TEMPLE BETH AMIL AS IN O t

JANUARY 2019 TEVET/SHEVAT 5779

VOLUME 46 NUMBER 6

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Friday, January 4

6:30 pm Erev Shabbat of Song and Story

Saturday, January 5

10:00 am Shabbat Minyan

Sunday, January 6

10:45 am Sunday Minyan

Friday, January 11

7:30 pm TBA High Erev Shabbat Service

7:30 pm Erev Shabbat Service

Saturday, January 12

9:30 am Tot Shabbat

10:30 am Shabbat Chapel Service

Sunday, January 13

10:45 am Sunday Minyan

Friday, January 18

6:30 pm Spirit of Shabbat/Shabbat Shira

Saturday, January 19

10:00 am Shabbat Minyan

Sunday, January 20

10:45 am Sunday Minyan

Friday, January 25

7:30 pm Erev Shabbat Environmental Service

Saturday, January 26

10:00 am Shabbat Minyan

Sunday, January 27

10:45 am Sunday Minyan

Friday, February 1

6:30 pm Erev Shabbat of Song and Story - Dalet/Hey Students Participating

Saturday, February 2

10:30 am Shabbat Service

Bar Mitzvah: Cooper Charkatz

Sunday, February 3

10:45 am Sunday Minyan





A Few Words About Israel

Dear Friends,

I am writing these words in mid-November. The pain of Pittsburgh is still raw as we mourn our loss and look to our own safety. At the same time, intense political turmoil in Israel has called the future of the current government into question. I learned long ago never to make any predictions about Israeli politics, so I do not know what the reality will be when you read these words, but the combination of events in Israel along with the rise of anti-Semitism around the world has placed Israel very much at the center of my thoughts.

First, I have always been and remain a proud Zionist. As a child, I remember my incredible pride following the Yom Kippur War, and again after the Camp David Peace Accords with Egypt.

Israel was a living example of the Zionist dream to protect our people, live in peace with our neighbors, and bring light to the world. I never doubted that we would succeed, eventually, in all three areas.

That said, for well over a decade there has been a growing divide between Israelis and diaspora Jews, especially those of us living in America. As a rabbi, I felt an obligation to support the State of Israel; yet more and more I found myself in tension with the policies of her government.

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A NEW TOT SHABBAT EXPERIENCE

Saturday, January 12, 9:30 am (in place of Tot Shabbat on Friday, January 11)
A Shabbat morning service for our youngest learners! Songs and stories with Cantor Larry and Rabbi Weiss. See our Torah scroll open.
Followed by bagels and a craft.

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Chadashot

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MESSAGE FROMBuzz Karpay, President



PRAYING IN THE WOODS

I have always loved being outdoors, especially hiking in the woods. There's something about being outdoors that I find spiritually fulfilling. One of the first gifts that I bought for Lynn – before we were married – was a backpack, so she can't say she didn't know what she was getting into. A few months before our wedding, while we were meeting with the rabbi who would be officiating at our wedding, the rabbi was extolling the virtues of joining a synagogue and I asked him, "Why do I need to join a synagogue? I can pray in the woods." He replied, "Yes, you can. But do you?"

More than twenty years later, our oldest daughter was a counselor at URJ Camp Harlam in Pennsylvania. Lynn and I went up to camp on the Saturday between sessions to visit. It was a beautiful summer day and we left home early in the morning to spend as much of the day as we could with our daughter, including

attending a Shabbat morning service at camp. When we got to camp, we learned that the Shabbat morning service would be held in the chapel in the woods, rather than the chapel on the hill. The chapel in the woods is a bit smaller and has a much more intimate feel because it's in the woods. It has half-log benches and a 3-trunk tree that serves as an ark, holding the Torah scroll. Trees completely surround the area. Lynn and I walked over to the chapel in the woods a little early and sat on one of the benches. It gave me a little time to look around and take it all in. A few minutes later, as the service started, Lynn looked at me and saw that I had tears streaming down my cheeks. She asked me, "What's wrong?" I could only say "I'm praying in the woods."

More than twenty years after that Saturday morning, only a few weeks ago from when I'm writing this, Temple Beth Ami had our first Shabbat hike. We went to Sugarloaf Mountain. More than 100



CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



COMING

This Month



Friday, January 4 Network & Nosh: Digital Marketing Mini Series

8 - 9:30 am

Are you in business for yourself? A budding entrepreneur or a seasoned business owner? Join us for a light breakfast and the opportunity to make valuable personal and professional connections at the Temple at our monthly gettogether on the 1st Friday morning of the month. Topic: Digital Branding, Website Marketing & Content. Guest Facilitator: Ed Samuels, Chief Technology Officer, Auxilium Technology. RSVP to SLG@bethami.org. Questions? Contact Marcy Waxman (marcywaxmanrealty@gmail.com) or Ellen Davis (edavis@lifehealthhome.com). Supported by

the Innovation Fund. Save the date: Friday, 2/1: Part Two – SEO, Social Media Marketing, PPC (pay per click) and more!



