

TEMPLE BETH AMI Chadashot

JUNE 2018 TAMMUZ/AV 5778

VOLUME 45 NUMBER 11

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Friday, June 1

6:30 pm Erev Shabbat of Song and Story

Saturday, June 2

10:30 am Shabbat Service
B'not Mitzvah: Sydney Kauff
Elizabeth Sneeringer

Sunday, June 3

10:45 am Sunday Minyan

Friday, June 8

6:30 pm Tot Shabbat
7:30 pm Erev Shabbat Service

Saturday, June 9

10:30 am Shabbat Service
Bar Mitzvah: Jack Goldberg
10:30 am Shabbat Service
Bat Mitzvah: Lily Fox
10:30 am Shabbat Chapel Service

Sunday, June 10

10:45 am Sunday Minyan

Friday, June 15

6:30 pm Spirit of Shabbat

Saturday, June 16

10:30 am Shabbat Service
B'nai Mitzvah: Zachary Greenberg
Jake Konigsberg

Sunday, June 17

10:45 am Sunday Minyan

Friday, June 22

7:30 pm Erev Shabbat Service

Saturday, June 23

10:30 am Shabbat Service
Bar Mitzvah: Jack Peyser

Sunday, June 24

10:45 am Sunday Minyan

Friday, June 29

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

MESSAGE FROM Rabbi Weiss



“Do I have to believe in God to be Jewish?”

This is a question that I have been hearing a lot lately. Judaism is often explained as “deed not creed.” You demonstrate your Jewish identity not by adhering to certain dogmas but rather by the actions in which you engage and the way in which you live your life. Judaism is more than a religion, it is also a culture and a way of life. Jews may identify themselves as agnostic or even atheist. They may say they are culturally Jewish but “not really religious.” But what about belief in God? Is it a requirement?

As part of Vision 2020, I have been a part of various discussions attempting to identify Beth Ami's core values. The question came up about whether a belief in God should be listed as one of our synagogue's core values. There is apprehension that by listing a belief in God in our values statement, we would alienate or exclude certain members who may not agree with the statement. Yet, as a rabbi, personally, the missing presence of God from our Temple's core values was troubling.

Traditionally, Judaism is based on the threefold concept of God, Torah, and Israel: Israel meaning not just the land of Israel but Am Yisrael, the people of Israel. In modern times, and especially in liberal circles, no one is “kicked out” of the tribe for declaring a disbelief in God, yet, in the Bible, insulting God was punishable by stoning. Is that why many of us don't articulate our questions, even doubts as to God's existence? Perhaps we are not expecting

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

CANDIDATES FORUM

Candidates Forum
Sunday, June 4

Details, see page 4

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| President's Message | 2 |
| Coming this Month | 3 - 4 |
| Tikkun Olam | 5 |
| Brotherhood | 6 |
| Women of TBA | 7 |
| TBANS | 8 |
| B'nai Mitzvah Profiles | 9 |
| Machane TBA | 10 - 11 |
| Simchas | 12 |
| Photo Review | 13 - 14 |
| Committees | 15 |
| Coming in July | |
| Thank yous | 16 |
| Sunshine | 19 - 21 |
| Advertising | 22 - 27 |

Chadashot

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HOURS:

MON-THURS 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM
FRI 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
SAT CLOSED
SUN CLOSED

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MESSAGE FROM *Laura EJ Rose, President*



As I reflect on the changes and challenges of my 10 years serving on Temple Beth Ami's Board of Directors, I am struck by two things: how the Board's heart has always been in the right place; and how collaborative you all — past and present lay leaders--have been in moving our congregation forward. I have had the privilege of participating in the kind of thoughtful collaborative work that echoes the hopes and desires of our congregation's founding members. Now, at the end of my term as your Temple President, I want to take a moment to share some observations and to say thank you for the many ways that so many congregants have inspired me.

I have experienced the enormous responsibility that being President involves, and I've attempted to live up to your expectations. With that said, I know that I was never alone. I looked to all of you — our clergy, our professional staff, the executive committee, the board of directors, and, of course, the congregation — to accompany me on this journey. I thank you all for offering me your advice, input, and feedback over these last two exciting years.

On the surface, Temple Beth Ami appears to glide along effortlessly, which is a testament to the professionalism of all of the hands on deck. In truth, enormous effort is required to maintain a steady course. My deep thanks go to our Temple's clergy and professional staff for their commitment to the hard work that is involved in continually creating Temple

Beth Ami. I would especially like to thank Rabbi Pokras and Janice Rosenblatt, who serve along with the Temple president as the foundation of leadership for our congregation. What an incredible honor it has been to work so closely with them. It has been a once-in-a-lifetime learning opportunity. Their wisdom, guidance, advice, and calm presence were inspirational to me personally.

To the Board of Directors: I thank you for your service. I've grown close to many of you. You have provided me with advice when requested, volunteers when needed, and smiles when required. I would especially like to express my appreciation and thanks to Tom Temin and Benita Marcus, our Immediate Past President and Past President, respectively. You taught me that the ability of a Board to come to a well-balanced, acceptable decision on even the most divisive of topics is a skill that few people have, and that many should strive for.

Finally, my thanks and congratulations to our President Elect, Buzz Karpay. I have known Buzz for a very long time. He has given so much of his life and energy to this Temple over his many years of involvement, always demonstrating his eager spirit, his desire for progress, and his ability to lead. Buzz will be an excellent steward for the next leg of Temple Beth Ami's journey.

