

# BETH OHR NEWSLETTER

Vol. 60 Issue 3

March 2016

5776 Adar/AdarII

E-Mail: [congregationbethohr@gmail.com](mailto:congregationbethohr@gmail.com)

Synagogue Office: 732-257-1523

## Beth Ohr Purim Celebration

At Etz Chaim with Rabbi Levy

### **Purim Cafe**

**Wednesday March 23 6:30pm**

**We're invited to a dairy/vegetarian potluck dinner and Purim celebration.**

**After the potluck dairy dinner there will be a show - the Purim Spiel and the Megillah reading.**

**All are welcome to dress in costume.**

**Please bring a dairy or vegetarian main dish, appetizer, side dish, or wine to share.**

**You don't have to cook - you can purchase an item, just make sure it does not contain meat as this is a dairy meal.**



Thursday 8AM March 24th

Beth Ahm in Aberdeen

With Rabbi Malik

**We have been invited to celebrate Purim and the reading of the Megillah at Congregation Beth Ahm.**

### **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 AND SERVICES**

Tues Mar 1	Rabbi's Book Discussion Group	11:00AM
	Talmud Class	7:30PM
Wed Mar 2	Spanish Class	11:00AM
Thur Mar 3	Talmud Class	9:30AM
	Hebrew Class	11:00AM
Fri Mar 4	Friday Evening Service	7:30 PM
Sat Mar 5	Shabbat Morning Service	9:30AM
Sun Mar 6	Sunday Morning Service	9:00AM
	Followed by Sisterhood/Men's Club Brunch	
Tues Mar 8	Rabbi's Jewish Customs and Practices	7:30 PM
Wed Mar 9	Spanish Class	11:00AM
Thurs Mar 10	Talmud Class	9:30AM
	Hebrew class	11:00AM
Fri Mar 11	Friday Evening Service	7:30 PM
Sat Mar 12	Shabbat Morning Service	9:30AM
	Followed by Kiddush Lunch Sponsored by Alice Celeste	
Sun Mar 13	Sunday Morning Services	9:00AM
	Followed by Men's Club Breakfast	
Tues Mar 15	Rabbi's Book Discussion Group	11:00AM
	Talmud Class	7:30PM
Wed Mar 16	Spanish Class	11:00AM
	Sisterhood Board Meeting	7:30PM
Thur Mar 17	Daytimers Program	1:00PM
	Talmud Class	9:30AM
	Hebrew Class	11:00AM
	Temple Executive Board	7:00 PM
	Temple Board	8:00PM
Fri Mar 18	Friday Evening Service	7:30 PM
Sat Mar 19	Shabbat Morning Service	9:30AM
Sun Mar 20	Sunday Morning Service	9:00AM
	Followed by Men's Club Breakfast	
Tues Mar 22	Rabbi's Jewish Customs and Practices	7:30PM
Wed Mar 23	Spanish Class	11:00AM
	Purim Celebration at Etz Chaim	6:30PM
Thurs Mar 24	Purim at Beth Ahm	8:00AM
Fri Mar 25	Friday Evening Service	7:30 PM
Sat Mar 26	Shabbat Morning Service	9:30AM
Sun Mar 27	Sunday Morning Service	9:00AM
	Followed by Men's Club Breakfast	
Tues Mar 29	Rabbis Book Discussion	11:00AM
	Talmud Class	7:30PM
Wed Mar 30	Spanish Class	11:00AM
Thurs Mar 31	Talmud Class	9:30AM
	Hebrew Class	11:00AM



The following sermon was given at the Kehillah of Lakewood Ranch, in Lakewood Ranch Florida. By Rabbi Joel Mishkin.

### On Conservative Judaism

Shabbat Shalom. Thank you for inviting me here. It is difficult for me to express just how good and yes, how warm it feels to be with you this weekend. As I promised, this evening I wanted to suggest some thoughts for your consideration about the Conservative movement to which we are affiliated.

I titled these remarks, “Is Conservative Judaism too Conservative for the twenty-first century?” because I believe this to be a most pertinent question for a small and young congregation such as yourself to consider as you seek to define who you are and why you are here in these early stages of your existence. And while I do not promise that I can answer this question in as straightforward manner as perhaps you might have hoped, I do wish to provide you with some serious suggestions for you to consider.

Now given that I am a rabbi, I thought it would lend more credence to my assumptions if I turn to a figure from the Bible to assist me in my analysis of our subject matter and see if we could learn some lessons from this figure's actions. I thought to myself, which Biblical personality should I choose? Originally I wanted to look closely at the central figure in the Torah, namely Moses. At first blush I believed that he would be the obvious choice, the most suitable individual to consider for several reasons.

Why Moses? Well, Moses appears to represent the most prominent example of a rabbinic figure in both biblical and rabbinic tradition. He is known quite famously as Moshe Rabbenu. Therefore who better to turn to in order to understand questions of Judaism? Second, it would equally make good sense considering that our thoughts have been centered upon him these several weeks as we fully immerse ourselves in the Book of Exodus. Although this week we spend a considerable time looking at his brother Aaron and the duties associated with the priesthood, let's not kid ourselves – the Torah is called the Five Books of Moses, and once the book of Genesis concludes, Moses is without question the central character in the narrative portions of the Torah until the final verse of V'zot Habracha in Deuteronomy.

