

TEMPLE BETH AMI Chadashot

MAY 2019 NISAN/IYAR 5779

VOLUME 46 NUMBER 10

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Friday, May 3

6:30 pm Erev Shabbat of Song & Story

Saturday, May 4

10:30 am Shabbat Service
B'nai Mitzvah: Samara Ginsberg
Noah Sexter

Sunday, May 5

10:45 am Sunday Minyan

Friday, May 10

6:30 pm Tot Shabbat -
Honoring TBA Nursery School
7:30 pm Erev Shabbat Service -
Yom Ha'atzmaut

Saturday, May 11

10:30 am Shabbat Service
Bar Mitzvah: Maxwell Tucker
10:30 am Shabbat Chapel Service

Sunday, May 12

10:45 am Sunday Minyan

Friday, May 17

6:30 pm Spirit of Shabbat

Saturday, May 18

10:30 am Shabbat Service
B'nai Mitzvah: Nathan Hirschfeld
Madison Moorhead

Sunday, May 19

10:45 am Sunday Minyan

Friday, May 24

6:45 pm Picnic Shabbat with Senior
Send Off

Oneg - Honoring Cantorial Soloist
Joshana Erenrich

Saturday, May 25

10:30 am Shabbat Service
Bat Mitzvah: Meredith Abramson

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MESSAGE FROM *Rabbi Pokras*



As a rabbi, I try to encourage us to explore every aspect of our identities, and I recognize that our ideas – even about ourselves – change over time.

Each year, our confirmands ascend the bimah on the festival of Shavuot to formally confirm their place as part of Beth Ami and the Jewish people. During the service, they will read statements about what it means to them to be Jewish. For many, hearing these statements is a powerful reminder, and sometimes a meaningful challenge. What does being Jewish mean to each of us?

The answer is deeply personal and varies from person to person. However, there is a beautiful frame which can help us find our own answers.

Anyone who has studied a second (or third) language, knows that in order to understand a language, we must also learn the culture of those who speak it. That is why great literature almost always loses something in translation, no matter how skilled the translator. Part of our challenge as American Jews is that we speak English, a language created and developed in a Christian society, which reflects Christian ideas and ideals. It is not well suited for describing what it means to be a Jew. The definition of religion is: "a set of beliefs concerning the cause, nature, and purpose of the universe, especially when considered as the creation of a superhuman agency." In other words, it is

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

JCRC's Community-Wide Holocaust Commemoration

**"Memory and Legacy," Sunday, May 5, 1:00 – 3:30 pm at
B'nai Israel Congregation (6301 Montrose Road, Rockville).
All are welcome to attend**

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Chadashot

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FRI 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
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MESSAGE FROM *Buzz Karpay, President*



For any successful organization, including synagogues, there is no such thing as standing still.

Do you try to get 10,000 steps each day? When you set that as a goal and you make a conscious effort to reach that goal, it makes you do some things you wouldn't have done otherwise; but, at the end of the day, you feel good about reaching the goal, and the goal itself serves the larger purpose of improving your health.

For any successful organization, including synagogues, there is no such thing as standing still. We are always moving and changing. If we don't plan and we don't direct our movement, we are simply drifting. But if we take stock of where we are and where we would like to be, then we can take action to move ourselves in the right direction. Having goals, as expressed in a strategic plan, makes it easier to determine and communicate what is going well, where the challenges are, and what is next for the congregation at large. It brings clarity about what are currently the most important issues for our congregants, clergy, professional staff, current and potential donors, and current and potential leaders. It also makes it easier for our Board to address questions such as: Where should we be prioritizing our valuable resources? Where are we now, compared to where we hope to be? What are some of the ways we can engage people in our most important issues? What is

happening in our areas of future interest, and what do we need to learn about them?

I'm writing this column shortly after we finished a weekend-long workshop that completed the research phase of our strategic planning effort, Vision 2020. We reviewed not only what our research teams found and what you told us during the listening campaign early in 2018, but also what the congregation thought about the draft strategic plan that has come out of our research. More than 300 congregants responded to the survey that we sent out in January, and the results were very strongly positive. You believe that the priorities we are considering are the right ones, and you believe these will move us in the right direction. Our top strategic priorities include the need to develop ways to deepen engagement through new ways of creating meaningful relationships. This requires establishing and maintaining integrated, two-way communication among our professionals, lay leaders, and congregants. This will facilitate consideration of new models for financial support of the Temple to further strengthen our financial foundation. That stronger financial foundation will allow us to explore alternative, innovative spirituality paths for those who are interested, and many have expressed such an interest. All of this will be guided and monitored by our Board, in close partnership with our clergy and professional staff.

