

Temple Beth O'r/Beth Torah

# BETH REPORTER

SHEVAT-ADAR 5777

FEBRUARY 2017



TU B'SHVAT  
SEDER

## Tu B'Shevat Seder

Join us on Friday, February 10  
for our annual gathering for the  
"New Year for Trees."

We will sample the fruits of the land of Israel, drink four cups of wine, and explore through readings and teachings the mystical sources of this holiday that celebrates Israel, our planet and our role as custodians.

**Early service at 7:30 pm / Seder begins at 8 pm**

No charge, but please RSVP to the temple office by Feb 7.



## Musical Cafe Night at TBOBT

**Saturday, March 4 at 7:30 pm.**

PetroGrass Band will perform bluegrass, country, folk  
and more while we enjoy coffee and desserts.

Admission is \$5. Please RSVP to the temple.



## Save the Date!!!

## The Hilarious Comedy of Joel Chasnoff!

Joel is an acclaimed superstar of Jewish humor and will be here for our  
**Sol Sern Memorial Program on  
Sunday, March 19 at 3 pm.**

You will not want to miss it!

This program is made possible by a HEART Grant from the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders  
and by the Sol Sern Memorial Fund of TBOBT.

## From the Cantor



I recently visited a well-known synagogue in the tri-state area, and I sat in as the religious leader gave a talk on the weekly Torah portion. At some point his talk became overtly political, and his views were unabashedly

on one far end of the political spectrum.

I thought at the moment about how lucky he was, because I doubt if there was even one person in that room who disagreed with him, who might offer a sharp retort. And then I thought about how unlucky he was, because his arguments and his advocacy, in my humble opinion, lacked a certain nuance. He took some very complicated issues, and presented them according to an overly simplistic black and white model. He might have benefited, and his congregation might have benefited, I thought, had there been at least some divergence of opinion and an honest and forthright discussion, indeed debate, on these issues of great complexity.

In our shul, it often happens, that I will have a conversation with someone who expresses, in the most passionate way, views on a highly charged political question, and then a few moments later I will speak with someone else whose views are equally passionate but diametrically opposed. And sometimes I will sit with both as they argue it out. That's a good thing. It is important to hear and understand the other side. Ancient Greek teachers employed an exercise known as *Dissoi Logoi* to get students to gain a better understanding of issues by having them argue it from the opposing point of view. Our own Talmud has hardly a page wherein there is no argument from different schools of thought.

It is important to argue and debate, but it is no less important to do so with the utmost respect and dignity. In the famous Talmudic debates between the schools of Hillel and Shammai, it is said that the law was almost always according to the thinking of the former, because they made extra efforts to consider first the arguments put forth by their opponents.

In these contentious times, may we, all of us, here and everywhere, be like the students of Hillel.

And may we discuss, debate, and even argue, always with respect. And then may we succeed in finding the path that will lead us to a better and to a more peaceful world.

B'Shalom,

Cantor Steven Stern

## Purim Extravaganza!



**Saturday, March 11**

**Beginning at 6:30 pm**

Everyone is invited to join the festivities!

**Pasta Dinner - 6:30 pm**

**Megillah Reading - 7:30 pm**

**Costume Parade \* Ice Cream Social**

**Open to the Community**

**RSVP required for Dinner**



**Paint and Pour at TBOBT**  
**Sunday, March 5, 2017**  
**Details to follow.**

## From The Co-Presidents

As I sit in my kitchen pondering what to write, I thought of how we can allocate our time when you have limited time windows. Thus trying to juggle time becomes a difficult situation. Wondering how to accomplish all I need to do in a very short time, I realize is a problem so many of us have.

We, at Temple Beth O'r Beth Torah, are fortunate to have a large part of our membership who reached beyond this stage, and many others who are willing and able to support our congregation.

Working towards the good and welfare of our community can become more meaningful in our lives by being able to join with others toward a common goal. There are many opportunities

available to meet your interests: getting to know people by joining us at services and educational programs, joining a committee for one of several events, and fund raisers that are in the planning stage. Your participation will certainly be beneficial.

