



*Light of God's House*

# CONGREGATION BETH EMETH

*Orbit*

300 West Lea Blvd, Wilmington, DE 19802 • 302-764-2393 • bethemethde.org

**VOLUME XLV NO. 3 • 1 KISLEV/2 TEVET 5777 • DECEMBER 2016**



## A GOOD QUESTION

**YAIR D. ROBINSON**

Back in October, around Sukkot, Stephen Herrmann dropped off a copy of the 1955 Yearbook, the year our congregation turned 50. I love this kind of stuff and was very grateful for a copy. I worked at the American Jewish Archives when I was younger, and it's neat to see who we were at that point in our history; what were the values of the congregation, who were the players. What it meant to be the voice of Reform Judaism in Delaware back then. It's helpful to see what's the same, and what's changed, what's familiar and what's unfamiliar. How have we reimagined ourselves as a spiritual community, and how have we really preserved the core idea of who we are, the *ikar*, of what it means to be the "Temple of Truth".

I was thinking about that when I got a special invitation recently. This month, on the first Friday, I will be celebrating Shabbat not with you but in Newtown Pennsylvania. My former congregation, Shir Ami, is celebrating its 40th anniversary and its first ever "Founders' Day", and they've invited the former clergy of the congregation, including me, to participate. Many congregations and institutions have Founders' Days, of course, but Shir Ami, being relatively 'young' as a congregation, has the benefit of having many of her founders still alive and active in the community (including her first president, Ronnie Abraham, who started the congregation with a handful of individuals in his basement in 1977). It'll be good to see old friends again (a few have reached out on email and social media to reconnect, which has been really

## SHABBAT SHALOM

**Friday, December 2, The Nosh at 5:30 PM, Kabbalat Shabbat Evening Service and Program, 6:30 PM, The Nosh, 7:30 PM Service 8:00 PM, Oneg Shabbat, 9:00 PM**

**New Member Service of Welcome**

Melissa Rosenthal and Jane Kursh will bless the Shabbat Candles

Birthday Blessings for the month of December

**Saturday, December 3, Meditative Shabbat Hike at Woodland Trail at 10:00 AM**

"*Toledot*," Genesis 25:19-28:9, Malachi 1:1-2:7

**Friday, December 9, The Nosh, 5:30 PM, Service, 6:30 PM**

Cheryl Hampson will bless the Shabbat Candles

**Saturday, December 10, Torah Study, 9:30 AM, Service-in-the-Round, 11:00 AM**

"*Vayetze*," Genesis 28:10-32:3, Hosea 12:13-14:10

**Friday, December 16, The Nosh, 5:30 PM, Service and Chanukah Concert, 6:30 PM, Potluck Dinner to follow**

Michele Sands will bless the Shabbat Candles

**Saturday, December 17, Torah Study, 9:30 AM, Tot Shabbat, 9:30 AM, Service-in-the-Round, 11:00 AM,**

"*Vayishlach*," Genesis 32:4-36:43, Obadiah 1:1-21

**Friday, December 23, The Nosh, 5:30 PM, Service, 6:30 PM**

Laurie Ross will bless the Shabbat Candles

**Saturday, December 24, Erev Chanukah, Torah Study, 9:30 AM, Service-in-the-Round, 11:00 AM,**

"*Vayeshev*," Genesis 37:1-40:23, Amos 2:6-3:8

**Friday, December 30, Chanukah, The Nosh, 5:30 PM, Service, 6:30 PM**

Cindy O'Neil will bless the Shabbat Candles

**Saturday, December 31, Torah Study, 9:30 AM, Service-in-the-Round, 11:00 AM,**

"*Miketz*," Genesis 41:1-44:17; Numbers 7:48-59, Zechariah 2:14-4:7

lovely). I admit that it will be a little weird to be on their bimah for the first time in nearly eight years (yes, I've now been with you for most of my career as a rabbi)! How will it feel the same? How will it be different? Will I slip right back into my old seat (farthest on stage right) or will it seem like the 'wrong' side of the bimah after so many years on Beth Emeth's center stage left? Nostalgia aside, I'm also looking forward to seeing what's different--new faces, changes to the building, seeing their new rabbi in action. Yes, I'm excited to see what's different, to see unfamiliar faces, to see how they've moved on without me. And my hope is that my former congregation is able to do the same; to reflect on the past and rejoice in it, while looking clear-eyed toward the future.

Congregations are not static things, any more than people are. As Rabbi Terry Bookman writes in *This House We Build*, they're noisy places, constantly in flux and movement. Yes, even when they appear to be edifices of continuity, congregations are changing all the time. The people change, the building changes, the clergy change. Traditions that seemed sacrosanct to one generation fall away, while new challenges generate new creativity and new leadership. For a congregation to thrive, to make it to the century mark or beyond, it must do more than value its history; it must use that history to reimagine its future.

This month we celebrate Chanukah, a holiday whose name means "dedication," commemorating the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem after defilement by the Assyrian Greeks and their Jewish allies. And, given the prayers we say at Chanukah ("for the miracle performed for our ancestors, in those days, in that time...") we assume it celebrates rededication to what was. But instead of being a return to a nostalgic Judean past (what's the ancient equivalent of 'sepia toned?'), the events of Chanukah actually presaged a radical shift in Jewish development; new customs, new ways of worship (including a de-emphasis of the Temple), new texts, the rise of the Pharisees and, eventually, the rabbis, who incorporated the same Hellenic thinking the followers of Judah Maccabee railed against. Chanukah doesn't mark a return to the past; if anything, it generates a new nostalgia, as the people ask who these Hasmoneans are to be king, instead of the descendants of David. But more than that, it becomes a demarcation line, a place where the future of rabbinic Judaism (the kind we follow today) begins to emerge in the place of that ancient Israelite religion dedicated to sacrifice.

