



The Menorah



Congregation Beth HaTephila: a Reform Congregation in the heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Founded 1891

January 2010

Vol. 70 No. 5 (Published monthly)

Tevet — Shevat 5770

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SERVICES

Fridays – 7:30 PM

Family Service @ 6:30 – First Friday

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TEMPLE OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday: 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Friday: 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Office will be closed January 1st & 18th

Temple Administrator: *Dawna E. Wade*

Rabbi Meiri

To make an appointment with Rabbi Meiri, please call the Temple office (253-4911).

From the Desk of Rabbi Batsheva Meiri

In America, the news mid-December was how climate change was a hoax, based on the discovery of some emails between British climate scientists. Almost everywhere else in the world, the front page was consumed with stories from the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen. One hundred and ninety two nations gathered for two weeks to find common ground on battling the world's increasing population and its consumption that is contributing to changing the world's climate. This time, world leaders gathered with not only scientists and businessmen, but also a diverse delegation of religious leaders there to argue that climate change is not merely an economic development and resource distribution issue, but also a spiritual and moral one.

The last time the world got together was in Kyoto in 1997. Even then it was a question whether the United States would participate. But the world is a different place twelve years later – everywhere except the United States where, with the exception of a few cosmetic pockets of change, the energy business is business as usual. The latest polls find that only a small majority of Americans believe that climate change is even real. Wind farms are being built, consumption taxes are being levied, greenhouse gas impact labels are being used abroad, while we continue right here in our own backyard to maim our mountains in search of dirty coal through mountaintop removal and remain dependent on coal for 60% of our electricity, without significant plans for anything different in the near future.

Tom Friedman made a great observation recently about this issue, using the One-Percent Doctrine developed by Dick Cheney. When it came to the Vice-President's attention that a Pakistani scientist might be sharing nuclear weapons secrets with Al Qaeda, Cheney declared, "If there's a 1% chance [that is happening,] we have to treat it as a certainty in terms of our response." In other words, when faced with a threat which is low probability but capable of high-impact, you must respond decisively. Friedman writes, "So if we prepare for climate change by building a clean-power economy, but climate change turns out to be a hoax, what would be the result? In short, as a country, we would be stronger, more innovative and more energy independent. But if we don't prepare, and climate change turns out to be real, life on this planet could become a living hell."

We have the enormous privilege of having Lenny Bernstein, who shared the Nobel Peace Prize with Al Gore for their work on this issue, in our congregation. On January 25th, he will be the opening speaker in a series of important lunch talks/discussions we will have beginning this month and into February. I would like our congregation to recognize the moral imperative in knowing all you can about climate change so that our congregation can make educated decisions towards being a model for living gently in this world, and limiting our contributions of greenhouse gases. We owe it ourselves and our children.

Temple Board & Committee Members

TEMPLE OFFICERS

| | |
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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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CONGREGATIONAL COMMITTEES

Amud L'Chaim – Capital Campaign and Building Committee
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BROTHERHOOD

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CARING COMMUNITY caringcommunity@bethhatephila.org

Dionne Kempenich & Hope Cucchi, Co-Chairs
L'Chaim *Judy & Dave Blumlo, Co-Chairs*
Simchas *Amanda Diamond-Ring & Ashley Gilreath, Co-Chairs*
Bikkur Cholim *Barb Stein & Nicky Erickson, Co-Chairs*
Nechama (Bereavement/Shiva) *Charles Erde & Ellen Chelmis, Co-Chairs*
R'Fuah (Healing) or Housebound *Elise Israel & Ellen Shaw, Co-Chairs*
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Bakers-Cooks *Eileen Simon & Charlie VanBuskirk, Co-Chairs*
Special Needs *Shirley Cohen, Chair*

CEMETERY

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ENDOWMENT TRUSTEES endowment@bethhatephila.org

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Menorah Editor: Barbara Jaslow — menorah@bethhatephila.org



Chai Notes

I have always loved this time of year. Don't we all feel a sense of "nesting," of being inside more and feeling like baking and cooking? Scientists would say that this is very primitive, intuitive behavior, similar to what bears and other animals do when the days become shorter and the temperature drops. It may be so. All I know is that I have an urge to make soup and to straighten up the inside of our house, where we will be spending a lot more time.

It has also dawned on me how similar this is to the religious cleansing we recently passed through. During the High Holidays we examined and hopefully "straightened up" our minds and our souls, where we live year-round. We promised to spend a little more time in there than last year, thinking through what we want to say and what we believe. I can't help noticing the similarities as I look around our home and realize how much more peaceful I feel when it's tidy. So it is with our inner "home." When we use cloudy and cool weather to slow down and tidy up our hearts, our prayers seem more heartfelt, our wishes to others more sweet, our hugs a little longer. Here are a few suggestions that come to mind for our preparations to "hunker down" for the winter:

- 1) Send a real, handwritten letter to someone with whom you haven't had contact for way too long.
- 2) Bundle up and go for a long walk all alone with your own thoughts. Make cocoa when you get back.
- 3) Eject all the CDs in your car and put in fresh ones you haven't heard in a long time.
- 4) Come to services 30 minutes early one Friday night and sit in silence, listening for that "still small voice."
- 5) Send a note to a good friend, telling them how you cherish and rely on their love and support.
- 6) Make plans for New Year's Eve. Don't let it sneak up on you, and then catch you alone if you don't want to be alone.

Other Things I Would Like You To Know

1. In the coming months, Dr. Vance Reese and I will be preparing some special Shabbat experiences musically. Watch for:

Jan. 22nd — a Sephardic Music Shabbat

Feb. 12th — a European/Enlightenment Music Shabbat.

Mar. 26th —an American Jewish Composer Music Shabbat.

Please join us at these special worship services, as we explore and enjoy some different sounds from around the world.

2. I am enlarging our pool of Torah chanters. If you are a solid Hebrew reader, and would like to learn to chant a Torah portion for a Shabbat service, please call me. I would be delighted to help you accomplish this fun and rewarding Mitzvah!

3. Keep your eyes and ears open for publicity about our MARCH 14th SYMPHONY AFTERNOON FUNDRAISER! As you may have heard by now, a trio from the Cleveland Symphony Orchestra will be playing a full concert on that Sunday afternoon. Ticket prices will be very reasonable, and families are urged to attend. The event will take place at Ferguson Auditorium on the AB Tech Campus, and valet parking is planned! You may get a chance to meet and chat with the performers before the concert begins. Both Cantor Winston and Dr. Vance Reese are scheduled to perform along with the trio! Set the date aside now, and don't miss this amazing event!!

B'shira (in song).
Cantor Deb Winston





President's Message

The Golden Age of Judaism

The history of the Jewish people is a litany of persecution and problems. From Biblical times, through millennia and on into the modern era, we have faced intolerance, discrimination, exile, and every extreme of dehumanization. But through time and space, there have been pockets of respite, and even a Golden Age, of sorts. Many of us were taught that Judaism enjoyed a Golden Age in Spain and Portugal, in the last part of the first millennium CE. Spain was ruled by Muslim Arabs, and Jews were granted equal rights and religious and civil liberty. We were doctors, teachers, scholars, and government officials. In this environment, one of our greatest thinkers, Moses Maimonides, was a physician and also codified some of Judaism's most important texts.

This Golden Age was a rare bubble in history. The animosity against our people is an institutional one, embedded in the very fabric of most people's faith, taught and preached as a clear moral code the world over, inescapable in our Diaspora.

Fast forward to my parents' generation. My parents were relatively lucky. My father attended Penn Medical School the very first year they did away with Jewish quotas. My mother was able to become president of her local Garden Club after only 10 years (though it took some friends deliberately inviting several of the more conservative church members to a conflicting luncheon, removing a key opposition voting block). I faced only a minor amount of harassment in school, far less than my parents faced growing up.