We are in the process of preparing a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

COMING*This Month***Network
& NOSH****Network & Nosh****Friday, May 3****8 - 9:30 am**

Are you in business for yourself? A budding entrepreneur or a seasoned business owner? Join us for a light nosh and the opportunity to make valuable personal and professional connections at the Temple at our monthly get-together. Topic: Presenting Your Best Self! Facilitated by a panel of stylists and a professional head shot photographer. RSVP by 5/2 to SLG@bethami.org. Questions? Marcy Waxman(marcywaxmanrealty@gmail.com) or Ellen Davis (edavis@lifehealthhome.com). Supported by the Innovation Fund.

**Rebuilding Together****Sunday, May 5**

Grab a hammer, paintbrush, broom or rake and let's Rebuild Together. Volunteers (ages 14+) are needed to clean, paint, landscape and make necessary repairs to fix-up and brighten the home of a low income family in Montgomery County. Both skilled and unskilled volunteers are needed. This project is supported by the TBA Brotherhood and by the Temple. Please contact Roger Rothman (rothmania@aol.com) or 240.485.7642.

**Dance Demo & Lesson****Saturday, May 11****7:30 - 9 pm**

Join us at the Temple for a demonstration of several ballroom dances AND instruction, along with time to practice, facilitated by a professional dance instructor at the Arthur Murray Dance Studios! Evening includes demonstration, instruction, practice time, wine and light desserts. \$15 pp (\$20 - guest). Register online by 5/5.

**Broadway Buzz with Steve Friedman****Monday, May 13****10:30 - 12 pm**

Topic: Great Broadway Producers and their Musicals. Don't miss this popular Monday morning program, featuring footage, facts and, always, some live performance. Free for Temple members; \$10 for guests (cash or check only).

**Live & Learn with Sharon Tash Tuesdays, May 14 & 21****10:30 am -12 pm**

Topic: Let's Talk About Antisemitism. This two-part mini course will look at the disturbing rise of anti-semitism in the world. We will explore the origins of historical antisemitism up to the shocking instances of the present. Participants are strongly urged to read Deborah Lipstadt's new book Antisemitism Here and Now before the class begins. Live & Learn is open to all who wish to explore a variety of topics during the daytime. The program is supported by the Sally Kera Live & Learn Fund and the Torah Fund for Adult Education.

COMING *This Month*



Brotherhood Annual Golf Outing

Tuesday, May 14

11 am – 7 pm

All TBA members and guests, men, women, duffers and pros are invited for the Brotherhood's 17th Annual Golf Outing at Worthington Manor (Urbana, MD). This very full day of camaraderie on and off the golf course is a terrific value AND the golf outing proudly supports Rebuilding Together. Check-in at 11 am; 12:30 pm shotgun start. Register online or with form in the lobby. Cost includes range, carts, snacks, lunch and dinner. Prices start at \$129 for members of the Brotherhood. Questions? Contact Peter Cantor (pghcantor@yahoo.com).



Mezze & Mojitos Potluck Shabbat Dinner Friday, May 17

7:30 pm*

We're changing things up a bit with this month's Potluck Shabbat dinner! *Join us AFTER the "Spirit of Shabbat" Service for no-rush Mezze & Mojitos Meal (theme is subject to change). As in the past, the Temple will provide the protein for the meal (and, in this case, some cocktails); YOU register in advance and indicate if you'd like to bring a side dish or salad OR a dessert! No cost, but advance registration BY 5/14 is a MUST. We will not be able to accommodate walk-ins. Dinner is also BYO, should you have a preferred beverage of choice (beer, wine, or other). Register online. Questions? Contact Shelly (SLG@bethami.org); 301-340-6818 x227.



Picnic Shabbat & Farewell Oneg

Friday, May 24

6:45 pm

Help us celebrate and say farewell to Joshana Erenberg, Cantorial Soloist, AND kick off our Picnic Shabbat summer season (weather-permitting) out back in the Rova! High School Seniors will be honored at Senior Send off. Casual, comfortable and bring-your-own-blankets or beach chairs. Services with The ShabbaTones Temple Band will begin at 7:30 pm. Details to follow!

JULY/AUGUST CHADASHOT DEADLINE MAY 25



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

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

2020 TEMPLE ISRAEL TRIP

JULY 1 - 12, 2020

INFORMATIONAL MEETING - WEDNESDAY, MAY 22 @ 7:30 PM

See Temple website for itinerary

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

- **TBA Representative Needed for Community Reach of Montgomery County Advisory Group** - Our current liaison to Community Reach of Montgomery County (formerly Community Ministries of Rockville, or CMR) is leaving the area. We're looking for someone to take her place and help provide input from the Temple to this invaluable agency that serves vulnerable residents of Rockville and Montgomery County. For more information or to volunteer, contact Lynn Goodman at lynngoodman13@yahoo.com, or Mark Joffe at marksjoffe@gmail.com.
- **Help Area Refugee Families With Their English Skills** - Volunteers needed to tutor newly arrived immigrant families in English, either in person or via the Internet. For more information or to volunteer, contact Emil Mendelavich at emiliomendelavich@outlook.com.