So it is with us too. We celebrate Chanukah today as a reminder of the miracle that happened *then*, but with an eye toward dedicating ourselves to a Jewish future we can only sort-of imagine. Chanukah can't just be about the past; it has to be about who it is we want to become, what we're dedicating ourselves to. My joy at Chanukah isn't lighting the lights myself and remembering what it was like as a child; it's watching my son fulfill the mitzvah (sometimes using my childhood menorah, sometimes his own), knowing--hoping--that it doesn't just remain a fond memory from childhood, but a part of his life, one that he's willing to pass along as an adult with the rest of our tradition.

Congregations change, and people change. So as we anticipate Chanukah, I would ask you: what do you want to dedicate yourself to? What parts of your past do you turn to for inspiration, and where do you want to see yourself in the future? What values, what ideas and ideals do you want to commit yourself to moving forward? Take this holiday as a chance not only to remember, but to imagine, to think of your own future and what you want to make of it. And may the Chanukah lights not only illuminate the past, but show a way forward for each and every one of us.

### Shabbat Hike



Join Rabbi Robinson on Saturday, December 3, for an outdoor Meditative Shabbat Hike at Woodland trails by Ramsey Farms, 330 Ramsey Road, Wilmington, DE, 19803, at 10:00 AM. Shabbat followed by meditation gathering at 11:00 AM. There will be no service in the CBE building. Questions? Please email Rabbi Robinson at [rabbirobinson@cbe.comcastbiz.net](mailto:rabbirobinson@cbe.comcastbiz.net).

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## CANTOR'S CORNER

MARK E. STANTON

Dear Friends,

The response to the various High Holy Day services was amazingly and overwhelmingly positive! I am very moved by how many of you took the time to express your sentiments on both, the Beth Emeth traditional services and our new contemporary versions of the Yamim Nora'im. One of the compositions most commented on was Leonard Cohen's "Who By Fire," inspired by and sung underneath the text version of the "Unetaneh Tokef" prayer read by Rabbi Robinson. Cohen's contemporary reworking of this prayer includes the very real issues that affect our lives in this day and age.

As of last month's article, we were only part way through the holidays. One very special young soloist that sang on both Holy Days was Levy Margolin who sang solo on Rosh Hashanah and on Yom Kippur with our professional choir with the setting of L'dor VaDor composed by Josh Nelson. Levy's hidden talent was "discovered" over a series of Bat Mitzvah lessons and I am thrilled that she continues on with her musical endeavors both in school and at the synagogue. Again, many thanks to all that participated in our Holy Day – holiday services this year.

While the holidays are always "on time," they seem *later* this year. Remember "Thanksgivukkah?" Well, the pendulum has swung the other way when we compare the Jewish and Gregorian calendars. The "first night" of Chanukah, "Erev" Chanukah, aligns itself with "Erev" the 25<sup>th</sup> of December, (Christmas Eve).

Chanukah, literally "Dedication," commemorates the rededication of what we now refer to as the Second Temple in Jerusalem at the time of the Maccabean Revolt of ancient times. One take on the holiday is that it also reminds us that at the darkest time [of the year], we have the ability to bring light into the world. We start with one candle (not including the "Shamash" candle) and increase the light over

eight nights. We have the ability to do good deeds every day and bring light into this world even at the darkest of times.

I hope that as we, as Jewish Americans, observe our holiday with others observing holidays of light, that we share this light with all those around us; sharing our traditions of music; latkes; dreidels; sufganiot (jelly donuts) and just pure joy!

*Chag Urim Sameach, A happy Festival of Lights – Happy Chanukah!*  
Cantor Mark Stanton



### Quote of the Month

"Take from our hearts the love of the beautiful,  
and you take away all the charm of life."  
"Rousseau"

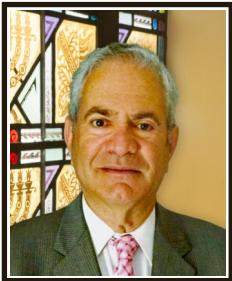
# Mazel Tov

...to Miriam and Dan Sandler on the birth of their daughter, Mya. Sister to Leah, granddaughter to Mara and Ira Tartack, and niece to Sarah and Jason Kittinger.

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## FOCUS EMERITUS

RABBI PETER H. GRUMBACHER

### **"Jews have Horns' and Other Challenges for Jews in the Shenandoah Valley"**

I have about seven kids in the upper grades of the Winchester, Virginia religious school. They are respectful and good thinkers, similar to 90% of the kids who were in my thirty-seven Confirmation classes. The classes are broken down into 8th/9th graders and 10th grade, three who will be confirmed in the Spring.

The two subjects we are discussing is "Being Jewish in the Shenandoah Valley," and "What is it we are confirming?" In one exercise I asked them to fill in two sentences, "*I hate being Jewish because...*" and "*I love being Jewish because...*" Then we talked about each.

One of the boys read, "...because it takes a lot of work."

I responded, "OK, you hate being Jewish because it takes a lot of work."

He said, "No, rabbi, I LOVE being Jewish because it takes a lot of work!"

I stared for about, oh, two hours; never had I heard something like this before.

He meant it and the others in the class affirmed it. "We are different and we like being different. It's not always easy but it gives us the chance to talk about our religion and to learn about it so that we can answer questions...it does take a lot of work."

Trust me, there are few Jews in the schools they attend, let alone in their individual classes. It leads to interesting situations. One student told me that in the fourth grade one of his teachers took him out of the room and asked to see his horns. He laughed it off then and now. I showed them the sculpture of Moses created by Michelangelo, that famous depiction of our greatest hero who has horns protruding from his head. Like so many, the sculptor misinterpreted the biblical story and understood *karnayim* to be "horns," one translation but not the correct one. *Karnayim* are the "rays" emanating from Moses after he

met with God. At least the kids should know why some people think Jews have horns; they should explain it as clearly as possible.

