

TEMPLE BETH O'R/BETH TORAH

# BETH REPORTER

SHEVAT / ADAR 5775

FEBRUARY 2015

## SOL SERN MEMORIAL PROGRAM



Renowned humorist, raconteur  
and author

**MOSHE WALDOKS**

*presents*

## **Beyond Laughter Through Tears: A Short History of Jewish Humor**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, AT 3:00 PM**

*Join us for an afternoon of laughter and learning as one of the  
leading authorities on Jewish humor takes us*

*on an  
unforgettable journey of joy!*

**THE PROGRAM IS FREE AND  
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.**



The program is co-sponsored by a HEART (History, Education, Arts Reaching  
Thousands) Grant from the Union County Freeholders and by the  
TBO/BT Sol Sern Memorial Fund.

## FROM THE CANTOR



I've been thinking this week about Hershele of Ostropol. Hershele was a prankster and a folk hero from the late eighteenth century from Ostropol in the Ukraine, who in his later years became a court jester of sorts to Rabbi Boruch of Mezbizh who is supposed to have suffered from melancholy.

Hershele, according to legend, wandered from place to place frequenting many inns along the way, and the stories told about him are all intended to elicit a chuckle.

One story tells of the time Hershele stopped off for the night at a deserted inn. "I'm dying of hunger," Hershele told the innkeeper. "Please give me something to eat."

The innkeeper took a good look at his guest, and as he was unkempt and appeared rather unsavory, he figured he would never be able to pay the bill, and so told him he was all out of food for the night. Hershele looked straight at the man and exclaimed: "You're going to refuse me? In that case, I'm going to have to do what my father did when they refused him! Is that what you want me to do? Do you?"

The innkeeper grew frightened and asked him exactly what it was that his father did. Hershele belted out, "You want to know what he did? He did just what he had to do!"

This frightened the innkeeper even more, and thinking he might have a thief, murderer, or worse as a guest, he hurried to the kitchen and returned with a plate of chicken, kishke, fish and black bread. After Hershele devoured the food and complimented him on the meal, he asked, "Please tell me, good sir, what exactly was it that your father did?"

"Oh yes, my father," said Hershele. "Whenever he could not get anything to eat –well, he went to bed hungry."

It was Milton Berle who is supposed to have coined the line, "Laughter is an instant vacation." I think it is fair to say that with the steady stream of headlines emanating from every corner of our turbulent globe, we can all use a respite. An evening of laughter, an instant mini-vacation, would be perfect!

And so let me suggest that you not miss this year's Sol Sern Memorial Program. Humorist, raconteur and

scholar Moshe Waldoks will present a program on the history of Jewish humor that will make you laugh and also make you think. Reb Moshe, as he is called, is the author of the acclaimed "Big Book of Jewish Humor." In it you can find a number of stories about Hershele of Ostropol, and many, many other interesting and humorous ones as well. I'm surely not suggesting anyone cancel a vacation cruise or winter trip to Florida, but I have no doubt that joining us on Sunday, February 22 will leave one uplifted and refreshed!

While it is important to be distracted every once in a while, we surely do need to keep a focus on what is going on in the world, with events in the Middle East being especially important to us. And so I urge you to attend the talk by Dr. Mordechai Kedar on the "The Future of the Middle East" on February 16 at 2 pm. Professor Kedar is a highly respected authority on Arab culture and religion, and he will shed light on the situation in the Middle East and its global impact. The program is sponsored by the Israel Support Committee of Central New Jersey, and TBOBT is privileged to host this program here at our temple. See you then.

B'Shalom,  
Cantor Steven Stern

### THE CHOREOGRAPHY OF THE SHABBAT SERVICE

"WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?"

**Wednesdays, February 4 & 11 at 8 pm**

Have you ever wondered what's going on at a Shabbat service? When do I stand and when do I sit? What do the prayers really mean? Who gets called to the Torah? These and any other questions you may have will be answered at these informative and clarifying sessions for both beginners and regular daveners led by Cantor Steven Stern.



**TORAH CAFE AT THE BAYIT**  
**Tuesdays, February 17 & 24**  
**at 7:30 pm**

Join Cantor Stern at the Bayit,  
117 John Street, at 7:30 pm for an in-depth  
look at Torah texts & topics.

## FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS



Shalom,

It is always good to report on the positive side.

Yes, our Shul continues to be “The Place to Be”. The programs just keep on coming, giving us a bright

outlook for the future.

