

BETH OHR NEWSLETTER

Vol. 61 Issue 2

February 2017

Shevat/Adar 5777

E-Mail: congregationbethohr@gmail.com

Synagogue Office: 732-257-1523



Tu B'Shevat, the 15th day of the Jewish month of Shevat, is a holiday also known as the New Year for Trees.

Tu B'Shevat is the new year for the purpose of calculating the age of trees for tithing. See Lev. 19:23-25, which states that fruit from trees may not be eaten during the first three years; the fourth year's fruit is for [G-d](#), and after that, you can eat the fruit. Each tree is considered to have aged one year as of Tu B'Shevat, so if you planted a tree on Shevat 14, it begins its second year the next day, but if you plant a tree two days later, on Shevat 16, it does not reach its second year until the next Tu B'Shevat.

Customs:

There are few customs or observances related to this holiday. One custom is to eat a new fruit on this day, or to eat from the Seven Species (shivat haminin) described in the Bible as being abundant in the land of Israel. The Shivat Haminin are: wheat, barley, grapes (vines), figs, pomegranates, olives and dates (honey) (Deut. 8:8). You can make a nice vegetarian pilaf from the shivat haminin: a bed of cooked bulgar wheat or wheat berries and barley, topped with figs, dates, raisins (grapes), and pomegranate seeds, served with a dressing of olive oil, balsamic vinegar (grapes) and pomegranate juice. Some people plant trees on this day.

In the 16th century, Kabbalists, developed a seder ritual conceptually similar to the Passover Seder, discussing the spiritual significance of fruits and of the shivat haminin.

How To Make a Simple Tu B'Shevat Seder:

Winter is a funny time to celebrate Tu B'shevat, the Jewish Arbor Day. Bare branches still silhouette the sky; white obscures green, and the earth seems to shiver instead of blossom.

Continued on Page 12

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

All Friday evening services begin at 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise stated, Saturday morning Shabbat services begin at 9:30 a.m., Sunday morning minyan begins at 9:00 a.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thurs Feb 2	Talmud Class	9:30AM
	Hebrew Class	11:00AM
Fri Feb 3	Friday Evening Service	7:30PM
Sat Feb 4	Shabbat Morning Service	9:30AM
Sun Feb 5	Sunday Morning Service & World Wide Wrap followed by Men's Club Breakfast	9:00AM
Tues Feb 7	Rabbi's Book Discussion Class	11:00AM
	Talmud Class	7:30PM
Thurs Feb 9	Talmud Class	9:30AM
	Hebrew Class	11:00AM
Fri Feb 10	Friday Evening Service	7:30PM
Sat Feb 11	Shabbat Morning Services	9:30AM
	Tu B'Shevat	
Sun Feb 12	Sunday Morning Service followed by Men's Club Breakfast	9:00AM
Tues Feb 14	Rabbi's Jewish Practices and Customs Class	7:30PM
Wed Feb 15	Sisterhood Board Meeting	7:30PM
Thur Feb 16	Talmud Class	9:30AM
	Hebrew Class	11:00AM
Fri Feb. 17	Friday Evening Service	7:30PM
Sat Feb 18	Shabbat Morning Service	9:30AM
Sun Feb 19	Sunday Morning Service followed by Men's Club Breakfast	9:00AM
Tues Feb 21	Rabbi's Book Discussion	11:00AM
	Talmud Class	7:30PM
Wed Feb 22	Spanish Class	11:00AM
Thurs Feb 23	Talmud Class	9:30AM
	Hebrew Class	11:00AM
	Temple Executive Board	7:00PM
	Temple Board	8:00PM
Fri Feb 24	Fri Evening Service	7:30PM
Sat Feb 25	Sat Morning Service	9:30AM
Sun Feb 26	Sun Morning Service Followed by Men's Club Breakfast	9:00AM
Tues Feb 28	Rabbi's Jewish Practices and Customs Class	7:30PM

PLEASE NOTE: NO SPANISH CLASSES UNTIL FEB 22.



The story of the first pages of the Exodus tells of indescribable suffering for the Israelites. After years of tranquility in Egypt a new Pharaoh takes the stage. He does not remember Joseph's contributions and sees the Israelites as a significant threat to his Empire. To suppress this threat he decides it will be best to oppress them through forced labor. However he discovers that the Israelites are a unique people. It appears that the more they are oppressed, the more they increase in number, becoming a greater problem for the Egyptians. His solution to this problem is to kill of the Israelite male children. Fortunately for Israel he is thwarted, his own daughter saves Moses and the Israelites have a redeemer.

When God approaches Moses in the midst of a burning bush we immediately recognize that here is an unlikely leader of the Israelite people. The encounter takes place in the middle of nowhere. Moses occupies himself serenely shepherding his father-in-law's sheep when God announces His presence with the following words. "Remove your sandals from your feet for the place upon which you stand is holy ground. "I am," He said, "the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob."

These first words that Moses hears are puzzling. "Do not come closer. Remove your sandals from your feet, for the place on which you stand is holy ground." Why must Moses remove his sandals? We might say it is because this ground is sacred but there is a deeper meaning. There should be no interference with the feeling of the earth, no separation or alienation from God's message. One rabbi teaches, "Remove your shoes may well be a way of saying to Moses, "remove from yourself everything that would keep you from identifying with the suffering of your people."

Until now Moses, with the exception of his lashing out at the Egyptian taskmaster has really been insulated from the trauma of captivity that his people are enduring. So God's first instructions to Moses are to enable him to begin the process of identifying with the pain of his people. Another interesting question is how God introduces Himself? "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." These words will be repeated again and again. It is as if God is telling Moses not only that He is not only the Creator of the Universe, He is the personal God to Moses' ancestors. There is a covenant that God had set forward to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. By invoking this formula God reminds Moses that he will be a part something greater than himself.