And yet I decided against Moses, maybe because he was such an obvious choice. In any case, I preferred to look at someone different – whose efforts to shape Judaism preceded Moses. Who then shall I turn to? I would like to suggest that we take a close look at the patriarch who is identified as the very first Jew. Instead of Moses I speak of course of our ancestor Abraham. And in particular I want to turn to one single incident that features Abraham at a pivotal moment in his development as the patriarch, analyze his approach and response to this incident and see if his actions, behavior and value system might be helpful and instructive to the machinations and workings of the Conservative movement.

The incident of which I speak takes place after Abraham's name has changed from Avram to Avraham. As some of you might know, rabbinic exegesis understands Avraham to be an abbreviation for the expression, Av Hamon Hagoyim – which means in English - the father of all peoples. That is the meaning Abraham should receive from his new name.

The incident also takes place after Abraham has agreed to God's covenant through the act of circumcision. Given that Conservative Judaism aspires to be a denomination of Judaism that holds Jewish law sacrosanct it would only be appropriate to look at a moment in Abraham's life following this major change in his physical and spiritual demeanor.

So what is the first incident to take place immediately following Abraham's circumcision? After a brief period of recuperation where Abraham is reassured of God's promise that he shall be blessed with a legacy of future generations, he undergoes a test even before he is tested at the Akedah, the Binding of Isaac.

What is the test that I speak of? We can read about it in the Torah: “The men set out from there and looked down toward Sodom, Abraham walking with them to see them off. Now the Lord had said, “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, since Abraham is to become a great and populous nation and all the nations of the earth are to bless themselves by him? Then the Lord said, “The outrage of Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grave! I will go down to see whether they have acted altogether according to the outcry that has reached Me; if not I will take note.”

I propose that the very first test Abraham is given by God after accepting the covenant of circumcision concerns the people of Sodom and Gomorrah and for that reason it is a more appropriate test for our purposes than the Akedah because it does not solely concern his own flesh and blood – but a group of other people. In fact this group are complete outsiders to the Israelite community. We will return to this fact a bit later.

But for now we also should remember that the test of Sodom also begins with a revealing question posed by the Almighty. Not a declaration but a question. And this is vital for us to understand. What is it that God asks?

Shall I act alone and just snuff out this evil and reprehensible people or shall I tell what I have in mind to Abraham? In other words, the very first step God takes is to include Abraham in the decision-making process that He alone has been making.

Do not forget that God’s first act of destruction was not preceded by a question. God tells Noah in no uncertain terms that is what God wants to do. God does not behave in the same manner with Abraham and an important development has taken place. God wants Abraham’s participation in His decision-making process. He actually invites Abraham to take part.

And perhaps even more important than God’s invitation for participation is Abraham’s response to this invitation! We read on a little further: “The men went on from there to Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the Lord. Abraham came forward and said, “Will you sweep away the innocent along with the guilty? What if there should be fifty innocent within the city: will you then wipe out the place and not forgive it for the sake of the innocent fifty who are in it? Far be it from You to do such a thing, to bring death upon the innocent as well as the guilty, so that innocent and guilty fare alike. Far be it from You!”

Now there is no need to quote the entire bartering process. You know as well as I of the process Abraham goes through. Negotiating with God, lowering the bar from fifty individuals until he is left looking for just ten good people in all of Sodom and Gomorrah, the discussion concludes with the following words.

“Let not my Lord be angry if I speak but this last time: What if ten should be found there?” And the Lord answered, “I will not destroy for the sake of ten.” For our purposes the test is over and it ultimately doesn’t matter whether there will be ten innocent in these two evil towns; the point of the test is that Abraham was asked by God to engage in the decision-making process, did so and in doing so he set forth an agenda and a criteria of what he found to be important. Let’s look for a moment at this.

First – as I implied earlier it makes not a whit of difference to Abraham that he is dealing with non-members of his family, or outsiders of his tribe. His name makes note of this: Remember – Av Hamon Hagoyim – Abraham is to be the father of all peoples: He totally discounts the fact that these men and women are not only non-Hebrews; they are heathens and they are evil! Still Abraham believes that if ten can be found they are worth saving.

Second – consider the dialectic distinction between God’s divine judgment and Abraham’s human in<sup>5</sup>stinct. God represents sovereign law. These people are evil and therefore they should be destroyed. God says it Himself - “The outrage of Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grave! I will go down to see whether they have acted altogether according to the outcry that has reached Me; if not I will take note.”

And what is Abraham’s approach? It is starkly different from God’s judgment. Abraham wishes to be merciful when faced with the stringent ruling of God’s law. It is clear that God and Abraham have different judicial standards at this time in our early history. God wishes to rule as a just sovereign while Abraham tells God, albeit with a measure of flattery - that God needs to be merciful.

And finally – what is the third criteria relied upon by Abraham? That even though Abraham and God are not equals Abraham is essentially being tested to see if he possesses the spiritual and moral audacity – the boldness and the courage to counter God’s wishes. In other words I would like to suggest that Abraham’s test in the case of Sodom and Gemorrah is to evaluate whether he is willing to upset the apple cart, to shake things up, to question God’s judgment. So what does Abraham do in this process? Precisely that - he question’s God’s judgment by his inclusion of all humanity. He errs on the side of mercy and compassion and he counters God’s decree with a startling moral and spiritual audacity.

Given the importance of each of these three values – inclusiveness, compassion and spiritual/moral audacity – if we are willing to assume these three principles as pillars of our movement I believe that our future will indeed be bright. But what this means is that we have to be united in our goal to consider these three values for the members whom we wish to attract and serve.