The January 18<sup>th</sup> Mystery Dinner program was well received. We are so fortunate to have a hard working committee taking care of our events.

The Beth El Tefillah Band and Movie Night was another success.

A great event is coming up in June. It will be our major fundraiser of the year. Watch for details!

This month we have the Sol Sern Program and in March, the Mark & Edith Lief Lecture with prime speakers. Cantor’s educational classes continue.

It has been difficult to get our congregants out during this time of the year. But we are still able to have our services. Please come to services when you can. We are here seven days a week — share one of your days with us.

This coming month TBOBT will be working on next year’s Board slate. Don’t forget to join us, work with us, support us, and support the Jewish community.

Be safe, travel safe.

Sincerely,

Wendy Mandelbaum & Howard Silverman  
Co-Presidents

## February

### *Happy Anniversary!*

Jon-Henry & Lauren Barr  
Harvin & Sheri Freedman

### **Happy Birthday!**

Susan Barr	Lorraine Loshin
Aaron Bloom	Alan Mandelbaum
Jill Burkhard	Sue Margulies
Scott Curtis	Alan Rubin
Claudia Dorsch	Meryl Rubin
Morgan Dorsch	Evelyn Schisler
Beverly Elsner	Jay Schlesinger
Joel Glassman	Scott Seidman
Doris Kalish	Howard Silverman
Russel Kelner	Michelle Sion
Leonard Kosberg	Muriel Tannenbaum
Mindy Leibowitz	

### *Got a Simcha?*

**Birthday? Anniversary? Graduation?  
New grandchild?**

**Host a Kiddush at TBO/BT**

**Sponsor a simple Kiddush for \$136 or  
make a donation**

**of \$18 or more to the Kiddush Fund.**

**Contact Julia at 732-381-8403 x11 or  
tbethor@gmail.com.**

### **What’s Up for Shabbat in February?**

**Dress Down Shabbat**— Come casual for our Shabbat services on Friday & Saturday, **February 13 & 14.**

**Simcha Shabbat**—We will celebrate all birthdays and anniversaries in the month of February on Saturday, **February 28.** Come for a blessing and share your simcha with your TBO/BT family!

### **Combined Morning Minyan**

**In the month of February  
will be held in Cranford.**

Monday & Thursday – 6:50 am; Tuesday,  
Wed., & Friday – 7:00 am;

Sundays & Holidays in Clark - 9:00 am.

Evening Services are held every day at 7:30 pm in Cranford.



### SISTERHOOD PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Yes, it's that time of year again! Purim is just around the corner and it's time to order your shalach mones baskets and certificates. Enclosed with this bulletin is your order form. Please read the form carefully as

there have been some changes. There are new rules for baskets and certificates. Also, we will only deliver baskets to the towns of Clark, Cranford, parts of Edison, Scotch Plains and Westfield. So we encourage you to attend the Megillah Reading on Wednesday, March 4th and pick up your own basket after the service. Remember to send your order by February 20th to Helene Davis, 323 Cedar Avenue, Highland Park, NJ 08904, with your check made payable to TBO/BT Sisterhood. This is not only a mitzvah, but it also helps Sisterhood financially support the temple. So on behalf of Sisterhood, thank you in advance for your order. You will not be disappointed!

Joleen Fridson

#### Special Fund

Donations to Special Fund can be made for any occasion for a minimum donation of \$5.00. You will receive 100% donor credit. To send a beautiful Special Fund card call: Gene Berry (732-388-3453).

#### Golden Books

To send a Golden Book for any occasion, call: Joan Oberman (732-381-4322)  
Evie Shulman (908-276-6894)  
Betty Needleman (908-389-0911)

Cards are sent for \$3.00 and you will receive \$1.50 donor credit, or pick up a pack of 10 cards for \$20.00 with \$15.00 donor credit and send them yourself. They can be picked up from the office. Please send checks to Esther Schlesinger (9 Pine Ridge Dr., Edison, NJ 08820) or call (732) 548-7132 for the amount owed.

## GOLDEN BOOKS

### IN MEMORY OF

To: Susan Weinshanker in memory of her father Hy Kuperstein  
From: Norma & Jack Weinshanker



## JUDAICA SHOP NEWS

Got some holidays coming up! Purim in March and Passover in April, to be exact. For Purim, we have wooden noisemakers, Frisbees and puzzles. For Passover, we have matzo covers, Afikomen covers, horseradish and saltwater containers, a beautiful glass charoset bowl, seder plates in all shapes, sizes and materials, card games for the children, matzo crumb sweepers, matzo trays, oven mitts, potholders and aprons. Of course, we have children's books about the holidays, too. Remember - if you don't see what you want in the display case, ask me! Nancy Kelner = [nkelner@aol.com](mailto:nkelner@aol.com) or 908-272-9072.

