

Food for Thought

Sunday, January 24, at 1 p.m.
Broder Center, 700 Sweet Home Road



Join the TBZ Sisterhood and Jessica Meyers Altman
for a demonstration and tasting.

Space is limited and reservations are required.
See page 9 for details and reservation information.

Sha-POP Shirah - Shabbat Jam

Friday, January 22, at 7 p.m.
805 Delaware Avenue



See page 7 for all the details for this amazing Shabbat.



In the February Bulletin, we will
share with you, and thank, the long
and still growing list of Kol Nidre
Campaign donors.

In the meantime, we would like to thank the Kol Nidre
Committee for its dedication and caring, not just to the
"bottom line," but to the congregants of Temple Beth Zion.

If you have not already pledged to the Campaign, please
do so now. If you have pledged but have not yet sent in your
check or credit card information, please do. Contact Julie
at 836-6565, or simply mail in your contribution.

Grant Golden & Deborah Goldman
David & Marilyn Brock
2015-2016 Campaign Co-Chairs

PALS Open House

Thursday, January 28 and Friday, January 29
Broder Center, 700 Sweet Home Road



See page 8 for all the details.



Letter from the President

Moving Forward, Together

The past few months have been both hectic and an incredible learning experience for me. When I became President of the Congregation in June 2014, I knew we would be working on replacing our tireless Executive Director, Mark Criden. I decided to assemble a task force to study how to proceed - knowing we would not find another Mark. We decided to do a detailed study of our entire staffing situation; with both the spiritual AND financial sustainability of the congregation as our guides.

The letter I sent in November was too complicated. I believe my attempt for transparency caused undo confusion and concern. On the positive side, it did open dialogues, which led to improvements to the plan. The Task Force has stated from the time we presented this, first to the Board and then to other congregational gatherings, that the model is not carved in stone. It will be a living document, which will evolve as it is implemented.

Quoting Past President Larry Rubin, "TBZ has operated with the same clergy and congregational model for at least the last 50 years - a senior rabbi, an assistant rabbi and a cantor, in a hierarchal management structure. Services were provided to congregants and paid staff took care of daily operations. But the world has changed around us. Our membership aged and decreased at the same rate that the overall Buffalo Jewish Community population aged and decreased. Our households became smaller. Women fully entered the professional world. The demands on our time, especially for younger families, became greater. Our choices for social activities and programs became greater. The internet arrived".

"Financially, we cannot sustain the level of staff that we did even five years ago. We need our clergy, our staff and our members to work together in new and unique ways. The retirement of Mark Criden and the departure of Rabbi Pokras give us a unique opportunity to collaborate and engage while continuing traditions that have made this congregation the largest in our community and one that we hold so near and dear to our hearts."

"We need to have the clergy be a partnership. Cantor Myers, Rabbi Scheldt and a newly hired Rabbi will have equal say. Our search for a new rabbi will look for someone who is great on the pulpit. Second, we need to engage our members in the daily life of the Temple; whether it is volunteering at school or PALS, social action, fundraising, our newsletter or otherwise."

Our common goal is to sustain Reform Judaism in Buffalo and Western New York for the next generation. Thankfully we had the chance to address your many concerns at the Congregational Information Session on December 8. As we move forward, please feel free to contact me with additional questions.

And, of course, I promise to continue to keep you all posted as we move forward, together. Stay tuned.

L' shalom,
Warren Clark



General Information

AARON AND BERTHA BRODER CENTER FOR JEWISH EDUCATION

700 SWEET HOME ROAD BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14226

TEL 716.836.6565 FAX 716.831.1126

WEB www.tbz.org

SANCTUARY, CHAPEL, COFELD JUDAIC MUSEUM

805 DELAWARE AVENUE BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14209

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Voice Mail/E-mail Directory

For Emergency	x 4	
Current Events	x 6	
Rabbi Gary Pokras	x 138	rabbipokras@tbz.org
Rabbi Adam Scheldt	x 137	rabbischeldt@tbz.org
Mark Criden (Executive Director)	x 135	criden@tbz.org
Susan Goldberg Schwartz		
(Director of Lifelong Learning)	x 131	education@tbz.org
Cantor Penny Myers	x 130	pennysmyers@tbz.org
Melissa Milch-Klein		
(PALS Assistant Director)	x139	pals@tbz.org
Kara Kane (Education Assistant)	x 112	kara@tbz.org
Nancy Spector (Youth Engagement Director)		
	x 139	youth@tbz.org
Michael P. Burke (Organist)		
Edwin Feldman (Accounting)	x 133	tbzaccounting@tbz.org
Julie Feldman (Executive Assistant)	x 134	julie@tbz.org
Tina Taylor (Clergy Assistant)	x 132	tina@tbz.org
Ann Marie Randall		
(Administrative Assistant)	x 111	annmarie@tbz.org
Becky Schiefer (Administrative Assistant)	x110	becky@tbz.org

Other Extensions

Play And Learn School Teachers	x 100
Sisterhood Judaica Shop	x 149

TEMPLE BETH ZION BULLETIN

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Member Union for Reform Judaism



Worship Opportunities

All worship services, except as noted,
are held at 805 Delaware Ave.

Torah study is held every Saturday at 9:15 a.m.

Friday, January 1

Shabbat Service at Broder

7 p.m.

Birthday/Anniversary Blessings

Saturday, January 2

Shabbat Morning Service

10:30 a.m.

