Beth Haverim Shir Shalom

VOLUME 31 NO. 3

TEMPLE TOPICS

TEVET/SHEVAT/ADAR 5775

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2015

Friday, January 2	6:00 PM	Shabbat Evening Service
	7:00 PM	Congregational Dinner following services by RSVP
Saturday, January 3	10:00 AM	Shabbat Morning Service
Friday, January 9	7:30 PM	Family Service
		Birthdays in January will be celebrated.
Saturday, January 10	9:30 AM	Tot Shabbat
	10:00 AM	Shabbat Morning Service
Friday, January 16	7:30 PM	Shabbat Evening Service
Saturday, January 17	10:00 AM	Shabbat Morning Service
Friday, January 23	7:30 PM	Shabbat Evening Service
Saturday, January 24	10:00 AM	Shabbat Morning Service
Friday, January 30	7:30 PM	Shabbat Shirah
		Oneg Shabbat Hosts: the Stone family
Saturday, January 31	10:00 AM	Bat Mitzvah of Jordan Stone
Friday, February 6	6:00 PM	Shabbat Evening Service
	7:00 PM	Congregational Dinner following services by RSVP
Saturday, February 7	10:00 AM	Shabbat Morning Service
Friday, February 13	7:30 PM	Family Service
		Birthdays in February will be celebrated.
Saturday, February 14	10:00 AM	Shabbat Morning Service
Friday, February 20	7:30 PM	Oneg Shabbat Hosts: the Kelman family
Saturday, February 21	9:30 AM	Tot Shabbat
	10:00 AM	Bat Mitzvah of Dylan Kelman
Friday, February 27	7:30 PM	Oneg Shabbat Hosts: the Hittman family
Saturday, February 28	10:00 AM	Bar Mitzvah of Joseph Hittman

UNION FOR REFORM JUDAISM
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President's Message

from Jen Cole

Admittedly, I leave my articles to the last minute, much to my (and presumably its editors') chagrin. This month I was determined to avoid procrastination so I scheduled time at my office to write… then I left my phone at home. Oy!

It wasn't that I was missing the ideas I've jotted down on my phone, but the mere fact that I was phone-less left me distracted. *What if one of the school nurses called? What if one of my patients needed an appointment? What if Iris called with a synagogue emergency? What if Aidan called from college just to say hello?* I soon recognized how ridiculous I was, assured myself that anyone who needed to reach me could, pretended it was 1993 (my last analog year), took out actual pen and paper, and wrote what came to mind. Turns out, it wasn't difficult after all…

At the end of November, our clergy, educator, and staff, with the assistance of some volunteers, put together a meaningful Shabbaton for families beginning their b'nai mitzvah journey. There was time for worship, song, education, private family moments and community building, general schmoozing and of course, food. We were encouraged to "step into prayer with our whole selves" and learned how to literally and figuratively "move" through the Shabbat service; We were reminded of our synagogue's requirements (as well as suggestions) for dress, ushering, oneg-hosting, etc.; we were encouraged to view the b'nai mitzvah not as an end but a beginning; We received our Torah portions in a simple, yet lovely ceremony; many of us had an opportunity to meet or deepen our connection with our partner families, with whom we will be sharing, along with our congregational family, this special day. We discussed, we created, we laughed… a memorable program indeed.

And here's the thing – we almost missed it.

When the Cole family received the invitation, we declined. It wasn't because we doubted it would be a well-organized event. It wasn't because we thought we didn't needed to go, having traveled the bar mitzvah route before. And it wasn't because we didn't feel obligated, because we do – not because it was mandatory, but because we have chosen to feel obligated. It was just that these days, there are so (too?) many obligations. We already had an overly full agenda, including a tailgate, several basketball games/practices, loads of laundry, and a dinner… not to mention we were supposed to be in Ridgewood, Allentown, and Baltimore, simultaneously.

Even before the Shabbaton entered the mix, our family was going to need to make decisions, which required a lot of prioritizing, a bit of apologizing, and more rushing than we'd prefer. But as it turns out, it wasn't that difficult after all.

The following morning, Brady and I were back at Family School where Cantor Perper led us in a VEERRRY SLOOOW *V'ahavta* (which coincidentally is my very favorite prayer). I saw this as a sign to SLOW. DOWN. A reminder that too much multi-tasking is not good for the soul, and that we can miss the good stuff if we are just go through the motions. Cantor's "Love God with everything you are" was sounding similar to Rabbi Kirzane's, "Step into prayer with your whole self." There was a theme, one I needed to hear. I am grateful to not have missed it.

When I arrived home this afternoon, both eager and reluctant to re-connect with technology, my only message was a notification that a dear friend shared a post by Rachel Stafford, aka "Hands Free Momma." It is written as a Thanksgiving recipe on how to "Live More & Love More," but the message remains relevant. January 1 may not be the Jewish New Year, but I can't imagine it is un-Jewish to reflect on how we are doing with respect to the promises we made in September. I have taken liberty with her words, but if interested, the entire post can be found at handsfreemomma.com. I hope her prayer resonates with you as it did with me:

For every exasperated breath, let there be two minutes of uncontrollable laughter.
For every impatient "hurry up," let there be one leisurely "take your time."
For every worry about the condition of your home, let there be a friend who reminds you that your décor is not why you are loved.
For every grudge you've been holding, let there be one act of forgiveness.
For every complaint, let there be gratitude for two blessings.
For every minute spent holding an electronic device, let there be ten minutes holding a deck of cards, a musical instrument, or someone else's hand.
For every duty checked off the list, let there be a spontaneous dance party in the kitchen or a snowball fight in the backyard.
For every moment you give the gift of yourself to the ones you love, let there be a memory that lasts beyond your lifetime.
With open hands, open eyes, and an open heart, this year can be different than years past.

In conclusion, I'll add –
If you need it to be, may 2015 be different.
I hope you find time to SLOW DOWN.
I hope you find time to step into prayer with your whole self.
I hope you LOVE more and LIVE more.
I hope you occasionally leave your phone at home.
I hope you also find time to step into BHSS (also with your whole self, beyond the parking lot or foyer, even if you have to rush here, or rush out)… and I *really* hope you'll discover it will be well worth your while.

From the Rabbi

"If not now, when?"

It's been two years since the Sandy Hook school shootings in Newtown, CT.

60,000 Americans have died from gun violence since Newtown; there have been some 90 school shootings since then. And yet, our elected officials have stood idly by as our neighbors continue to bleed. Some laws have been passed on the state level across the country since that dark day, but most of those laws have made it easier to openly carry weapons, not harder to attain them.

But we haven't stood by. Our congregation, as a member of a national network of community organizing called the Metro Industrial Areas Foundation, has been helping to lead the way in an innovative and unique approach to the problem of gun violence in America.

The campaign is called "Do Not Stand Idly By," and it involves marshaling the massive purchasing power of our police and military, who collectively purchase 40% of the guns sold in America each year, to press gun manufacturers to create safer distribution and safer gun technology.

These two thrusts will help immediately begin to reduce the problem of gun trafficking; they will reduce the number of accidental deaths by gun; they will reduce the incidents of law enforcement agents being shot with their own gun or being afraid of being shot with their own weapon; they will reduce the usability of guns that are stolen. In short, this approach will help keep guns out of the hands of those who shouldn't have them-- an idea that most Americans, most sensible gun owners, agree makes sense. This is no effort to roll back the Second Amendment to the Constitution.

And that's why we've been able to enlist the support of Republican, Democratic, and Independent mayors, police chiefs, sheriffs, and governors in this market-based approach. As of this writing, 68 public officials in 13 states across the country have committed to using their purchasing power to press gun manufacturers to play their part in helping to keep us safer. In our congregation's catchment area, the mayors of Mahwah, Oakland, and Allendale have signed on, as has the Bergen County Sheriff. If you live in a town or county other than these, and would be willing to meet with your mayor or other public official to ask them to act in this way, I'd be honored to join you in such a meeting.

Gun violence is a problem for victims and their families; it's a problem for people of faith who have to bury the dead and console the bereaved; it's a problem for mayors, police chiefs, sheriffs, and governors who are tasked with keeping us safer. In this campaign, we want to make gun violence a problem that gun manufacturers need to do their share in, too.

They're not going to do their share just because 30,000 Americans are dying each year; they're not going to do it just because 20 elementary school children are murdered with their products; they're not going to do it just because we have a biblical imperative not to stand idly by the blood of our neighbors. It's simply not enough in this campaign that we're right. We need to also have power.

If you care about the problem of gun violence in America, you can be a part of building that power. You can do that by meeting with the elected officials who work for you and asking them to use their purchasing power to begin to turn the tide of gun violence in America.