Sundays, beginning January 6 WTBA Winter/Spring Yoga Session

2 - 3 pm

18 Sundays of yoga, from 1/6 through 6/30 are being offered by veteran teachers Monya & David Cohen. Multi-level classes are offered for low-moderate intensity; no experience necessary. Register by 1/6 online. \$108 for WTBA & Brotherhood members; \$126 for non-members. All proceeds benefit Stuff-a-Duff and the Rockville chapter of Days for Girls. Contact Monya with any questions (mjcohen0636@gmail.com).



Tuesdays, January 8, 15, 22 Live & Learn with Gideon Amir

10:30 am - 12 pm

Topic: Isaac & Rebecca: The "Between" Ancestors. The book of Genesis dedicates many chapters to Abraham, Jacob and their wives – but not to Isaac, the middle Patriarch, and Rebecca, his wife. As a result, very little is known about them. What can we glean about their character and personality from a careful reading of the text? Live & Learn is free and open to all who wish to explore a variety of topics during the daytime. This program is supported by the Sally Kera Live & Learn Fund and the Torah Fund for Adult Education.



Tuesdays, beginning January 8 Winter Hebrew Classes

6:30 - 8 pm

Cantor Eschler invites you to join him for 5 Tuesday nights (1/8, 1/22, 2/12, 2/26, 3/12) from 6:30-8 pm to learn Hebrew Fluency & 1st 100 Words. Register online by 1/6. \$50 for the 5-class session.



Wednesday, January 9 Israel Matters Presents: Amir Tibon

7:30 pm

Israel Matters is pleased to host an evening with Israeli journalist, Amir Tibon, the Washington correspondent for Haaaretz and co-author of The Last Palestinian, a biography of Paleestinian President, Mahmoud Abbas (published in 2017). All are welcome.

COMING

This Month



Thursday, January 10

Exercise & Cooking Demo

7 - 9 pm

Join Next Dor for an active and fun evening with dynamic duo, Laurent & Virginia Amzallag. If "I don't have time" has been one of your past excuses, Laurent invites you to see for yourself how his in-home workouts, which are short, but effective, will yield incredible results WITHOUT a gym! Virginia will demonstrate one of her family's favorite Mediterranean dishes and we'll all enjoy the secret behind the best falafel and the best toppings! \$18 pp

(\$20 for guests) includes workout class, cooking demo and falafel dinner. Register online. Next Dor is for women in their 30s and 40s (though we won't check IDs!) looking to meet new friends and build community!



Friday, January 11 Coffee House with the Rez Experience

8:45 – 9:30 pm

Stick around after our 7:30 pm Erev Shabbat Service for the sounds of smooth jazz with Rez Experience. Along with live music, enjoy coffee and tea, as well as home-baked treats courtesy of our Culinary Crew.

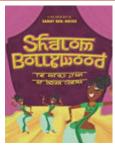


Monday, January 14

Broadway Buzz with Steve Friedman

10:30 am - 12 pm

Topic: First it was a Play; Then it was a Musical II. Don't miss this popular Monday morning lecture, featuring footage, facts and, always, some live performance. Free for Temple members; \$10 for guests.



Friday, January 18

Food Film Fest: "Shalom Bollywood"

7:30 - 10 pm

Welcome Shabbat at Beth Ami and make a night out of it, beginning with our Wine & Cheese welcome in the lobby (6-6:30 pm), "Spirit of Shabbat" services (6:30 pm) and Indian-inspired Shabbat dinner (7:30 pm), followed by the screening of the documentary, "Shalom Bollywood." This documentary reveals how it was Indian Jewish women – and not Hindu or Islamic Indian women – who took the lead female roles in the earlier Bollywood films! Register online by 1/15. \$30 (members); \$40 (guests). Please contact Shelly in advance if you need accommodation to ensure your fullest enjoyment and participation. All are welcome. Supported by the Torah Endowment Fund.

MARCH CHADASHOT DEADLINE JANUARY 25



Saturday, January 26

Love & Marriage – A Broadway Cabaret

7:30 - 9:30 pm

Cantor Eschler and Joshana Erenberg invite you to a Cabaret-style evening of Broadway music, starring TBA talent! Cost: \$20 (\$25 for guests) with the option of reserving tables of 4 or 6. RSVP by 1/21. At the door: \$25 (member); \$30 (guest); open seating. Cash wine bar. For more information, contact Joshana (joerenberg@gmail.com).



Sunday, January 27

"Who Will Write Our History"- Film Screening

4 pm

Temple Beth Ami is proud, along with hundreds of other venues around the world, to host a free screening of "Who Will Write Our History" on International Holocaust Remembrance Day. This feature documentary mixes the writings of the Oyneg Shabes Archive (chronicled by historian Emanuel Ringelblum and a secret band of journalists, scholars and artists imprisoned in the Warsaw Ghetto) with new interviews,

rarely seen archival footage and stunning dramatizations to transport us in side the Warsaw Ghetto and the lives of these courageous resistance fighters. They defied their murderous enemy with the ultimate weapon – the truth – and risked everything so that their archive would survive the war – even if they did not. We are delighted that our own Warren Marcus, who's worked at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum since 1994, will be presenting the film! (Film will be captioned).

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.)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Help Needed for English as a Second Language
 Program - Community Ministries of Rockville's (CMR) |

Program - Community Ministries of Rockville's (CMR) Language Outreach Program needs teaching assistants, homework helpers for school children, and childcare volunteers for children under age 5 Tuesday/Thursday nights &/or Saturday mornings. SSL hours available. For more information on this & other volunteer opportunities, contact Andrea Kempner-Wink at andreakwink@cmrocks.org.