By joining with others you will become a more involved participant in our temple family.

This is good for the temple and good for each of you. You will be enriching yourself as well as enriching our community.

Looking forward to working with you. Feel free to reach out to me and Lillian at any time.

Todah Rabah, B' Shalom,

Janice Hymanson

## Education Report

Classes resumed on January 15 after our winter break and continued through the remaining Sundays throughout the month.

The K'ton class continues learning the Aleph-Bet by learning words beginning with a new letter in each lesson. They also learned the importance of Israel, Jerusalem, and the Kotel in Jewish life. The art lesson was making a picture of the Wailing Wall. They continued to review the prayers and have completed the first book of the Bible and began the story of Exodus.

Our Yaldeinu class is using the Hebrew in Harmony curriculum and they continued reviewing the Shema using the Jewish Holidays Journal text. They are learning more and more about the Shabbat by using videos, songs and games, enhancing their learning experience.

Our Olim class, using the Ethic of our Ancestors curriculum, discussed being compassionate, learning to control words and actions, and taking responsibility. They continue with their Hebrew vocabulary as well.

Lots of good learning going on!!!!

Thelma, Genie, Elaine and Cantor



## Are you interested in a Mah Jongg League??

We'd like to start a league that plays Mah Jongg at TBOBT twice a month on Wednesday afternoons from 1:00—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.



## Israel Support Committee's 2017 Israel Documentary Film Festival

**Feb 12<sup>th</sup>, 2 PM:** "A Woman Called Golda", Part 1 at Temple Beth O'r Beth Torah, 111 Valley Rd, Clark, NJ

**Feb 19<sup>th</sup>, 2 PM:** "A Woman Called Golda", Part 2 at Temple Beth El Mekor Chayim, 338 Walnut St., Cranford, NJ

**Mar 5<sup>th</sup>, 2 PM:** "Six Days in June" at Congregation Beth Israel, 18 Shalom Way, Scotch Plains, NJ

## Sisterhood President's Message



Sisterhood has a special program planned for all of you ladies! We are having a Rosh Chodesh Brunch on Sunday, Feb. 26 at 10:00 AM to honor our late beloved member, Ruth Gold. What better way to recognize her than to have

Rabbi Stephanie Dickstein of Highland Park speak on her experiences as a Conservative female rabbi. She will share many personal stories and viewpoints that she has encountered over the years. A lovely breakfast will be served and the event is free. All you need to do is call Bonni in the office to reserve a spot!

Shortly, you will be receiving by regular mail, your annual Shalach Mones forms to order Baskets and Certificates for Purim. The cost is still \$6 per basket/certificate. The deadline for orders is Friday, March 24th. If you have any questions about your order, contact Helene Davis at (908) 757-3674.

Remember it is considered a mitzvah to give Shalach Mones. This is Sisterhood's biggest fundraiser of the year. This past year we were able to pay for much needed repairs to the temple with the money raised last Purim. So give so generously as you have in the past! It is very much appreciated!!

Jolene

### 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: Florence Bernstein on the birth of her great grandchild  
From: Gitta Harel

To: Dick Lavroff on the passing of his brother Allan Lavroff  
From: Mimi Steinberg  
Janice & Herb Hymanson  
Fern & Joe Cammy  
Rayna & Allan Warner  
Barbara & Mitchell James  
Suzanne & Michael Miller  
Diane & Michael Goldstein  
Joleen & Bob 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:  
Genie Berry (732-388-3453).

**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.

### TEMPLE BETH O'R BETH TORAH

BOARD OF OFFICERS & TRUSTEES

MEETING SCHEDULE 2016-2017

Mondays, at 8:00 pm

February 13	Congregation Board
March TBA	Congregation Board
April TBA	Congregation Board
May 8	Congregation Board
June 12	Congregation Board

Join us on Sunday, February 5th at 10:15 AM

**Workshop on How to Lead Kabbalat Shabbat**

Led by Fern Cammy

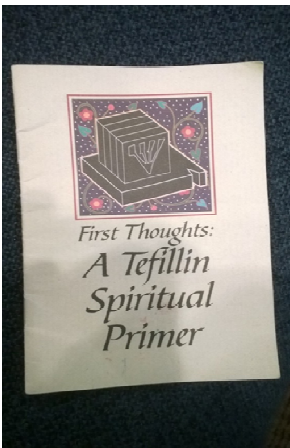


## From The TBOBT Men's Club

The Men's Club had a busy January. Thank you to Harvin Freedman who led the Hearing Men's Voices Program, "In Sickness and In Health, I Do Thee Wed."