COLLECTIONS

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THESE DRIVES!

- **Diaper Drive** - Please bring children's diapers (all sizes) for clients of Montgomery County Child Welfare Services and Interfaith Works to the collection boxes in the Temple lobby and Nursery School from May 10 to June 7, including during the May 24 Picnic Shabbat.
- **Heads-Up re Bra and Menstrual Hygiene Product Drive in June** - Help homeless women and girls maintain their dignity by donating new and gently used bras and new, individually sealed tampons and maxi pads to the boxes in the Temple lobby from June 1 - 21. "I Support the Girls" will distribute these items to needy women and girls worldwide. This collection is sponsored jointly by the Women of Temple Beth Ami and the Tikkun Olam Committee.
- **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, and Nursery School office. Questions? Contact Bernard Silverstein at cynbern@verizon.net.

- **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. Benefits families served by the Manna Food Center and Nourish Now.

IN THE COMMUNITY

- **Attend Community Reach of Montgomery County's Hometown Holidays in Rockville** - Support Community Reach of Montgomery County (formerly Community Ministries of Rockville, or CMR) by attending Taste of Rockville during Rockville's Hometown Holidays, May 25 and 26, 12 - 8 pm. Volunteers needed to sell food tickets for Taste of Rockville, and everyone's invited to enjoy food from many Rockville restaurants to benefit Community Reach's programs for the needy in our community. For more information or to volunteer, contact Andrea Kempner-Wink at andreaawink@cmrocks.org or 301-637-0172.



BROTHERHOOD News

The March Brotherhood Brunch with David Weinstein was a great success - it was really fantastic! Thank you to Ira Greenspan for scheduling David and thank you everyone in attendance – more than 40 participants enjoyed great food and discussions. David certainly prepared a great multimedia presentation of Eddie Cantor's life. I believe that every book David brought was sold. If you missed this event, you can purchase David Weinstein's book on Amazon or your favorite retailer "The Eddie Cantor Story: A Jewish Life in Performance and Politics." David wrote a lovely thank you email; here's a segment, "I appreciate everybody's warmth and hospitality. It was nice seeing old friends like Matt and making new friends. I especially enjoyed the Q & A and speaking with members at the book table

after the formal presentation. So many attendees had interesting thoughts and memories of Eddie Cantor and his times."



the Brotherhood's 17th Annual Golf Outing, Tues, May 14 (11 am to 7:00 pm). Mark your calendar and join us at Worthington Manor Golf Club (Urbana, MD) for a fabulous day of golf and camaraderie! Open to all TBA members and their guests; men

Now that spring is here, softball is underway and we're concluding this Machane season. The last but certainly not least, of all events is



and women; duffers and pros! Check-in begins at 11 am, followed by a shot-gun start at 12:30 pm and dinner, awards and raffle at 5:30 pm. Opportunities exist for sponsors and for contributions to Rebuilding Together, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing free home improvement and repairs to our neighbors in need.

If anyone has recommendations or suggestions for Brotherhood events (Brunches, outings, etc) please pass them my way!

Shalom,

Steve Roberts

Brotherhood Prez



WOMEN OF TEMPLE BETH AMI

News

Book Club

The WTBA Book Club will meet in the TBA library on May 28 from 7:30 – 9 pm to discuss The Book Smugglers by David E. Fishman. In addition, we will share book suggestions for future Book Club meetings and select books for 2019-2020. Please contact Terry Steinberg at 301-926-0815 or steinberg_4@comcast.net with any questions.

Welcome to Summer Celebration

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, June 12 from 6:00 – 8:30 pm and plan to join us at the Temple for our Welcome to Summer Celebration. We will welcome back Dr. Tobie Beckerman, an OB/GYN and integrative gynecologist at Beckerman Women's Health in Gaithersburg. Dr. Beckerman will speak about women's health and answer our questions.

Purim Café

WTBA hosted another successful Purim

Café in March. We appreciate everyone who stopped by for dinner during the Shushan Showcase. Thank you to those who volunteered to help: Terry Steinberg, Livia Weinstein, Marilyn Lipowsky, Jeanne Kahn, Leslie Shapiro, Judi Goozh, Holly and Ron Lobel, Jody Rosenblum, Sue Sailer, and co-chairs Linda Burka and Rhona Arbit. A special thanks to Jeanne Kahn for making her delicious vegetarian lasagna.

