

TEMPLE TOPICS

TEVET/SHEVAT 5776

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2016

- Friday, January 1** 6:00 PM Family Service
Birthdays in January will be celebrated
- Friday, January 8** 7:30 PM Senior Youth Group Creative Service
Oneg Shabbat Hosts: the Brodsky family
- Saturday, January 9** 10:00 AM Bar Mitzvah of Ryan Brodsky
- Friday, January 15** 7:30 PM Shabbat Evening Service
Oneg Shabbat Hosts: the Bechtel family
- Saturday, January 16** 10:00 AM B'nai Mitzvah of Michelle and Todd Bechtel
- Friday, January 22** 7:30 PM Shabbat Shirah with Choir
Oneg Shabbat Hosts: the Adler family
- Saturday, January 23** 10:00 AM Bar Mitzvah of Tyler Adler
- Monday, January 25** 4:45-5:30 PM Tot Shabbat
- Friday, January 29** 7:30 PM Shabbat Evening Service Honoring Lawyers
Oneg Shabbat Hosts: the Rodriguez family
- Saturday, January 30** 10:00 AM Bat Mitzvah of Hailey Rodriguez
- Friday, February 5** 6:00 PM Family Service
Birthdays in February will be celebrated.
7:00 PM Congregational Dinner following services by RSVP
- Saturday, February 6** No Shabbat Service
- Friday, February 12** 7:30 PM Shabbat Evening Service with speaker
Dr. MaryAnn Baenninger, president of Drew University
Oneg Shabbat Hosts: the Lapi family
- Saturday, February 13** 10:00 AM Bar Mitzvah of Nicholas Lapi
- Friday, February 19** 7:30 PM Shabbat Evening Service
Oneg Shabbat Hosts: the Mosbacher family
- Saturday, February 20** 10:00 AM Bar Mitzvah of Lev Mosbacher
- Friday, February 26** 7:30 PM Shabbat Evening Service
- Saturday, February 27** No Shabbat Service



There will be no congregational dinner on January 1



UNION FOR REFORM JUDAISM
האיחוד קהדות רפורמית
SERVING REFORM CONGREGATIONS IN NORTH AMERICA



President's Message

from Nancy Levene

"Comforting the mourner is an act of loving-kindness toward both the living and the dead."

-- Mishkan Tefilah for the House of Mourning

One of the greatest privileges I have as a leader of Beth Haverim Shir Shalom is serving as a *shiva* leader. I often lead a minyan service with my husband, Al. As a member of the choir, he lends his musical talent to the service.

I have led services where I know the family and in homes where I am meeting the family for the first time. I approach each service the same way. I am there for the family and hope my presence offers some comfort.

To be a truly warm and welcoming community, we need to be there in joyous times -- celebrating a baby naming and welcoming the new family to our community, dancing at b'nei mitzvah celebrations and sharing cheesecake at onegs. We also need to be there in times of sadness.

The greatest gift you can give to a fellow congregant is to pay a shiva call. It's easy if you know the family -- perhaps you've been to their home socially, for a party or barbeque. It's not as easy when you see the *With Profound Sorrow* email and you don't know the family in mourning. It is still just as important to go. Just show up. Being a part of a community means we are there for each other.

Why go if you don't know the family? Go because they need you. Go because it is the greatest mitzvah you can perform, one that the individual can never repay.

Community is key to many of our ritual practices; a minyan is required to say Kaddish.

Go a few minutes early. Offer your condolences. Take your cue from the mourner.

Most importantly, ask about their loved one. Keep their memory alive. If you didn't know the person, it will give you insight into who they were. It will also bring comfort to the mourner to talk about the person they lost. I have heard stories that made me wish I had known the person. Stories of commitment to family, the joy they received from their grandchildren, and sometimes the family stories that are told over and over again and still bring a smile to the face of the mourner. Going to a house of mourning when the person was young, or the death was sudden, can be difficult -- all the more reason for you to go. The family needs you.

Don't try to explain the death. Don't say they're in a better place. It doesn't help, and may cause more hurt to the mourner. Just listen. Give a hug. Hold a hand. Not sure when to go? Go on the last night of the *shiva* when it might be harder to make a minyan. The length of your visit is less important than just visiting.

I personally experienced the importance of community when my father died last year. My father was Catholic and I did not sit *shiva*, but we did have a minyan at the funeral mass. That community support was there for me.

If you want to go to a *shiva*, but are uncomfortable going alone, call me; I will go with you.

L'Shalom

Nancy Levene

From the Rabbi

“If not now, when?”



It is a scary time in our country—a time when terrorism is on the rise, and fear of what might come next is pervasive as well. At such a time, it is tempting to seek a scapegoat—someone to blame for our fears. And when we’re afraid, and we don’t know where the next attack might come from, if we can paint an entire group of people with the same brush, sometimes it seems to feel better.

As Jews, we know all too well what it feels like to be the stranger, to be the other, to be blamed for the problems of society. And it is for that reason that we have a special obligation to name racism and xenophobia when we see them.

More than any other commandment in the Torah -- 36 times in all -- we are taught to look out for the widow, the orphan, and the stranger. Having been vulnerable for most of Jewish history, perhaps it makes sense that, when we witness vulnerable people, we would have a special sensitivity to their plight.

The refugees streaming into Europe are those people in the world of 2016. While we seek ways to fight ISIS in Syria, these human beings are fleeing just that-- the constant terror of ISIS in Syria.

Should we be vigilant, lest some among those refugees mean harm to innocent people across the world? Of course we should. Should we carefully screen those who wish to seek asylum in the United States because there may be some among them who mean Americans harm? Absolutely. But can

we both ensure our security and uphold the words inscribed on the Statue of Liberty: *“Give me your tired, your poor! Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free”*? Without a doubt.

We have admitted more than 3 million refugees to this country since 1970. We know how to be both welcoming and secure. Suggesting that we can’t do both is simply a false dichotomy that breeds only more fear.

***More than any other
commandment in
the Torah
-- 36 times in all --
we are taught to
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the orphan,
and the stranger.***

Would-be political leaders who seek to ban all Muslims, or any other group for that matter, from entering the United States on the chance that some miniscule percentage of them might have bad intent, are acting in ways that are anti-American and, I submit, anti-Jewish. Can you imagine what it would be like if some political leader called for a ban on Jewish immigrants? How loud would our cry be, and how much would we expect other faith groups to speak up on our behalf?

It’s time, my friends. It’s time to speak up for the stranger. It’s time that we stand with Muslims and people of all faiths and no faith to say: This is America. We can do better. We can be strong and still be the harbor of refuge that America must be, if it intends to live up to its founding principles.

-Rabbi Joel Mosbacher

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Hailey Rodriguez
Samantha Rowbottom
Adam Sachs
Luke Savoy
Hazel Schindler
Zachary Schlissel
Drew Schwartz
Eli Toomey
Ryan Wolfe*

Candlelighting times:

January 1 – 4:21 pm *Sh'mot*

January 8 – 4:27 pm *Va'era*

January 15 – 4:35 pm *Bo*

January 22 – 4:43 pm *B'shallach*

January 29 – 4:51 pm *Yitro*

February 5 – 5:00 pm *Mishpatim*

February 12 – 5:09 pm *T'rumah*

February 19 – 5:17 pm *Tetzaveh*

February 26 – 5:25 pm *Ki Tissa*





Lucien Adler
Ella Arum
Samantha Bruckner
Samuel Cooper
Sydney Edelson
Cora Einhorn
Ava Epstein
Dylan Fitter
Emily Fox
Stella Freedberg
Nate Freedberg
Ryan Grossman
Tyler Grossman
Benjamin Hoffman
Ryan Hoffman
Sloane Irizarry
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What makes us? What makes us who we are? Language, symbols, gestures, books, family. What makes us Jews, Americans, moderns, enlightened? What would any of us be without those who imparted knowledge, and inspired us to delve into what makes us go, what makes us curious? During these days of Chanukah, of dedication and rededication, it is my goal to continue to learn from and to give back to my students. Our young people are so very busy with school and homework, sports, friends and social media. Still, all of them find the time to work hard to ready themselves for their important day in front of everyone who knows and loves them, and are *shepping naches* on their behalf.