COLLECTIONS

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THESE DRIVES!

• Heads-Up re Children's Snacks Drive in February -

Please bring boxes of individually wrapped snacks such as gold-fish crackers, animal crackers, or teddy grahams to the box in the Temple lobby during February. (No granola bars, and nothing with nuts, please.)

- Ongoing Food Drive Please bring cans (preferably 12 oz. or larger) of tuna, chicken, or salmon (no Spam, please) and fruits in 100% juice (not in syrup, please) to the box in the Temple lobby. The collection benefits families served by the Manna Food Center and Nourish Now.
- Box Tops for Education (BTE) Labels Help needy area schools turn these little pink labels into cash for needed items and supplies. Bring your labels to the collection boxes in the Temple lobby, Religious School office & Nursery School office.
 Questions? Contact Bernard Silverstein at cynbern@verizon.net.

BROTHERHOOD

News

Drum roll, please!!!! My name is Steve Roberts and, beginning January 1, I will be the new President of the TBA Brotherhood! I am very excited about this opportunity, and I cannot wait to help lead our TBA Brotherhood to benefit our Temple, our community and our members.

A little about me, I am a Solutions Architect with Micro Focus Government Solutions providing cyber security solutions to the US Department of Defense. My family and I have been involved with the synagogue since my lovely and talented wife, Tammy Roberts (current TBA Board member), and I enrolled our daughter Rachel in the 2010 pre-school class "Shining Stars." Ever since, we have been active members of TBA; I can often be found at the Bagel Bar slicing bagels, collecting cash, and kibitzing.

My rise to TBA Brotherhood President is an interesting story. On the first day of Machane Fall 2018, I noticed Ira Greenspan, former TBA Brotherhood President, working the Bagel Bar at our new and improved location. When I asked him how I could be of assistance, expecting to cut bagels, tend the register, etc., instead Ira replied, "Why don't you consider becoming the new Brotherhood President?"

I could have taken Ira's response as flip and humorous which was probably his intent; but it isn't every day that I'm asked to take over as President of such a distinguished organization! As the sages once said, "You don't look a gift horse in the mouth" – or was that a mule? But seriously, I knew Ira was looking to retire after his four distinguished years as

President, and apparently his plea for nominees in previous Chadashot Newsletter's did not get much traction. I began to investigate the position by speaking with Ira and other past Presidents and Brothers; and all were very Then at the October 21st supportive. Sunday Brunch, an impromptu election ratified me as TBA Brotherhood President Elect! So a lesson to be learned, you don't want to miss Brotherhood events! We have a great group of members, and I look forward to the events currently planned. My goals as President are to attract new members, introduce fresh ideas, and expand leadership opportunities.

Even before I officially took "office," I was fortunate to recruit two excellent members to the Brotherhood leadership. I am excited to introduce Matthew Rosenstock as the new TBA Brotherhood Treasurer taking over from Rob

Shapiro - thanks, Rob, for all your hard work and commitment. Matthew is a 6vear TBA member and 3-year Board Member. He has spent the last 15 years working for Montgomery County Government as an IT Manager, and he enjoys spending time with his lovely wife, Lori, and 10-year old daughter, Julia. His spare time is filled with golf and making stained glass artwork. Matthew and I are also attending Cantor Larry's Adult Hebrew Classes - good stuff! I want to also introduce Pasha Palanker who will be

filling a new position, "Sargent of Arms" (shout out to Mike Manis for suggesting the name). Pasha brings a fresh outlook to TBA Brotherhood events and activities. Pasha has dedicated his professional life to service as a 16-year US Army veteran. He and his wife, Olga, are grateful parents to four boys (Nick, 9, Mikey, 7, Sammy, 4.5, and Benji, 9 months). They have been TBA members since 2012, and Pasha is a member of TBA's Bitachon. Again, I want to thank Ira Greenspan and Rob Shapiro for their leadership, support, encouragement, and continued involvement.

So, please reach out to me and the



Brotherhood leadership regarding your interests and ideas. I look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming events!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sunday, 02-03-19 — 9:00 am Brunch — Reid Cherner: The Life of a Writer - from Sports to Non-Fiction

Sunday, 03-24-19 — 9:00 am Brunch — David Weinstein presents: "The Eddie Cantor Story: A Jewish Life in Performance and Politics"



WOMEN OF TEMPLE BETH AMI

News

WTBA wishes you and your family a very happy and healthy 2019!



Yoga Stretch and **Strengthen Classes**

WTBA's next session of yoga classes will begin on Sunday, January 6. These

multi-level yoga classes include options for beginners as well as advanced students and will emphasize stretching, strengthening and breathing. No prior yoga experience is necessary. The classes will be held on the following Sundays at the Temple from 2-3pm: January 6, 13, and 27; February 3,10, and 24; March 3, 10, and 31; April 7, 21, and 28; May 5, 12, and 19; and June 2, 23, and 30.

Our yoga instructors will be TBA members Monya and David Cohen, both Yoga Alliance 200-hour voga teachers. The cost for the 18-week session will be \$108 for WTBA and Brotherhood members and \$126 for non-members, or \$8 per class. All proceeds from the classes will be donated to WTBA's Stuff-a-Duff project and the Rockville Days for Girls chapter.

