

TEMPLE BETH AMI Chadashot

DECEMBER 2018 KISLEV/TEVET 5779

VOLUME 46 NUMBER 5

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Friday, November 30

6:30 pm Primary Shabbat Service - Gan

7:30 pm Erev Shabbat Service

Saturday, December 1

10:30 am Shabbat Service

B'nai Mitzvah: Adam Levine

Dylan Levine

Sunday, December 2

10:45 am Sunday Minyan

Friday, December 7

6:00 pm Shabbanukkah - Picnic

Saturday, December 8

10:30 am Shabbat Service

Bat Mitzvah: Hannah Zuck

10:30 am Shabbat Chapel Service

5:30 pm Shabbat Service

B'not Mitzvah: Dylan Barron

Madeline King

Sunday, December 9

10:45 am Minyan

Friday, December 14

6:30 pm Tot Shabbat - Gimels

7:30 pm Erev Shabbat Service

Saturday, December 15

10:30 am Shabbat Service

Bar Mitzvah: Ari Andelman

Sunday, December 16

10:45 am Sunday Minyan

Friday, December 21

6:30 pm Spirit of Shabbat

Saturday, December 22

10:00 am Shabbat Minyan

Sunday, December 23

10:45 am Sunday Minyan

Friday, December 28

7:30 pm Erev Shabbat Service

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MESSAGE FROM *Cantor Eschler*



I'd like for us to start a new Chanukah tradition. Chanukah indoor sukkot. Look at the pictures. Aren't they beautiful? Some of these are actual Orthodox Sukkot (the holiday) sukkot and the one with the Chanukkiah is the one we created at the synagogue last year for my Live and Learn class: Chanukah – A New Spin.

Now hear me out. This is not a Hanukah Harry or Chanukah bush idea. Those well-intentioned ideas came from a desire to mix Christmas and Chanukah. They have no basis in Judaism. However, the idea of a sukkah at Chanukah is based upon the opening verses of 2 Maccabees verses

1-9. It is a letter to the Jewish community and after the salutations, there is the edict below:

1:1 The Jews in Jerusalem and those in the land of Judea,

To their Jewish kindred in Egypt, Greetings and true peace....

1:9 And now see that you keep the festival of booths in the month of Chislev, in the one hundred eighty eighth year (124 B.C.E.)

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Save the Date



Tot Shabbat
Saturday, January 12.

Details to follow.

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Chadashot

Published monthly by
TEMPLE BETH AMI
MEMBER

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

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FAX 301.610.5827
BROADCAST SYSTEM 301.309.3834
LIVE STREAMING WWW.BETHAMI.ORG

MESSAGE FROM *Buzz Karpay, President*

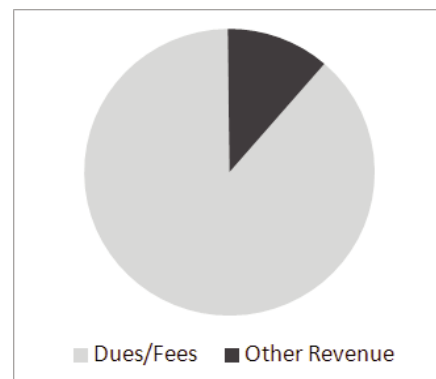


Since the conclusion of the High Holy Days, several congregants have come up to me to ask about our Annual Appeal. I know that we promoted the appeal more than we have in the past, and this was not lost on you. Perhaps the most disconcerting question I have been asked about it was "Is the congregation in financial trouble?" I can assure you that we are not in trouble, but I want to use the space available to me this month to give you a little more background and detail about Temple Beth Ami's finances.

For a long time, we were growing rapidly. During that time, we could rely on having more members each year than we had the year before. Any budget that was developed based on the existing number of members would result in a surplus during the next fiscal year because we always had more members than the budget had assumed. The surplus helped us to expand programs, which, in turn, required additional staff. Budgeting remained an easy job because of growth.

But things have changed over the last several years, not just for Beth Ami, not just for synagogues or even religious organizations in general, but for almost all non-profit, membership-based organizations. Affiliation rates are down making it difficult for any organization that relies on dues and fees from its members. While some of our expenses rise and fall with membership, those are a relatively small portion of our total expenses. Most of our costs are relatively constant regardless of the number of members.

Our revenue, on the other hand, is very closely tied to the size of our membership. Dues and fees represent more than 85% of our revenue, with all other sources making up less than 15%, as shown in the pie chart. The four largest components of that small "Other Revenue" slice are our Annual Appeal, Building Rentals, Program Events, and Chai Contributions. Those four categories combined are more than half of the "Other Revenue" slice, with more than 25 smaller categories making up the rest. A few years ago, the Annual Appeal would not even have been on this list; now it's number 1. And the difference this small amount of revenue makes is quite large.



Why did our Annual Appeal figure increase so much in the last few years? Because we asked. Just a few years ago, our Annual Appeal consisted of an envelope that arrived in the mail with your High Holy Days tickets, and we simply left it up to you to participate or not. Last year we decided to try something new for us: asking you directly during one of the services to consider making a contribution. The results were significant so this year we decided to talk about the appeal at all of the main services.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

COMING

This Month**Sunday, December 2****WTBA Pre-School Hanukkah Party****9:15 -10:15 am**

All pre-schoolers and their parents are invited to the Annual Pre-School Hanukkah party sponsored by WTBA. Crafts, story, songs and snacks. ALL are welcome. RSVP by 11/28 to schers@verizon.net

**Tuesdays, December 4, 11, 18 Live & Learn with Gerdy Trachtman****10:30 am – 12 pm**

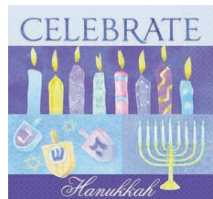
Topic: Jewish Spirituality and Kabbalah. Jewish spirituality, as we know it today, has been heavily influenced by Kabbalah. This course will present an overview of Jewish Mysticism and Kabbalah, and explore and discuss central Kabbalistic ideas such as Sefirot, Ein Sof, the soul, male and female aspects of good, evil, and more. Gerdy

Trachtman is a favorite teacher, returning to teach in our Live & Learn series. Come and learn! Supported by the Sally Kera Live & Learn Fund & the Torah Fund for Adult Education.

**Friday, December 7 Network & Nosh****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 get-together on the 1st Friday morning of the month. Topic: Goal setting for the New Year.

RSVP to SLG@bethami.org. Questions? Contact Marcy Waxman (marcywaxmanrealty@gmail.com) or Ellen Davis (edavis@lifehealthhome.com). Supported by the Innovation Fund.

