

MISHPOCHEH

Temple Beth Shalom ☆ Brigantine Jewish Community Center

February 2015 Vol. 23, No. 1

Rabbi Gerald R. Fox

Shevat/Adar 5775



SERVICES

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

Light Refreshments

Saturday Service

February 14 • 10 a.m.

Sunday Board Meeting

February 15 • 10 a.m.

Happy Mind, Good Health

“Be thankful for good health; we have nothing without it.” These words (or a variation of them), echo from the lips of my then older and wiser relatives into my head throughout my youth and even to this day. And yet, it is hard to give thanks for that which most of us too often take for granted.

As a Rabbi, whether as a chaplain or in pastoral care settings with congregants, one of the strongest memories that I have found in common with those I have served has been an appreciation — or, perhaps, an under-appreciation — of good health. All of us have health challenges now and then, but in between them we tend to be convinced of our invincibility. I see congregants in their 70s, 80s, even into their 90s, under-dressed for cold weather or even over-exposed in bright sunshine; chances are taken with medication (or lack thereof), missing visits to the doctor, and most especially, inattention paid to mental illness.

As we approach the month of *Adar* in the Jewish calendar, a month whose arrival our tradition heralds as an obligation to be happy, we are faced with the reality here on the East Coast of various Winter illnesses as well as aches and pains from limited mobility. The question remains, however, which precedes which: good spirits or good health?

Let's face it, it is hard to be happy if you are unable to breathe or are coughing up all manner of things. And yet, having gone through what appears to be for this Winter a more widespread exchange of numerous illnesses among family members and friends that, in my case, bowled me over for weeks, I found that having a positive attitude actually made a real difference in my outcome and for many others in our community and beyond.

(RABBI continued on page 3)



Coming Events

Friday, Feb. 6

Tu B'Shevat Seder &
Shabbat Dinner,
6:30 p.m.

TU B'SHEVAT

is the New Year for the trees. It is popularly celebrated by the eating of various fruits and nuts, especially those connected with the Land of Israel.

Today in Israel, the day is celebrated as an “Arbor Day” with tree planting by school children and adults alike.

5th Annual Temple Beth Shalom Tu B'Shevat Seder and Shabbat Dinner

Friday, February 6, 2015, 6:30 p.m.

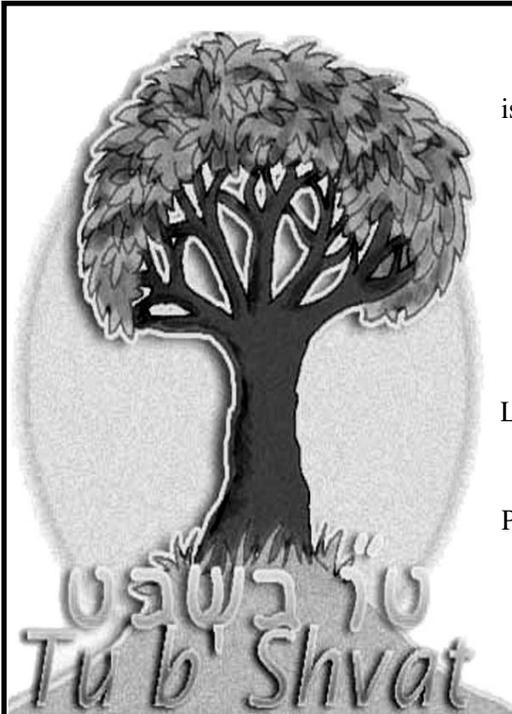
Let's celebrate the renewal of life in Israel as we drink, eat, and merrily welcome the holiday and Shabbat! Jews from all over the country and world will be partnering with the JNF to make this a particularly special evening.

Please join us for this wonderful event and services as we welcome our special guest speaker, **Yuval Shefi, our Community Shaliach from Israel.**

Don't miss this opportunity!

Cost is \$18 per person.

Reservations are required. Please call the office at 266-0403 no later than February 2.