### INCOME TAX INFORMATION

Sisterhood makes a 5% profit on all ShopRite and A&P vouchers sold. Therefore you are entitled to claim that 5% as a charitable deduction on your income tax. If you are not sure how much donor credit (also 5%) you have received for vouchers, please contact Esther Schlesinger (732-548-7132).

### Vouchers:

ShopRite and A&P vouchers are available at Sisterhood functions and in the temple office.

## STAY HEALTHY THIS WINTER!

**Wash hands often.**

**Sneeze into your elbow!  
(not your hand)**

**Get plenty of rest.**

**Eat healthy food.**

**If you don't feel well:**

**Please stay home.**

**Call your doctor.**

**Have a healthy &  
safe winter!**

## ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS HIGHLIGHTS

(See details in the Adult Education Brochure)

- **THE CHOREOGRAPHY OF THE SHABBAT SERVICE**  
Wednesdays, February 4 & 11 at 8 pm  
led by Cantor Steven Stern.
- **TORAH CAFÉ AT THE BAYIT**  
Join Cantor Stern at the Bayit, 117 John Street, for an in-depth look at Torah texts and topics.  
Tuesday, February 17 at 7:30 pm  
Tuesday, February 24 at 7:30 pm
- **SOL SERN MEMORIAL LECTURE**  
Sunday, February 22, 2015, 3:00 pm  
*Beyond Laughter Through Tears:  
A Short History of Jewish Humor  
With author Moshe Waldoks*  
This program is made possible in part by a HEART (History, Education, Arts Reaching Thousands) Grant from the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders.
- **EDITH & MARK LIEF MEMORIAL PROGRAM**  
Sunday, March 29 at 3 pm  
The program will feature a documentary “50 Children: The Rescue Mission of Mr. & Mrs. Kraus”  
The film tells the saga of the Philadelphia couple who brought 50 Jewish children from Vienna to Philadelphia in 1939 before the start of World War II. This was the largest kindertransport to the United States. Steven Pressmen, the filmmaker and the author of the book of the same name, will speak at the screening. Paul Beller, at the time one of the young children on the transport, will also tell his story.  
The program is free and open to the public.



**BOOK DISCUSSION**  
**Sunday, February 1, 9:45 am**  
***Suddenly, Love***  
**By Aharon Appelfeld**

# TBOBT USY

If You Understand this Jumble - We Want You in the Mix!

## Coming soon!

**February Chapter Event:** February 21—Dr. Who Movie Night. 8:00-11:00 PM. @ TBOBT. Chaperones needed. Contact B. James to volunteer.

## Action required!

Mid-Winter Kinnus—February 6th-8th in Livingston. Keep the dates open. The application will be posted on the HaGalil website [www.hagalilusy.com](http://www.hagalilusy.com)

## Looking ahead!

It's not too early to be making plans to spend your summer with USY. Check out [www.usy.org](http://www.usy.org) for info on all summer programs.

**Hagalil Jr./Sr. Prom** will be held in Caldwell on March 7th. Mark your calendar now for a fabulous evening!

**Hagalil Sunday Afternoon Program in March**—Details to follow.

## Kadima Happenings!

**Kadima Day**—March 1st

**8th Grade Shabbaton**—March 13-15th in Millburn.

**CHECK IT OUT:** If you have a Jewish friend who isn't a USY member, but wants to check us out—let 'em come to any chapter program! We can't wait to meet them.

## School Days

Our first Hebrew School class for 2015 met on Thursday, January 8th and all classes, Yaldeinu, Hebrew School, and K'Ton met on January 11th.

Our focus in the coming weeks will be in advancing Hebrew reading skills, prayer literacy, religious values, and preparing for the holiday of TuB'Shevat, including our responsibilities for protecting our Earth.

As our students advance in age, the Cantor meets individually with the older students as they approach their Bar or Bat Mitzvah.

We look forward to a productive 2015!!



# Future of the Middle East

Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM at TBOBT

Dr. Mordechai Kedar will share his views on the turbulent and dangerous situation in the Middle East and how events taking place there will continue to impact the entire world.