**Friday, December 7****SHABBANUKKAH****Begins at 6 pm**

Everyone's invited to celebrate the 6th night of Hanukkah together at Beth Ami, starting off with a Latke Bar in the lobby, a bring-your-own picnic dinner, followed by a community candle lighting and services with The ShabbaTones. Following services in the Sanctuary, enjoy a Hanukkah oneg in the lobby with a DIY Donut Bar. Supported by the Korth Hanukkah Fund. Bring your Hanukiyyah and 7 candles to light!

**Sunday, December 9****Brunch with Don Markus****9 -10:30 am**

Come hear Don Markus, adjunct professor of Journalism at AU and sportswriter for the Baltimore Sun, talk about College Football Culture in the Big 10: Focus on UMD and Ohio State. \$10 for members of Brotherhood/WTBA; \$15 for guests. FREE for Gold members. Register online by Friday, 12/7 at www.chaverweb.net.

COMING This Month



Sunday, December 9

Happy Hanukkah Youth Festival

4 pm

Come celebrate the 8th night of Hanukkah at Temple Beth Ami with youth choirs from 10 local congregations, including guest appearances by the DC HaZamir Teen Choir and the Beth Ami band, The ShabbaTones! The Choir Festival will feature a beautiful candle lighting service and choral presentation, followed by a light Hanukkah Oneg. For more information, please contact Joshana Erenberg (joerenberg@gmail.com).

**BROADWAY
BUZZ**



Monday, December 17 Broadway Buzz with Steve Friedman

10:30 am – 12 pm

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



Thursday, December 13

Pack 'n' Snack with Next Dor

6 pm (off site)

Join Next Dor to pack backpacks for children brought into foster care for "Comfort Cases." The backpacks contain both comfort items (like stuffed animals) as well as essential items (like pajamas and toiletries). Due to space, we're limited to the first 20 to sign up. Wine & Snacks will be served.

Register online at www.chaverweb.net. Questions? Contact Jill Lachter (jmerm1@aol.com) Next Dor

is the Next Generation of Sisterhood! Join other women in their 30s and 40s (though we won't check IDs!) to meet new friends and build a community! Meet at: 15825 Shady Grove Rd., Suite 60, Rockville, MD 20850.



Monday, December 17

Coming of Age with Julie Kurzava

1 - 2:30 pm

Join us for Long Ago and Far Away: Great Songs of Hollywood, a program presented by singer and lecturer, Julie Kurzava, joined by pianist, Diane Kinsley. Julie sings the songs and tells the stories of hits written in a time when every great film needed a great song! TBA is proud to host the popular JCC program, "Coming of Age." Register online at benderjccgw.org. \$8 in advance; \$10 at the door.

**FEBRUARY CHADASHOT
DEADLINE DECEMBER 25**

All payments must be received by December 30 in order to be posted in this calendar year and, therefore, to appear on your 2018 tax report from the Temple.

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)

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!**

- **Annual Unwrapped Holiday Toy Drive** - Help make the holiday season brighter for children of South Lake ES by bringing new, unwrapped children's toys/games for ages infant-14. These gifts will be given to the children and families in South Lake's Linkages to Learning program, serving the school's neediest families. Collection boxes will be in the Temple lobby and Nursery School from December 1-15.

- **Adopt-a-Family Holiday Gift Drive** - In this project, families affiliated with Montgomery County Child Welfare Services provide a list of holiday gift wants/needs and are matched with a TBA family to provide the gifts of their choosing. If you're interested and haven't signed up yet, please send your name to Judi Goozh at paul-judig@verizon.net or Robin Temin at robin.temin@verizon.net as soon as possible. Gifts are due a week or two before Christmas.

- **Don't Forget Our 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.

- **Thanks for Dropping Off Your Box Tops for Education**

(BTE) Labels! - Help us top 1,000 labels for this year as we continue to help needy area schools turn these little pink labels into cash for needed items & 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.

IN THE COMMUNITY

- **Volunteers Needed for CMR's Holiday Events** - Watch children's eyes light up as they have holiday fun/receive holiday food/gifts when you help out at CMR's Christmas party and/or holiday gift distribution on December 22. More information at cmrocks.org, or contact Andrea Kempner-Wink at andreakwink@cmrocks.org or 301-637-0730.

Annual High Holy Days Appeal – We are Getting Close!

Fellow Congregants:

I have wonderful news to share about the Annual High Holy Days Appeal! As of the end of October "go to press" deadline, we have raised \$82,000 from 235 members. We hope that by the time you read this, these numbers will be higher and closer to our goals of 100% participation and \$100,000; we have a generous challenge grant from one of our families that will match every two dollars up to the first \$100,000 with an additional dollar.

While you are considering your end of the year giving, please remember Temple Beth Ami. We would like to reach 100% congregational participation at any amount comfortable for your family.

For all of the congregants who have already given, I sincerely thank you for your support and the congregation is truly grateful.

Robert Oshinsky

Annual Appeal Chairman

BROTHERHOOD News

JOIN THE BROTHERHOOD

WE'RE LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD MEN (AND, WOMEN)
TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE CONGREGATIONAL & GREATER COMMUNITY

By joining, your support will help to provide:

- Kiddush cups to our youth becoming B'nai Mitzvah
- Financial aid for Rebuilding Together
- Meals for the community-based shelter
- Sponsorship of TBA family events

WHY THE BROTHERHOOD?

MEET LIKE-MINDED FRIENDS | NETWORKING | ENTERTAINMENT |
FUN | PROGRAMMING | RUN THE SUNDAY SCHOOL BAGEL CAFÉ |
QUARTERLY BRUNCHES WITH GREAT SPEAKERS | SPORTING EVENTS

JOIN US: WWW.BETHAMI.ORG

BROTHERHOOD OF BETH AMI

Ira Greenspan, President
301-524-6412
tbabrotherhoodmd@gmail.com

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

suggestions, please call Ira Greenspan at 301-524-6412.

2018-2019 EVENT CALENDAR

(subject to change—please check the Temple website, emails or Chadashot to confirm)

Sunday, December 9 – 9:00 am -
Brunch Speaker – Don Markus – Topic

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.

Below is our event calendar for the fall of 2018-2019. If you have any ideas or

College Football Culture in the Big 10 – Focus on UMD & Ohio State

Sunday, February 3 – 9:00 am – Brunch Speaker TBD

Sunday, March 24 – 9:00 am – Brunch Speaker TBD

Sunday, April 21, 28 & May-05 -
Re-Building Together – Montgomery County, MD

Tuesday, May-14 – 11:00 am –
Brotherhood Temple Golf Outing - Worthington Manor

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Spring – 2019 – Washington Wizards Event or Nationals Group Event

Spring - 2019 - Brotherhood Softball League (Weekly Games)

Ira Greenspan,

President

301-524-6412

iragreenspan@aol.com



WOMEN OF TEMPLE BETH AMI

News

WTBA wishes you and your family a very happy Hanukkah!

