

**SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**

**Friday, February 2**

6:30 pm Erev Shabbat of Song and Story Celebrating TuB'Shevat and Camp Harlam @ 60

**Saturday, February 3**

10:30 am Shabbat Service  
B'nai Mitzvah: Anna Goldstein  
Joshua Goldstein

**Sunday, February 4**

10:45 am Sunday Minyan

**Friday, February 9**

6:30 pm Tot Shabbat Celebrating TBANS Bets  
7:30 pm Erev Shabbat Service

**Saturday, February 10**

10:30 am Shabbat Service  
Bar Mitzvah: Archer Martin  
10:30 am Shabbat Chapel Service

**Sunday, February 11**

10:45 am Sunday Minyan

**Friday, February 16**

6:30 pm Spirit of Shabbat

**Saturday, February 17**

10:30 am Shabbat Service  
Bar Mitzvah: Michael Demske

**Sunday, February 18**

10:45 am Sunday Minyan

**Friday, February 23**

6:30 pm Primary K - 2 Shabbat Celebrating Machane TBA Alef Students  
7:30 pm Erev Shabbat Disabilities Awareness Service

**Saturday, February 24**

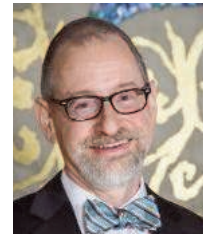
10:00 am Shabbat Minyan

**Sunday, February 25**

10:45 am Sunday Minyan

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**MESSAGE FROM**  
*Rabbi Pokras*



**“For my house shall be a house of prayer for all people.” (Isaiah 56:5)**

Dear Beth Ami family,

As “Disability Awareness Month,” February offers us the opportunity to reflect on how all of us are created in the image of the Divine; and that we should treat each other accordingly. So, let’s take a little time together, at the beginning of the month, to think about what it means to be created btzelem Elohim (in the image of God).

In Gen. 1:27, in the passage about the sixth day of creation, we read:

*And God created the human in his image, in the image of God He created him, male and female He created them.*

[translation by Alter, Robert. The Five Books of Moses.]



The best way to understand this passage is to look at what Torah has to say about God in the previous 26 verses. What does God do? God creates, speaks, distinguishes, separates, names, sees, judges (“and it was good”) and blesses. Perhaps our ability to do the same, albeit on a human level, is how we reflect the Divine image to each other and to God. These qualities certainly distinguish us from the rest of creation and, if we think about it, are the

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**PURIM'S COMING**



**Erev Purim**  
**Wednesday, February 28**  
**The Fun Begins at 4:30 pm**  
**and Continues through the Hamentashen Oneg!**  
(see back cover)

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**MESSAGE FROM**  
*Laura EJ Rose, President*



**IT IS REWARDING TO KNOW THAT TEMPLE BETH AMI IS ALREADY DEEPLY COMMITTED TO SOME OF THE FOCUS AREAS THAT THE URJ IDENTIFIES AS ESSENTIAL FOR STRONG CONGREGATIONS.**

Temple Beth Ami is not alone in its work to reimagine itself through strategic planning. As the umbrella organization for North American Reform Judaism, the Union for Reform Judaism represents 900 congregations in the U.S. who, like Temple Beth Ami, are focused on staying relevant and innovative. In 2015, The URJ began offering new and inventive fellowship programs through online learning and experimentation with creative community building after adopting its "2020 Vision" as a means for strengthening individuals in our expanding Jewish world.

programming. This past year, the December 2017 URJ Biennial in Boston, MA offered a small group of Temple Beth Ami leaders the opportunity to join thousands of Jews from across North American and around the world to learn, pray, share ideas, and hear from inspiring speakers and leaders of the Reform Movement. Our Temple Beth Ami delegation included Shari Davidson, Kathy Goldgeier, Jonathan Golub, Judi Goozh, and Jane Jacobs (Kathy and Judi are members of the URJ National Board). Their experiences at the Biennial were varied, and helped to spotlight projects and programs that Temple Beth Ami might choose to develop here at home.

Judi Goozh, who moderated a session on "Relationships: Impact and Meaning," described multiple learning sessions offered to the 6000 Biennial participants this year based on the tracks of audacious hospitality, music, strengthening congregations, tikkun olam, transforming texts, and youth engagement. The URJ's families with young children team (on which Judi serves) is focusing on "our changing marketplace and how to promote the early childhood program and integration between the school and synagogue that can inspire and nurture a family's lifelong Jewish journey."

Just as Temple Beth Ami is looking to connect and network with young families, "The URJ believes that in order to succeed and thrive, Reform congregations must take a comprehensive approach to early childhood education and family engagement with the childhood director, synagogue

"From North America to Israel and back, the URJ knits together the fabric of contemporary Jewish life with inclusivity, creativity, and an abiding belief in our collective ability to reimagine Jewish life of the 21st century," describes URJ President Rabbi Rick Jacobs. "Reform Judaism's vibrancy comes from a constant infusion of adapting our tradition and values to our lives today. We must continually develop new strategies to create a relevant, powerful, living Judaism." It is in this spirit that Temple Beth Ami is endeavoring to create a bold and ambitious strategy for the future with our own Vision 2020 initiative.

Our Congregation's URJ membership offers us the support of URJ resources and

**Chadashot**

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**COMING**  
*This Month*

**Network & Nosh**

**Network & Nosh**

**Friday, February 2**

**8 - 9 am**

Are you in business for yourself? A budding entrepreneur or a seasoned business owner? Temple Beth Ami invites you to meet, network and schmooze with others like yourself from the congregation at "Network & Nosh." These get-togethers will include a light breakfast and a speaker series with dynamic business leaders sharing their success and challenges. No charge, but your RSVP to Shelly Gordon (SLG@Bethami.org) allows us to plan best. Please contact Marcy Waxman with questions (marcywaxmanrealty@gmail.com).



**Saturday, February 3**

**5 - 7 pm**

**A Musical Spiritual Journey with Becky Schwartz Corbett and Cantor Larry Eschler**

Come spend time late Shabbat afternoon with Becky Schwartz Corbett and Cantor Larry Eschler at this unique program of narrative, learning and music from 5-7 pm. Becky Schwartz Corbett, MSW, ACSW, a national speaker, trainer and executive coach in intentional growth, leadership and career development, is fiercely dedicated to inspiring people to lead and helping individuals and organizations move ideas to action. No charge, but your RSVP by 1/28 to Shelly Gordon (slg@bethami.org) assists with planning. Program concludes with Havdalah and light refreshments.

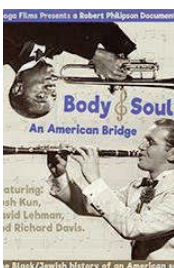


**Live & Learn with Jen Winick Miller**

**Tuesdays, February 6, 13, 20**

**10:30 am – 12 pm**

All are invited to our popular adult daytime learning series. Topic: Culinary Exploration of the Spring Holidays.



**Body & Soul: An American Bridge**

**Sunday, February 11**

**3 pm**

It's the perfect way to spend a cold Sunday afternoon - at the Temple watching a terrific documentary, followed by a live jazz performance! Body and Soul: An American Bridge is a fascinating portrait of the musical relationship between African Americans and American Jews. This film examines both the fraternity and conflict in this cultural exchange by focusing on the early performance history of the jazz standard, "Body and Soul," one of the most recorded songs in the jazz repertoire. Our screening will be followed by a performance by two long-time friends – and friends of Beth Ami: Seth Kibel & Daryl Davis! \$10 pp (\$15 guests) includes film, performance and light refreshments. Register online.

**COMING**  
*This Month*



**WTBA Mah Jongg Tournament**

**Sunday, February 18**

**10 am – 4 pm**

Join us from 10 am – 4 pm for a “day of play!” Coffee at 9:30 am, followed by a lot of ‘mahj.’ \$45 pp (WTBA member); \$50 pp (guest or non-member of WTBA). Includes deli lunch and homemade desserts. RSVP with check. Flyer is online ([www.bethami.org](http://www.bethami.org)) and in the Temple lobby.