Continued on page 4

Continued from Page 3

I would like to suggest that this is all part of God's plan to insure that Moses will accept the task at hand. Given Moses' past there is every reason to believe he would be reluctant to take on this challenge by God. In fact it makes perfect sense that Moses would be anxious and frightened of saying yes to God. That is why he says, "Who am I and what am I that Pharaoh would ever listen to me?" And that is the reason God responds not with an answer to Moses question, but with the reassurance that God will be with him to enable him to stand up to Pharaoh and ultimately succeed. This brings us to the crux of the issue regarding this encounter. There was no guarantee that Moses would say yes to God. What if Moses said No to God's request? There is a question worth pondering.

In the middle of the nineteenth century a Scottish philosopher named Thomas Carlyle wrote a spiritual tract titled "The Everlasting Yea." In it he describes a spiritual crisis that he underwent as a young man. He speaks first of having a sense of purposelessness and a lack of meaning and direction in his life. He calls that "The Everlasting No," and describes it as the voice of cynicism and skepticism, of a lack of direction and substance in life. But he does not stay that way. From there he moves onto what he calls the "Centre of Indifference," which is the second step in his spiritual development. It is still a very low-key type of existence. Finally upon reaching adulthood and maturity he progresses to "The Everlasting Yea," or the response that which is assertive and positive in relation to the world and human existence.

At the heart of his essay on "The Everlasting Yea" is the notion of saying yes to responsibility, to action, to moving forward, not to accepting that which is, but to labor for that which might be. In many ways, Moses represents this same coming-of-age in his encounter with the Burning Bush. It is his way of articulating the "The Everlasting Yea" precisely because of its redemptive capacity. Once Moses takes this step forward and agrees to the task at hand, there is no turning back. Certainly he will not be free of doubt and anxiety, but he will never cease trying once he has said, Yes. This affirmative response still speaks to us today. No matter what we feel about our own lives and its meaning and no matter what we feel about the state of things in this world or the institutions we cherish, the only way for us to be an instrument of God, a vessel of transformation is to continue to remain positive, optimistic, hopeful. We are summoned to "Say Yes," to articulate The Everlasting Yea," not "The Everlasting No."

The point is that what unravels society as a whole and the human condition in particular is the everlasting No. To say that's just the way it is and that nothing can be done undermines the sacred and ruins our chance for redemption. The "Burning Bush" and Moses' positive response to the encounter is above all "The Everlasting Yea" in action. It still calls to us today.

President's Message



Congregation Beth Ohr is celebrating its 60th anniversary with a party being planned on Sunday June 4, 2017. The committee being chaired by Ed Mendlowitz will be meeting over the next two months to finalize plans. I urge all members to volunteer, support, and attend our major fundraiser to help us offset our budget deficit.

Recently I attended meetings with the following synagogue committees – Long Range Planning, Cemetery, and House, to review the building and the Beth Ohr cemetery. As our building ages, we face additional expenses to our infrastructure. So far in this fiscal year we replaced the air conditioning compressor, had unforeseen electrical issues, and fixed a portion of the roof above the kitchen. The old heating system will need to be changed in the near future as it is operating at 60% efficiency. The Long Term Planning committee met in mid-January to start planning our strategy for the next 3 years. We will continue to meet over the next few months to finalize our plan.

The Cemetery committee is looking to update the cemetery By-Laws, which includes the prices presently charged for plots, perpetual care, and other fees. Each dues paying member is entitled to one free plot after paying \$50 to reserve the plot. Only 10% of our present membership has reserved plots.

The House committee applied for a Security grant through the Jewish Federation. With the continued bomb threats at Jewish buildings, your Board of Directors regards these dangers very seriously. We were approved for a small grant, and must match the grant to receive it. The House committee is in the process of reviewing bids and options from alarm companies.

As president I ask all of you for your continued support as we face new challenges together. It is time for the entire Beth Ohr membership to rally as Congregation Beth Ohr celebrates its 60th anniversary.

Shalom

Phil

PROGRAM NOTES

We have some exciting things coming up at Beth Ohr. April 30th is the Torathon. Linda Benish has been working hard to contact and schedule the participating Rabbis. Make sure you keep the date open.

We will be celebrating the 60th Anniversary of Congregation Beth Ohr on June 4, 2017. Ed Mendlowitz is chairing the planning committee and is looking for volunteers to help him.

CONGREGATION BETH OHR MEMORIAL FUNDS

The following is a listing of the Memorial Funds that you may make tax-deductible contributions to:

David Benish Memorial Fund
Stephen Edwards Memorial Youth Fund
Elaine Leibowitz Memorial Fund
Beautification Fund
Herman & Frieda Lipp Memorial Fund
Mindy Nightingale Memorial Fund
Stuart Polovsky Memorial Fund
Herb Reinstein Memorial Fund
Heidi Rogol Memorial Fund

***When donating to these funds, please make your checks out to **CONGREGATION BETH OHR** and write in the fund in the memo portion of the check.



CLOTHING DRIVE

**PLEASE BRING IN YOUR UNWANTED
COATS, HATS, AND GLOVES
AND DROP THEM OFF IN THE BIN
THAT IS SET UP IN THE LOBBY.**

**YOUR DONATIONS
WILL KEEP FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN WARM THROUGH-
OUT THE
WINTER MONTHS.**

**IF YOU HAVE CLOTHING TO BE PICKED UP,
PLEASE CALL IRA DONENFELD
(732-679-2652).**

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR KIND DONATIONS

P.O. Box 206
Old Bridge, New Jersey 08857

For your convenience, we have included this **Yahrzeit Memorial Plaque Form**. If you would like to order a plaque, please fill out and return this form with a check in the amount of \$300 to the Synagogue office. If you have any questions about Hebrew names and/or dates, please call Phyllis at the office at 732-257-1523.

(Print Name in Hebrew Here)

(Print Name in English Here)

(Date in English)

(Date in Hebrew)

PLEDGE

I hereby authorize you to supply and maintain permanently on your Memorial Tablet, a name plate *in memory of*

NAME IN FULL _____

for which I agree to pay \$300.00. It is mutually agreed that each year, on the Yahrzeit of the departed, and, on other appropriate occasions in accordance with Jewish Custom a Memorial Prayer will also be said.