Thursday, January 7

Afternoon Service at Broder

5:30 p.m.

Friday, January 8

Kulanu Winter Service

7 p.m.

Saturday, January 9

Shabbat Morning Service

10:30 a.m.

Canterbury Woods Service

11 a.m.

Thursday, January 14

Afternoon Service at Broder

5:30 p.m.

Friday, January 15

Tot Shabbat at Broder

5:45 p.m.

Shabbat Evening Service

7 p.m.

Saturday, January 16

Shabbat Morning Service

10:30 a.m.

Bat Mitzvah of Ariella Yonaty

Thursday, January 21

Afternoon Service at Broder

5:30 p.m.

Friday, January 22

Sha-POP Shirah Service - Shabbat Jam

7 p.m.

Saturday, January 23

Shabbat Morning Service

10:30 a.m.

Bar Mitzvah of Nathan Wallens

Thursday, January 28

Afternoon Service at Broder

5:30 p.m.

Friday, January 29

Meditative Prayer Service

7 p.m.

Classical Service

7 p.m.

Saturday, January 30

Shabbat Morning Service

10:30 a.m.

Office Schedule

The Temple Beth Zion administrative offices will close at 3 p.m. on Thursday, December 31, and will be closed Friday, January 1 and Monday, January 18.



Letter from the Cantor

*"Bring Some Light Into the Darkness,
Bring Some Darkness to the Light"*

These are the opening words of one of my favorite songs written by Juliet Spitzer. Her lyrics speak about living with contradictions and her message of things appearing to be dark and menacing, is really just that - an appearance - rather than what reality truly is once the focus takes shape.

We are at a pivotal point in our congregation's life of leadership which has undoubtedly evoked foreign, strange and confusing feelings for most of us, myself included. While these feelings of trepidation and anxiety are nothing new to us, I am encouraged by the Torah portion that coincides with Shabbat Shirah January 22 which is Parshat Beshlach from Exodus which reminds me of the notion of the power of faith. This provides me a narrative for finding ease in the land of the "unknown".

We read of our ancestors' fear as they were being led through the desert, afraid and alone, having just survived several hundred years of slavery, and while that was no picnic, certainties were always provided for them, such as food and what they were tasked to do for Pharaoh. Sometimes what has always been done isn't how things should continue to be. What is familiar to us becomes comfortable regardless of whether it is really the best for us in the long term.

Like the ancient Israelites at their crossroads between slavery and freedom, a desert landscape and the ominous sea, we at TBZ are standing in the intersection of our own crossroads. It needn't be doom and gloom of the unknown, but rather an opportunity to mold our beloved congregation into an ever higher present plane to which we strive for. Let us capitalize and celebrate this opportunity, which is specific and special to Temple Beth Zion rather than thinking it a crisis, and please G-d let us forage our way across our own sea of the unknown together. Let us continue to hold onto our faith in one another.

Chazak Chazak vnitchazek (from strength to strength may we continue to be strengthened).

Cantor Penny S. Myers

Kulanu Winter Service

Please plan to come for the Winter Kulanu Service on January 8, at 7 p.m. at the Delaware Building. The service will showcase the artistic talents of some of our members, particularly our LGBTQ members, who have prepared interpretations and translations of the liturgy, have created works of visual and plastic arts that will enhance the beauty of our service, and will lend their vocal and musical talents to lead us in celebration. All members of the congregation and community are invited to come in to the warmth that is Temple Beth Zion, and celebrate Shabbat with us.

Kulanu is a collective of individuals dedicated to making our community a just, safe, welcoming and inviting place for Jewish members of the LGBT community.

Keeping Your New Year's Resolution

Making – and breaking – New Year's Resolutions has become a kind of tradition. How many times have we said "this year I will..." only to forget all about it until the following December? Make this the year you keep your resolutions – whatever they are.

If your resolution for 2016 is to review your financial status and/or estate planning, we ask you to keep Temple Beth Zion in mind.

If your will is being updated, perhaps you would like to consider a bequest and become part of the Rabbi Joseph and Janice Fink Legacy Society. Maybe you would prefer to establish a charitable fund that would benefit a particular need at Temple that is most dear to you.

Sound advice from a reputable attorney, tax accountant, or estate planner can help determine planning options that best suit your situation and goals. If you have questions about donations or bequests for Temple Beth Zion, please contact either Mark Criden at 836-6565 or Peter Fleischmann at the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies at (716) 204-1133. Happy New Year!

Hospitality Initiative Continues to Grow

Through the very helpful professional efforts of the Bureau of Jewish Education and Yad B'Yad, our Shabbat Greeters have received important training on how we may be more welcoming to those among us with special needs, and how to offer assistance within our places of worship. This applies to those we recognize as having some limitation to comfortable access, as well as those who make us aware of their need for accommodation. It's our mission to pay attention to their special needs and to do our best to see that they are accommodated and included in all worship and related activities.

We have a broader objective regarding the inclusion of those whose access may be limited by some type of disability. We want our mission to be well-known to all Temple Beth Zion members, particularly those who might not attend Friday evening Shabbat services very often, due to some concern that their special needs can't be adequately met at our Temple.

If you or someone you know may be a Temple member we don't see at services very often because of some condition or special need, please be aware that our Temple is an inclusive community. Every Shabbat, we will provide reasonable accommodation, without hesitation, to the extent we are aware of such need and can safely provide appropriate assistance.