In our small Southern town, as one of three Jewish families, we were constantly reminded of the dangers and pitfalls and requisite responsibilities of our very specific "otherness." We all had to learn what it meant to be "circumspect" (which I figured had to do with "circumcised"). We were the only Jews that most of our neighbors ever met, and to my parents, everything we did reflected on the Jewish People as a whole.

The family car had to be cleaned weekly and the lawn kept up. Our grades and public comportment had to be above reproach. We always had to set a good example. Growing up in the shadow of the Holocaust, and amid intolerance and ignorance, was our version of growing up in the shadow of the Bomb.

Ironically, though my children's grades and public comportment are much better than mine and my siblings' ever were, their world is completely different. They watch Sacha Baron Cohen as Borat running around naked on the movie screen, and see comedy videos of Sara Silverman and Lewis Black with all their profanity and irreverence, and see Jews on television and in the movies enjoying the luxury of being crude, low-brow, profane, in-your-face, and completely wonderful. Not in the shadow of anything, not afraid, not circumspect. Completely chutzpadich. Possibly still circumcised, though.

I don't know what my mother, of blessed memory and the world's best latkes, would have thought of Borat or Bruno and their crazy antics. I think part of her would have been mortified. I know I was mortified. But I think part of her would have known that with each new edgy Jewish blockbuster, with each Jewish entertainer NOT changing his name and pushing the limits of our cultural comfort zone, Jews everywhere take one more step out of the shadow of worry, otherness, and circumspection; we take one more step toward the light of freedom. I think she would appreciate that a true Golden Age of Judaism is here, now, in our own day and our own place. Maybe it wasn't yesterday, and maybe it won't be tomorrow, and maybe the people who appreciate it the least will enjoy it the most, but it is here now.

May it be His will.

Charles Erde



Asheville's Second Annual Jewish Film Festival

March 13th — March 19th at the Fine Arts Theatre

Films will include *"Yoo, Hoo Mrs. Goldberg"* & *"Killing Kastzner"* along with appearances by their directors.

Save the dates now and look for all the details in next month's Menorah.



Religious School

I'm sure everyone is enjoying their winter vacation and getting to sleep in for a few Sunday mornings. But after your rest and play time off, we still have half a year of learning and fun at the religious school. Welcome to 2010!

Just before we took off for winter break we had a great week of Hanukkah. On Friday night Shabbat services – the first night of Hanukkah – we had our annual Hanukkah celebration with our homemade Hanukkah menorahs. There were so many wonderful creative entries this year. Thanks to all of the children and families that brought a menorah. The sanctuary looked so beautiful as we turned down the lights to see the warm glow of dozens of candles lighting our sacred space. It was great to see so many menorahs entered in our new category of recycle & reuse; reminding all of us of our sacred obligation of Tikkun Olam – helping to repair and heal the world. Also, that same evening, we were treated to the Shema sung in a new melody by our K through 4th graders. Thanks to Cantor Winston for teaching and leading our children. The Hanukkah celebration continued after services with dinner in Unger Hall. We had an amazing crowd of almost 200 people! And did I mention the yummy latkes?

Two days later, we got lucky and a freezing rain just missed us so we were back at Temple Sunday morning for religious school ready for a second round of latkes and gelt. Thanks to *Elfy Kornfeld* for coordinating our religious school Hanukkah party. And thanks to all the other parent volunteers who made the party possible. We got our celebration going with Cantor Deb leading us in singing Hanukkah songs. How wonderful to hear our children sing with smiles on their faces. Then, after eating our latkes, Rabbi Meiri quizzed us on our Hanukkah knowledge and then led us in the brachot and lighting of the Hanukkah candles. As always, a good time was had by all.

Religious School Sleepover: a great tradition continues at BHT. Thanks to *Jenny Mercer* for her hard work and a sleepless night. Here is Jenny's description of the evening:

November 13th, after Shabbat services, ten 5th through 8th graders and three intrepid adults had the 2nd annual lock-in (that's a sleepover, not a prison term). The evening was marked by, first of all, not setting off the alarm like we did last year. After that, all was wild and crazy; hide and go seek, sardines in the dark, roasting marshmallows around the fire pit, and the movie "Ghostbusters." That brought us to 2:00 AM and lights out. The grown-ups stationed themselves in the halls and before we knew it, our 7:00 AM breakfast was delivered.

Why would the adults, who frankly don't sleep all that well on the ground, and are usually in bed by ten, why would they do this? Because there is nothing like seeing these kids having the time of their lives, in a Jewish setting, and reinforcing lifelong friendships.

Many thanks to *Scott Hyman* and *Geri Garfinkel* for staying overnight, and to *Lauren Rosenfeld* for bringing breakfast. We will definitely do this again next year!

Classroom Snapshots

5th, 6th and 7th grade Hebrew classes have been hard at work learning the long Kiddush for Friday night. They translated and learned about the themes of creation, exodus from Egypt and the Holiness of Shabbat. They also practiced Sim Shalom, a prayer for peace that is said on Shabbat mornings. The students then got to create an interpretive skit about the prayer – what fun. On the first Sunday of Hanukkah, the students practiced the Hanukkah blessings while lighting a menorah made of pottery shards from the city of Modi'in in Israel, the city where Judah Maccabi was born – how amazing is that?

Mark N. Meiri



ADULT EDUCATION

There's still time to join another year of Sunday morning adult study with Rabbi Meiri, from 9:30 to 11:00 AM. The class is open to beginning and advanced Jewish learners – anyone wishing to expand the breadth of their Jewish knowledge. This year, our focus will continue to be the character of God in the Bible and beyond, beginning with Rabbinic texts into medieval, mystical and Chassidic sources. You'll always be surprised where the discussion goes! The cost for class will be \$150 for members and \$200 for non-members. The cost will be prorated for the remainder of the year. Coffee, tea, and water will be provided.

Schedule: January 10th, 24th, 31st
February 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th
March 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th
April 11th, 18th, 25th (last day)
May 2nd (last day)

If you haven't already done so, please contact Dawna at the Temple office at 253-4911 to reserve your spot now.



Yiddish Verter

Kalleh, rhymes with *challeh*. It means bride but it has some extra cultural/religious meanings. Since the bride is beautiful we talk about the Sabbath bride. It is said in the Talmud, "every bride is beautiful and graceful." Who could argue? When something is unbelievably fortunate or too good to be true, a Yiddish expression asks "The Kalleh is *tsu shayn*? Which means, "Is the bride too beautiful?"

Chausen, rhymes with *pawson*. It means bridegroom. If there is a beautiful *kalleh* there better be *chausen*. Amongst the very traditional, an unmarried man is selfish, insensitive and a sinner. After all, he is commanded to "multiply." Who knows how many scholars, maybe even Nobel winners, he could father?

HEBREW/ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES OFFERED BY JENNY MERCER

Intermediate Hebrew: Learn to translate the siddur and Hebrew Bible by adding more grammar and vocabulary to your skills. 21 1½-hour lessons. **Must be a Hebrew reader.**

Tuesdays 6:00 – 7:30 PM, Dec. 1st – May 4th,
no class March 30th. \$160 members, \$185 non-members.

Textbook "Prayerbook Hebrew the Easy Way" is available in the office.

Bible Stories: The Art of Biblical Narrative (advanced Hebrew).

Three stories of intrigue, trickery and seduction in the Hebrew bible will be studied for their literary style, word plays, type scenes and more as we follow the lead of Robert Alter in his book, "The Art of Biblical Narrative." **Hebrew literacy necessary.**

3 sessions, 7 hour-long classes in each session. It is not necessary to register for all sessions.