Pre-School Hanukkah Party

All TBA pre-school age children are invited to celebrate Hanukkah at our annual Pre-School Hanukkah Party on Sunday, December 2 from 9:15 -10:15 am. Join in the fun for a morning of crafts, story, and songs. Check your email for an invite to the party. Please contact Amy Scher at schers@verizon.net for more information.

Book Club

The next Book Club meeting will be on Tuesday, December 4, 7:30 – 9 pm, at the Temple. The book Three Floors by Eshkol Nevo will be discussed. Please contact Terry Steinberg at 301-926-0815 or steinberg_4@comcast.net with any questions. We hope to see you there!



Yoga Stretch and Strengthen Classes

WTBA's next session of yoga classes will begin on Sunday, January 6. Our 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 - 3 pm: 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 are TBA members Monya and David Cohen, both Yoga Alliance 200-hour yoga 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 mjcohen0636@gmail.com.

Mah Jongg Cards

Don't forget to purchase your 2019 Mah Jongg cards through WTBA. A portion of all purchases come back to WTBA to enable us to do all the good work we do for TBA and the local community. Flyers are available in the Temple lobby. Contact Rachel Maryn at rmaryn@verizon.net for more information.

Summer Camp Scholarships

For the summer of 2019, Women of TBA will be offering a limited number of scholarships for children to attend summer camp programs at either Temple Beth Ami or camps affiliated with the Union of Reform Judaism (URJ). Please contact Jeanne Kahn at JeanneKahn@aol.com for an application and/or more information.



Manna Food Center

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped sort food at Manna on Tuesday, September

25: Susan Bloom, Nancy Yarvin, Michael Yarvin, Ruth Shevach, Danielle Konigsberg, Jake Konigsberg, Nancy Heller, David Stander, Mark Silverman, Jill Lachter, Jack Lachter, Andy Jose, Leah Jose, Stephanie Fleischer, and Daniel Fleischer. It was great to have such a big group and with everyone pitching in, we were able to successfully sort through a lot of food pretty quickly! A huge thank you to Rhonda Gaynor for coordinating this Tikkun Olam activity for the Temple. Please contact Rhonda at Rhonda.gaynor@gmail.com if you are interested in volunteering for future evenings at Manna Food Center.

Crafts for a Cause

In October, WTBA held a Crafts for a Cause event. The evening began with a pizza and salad dinner, followed by a very informative presentation by Debbie Ezrin, WTBA member and Director of Development and Communications for Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless (MCCH). Debbie introduced us to MCCH and the other organizations that are working to end homelessness in Montgomery County. She gave an overview of the achievements that have already been made, including becoming one of the first four communities nationwide to end veteran homelessness in January 2016. She also shared opportunities for us to get involved, both as individuals and as a Temple family, to help the homeless.

Following Debbie's presentation, we made fleece hat/scarf and hat/neck warmer sets to be distributed by MCCH to homeless people throughout the county. We completed more than 10 fleece sets during the evening. In **CONTINUED ON PAGE 17**

NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

*Paula Sayag,
Director*



Happy Hanukkah to Me: The Best Gift

TBANS Has Given my Family the best gift. My daughter got off the school bus one Friday this fall during her first month of kindergarten in public school, excitedly ran into our house, dropped her backpack (and with it, her weekly worries about the recent transition to big-kid school), and headed for the kitchen in search of a snack. Her giddy mood fell when she noticed a child-sized, freshly-baked challah in a bag with one of those gigantic popsicle sticks poking out. Every TBANS parent (and former student) knows that tell-tale stick. The one on our counter had my son's name (a Gimel this year) written on it, and she instantly knew that he'd had the special opportunity of baking challah at school that day.

"It's not fair," she muttered.

I didn't have to prod her for more information - a skill I've sharpened these first months as a kindergarten parent—her deflated, envious look spoke volumes.

But I knew it wasn't just about the challah.

After four years at Jewish preschool, starting in public kindergarten is a jarring experience. For my daughter, it's not just the newness of riding the school bus or the fact that she didn't know a single kid in her class. It's also that she doesn't get to make a menorah, dress up for Purim, or eat in a sukkah with her friends - and it's the fact that no child in her new class even knows what those things are.

None of us, my husband and I as parents nor my daughter, realized the most important thing we got from preschool until after she left.

Our daughter developed a deep appreciation and love of Jewish traditions, holidays, and customs - and she cultivated relationships with a peer group who share that connection.

For many reasons, we decided not to put her in religious school during her kindergarten year. But, we've worked to maintain relationships with her TBANS friends through a monthly book club

and playdates (when we can make them happen).

One recent evening as she was getting ready for bed, she asked me if we could celebrate Hanukkah with friends. I told her about plans to see her aunts, uncles, cousins and grandparents - and maybe even light candles with neighbors.

"No, Mommy," she said. "I'm talking about my friends from preschool."

Hanukkah isn't even quite here yet, but that was her best gift.

Yes, child, we will absolutely set up a Hanukkah celebration for you and your TBANS buddies. We couldn't think of a greater gift from TBANS than a child who craves time and celebrations with her Jewish preschool friends.

By *Jodie Fishman*, TBANS Correspondent



B'NAI MITZVAH*Profiles*

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



ADAM MICHAEL LEVINE, son of Sarah and Chuck, will become a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, December 1. He is in the seventh grade at Hallie Wells Middle School. Adam has a twin brother, Dylan. For his Bar Mitzvah Project, Adam, will be collecting and donating gently used sports

equipment to be used by underprivileged children through Leveling the Playing Field.



DYLAN ALEXANDER LEVINE, son of Sarah and Chuck, will become a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, December 1. He is in the seventh grade at Hallie Wells Middle School. Dylan has a twin brother, Adam. For his Bar Mitzvah Project, Dylan will be collecting goods for a

local animal shelter



HANNAH SOPHIA ZUCK, daughter of Karina and Brian, will become a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, December 8. She is in the seventh grade at Shady Grove Middle School. Hannah has an older sister, Shoshana, and a younger sister, Elana.



DYLAN ALICIA BARRON, daughter of Matthew and Robin, will become a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, December 8. She is in the seventh grade at Hallie Wells Middle School. Dylan has a younger sister, Jayden. For her Bat Mitzvah Project, Dylan is helping stray animals find homes by supporting the Best Friends Association and walking/volunteering at its Strut Your Mutt event.