Check out our website-- donotstandidlyby.org. Follow us on Facebook. Follow us on Twitter @dontstandidlyby. Most importantly, call me if you're willing to meet with your local officials to invite them to join the campaign, and think about who else you know across America who might want to move on this issue.

For the first time since my own father was murdered now 16 years ago, I'm optimistic that we can make a real change on the scourge of gun violence.

If not now, when?

—Rabbi Joel Mosbacher

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Candlelighting times:

January 2 – 4:22 pm *Vay'chi*
January 9 – 4:28 pm *Sh'mot*
January 16 – 4:36 pm *Va'era*
January 23 – 4:44 pm *Bo*
January 30 – 4:53 pm *B'shallach*

February 6 – 5:01 pm *Yitro*
February 13 – 5:10 pm *Mishpatim*
February 20 – 5:18 pm *T'rumah*
February 27 – 5:27 pm *Tetzaveh*

January Birthdays

Tyler Adler
Michelle Bechtel
Todd Bechtel
Logan Buchalter
Jake Buchbaum
Danica Butler
Logan Calarco
Ashley Crystal
Justin Diamond
Gillian DuBroff
Olivia Eisberg
Reese Frisch
Sara Howard
Noa Kaufman
Samone Kaufman
David Marcovici
Shyia Prizel
Maya Resnick
Hailey Rodriguez
Samantha Rowbotton
Adam Sachs
Luke Savoy
Hazel Schindler
Zachary Schlissel
Drew Schwartz
Owen Schwartz
Jordan Stone
Eli Toomey
Ashley Werblow
Ryan Wolfe

From the Assistant Rabbi

All prophetic books and sacred writings will cease to be read in the messianic era except the book of Esther." (Maimonides, Laws of the Megillah 2:18)

Maimonides (1135-1204) believed that Esther was more significant than the books of the Prophets, the Psalms, all the histories and legends and wisdom literature contained in the Hebrew Bible outside the Torah. Esther is on par with Abraham and Sarah, Miriam and Moses.

The rabbis of the Talmud (*Chullin* 139b) agree with Maimonides, seeing an echo of Esther in the Torah itself. Speaking of future calamity, God tells Moses in Deuteronomy 31:18, "I will surely hide my face on that day." The Hebrew word for "I will hide" is *astir* **(אַסְתִּיר)**, wherein the rabbis see Esther **(אֶסְתֵּר)**. Esther's name, related etymologically to the word "hide" or "cover," is thinly veiled in this discomforting verse from Torah, suggesting that her story is one in which God may be present but is hidden from view.

Surely we feel that our stories are like Esther's, with God most of the time hidden from view. The celebration of Purim, with its costumes and masquerades, is a reminder that not all is as it seems. And we do well to remember, as we take off our masks and makeup at the end of the night, that the physical trappings of our lives—our jewelry, our houses, our haircuts—are just as disposable.

But what else can we do but to live in the physical world and to sanctify it with our strivings toward righteousness? Does not Eleazar ben Azariah teach, "If there is no flour [sustenance], there is no Torah" (Pirkei Avot 3:17)? We know that there are enduring values such as mercy and wisdom and courage, and we also know that we must make the most of our physical lives in order to achieve those higher goals.

This may be the deeper (hidden?) meaning behind Esther's preparation before standing before King Ahashuerus. Before she approaches the king to invite him to the ball that would doom Haman and save the Jews from peril, וַתִּלְבַּשׁ אֶסְתֵּר מַלְכוּת (*vatil'bash Esther Malchut*), "Esther dressed in Majesty" (Esther 5:1). Perhaps this phrase merely refers to clothing, similar to the לְבוּשׁ מַלְכוּת (*l'vush malchut*), "clothing of majesty," that Mordecai wears later on (6:8). Or perhaps it's something more.

In Kabbalah, *Malchut* ("Majesty") refers to the lowest divine emanation, the physical world in which we all live. It is the world of activity, the world in which we engage with things and people in a physical way. While it may stand at some remove from ephemeral and numinous qualities such as glory and understanding, it nonetheless is part of the divine order. And Esther wraps herself in it, draping herself in the physical world so that she may take command in it.

Like Esther, we clothe ourselves in the limited materials that surround us, and like Esther, we strive to make them mean something to ourselves and for those around us. The physical world isn't bad; nor is it ultimate. There are many mysteries lurking behind our daily lives, the "hidden face of God," just out of reach. And while we seek for them, we must never turn our backs on the world that we live in or those who live in it with us.

These lessons are a taste of the wisdom that the ancient tradition of Kabbalah has to offer us, and I invite you to join me to learn more during my three-part class entitled ***Kabbalah: Four Worlds, Ten Sefirot, One God***. We will meet at the temple on Wednesdays, Feb. 4, 11, and 25, from 7-8 pm.

Additionally, if your interest is piqued by Hebraic wordplays like אַסְתִּיר and אֶסְתֵּר, I invite you to join me for my five-part **Hebrew 201** class, Sunday afternoons from 12-1 pm, beginning February 22.

And as Purim approaches, let us recall that its lessons, according to Maimonides, will endure forever. Perhaps if we pay special attention this year, we may peer behind the veil to catch a glimpse of the face of God hiding behind the mask of the world.

- Rabbi Daniel Kirzane

From the Educator's Office

I'd like to begin 2015 with some "thank you" notes. From our entire teaching staff, thank you to all of the religious school families for your lovely holiday gifts. From me, our teachers, and students, thank you to those who sacrificed some of your precious free time to help us celebrate Chanukah. You heated up latkes, dished out applesauce, portioned out chocolate treats, and poured apple juice. You set up, served, cleaned up – all with wonderful smiling faces and generosity of spirit that made our holiday celebrations special.

To the families of our lower grades in the traditional school, thank YOU for coming out to applaud, photograph, take videos, and generally *kvell* over your first, second and third graders. You even sang along! I think our favorite songs are now "Thank You God" (1st & 2nd graders) and "On the 1st (2nd, etc.) Night of Chanukah We Kindle the Lights" (all school). This year we enjoyed a special treat as second grader Adam Buchalter read a Chanukah poem he had written with his teacher, Mrs. Koch.

The next night, on the first night of Chanukah, our traditional school 4th and 5th graders started off the congregational menorah lighting with enthusiastic, cheerful singing. There were local dignitaries and a great crowd, including many of our school "family."

Thank you to the terrific Family School staff, headed by Coordinator Elyssa Mosbacher. They organized and ran a wonderful Chanukah program that taught us things we never knew about the symbols of Chanukah – *dreidels* and *chanukiyot* (Chanukah menorahs.) Our Kadimah students made us proud as they categorized and packed up all of the D.A.R.E. gifts. They do this each year as a part of one of their December evenings, and it's rewarding to see our young people working in teams to help families who have a difficult holiday season.

Thank you to Education Committee Chair Lauren Einhorn. From organizing the parties and gifts, to giving me excellent advice in concert with the rest of her committee, Lauren is wonderful to work with. (And if you join the Education Committee you can work with her as well!)

Thank you to Rabbi Kirzane, Rabbi Mosbacher, and Cantor Perper, who give our school what they give our congregation, its "*neshama*," its soul. And thank you to Iris, Lisa, and Walter, for making things happen whenever and wherever needed.

As you read this, the holiday of light and rededication, Chanukah, will be over and we will be continuing to improve our Hebrew skills, learning more about Israel, and getting ready for Tu BiShevat, among other things. On behalf of all of the staff of the religious school, Happy (secular) New Year!