**CONCLUSION** – First we must err on the side of inclusivity: that is, to make people feel welcome and comfortable when they enter our sacred halls. But not only make them feel welcome, include them, engage them, motivate them and interact with them.

Second we must err on the side of compassion: that is to look at the totality of peoples’ lives with sensitivity and understanding. Not always finding a way to say no – but discovering new ways to say yes, albeit within the parameters of our movement.

And third, as did Abraham – we must have an abundance of audacity – to be audacious, bold and courageous in the way in which we make decisions for our movement. And we must be fearless in our convictions that we have religious morality on our side. I am convinced that is the formula for success for our movement in the future.

My dear friends: God invited Abraham to participate in His grand project more than four thousand years ago. In 5776 the message for Conservative Judaism has not changed a bit; God is still inviting us. All we need to do is respond whole-heartedly to that invitation.

Shabbat Shalom.

## President's Message



As spring approaches there are a number of celebrations and programs scheduled at our synagogue.

Rabbi Mishkin will teach two classes in March and April about the history of Israel. These classes will teach congregants about important historical sites in Israel, and are timely as our congregational trip to Israel is scheduled from May 15 thru May 26.

Linda Benish and Rabbi Mishkin are working very hard to make the rebirth of our Torathon program a great success. The Torathon will take place on Sunday afternoon April 3 from 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM. There will be twelve Rabbis leading discussion groups throughout the afternoon. Bring your family and friends to an interesting afternoon of learning, socializing, and a little nosh.

On Sunday April 10 the synagogue will participate in the community Mitzvah Day J Serve with teens from Middlesex and Monmouth Counties helping us. We will be performing the important mitzvah of burying sacred Hebrew books and religious articles at the Beth Ohr cemetery.

On Sunday afternoon April 17 starting at 12:00 PM, Ashna Pincus will be honored by Sisterhood as this year's recipient of the Torah Fund Benefactor Award. Please attend this wonderful program featuring a lovely brunch, a speaker from the Jewish Theological Seminary, and a chance to recognize an important member of Sisterhood and the Beth Ohr family.

Our fundraising committee is busy with plans for the Journal Dinner Dance scheduled on Sunday June 5. We will be honoring Alice and David Honig, Marty Israel, Rysie and Jeff Perlman, and Dotty and Joe Shafran. This is our big fundraiser for the year, so support your synagogue by attending the dinner dance, purchasing an ad in the journal, and approaching local businesses to support us with an advertisement.

Shalom

Phil



## SHALACH MANOT BASKETS

Dear Congregants,

Once again, we are embarking on our Shalach Manot project. Purim starts Wednesday evening, March 23rd. This becomes a wonderful opportunity to celebrate this joyous holiday and to acknowledge friends, by giving this gift of unity. As our annual fundraiser, this also benefits our Hebrew School and for people who are less fortunate.

Traditionally, we have given baskets of foods to commemorate this mitzvah. However, last year 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 85% 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.

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 20th.

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!

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 Shalach Manot Basket – Please submit form by **Monday, March 13<sup>th</sup>**.  
**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.

**THURSDAY, MARCH 17: DAYTIMERS PURIM/JEWISH IRISH GAME DAY  
AND ADULT COLORING WORKSHOP**

Join the Daytimers at Beth Ohr (12:00 Noon) for a day of playing games and being creative.

Gameday will be a lot of fun. Bring any game you can carry. We will also have additional games available.

Adult coloring has become very popular. If you are already involved with this, bring your coloring books and supplies. These items can be purchased at any craft store. The Daytimers will also have coloring books and supplies available.

Our special Purim/Jewish Irish lunch will include Irish bagels, cream cheese, tuna salad, egg salad, beverages and dessert, including hamantaschen.

The cost is \$7.00 for Daytimers members and \$10.00 for non-Daytimers members. Please RSVP to Ira ([732-679-2652](tel:732-679-2652)) by Sunday, March 13.

**Beth Ohr News**

- Eva Yourman received the Outstanding Career and Technical Award for teaching Culinary Arts at William E. Grady High School in Brooklyn, New York. The UFT awards recognition ceremony was held on 2/4 in NYC. Paula Yourman, very proud mother was in NI to see Eva receive this award.
- Mala & Bob Simon proudly announce the birth of a grandson Zachary Ethan Simon. Parents are Howard and Lexi.
- Meryl Finkelstein wants to thank everyone for their good wishes for a speedy recovery after her recent surgery.
- Phyllis Greenberg extends a thank you to Ann Branfman, Harriet Feld, Ira Donenfeld and Roberta Fachler for helping in the office during the month of February.
- Thank you to Alice Celeste for sponsoring the Kiddush lunch on March 20 in honor of Edward G. Hoerd, Alfred F. Hoerd and Alice F. Hoerd, and remembered by Alice Sarah Celeste.
- The family of longtime Temple member Myrna Wasserman acknowledges with deep appreciation the kind expression of sympathy from individual Temple members, Rabbi Mishkin, Phil Rabinowitz, Ed Mendlowitz and Alice Celeste. Sincerely, Elisa & Scott Wasserman & family”
- Marilyn Karlstein thanks everyone for the get well cards sent during her recent surgery





## CONGREGATION BETH OHR TRIP TO ISRAEL

**ISRAEL – OUR LAND AND OUR PEOPLE - May 15-26**

There is still some time to sign up for our wonderful trip to Israel. Call Phyllis Greenberg if you are interested in joining Beth Ohr's trip to Israel this spring.