They like being different and so I impressed upon the need to keep being different in terms of religion. They are Americans; they are American Jews.

This is the "holiday season" and our holiday is Chanukah. It differentiates us from the Christian community. As children who might have one Jewish parent and one Christian parent, they are being raised as Jews. We've spoken about the challenges, and while they like the spirit of the season in general, Chanukah is THEIRS. They told me so!

### **Do a Mitzvah, Sponsor the Nosh or the Oneg**



Do you have a special event coming up? A Birthday, Anniversary or Baby Naming? Why not honor it by sponsoring a Friday night Nosh or Oneg on the first Friday of the month? Please do a mitzvah and call the Temple office at 302-764-2393 to select a date.



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## A Message from Rabbi Robinson date November 9, 2016

And after the fire, a still small voice...

(I Kings 19:12)

This morning, we as Americans woke up to a different world, a world transformed. After the most contentious election in a generation, one filled with animosity and enmity, and far too much anger and pain, we have felt the earth shift under our feet. But as our scripture reminds us, God is not found in the thunder, the earthquake or the fire, but in the still, small voice.

At Rosh Hashanah I asked us, begged us, to find a way to hear each other's stories. To listen beyond partisanship and listen deeply to what each other is truly saying. To create space for respectful disagreement while still loving each other. I reiterate that call now. We clearly have a lot of work to do, and we as a congregation will continue to do that work, just as we did at Sukkot with Ivan Thomas and [#wearelove](#). We may be tempted, depending on our political outlooks, to rage, to point fingers, to gloat, to blame, to turn our feelings outward. Today, I ask us instead to embrace, to support, to listen, to be present for one another. To be, in the words of the prophet Isaiah, repairers of the breach. We have enormous brokenness, and now is the time of repair and rebuilding.

We know there are people who are hurting right now, in our community and beyond it. And there are many people who are terribly afraid. We see you. We love you. And Beth Emeth will always be a safe space for you. If you are struggling on this day, please reach out to our clergy team for support. We will have an opportunity to process the election results on Friday, November 18 immediately after services. I invite us to join together in prayer and healing, and to hear one another's voices.

As a Reform synagogue, we remain committed to the values of equality and justice, and a democratic Israel. We will continue to partner with our brothers and sisters of other faith traditions locally to repair the world under God's sovereignty. Our next opportunity is November 20, when we will gather at Christ Church Christiana Hundred at 4:30 PM to pack Thanksgiving meals for the needy. I invite you to share in that work. Long term, I invite you to join our delegation to the Religious Action Center's Consultation On

Conscience April 30-May 2. It's time to go to work.

On the outside of our building, and inscribed in every prayer book we give to every b'nai mitzvah student, are the words of the prophet Micah: Do Justly, Love Mercy, and Walk Humbly With Our God. Previous generations chose those words for a reason; let them be our mission, moving forward in love, in justice, and in humility. Chazak, chazak v'nitchazek. Be strong, and together we will strengthen one another.

### Consultation on Conscience

Register for Consultation on Conscience because we cannot allow ourselves to let social justice be a spectator sport. Please click [HERE](#) to register and join our delegation.

### Your High Holiday Experience at CBE

*Shalom Chaverim!*

While the official season of refection and renewal has just come to a close, I invite you to revisit the experience you had at Beth Emeth during the High Holidays this year. Did you enjoy the soaring voices of our fantastic High Holiday choir? Were you moved by the sermons offered? Were you delighted by the glorious music and poetry of the beautiful, new contemporary service?

First, I invite you to share your feedback by replying to this email. I also ask you, especially if you were moved by the music at any of our contemporary or traditional services, to consider making a gift to support such wonderful programming. Many of the musicians whose talents we enjoyed and were inspired by over the Holidays were paid for their efforts. Please consider showing your appreciation by making a contribution to the Music Fund, the Cantor's Discretionary Fund, or any other area of interest at Beth Emeth to express your support. Click [HERE](#) to make your secure, online gift. You can also call or send a check to our office.

Thank you for being a member of this warm, inviting congregation. Your presence and spirit during this special time of year – and all year long – are what make Beth Emeth a warm, wonderful place to belong.

*B'Shalom,*  
Ruth Rosenberg  
Board of Trustees



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



KIM VONWELTIN

### The Gift of Giving

While I've never been much of a shopper, much to my daughter's dismay, I've always done pretty well at spotting a good thing when I see it. When we decided it was time to look into a synagogue we never made it past my first choice. We visited CBE and have been very happy here ever since. Honestly, I'm no better a salesperson than I am a shopper but I want to ask you to "buy-in" to CBE. Now you may say that you're already a member, so you've already "paid", but I'd like you to think about it in another way as well. Last month I talked about giving by way of the many volunteer opportunities that can help CBE and this month, I'd like to talk about giving by way of additional donations.

Did you know that it costs close to \$3,000 per member family just to run the synagogue without including any kind of programming? Our commitment structure ensures that no family is turned away because of an inability to pay this amount. We are extremely fortunate to have families committed to paying this amount and more but it still means that we have to rely on our endowment every year to help cover our operating costs. Your board balances the budget every year with the help of the Endowment Committee drawing no more than the universally accepted 4% from the endowment. This means though that an extremely tough line must be kept on all costs, the overwhelming majority of which are employment costs such as salaries and health insurance. Then there are the little things like heating, air conditioning, electricity, water and literally a roof over our heads. All very worthy costs!!