Like all my predecessors, I realized many of the goals and dreams about what I wanted to accomplish in my two-year

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

COMING

This Month**Friday, June 1****Network & Nosh****8 - 9 am**

You're invited to meet, network and schmooze with others in the business community. Join us at Beth Ami for a light breakfast and speaker/networking opportunity. We are delighted to welcome Jamie Ratner of CertifiKID, a local Mom who turned her passion for deals into a million-dollar business. No charge, but please RSVP to Shelly (SLG@bethami.org) by 5/31. Questions? Contact Marcy Waxman (marcywaxmanrealty@gmail.com)

**Sunday, June 3****MD Primary Election Candidates' Forum****10 am**

Temple Beth Ami is hosting an opportunity for you to hear from candidates running for Montgomery County Executive, and from candidates running for State Delegate from your district.

**Sunday, June 3****Federation's Israel @ 70: A Musical Celebration****12 - 4 pm**

Party with Federation and your local Jewish community as we celebrate Israel's 70th birthday on The Plaza at Tysons Corner. Live music, authentic food and fun activities for the whole family. A Musical Celebration stars Israel leading musical artists and Israel's 2015 Eurovision representative, Nadav Guedj, along with the Tzofim Friendship Caravan, a group of energetic Israeli scouts who sing and dance - and Kippalive, Israel's leading acapella group.

**Tuesdays, June 5 & 12****Live & Learn with Jennifer Fechter****6/5 (10:30 - 12 pm)****6/12(10:30 - 3 pm)**

TBA member and BLOOM Experiential Jewish Educator, Jenn Fechter, will be facilitating our June Live & Learn. Topic: Taking Back the Waters: The Reclamation and Reimagining of Mikvah. This two-part seminar will include one session at the Temple and a culminating trip to Baltimore to view and tour the contemporary mikvah at The Soul Center, preceded by lunch in Baltimore. (Fee and advance registration required for trip on 6/12). See flyer in lobby and on the website for details.

**Monday, June 11**
pm**Broadway Buzz with Steve Friedman****10:30 am - 12**

Topic: Top 40 Hits & The Broadway Musical. Free for Temple members; \$5 for guests. (\$10 for guests beginning in July)

COMING This Month



Friday, June 29

Food Truck Shabbat

**6 pm – Food Trucks
7:30 pm Shabbat Services begin**

Bring your appetites and your wallets and line up for our 3rd Annual “Food Truck Shabbat!” Trucks will be parked in our front parking lot beginning at 6 pm and you’re invited to come early, set up your chairs and blankets out back, and partake in a selection of delicious dinner options. We’re thrilled to welcome: Curley’s Q BBQ, Swizzler Hot Dogs, Chix N Stix and Carmen’s Italian Ice. Outdoor services with the ShabbaTones (Temple band) begin at 7:30 pm.

COMMUNITY-WIDE PRIMARY ELECTION FORUM SUNDAY, JUNE 3, 2018

TEMPLE BETH AMI

Session I: 10 am
House of Delegates
Candidates

Session II: 11:45
County Executive
Candidates

PRE-REGISTRATION IS HIGHLY ENCOURAGED

EMAIL BETHAMIGOTV@GMAIL.COM

OR CALL 301-340-8355 (LINDA BURGIN)



**SEPTEMBER CHADASHOT
DEADLINE JULY 25**



**Mazel Tov to All Our
Graduates –
Please Share Your
Plans with Us**

We want to know who is graduating from high school, college, trade school, graduate school, the military and what their plans are for the future. So, please, email us the following information: name of graduate, school or program graduating from, plans for the future. Please include parent’s name(s) – parents should be congratulated, too. Email the information to Irene by May 25 for the July/August Chadashot. ip1@bethami.org

JUNE 30 - THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR.

All accounts for this fiscal year, July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018, should be paid in full. It is very important to us that everyone who wants to is able to be members of our Temple community. We are here to help you, but we need to hear from you. Unless our Executive Director, Janice Rosenblatt, is contacted by you, all accounts not paid in full for the past fiscal year (July 1, 2016- June 30, 2017) will be resigned as of June 30.

Thank you for your continued support of Temple Beth Ami. Without YOU, we could not be here to do what we do.

TIKKUN OLAM*Community Service Projects*

action/TikkunOlam.)

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/community/social

JOBS NEEDED - A SPECIAL REQUEST

As many of us who are children of immigrants to the U.S. know, one of our parents' prized accomplishments was getting a job so they could support their families. Similar desires exist among refugee families escaping oppression in Syria and other countries when they arrive in our community today. TBA, together with several churches and synagogues in our area, has been helping some of these families with their resettlement. One of the biggest remaining challenges is finding work for the breadwinners in these families. Many of these people come with limited English proficiency but with professional skills such as having been electricians or chefs, or having had other valuable professional experience. If you can help with finding jobs of any kind for our new community members, please contact Harry Hertz at hertzhandf@gmail.com, or Mark Joffe at marksjoffe@gmail.com. Thank you for any leads or suggestion you may have in this area.