-Rebecca Bernstein McVeigh

Our 4th & 5th graders led off the Community Menorah Lighting in song! Here they are with their teachers and Rabbi Mosbacher, Rabbi Kirzane, Mahwah Mayor William C. Laforet, Council President John F. Roth, Council Vice President Steven Sbarra, and Councilmembers Lisa DiGiulio and Harry Williams

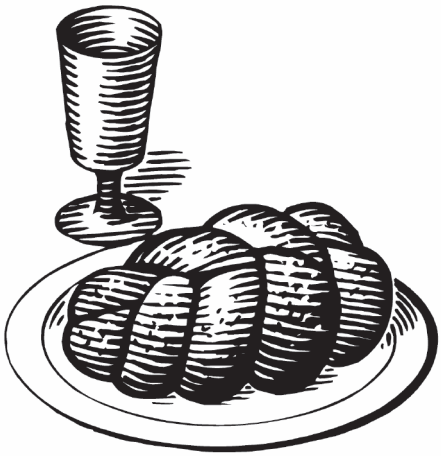
Lucien Adler
Ella Arum
Samantha Bruckner
Samuel Cooper
Sydney Edelson
Cora Einhorn
Ava Epstein
Dylan Fitter
Ryan Grossman
Tyler Grossman
Benjamin Hoffman
Ryan Hoffman
Sloane Irizarry
Dylan Kelman
Nicholas Lapi
Zachary Marano
Andrea Mitchell
Benjamin Mitnick
Lev Mosbacher
Nate Nussbaum
Reed Nussbaum
Heather Romoff
Noah Rostolder
Olivia Rowbottom
Felix Schindler
Zachary Selfon
Joshua Simon
Jack Swerdloff
Jackson Vogel
Noah Wachtel
Adam Weisensel
Natalie Wolfeiler

January Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					2	3
				OFFICE CLOSED	6 PM Tefilot 7 PM Dinner by RSVP	VAY'CHI 8:15 Torah Study 10 am Tefilot
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
NO SCHOOL 11 am Jews & Humor 1 pm YG Skating	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 pm Mah Jongg	7 pm Ed. Com. Mtg 8 pm Adult Choir		6:15 7/8 grade dinner 7:30 PM Tefilot Family Service Jewish American Food Oneg	SH'MOT 8:15 Torah Study 9:30 am Tot Shabbat 10 am Tefilot
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9 am School FS & 6 1 pm Mah Jongg	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 - Exec Comm Mtg 7:30 pm - MMG Mtg	7 pm Retreat Mtg 8 pm Adult Choir		RETREAT 7:30 PM Tefilot	VA'ERA RETREAT 8:15 Torah Study 10 am Tefilot
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
RETREAT NO SCHOOL	OFFICE CLOSED NO SCHOOL	NO SCHOOL 7:30 pm - BD Mtg	7 pm Junior Choir 8 pm Adult Choir		7:30 PM Tefilot Sisterhood & Youth Groups Creative Svce	BO 8:15 Torah Study 10 am Tefilot
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
9 am School FS & 6 12 pm Jr Choir 12:15 pm Tikkun Olam Trip mtg 12:30 pm BHSSTY Scavenger Hunt	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 Com. Mtg	8 pm Adult Choir		7:30 PM Tefilot Shabbat Shirah with Choirs	B'SHALLACH 8:15 Torah Study 10 am Jordan Stone 7 pm Movie Night Hello Dolly

February Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9 am School FS & 6 12 pm DaBears Pizza & Movie 2 pm Shpiel Reh.	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 pm Mah Jongg	7:30 pm Kabbalah Class		6 PM Tefilot 7 PM Dinner by RSVP	YITRO 8:15 Torah Study 10 am Tefilot
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9 am School FS & 6	4 pm School K-3 4 pm PreK 5 pm Group Prayer Class 6:45 pm Kadimah	4 pm School 4/5 6:30 pm Group Prayer Class 7:30 pm - Exec Comm Mtg 7:30 pm - MMG Mtg	7:30 pm Kabbalah Class 8 pm Adult Choir		7:30 PM Tefilot Family Service	MISHPATIM 8:15 Torah Study 10 am Tefilot
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
NO SCHOOL	OFFICE CLOSED NO SCHOOL	NO SCHOOL	8 pm Adult Choir		7:30 PM Tefilot	T'RUMAH 8:15 Torah Study 9:30 Tot Shabbat 10 am Dylan Kelman
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9 am School FS & 6 12 pm BHSSTY Pizza & Movie 12 pm Heb. 201 1 pm Mah Jongg 2 pm Shpiel Reh 7 pm Soc Act Mtg	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 pm - Tikkun Olam Trip Mtg 7:30 pm Music Com Mtg	7:30 pm Kabbalah Class 8 pm Adult Choir		7:30 PM Tefilot	T'TZAVEH 8:15 Torah Study 10 am Joseph Hittman



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

Jordan Stone - January 31, 2015

Lives in Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey. Mother, Lori, Father, Bryan, Sister, Samantha, 10..... is a 7th grader at Woodcliff Lake Middle School ..... Her interests include dance and yoga. "I hope to become a therapist, teacher, or professional dancer. I am really nervous but excited. Becoming a Bat Mitzvah is really important to me."

Joseph Nicholas Hittman - February 28, 2015

Lives in Ramsey, New Jersey. Mother, Nadiege, Father, Stephen ..... is a 7th grader at Tuxedo Park School ..... His interests include Fifa 15, soccer, and basketball. "I hope to inherit my father's real estate company. I am honored and ready to move on in life."

Dylan Lia Kelman - February 21, 2015

Lives in Ramsey, New Jersey. Mother, Adina, Father, Adam, Sisters, Lexi, 20, Sydney, 16, and Chase, 10 ..... is a 7th grader at Eric Smith Middle School ..... Her interests include dance, cooking, animals, and skiing. "I would like to be a dancer. I'm excited, yet nervous for my big day to come."

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.

Four Mitzvot of Purim

There are four basic mitzvot established by the Mishnah, the first Rabbinic law code, based on the text of the Book of Esther. Following the salvation of the Jews, Mordecai decreed the everlasting observance of the holiday, and Esther confirmed his ordinance:

> **Esther 9:29-31**
> 9:29 Then Queen Esther daughter of Abihail wrote a second letter of Purim for the purpose of confirming with full authority the aforementioned one of Mordecai the Jew. 30 Dispatches were sent to all the Jews in the hundred and twenty-seven provinces of the realm of Ahashuerus with an ordinance of "equity and honesty." 31 These days of Purim shall be observed at their proper time, as Mordecai the Jew—and now Queen Esther—has obligated them to do, and just as they have assumed for themselves and their descendants the obligation of the fasts with their lamentations. [I.e., the Jews are to celebrate this festive holiday in addition to their commemorations of national tragedies.]

1. Reading the Megillah (*Mikra Megillah*)

And Esther's ordinance validating these observances of Purim was recorded in a scroll (Esther 9:32).

Each year, we retell the story of Purim, found in the Megillah (which is the same as the biblical book of Esther). As this story is one of overturned fortunes and unexpected endings, our recitation of the story is often humorous, honoring the festivity of the holiday.

2. Festive meal (*Se'udat Purim*)

They were to observe [these days of Purim] as days of feasting and merrymaking… (9:22).

Purim is a time for feasting and making a day of gladness. Purim is a time for special foods such as *hamantashen* (cookies filled with poppy seeds or jam) and *kreplach* (dumplings).

3. Sending gifts to friends (*Mishloach Manot*)

...for sending gifts to one another... (9:22)

On Purim, Jews across the kingdom of Persia celebrated their freedom, and they continue to share in that joy every year. Sending gifts to friends, often baskets of food and treats, is a practice intended to increase everyone's joy, both the sender and the receiver.

4. Sending presents to the poor (*Matanot L'evyonim*)

...and [sending] presents to the poor (9:22).

The festivities of Purim are not reserved only for those who can afford them. Giving money or other gifts to those who are in need allows the spirit of the holiday to spread to every corner of the community.

Brotherhood 2.0

Happy New Year! One thing great about being Jewish is we get to make New Year's resolutions first at Rosh Hashanah, and if they don't work out, we can make new or revised ones for January! My resolution is to keep doing community service, having fun events, and participating in as many aspects of BHSS as we all possibly can.

In November, Brotherhood 2.0 went to Sakura Japanese restaurant in Mahwah. We had 18 people turn out, and about 8 of the 18 were new Brotherhood members. We all sat around one hibachi table and drank sake, wine, beer, and ate sushi and hibachi – thanks Jeff and Craig for the sake and beer! December was our annual Chanukah party at Waterwheel Cafe in Tallman, NY… always a big hit! I was thinking of changing around the grab bag, but I decided not to mess with perfection… the holiday grab bag idea that we stole from Sisterhood is perfectly fine, and definitely a crowd pleaser!

Also beginning in November was the first Brotherhood coat drive. Brotherhood and BHSS aligned with Jersey Cares and New York Cares. Both of these groups are related to one another, and they both are unique. Both organizations receive coat donations and do something very unusual with them. They actually distribute them directly to the people who need it instead of selling them to a thrift shop that makes a profit from the coats. Rest assured that your coat will be worn by someone who really needs it.

So come join us. If you haven't checked out Brotherhood 2.0, you're really missing out. Come to one event, one dinner, volunteer for just one socially responsible activity. Not only will you feel good about yourself, you're going to make a friend or two.

Some dates and events forthcoming:

"Exodus: Gods and Kings" – Thursday, January 8, 2015, 8 pm. Buy your movie tickets in advance, and join us for "Exodus" at the Garden State Plaza. Official invite with a link to buy tickets will follow in email and eVite as soon as it becomes available.

Intergenerational Family Retreat – Friday, January 16 – Sunday, January 18. This is so much fun! Brotherhood hosts the Friday Night social mixer, and yours truly will be teaching two *chugim*.