Prayer Book Dedication

Selma Rosenblum – *in memory of* her husband, Kenneth (Mickey) Rosenblum

General Donations

Wayne & Gail Lieberman

Howard Abber *for honors received*

Dan & Marlene Jenkins *in honor of* Jerry & Sheila Cohen's 50th Wedding Anniversary

Bruce & Dee Bortner *in memory of* Fred Raichlen, brother of Linda & Dr. Martin Millison

Michael & Susan Axler *with thanks for* their new year's in Brigantine

John & Lena Elzufon

Get Well

Barry Bornstein, Betty Chaikin, Sandy Cogan, Fred Fabel, Bernie Gittelman, Norma Gittelman, Mina Kramer, Diane Waxman

Yahrzeit Donations

Leslie & Susan Tuerk *in memory of* Susan's mother, Adeline Taylor

Seymour & Norma Trachtman *in memory of* Seymour's brother, Marvin Trachtman

Rose Zeltser *in memory of* her sister, Adelaide Pullis, and brother-in-law, Gary Zeltser

Alan Simon *in memory of* his mother, Adele Simon

Harvey & Diane Steiner *in memory of* their fathers, Benjamin Steiner and William Fabrizio

Beverlee Bearman Reiter *in memory of* her sister, Merna Marshall Reiter

Fred & Marlene Paul *in memory of* Marlene's parents, Leon & Eve Lindenberg, and Fred's mother, Celia Paul

Drs. Warren Heymann & Rhonda Schnur *in memory of* Rhonda's father, Louis Schnur, and her brother, Marvin Schnur

Arnie & Lory Schuster *in memory of* Arnie's mother, Margot Schuster, and Lory's father, Harry Zeidel

Dr. Henry & Gloria Jacoby *in memory of* Henry's father, Milton Jacoby

Jerald & Sheila Cohen *in memory of* Jerry's aunt, Barbara Oei, and his grandmother, Helen Greenberger

Dr. Stephen & Rosalyn Weinstein *in memory of* Roz's father, Irving Lowe

Cary & Trudy Durant *in memory of* Cary's mother, Janet Durant

Robert & Eileen Linzner *in memory of* their daughter, Margaret (Meg) Linzner

Dr. Evlynne Harmon *in memory of* her father, Hyman David Freed

Burton & Lorraine Stolove *in memory of* Burt's parents, Max & Rose Stolove, and Lorraine's mother,

Frances Augenfeld

Irene Brodsky *in memory of* her father, Abraham Gamerman

Irene Siegel *in memory of* her father, Max Perlstein

Thank You

To the Oneg Shabbat & Kiddush Sponsors

For January

Friday, January 2 – Jerald & Sheila Cohen *in memory of* Jerry's uncle, Henry Cohen.

Friday, January 9 – Lill & Ron Shender *in honor of* their 63rd wedding anniversary.

Saturday, January 10 – Albert & Barbara Dragon *in memory of* Barb's parents, William Meinster & Miriam Meinster-Hyman.

Friday, January 16 – Drs. Frank & Sarah Kern *in memory of* Sarah's father, Dr. Arthur Mandy;

Beth & Carl Apter *in memory of* Beth's mother, Ruth Cohen.

Friday, January 23 – Jerald & Sheila Cohen

Friday, January 30 – Joshua & Elaine Shapiro *in memory of* Josh's mother, Mae Shapiro.

Simply Shirley . . .

Welcome to all of my readers.

TO ALL OF MY LOYAL READERS I SAY HAPPY AND HEALTHY 2015.

May the New Year bring good health, happiness and all good things to you and your families.

December 15 some of my Bookies traveled to The Arts Garage in Atlantic City to visit with our wonderful hostess Stephanie Miller who showed us not only a fabulous collection of her art work but also took us for a tour of the Art Garage. We had a wonderful lunch together and truly enjoyed seeing all of the talent displayed in The Arts Garage. Would strongly recommend a visit.