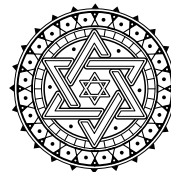
Session 1: Wed. Dec. 2nd – Jan. 20th

Session 2: Wed. Jan. 27th – March 10th

Session 3: Wed. March 17th – May 5th

No class March 31st. \$55 members per session, \$65 non-members per session.

Please call *Jenny Mercer* at 254-2448 with any questions.



Friendship Circle

Saturday, January 9th at 9:45 AM

Join us for another provocative and interesting discussion, led by *Allen Sher*, based on a topic from the Reform Responsa.

We will precede the discussion with breakfast goodies and a brief Shabbat service.

You needn't read anything ahead of time. Just come prepared for a lively exchange of opinions and ideas.

Friends and neighbors are always welcome.

Becoming a Jew

Five years ago on a cold February Friday night, I found myself in the lobby of Temple Beth HaTephila putting on a yarmulke preparing to attend my first service alone. I was feeling a little nervous and working up my courage to go into the sanctuary when a man walked into the lobby from the stairway to my left, extended his hand and said, “Hi, I’m Bob Ratner. Welcome!” Rabbi Ratner’s timely arrival ushered me into what, for me, has been a remarkable journey of discovery in becoming a Jew.

Judaism is not a proselytizing religion and no missionaries ever came knocking on my door trying to convince me to become Jewish. I had reached the realization, long before my arrival on that February evening, that I was not satisfied with the religion with which I was affiliated and I was looking for a new religious home. Through study and reflection, I came to realize that the beliefs of Judaism, particularly as expressed through the Reform Movement, were in keeping with my own.

Judaism was not unfamiliar to me. I had been introduced to this religion twenty years earlier when I had become acquainted with the wife of the Rabbi of the Reform synagogue in my hometown in southern West Virginia. She enlisted me to lead the children of the congregation in music and Israeli folk dancing and, through this experience, I became acquainted with the families of these young people and with Jewish ritual and practice.

Prior to working with these children, I had had very little contact with Jews. I suppose that the greatest revelations for me about the experience were how welcome the Jewish congregation in my hometown made me feel and how integrated the Jews there were with the greater community. I felt very much at home with this small and welcoming congregation and I later wrote a history of the Jews of southern West Virginia that was published in that State’s magazine of culture and history.

Changing religions in midlife can be a daunting experience; fortunately, I have had good teachers and mentors. I began my Jewish conversion process with Rabbi Ratner and worked with him for a year prior to his medical retirement. In the interim that Congregation Beth HaTephila was without a rabbi, I studied Jewish liturgy with Cantor Winston and Hebrew with Jenny Mercer. My inability to make the guttural Hebrew “ch” sound has been a source of much good natured teasing from them both.

My conversion classes resumed last year with an Introduction to Judaism course jointly taught by Rabbi Meiri and Rabbi Cabelli from Asheville’s Conservative Congregation. The process culminated this past summer with my formal conversion.

I have experienced much during the past five years. I have attended b’nei mitzvah, onegs, Jewish funerals, Havdalahs and Seders. I have been deeply moved by the solemnity of the High Holy Days, and this year I was privileged to be called to chant from the Torah scroll on Yom Kippur.

I have been a birthday usher and have witnessed the blessing of the marriage of a lesbian couple. I have sung in the choir. I have carried the Torah scroll during Simchat Torah and have been ridiculous during Purim. I have dutifully undergone a Hatafat Dam Brit, have appeared before a Beit Din and have been immersed in a mikveh ritual bath. I now know how to keep wax off of my furniture when the entire nine candles of the Hanukkah menorah are blazing and I have learned how to cook without leavening during Passover. I have not developed a taste for Gefilte fish.

During the past five years, I have listened to holocaust survivors describe the horror of being Jewish in Germany during the 1930’s and felt the outrage of Jews over the present day atrocities that are being inflicted in Darfur. I have also felt both the hope and despair of impassioned Israelis talking about that country’s desire for peace. I have observed how the congregation of Beth HaTephila dealt with the illness of a beloved and charismatic rabbi and then went about choosing and welcoming a new and equally dynamic replacement. I have stood in the midst of the crowded HardLox Festival selling food tickets and have had my non-Jewish friends stop and ask me what I was doing there. I feel that I have been where I was supposed to be for the past five years and where I hope to remain indefinitely.

I have traveled an interesting inner journey in my life and I never dreamed that I would find spiritual fulfillment and peace worshiping as a Jew; but I have. In our lives, we are often led to the unexpected and I believe that the journey through life is what life is really all about. The truly wise person learns to appreciate and celebrate life’s journey without worrying too much about the destination. I look forward to this next phase of my life as a Jew and as a member of Congregation Beth HaTephila.

Michael Meador



Sisterhood News



HAPPY NEW YEAR from Sisterhood
Wishing you all a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Here Are Our Happenings!

Sisterhood wishes to thank all who made Potato Latkes for the Hanukah Dinner. They were all delicious.

Our Women's Torah Study will be at **1:00 PM on January 7th** with the reading being *Shemot Exodus 1:1-6:1*. You are welcome to pick up a Torah commentary, either the women's or a red Plaut commentary from the sanctuary. You might also check the Internet for various readings. Presently, there is no study guide on the WRJ web site but one is forthcoming. So check this link around January 9th for a possible study guide:

<http://www.womenofreformjudaism.org/the-Torah-a-womens-commentar/the-torah-a-womens-commentary-study-guide-program>. Any questions or concerns call **Gail Sobel** at 255-0473.

The Sisterhood's annual book review, led by **Carol Gillen**, will be held on Thursday, February 4th at 1:00 PM Being reviewed is All Other Nights by Dara Horn, a New York Times Book Review Editor's Choice in 2009. The story revolves around a young Jewish man who becomes a spy for the Union because he has certain important family Confederacy connections. Carol Gillen has talked to Barnes and Noble Customer Service at the Asheville Mall and they will have several dozen copies available. The book can also be ordered online. Carol has been e-mailing with the author and this will surely make her presentation, and our discussion, richer and very interesting.

Collecting Books for Children

Book Discovery is a project that Sisterhood has undertaken for many years. This valuable program puts books in the hands of children who have never owned a book or have very few. The program helps show children the educational value that reading books provides them. Last year, it came to Sisterhood's attention that books were needed for children under 5. We have chosen two not-for-profit organizations to try and collect books for in an effort to encourage reading at a young age.

One is Eliada Child Development, which is a non-profit agency dedicated to helping children succeed. Located on a historic 200-acre campus in the mountains of Western North Carolina, Eliada serves children and families through a diverse spectrum of programs and services, including residential care, child development services, foster care, community support services, therapeutic recreation, and many others. Due to federal funding, Eliada is not allowed to accept commercial character books such as Disney princesses, Sponge Bob, Sesame Street, Mickey Mouse, etc. A sample list can be e-mailed to you by calling **Gail Sobel** at 255-0473.

We also chose Asheville City Pre School where there is need for books for children from birth to 5. The director indicated that sturdy constructed books of a non-violent nature would be welcome – no problem here with Disney characters and princesses.

Please start gathering new and used children's books to bring to the February 4th book review when Sisterhood will kick off its BOOK DISCOVERY DRIVE. Questions Call: **Gail Sobel** 255-0473.

HADASSAH PRESENTS:

GOLDA'S BALCONY Starring Valerie Harper

Official Honoree—Ellat International Film Festival of Israel

Sunday, January 17th @ 6:00 P.M.

At Congregation Beth HaTephila

Dinner and a Movie \$36.00P/P
Wonderful Food—Fun—Friends

Proceeds to Benefit the Hadassah Medical Organization

"Compelling" N.Y. Times" — "Stunning" L. A. Times
"Excellent" Village Voice — "Wonderful" NBC
"Splendid" The New Republic
"Powerful" The Hollywood Reporter



Save the Date!