What this comes down to is, we rely on donations above and beyond membership commitments to allow us to do pretty much everything else. That means that everything outside of regular Shabbat services are made possible only through donations, and frankly, we've not always done our best at fundraising. We intend to do

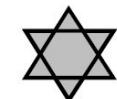
better, so we will be trying a few different things over the next year or so to see what is effective while also being comfortable and sustainable. We are now able to take donations online through our website, we'll be sending a few targeted emails, we may send a few letters and we're going to have some cards available at events soon that will present the opportunity and reminder to make a small gift to the committee that sponsored the event or to the endowment itself as a more sustainable gift. These do not have to be large sums, though we will not turn them down, to be effective. Imagine if everyone that came to an event made a \$5 or \$10 donation outside of the fee for the event. Not to mention the events for which there is no fee charged. We are also encouraging our members to participate in the Create a Jewish Legacy program that asks that members consider CBE in their estate planning which would again make a sustainable gift going directly to the endowment. Do you have other ideas? Our fundraising committee would love to hear them!

Salesperson I'm not, but I hope that, if nothing else, you're better informed about what the costs are and what we'll be doing to better cover them.

All I ask of you is to think about what you've enjoyed about CBE in the past year and consider buying-in. Our Donation Tab is on the website at [www.bethemethde.org](http://www.bethemethde.org).



[Donate](#)



## Schoenberg Memorial Chapel

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# December 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>4 (4 Kislev)</b> 9:00a Sunday School 9:30a Brotherhood 10:30a Torah for Today 12:00p Confirmation 12:00p Youth Choir	<b>5 (5 Kislev)</b>	<b>6 (6 Kislev)</b> 5:00p Trope Class	<b>7 (7 Kislev)</b> 4:00p Hebrew School 5:30p Adult Education-Hollywood Bible 5:30p Trope Class 7:15p Choir Rehearsal	<b>8 (8 Kislev)</b> 7:00p Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class	<b>2 (2 Kislev)</b> 5:30p The Nosh 6:30p Kabbalat Shabbat Even- ing Service and Program 8:00p Shabbat Service with Choir 9:00p Oneg	<b>3 (3 Kislev) Toldot</b> 10:30a Shabbat Hike 4:00p BESTY Latke Making & Gift Exchange
<b>11 (11 Kislev)</b> NFTY-PAR Junior Youth Kallah L'Taken 9:00a Sunday School 9:00a Chanukah Bazaar & Vendor Fair 10:00a Caring Committee Meeting 10:30a Torah for Today 12:00p Youth Choir	<b>12 (12 Kislev)</b> L'Taken	<b>13 (13 Kislev)</b> 5:00p Trope Class 7:30p Board Meeting	<b>14 (14 Kislev)</b> 4:00p Hebrew School 5:30p Adult Education-Hollywood Bible 5:30p Trope Class 7:15p Choir Rehearsal	<b>15 (15 Kislev)</b> 7:00p Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class	<b>16 (16 Kislev)</b> 5:30p The Nosh 6:30p Shabbat Service 7:15p Chanukah Concert & Dinner	<b>17 (17 Kislev) Vayishlach</b> L'Taken 9:30a Tot Shabbat 9:30a Torah Study 11:00a Service-in-the-Round 4:00p Better Together
<b>18 (18 Kislev)</b> Hagigah 9:00a Caring Committee Soup Making 9:00a Books & Bagels 9:00a Sunday School 10:30a Torah for Today 12:00p Youth Choir 5:00p Film Series	<b>19 (19 Kislev)</b>	<b>20 (20 Kislev)</b> 7:00p Liturgical Practices Committee Meeting	<b>21 (21 Kislev)</b> 4:00p Hebrew School	<b>22 (22 Kislev)</b>	<b>23 (23 Kislev)</b> 5:30p The Nosh 6:30p Shabbat Service	<b>24 (24 Kislev) Vayeshev Erev Chanukah</b> 9:30a Torah Study 11:00a Service-in-the-Round
<b>25 (25 Kislev)</b> <b>Chanukah</b> No Sunday School	<b>26 (26 Kislev)</b> <b>Chanukah</b>	<b>27 (27 Kislev)</b> <b>Chanukah</b>	<b>28 (28 Kislev)</b> No Hebrew School	<b>29 (29 Kislev)</b> <b>Chanukah</b>	<b>30 (1 Tevet)</b> <b>Chanukah</b>	<b>31 (2 Tevet) Miketz Chanukah</b> 9:30a Torah Study 11:00a Service-in-the-Round

In memory of the departed whom we now remember...We share in the recent bereavement suffered by members of our temple family and extend our sincere condolences to:

Yetta Chaiken on the death of her brother,  
Harry Zutz  
Leslie and Edward Goldenberg on the death  
of Leslie mother, Miriam Brumberg



## Committees are COMMUNITY



### Adult Education Committee

Chairperson: Susan Detwiler

Susan is a consultant who works with nonprofit organizations across the country, focusing on strategic planning, board development and facilitating board and organization retreats. Equally important are kvelling about her children and grandchildren, reading, playing online Scrabble, and walking outdoors in nature with Mark, her photographer husband.

What we're up to: In keeping with the values of Congregation Beth Emeth, our committee tries to provide diverse programming that create excitement and interest in Judaism at all life's stages. That means having a real variety of programs, from text study and films to adult bar/bat mitzvah and having different speakers come throughout the year. Since everyone has different schedules, we try to program all throughout the week.

A lot of adult education happens through Brotherhood and Sisterhood and other committees, so we try to coordinate with them. After there was so much interest in following up on the Scholar-in-Residence last year, Caring Committee teamed up with Adult Ed to craft a 2-year series of programs around Sacred Aging, with Brotherhood support for the first program! The Brotherhood monthly Sunday brunches and the Sisterhood Books and Bagels are great examples of adult education happening around the

Temple.