January 5 proved to be a very unique book club since it was BYOB – or bring your own book to discuss. We had a very nice group of approximately 14 and truly spent a wonderful afternoon discussing the many books which were read as well as just socializing. I would like to say our book club is truly special. Our next book club date is: Monday, February 9 and we will be meeting at the home of Arlene Waronker. The book to be reviewed is: "Once We Were Brothers" by Ronald Balson.

Please contact Shirley at 609-266-8599 or ssmorgan3@verizon.net should you be interested in being added to our book club list.

We welcome suggestions regarding any good read you may have and thank you in advance.

Happy Reading,

Simply Shirley

HELP EXPAND OUR FAMILY

We need more new, active members. Do you have friends or neighbors who could join us?

Simchas

February Birthdays & Anniversaries

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

3Pearl B. Erdman	14.....Dr. Sarah Kern
4Linda Hahn	18.....Debbie Schlesinger
5.....Rhoda J. Rosen	19.....Norton A. Freedman
7.....Barbara Dragon	20.....Natalie Solomon
10Ronald L. Panitch	23Allan Abramowitz
13.....Bernard Gittelman	27.....Beth Apter

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

27.....Paul & Dr. Janet Sachs

Rabbi (continued from page 1)

Prayer or any one of many different kinds of meditation or even just taking some time to sit and to listen to calming or uplifting music can change outcomes. In the very least, however, taking time to appreciate our lives or to create some real joy within them can help us to cope with less-than-optimal health issues that we face as a rare event or as a chronic condition of our existence. Throughout my years as a Rabbi, and especially as a chaplain visiting variously infirmed people in hospitals and nursing homes, I can tell you that being grateful matters. In fact, I can tell you that from my own experience, both personally and professionally, that being grateful matters even if we have to “fake it” initially as we convince ourselves that we should be grateful for the quality of our lives. Not to be too clichéd about it, but I think we all can agree that no matter what we face, with rare exceptions, things could always be worse.

As we approach the month of *Adar* (which contains the joyous holiday of Purim), and as we (hopefully) shed our Winter illnesses, let us focus on having a better attitude and, thereby, on being open to the fact that we should be happy with what we have. This is not to say that we shouldn't strive to feel better, be better, and so on, but rather that we should acknowledge the blessings of being alive and all the myriad of joy that that can bring, even with the real suffering and disappointment that infirmity itself and some level of social isolation that being ill may bring.

Let us remember the wisdom we received when we were young: “Be thankful for good health; we have nothing without it.” Perhaps we should re-phrase the ending: “We have nothing without appreciating it.”

May we be blessed to avoid illness and be even more blessed to find relief, comfort, and happiness in the midst of it. May the month of *Adar* bring happiness to us all!

Rabbi Gerald R. Fox

BOOK CLUB

The next book club will meet

**Monday, Feb. 9
1 p.m.**

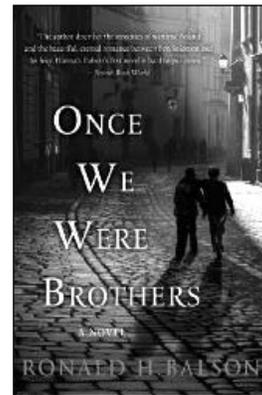
to review

“Once We Were Brothers”

by **Ronald H. Balson.**

The club will meet at the home of

Arlene Waronker
4 Atlantis Cove



RSVP to Shirley at

ssmorgan3@verizon.net or call 609-266-8599.

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 have only 17 books remaining for dedication, so call the office at 609-266-0403 and make your wishes known.

‘Tell us about your tired, your sick, ...’

Because we often have busy lives, sometimes we forget to tell others of our trials and tribulations. If you know of someone who is sick, in the hospital, or just suffering difficult times, please let us know. Rabbi Fox and your fellow congregants want to help — whether with prayer or a helping hand. Contact us at the office via phone or via email at office@seashul.org or rabbi@seashul.org for Rabbi Fox.



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!