COLLECTIONS**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THESE DRIVES!**

- **Diaper Drive** - Please bring donations of children's diapers (all sizes) for children served by Montgomery County Child Welfare Services and Interfaith Works. A collection box will be in the Temple lobby through June 7 (including during the Women of Temple Beth Ami's Welcome to Summer Celebration on Wednesday, June 6).
- **School Supplies Needed for South Lake Elementary School** - Help provide new/gently used backpacks, composition notebooks (marble), pencils, pencil pouches, scissors, rulers, and glue sticks for students whose families are unable to afford such purchases. Please bring these much-needed items to the box in the Temple lobby June 11 - August 17, including during the Picnic Shabbat on June 29.

- **We need your Box Tops for Education (BTE) Labels** - These small, hot pink labels can be found on many items you buy in the grocery store, including on food, storage, cleaning, and other products. We distribute the labels we collect to needy area schools, which turn them in for cash for school-related needs. Please bring your BTE 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.

- **Did you know that our ongoing lobby food drive has changed?** - TBA's ongoing food drive has a new focus. The Manna Food Center and Nourish Now have asked us to collect canned protein & canned fruit, items they feel are of greatest need for low-income families in our area. Please bring cans (preferably 12 oz. or larger) of tuna, chicken, or salmon (no Spam) and fruits in 100% juice (not in syrup) to the box in the Temple lobby.

IN THE COMMUNITY

- **CMR Benefit Concert, Saturday, June 2, 7:30 pm** - Support Community Ministries of Rockville and enjoy some great music at the same time. Contact Andrea Kempner-Wink at 301-637-0172 or andreakwink@cmrocks.org for more information.
- **Open House at A Wider Circle, Sunday, June 3, 12 pm** - Learn about A Wider Circle's work and how you can participate in a movement to end poverty. There are opportunities for everyone. Contact Betty Shevitz at roff100@aol.com or visit awidercircle.org.

SERVICES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

7:30 pm Erev Shabbat Picnic Service

Saturday, June 30

10:30 am Shabbat Service

Bar Mitzvah: Bryce White

Sunday, July 1

10:45 am Sunday Minyan

Friday, July 6

6:30 pm Erev Shabbat of Song and Story

Saturday, July 7

10:00 am Shabbat Minyan

Sunday, July 8

10:45 am Sunday Minyan

BROTHERHOOD

News

Softball News

Temple Beth Ami's "Blue" team ran its record to 4-2 after its second doubleheader split vs. Temple Beth El in the local synagogue league. The Blue team, captained by Aaron Margolis, opened the season with a doubleheader sweep vs. Temple Shalom, played under brutally cold conditions in the 30's in a morning game. Big Blue has received excellent pitching each Sunday from iron man Stu Cadel, with timely hitting throughout the lineup and strong fielding in the INF and OF. Turnout each week has been excellent as we've had the luxury of at least a couple of subs each week. Good times and fun for all. The season runs through the second Sunday in June with playoffs and a champion to be crowned. The TBA team is off to a strong start and hope this carries over to

the remainder of the season. Watch for information next year and plan to join us.

Join Brotherhood Today for Fiscal Year 2019

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, 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.

Ira Greenspan,

President

301-524-6412

iragreenspan@aol.com



WOMEN OF TEMPLE BETH AMI

News

Welcome to Summer Celebration

All women Temple members are invited to our Welcome to Summer Celebration and Potluck Dinner on Wednesday, June 6, 6:30 - 8:30 pm, at the Temple. Our speaker will be Dr. Tobie Beckerman, an OB/GYN and integrative gynecologist at Beckerman Women's Health in Gaithersburg. Dr. Beckerman has been practicing general obstetrics and gynecology in the Washington, D.C. area since 1988. In 2009 she veered from the traditional busy office setting to create a unique, special gynecology practice that would give women time, comfort, connection and cutting-edge medicine. The title of her talk is "Ask Dr. Beckerman Your Questions About Women's Health." After her brief opening remarks, she will answer our women's health questions. Please come prepared with your own queries.

We will be participating in the Tikkun Olam Committee's diaper drive, so please bring diapers of all sizes (including adult) to donate to Interfaith Works and Montgomery County Child Welfare Services.

Our Summer Celebration will also feature an opportunity to learn more about WTBA and to meet our outgoing and incoming Board members. There is no charge for this event, but we are asking everyone to bring a main dish, salad, side dish, or dessert to share.

Please see the flyer on our webpage and in the Temple lobby to RSVP on Sign-Up Genius by June 3. Contact Jeanne Kahn with questions at 240-994-6804 or JeanneKahn@aol.com. We hope to see you there!

Women's Seder

This Year, 40 enthusiastic women gathered for WTBA's annual Women's Seder. Led by Cantorial Soloist Joshana Erenberg, we told the story of Passover through readings, conversations, singing and dance.

The focus of this year's seder was Batya, the daughter of Pharaoh, who defied her father by rescuing Moses and raising him as her own. She was merited to join the Jewish people and be called G-d's daughter because of her brave commitment to following G-d even when it meant disobeying her father and rejecting his value system.

Thank you to co-chairs, Rhona Arbit and Robin Temin, to all of the volunteers who helped make this seder happen, and to everyone who participated and brought their special Passover dishes to share. NEXT YEAR IN THE YARDEN!!

With Appreciation

Thank you to all of our WTBA members, Temple members, and their friends for your support this past year! We enjoyed another successful year filled with fun events, social action projects, and service to the Temple and our community.