**Israel Matters Presents**

**Thursday, February 22**

**7:30 pm**

Join us as Dr. Neha Sahgal, Associate Director of Research, and Michael Lipka, Senior Editor, will report on the 2014/2015 PEW Research Study on Israel’s Divided Society. No charge.



**Potluck Shabbat**

**Friday, February 23**

**6:30 pm**

All are welcome to share a Shabbat dinner together at 6:30 pm, followed by 7:30 pm Erev Shabbat services. The Temple provides chicken, challah and drinks; YOU provide the side dishes (salad, vegetable, starch or fruit), which you indicate when you register online (by 2/20). Free for Temple members; \$5 for guests. We are unable to accommodate walk-ins, so PLEASE register on time. Questions? Call Michelle Freedberg (301)



**Brotherhood Brunch**

**Sunday, February 25**

**9 - 10:30 am**

All are invited to an exciting General Sports Panel discussion led by Don Markus & Dan Steinberg, two of our area’s noted sports reporters! Enjoy a delicious brunch platter and exciting sports updates. Register online by 2/23.



**Broadway Buzz with Steve Friedman**

**Monday, February 26**

**10:30 am – 12 noon**

You won’t want to miss this popular monthly Monday morning dose of Broadway with guest lecturer, Steve Friedman. Topic: Broadway Musicals set in Exotic Locales. All are welcome! Members can enjoy Steve’s monthly lectures at no cost; friends, guests and non-members will be charged \$5 per class at the door (cash and check ONLY).



**PURIM Celebration**

**Wednesday, February 28**

**Beginning at 4:30 pm**

Everyone’s invited to celebrate the holiday of Purim, beginning with a Megillette for families with young children, Purim Festival and WTBA Cafe starting at 5 pm, Haman Happy Hour at 6 pm, modified Megillah reading, followed by our “Shushan Nights Shpiel” not to disappoint! Hamentashen oneg to follow. (More details on back cover)

**TIKKUN OLAM***Community Service Projects***LEND A HAND**

Temple Beth Ami Community Service Projects

Thank you in advance for your support!  
(For information on additional TBA community service projects,

visit [bethami.org/groups/TO](http://bethami.org/groups/TO).)

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

- **Help TBA Help Area Refugee Families** - Volunteers with a variety of skills/abilities are needed to help newly arrived immigrant families settle in the DC area. Occasional/more regular time commitments accommodated. Tasks include tutoring children/teens in English/other subjects, providing rides to medical appointments, and assisting with applications/other paperwork. Teens/adults welcome. For more information or to volunteer, contact Gail Roe at [gail@gailroe.com](mailto:gail@gailroe.com). (See first person article on page 14.)
- **Meals on Wheels Substitute Delivery Help** - We're recruiting volunteers who could be available on an as-needed basis to deliver kosher Meals on Wheels to homebound residents of Montgomery County. Can be done occasionally or regularly. Training provided. For more information or to volunteer, contact Joanne Brodsky at [brodsky.joanne@gmail.com](mailto:brodsky.joanne@gmail.com) or Charlotte Zuckman at [char.zuckman@comcast.net](mailto:char.zuckman@comcast.net).

**COLLECTIONS**

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THESE DRIVES!

- **Personal Care Items & Over-the-Counter Meds for Refugee Families** - Please bring the following to the collection box in the Temple lobby from February 1–24: shampoo, conditioner, soap/body wash, toothpaste, deodorant, feminine sanitary pads/tampons, mouthwash, shaving cream; Tylenol, Advil, Motrin, Aleve, or generic brands.
- **Keep Those Box Tops for Education (BTE) labels coming!** - Bring your labels to the collection boxes in the Temple lobby, Religious School office, and Nursery School office. Have a question? Contact Bernard Silverstein at [cynbern@verizon.net](mailto:cynbern@verizon.net).
- **Ongoing Food Drive Targets Canned Protein & Canned Fruit** - Bring cans (preferably 12 oz. or larger) of tuna, chicken, or salmon (no Spam, please) & fruits in 100% juice (not in syrup, please) to the box in the Temple lobby. Collection benefits those served by the Manna Food Center & Nourish Now. Drive runs through June 2018 and focuses our ongoing food collection on areas of greatest need for low-income families in our area.

**IN THE COMMUNITY**

- **Save the date for the CMR Gala, Saturday, March 24, Lakewood Country Club** - Watch for more information, or contact [andreakwink@cmrocks.org](mailto:andreakwink@cmrocks.org).

**Tu B'Shevat**

Tu B'Shevat, the fifteenth day of Shevat (Tuesday, January 30), is celebrated as the New Year for Trees, especially in Israel, where the day is devoted to the planting of trees. In recent years, reforestation and the protection of the environment have become the focus of the day and the celebration of the holiday includes eating fruits that grow in Israel. Tu B'Shevat will be observed at Erev Shabbat Services, Friday February 2.

This Tu B'Shevat, support an environmental group, plant a tree, help clean up the parks, donate to the Jewish National Fund ([www.jnf.org](http://www.jnf.org)) – do your part to save the environment and celebrate the trees.

**APRIL CHADASHOT  
DEADLINE FEBRUARY 25**



## BROTHERHOOD

### News

#### Join Brotherhood Today

The Brotherhood of Beth Ami is an organization that sustains a wide range of Temple and community activities. By joining the Brotherhood, your support will help provide kiddush cups to our youth becoming B'nai Mitzvah, financial aid for Rebuilding Together, meals for the Community Based Shelter, and sponsorship of family events. Join the Brotherhood today and enjoy great entertainment while expanding your network of friends and business contacts.

Join us for our fabulous upcoming events with good friends, great food and interesting speakers. Our brunches feature lox, whitefish salad, herring, cheeses and assorted bagels, as well as coffee and juice. Check the website, [www.bethami.org](http://www.bethami.org), to join the Brotherhood, which entitles you to discounts on our events. Join us on Sunday mornings each week of religious school for our Sunday Morning Cafe. Last Year was action-packed with guest speakers, participation in Rebuilding Together, the Temple Golf Outing at Worthington Manor, Sporting Events, and many other exciting

things! Don't be left out. Get involved with the Brotherhood, SIGN UP TODAY.

**Brunch, Sunday, February 25, 9 - 10:30: Brotherhood Sports Panel with Dan Steinberg, sports columnist with the Washington Post, and Don Markus, sports writer with the Baltimore Sun** who covers all University of Maryland sports including Terrapins basketball and football. In addition to a lively moderated panel discussion of the local D.C, Baltimore, and UMD sports teams, we will be having a catered brunch from Attman's Deli. We will also be raffling memorabilia from the Capitals, Nationals, and Redskins as well as a signed copy of Don's book "100 Things Maryland Fans Should Know & Do Before They Die" on the Maryland Men's Basketball team. Don will have extra copies on hand after the brunch for those interested in purchasing a signed copy. We had an excellent turnout last year and anticipate an even larger one this year. Cost is \$10 for Brotherhood members and \$15 for non-members. Any questions, please contact Rob Shapiro at [shapiro0504@yahoo.com](mailto:shapiro0504@yahoo.com).

Below is our event calendar for spring 2018. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please call Ira Greenspan at 301-524-6412.

#### 2018:

**Sunday, April 22nd - 9:00 am – Brunch – Kerry Wallach, Associate Professor and Chair, Dept. of German Studies, Gettysburg College**, author of the book Passing Illusions: Jewish Visibility in Weimar Germany

**Sunday April - May - Re-Building Together – Montgomery County, MD**  
**Tuesday, May 15th – 11:00 am – Brotherhood/Temple Golf Outing - Worthington Manor**

#### SPECIAL EVENTS:

Spring 2018 – Nationals Group Event  
Spring 2018 - Brotherhood Softball League (Weekly Games)

*Ira Greenspan,*

President

301-524-6412

[iragreenspan@aol.com](mailto:iragreenspan@aol.com)



**WOMEN OF TEMPLE BETH AMI**

*News*



**Weekly Mah Jongg and Tournament**

WTBA weekly drop-in Mah

Jongg at the Temple is now underway. **Please stop by on Monday afternoons between 1 pm and 3 pm to play.** Players of all abilities are welcome and there is no charge to participate. Mah Jongg cards can be purchased from WTBA.