February Yahrzeits

- 2/1 Samuel & Arlene Maisus *in memory of Sam's father, Philip Maisus*
- 2/2 Mark & Dr. Linda Baum *in memory of Mark's mother, Ethyl Baum*
Joshua & Elaine Shapiro *in memory of Josh's mother, Mae Shapiro*
- 2/3 Philip Goisman & Gale Hoffman *in memory of Philip's grandfather & Gale's friend, Raphael Goisman*
Howard & Myrna Levin *in memory of Howard's father, Joseph Levin*
- 2/4 Michael & Cheryl Guterman *in memory of Cheryl's grandmother, Tema Gittle Gilden*
- 2/7 Betty Chaikin *in memory of her father-in-law, Isador Chaikin*
Michael & Carol Albert *in memory of Carol's mother, Betty Eisen*
Tema Steele *in memory of her father, Moe Lurie*
- 2/8 Geraldine Greenberg
Linda Hahn *in memory of her husband, Rabbi Sanford H. Hahn*
Mitchell & Mina Kramer *in memory of Mitch's mother, Lillian Kramer*
Brett & Dana Weinstein *in memory of Dana's father, Sandy Skuzinski*
- 2/9 Cary & Trudy Durant *in memory of Trudy's mother, Bernice Deutsch*
- 2/10 Michael & Marcia Kurland *in memory of Michael's uncle, Lewis Kurland*
- 2/11 Stephen & Eileen Engber *in memory of Stephen's father, Samuel Engber*
- 2/12 Michael & Cheryl Guterman *in memory of Cheryl's grandmother, Etta Brownstein*
Joshua & Elaine Shapiro *in memory of Elaine's father, Nathan Nerenberg*
Samuel Richmond
- 2/13 Deborah Cimini *in memory of her mother, Shirley Goldberg*
David Horowitz *in memory of his sister, Louise Horowitz*
Rose Zeltser *in memory of her father-in-law, Morris Zeltser*
- 2/14 Linda Oram *in memory of her father, David Masket*
- 2/15 Ronald & Lillian Shender *in memory of Lill's father, Jule Harrison*
- 2/15 Beverlee Bearman Reiter *in memory of her cousin, Irwin S. Scherzer*
- 2/16 Harvey & Diane Steiner *in memory of Harvey's mother, Hilda Steiner*
- 2/19 Judith Blum-Crawford *in memory of her grandfather, Joseph Blum*
David & Estelle Silver *in memory of David's sister, Ethel Young*
- 2/20 Selma Sofsky *in memory of her brother, Jacob Moskowitz*
- 2/21 Harvey Fern *in memory of his father, David Fern*
Howard & Carol Serotta *in memory of Howard's father, Paul Serotta*
Dr. Ira & Donna Wertheimer *in memory of Ira's mother, Anna Wertheimer*
- 2/22 Bessie Horn
Michael & Marcia Kurland *in memory of Michael's grandfather, Morris Kurland*
- 2/24 Howard & Myrna Levin *in memory of Myrna's father, Max Cylinder*
Betty Chaikin *in memory of her brother-in-law, Mason Waronker*
- 2/25 Carol Dranoff *in memory of her mother, Mary Epstein*
Larry & Diane Hatoff *in memory of Larry's mother, Celia Hatoff*
Faye Kahn *in memory of her father, Leroy Landau*
Lena Rosendorf
Betty Chaikin *in memory of her sister-in-law, Lillian Waronker*
- 2/26 Allan & Andrea Abramowitz *in memory of Allan's father, Bernard Abramowitz*
Dr. Martin & Tina Freedman *in memory of Marty's mother, Paula Freedman*
Dr. Howard & Arlene Waronker *in memory of Arlene's mother, Edith Rosenthal*
Saul & Sheila Feder *in memory of Sheila's father, Sholem Werbin*
- 2/27 Sidney & Shirley Morgan *in memory of their brother-in-law, Paul Berger*
Joan Rosenfeld *in memory of her father, William Hirsch*

Chuckles

Lost in the Damnedest Places

An elderly Floridian called 911 on her cell phone to report that her car has been broken into. She is hysterical as she explains her situation to the dispatcher.