For Our Temple

- Judaica Shop
- Kippot Sales
- Book Club
- Purim Café
- Mah Jongg Tournaments
- Women's Seder
- Temple support and appreciation
- Newlywed Gifts
- Yoga Classes
- Mah Jongg Cards

- Drop-in Mah Jongg
- Financial Empowerment Workshop
- Co-sponsored Brunch with Brotherhood
- Women's Health Speaker

For Our Members

- Membership Brunch
- Board Training
- Financial assistance to attend WRJ District and National Conferences
- New and continuing friendships and support

For Our Youth

- Bar/Bat Mitzvah Gifts
- Camp Scholarships
- Pre-School Hanukkah Party
- Confirmation Gifts
- Donation to Machane TBA
- Gifts for Nursery School teachers
- Cookies after Rosh Hashanah services

For Our Local Community

- Sorted food at Manna Food Center
- Makeovers, Manicures & Mitzvah
- Diaper Collection for Interfaith Works and Montgomery County Child Welfare Services

For Our World Community

- Donations to Days for Girls and Women of Reform Judaism
- Prepared sustainable hygiene kits for Days for Girls
- Made survival bracelets for Operation Gratitude

Ongoing Projects

The Judaica Shop is open this summer on Tuesdays from 9:30am to 1:30 pm and on Wednesdays from noon until 2pm. To arrange for other times, call Jackie Manis at 561-212-2104. Volunteers to work in the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

*Paula Sayag,
Director*



Mazel Tov!

On June 13, 39 children will celebrate the completion of the 2017-2018 Dalet year at Temple Beth Ami Nursery School. They have worked intently and played vigorously, making life-long friends and gaining fundamental skills that will propel them to further success. They are energetic, curious and competent learners, well-prepared to tackle future challenges. They are good friends, compassionate citizens, and willing helpers. We congratulate our Dalet students and their parents on the occasion of their siyyum and completion of their formal Jewish early childhood education.

Thank you to the Dalet families who donated to this year's "Legacy Gift" and created the new "Imagination Forest" in front of the playground. The spruced-up area and new benches provide an enticing and safe place to visit with friends and explore the outdoors after school hours. Toda Raba to Chairs **Jax Stief and Cindy McAllister** for your commitment to TBANS!

In Judaism, when someone courageously accomplishes a task, we often say Yasher Koach which means, "May you go from strength to strength." We wish all our Dalet children and families the fortitude to pursue their future goals. Good luck in Kindergarten!

Shane Adler, Juniper Aplebaum, Mabel Aplebaum*, Skylar Baer, Talia Barnett*, Max Barrett*, Jaxson Bell*, Logan Bell*, Ethan Berkowitz, Eli Brenner, Sloane Charkatz*, Stella Colen, Shira Fishman, Brandon Goldberg, Grayson Greenbaum, Mason Harris, Talia Hosid, Mila Ilkovitch*, Noah King*, Adam Liderman*, Everly McAllister, Easton Richards, Brody Rosenman*, Naomi Rothleder, Madeleine Rubinstein*, Hailey Sambur, Madeline Schulman, Sidney Schuman, Ava Sheinin*, Landon Sheinin*, Henry Sherman, Ella Snyder*, Dalia Spiegel*, Harper Stief, Talia Webber, Blake Weber*, Gabriella White*, Addison Yager*, Blake Yager**

*We offer special recognition to these families who have completed their tenure in our nursery school. We look forward to seeing you in MachaneTBA and all around our Temple!

We thank our Dalet teachers for dedicating their year to TBANS' 29th graduating class:

Busy Bees: Denise Silver and Stephanie Fleischer

Jungle Friends: Karen Asman and Nancy Yarvin

Keshatot: Irwin Slonin and Ellen Keifetz



B'NAI MITZVAH*Profiles*

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



SYDNEY KAUFF, daughter of Jackie and Scott, will become a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, June 2. She is a seventh grade student at Robert Frost Middle School. Sydney has two older sisters, Lilah and Becky. For her B'nai Mitzvah Project, Sydney has been raising money for and otherwise supporting a Syrian refugee family as they assimilate to the United States.



ELISABETH ANN SNEERINGER, daughter of Tom and Bonnie, will become a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, June 2. She is a seventh grade student at Ridgeview Middle School. Elisa has an older sister, Rachel. For her B'nai Mitzvah Project, Elisa is baking treats and making toys for the Humane Society of Montgomery County's Adoption Center.

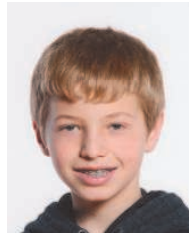


LILLY MADISON FOX, daughter of Bruce and Tammy, will become a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, June 9. She is a seventh grade student at William H. Farquhar Middle School. Lilly has a younger sister, Avery. For her B'nai Mitzvah Project, Lilly will be assisting the residents at Sunrise Assisted Living in

computer classes, playing games with them to keep their minds sharp and entertaining them by singing their favorite songs.



JACK ELI GOLDBERG, son of Rebecca Rutberg and Andrew Goldberg, will become a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, June 9. He is a seventh grade student at Cabin John Middle School. Jack has an older sister, Kate. For his B'nai Mitzvah Project, Jack is collecting bikes for Bikes for the World.