Upcoming Jewish Women's Circle

Bring a friend, enjoy a terrific night out, you'll be happy you came!

Tuesday, January 26th

For more information or to RSVP contact:

Chana@ChabadAsheville.org,

Or call Chabad House @ 505-0746

This is a special night out for ALL Jewish women ~ no background knowledge, membership, or affiliation necessary!



Brotherhood News

Brotherhood was busy in November and December with two brunch programs. Thanks to **Gerry Plotkin** for an excellent program on his Peace Corps experience in Cote D'Ivoire, the Ivory Coast. Gerry told us many interesting things about this part of Africa.

In December, we joined with the Social Justice Committee to highlight Human Rights Day with a brunch program. **Dr. Mark Gibney**, Distinguished Professor at UNC-A and a Human Rights lawyer, spoke to us about the complex issues involved in universal International Rights. Thanks to **Leah Karpen** for arranging the program.

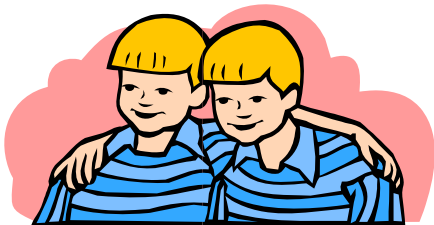
As usual, many people helped make the brunches a success including: *Vic Fahrer, Mort Stein, Rubin Feldstein, Allen Sher, Eric Naimark, Arnie Sgan, Nelson Sobel, Gil Kempenich, Howard Jaslow, Mark Boyd, Dick Braun, Bob Winston, Joe Gates and Tony Joseph.*

The Men's Lunch Bunch "Tuesday is Schmooze Day" met in November at Papas and Beers and in December at China Palace. We meet every third Tuesday of the month at 12:00 noon at a different restaurant. All men are invited. Call **Rubin Feldstein** for further information.

Brotherhood Board voted to provide a gift for all new Jews By Choice to be presented at Friday Evening Services.

Our January Brunch will be on **Sunday January 10th**. Former CBHT member, **Bahia Brenda Abrams**, will speak about her experiences as a Syrian Jew and the threat of religious fundamentalism among the three Abrahamic religions. She is the author of THE OTHER HALF OF MY SOUL. Don't miss this one. Call for reservations now. See the flyer in the back of the Menorah for all the details.

Arnold Sgan,
CBHT Brotherhood President



IT'S YOUR MONEY — IT'S YOUR TEMPLE



The revenues that we have previously covered are generally considered short-term in that they are received and spent within the current fiscal year. However, long-term revenues/investments also figure prominently into the BHT financial health.

These are the Endowment funds, which are invested in equity and income producing stocks and bonds. They are managed by Wachovia Bank under the supervision of the BHT Endowments Committee. Distributions from these funds become a source of revenue for the Temple, and the principal balance is carried as a long-term asset on the balance sheet.

Presently, there are two methods of distribution. The rules governing these funds are determined by law and by the wishes of the donors who set them up.

TRADITIONAL – Generated interest and dividends are distributed to the operating budget. BHT funds in this category include:

- **The Rashi Fund** – interest and dividends go to the General Fund
- **The Joseph Dave Choir Fund** – as above, but with the added restriction that these monies can only be used for non-budgeted music items
- **The Cemetery Fund** – the income and dividends from this fund are restricted to the maintenance and improvement of our cemetery.

MODERN – A percentage of the fund balance is transferred to the operational accounts on an annual basis. This has the great advantage that the investments need not be restricted primarily to income producing vehicles, but can incorporate equities generating capital gains, giving the fund supervisors the option to invest as the markets dictate. We only have one fund in this category:

- **The Maimonides Fund** - Currently generates 5% of a rolling-average balance calculated over several years to minimize the fluctuations of the stock market.

Regardless of the distribution procedure, the principal of these funds can never be lower than the total donations to that fund i.e., the corpus of these funds are protected by law. All Lifetime Membership fees are deposited into the Endowment funds, as well as designated personal contributions.

Recently, BHT embarked on a Capital Improvement campaign to modify the sanctuary building and eliminate the old Religious School building. I am sure most of you have seen these proposed revisions. Monies donated to this fund, Amud L'Chaim, are deposited in an FDIC insured money market account, and are restricted to this purpose.

From the Social Justice Committee

At its recent meeting, the Board approved two items presented by the Social Justice Committee: (i) a process for taking action on social justice advocacy and (ii) a statement of Jewish principles on health care. These are summarized below.

Social Justice Issue Advocacy ~ a Process for Taking Action ~

CBHT By-Laws mandate that the Board has full control over the affairs of the Temple. Of course, the Board does not micromanage each of the committees' activities unless special issues arise. The Social Justice Committee recognizes that some of its advocacy issues elicit passionate feelings on both sides of an issue. As such, the Committee has defined a process that should be equitable to all parties and, at the same time, recognizes that any final decision is the sole responsibility of the Board as defined in our By-Laws.

The procedure to be followed for approving and taking action on a social justice issue is defined in a flowchart that is available in our Administrator's office. Basically, it provides an equitable approach allowing for congregational feedback when the Board deems it appropriate to bring it to the attention of the congregation to air all views in a fair manner. (If you have any questions of the procedure defined in the flowchart, please contact Howard Jaslow.)

Any congregant may propose a social justice advocacy action. The Social Justice Committee, being the focal point of any social justice issue, will evaluate the proposal subject to evaluation criteria. If the Social Justice Committee deems the proposal worthy of action, it is then sent to the president or the Board, or the Executive Committee if rapid response is needed. If the Social Justice Committee rejects the proposal, the proposer has the option of going directly to the Board.

It must be emphasized that throughout this process, every opportunity is provided for a proposer to have recourse if a proposal is rejected. However, in keeping with the By-Laws, a vote by the Board is final.

In keeping with open communication with the congregation, when a proposal is submitted to the Board, the Board decides whether it deems it to be in the best interest of the congregation to seek feedback from our members to get the "pulse" of the congregation. If this is done, then the Board reviews the social justice issue proposal and evaluates the feedback to make a final decision on the proposal.

Jewish Principles on Health Care

Jewish Principles

1. Maimonides listed health care first on his list of the ten most important communal services that a city had to offer to its residents (Mishneh Torah, Hilchot De'ot IV: 23).
2. Torah makes it clear that protecting the health of each human being is a profoundly important personal and communal responsibility for people of faith.
3. Torah teaches God's command that society organize in such a way that all members have genuine access to the resources needed to live a dignified life, as well as provide for those who are unable to care for themselves.

Jewish Responsibility

1. Protecting health is a sacred obligation for the individual and the community.
2. Jewish history abounds with communal actions to ensure that all its citizens had access to health care. (Shulchan Aruch, Yoreh Deah 249:16; Responsa Ramat Rahel of Rabbi Eliezer Waldenberg, sections 24-25.)
3. Understand all versions of health care reform and act on those that follow Jewish principles and responsibilities.
4. It is our obligation as Jews to continue l'dor v'dor, from generation to generation, to transform Jewish principles into Jewish actions.

**Congregation Beth Ha Tephila resolves:
To work for all people having access to health care.**



SOCIAL JUSTICE LENDING — SELF-HELP CREDIT UNION

The *Self-Help Credit Union* was founded to provide small loans to people who cannot get loans from conventional sources. They assess applicants on a case-by-case basis rather than in terms of their credit history or collateral. In many cases they have helped start small businesses, child care centers, charter schools, or even home ownership. The funding comes from deposits (money market accounts, especially), grants and investments from a variety of sources, including individuals. The motto is to "help people help themselves." The local office is at 34 Wall Street, Suite 704, 253-5251.