'They've stolen the stereo, the steering wheel, the brake pedal and even the accelerator!' she cried.

The dispatcher said, 'Stay calm. An officer is on the way.'

A few minutes later, the officer radios in. 'Disregard,' he says. 'She got in the backseat by mistake.'

* * * * *

As she sat by him, he whispered, eyes full of tears, 'You

know what?

You have been with me all through the bad times.

When I got fired, you were there to support me.

When my business failed, you were there.

When I got shot, you were by my side.

When we lost the house, you stayed right here.

When my health started failing, you were still by my side...

You know what, Martha??

'What dear?' she gently asked, smiling as her heart began to fill with warmth.

'I'm beginning to think you're bad luck.'

Green Day

*From composting and juices to photography and Cynthia Ozick,
10 inventive ways to celebrate Tu B'Shevat,
the Jewish new year for trees*

By Stephanie Butnick

This Wednesday is *Tu B'Shevat*, the Jewish holiday known as the New Year for Trees, which, regardless of what Punxsutawney Phil may or may not have seen, marks the beginning of spring in Israel. And wherever you are, there are many different ways to get inspired by the holiday.

Try a new fruit, late bloomers. One step at a time.

Test your nature knowledge. Then do it without Googling (<http://education.audubon.org/activities/what's-your-local-nature-iq>).

Have a *Tu B'Shevat* Seder. An ancient Kabbalistic custom called for a Seder similar to the Passover meal to celebrate *Tu B'Shevat*, incorporating figs, dates, pomegranates, olives, grapes, wheat, and barley—or some combination of all of them (think pilaf!)—and red and white wine. This tradition has been embraced by [many Jewish organizations, including ours. Just do a quick search online and you will find many] free, downloadable materials to help you with your own DIY *Tu B'Shevat* Seder.

Resources for sustainable Seders abound, with most suggesting Seder hosts offer local foods and organic wine and, of course, recycle afterward. You should probably also go green—as in, paperless—with the invites.

Take a walk, and really pay attention to your surroundings. It might help to be listening to this Vox Tablet podcast about Jewish environmental activism. (<http://tabletmag.com/podcasts/80198/conservadox>)

Fig out. Take advantage of the nutritional benefits of the fig, *Tu B'Shevat's* mascot and a high-fiber source of detoxifying vitamins. Keep it healthy with these flaxseed, fig, and walnut crackers or indulge with this pecan macaroon and fig tart (<http://recipeofhealth.com/recipe/pecan-macaroon-and-fig-tart-72746rb>). Fig juice—blended, not juiced—can be tricky to make, since it's not a particularly juicy fruit. Premade is always an option[, too!]

Make like a tree and compost. It's not hard! Even urban dwellers can do it, with these new freezer bins (<http://www.compostmania.com/Compost-Freezer-Storage-Bin>). And you never know what might happen in your own backyard.

Go classic. Plant a tree in someone's honor or in memory of a loved one, or gift a tree to be planted (<http://www.jnf.org>). Trees are, after all, the gift that keeps on giving.