Dr. Mordechai Kedar is Professor of Arabic and Middle East Studies at Bar-Ilan University and a member of the Herzliya Inter-Disciplinary Center study team on "Facing Radical Islam". Dr. Kedar is a Lt. Colonel (Res) in the IDF and is fluent in Hebrew, English and Arabic. He is a recognized expert on Islam and Arabic culture and is frequently asked for his insights by the Israeli Knesset and the U.S. Congress.

Open to the Community. ♦ \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door ♦ Light refreshments  
**\$36 Sponsors receive one admission, reserved seating and kosher dinner with Dr. Kedar**



Checks to: Israel Support Committee, 18 Shalom Way, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076

For more information contact Conrad Nadell  
at [conradwho@gmail.com](mailto:conradwho@gmail.com) or 908 531-8228

## List of TBO/BT Funds for Donations

**Cantor's Discretionary Fund** – is a vehicle by which the Cantor assists individuals and organizations that come to his personal attention in need of additional funds for emergencies, on-going activities or special projects in the US, Israel or anywhere in the world.

**Jewish National Fund Trees** – certificates can be purchased for all occasions in denominations of \$18. Please contact the temple office, 732-381-8403.

**Oneg Shabbat/Kiddush Fund** – used for a nosh after Shabbat services. To sponsor an entire Oneg, Kiddush, or Seuda, please contact the temple office, 732-381-8403.

**Minyan Breakfast Fund** – provides breakfast for the Morning Minyan.

**Ritual Fund** – is used to purchase religious supplies.

**Yahrzeit Fund** - It is a tradition to make a donation in memory of deceased loved ones. This fund is used to support all aspects of the synagogue.

**Sol Sern Memorial Lecture Fund** - is used to provide speakers and refreshments for our annual lecture in memory of Sol Sern.

**General Fund** – supports all aspects of Temple Beth O'r/ Beth Torah.

**Prayer Books** – Please contact the temple office to obtain up-to-date information.

**Bikur Cholim and Chesed Fund** - is used on behalf of those who are ill or in need of mitzvot of loving kindness.

**Harold & Doris Presser Memorial Fund** - has been established to assist in the maintenance of the temple facilities and the repair of ritual items.

**Yahrzeit Plaques** – Honor your departed loved ones with a permanent yahrzeit memorial plaque in our sanctuary. A light will be lit next to the plaque every year during the week of the Yahrzeit. Cost is \$300.

- Information needed: English & Hebrew names, including the father's and/or mother's Hebrew name, and secular & Hebrew dates of passing.

**Sanctuary Seat & Pew Dedication** – This project honors or memorializes a dear one with a special plaque mounted on the back of a sanctuary seat. Each plaque costs \$180. Dedication of an entire pew (row) includes a larger plaque inscribed with the family name mounted at the end of the row and two individual seat plaques in that row. The cost of an entire pew dedication is \$1800.

**Religious School Fund** – supports our Hebrew School & K'Ton program.

**Simcha Tree** – Honor your family by dedicating a Leaf (\$180), Rock, or Trunk Letter, on our "Simcha" Tree of Life, for any and all occasions – Births, Weddings, Special Anniversaries or Birthdays, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, or other special honors or events.

# Happenings at TBO/BT

*OY, A MURDER! — OY, WHAT FUN!*



Men's Club gathers for Sunday brunch and discussion

K'Ton Class students learn about trees before Tu B'Shevat

## FROM THE MEN'S CLUB

### TBO-BT MEN'S CLUB WORLD WIDE WRAP XV SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1



Super Bowl Sunday is more than just a day to kick back with your friends, load up on potato chips, and watch the Big Game (and about a thousand commercials). It's also the day on which TBOBT MEN'S CLUB will join over 240 Men's Clubs around the world to teach the mitzvah of Tefillin by participating in the World Wide Wrap.

All **men and women** are invited.  
Michael Goldstein will teach the technique.  
**Make reservations with the temple office by January 29<sup>st</sup> for instructions. Instruction is at 8:45am and Minyan is at 9:00am.**  
We will have a nice breakfast.

