tend to get anxious if competitive games are played in class. For these students, we create an environment free of competition and mutual adversity. Often, these students will push to find answers or make their point, without regard for the others present. For these students, we try to offer alternatives such as working on their own or doing independent research.

The simple son asks, what is going on? For this student, we need to find access points and manners of entry, regardless of levels, knowledge, and maturity.

For the one who does not know what or how to ask, we try to create lessons that stimulate thoughts or prompt questions. Often, a good question is more significant than a good answer. In these cases, opportunities need to be clarified to help the student know how to begin making inquiries.

How easy it would be to write lesson plans if all students fit neatly into one category or another! Not only do students not fit into one group, but many also transition from one group to another in a matter of minutes. When this happens, for the teacher, it can feel as if the class size has doubled!

Our Religious School teachers are dedicated month helps us to be enlightened about tending to those with visible and invisible needs. Many also enroll in other PD opportunities. Our teachers are professional educators who bring a vast amount of knowledge and professional experience to our students.

Our Religious School is proud to offer alternatives such as working on their own or doing independent research.

The wicked son asks, what do we mean by what we are doing at the Passover service?

What is his or her way? And how does Religious School respond when all four types of children are in a single classroom?

If there is a student like the wise son who asks what we mean by all the knowledge and professional experience with them. It is truly a joy to talk with them about strategies that help meet the needs of all our students. Each student deserves to be educated in ways that enable him or her to learn. Indeed, that is where inclusion begins.
I started writing an article for this month and remembered a Midrash that someone shared with me. Looking for the source, I found some Midrashim about children and Purim that I had never heard of. I would like to share some of them with you:

The Gemara relates that when Haman came to take Mordechai to dress him in the royal garments and lead him on the royal horse, he found Mordechai sitting in front of 22,000 children dressed in sack cloth, teaching them the laws of Kemitzah (the handful of flour offered at the Beit HaMikdash in Jerusalem). The children had also been fasting for 3 days. The same incident is recorded in the Midrash (Esther Rabah 10:4).

According to the Midrash, Haman ordered the children shackled in iron chains and appointed guards to watch them. He declared, “Tomorrow I will kill these children first and then hang Mordechai!” The children burst out in tears and their cries rose to the heavens where God heard their cries, and “at that moment, he took the decrees [that He had written to punish the Jews] and tore them up” (Esther Rabah 9:4).

According to the author, children had a special power to protect the entire Jewish people from Haman. Haman succeeded in passing his evil decree only because the Jews “were lazy in the study of Torah” (Megilah 11a), and it was only in the merit of the children’s pure Torah learning that the Jewish people were saved.

Jewish children ensure the continuity of the study of Torah. According to the Midrash (Shocher Tov 8; Shir ha’Shirim Rabah 1:4:1, see also Shabbos 33b), our children are our “guarantors” that we will study the Torah. Children learn Torah in the purest manner possible, since “the breath (speech) of one who has not sinned cannot be compared to that of one who has sinned” (Shabbos 119b).

—Summarized from the web site: https://dafyomi.co.il

Saul Wachs, a dear friend and mentor of mine and a fellow TBH-BE congregant always taught, ‘Jewish Preschool is Day School for little children.’ When one walks the halls of our school, the ECC one can see and hear that is so. Here at the ECC we make being Jewish part of every day. Judaism is not something we visit solely on Friday afternoons when we prepare for Shabbat. From brachot before eating, to collecting tzedakah, caring for the environment, animals and for each other, our staff and children live Torah everyday.

To those of you who support our school by teaching, substitute teaching, or donating to the ECC Fund, I want to thank you personally. You are helping ‘the breath’ of our children reach all the way to the heavens each and every day.

Chag Sameach!

Judith

Judith Scarani
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

Do you love children? Substitutes Needed!
Do you find yourself on the floor playing with them at family gatherings? Are you looking for something fun and enriching to do on a part time basis? If so, YOU are needed!

We are in need of warm and loving adults to join our list of substitute staff. YOU choose the hours of your availability. The ECC is open between 7:30 AM and 6:00 PM Monday through Friday.