Signed by

Date _____

Tree of Life
to honor or memorialize a loved one
Leaf - \$118.00

Yahrzeit Memorial Fund

We honor the memories of our loved ones whose Yahrzeits were observed during the month of **December, January, and February**. We acknowledge the following for their contributions to the Yahrzeit Memorial Fund:

DONATED BY:

Linda and Allen Skupp

Zellie & Mel Prussack & Family
Herrmann & Belmont Families

Susan Belmont, Ann Herrmann & Families
Harriet Feld
Wilma & Allen Appel

Sid & Eileen Birnbaum
Elias Engber

Paula Eisen
Roberta & Lawrence Fachler
Seymour Nussenbaum
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Honig
Andrea & Mark Chassen
Marjorie & Stuart Simon

Miriam Lubinsky
Arnold Dorfman
Linda & Allan Benish
Suzanne Edwards
Sara Ullman
Susan M. Cannata

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

George Skupp
Louis Schulsinger
Martha Prussack & Fannie Sass
William Greenspan
beloved father & grandfather
Marion Greenspan
Meyer Fusfeld, Joseph Fusfeld,
Benny Feld
Bessie Davis
Betty Appel
Jules Burns & Leibe Bernstein
Paul Kaminsky, Yetta Kaminsky,
Solomon Kaminsky, Irwin Kaminsky
Aaron Narol
Sylvia Rauch & Harry Rauch
Vera Nussenbaum & Bette Kushner
Ephriam Ruchelman
Benjamin Noah & Florence Noah
Sol Borenstein,
Marjorie's Beloved Father
Marvin Lubinsky
Marilyn Dorfman
Otto Elkan
Harold Lowe
Mayer Ettner
Meyer Masher

BETH OHR CEMETERY

Congregation Beth Ohr owns and operates a cemetery which is located on Ernston Road in Sayreville. The cemetery is a non-profit entity using existing funds and fundraising as its source of operating revenues. Membership in Beth Ohr entitles our congregants to the individual plot only, all other costs such as funeral, plot opening, memorial tablet costs, etc., are borne by the family of the deceased. Please call Phyllis Greenberg in the office at 732-257-15 23 for further details.



February Yahrzeits

The actual date that the Yahrzeit is observed is to the right of the name. It is customary to light a memorial candle on the eve of this date and to give tzedakah in memory of the deceased. One should recite the Mourner's Kaddish at services the evening before as well as the day of the Yahrzeit. Please call Phyllis in the Synagogue office at 732-257-1523, if you need information about the schedule of worship. The name of your departed will be read at the Friday evening and Shabbat morning services, the week before the Yahrzeit date which are represented by the dates in the columns which are in bold print.

<u>Feb 3/4</u>		<u>Feb 17/18</u>	
Leon Praport	2/4	Hugh Bleiweis	2/18
Yitzkok Shleifer	2/4	Irving Goldberg	2/18
Clara Star	2/4	Jerome Robinson	2/18
Belle Vogel	2/4	Lena Sanders	2/18
Jacob Finkelstein	2/4	Morris Sapsowitz	2/18
Johanna Diamant Katz	2/5	Sylvia Leah Weprin	2/18
Esther Solomon	2/5	Herman Balsam	2/19
Dorothy Katz	2/6	Mabel Simon	2/19
Joel Kirschner	2/6	Barbara Wernick Bennett	2/19
Philip Shindelman	2/6	Mollie Honig	2/20
Sofia Shulman	2/6	Roberta Persky	2/20
Isidore Zavlek	2/6	Matilda Schissel	2/20
Marilyn Dorfman	2/7	Eleanor Weinstein	2/20
Mayer Ettner	2/7	Betty Zeidel	2/20
Rubin Ross	2/7	Harold Lowe	2/21
Minnie Wernick	2/7	Esther Weiner	2/21
Sheila Klein	2/8	Irving Sanders	2/21
Samuel Rosenthal	2/8	Aaron Shiffrinson	2/22
Abraham Blumenthal	2/9	Meyer Benish	2/23
Raymond Cheney	2/9	Dorothy Reichbach	2/23
Meyer Masher	2/9	Elaine Stiffl	2/23
Benjamin Vogel	2/9	Morris Bleiweis	2/24
Miriam Blatt	2/10	Hyman DeMayo	2/24
Paula Kardos	2/10	Rose Fass	2/24
	<u>Feb 10/11</u>	Max Feldman	2/24
Karen Belsky	2/11		
Muriel Blaugrund	2/11	<u>Feb 24/25</u>	
Harry Bloom	2/11	Mo Leibowitz	2/25
Ruth Deitz	2/11	Harry A. Stadin	2/25
Irving Feuer	2/12	Harry Weinreich	2/25
Bernard Goldstein	2/12	Bella Zarfes	2/25
Ben Gorden	2/12	Irwin Daniel Belsky	2/26
Susan Israel	2/12	Roman Shmoys	2/26
Abraham Rothstein	2/12	Leonard Stern	2/26
George Waldman	2/12	Melanie Strassberg	2/26
Hyman Klionsky	2/13	Max Kosser	2/27
Greg Romanow	2/13	Abraham Silverberg	2/27
Jennie Segal	2/13	Yetta Silverberg & Children	2/27
Joseph Rabinowitz	2/14	Irving Ash	2/28
Joseph Sadek	2/14	Sherman Ellis	2/28
Frieda Segal	2/14	Ray Moses	2/28
Jack Fass	2/15	Bernard Klein	3/1
Joseph Glaz	2/15	Louis Schulsinger	3/1
Gizella Feldman	2/16	William Silverstein	3/1
Marion Greenspan	2/16	Estelle Speert	3/1
Joseph Weiss	2/16	Mary Rachel Wilpon	3/1
Harry Weissman	2/16	Harriet Alper	3/2
Herman Feld	2/17	Harold Branfman	3/2
Charlotte Flax	2/17	Bessie Brod	3/2
Anna Haft	2/17	Philip Goldenberg	3/2
Marvin Lubinsky	2/17	Judith Grabel Greenstein	3/2
Charles Silberstein	2/17	Harry Rauch	3/2
		Dorothy Rosencranz	3/2
		Celia Davis Stadin	3/3
		Morris Liebman	3/3
		Shelly Morris	3/3
		Louis Nathanson	3/3

Adult Education Highlights

Adult Education classes continue to flourish at Beth Ohr and we invite you to choose as many classes as you would like to attend.

