

Temple Beth O'r/Beth Torah

# BETH REPORTER

NISAN-IYAR 5777

APRIL 2017



## Trip to Reeves-Reed Arboretum Sunday, May 7, 2017



Spend a few hours at the beautiful Reeves-Reed Arboretum in Summit! We will carpool from the temple parking lot at 1 pm. Feel free to invite your friends!

The arboretum has a combination of paved paths and grassy areas. **To best enjoy the flowers and plants, you must be able to walk safely on grass.**

The main building (ramp access) includes an art gallery with rotating exhibits. There are also some short walking trails through a wooded area.

Feel free to bring a snack or drink; be prepared to carry away any trash. No food/beverage service and no trash cans on site.

Admission to the arboretum is free; a \$5 donation per person is suggested.

**If it rains on May 7<sup>th</sup>, this trip is cancelled.**

## From the Cantor

We all look forward to the Passover holiday, notwithstanding all the preparation it requires. What draws us especially are the Seder nights when we gather with family and friends to retell the story of our exodus from Egypt. The Haggadah leads us on a journey through the bitterness of slavery and on to redemption, concluding with the final declaration, *B'Shana Habaah B'Yerushalayim* -- Next Year May We Be In Jerusalem!

What are the particular parts of the Seder that make it so special? For some it may be the melodies passed on within families from generation to generation. For others, it is hearing the youngest child chant the *Mah Nishtana*. Or maybe it is Bubbe's knaidlach that she lovingly prepares from a recipe originating in the old country.

I was thinking about the question of whether there is one moment during the Seder that resonates for me in a particularly meaningful way. It is hard to choose just one, but if I had to it might just be the singing of Dayeinu. We all know and enjoy the traditional melody for the refrain, but it is the underlying message of the song that I particularly appreciate. Dayeinu means "it would suffice," and the verses enumerate all the many things that G-d had done for us since taking us out of Egypt, and at each point we declare, that had He stopped and done no more, "it would suffice." It is a song about gratitude; it is a song about finding contentment and appreciating what we already have.

Now let's be honest. An important part of life is striving, and that is not only OK, it is commendable. We strive each and every day to learn more, to earn more, to experience more, to grow more.

No one considers resting on one's laurels to be praiseworthy. Yet even while striving it is well worth pausing every now and then to recognize the blessings we have already received, to fully appreciate and give thanks for them. There may be much that we still wish to accomplish, much not yet attained. But there is surely a great deal for which we can say Dayeinu -- at this moment it is enough.

So at this year's Seder, pause before singing Dayeinu. Pray for a year that is even better than last, and then give thanks for all the many blessings already received.

Chag Kasher V'Sameach!  
Cantor Steven Stern

P.S. I wish to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the delicious Shalach Manot baskets sent on Purim. I appreciated so much your thoughtfulness and good wishes, which helped to make this Purim, as always, a most special occasion. Todah rabbah!!



### Mark & Edith Lief Memorial Program

May 21 at 3 pm.

We will screen the acclaimed documentary "Orchestra of Exiles: The Story of Bronislaw Huberman, the Israel Philharmonic, and the One Thousand Jews He Saved from Nazi Horrors."

The director, writer and producer of the film, Josh Aronson, will be our guest speaker. Free and open to the public.

## From The Co-Presidents

Last week I saw the play *Bad Jews* at George Street Playhouse. The play deals with the specifics of a particular family and the legacy of the Holocaust on subsequent generations. It explores many sides of a complicated issue. It deals with the legacy of history and how we live authentically in the present and how we live authentically in the present relationship to the past.

The play focuses on three Jewish cousins mourning their grandfather's death and one cousin's gentile girlfriend. The cousins argue over the Chai necklace that the grandfather hid under his tongue for two years in Auschwitz. One wants to use the necklace to propose to his girlfriend and expresses that the Chai has no meaningful value other than belonging to his grandfather. Another cousin doesn't care about having the Chai and stays on the fence. The third considers herself the only one deserving the Chai because she's the only one faithful to the family and religion by desiring to live the legacy of Judaism and the Holocaust.

Much of the tension between the characters comes from such questions as:

What do we honor more, tribalism or globalism?

What is more important, connection with community or connection with one's identity?

The play approaches these questions, and in light of our country's current divisions over religion, and national policies, identities have never been more visible or so frequently expressed. Nor has there been such a relentless probing of modern Jewish identity as we are experiencing today.

Thus it is imperative to have these questions raised and have people attempt to answer them and defend their philosophy. It makes us take inventory of our own pleas in this moment of history, but it doesn't necessarily say "This is right" or "This is wrong".