*Come wrap with us on  
Sunday, February 1!*

**TBO-BT Men's Club  
SHOMREI HA'ARETZ/  
STEWARDS OF THE LAND**

**MERCAZ USA**, the Zionist Organization of the Conservative Movement, lobbies within the World Zionist Organization (WZO) and the Jewish Agency for Israel for religious pluralism in Israel and funding for institutions of Conservative/Masorti Judaism worldwide. The Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs is a Masorti partner and supporter of Mercaz. The 37<sup>th</sup> WZO elections are taking place now (January – April 2015). The WZO controls 50% of the Jewish Agency Funding. The ability of Mercaz to influence the Jewish Agency funding for Conservative/Masorti Judaism worldwide depends on the number of Mercaz delegates elected to WZO. Every TBOBT member interested in strengthening Conservative/Masorti Judaism in Israel and worldwide should join Mercaz and register to vote.

**Contact MERCAZ at 212-533-2061, [info@meazusa.org](mailto:info@meazusa.org), website [www.mercazusa.org](http://www.mercazusa.org) or see flyer in TBOBT lobby.**



Wellness News

### Save the Date!

### PESACH COMMUNITY SEDER

Join the TBO/BT family for the  
First Seder

**Friday, April 3, 2015.**

More details to follow.

*Thank you - תודה רבה*

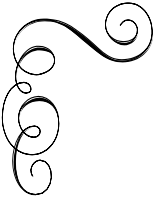
We would like to thank everyone in our temple family for their calls, cards and donations wishing Army good health. With deepest appreciation,  
Myrna and Arny Young

**PLEASE!!  
NOTE**

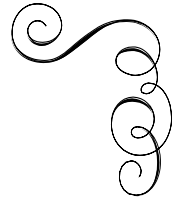
TBO/BT still has  
cemetery plots at  
Beth Israel Cemetery  
in Woodbridge  
available.

Please call the temple office  
if you are interested.





**THE TBO/BT WISHES HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:**



Carla Rockliff on her 70th birthday  
Dick Lavroff on his 81st birthday  
Howard Silverman on his 70th birthday

**WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE THE FOLLOWING DONATIONS MADE TO TBO/BT DURING THE MONTH OF JANUARY:**

( To make a donation in memory of a loved one or in honor of a special occasion, call or email the temple office)

**Yahrzeit Fund**

<b>Donated by</b>	<b>In Memory of</b>
Marilyn Weinstein	Rebecca Weinstein
Margaret Bank	Chaim Kirzhnerman
Bernice Gola	Glenn Stapelman
Gertrude Schloff	Rose Laourie
Sylvia Wolkin	Samuel Strobing
Gitta Harel	Ari Steiner
Naomi Silbert	Edgar Silbert
Shirley Coppleson	Isaac Throne
Susan Barr	Oscar Bohrer
Martin Axelrad	Joseph & Naomi Axelrad
Claire Warech	Irene Aylem
Dick Lavroff	Eva Lavroff
Allan Warner	Frances Warner
Evelyn Shulman	Paul Zinker
Louise Cangelosi	Sylvia & Nathan Gottlieb
Sylvia Wolkin	Sidney Wolkin
Dr. Sharon Katz	Estelle Katz
Lynn Vogel	Isador Ringel
Karen Bess	Reuben Rosenbloom
William Bess	Hyman Bess
Anna Vinokurov	Isaak Vinokurov
Olga Gurevich	Isaak Resnikov
Myrna Young	Edith Berger
Dr. Mark Needleman	Louis Needleman

**CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND:**

Jerry & Lola Baron in honor of Michael & Carla Rockliff and their birthdays

**EDITH & MARK LIEF FUND:**

Lisa & Dick Lavroff

**GENERAL FUND:**

Lisa & Dick Lavroff with special prayers for the recovery & good health of Arny Young

Harriet Rothschild in honor of Dick Lavroff's 80th birthday

Harriet Rothschild, wishing Arny Young speedy recovery

Gitta Harel, in honor of Florence Bernstein's grandson's marriage

Gitta Harel, refuah shlemah to Arny Young

Stewart Sherman in honor of Carla Rockliff's 70th birthday

Wendy Mandelbaum, in appreciation to Thelma Purdy for writing the bulletin article

Brian Margulies

**KIDDUSH FUND**

Thelma Purdy in memory of her mother Esther Kahn

**MINYAN BREAKFAST FUND**

Ruth Dengrove in memory of her father, Irving Dengrove

**HAROLD & DORIS PRESSER FUND**

Lisa & Dick Lavroff

**PRAYER BOOK FUND**

Rosanne & Alvin Skopp in honor of Harriet Rothschild

**SCHOOL FUND:**

Elaine & Bob Kolker

Cantor Steven Stern

**SOL SERN FUND:**

Debbie Freedman in memory of her brother Barry Kelner

Lisa & Dick Lavroff

**ONEGS & KIDDUSHES SPONSORED BY:**

Congregation, Sisterhood  
Florence Bernstein  
Hagalil & Clark USY  
Lisa & Dick Lavroff

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for Jewish Hospice



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www.nonaskitchen.net

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**NAHB 973-324-0429**



**Chiropractic Office  
located in Clark is looking  
for a part-time secretary.**  
Computer knowledge is a must.

Monday, Tuesday, Friday  
from 9 am to 6 pm.