During our January meeting the order for the Yom HaShoah yellow candles was completed and Dennis Berry agreed to organize the distribution with help from Bob Kolker. This is a major project. Yom HaShoah is April 24.

The Men's Club has agreed to partner with Sisterhood project to purchase a modern, large flat screen TV.



Our next major effort is the World Wide Wrap on Sunday, February 5, organized and set up by Michael Goldstein and Harvin Freedman, with help from Dennis Berry, Mike Miller and Theo Moreines. A training session that explains the significance, and

demonstrates how to wrap Tefillin, will be taught by Michael at 8:45am. Please contact the temple office if you would like to learn before Minyan begins at 9:00am. Cantor Stern will bring the Olim Class. Breakfast will be sponsored by Men's Club.

Men's Club and our Hebrew School are preparing for the Tu B'Shevat celebration on Sunday February 12<sup>th</sup>. There will be a Seder, and Martin Goldman will lead a class in an energy conservation project -- "Why is my light bulb HOT?" Mike Miller will lead a class in "How old is my Favorite tree?"

Thursday, February 23 at 7:30 pm is game night. If you are interested in simulated golf at the Golf Cave in Clark, let us know. We need 8 players for 2 stations. Contact Mike Miller at mwmillerchem\_102@aol.com for more details.

### TBO-BT Shomrei Ha'Aretz Stewards of the land

As people of faith, we know that the Earth is a gift which we're responsible for protecting. We know that communities of color and the poor suffer the worst effects of climate change. We know that smart policies can create good jobs that reduce poverty and create healthier communities. We know we need bold, courageous leadership at all levels of society – right away.

**Over the past two years, faith communities have helped the world take some major steps forward on climate change.** From the People's Climate March in New York to the Paris Climate Agreement, people of diverse faiths have come together to show our commitment to protecting our common home.

We need to organize and come together with our neighbors of many different creeds to pray and act for our precious planet, for those most vulnerable to a changing climate, and for our leaders to work hard to protect us all, and especially our children.

By: GreenFaith and Mike Miller

### **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.



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



# Happenings





# at TBOBT



## New Member Shabbat Kiddush Welcome Speech

Good Shabbos and welcome to our New Member Shabbat Kiddush. I am Audrey Silverman, Membership V.P., and I would like to introduce two Board Membership Trustees Susan Goodman and Gita Harel. We are so happy to officially welcome all of you to our TBOBT family.

At this time I wish to introduce our newest members who are here today and to give you a few details about their lives. Please stand or wave when I mention your names. If you would like to add anything to the information, please feel free.

The Eckert family has resided in Westfield for the past seven years. Dan is an attorney with Hartford Insurance and Jackie is a budget manager with Columbia University. They have 8 year old twins Elizabeth and Jonathan who attend our Hebrew School. Elizabeth plays the piano and Jonathan plays the clarinet.

Sondra Eisenberg moved to Clark one year ago from Upper Freehold where she had resided with her husband Mel. Sondra has 3 sons who all live in NJ. Prior to retiring, Sondra was a legal secretary. Since moving to Clark, she has joined a bowling league, JCC, and also enjoys line dancing. We are happy to welcome her to TBOBT.

The Handwerker family resides in Westfield. Gianine is the daughter of our member Harriet Rothschild and her dear departed J. Justin Rothschild. Gianine and Gavin are excited to have their children be a part of this wonderful congregation. They have three children: Ben who is almost 12 and is currently studying for his Bar Mitzvah; Shoshanna, 10, in 4<sup>th</sup> grade and a competitive figure skater; Jacob, a first grader who plays hockey for the Cranford Hockey Club and is six years old.