Every child's mind works in different modes and different rates of retention and recall. As the teacher / student dynamic gets under way, growth speeds up: Hebrew growth, as well as their level of concentration and mental and emotional endurance and stability. Their confidence is gently nurtured, watered and fed, building slowly, day by day to their special Shabbat morning. While many BHSS b'nei mitzvah speeches mention that the cantor was nice and was funny, in addition to their thanking the cantor for teaching them their prayers and their *parshiyot*, they seldom can put into words what has taken place.

By turning 13 years of age, our people say that they will be considered adults. Everyone at BHSS -- clergy, staff, faculty -- plays an important role in helping to nurture, encourage, and, along with their families, mold each and every young person into that adult we wish them to become: To be good people, to be generous and kind. To study and learn, and do difficult things and think about challenging subjects, and have some pizza or a bagel at the same time.

My wife, Faith, and I take weekly voice lessons. We have our own Yoda to give us a workout, vocally, spiritually, and physically. I wish for everyone to find their Yoda. Find something they are curious about. Go learn, go practice plasticity. It's the rave. Keep learning. Push yourself. As soon as you stop moving forward, you're already going backward.

Faith and I pray for a sweet, safe, happy and healthy secular New Year to everyone in our Mahwah based special sacred community of friends. Thank you.

-- from Cantor David Perper, in a tone of encouragement, support and warmth



From the Educator's Office

The Gratitude Challenge

“Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgiving, turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings.” -- *William Arthur Ward*

Beth Haverim Shir Shalom has its own Facebook page. Our youth group has a Facebook group. Kadimah has its own Facebook group. Even our Kadimah graduates have their own Facebook group (called “Because We’re Awesome!”). If you are “on” Facebook, I encourage you to “like” the BHSS page. But this is not about Facebook; it is about gratitude.

A while back, a friend “tagged” me for a challenge on Facebook to post a certain number of “days of gratitude.” I do not usually go for these kinds of challenges/obligations, but I thought about the opportunity, no, the OBLIGATION to post something I was grateful for every day. And wouldn’t you know it? It wasn’t that hard to do.

I could have gone on for weeks. I found so many things, so many moments in life to be thankful for. Not all of them were attributable to **people** who need to be thanked. Well-worn sayings like “stop and smell the roses” attest to the fact that this idea of non-directional gratitude is not new.

What is new is that we have the ability, more and more, to be thankful in public. We don’t need a microphone or a pulpit (or a soapbox) or a gathering of people. We have Facebook, and texting. (Who doesn’t love an adorable smiley-face emoticon in a text message sent by a friend? Or better yet, a heart... with wings?) It is a Jewish thing to be thankful. Our prayer services, no matter when they occur, include a prayer of thanksgiving: for the Sabbath, for our bodies working properly – you name it, we’re grateful!

Now, more than ever, I want to be **directionally** grateful, and over this new (secular) year of 2016, I plan to tell as many of you as possible, in person. There is no better time to be thankful than right now. So here is your challenge: thank someone every single day for something. Anything. **In person**. I’ll check in with you in March to see how it’s going. 😊

—Rebecca Bernstein McVeigh, Educator



Ben Kern, a student at Rutgers, was at Biennial representing his Hillel, but, right under his name it says Beth Haverim Shir Shalom; he's one of us! So great to see Ben in Orlando!

I knew I was one of those "involved" people, but my ribbons were such a beautiful reminder of my past and my present.....what kind of ribbons are in my future?



January Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
					OFFICE CLOSED 6 PM Tefilot Family Service	No Torah Study No Morning Service
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
NO SCHOOL	4 pm School K-3 6:45 pm Kadimah	4 pm School 4/5 7:30 pm Ritual Comm Mtg	8 pm Adult Choir		7:30 pm Tefilot Youth Group Creative Svce.	VA'ERA 8:15 Torah Study 10 am Ryan Brodsky
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9 am School FS & 6 noon Jr. Choir	4 pm School K-3 5 pm - Group Prayer Class 6 pm gr 3 Youth Event 6:45 pm Kadimah	4 pm School 4/5 6:30 pm Group Prayer Class 6:30 pm gr 4/5 Youth Event 7:30 pm Exec Comm Mtg	8 pm Adult Choir		7:30 pm Tefilot	BO 8:15 Torah Study 10 am Michelle Bechtel Todd Bechtel 7 pm Movie Night "Frozen"
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
NO SCHOOL	NO SCHOOL	NO SCHOOL 7:30 pm Board Mtg	7 pm Jr Choir 8 pm Adult Choir		7:30 pm Tefilot Shabbat Shirah	B'SHALLACH 8:15 Torah Study 10 am Tyler Adler
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9 am School FS & 6	4 pm School K-3 4:45 pm Tot Shabbat 5 pm - Group Prayer Class 6:45 pm Kadimah	4 pm School 4/5 6:30 pm Group Prayer Class 7:30 pm Music Comm 7:30 pm Sis'hood Writing Workshop	7 pm Judaism in Your Home 8 pm Adult Choir		7:30 pm Tefilot	YITRO 8:15 Torah Study 10 am Hailey Rodriguez
31		Notes:				
9 am School FS & 6						

February Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	4 pm School K-3 5 pm - Group Prayer Class 6:45 pm Kadimah	4 pm School 4/5 6:30 pm Group Class 7 pm Make Challah w/Rabbi Mosbacher 7:30 pm S'hood Writing Workshop	8 pm Adult Choir		6 PM Tefilot Family Service 7 PM Dinner by RSVP	MISHPATIM 8:15 Torah Study No Morning Svce
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
NO SCHOOL	4 pm PreK School K-3 5 pm - Group Prayer Class 6:45 pm Kadimah	4 pm School 4/5 6:30 pm Group Prayer Class 7:30 pm MMG 7:30 pm Exec.	8 pm Adult Choir		7:30 pm Tefilot	T'RUMAH 8:15 Torah Study 10 am Nicholas Lapi 8 pm SYG tubing & shul-in
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
NO SCHOOL	NO SCHOOL	NO SCHOOL 7:30 pm Bd Mtg	8 pm Adult Choir		7:30 pm Tefilot	T'TZAVEH 8:15 Torah Study 10 am Lev Mosbacher
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9 am School FS & 6 2 pm Children's Music Program	4 pm School K-3 5 pm - Group Prayer Class 6:45 pm Kadimah	4 pm School 4/5 6:30 pm Group Prayer Class 7:30 pm Music Comm 7:30 pm Sis'hood Writing Workshop	8 pm Adult Choir		7:30 pm Tefilot One Book, One Community	KI TISA 8:15 Torah Study No Morning Svce
28	29					
9 am School FS & 6 1 pm Prepping for Passover	4 pm School K-3 5 pm - Group Prayer Class 6:45 pm Kadimah					

Notes:

Eternal Lights Dinner 2015

Our 17th annual Eternal Lights dinner was a tremendous success. It is because of the people who attend the dinner and all those who support Eternal Lights that we have raised over \$345,000.

Years ago the funds raised went toward closing the budget deficit. Today the donations makes it possible for BHSS to expand and extend our programming.

It was a casual evening with old friends meeting new friends, great food and lots of laughs.

Eternal Lights is our largest fundraiser. It is not a splashy gala -- there's no real entertainment unless you count mad libs, Bible or trivia games. What Eternal Lights is all about, are caring, generous people coming together to meet fellow congregants, old friends meeting new friends who all have a common goal to keep Beth Haverim Shir Shalom the warm-hearted thriving synagogue that it is.