With so much happening, the adult ed brochures quickly become outdated, so we've started preparing mid-month flyers that include everything happening the rest of that month through the end of the following month. And of course, the BEN and Sabbath Lights are always a good place to look. Watch for more information about our regular programs, and the special Scholar-in-Residence program in the spring, soon to be announced. And if you want to be put on the Adult Ed email list, contact Susan at [sdetwiler@detwiler.com](mailto:sdetwiler@detwiler.com).

### Adult Education

**What's going on with David?** Join Rabbi Robinson on Wednesday evenings, 5:30 – 7:00 PM, as we explore the life and implications of King David. This is a 10 session continuation of Bible Stories that Hollywood Loves and We Never Learn. No previous experience necessary! Beverages provided and pizza.

### The Zigzag Kid – A Film



A light hearted film will conclude our series on Sunday, December 18. The Zigzag Kid is a charming film about NoNo a young boy about to become a Bar Mitzvah. However, he goes off track to learn about his deceased mother. The resulting journey is part reality, part fantasy, part zany – and completely heartwarming. The film begins at 5 PM with dinner – we ask each person to bring a salad or side dish – followed by the film, dessert and discussion. Cost is \$8 per person. **RESERVATIONS ARE A MUST.** Call the office at 302-764-2393.

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## Downtown Lunchtime Interfaith Text Study!

CBE members meet with members of the Episcopal Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew (SsAM) in joint text study on the first and third Tuesday of each month. Bring your own lunch; bring your own Bible. Fellowship begins at 11:30 AM; discussion at 11:45 AM. Finished by 1:00 PM December 7 and 21 at CBE.

**Torah Study (Saturday) and Torah for Today (Sunday)** Every Saturday at 9:30 AM; Sundays during Religious School at 10:30 AM. No experience or knowledge of Hebrew necessary. Enjoy the camaraderie of others who are interested in exploring how the Torah portion of the week can speak to us now.

**Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah** - An opportunity to study and prepare to celebrate this life cycle event with other Beth Emeth members. Call the office at 302-764-2393 or email Sue Paul szp812@aol.com for details.

## Will You Do It?



Pearl Bregman did it! Esther McDonald did it! Harry Jacobs did it! And many more. So what did they do? Each of them and other Beth Emeth members as well, included Beth Emeth in their wills. Their bequests made

it possible for our congregation to sponsor many special programs and holiday celebrations over the years. Their generosity is prized and their gifts, be they small or large, are becoming more and more important to the financial stability of the congregation. We know that among our members today are many who want to make certain that there is an active Reform synagogue in the Delaware area for their children and grandchildren and for newcomers seeking our progressive observance of Judaism. Now is your opportunity to indicate that you plan to include Beth Emeth in your will. "Create a Jewish Legacy," a program now underway in our Jewish community, makes this very easy. We ask only that you tell us your intentions to make a bequest and then sign a "Declaration of Intent." The declaration is not a legal document but serves as a reminder to include Beth Emeth in

your will. To learn more and to speak to a member of our Legacy team call the Temple Office, 764-2393.

## Our Twin Congregation Madregot Address: Siberia

Latest news from Madregot in Tyumen, Russia, tells us that they are continuing to serve their community despite the loss several years ago of their major donor, a principal of Tyumen-BP Oil. He and his company were just another victim of Vladimir Putin's plan to control all of Russia's oil.

Madregot have very creative programs, including drama and dance, that serve as educational tools for their members and the community. We are pleased that our contributions make some of these special holiday and festival celebrations possible. Madregot has helped awaken a Jewish community that was stifled by the Soviet system for over seventy years. A miracle in our time. Our 2016 Beth Emeth campaign for Madregot is now underway. Please respond generously when you receive the solicitation.

## Sisterhood Gift Shop Sale!



You are invited to the Chanukah Bazaar on Sunday, December 11, 2016 from 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM. We have the perfect gifts! Menorahs, dreidels, jewelry and more. 20% off items over \$100.00!



## Jewish Ally

Graphic Design, Photo Editing,  
Document Production &  
Technology Training

Kim vonWeltin  
kaweltin@msn.com  
302.753.2162





## Family Promise/ CBE 4th Annual Adopt a Family Program

Once again Congregation Beth Emeth is hoping to help make the holiday season easier and brighter for children and families in our community. We will be "adopting" 24 families from Family Promise. We will receive "Wish Lists" from their social worker and will try to fill these lists as best as we can! In the past the children and families have asked for toys, books, winter clothing, pajamas, household items, supermarket gift cards, etc. You can adopt one child or more than one child. You can adopt an entire family if you'd like! Each gift should cost approximately \$25. If you would like spend more on your child/family, that is fine; however, please do not feel obligated to spend more than \$25. Once we receive the wish list from Family Promise, we will match you up with your individual or family. You will be asked to wrap and label your gift and will need to drop it off to CBE by December 18, 2016 so that we can get them back to Family Promise before Christmas. Thank you in advance for your generosity and support! According to the social worker at FP, these new gifts are often the only new items these children and families receive all year long. It is an amazing effort of love that we do every year as a congregation with this project!! Please contact Missy Rosenthal at [mmrosenthal@comcast.net](mailto:mmrosenthal@comcast.net) or 610-361-1075 if you are interested in adopting a child or family this year!

### Vendors Wanted!

2016 Beth Emeth Chanukah Bazaar on Sunday, December 11, 2016, from 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM. If you are interested (or know someone who might be interested) in being a vendor at our 2016 Chanukah bazaar, please contact Missy Rosenthal at 610-209-9383 at or email her at [mmrosenthal@comcast.net](mailto:mmrosenthal@comcast.net). Vendor tables

are \$25/Beth Emeth members and \$30/non-members.