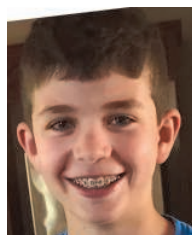


MADELINE KING, daughter of Jennifer and Jeffrey, will become a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, December 8. She is in the seventh grade at Lakelands Park Middle School. Maddie has a younger brother, Noah. For her Bat Mitzvah project, Maddie is collecting gently-worn dance costumes

and shoes in order to bring the gift of dance to others around the world.



ARI ANDELMAN, son of Nicole and Jeff, will become a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, December 15. He is in seventh grade at North Bethesda Middle School.



EVAN GEISNER, son of Janine and Norm, will become a Bar Mitzvah on December 31 in Israel. He is in 7th grade at Frost Middle School. Evan has an older brother, Jonah.



First Night of Hanukkah – Sunday, December 2

Rededicate yourself and your family to the true meaning of Hanukkah and consider using one night of gift giving as a gift to the Temple: purchase a High Holy Days children's prayer book in your

child's name, make a donation from your family to a Tikkun Olam project, volunteer in the community, clean out your closets and provide warm clothing to adults and children who don't have any, donate to Nourish Now and Manna to help people who are suffering from food insufficiency. There are so many ways to rededicate yourself and your families to the values lived at TBA

MACHANE TBA NEWS

*Kim Roberts,
Director*



Calendar

Sunday, December 2

Machane TBA In Session

Gr 7 Trip to Holocaust Museum

12:30 - 2:00 Gr 3 - 6 Kehillah

Tuesday, December 4

Mid-Week Gr 3-6 in session

Hanukkah Candle Lighting 5:50 pm

TBAjrHigh in session

TBAHigh – Chug 2 Night

(Aliyah Bet, HW Hangout, Sports
& Jewish Games, Leadership,
Student Council Committees, Yoga)

Sunday, December 9

Machane TBA In Session

Tuesday, December 11

Mid-Week Gr 3-6 in session

TBAjrHigh in session

TBAHigh – Core 1 Night

Fri - Sat, December 14 - 16

NFTY MAJYK Richmond, VA

Sunday, December 16

Machane TBA In Session

Tuesday, December 18

Mid-Week Gr 3 - 6 in session

TBAjrHigh in session

TBAHigh – Chug 1 Night

(Confirmation, Cooking, HW
Hangout, Social Action, 3D
Printing)

Dec 23-Jan 1

NO SCHOOL-Winter Break



MACHANE TBA
Erev Machane



SIMCHAS

Mazel Tov to...

Skyler Walcoff, Andrew Plotnick, Alex Bergen, Charles Schwartz, Simon Reich, Darren Shapiro and Andrew Feinstein each on becoming a Bar Mitzvah
Abby Peska, Maddie Peska, Emma Karlin, Lily King, and Olivia Maytin each on becoming a Bat Mitzvah

Michael Wolly upon being selected to receive the Distinguished Service Award from the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation.

Ann and Bennett Greenberg on the birth of their granddaughter **Reese Maya Trundle**
Ronnie and Les Sax on the birth of their grandson, **Isaac Samuel Ramos**

Special Thanks To:

Our Shabbat Hospitality Committee

Jennifer Miller and Moira Carin for our special Spirit of Shabbat Pre-neg treats

The Culinary Crew for our challah and cookies

TBANS Tzedakah



Learning in TBANS



PHOTO REVIEW

WTBA Craft for a Cause, WTBA Ladies Night Out



COMMITTEE

News

COMMUNITY OF ACTION VOTER REGISTRATION

This fall, Temple Beth Ami's Community of Action continued its focus on Get Out the Votes before the November 6 General Election. In anticipation of National Voter Registration Day, September 25, the Community of Action sponsored a voter registration training by the Maryland Board of Elections. Thirty people showed up at the Temple on a rainy Sunday to be trained. That afternoon, people attending also heard a nonpartisan presentation about door-to-door canvassing.

In five days, over the next three weeks, trained Temple volunteers manned voter registration tables at the Rockville and Germantown campuses of Montgomery College, as well as a one-day effort at Montgomery Village Plaza, close to South Lake Elementary School.

The assumption was, based upon information from When We All Vote, a nonpartisan national organization focusing on voter registration, volunteers might register two to three persons an hour. To their surprise, Temple Beth Ami volunteers registered over 30 people per day, usually in four-hour shifts, over five days, meaning roughly 150 new voters. During the final push before registration closed on October 16, TBA volunteers were joined by those from the Unitarian Universal Church of Rockville.

The Community of Action is hopeful these newly registered young voters will continue their civic engagement moving forward to the 2020 election. Young voters ages 18 - 24 traditionally have a low voter turnout rate; indeed in the 2014 midterm election only about 20 % of those registered voted.

In addition to manning voter registration tables, the Community of Action also distributed Voter Pledge Cards as part of RAC's (Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism) Get Out the Vote campaign.

TIKKUN OLAM IN ACTION

TBA Now Helping a Kurdish Refugee Family

The Tikkun Olam Committee's Refugee Resettlement Project has taken on an additional family - a Kurdish family from Qamishli, Syria. Parents Frid and Chirin have three sons - Judie (age 15), Mohammad (age 13), and Ahmad (age 9). The boys love swimming and playing soccer. Their native languages are Arabic and Kurdish, and their English is reasonably good and improving each day!

The family arrived in the United States about 2 years ago and recently relocated to Rockville from Prince Georges County. The father, Frid, works full-time at a Middle Eastern restaurant in Virginia. Chirin, the mother, was a hair dresser in Syria and currently is staying home with her sons. The family moved to Montgomery County to provide better educational opportunities for their sons, and the parents are dedicated to making a better life for themselves and their children.

TBA has been working with this family since August, in partnership with the Montgomery County Interfaith Refugee Resettlement Neighbors group. We have teamed up with two other congregations to support this family - Shaare Torah in the Lakelands community, and the Islamic Community Center of Potomac. Our partnership is working together to help the family with a wide range of needs, including medical, educational, technology (e.g., computers), clothing, supplies, and furniture for their new Rockville apartment. In addition, plans are underway to provide tutoring in English and help the boys with school on an ongoing basis.

Would you like to help TBA help this family and/or the other refugee families we are supporting? If yes, please contact Ron Lobel at ronaldlobel@gmail.com, or visit <https://bethami.org/community/social-action/refugee-resettlement-program/> for more information.

All payments must be received by December 30 in order to be posted in this calendar year and, therefore, to appear on your 2018 tax report from the Temple.

COMING*In January***Friday, January 4****Network & Nosh****8 - 9:30 am**

Created by and for Temple Beth Ami folks to increase their base of connections and establish relationships with others who might be able to help refer clients – or become new clients, “Network & Nosh” meets on the 1st Friday morning of the month. No charge to attend; please RSVP to Shelly (SLG@bethami.org) by 1/3.