There are many hardworking, dedicated congregants at BHSS, and Eternal Lights is another opportunity for many to go the extra mile in supporting our Jewish community.

It was a pleasure to have chaired Eternal Lights 2015, and I would like to extend a special thank you to our committee: Robin and Barry Cassell, Jen and Matt Cole, and Jeff Klein. An additional thanks goes to Rod McVeigh for documenting the evening with his photo taking, and to Lisa for her help and assistance and Iris for her assistance, brainstorming ideas, and being a wealth of information.

Our thanks and appreciation goes to ALL who attended and continue to support Eternal Lights.

We all make a great team!
Thank you!

- Deborah Klein, Chairperson

P.S. We hope you will join us again next year, perhaps bring a friend so Eternal Lights can grow and continue to benefit all congregants at Beth Haverim Shir Shalom. Thank you again!

Maxine & Howard Abner

Alison & Norman Axelrod

Sandy & Bill Arlington

Joe and Elyse Victor Berman

Shelley & Gary Bettman

Barbara & Charles Burghardt

Robin & Barry Cassell

Jen & Matt Cole

Dorie & Seth Cohen

Renee & Gary Garbus

Trudi & Frank Gunsberg

Candy & Mike Kassover

Deborah & Jeff Klein

Lisa Lamster

Nancy & Al Levene

Arlene & Rich Mandel

Barbara & Phil Moss

Sandy & Newt Parks

Robby & Eddie Saiff

Leslie Sapienza

Janet & Andrew Schlissel

Michelle Cassel Siegel & Ben Siegel

Ilyse and Floyd Smith

Sheryl Thailer

Marci & Harvey Weinberg

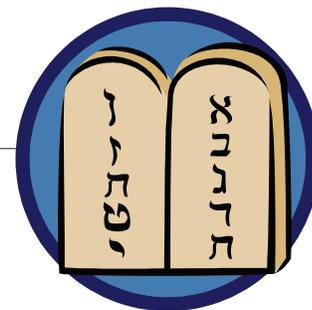
Gail & Ranan Wichler

Lori & Ritch Yanowitz

Lynn & Michael Zall

Beverly & Harlan York

...will be called to the Torah...



Ryan Brodsky - January 9, 2016

Lives in Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey. Mother, Tina, Father, Ethan, Brother, Alex, 17, Sister, Melissa, 10..... is a 7th grader at Woodcliff Middle School..... His interests include hockey, basketball, chess, and reading (especially non-fiction.) “I’d like to be a lawyer someday because I think that I am good at arguing my point. I’d also like to help people who may not be able to defend themselves or afford to pay for a lawyer. I am also considering becoming a culinary artist because I love to cook. I’m excited to become a bar mitzvah because this is an important step in my journey to become a man in the Jewish religion and a strong member of the community. For my community service I spent one year volunteering at the YJCC in their Boost program. There, I worked with children with special needs. I played with them, talked to them, and acted as a mentor. I feel that this was valuable to them because it helped them to feel more like normal kids who can have friends. It also helped me because it made me a more sensitive person who appreciates people’s differences.”



Michelle Bechtel - January 16, 2016

Lives in Upper Saddle River, New Jersey. Mother, Felicia, Father, Eric, Sister, Taylor, 14, Brother Todd, 13..... is a 7th grader at Cavallini Middle School..... Her interests include baking, art, school, soccer, and gymnastics. “I would like to get into a good college and start a business. I am proud to carry on tradition and share this special day with my loved ones. I have celiac disease, and I have to eat gluten-free. Therefore, for my community service I made gluten-free cakes and sold them and gave the money to the Celiac Disease Foundation.”



Todd Bechtel - January 16, 2016

Lives in Upper Saddle River, New Jersey. Mother, Felicia, Father, Eric, Sisters, Taylor, 14, and Michelle, 13..... is a 7th grader at Cavallini Middle School..... His interests include sports, school, friends, and family. “I would like to become a professional football player. I’m glad I am learning about my past. For my community service project I am collecting sports equipment for kids in need.”



Tyler Adler - January 23, 2016

Lives in Ramsey, New Jersey. Mother, Amy, Father, Barry, Brothers, Jack, 10, and Lucien, 6..... is a 7th grader at Smith Middle School..... His interests include video games, rugby, and anything with technology. “I would like to be rich and successful. I feel like I’m important, special, and becoming a Bar Mitzvah is like becoming a star. For my community service I am working towards cooking meals, raising money, and collecting items for the Ronald McDonald House of the Greater Hudson Valley.”

...will be called to the Torah...



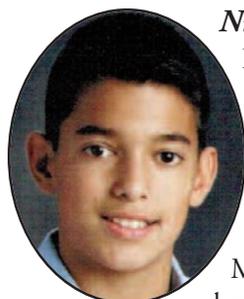
Hailey Rodriguez - January 30, 2016

Lives in Spring Valley, New York. Mother, Cynthia, Sisters, Shayna, 20, Soleil, 17..... is a 7th grader at Chestnut Ridge Middle School..... Her interests include gymnastics, baking, and animals. "I would like to be a microbiologist. For my community service I have been involved with Keep Rockland Beautiful, working to clean up the environment, both to make our community attractive and to keep toxins out of our water supply."



Lev Mosbacher - February 20, 2016

Lives in Oakland, New Jersey. Mother, Elyssa, Father, Joel, Brother, Ari, 17..... is a 7th grader at Valley Middle School..... His interests include reading, video games, science, and tae kwon do. "I would like to be a middle school science teacher. I am very excited and nervous about my bar mitzvah, but mostly excited! I am looking forward to seeing all of my family and friends who have come from so far away. For my community service I am working with Midnight Run to collect and distribute necessary supplies, food, and clothing to homeless people in New York City."



Nicholas Lapi - February 13, 2016

Lives in Upper Saddle River, New Jersey. Mother, Lisa, Sisters, Sarah, 17, Rachel 16, Step-dad Jerry Giampaglia and step-siblings Alec and Evan, 15 and Gianna, 14, Dad, Nick, Step-mom, Liza is a 7th grader at Cavallini Middle School..... His interests include playing Xbox, airsoft, football, and learning about the heart. "I would like to become a heart surgeon. I am excited to celebrate this special day with my family and friends and very happy that I'm finished."

Does your family have a Bar or Bat Mitzvah coming up?

In order to be included in the appropriate issue of Temple Topics, your child's brief "bio" and photo are due as follows:

For a March or April date, by February 1

For a May or June date, by April 1

If you need a form, or have any questions, please call or email to the synagogue.

Brotherhood 2.0

As 2015 comes to a close, I find myself becoming reflective...again. Usually, we get reflective around Yom Kippur, and we cast our sins off into the duck pond across from Secor Farms, and then we begin the school year for our children, and begin the fourth quarter of our financial year, and we fall into that cycle of working, running errands, shuttling kids off to sports, rehearsals, practice, tutoring... what have you... and then, suddenly, you're in December.

I experienced my first URJ Biennial conference. I did not know what to expect. I went down wearing a few different hats – a daddy, whose kid had an amazing time at the URJ camp that week in Orlando, a husband of the dynamic manager of communications and public relations for the URJ, and as a synagogue leader, representing BHSS in learning sessions, plenary sessions, and several one-to-ones. I entered the conference as a recently unemployed, career-changing teacher, unsure of his next step, but emerged with a real mission and the feeling that I am a community leader, an empathetic instrument of change, and a true component of the Reform Jewish movement. I know now that whatever the future holds for me, I will achieve each goal with meaning, with energy and with a clear goal of *Tikkun Olam* – repairing the world.