### NOW THAT YOU KNOW YOUR ALEPH-BET... WHY NOT TRY ADON OLAM?

Started Thursday, January 28, 11:00 a.m. Linda Benish began a class in

#### Hebrew Reading Part II

First of all – MAZEL TOV to all those who took the Hebrew Reading I class. We finished the book, learned all the letters of the Hebrew alphabet, and are becoming more and more fluent in reading the prayers.

Part II picks up from where Book I leaves off. But you don't have to have taken Part I to take this course. This class is for those who know the Hebrew alphabet either from learning it in Part I, or in another adult education class, or back when you went to "cheder" back in Brooklyn or the Bronx or..... The goals of this course are to improve reading skills and fluency by using familiar prayers, and to expand comprehension. So if you recognize the letters but read VERY slowly, this will help increase your speed. Meanwhile, you will get some of the components of the Hebrew language and be able to identify new words and phrases which will assist you in understanding some of the most familiar prayers we read.

## ETZ CHAIM CHUMASH



We sincerely thank the following members and friends for purchasing the new Etz Chaim Chumash:

Elliot Leibowitz  
Liz and Michael Aroyo and Family

In Memory of Elaine Leibowitz  
In Memory of Vera Nussenbaum

If you are interested in purchasing the new Etz Chaim Chumash, please contact Harriet Rabinowitz by e-mail at [harriet.rabinowi@gmail.com](mailto:harriet.rabinowi@gmail.com). Books may be purchased to memorialize someone special or in honor of a simcha. The cost is \$54.00 each and checks should be made payable to Sisterhood, Congregation Beth Ohr. The Chumash must be paid in full before a bookplate will be affixed.

# Yahrzeit Memorial Fund

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

## **DONATED BY:**

Seymour Nussenbaum  
Harriet Feld  
Paula Yourman and Family  
Sue Edwards  
Ann Branfman

Sylvia Kagan  
Marjorie and Stuart Simon

Joan and Larry Zeltzer  
Linda Garfinkel

Sandra Wexlin  
Lerner Family

## **IN LOVING MEMORY OF**

Bette Kushner  
Pola Schaffer  
Roslyn Suriff  
Stephen Edwards  
Anna Beer  
Harold Branfman  
Gershon Moldevan  
Brenda Borenstein—Marjories's  
beloved sister  
Harry Weinreich  
Jack Fass, Rose Fass,  
Joseph Rosenfeld  
Ida Zimmerman  
Goldie Lesser



## **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 fund-raising 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 January. Please call Phyllis Greenberg in the Synagogue Office 732-257-1523 for further details

## March Yahrzeits

11

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.

### March 3/4

Esther German	3/5
Henrietta Schochetman	3/5
Vivian Berkley	3/6
Fannie Cohen	3/6
Anna Nussenbaum	3/6
Debbie Gold	3/7
Barbara Klein	3/7
Siegfried Sender	3/7
Carl Karp	3/8
Rose Kushner	3/8
Samuel Rabinowitz	3/8
Goldie Lesser	3/9
Miriam Rosenthal	3/9
Ida Zimmerman	3/9
Max Kosser	3/11

### March 11/12

Harriet Alper	3/14
Judith Grabel Greenstein	3/14
Celia Stadin Davis	3/15
Louis Nathanson	3/15
Benjamin Hinden	3/16

### March 18/19

Rosalie Lubitz	3/20
Lillian Silverman	3/21

### March 25/26

Esther Narol	3/27
Sylvia Boshak	3/28
Barbara Steinklein	3/29
Seymour Risman	3/30
Paul Katz	4/1
Lillian Kessler	4/1

# **TORATHON**

**Sunday afternoon, April 3, 2016**

**1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

**Enjoy a “taste of Torah” at our afternoon extravaganza of learning, fun, good company, a little nosh, and a rich, fulfilling Jewish experience. So far, the following Rabbis are participating:**

**Rabbi Eric Eisenkramer  
Temple Bnai Shalom - East Brunswick**

**Rabbi Bryan Kinzbrunner,  
Chaplain, Stein Hospice, at the Oscar and Ella Wilf Campus for Senior Living, Somerset**

**Rabbi Marc Kline  
Monmouth Reform Synagogue**

**Rabbi Jay Kornsgold  
Beth El Synagogue, East Windsor**

**Rabbi Nathan Langer  
Jewish Hospice Services**

**Rabbi Benjamin Levy  
Cong. Etz Chaim, Monroe Township Jewish Center**

**Rabbi Lisa Malik  
Temple Beth Ahm, Aberdeen**

**Rabbi Joel Mishkin  
Cong. Beth Ohr, Old Bridge**

**Rabbi Michael Pont  
Marlboro Jewish Center**

**Rabbi Ellie Shemtov  
Kol Am, Freehold, NJ**

**Rabbi Jay Weinstein  
Young Israel of East Brunswick**

**Rabbi Eliezer Zaklikovsky  
Chabad Jewish Center of Monroe**

**Registration is at 12:30 p.m. The first class session starts at 1:00.**

**With the support and generosity of**

**The Jewish Federation in the Heart of New Jersey**

**Need some info? Talk to Phyllis Greenberg (732)257-1523 or call Linda Benish at (609)426-8727. Cost: \$5.- and canned food for the Old Bridge Food Bank.**

# ISRAEL BONDS

FOR **BAR** AND **BAT** MITZVAHS



**eMITZVAH**  
BOND\*

\$36 MINIMUM

**MAZEL TOV**  
BOND

\$100 MINIMUM

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**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*

\*\*\*In the future 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.