Sunday, January 6**Meet the Caterers****2 - 4 pm**

Beth Ami invites local restaurants and caterers to showcase their menus and services to our congregants who might be looking for help with planning a simcha, life cycle or other special event or hosting a meal at home. No charge to attend, but come ready to sample.

Tuesdays, January 8, 15, 22 Live & Learn with Gideon Amir**10:30 am – 12 pm**

Topic: Isaac & Rebecca: The “Between” Ancestors. 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.

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.

Budget Committee Looking for YOU

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.

MAY THE REASONS YOU BELONG BE THE REASONS YOU GIVE

Please remember the Temple in your end of year giving plans. Please make a tax-deductible donation to the High Holy Days Appeal, religious school and nursery school scholarship funds*, the general fund, clergy discretionary funds, caring community funds or any fund that is important to you and your family. *This is the 20th year of the Nursery School Scholarship Fund in Memory of Joel Blue – please consider a donation to this fund to help us continue to provide an outstanding Jewish pre-school experience to all children. You can donate cash, pay on line by credit card, or use appreciated stock.

CREATE A JEWISH LEGACY. Jewish tradition teaches us that it is our responsibility to make this world a better place for future generations. Please consider a legacy gift to Temple Beth Ami as part of your estate planning. Please go to fundforgenerations@gmail.com

Please join your fellow congregants who remember the Temple every year; every gift is sincerely appreciated. All payments must be received by December 30 in order to be posted in this calendar year and, therefore, to appear on your 2018 tax report

The Temple offices will be closed on
Monday, December 24 and Tuesday,
December 25, and Monday, January 31
and Tuesday, January 1



Visit the Judaica Shop for great Hanukkah gifts,
entertaining needs and candles and gelt.

CANTOR CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

There really is validity in creating a tradition of building a sukkot for Chanukah, since technically the holiday of Chanukah is not only the rededication of the Temple, but it is also the celebration of the eight day Festival of Sukkot that was unable to be celebrated at its prescribed time since the Temple was not under our control during the month of Tishrei (when Sukkot was supposed to be celebrated).

I think indoor-sukkot could be the answer to all of us who want to decorate for the season. We envy the lights and now we have something to hang them on. I propose that we build a sukkah over our dining tables, since the commandment is to sit (lashev) in the sukkah, and decorate it with lights, fruit (real or fake), palm branches and other greens. The Sukkot lulav consists of branches that grow in different climates: the willow by water; the myrtle in the mountains; and the palm in the desert. Could our new tradition use other branches that represent those climates? All of these trees have interesting and beautiful flowers that could also be used as decorating inspiration. All of these beautiful, natural materials could create some magnificent images for the season that is based in our Jewish traditions.



Let's also establish a festive meal in our new sukkah. Let's set a time and date that we always get together. How about a new tradition of Chanukah Sunday brunch or Sunday dinner, Friday night services and then dinner, or a first (or last) night holiday dinner. During the festival of Sukkot, it is a time of z'man simchateinu – season of rejoicing - so let's bring friends and family into your new tradition.

And let's create some new smells for the season. What about aromatherapy candles or oils in addition to our Chanukiah candles. A different scent for each night or maybe a combination of

oils that build each night to create new odiferous delights e.g. 1st night vanilla, 2nd night vanilla and cinnamon, 3rd night vanilla, cinnamon, and cardamom or clove.

And how about the food. Have you thought about BBQ for Chanukah? Let's put all that fire from the candles to work? Why should the oil get all the attention? There should be challah since part of the rededication of the temple was the showbreads. And how could we incorporate the etrog? We could create an etrog marmalade that goes with delicious scones for our newly established Chanukah brunch.

And speaking of food, don't forget the desserts. How about some kind of 6-piece dessert that represents Mattathias and his 5 sons: Eliezer, Simon, John, Jonathan, and Judah? This could be 6 different kinds of fillings in eclairs that are decorated as the 6 people, or how about some kind of a pull apart sweet bread (think filled Danish rings).

For the kids, what about creating a bubbling liquid (representing the soap) and a cookie for them to dip into it (representing the sponges) in which to clean the temple. Or Judah was known as the Hammer, so how about a chocolate hammer – perhaps a large straight pretzel with a hollow chocolate block shell at the end filled with deliciousness. And for the adventuresome, there are flaming desserts - e.g., cherries jubilee, banana flambé, and baked Alaska.

And for gifts, create a tradition of writing letters to friends and family expressing what they mean to you and/or expressing your admiration for a unique quality they possess. This could be parents to children, friends to friends, siblings to siblings, grandparents to grandchildren. An additional gift or art project could be creating a keepsake book in which to keep those letters. And if the tradition sticks, pens, stationary, and beautiful papers could be well employed.

I think its time to rethink Chanukah and create some new traditions. I'd love to know what you think. Let me know if you start a new tradition and, better yet, send me a picture. If we grow the traditions here, who knows where they will go.

Chag Urim Sameach – Happy Chanukah

SERVICES CONT. FROM PAGE 1**Saturday, December 29**

10:00 am Minyan

Sunday, December 30

10:45 am Sunday Minyan

Friday, January 4

6:30 pm Erev Shabbat of Song & Story

Saturday, January 5

10:00 am Sunday Minyan

Sunday, January 6

10:45 Sunday Minyan

PRESIDENT CONT. FROM PAGE 2

Elsewhere in this issue of the Chadashot, you will find a short piece about the status of our Annual Appeal. I'll let you be the judge of how it went.

If you have other ideas for emphasizing the importance of the Appeal, please share your ideas with me. As always, if you have questions about this article, I would love to hear from 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 Diane know idf@bethami.org, so we can keep you informed about your Temple. 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

WTBA CONT. FROM PAGE 7

total, WTBA assembled more than 50 sets to be distributed through MCCH.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to help with this event! Special thanks go to Rhona Arbit, Jeanne Kahn, Phyllis Silverman and Sirina Tsai for their help in organizing and pre-cutting the fleece, and also to Sirina for the creation of wonderfully-illustrated, easy-to-follow directions for assembling each of the three project pieces. A huge thank you to Debbie Ezrin for her wonderful presentation, and to Catherine Copp for bringing this idea to WTBA, donating the fleece, and for her many hours of hard work bringing this project to fruition!

Ladies Night Out

Thank you to all who came to our Ladies Night Out in October at Not Your Average Joe's. We enjoyed delicious food, wonderful service, and the chance to catch up with old friends and make new ones. We especially delighted in welcoming our youngest honorary WTBA member, 8-week-old Penelope! Thank you to Not Your Average Joe's for donating 15% of our food orders back to WTBA.

Canasta Lessons

Thank you to Marilyn Lipowsky and Eve Lader for organizing Canasta lessons during October. Those who attended these sessions enjoyed learning how to play this fun game!