Do you know anyone who could use their help?

Leah Karpen

From the Tzedakah Committee



Monthly Shelter Meal

Each month, the CBHT Tzedakah Committee sponsors lunch for the residents living at the ABCCM Veterans Shelter on Tunnel Road. If you'd like to help in the planning and preparation of our monthly shelter serving, please contact **Barb Stein** @ 505-0736. To volunteer as a server, please contact **Linda Kavanaugh** @ 683-6289. Lunch begins at 11:45 am on the third Friday of each month. Special thanks to *Donna Rinsler* and *Barb Stein* for preparing the December meal and to *Linda Kavanaugh*, *Judy Kaplan*, *Rona Kappalman* and *Rusty Schapiro* for serving.

Sponsor of the Month

Leslie Ann White & Dawna E. Wade

(in memory of Evelyn Ruth White & David Elam White – WWII Veterans))

Each monthly shelter meal can cost the CBHT Tzedakah Committee up to \$50. Our costs have increased as the need has risen. You can help sustain our project by becoming a ‘**Sponsor of the Month.**’ Simply write a check out for a minimum of \$50 to: CBHT Tzedakah Fund and label it “Sponsor of the Month.” Donors will be listed in the order that they are received in The Menorah. Thanks so much to those of you who have already responded to this plea.



CHRISTMAS MITZVAH DAY

Many thanks to **Jerry Plotkin** for organizing Mitzvah Day and to all of you who volunteered for our annual Christmas Mitzvah Day project. The time you spent with local non-profits gave their staff time off to celebrate their holiday while allowing you to serve and spend rewarding time practicing Tzedakah with many people in need in our community. Our Mitzvah Day volunteers delivered gifts to Council of Aging clients, delivered meals for Meals on Wheels, helped out at the local Red Cross, prepared and served holiday meals to A-Hope, Steadfast House, Eliada Home, the ACCBM Veterans Quarters and worked with the homeless at The Asheville Mission Campus.



Clothing Drive

We are working with a new organization in the community, **The Asheville Mission Congregation**, to collect warm clothes for Asheville's homeless: gloves, hats, scarves, sleeping bags, blankets, pants and thermals – all sizes, male and female. Many thanks to you who have already answered our plea and donated much needed items. Our effort continues and we ask that you continue to bring in your donations and place them in our Tzedakah collection box on the stage in Unger Hall.



Nothing But Nets — It's So Easy to Contribute \$10

CBHT continues our involvement in the **Nothing But Nets** project to prevent the spread of malaria. Studies show that using insecticide-treated bed nets can reduce transmission as much as 50%. A **\$10 donation** goes directly towards the purchase, distribution, and education about the proper use of a family bed net. Contributions raised provide bed nets to Darfur refugees who have crossed borders into the Central African Republic and Chad. This has been a national interfaith project and heavily supported by the Union for Reform Judaism. Please send your check to the Temple, c/o Tzedakah Committee or leave it in the envelope on the Temple Office door.

Temple Happenings



STORYTELLING PROGRAM Sunday, Jan. 10th

The next meeting of the L'Chaim Committee will feature a program of storytelling. It will take place on Sunday, **January 10th at 1 PM**. The storyteller will be **Allen Sher**, a member of the Asheville Storytelling Circle. He will do a one-hour program dealing with The Wise Men of Chelm, Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War, North Carolina folklore, and other stories about Sam Ervin.



One Thing...

One Thing the Temple Has Done to Preserve our Planet (coordinated by the 3R working group):

Challenged contestants to make menorahs entirely of recycled materials for Cantor Deb's Menorah Contest.

One Thing You Can Do Now:

Have an excess of packing materials? Check with your local shipping company (e.g., The UPS Store). They are likely to accept and reuse bubble wrap, cushion air packets and Styrofoam peanuts. Compost those cornstarch peanuts — they're the ones that squish when mashed or melt under water.

Great Tip:

Don't just recycle — **Freecycle!** The Freecycle Network is a grassroots and entirely nonprofit movement of people who are giving (and getting) stuff for free in their own towns. It's all about reusing and keeping good items out of landfills. Membership is free. Do an internet search for "Freecycle Asheville" or go to www.freecycle.org



January Onegs

- Jan. 1st OPEN
8th Jayne & Herb Gallinger, Barbara & Howard Jaslow and Fran Myers in honor of the Gallingers' 58th anniversary and Howard's 75th birthday.
15th The Shermises in honor of their birthdays.
22nd OPEN
29th Nicky Erickson and Pam Gretz.

If you would like to sponsor an open oneg during the year, please contact **Barbara Gershenson** at 633-1056 or bgershie@gmail.com to make arrangements to do so.



Yiddish Club

It was suggested that we change the meeting time of the club. There are several good reasons to consider this. Winter evenings are getting nasty. Most of the participants are mature (that's a euphemism) and don't like to drive at night.

Unger Hall is available the first and third Wednesdays of the month, at noon or 1:00 PM starting on January 6th. A bag lunch or a nosh always enhances Yiddish. I'm not sure Yiddish without food is really kosher.

If you have any reactions, suggestions, questions about the above please let me know by calling 298-9782 or write rubinf@att.net.



NEED A RIDE TO TEMPLE??

The transportation sub-group under the Social Justice Committee has been busy matching people who live close to each other for the purpose of ride sharing and forming carpools to Temple events. We are hoping that in early 2010, we will begin to notify people who might be in need of rides with those who can provide transportation.

More Temple Happenings



IT'S CSA TIME – On Your Mark, Get Set EAT YOUR VEGGIES!

If you came to temple on a Tuesday afternoon between June and mid-October and wondered about boxes of fresh vegetables lined up in front of the bima, it was not an offering to Eloheinu, but rather the bounty of Jake's Farm in Candler, awaiting pickup by the members of our community who participated in the first CBHT CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) program. Thirteen boxed shares of luscious mixed produce, PICKED THAT MORNING, were delivered to our temple by Garrett Earhart, the manager of Jake's, at 2 PM every Tuesday during the 2009 growing season; they were shared by 28 families in the Jewish community. Each box represented a prepaid subscription that helped Jake's Farm plant and nurture a variety of crops earlier in the spring, supporting local, sustainable and organic agriculture, and providing the best and the freshest available produce to the shareholders. The program was one of our Preserving Our Planet (POP) Sustainable Agriculture Group's initiatives, and was a rousing success – everyone who partook learned about new vegetables, traded recipes, expanded their culinary palate, ate and enjoyed!

Now is the time to think about purchasing a share for the coming growing season, but first we have a wonderful new alternative:

A Winter CSA! Jake's Farm has planted *Chard, Toscano Kale, Arugula, Tatsoi (bok choy-ish), Collards, Head Lettuces, Spinach, Assorted Herbs, Red Russian Kale, Mixed Salad Lettuce and Assorted Radishes.*

Boxes will be delivered to the temple for 15 weeks, starting the first Tuesday of January, through Tuesday, April 13th (just a few weeks before the Summer CSA starts). A bonus addition to the winter boxes will be Sweet Potatoes, periodically available from another organic N. Carolina grower. So if you like leafy greens, this is for you! You can split the box with another family if you like.

As added incentive...if you're interested in buying a Summer CSA in 2010, and pay for it by January 15th, you'll get half off your winter share, paying only \$175 for the 15-week winter share! Summer shares cost \$600 last year for a 20-week subscription to good eatin', a significant savings over retail or even tailgate market prices, and though we don't have a confirmed price yet for 2010 shares, it would be in that neighborhood. Two families often shared a box, which holds lots of food! Our goal is for CBHT to purchase 18 boxes this year — L'Khayim!