**The Following Donations Have Been Made**  
**During the Month of March:**

**In Memory of Vera Nussenbaum**

- Pearl and David Ribet
- Ken, Lisa, Stephanie and Robert Ribet
- Seymour Nussenbaum

In appreciation for all the love shown to Seymour and his family and the outpouring of grief and warmth at Vera's funeral will be remembered as long as he lives.

**Herman and Frieda Lipp Memorial Fund**

- In honor of Victor Beecher

**The following Plaque has been placed in the Sanctuary**

- Karen Lois Belsky by Lisa Mason

**The following Leaves have been placed on the Tree of Life**  
**In the Lobby**

- In honor of the Celeste and Lynch Family by Alice Celeste
- In memory of Vera Nussenbaum

Congregation Beth Ohr  
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)

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(Date in English)

(Date in Hebrew)

**PLEDGE**

I hereby authorize you to supply and maintain permanently on your Memorial Tablet, a name plate in the size indicated above, *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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

Call Phyllis in the office to order a Leaf

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



## Excitement at the Sunday Minyan & Men's Club Doings

On Feb we participated in the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs World Wide Wrap. Shown above on the left are some of the attendees wearing Tefillin. On the right is Rabbi Mishkin assisting Lisa Mason and Harriet Rabnowitz with their first time of laying Tefillin. Rabbi Mishkin presented a program during the Minyan.

**Try coming 3 extra times in 2016 and join in the fun!**

Join the Men's Club **Triple S** Club for 2016:

**S**hul, **S**chmooze and **S**chmear

If you don't regularly come to a Sunday Minyan, we look forward to seeing you more often in 2016!

**For next month's newsletter:** Send photos of you or your family history, on vacation, or with famous people.

**Good Shabbos! Greetings** A suggestion is for all Men's Club members and Beth Ohr Congregants to call someone they haven't spoken to in a while and wish them a Good Shabbos. A few of us have done it and had very gratifying results. Try it—You'll like it!

[Things really happen at the Men's Club. Come to a Minyan once in a while.](#)

**NO SCHEDULED EVENTS. IMPROMPTU PROGRAMS WILL FOLLOW THE MINYAN DURING THE BAGEL BREAKFAST**

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

***If you don't usually attend, try coming once in a while and see what we have to offer. It ain't what you think it is!***



# BETH OHR PHOTO GALLERY



## Photos of the Month

Shown is Harriet and Bob Weiss & Ronnie and Ed Mendlowitz at the open Ark inside the St. Thomas US Virgin Islands' Synagogue at their trip in February.

Also shown is a cover of the NJ Jewish News. Copies of each issue are available at the Temple, but if you are not receiving it in the mail it means you haven't contributed to the Jewish Federation in the Heart of New Jersey. It is important to support this organization that provides needed support to many Jewish organizations in our area.

Pictured is the mail box in front of the Temple building. We hope that it isn't used since our postal mailing address is P.O. Box 206, Old Bridge, NJ 08857. Mail must be sent to the post office box. Mail addressed to our building number will not be delivered. The box is for drop offs when the Temple is not open.

Sorry, but there are no more teenage Dan Grynberg photos with famous people to show you.

## SUPPORT THE JOURNAL DINNER DANCE

**Plan on attending , but also make every effort to sell ads for the Journal. This is our major fund raiser and we need everyone's support and participation.**

**Journal ad forms appear elsewhere in the Newsletter and can be reproduced.**

## **BETH OHR MEMBER INFORMATION**

**Congregation Beth Ohr Dinner Dance**

**Journal Dinner Dance**

**Sunday June 5, 2016 at Beth Ohr**

*Honoring*

**ALICE & DAVID HONIG  
RYSSELLE & JEFF PERLMAN  
DOROTHY & JOE SHAFRAN  
MARTIN ISRAEL**

The Cost of Dinner Tickets is \$90.00 per person.

However, all Beth Ohr Members can attend for

**No Charge—For Free**

as long as they sell \$500.00 in Journal ads

(single members need to sell only \$250.00 in ads)

**An ad form is included on the next page and copies of it can be made.**

# Congregation Beth Ohr Journal Dinner Dance

**DINNER DANCE &  
SOUVENIR JOURNAL**

*Honoring*

**ALICE & DAVID HONIG  
RYSSELLE & JEFF PERLMAN  
DOROTHY & JOE SHAFRAN  
MARTIN ISRAEL**  
Sunday June 5, 2016

Taking an ad shows your support of  
Congregation Beth Ohr  
and your appreciation of these fine  
active honorees.

## Journal Ad prices - 8½" x 11" page size

Back cover supporter	\$2,500.00
Inside front or inside back cover supporter	\$1,800.00
Gold page supporter	\$1,000.00
Silver page supporter	\$750.00
Full page	\$500.00
Half page (8½ x 5½)	\$275.00
Quarter page (4¼ x 5½)	\$150.00
Business card	\$ 75.00
Congratulatory personal mention	\$ 36.00
In memorium listing	\$ 18.00
Family Jewels (list your children and grandchildren) per name:	\$ 18.00

**YES!** Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution to Congregation Beth Ohr of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for a \_\_\_\_\_ (specify size) ad in the souvenir journal. Ad copy is attached. (Please attach camera ready copy, if available.) (NOTE: DO NOT STAPLE ads or business cards to this form)

**YES!** I want to attend the Dinner Dance. Enclosed is my check for \$90.00 per guest. (Please provide the names of the attendees):

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Co. Name \_\_\_\_\_

Tel \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Ad deadline May 9, 2016**