**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 *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 - 3 pm to play. Players of all abilities are welcome and there is no charge to participate. We play for fun and not for money. Please contact Rachel Maryn at rmaryn@verizon.net with questions and to be added to the email list.

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!

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 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.

ADULT EDUCATION FUND

In memory of:

ANITA SHER, wife of Steven Sher, by Marge and Bob Winick
ARLENE SCHLEIN GOLUB, mother of Jonathan Golub, by Marge and Bob Winick
MYRA GOLDGEIER, mother of Jim Goldgeier, by Marge and Bob Winick
LOIS SACKS, wife of David Sacks, by Shirley Levin, Lou and Libby Pohoryles

ALTER FAMILY SHOFAR ENDOWMENT FUND

In honor of:

COLIN ALTER by the Jewish residents of Bedford Court for conducting Friday night services

ANTI-ADDICTION FUND IMO SCOTT STERNBERG

In memory of:

SCOTT STERNBERG, son of Ellen and Bill Sternberg, by Jill and Andy Klein
RHEA NEEDLE, mother of Susan Dosik, by Judy Fox-Tepner

CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In honor of:

CANTOR LARRY ESCHLER's preparation, participation and tutoring of Alex Bergen for his Bar Mitzvah by Robin Bergen and Janine

Hackett

JORDAN PORTNOY's Bar Mitzvah by Lisa and Matthew Portnoy, Paula Mintzies and JL Levit
CANTOR LARRY ESCHLER excellence in mentoring the TBA youth by Robert and Debra Cowen

JOSHUA GRITZ's Graduation from University of Virginia, by proud grandparents, Joyce and Larrie Greenberg.

In memory of:

JUDY TREBY, wife of Stuart Treby, by Robert and Debra Cowen
JOAN E. KOTZ, our mother, by the Kotz Family

JNF GROVE FUND

In memory of:

ANITA SHER, wife of Steven Sher, by Gail and Mike Kaltman
MYRA GOLDGEIER, mother of Jim Goldgeier, by Gail and Mike Kaltman

LIVE & LEARN FUND IN MEMORY OF SALLY B. KERA

In memory of:

ABBY LEVIN, wife of Robert Levin, by Leslie Karen Shapiro

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

In honor of:

ED and CAROL HOPKINS 50th Anniversary by Lewis and Linda Cohen

MACHANE TBA (RELIGIOUS EDUCATION) AND YOUTH PROGRAMS FUND

In memory of:

SYLVIA RASHKIN, grandmother of Paige Yablonsky, by Heather and Ross Charkatz

MACHANE TBA (RELIGIOUS EDUCATION) FUND

Donation by Philip Hagler

MUSIC EQUIPMENT FUND

In honor of:

JOSHANA ERENBURG's excellence in mentoring TBA youth by Robert and Debra Cowen

In memory of:

JUDY TREBY by Robert and Debra Cowen
JOHN DETTELBACH, father of Kim Dettelbach, by Kevin and Cara Schorr
SAMUEL SCHWARTZ, father of Andy Schwartz, by Jeanne and David Kahn, Debra and Robert Cowen, Lloyd and Pat Kaufman, Robin and Tom Temin
ARLENE SCHLEIN GOLUB, mother of Jonathan Golub, by Debra and Robert Cowen, Robin and Tom Temin
RHEA NEEDLE, mother of Susan Dosik, by Robin and Tom Temin
MYRA GOLDGEIER, mother of Jim Goldgeier, by Robin and Tom Temin

NURSERY SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP FUND IN MEMORY OF JOEL BLUE

In honor of:

BEVERLY KRAGEN and our special friendship by Susan Bloom
The birth of ARDEN LEIGH and OLIVIA RAE, twin granddaughters of Susan and Stephen Chirumbolo, by the Temple Beth Ami Nursery School Staff

ONEG FUND

In honor of:

Karen Karlin in honor of Emma becoming a Bat Mitzvah
Linda and Josh King in honor of Lily becoming a Bat Mitzvah
Sharon and Michael Plotnick in honor of Andrew becoming a Bar Mitzvah
Sheila and Jeff Walcoff in honor of Skyler

becoming a Bar Mitzvah

Jill and Jonathan Reich in honor of Simon

becoming a Bar Mitzvah

Deborah and Robert Maytin in honor of Olivia

becoming a Bat Mitzvah

Jennifer and Marc Feinstein in honor of

Andrew becoming a Bar Mitzvah

In memory of:

Shira and Khloe Tassiello in memory of

Richard Tassiello

Amy and Mark Scher in memory of Hyman J.

Cohen

Dale and Ellis Koch in memory of Albert Frantz

Olivia and Mark Sheinkopf in memory of Sylvia

Sheinkopf

Gail and Arnold Brodsky in memory of Ida

Deitchman

ARLENE SCHLEIN GOLUB, mother of Jonathan

Golub, by Premier Management Services LC

Holly and Ron Lobel in memory of Powell

Lobel

Janice Rosenblatt and Ed Williams in memory of Morton Stolbov

Suzanne and David Fialkoff in memory of Hilde Marion

Susan Stiles and Bob Drummer in memory of Donald Stiles

Rhona and Terry Arbit in memory of Jack Arbit

Sherri and Jim Lieberman in memory of Elaine

Lieberman and Abbott Lieberman

Terry and Seth Steinberg in memory of Ruth

C. Steinberg

Connie Heller and family in memory of Mark J. Heller

Stuart Treby and family in memory of Cecile Gelburd and Judy Gelburd Treby

Michael Wolly in memory of Val Wolly

Cali and Larry Tamarkin in memory of Alice Broder

Roslyn and Les Grinspoon in memory of Dorothy Grinspoon

Laura and Jed Tonelson in memory of Marilyn

Tonelson and Nathan Tonelson

Mary and David Tonelson in memory of

Marilyn and Nathan Tonelson

Janet and Mark Wallace in memory of Milton

Jacob Wallace

Jean and Stanley Hankin in memory of Nathan

Hankin, Max S. Gabis, and

Nancy Z. Gabis Levine

Emily and Irving Kesser in memory of Robert Kesser

Charlotte and Harvey Zuckman in memory of

Henry Snyder

Lawrence Rosenblum in memory of Leon

Rosenblum

Rachel Cohen and Jonathan Dinman in memo-

ry of Stefanie Dinman and Bertram Dinman

Louis and Jill Lachter in memory of George W.