**WTBA's bi-annual Mah Jongg tournament will be held on Sunday, February 18 from 10 am to 4 pm at the Temple.**

There will be cash prizes for the three highest scores, high round prizes and door prizes. A light breakfast and deli-style lunch will be served. Flyers and registration forms are available in the lobby and on the Temple website. Our tournament is the major fundraiser for WTBA and helps us continue the good work that we do for the Temple, our community and, through the YES Fund, for the worldwide Jewish community. Any questions? Please contact Rachel Maryn at rmaryn@verizon.net.



**WTBA Book Club**

**The WTBA Book Club will meet on Tuesday, February 6, 7:30 – 9 pm at the Temple.** The

book for discussion is The Beauty Queen of

Jerusalem by Sarit Yishai-Levi. We have a copy of the book to lend. All TBA members are welcome to attend WTBA Book Club meetings. Please contact Madeline D'Alessio at 240-460-8926 or mkdalessio@gmail.com for more information.



**Manna Food Sorting**

**Manna Food Center sorting this month will be on February 27 at 7 pm.** The next Manna Food sorting will be on Wednesday, April 25. If you are interested in volunteering for either date, please contact Rhonda Gaynor at Rhonda.gaynor@gmail.com.

A huge thank you goes out to Nancy Yarvin, Michael Yarvin, Ellen Keifetz, Scott Harrison, Elizabeth Joseloff, Adam Levy, Howie Phillips, Maya Phillips, Eve Forburger, and Dave Stander for volunteering on the first night of Chanukah on December 13th to help sort food at Manna. A special thank you to Rhonda Gaynor for coordinating this very meaningful Tikkun Olam activity!

**Women's Seder**

**WTBA's annual Women's Seder will be held on Sunday, March 25 from 5 - 7:30 pm.** All members of Temple Beth Ami and their friends are invited to attend as we celebrate the women in the Passover story at our potluck interfaith and multi-generational Seder. Rabbi Weiss and Cantorial Soloist Joshana Erenberg will once again lead our Seder.

Please check the website and flyers in the Temple lobby for more information about registering and signing up to bring food.

Want to volunteer to help or need more information? Please contact Robin Temin at robin.temin@verizon.net or Richel Lupkin at rblupkin@aol.com. Keep an eye out for

more information in the March Chadashot!

**Summer Camp Scholarships**

For the summer of 2018, WTBA is excited to offer a limited number of scholarships for children to attend summer camp programs at either Temple Beth Ami or a camp affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ). Information about URJ camps can be found at <http://urjyouth.org/camps>. Because of budget constraints, please only request this scholarship if your child would not be able to attend camp without this financial assistance. Please note that URJ camps listed on the website and TBA camps are the only camps for which the scholarships are available.

Applications are due by March 1, 2018 but will be considered after that date as funds allow. Please contact Jeanne Kahn at JeanneKahn@aol.com for an application and/or more information.

**WTBA and Brotherhood Brunch**

In December, WTBA and the Brotherhood held a joint brunch at the Temple. Past Temple Beth Ami presidents, Kathy Goldgeier and Tom Temin, spoke about their respective careers in radio broadcasting, including stories about some of the most memorable moments of their careers. The program was both very interesting and informative, with several questions from the approximately 60 people in attendance. Sincere thank yous go out to Kathy and Tom for preparing such wonderful presentations and discussion. Thank you also to Rhona Arbit, Judi Goozh, Jeanne Kahn, Cecile Plost, and Barbara Strong for their help with organizing the brunch from WTBA and a special appreciation to Ira

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 20**

## NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

*Paula Sayag,  
Director*



### Twinkle, Twinkle TBANS Star: Spotlight on Meredith Polsky and TBANS' Keshet Program

There's a star among us, a celebrity of sorts.

You may not know it, because she blends into the TBANS world quite well. I've seen her sauntering down our hallways, stopping to chat with parents and teachers alike. Her quick, comforting smile matches her unassuming, welcoming demeanor. She could almost be any of us. Almost.

Except that she recently won the most prestigious award in the country for excellence in Jewish education—the Covenant Award—for her work as the Developmental Support Coordinator at TBANS (and her work at Matan, the organization she co-founded which educates Jewish leaders, educators and communities, empowering them to create learning environments supportive of children with special needs).

So that woman who just smiled sweetly as you passed her at drop-off this morning? She's a national expert. The national expert on inclusion in Jewish education. Her name is Meredith Polsky.

While Polsky remains in the national spotlight, February—which happens to be Disability Awareness Month—is a great time to also shed some light on the program she coordinates at TBANS. Keshet, or “connection” in Hebrew, is not just for children with disabilities



though. Not even close. What makes this program especially powerful is that it's designed to connect every single child at TBANS with whatever support they need to be successful in preschool—and in life. Keshet team members are in constant contact with teachers and parents, creating a process that helps everyone: those students who need support—including occupational therapy, speech, and much more—are connected to resources, and the strategies employed by these specialists in each classroom benefit all children at TBANS, not only those with diverse learning needs.

According to Polsky, what makes the Keshet Program at TBANS stand out in the world of Jewish early childhood learning is its depth. Other team members include: Judi Lapidus, Occupational Therapist; Jen King, Speech Pathologist; and Naomi Rubenstein, Social Thinking Specialist. Keshet team members also coordinate with outside service providers when indicated. While other preschools may



have an inclusion specialist or occupational therapist on staff, it's almost unheard of to have this many experts working in such a complementary manner. Both Polsky and Dr. Sayag also credit the TBANS teachers for the program's success—they are often the gatekeepers and screeners, and are incredibly knowledgeable when it comes to understanding the developmental progress of each child.

The program allows TBANS to be as inclusive as possible to many kinds of learners. It also enables early interventions, which lead to improved outcomes.

The Covenant Foundation's statement said that Polsky has dramatically advanced Jewish communal dialogue and practices for inclusion of children with special needs and their families in Jewish life and learning.

Lucky for us, this national star landed at TBANS, and is helping all of our children shine.

For more information on Keshet, visit [bethami.org/programs/keshet](http://bethami.org/programs/keshet).

By *Jodie Fishman*, TBANS Correspondent



## B'NAI MITZVAH

### Profiles

Please join with us at Shabbat Services during the month of February as we celebrate with...



**BENJAMIN JACOB MYERS,** son of Eric and Christine, became a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, January 13. He is a seventh grade student at Herbert Hoover Middle School. For his Bar Mitzvah Project, Ben has chosen to participate in several volunteer projects through the Jr. Civitans at Hoover Middle School and Boy Scott Troop 1449.



**ARCHER THOMAS MARTIN,** son of Bruce and Linda, will become a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, February 10. He is a seventh grade student at Tilden Middle School. Archer has a younger brother, Zev. For his Bar Mitzvah Project, Archer is volunteering at Leveling the Playing Field, a Silver Spring-based nonprofit that gives underprivileged children the opportunity to enjoy the mental and physical benefits of sports participation.



**MICHAEL DEMSKE,** son of Rob and Amy, will become a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, February 17. He is a seventh grade student at Cabin John Middle School. Michael has a younger sister, Megan. For his Bar Mitzvah Project, Michael is supporting "Leveling the Playing Field," a Montgomery County nonprofit organization that collects new and used sports equipment to allow all kids a chance to play sports.

## SIMCHAS

### Mazel Tov to...

**Madeline Kaplan, Danielle Land, Lauren Turner, Hayley Asai, and Jaidyn Heller** on each becoming Bat Mitzvah  
**Ethan Rosenberg, Benjamin Cohen, and Ian Rubin** on each becoming Bar Mitzvah

**Melissa and Ana Quinones** on their birth of their twins, **Brooklyn and Shay**  
**Keith Goodman and Deborah Cohen** on the birth of their granddaughter, **Sidney Primrose Goodman**  
**Debra and Robert Cowen** on the birth of their grandson, **Zachary Brandon Moses**  
**Lynn and David Stander** on the birth of their grandson, **Daniel Robert Scarpelli**

**Marc Hertzman,** whose opera, *Abie's Chinese Rose*, is premiering in China as part of a Jewish/Chinese cultural program.