*Send your ad today to*

Journal Ad Committee

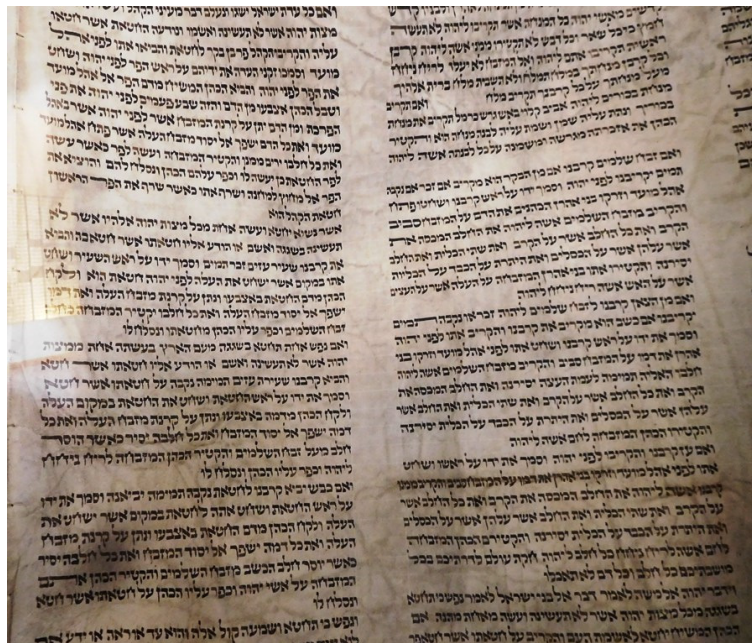
c/o Congregation Beth Ohr

P.O. Box 206

Old Bridge, NJ 08857

Tel: 732 257-1523 Email: emcpa1@aol.com

The Beth Ohr Newsletter will be including information about our history leading up to our **60th Anniversary Celebration in the Fall of 2016**



**Holocaust Torah at Beth Ohr**

Torah rescued from the Nazis that was written at the end of the 19th Century and originally was used in Pinkas Synagogue in Prague. Also shown is the Memorial Wall with plaques remembering family members, friends and others murdered in the Holocaust.

*On the following pages is the history of the rescued Torah and photos of the Pinkas Synagogue.*

## CZECH MEMORIAL SCROLLS

The 1,564 sacred Scrolls which came to Westminster Synagogue on 7th February, 1964, had been gathered together in Prague, from the desolated synagogues of Bohemia and Moravia, by the Nazi official in charge of the Czech 'Protectorate.' Much more synagogue booty, books, pictures, embroidered vestments, and ceremonial objects of silver and gold, were similarly collected by the Nazis, and many of these articles are now in the State Jewish Museum in Prague. The Scrolls themselves lay piled in the disused Michle Synagogue for more than 20 years.

It was agreed from the outset by the Czech Authorities and the British interested parties that the Scrolls should pass in trust to a responsible non-commercial body, the Westminster Synagogue, which formed a Memorial Scrolls committee.

The first task of the committee was the careful unpacking and numbering of the Scrolls, and the construction in three rooms of racks designed for the purpose, with positions properly numbered so that each of the 1,564 Scrolls could be readily accounted for through the period of their study and distribution. Then came the major task of inspection. A system of cataloguing was devised; and in accordance therewith, each Scroll was gone through by an expert, and a record made, so far as was possible, of the origin and age of the Scroll, the physical condition of its components and, most important, the state of the writing and the defects therein. On the basis of this study, the Scrolls were classified into grades, from best to unusable. The middle grades were such as could be made usable by a little or a greater amount of labor, and such as had some parts which were or could be made usable. Of the remainder, most were destined to serve as sacred memorials.

On 28th June, 1965, a Solemn Assembly was held at Westminster Synagogue to mark the completion of the preliminary study of the Scrolls and the beginning of the task of distribution. The Assembly was representative of all sections of the Jewish community, and included also members of the clergy and academics of different faiths.

During the years 1965 and following, the work of repairing the Scrolls was done by the scribes who had conducted the original examination. Since May 1967, the committee has enjoyed the services of Mr. David Brand, a scribe whose professional skill and conscientious disposition are of inestimable value.

Requests for the sacred Scrolls have come to the committee continuously from the time of their arrival in London in 1964 (widely reported in the British and American press), up to the present time. In the allocation of Scrolls during these past 20 years, priority has been given to Synagogues needing a Scroll for use in services. As might be expected, the largest Jewish community, that of the United States, has

provided new homes for a great many of the Scrolls; but others have been sent to virtually every established community. Of the 1,564 Scrolls received in 1964, a very great many are beyond repair for use in synagogue services. Practically all the scrolls which can be made kosher have been distributed, and the remainder are being allocated to those congregations who wish to have a memorial to the martyred communities. When a request is approved by the committee, a Scroll is handed over on "permanent loan"; and the recipient is asked to make a contribution towards the expenses involved. A minimum contribution is suggested, but congregations are encouraged to make larger contributions in accordance with their means. Many have responded generously, and the committee has thus been able to meet the constantly increasing costs incurred in distributing the Scrolls.

Each Scroll bears a brass tablet with a number corresponding to the number on a certificate which describes the origin of the Scroll and any known particulars.