Chanukah is almost here and our Sisterhood Gift Shop has everything you need for your celebration! On Sunday,

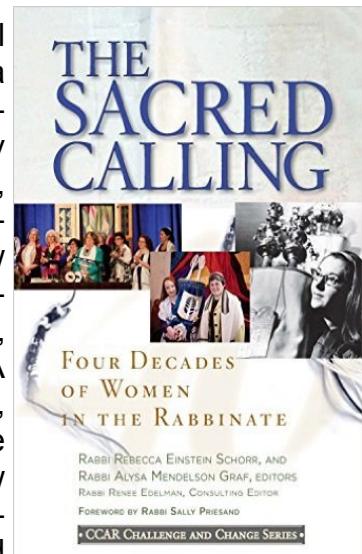


December 11 at 9:30 AM, the Gift Shop will be open for its annual Chanukah Bazaar! The children will shop during Sunday School! Congregants and community members can come shop too for everyone in the family! We have holiday gift wrap, dreidels, candles, menorahs, gifts for everyone in their families, hostess gifts and more!

### Rabbi Rebecca Einstein Schorr Comes to Beth Emeth December 4, 2016

Join us on Sunday, December 4 at 9:30 AM for a fantastic author event featuring Rabbi Rebecca Einstein Schorr! Rabbi Schorr will be discussing her new book, *The Sacred Calling: Four Decades of Women in the Rabbinate*, in addition to discussing her role as a mom, wife, rabbi, and more. Here is a link to her book: [https://www.ccarpress.org/shopping/product\\_detail.asp?pid=50116](https://www.ccarpress.org/shopping/product_detail.asp?pid=50116).

This former career-driven mother of three became a reluctant stay-at-home-mom when her autistic son and his two adorable sidekicks needed more from her. Formerly known for her popular blog, *Frum Sarah's World*, Rebecca Einstein Schorr has embraced the challenge of stepping off the rabbinic pulpit and into the kitchen – some say for the very first time. The transformation from a religious community leader to what her kids call a “house-mother” has been nothing short of life-altering. When she’s not channeling all of the energy into her duties as chief scullery maid or editor of a professional newsletter, Rebecca writes about the meaning in all the messy parts of her simpler, but not less complicated, life, at *The New Normal: Blogging Disability*, *Kveller.com*, and other websites. A sought-after speaker, Rebecca recently gave a Tedx talk about how to leverage social media for fundraising, and was a member of the 2013 Listen To Your Mother: Wilmington cast and the 2015 Listen To Your Mother: Lehigh Valley cast. <http://rebeccaeinsteinschorr.com>.



Books will be available for purchase at Beth Emeth. This is a joint event funded through Sisterhood, Brotherhood, and Adult Ed!

### Donuts for December!

Sisterhood will be selling Krispy Kreme Donuts as a FUNdraiser this year! Order forms will be available before Thanksgiving.



We will be selling one dozen glazed donuts for \$9/dozen and one dozen jelly filled donuts for \$10/dozen. You will need to place your order by December 4, 2016 and will be able to pick up your

pre-ordered donuts at Beth Emeth on December 11, 2016 during Sunday School. All proceeds from the donut sale will benefit Sisterhood and our synagogue!

### Books and Bagels



Sisterhood is pleased to announce the next three Books & Bagels dates & titles. Cover charge for the light breakfast is \$5, or \$4 plus a non-perishable food donation. RSVP to

[heathermargolin@verizon.net](mailto:heathermargolin@verizon.net). We hope to see you there!

December 18, 2016, *Safekeeping* by Jessamyn Hope

February 12, 2017, *Ten Green Bottles: The True Story of One Family's Journey from War-torn Austria to the Ghettos of Shanghai* by Vivian Jeanette Kaplan

April 9, 2017, *Here I Am*, the new novel by Jonathan Safran Foer

### Sisterhood Discount at Learning Express

How Can You Shop, Save Your Money, and Raise Money for Beth Emeth? Learning Express of Wilmington is teaming up with Sisterhood again this year to help with your shopping needs for all of the children in your life! Shop at Learning Express of Wilmington, one of the area's premier toy stores, from December 5 to

December 11, 2016. Make sure you let the cashier know you are shopping for Congregation Beth Emeth (you can even print

out this blurb). You will automatically receive 10% off of your entire purchase and CBE will also earn 10% back for our synagogue! It's an easy, fun, win-win for everyone.....you, CBE, and your little ones! Learning Express is located 4239 Concord Pike in Wilmington. Please contact Missy Rosenthal by calling her at 610-209-9383 or email her at [mmrosenthal@comcast.net](mailto:mmrosenthal@comcast.net) with any questions!

### Caring Committee Corner



The Caring Committee provides opportunities to help members of our CBE community in a variety of ways. They include making soup and meals, writing cards and making calls, consoling the bereaved, distributing holidays gifts and visiting members of our community in facilities and their homes.

New committee members are always welcome. We hope you will join us to learn more about our activities at our next meeting: Sunday, December 11 at 10:00 AM in the CBE Board Room.

If you would like to join Jen Podos in making soup on Sunday, December 18 at 9 AM, please email her at [jen@theseidenbergs.com](mailto:jen@theseidenbergs.com).

Contact Judith Insinga at [jjschnitman@yahoo.com](mailto:jjschnitman@yahoo.com) or 302-764-4093 for more information about the Caring Committee.

### For a Blessed Event



Sisterhood has the honor of mailing a beautiful mezuzah to the newborn infants and their happy parents, who are members of our Congregation. Please help Sisterhood perform this "Labor of Love" by calling Rosalyn Lieberman at 302-475-1531 or you may e-mail her at [momroz7@aol.com](mailto:momroz7@aol.com), with your good news.

## Payments made with Stock

People who wish to give stock as a donation or to pay their commitment, must follow these instructions: 1. Direct your broker to transfer stock to Beth Emeth's broker. 2. Notify the business office and let Lisa or Lori know that you have transferred stock, so that we may credit your account. **THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART!** Tell one of us your name, the # of shares you sold, the name of your stock (i.e. AT&T or DuPont) & what the stock is paying for (i.e. commitment). If you want to transfer to our broker, please call M & T Bank at 1-800-724-7788. Beth Emeth's account number is AZD961050 and the DTC number is 0443. If you have any questions, please call the Business Office at 302-764-2393 and we would be happy to help you.