**Third grade students,** their families and their teachers for receiving their siddur

### Welcome New Members:

**Karen and Ross Kleinman**

### COME IN AND WARM UP

It's cold outside. Park and come in to the library; enjoy a hot drink, wi-fi and a wonderful collection of books, CD's and DVD's to browse. Make yourself at home at your Temple.

## JEWISH CAMPING BUILDS JEWISH IDENTITY - CELEBRATING CAMP HARLAM AT 60!

On Erev Shabbat, February 2, we will celebrate our URJ region's Camp Harlam on its 60th Anniversary. If you and/or your children are/were Harlam campers, we hope to see you that night, wearing your camp white! Jewish camping, whether overnight or day camp, has long been recognized as a primary influence on building Jewish identity. Help us help children have this great experience—support our Campership Fund. All the money goes to camp scholarships for families with demonstrable need.

## RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NEWS

*Kim Roberts,  
Director*



### Calendar

#### **Friday-Sunday, February 2-4**

9th Grade Retreat

#### **Sunday February 4**

Machane TBA In Session

#### **Tuesday, February 6**

Mid-Week Gr 3-6 in session

TBAjrHigh in session

TBAHigh – Chug 1 Night

(Aliyah Bet, Krav Maga, Leadership, Photography, Confirmation)

6:30- Confirmation Steering Committee

#### **Sunday, February 11**

Machane TBA In Session

Hey Mitzvah Project Fair

#### **Tuesday, February 13**

Mid-Week Gr 3-6 in session

TBAjrHigh in session

TBAHigh – CORE 1 Night

#### **Sunday, February 18/ Tuesday, February 20**

Machane TBA, TBAjrHigh, TBAHigh Closed

#### **Friday, February 23**

Alef Shabbat Family Experience & Primary Service 6:30 pm

#### **Saturday, February 24**

Erev Yom Machane Gr 3-6

#### **Sunday, February 25**

Machane TBA In Session

Gr 3-6 Early dismissal 11:15 pm

#### **Tuesday, February 27**

Mid-Week Gr 3-6 in session

TBAjrHigh in session

TBAHigh – Chug 2 Night

(Graduation, Aliyah Bet, Social Action, Cooking, Confirmation)



### FOCUS ON INCLUSION

Did you know that the religious school at Temple Beth Ami has offered a Jewish education to learners with diverse needs for more than 30 years? Machane TBA seeks to reach all learners by providing multiple entry points to our school program and staff who are equipped to work with unique learning situations. Our Atzma'im ("independents") program for grades 3-6 provides the opportunities for students with diverse needs to be mainstreamed into our program via the learning environment that best suits them. For some students, the L'mata experiential learning block is a good fit. The L'mata block includes weekly t'filah, large-scale programming, elective programming such as art, yoga, Israeli dancing and "Ask the Rabbi", as well as values-based lessons and choice electives. We offer one-on-one student aides for Atzma'im students in both the L'mala (upstairs classroom) and L'mata (experiential block) settings. Additionally, Hebrew resource support is available for all Machane TBA students. We make it a point to work with each child to create a specialized curriculum which best suits them and which strives to help them achieve independence in any ways possible.

Inclusion at Machane TBA is supported by a variety of staff. Our inclusion specialist, Heather Walter, is a Ph.D. candidate in Special Education. Heather works with students and families to devise strategies for each child so that they can succeed at Machane TBA. Heather also advises the team of teen madrichim who work one-on-one with our Atzma'im students. Our

school administrators also work with Heather and the madrichim on an ongoing basis to ensure that the Atzma'im experience is successful. In addition to supporting the Atzma'im program, Heather supports students across the school on an ongoing basis.

Since typically developing learners also have occasion to refocus sometimes, every Machane TBA classroom and L'mata class has access to an "inclusion bin," which is filled with items such as the following (not every bin has all of these objects, but they are all available if needed): \* Stress balls \* Therapy putty \* Emotion rulers \* Weighted objects \* Noise canceling headphones \* Massage fidgets \* Bumpy seats \* Weighted disks \* Finger strengtheners \* Crayons \* Beach balls \* Alerting fidgets \* Plush toys \* Koosh bracelets \* Lava fidgets

In the effort to provide our staff with strategies and information about diverse needs, we have dedicated several teacher training sessions to inclusion as well. Heather provides continuous support to all of our staff throughout the school year. We have hosted speakers on the topic of severe food allergies, empathy in education, inclusion in Jewish education, and bullying, and we try to give our teachers as many tools as possible to help them address diverse needs.

In short, at Machane TBA our commitment to providing a Jewish education to all learners is strong and it reflects the long-standing dedication on the part of Temple Beth Ami to inclusion in Jewish life.



## PHOTO REVIEW

*Shabbanukkah, Hanukkah Cookie Baking, Candle Lighting, December Challah Baking*



## COMMITTEES

### News

#### INCLUSION COMMITTEE

##### SAVE FEBRUARY 23 and join us for a special Jewish Disability Awareness Shabbat!

As we step into Jewish Disability Awareness month, we need to remember that disability rights are not a month or a program, but a civil right and philosophy that embraces the idea that everyone has a right to belong. We must strive to become a welcoming community that accepts everyone with generous hospitality. This work may not always be comfortable, but, when we commit ourselves to making our programs welcoming and accessible to all, our community becomes stronger. We are on this journey together and we believe it must be owned by our congregation.

Stop and think, how many individuals do you know who may have a disability? Is it a family member, a neighbor, a friend? You might not even know since many disabilities are hidden. Did you know, however, that about 20 percent of the population has a disability? Did you know also that research as of 2004 indicates that 57 percent of people with disabilities find their religious faith very important, but only 49 percent of people with disabilities attend synagogue or another religiously affiliated organization? Religious faith and other community settings are important to all groups, yet the number of people with disabilities who are not participating in a faith or community setting indicates that there is much work to be done. At Temple Beth Ami we believe *Areyvut*, the idea that communal responsibility is the foundation to inclusive Jewish communities and a sense of belongingness for all.

In our effort to become more welcoming, open and inclusive, we need to your input as to how we can accommodate individuals with a disability and their families. We can't do this alone. We need your help. We need your comments, suggestions or a conversation so that we can join together as an inclusive community where all are welcome, enjoy relationships and feel a sense of belonging at Temple Beth Ami.

Please feel free to contact Judi Goozh (paul-judig@verizon.net), Inclusion Committee Chair, if you would like to

join us (our committee meets once a month during the day) or to send us your suggestion.

#### *Heather Walter and Judi Goozh*

Here is a list of disability Awareness literature you may enjoy and find helpful:

##### Young Children

1. Just Because I Am: A child's book of affirmations by Lauren Murphy Payne
2. Don't Call Me Special: A first look at Disability by Pat Thomas
3. I see without my eyes by Mark Braumer Hayward
4. My Friend Suhana: A Story of IFriendship and Cerebral Palsy by Shaila Abdullah
5. Thank you, Mr. Falkner by Patricia Polacco
6. The Black Book of Colors by Menena Cottin
7. Andy and His Yellow Frisbee by Mary Thompson
8. Susan Laughs by Jeanne Willis
9. Dan and Diesel by Charlotte Hudson

##### Childhood

1. Keeping up with Roo by Sharlee Gleen
2. Featherless/ Deslumado by Juan Felipe Herrera
3. All kinds of Friends, Even Green! by Ellen B Senisi
4. A Brand-New Me! by Harry Winkler
5. Just Juice by Karen Hesse

##### Adolescence

1. El Deafo by Cece Bell
2. Truemann Bradely by Alexei Maxim Russell
3. Out of My Mind by Sharon M. Draper
4. Rain Reign by Ann M. Martin
5. Wonder by R.J Palacio



## **TBA 2020 Visioning process is underway**

Perhaps you've attended a house meeting, or are planning to. Perhaps you've hosted one or had the training to facilitate. Perhaps you've joined one of our seven research groups. If so, you are one of dozens of congregants involved in TBA Vision 2020.