Please dress in comfortable, stretchy clothes and bring a yoga mat, two yoga blocks, a water bottle, and a pillow, folded blanket, or cushion. RSVP online by January 3. For more information, please contact Monya Cohen at micohen0636@ gmail.com.



Manna Food Center

The next Manna food sorting will be Wednesday, January 30 at 7 pm. Please contact Rhonda at Rhonda.gaynor @gmail.com if you are interested in volunteering for this family friendly Tikkun Olam activity.



Book Club

Come join the next WTBA Book Club meeting on Tuesday, February 5 from 7:30 - 9 pm at the Temple

in classrooms 6 & 7. The Book of Separation by Tova Mirvis will be discussed. Please contact Terry Steinberg steinberg_4@ 301-926-0815 or comcast.net with any questions.

Mah Jongg

Join the drop-in Mah Jongg sessions at the Temple every Monday afternoon from 1-3pm. Please contact Rachel Marvn at rmaryn@verizon.net with questions and to be added to the email list.

Save the date for the Mah Jongg Tournament on Sunday, February 17th from



WRJ Mid-Atlantic **District Convention**

The 67th WRJ Mid-Atlantic Regional District

Convention was held on Nov. 2 - 4th at the Fairfax Marriott at Fair Oaks. The theme of the convention was "The Lessons of Yesterday are the Foundation of Today." Seven WTBA members attended and some of their thoughts on the convention are below:

The district convention was a great experience

for me. I made new friends, reconnected with women I already knew, and learned about listening campaigns and advocacy. One of the best parts of the convention happened in the weeks and months beforehand, when I had the great fortune to work with my fellow WTBA member, Judi Goozh, and Philippa Hindman, a member of the sisterhood of Temple B'nai Shalom in Fairfax Station, VA. The three of us presented at a workshop at the convention entitled "Alternative Leadership Styles Sisterhoods." I gave a brief overview on ways to brainstorm about different models: Judi talked about WTBA's Leadership Council, and Philippa spoke about her sisterhood's new board structure. I led another workshop the next day on planning a Sisterhood service. I learned a lot from my research and gained more experience with creating a PowerPoint slide show. -Rhona Arbit

The workshop I attended was called "Communicating - No Postage or Calls Required." The primary focus was to describe the multitude of social media platforms. The presenters shared information about how Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, free conference calls, Zoom meetings. Eventbrite, Sign Up Genius, Evite, Doodle, Google drive, Yammer, and Constant Contact can all be used to communicate with our sisterhood members. They also discussed the WRJ Mid-Atlantic District Website, the District Facebook page, and district electronic newsletter. Sisterhood leaders were encouraged to use all these resources to share flyers and information about upcoming events and photos of past events with other district sisterhoods. - Judi Goozh

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

Paula Sayag, Director



There's No Place Like TBANS: Current Staff Members' Reflections on the Start of a Magical 30 Years

What was TBANS like when it first opened its doors 30 years ago? Many of our current teachers started as parents in the first years of TBANS' existence - and quickly became staff (and, as they'll tell you, like family). Some of them are eagerly sharing their memories here:

Ellen Bortz: I remember lamenting to my mother-in-law that I was not so sure about enrolling Adam. It was a brand-new school. They didn't even have any furniture or toys yet. They were sharing rooms with the religious school. What if it was terrible??? My dear Rita, of blessed memory, gave me the best advice ever. "Ellen, if you don't like the school, you can move him!" Oh my goodness. She made sense. However, the one thing I couldn't have known as a scared, young, first time parent, was that 30 years later I would still be an active member of this incredible community that is TBANS.

Jody Rosenblum: I enrolled my son as soon as TBA opened the nursery school in 1989. I was extremely impressed with the director and the staff. They were all so warm and experienced. There was a jazzercise class offered for moms upstairs in the social hall. Many

of us took the class and got to know one another. I asked if there were any job opportunities at TBANS, and I waited 4 years until I got the call. In my second year, I had the good fortune to work with Susan Bloom. We were Rosenblum and Bloom!! The kids always called us each other's name, they couldn't keep it straight. I loved the job, I loved the children and I learned sooooo much.

Laurie Galfond: In the old building, we were in the basement of the temple. We shared the Hebrew school classrooms and were not allowed to use the bulletin boards. We had two huge plastic bins for each class: one for jackets and one for backpacks. If the kids' hands got paint or glue on them, we had them dunk their hands in a small tub of soapy water. One room had a sink, but the others did not. We used the same tub all day—no one washed hands before eating! It was small and crowded and messy and it was the most warm, welcoming, wonderful feeling to be both a parent and a teacher there. Every

teacher knew every child and every parent.

Deena Klopman: My beginning at TBANS was in 1990 when my middle son entered the 3-year-old class with Susan Bloom as his teacher. What I remember about those years as a parent

is that we only worried that our kids were happy. I never worried about being ready for kindergarten or pre-reading skills - just that they were happy, kind, and not pain in the necks for their teachers!

Karen Asman: I have been fortunate to be on both sides of the Beth Ami Nursery School door. First as a mom with my oldest son. I made my closest friendships in those halls! One of my many, but most favorite memories, is when I would pick up my rambunctious son Zach at school when he was 3. I would find him sitting peacefully on Susan Bloom's lap looking up at her with the same love that was usually reserved for his own Bubbe.