I used to think that Reform Jews were just Jews who didn't follow the rules that Conservative or Orthodox Jews do. I only was part of the Reform community for five years...but now? I realize that I am part of the greatest progressive movement this world has seen...and for about 175 years! I can spend many hours sharing of my experiences, telling about the great people I met at Biennial - the diverse vessels of knowledge and spirituality, and the excellent learning programs, and of course the music and singing and prayer. However, I need to say the main thing I took away from Biennial, and am bringing to BHSS and our community is a simple thought, a simple and straightforward concept that has, henceforth changed my life, my outlook, and my mission. I am here to be a small part of a large movement to make the world a better place, one mitzvah at a time.

I can use this space to write about the fun dinners and meetings had by the Brotherhood, the fantastic turnout of the Chanukah party hosted by Sisterhood & Brotherhood, and about the great work thus far of supporting our youth, our presence at shivas and temple events, and of course our work with Caring Committee helping those in need within our community. I can talk about how our coat drive box overflowed with coats, how we help build the sukkah, assemble the community menorah, and also how we have both brothers and sisters who are active members of our Brotherhood, but I won't. What I will do is wish everyone a very happy, healthy and meaningful year ahead, and to let you all know that Brotherhood 2.0 is here to help you make 2016 and beyond as meaningful as you wish. We need your help and participation to help our Brotherhood accomplish their mission, and by helping us, we can support each and every one of you, in our congregation, to achieve your goals, whatever they may be, of *Tikkun Olam*, Audacious Hospitality, or just making your existence just a little bit brighter and more meaningful. Come to one event. Participate in just one board meeting. Help raise some money for Gift of Life, or serve a meal at the Soup Kitchen, or help out at Oasis, or People to People, or even just being an extra pair of hands at a youth event. Help Brotherhood help you to help our community grow, and to make the world a better place, one mitzvah at a time.

Please keep an eye on our future events –
dates to follow:

- Passover Wine Sale
- Men's Seder
- Excellent learning and leadership activities on the fourth annual BHSS Retreat
- Fundraising bike ride around Rockland Lake
- Comedy Night
- Annual Rockland Boulders baseball game
- Reserve every third Thursday of every month for a Brotherhood gathering, and look out for our board meetings every other month. Brotherhood has come a very long way...but our mission had merely just begun.

-- Jonathan Theodore

Sisterhood News

Happy 2016 from your Sisterhood! As this is written, the sun is shining, and there hasn't been a snowflake yet; but we know the long winter is still ahead. Sometimes it's nice to snuggle up in front of the fire and relax after the stress of the holidays, but when the winter doldrums set in, it's good to know that Sisterhood is still busy and planning for you.

We had a busy autumn. November saw our wonderful Art Party! Stacey and Jen hosted another fabulous event, and our chamsahs are gracing our walls (ok, some of our closets). We listened to music, we laughed, and we congratulated or commiserated over our talent. Thanks to Stacey, Jen, and Sheryl for their terrific hospitality.

Take a look at our photo to see the fun we had; and make it your resolution to join us the next time we set brushes to canvas!

More thank-yous to Sheryl for hosting our annual Chanukah Cocktail Party. Nobody does an evening better -- from the welcoming smell of latkes on the stove, to the bubbling hot

tub on the deck, everyone had a great evening! Thanks to Brotherhood for sharing the event with us and supplying the wine; and most importantly, thanks to all of you who donated to the Gift of Life in memory of Michael Wiesner.

In 2016, Sisterhood will continue to collaborate with other temple committees to bring you programs and social events that will have a mitzvah or social action element to each one. Sisterhood gives you a unique opportunity to develop relationships, do good and have a great time doing it.

We are eagerly awaiting the opening of the Ulam (our new community building) and plan to host a welcoming event there as soon as we can.

Remember to check your weekly emails for our upcoming events. There's no surer sign of spring than the announcement for our Miriam Seder -- but in the meantime, we hope to see you at a Sisterhood event soon.

Lisa and Gail





Liza Fishman

Youth Programming



Brittany Silverman

For our 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade youth group, we have held two events, which were a success! In the month of November, 18 of our youth group members attended a choir event with Cantor, and who knew how many amazing singers we had! Without any preparation, everyone sang prayers and Chanukah songs, projecting their beautiful voices Our youth are on their way to being prepared for their b'nei mitzvah studies in the future! After everyone sang in the sanctuary, we all decorated cupcakes in the social hall and made a We Love Our Cantor cake to thank him for all that he does.

If you are interested in attending any of these events, if you have any questions, or if you just want to chat, please email me at bsilvermanbhss@gmail.com. I am looking forward to our future events and seeing many more of you attend!

Following the cupcake event on December 6, we went ice-skating at Palisades Center Ice Rink before the first night of Chanukah. With 13 attendees and help from their families, we had a blast skating. There were a few falls, many laughs, and many beginner skaters, but everyone was supportive and the kids helped one another on the ice. After the event, we all went to Haagen-Dazs for ice cream to celebrate pre-Chanukah festivities with one another.



I hope you will join us for our upcoming events listed below:

- Sunday, January 10** –
Midnight Run Community Service Prep
- Monday, January 11** (3rd Grade Only) – Game Night
- Tuesday, January 12** (4th and 5th Only) – Game Night
- Sunday, February 21** –
Community Service, Center for Food Action

Michelle Mitzvah Group

Mitzvah Day was a success in early November, with volunteers from the temple and Ramapo College to help sort children's clothing for Oasis. We donated more than 25 bags of new and gently used clothing. In addition, strollers were donated to a local Jewish organization. Michelle Mitzvah also donated gift cards to Children's Aid and Family Services for holiday gifts, a "Lunches with Love" to Oasis (lunch served to about 250 women) with volunteers from MMG there to help serve, and gift cards and school supplies to Oasis. We continue weekly collections of food for the Center for Food Action -- food can be left in the baskets at each entrance to the temple.

We are always looking for volunteers for the group, whether you can donate an hour a week or an hour a month or even an hour a year! Every little bit helps. By the time this issue of Temple Topics reaches you, the MMG, along with Cantor Perper and members of our choirs, will have visited the Wanaque Children's Hospital Center on December 25 to sing and brighten the day of the children at the hospital. Each year it is incredibly uplifting, and if you didn't have an opportunity to participate in 2015, mark your calendar for 2016! You will find it very rewarding.

The Center for Food Action is looking for the following types of donations during the year:

January - Pasta/Mac & Cheese

February - Soup!

March - Peanut Butter/Jelly

April - Cereal/Pancake Mix

May - Canned Meat/Fish



Items can be brought to the synagogue and placed in the baskets in the front lobby or inside the school entrance.

MONTHLY TOT SHABBAT

Happy New Year! Join us for our new and improved Tot Shabbat programming at BHSS!

**Monday, January 25
from 4:45-5:30**

Join Rabbi Mosbacher and Ms. Ilene to celebrate Tu B'Shevat, the birthday of the trees

Please RSVP no later than January 18 so we can make sure to have enough craft supplies.

Tot Shabbat is open for children from birth through pre-kindergarten.



Contributions

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

with thanks for all your help

- *Marilyn Taylor & Charlie Romano*

with thanks for making me feel so welcome in your "House of Friends"

- *Bonnie Mosbacher*

with love and gratitude and in memory of our Jodi

- *Linda & Sheldon Lyons*

with thanks for your kindness

- *Peter Fixler*

in memory of Anneliese Schott

- *Lore Levi*

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

in memory of Anneliese Schott

- *Lore Levi*

thinking of you, we thank you!