If you would like information about specific accommodations we are able to provide, please call the Temple office at 836-6565, and speak with Becky, Ext. 110 or Ann Marie, Ext. 111. For more information about our Hospitality Initiative, including our Shabbat Greeters, please contact Linda Snitzer at 626-1084 or Madalyn Fliesler at 392.1127.

A New Prayer Book

During this year's High Holy Day services, the Clergy presented several readings from the Reform Movement's new High Holy Day prayerbook, *Mishkan Ha-Nefesh*; that new prayerbook, is the result of seven years' study and effort by the Central Conference of American Rabbis. Acknowledging that "many of today's Jews feel disconnected from prayer and from theological and ideological concepts that do not seem consistent with a contemporary sensibility," the editors developed "a multi-vocality that creates a space for all to inhabit, offering a multiplicity of different approaches." The new prayerbook includes updated translations, new transliterations, and essays, commentary and poetry, to "provide an environment for those of all backgrounds to find meaning in the High Holy Days."

The new prayerbook has been adopted by more than 300 URJ congregations, which used them for the most recent High Holy Day services.

By virtue of a generous grant offer that would cover the cost of purchasing all the necessary copies, TBZ has the opportunity to consider joining those forward-looking, inclusive congregations and beginning the next New Year with a new prayerbook.

Before we make this change, we want to provide Temple Beth Zion members with an opportunity to experience the use of *Mishkan Ha-Nefesh*, and to provide feedback and comments as to whether we should move forward. Accordingly, we have scheduled sessions during which the Clergy will present portions of the services in a "mock service" format, followed by an opportunity for feedback from the Congregation.

We hope you will join us for one (or both) of the sessions listed below. At each session, we anticipate that we will pray approximately 30 to 45 minutes of the liturgy from a different section of the services, followed by another 30 to 45 minutes of discussion on our experience of the service and our reaction to it.

The dates, times, and locations are:

Wednesday, January 6, 7 p.m., 805 Delaware Avenue.

Tuesday, February 2, 7 p.m. Broder Center, 700 Sweet Home Rd.

We hope you will join us in this important and exciting initiative.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Rabbi Gary Pokras at rabbipokras@tbz.org or 836-6565.

Sincerely,

Laurie Criden, Co-Chair Ritual Committee

Rabbi Gary Pokras, Rabbi Adam Scheldt and Cantor Penny Myers

"Forget Us Not"

Wednesday, January 27, at 7 PM

Park School of Buffalo

4625 Harlem Road, Amherst

In commemoration of U.N. Holocaust Remembrance Day, the Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo will present this film about five million non-Jewish victims of WWII. In addition, the documentary film writer, director and producer Heather E. Connell will be at the screening.

Please be aware this program is best suited for those over age 14 (for some graphic and spoken memories). It leaves the viewer with the important messages of never forgetting and encouraging tolerance among all people. Visit www.hrcbuffalo.org for details.

The New Year brings new and renewed opportunities to learn, grow and develop your sense of Jewish spirituality with the Jewish Spirituality Center of WNY.

Introduction to Jewish Mindfulness

Sundays, from noon – 1:30 p.m. beginning January 24 at the Broder Center (8 weeks)

Materials: Course text "Mindfulness, an Eight-Week Plan for Finding Peace in a Frantic World"

Our Introduction to Mindfulness class will help you build the skills necessary to explore mindfulness practice, and live life with intention. Begin your first engagement with mindfulness or deepen the practice you already have. Classes serve as learning laboratories to not only experience mindfulness practice and meditation, but also explore new ways to incorporate mindfulness into daily life. This class is not to be missed!

Advance registration is required. Go to www.jscwny.org or call Rabbi Scheldt at 836-6565, Ext. 137.

Deepening Jewish Mindfulness

Thursdays, from 6:30 – 8 p.m. beginning January 28 at the Broder Center (8 weeks)

Open to anyone who has taken any introductory mindfulness course, or who already has a mindfulness or meditative practice. Build on existing skills and learn more advanced techniques.

Advance registration is required. Go to www.jscwny.org or call Rabbi Scheldt at 836-6565, Ext. 137.

Embodied Practice (Yoga)

Sundays, from 9 – 10 a.m., ongoing at the Broder Center

Cost: free (but donations welcomed)

Materials: BYOM (Bring Your Own Mat) & blanket (small)

Instructors: Jean DuBow and Rabbi Adam Scheldt

Calm your mind and enrich your body with an hour of embodied practice. Each class will begin with a guided opportunity to find your center before enjoying a flow of yogic stretches and poses to open your body and mind. Open to all levels of practice - from absolute beginners to advanced practitioners. Maintain a healthy outer body to cultivate a healthy inner body. There is perhaps no better way to start your Sunday. No registration is required - just join us!

Yoga55

Tuesdays, from 6:30 - 7:45 p.m., ongoing at 805 Delaware Avenue

Cost: free (but donations welcomed)

Materials: BYOM (Bring Your Own Mat)

Instructor: Jean DuBow

Designed for those aged 55 and above, this embodied class relies on yoga poses as well as yogic stretches to restore and enliven your body in a comfortable, affirmative, and positive space. Start moving gently to keep moving as we age gracefully.

Advance registration is required. Go to www.jscwny.org or call Rabbi Scheldt at 836-6565, Ext. 137.