This congregation-wide effort has as its goal the generation of ideas to help make Temple Beth Ami a more sustainable institution by adopting more contemporary approaches to membership and resources. This process is driven by the fact that the dues and membership models that sustained the congregation (and thousands of others) for perhaps a century is not working as we move deeper into the 21st century.

The house meetings and research constitute phase one of this strategic planning. They are underway right now. The TBA Vision Steering Committee, working with the clergy and the executive committee of the Board, spent a lot of time last fall laying the groundwork. Now, we're into the operational phase, gathering data from as many members and as many external sources as possible. When this phase concludes in late March, the TBA Vision 2020 steering committee will have compiled the data for presentation to the Board of Directors.

In phase two, the Board, in consultation with the Vision 2020 volunteers and staff, will assess what the data might suggest. Together as a congregation we'll generate ideas, put them in order of importance and feasibility, and make an action plan.

Together we can do anything, but we won't be able to do everything. But what the Board ultimately decides to do will be the result of a carefully planned process involving as many members of the congregation as possible.

In the meantime, if you are not able to participate in a house meeting or on a research team, we still want to hear from you. Please feel free to contact us using this e-mail address [tbavision2020@gmail.com](mailto:tbavision2020@gmail.com)

***Tom Temin and Nancy Shapiro***

Co-chairs, TBA Vision 2020.

## **Community of Action Focus 2018: MOCO and State Elections**

While our listening sessions did not reveal a consensus on a particular issue or cause, the majority of congregants who attended the sessions reported feeling more engaged politically over the past year.

It seems that we are at an important political junction both at the local and state level. At the state level, the election for governor as well as delegates will determine which party holds the majority, making redistricting decisions following the next census. At the local level, there will be a tremendous changeover with four at-large seats on the County Council up for grabs, as well as the County Executive position. Maryland Congressional District 6 is an open race with no incumbent. Remarkably, there are 26 candidates for the four at-large Council seats, nine candidates who have entered the Governor's race, and four candidates for County Executive.

How will we get to know all of these candidates so we can cast meaningful votes in the June 2018 primaries?

While the Temple cannot take a position to support any one candidate, we can perform important work in listening to and clarifying issues important to congregants, facilitating access to useful resources, and sponsoring candidate forums.

Stay tuned for spring programming geared toward the June primaries and for ways to sign up for educational communications about the candidates and the elections.

If you are interested in helping to formulate/disseminate information, particularly if you have a communications/social media background, please contact Susan Stern ([sssterndragon@gmail.com](mailto:sssterndragon@gmail.com)).

If you are interested in helping to plan candidate forums, please contact Debbie Jacobs ([debrajacobs@comcast.net](mailto:debrajacobs@comcast.net)).

## COMMITTEE

### News

#### Tikkun Olam in Action

TBA Pre-Teen Describes Her Personal Experience of Working With a Refugee Family - Thank you to Sydney Kauff for submitting this article.

Have you ever met someone who had to flee their country because of war? I recently met a refugee family from Syria, and it was one of the most meaningful experiences of my life. It made me realize that peace is something that should never be taken for granted—and that something as simple as friendship can make an important difference in a person's life.

The first time I thought about refugees, I was eating dinner and my eyes started to wander to the news on the television. Reporters were talking about rafts carrying refugees. I saw the expressions on the faces of the people walking off the rafts. It was heartbreaking—they looked tired, hungry, terrified, and confused. In that moment, I realized that I wanted to help ease the transition for these people into their new country. I talked to my parents and together we spoke to TBA's Tikkun Olam Committee, which was working with an interfaith organization called Montgomery County Interfaith Refugee Resettlement Neighbors (MCIRRN).



The next week, I went to a MCIRRN event to meet families the

organization was assisting. I heard many moving stories about different people, about the countries they had fled, and what it was like getting to America. Some of them had only been here for a week, and some for months. At the end of the event, my mom offered to drive one of the Syrian families home because they didn't have a car. The family members in America consisted of the mom, dad, and four children: two older boys, a 14-year-old girl, and an 8-year old girl. It was a pretty long drive, but somehow we managed to talk the entire time. We mostly used a translating app, because the family didn't know much English. Hearing their story was fascinating. In some ways, our lives were as different as night and day. But we learned that, in other ways, we are a lot alike. The girls and I enjoy some of the same things, such as music, sports, and certain school subjects.

When we dropped the family off after the event, they welcomed us into their home and insisted on feeding us dinner. Feeding friends was a tradition where they came from in Syria. They told us about everything they went through to get to America. Two of the youngest sons in the family died in Syria because the level of fighting prevented them from getting the medical care they needed. They told us about the night they left Syria, and how everything had happened so quickly. There was no time to go back into their house to get anything. They weren't able to say goodbye to anyone in Syria, and they had to leave their two married daughters and their families there because they had no way of telling them that they were leaving. They went to Jordan and lived there for 5 years. Now they live in America, where they had to start almost their entire lives over by learning English, getting jobs, meeting friends, and navigating many other challenges. They told us how different America was from Syria and what they liked and didn't like. It was very interesting getting to know them that night.

I continue to visit the family every now and then. Every time I see them, I hear more of their story. They keep telling me how thankful they are that I come to visit and help them with their English. At first they didn't have a car, which made it hard for the two sons to get to work. They only had about half of the money needed to buy a car. I wanted to help cover part of the cost of the car for them. I knew I wouldn't be able to cover the whole amount they couldn't pay but that every penny counted. I asked my family and friends for donations, and I held a bake sale. With help from the

money I raised, the family was finally able to buy a car. It made them so happy to know that I really cared about them. Now not only can the sons get to work more easily, but the dad wants to try to start working as an Uber driver. I plan to organize more bake sales in the future and to continue visiting the family.



I treasure my friendship with this family, and my experience has made me more determined to help other refugees. If you also want to help, both volunteers and donations are needed. Teens can help by offering to tutor children in English or other school subjects. Adults can help by providing rides for families to medical or other appointments and by helping the families access social services. You can donate money by writing a check to TBA (with Tikkun Olam-refugee in the memo line) or through ChaverWeb, to Tikkun Olam-refugee. For more information or to volunteer, visit the Refugee Resettlement Program page on the TBA website, or contact Gail Roe at [gail@gailroe.com](mailto:gail@gailroe.com).

**HAPPY PURIM!**

**Purim Gift Boxes - Mishloach Manot**

**DID YOU KNOW** it is a *mitzvah* to send sweet treats and offer *tzedakah* on Purim? Beth Ami will help you fulfill this mitzvah by sending Purim wishes along with a gift box full of delicious and delightful treats for your friends and family! Each recipient family will receive one Purim gift box ("*Mishloach Manot*") and a card including the names of all those who contributed to their gift. It's a great way to share the joy of the holiday with others in our community! Details on how to place your order will arrive in your email soon!

**Order your Purim Gift Boxes-  
Mishloach Manot -by Feb 11th.  
We celebrate Purim on Feb 28th.**



## College Connection

Special thanks to the wonderful College Connection volunteers: Sarah Freedman, Michelle Katon, Elise Lash, Michael Manis, Kandace Needle and Suzy Slyn-Davis. While we were a little short-handed this time, we were still able to put together 88 Chanukah packages for our kids. It is never too late to register your child for College Connection or to volunteer to help with our next mailing; we will be sending out the Purim packages on February 22nd.

If you would like to be added to the College Connection volunteer list or to add your child to the mailing list, please contact me at [jrmhyp@yahoo.com](mailto:jrmhyp@yahoo.com).

Happy and healthy 2018 to all.

**Jackie Manis**

College Connection Chairperson



**Purim Festival\* and  
WTBA Cafe**

**Wednesday, February 28**

**5 - 6:30 pm**

**Fun and Yum for All!**

\* recommended for children TBANS - Grade 4



## PHOTO REVIEW 2

*Live and Learn Hanukkah, TBANS Snow Play, Brotherhood/WTBA Brunch Speakers*





**COMING**  
*In March*



**March Madness Shabbat**

**Friday, March 2**

**6 pm**

Join us in the lobby from 6-6:30 pm for some “pre-game” stadium snacks before our 6:30 pm Erev Shabbat service, including student participation by our 4th & 5th graders. Everyone’s invited to dress in their favorite college gear, in honor of the kickoff of March Madness 2018!