NOTE: The Sustainable Agriculture committee also wants CBHT to purchase a share or two to donate to hungry families this year, or pay a farmer to plant rows of vegetables to be donated, so whether you subscribe or not, please consider making a contribution to our FARM FRESH FOOD FUND.

If you are interested, or have any questions, please email *Ellen Chelms*, erubvc@aol.com ASAP!



Havdalah Evenings

Come to the second neighborhood Havdalah evening! A beautiful farewell to Shabbat and welcome to the work week.

When: Saturday, Jan. 16th, 7:00 PM

(Bad weather date the following Saturday Jan.23rd.)

Where: The River Ridge Club House in East Asheville

I-240, exit 8. Come in through the front entrance into the River Ridge shopping center, and follow the road down to the entrance of the apartment development, following the road until the first right, take it, go down the road, do not take the first left (that goes into one of the apartment areas), but continue to the next right, follow it all the way to just before the tennis courts, and there is the club house!

Details: Coffee, tea and juice will be available, and snacks are welcome. After the Havdalah service, please stay for food, conversation, Scrabble, Dominoes, whatever!

RSVP: to *Shirley Cohen* @ 298-0564.



Here's what folks are saying about our monthly Shabbat morning services:

"Saturday morning services do something different for us than the more formal, larger minyan of Friday eve. We feel more relaxed, more able to be engaged with God, with the torah ..."

"... my experience in our congregation [is]... that when we have such a service and it is not a B'nai Mitzvah, the small group can approach things with a lot more depth and intellectual and spiritual stimulation... It is my hope we can again expand this effort to every week.

"The intimate and informal Saturday morning service compared with the larger Friday Shabbat is like the difference between attending a symphony performance and a chamber music concert. They're both moving and engaging but sometimes I prefer to get up close and personal with my music and musicians -- our liturgy and our clergy."

Still More Temple Happenings



Lunchtime Discussions

The Social Justice Committee is initiating a series of lunchtime discussions on current issues of major importance. Instead of planning them on a monthly basis we will do them as a series. The first three will take place on **Monday, January 25th, February 8th, and Tuesday, February 16th** from noon until 1:00. Bring your lunch if you wish and coffee and tea will be available. The format will be a limited presentation with time for discussion and interaction.

**Jan. 25th: How to Talk to a Climate Change Skeptic
(If You Must)
Led by Lenny Bernstein**

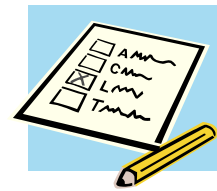
Recent surveys show that the number of people who doubt that climate change is a serious problem has grown, in part as a result of an active campaign by climate change skeptics to cast doubt on the validity of climate change science. Lenny Bernstein will present the arguments made by these skeptics and the science that refutes them. Lenny has been working on climate change for the last twenty years and was a lead author on the last two Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Assessment Reports. He has been recognized by the IPCC for contributing to the organization's winning half of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize (Al Gore won the other half.).

**February 8th: Organic vs Local Family Farms
Led by Jeanine Davis**

Dr. Davis has a research and extension position with NC State and is based at the Mountain Horticultural Crops center in Fletcher.

**February 16th (note this is a Tuesday).
Health Reform: What does It Mean For Me?
Led by Judy Leavitt.**

The confusion surrounding health reform legislation has left many wondering about the personal implications of federal legislation. Judy Leavitt will present the components of final legislation (if it is final) and discuss how this could affect coverage, cost and access. Judy has worked in health policy at all levels of government including with Congress, state legislatures in New York and Mississippi and continues to consult and write about the issues.



BOARD NOMINATIONS

The Nominating Committee will meet soon to select a slate of proposed candidates for Officer Trustees and Board At Large Trustees for the 2010-2011 fiscal year. In preparation, the Nominating Committee is now soliciting recommendations from the congregation.

The Officer Trustees eligible for election are:

Charles Erde, President
Preston Diamond, 1st Vice President
Evan Gilreath, 2nd Vice President
Larry Weiss, Treasurer
Dottie Davis, Secretary

There are also four At Large Trustee positions to be filled:

Three of these are trustees who are eligible for re-election. They are:

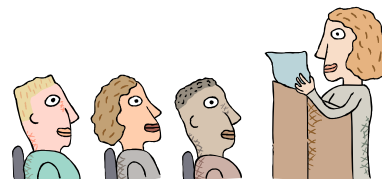
Ellen Chelmis
Elise Israel
Dennis Winner

The fourth is for an open vacancy on the Board.

If you would like to recommend candidates for any of these nine positions, please send your suggestions to any of the following members of the Nominating Committee:

Evan Gilreath
Karen Hyman
Amanda Diamond Ring
Mort Stein

The deadline for submission of candidates is Feb. 15th.



GUEST SPEAKER

On **January 29th**, speaking from the Bimah, we are privileged to have a guest speaker from the **Council on Aging** presenting information on the services provided from the Council. **Ted Zoller**, who is a member of the Council on the Aging Board, will be introducing the speaker. Here is an opportunity to get your Medicare questions and others answered.



Looking Forward by Looking Back: The Architectural Significance of Temple Beth HaTephila

As our society begins to understand and love modern architecture, I am sure this building (Temple Beth HaTephila, BHT)) will find a growing number of admirers - just as Queen Anne, Craftsman, and Art Deco designs have increased in popularity over the past several decades.—Benjamin Briggs, mid-century modern architecture documentarian.

In the 1940s, when our congregation was in the process of designing the first building they could call their own (the previous building was a former Baptist church), they consciously sought a building that portrayed the modern spirit, designed by the best architects they could find. They used the guidance of a 1946 book, *Synagogue Building Plans Blue Book for the Union of American Hebrew Congregations* which said: “Such buildings would strongly attract the Jewish worshiper and at the same time be a worthy ornament to the city in which they stand.”

The Modernist style was popular at the time and is now being rediscovered because it was designed with much thought given to the relationships between public space and private space, sight lines and the desire to project a more progressive (with cutting edge design and technology) and egalitarian outlook (through the use of common materials).

And so our new building was designed by one of the most important architecture firms in NC in the mid-twentieth century, Asheville’s own Six Associates, who also designed the Citizen Times building, F.W. Woolworth Co and many more major public buildings. A long and hard fundraising campaign was waged by some of those still in our congregation today to make the dream a reality. Fashioned in the Art Moderne style of architecture, it purposefully sits majestically on its landscape, a calm and gracious part of the residential neighborhood.

The importance of BHT architecture has been noted by specialists in historic preservation statewide, from author and architectural survey coordinator for the state, Catherine Bisher, whose books were made into a UNC-TV series, to our regional officer of Preservation North Carolina (the oldest state preservation organization in the country) to Benjamin Briggs, a nationally-recognized expert on modern architecture whose day job is head of Preservation Greensboro.

Briggs has written, “I would estimate that this is among the first religious buildings in the state to adopt progressive modern architectural practices,” in a period when Christians were still focused on using Colonial Revival styles. Ted Alexander, southwest regional director of Preservation North Carolina, writes that our BHT building “has close association to the houses of worship designed by Frank Lloyd Wright.”

Its national and regional importance is underscored by the presence and participation, at the 3-day weekend-long opening celebration, of three major dignitaries from Hebrew Union College, the president of UNC-Greensboro, a US Senator from NC, the mayor, dignitaries from the Citizen-Times and several representatives from the local Christian community, which gifted us our bimah. Reform Judaism in Asheville back then was heavily involved in interfaith work, including hosting a radio broadcast to the non-Jewish community for 30 years.

The first religious event held in this building? The wedding of Leon and Dot Rocamora. Leon can be found every Friday night in his favorite pew when he’s not fishing in some remote part of the world.