Susan Bloom, who has been here "forever," was certainly mentioned more than once. Next month, she and others tell us about what makes TBANS so special, 30 years later.

Compiled by *Jodie Fishman*, TBANS Correspondent





SIMCHAS

Mazel Tov to...

Brayden Ferguson, Joshua Levine, and Ari Citrin each on becoming a Bar Mitzvah

Charlotte Handel and Dylan Weintraub each on becoming a Bat Mitzvah

Machane Third Grade students, who were presented with their siddurim, and their teachers and parents

Deborah Cohen and Keith Goodman on the marriage of his son, **Nathan Goodman and Amy Radon**

Denise Bonn and Sanford Adler on the marriage of their son, **David, and Caroline Hopkins**

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

Leslie Marks and Louis Solomon on the birth of their twin granddaughters, **Edie Thelma Marks and Nora Dorothy Marks**

Audrey and Michael Rollor on the birth of their granddaughter, **Mia Lily Seltzer**

Elaine and Jerry Auerbach on the birth of their grandson, **Alexander Thomas Auerbach**

Rachel and Adam Moskowitz and Heidi and David Moskowitz on the naming of their daughter and granddaughter, Madison Charlotte Moskowitz

David Trone on being elected to the House of Representatives **Adam Schiff** on his re-election to the House of

Representatives and his upcoming chairmanship of the House Intelligence Committee

Judy Fox Tepper on the dedication of a street in Brooklyn renamed "Murray Fox Way", in memory of her father

Special Thanks To:

Christina and Don Halpern for helping at the Oneg
Our Shabbat Hospitality Committee
The Culinary Crew for our Shabbat challot and cookies



THE BUDGET COMMITTEE IS FORMING

If you have interest or experience in TBA's annual budgeting process please contact Madeline D'Alessio mkdalessio@gmail.com. We will meet Wednesday evenings from late January through March.

ACCESSIBILITY AT TBA

We are pleased to be able to provide the following accommodations to be able to welcome everyone to our services, schools and programs

- Hearing devices are available in the sanctuary and chapel.
 Please ask an usher and return the device at the end of the service
- Large Print Prayer Books are located in the last pew in the first section as you walk into the sanctuary. They are clearly marked. Please return the book(s) to the back pew at the end of the service
- Wheelchair cut outs are located on the aisles throughout the sanctuary. With prior notification, seats can be reserved next to the wheelchair cut out.
- Ramp to the bima is accessible from both sides of the bima
- Wheelchairs and walkers are located under the stairs off the main lobby; please ask an usher.
- All food that we order is nut free and what we order is baked in a nut free environment. Gluten free cookies are kept wrapped and are available in a separate basket. We ask people not to bring in any sweets with nuts, but home-baked goods are not necessarily made in a nut-free environment. The challah is baked in our kitchen which is nut-free to the best of our ability

SNOW AND ICE CLOSINGS

Weather related information will be posted on the Temple website's home page (www.bethami.org) and will be on the **Temple and school's voice mail**. **The schools follow MCPS**; the **Temple follows MC Government**.

Check out our new mobile friendly website. www.bethami.org

MACHANE TBA NEWS



Kim Roberts, Director



Calendar

Tuesday, January 1
NO SCHOOL

Sunday, January 6

Machane TBA In Session

Tuesday, January 8

Mid-Week Gr 3-6 in session TBAjrHigh in session

TBAHigh - Core 2 Night

Friday, January 11

TBAHigh Shabbat Service 7 pm

Sunday, January 13

Machane TBA In Session Vav Death & Dying Program Student & Parents (during child's L'mata session)

TBAHigh Kehillah 2 pm

Tuesday, January 15

Mid-Week Gr 3-6 in session TBAjrHigh in session

TBAHigh – Chug 2 Night (Aliyah Bet, HW Hangout, Sports & Jewish Games, Leadership,

Student

Council Committees, Yoga)

Fri-Sat, January 18-21

NFTY Winter Kallah

BBYO Rectional Convention

Sunday, January 20/Tuesday,

January 22

NO SCHOOL

Thurs-Sun, Jan 24-27

11th/12th Gr Civil Rights Journey

Sunday, January 27

NO SCHOOL-Winter Break

Tuesday, January 29

Mid-Week Gr 3-6 in session

TBAjrHigh in session

TBAHigh - Core 1 Night

TBAHIGH LEADERSHIP

TBAHigh is our program for 8th-12th graders. We meet during the school year on Tuesday nights and for special retreats and programs during the year. This program offers a variety of ways for students to engage with their Jewish peers and with Jewish learning, topical subjects and activities which interest them as individuals. To that end, TBAHigh is governed by a Student Council which is involved in helping to plan and execute all aspects of our program (they are also very involved in helping with the Tuesday night pizza sales, which is an essential function!). By involving our teen leadership in planning the MANY pieces of our program, we are able to offer student - driven events with which our students want to engage. This month we want to introduce our Student Council Executive Board.