The Itzkowitz family resides in Scotch Plains. Jeffrey and Meryl are attorneys. They have two children, Tamara and Matthew. Jeff's mom is Lorraine, a long-time member along with her dear departed husband, Izzy.

We welcome Richard Parness back to our congregational family. Richard now resides in Springfield. He is a CPA.

We welcome Aron, Joan and Alan Richman. They reside in Fanwood. Aron is a computer programmer. Aron and Joan have great aspirations for their son. Alan recently got his private pilot license and has been accepted to RIT. We hope someday Alan will be our ambassador to Israel and possibly win a Nobel Peace Prize for his ground breaking work in cybersecurity.

My husband Howard first met Aron after the loss of his brother when Aron would come to our morning minyan. Howie affectionately calls Aron his "Kosher Teddy Bear" and have become good friends. Thank you for everything you do for our TBOBT community.

Michael and Michelle Shulman are our newlyweds. They were married in September of 2016 and currently reside in Weehawken. Michael has been a lifelong member of the TBOBT community with his mom Evie and late father David Shulman. Evie is our Ways and Means VP. Michael is an attorney and Michelle is a preschool teacher at Hackensack Hospital. We are so happy to welcome you to our community.

The Simon family lives in Berkeley Heights. David and Stacey are both attorneys. They are the proud parents of twins Hunter and Hailey. The twins are both enrolled in our Hebrew School. They are great kids, full of energy with great personalities. The Simon and Barr families are great friends.

Leo and Doris Terr now live in Clark. Originally they hail from Brooklyn, NY. A Mazel Tov is in order as they celebrated their 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

The Weintraub Family resides in Clark. Ari and Tanya have 2 children, Benjamin and Gabriella. Benjamin will celebrate his Bar Mitzvah this April. We look forward to this wonderful milestone. Welcome to all our new members.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Cantor Stern, Lorraine Loshin and Myrna Young for their guidance and advice with all our new members. I'd like to acknowledge Rayna Warner, Susan Goodman, Bonni and Mariela for helping me with shopping and organizing for today's Kiddush.

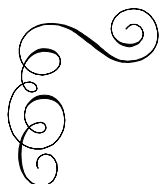
Thank you to our co-sponsors : Steven and Judith Hurok, Audrey and Howard Silverman, Toby Prince, Evie Shulman, Gita Harel, Susan Goodman and Lillian Makow. I'd like to extend a special thank you to Nancy and Russ Kelner who allowed us to share this special day. Today they are honoring the centennial of Nancy's father Manny Naparstek's birth.

I hope to continue this tradition of welcoming our new members. I will end by saying our favorite phrase at TBOBT: "Come for a visit, stay for a lifetime!"

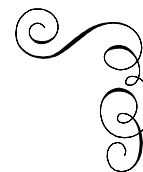
Shabbat Shalom.

Audrey Silverman





**The TBOBT Family expresses condolences to:**  
 Dick Lavroff on the passing of his brother Allan Lavroff  
 Arthur Bloom on the passing of his mother Ruth Bloom  
 Linda Blank on the passing of her mother Mildred Blank



**We gratefully acknowledge the following donations  
 made to TBOBT 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>
Muriel Tannenbaum	Irving Tannenbaum
Lillian Makow	Irving Tannenbaum
Mindy Leibowitz	Judy Rubin
Edward Leibowitz	Rhoda Leibowitz
Yuli Vaidman	Enya Kilberg
Esther Rubinstein	Rose Richman
Betty Needleman	Nathan Unger
Lowell Scher	May Scher
Lowell Scher	Sidney Scher
Joyce Scher	Harry Burstein
Joyce Scher	Anna Burstein
Joyce Scher	Frank Burstein
Lisa Edles	Murray Polner
Claire Warech	Irene Aylem
Arleen Duchin	Mildred Meislin
Arleen Duchin	Jack Meislin
Sylvia Wolkin	Samuel Strobing
Naomi Silbert	Edgar Silbert
Allan Warner	Frances Warner
Marilyn Weinstein	Rebecca Weinstein
Martin Axelrad	Naomi Axelrad
Martin Axelrad	Joseph Axelrad
Barbara Plotkin	George Korp
Barbara Plotkin	Bessie Plotkin
Barbara Plotkin	David Plotkin
Matilda Fink	Nathaniel Fink
Miriam Levine	Marty Levine
Karen Bess	Reuben Rosenbloom
Jane Halper	Sheldon Halper
William Bess	Hyman Bess