Today we face a challenge. We need to ask ourselves what is our responsibility to our community, our heritage and our architectural history? How would we feel if Saint Lawrence Basilica or the First Baptist Church, both architectural gems of our city, were to cover their façade?

How will we answer our greater community if we change the integrity of one of its precious works created by Six Associates? Though you may not know the history of the decisions which our forefathers used to design the temple, think of why you came to Asheville: one of those reasons may well have been its eclectic architecture and preservation philosophy. (There are 10 National Register historic districts and 4 local historic districts plus several land-marked buildings like the Biltmore house). Can we propose a renovation that will keep our unique architectural treasure intact?

You can call or email suggestions:

Sharon Fahrer @ 777-1014 or fahrer@charter.net.

Our Temple Family



Get Well Wishes to:

Change of address/phone number/email addresses

Sheri Kahn changed apartments from 505 to 331; everything else remains the same.

Idelle Packer has a new email address: idellepacker@gmail.com

Adele Rose has a new email address: delrose21b@charter.net.

Dr. Gene Rosenberg has moved. His new address is 40 Hyannis Drive, #402, Asheville, 28804-3231

Please make note of these changes in your copy of the congregational directory. Thank you!

Rabbi Philip Bentley
 Jerry Bellinkoff
 Barry Blumberg
 Christoff Chelms
 Sally Cohn
 Gary Cooper
 Nan Emanuel
 Andrea Garfinkel
 Basil Goldman
 Eleanor Kalman
 Keith Klukas
 Gabriela Landau

Marty Lee
 Elijah Leibowitz
 Shelly McDiarmid
 Harriet Peck
 Rabbi Ratner
 Helen Richman
 Nancy Rubin
 Paul Weinberg
 Barbara Whitaker
 Norman Willis
 Andy Wisniewski



Elyse Stein and **Savannah Stein-Stovall** wish to thank all who have called or sent cards of condolence at the recent passing of our Aunt Shirley and a few months ago at the passing of our Uncle Moe. All your expressions of caring and kindness have been deeply appreciated.



Condolences to **Larry Kavanaugh** on the death of his mother, **Annette Wessell**.



Condolences to **Elyse and Savannah Stein** on the death of their aunt, **Shirley Rubin**.



Much thanks and gratitude to **Tino & Ilene Procida** for the outstanding Hanukkah Shabbat Seder. The food was excellent, the service efficient and feeding the huge turnout was done with a smile.

Thank you to the following people whose assistance was so valuable both before and during our Hanukkah Shabbat dinner: **Hans Stader**; **Eileen & Ned Simon**; **Larry and Jacob Weiss** and **Debbie Cooper**; **Stephanie Granek**; **Judie Cohen**; **Pat Reader**; and members of **Sisterhood**.



Thank you to both **Ellen Fisher** and **Roberta Newman** for their donation of books for our library. We appreciate your thinking of us!

Thank you to **Dottie Davis** who took home all of our tablecloths, washed them and brought them back all clean and presentable. What a wonderful Hanukkah gift to us.



TOT SHABBAT

Tot Shabbat will be held on Friday, **January 15th** from 6:30 to 7:00 PM. Young children from birth to five years old and their parents are invited to share in Sabbath songs, stories, and fun!



Lost & Found

To retrieve something that has been found or to let us know that you've lost something, please contact **Dawna** at the Temple office at 253-4911.



Celebrate With Our Temple Families

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

| | | | |
|----|-------------------|----|--------------------------|
| 3 | Linda Gergel | 16 | Brooke Paly |
| 3 | Jan Till | 16 | Laurence Weiss |
| 4 | Kirsty Kline | 17 | Samuel Shermis |
| 4 | Chad Lebensburger | 18 | Gloria Bjorkstrom |
| 4 | Sara Lebensburger | 18 | Mary Ann Jabben |
| 4 | Amy Mandel | 18 | Sylvia Straus |
| 5 | Alice Cohen | 20 | Hope Cucchi |
| 5 | Howard Jaslow | 20 | Frank Goldfarb |
| 6 | Rona Kappalman | 20 | Gerard Marder |
| 7 | Trudy Gould | 21 | Joel Sher |
| 7 | Samuel Rosenberg | 23 | Vance Reese |
| 9 | Charles Gershon | 26 | Hertha Horwitz |
| 9 | Rachel Kramer | 26 | Abigail Huter |
| 9 | Samantha Kramer | 26 | Melvin (Buddy) Riesenber |
| 9 | Idelle Packer | 26 | Debra Slosman |
| 10 | Gabriel Meiri | 26 | Adam Kane Smith |
| 10 | Jared Novak | 27 | Ashley Gilreath |
| 12 | Mark Boyd | 29 | Beatrice Greene |
| 12 | Geoffrey Gerber | 29 | Beverly Harris |
| 14 | William David | 29 | Jacob Novak |
| 14 | Robert Gursky | 30 | Daniel Gottlieb |
| 14 | Leah Katell | 30 | Savannah Stein |
| 14 | Donna Rinsler | 31 | Lauren Bursky |
| 15 | Robert Bayer | 31 | Bobbi Langberg |
| 15 | Arvin Kaufman | 31 | Lydia Nathan |
| 15 | Patrice Robert | 31 | Robin Nathan |

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

| | |
|----|---------------------------------|
| 2 | Harry & Gloria Bjorkstrom |
| 5 | Ruben Marshall & Barbara Pierce |
| 9 | Tyrone & Niccole Erickson |
| 14 | Lowell & Sally Pearlman |
| 16 | Zane & Judy Duncan |
| 19 | Herbert & Jayne Gallinger |
| 19 | Don & Barbara Whitaker |



MENORAH GUIDELINES

The new year is a good time to review the guidelines for submitting an article to the Menorah.

No committee report or article should be more than one page. One page = 600 words, one column = 300 words.

All information should be sent electronically either as a Word 2003 document or embedded in an email.

At the editor's discretion, full page announcements may be reduced to a smaller size.

The deadline is always the **15th of the month**. Anything submitted after that date will not be accepted unless it is critical and there is space. Nothing will be accepted after the copy has gone to the editors for proofing.

Thank you for your cooperation.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Resolve to meet the Menorah deadline
of **January 15th!**

Resolve to meet it every month of 2010!

Thank you.

Barbara Jaslow

menorah@bethhatephila.org



Gifts and Memorials



The Congregation and its Trustees gratefully acknowledge the following gifts:

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

| <u>DONATED BY</u> | <u>IN MEMORY OF</u> |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Barbara Pierce and Ruben Marshall | <i>Dorothy J. Pierce</i> |
| John & Peg Lucky-Rose | <i>John Berdie</i> |
| Lana Waltzer | <i>Chaim Richman</i> |
| Bill & Joan Rocamora | <i>Fan Rocamora</i> |
| Paula Isenberg | <i>Anna D. Silverman</i> |
| Robert Janowitz | <i>Ruth Janowitz</i> |

| <u>DONATED BY</u> | <u>IN HONOR OF</u> |
|-----------------------|---|
| Kirsty & Jack Kline | <i>Harrison Jacob's baby naming</i> |
| Gloria & Dan Pincu | <i>Carol & Marty Gillen's wedding anniversary</i> |
| Felisa & Nigel Morgan | <i>Nolan Perry Morgan's birth</i> |
| Barbara Katell | <i>her conversion to Judaism</i> |
| Lori K. Weinberg | Richard Lane |

Dr. R. A. Resnick

MEMORIAL FUND

| <u>DONATED BY</u> | <u>IN MEMORY OF</u> |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| Mary Schochet | <i>Barney Schochet</i> |

MAIMONIDES ENDOWMENT FUND

| <u>DONATED BY</u> | <u>IN MEMORY OF</u> |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Dorothy Z. Fligel | <i>Coleman Zageir</i> |