Jordyn Wagman is Student Council President. Jordyn is a senior at Winston Churchill High School. Jordyn's role as President involves overseeing the various TBAHigh committees, helping with programming, and generally providing support to the operations of the Student Council. Jordyn hopes that all members of TBAHigh will see that the members of the Student Council are serving to represent them and their ideas for TBAHigh. Jordyn likes to go to DC and to hang out with friends and next year she plans to attend the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, AL

Jake Carin is our Kehillah VP. Jake is a

junior at Poolesville HS. Jake likes to play baseball, cook, and hang out outside when he is not working as a madrich or Kehillah VP at TBA. The Kehillah committee plans TBAHigh social events throughout the year and they promote and attend NFTY events. For example, in October, TBAHigh teens had a game day at the Temple which included a pie eating contest, tug of war, blind ninja, gaga, t-shirt painting and a nacho bar and baked ziti. Jake is hoping to attract high attendance and help to create new TBAHigh friendships through the Kehillah events this year.

Jack Kahler is the Religious/Cultural VP. Jack is a senior at Quince Orchard High School. Every week, Jack gets the chance to work with the rest of the Board, as well as the Religious & Cultural Committee, to design programs and services that focus on boosting the student body's ruach and involvement at Temple. Jack hopes to achieve a net increase in TBAHigh service attendance this year in his leadership role. When he is not working on homework or TBAHigh, he likes to let loose, pump up the jams, and dance around his house to Michael Jackson's 1982 smash hit, "Thriller". The Religious/Cultural committee plans 2 Shabbat services and sleepovers during the year. They also help to lead the teen Rosh Hashanah service, help with community Hanukkah blessings, leading havdalah at Erev Machane programs, and the 9th grade sexuality retreat. They will assist in leading the TBAHigh Model Seder in April as well.



A BUSY SUNDAY @ BETH AMI

Bagel Bar, TBA High Swabbing, Judaica Shop Sale, Handmade Arts and Crafts Show











PHOTOSFrom Our Friends at the Islamic Center,
TBANS Doing for Others















STANDING UNITED WITH PITTSBURG



TIKKUN OLAM COAT DRIVE



NEW BROTHERHOOD BAGEL BAR

COMMITTEE

News

TIKKUN OLAM IN ACTION

HIAS Works to Rescue People Whose Lives Are in Danger for Being Who They Are

"Once we helped refugees because they were Jewish. Today we help refugees because we are Jewish."

As the world's oldest refugee organization, HIAS was founded in 1881 to help Jews fleeing the pogroms in Eastern Europe. Today, HIAS has changed its focus from helping Jewish refugees to helping refugees of all ethnic and religious backgrounds. At TBA's recent Refugee Shabbat, HIAS Vice President for Development Miriam Feffer noted that the climate for HIAS's work has never been tougher, given the growing numbers of vulnerable refugees worldwide and shrinking refugee admission ceilings in the United States and elsewhere.

HIAS finds the support of the Jewish community to be invaluable in its efforts. From writing letters to asylum seekers in detention—to mentoring and acting as translators for newly arrived refugees—to babysitting children so their parents can go to job interviews—to making monetary contributions—and more—there are many ways that the Jewish community—including here at TBA through the Tikkun Olam (TO) Committee and its Refugee Resettlement Program—is helping to address the worldwide refugee crisis.

Want to join in this effort? Here are a few ways you can become involved:

- Visit HIAS.org to follow recent developments, find educational resources, and learn about volunteer opportunities.
- Have questions about HIAS? Contact Lizzie Westin, TO Committee HIAS liaison, at lizzie@iwestin.com.
- Become involved with the TO Committee's efforts to support refugee families settling in our area. Contact Mark Joffe (marksjoffe@gmail.com) or Ron Lobel (ronaldlobel@gmail.com).
- Become an advocate for policies that welcome refugees to the United States.

"Now more than ever, it is incumbent on us to speak out for the displaced people who have followed in our footsteps seeking shelter, safety, and home." –Miriam Feffer, Vice President for Development, HIAS

COLLEGE CONNECTION

I hope that everyone enjoyed the holiday season with family and friends. If you had your kids home with you, I hope you enjoyed your time with them as much as I did with mine. The clergy, staff and I would like to thank the College Connection volunteers: Stacy Albert, Rachel Cohen, Ellen Davis, Sarah Freedman, Abby Gritz, Eve Lader and Amy Schwartz. 82 packages were sent to our college students filled with goodies and greeting for Hanukkah.

If your student is registered for college connection but will be studying abroad next semester please contact me at, jrmhyp@yahoo.com. Our Purim packages will go out on March 13.

Thank you again to our wonderful volunteers, **Jackie Manis**, College Connection Chair

PRESIDENT CONT. FROM PAGE 2

people signed up, and more than 70 came out on a cold November morning to hike Sugarloaf Mountain. Rabbi Weiss had heard me tell the story above once before and asked me to tell it to the group before we started the hike. About an hour after I told the story, I was at the top of Sugarloaf Mountain with tears in my eyes, participating in a Shabbat morning service. I was praying in the woods again.

Based on the feedback we have gotten from that hike, I know we'll do more of them. I look forward to hiking and praying in the woods, and I hope you and your family will join us on the next one. I am not going to wait another twenty years before praying in the woods again.



RABBI CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

I understood that my children were not at risk the way Israeli children are, that it was not for me to try to dictate how a sovereign nation should govern itself. And, I mourned for the seemingly intractable problem of finding a way to live in peace and security with our Palestinian neighbors, and the senseless and cyclical loss of life for which there seems no end in sight.