Suffern Soup Kitchen – Sunday, January 25, 10:30 am - 1 pm. Come and help us serve!

Allendale Bar & Grill – Thursday, February 5. Join us for a burger and a brew

Upcoming dates to be determined:

Second Annual Passover Wine Tasting and Wine Sale
Indoor Golf
Softball Game
Brotherhood Bike Ride
Baseball Game - Rockland Boulders - Father's Day weekend
Hi-Tor Animal Shelter – a tour and donation night

…and we continue to be of service to the families of our BHSS and our local communities.
Please call upon us to help!

MONTHLY TOT SHABBAT

Tot Shabbat is back, and better than ever!
Families with children from
birth to 2nd grade
are invited to join
Miss Ilene and Rabbi Mosbacher
or Rabbi Kirzane
for a story, singing,
a craft and a snack, from
9:30-10:15 am
on the following Shabbat mornings:

January 10, February 21,
March 14, April 18,
May 16, and June 13.

Please RSVP to the synagogue office at
201-512-1983 if you plan to come,
so we will have enough supplies for everyone!

Sisterhood News

The Sisterhood of Beth Haverim Shir Shalom joins our temple family in mourning the loss of our Sisterhood President and friend, Jodi Lyons. Jodi was newly diagnosed with cancer upon taking the helm of Sisterhood in 2013 and battled for 19 months to preserve her life with dignity. With the support of Mona Lefkowitz, Linda Vogel, Jane Young and our outstanding Board members, Jodi was able to continue as president and remain active and informed of all Sisterhood events.

Jodi was an inspiration to anyone who knew her and even to those who didn't. She was instrumental in bringing together Beth Haverim and Reformed Temple of Suffern Shir Shalom into what we now know as Beth Haverim Shir Shalom. She had the passion, determination and belief that this merger was going to be successful. She put her whole self in and proved that temple life can be rewarding, fulfilling and that you can make some of your best friends there.

The true testament of the impact of Jodi's spirit on all of us was the respect she received at her funeral. It was standing room only. There are no words that can describe what we all felt at her service. On the one hand we had to say goodbye to the physical presence of someone that we all loved so dearly and on the other hand we were comforted knowing that her soul will be with G-d and that her memory will forever be a blessing to all of us.

In honor of Jodi's presidency, we will place a leaf on the tree of life as a reminder of the dedication and devotion she gave to our Sisterhood of BHSS.

---Gail Spencer

* * * * *

As December began, all of us had to say goodbye to our friend and leader, Jodi Lyons. Though Jodi touched the lives of everyone she met with her warm smile, beautiful voice and rampant enthusiasm, the Sisterhood of BHSS had a special bond with her, one that we will never forget.

From those emotional farewells, we threw ourselves directly into one of Jodi's pet projects, our major FUNdraiser-our second Goods and Services Auction, held on Saturday night, December 6. If you were there, you know what a warm, wonderful, funny BHSS night it was. It couldn't have happened without the diligence of the many people who solicited donations and donated their own special services, as well as those who set up and cleaned up in support of Hospitality Co-chairs, Sheryl Thailer and Jane Simon. Many thanks to all who showed up and participated so generously! Sisterhood sends thank you shout-outs to our Youth Group helpers, and for the wonderful support of Rabbi Mosbacher, Rabbi Kirzane, and Cantor Perper, Rebecca, Iris, Lisa and Walter. And kudos to our remarkable Auctioneers, Ranan Wichler and Harvey Weinberg. Guys, you have a job for life! You bring the jokes, we'll bring the tequila! Of course, without the hard work of our event chairs, Linda Vogel & Jane Simon and their team, Gail Spencer, Lisa Lamster and Stacey Coyne, this event never would have taken place, no less been so successful!

If you missed the Auction, you missed a great evening, but that isn't all. The following Saturday, our 1st ever Chanukah Potluck Cocktail Party co-sponsored with the BHSS Brotherhood was held at the home of Sheryl Thailer. Thank you so much Sheryl, our hostess with the mostess! Everyone was ready to kick back and celebrate, and a great time was had by all.

Upcoming Sisterhood Events:

Lifelong Learning/Sisterhood Program & Brunch with Bob Mankoff, cartoon editor of *The New Yorker* -- Sunday, January 4, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm (please RSVP to temple office. For more information, see the Lifelong Learning page at the BHSS website)

Youth Group/Sisterhood Creative Shabbat: American Jewish Humor – Friday, January 23, 7:30 pm

Sisterhood Shabbat Service – Friday, March 20, 7:30 pm

Miriam Seder – Thursday, March 26

Progressive Dinner – Saturday, April 25

Sisterhood Installation Dinner at Torne Valley Vineyard -- Date TBD

High Holiday Appeal

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Ethel Salzman, Marion Stansfield, David Salzman, and Samuel Bornstein - *Sandra & Bill Arlington*
Donna Barrack, Robert Towell - *Lisa & David Barrack*
Loretta and Irving Becker, Phoebe and Mende Jaffe - *Irma & Joel Becker*
Otto and Pearl Blau, Kathy Blau - *Robert Blau*
Martin Chernick - *Melissa & Andrew Chernick*
Victor Cohen, Phylis Cohen - *Dorothy & Michael Cohen*
Norman Green - *Lauren & Doug Cooper*
Claire and Norman Novak - *Laurie & Marc Daniel*
Glen, Beatrice, and Roy Friedman - *Ashley & Bruce Friedman*
William Goldstein - *Deena & Scott Goldstein*
Irving Goodman - *Carole Goodman*
Gloria Kobrin - *Trudy & Frank Gunsberg*
Ben Kassover, Helen Kassover, Murray Marks, and Shirley Marks - *Candy & Michael Kassover*
Karen Katz - *Robin & Marc Katz*
Noel Lamster - *Lisa, Samantha, Joshua, & Jessica Lamster*
Betty Landis, Lee Landis - *Lisa & Steven Landis*
Alan and Rose Lefkowitz - *Mona & Jeffrey Lefkowitz*
Theodore Leibman - *Tara & Marc Leibman*
Esther Lonow, Harold and Rosa Weinberg - *Rhoda & Martin Lonow*
Barry Greene - *Bernice Medici*
Nancy Morgan - *James Morgan*
Ethel Pesin, Irving Pesin, Esther Moss, George Moss, Beatrice Lerner Moss, Victor Levy, and Sarah Blacher
- *Barbara & Phil Moss*
Irwin Orshalick - *Claire Orshalick*
Harriet Loria Popowitz and Marty Popowitz - *Rosana & Richard Popowitz*
Leah and Eugene Reinstein and Estelle and Jack Weinberg and Howard Weinberg - *Sue & Harris Reinstein*
Samuel Schechter - *Shari Slavin & Andrew Schechter*
Sam and Anne Schuman, Morris and Rose Goodman - *Emily & Herb Schuman*
Anna and Samuel Kasper - *Cynthia & Arnold Seidman*
William Cassel, Shae and Bernard Goldberg - *Michelle Cassel & Ben Siegel*
Celia Turner, Jack Turner, Florence Turner, Marilyn Friedman, Ann and Jacob Robinovich, Elliot Friedman
- *Ruth & Stu Turner*
Jerome Weinberg - *Marci & Harvey Weinberg*
Morton Fuchs and David York - *Beverly & Harlan York*
Jeremy Zall and Irv Frank - *Lynn & Michael Zall*

In honor of all of our grandchildren - *Phyllis & Bruce Meller*

Yizkor Appeal

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

William Kaplan and Adele Axelrod - *Alison & Norman Axelrod*
Florence Ashkenazy - *Barbara & Charles Burghardt*
Sue Iskowitz - *Sheryl & Joel Ives*
Ruth Ansin, Manny Ansin, Margi Ansin Simmons - *Helen Milstein*
Lester Mosbacher, father of Rabbi Joel Mosbacher - *Bonnie Mosbacher*
Seymour Oventhal - *Joanne Oventhal*
Simon and Blanche Seidner and Harry and Florence Gordon - *Ann & Barry Seidner*
Harry and Lillian Sault, Philip and Julia Simon - *Jane & Jan Simon*
Frank Nathanson and Edward Spencer - *Gail & Daryl Spencer*
Arthur Kunofsky - *Shirley & Allan Vitulli*
- *Jacob Berman*

Hello, BHSS!

Join us for Movie Night,
Saturday, January 31 at 7 p.m.

Attention 7th & 8th Graders and Families

Join us for our second 7th/8th Grade Shabbat Dinner and Service

Friday, January 9, 2015
Dinner at 6:15 p.m. ~
$5 per person (max. of $20 per family)
Services at 7:30 p.m. followed by a
Regional Jewish American Food Oneg!