- *Lois & Marty Klapper*

Life Fund

to Allan and Sheri Schott, in memory of Anneliese Schott

- *Barbara Lacher & Antoslav Vlahovic*

- *Meri & Marty Gurian*

- *Irene Pfeffer*

- *Lisa & Ken Glick*

- *Jane & Jan Simon*

- *Nita & Eddie Klaskow*

- *Barbara & Charles Burghardt*

to Sheryl Thailer, in memory of Barbara Thailer

- *Barbara Lacher & Antoslav Vlahovic*

in memory of Ruth Schoenberg, mother of Peggy Mensin

- *Pearl & Bob Meyers*

to Joe and Barbara Friedman in honor of their 60th wedding anniversary

- *Girda & Ben Weldman*

in memory of Harry and Florence Gordon

- *Ann & Barry Seidner*

in memory of Sam Schuman and Morris Goodman

- *Emily & Herb Schuman*

in memory of Norman Novak

- *Laurie & Marc Daniel*

in memory of Erna Tuteur and Moritz Schott

- *Sheri & Allan Schott*

in memory of Jerome Weinberg

- *Marci & Harvey Weinberg*

Brick Fund

to Dr. Kenneth Horowitz and family, in memory of your mother, Lee Horowitz

- *Barbara & Charles Burghardt*

Jewish Family Services of Rockland

donated by their families in honor of the following simchas:

Bar Mitzvah of Scott Fleischmann

Bar Mitzvah of Matthew Myers

Bat Mitzvah of Reese Frisch

Center for Food Action in Mahwah

donated by their families in honor of the following simchas:

Bat Mitzvah of Sophia Roth

Bat Mitzvah of Julie Grippo

Bar Mitzvah of Jake Fishman

Bat Mitzvah of Amanda Pittman

Bar Mitzvah of Brady Cole

Bat Mitzvah of Rebecca Bibi

Bat Mitzvah of Arielle Lipkin

Bar Mitzvah of Ryan Brodsky

Ramapo Bergen Animal Refuge

donated by their families in honor of the following simchas:

Bat Mitzvah of Cassidy Fishman

Bat Mitzvah of Reese Frisch

Bat Mitzvah of Parker Leipzig

Bar Mitzvah of Matthew Meehan

Bat Mitzvah of Arielle Lipkin

Bar Mitzvah of Ryan Brodsky

High Holy Day Appeal

Howard & Maxine Abner
David & Sarah Adelson
Brian & Jennifer Altman
Ashley Ames
Robert & Patricia Anesetti
Bill & Sandra Arlington
Joel & Irma Becker
Rich & Bonnie Berens
Harold & Nora Berger
Benjamin & Deborah Berman
Joseph & Elyse Berman
Gary & Michelle Bettman
Alan & Elena Blankman
Eric & Ann Byne
George & Karen Charne
Harold & Lorraine Clarke
Michael & Dorothy Cohen
Rick & Liz Cohen
Seth & Dorie Cohen
Melvin & Jacqueline Cohn
Matthew & Jennifer Cole
Doug & Lauren Cooper
Marc & Laurie Daniel
Marc Davis
Michael & Stacy Davis
David & Carol Diamant
Joel & Judy Dorfman
Arlene Duglin
Harold & Harriet Eckstein
Ellen Fasanaro
Jonathan & Susie Fein
Eric & Nicky Freeman
Gary & Renee Garbus
Kenneth & Lisa Glick
Lawrence & Marsha Gluck
Scott & Deena Goldstein
Carole Goodman
Martin Gordon & Leona Wayser
Larry & Sheila Groskin
Melanie Grossman
Martin & Merri Gurian
Barbara Heitman

Joel & Sheryl Ives
Robert & Sandi Jeanette
Ronald & Sue-Ellen Johnson
Richard & Linda Kaplan
Michael & Candy Kassover
Jerry & Kathleen Kirshman
Stuart & Ethel Kirshner
Edward & Nita Klaskow
Jeffrey & Deborah Klein
Lisa Lamster
Al & Nancy Levene
Richard & Dede Levine
Jay & Sharon Levy
Peter & Kathy Liebmann
Jeffrey & Stacey Lipkin
Paul & Claire Lipson
Martin & Rhoda Lonow
Jackie Lowenfels
Jonathan & Suzanne Lynn
Richard & Arlene Mandel
Jay & Joy Meisner
Shane & Maddie Meltzer
Bob & Pearl Meyers
Helen Milstein
Joel & Elyssa Mosbacher
Stanley & Marilyn Moser
Phil & Barbara Moss
John & Judy Neumann
Jeff & Barbara Nimerofsky
Marc & Lorraine Orlick
Joanne Oventhal
Brian & Ellen Pall
Newton & Sandra Parks
Charles Peson
Jay & Melissa Peller
Glenn & Randy Popowitz
Steven & Marlene Portnoy
William & Kim Pressman
Jeffrey & Aldine Rostolder
Mark & Denise Roth
Alan & Sheri Schott
David Schwartz

David & Linda Schwartz
Lois Schwartz
Stuart Semel
Randy & Michelle Sherry
Rick & Randy Shill
Benjamin & Michelle Siegel
Andrew & Roni Silver
Debra Simon
Chad & Paul Skier
Janice Smith
Harlan Smith
Kevin & Leslie Strauss
Marilyn Taylor
Judith Teich
Joel & Carol Thea
Jonathan & Lauren Theodore
Eric & Lisa Trattner
Stuart & Ruth Turner
Ed & Linda Vogel
Elizabeth Wandelmaier
Art & Stephanie Weber
Eric Weiner & Vida Mylson
Gerry & Lynn Westen
Stephen & Joyce Weinberg
Richard & Judith Weisenfeld
Marc & Barbara Weiss
Ranan & Gail Wichler
Douglas & Julie Wright
Ritchard & Lori Yanowitz
Harlan & Beverly York
Michael & Lynn Zall
Howard & Kathryn Zukof

in honor of Noah Yanowitz

- Bruce & Phyllis Meller

Sustaining Members

Benjamin & Deb Berman- *B'racha*
Eric & Lauren Einhorn- *Simcha*

Yizkor Appeal

in memory of...

Ethel Salzman, Marion Stansfield,
David Salzman
- *Bill & Sandra Arlington*

Janice and William Kaplan, Adele
Axelrod - *Norman & Alison Axelrod*

Donna Barrack, Robert Towell
- *David & Lisa Barrack*

Florence and Herman Ashkanazy,
Beatrice Burghardt
- *Charles & Barbara Burghardt*

Phyllis and Victor Cohen
- *Michael & Dorothy Cohen*

Norman Green
- *Doug & Lauren Cooper*

Celia Phillips, Ben Fasanaro
- *Ellen Fasanaro*

William Goldstein
- *Scott & Deena Goldstein*

Paul Fisher
- *Jeffrey & Susan Goldstein*

Irving Goodman - *Carole Goodman*

Edith Roth, Morris Roth, Gertrude
Jeanette, Paul Jeanette
- *Robert & Sandi Jeanette*

Esther Shiffman, Mark Shiffman,
Minnie Klaskow, Hubert Klaskow,
Michael Klaskow, Jenn Latiener
- *Edward & Nita Klaskow*

Noel Lamster - *Lisa Lamster*

Betty Landis, Lee Landis
- *Steven & Lisa Landis*

The Klein and Mandel family
members who are no longer with us
- *Richard & Arlene Mandel*

Celia Meyers, Harry Meyers, Daniel
Zahn, Rose Zahn
- *Bob & Pearl Meyers*

George Moss, Esther Moss, Beatrice
Moss, Ethel Moss, Irving Pesin, Sarah
Blacker, Victor Levy
- *Phil & Barbara Moss*

Irwin Orshalick - *Claire Orshalick*

Seymour Oventhal - *Joanne Oventhal*

Leah Reinstein, Eugene Reinstein, Jack
Weinberg, Estelle Weinberg, Howard
Weinberg
- *Harris & Susan Reinstein*

Simon Seidner, Blanche Seidner,
Harry Gordon, Florence Gordon,
Diane Motz
- *Barry & Ann Seidner*

William D. Cassel, Booney and Shae
Goldberg
- *Benjamin & Michelle Siegel*

Robert Simon, Anne Simon, Brianna
Campanelli - *Debra Simon*

Harry, Lillian, and George Sault,
Philip and Julia Simon, Dianne Schorr
- *Jan & Jane Simon*

Frank Nathanson, Todd Spencer,
Edward Spencer
- *Daryl & Gail Spencer*

Vernon Taylor, Leon and Dorothy
Auerbach - *Marilyn Taylor*

Brian Bandremer, Sophie, William,
Allan, and Murray Eisenstein
- *Mel & Paula Tenenbaum*

Max Vogel, Hella Vogel, Sol Wexler
- *Ed & Linda Vogel*

Jerrold Arons, Sandra Arons, Jerome
Weinberg
- *Harvey & Marci Weinberg*

Morton Fuchs, David York
- *Harlan & Beverly York*

Irv Frank, Jeremy Zall
- *Michael & Lynn Zall*

Yizkor Appeal

Joanne Ehlermann
Stephen & Nadiege Hittman
Stuart & Ethel Kirshner
Phyllis Okon



The Ulam

(The Gathering Hall)



COMING SOON>>>COMING SOON>>>COMING SOON



Social Action

As we begin 2016, it seems reasonable to reflect on how BHSS did in 2015 on our journey of *tikkun olam*.