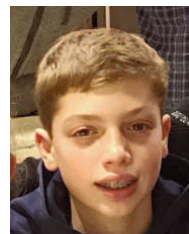


ZACHARY LOUIS GREENSPAN, son of Marlo and Ira, will become a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, June 16. He is a seventh grade student at Kingsview Middle School. Zach has an older sister, Leah. For his B'nai Mitzvah Project, Zach assisted residents at the Brookdale Senior Living Center in Potomac

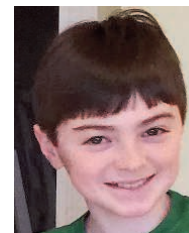


JAKE KONIGSBERG, son of Danielle and Josh, will become a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, June 16. He is a seventh grade student at Robert Frost Middle School. Jake has an older brother, Tyler. For his B'nai Mitzvah Project, Jake has been volunteering with the Birthday Club Project through the

Friendship Circle, and at the Manna Food Center with Temple Beth Ami.



JACK PEYSER, son of Brian and Debbie, will become a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, June 23. He is a seventh grade student at Ridgeview Middle School. Jack has a younger sister, Olivia. For his B'nai Mitzvah Project, Jack is volunteering with The Friendship Circle to help children with special needs.



BRYCE WHITE, son and stepson of Neil and Lisa, will become a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, June 30. He is a seventh grade student at Cabin John Middle School. Bryce has an older brother, Ryan, and a younger sister, Gabby.



MACHANE TBA NEWS

*Kim Roberts,
Director*



Calendar

Thursday, June 7

Kayitz Carnival 4:30 - 5:30 pm

Mon - Fri, June 18 - 22

Kayitz-Week 1

Mon - Fri, June 25 - 29

Taste of Kayitz/Kayitz
Week 2





SIMCHAS

Mazel Tov to...

Sophia Hoover, Bailey Golub, and Lauren Povich on each becoming a Bat Mitzvah

Benjamin Scherr, Zachary Weil, Mason Berk, Noah Ohayon, Jake Hemelt and Luke Hemelt on each becoming a Bar Mitzvah

All our **TBA High graduates**, their families and teachers

Debra and Marc Shepard on the engagement of their daughter, **Toby**, and **Andrew Simon**

Deena and Ben Klopman on the marriage of their son, **Michael**, and **Leigh Weingus**
Caitlyn Oser and Sean Gold on their marriage

Rebecca, Matthew, Noah and Eli Schoepfer on the birth of their son and brother, **Micah Schoepfer**

Wannida, Peter, Samantha and Milly Sugar on the birth of their son and brother, **Jake Prin Sugar**

Julia, Matthew and Nora Gimovsky on the birth of their son and brother, **Benjamin Paul Gimovsky**

Sarah, Sam and Ava Polland on the birth of their daughter and sister, **Lara Rachelle**

Marshall Pokras, son of Rabbi Gary and Shauna Pokras, for his publication in the CES-JDS
Bohr-Franklin Science Journal

Special thanks to:

Sherri Lieberman and Cathy Friedman for helping at the Oneg

The Challah Club for baking the challot for Shabbat

Send the Sweetest of all Rosh Hashanah greetings to your family, friends and business associates.

We will ship a personalized package, including a festive 8-ounce jar of Kosher clover honey, a gift card and the blessing for the New Year, anywhere in the United States. The package will arrive in time for Rosh Hashanah.

Ordering is quick and easy online. Your cost this year is **Only \$12 per jar** and a portion of your purchase benefits Temple Beth Ami.

Visit www.bethami.org and click on the honey link.

Order online by July 11th to avoid extra shipping fees.

Contact Gail Brodsky at gbsb@bethami.org or 301-340-6818 to request a honey order form (**mail order deadline is July 6th**) or if you have any questions. Thank you for your support!



PHOTO REVIEW TBANS



PHOTO REVIEW

Food & Friendship, Teens March, Community Yom Ha'Shoah,



COMMITTEE*News***Tikkun Olam in Action****What Is CMR's LOP, and How Can You Help?**

Community Ministries of Rockville's (CMR) Language Outreach Program (LOP) is a literacy program for Montgomery County residents who are non-English speakers and want to improve their language skills. Most of the students are from South America, and students don't have to be affiliated with a place of worship. LOP teaches more than 450 students each year. On Friday, June 22, 2018, LOP will hold a special graduation ceremony to celebrate 25 years of service.

LOP uses a family-centered approach to teaching English, and classes are held 2 nights a week. Parents are encouraged to bring their children, and childcare is provided at no cost. Preschool readiness is offered for children under age 5, and tutoring and homework help are provided to school-age children. The children in the program often need help with their English, too.

ESOL Instructors provide lesson plans, word exercises, and a structured introduction to the English language. The Program Director provides a structured curriculum centered around well-known textbooks that are based on life skills for adults. The students are given a formal evaluation test at the beginning and end of each semester.

Two TBA members are actively involved with LOP on an ongoing basis. Richel Lupkin has been teaching a mid-level LOP class since March 2017, and Sherman Winters has been a teacher's assistant since last summer. Richel is impressed by her students' striving to improve their lives and the lives of their families. She says her biggest challenge is getting her students to practice their English at home. They're intent on teaching their children Spanish so that their children have a bilingual advantage. As a teacher's assistant, Sherman provides conversational support for the students and serves as a sounding board and mentor.

TBA has forged a close working relationship with CMR over the years, including placing volunteer teachers, teacher's assistants, and teens to supervise the children of the adult ESOL students while they attend English classes. LOP provides a very fulfilling

volunteer experience, and student volunteers can earn SSL hours through MCPS. For more information or to volunteer, contact Lynn Goodman at lynngoodman13@yahoo.com.