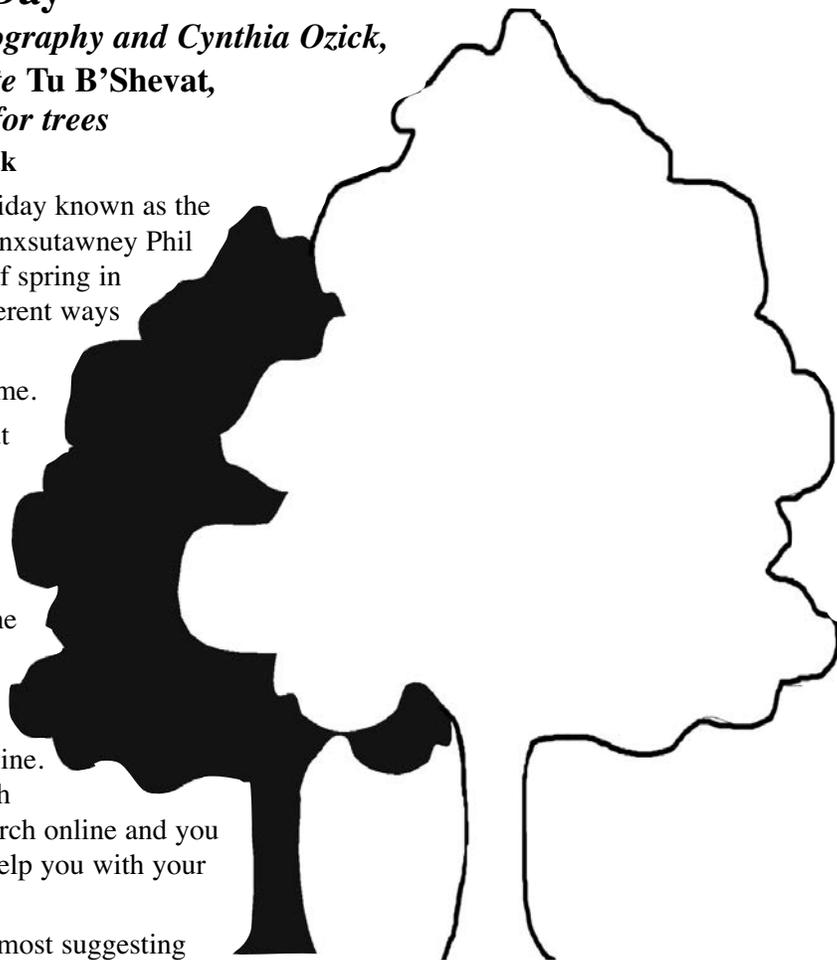
[Take a virtual] walk through Tal Schochat's paradisiacal forest (<http://www.andreameislin.com/artists/tal-shochat>). The Israeli photographer shoots single trees against black backdrops, to stunning effect. Or what *The New Yorker* called “a set designer's version of Eden—extravagantly bountiful but oddly unnatural.”

Read *The Pagan Rabbi*, Cynthia Ozick's 1971 book of short stories, including the title story, in which a rabbi gets a little too intimate with nature.

See the film, *Tree of Life*. Or don't. For what it's worth, Brad Pitt probably loves nature.

Happy Birthday, trees!

(This article is reprinted with permission from the February 6, 2012 issue of Tablet Magazine, www.tabletmag.com, the online magazine of Jewish news, ideas and culture.)



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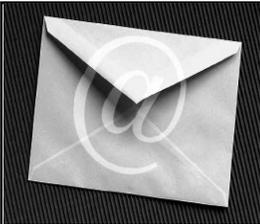
MAY I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE!

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 lunch. 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 lunch, this has got to be the biggest bargain on the planet!

Call Diane at 266-0403 and make your intentions known.



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Beth Shalom newsletter, and other notices and reminders be sent by email. Do it for the planet, do it to save postage, do it for a mitzvah!

Simkha, Simkha — Read All About It!

Don't Keep It to Yourself — if you have great news, share it! Please let us know about your wonderful news such as births, graduations, promotions, awards and, we hope for many, weddings, and so on! No matter your joy, we'd like to share in it! Whether with a blessing or an "attaboy," communities are built by getting to know each other and sharing both bad times, but even more so, our good times! Contact us at the office via phone or via email at office@seashul.org or rabbi@seashul.org for Rabbi Fox.

Do you know of a business that would be interested or a business that you think might be interested in having its advertisement here?

If so, please contact the synagogue office at 609-266-0403.

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MISHPOCHEH NEWS

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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 through your donations

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 membership dues. Listed below are the various items to which you can contribute.

<i>Bronze Memorial Plaque</i>	\$300
<i>Leaf on the Tree of Life</i>	\$50
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<i>Rabbi's Discretionary Fund</i>	Whatever you desire
<i>Library Fund</i>	Whatever you desire
<i>Kiddush Fund</i>	Whatever you desire