For example, our community:

- served 440 meals at the Suffern Soup Kitchen
- provided 330 needed rides
- sent at least 100 cards of support
- collected 63 coats for NY/NJ Cares
- raised \$213 for NFTY-GER scholarships
- collected, sorted and delivered 25 bags of clothing for Oasis in conjunction with Mitzvah Day

That is added to the normal food collected and grown, donations for camp scholarships, money raised for other causes, and all the community service the b'nei mitzvah candidates performed. Is it enough? Sure, it is a fantastic amount! Yet, there is a "but" in the congratulations: Couldn't we do more?

It is easy to ask you to do more by purchasing another jar of peanut butter for the Center for Food Action, and some of you will, thank you! It is harder to ask you to join, to do ONE (just one) community service activity in 2016 where you are investing your time and your energy, not just your buying power. I can speak from experience; I have met so many nice people while DOING community service at BHSS. I would never have met one of my dear friends if I hadn't been "doing" something at BHSS; in this instance I think I got way more in return than the time I invested.

Please add to your list of 2016 resolutions, "I will participate in ONE community service activity at BHSS." Need a suggestion as to what you could do? Email me: whitneyspeer@msn.com.

Wishing all of the BHSS community the joy of *tikkun olam* in 2016!

Lifelong Learning

Join the Lifelong Learning committee, as we take some time out of our busy lives to pause for a few moments and reflect on maybe what is important to us, what is happening in the world, or what Jewish text and learnings have to teach us. With those reflections in mind, let's identify what actions we can take to renew and repair ourselves and the world around us.

We are working on an educational project to research the towns where our two Holocaust Torah scrolls originated. We have contacted the Memorial Scrolls Trust and have found a wealth of information for us to research. Stay tuned for more updates as we plan to develop a presentation for Yom HaShoah.

You can always check out the Lifelong Learning page on the BHSS website for more details, but "save the date" during the winter for some of our upcoming exciting events!

Lifelong Learning Calendar

BHSS Reflections Project:

We have the envelopes with your answers to the 10 questions locked away. At our January 15, 2016, Shabbat service we will return your envelopes to you for contemplation and consideration. Remember, all answers are confidential and for your eyes only!

Science and Religion:

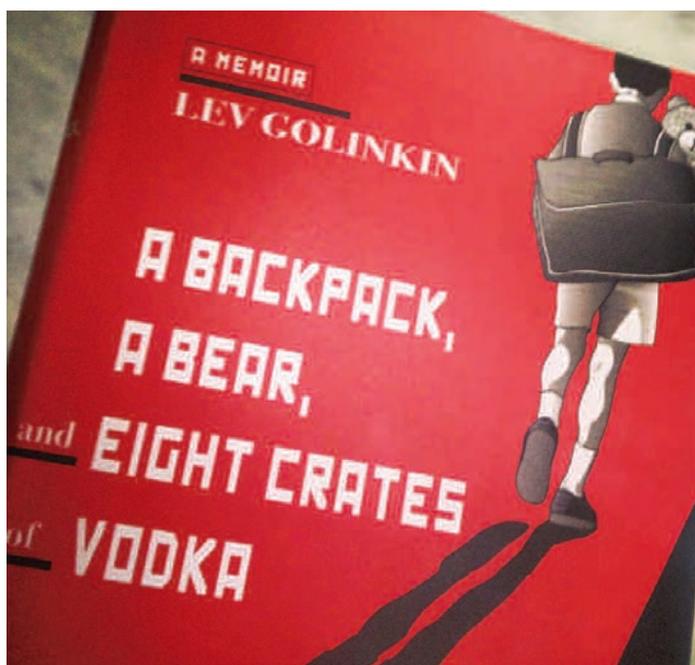
For centuries, religion provided answers for our ancestors to all of life's questions. As modern Reform Jews, we look to science to provide many of these answers. On March 25, 2016, during Shabbat services, come listen to Rabbi Geoff Mitelman of "Sinai and Synapses" speak on these topics. Should be a very interesting evening.

From the Sifriyah

Our library will be embarking on an exciting new endeavor, combining our love of the printed word, helping others, and participating for the fourth year in One Book One Community, sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Northern New Jersey. The 2015 book selection, A Backpack, A Bear, Eight Crates of Vodka, is stellar. The author, Lev Golinkin, tells the story of his Jewish refugee family fleeing persecution and his journey to reclaim his broken past. The book can be purchased in the temple office. We have placed a large box in the school corridor, clearly labeled “Backpacks for Oasis.” These backpacks will be donated to Oasis, an organization which helps primarily women and children and with which our Temple has a wonderful connection. Won’t you join us in this most worthwhile endeavor? We hope so.

Has anyone read one of the suggested books featured in the weekly temple announcements? Let us know which book or books you have read. We’d love to hear your commentary.

Just a gentle reminder... If you have overdue books in your possession, please return them to the library. Remember, another congregant may be waiting to check out your book.



Ritual Committee

A big thank you to all those who have participated in the Greeter Program on Friday night. You have provided a valuable gift to Beth Haverim Shir Shalom. As of January 1, 22 congregants have participated in this program.

Sign-up sheets can be found every Friday night in the social hall after services, on the beverage table. Sign-up sheets can also be found on the bulletin board in the education wing of the synagogue. Participating in the program is fun and easy. It’s an opportunity to meet fellow members of the congregation, and it brings generations together.

What greeters have to say:

Debbie loves being a greeter because she can sing loud and proud in the lobby.

Lisa loves saying hello and having great conversations with members.

Judy says she can’t get enough Shabbat kisses.

Come join the fun! Everyone can be a greeter. We look forward to having you participate in the program.

Adult Learning on Monday Nights

**NOT Just for
Kadimah Parents!**

Jerry Kirshman and educator Rebecca McVeigh are organizing a series of study sessions for adults on Monday evenings from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. (ending to coincide with Kadimah dismissal.) Watch the weekly announcements and your inbox for the lineup of classes, and sign up!