Lachter

PRIMARY SEDER FUND IN MEMORY OF JILL WOLLY

In honor of:

MICHAEL WOLLY on receiving the Distinguished Service Award by the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation by Cathy Friedman

RABBIS' DISCRETIONARY FUND (RABBI POKRAS)

In honor of:

RABBI POKRAS' talk at the Rabbi Joseph Caro Synagogue in Safad by Robert Drummer and Susan Stiles

ALEX BERGEN's Bar Mitzvah with deep appreciation for the support and help that Rabbi Pokras provided to Alex and us during his Bar Mitzvah prep by Robin Bergen and Janine Hackett

JORDAN PORTNOY's Bar Mitzvah for all Rabbi Pokras' guidance and wisdom in preparation for Jordan's Bar Mitzvah by Matthew and Lisa Portnoy

ABBY AND MADDIE PESKA becoming B'not Mitzvah by Sharon Peska

In memory of:

ABBY LEVIN, wife of Robert Levin, by Robert Levin

JOAN E. KOTZ, mother of Daniel Kotz, by the Kotz Family

In appreciation of:

RABBI POKRAS officiating at Aviva

Harmelech's Bat Simcha by Etan and Erica

Harmelech

RABBIS' DISCRETIONARY FUND (RABBI WEISS)

In honor of:

ALEX BERGEN's Bar Mitzvah with our deep appreciation for the help that Rabbi Weiss provided to Alex and us during his Bar Mitzvah prep and for conducting his wonderful Bar Mitzvah service by Robin Bergen and Janine Hackett

JORDAN PORTNOY's Bar Mitzvah for all Rabbi Weiss' guidance and wisdom in preparation for Jordan's Bar Mitzvah by Matthew and Lisa Portnoy

The birth of RAPHAEL WALLACH, son of Jess and Kerry Wallach, by Lois and Seymour Fishman

JOSHUA GRITZ's graduation from the University of Virginia by proud grandparents Joyce and Larrie Greenberg

In appreciation of:

RABBI WEISS for participating in the funeral of Carroll Kirsh by Ellen Kirsh

RABBI WEISS by David and Heather Handel

STUDENT FUND IN HONOR OF JUDY TREBY

In honor of:

NONA CHERN, grandmother and great-grandmother, by Matthew and Lisa Portnoy and family

SUSTAINING (GENERAL) ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of:

SAMUEL SCHWARTZ, father of Andrew Schwartz, by Mike Wolly

MYRA GOLDGEIER, mother of Jim Goldgeier, by Mike Wolly

t

TBA CARES FUND

In memory of:

VICTORY UMANSKY, husband of Linda Umansky, by Alan Eisenberg

JULES TESSLER, father of Ronni Farber, by Alan Eisenberg

TIKKUN OLAM (COMMUNITY SERVICE) FUND

In memory of:

ARLENE SCHLEIN GOLUB, mother of Jonathan Golub, by Jenny and Leonard Cohen

DEEBIE KOSS on her Birthday by Heidi Sigmon

RHEA NEEDLE, mother of Susan Dosik, by Roger and Lois Rothman

MYRA GOLDGEIER, mother of Jim Goldgeier, by Stuart and Susan Wohl

TORAH FUND FOR ADULT EDUCATION

In memory of:

ARLENE SCHLEIN GOLUB, mother of Jonathan Golub, by Marcia and Don Kaplan

WISH LIST FUND

In honor of:

The birth of ZOE PERRY WEYL, granddaughter of Lynn and Buzz Karpay, by Brad and Pat Harvey

In memory of:

JOHN DETTELBACH, father of Kim Dettelbach, by Scott and Jacqueline Kauff

ELLEN KENT, mother of Heather Handel, by Scott and Jacqueline Kauff

ARLENE SCHLEIN GOLUB, mother of Jonathan Golub, by Scott and

Jacqueline Kauff, Dorothy and Richard Fox, Phyllis and Morton

Lessans, Lawrence and Roberta Shulman, Mr. and Mrs. Franklin

Paulson, Wilda and Joe Tashof

YAHARZEIT FUND

In memory of:

NORBERT GREENEBAUM by Barbara Greenebaum

CHARLENE COHEN by Jonathan and Tracey Haber

** as of October 25, 2018

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

We mourn the recent death of:

Norma Tash
mother of Nathan (Sharon) Tash

Louise Cohn
mother of David Cohn

Samuel Schwartz
father of Andrew Schwartz

Myra Goldgeier
mother of James Goldgeier

John Dettelbach
father of Kim Dettelbach

Ellen Kent
mother of Heather Handel

Arlene Golub
mother of Jon Golub

Rhea Needle
mother of Susan Dosik

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

ONGOING Information

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 worshipping 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 cathyfriedman@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.

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.

BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR

Please consider Temple Beth Ami in your end of the year giving. You may donate by check, credit card, or appreciated stock. Also consider a legacy gift to Temple Beth Ami as part of your estate planning. Please contact Janice Rosenblatt, Executive Director, for information.

SNOW BIRDS

If you are now – or will soon be – at your winter address, 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.

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.

Can't Get to Services?

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

ONGOING *Information*

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

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

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

NEW WEBSITE!

The web team has been hard at work building TBA's new mobile-friendly website. In the web survey sent to congregants earlier this year, you told us what was important to you and we've listened. We learned that most people access the site on their phone and that most important information to find is event information and sign up, TBANS and Machane calendars, service schedules and how to easily make a donation. While a few kinks are being worked out with the URJ (they host the site), please take a look at the site and let us know your thoughts. We have been adding enhancements and improvements, so check back often. This is an ongoing project and we want to keep improving features and functions! Share your thoughts at bethamiwebsite@gmail.com

CELEBRATING? Remember MAZON

Our Congregation is a MAZON congregation which means that we contribute 3% of every event in which food is served to MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger (also \$3 of every Oneg contribution). We ask every member of the congregation to do the same.

BAR/BAT MITZVAH...contributing to Mazon brings food and help to the hungry, while it gives your child the opportunity to begin his/her Jewish adult life with a public act of Tzedakah.

WEDDING...traditionally it is the obligation of the bride and groom to feed the hungry and help the poor. By contributing 3% of the cost of your wedding celebration to MAZON, you can continue these Jewish traditions.

BOOKING A HOTEL?

If you are Booking the Hilton Garden Inn or Homewood Suites on Shady Grove Road for your guests, tell them you are members of TBA and the Temple will receive a rebate.



**Visit the Judaica Shop for great
Hanukkah gifts, entertaining needs
and candles and gelt.**

NEW DONATION OPTION!

If you prefer, you can now make donations through PayPal. Please be aware that the Pay Pal receipt is the only end-of-the-year tax receipt you will receive, so please keep it for your records. An end-of-the-year summary will be provided by the Temple to everyone who makes donations through Chaverware.

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.