Adult B'nei Mitzvah Class Forming

From the Midrash (Avot d'Rav Natan 6:2) we learn from the story of Rabbi Akiva, who began his studies at the age of 40, that it is never too late to begin to study Torah. Rabbi Akiva, had a distinct advantage over his colleagues who began their studies at a young age. Unlike children, Akiva approached the Torah with mature eyes, asking deep and thoughtful questions. Another story tells of Akiva's despair thinking that he could never comprehend the Torah. When he saw water dripping onto a rock he came to understand that water, drip by drip, could rub a coarse rock smooth. His motto became: if water can wear down a stone, then every Jew can and will study Torah.

Are you an adult interested in studying Hebrew and Torah leading to becoming an adult Bat or Bar Mitzvah? Did you learn Hebrew as a child but never had the opportunity to be called to Torah? Or do you know of someone who might be interested? We are forming a new cohort of adult learners and invite you to join us on a very meaningful Jewish journey. Contact Susan Goldberg Schwartz at 836-6565 or education@tbz.org for more information.

Women of the Book

Women of all ages are invited to join Cantor Penny Myers and Director of Lifelong Learning Susan Goldberg Schwartz as we discover how the Jewish story and our ancient and modern texts provide a lens for understanding our lives as Jewish women.

Women of the Book meets monthly to learn and talk a little Torah, share our stories and enjoy a little wine and a nosh.

Our next meeting will be held Tuesday, January 12, at 7 p.m. For more information and the meeting location, please contact Education Assistant Kara Kane, 836-6565, Ext. 112.

Highlights of the Mussar Kallah

The 13th Annual Mussar Kallah took place in Zion, Illinois in November, and Evie Weinstein, former Director of the BJE and current Mussar teacher, along with Susan Goldberg Schwartz, experienced Mussar practice and study with people from around the country and world. With the Kallah theme of **Balance, balancing our lives, balancing our souls**, we investigated the *middot* (soul traits) that showed us how to understand our personal spiritual curriculum. The Kallah focused on the traits of Holiness, Awareness, Silence and Equanimity. We studied texts in chevruta (partners) and in va'adim (groups), practiced yoga, meditation and chanting, and shared a spiritually uplifting Shabbat. The Kallah faculty showed us how Mussar practice can be our guide through life's challenges by understanding that balance is not standing still, but is dynamic and ongoing.

A new Season of Mussar I class will be forming in the early spring and we hope you will join. Check out www.mussarinstitute.org for more information about The Mussar Institute and contact Susan Goldberg Schwartz, education@tbz.org, for information on how you can begin your own Mussar practice.

Chuggim at Religious School!

Our monthly elective classes give students an opportunity to learn, create and spend time outside the traditional classroom setting. From writing a newspaper and making challah and latkes to playing instruments and meditating, our students look forward to their chuggim each week. The students will have an opportunity to pick a different chug for the second half of the year this month.

Kulanu Meets with Faculty

On Sunday, December 20, representatives of Kulanu met with members of the Religious School Faculty and Madrichim. Kulanu members presented a brief introduction, their goals, including LGBTQ awareness and issues, language and its impact, and availability as a resource to the Religious School. Kulanu members will also provide an orientation Safe Zone training in 2016.

Kulanu is a group of LGBTQ and allied members of the Temple Beth Zion community, committed to bringing Beth Zion to the promised land where LGBTQ members of the Congregation are not merely "tolerated," but are welcomed and is celebrated for who they are with the same joy and energy that we have traditionally celebrated our heterosexual and cisgender members. We are dedicated to education of our congregation, support of our staff and clergy, and providing a light to the nations in the form of leadership and activism in the greater community. For more information, or to become more involved, contact Rabbi Scheldt at 836-6565, Robyn Meyer at rambob5054@gmail.com, or Anna Marie Richmond at annamrichmond@msn.com.

Upcoming Events

Play And Learn School

Jan 4	PALS resumes
Jan 15	Tot Shabbat
Jan 18	Martin Luther King Day - PALS closed
Jan 25	PALS Tu B'shevat
Jan 28 & 29	PALS Open House (during school hours)

Religious School

Jan 1 –3	Winter break – No RS classes
Jan 5	Classes resume
Jan 10	Sunday Tots
Jan 10	P.A.S.S. – Parents At Sunday School
Jan 17	No Religious School
Jan 22	Sha-POP Shirah - Shabbat Jam
Jan 24	7 th Grade Family program - Mah La'asot
Jan 24	P.A.S.S. – Parents At Sunday School
Jan 31	6 th & 7 th grade program at JCC

Mitzvah Project of the Month

Bat Mitzvah student Lillian Bernhardt is answering the call to help feed those that are hungry. For her Bat Mitzvah project, Lillian has made a personal commitment to help the Food Bank of Western New York. Once a month, Lillian goes to the Food Bank and helps put together bags of groceries for distribution and helps label the food items that are donated. In addition to general pantry items, they often receive surprise donations, like cake mixes and waffles.

In addition to her direct volunteer service at the Food Bank, Lillian also collects cans and bottles to bring back to the recycling center. With the money she receives from the cans and bottles, she purchases items that the Food Bank needs, including toiletries like tooth paste, tooth brushes and toilet paper. Lillian says that the most needed items are peanut butter and jelly.

P.A.S.S. – Parents At Sunday School

with Rabbi Pokras and Rabbi Scheldt

Broder Center Conference Room

January 10 and 24, at 10:30 a.m.