Rabbi Mishkin's classes are held on Tuesdays and Thursday mornings. His morning and evening class schedule can be found in our monthly newsletters, in e-mails, in our weekly Shabbat booklets that are available in the synagogue sanctuary, and on the Sisterhood calendar.

His every-other-Tuesday evening classes of **Practices and Customs 2.0** continue as the class learns about the theology and philosophy of the various movements in Judaism while studying prayer books from each denomination. On alternate weeks, Rabbi Mishkin leads his study of Talmud, **“Swim in the Sea of the Talmud.”** This class is also offered on Thursday mornings at 9:30. The Rabbi's book discussion class, reviewing the book **Not in G-d's Name**, continues every other Tuesday morning.

The **Conversational Spanish class** is led by Terrie Polovsky, who assures me that anyone can join at any time. The class is held every Wednesday morning at 11:00 a.m.

The **Hebrew Reading class** will also continue. If you read Hebrew but would like to become more fluent, or if you would like to come practice reading while we discuss some of the prayers, come to our class on Thursday mornings at 11AM.

WRITE DOWN THESE DATES!:

APRIL 30 – TORATHON! – We listened to your suggestions and moved it to AFTER Passover so all our snowbirds will be home again, and the program will run for four hours so everyone has the opportunity to attend more classes. More to come



**Congregation Beth Ohr of Old Bridge
Cordially Invites The Community To**

Torathon 5777

Sunday, April 30, 2017

**Congregation Beth Ohr
70 Route 516
Old Bridge New Jersey**

**Registration at 12:30 PM
First Class starts at 1:00 PM**

Area Rabbis will teach classes covering diverse elements of the Jewish experience. The afternoon will consist of four 50-minute sessions, with refreshment breaks between sessions. Attendees will choose which sessions to attend.

**Admission is \$5.00 and canned food for the
Old Bridge Food Bank**

For Information call: Phyllis Greenberg 732- 257-1523 or Linda Benish at 609-426-8727

Continued from page 1

How To Make A Simple Tu B'Shevat Seder BY ERIN CLARE

In contrast to the preparations for the Passover seder – a joyous but arduous process – the Tu B'shevat seder can be readied with relative ease, and is an engaging event for children. Four cups of wine or grape juice represent the changes in the seasons-dark red, light red, pink and white. Fruits and nuts mentioned in the Bible make a tasty and colorful array, ranging from those with coverings on the outside, like oranges; those with pits, like peaches and olives; and those that can be eaten both inside and outside, like figs and raisins.

Like the symbols on the Passover table, the fruits and grains of Tu B'shevat are ripe with values. Here are some suggestions for a simple seder, based on the seven species of the land of Israel mentioned in the Bible. Each food is associated with a value, a text that reflects that value, and one or two kinds of action based on the value. Some of the quotes are from *A Garden of Choice Fruit: 200 Classic Jewish Quotes on Human Beings and the Environment*, by Rabbi David E. Stein (Shomrei Adamah).

1. Hittah: Wheat (Crackers)

Value: Survival. Wheat represents a staple of life. It is basic to breads, crackers and many other nourishing foods. Many of us take the food on our table for granted, while others who are less fortunate are not even guaranteed simple survival.

Text to recite: *Im ein kemah, ein Torah*. Literally, this verse means, "Without wheat flour, there is no Torah." If you can't nourish your body, you can't nourish your soul; if you can't feed yourself, you can't find time to study.

Action: Estimate the cost of a week's worth of food and give 10 percent to Mazon-A Jewish Response to Hunger, a national organization that gives money to local groups that feed the hungry. (310) 470-7769. A Turkish custom related by Rabbi Hayyim Palache, who lived in Izmir in the 1800s, was to give 91 coins as tzedakah or charity on Tu B'shevat, 91 being the gematria, or numerical equivalent, of the Hebrew word ilan (tree). Give \$91 to COEJL, the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life, 443 Park Ave. S., New York, NY 10016-7322. (212) 684-6950.

2. Se'orah: Barley (Any cereal with barley)

Value: Appreciation. Barley is also a staple food, but its worth is often unrecognized or undervalued. The omer offered between Passover and Shavuot was a measure of barley, according to rabbinic tradition. While we remember the omer to this day by counting 49 days between Passover and Shavuot, we've forgotten the barley.

Text to recite: "If a person consecrates any land to God, its value will be assessed in these terms: fifty shekels of silver to a measure of barley seed." (Lev. 27:16)

Action: Take a moonlight walk around the block. Pay special attention to the way the snow glistens, the trees whisper, the clouds scuttle across the sky, the squirrels scamper across the grass. Collect anything you can find in a small basket-pine cones, seedlings, pebbles, twigs-and use it as a table decoration. Give a plant to someone who is not appreciated enough-a parent, teacher, friend, sibling, co-worker, spouse, even your gardener!

3. Gefen: Grapevine (Grapes)

Value: Community. Like grapes that grow in clusters on a vine, we, too, forge and live in communities essential to our well-being.

Text to recite: "The world is a tree and human beings are its fruit" (Rabbi Solomon Ibn Gabirol, 11th century Spain).

Action: Participate in a town beautification project or create one of your own. Buy trees or plants, invite neighbors and create a ceremony. Recite the blessing, traditionally used on seeing trees in blossom: "Praised are You, Adonai, Ruler of the Universe, who has fashioned a world without deficiency, and has placed within it wonderful creatures and beautiful trees for the delight of human beings."

Besides sending money for planting trees in Israel, buy Israeli products like Carmel tomatoes, Jaffa oranges, jams, chocolates and wines.