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

If you are not yet connected to the Chaverweb system, it may be because we do not have an up-to-date email address. Please let the Temple office know if you did not get the emailed invitation and we will help you connect. Chaverweb will enable you to update your personal profile, view the on line membership directory, review your account, register for school, and classes, etc. If you are no longer using a land line, please enter the cell phone number you want us to have on file as your primary number.

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

You'll want to STAY CONNECTED.

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

All payments must be received by December 30 in order to be posted in this calendar year and, therefore, to appear on your 2018 tax report from the Temple.



Hanukkah

Hanukkah, meaning "dedication" in Hebrew, refers to the joyous eight-day celebration during which Jews commemorate the victory of the Maccabees over the armies of Syria in 165 B.C.E. and the subsequent liberation and "rededication" of the Temple in Jerusalem. The modern home celebration of Hanukkah centers around the lighting of the hanukkiyah, a special menorah for Hanukkah; foods prepared in oil including latkes (potato pancakes) and sufganiyot (jelly doughnuts); and special songs and games.

History:

Unlike many Jewish holidays, Hanukkah (also known as the Festival of Lights) is not mentioned in the Bible. The historical events upon which the celebration is based are recorded in Maccabees I and II, two books contained within a later collection of writings known as the Apocrypha. Although Hanukkah is considered a "minor" Jewish festival, today it ranks - along with Passover and Purim - as one of the most beloved Jewish family holidays.

In the year 168 B.C.E., the Syrian tyrant Antiochus Epiphanes sent his soldiers to Jerusalem. The Syrians desecrated the Temple, the holiest place for Jews at that time. Antiochus also abolished Judaism, outlawing the observance of Shabbat and the Festivals, as well as circumcision. Altars and idols were set up for the worship of Greek gods and he offered Jews two options: conversion or death.

On the 25th day of the Hebrew month of Kislev in 168 B.C.E., the Temple was renamed for the Greek god Zeus. A resistance movement - led by a priestly family known as the Hasmoneans, or Maccabees - developed against the cruelty of Antiochus. The head of the family was Mattathias, an elderly man. His son, Judah, became the chief strategist and military leader of the resistance. Though outnumbered, Judah Maccabee and his fighters miraculously won two major battles, routing the Syrians decisively.

Although historians debate the causes and outcomes of the war in which Judah Maccabee and his followers defeated the Syrian armies of Antiochus, there is no doubt that Hanukkah evokes stirring images of Jewish valor against overwhelming odds. Other themes rooted in the observance of the holiday include the refusal to submit to the religious demands of an empire practicing idolatry, the struggle against total assimilation into Hellenistic culture and loss of Jewish identity, and the fight for Jewish political autonomy and self-determination.

Hanukkah, which means “dedication,” is the festival that commemorates the purification and rededication of the Temple following the defilement caused by the Greeks during their occupation of that holy place. Today, the holiday reminds Jews to rededicate themselves to stand against forces that would destroy Judaism and to keep alive the flame of Jewish religion, culture, and peoplehood so that it may be passed on to the next generation.

Originally, the eight-day holiday was intended to parallel the eight-day festival of Sukkot. The Books of the Maccabees made no mention of the legend concerning a small jar of oil that unexpectedly lasted for eight days. Only centuries after the Maccabees’ defeat of the Syrians did the story of the jar of oil - which has come to be a part of Hanukkah - appear in the Talmud.

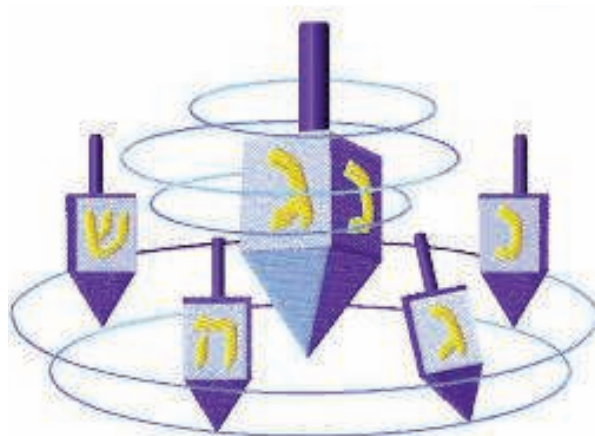
According to the legend, when the Maccabees entered the Temple and began to reclaim it from the Greeks, they immediately relit the ner tamid (eternal light), which burned constantly in the Temple and has a parallel in our synagogues to this day. In the Temple, they found a single jar of oil, which was sufficient for only one day. The messenger who was sent to secure additional oil took eight days to complete his mission, and miraculously, the single jar of oil continued to burn until his return. The rabbis of the Talmud attributed the eight days of Hanukkah to the miracle of this single jar of oil.

Although the practice of lighting the menorah was common throughout much of the 19th century, North American Jews tended to neglect most of the other traditions and practices associated with the holiday. By the 1920s, however, Jews increasingly added gift-giving to their Hanukkah celebrations, prompting Christians to refer to Hanukkah as the "Jewish Christmas."

Like many aspects of Jewish religious practice, the transformation of Hanukkah was linked to the growth of North American Jewry within its unique environment. The elevation of Hanukkah to a major holiday was the result of Jews acculturating themselves to a North America that was overwhelmingly Christian in population and symbols.

Although Hanukkah had become an important holiday among North American Jews by the 1920s, it would be incorrect to regard it as an imitation of Christmas with an emphasis on the exchange of presents. Rather, North American Jews use this holiday as a celebration of family, reinforcing Jewish identity in a place whose population may be overwhelmingly Christian but in which Jews feel at home. Hanukkah, therefore, is a means for North American Jews to feel a kinship with their neighbors, while simultaneously asserting their Jewish distinctiveness.

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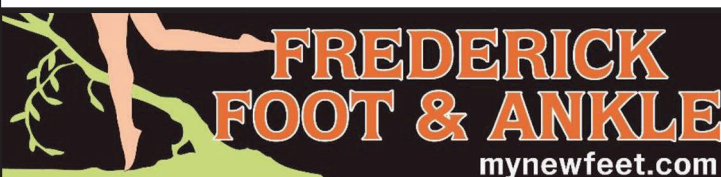
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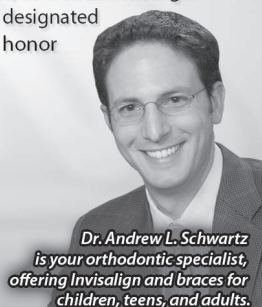
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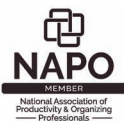
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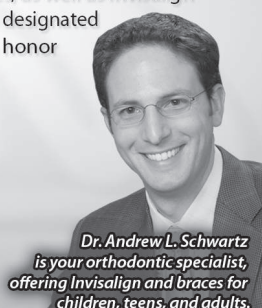
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