Then, over the past two years, the government of Israel issued a series of decisions and statements which effectively denigrated and delegitimized diaspora Jews, especially those of us who are not Orthodox. My sense of betrayal, disappointment and anger could not be exaggerated. At my lowest moments, I came close to giving up on Israel altogether, cutting my losses and just focusing on Jewish life here.

Yet, I still believe in the Zionist dream. I still believe in a State of Israel which can be a beacon for all Jews: not because of rising anti-Semitism, not because of fear, but because the dream has intrinsic value, and if we will it – it will be more than a dream.

For those of us who are worried for our safety here in the States, I would remind you that those who would cause us harm are the outliers, not us. In Nazi Germany there were no solidarity rallies after attacks on the Jews, and in America the government does not seek to harm us, but rather seeks justice against those who do.

Could that change one day? Yes, perhaps. But we are nowhere near that kind of crisis, and I do not recommend making Aliyah to Israel because we are afraid.

I do, however, think that Israel deserves our support, and we hers. In fact, I think we need each other now more than ever.

The Jewish people has become just as tribal as anyone. We are split not only by where we locate ourselves on the political spectrum, but also by our denominational affiliations (or lack thereof) and whether we live in Israel, in America, or elsewhere in the diaspora.

Imagine my surprise, then, when I read an Israeli newspaper article describing an extraordinary response to Pittsburgh by Israeli law makers from across the political spectrum. On November 7, a group of about 25 Knesset members came together in an emergency meeting to demand that the government of Israel

recognize the non-Orthodox Jewish movements. They were convened by six MKs, including two from the leadership of the current coalition. The government is unlikely to listen, but what makes this so important is how it breaks down the divisiveness of our own Jewish inner tribalism. Following the tragedy at Pittsburgh where Conservative Jews were attacked, these MKs recognize that the Zionist dream is for all of us, not just for Israelis and the Orthodox. That is an important and valuable concept, fully in consonance with the Zionist ideal. Yet, we must also remember that Israeli politicians are practical. While this meeting took place before the challenge to the current government, the MKs were also shown a startling new statistic: fully 13% of Israelis now identify as either Reform or Conservative. This does not mean that they necessarily affiliate, but it does mean that they share our commitment to pluralism.

Whether we agree or disagree with its policies, Israel is a true democracy; her government represents the will of the people. More and more Israelis are coming to understand and appreciate that they do not need to make the binary choice between being religious (Orthodox) or secular when deciding how to express their Jewish identities. I am confident that this is only the beginning and look forward to an Israel which truly represents the pluralism of the larger Jewish world.

As American Reform Jews, we have a vested interest in helping to ensure the continued growth of Reform Judaism in Israel and strengthening our personal connections with our Jewish homeland. In the next several months there will be two ways for you to make a meaningful difference.

First, please look for information about to 2019 World Zionist Congress elections. While the specific date of the elections has yet to be determined, our participation is critically important. The WZC determines not only how millions of dollars will be allocated by the World Zionist Organization and the Jewish Agency in Israel, but, even more importantly, who will be responsible for working together to implement the decisions of the WZC. This is how real pluralism is built; as secular, Reform and ultra-Orthodox Jews work together toward common goals, we break down the barriers between us. When we have more information about the elections, we will send the information to you; please, make sure to vote!

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

WTBA CONT. FROM PAGE 7

The Convention was amazing. We had a presentation from the Executive Director/CEO of the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Association and visited the Lorton Workhouse. The first time the suffragists met was in 1849 at the Seneca Falls Convention. Their declaration of principles called for the right for women to be educated, earn a living, teach and preach. – Flora Feldman

Oh, to be at a Shabbat luncheon with approximately 80 women! It was a very "spiritual" time!

At this luncheon, we were blessed with a presentation by a consultant to the board of directors of a foundation called "Safe Surfin". This foundation has tasked themselves with educating parents and children about Internet safety and to protect children from online predators through education. It was very eye-opening! - Sue Sailer

One of the convention workshops was an interactive session with Delegate Kathy Tran (VA-42), who was elected in 2017 to the Virginia House as the first Asian-American woman to serve in that capacity. When Kathy was seven months old, she and parents fled Vietnam as boat refugees and waited 13 months for the United States to approve their application for asylum. Given this background, it is no surprise that immigration issues are extremely important to her and have been a focus of her life's work. Kathy shared that she is working with others to explore an "alternate driver's license" option for immigrants who are currently not eligible to obtain a driver's license due to legal restrictions. Among other legislation filed during her first term in the VA House, Kathy introduced two bills to help protect women from sexual harassment. Kathy and her husband are raising their four children Jewishly and are members of Temple B'nai Shalom in Fairfax, VA. - Jeanne Kahn

One important highlight of the weekend was the installation of the district executive committee for 2018-2020. We were thrilled to have two of WTBA's finest included in this group with Rhona Arbit as District Treasurer and Melissa Bauman as Assistant Treasurer. We all wish both of them much success in their new posts. The installation service was followed by an evening of music and dancing. – Rachel Maryn

Ongoing Projects



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 <u>On the Doorposts of Your House</u>: <u>Prayers and Ceremonies for the Jewish Home</u>. Please email Barbara Ranhand at Barbara.ranhand@verizon.net if you have information about any Temple families who are planning a wedding.