YOUR 7th/8th Graders
Will Help Lead Parts of the Service
(Students who have become Bar/Bat
Mitzvah will participate in Torah Blessings)
Please RSVP to the religious school
by January 5, 2014.
Organized by the BHSS Youth Committee

Contributions

Rabbi Mosbacher's Discretionary Fund

in loving memory of Jodi Lyons
- Lisa, Sammi, Josh & Jessica Lamster
- Gail, Daryl, Eddie & Sam Spencer
- Patti & Bob Anesetti
- Linda & Ed Vogel
- Stacey, Ian, Josh, Cydney & Ethan Coyne
- Candy & Michael Kassover
- Arlene & Richard Mandel
- Jane & Eric Koch
- Lori & Bruce Cohen
- Sheryl Thailer
- Mona & Jeffrey Lefkowitz
- Leslie Sapienza
- Lisa & Kenneth Glick
- Helen Milstein
- Jill & Bill Pearlman
- Sue & Harris Reinstein
- Judy Teich & Lois Schwartz
- Jane Young
- Amy Littman
- Beth & Michael Wiesner & Family
- Ashreth & Barry Krane
- Nancy & Al Levene
- Marilyn Gross & Kim Hausner
- Ilyse & Floyd Smith
- Gail & Ranan Wichler

in honor of Jordan's Bat Mitzvah *- the Gutierrez family*

with thanks for all your care & concern *- Anneliese Schott*

to Mrs. Shulamith Hirsch, in memory of Martin Hirsch
- Sheryl Thailer

with thanks, so glad I can always count on you!
- Lisa Lamster

with thanks *- Ellen & Andrew Allen*

with thanks and appreciation, in memory of Nina Joyce Greenberg *- the Buchalter family*

with thanks and appreciation and in honor of Jacob's Bar Mitzvah *- Kristi & Richard Steinberg*

with gratitude and love *- the Garbus Family*

with thanks *- Suzanne Ducharme*

to Lori and Ritch Yanowitz, in honor of Jane Yanowitz' s 90th birthday *- Lynn & Gerry Weston*

to the Garbus family, in memory of Mollie Garbus
- Helen Milstein

to Dr. and Mrs. Arnold Scham, in memory of their son Kenneth Scham *- Sheryl Thailer*

Rabbi Kirzane's Discretionary Fund

with thanks for all your care and concern *- Anneliese Schott*

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

in loving memory of Jodi Lyons
- Lisa, Sammi, Josh & Jessica Lamster
- Gail, Daryl, Eddie & Sam Spencer
- Patti & Bob Anesetti
- Linda & Ed Vogel
- Stacey, Ian, Josh, Cydney & Ethan Coyne
- Candy & Michael Kassover
- Arlene & Richard Mandel
- mJane & Eric Koch
- Lori & Bruce Cohen
- Sheryl Thailer
- Mona & Jeffrey Lefkowitz
- Leslie Sapienza
- Lisa & Kenneth Glick
- Helen Milstein
- Jill & Bill Pearlman
- Sue & Harris Reinstein
- Judy Teich & Lois Schwartz
- Jane Young
- Amy Littman
- Beth & Michael Wiesner & family
- Ashreth & Barry Krane
- Nancy & Al Levene
- Marilyn Gross & Kim Hausner
- Ilyse & Floyd Smith
- Gail & Ranan Wichler

Contributions

in honor of Jordan's Bat Mitzvah *- the Gutierrez family*

in appreciation for all your concern *- Anneliese Schott*

with gratitude and love for all your support
- Beverly & Jeff Fisher

with thanks and appreciation, in memory of Nina Joyce Greenberg *- the Buchalter family*

with thanks *- Suzanne Ducharme*

with thanks *- Ellen & Andrew Allen*

with gratitude for all your help during a difficult time
- the Garbus Family

Educator's Discretionary Fund

in honor of Jordan's Bat Mitzvah *- the Gutierrez family*

to Dahlia Matlin, in memory of your husband Sam
- Irma & Joel Becker

with thanks *- Suzanne Ducharme*

Life Fund

in loving memory of Jodi Lyons *- Lisa Lamster*
- Beth & Michael Weisner
- Sheryl & Joel Ives
- Lisa & Dave Barrack
- Iris Greenberg
- Wendy & Jeffrey Sheman
- Mr. & Mrs. Phillip H. Lauro
- the Engelman family
- Harvey & Marci Weinberg
- Sylvia Rosen
- Alissa & Steven Korn
- Jan & Deborah Corwin
- Todd & Amy Ratner
- Joseph & Marilyn Brass
- Marilyn Grivty
- Helen Milstein
- Mollie & Daniel Plotkin
- the Spencer, Nathanson, & Smith families

to the Kalman family, in memory of Jodi Lyons
- Donna Frankel

to Stacey Lyons and family, in memory of Jodi Lyons
- Rina & Gary Meltzer

to Mr. and Mrs. Aron Wald, in honor of Max's Bar Mitzvah
- Beryl & Mel Lamster

in memory of Norman Novak *- Laurie & Marc Daniel*

in memory of Jerome Weinberg
- Marci & Harvey Weinberg

in memory of Erna Tuteur & Moritz Schott
- Sheri & Allan Schott

in memory of Bernice Gruber *- Dede & Rick Levine*

in loving memory of Allan Eisenstein
- Paula & Mel Tenenbaum

to the Garbus family, In loving memory of Mollie Garbus
- Paula & Mel Tenenbaum

to Sharon Seidenberg, in memory of Mollie Garbus

to the Shulman family, in honor of Jessica's Bat Mitzvah
- Claire Tannenbaum

to the Berger Family, in memory of Ethel Dwork
- Nora & Harold Berger

to the Garbus Family, with our deepest sympathy
- Marci & Harvey Weinberg
- Ruth & Stu Turner

to Mollie Rafaely- congratulations on Hillel!
- Ashley & Bruce Freidman

to Josh Daniel, congratulations on "crushing" the NYC Marathon! *- Gail & Ranan Wichler*

in memory of Sanford Parks *- Sandy & Newt Parks*

in memory of Harry & Florence Gordon
- Ann & Barry Seidner

Contributions

in memory of Oscar Maier *- Judith & Michael Blackman*

in memory of Howard Bettman & Milton Weiner

in memory of Blanche Schwartz *- Marsha & Larry Gluck*

Brick Fund

to Joel Epstein and family, in memory of Stuart Epstein
- Marsha & Larry Gluck

Michelle Mitzvah Group

in memory of Jodi Lyons
- Lisa, Sammi, Josh & Jessica Lamster
- Gail, Daryl, Eddie & Sam Spencer
- Patti & Bob Anesetti
- Linda & Ed Vogel
- Stacey, Ian, Josh, Cydney & Ethan Coyne
- Candy & Michael Kassover
- Arlene & Richard Mandel
- Jane & Eric Koch
- Lori & Bruce Cohen
- Sheryl Thailer
- Mona & Jeffrey Lefkowitz
- Leslie Sapienza
- Lisa & Kenneth Glick
- Helen Milstein
- Jill & Bill Pearlman
- Sue & Harris Reinstein
- Judy Teich & Lois Schwartz
- Jane Young
- Amy Littman
- Beth & Michael Wiesner & Family
- Ashreth & Barry Krane
- Nancy & Al Levene
- Marilyn Gross & Kim Hausner
- Ilyse & Floyd Smith
- Laurie & Marc Daniel
- Barbara & Phil Moss
- Rhonda Goodman & Marty Hymowitz

in honor of Marty Hymowitz and Rhonda Goodman
- Gail & Daryl Spencer

to Elyssa Mosbacher - well wishes for a speedy recovery
- Barbara & Phil Moss

Tree of Life

in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Lili Shmaruk

to honor Jodi Lyons for her dedication and devotion to the Sisterhood of Beth Haverim Shir Shalom
- BHSS Sisterhood

Center for Food Action

donated by families in honor of the following simchas

Bar Mitzvah of Justin Manne
Bat Mitzvah of Lily Gordon
Bar Mitzvah of Jonathan Ovadia

Ramapo Bergen Animal Refuge

donated by their families in honor of the following simchas

Bat Mitzvah of Lily Gordon
Bat Mitzvah of Samantha Stein
Bat Mitzvah of Haley Popowitz
Bar Mitzvah of Dylan Fisherman
Bar Mitzvah of Jacob Steinberg

Jewish Family Services of Rockland

donated by his family in honor of

Bar Mitzvah of Max Goldberg-Kaplan

From the Sifriyah

Fall was an inspiring, productive time for the Sifriyah. Our public face was most active. Remember our Book and Bagel? The largest group ever assembled to discuss The Sisters Weiss by Naomi Ragen. This historical novel tells the story of a confused and unhappy young girl growing up in a strict Orthodox community in Williamsburg in the 1950s. If you have not read it yet, visit our library and check out this compelling novel. In November, our social hall became a movie theater. Featured was "Nicky's Family," the story of one man, Nicholas Winton, who successfully organized and saved the lives of 669 Jewish children from Czechoslovakia by resettling them in Great Britain. In addition to being inspired by the deeds of Mr. Winton, movie-goers were treated to gourmet treats and good companionship.