Thank You to Our 2018 Passover Baskets Volunteers!

On behalf of the Jewish Social Service Agency (JSSA) and TBA's Tikkun Olam Committee, thank you to the following Passover Baskets volunteers who generously offered their time and effort to deliver Passover items to 45 needy local Jewish families on Sunday, March 25: the Allentuck Family, Cheryl Berkowitz, Diane Castiglione, Lori Cooper, Michelle & Daron Freedberg, Fran & Harry Hertz, Elizabeth Joseloff & Adam Levy, Jim & Sherri Lieberman, Marci Maged, Leslie Marks & Louis Solomon, Sharon Plotnick, Lynn & David Stander, Barbara Strong & Michael Kielbiewicz, and Nicole & Brian Zimmerman. Special thanks also to Tina Levine and Monya Cohen for coordinating the project again this year. Please watch for this project again next year and also just before Rosh Hashanah. Our volunteers always find it a worthwhile and rewarding experience! (We apologize for any omission or misspelling of names in the above list.)

Lay Leaders Needed for Summer Services

As in past years, there will be summer Shabbatot during which we will offer the opportunity to lead services to members of the congregation. This is a wonderful opportunity for individuals, families, kehillot, adult B'nai Mitzvah classes, etc. and we hope you will volunteer. We do not have the exact dates yet, but we would love to know that you are interested. Please contact Gail Brodsky, Clergy Assistant, at gsb@bethami.org or 301-340-6818. The clergy are always available to help you prepare for the service.

Summer Hours Began on June 1

Starting on June 1, the building closes at 7pm on Monday and Tuesday evenings. The building will reopen on Tuesday evenings starting September 4.

COMING In July



Monday, July 9

Broadway Buzz with Steve Friedman

10:30 am – 12 pm

Topic: More Top 40 Hits & The Broadway Musical. Free for Temple members; \$10 for guests. (New guest price as of 7/2018)



Wednesday, July 18

Screening of "Father's Footsteps"

7:30 pm

Israel Matters is thrilled to invite you to a free screening of the "Father's Footsteps," nominated for 5 Israeli Ophir Academy Awards! This film is a tender emotional portrait of a son whose allegiance to his father is tested and of a fiercely protective mother trying to shield her children from the truth. Starring Gad Elmaleh and Yael Abecassis, two accomplished and award-winning actors.



Tuesdays

Live & Learn with Sharon Tash

10:30 am – 12 pm

Topic: Ben-Gurion Epilogue

Temple Beth Ami is excited to screen this introspective, soul-searching film, with interviews with David Ben-Gurion and his reflections providing a surprising vision for today's crucial decisions and for the future of Israel. This film won the 2017 Israeli Film and TV Academy Award for Best Documentary and Sharon Tash will present the film and discussion over the two sessions.

THANK YOU FROM THE JUDAICA SHOP

The 2017-18 year will soon be over and we would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our wonderful volunteers: Rhona Arbit, Melissa Bauman, Joanne Brodsky, Michelle Freedberg, Cindy Goodman, Jeanne Kahn, Janet Liebowitz, Marilyn Lipowsky, Hannah Manis, Carol Martin, Rachel Maryn, and Phyllis Silverman. Without all of their time and effort we would not have been able to reach our goals. We would also like to thank Gail Brodsky, Diane Ferraro, Irene Papamanolis, and Janice Rosenblatt for stepping in when we were not there. A very special thank you to you, the members of the congregation, for continuing to shop with us and support us.

Please consider volunteering in the Shop. You will meet new people, see old friends and you might be the first to see a bargain.

The Shop will be open summer hours: Tuesdays 9:30am to 1:30pm; Wednesdays noon to 2:00pm; and by appointment. Jackie (561)212-2104.

**YOU are WHY we do it;
YOUR SUPPORT is HOW we do it**

The Temple depends on the support of all its members. In order for us to continue to meet the religious and pastoral needs of all our members, and to provide programs, education, caring community, social events, financial assistance, and more for all our congregants, we need to be able to count on all of our members to pay their annual commitment (dues), whether full or adjusted.

RABBI CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

stones to be hurled at us but rather it would raise a question of fitting in? We are not the first to struggle with the challenges of personal belief.

In the middle of the 20th century, Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan founded Reconstructionist Judaism in an attempt to “reconstruct” our understanding about American Judaism so that it spoke more meaningfully to the 20th-century world. He explained his belief that Judaism was a “religious civilization” emerging from the history and culture of the Jewish people. As a “civilization” it was constantly evolving, and it was the goal of Jewish thinkers at any given time to interpret Judaism in the light of contemporary life and thought without abandoning its traditional values.

This is precisely the purpose of Vision 2020, a visioning and strategic planning initiative in which Beth Ami is currently engaged. We have asked the entire congregation to participate in the holy work of bringing our Temple’s values into contemporary society.

In Rabbi Kaplan’s case, he decided to take the focus away of God and instead focus on the concept of Israel—that being Am Yisrael, the people of Israel. To Kaplan, being Jewish is more than just a religion, it is a peoplehood, or a community. While himself being an observant Jew, Kaplan attempted to shift the focus from the supernatural, aka God, to the more cultural Am Israel, aka Jewish peoplehood.