## Family Promise News

Donations of these supplies would be greatly appreciated: new towel sets, new pillows, gently used twin bedding, toilet brushes, toilet bowl cleaner, spray disinfectant, dishwasher tabs, laundry detergent, and kitchen trash bags.

Catholic Charities can pick up furniture donations. Call them at 302.764.2717 to schedule a pick up and tell them you heard about it from Family Promise. By partnering with Catholic Charities, Family Promise families will receive items for their homes when they move out. Upcoming Dates: We successfully completed our lasting hosting week of the year on September 25. Our 2017 Hosting week schedule includes the weeks of: January 1, May 7, October 22 and December 31.

There are so many different ways to support Family Promise and have a personally rewarding experience during these weeks: set up sleeping rooms, drive a van, purchase supplies, visit in the evening, sleep overnight, and prepare and serve meals.

Please contact Judith Insinga at [jischnitman@yahoo.com](mailto:jischnitman@yahoo.com) or 302-764-4093 if you have any questions about Family Promise or for more information about volunteering opportunities.



## Special Shabbat Service of Welcome for New Members

The entire congregation is invited to join together on Friday, December 2, as we formally welcome our newest members of Beth Emeth with a special blessing at Shabbat Services. Blessings will be offered at both services--the Kabbalat 6:30 PM. service as well as the 8:00 PM service. In addition, a "Super Nosh" provided by the CBE Membership Committee can be enjoyed prior to the early service at 6:00 PM, as well prior to the 8:00 PM service. So whichever service fits your schedule, plan to come early, or stay late to socialize and enjoy a super delicious Nosh with your CBE family!

## List of Funds to Donate to at CBE

**ABLEMAN LITURGICAL ARTS FUND** - Provides programs, complimentary worship or special musical events during Jewish Music Celebration.

**PAUL AND LILLIAN CRAMER MEMORIAL FUND** - To purchase equipment, and to enrich school educational programs; to fund capital improvements and maintenance to Temple property.

**FAMILY ASSISTANCE** - For needy families.

**HARRY AND ESTHER JACOBS MEMORIAL FUND** - For Adult Education and other special programs.

**KEIL-HERRMANN MEMORIAL FUND** - To support annual Scholar-in-Residence lecture series.

**BERNARD KRESHTOOL MEMORIAL FUND** - For Living Judaism programs such as Adult Jewish Education.

**MILTON & HATTIE KUTZ SCHOLARSHIP FUND** - To help defray expenses of our youth at Jewish camps, conclaves, Gratz High School, as well as school tuition.

**EDITH LABOVSKY MEMORIAL FUND FOR STUDENT VISITS TO ISRAEL** – Assistance for Youth and Family Education.

**DR. LEO AND JULIA B. BLUMBERG SCHOLARSHIP FUND** - For the same such purposes as the KUTZ FUND.

**DIRECTOR OF LIFE LONG LEARNING DISCRETIONARY FUND** - for the Religious School

**LIBRARY FUND** - To purchase books for the library.

**MARGARET MAY MEMORIAL JEWISH FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION FUND** - For Jewish educational programs.

**MAZON** - A Jewish Response to Hunger - fund-raising to help solve the problem of hunger.

**RAYMOND AND ESTHER McDONALD MEMORIAL FUND** - For activities relating to the State of Israel.

**RABBI GRUMBACHER MUSIC FUND** - To promote Jewish music with guest musicians and purchase music.

**PRAYER BOOK FUND** - funding for prayer book and bookplates call the office for pricing.

**RABBIS/CANTOR'DISCRETIONARY FUNDS** - To support Jewish causes, pursue acts of loving kindness, etc. **Each Rabbi and Cantor has a separate fund.**

**ROSENTHAL JEWISH BOOK MONTH LECTURE FUND** - To promote Jewish Literature and a biannual lecture.

**SOCIAL ACTION FUND** - To be used at the discretion of the Social Action Committee for local groups in need i.e. Sojourner's Place.

**TEMPLE FUND** - Undesignated Contributions - for general congregation purposes.

**VANCE BOLEN MEMORIAL FUND** - To support Cadet Aides.

**PEARL K. BREGMAN MEMORIAL FUND** - fund available for use by the Caring Community Connection Committee.

**ALICE SCHIFF MEMORIAL FUND** – needs recommended by the Endowment Fund Committee and the Board of Trustees.

**ADULT AND YOUTH CHOIR FUND** – to promote and support the Adult and Youth Choir needs.

**LEONA ELKINS SCHOLARSHIP FUND** – awarding need based scholarship to students of CBE studying Hebrew or advanced Hebrew Studies at CBE, Gratz Hebrew High School or education programs in Israel.

**RABBI HERBERT E. DROOZ & FLORENCE Z. DROOZ FUND** – awards for scholastic excellence.

**JUDGE STIFTEL AND YAFFEE FUND** – needs recommended by the Endowment Fund Committee and the Board of Trustees.

**THE HARRY & BLANCHE WOLPERT FUND** - Family assistance fund .

**STAT FAMILY GIFT FUND**- Religious School camp and Israel trip scholarships

**HAROLD & BEATRICE SNYDER CAMP HARLEM FUND**- For Camp Harlem Scholarships.

**MILTON & GAIL WAHL FUND** - subsidize the publishing of The Orbit.

**THE MEMBERSHIP ASSISTANCE FUND** - to assist families or individual to pay the minimum dues.

**CARING COMMUNITY COMMITTEE** – To support the Beth Emeth community with care baskets, driving needs, food, cards, etc...