Janice

## Education Report

March classes were filled with lots of learning; Hebrew letters and vocabulary using written texts and fun singing, prayers, as well as parsha study!!

Of course, included in our March classes was lots of Purim fun—baking hamentashen by our older classes and eating them by all classes, making groggers and paper plate masks, and reading and acting out the Purim story.

Our Purim Extravaganza was well attended by our school students and parents!!

By the end of March, the focus switched to the story of Passover and activities around the holiday. There was learning and discussing more about Passover, decorating mini haggadot, making afikoman bags and other age appropriate Passover activities for each class. The students are looking forward to a Chocolate Seder on April 2nd!!!!

Thelma, Genie, Elaine, and Cantor

## Sisterhood President's Message



We made and distributed 140 Shalach Mones baskets for Purim! I want to thank everybody who sent baskets, which made our biggest fundraiser such a success.

Also, all of the those who helped put them together will get donor credit.

Our final regular meeting of the year is Thursday, April 20th at 7:30 p.m. It is "Close the Books." Not only will you find out how much donor credit you have, you can also purchase Shoprite Gift Cards, buy from the Gift Shop and have ice cream, cookies and other tasty treats.

Remember, Donor Dinner this year will be on Thursday, June 22nd at the temple. You only need to earn \$36 in donor credit to attend for free! Our entertainment will be, by popular request, singer Amy Toporok. You will get your invitations in early May.

Have a Happy Passover!

Joleen Fridson

### 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.

## Goldenbooks

To Howard Kastner in memory of his mother Selma Kastner:

From:

Janice & Herb Hymanson

Lorraine Itzkowitz

Get well to Norma Weinshanker

From:

Arleen & Mel Duchin.

Get well to Jack Weinshanker

From:

Arleen & Mel Duchin

To Michael Miller in honor of his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday

From:

Gitta Harel

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**June 4th  
4:00—7:00 PM**

**Dinner, Dancing and Entertainment  
with Elefante and Green!!**

**Details to follow!!!**



### 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:  
Genie Berry (732-388-3453).



# From The TBOBT Men's Club

The Men's Club thanks Cantor Stern for leading and Mike Miller for organizing the Men's Club Shabbat on March 18. The following men participated: Howie Silverman, Michael Goldstein, Walter Neuman, Aron Richman, Russ Kelner, Andrew Dorsch, Mike Miller and Alan Coen. The D'var Torah on Keruv was delivered by Dr. Esther Schlesinger. She gave a clear explanation of the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs' program and TBOBT's implementation of parts of the program. The talk will be posted in a future bulletin. June M. led the Adults with Special Needs and the Congregation in Ein Kelokeinu.

Dennis Berry organized and Mike Miller prepared the Yom Ha'Shoah yellow candles for distribution with the Purim baskets on March 11. The rest of the candles were mailed on March 30 or hand distributed. Contact the temple office if you do not receive a candle by April 6.

## Future activities:

- Adults with Special Needs Shabbat visit April 1
- April 13 - Men's Club meeting, nominations
- Thursday, April 20 - Game night at Temple at 7:30 pm
- On Saturday morning, June 1, TBOBT will celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Adults with Special Needs Program. Details to follow.

**Mark your calendar:** FJMC National Convention July 19 -23 in Washington DC. Families welcome.  
[www.FJMC.org/convention2017](http://www.FJMC.org/convention2017)



The Men's Club wishes to thank Michael Roth, Marty Axelrad, Jonathan Phillips and Theo Moreines for delivering the Yellow Candles!!

**Special Minyan and Siyum to  
break the Fast of the First Born on  
Monday, April 10 at 8:30 a.m.**

**TEMPLE BETH O'R BETH TORAH**  
BOARD OF OFFICERS & TRUSTEES  
MEETING SCHEDULE 2016-2017  
Mondays, at 8:00 pm

April - No meeting	Congregation Board
May 8	Congregation Board
June 12	Congregation Board

## Passover and Earth Day:

By COEJL

We often talk at the Seder about the Four Children: the Wise, Wicked, Simple, and the One Who Does Not Know How to Ask. We see a little of ourselves in each child as we discuss their place in the Seder and how we explain to them the story of Passover. Do we tell them that we were there together at Sinai, including them in our legacy, or do we exclude them and criticize their apathy?

This year, as we consider Passover's Four Children around the Seder table, let us discover and discuss the tension between our Jewish community's obligation to "till and tend" the earth as God told humankind in the Garden of Eden, and the spectrum of beliefs that many may hold about climate change.

**The Wise Child:** This child knows that climate change is real and that he must act to combat its effects. The Wise Child has read that global temperatures and sea levels are rising every year, that more species are becoming endangered, and that more communities are experiencing extreme weather events and decreased crop viability. The Wise Child sees all this and is motivated to combat climate change in any way he can.