Join the Rabbis for a bagel and coffee as we study, learn and get to know one another as we strengthen our TBZ community. Topics of study include ethics, spirituality, holidays, Israel, Reform Judaism and more.



On Sunday, December 6, Religious School madrich Aaron Isenberg helped load cars with Chanukah bags. The bags were delivered by volunteers assisting the Caring Community Committee. See more photos on page 8.

Emergency Closing Information

In the event of inclement weather, please listen to WBEN-930 AM or watch WGRZ Channel 2 or WIVB Channel 4 for school closing information. We will also include school closing information on our phone system at 836-6565 and on the Religious School page of the TBZ website: www.tbz.org.

Sha-POP Shirah - Shabbat Jam

Friday, January 22, at 7 p.m.
805 Delaware Avenue

We will "jam" in two ways - musically, of course,
and please bring a jar of jam (or jelly) for the
Town Square Food Pantry.

Come jam with our amazingly talented
Temple Beth Zion musicians and choristers
and help stock the Food Pantry.

The service will be followed by a special oneg
reception featuring Tu B'Shevat treats. We welcome
the entire community to join us for this special evening.

tbz
Brotherhood

We hope that everyone had a delightful Chanukah and we wish you a wonderful New Year. As you turn to the first page of your new calendar, why not write a check to join Brotherhood? Our annual membership drive has been underway for the last few months and response has been good. We are very close to meeting our membership goal for this year. Annual membership is still only \$25 but we have two additional levels of membership at \$36 and \$50 for those who wish to assist in funding our programs. If you have not responded to your membership mailing, please do so now. Your membership helps underwrite scholarships for the Religious School and PALS, youth programs, capital contributions for the Temple and books for the b'nai mitzvah classes.

December's Achim program, the annual visit by the Junior Choir led by Cantor Myers, was extremely well received and very entertaining. Next December's Chanukah program may be 11 months away but the Weinberg residents are already looking forward to it.

The next Achim program will be held on January 10 in the Meadows Lounge at Weinberg Campus. The residents will enjoy an informative program by Errol Sull, a brotherhood member and frequent presenter, and very nice community breakfast. Stop by and see what Achim is all about.

Please feel free to contact the Brotherhood at TBZBrotherhood@aol.com with any suggestions you may have regarding programming, fund-raising, or any issue or area that you think Brotherhood's involvement would be of benefit.

Sincerely,
Philip Chazen

tbz
Mazel Tov!



Ariella Yonaty
Saturday, January 16

Daughter of: Stephen & Kim Yonaty
Mitzvah Project: The Karma Box



Nathan Wallens
Saturday, January 23

Son of: Jay & Lisa Wallens
Mitzvah Project: Volunteer at
Weinberg Campus
Donating to: S.P.C.A. and Hospice WNY

Mazel Tov

To Jill and Michael Komm on the birth of their son, Ethan Jacob on November 26. Ethan's grandparents are Cindy and Leon Komm and Karen and Stephen Ginsburg.

tbz
Youth Groups

TBaZY Update

Our Chanukah party was a great success. TBaZY members had a wonderful time eating, playing, learning, and making new friends at the same time. I am happy to announce that I will be resuming a more active role in both TBaZY Jr and TBaZY starting in January, having completed my Master of Science in Science Education. After student teaching from September through December, I have come to appreciate even more the dedication of teachers I have had the honor of working alongside.

I hope to bring all that I have learned to my work at TBaZY, as I travel the bumpy path to becoming an experienced science teacher. I remind you to make time to appreciate the teachers in your children's life, both at Temple Beth Zion and elsewhere. They're amazing people.

I will have a schedule of events ready by email soon after this newsletter arrives!

Nancy Spector

Help for LGBTQ Senior Citizens

TBZ member Adina Garfinkel, a Case Manager with Erie County Senior Services, has been assigned to work with the local LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer) community by holding onsite office hours at the Pride Center of Western New York. She has also been tasked with presenting to local senior groups and LGBTQ groups about the needs and isolation experienced by the current generation of LGBTQ seniors.

We congratulate Adina on this opportunity! Adina can be reached at the Pride Center at 852-7743; at Erie County at 858-7759; and via email at Adina.Garfinkel@erie.gov.

Make a Play Date with PALs

Broder Center, 700 Sweet Home Road

Thursday, January 28, from 9:30 a.m. to noon

For toddlers who will be 2 years old by December 1

Friday, January 29, from 9:15 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For 3 and 4 year olds

Come and see PALs in action. Meet our students and teachers and learn about everything PALs has to offer. To join us for all or part of the day, or to get information about the 2016-2017 school year, contact Melissa Milch-Klein, at 836-6565 or pals@tbz.org.

PALS Children Bring Light to Those in Need

In honor of the holiday of light, the PALs children learned about the light that comes from within when we are able to help others in need.

In celebration of Chanukah, PALs sponsored the Eight Nights of Tzedakah. For each candle the children lit at home they placed a food item in a bag. After Chanukah, we gathered together all of the donated items and delivered them to the Town Square Food Pantry with Rabbi Scheldt. We are so proud of all that our youngest community members have done to help brighten the lives of others in need.

In November, the play structure was transformed into the Mayflower with little pilgrims using handmade spy glasses and shouting "land ho"!



PALS kids, with shamash Miss Melissa, use their heads to make an impressive menorah.