If interested, please call 732-140-1006



## ISRAELI DANCE

Tuesday Nights

Beginners from 7 pm to 8 pm

Intermediate from 8 pm to 11 pm

\$10.00 per class/ \$45 prepaid for 5 classes






Part of the proceeds go to TBO/BT.

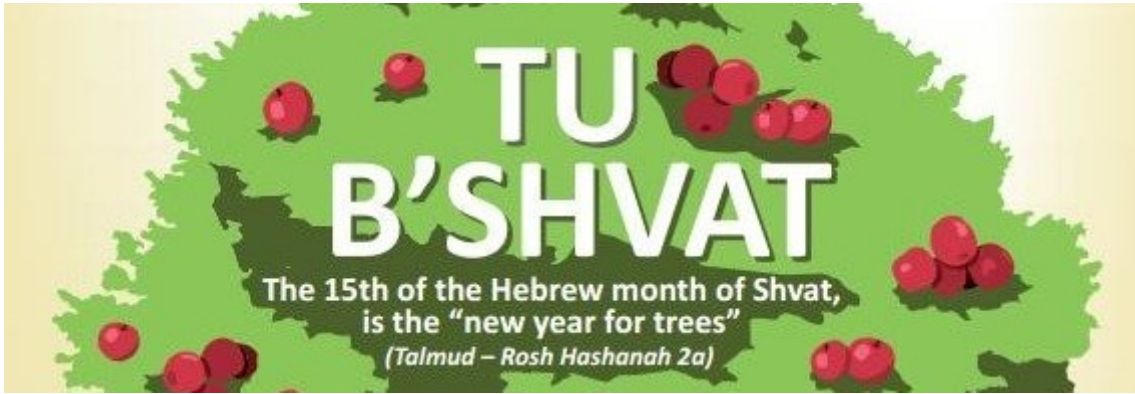
Led by Elyse Litt 732-396-8299

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# 2015 FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 	5	6 	7
9:00a Morning Minyan, Worldwide Wrap 9:45a Book Discussion 12 Shevat	8:00p Sisterhood Board Meeting 13 Shevat	7:00p Israeli Dancing 14 Shevat	6:00a Cantor's Class Tu B'Shevat 15 Shevat	16 Shevat	8:00p Services 17 Shevat	9:30a Services Special Adults 18 Shevat
8	9	10	11	12	13 	14
9:00a Morning Minyan 19 Shevat	8:00p Congregation Board Meeting 20 Shevat	7:00p Israeli Dancing 21 Shevat	8:00 p Cantor's Class 22 Shevat	8:00p Men's Club Meeting Lincoln's Birthday 23 Shevat	8:00p Services Dress Down Shabbat 24 Shevat	9:30a Services Dress Down Shabbat 25 Shevat
15	16	17	18	19	20 	21
9:00a Morning Minyan 26 Shevat	2:00p Program with Mordechai Kedar Presidents' Day 27 Shevat	7:00p Israeli Dancing 7:30p Torah Cafe at the Bayit 28 Shevat	8:00p Ritual Meeting 29 Shevat	Rosh Chodesh 30 Shevat	8:00p Services Rosh Chodesh Special Adults 1 Adar	9:30a Services 8:00p USY Movie Night 2 Adar
22	23	24	25	26	27 	28
9:00a Morning Minyan 3:00p Sol Sern Program Washington's Birthday 3 Adar	7:00p Israeli Dancing 7:30p Torah Cafe at the Bayit 5 Adar	7:30p Men's Club Game Night 7 Adar	8:00p Services 8 Adar	8:00p Services 8 Adar	8:00p Services 8 Adar	9:30a Services Simcha Shabbat 9 Adar



*Purim Celebration*

Wednesday evening, March 4



*Join us for*

- A delightful light dairy Pasta Dinner at 6:00 pm
- Megillah Reading and Costume Parade at 6:30 pm
  - Ice Cream Social

RSVP for the Dinner to the temple office by Friday, 2/27.