**The Wicked Child:** The Wicked Child has read about climate change and is aware that scientists predict a whole range of negative effects if we don't reduce global carbon emissions. But the Wicked Child doesn't think the issues caused by climate change apply to him. He believes climate change will only affect the poor and the vulnerable in places he will never visit. He remains unconcerned.

**The Simple Child:** The Simple Child is overwhelmed by the idea that humankind could be radically altering the entire face of the earth. He doesn't believe it's possible that scientific predictions are accurate. This child simply ignores the evidence that the problem is real at all.

**The One Who Does Not Know How to Ask:** This child is much more like The Wise Child than we may typically imagine. The One Who Does Not Know How to Ask has also read about climate change and knows that environmental degradation and the effects on the global population are a real and present threat. Unlike The Wise Child and much more like the Simple Child, this child is overwhelmed. How is this possible? This child might ask, "How can I, alone, prevent this global catastrophe?"

MW Miller & M. Goldstein  
[mwmillerchem\\_102@aol.com](mailto:mwmillerchem_102@aol.com) or 908 233-9224.

## Morning Minyan Services

**Sundays at 9:00 AM:**  
**Temple Beth O'r Beth Torah**

**Thursdays at 7:00 AM:**  
**Congregation Beth Israel**  
**in Scotch Plains**

If you have any questions, please call Howard Silverman, Fern Cammy or Cantor Stern.

# Happenings





# at TBOBT





**An anonymous synagogue member has generously donated gift cards to the Sisterhood.**

Currently available Deli King gift cards.  
The gift cards are in denominations of \$25 and are limited to \$50 per member.  
The cards are available for purchase in the Temple office.

Earn Donor Credit while shopping at Deli King!!

**Remember to buy ShopRite Gift Cards.**  
5% of the amount of Shop Rite gift cards purchased is tax deductible.



**Contact the Temple Office at  
732-381-8403, ext 11.**



**Support Groups** at RWJ Fitness & Wellness  
Center in Scotch Plains led by Mindy Cohen.

The following groups meet: caregivers support, cancer support, breast cancer support, and fibromyalgia support. Registration not required and there is no fee. Call 732-499-6193 for more information.



If you need a ride to get to Friday or Saturday services or if you can offer a ride, please let the office know. Thank you.

### Messages from our Members

Dear Cantor Stern, Temple staff, Sisterhood and Men's Club,

I wanted to thank you for the wonderful gifts. I want to thank the Cantor and everyone who helped make my Bat Mitzvah service so beautiful and memorable.

Love,  
Sofia Pollack



### Come and Join the TBOBT Mah Jongg League!

We will play at the temple on the first and last Wednesday of each month from 1:00 PM—3:00 PM.

If you haven't played for years or would like to learn how to play, why not join us?

For more information, please call Audrey Silverman at 732-499-0439.



**Support the Temple while you shop.**

**Sign in on AmazonSmile.com and select "Clark Jewish Center" and Amazon will give 0.5% of your purchases to TBOBT.**

### Mazel Tov

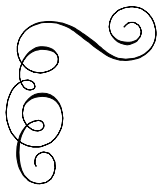


Benjamin Weintraub will celebrate his Bar Mitzvah on April 29.

He is a seventh grade student at Carl H. Kumpf Middle School in Clark. He enjoys playing sports and video games.

Mazel tov to parents Ari and Tanya and sister Gabriella!





**The TBOBT Family extends Mazel Tov to:**  
Sebley Hausler on the on the marriage of her grandson  
Jeffrey Adam Camhi to Allison Rachel Fields

**The TBOBT Family expresses condolences to:**  
Esther Schlesinger on the passing of her mother, Sarah Symchowicz  
The family of Flora Mae Weiss

**We gratefully acknowledge the following donations  
made to TBOBT during the month of March:**

### **Yahrzeit Fund**

#### **Donated By**

Milton Loshin  
Louise Cangelosi  
Louise Cangelosi  
Roberta Makow  
Linda Axelrad  
Naomi Silbert  
Norma Sheld  
Judith Cohen  
Dr. Dennis Turner  
Lenard Weiner  
Norman Britman  
Norman Britman  
Phyllis Chanin  
Dr. Gloria Schrager  
Genie Berry  
Linda Sprung  
Herb Hymanson  
Dr. Eugene Tandler  
Evelyn Schisler  
Stewart Sherman  
Lois Kawut  
Lois Kawut  
Anna Vaidman  
Elaine Savoia  
Herbert Hymanson  
Frances Friedman

