

MISHPOCHEH

Temple Beth Shalom ☆ Brigantine Jewish Community Center

December 2011 Vol. 19, No. 12

Rabbi Gerald R. Fox

Kislev/Tevet 5772



SERVICES

Every Friday Evening
Throughout the Year,
8-9 p.m.

Light Refreshments

Saturday Service
December 10 • 10 a.m.

Board Meeting
Sunday, Dec. 11 • 10 a.m.

RABBI'S COLUMN

A Light Unto . . . ?

So, we have all heard it countless times before: Every Jew is supposed to be a model . . . a model to those who live among us, to those who dwell nearby, and even to those who look upon us from afar. We are taught from a young age to have pride in our "yichis," to have pride in our heritage, and to remember that, despite the challenges that we face in a world that invites us to ease off on the religious and cultural pedal of our "Jewishness," it is appropriate to make our measure by a unique yardstick. We are different, our parents (and their parents) told us, and we must remember that we must achieve regardless of the obstacles in our way. We must not give into the darkness.



As we enter another "holiday season," the simple acceptance of that phrase was a kind of assimilatory capitulation to our grandparents, we welcome our holiday of light: Hanukkah. At the darkest time of the year, we are commanded to create light; at the time of the year with the least to eat, we celebrate by cooking with fat and oil, and at a time of cold we are told to bring forth the warmth of closeness – familial and communal.

All this is well and good, but, in many ways, these are the images of our ancestors, of our parents and grandparents. We are stuck, as Rabbi Mordechai Kaplan would observe, between (or, "in") two civilizations. We love who we are and yet we long to be like everyone else around us. Unfortunately, while we may have a complex understanding of who we are, the world does not. On a very personal and simple level, we are being watched by others near and far (passively and for some obsessed with the Jewish People, actively) to see how we react, how we live, and even how we think. Hence the message from our ancestors that we must be better because we are assumed to be worse.

This is the dynamic for us as members of the Jewish People, but what about for us . . . for each one of us? With its focus on light and warmth and its accompanying personal message to dispel the darkness and isolation that can arise in anyone's life, Hanukkah seems a fitting time to ask the question: In our lives, what model are we setting? What light do we bring into the lives of others? I cannot help but think of this as I see, day by day, my twin sons looking up to me for a sign of how to react to the world. What message shall I give them? An answer for them, and I believe for us all, is in the Mishnah: Shammai used to say: Make your time to study Torah fixed; say little and do much; and receive every person with a cheerful countenance.

The importance of this simple statement should not be lost on any of us. It is a clear message to continue learning and self-improvement throughout our lives, to remain humble and avoid conflict with extraneous chatter, and to value everyone in your midst as worthy of your greatest gift, your cheerful and pleasant nature.

The great scholar of the Rabbinic Period of Jewish history, Jacob Neusner, explains the importance of a cheerful countenance as follows: "This teaches that if one gives his fellow all of the good gifts in the world with a downcast face, Scripture accounts it to him as though he had given him naught. But if he

Coming Events

Monday, Dec. 5

1 p.m.

Book Club

Saturday, Dec. 24

5 p.m.

**Chinese
Chanukah
Party**

Reservations

\$15/person



(RABBI continued on page 4)

MAY I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE!

Are you celebrating a special day, honoring someone or remembering a loved one?

A good way to do this is to sponsor an Oneg Shabbat on a Friday night or a Saturday Kiddush. It will make you feel good and will help your synagogue carry on this time-honored tradition.

For only \$25 for a Friday night or \$100 for a Saturday Kiddush, this has got to be the biggest bargain on the planet! Call Diane at 266-0403 and make your intentions known.

New Prayer Book Dedication



We are offering you a chance to purchase a memorial/honorarium plaque to be placed in our new prayer books (inside front cover) for only \$36.

We only have 50 books available for dedication, so call the office at 609-266-0403 and make your wishes known.

Potato Latkes

- 6 large potatoes
- 2 medium onions
- 3 eggs, well beaten
- 4 tablespoons flour
- 2 teaspoons salt



Grate potatoes and onions. Add beaten eggs to mixture. Add flour and salt; mix well. Fry in deep fat in frying pan, dropping from tablespoon. Turn only once; drain on paper toweling. Makes about 3 dozen pancakes. *Great with applesauce or sour cream.*



GO GREEN!

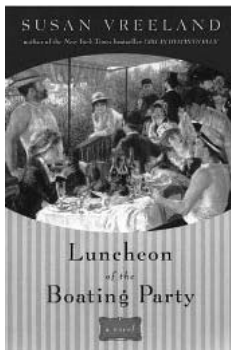
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Len Coplein Library

We have several new additions in our library. You are invited to browse through the library in the office during the week between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Anything you want to know about Jewish religion, customs, humor, travel, etc. is available. Take advantage of our FREE library!

BOOK CLUB



**"Luncheon
of the
Boating
Party"
by
Susan
Vreeland**

Monday, Dec. 5 1 p.m.

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Condolences

Deepest sympathy to **Howard Abber** on the loss of his sister,
Joyce Small.