**Live & Learn with Rabbi Pokras**

**Tuesdays, March 6, 13, 20**

**10:30 am 12 pm**

All are invited to our popular adult daytime learning series. Topic: Mussar. Rabbi Pokras will take you on a journey into the basics of Mussar, a Jewish ethical/spiritual practice for finding balance in our lives. Mussar teaches us how to cultivate all kinds of love through the mindful exploration of our own character traits in tandem with concrete practices to bring everything into alignment.



**Food Film Fest: The Green Park**

**Friday, March 16**

**7:30 pm**

Following our Wine & Cheese Pre-neg and “Spirit of Shabbat” service, make plans to join us for a delicious Shabbat dinner and dessert, followed by a screening of the documentary, “The Green Park.” This lively and warm-hearted film delves into the history of Britain’s Jewish community while showcasing “The Green Park” – Britain’s answer to Grossinger’s. Register online by 3/13 and don’t miss this engaging and educational evening.



**STAY TUNED FOR MORE DETAILS, BUT MARK YOUR CALENDAR:**

**Congregational 2nd Night Seder**

**Saturday, March 31**

Keep your eye out for details and registration, coming soon! Rabbi Pokras and Cantor Eschler invite you to a digital, interactive, participatory, multi-generational Seder at the Temple, for grade schoolers to adult. \$40 (ages 14+); \$18 (6-13 years old); \$5 (5 & under). Cost includes catered dinner.

**SHARE WITH US...**

We want to know. Please let us know of any significant life cycle event in your family (or the family of a member friend or neighbor), such as a birth, engagement, wedding, illness or death so we can be in touch. Please contact Gail Brodsky, Clergy Assistant, at 301-340-6818 or [gbs@bethami.org](mailto:gbs@bethami.org)

**Can't Get to Services?**

Be with us through video streaming. Go the home page of our website and click on view video streaming in the Service Schedule box. You can also listen to services by calling 301-309-3834.

## **RABBI** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

source of our own power in the world.

What does this have to do with Disability Awareness Month? Everything! None of these characteristics, with the possible exception of speaking, depend upon having “able” bodies. Whether we are disabled or not, we all have the ability to use our imagination creatively, we all have the ability to distinguish and judge (or in other words, to cultivate wisdom), we all have the ability to be a blessing and most of us have the ability to communicate. We are all of us created in the Divine image and we, all of us, can be a reflection of the Divine for each other.

Our tradition teaches that when we recognize the Divine in each other, we treat each other accordingly. Yet, far too often, we forget.

Perhaps that is why the Torah highlights the ability of the disabled. Indeed, although the language is different in the Torah, both Jacob and Moses – two of our greatest leaders – are described as disabled. Did you know that?

In Genesis 32, Jacob had an unusual encounter with the Divine. He wrestled with something [we don’t exactly know what] through the night and, in the course of the wrestling, his hip socket was wrenched. As the sun started to come up, the being he was wrestling with, described simply as “a man”, begged Jacob to let him go. However, Jacob refused until the man gave Jacob a blessing. The blessing was that Jacob’s name would henceforth be changed to Israel, which means: “he wrestled with God and prevailed.” This is how we got our name! From that moment on, Jacob walked with a significant limp. In a very real sense, the very act of becoming disabled is what made Jacob whole.

Moses faced a different challenge. At the Burning Bush, when God called Moses to leadership, Moses tried to refuse, saying: “I am heavy-mouthed and heavy tongued.” [Ex. 4:10] In other words, Moses, who defied Pharaoh, brought us Torah and led our people from slavery to the Promised Land, had a severe speech impediment. Indeed, God sent Aaron, Moses’ brother, to speak in place of Moses – but the leadership remained with Moses.

It is easy to forget about the challenges Jacob and Moses faced, and simply focus on their great accomplishments - and that is exactly the point! Their disabilities did not define them, but rather their ability to truly live in God’s image.

At Beth Ami, we are committed to being a community so embracing

and accessible that disabilities never get in the way of our ability to be creative, our ability to cultivate wisdom, and our ability to be a blessing to each other.

I hope that you will enjoy reading about some of the specific ways we are acting on this commitment in the pages ahead. And, I would also like to challenge each of us to adopt a spiritual practice I once learned from my teacher Rabbi Dr. Eugene Borowitz (of blessed memory). Each day when he would ride the New York subway to and from the College-Institute, he would mentally point at every single person in the car (and there were all kinds of people!) and say to himself: “b’tzelem Elohim – in the image of God.” May we do the same. Let’s mentally point at every person we see – especially those who are different from us, or whom (gasp) we dislike – and remind ourselves that they too are reflections of the Divine. Go ahead. I challenge you! It just might make your day.

Warmly,

**Rabbi Gary Pokras**

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## **SERVICES** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

### **Wednesday, February 28**

Erev Purim  
4:30 pm Megillette  
6:30 pm Megillah Reading  
7:00 pm Purim Shpiel

### **Friday, March 2**

6:30 pm Erev Shabbat of Song and Story/March Madness  
Machane TBA Grades 4/5 Participating

### **Saturday, March 3**

10:30 am Shabbat Service  
Bar Mitzvah: Todd Rosenblatt  
5:30 pm Shabbat Service  
B’not Mitzvah: Hailey Yentis  
Skyler Yentis

### **Sunday, March 4**

10:45 am Sunday Minyan

**PRESIDENT** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

professionals and lay leaders as working partners.” And according to Judi, “A lot of the discussion fits right into our own Vision 2020.”

It is rewarding to know that Temple Beth Ami is already deeply committed to some of the focus areas that the URJ identifies as essential for strong congregations. But, while we are already endeavoring to find ways to engage our young families and to program for our “Encore” congregants, Jane Jacobs notes that, “there are many opportunities to engage (them) further.” The hope expressed by all of our TBA Biennial participants was that they would be able to bring back both information and spiritually uplifting messages from the conference in order to lend that experience to our TBA Vision 2020 project.

“I was overwhelmed by the choices of breakout sessions, as there were dozens available at each opportunity - from best practice engagement ideas, social justice, specific women and children issues, spiritual learning, etc. I even made several valuable connections with the vendors at the Exhibit Hall,” described Shari Davidson. “Between this Biennial and our 3 trips to Israel in 18 months ... we are even more inspired and invigorated by our faith. We hope to invest this enthusiasm by participating in TBA’s leadership going forward.”

Our challenge as we begin to build our own Vision 2020 plan will be to open the lines of communication and to build connections between people who choose to engage with Judaism in all different ways. “Being with over 5000 other Reform Jews gives one a unique sense of connection to the larger Jewish community,” says Jane. “In these times of declining membership in religious (and non-religious) affiliation organizations, it’s a reminder that the larger Jewish community is alive and well, and available to connect to.”

Lend your voice to our Vision 2020 as we look to strengthen our community, to invest in the Jewish future, to repair the world, to connect to Israel, and to inspire all those who wish to find their place at Temple Beth Ami.

*“May the memory of these  
Righteous  
be for a blessing”*

We mourn the recent death of:

Jack Schiff  
father of Peter Schiff

Kenneth Winter  
father of Gary Winter

Frank Halpern  
father of Don Halpern

Harold Breuer  
father of Nora Soroka

Abigail Bendis  
niece of Perry Bechky

Norman Ginsburg  
grandfather of Meredith Dayhoff

Esther Marks  
grandmother of Brian Flack

Scott Sternberg  
son of Ellen and Bill Sternberg  
brother of Lauren Sternberg and Bradley Sternberg

Allen Hillman  
father of Brenda Speisman

## WOMEN OF TBA CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

Greenspan of the Brotherhood for his coordination of this brunch. We look forward to many more collaborative events between WTBA and Brotherhood!

### Pre-school Hanukkah Party

WTBA hosted a pre-school Hanukkah party at the Temple in. Fun was had by all! Thank you to Judy Fox-Tepper and Joan Ochs for their help with reading a story to the children and providing craft materials. A huge thank you to Amy Scher for organizing this event!