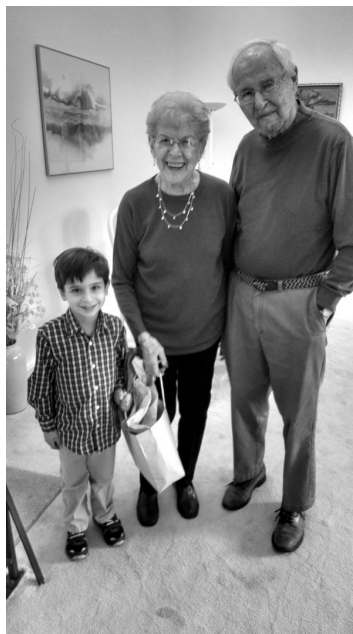


The beautiful December weather allowed us lots of time outdoors hanging around (literally!).

Chanukah Gift Baskets

The Caring Community Committee thanks Sharon Winer, Julie Newberger, Corey Wolffe-Levine, Clareanne Silver, Kitty Goldman, Margery Zeckhauser, Ellen Capell, Carol Caserta, Amelida Weinmann, Aaron Isenberg, Lynn and Bob Klein, Steven Binder, Jen, Adam, Marc and Melody Rosen, Marilyn and Jim Schillroth, Susan Goldberg Schwartz and Steven Schwartz, Joel Lesses, David and Sue Goldberg, Warren, Hannah and Ari Klein, Sharon and Ron Meer, Marcia Valente, Howard and Karen Wiseman, Shellie Rutstein, Amy Schaefer, Adina Garfinkel and Leslie and Charlie Garfinkel for all their help with preparing and delivering the Chanukah baskets.

Preparing the gift bags were (from left to right): Ellen Capell, Sharon Winer, Leslie Garfinkel, Julie Newberger and Clareanne Silver.



Marc enjoyed connecting with another generation of TBZers while out delivering gifts with his parents, Jen and Adam, and sister, Melody. Giving gifts is fun too! Recipients included Louis and Pauline Rogers (left) and Marlene DeCarlo (below).



Presidents' Message

A new year has started and it's time for looking toward the future. Here are some great things to do:

1. Join Sisterhood. If you haven't sent in your dues check, do it today; for a basic membership, mail your \$40 check, payable to TBZ Sisterhood, to: Carole Weingarten, 41 Carriage Hill West, Williamsville, NY 14221. Half of what you pay goes to the National WRJ office for our dues obligation to them.

2. Come to a Sisterhood Program. Upcoming events include:

Food For Thought - January 24 (see all the details below)

Scarf Painting - Sunday, March 6

Beer Tour - Sunday, April 17, 2 p.m.

Sisterhood Sabbath - Installation and Woman of the Year - Friday, May 6

Donors Luncheon - Sunday, May 22

Merrill Molien Haven House Scholarship Luncheon - Tuesday, July 19

3. Get involved in Women of Reform Judaism TBZ Sisterhood by helping in the Ruth Fernandez Sisterhood Judaica Shop, going to a program, book club or theater trip.

If you are interested in being a member of the Sisterhood Board for 2016-17, please let us know.

Susan Bruckheimer (716) 982-2099

Marilyn Schillroth (716) 832-4757

Sharon Winer (716) 741-4200

New Managers Sought

The Sisterhood is looking for two people to take over the management of the Judaica Shop starting July 1, 2016. If interested, please call Marilyn Schillroth at 832-4757.

Food for Thought

Sunday, January 24, at 1 p.m.

Broder Center, 700 Sweet Home Road

Join the Sisterhood and Jessica Meyers Altman for a demonstration and tasting. Jessica will share benefits of a whole-food plant-based diet along with tasty bites of butternut squash soup, a massaged kale salad and lentils with roasted root vegetables.



Jessica is a plant-based chef, with a certification in plant-based nutrition, and the writer of the food blog www.gardenfreshfoodie.com. Her recipes have been featured on Tastesspotting.com, Foodgawker.com, OneGreenPlanet.com, FoodRevolution.com, as well as Veestro.com.

The event is sponsored by Sisterhood. Reservations are required, and space is limited, so sign up today. The cost is \$21 per person. RSVP with a check made out to Sisterhood of TBZ. Mail to: Halli Glina, 1385 Sweeney St., North Tonawanda, NY 14120 by January 17. Any questions, call Halli at 553-8883.

Ruth Fernandez SISTERHOOD JUDAICA SHOP Broder Center, 700 Sweet Home Road

Special thanks to everyone who patronized or helped out at the Chanukah Bazaar this year!

Judaica Shop Hours

Thursdays 4 - 6 p.m.

Sundays 9 - 11:30 a.m.

Special appointments may be made by calling
Lynn Klein—689-9207.

Please Support Your Temple Gift Shop

Shabbat Onegs

On Friday, November 20, the Sisterhood prepared desserts for the Oneg. I would like to thank Janice Siegel, Carole Weingarten, Donna Dickman, Margy Zeckhauser and Linda Snitzer for contributing the special treats. I would also like to thank Dennis Dickman, Helen Weintraub and Clareanne Silver for their help in the kitchen.

We try to make our Oneg a special event. If you are at Temple on the fourth Friday of the month, please come in after services, say hi and have some coffee and tea with us. We would love to see you. If you have any ideas as to how we can encourage people to stop in. Please get in touch with me.

Sharon
swiner4@gmail.com

Coming June 16!