WTBA E-mail Address

Email WTBA at womenoftemplebethami@gmail.com with any questions or comments. We look forward to hearing from you!

Elizabeth Joseloff

WTBA Chadashot article editor ejoseloff@gmail.com

RABBI CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

Every vote for the Reform block is a vote for greater pluralism in Israel and around the world.

Second, I am pleased to announce our next congregational trip to Israel, scheduled for July 2020. A complete itinerary with pricing (apart from airfare) should be available no later than the end of January. I hope that you will join me on the trip of a lifetime! For more information, or if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to give me a holler.

Shalom u'vracha (peace and blessing),

Rabbi Gary Pokras





MACHANE TBA CONT. FROM PAGE 10

Andrew Schorr is the Programming VP. Andrew is a junior at Walter Johnson High School. When he is not working on homework or TBAHigh, Andrew likes to play ice hockey and play the drums. Andrew is looking forward to developing his leadership skills this year. The Programming Committee helps to develop large-scale programs for TBAHigh. Currently in the works are programs about the diverse Jewish communities in Israel and a very topical discussion about gun violence and gun control.

Marisa Sobel is Social Action VP. Marissa is a junior at Northwest High School. Marisa hopes to help as many of those in need as she possibly can and, as a TBAHigh leader, she wishes to inspire others to want to do the same. Marisa likes to hang out with her friends and play with her dogs in her spare time. The Social Action Committee helps to plan the Social Action electives for Tuesday evenings. Recently the Social Action elective hosted TBA congregant, Debbie Ezrin, who works for the Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless. She spoke with the students about homelessness in our area and then students made 50 "Breakfast Bags" which were donated to a local men's shelter. They also collected products for women to donate to a local women's shelter.

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 It's YOUR congregation; be connected.

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 a 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.

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In honor of:

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In honor of:

SIMON REICH becoming a Bar Mitzvah by the Reich Family

BROOKE GOLDBERG becoming a Bat Mitzvah by David and Danielle Goldberg

RABBI POKRAS in appreciation of the Service of Mourning and Healing and for hitting all the right notes by Stanley and Linda Berman RABBI POKRAS with appreciation by Mark and Lisa Kirsch

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BROOKE GOLDBERG becoming a Bat Mitzvah by David and Danielle Goldberg RABBI WEISS for always being there for me by

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In memory of:

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SAYDE W. STILLMAN and TOBIAS RESNIK by Suzy Slyn Davis and family

** as of November 26

ONGOING

Information

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

We mourn the recent death of:

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mother of Rick Wyron

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

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 or 301-610-8369 for free confidential consultation.

Beth Ami's Hospitality Initiative Wants YOU!

If you've been to Erev Shabbat services, you've been welcomed by fellow congregants and donned a name tag so others can greet you by name. You've also noticed a Welcome Table, the hub of our Hospitality Initiative. These efforts are a way to make all who enter our doors feel the warmth and caring of our congregational community, whether they are members or visitors who are worshiping with us for the first time.

Our "Welcome Ambassadors" also have benefitted from volunteering for this effort. They have gotten to know more and more Temple members, as well as visitors and families of B'nai Mitzvah who have come to celebrate. In helping others feel more connected to TBA they, too, have come to feel like an important part of Temple life.

While we have a cadre of dedicated volunteers who make Erev Shabbat services THE place to be on Friday evenings, we are looking for additional Temple members who would like to serve as "Welcome Ambassadors".

Please RSVP to Cathy Friedman at 301-330-8377 or cathyjfriedman@gmail.com if you are interested in becoming a "Welcome Ambassador". You will be joining a great group of Temple members who are making a difference.

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 gsb@bethami.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.

SNOW BIRDS

If you are now – or will soon be – at your winter address (even if it is only FOR a month or two), please let the office know so we can find you and keep you informed about your Temple. idf@bethami.org And, please, remember to let us know when you return home. Non-first class mail (newsletters, etc) is not forwarded and the Temple is charged a return fee for each piece. Please help us save natural resources (trees) and the Temple's financial resources. Thank you

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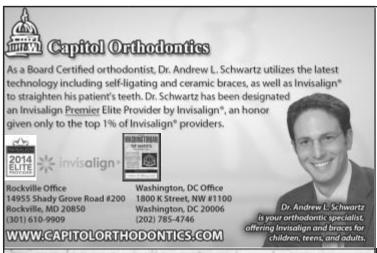


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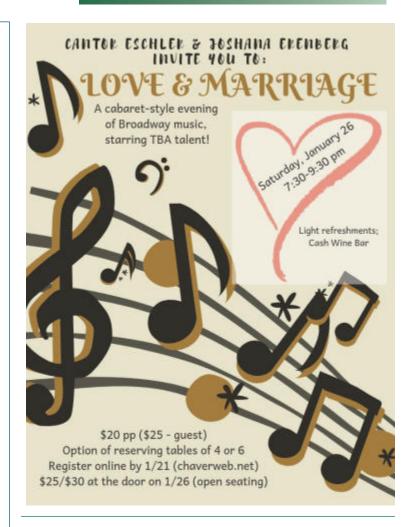
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