#### **In Memory Of:**

Nathan Loshin  
Max Glass  
Sylvia Gottlieb  
Fay Schwartz  
Hilde Moses  
Manus Coen  
Rose Ferster Rich  
Sylvia Lipson  
Edythe Turner  
Rachel Weiner  
Solomon Britman  
Alice Britman  
Rose Koplin  
Ellis Ogur  
Carl Maltzer  
Morris Weinstein  
Selma Hymanson  
Rose Tandler  
Howard Schisler  
Aaron Sherman  
Elizabeth Frankel  
Sarah Schwartz  
Leah Shkolnik  
Abraham Talarsky  
Min Hymanson  
Howard Friedman

### **Cantor's Discretionary Fund**

Yakov & Julia Vinokurov: In memory of Sofa Lapidus

Natty & Robert Lapidus: In memory of Flora Mae Weiss

### **General Fund**

Steven & Alison Goldberg: In honor of Toby's Prince's birthday

Gitta Harel: In memory of Sarah Symchowicz, mother of Esther Schlesinger

### **Sol Sern Memorial Fund**

Stacey Sern: In memory of Sol Sern

Gloria Sern: In memory of Sol Sern

### **Kiddush and Oneg Fund**

Ruth Dengrove

### **Religious School Fund**

Dr. Mike Miller: In memory of Marion Robin



**The Temple Office Hours are:**  
**Monday through Friday**  
**9:00 AM—2:00 PM**



# Support Our Advertisers



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

*PLEASE!! NOTE*

If you are interested, please call the temple office at 732-381-8403 ext. 11.

## Advertise Your Business!

Call us for monthly and yearly advertising rates.

Various ad sizes are available.

Contact Bonni at the Temple Office  
732-381-8403, ext .11

## LIST OF TBOBT 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 \$350.

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. Call Temple Office for more info.

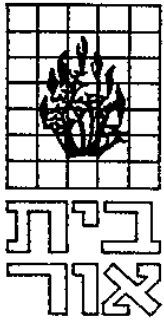
March  
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# 2017 APRIL

May  
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28 29 30 31

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 8:22p 10:00a Adults w/Special Needs
2	3	4	5	6	7 7:10p	8 8:30p 5 Nisan
9:00a Morning Minyan 6 Nisan	7 Nisan	8 Nisan	7:00p Israeli Dancing 9 Nisan	10 Nisan	8:00p Services 11 Nisan	9:30a Services 12 Nisan
9	10	11	12	13	14 7:18p	15 8:37p
9:00a Morning Minyan 13 Nisan	8:30a Minyan and Break Fast 6:30p Passover Community Seder 14 Nisan	9:30a Services Passover 15 Nisan	9:30a Services Passover 16 Nisan	Passover 17 Nisan	8:00p Services Passover 18 Nisan	9:30a Services Passover 19 Nisan
16	17	18	19	20	21 7:25p	22 8:44p
9:00a Morning Minyan Passover 20 Nisan	9:30a Services Passover 21 Nisan	9:30a Services 11:00a Yizkor Passover 22 Nisan	7:00p Israeli Dancing 23 Nisan	7:00p Sisterhood Board Meeting 8:00p Sisterhood Close the Books Meeting 24 Nisan	8:00p Services 25 Nisan	9:30a Services 26 Nisan
23	24	25	26	27	28 7:32p	29 8:51p
9:00a Morning Minyan 27 Nisan	28 Nisan	29 Nisan	7:00p Israeli Dancing Rosh Chodesh 30 Nisan	Rosh Chodesh 1 Iyar	8:00p Services 2 Iyar	9:30a Services 3 Iyar
30						
9:00a Morning Minyan 4 Iyar						





## **Temple Beth O'r Beth Torah**

111 Valley Road, Clark NJ 07066

732-381-8403

tbethor@gmail.com

www.bethorbethtorah.org

Steven Stern, Spiritual Leader

Lillian Makow & Janice Hymanson, Co-Presidents

Jonathan Phillips, Executive Vice-President

### **Got a Simcha?**

**Birthday? Anniversary?  
Graduation? New grandchild?  
Host a Kiddush at TBOBT**

**Sponsor a simple Kiddush for \$136  
or make a donation of \$18 or more  
to the Kiddush Fund.**

**Contact Bonni at the Temple office  
732-381-8403 ext. 11  
or  
tbethor@gmail.com.**



### **ISRAELI DANCE**

Wednesday Nights

\$10.00 per class/ \$45 prepaid for 5  
A portion of the proceeds go to TBOBT  
Led by Elyse Litt 732-396-8299

Any new dancers should contact:

Elyse via email prior to first class at [dancesfrom-  
theheart@gmail.com](mailto:dancesfromtheheart@gmail.com)