YOU can say, “No,” if you have other plans.

YOU can say, “I love babies” or YOU can say, “I’d rather not change diapers.”

YOU will fall in love with our children, we promise!

Please contact ECC Director, Judith Mont Scarani at jscarani@tbhbe.org or Assistant Director, Randi Grossel at rgrossel@tbhbe.org or call the school office 610-649-2277

Enroll now at www.tbhbe.org/ecccalendar
Purim 2020
A Night of Comic Relief

Monday, March 9

Schedule of Events:

5:30 PM Young Family Megillah Service & festive sing-along with our very own Mama Mac! also known as Amy Elkins.

6:00 PM Sensory-Friendly Room Available

6:00 PM Dinner and Purim Activities $5 individual / $10 per family (Please RSVP at tbhbe.org)

7:00 PM Congregational Megillah Reading featuring our participating comedians!

7:30 PM Havurah Megillah Reading & Shpiel.

Currently looking for ten stand-up comedians to participate!

Who will be the next Marvelous TBH-BE’?

Please reach out to Hallie Chandler if you would like the stage!

hchandler@tbhbe.org 610-649-5300

Do-Re-Mi Chorus
We continue our joyful singing with Amy Elkins leading us in song!

We recently celebrated the 60th Wedding Anniversary of participants Ellen and Joe Siegel.

This is open to all TBH-BE fifth, sixth and seventh graders, PLUS all those eligible for the Boomers and L’Chaim groups!

Singers Wanted! The Cantor and choir will be performing at the shul on April 22. There will be a limited number of rehearsals to prepare beginning in March. This would be a wonderful opportunity for all those who love singing. Please consider joining us!

Rehearsals will be Monday evenings; 7:30-9:00 on March 30, April 6, 13 and 20.
If interested in participating, please contact Amy: am.we.e126@gmail.com or Rachel: rachelkull@gmail.com for details.

We would like to thank the participants of this past January 25, Annual Sisterhood & Men’s Club Shabbat:


thank you

NANA’S
KITCHEN & CATERING

Catering:
Packages for events of all sizes
Bar/Bat Mitzvahs
Family Events
Corporate & Business Meetings
Full Service & A La Carte Catering

(610) 664-9263
nanask.philly@gmail.com
109 N. Narberth Ave, Narberth, PA
www.nanask.com

Kitchen:
Daily Menu
Pick-up/Delivery Workshops
Live Music & Art Community Events

10 | MARCH 2020
4. Bi-ur Hametz—Burning Hametz

The next morning, on Wednesday, April 8, before 10:30 AM, the hametz collected the night before is burned. The burning may take place outside. After contents have been burned, they may be swept away.

After the burning of hametz, the following declaration is recited:

1) Kol hamira va’hami’u d’ika vir’shuti
2) da hamitei u’dila va’artei
3) di va’artei u’dila va’artei
4) liv-til v-le’hevei hefker
5) k’afra d’ara

1) All hametz in my possession
2) whether I have seen it or not
3) whether I have removed it or not
4) is hereby nullified and ownerless
5) as the dust of the earth.

From this point on, all hametz including food, dishes, or utensils that contain or have come into contact with hametz, must be put away. They may not be handled, used or seen until the end of Pesach, after dark on Thursday, April 16. If you have questions regarding this or any aspect of the preparations for Pesach, please contact the Rabbi.

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Deed of Authorization

Removing the Hametz

I hereby authorize Rabbi Neil Cooper to be my agent to sell all kinds of hametz including, but not limited to, any leavened food, dishes, pots, pans, and utensils used with leavened food which may be in my possession at the address below. I understand that the sale will be affected by 10:30 AM on Wednesday, April 8.

I further understand that if the terms of the agreement are not fulfilled by Thursday night, April 16 by 8:30 PM, the sale will be considered null and void.

Name _________________________________________________________________
Address _______________________________________________________________
Signature _______________________________________________________________

Please sign and return to the synagogue office by April 16.
**Passover**

**Siyyum Planned for the Fast of the Firstborn**

Wednesday, April 8, 7:00 AM

The story of Pesach reminds us that, just before the Exodus from Egypt, the Egyptian firstborns were killed. The firstborn Israelites, however, were not harmed. In recognition of this fact, it has become a tradition for the firstborn sons (the eldest child of their mothers) to fast during the weeks before Pesach. (See authorization form.)