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 Eve Lader at 301-938-0200 or evelader@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.

Drop-in Mah Jongg sessions are held at the Temple every Monday afternoon from 1 – 3 pm when the Temple is open. Please contact Rachel Maryn at rmryn@verizon.net for more information or to be added to the email list.

WTBA E-mail Address

Please send an email with your questions or comments to womenoftemplebethami@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you!

Elizabeth Joseloff

WTBA Chadashot article editor
ejoseloff@gmail.com



NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

*Paula Sayag,
Director*



Leaving TBANS is Such Sweet Sorrow: Parent Committee Co-Chairs Share Their Thoughts as Their Families Graduate

Siyyum (Dalet's year-end celebration) is rapidly approaching, and those families whose youngest child is graduating from TBANS are feeling all the feels. Three such moms, who have also served as Parent Committee Co-Chairs during their years at TBANS, share what both the school and the Parent Committee have meant to them.

JF: As a graduating family, what did your years at TBANS mean to you?

Jamie Wolinsky: The years at TBANS have meant everything to me. They have seen me through the births of my children and their beginning education. They have helped shape them into the individuals they are growing into. I have friendships I have made that I know will last a lifetime. The teachers at school supported, taught, guided and loved my kids as their own.

Tammy Rosner: TBANS has given my children the foundation they need to be successful, not only academically, but socially and emotionally. People I have met through TBANS have become like family to my family. It's easy to be there for the fun and laughter, but it's the other times that mean the most, and the TBANS community is there for

both. As for my family as a whole, we love the Judaism from TBANS that fills our lives.

Rachel Azoff: I will always remember the amazing teachers and staff. I will always remember the sense of community and all the love and support. I will always remember attending all the super fun events—Community Shabbats, Tot Shabbats, Shabbat Boy, holiday celebrations, the Macabbiah games, book fair festival, teacher scoop night, and the list goes on! And I will always remember and be incredibly grateful for the friendships my family has made during our time at TBANS.

JF: What did giving back to TBANS as Parent Committee Co-Chair mean to you?

Jamie Wolinsky: I felt I was having a direct impact on the education and quality of that education for my children. The parents are responsible for so many new and interesting projects started at TBANS. I truly believe that showing your children that you value education and make it a priority reflects in their love of school. The most fun part of Parent Committee was working closely with friends. It was a coming together of ideas and different talents.

Tammy Rosner: Being Co-Chair of the Parent Committee has been such an honor. I love the variety of our focus.

We have in-school programming for the kids, community building events for families, tzedakah projects, Temple relations contributions, and of course fundraising efforts to support it all. Having the opportunity to meet parents, work closely with the administration, and watch the kids enjoy their pre-school experience has been extremely rewarding.

Rachel Azoff: I was nervous at first because I wasn't quite sure what to expect! I'm so glad I took the plunge as it was an incredible experience and manageable even while pregnant and having a newborn! It was a GREAT way to meet parents and feel an instant connection to TBANS. I've always enjoyed attending the monthly Parent Committee meetings where we reflect, plan, and share ideas in a fun and relaxed environment.

THANK YOU to Jamie, Tammy, and Rachel, as well as the following graduating parents who have chaired events or made other significant contributions to the TBANS Parent Committee: Samantha Friedman, Amy Klinger, Cindy McAllister, Jax Stief, and Dani Woo.

Compiled by *Jodie Fishman*,
TBANS Correspondent

SEE PHOTOS PAGE 12

B'NAI MITZVAH*Profiles*

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



SAMARA GINSBERG, daughter of Jonathan and Debbie, will become a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, May 4. She is a 7th grade student at Lakelands Park Middle Schools. For her Bat Mitzvah project, Sam is organizing a Tikkun Olam event for Rise Against Hunger, an international famine relief organization, to help feed thousands of families.



NOAH GABRIEL SEXTER, son of Reed and Joanna, will become a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, May 4. He is a 7th grade student at Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School. Noah has an older brother, Will. For his Bar Mitzvah project, Noah has been volunteering with Friendship Circle, an organization whose mission is to bring happiness and companionship to children with special needs.



MAXWELL SETH TUCKER, son of Jeremy and Laurie, will become a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, May 11. He is a 6th grade student at Robert Frost Middle School. Max has a younger brother, Jared.



MADISON CLAIRE MOOHEAD, daughter of Sally and David, will become a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, May 18. She is a 7th grade student at Robert Frost Middle School. Madison has an older brother, Ryan. For her Bat Mitzvah project, Madison is collecting toiletries and infant supplies and donating them to the National Center for Children and Families/Greentree Shelter in Bethesda, MD.