**General Fund**

Steve and Judy Hurok: In memory of Allan Lavroff  
 Michael and Maurie Lavroff: Thank you to Cantor Stern  
 Dr. Jack & Mrs. Sylvia Goldstein

**Harold & Doris Presser Memorial Fund**

Lillian Makow

**Kiddush & Oneg Fund**

Doris and Leo Terr

**Cantor's Discretionary Fund**

Arthur & Felella Millman: In memory of Bill Hausler  
 Gitta Harel: In appreciation  
 Sanford & Arlene Fineman: In memory of Allan Lavroff  
 Dick & Lisa Lavroff: In appreciation to Cantor Stern

**Sisterhood**

Thank you to the anonymous synagogue member who  
 generously donated \$200 in Trader Joe's gift cards and  
 \$200 in Deli King gift cards.

**Minyan Breakfast Fund**

Ruth Dengrove: In memory of Irving Dengrove

**Messages from our Members**

I'd like to extend my sincere thanks to Doris Kalish,  
 Evelyn Schisler, Jane Halper, and Linda Sprung for all  
 that they have done for me and will continue to do.

Roberta Makow

Sincere thanks to all for their kind expressions of  
 sympathy on the loss of my brother, Allan Lavroff.

Dick Lavroff and family

We wish to thank everyone for their good wishes  
 and contributions made on our double simchas:  
 Shawn's engagement to Sage Heyman and the  
 birth of our granddaughter, Harper Cammy.

Fern & Joe Cammy

# Support Our Advertisers



**PLEASE!!  
NOTE**

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

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.

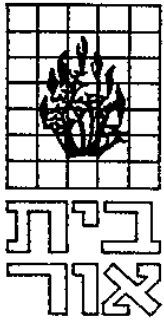
January  
S M T W T F S  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7  
8 9 10 11 12 13 14  
15 16 17 18 19 20 21  
22 23 24 25 26 27 28  
29 30 31

# 2017 FEBRUARY

March  
S M T W T F S  
1 2 3 4  
5 6 7 8 9 10 11  
12 13 14 15 16 17 18  
19 20 21 22 23 24 25  
26 27 28 29 30 31

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 5:00p	4 6:19p
			7:00p Israeli Dancing 5 Shevat	6 Shevat	8:00p Services 7 Shevat	10:00a Adults w/Special Needs 8 Shevat
5	6	7	8	9	10 5:08p	11 6:28p
9:00a World Wide Wrap/Men's Club Meeting 9 Shevat	8:00p Sisterhood Board Meeting 10 Shevat	11 Shevat	7:00p Israeli Dancing 12 Shevat	13 Shevat	7:30p Services 8:00p Tu B'Shevat Seder 14 Shevat	9:30a Services Tu B'Shvat 15 Shevat
12 9:00a Morning Minyan 10:00a Men's Club Tu B'Shvat Program 2:00p Movie: "A Woman Called Golda", 16 Shevat	13 8:00p Congregation Board Meeting 17 Shevat	14	15	16	17 5:17p	18 6:36p
19	20	21	22	23	24 5:25p	25 6:44p
9:00a Morning Minyan 23 Shevat	Presidents' Day 24 Shevat	25 Shevat	7:00p Israeli Dancing 26 Shevat	7:30p Men's Club Game Night (Billiards) 27 Shevat	8:00p Services 28 Shevat	9:30a Services 29 Shevat
26	27	28				
9:00a Morning Minyan 10:00a Sisterhood Rosh Chodesh Breakfast Mtg. Rosh Chodesh 30 Shevat	Rosh Chodesh 1 Adar	2 Adar				





## **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

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:dancesfrom-theheart@gmail.com)