An accompanying tradition is one which nullifies the fast for those who participate in a siyyum. A siyyum is a ceremony of celebration observed upon the completion of study of a tractate of the Talmud or other major volume of study. Those who are present for the siyyum are exempted from the fast.

The congregation is invited to join the first-born sons on Wednesday, April 8 for Shaharit at 7:00 AM. Rabbi siyyum will be conducted at the end of services. The siyyum will conclude before 8:00 AM. An informal breakfast will follow.

**Siyyum**

**Preparation for Pesach**

As we prepare our homes for Pesach with cleaning and scouring, we include the ritual of **M’Chirah Hametz**, the ancient tradition of selling hametz. Despite the fact that your hametz (all non-Passover goods, dishes and utensils) has been put away, those items are still in your possession. The injunction of Passover requires that these items not remain in your possession. In order to fulfill this requirement, we sell our hametz. This sale is affected either in person or by completing the form on the following page.

A second tradition, **Ma’ot Hitim**, accompanies the sale of hametz. This tradition (literally, “wheat money”) reminds us that there are some families who will not have the wherewithal for matzah or other needs to celebrate the holiday. Ma’ot Hitim money is used to support the Jewish families locally and throughout the world. We will report to you on these funds after Pesach.

As you prepare for Pesach, please consider participation in these traditions. To sell your hametz, please complete the form on the following page. Whether you participate or not in selling hametz, we hope you will be a part of our effort to help others in need. Make checks payable to Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El, attention, Ma’ot Hitim.

**Passover Highlights - Pesach 5780**

Preparing for Pesach includes Selling and Giving

An accompanying tradition is one which nullifies the fast for those who participate in a siyyum. A siyyum is a ceremony of celebration observed upon the completion of study of a tractate of the Talmud or other major volume of study. Those who are present for the siyyum are exempted from the fast.

The congregation is invited to join the first-born sons on Wednesday, April 8 for Shaharit at 7:00 AM. Rabbi siyyum will be conducted at the end of services. The siyyum will conclude before 8:00 AM. An informal breakfast will follow.

### Selling and Giving

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### Removing the Hametz

There are five steps in the overall process of removing hametz.

1. **Mekhirat Hametz** — Selling Hametz

   Selling our hametz so that we no longer possess any hametz food, dishes or utensils can be arranged during the weeks before Pesach. (See authorization form.)

2. **Bedikat Hametz** — Searching for Hametz — Tuesday, April 7 (after dark)

   Following a complete and throughout cleaning of the house, a formal search of the house takes place on the night before the first Seder.

   A. Immediately after sundown, ten pieces of hametz (bread, crackers, cereal) are hidden around the house.

   B. A candle is lit.

   C. Recite the Bedikat Hametz blessing, “al bi’ur hametz.”

      1) Barukh attah Adonai
      2) Eloheinu melek ha-olam
      3) asher kadoshu
      4) b’mitzvotav
      5) v’tzivanu
      6) al bi’ur hametz

   D. Conduct the search, using the candle to illuminate areas. When a piece of hametz is found, sweep it onto the wooden spoon using the feather, and then deposit the crumbs into a bag or on a paper plate.

   E. Be sure you collect the pieces of hametz which were hidden.

3. **Bittul Hametz** — Nullifying Hametz

   Immediately following the search for hametz, a formula is recited which nullifies any hametz which may or may not have been found, as a kind of insurance policy. After the search is concluded, recite the Bittul hametz—nullification formula.

      1) Kol hamira va-hami’a d’ka virshuti
      2) d’la hamitei w-d’la wa-aritei
      3) u’d’la pudaana lei
      4) liv-il v’ehevei hefeker
      5) v’afa d’ara

1) All hametz in my possession
2) which I have not seen or removed
3) or of which I am unaware
4) is hereby nullified and ownerless
5) as the dust of the earth.