Some Scrolls, not necessarily fit for use in synagogue but appropriate as solemn memorials, have been assigned for display in religious and educational centers, and it is hoped that many future applicants will find these Scrolls appropriate to their needs. One went to Westminster Abbey, where it was a feature in the exhibition arranged by the Council of Christians and Jews in connection with the Abbey's 900th Anniversary Commemoration; this Scroll is now permanently in the library of the Council of Christians and Jews. Others have gone to the Royal Library, at Windsor; Brandeis University, New York; Northwestern University, Chicago; University of Rochester, New York; King's College, Cambridge; Leeds University; University of Southampton; University of Warwick; Clifton College; University of York and York Cathedral; and Yad Vashem.

It was clear from the outset that a residue of scrolls and fragments of scrolls would remain when the process of distribution had been completed; and it was envisaged that this residue, together with binders and other appurtenances, would one day form the basis of a museum devoted to the history of the project and to the memory of the Czech communities. Arrangements have recently been made for rooms at Kent House to be made available to the Memorial Scrolls Trust for this purpose.

Meanwhile, the committee continues to receive many requests; and will not rest until the sacred treasures shall have found their most appropriate homes, to honor the memory of the martyrs and to bring light to future generations.

On Friday night, April 15, Congregation Beth Ohr will be honored to dedicate Scroll #23 from the Pinkas Synagogue in Prague.



Interiér Pinkasovy synagogy – pohled k východu. Po pravé straně se otvírají arkády do vedlejší lodi a galerie pro ženy. Ve výzdobě stavby se mísí pozdně gotické a renesanční výzdobné prvky.

Interior of the Pinkas Synagogue – view towards the east. On the right, porticoes open onto the side aisles and women's gallery. The decoration of the building is a mixture of late Gothic and Renaissance elements.

Interieur der Pinkassynagoge, Blick nach Osten. An der rechten Seite öffnen sich Arkaden zum Seitenschiff und zur Frauenempore. In der Ausstattung der Synagoge mischen sich Zierelemente der Spätgotik und der Renaissance miteinander.



Pro nedostatek místa v ghettu byla Pinkasova synagoga vystavěna na samém okraji Starého židovského hřbitova (pohled ze severovýchodu).

Due to a lack of space in the ghetto, the Pinkas Synagogue was built on the very edge of the Old Jewish Cemetery (view from the north-east).

Da es im Ghetto an Platz mangelte, wurde die Pinkassynagoge direkt am Rand des Alten jüdischen Friedhofs errichtet (Ansicht von Nordosten).

*Pinkasova synagoga / The Pinkas Synagogue / Die Pinkassynagoge*

*Vstupní dvůr do Pinkasovy synagogy byl zbudován na počátku 17. století. Přístavba se sdruženými okny slouží jako předstín synagogy a galerie pro ženy.*

*The front portal of the Pinkas Synagogue was built in the early 17th century. The annex serves as a vestibule and women's gallery.*

*Der Eingangshof zur Pinkassynagoge wurde am Anfang des 17. Jahrhunderts angelegt. Der Anbau mit den Verbundfenstern dient als Vorhalle zur Synagoge und als Frauenempore.*



© The pictures on this, and the previous page, were reproduced from *Prague Synagogues* by Arno Parik, Dana Cabanova and Petr Kliment and cannot be used without their permission. Special thanks to Lois and Ron Bleich for a gift of the book containing these pictures.

I hope this article finds all of you healthy, happy and looking forward to the upcoming spring weather. We've had a few warm days already and hopefully soon, spring will be here to stay.

On Sunday, March, 6<sup>th</sup> after morning services, please join the members of Sisterhood and the Men's Club for a joint program. Bagels and desserts will be served.

Lee Hyman has been working very hard to plan our annual Torah Fund Benefactor's reception honoring Ashna Pincus. It will be held on Sunday April 17, 2016. (PLEASE NOTE THAT WE'VE CHANGED THE DATE!) Join us for an afternoon of good food and good company as we thank Ashna for all of her hard work. Without people like her, we would not be the strong Sisterhood we are today!

We are also putting together our new Sisterhood slate. Please contact Barbara Schneider if you are interested in serving on our Sisterhood board for the 2016-2017 year. We do need volunteers.

Our annual Donor Dinner will be held on Wednesday, June 1, 2016. Please contact Liz Aroyo or Ilene Gray for details.

We are planning for our Fashion Show, scheduled for June 8, 2016. We are in need of donations of items to be raffled that evening. One of the ways in which you can help with the Fashion Show is by asking for donations from the vendors you frequent. We will also be happy with any new items that our membership is willing to donate for our raffles. We need your support! Please contact Marilyn Karlstein or Lysa Rogol for information or if you have items to donate.

Roberta Bernstein has been making calls for the Passover Lottery. Please support the Lottery as well as our many ongoing fund-raisers. We welcome and appreciate your help! And also, thank you for your continued support and participation at our Sisterhood events.

Shalom, Monica Atzbi  
Sisterhood President

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## **SISTERHOOD SWEEPSTAKES**

Roberta Bernstein is selling sweepstakes tickets for sisterhood! The tickets cost 5 dollars each and you get full donor on all profits we make. Easy donor!!! Please call Roberta for more information!

[732 679 4986](tel:7326794986) Thank you



**SISTERHOOD OF CONGREGATION BETH OHR  
ANNUAL DUES STATEMENT**

2015 - 2016

*Temple MEMBERS \$50*

*NON-TEMPLE MEMBERS \$59*

MEMBERS WHO HAVE NOT REJOINED  
SISTERHOOD BY JANUARY 31, 2015 FORFEIT ALL  
PREVIOUSLY ACCUMULATED DONOR CREDIT.