NATHAN HIRSCHFELD, son of Jaime and Adam, will become a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, May 18. He is a 7th grade student at the Bullis School. Nathan has a younger brother, Andrew.



MEREDITH ABRAMSON, daughter of Jordan and Andra, will become a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, May 25. She is a 7th grade student at Lakelands Park Middle School. For her Bat Mitzvah project, Meredith is collecting books for the Maryland Book Bank, a non-profit organization that gives away books to families and schools in underserved communities. Her goal is to collect 5120 books, which will be the largest donation in the organization's history.

YOU are WHY we do it; MONEY is HOW we do it

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

JUNE 30 - THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR. All accounts for this fiscal year, July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019, should be paid in full. It is very important to us that everyone who wants to be a member of our Temple community. We are here to help you, but we need to hear from you. Unless our Executive Director, Janice Rosenblatt, is contacted by you, all accounts not paid in full for the past fiscal year (July 1, 2017- June 30, 2018) will be resigned as of June 30.

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

MACHANE TBA NEWS

*Kim Roberts,
Director*



Calendar

Sunday, May 5

Machane TBA In Session

Gr 3 - 6 Kehillah 12:30 - 2 pm Gaga

Tuesday, May 7

Mid-Week Gr 3 - 6 in session

TBAjrHigh in session-LAST DAY

TBAHigh Core 1 Night-LAST DAY

Sunday, May 12

Machane TBA In Session

Tuesday, May 14

Mid-Week Gr 3 - 6 in session-
LAST DAY

Friday-Sunday, May 17 - 19

BBYO Council Convention

Sunday, May 19

Machane TBA In Session-LAST
DAY

K - 2 9:00 - 11 am

Gr 3 - 6 9:00 - 11:15 am

NO Primary Enrichment

Tuesday, May 21

Grade 10 Confirmation

Rehearsal

6:30 - 8 pm

Friday, May 24

Picnic Shabbat w/Senior Send off

Picnic 6:45 pm Service 7:30 pm

Tuesday, May 28

Grade 10 Confirmation Rehearsal

6:30 - 8 pm

Thursday, May 30

Kayitz Staff Training



NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR MORE PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Kehillah (Community) is a very important part of the Machane TBA program. We spend the first 15 minutes of every class getting to know our students as people so that we can then get to know them as learners. We offer social Kehillah programs in grades K-12 in a variety of ways. There are after-school enrichment programs, offsite afternoon and day trips for older students, and amazing overnight trips and retreats in grades 3-12. All of these opportunities bolster relationships and connections for our students.

In order to build on this investment in creating community, we are seeking a group of parents who will focus on the topic of kehillah for Machane TBA parents and families. This group will help to organize and coordinate an opening Family Fun Festival as well as grade level kehillah programming. Examples of this

might include Sunday breakfast gatherings for parents and other get-togethers. Our new kehillah team will be intentionally focused so that your time commitment will be minimal and manageable.

At Machane TBA we love to welcome parents. We offer several parent/child workshops in grades 2-7, we have family Shabbat programming, and we try to provide opportunities for parents to talk about topics that are relevant to today's realities. In short, we want our parents to be involved with all aspects of our Jewish educational experiences and this new kehillah committee is another way to build relationships and get involved.

We would be delighted if you would like to join in this new endeavor! Please email Kim Roberts at ker@bethami.org and let her know if you'd like to be part of our new kehillah (community) team. We will be back in touch with you once the groups are formed.

Tefillah Buddy Day



MACHANE TBA/TBA JRHIGH

6th Grade, Choice Chugim, Matzah Plate Design



SIMCHAS

Mazel Tov to...

Jonah Goldberg, Zac Hammerschmidt, Adin Bokman, Matthew Repie and Zachary Green each on becoming a Bar Mitzvah

Hannah Bernstein and Jessica Bernstein each on becoming a Bat Mitzvah

Nicole, Adam and Brayden Spector on the birth of their son and brother, **Dylan Tyler Spector**

Janet and Jay Liebowitz on the birth of their grandson, **Zev Harold Liebowitz**

Mindy and David Landau on the birth of their granddaughter, **Ella Bea Schatz**

Alice Langholt (Reiki Awakenings) on being named Gaithersburg's 2018 Small Businessperson of the Year

Jamie and Brian Ratner on their business, CertifiKID, being successful on Shark Tank

Special Thanks To:

Purim Project Committee

Our Shabbat Hospitality Committee

The Cookie Brigade for our Oneg cookies and Purim Hamantaschen

The Culinary Crew for our Shabbat challot

Temple Beth Ami would like to develop a rapid response capability to help meet urgent needs in the community. We're looking for people with expertise and/or an interest in the area. If you are interested, please contact Janice Rosenblatt at jsr@bethami.org

Celebrate Joshana
At Picnic Shabbat, Friday, May 24
See details on page 4

PHOTO REVIEW

TBANS Volunteers



TBANS 30th Anniversary Gala Volunteers



Maccabiah Games

PHOTO REVIEW

Purim Around the Temple



COMMITTEE

News

IMPORTANT UPDATE ABOUT FINANCIAL AID FOR FY20

In March 2018, with approval from the Board of Directors, the Financial Secretaries' Committee began using a new method of determining how much financial aid we are able to give to the families who need it. Details of this process were described in our article in the April Chadashot.

It must be noted that, due to yearly fluctuations in our available funds, as well as in the number of applicants, we cannot guarantee that the same amount of aid will be distributed to any given family from year to year. All applicants must re-apply this year to receive aid.

Later this month (May), the TBA website will have available the updated application form for financial aid for FY20 (the 2019 - 2020 fiscal year). As before, this form can be completed electronically (or printed and filled out by hand, if needed) and e-mailed to FinAid@bethami.org or snail-mailed to the Committee.

A worksheet will be in the application form so that you can compute your annual financial obligation to the Temple in order to estimate your requested amount of financial aid. At the end of the application, will be an optional worksheet that can be used to estimate a family's annual expenses.

Please note:

ALL ACCOUNTS MUST BE CURRENT FROM FY19 IN ORDER TO BE CONSIDERED FOR FINANCIAL AID FOR FY20.

ALL APPLICANTS MUST SUBMIT A FULL **NEW** APPLICATION FOR FY20 BY **JUNE 30 2019**, AND MUST DEMONSTRATE FINANCIAL NEED TO BE CONSIDERED FOR AID.

We are here to help. If you have any questions or we can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out through FinAid@bethami.org

Burt Feldman, Lead Financial Secretary
Andra Abramson, Asst. Financial Secretary
Carol S. Martin, Financial Secretary

TIKKUN OLAM IN ACTION

Inclusion Shabbat Highlighted Inclusion Issues at the Temple and Beyond

As you may know, the Temple has had an Inclusion Committee for many years. Recently, the committee focused on the issue of food allergies by implementing a food allergy policy for the Temple, Nursery School, and Religious School. Other areas of focus have included a "sensory friendly" Shabbat and Purim carnival, large-print prayer books, hearing devices, and adding information on inclusion to the TBA website. Currently, the committee is exploring opportunities at TBA for the socialization and/or volunteer experiences for young adult congregants with disabilities. For the past 2 years, the committee, along with the Clergy, has also focused on building awareness during the Jewish Disability Awareness and Inclusion month of February.

The Friday night Inclusion Service, was a perfect example of this collaboration. Rabbi Luxemburg led the potluck, pre-Shabbat crowd in a prayer for the children and gave a brief overview of TBA's history of inclusion. The guest speaker was Aaron Kaufman, Senior Legislative Associate at the Jewish Federations of North America. As a respected and committed advocate for advancing the causes of people with disabilities, Aaron meets with elected officials, drafts testimony, and testifies on proposed regulations at the local, state, and federal levels. All of this occurs in spite of the fact that Aaron has cerebral palsy. Aaron was introduced by congregant Jonathan Westin, who has the privilege of working with Aaron and calls him his hero. Aaron spoke from his heart about the concerns of the disabled. He mentioned that people sometimes do not know how to relate to him. He spoke of how he wants to date and how hard it is to access buildings when they do not provide improvements such as ramps. He highlighted his work in advocating for the rights of the disabled. Rabbi Weiss gave a beautiful sermon on inclusion, followed by Cantor Eschler's rendition of the song "You Will Be Found," from the play Dear Evan Hansen.

Should you or someone you know be concerned about disability-related issues at Temple Beth Ami, you are encouraged to reach out to the Inclusion Committee by contacting Judi Goozh at paul-judig@verizon.net.

Community of Action - March for Our Schools



The Community of Action has continued to advocate at both the state and county level to support ways to narrow the opportunity gap in Montgomery County Schools. In late winter, members met with State Delegate Marc Korman to specifically discuss South Lake's construction needs and how best to advocate for these. As a follow up, members coordinated with South Lake parents, as well as testified themselves, in Annapolis, in support of bills before the House and Senate to use state revenues obtained from casinos to service 30-year bonds, the proceeds of which would be used for school construction. Not only South Lake but all Montgomery County schools under this legislation would be able to tap into an additional \$400 billion of school construction funding.