Continued on Page 13

Continued from page 12

Create a genizah—a room, closet or box in which to store sacred texts that refer to God. It is a custom not to discard sacred Hebrew texts—symbols of Jewish continuity—but to store and later bury them in a genizah to accord them the same dignity as human beings. Give old Hebrew texts to your synagogue's genizah, or bury them in your own yard so they go back to the earth.

4. Te'enah: Fig

Value: Torah. The midrash (moral tale) teaches that the Torah is like a fig. Every fruit has some inedible part, but all parts of the fig are good to eat.

Text to recite: Following the paths of Torah will hopefully lead to an era of peace, a time when “every person will call to his neighbor from under his vine and fig tree.” (Zechariah, 3:10).

Action: Study or read together the biblical story of creation. Study and discuss the following midrash (moral tale) about Adam and Eve: “The Holy One took the first human, and passing before all the trees of the Garden of Eden, said: “See My works, how fine and excellent they are! All that I created, I created for you. Consider that, and do not corrupt or desolate my world; for if you corrupt it, there will be no one to set it right after you.” (Kohelet Rab-bah)

5. Rimon: Pomegranate

Value: Mitzvot. If you count the seeds of the pomegranate, you will find 613, more or less? the number of mitzvot (commandments) in the Torah.

Text: “May we be as full of mitzvot as the pomegranate is full of seeds.” This verse, recited during the traditional Sephardic seder on Rosh Hashanah, reflects the classic connection between the pomegranate and mitzvot (commandments).

Action: Choose one mitzvah (commandment) to follow for a week. One of the most appropriate for Tu B'shevat is bal tashhit, do not waste. : Don't waste water, paper, electricity, or even money. Recycle.

6. Zeit Shemen: Olives

Value: Hope. From the time of Noah and the flood, the olive branch has been a sign of hope for an enduring future.

Text: “God fed Israel honey from the crag and [olive] oil from the flinty rock.” (Deut. 32:13). Olive trees grow anywhere—even under the most adverse conditions. As olive trees stand firm in all kinds of terrain, so Israel will endure and remain strong no matter what the circumstance. Sing the classic Tu B'shevat song, Atzei zeitim omdim. (The olive trees are standing).

5Action: If there is someone you've hurt, near or far, extend the olive branch. Send a jar of olives, a container of olive oil, or any food made with olives, along with a note of explanation.

7. D'vash: Honey

Value: Concern for Living Things (Tz'ar Ba'alei Hayyim). While originally d'vash referred to the honey-like date syrup, today honey comes from the hard work of bees, the most humble of creatures.

Text: Once, when Rav Abraham Kook was walking in the fields, lost deep in thought, the young student with him inadvertently plucked a leaf off a branch. Rav Kook was visibly shaken by this act, and turning to his companion he said gently, “Believe me when I tell you I never simply pluck a leaf or a blade of grass or any living thing, unless I have to.” He explained further, “Every part of the vegetable world is singing a song and breathing forth a secret of the divine mystery of the Creation.” For the first time the young student understood what it means to show compassion to all creatures. (Wisdom of the Mystics)

Action: If you have a pet, feed it before you eat. Make sure its water dish is filled and clean. Volunteer at a local animal shelter. Try not to buy products that are animal-tested or that exploit endangered species.

To conclude the seder, recite the following verse: L'Adonai ha-aretz u-m'lo'ah. (Psalms 24:1). The earth and all its fullness belong to God. We are the caretakers of the earth, and it is up to us to protect and preserve its beauty. Happy Tu B'shevat!

ADULT ED NEWS

Are You Interested.....

In an Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah Class?

Did you never have the opportunity to study to become a Bar or Bat Mitzvah? Would you like to learn some of what you missed growing up without a chance to attend Hebrew School? Would you like to go back to study in depth some of those things you didn't pay attention to in Hebrew School? Rabbi Mishkin would be glad to start a class if you are considering the idea of becoming a Bar or Bat Mitzvah, studying some basic Judaism, and taking part in a Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremony

In a Basic Hebrew Class?

Would you like to take a "crash" course so you will read Hebrew in **6 weeks!!!!** If so, I would be glad to start another crash course on Thursday mornings at 10 or 12. Please contact Linda Benish if you can't read at all, or once knew and forgot how. No tests, no homework (well, maybe a little practicing) and lots of fun. Then you could even join us for the reading and discussion group at 11 a.m., if you like. We discuss all kinds of things: the meanings of the prayers we read, the traditions that we sometimes don't understand, and why we do what we do at services.

In learning how to chant a Haftarah? Or how to chant a Torah portion?

You can learn the "trope" (the musical notes) for either a Haftarah or a Torah portion. Once you learn the notes, you can read any Haftarah or chant any Torah portion. A "good" voice is not a requirement,

For any of these, contact Linda Benish at 609-426-8727

Or Phyllis in the office at 732-257-1523





News from the Beth Ohr Family

Mazel Tov

- Jack and Rochelle Boshak are proud to announce the upcoming Bar Mitzvah of their grandson Liam Marshall on February 25, 2017. Parents are Leah and Scott

Thank You

- Chuck Rogol would like to thank all those who extended their congratulations on receiving the Sid Lustgarten Mensch Award, either in person, by phone or by mail. Your support means a great deal to me. My thanks also to Prof. Heumann and the Larry Schacht Foundation for sponsoring this Award, and to Mitch Lustgarten for his kind words.
- Phyllis Greenberg would like to thank Ann Branfman, Meryl Finkelstein, Harriet Feld, Joe Shafran and Ira Donenfeld for helping in the office while she was out.
- Thank you to Sara Ullman for her donation to the synagogue and her note saying “with gratitude for the honor of delivering the D’var Torah at the sisterhood Shabbat on January 7th and for Aliyah on January 14th”. Thank you also for sponsoring the Kiddush on Saturday, February 4, 2107 in memory of your father, Mayer Ettner.
- Thank you to Lisa Mason for sponsoring the Tu B’Shevat Kiddush on Saturday, February 11, in memory of her mother, Karen Belsky, and in honor of her daughter Emily Mason’s graduation from Indiana University of Pennsylvania..