PLEASE SEND YOUR CHECK TO:

MARJORIE SIMON

22 TUSCARORA CIRCLE

OLD BRIDGE, NEW JERSEY 08857

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.

**SISTERHOOD TORAH  
FUND BENEFACTOR  
LUNCHEON HONORING  
ASHNA PINCUS  
APRIL 17, 2016  
MORE INFORMATION  
AND INVITATIONS  
WILL BE SENT SOON**



Name		Amount	Carry Over	Name		Amount	Carry Over
Appel	Wilma	\$67.50		Feld	Harriet	\$ 115.50	
Aroyo	Elizabeth	\$ 407.38	5.0	Feurier	Darlene	\$ -	
Atzbi	Monica	\$ 561.25	36.5	Finkelstein	Meryl	\$ 106.30	
				Fox	Helene	\$ 6.50	
Benish	Linda	\$ 99.25	4.0				
Bernstein	Roberta	\$ 42.50	5.0	Garfinkel	Linda	\$ 181.75	2.0
Birnbaum	Eileen	\$ 78.00		Gasior	Ellen	\$ 5.00	
Bleiweis	Marilyn	\$ 5.00		Gilbarg	Marilyn	\$ 19.00	
Boshak	Rochelle	\$ 75.00		Golden	Elizabeth	\$ 240.00	3.5
Branfman	Ann	\$ 134.50		Goldenberg	Susan	\$ 101.50	1.0
				Greenstein	Barbara	\$ 5.00	
Cadel	Cheryl	\$ 43.00		Grynberg	Helene	\$ 105.50	12.5
Cannata	Susan	\$ 5.00		Gurman	Ruth	\$ 30.00	3.5
Celeste	Alice	\$ 98.00	2.0				
Clark	Lisa	\$ 5.00		Hillman	Pearl	\$ 13.00	4.0
Cohen	Harriet	\$ 71.50	1.0	Honig	Alice	\$ 41.75	
				Honig	Eloise	\$ 8.00	
DeRosa	Rebecca	\$ 5.00		Hyman	Lee	\$ 83.50	
Dietz	Dara						
Donenfeld	Lee	\$ 69.00	1.0	Kagan	Sylvia	\$ 51.00	
				Kamenitz	Marilyn	\$ 16.50	
Edwards	Sue	\$ 82.50		Karlstein	Marilyn	\$ 67.50	3.0
				Karpel	Roberta	\$ 117.50	1.0
Fachler	Roberta	\$ 255.00		Kaufman	Maxine	\$ 121.50	10.0
Falkowitz	Marion	\$ 53.50		Klein	Caroline	\$ 39.00	
Feder	Barbara	\$29.00		Krieger	Karen	\$ 5.00	

L-Z Liz Aroyo

Date: 2/15/2016

			Carry
Name		Amount	Over
Laddin	Anne	\$5.00	
Lazarowitz	Andrea	\$138.75	6.0
Levenstein	Glenda	\$65.00	
Levine	Helen	\$5.00	
Mason	Lisa	\$10.00	
Mendlowitz	Ronnie	\$173.00	9.5
Nadler	Elinor	\$5.00	
Perlman	Ryselle	\$47.75	
Pincus	Ashna	\$116.50	1.5
Polovsky	Terrie	\$52.00	10.5
Prussack	Zellie	\$34.00	1.5
Rabinowitz	Harriet	\$281.75	15.0
Reinstein	Sheila	\$15.00	
Risman	Ruth	\$56.00	1.0
Rogol	Lysa	\$72.50	
Rosenzweig	Ronnie	\$16.00	
Gray	Ilene	\$104.37	3.0
			42.0

			Carry
Name		Amount	Over
Schlissel	Lenore	\$50.50	1.0
Schlussfeld	Mindy	\$5.00	
Schneider	Barbara	\$176.00	4.5
Schottlander	Hilde	\$200.50	12.0
Shafran	Dorothy	\$175.00	9.0
Seltzer	Karen	\$5.00	
Seidner	Lois	\$12.50	
Silberstein	Joyce	\$64.00	5.0
Silver	Arlene	\$138.25	0.5
Silverman	Sharen	\$247.50	9.5
Simon	Mala	\$86.00	2.0
Simon	Marjorie	\$91.00	1.5
Skupp	Linda	\$244.75	8.5
Sommers	Arlene	\$49.50	
Spiegel	Estee	\$100.00	1.0
Trechak	Marcia	\$534.00	5.0
Ward	Phyllis	\$5.00	
Weiss	Harriet	\$144.00	0.5
Yourman	Edna	\$45.00	
Yourman	Paula	\$236.50	
Zeidner	Lois	\$5.00	
Zussman	Virginia	\$42.00	



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908-415-8367 Cell

deitzfreeholdcpa@gmail.com





# Announcements

The deadline for the next newsletter will be  
**Noon, Tuesday, March 15, 2016**

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

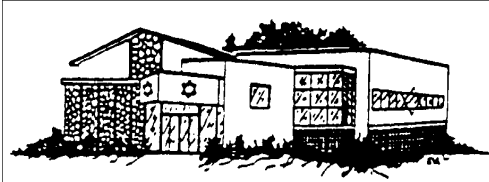
If you need to reach Rabbi Mishkin, please use any of the following phone numbers:

**Office Phone # 732-257-7031**

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

**e-mail address: [rabbijoelmishkin@gmail.com](mailto: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 March



March 4	5:35 PM
March 11	5:43 PM
March 18	6:50 PM
March 25	6:58 PM