Also at the state level, advocating for the Kirwan Commission's recommendations to end the \$2.9 billion gap impacting Maryland schools was an important priority. The Community of Action supported the successful March for Our Schools in Annapolis through publicity and providing links via Up-to-the Minute where by interested congregants could access free bus transportation at various locations throughout the county to attend the evening March in Annapolis.

At the county level, the Community of Action has continued to speak out for South Lake's immediate safety needs as well as long-term needs for a new facility. Members assisted at a Market Day event at the school where County Executive Marc Elrich, along

with several County Council members, were on hand to learn more about the school's needs in listening sessions conducted with parents and teachers. Later, Community of Action reached out to congregants to support the AIM (Action in Montgomery) Action held at the Bethel World Outreach Church in Olney. At this meeting attended by over 300, County Executive Elrich and those County Council members in attendance, were asked to commit to support actions in the areas of education, immigration and housing. Specifically for education, elected officials were asked to commit to expanding the Excel Beyond the Bell program, first piloted at South Lake three years ago, to two additional schools, and also to commit funding school construction for South Lake and Burnt Mills in the 2020 Capital Budget. Community of Action was also able to provide transportation support for South Lake families to attend the Action in Olney.

LAY LEADERS NEEDED FOR SUMMER SERVICES

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

COMING SOON IN JUNE

Broadway Buzz with Steve Friedman

Monday, June 3

10:30 am – 12 pm

Live & Learn with Jen Miller

Tuesdays, June 4, 11, 18

10:30 am – 12pm

Network & Nosh with Rabbi Weiss

Friday, June 7

8 - 9:30 am

SERVICES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Sunday, May 26

10:45 am Sunday Minyan

Friday, May 31

7:30 pm Erev Shabbat Service

Saturday, June 1

10:30 am Shabbat Service

B'nai Mitzvah: Jack Evans

Ryan Loew

Sunday, June 2

10:45 am Sunday Minyan

Thursday, June 6

11:30 am Torah Service

Bat Mitzvah: Grace Schulwolf

Friday, June 7

6:30 pm Erev Shabbat of Song & Story

Saturday, June 8

10:30 am Shabbat Service

Bat Mitzvah: Brielle Rudolph

10:30 am Shabbat Chapel Service

5:30 pm Erev Shavuot Service including Yizkor

Adult B'nai Mitzvah Celebration

8:30 pm Tikkun L'eil Shavuot

Sunday, June 9

10:30 am Shavuot Confirmation Service including Yizkor

Summer Hours Begin June 3

Starting on June 3, the building will close at 7pm on Monday and Tuesday evenings. The building will reopen on Tuesday evenings starting September 3.

RABBI CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

all about belief. Those who believe the central tenants of Christianity are Christian, those who do not, are not. However, for us, things are not so simple. If we really want to get somewhere, we need to turn to our language, to Hebrew. In Hebrew we are called: B'nei Yisrael – the children of Israel.

What does that mean?

Rabbi Mordechai Kaplan, the founder of Reconstructionist Judaism conceived of a layered answer:

First, we are all descended from the same man, whose name was changed from Jacob to Israel. We do not see ourselves merely as his spiritual descendants but as his genetic stock. With this in mind, Kaplan describes us as a large extended family.

Second, we are also a nation. The modern state of Israel is the third Jewish commonwealth in our ancient homeland.

Third, we are a religion, in a covenantal relationship with the Eternal.

Fourth, we are a culture, with our own languages, art, music, etc.

Fifth, we are an ethnicity (i.e. Jewish-Americans)

Taken together, these five things, according to Kaplan, we are not a religion but a civilization. We are a civilization with strong familial, national, religious, cultural and ethnic components. This is why some of us are more religious, others more cultural, and others still more focused on our national interests. As a rabbi, I try to encourage us to explore every aspect of our identities, and I recognize that our ideas – even about ourselves – change over time.

One of the best ways to explore all five aspects of being Jewish is to travel to Israel, with your rabbi! Our next congregational trip to Israel is already in the works, and details can be found on our website at <https://bethami.org/jewish-life/israel/>. In addition, we will be getting together for an informational session on Wednesday, May 22 at 7:30 pm, when I will share more details about the trip and answer your questions. Please rsvp to Susan Neumann at spn@bethami.org so that we can have enough seats set for everyone.

Finally, whether you will be coming to Israel or not, we can all celebrate our Jewish identity with our Confirmation students on Shavuot, June 9, at 10:30 am. Who knows, you might even be inspired to think a little more about, well, you!