You may notice in our prayer book, Mishkan T’filah, the language that we use to express God has changed. The varied interpretations allow for diverse understandings of our connection with God. But to me, it is critical that God is still in our prayer book.

Just as Judaism is more than a religion, a synagogue is more than a JCC. In addition to being a Jewish community center, I feel that it should also be a place of spirituality—a place where we experience God’s presence in our interaction with others, have our souls stirred by music and prayer, and where we learn and engage in words of Torah.

In his book, *Guide of the Perplexed*, medieval commentator Moses Maimonides explained that there are three ways in which an individual approaches God. The first thinks of God as incorporeal, meaning without a physical body. The second, is what we would in modern times call agnostic, he claims not to know. And the third believes God has a body and will seek and approach God based on

this belief.” According to Maimonides, the first man is closest to God, and the third man the farthest (1:59)

What does this mean? Beyond being a polemic against the trinity of Christianity in which God has a physical manifestation, I believe what is significant is that it is saying it is ok to not know. And the most knowledge of God we can have is “what God is not”. The Jewish Mystics, the Kabbalists, called God, Ayin, No Thing. They were not saying that God had no value, but rather that there was nothing in which God could be compared.

When we call ourselves Israel, we are not saying we are citizens of the State of Israel. To be Israel is to be a descendant of Jacob, whose name was changed to Israel. Yisrael, means one who “wrestles with God,” and it refers to a nocturnal battle that Jacob is believed to have with himself and God. Being Jewish means that we are challenged to wrestle with God, our belief, our understanding, and our conception. We are allowed to be unsure and questioning. What I am not comfortable with is completely removing the Divine from the equation.

For countless years, Jewish theologians have been trying to understand God. For some, God is creation, as seen each day in act of the sun coming up in the morning and setting at night. For others, God was the prime mover, the catalyst who began the world. For some God doesn’t connect with us on a personal level and is more detached from our daily living. And for others, they feel a personal connection to God either on a daily basis or at sporadic moments.

The point is, as a Rabbi and as a Jew, a belief God is part of my core values, but a synagogue can be inclusive enough to cast a big enough tent that it allows for a lot of different understandings about what God is. We are so afraid to talk about God because we think it will be divisive, but we shouldn’t shy away from the opportunity to explore our sense of spirituality.

So, do you have to believe in God to be a Jew? I believe that being Jewish means to be Israel, one who wrestles with God and, therefore, as Jews it is ok to not be certain about our beliefs. However, I would suggest that we should be willing to explore the possibility of God.

PRESIDENT CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

term as President of the Congregation. Of course, there is still much work to be done. My challenge to the incoming Board of Directors, to all of our committee lay leaders, and to every congregant who has a desire to contribute to our community is this:

First: Lead by example. Come to services and congregational events; promote membership in the synagogue; stand at the doorway with a smile and personal greeting for all who visit; emphasize the importance of Jewish education for people of all ages; and, perhaps most importantly, be an advocate for your congregation. The more involved in our community you become, the more others in the congregation will want to be involved. Excitement is contagious.

Second: Be slow to anger, ready to forgive. There will be disagreements among us — some big, some small. Let's not let our disagreements lead to anger or resentment. Instead, let's "agree to disagree." I've worked collaboratively with many of you, and I know that when we work together we can do a lot of great things as a cohesive team.

Last: Do not only be wise in your words - be wise in your deeds. If you say you will do something, then roll up your sleeves and get started. Know that when you reach out for support, you will receive it — just as I did — from the myriad of committed and engaged congregants who desire to be part of the action at Beth Ami.

I can't finish this last newsletter article without thanking my wonderful husband, Pete, for his endless and loving support of this endeavor, and my boys, Jack and Brian, who patiently watched my calendar fill up with meetings and other Temple obligations and learned to do their own laundry.

I am fortunate to have been able to observe Temple Beth Ami from increasingly closer vantage points over the years—from that of a child, to that of a parent, a volunteer, a trustee, and a Board president—and I can report with pride and gratitude that the closer I have ventured, the greater depth I have encountered, and the more admirable the mission has been made apparent.

B'Shalom

WOMEN OF TBA CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

shop are always needed. Please contact Jackie at jrmhyp@yahoo.com or call to volunteer.

Kippot for B'nai Mitzvah, Brides and Grooms are available at discount prices through WTBA. View styles at www.kippah.com, then contact Michelle Freedberg at 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 if you have information about any Temple families who are planning a wedding.

WTBA weekly drop-in Mah Jongg continues at the Temple. Please stop by on Monday afternoons from 1-3pm to play. Players of all abilities are welcome and there is no charge to participate. Any questions? Please contact Rachel Maryn at rmaryn@verizon.net.

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? WTBA has set up an e-mail address specifically for these types of questions: womenoftemplebethami@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you!

Save the Date

Membership Brunch – Sunday, September 16

Elizabeth Joseloff

WTBA Chadashot article editor
ejoseloff@gmail.com

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.