Chuck Rogol wants to wish a Re-Fuah Shlema to Mitch Lustgarten for his speedy recovery.

LOTTERY COMING!!!! Lottery coming!!! Roberta Bernstein will be calling Soon!!!!!!!!!!

DAYTIMERS NEWS

FEBRUARY, 2017: WINTER BREAK

- The Daytimers are on vacation
- Stay warm,

THURSDAY, MARCH 30: DAYTIMERS PASSOVER PROGRAM

- Details to follow.
- Save the date.



SHALACH MANOT BASKETS

Dear Congregants,

Once again, we are embarking on our Shalach Manot project. Purim starts Saturday evening, March 11th. This becomes a wonderful opportunity to celebrate this joyous holiday and to acknowledge friends, by giving this gift of unity. This also benefits our Hebrew School as our annual fundraiser and for people who are less fortunate.

Traditionally, we have given baskets of foods to commemorate this mitzvah. However, last year so many of you thought the idea of supporting the food bank at the Jewish Family Services was even a better idea. **And so, with your generosity the money that would normally be spent on the basket will be donated.** Last year, over 90% of our congregation assisted with making a sizeable check that was given to this Jewish Family Services Food Pantry Program and it was very much appreciated.

So many families in our own community have difficulty in providing decent meals for themselves. Stocking the food bank with necessities with the monies collected is a special way of sharing the holiday of "giving". You will receive a card listing your name and those many others who have donated to this most worthy cause.

For those who wish to receive one of our baskets, you will be able to pick up your basket during services on Sunday morning, March 12th.

If you wish to participate, please fill out the form and send a check (no credit cards) made out to: Congregation Beth Ohr PTO for **\$36. Please send form to Lisa Clark – 42 Bosko Drive East Brunswick, NJ 08816 – DO NOT SEND TO TEMPLE.** If you have any questions, please call Lisa Clark – 732.254.8020.

Thank you in advance for your support. Chag Purim Sameach!

Shalach Manot Basket -Please submit form by **Wednesday, March 1st**. **After this date, we will only accept non-basket donations.**

Name _____

Phone _____

_____ I will be picking up my basket.

_____ I would like to donate my basket to a needy Jewish family

MEN'S CLUB *Minyan Every Sunday. Come and also enjoy a bagel and the camaraderie.*



Big Doings at the Men's Club in January—EVERY SUNDAY!

Shown in top row is the January 1st Surprise Pancake Breakfast. Chefs Ivan Gelb and Harvey Cohen and assistant chefs Phyllis Ward and Lana Cohen. Over 20 people came to the Minyan to celebrate the start of 2017. Next is Andy Mendlowitz carrying the Torah at the Minyan on Jan 8 when we lained Torah for the Fast of the Tenth of Tevet. Next is the speech handout cover for Ed's Jan 15 pre Inauguration presentation on Little Known Facts about Inaugurations and a photo of the big group at the breakfast that heard his talk. Next row starts with the sign in front of our building also announcing the Jan 22 Joint Program with Daytimers (Photos of the Daytimers program are on the following page). The other 2 photos show some of the people at the Minyan on Jan 29—sitting on both sides of the Shul.

Sunday morning is a good time to be at Beth Ohr. Shul, Schmooze and Schmeat!

Men's Club Program of Events (partial listing)

- Feb 5 - FJMC World Wide Wrap—program by Rabbi Mishkin during the Minyan
- Feb 19—Presidents' Day Program: U.S. Presidents and the Jews during the breakfast
- Mar 5 - Sisterhood / Men's Club Joint program sponsored by Herman and Frieda Lipp Memorial Fund in memory of Barbara Lipp
- Mar 19 - Ed Mendlowitz 37th Annual Financial Program—12 Ways to Better Manage Your Finances
- May 18 - Men's Club BBQ and Election—Thursday
- Jun 11 - Men's Club Installation following Minyan

Come 3 extra times in next year and join in the fun!

Save a Life. Improve a Life. Arrange to become an Organ Donor!



Ed Mendlowitz

Ed Mendlowitz, Men's Club President, emcpa1@aol.com tel 732 890-3344

Photos from the January 22 Joint Daytimers / Men's Club program with
Marty Schneit

And his Multi Media presentation on the Lower East Side.

Shown below the huge crowd of over 70 people at the joint program held. Also shown is Marty Schneit with Rabbi and Beverly Mishkin and Marilyn Karlstein and Bob Weiss answering some questions after the program.



Sisterhood / Men's Club Joint Program

Sponsored by Herman & Frieda Lipp Memorial Fund in Memory of Barbara Lipp

March 5, 2017 Program at 10:15. Bagel Breakfast at 10:00. Minyan at 9:00.

Beth Ohr 60th Anniversary Celebration

Mark your calendars—June 4, 2017

Committee being organized. If you want to be on the committee,
contact Ed Mendlowitz, 732 890-3344 or emcpal@aol.com

Next Committee meeting: Sunday Feb 5 at 10:15



Tree of Life

Leafs \$118.00

Stones \$450.00

Honor or Memorialize a loved one.

Fully tax deductible.

Call office to purchase a leaf or stone.

2 SPECIAL PROGRAMS BY RABBI MISHKIN

Rabbi's Jewish Practice and Customs Class—U.S. Vote at United Nations Discussion

Rabbi Mishkin has a Jewish Practice and Customs Class that meets every other Tuesday at 7:30. For his January 3rd class he announced he will discuss the U.S. abstention at the United Nations Security Council and solicit conversation and comments. Over 30 people attended this very pertinent and lively program. All who were there said this was something they are glad they did not miss. Simply put—the one hour program was great! Shown below are photos showing two views of the large group.