Warm Regards,

Rabbi Gary Pokras

PRESIDENT CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

calendar to keep you apprised of when various topics will be discussed and when key votes will be taken. I will keep you posted on what is happening so that if you are interested in participating, you will be able to do so. If you know that one of the priorities I have mentioned above is of interest to you, please let me know. I want you to be part of the process. You can call me or send an email to TBAPresident@bethami.org.

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be for a blessing"*

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father of Allison Weintraub
grandfather of Drew, Dylan and Zakary

Ronald Fox
father of David Fox

Mildred Covell Schultz
aunt of Deborah Henken

Ken Evans
father of Owen Evans

Adele Shapiro
mother of Rob Shapiro

Dr. Clifford Alper
father of Lynn Stander

Ben Williamowsky
grandfather of Amy Winokur

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

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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The birth of our granddaughter, ELLA BEA SCHATZ, by David and Mindy Landau

In memory of:

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In honor of:

CANTOR LARRY ESCHLER with great appreciation for all his work with Brady and making his Bar Mitzvah service so wonderful, by Michael Cohen and Amy Glaser and family

In memory of:

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ROBERT KAY and appreciation for CANTOR ESCHLER'S support by the Kay Family

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MILLICENT WEINSTEIN, mother of Barbara Willens, by Lynn and Buzz Karpay

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Mary Ann Greenburg in memory of Peter Greenburg

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Madeline and Steven D'Alessio in memory of Jeanette D'Alessio

Rabbi Baht Weiss and Todd Cohen in memory of Rabbi Aaron J. Weiss

Deborah Henken in memory of Mildred Covell Schultz

Shelley and Richard Miller in memory of Pearl Bloom and Harry Bloom

Ellen Davis and Myra Kaplan in memory of Robert Davis

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MYER GOLOMB and BERNICE LUXEMBURG by Sandra and Ed Green

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In memory of:

ROBERT KAY, father of Debra Strickman, by Michael Strickman

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In honor of:

RABBI POKRAS for all his help in preparing Brady for his Bar Mitzvah by Michael Cohen and Amy Glaser

RABBI POKRA, by Mina Parr and Family

RABBI POKRAS for his support and kind words in memory of my Mom, Ilene Dashoff, by the Dashoff Family

In appreciation of:

HELEN SALZBERG by Edythe and Darryl Runett

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND – RABBI BAHT WEISS

In honor of:

RABBI WEISS for helping Brady prepare for his Bar Mitzvah and leading such a wonderful service by Michael Cohen and Amy Glaser

The naming of ELLIE LEVINE by Matthew and Lindsay Levine

RABBI WEISS for her support and for leading the prayers during the shiva in honor of the memory of Adele Shapiro by the Shapiro Family

RABBI WEISS by Mina Parr and Family

RABBI WEISS for her support and kind words in memory of my Mom, Ilene Dashoff, by the Dashoff Family

In memory of:

ROBERT KAY, with appreciation for Rabbi Weiss' support, by the Kay Family

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LESLIE MILK on being named Washingtonian of the Year by Cathy Friedman

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SAMUEL KAHN, husband of Irma Kahn, by Lynn and Buzz Karpay

ADELE SHAPIRO, mother of Rob Shapiro, by Scott and Jacqueline Kauff

TIKKUN OLAM – REFUGEES

In gratitude by CATHERINE COPP for Shalach Manot received from Rhona and Terry Arbit, Judy and Mitchell Glassman, Sue Potechin and Mark Kamins, Jill and Woodie Kessel, Jim and Sherri Lieberman, Janet and Tom Schiller, Sue Kassell and Lee Schwab, Sheila Yuter

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WOMEN OF TEMPLE BETH AMI

In memory of:

ARTHUR WILLCHER, father of Leslie Shapiro, by Jeanne and David Kahn

DOROTHY MILLER on her Yahrzeit by Holly Lobel

** AS OF 3/25/2019

ONGOING *Information*

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.

ARE YOUR AWAY? HAVE YOU MOVED? HAVE YOU RESIGNED?

Please let the office know of any change of address, even if it is just for a month or two, or membership status. It is very costly for the Temple when the newsletters are returned, when we pay postage to mail letters that never arrive (only first class mail is forwarded), or when we send materials to people who no longer live in the area and/or are no longer members. Please help us save natural resources (trees) and the Temple's financial resources. Thank you

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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.

OUR DIRECTORY IS ON-LINE

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

SHABBAT MORNING MINYAN

On Shabbat mornings when there is not a service scheduled in the sanctuary, a short (10 – 20 minute) minyan service, including the recitation of kaddish, will be conducted by the clergy in the Yarden social hall immediately following Torah study at approximately 10am. If Torah study is still going on when you arrive, please feel free to come and listen.

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

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

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

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.

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.

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 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.

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