The winter months of January and February will provide the Sifriyah with a wonderful opportunity to plan programs for the spring. High on the list will be a chance to showcase The Golem and the Jinni, the Bergen County "One Book One Community" selection for this year. This immigrant tale combines elements of Jewish and Arab folk mythology. The author, Helene Wecker, creates the story of two supernatural creatures who arrive separately in New York in 1890. The Golem is made out of clay; the Jinni out of fire. Their stories are compelling, and increase in intensity when these two characters meet. Pick up this book in the temple office ($9.00) and become enthralled with this explosive story. Watch for information on a special spring program highlighting this novel. In addition, do attend the culminating One Book One Community celebration of The Golem and the Jinni on May 14, at which time the author will discuss her book.

Check out other programs for the spring. Passover Eats will be back, as well as the ever popular Book and a Bagel. And in late April, the library and Outreach will sponsor an important program on the Interfaith Family. Our speaker will be Jane Larkin, the author of From Generation to Generation: A Story of Intermarriage and Jewish Continuity. Watch for more details on all these programs.

Please visit the library often. We have much to offer in both adult and children's books. Let us know what you value most, as well as any new books you would like to see in our collection. Remember, "a good library will never be too neat, or too dusty, because somebody will always be in it, taking books off the shelves and staying up late reading them" (Lemony Snicket). This should be us!

Eternal Lights

On November 13, 2014, over forty people gathered together at The River Palm Terrace in Mahwah to celebrate the sixteenth annual Eternal lights dinner. This major fundraiser was initiated in 1999 when over 20 couples donated $1,000 each and enjoyed cocktails and dinner together, creating the foundation for this wonderful evening.

More than a decade later we are pleased that many of these same families still gather for this event, and are even more pleased that several new members have joined this dedicated group. This year we are grateful to our hosts, Rabbi Joel & Elyssa Mosbacher & Rabbi Daniel & Jessica Kirzane. Everyone had a lovely time, and again the dinner was a financial success. Eternal lights is a celebration of a community, our leaders, and those who work hard every day to make Beth Haverim Shir Shalom such a terrific place for everyone. We list below, and gratefully thank, all those who supported our fundraiser this year. If you are able, please join us next year for the seventeenth annual Eternal lights dinner.

Maxine & Howard Abner
Alison & Norman Axelrod
Joe Berman
Abby Cohen & Lee De Santis
Dorie & Seth Cohen
Jen Cole
Laurie & Marc Daniel
Candy & Michael Kassover
Deborah & Jeff Klein
Arlene & Rich Mandel
Barbara & Phil Moss
Kim & Bill Pressman
Leslie Sapienza
Janet & Andrew Schlissel
Julie & Jonathan Selman
Carol & Rob Shulman
Ilyse & Floyd Smith
Marci & Harvey Weinberg
Gail & Ranan Wichler
Lori & Ritch Yanowitz
Beverly & Harlan York

Social Action

Do you walk out the BHSS school door? Do you see all the bins? Beth Haverim Shir Shalom is collecting coats for NY/NJ Cares, gifts for kids at Oasis, food for Center for Food Action and more. Everywhere you looks, you can see some form of community service and social action going on in our congregation! It is an aspect of our temple culture in which all of us should take great pride! But of course, we can do more.

On February 22, 2015, at 7 pm, will be the second meeting of the Social Action committee. The meeting's very specific goal is to encourage even more social action and community service within every organization in Beth Haverim Shir Shalom. We invite committee chairs and social action representatives to attend, but EVERYONE is welcome. Do you have ideas about how we could be doing more? Do you want to find out how you can do more? Please come to the meeting!

Finally, the Social Action chairs have committed that by January 2015, on the BHSS website, there will be a NEW list of ideas for community service projects. If you are looking for some ideas, please check there.

Please do not forget that Center for Food Action's truck will be at BHSS for Purim -- the spiel and the Carnival are great opportunities to donate food!

Notes from Music

Our first program of the season is the ever-popular Chanukah Coffeehouse Cantors. It will be held on Tuesday, December 23, 2014 at 7 pm. And it's FREE! Bring friends, and enjoy the desserts and the music! Please RSVP the synagogue office so we have an idea of head count. Last year's FREE Coffeehouse Cantors broke attendance records. If you can, bring a donation for the Center for Food Action – they are always in need during this time of the year.

January 30, 2015 at 7:30 is **Shabbat Shirah** service, when we honor the dedication of our Adult and Junior Choirs. It is a song filled service that is always lively. Please join us to support their onging efforts.

Keep January 31 open for our annual **Movie Night** to benefit the Center for Food Action. It is another FREE program and all ages are welcome; all we ask is that you bring a food donation. Snacks will be served and song sheets will be provided so be prepared to sing! We will be showing "Hello Dolly."

If you enjoy singing, consider joining our Adult Choir. We are always welcoming new voices; men are also welcomed. Please contact Cantor Perper.

As always, a great year is in store for our Junior Choir. Children must be in in third grade or older to participate. The kids get a great start learning for their b'nai mitzvah while having fun and developing a great rapport with Cantor Perper. Lisa Lamster is our contact person for those interested in more information. Please get in touch with her at lisalams@optonline.net.

This year will be filled with interesting programming, lots of planning and lots of fun. Singing is not a requirement for membership in the committee! There is always a free chair at the table for you, my reader, so come join us. We meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:30 at the synagogue. Contact me any time at niberger@aol.com, and let's chat!

Musically yours,
Nora Berger

Michelle Mitzvah Group

The LeBron-Michelle Scholarship Fund has been a cornerstone of the Michelle Mitzvah Group since its inception some twenty years ago. The Fund is named after Nathan LeBron and Michelle Appelbaum, who met while both were battling cancer. Unfortunately, Michelle succumbed to the disease. In addition to establishing the Michelle Mitzvah Group, her father, Marc, became a surrogate father to Nathan, who was raised in a broken and dysfunctional family and spent years in and out of group homes. With the love and support of Marc, Nathan went on to graduate from SUNY Albany and then to complete his Master's Degree from Harvard.

Recognizing what Marc did for him, Nathan, wanting to do something for other disadvantaged students, partnered with the Michelle Mitzvah Group to create the scholarship fund. Early on, they approached Eastside High School in Paterson, the inner city school made famous in the 1989 movie *Lean on Me.* As a result, over the following years five students were awarded assistance toward completing higher education studies.

Three years ago, the Michelle Mitzvah Group expanded the program and developed a relationship with Children's Aid and Family Services, a leading nonprofit provider of child welfare programs. It seemed like a perfect fit considering Nathan LeBron's story, as they run foster care group homes for children and adolescents. They also provide extensive training to numerous foster families throughout northern New Jersey and have a program that provides financial assistance and guidance to those teens who were attending college or vocational training.

Sharonda was our first CAFS scholarship recipient, and she graduated in the spring with her Master's Degree. Tragically, an automobile accident has confined her to a wheelchair, and we recently gave her a stipend to help her through a difficult period, but she plans to go back to school to work on a marriage counseling specialty.

Carlotta was next and she graduated Kean University last spring with a Bachelor's Degree. She moved out of her HOST family this past August and got her first apartment, while working for Kean University.

Abdulla was our first vocational school applicant, and we were impressed by his determination to become a plumber! He attended vocational school, started his first job (in Parsippany) in November, graduated on December 3, and is currently living with an aunt in Paterson.

Exciting new plans for the LeBron-Michelle Fund have been approved by the MMG that should make 2015 a banner year. We have been blessed with a strongly endowed scholarship fund, but our boundless hopes and dreams may soon eat away at that…so contributions earmarked to maintain this very worthy program will always be greatly appreciated.