Deepest sympathy to **Leslie & Susan Tuerk** on the loss of
Leslie's father, Stanley H. Tuerk.

General Donations

Barry & Sandy Cogan in honor of **Dr. Frank Kern**.
Howard Abber for honors.

Message Cards

Bruce & Dee Bortner:

Condolences to **Judy Blum-Crawford**.

Get Well

**Dr. Roberta Ball, Barry Cogan, Bernie Cohen,
Steve Dranoff, Bernie Gittelman, Edith Krimstock,
Ida Levin, Jo-Ann Massanova, Norma Wexler,
Sandra Wray** (sister of Lill Shender)

Yahrzeit Donations

Jacqueline & Fred Fabel

in memory of Fred's father, Lewis Fabel.

Saul & Sheila Feder in memory of Saul's parents,
Jacob & Lillian Feder, and Sheila's mother, Dora Werbin.

Michael & Marcia Kurland

in memory of Michael's father, Irving Kurland.

Dr. Martin & Linda Millison

in memory of Marty's brother, Carl Millison.

Nancy Clancy

in memory of her mother, Sarah Levine.

Toby Waller

in memory of her brother-in-law, Shep Waller.

Debbie Coplein

in memory of her mother, Constance Coplein.

Martha Cohen

in memory of her father-in-law, Albert Cohen.

Seymour & Norma Trachtman

in memory of Seymour's mother, Yetta Trachtman.

Simply Shirley . . .

Welcome to my fellow readers

This is the quiet time in Brigantine; however, we at our Temple can look forward to the coming of our own Chinese Chanukah Party which is to take place on Saturday, December 24th at the synagogue at 5 p.m. There will be Chinese food which is being delivered from a kosher Chinese restaurant in Philadelphia and there will be games and a silent auction as well as many other delightful events.

Rumor has it that our own twins Matan and Doron will also be in attendance – along with Mom and Dad.

Please contact the office to RSVP for this fun-packed evening. The cost is \$15 per person. Plan to come and bring your friends. Make sure to contact Diane at the office so we can order enough for all.

Bring your Chinese checkers with you if you have a set.

Happy Chanukah, Happy and Healthy New Year to you all!

*Til I write again,
Simply Shirley*

Simchas

Dec.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS

3	Michael Guterman	12	Lena J. Elzufon
7	Susan T. Tuerk	14	Fran Dratch
8	Lillian H. Shender	24	Susan Panitch
11	Marcia Kurland, Sheryl Mazur	26	Janis C. Murphy
		31	Rosalie Lieberman

ANNIVERSARIES

11	Mark D. & Pearl B. Erdman
18	Stanton L. & Aimee J. Levin Judge Sandra Mazer Moss & William Boyd Deane
20	Dr. Barry L. & Barbara L. Glaser Sean C. & Shelley M. Kardon
26	Edward & Judith S. Rubin
27	Donald & Phyllis Hoffrichter David W. & Estelle Silver

*Rejoice so greatly in performing a mitzvah
that you will desire no other reward than
the opportunity to perform another
mitzvah!*

Rosh Hashanah Mahzor

Thank You To the Oneg Shabbat & Kiddush Sponsors

For November

Friday, November 4 – **Bernie Cohen** in memory of his
father, Albert Cohen.

Friday, November 11 – **Howard & Arlene Waronker** in
memory of Howard's father, Isadore Waronker.

Saturday, November 12 – **Ronald & Jo-Ann Massanova**
in memory of Jo-Ann's mother, Rose Aufiero.

Friday, November 18 – **Michael & Carol Albert** in
memory of Michael's father, Maxwell B. Albert.