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Roberta W. Karesh | <i>Richard Wolff Karesh</i> |
| Leah Karpen | <i>Dr. Samuel Robinson</i> |

| | |
|-------------|----------------------|
| Leah Karpen | <i>Jennie Kroman</i> |
|-------------|----------------------|

| <u>DONATED BY</u> | <u>IN HONOR OF</u> |
|-------------------|--|
| Phyllis G. Sultan | <i>the anniversary of Bill & Joan Rocamora</i> |

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FUND

| <u>DONATED BY</u> | <u>IN MEMORY OF</u> |
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| Abraham Ainspan | <i>Theodore Ainspan</i> |

AMUD L'CHAIM/CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

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| Jack & Claire Orenzow | <i>Harry Orenzow</i> |

| | |
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| Rubin & Ann Feldstein | <i>Isadore Feldstein</i> |
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| Claire & Jack Orenzow | <i>Dorothy Gingold Peck</i> |
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| Hertha & Bert Horwitz | <i>Wally and Rene Wolf's 63rd wedding anniversary</i> |

Jenny Mercer

CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

| <u>DONATED BY</u> | <u>IN MEMORY OF</u> |
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| Judy & Dave Blumlo | <i>Ruth Blumlo</i> |

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| Bill & Joan Rocamora | <i>Coleman Zageir</i> |
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| | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Liesel Sullivan | <i>John Berdie</i> |
|-----------------|--------------------|

| | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| Robert Janowitz | <i>Ruth Janowitz</i> |
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| <u>DONATED BY</u> | <u>IN HONOR OF</u> |
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| Barbara Katell | <i>her conversion to Judaism</i> |

GENERAL FUND

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| Sanford "Sandy" Morse | <i>Sidney Morse</i> |

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| Beatrice Greene | <i>Dorothy Gingold Peck</i> |
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| | |
|--------------|-----------------------|
| Lita Diamond | <i>Alfred Diamond</i> |
|--------------|-----------------------|

| <u>DONATED BY</u> | <u>IN HONOR OF</u> |
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| Alex Joseph | <i>the 10th anniversary of Anthony and Jan Joseph</i> |

Steven & Anita Sher; Allison Adam, Gregory & Molly Feinberg; and Celia & Marc Sher *Allen Sher's 88th birthday (their father, grandfather and great-grandfather)*

Barbara Pierce and Ruben Marshall

Lucy Oliver

TZEDAKAH FUND

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| Ann & Rubin Feldstein | <i>Annette Wessell</i> |

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| Gloria & Dan Pincu | <i>Barb and Mort Stein's wedding anniversary</i> |

Monthly Shelter Serving

| <u>DONATED BY</u> | <u>IN HONOR OF</u> |
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| Jenny Mercer | <i>the veterans of CBHT</i> |

CARING CIRCLE

| <u>DONATED BY</u> | <u>IN HONOR OF</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Jenny Mercer | <i>the College Connections team</i> |

JOSEPH DAVE CHOIR FUND

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| Sheldon & Suzanne Chesis | <i>Hyman Dave's 99th Birthday</i> |

HARDLOX FUND

Debbie & Anthony Adams

Asheville Jewish Business Forum



YAHZEITS



The Yahrzeit policy at our Temple is as follows:

- ✧ The Anniversary date can be celebrated either in the English calendar or the Hebrew calendar.
- ✧ A letter to remind you about your upcoming Yahrzeit is sent to you two weeks before the actual date.
- ✧ The name of your loved one is read at the Friday evening service immediately before the date of the Yahrzeit.
- ✧ If your Yahrzeit actually falls on a Friday, it will be read the previous Friday.
- ✧ If, for any reason, changes must be made, please call the Office before the scheduled date of service.
- ✧ Please keep the Temple Office informed of any incorrect dates or new dates you wish to include.
- ✧ It is important to give the Office the complete date (month/day/year) and whether it is the English or Hebrew date.
- ✧ Please take a moment to update the Office now. Thank you.

Jan. 1, 2010

Linda Kilpatrick Davis
 Fritzi Diamond
 Tippi Galumbeck
 Nathan Heller
 Frank Karpen
 Olga Manket
 Leonard R. Orders
 Nathan Petersiel
 David M. Robinson
 Simpson Robert Walker Jr.
 Edith Ester Weinberg



Jan. 8, 2010

Dorothy Black
 Samuel Black
 Myer Blumlo
 Esther Kanter Cohen
 Loisbeth Emanuel
 Nathan Gershon
 Jose Hong
 Francis Hoyt
 Eva Koffman
 Nettie Levy
 Daniel Meyers
 Samuel Plotkin
 Max Riesenberg
 Lee Sheppard
 Herb Stein

Jan. 15, 2010

Anna Ainspan
 Walter Breen
 Bernice R. Deutsch
 Betty Fisher
 Fanny Kramer
 Herman Kreinberg
 Irving R. Lipsky
 Rhoda Pearlman
 Barney Shwedick
 Molly Sobel



Jan. 22, 2010

Ida Abramowitz
 Paul M. Binenfeld
 Haskell Harris
 Myrtle Jaslow
 Sylvia Kempenich
 Sol Landau
 JoAnn Ridgeway Miles
 Mildred Heller Nathan
 Dot Rocamora
 Augusta Stein
 Miriam Stein
 Meier Strauss
 David Tennes
 Boris Zohar

Jan. 29, 2010

Randall Ashley-Smith
 Ted Eiland
 Fanny Galumbeck
 Abraham Golf

Yetta Karney
 Moses Kaufman
 Nathan Lipschitz

Leon Manket
 John R. Matthews
 Estelle Wagner McLean

Isidore Rothman
 Norman Sultan
 Harvey Waltzer

| Contact | E-Mail | Telephone |
|--|--|-----------|
| Dawna E. Wade , Temple Administrator M-Th: 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM Friday: 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM | admin@bethhatephila.org | 253-4911 |
| Rabbi Batsheva Meiri | rabbi@bethhatephila.org | 253-4911 |
| Charles Erde , Temple President | president@bethhatephila.org | 681-5193 |
| Cantor Debbie Winston | cantor@bethhatephila.org | 253-4911 |
| In case of an emergency after regular office hours, please call the Temple office at 253-4911 and the voice mail recording will indicate whom to call and will provide the telephone number. | | |

Brotherhood Brunch

Sunday January 10, 2010 — 10 AM

At the Temple - Unger Hall, 43 North Liberty Street

BAHIA BRENDA ABRAMS

Author of *THE OTHER HALF OF MY SOUL*

will speak on

**“THE STARK REALITIES OF RELIGIOUS
FUNDAMENTALISM: JUDAISM, ISLAM, CHRISTIANITY”**

All Are Invited

Bring yourself and your wife or guest,

plus: AN ITEM FOR THE MANNA FOOD BARREL

TO EAT YOU MUST MAKE A RESERVATION !!

Call Temple Office 253-4911 no later than Thursday January 7th.

Admission: Seven Dollars Fifty Cents per Person at the Door

Proceeds to the Jewish Chautauqua Society.



Congregation
Beth HaTephila



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Gourmet Food
Saturdays at the North Asheville
Tailgate Market*


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Asheville's Jewish
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October 18, 2009

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ASHEVILLE, NC 28801-1822
(828) 253-4911**

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CHARLES ERDE, PRESIDENT**



Celebrate 2010 all year long by using food cards.

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January Dates to Note

Jan. 7th Torah Study with Rabbi Meiri
Jan. 9th Friendship Circle
Jan. 10th Brotherhood Brunch
Jan. 10th L'Chaim Storytelling Program

Jan. 16th Havdalah Evening
Jan. 15th *Menorah* deadline
Jan. 15th Tot Shabbat
Jan. 25th Luncheon Discussion on Climate Change