The most magical journey of the year...is down a rabbit hole.



A brand new version of Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland* will be part of the Shaw Festival's 2016 season. Adapted and directed by Peter Hinton with music by Allen Cole, it will have its world premiere at the Festival Theatre.

The Sylvia Morris Theater Bus Trip to see *Alice in Wonderland* will take place on June 16. Mark your calendar and watch upcoming Bulletins for details.

The list of contributions that are usually included on this page will be appear in the February issue of the Bulletin. Please take time to read this very timely piece from Rabbi Pokras.



Refugees Are Not Our Enemy

*Originally posted November 23, 2015
www.rabbigarypokras.com*

We live in seemingly dark times, which is why more than ever, we need to bring light into our world.

It is easy to be afraid of the dark, to fear things that go bump in the night, because we can't see our surroundings. Instead, our imagination takes over so that everything around us is transformed into "danger." Fear is a natural response to danger, and we have a primal urge to protect our ourselves and our families from the dangers we can see, and from those hidden by the dark.

Terrorism spreads darkness in our world.

Terror attacks do more than kill people. The despicable horror of the acts themselves, in combination with the stealth that sometimes makes them difficult to anticipate (and therefore prevent), gets inside of our heads and feeds the darkest part of our imaginations. When we begin to act out of fear rather than out of principle, we begin to forget who we are.

We begin to accept the darkness.

Consider the Israelites wandering in the Wilderness. Never mind that with their own eyes they saw the Ten Plagues that brought Egypt to its knees. Never mind that they witnessed the parting of the Sea and walked through on dry land, and then saw the waters close over Pharaoh's chariots. Never mind that they stood at the foot of Mount Sinai and felt the ground shake, and heard with their own ears the voice of God speak from on high. The fear felt by the Israelites was so profound that despite the horrors they knew of Egyptian slavery, and the miracles they personally witnessed, they could not embrace the Promise of a new future. Instead, they complained and rebelled over and over again. They began to accept the darkness. The generation that was freed from Egypt would not, could not, reach the Promised Land. Over forty years of wandering, a new generation needed to be born and to grow up, a generation that was not enslaved by their fear.

Fear leads to hatred. Hatred leads to violence. Violence leads to fear.

It takes courage to break this cycle, courage and faith. We must be brave enough to take risks in the face of our fear, and have faith that we can ultimately prevail.

Since the attacks in Paris last week, a new wave of fear is sweeping through the West. Here in the United States, this has been expressed as a backlash against accepting Syrian refugees. Why? Because we are afraid that cells of sleeper terrorists might be embedded among them.

We are beginning to accept the dark.

More than thirty sitting governors said that no Syrian refugees will be welcome in their states. The House of Representatives passed a bill on Wednesday to freeze any further Syrian refugees from being granted asylum until some time in the future when the refugee resettlement program can be reevaluated (whatever

that means). In my own neighborhood, in Western New York, where for years we have helped refugee populations from all over the world, some of our political leaders now want to close the gates and the county legislature is even considering a public referendum on whether or not to admit any refugees fleeing from Syria.

They are beginning to accept the dark.

We Jews know what happens when refugees are turned away. We know what it is like to be a stranger in a strange land. Our Jewish values teach us to welcome the stranger, and to care for the most vulnerable in society. This principle is so important that it is repeated no fewer than thirty-three times in the Torah. It is at the heart of who we are:

We are commanded to bring light into the darkness.

Closing our borders to refugees plays right into the hands of the terrorists. It is exactly the kind of response they are hoping for, because it creates a sense of alienation and resentment among those who are desperate for relief. By closing our borders, we not only reject our own values and principles, but we turn the very people who need us against us. We are helping the terrorists to create a new fertile recruiting ground for future rounds of violence.

All of the evidence suggests that there is no real danger to the United States from refugees, because each candidate for asylum is rigorously vetted through a two to three year process. According to Nicholas Kristof of the New York Times ("They Are Us," November 19, 2015) of the 785,000 refugees admitted the States since 9/11 only three have been arrested on charges related to terrorism (and apparently they were out of the country). Kristof goes on to note that embedding a terrorist in the refugee population is far more difficult and time consuming than just sending them over on student visas, or as tourists from Europe (where they may already have citizenship). He asked pointedly if we should close our borders to foreign students and tourists?

As Jews we are commanded to bring light into the darkness. As Americans, immigration is central to our history and to the ethos of our great nation. Providing safety to those who flee oppression is a cornerstone of who we aspire to be.

"Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"
(poem by Emma Lazarus, inscribed on the Statue of Liberty)

Let us fight terror not with fear but with strength and with faith. Let us fight terror not only with weapons of war, but with ideas and values. Let us remember who we are and live by the principles that make us great. Let us demonstrate to those who have suffered horribly and have fled for their very lives, that here things are different, that the United States is truly a land with justice and liberty for all.

Let us fight darkness not with more darkness, but with light.