December Yahrzeits

- 12/1 Edward & Judith Rubin *in memory of* Judy's father, Herman Lam
Susan Mintz *in memory of* her mother, Lilyan Politzer
- 12/2 Helen Hanish *in memory of* her father-in-law, Jack Hanish
Seymour & Dorothy Katz *in memory of* Seymour's father, Joseph Katz
- 12/3 Ida Levin *in memory of* her brother, Leon Lotstein
- 12/5 Michael & Cheryl Guterman *in memory of* Cheryl's father, David Brownstein
Anne Paulin
Gregory & Bella Royzman *in memory of* Bella's brother, Khaim Sapozhnikov
Seymour & Norma Trachtman *in memory of* Seymour's mother, Yetta Trachtman
- 12/7 Dr. Eli & Nancy Zucker *in memory of* Eli's father, Irving Zucker
Dr. Barry & Barbara Glaser *in memory of* Barry's father, Samuel Glaser
Dr. Eli & Nancy Zucker *in memory of* Nancy's mother, Helen Kotzin
Jerald & Sheila Cohen *in memory of* Sheila's father, David Weil
- 12/12 Betty Chaikin, Dr. Harry & Sarah Chaikin, William Boutin & Jamie Chaikin, Steven & Gale Donohue *in memory of* their husband/father, Dr. Joseph Chaikin
Jacqueline & Fred Fabel *in memory of* their daughter-in-law, Maria Fabel
Jerald & Sheila Cohen *in memory of* Jerald's grandmother, Helen Greenberger
Gerald & Barbara Pepper *in memory of* Barbara's mother, Elizabeth Rosman
Susan & Leslie Tuerk *in memory of* Susan's mother, Adeline Taylor
Arnie & Lory Schuster *in memory of* Lory's father, Harry Zeidel
- 12/13 Judith Blum-Crawford *in memory of* her mother, Sheila Blum
Harvey & Karen Fern *in memory of* Harvey's mother, Dorothy Fern
Linda Hahn *in memory of* her grandfather, Meyer Hahn
Ida Levin, Stanton & Aimee Levin *in memory of* Ida's husband & Stan's father, Leonard E. Levin
David & Estelle Silver *in memory of* David's mother, Pearl Silver
- 12/14 Toby Waller *in memory of* her mother-in-law, Frieda Waller
- 12/15 Deborah Cimini *in memory of* her father, Gerson Goldberg
Jacob Greenberg
Drs. Frank & Sarah Kern *in memory of* Frank's father, Harry Kern
- 12/16 Barry Bornstein & Fran Dratch *in memory of* Barry's father, N. Herman Bornstein
- 12/17 John & Beth Bacha *in memory of* John's father, Andrew Bacha
Helen Hanish *in memory of* her uncle, Philip Hanish
Linda Hahn *in memory of* her grandfather, Abraham Haufman
Stanton & Aimee Levin *in memory of* Aimee's father, Daniel Schmerling
- 12/18 Jacob Melnitzer
- 12/19 Herbert & Rita Axelrad *in memory of* Herbert's father, Irving Axelrad
- 12/21 Davalene Hirsch *in memory of* her daughter, Carol Lucile Hirsch
- 12/21 Helen Spinrad *in memory of* her father, Bernard Moskowitz
Rose Zeltser *in memory of* her sister, Adelaide Pullis
Howard & Carol Serotta *in memory of* Howard's mother, Jeanne Serotta
Harvey & Diane Steiner *in memory of* Harvey's father, Benjamin Steiner
Seymour & Norma Trachtman *in memory of* Seymour's brother, Marvin Trachtman
- 12/22 Dr. Martin & Linda Millison *in memory of* Linda's father, Samuel Raichlen
Dora Asher Schweitzer
- 12/24 Dr. Martin & Tina Freedman *in memory of* Martin's father, Philip Freedman
Eva Richmond
- 12/25 Aaron & Joan Grossman *in memory of* Joan's father, Harry Broder
Gerald & Barbara Pepper *in memory of* Barbara's father, Edward Rosman
- 12/27 Edith Krimstock *in memory of* her mother-in-law, Anna Krimstock
Albert & Barbara Dragon *in memory of* their aunt, Ethel Moskowitz
- 12/28 Gregory & Bella Royzman *in memory of* Bella's mother, Sara Perlmutter
Alan Simon *in memory of* his mother, Adele Simon
- 12/29 Dr. Warren Heymann & Dr. Rhonda Schnur *in memory of* Rhonda's father, Louis Schnur
Rose Zeltser *in memory of* her brother-in-law, Gary Zeltser
- 12/31 John & Lena Elzufon *in memory of* John's father, Milton Elzufon, DPM
Robert & Elizabeth Kramer *in memory of* Robert's mother, Sadele Kramer
Ronald & Jo-Ann Massanova *in memory of* Ron's mother, Pam Massanova
Irene Siegel *in memory of* her mother, Rita Perlstein

Rabbi *(continued from page 1)*

receives his fellow with a cheerful countenance, even though he gives him naught, Scripture accounts it to him as though he had given him all the good gifts in the world."

Ultimately, this is a wonderful reminder to take with us into the cold and dark Winter: Let us all be diligent to be open, kind, and humble as we engage everyone with respect and a pleasant demeanor. Simply stated? For certain. Easily achieved? Not at all. Despite this challenge, let us set our souls aflame with this spiritual teaching to participate directly in making the Jewish People, and each one of us, a light unto each other and unto the world.

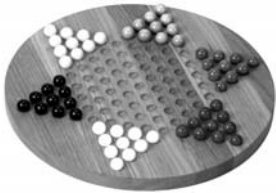
May all of our lights shine brightly and may we be blessed to feel the inner warmth of each person we meet.

Rabbi Gerald R. Fox

Join your friends at Temple Beth Shalom for a
Chinese Chanukah Party

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5 p.m.

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Published Monthly by
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Administrator: **Diane Alexeev**

*Affiliated with the United Synagogue of
 Conservative Judaism*

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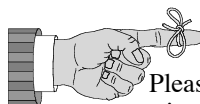
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A Reminder

to all Temple Beth Shalom members
 Please notify the office of any births, engagements,
 marriages, illnesses or deaths. This way the Rabbi,
 Board and Temple membership can be notified. The answering
 machine is on 7 days and 24 hours a day.

**Help Our Temple
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Your donations in memory of loved ones, simchas, our
 Library Fund or Rabbi's Discretionary Fund not only help the
 Temple, but also are a way to remember various happy and sad
 events in your life. Unsolicited general donations are needed to
 help the Temple meet its annual operating expenses. Keep in
 mind, less than 50% of our operating expenses are covered by
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