Rabbi's Jewish Practice and Customs Class—Guest Rabbi from Young Israel of E. Brunswick

For Rabbi Mishkin's January 17 class he invited Rabbi Efrayim S. Unterman from Young Israel of East Brunswick to discuss the difference in the prayer books and liturgy between Conservative and Orthodox synagogues. There was a lively discussion from the large attendance. Everyone agreed that this was a fantastic program and discussion. Shown below are the two Rabbis, part of the group and the sign in front of Beth Ohr announcing the program.



BETH OHR PEOPLE PHOTO GALLERY



Beth Ohr People

Column on left: Brandon and Gabriella Dutka, 5 1/2 year old twin great-grand children of Hilde Schottlander celebrating Shabbat at Marlboro Jewish Center. They don't come any cuter!

Next is our Ritual Committee hard at work followed by Ken Deitz with another great Tee Shirt.

Column on right: Photos show some Beth Ohr'ers celebrating New Year's Eve together. Top photo: Elliot Leibowitz, Bob Nagler, Roberta and Eugene Bernstein, Helene and Daniel Grynberg, Ryselle and Jeff Perlman, Harriet and Bob Weiss.

Bottom: Ronnie and Ed Mendlowitz, Linda and Allen Skupp, Linda and Allan Benish. Not shown are Marilyn and Ira Karlstein.

Sisterhood Presidium President

Shalom,

January 4th at our General Membership Meeting Marilyn Karlstein led our annual book review of Orphan #8 by Kim van Alkemade. It was a very interesting book and a good discussion for those who participated. January 7th was our annual Sisterhood Shabbat, which despite the snow was truly an enjoyable service followed by a lovely and delicious kiddish. Special thank you to Roberta Fachler and her committee consisting of Marilyn Karlstein, Harriet Weiss, Ann Branfman, Marion Falkowitz, Helene Grynberg, Barbara Schneider and Edna Yourman. A special thank you to Marty Israel for helping to set out the food and for all he does.

Sisterhood has a board meeting on February 15th and on March 5th there will be a joint Sisterhood/Men's Club brunch -more info to follow next month. Please hold the date of April 23rd for our Torah Fund Benefactor's Luncheon honoring Maxine Kaufman.

Liz Aroyo

Presidium Member

Sisterhood

SISTERHOOD OF CONGREGATION BETH OHR
ANNUAL DUES STATEMENT
2016 - 2017



TEMPLE MEMBERS \$30

NON-TEMPLE MEMBERS \$39

***MEMBERS WHO HAVE NOT REJOINED
SISTERHOOD BY January 31, 2017 FORFEITED ALL
PREVIOUSLY ACCUMULATED DONOR CREDIT.***

PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR CURRENT ADDRESS AND YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS. WE WOULD LIKE TO UPDATE OUR SISTERHOOD LIST. IF YOU HAVE A WINTER ADDRESS, PLEASE INCLUDE THAT AS WELL.

SAVE THE DATE

TORAH FUND BENEFACTOR'S LUNCHEON

Sunday, April 23, 2017 12:30 p.m.

Honoring: MAXINE KAUFMAN



SCRIP

Sisterhood sells **Shoprite**, **Stop 'n' Shop**, and **Acme** Supermarket Gift Cards. We also sell Kohl's Gift Cards.

This ongoing fundraiser helps support the Oneg Shabbat and other areas of our congregation. (Sisterhood members receive 5% donor credit of their scrip purchase.)

Kohl's Gift Cards may be used to purchase merchandise or to PAY your Kohl's charge card in-store so you continue to get your discounts. By purchasing Kohl's Gift Cards you are doing a double mitzvah as these card purchases support Kohl's Cares for Kids charities.

You may contact the following for purchasing scrip and/or information:

Monica Atzbi 732-390-5890

Sharen Silverman 732-266-2389

Marcia Trechak 609-655-9507 (summer months)

Phyllis Greenberg --Temple Office 732-257-1523

When ordering from Phyllis at the temple office, please try to call in your order at least one day earlier and pick up your order during the following hours: 10 am-12 noon or 1:30 pm -3:00pm.

Scrip is
fundraising
while you
shop!

shopwithscrip™  .com

ACME



Date: 01/15/17

			Carry						Carry		
Name		Amount	Over			Name		Amount	Over		
Appel	Wilma	\$58.00				Finkelstein	Meryl	\$58.00	0.5		
Aroyo	Elizabeth	\$454.25	7.0			Fox	Helene	\$14.00			
Atzbi	Monica	\$512.00	39.5								
						Garfinkel	Linda	\$139.50	5.0		
Benish	Linda	\$77.50	5.0			Gasior	Ellen				
Bernstein	Roberta	\$59.00	6.0			Gilbarg	Marilyn	\$13.00			
Birnbaum	Eileen	\$77.50				Golden	Elizabeth	\$209.00	7.0		
Boshak	Rochelle					Goldenberg	Susan	\$20.00	1.0		
Branfman	Ann	\$152.50	1.0			Greenstein	Barbara	\$14.00			
						Grynberg	Helene	\$120.00	8.5		
Cadel	Cheryl	\$28.00				Gurman	Ruth	\$15.00	3.5		
Cannata	Susan										
Clark	Lisa					Hillman	Pearl		4.5		
Cohen	Harriet	\$72.00				Honig	Alice				
						Honig	Eloise	\$28.00			
DeRosa	Rebecca					Hyman	Lee	\$216.00	0.5		
Donenfeld	Lee	\$34.00	1.0								
						Kagan	Sylvia	\$66.00			
Edwards	Sue	\$55.00				Kamenitz	Marilyn	\$50.25			
						Karlstein	Marilyn	\$808.00			
Fachler	Roberta	\$179.00	0.5			Karpel	Roberta	\$125.00	2.0		
Falkowitz	Marion	\$35.25				Kaufman	Maxine	\$95.00	11.0		
Feder	Barbara	\$114.75				Klein	Caroline	\$20.00			
Feld	Harriet	\$82.50	0.5			Krieger	Karen				
Feurier	Darlene										