Rabbi Gary Pokras



Permanent Yahrzeit Anniversaries

January 1 and 2

Jacob Amdur	Albert Lange
Irving H. Block Jr.	Edmund Lazarus
Paul Borins	Joseph J. Lenzner
Dr. Irwin Cohen	Elmer I. Levy
Betsy Stovroff Corrin	Stanley A. Levy
Ethel W. Desmon	Melvin I. Meyer
Simon Desmon	A.A. Morrison
Joseph J. Fass	Esther R. Morrison
Paul Laverne Fink	Sonia Bard Piver
Sidney H. Fink	Ida Rodenberg
Martin M. Fleishman	Alvin Rutstein
Rhoda Barmon	Estelle Rutstein
Frankenstein	Nathaniel Scheur
Aaron S. Freedman	Jacob Sicherman
Samuel Gandel	Rose Kellner Sluizer
Samuel Greenfield	Alvin S. Small
Sophie Goldberg	Belle F. Smith
Greenky	Melvin Tasman
Gertrude Grossman	Justice Jacob Tick
Gross	Eli Tishman
Albert A. Haniford	Martin Warenoff
Dr. Sidney S. Haniford	Eugene Warner
Harold Hirsch	Joseph White
Louise Ullman Kostick	Herman Wile
Ella Krieger	Louis R. Wolkind
Sarah Kutner	

***We offer our condolences
 to the family of***

Ellis "Ollie" Adel
 Sylvia Wynar
 Arthur H. Griebner
 Freda Levine
 Bernard R. Freedman
 Hilliard Abelson
 George M. Greenberger
 Phyllis Cohan

January 8 and 9

Marshall Balter	Abraham Kirschenbaum
Frances Wolf Bergmann	Ruth Rae Lawrence
Louis N. Blatt	David B. Levi Jr.
Jeannette Block	Siegfried Levi
Samuel Block	Sol J. Levy
Harold Brock	Carolyn P. Lewin
David Brown	Rachel R. Marks
Sylvia C. Cheplove	Theresa Henschel
Michael Cohen	Meyers
Miriam Cohen	Lenore Miller
Sherwood Draman	Eugene Roblin
Ruth Morris Field	Lee N. Ruslander
Harold J. Fogel	Florence Cohen Serrins
Leonard Geran	Charles Simons
Phyllis Maidy Goldberg	Daniel E. Sudwick
Morris Goldstein	Max Spector
Sadie Goodman	Dora Wallach
Richard S. Gordon Jr.	Sarah Rapoport Weil
Alvin M. Hyman	Ilene Julie Weiss
Dr. Marvin Israel	Lenora L. Weiss
Lena Michaels Jaffey	Maxine L. Witkin
Cynthia S. Katz	Abraham A. Zeplowitz
Adolph Kelemen	

January 22 and 23

Jeanette Bialosky Abzug	Belle Sigman Kutzman
Charles Beck	Dr. S. Albert Levitan
Fanny Abrams Bergman	Arline R. Mayer
Henry D. Boodson	Esther L. Milch
Milton Brown	Frances Rosenberg
Maurice Dunay	Morrison
Thomas Elster	Jacob Morrison
Nathan Falk	Manuel Norman
Ester Fogelbaum	Daniel A. Roblin
Ruth B. Gafer	Minnie M. Roblin
Dr. Lawrence H. Golden	William Rosenhoch
Fannie E. Goldman	Louis Ross
Joseph Goldstein	Rubin Rothman
Goldene F. Halpern	Leonard J. Russ
Isadore Harris	Rose Karnofsky
Max Harrison	Ruttenstein
Betty Hayman	Nathan Slotkin
Dr. Norman Heilbrun	Sophia Soronson
Lillian Wolff Jacobson	Bertha F. Sperling
Dr. Samuel Kavinoky	Leo M. Sterin
Edward H. Kavinoky	Isabel Stiller

January 15 and 16

Dr. Bruce Block	Marvin Jacobs
Regina Borg	Rena Frank Jellinek
Bertha Chernoff	Max Koren
Belle D. Daniels	Sarah "Ty" Goldman
Clara Goodman	Mandelcorn
Dororetz	Sarah Nathan
Bessie Ettlinger	Annette I. Ray
Harry R. Fierstein	Leah Roblin
Lloyd S. Fingeret	Jacob Setters
Charlotte S. Freed	Sarah S. Stemerman
Marvin J. Freedman	Leo Ullman
Dr. Alfred P. Fried	Gloria Wolkind Wallens
Abraham Goldberg	Henrietta Rothschild
Esther B. Haber	Weil
Lillian G Hirsch	Murray Weinberg
Sundel J. Holender	Fannie S. Wile
Charles Horn	

January 29 and 30

Samuel H. Berman	Berenice Meyers
Rose B. Bilsky	Delia J. Neafach
Jerry Blanke	Eugene Pack
Maurice Blinkoff	Dorothy K. Rike
Dr. Robert Blum	Max Robins
Dorothy Clayman	William W. Rogers
Rev. Bernard Cohn	Rosella F. Rosen
John F. Desbecker Sr.	Harold A. Rosenfield
Newman Ellis	Joseph Rosenthal
Robert Ellis M.D.	Ann F. Ryback
Harry N. Faxstein	Ruth Isreal Schuller
Beatrice Feldman	Israel Singer
Samuel H. Feller	Hattie C. Sklarsky
Ruth Goldwater	Cary M. Speier
Fernandez	Max Tegler
Alvin S. Fleishman	Mina Tiede
Dr. Cecil A. Friedman	Frances Barlow Vogel
Helen Ehrlich Goldberg	Mildred Brooks
Leslie Grossman	Weckslar
Isadore E. Haiman	Fannie Wels
Harry J. Kiritz	Alfred D. Wiener
Evelyn Gerstman Leff	Edna Cutler Wiener
Yetta G. Levy	Lola Winer