*****

CFA
Center for Food
ACTION
Taking Action Against
Hunger & Homelessness

One final note about another very long-standing Michelle Mitzvah Group initiative: the Center for Food Action. Going by the Jewish calendar, we kicked off our CFA year with the High Holiday food collection, which was very bountiful. This has been followed up by a most impressive collection campaign by our school that has us well on our way to a second consecutive 1,000-bag year. This will be helped with the Youth Group's annual Purim Carnival on March 8, where the little white CFA truck will be on hand once again. Let's all remember to bring a bag of food whenever we come to temple. That goal of making this the best food year ever at BHSS **is definitely within reach!**

January Yahrzeits

Mark Abramson
Herman Ackerman
Leah Adlman
Norman Arkawy
Max Barrack
Lena Bendalin
Esther Bernstein
David Bleiberg
Ida Bloom
Khana Boroda
Rose Branderstein
Stanley Brauner
Claire Brender
Ronald Brenner
Vincent Brunhard
Mollie Chertoff
Fredel Cohen
Margarita Coyne
Gerald Deforest Crouch
Ruth Doblin
Florence Eichner
Sophie Eisenstein
William Eisenstein
Linda Feuchtbaum
Walter Fondiller
Grete Friedman
Leslie Friedman
David Garfield
Berdie Gelfenbein
Stephen Gershengorn
Beverly Gilbert
Irving Glucoft
Ida Goldberg
Esther Goodman-Zaslow
Ely Gordon
Regina Gunther
Aaron Hall
Nathan Hieger
Phoebe Jaffe
Paula Kaplan
Minnie Klaskow
Gerald Klein
Sarah Knox
Gershen Konikow
Libby Kovar
Sylvia Lacher
Dr. Theodore Leibman
Harry Litman
Thelma Litman
Hanns Lowenbach
Dody Magaziner
Irving Mallow
Sylvia Mandel
Sheldon Manne
Celia Meyers
Murray Miller
Harold Millman
Jodi Monash
Nancy Morgan
Lester Mosbacher
Milton Nachinson
Amalia Pavlovec
Marianne Perten
Benjamin Rabin
Leo Rosengarten
David Saltzman
Irving Schatz
Sheldon Schuman
Morris Schwartz
Ruth Friedman Seager
Sam Segal
Ralph Sheppard
Milton Sitomer
Benard Smolinsky
Marilyn Solomon
Edward Spencer
Eva Stedman
Judith Steinman
Louis Sternberg
Jacob Superfin
Samuel Surkes
Sumner Victor
Eddie Wachtel
Louis Wagman
Bernard Waxenbaum
Archie Weber
Jacob Weinberg
Herman Weissman
Sondra Wells
Nathan Widman
Karl Wildman
Bob Witt
Jeremy Zall
Mark Zavist

The Caring Committee is continuing to do the best it can to assist our members in times of need. We are grateful to the Brotherhood who has teamed up with us to better serve our members. Brotherhood, under the direction of Jonathan Theodore, has stepped up to provide rides to doctors and various other destinations. We sincerely thank all those drivers who have volunteered their time. Additionally, we have continued to provide meals, shiva assistance, pastoral visits and other much needed services to members. Rabbi Mosbacher is always there to help us by providing guidance and insight when dealing with challenging issues. We are always available to listen and/or visit, and everything is confidential.

To request services or to become a volunteer, please contact Candy Kassover at candy1951@optonline.net or Laura Miller at mlctsmiller@verizon.net.

February Yahrzeits

Shelby Alter
Herman Ashkanazy
Irene Bernstein
Samuel Bornstein
Maureen Boyle
Marilyn Brauner
Alice Brickman
Myron Buchalter
Ethel Coffel
Gary Coffel
Howard Cole
John Collins
Justin Colten
Larry Feldman
Herman Fields
Alter Gebrowitz
Betty Winkler Gluck
Alvin Goldberg
Mitch Goldman
William Goldstein
Henry Greenberg
Stewart Grossman
Reuben Gruber
Arthur Gunther
Elsie Gurian
Walter Hausner
Anna Heffler
Max Heffler
Ira Hieger
Harrison Sidney Hoffman
Eliot Hyman
Paul Jeanette
Helen Kassover
Gloria Kirshner
Mildred Landau
Seymour Landau
Lee Landis
Jack Lazar
Richard Leavitt
Juliette Lessen
Billye Levine
Ruth Levine
Sheila Levine
Thelma Levitt
Alex David Levy
Miriam Lichtenfeld
Pinchas Lipson
Jeane Lisk
George Mendelsohn
Gloria Mendelsohn
Charles Mitchell
Norman Moskowitz
Dorothy Nachinson
Irwin Orshalick
George s. Paris
Jardena Pavlovec
Arnold Peller
Kenny Plunchio
Anna Premselaar
Toby Putterman
Leah Reinstein
Daniel Roher
Melvyn Romoff
Bernard Rosenberg
Robert Rosenberg
Mollie Rosenzweig
Jack Roth
Samuel Roth
Marcella Rumack
Joel Sankel
Harry Sault
Paul Schachter
Robert Scheinin
Sol Schlosser
Louis Schulman
Tess Segal
Arthur Sherry
Margo Simmons
Julius Slavin
Betty Spivack
Susan Stern
Sharon Suer
Nick Susa
Andrea Green Swan
Maria Titcomb
Sally Victor
Walter Wallison
Lillian Weber
Jeffrey Wein
Rhoda Wein
Laurie Weinberg
Jacob Widman
Betty Wildman
Harry Zall
Leonard Zinn

Wish List Donation:

We hope that all of you were here on December 19, when we dedicated our beautiful new Chanukah menorah -- it was a special evening!

We are grateful to the Miller family for making this most gracious donation that was on our "wish list." The congregation will enjoy it not only during the Chanukah season, but through the entire year, as a beautiful piece of sculpted artwork.

Good & Welfare
from & for the congregation

Mazal Tov

to **Renee and Gary Garbus** on the marriage of their daughter Gayle to Michael Sahler
to **Bonnie & Rich Berens** on the birth of their granddaughter, Charlotte June
to **Hank Bordowitz** on the publication of his book,"Led Zeppelin on Led Zeppelin: Interviews and Encounters"
to **Lia & Aaron Waitz** on the marriage of their Son Dorian to Sarah Raezler

Condolences

to **Adam Gilbert**, on the death of his grandmother, Sonia Demsky
to **Patricia Feldman**, on the death of her brother, Richard Lulov
to **Leslie Kirzner**, on the death of her brother-in-law Dennis Durr
to **Jerry Kirshman**, on the death of his mother, Carolee Kirshman
to **Carol Cohen**, on the death of her father, Bernard Frishberg
to **Pamela Mildwurf,** on the death of her fiancé Edward Tocci, father of Emily and stepfather of Noah
to **Cindy Buchalter** on the death of her mother, Nina Greenberg
to **Marlene Belohoubek** on the death of her cousin Solomon "Zol" Lachman
to **Kathy Liebmann** on the death of her Father, Alfred Baum

Beth Haverim Shir Shalom mourns the death of **Jodi Lyons**, BHSS Sisterhood co-President and beloved choir member. We express our sincere condolences to her son Chad Mineo and her companion, Carlos Vazquez.

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

Nita Klaskow

Marilyn Taylor

Michael Wiesner

Welcome New Members!

Lynne & Gary Glucoft and family, Mahwah, NJ
Chayna Prizel and family, Suffern, NY
Sherri & Keith Savino and family, Mahwah, NJ
Jenifer & Scott Schindler and family, Suffern, NY
Judy & Richard Weisenfeld, Mahwah, NJ

Yahrzeit Plaque

donated in memory of Jodi Lyons by:

Lisa, Sammi, Josh & Jessica Lamster
Gail, Daryl, Eddie & Sam Spencer
Patti & Bob Anesetti
Linda & Ed Vogel
Stacey, Ian, Josh, Cydney & Ethan Coyne
Candy & Michael Kassover
Arlene & Richard Mandel
Jane & Eric Koch
Lori & Bruce Cohen
Sheryl Thailer
Mona & Jeffrey Lefkowitz
Leslie Sapienza
Lisa & Kenneth Glick
Helen Milstein
Jill & Bill Pearlman
Sue & Harris Reinstein
Judy Teich & Lois Schwartz
Jane Young
Amy Littman
Beth & Michael Wiesner & Family
Ashreth & Barry Krane
Nancy & Al Levene
Marilyn Gross & Kim Hausner
Ilyse & Floyd Smith

Lifelong Learning

Amazingly, the calendar keeps turning and another new year is here with many opportunities to join us. We thank all of you who participated in the fall Lifelong Learning programs, including Rabbi Kirzane's Noah class, our Fair Trade oneg, and any of the "Born in the USA" programming collaborations with the other committees such as Ritual's Yom Kippur Learning sessions or Library's Kristallnacht presentation of the documentary "Nicky's Family."

The Lifelong Learning committee continues to profile famous American Jews on our Wall of Fame. Learn their amazing stories when you join us for the oneg in the social hall!

Coming this winter, join us for some laughs and games, and you might learn a thing or two along the way. As always, you can always checkout the Lifelong Learning page on the website for more details.

Our Fair Trade oneg on Friday evening, December 12, was a huge success.