January Yahrzeits

MARK ABRAMSON
HERMAN ACKERMAN
MAX BARRACK
LENA BENDALIN
ESTHER BERNSTEIN
DAVID BLEIBERG
IDA BLOOM
SAMUEL BORNSTEIN
CLAIRE BRENDER
RONALD BRENNER
VINCENT BRUNHARD
GARY COFFEL
FREDEL COHEN
MARGARITA COYNE
RUTH DOBLIN
WILLIAM EISENSTEIN
LINDA FEUCHTBAUM
BEATRICE FREEMAN
GRETE FRIEDMAN
LESLIE FRIEDMAN
DAVID GARFIELD
ALTER GEBROWITZ
BERDIE GELFENBEIN
IRVING GLUCOFT
ALVIN GOLDBERG
IDA GOLDBERG
WILLIAM GOLDSTEIN
ELY GORDON
REUBEN GRUBER
REGINA GUNTHER
ELSIE GURIAN
MAX HEFFLER
IRA HIEGER
NATHAN HIEGER

PHOEBE JAFFE
JANICE KAPLAN
PAULA KAPLAN
MINNIE KLASKOW
GERALD KLEIN
SARAH KNOX
GERSHEN KONIKOW
LIBBY KOVAR
SYLVIA LACHER
DR. THEODORE LEIBMAN
BILLYE LEVINE
MARVIN LEVY
MIRIAM LICHTENFELD
JEANE LISK
THELMA LITMAN
HANNS LOWENBACH
IRVING MALLOW
SYLVIA MANDEL
CELIA MEYERS
JAY MEYERS
MURRAY MILLER
HAROLD MILLMAN
JODI MONASH
NANCY MORGAN
LESTER MOSBACHER
MILTON NACHINSON
GEORGE S. PARIS
MARIANNE PERTEN
HERB PORTNOY
BETTY RESNICK
LEO ROSENGARTEN
JACK ROTH
DAVID SALTZMAN
JOEL SANKEL

SELMAN SCHECHTER
SHELDON SCHUMAN
MORRIS SCHWARTZ
RUTH FRIEDMAN SEAGER
SAM SEGAL
ARTHUR SHERRY
MILTON SITOMER
JULIUS SLAVIN
MARILYN SOLOMON
EDWARD SPENCER
TODD SPENCER
BETTY SPIVACK
EVA STEDMAN
JUDITH STEINMAN
LOUIS STERNBERG
MARVIN SUER
JACOB SUPERFIN
SAMUEL SURKES
LOUIS WAGMAN
JOSEPH WAGNER
BERNARD WAXENBAUM
ARCHIE WEBER
LILLIAN WEBER
JEFFREY WEIN
JACOB WEINBERG
HERMAN WEISSMAN
RUTH WHITMAN
JACOB WIDMAN
NATHAN WIDMAN
BETTY WILDMAN
KARL WILDMAN
BOB WITT
HARRY ZALL
JEREMY ZALL

February Yahrzeits

LEIZER ALPERSTEIN
BERTHA ALTER
HERMAN ASHKANAZY
IRENE BERNSTEIN
MARTIN BROWN
HOWARD COLE
JOHN COLLINS
BETTY WINDLER GLUCK
ANNA HEFFLER
PAUL JEANETTE

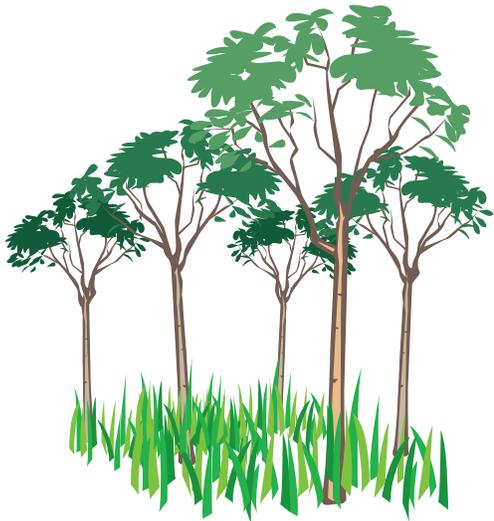
ABRAHAM KIRSHNER
GLORIA KIRSHNER
NOEL LAMSTER
MILDRED LANDAU
BESS LEVENE
THELMA LEVITT
SHIRLEY MARKS
GEORGE MENDELSON
DOROTHY NACHINSON

SEYMOUR OVENTHAL
TOBY PUTTERMAN
SAMUEL ROTH
HARRY SAULT
SOL SCHLOSSER
MARGO SIMMONS
ANDREA GREEN SWAN
SALLY VICTOR
WALTER WALLISON
LEONARD ZINN

Tu B'Shevat: The New Year for Trees

Tu B'Shevat, the 15th of Shevat on the Jewish calendar, is the day that marks the beginning of the "New Year for Trees." This is the season in which the earliest-blooming trees in the land of Israel merge from their winter sleep and begin a new fruit-bearing cycle.

Legally, the "New Year for Trees" relates to the various tithes that must be separated from produce grown in Israel. These tithes differ from year to year in the seven-year Shemittah cycle; the point at which a budding fruit is considered to belong to the next year of the cycle is the 15th of Shevat.



We mark Tu B'Shevat by eating fruit, particularly from the kinds that are singled out by the Torah in its praise of the bounty of the Holy Land: grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives and dates. Bokser- carob- is also a popular holiday treat. This day is also known as "Arbor Day" and is celebrated by school-children in Israel who plant trees.

This year Tu BiSh'vat is celebrated January 24-25.

Join us as we honor our beloved

CANTOR DAVID PERPER

*10 years
Cantor of
Beth Haverim Shir Shalom*

DINNER DANCE

*The Brick House
Wyckoff, NJ*

SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 2016

7:00 – 11:30 PM

INVITATION TO FOLLOW

A promotional poster for the Disney movie Frozen. The background is a snowy, mountainous landscape under a starry night sky. On the left, Elsa stands in her iconic blue ice dress, her right hand raised. In the center, the title 'Disney FROZEN' is written in a stylized font. Below the title, a blue banner contains the text 'AT BHSS'. In the foreground, Anna and Kristoff are riding Sven, the reindeer, through the snow. Olaf is flying behind them. The overall scene is bright and festive.

**Saturday, January 16
7 - 9:30 p.m.
FREE with contribution to
Center for Food Action.**

Disney
FROZEN

AT BHSS

Presented by the Music Committee

Good & Welfare

from & for the congregation

Condolences

to **Jeffrey Goldstein**, on the death of his Father, Sheldon Goldstein
to **Daryl Green**, on the death of his Grandmother, Sylvia Greene
to **Carol Cohen**, on the death of her Sister-in-Law, Debra Frishberg

Mazal Tov

to **Kathryn & Zvi Bereket**, on the birth of their grandson, Gabriel Lev
to **Rabbi Mosbacher** receiving The Rabbinic Human Rights Hero award from *T'ruah*
to **Madisen Siegel** for her participation in the Pan American Maccabee Games as a member of
Team USA's youth swim team

R'fuah Sh'leimah
(For a Full and Speedy Recovery)

Terri Coffel
Nita Klaskow
Barbara Sternberg
Marilyn Taylor
Beth Wiesner

Welcome New Members!

On Friday, December 11 we gathered for Shabbat Chanukah. Almost 50 chanukiyot (the plural of chanukiyah, the word for a Chanukah menorah) were lit by as many families. The light and warmth of those candles and that service, combined with wonderful singing by Cantor Perper and the choirs, and Rabbinic Intern Josh Fixler's hysterical latke "Christmas Story" combined to make a memorable, celebratory evening. Our oneg had jelly donuts and latkes and it was one wonderful Chanukah!

Jennifer & Theodore Rosini, Rivervale, NJ
Shelley Berson & Jack Weinstein and family, Mahwah, NJ





New Adult Learning Opportunity!

Join us Sunday mornings from 9-10 am
as we explore what it means to live Jewishly in the 21st century.

Four teachers, four subjects – sign up for as many as you like! (Some subjects will have a text that participants will need to acquire, as noted in the descriptions below.) Please RSVP to the synagogue office (201-512-1983) so we know you're coming. Sessions will include coffee and bagels.

1. Can living “biblically” help us understand how to live more Jewishly?

In *The Year of Living Biblically*, the author documents a year of living his modern-day life while still abiding by a very literal reading of the Torah. We will read sections of his sometimes funny, always interesting and thought-provoking story, and compare them to the Torah texts and to commentaries of our great sages.

Teacher: Rebecca McVeigh

Dates: Jan. 10, Feb. 21, March 21, May 25

Text: *The Year of Living Biblically*, by A.J. Jacobs

2. How does a modern Reform Jew make authentically Jewish decisions?

In this unit, we will look at *Reform Responsa*, an at-once ancient and modern form of Jewish legal literature that invites us to look at biblical, Talmudic, medieval, and modern Jewish teachings to arrive at Jewishly rooted decisions to modern questions. Some examples of issues we'll explore include: What does Judaism say about in vitro fertilization? What about Jewish burials for pets? What about organ donation and end of life issues?