### Ongoing Projects

The **Judaica Shop** is open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm and on Sundays when religious school is in session from 8:45am to 12:45pm. Volunteers are always needed. Please contact Jackie at [jrmhyp@yahoo.com](mailto:jrmhyp@yahoo.com) or 561-212-2104 to volunteer.



**Kippot** for B'nai Mitzvah, Brides and Grooms are available at discount prices through WTBA. View styles at [www.kippah.com](http://www.kippah.com), then contact Michelle Freedberg at [mefreedberg@gmail.com](mailto:mefreedberg@gmail.com) to place

your order.

WTBA will present TBA **newlyweds** as a wedding gift the beautiful book [On the Doorposts of Your House: Prayers and Ceremonies for the Jewish Home](#). Please email Barbara Ranhand at [Barbara.ranhand@verizon.net](mailto:Barbara.ranhand@verizon.net) if you have information about any Temple families who are planning a wedding.

### We're on Facebook

If you are on Facebook, please search for us and like us. This is another way to keep up-to-date on our events.

### WTBA E-mail Address

Do you have a question about the Women of Temple Beth Ami but don't know who to ask? Would you like to suggest a program or project but don't know who to contact? WTBA has set up an e-mail address specifically for these types of questions. This e-mail account will be checked at once a week by the Leadership Council and you can anticipate a response within two weeks. If you need a faster response, please call the Temple office directly. The WTBA e-mail address is [womenoftemplebethami@gmail.com](mailto:womenoftemplebethami@gmail.com). We look forward to hearing from you!

### *Elizabeth Joseloff*

WTBA Chadashot article editor  
[ejoseloff@gmail.com](mailto:ejoseloff@gmail.com)

### Is Your Email Address Current? Are You on Chaverweb? Are You Connected?

If you are not yet connected to the Chaverweb system, it may be because we do not have an up-to-date email address. Please let the Temple office know if you did not get the emailed invitation and we will help you connect. Chaverweb will enable you to update your personal profile, view the on line membership directory, review your account (and, soon, pay your account), register for school, and classes, etc.

If you are already in Chaverweb, but FORGOT YOUR PASSWORD, please DO NOT SIGN IN AS A GUEST; simply click on "forgot your password" and you will receive a new one by email.

### Looking to Make a Connection?

The clergy and staff are here to help you find that special connection with your congregation. Whether it's a class, service, kehillah, social action project, film, dinner, leadership role – just check out the Chadashot, the UTTM Thursday e-blast, the website and come join us. If you want help connecting, contact Shelly Gordon at 301-340-6818 or [slg@bethami.org](mailto:slg@bethami.org) It's YOUR congregation; be connected.

Visit us at  
[www.bethami.org](http://www.bethami.org)



## ONGOING Information



**“In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter, we remember them.”**

*Excerpt – Roland B. Gittelsohn*

**No one has to do it alone.**



**Garden of Remembrance**

GAN ZIKARON MEMORIAL PARK

17 YEARS OF CARING SERVICE AND DEDICATED SUPPORT TO  
THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF GREATER WASHINGTON

Call Janice Rosenblatt at Temple Beth Ami, (301) 340-6818,  
or visit [www.gardenofremembrance.org](http://www.gardenofremembrance.org)



### WHEN YOU NEED HELP AFTER HOURS.

The 24/7 emergency number is available for Temple emergencies. After regular business hours, please call 301-332-3566 or you can call the office (301-340-6818) and follow the prompts to the emergency number. The clergy and the executive director are always available to help you.

### OUR DIRECTORY IS ON-LINE

The Temple directory is on line through Chaver-web. Please remember that you can go into your profile and update it. If you've never looked at it, please take a minute to see what's there. The directory is available to Temple members only.

### JSSA Liaison is Here for You

Through our special relationship with JSSA, TBA members are able to receive free and confidential consultation on family and mental health issues including parenting children of all ages and aging parents. Roberta Drucker is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and also earned a BA in Psychology, and Early Childhood, Elementary and Special Education. Her specialized training and experience include the treatment of anxiety, OCD, and other mood issues, ADHD, learning disabilities, families with special needs, parenting, couples and family therapy, aging and bereavement, and intergenerational family therapy. During her tenure as Director of JSSA's Resettlement Program, she provided services to families, and consultation to staff in a variety of settings, including Jewish Day Schools, public schools, pre-schools, and religious schools. Please contact Roberta at [rdrucker@jssa.org](mailto:rdrucker@jssa.org) or 301-610-8369 for free confidential consultation.

### GREAT NEWS!!! YOU CAN SHOP AT AMAZON AND SUPPORT TEMPLE BETH AMI AT THE SAME TIME!

Do you shop on the Amazon.com website? Do you know that if you enter the Amazon website from a link on the Temple Beth Ami website, TBA will earn at least 4% of your purchase price for every purchase you make? It is very easy and you will be helping TBA. You can access the Amazon site to earn money for TBA in one of two ways: Either go to the TBA website and click on the small Amazon.com link at the top of the home page, or use this URL which takes you directly to Amazon: <http://tinyurl.com/bethamishop>. BUT REMEMBER, TBA ONLY EARNS MONEY IF YOU GO TO AMAZON THROUGH THE TBA WEBSITE OR THIS URL!

Just imagine, you can "shop 'til you drop" without leaving home and put some badly needed cash in TBA coffers. GO TO IT!

## **WE GRATEFULLY** *Acknowledge*

A contribution to a Temple fund is a meaningful way to support the Temple community while honoring a birthday, recuperation, wedding, graduation, birth or any special occasion.

Donations may also be made in memory of loved one. For a minimum \$10 donation, an acknowledgement will be sent to the person you wish to honor or the family of the deceased. If you have any questions about existing funds or wish to establish a fund, please call Janice Rosenblatt, Executive Director, at 301.340.6818.

### **ACCESS AND SPECIAL NEEDS FUND BY THE SHEVITZ FAMILY**

In memory of:

GERTRUDE GLASSMAN, mother of Mitchell Glassman, by Charles and Cecile Plost, Gail and Michael Kaltman

EVA WERTHEIMER, mother of Lynn Karpay, by Gail and Michael Kaltman

### **ANNUAL APPEAL (HIGH HOLY DAYS) FUND**

Shomrim

Robert and Marjorie Bajefsky

Chaverim

Peter Kaufman and Marie Lurquin, Stuart Treby, Adam Spector and Lauren Bogart

Tomhim

Carol Martin, Ellie and Ed Sondik, Eric and Lisa Rubin

Bonim

Howard and Nancy Harrell

Toreim

John Wassell and Gail Kaplan-Wassell, Jane Jacobs, Lewis and Linda Cohen

### **CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

In honor of:

CANTORIAL SOLOIST JOSHANA ERENBERG for her beautiful participation in Jonah Karp's Bar Mitzvah by Annie and Brett Karp

CANTOR LARRY ESCHLER'S participation in my Get ceremony by Melissa Bauman

CANTOR LARRY ESCHLER'S mentoring our TBA Youth by Debra and Robert Cowen

Heartfelt thanks to CANTOR ESCHLER for patiently helping me to prepare my Torah portion for Rosh Hashanah by Catherine L. Copp

In memory of:

ELAINE AND BILL WHITE by Rachel and Kevin Yang

JUDY TREBY, wife of Stuart Treby, by Debra and Robert Cowen

### **COMPUTER FUND**

In memory of:

DONALD WISEMAN, husband of Sheila Wiseman, by Dorothy and Richard Fox

### **HINENI FUND**

In memory of:

HAROLD BREUER, father of Nora Soroka, by Jody Rosenblum

### **HOLOCAUST EDUCATION FUND IN MEMORY OF OSCAR POHORYLES**

In memory of:

HARRY FISCHER by Diane Castiglione

### **INTERFAITH FAMILIES FUND**

In memory of:

ALLEN HILLMAN, father of Brenda Speisman, by Debby and Gary Bortnick and family

### **LIVE & LEARN FUND IN MEMORY OF SALLY B. KERA**

In honor of:

The birth of ZACHARY BRANDON MOSES, grandson of Robert and Debra Cowen, by Leslie Shapiro

In memory of:

GERTRUDE GLASSMAN, mother of Mitchell Glassman, by Betty Lichtenstein

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### **MACHANE TBA (RELIGIOUS EDUCATION) SCHOLARSHIP FUND IN MEMORY OF BUD LEVIN**

In honor of:

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MARC and REBECCA HERTZMAN on their Special Birthdays by Shirley Levin and Jules Bowen

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In memory of:

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In honor of:

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In memory of:

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ELAINE AND BILL WHITE, parents of Rachel Yang, by Kevin and Rachel Yang

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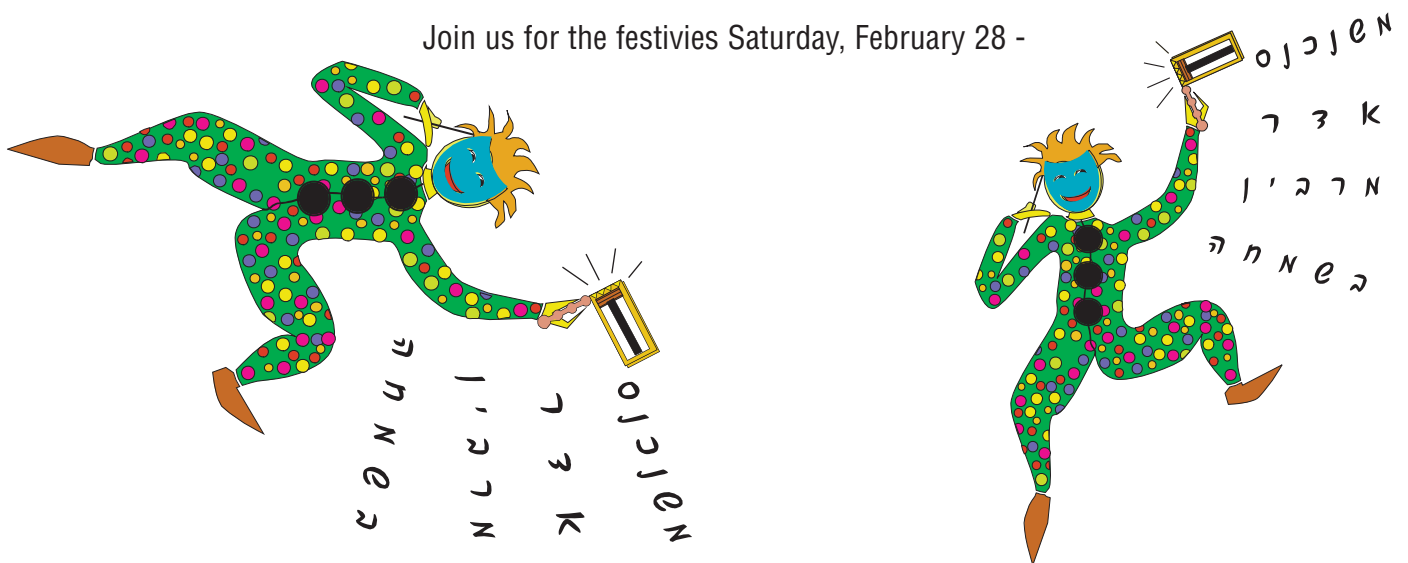


On Purim we retell the story of the Jewish people's escape from destruction in ancient Persia, as chronicled in the biblical book of Esther. Interestingly, the word "God" is not mentioned in the entire Book of Esther, although certainly the undercurrent of deliverance and divine intervention appears throughout the text.

Purim remains one of the few Jewish festivals not rooted in religious solemnity; it actually encourages light-hearted revelry. Set in about 450-350 BCE, the story describes the rise to power of the haughty anti-Semite Haman, and the sudden turn of events whereby Mordechai and Esther serve justice on the wicked Haman. Purim is derived from the work pur which means a lottery, the method used by Haman to select the date for the intended general massacre of the Jews. Although there is some controversy about the historic accuracy of the events and characters, Purim has come to symbolize our constant battle against petty demagogues and anti-Semitism, and the pride that comes from our deliverance. The message still has significance in modern times, with the haunting parallel between Haman's irrational hatred of the Jews and contemporary anti-Semitism.

Through the ages, Purim has remained a joyous holiday with many colorful traditions. The Book of Esther (Megillat Esther) is read in synagogue. Each time Haman's name is mentioned, the congregation attempts to drown out Haman's name with noisemakers (groggers), the foot-stomping and boo's. Both adults and children are encouraged to dress in costume, and the festivities usually include a colorful parade of beautiful Queen Esthers, clever Mordechais, foolish Ahasureuses, wicked Hamans and other costumes! We celebrate with a special Purim schpiel (a humorous skit) and a children's carnival/festival. The traditional Purim food is hamantaschen, a three-corned cookies filled with poppy seed or other sweet fillings.

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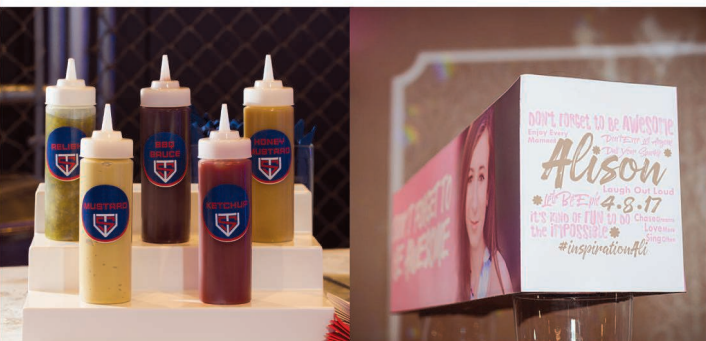


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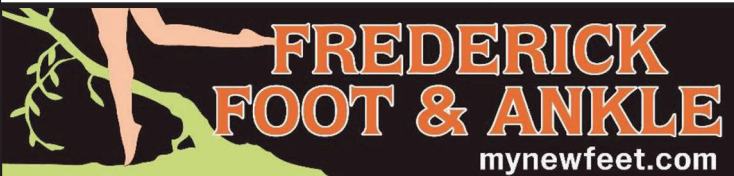
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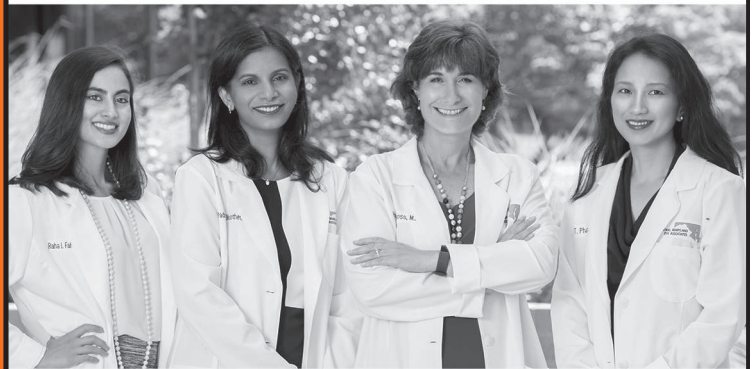


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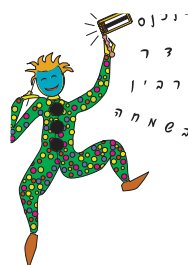
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### Participate in the Mitzvot this Purim

There are traditionally four  
mitzvot (commandments) on the  
holiday of Purim:

- To hear the megillah chanted  
Wednesday, February 28

4:30 pm Megilete

6:30 pm Megillah Reading followed by Purim  
Shpiel - "Shushan Nights: A Whole New Shpiel"

- To send at least one Mishloach Manot, gift baskets of at least two different food or items

Log on to Chaverweb (see page 15)

- To have a seudah-a festive meal

5 - 6:30 pm Purim Festival & WTBA Cafe

6:00 pm Haman Happy (half) Hour  
Adult-only cocktails

Hamentashen Oneg

- To give Matanot La'evyonim - Gifts to the Poor

Temple Beth Ami is a caring, inclusive congregational community united by Torah, guided by the philosophy of reform Judaism and committed to the Jewish people. We provide the foundation and resources to our congregants to engage in life-long Jewish learning, the pursuit of spiritual growth and the promotion of social justice for all.