**THE CONGREGATION BETH EMETH EDUCATION FUND** – for supplies and programs for educational needs.

**THE IRENE PACKLES MEMORIAL FUND FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS**- Contributions made to this fund will enable our high school students to make the transition to college more easily, with regard to their Jewish identity.

**THE LARRY ISAKOFF MUSIC PERFORMANCE FUND**- income from this fund will be used to pay for musical events such as cantorial and choir concerts, musical plays, etc.

**ARCHIVE FUND** - to pay for archive activities.

**YOUTH AND FAMILY PROGRAMMING** – for youth and family programs.

**THE HOLOCAUST GARDEN MAINTENANCE FUND** – Maintenance of the Holocaust Garden

**THE TORAH REPAIR FUND** – To repair the Torah.

**THE JERRY ARENSON LEADERSIP DEVELOPMENT FUND**- for leadership development

**THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND** - to provide funds for Religious School and Camp scholarships.

**HOSPITALITY FUND** – to help with noshes, onegs and other events.





## The Congregation Family gratefully acknowledges the followg contributions:

*"Nobody is ever impoverished through the giving of charity." ~ Maimonides*

### **Bernard Kreshtool Memorial Fund**

In memory of Harry Zutz from **Connie Kreshtool**

### **Cantor Stanton's Discretionary Fund**

In appreciation for Cantor Stanton officiating at my son's wedding  
from **Charles & Sandra Sobel**

In appreciation of the Cellist for Kol Nidre  
from **Steven Zimmerman & Laurie Ross**

In appreciation of the high holiday honors  
from **Robert & Amira Silber**

In memory of Jay D. Paul  
from **Sue Paul, Marc Paul & Sandy Berman**

In memory of my beloved sister Joy Polikoff Brooks  
from **Harriet Ansul**

In memory of Milton Silber  
from **Robert & Amira Silber**

### **Family Assistance**

With thanks from **Mark Sagrangs**

In memory of Harry David Zutz and Alfred Green  
from **Regina Miller Hospitality Fund Constance Kreshtool**

### **Larry Isakoff Musical Performance Fund**

In memory of Ethel Radner  
from **Elinor Miller**

### **Library Fund**

In memory of Marjorie J. Selzer from **Selzer-Bass Family**

### **Mazon**

In memory of Muriel Tartack from **Ira & Mara Tartack**

In honor of the birthdays of Laura Ciporin and Marge Maerov from **The Birthday Group**

### **Pearl K. Bregman Memorial Fund**

In memory of Pearl K. Bregman from **Carole Aaron**

### **Rabbi Grumbacher Discretionary Fund**

Thank You from **Harvey & Judith Gilbert**

### **Rabbi Grumbacher Music Fund**

In memory of Judy Bloom  
from **Susan & Dennis Cherrin**

### **Rabbi Robinson Discretionary Fund**

In appreciation of the High Holiday Services  
from **Howard & Elyse Spialter**

In appreciation of Rabbi Robinson from **Harvey & Toby Rubenstein**

### **Temple Fund**

In memory of Dr. Harry Zutz from **Carolyn Kreston & Family**

In memory of Leslye M. Heisler from **Jerome S. Heisler**

In memory of Israel Serota from **Doris Heisler & Family**

In memory of Joan Pizor  
from **Patti Rosenberg, An-  
de Solge, Jerry Groll &  
Families**

In memory of Alfred Green  
from **Connie Kreshtool**  
In memory of Al Green  
from **Howard & Michele  
Sands**

In memory of Steven  
Wishnow from **Linda Akell  
& Family**

In memory of Judy  
Greibach from **Manuel &  
Rita Panar**

In memory of Al Green  
from **Naomi Klein**

In memory of Frieda Engel  
Koffler, loving mother &  
grandmother and loving  
dad, Nathan Koffler  
from **Daniel Koffler**

In memory of Jacob  
Antinoph from **Richard  
Antinoph**

In memory of Miriam Edith  
Bloch from **Israel & Sylvia  
David**

In memory of Joseph  
Pessin from **the family of  
grandfather Joseph  
Pessin**

In memory of Walter  
Greenfield from **David  
Greenfield**

In memory of Yolande  
Goldenberg from **Marcia  
Sloan**

## Torah Repair Fund

In loving memory of sister  
and aunt, Hildy Abter  
from **Inez Rosenbaum,  
Heffernan & Brignac  
Families**



### A Note about Contributions

We welcome all contributions. If you wish the contribution to be listed in *The Orbit*, there is a minimum donation of \$10. This also covers the mailing of ONE acknowledgement card. Please be sure to include the address if the person(s) are not members of Congregation Beth Emeth. The card is mailed when the check is received.

It is important that, when you send in a donation, you write specifically how you want the donation listed.

Please include a note with your check, printed clearly or typed, stating exactly how you want the contribution to read. For example: Mary and John Doe in memory of..., Mr. and Mrs. John Doe in honor of..., Mr. John and Mrs. Mary Doe in beloved memory of....

Please remember to write legibly and to list which funds you would like your donation to go to. Please make your check payable to Congregation Beth Emeth. Also, *The Orbit* usually runs three weeks ahead of schedule so it may take three weeks for your donation to appear in *The Orbit* from the date you mail it. Thank you for your cooperation.



Visit us at [www.bethemethde.org](http://www.bethemethde.org) or call at 302.764.2393

Yair D. Robinson, Rabbi ✡ Peter H. Grumbacher, Rabbi Emeritus

Mark E. Stanton, Cantor ✡ Kim vonWeltin, President

Elisa F. Koppel, Director of Lifelong Learning

Address or phone number change, call or email: [loriannw@cbe.comcastbiz.net](mailto:loriannw@cbe.comcastbiz.net)

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