ADULT EDUCATION FUND

In memory of:
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BYER FUND FOR FACULTY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In memory of:
ANNETTE COHEN, mother of Lisa Goodman, by Robin Kreger

CAMPERSHIP FUND

In honor of:
SKYLAR and HAILEY YENTIS, granddaughters of Marilyn and Paul Yentis, on becoming B'not Mitzvah by Julius Bowen and Shirley Levin

CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In honor of:
JOSH AND MOIRA CARIN'S ANNIVERSARY by Janet and Mark Wallace
BENJAMIN SCHERR on becoming a Bar Mitzvah by JL Levit and Paula Mintzies
CANTOR LARRY ESCHLER leading shiva for SAMUEL LEVY by Tina and Andy Bridge and Hermene and David Wasser

ENCORE

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FAMILY EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING FUND

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In memory of:
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HOWARD FISCHER, uncle of Diane Castiglione, on his Yahrzeit by Diane Castiglione

INCLUSION FUND

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PAULA ROSENBLUM, mother of Larry Rosenblum, by Meyer Glantz, Linda Gerson and Benjamin Glantz

ISRAEL TRAVEL FUND IN MEMORY OF DAVID CARIN

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MACHANE AND YOUTH

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MACHANE TBA (RELIGIOUS EDUCATION) FUND

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ANNETTE COHEN, mother of Lisa Goodman, by Lawrence and Leslie Block, Elizabeth Joseloff, the Temple Beth Ami Religious School Staff

MUSIC EQUIPMENT FUND

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MICHAEL KLOPMAN, son of Deena and Ben Klopman, on his marriage to LEIGH WEINGUS, by the Temple Beth Ami Nursery School Staff
ERICA FINCI, daughter of Jill and Rick Finci, and STEVEN CUNNINGHAM on their marriage by the Temple Beth Ami Nursery School Staff

In memory of:
PAULA ROSENBLUM, mother of Larry Rosenblum, by the Temple Beth Ami Nursery School Staff
ANNETTE COHEN, mother of Lisa Goodman, by Jody Rosenblum

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In honor of:

RABBI LUXEMBURG by Brad and Pat Harvey

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In honor of:

RABBI POKRAS for officiating at the baby naming
for our grandson, Jake Schmelzer, by John
Schmelzer and Naomi Licker

RABBI POKRAS for his support in preparation
for our wedding day and making it a meaningful
and memorable milestone in our life by Caitlyn
and Sean Gold

RABBI POKRAS for introducing me to Jules
Alvarado and forever changing my life by Ron
and Sara Gorfinkel

In memory of:

SAM LEVINE, father of Marcia Sternburg, by
Marcia and Jerry Sternburg
MAURICE ROSIN and YALE SILVERMAN by
Jackie and Michael Manis
SAMUEL LEVY, father of Tina Bridge, by Tina
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Hermene and David Wasser and Family

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In appreciation of:
RABBI GARY POKRAS and JANICE
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support following the death of my beloved hus-
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In honor of:
ARTHUR JACOBSON on his birthday by Midge
and Bob Bajefsky

In memory of:
HARRIET STURM, beloved wife, by Arthur
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** as of April 25, 2018

*"May the memory of
these Righteous
be for a blessing"*

We mourn the recent death of:

Sonia (Sunny) Rubin
mother of Kenneth Rubin

Robert Landau
father of David Landau

Annette Cohen
mother of Lisa Goodman

Harriet Sturm
wife of Arthur Sturm

Roxanne Joffe
sister-in-law of Mark Joffe

Bernard Rosenberg
father of David Rosenberg

Paula Rosenblum
mother of Lawrence Rosenblum,
mother-in-law of Jody Rosenblum

Helene Bland
mother of Greg Bland

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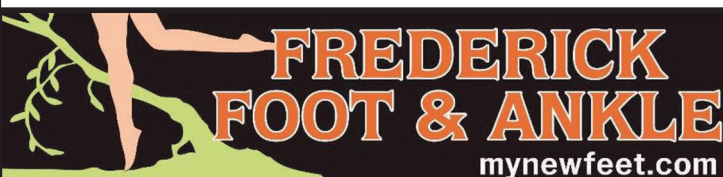
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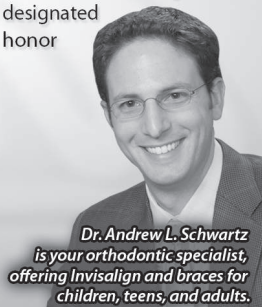
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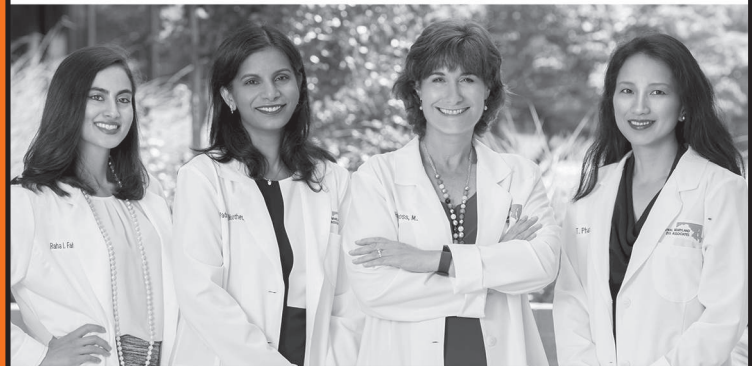


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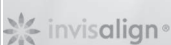
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Upcoming Dates

Nominations for the new Board will be emailed in early June; vote to take place at the Picnic Shabbat on June 29

High Holy Days information will go on line in mid-June; watch for some wonderful new additions

Financial Aid requests are due back by June 30; email finaid@tba.org for forms

Membership packet for the Fiscal Year 2019 will be mailed in Mid-July

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.