Teacher: Rabbi Joel Mosbacher

Dates: Feb. 28, March 20, April 24, May 28

Text: “*Reform Responsa for the Twenty-First Century: Sh'eilot U'Tshuvot*,” Vol. 1 & 2

3. Jewish Holidays from Texts to Today: We Are What We Celebrate

Jewish holiday celebrations reflect our fundamental beliefs, as well as offering opportunities for the contemporary Jew to adopt and adapt personally meaningful rituals and practices. This class will examine (some surprising) traditional sources of the Jewish holidays as well as contemporary translations of those traditions, perhaps creating some new traditions along the way.

Teacher: Sharon Halper

Dates: March 6, April 3, May 8

Text: *A Guide to the Jewish Seasons*, ed. Rabbi Peter S. Knobel (CCAR Press)

4. My Other Rabbi Wrote the Talmud: Finding Modern Meaning in Rabbinic Texts

In this unit we will look at some favorite rabbinic texts from Jewish thinkers throughout the ages, from Akiva to Maimonides to Spinoza, and ask the question “What do these texts have to say for our lives as 21st Century American Jews?” We will explore eccentric, surprising, and challenging texts from across the history of Jewish thought and listen to how they speak to us. Is there a place for Rambam in the board room? What would my children say to Rabbi Hillel if he sat across from them at our dinner table?

Teacher: Rabbinic Intern Josh Fixler

Dates: Jan. 24, March 13, April 10, May 15

Notes from Music

Happy 2016, everyone! We hope you enjoyed your Chanukah and the end of the year celebrations with your families. The Music Committee is hard at work planning family programming for the rest of the year.

First off is our popular Movie Night, on Saturday night, January 16, 2016 at 7 pm. The event is free and open to everyone: members, friends, and neighbors. All we ask is that everyone brings a donation for the Center for Food Action. We will be providing the snacks and the movie. We will begin with a Havdalah service and then have the feature presentation. This year we will be showing "**Frozen**"! Yes, kids of all ages will love it, and all are welcome!

Our February event is geared towards the youngest members of the community, pre-K to 2nd-grade kids. We are planning a special **Children's Concert**, featuring our own Cantor David Perper and special guest Cantor Jordan Franzel, of Coffeehouse Cantors fame. We hope to make this a membership drive, so please invite your friends and neighbors who are looking to join a synagogue. We are interested in showcasing BHSS in its best light. What better way than through our cantor and our children? We will also have a simultaneous program for the older siblings making snacks to enjoy after the concert.

By now you should also be aware of our main event of the year, Cantor Perper's 10th Year at BHSS Celebration. ***Please mark your calendars for the weekend of March 4 and 5, 2016.*** Save the date emails have gone out to all members of the congregation, and we have a beautiful announcement on our main foyer video screen. The celebration will begin with Friday night's service and will continue with a dinner-dance on Saturday night at The Brick House. Details will be available via e-mail, social media, traditional invitations, etc. You won't want to miss the fun!

We are always looking for new voices for the choirs. Please consider giving your child the opportunity of joining the

Junior Choir. Children must be in third grade or older to participate. The kids have a lot of fun while getting a great start in learning for their b'nei mitzvah. Plus, they get to share a great rapport with Cantor Perper. Lisa Lamster is our parent contact for those interested in more information. Please get in touch with her at lisalams@optonline.net.

For the young at heart, we have a seat for you with the Adult Choir. It's never too late. Please contact Cantor Perper.

For those of you who love music but feel more comfortable working "behind the scenes", we have a place for you to share your voice too! It's called the Music Committee. Singing is not a requirement for membership in the committee. We are the ones who plan and execute all the events that the congregation has come to love, like Movie Night and Coffeehouse Cantors. We meet with and arrange for the visiting artists like Rick Recht and Itay Goren. We even plan for fundraising programs that support charities like Eisner Camp and The Center for Food Action. Contact me any time at niberger@aol.com, and let's chat!

Musically yours,
Nora Berger



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There were many interesting panel discussions held during the main plenary sessions. One of them featured Michael Douglas!

As we arrived at the hotel in Orlando, the front doors of the hotel were festooned with these amazing signs. We really felt welcomed right from the beginning!



BHSS was represented well by Rabbi Mosbacher, congregational president Nancy Levene, Al Levene, educator Rebecca McVeigh, Rutgers Hillel rep Ben Kern, BHSS's own URJ Ambassador Cydney Coyne, and the Theodore family: Brotherhood president Jonathan, URJ Manager of Communications and Public Relations Lauren, and their daughter Annabel... ask us about biennial experience and make plans to come to Boston in 2017!



During the main plenary sessions (all 5,000 Reform Jews in one place) the giant screens were alive with images to reflect what was being said on the stage. The BHSS contingent was thrilled to see this screen (on URJ camping) that included our very own Sam Spencer and Leah Kern!



In what has become a BHSS tradition, many of our biennial attendees gather for a dinner "out" one of the nights. Here's Al Levene, Nancy Levene, Cydney Coyne, Rebecca McVeigh, Jonathan Theodore, Rabbi Mosbacher, and Rabbinic Intern Josh Fixler!



One of the highlights of Biennial is the Shabbat morning service. Cydney Coyne, Al and Nancy Levene, and Rebecca McVeigh have gotten "prime seats" and are waiting for the rest of our group to join us.

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Beyond, CVS, Dunkin Donuts, iTunes, Panera, Starbucks, ShopRite, Stop & Shop and Target.

Please contact Lisa Lamster at (lisalams@optonline.net) or 201-760-1935 with any questions or to order your cards today!

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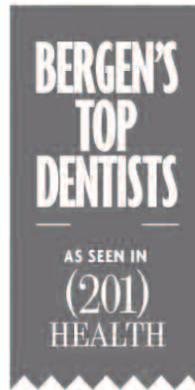
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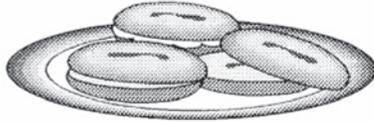
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Office Closes at 3 p.m. - Thursday, December 31
Office Closed - Friday, January 1
Office Closed - Monday, January 18
Office Closed - Monday, February 15

Sessions of School for January & February:
Sundays, January 10, 24, 31; February 7, 21, 28
Mondays, January 4, 11, 25; February 1, 8, 22, 29
Tuesdays, January 5, 12, 26; February 2, 9, 23

To do in January and February:



- **Torah study** – Saturdays beginning at 8:15 AM – January 9, 16, 23 and 30 and February 6, 13, 20, and 27
- Join your fellow 3rd-5th graders for **3-5 Youth Group** – Sunday, January 10 is **Midnight Run prep** for community service (3rd-5th); Monday, January 11 is 3rd grade **Game Night**; Tuesday, January 12 is 4th & 5th grade **Game Night**; Sunday, February 21 is **community service** for the Center for Food Action (3rd-5th)
- Hang out with other 6th-8th graders in **6-8 Youth Group** – Sunday, January 10 is **Monster Mini Golf**; Sunday, February 21 is **community service** for the Center for Food Action
- **BHSSTY** (9-12 Senior Youth Group) will lead us in a **Creative Service**, Friday, January 8, and host **snow tubing and a shul-in** on Saturday, February 13
- Watch “**Frozen**” with all your BHSS friends on Saturday, January 16 at 7 pm
- Learn how to put up a mezuzah and more during the **Home Rituals Workshop** with the rabbi and cantor, Wednesday, January 27, 7-8 pm
- Save the Date to celebrate **Cantor Perper’s 10th year**, March 4-5 (more information to follow!)