			Carry	
Name		Amount	Over	
Laddin	Anne	\$5.00		
Lazarowitz	Andrea	\$85.00	7.0	
Levenstein	Glenda	\$60.00		
Levine	Helen	\$6.25		
Mason	Lisa	\$78.00		
Mendlowitz	Ronnie	\$177.00	11.0	
Nadler	Elinor	\$20.00		
Perlman	Ryselle	\$38.50		
Pincus	Ashna	\$127.50	2.5	
Polovsky	Terrie	\$131.75	4.0	
Prussack	Zellie	\$45.00	1.5	
Rabinowitz	Harriet	\$239.00	18.5	
Reinstein	Sheila	\$25.00		
Risman	Ruth	\$51.00	1.0	
Rogol	Lysa	\$71.75		
Rosenzweig	Ronnie	\$16.00		
Gray	Ilene	\$141.50	4.5	
			43.0	

			Carry	
Name		Amount	Over	
Schlissel	Lenore		1.0	
Schlussfeld	Mindy	\$5.00		
Schneider	Barbara	\$145.00	6.0	
Schottlander	Hilde	\$139.00	12.0	
Shafran	Dorothy	\$189.00	6.5	
Seltzer	Karen			
Seidner	Lois			
Silberstein	Joyce	\$38.00	5.5	
Silver	Arlene	\$98.50		
Silverman	Sharen	\$234.50	8.5	
Simon	Mala	\$122.50	2.5	
Simon	Marjorie	\$150.25		
Skupp	Linda	\$279.75	11.5	
Sommers	Arlene	\$5.00		
Spiegel	Estee	\$134.00	0.5	
Trechak	Marcia	\$283.00	6.5	
Ward	Phyllis	\$5.00		
Weiss	Harriet	\$142.00	1.5	
Wittlin	Renee	\$5.00		
Yourman	Edna	\$51.50		
Yourman	Paula	\$162.00	0.5	
Zeller	Kay	\$5.00		

We sincerely thank the following member and friend for donating to the Sisterhood:

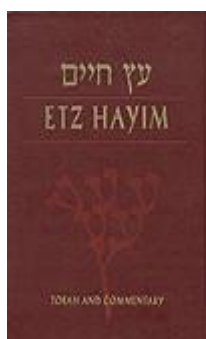
Lee Hyman

HIGH HOLIDAY MACHZOR

If you are interested in dedicating a High Holiday prayer book, please contact Estee Spiegel by e-mail at estee86@msn.com. Donations can be made to memorialize someone special or in honor of a simcha. The cost for each book is \$36.00 and checks should be made payable to Sisterhood Congregation Beth Ohr. The donation must be paid in full before a bookplate will be affixed.



**Thank you so much to everyone who purchased and donated
a new Etz Chaim Chumash!**



LARGE PRINT SIDDURIM

The synagogue owns four large print Siddurim. If anyone needs one at services, please see Ira Donenfeld, Phil Rabinowitz or Larry Fachler.

ISRAEL BONDS

FOR BAR AND BAT MITZVAHS



eMITZVAH
BOND*

\$36 MINIMUM

MAZEL TOV
BOND

\$100 MINIMUM

GIVE THE GIFT OF ISRAEL
Invest in Israel Bonds · israelbonds.com



Development Corporation for Israel/Israel Bonds
Richard Hirschom, Registered Representative
230 Old Bridge Turnpike, Suite A - South River, NJ 08882
richard.hirschom@israelbonds.com · 732.353.2003

*Available online only

This is not an offering, which can be made only by prospectus. Read the prospectus carefully before investing to fully evaluate the risks associated with investing in Israel bonds. Member FINRA.



Professional Tax Preparation

By Rizick & Rizick CPAs LLC

For Individuals & Businesses at Reasonable Rates

732-387-0872/ riz3@optonline.net

www.rizickcpas.vpweb.com

10% Discount- mention this ad!

ADAM LEFKOWITZ, ESQ.

ATTORNEY-AT-LAW

4G AUER COURT
EAST BRUNSWICK, NJ 08816

TEL.: 973-519-0196

ADAM.LEFKOWITZ.ESQ@GMAIL.COM

Simon & Deitz, LLC, CPA's

"Pay the Least Tax"

42 East Main Street, Suite 204

Freehold, New Jersey 07728

www.kendeitzcpa.com

Kenneth R. Deitz, CPA

Investment Advisory Representative

732-780-3665 Phone

732-780-4402 Fax

908-415-8367 Cell

deitzfreeholdcpa@gmail.com



Announcements

The deadline for the next newsletter will be
Noon, Monday, February 13, 2017

Please send all of your thank you, articles
and announcements via e-mail to:

congregationbethohr@gmail.com

or call

Phyllis in the Synagogue office at 732-257-1523

“Ritually Speaking”

If you are interested in sponsoring a Kiddush to celebrate a simcha, commemorate the Yahrzeit of a loved one, or “just because”, contact Phyllis in the office at 732-257-1523.

Sisterhood is selling Kohl’s Cares for Kids Gift Cards. You may purchase these cards as gifts or to pay your bill in the store so you can continue to use your charge card and get your discounts.

For more information and to purchase cards, please call Monica Atzbi at 732-390-5890. When ordering Kohl’s please use a separate check—not to be combined with scrip checks.

Rabbi Mishkin’s Contact Numbers

If you need to reach Rabbi Mishkin, please use any of the following phone numbers:

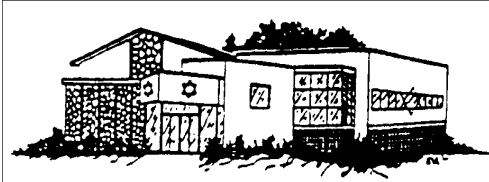
Office Phone # 732-257-7031

Home phone #732-967-6710 after hours for emergencies

e-mail address: rabbijoelmishkin@gmail.com

+

Rabbi Mishkin will be available for counseling by appointment.



Congregation Beth Ohr
P.O. Box 206
Old Bridge, NJ 08857

Shabbat Candle Lighting Times For February



Feb 3	5:00
Feb 10	5:09
Feb 17	5:17
Feb 24	5:25