Following Rabbi Kirzane's inspiring sermon on human rights, the congregants enjoyed a variety of delicious flavors of ice cream, graciously donated by Ben and Jerry's. Ben and Jerry's is a Fair Trade company, and all ingredients used in their product are Fair Trade. You may be asking, "What is Fair Trade?" Fair Trade is just that -- fair. From faraway farms to your grocery carts, products that have the Fair Trade logo come from farmers and workers who are justly compensated.

A special thank you goes to Anthony DePinto, the manager of the Hoboken and Ridgewood Ben and Jerry's, whose passion for Fair Trade made it possible for everyone to have first and second helpings of a favorite treat.

Lifelong Learning Winter Calendar

How About Never? Does Never Work for You? – – Start the New Year with some laughs along with Sisterhood and Lifelong learning on **Sunday, January 4** for brunch from 11:30 am – 1:30 pm as Bob Mankoff, longtime cartoon editor of *The New Yorker*, comes to BHSS to share his new book. As Bob says, "I may not have the best job in the world, but I'm in the running."

Taste of Jewish Americana – Join Lifelong Learning for the Oneg on **Friday, January 9** to learn about Jewish food founded in America and taste regional foods from around the country.

Jewish Mysticism -- Kabbalah 101: Join Rabbi Kirzane for an introduction to the mysteries of Kabbalah on **Wednesdays, February 4, 11, and 25** from 7-8 pm. No cost. RSVP to the temple office.

Modern Hebrew 201: Join Rabbi Kirzane as he resumes teaching last year's Modern Israeli Hebrew class taught by Rabbinic Intern Adena Kemper, on Sundays from 12-1 pm. If you have the basics of conversational Hebrew and want to join the class, please contact Rabbi Kirzane. Dates are **February 22 and March 1, 8, 22 and 29**.

Jewish Game Night - Come out and play on **Saturday, March 21**! All ages welcome. Make a team or come on your own to play a night of Jewish Jeopardy, Jewish Pictionary, and other fun! Prizes and refreshments! RVSP with your team or name to Lifelonglearning.BHSS@gmail.com Havdalah at 6:45 pm, then let the games begin!

Mah Jongg Mania – The mania continues to grow with a group meeting monthly on Sunday and Tuesday. Beginners are welcome! See Lifelong Learning page on the BHSS website for dates & details.

Come in costume!

Purim Shpiel

The Megillah

ACCORDING TO DISNEY AT BETH HAVERIM SHIR SHALOM

Wednesday, March 4

Please join us for
Pizza and Havdallah Service - 6 pm`
(please RSVP to temple office)

A "Disney Purim"
& Megillah Reading
- 7pm

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PURIM CARNIVAL

Sunday, March 8

11:30 - 11:45: Purim Mini Spiel

11:45 - 2pm: Carnival and CFA Food Drive

$1 for 3 tickets, $5 for 20 tickets

1 full shopping bag of food for CFA = 50 tickets

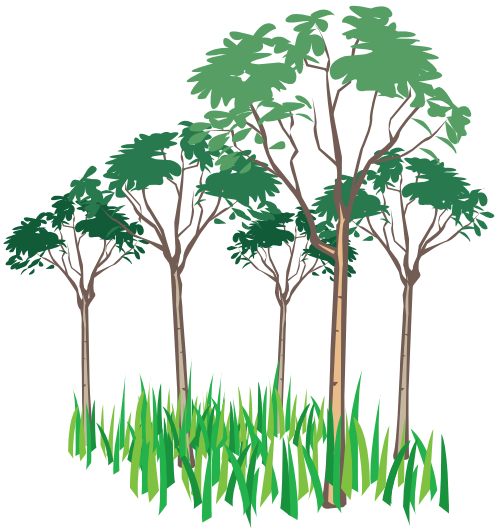
2 full shopping bags of food for CFA = 100 tickets

(For each full shopping bag of food donated to CFA, you will be entered to win your choice of a $50 Starbucks or Dunkin Donuts Gift Card)

For any 9th-12th graders who want to help please contact:
Sam Spencer: 551-427-3663, spencergirl97@aol.com,
Rachel Teichman: 551-579-1522, themystery558@aim.com,
Sammi Lamster: 201-995-7142, sammylammy@optonline.net,
or
Stacey Butler: 845-629-8069, Stacey_a_butler@yahoo.com

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 February 3-4.

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GIFT CARDS

Thank you to everyone who has participated in this wonderful program! In addition to Amazon, AMC Theatres, Applebee's, Barnes & Noble, Bed Bath & Beyond, CVS, Dunkin Donuts, Houlihan's, iTunes, Panera, Staples, Starbucks, Shop Rite, and Target, we now have KOHL'S in stock as well. There are over 300 other vendors that I can place an order with for gift cards. The turn-around time is generally within one week. If you're not familiar with this program, please contact Lisa Lamster with any questions.

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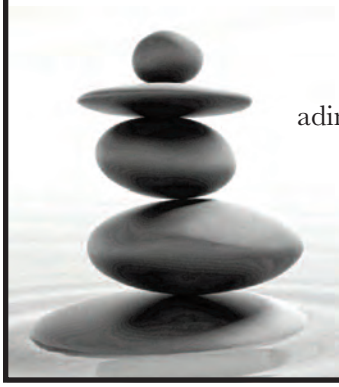

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Children Under 17: $20
Show, Dinner and Artist Talk: $125

David Broza

Sunday, March 8, 2015
Sharp Theater, 7 P.M.
Tickets: $48/45/42;
Children Under 17: $30

A Band Called Honalee

Sunday, March 22, 2015
Sharp Theater, 7 P.M.
Tickets: $35/32/27;
Children Under 17: $20

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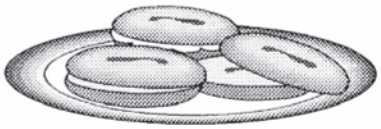

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Please note: There will be NO Friday evening services, and no First Friday dinner, on Friday, April 3, 2015 (the first night of Passover). Enjoy your seder!

Office Closed:
Thursday, January 1
Monday, January 19
Monday, February 16

No School:
Sunday, January 4
Sunday, January 18, Monday, January 19, Tuesday, January 20
Sunday, February 15, Monday, February 16, Tuesday, February 17

To do in January and February:

Torah Study - Saturdays, January 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 and February 7, 14, 21, and 28 beginning at 8:15 a.m.
BHSSTY and DaBears go **skating** at the Palisades Mall on Sunday, January 4 from 1 to 3 p.m. by RSVP
Sisterhood and Lifelong Learning host **brunch and *New Yorker* cartoon editor Bob Mankoff**, author of How's Never? Does Never Work for You? on Sunday, January 4 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Play Mah Jongg! at BHSS on Tuesday, January 6 and Tuesday, February 3 from 7 to 9 p.m. and on Sunday, January 11 and Sunday, February 22 from 1 to 3 p.m.
Join Brotherhood at the Garden State Plaza theater for the 8 p.m. showing of **"Exodus: Gods and Kings"** on Thursday, January 8
Come with your 7th or 8th grader to the **7th/8th Grade Shabbat Dinner** before services (by RSVP) on Friday, January 9 beginning at 6:15 p.m.
Join Lifelong Learning for a **special Oneg Shabbat** on Friday, January 9 to learn about **Jewish food** developed in America and taste regional Jewish foods from around the country.
Bring your tots to **Tot Shabbat** - Saturday, January 10 and Saturday, February 21, beginning at 9:30 a.m.
Join Sisterhood and our Youth Group as they come together for a **special creative service** on Friday, January 23 beginning at 7:30 p.m.
BHSSTY goes to the Palisades Mall for a **Scavenger Hunt** on Sunday, January 25 from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.
Help Brotherhood serve at the **Suffern Soup Kitchen** on Monday, January 26 from about 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Celebrate music and our choirs at **Shabbat Shirah (Sabbath of Song)** on Friday, January 30 beginning at 7:30 p.m.
Bring the family to see, and sing along with, "**Hello Dolly"** with Barbra Streisand at the Music Committee's free (just bring a donation for the Center for Food Action) **Movie Night** on Saturday, January 31 beginning at 7 p.m. (snacks included!)
Unravel the mystery of Kabbalah with Rabbi Kirzane on Wednesday evenings, February 4, 11, and 25 from 7 to 8 p.m.; RSVP to office
Enjoy **Burger and a Brew** with the Brotherhood at the Allendale Bar & Grill on Thursday, February 5
Modern Israeli Hebrew class continues with Rabbi Kirzane on Sunday afternoons from 12 to 1 p.m. beginning on February 22, and continuing on March 1, 8, 22, and 29.
Calling all teens for BHSSTY's **Make Your Own Pizza & A Movie** on Sunday, February 22 from 12 to 2 p.m.