

MISHPOCHEH

Temple Beth Shalom ☆ Brigantine Jewish Community Center

March 2016 Vol. 24, No. 2

Rabbi Gerald R. Fox

I Adar/II Adar 5776

SERVICES



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

Light Refreshments

Saturday Service

March 12 • 10 a.m.

Sunday Board Meeting

No meeting in March

RABBI'S COLUMN

Happiness That's More Than a Smile

Are you happy? I mean absolutely, unequivocally happy . . . can you say so without hesitation?

Of course not. Whose life isn't without even small challenges?

And yet, as the month of Adar (this year we have a leap-month Adar, as well) arrives, we are commanded to be happy. The commandment is to be so happy on Purim, so it is said, that we cannot discern between Mordechai and Haman (BOO! HISS!). It is hard enough to encourage someone, even ourselves, to be happy, how much more so is it a challenge when directed to do so without an opportunity for dissent? Could we suddenly accept such a prescription if we just found out that we have a horrible illness like cancer? What about if we were to take a hard look at our finances only to discover that things are far worse than we expected? How about if we discover, from their actions or just their words, that a close friend is neither close nor, sadly, a friend? Forcing happiness seems . . . well . . . counterintuitive.

In our day and age, we feel that there should be some sort of openness or natural dynamism to "being happy," as if being successful at being happy is out of our control. What I've learned in my life, particularly in the last year or so, is that we often confuse being happy with feeling happy. Indeed, it is hard to control the occurrence of feeling happy. To the contrary, however, we have a lot more control over being happy. One is fleeting and the other is persistent.

For those of us who have utilized Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR), the decision to "be happy" is one that involves changing thought patterns as well as habits, some of which may be constructive in and of themselves, but are often destructive over the long haul. Like the old joke about change asks, "How many psychologists does it take to change a lightbulb? Only one, but the light bulb has to want to change," we have to first want to be happy.

(RABBI continued on page 2)



Coming Events

Friday, March 4
Shabbat Across America
Dinner, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, March 25
Funny Hat Purim,
8 p.m.

Shabbat Across America and Canada



On Friday night, March 4, 2016 hundreds of synagogues across the continent will take part in an historic national Jewish event to celebrate what unifies all Jews — Shabbat! Everyone is invited... singles, couples, families — all ages.

"Turn an ordinary Friday night into something extraordinary!"

That's the magic of **Shabbat Across America** and **Shabbat Across Canada**. By participating in this continent wide event, you will not only have the opportunity to experience Shabbat, but you will be sharing your experience with tens of thousands of Jews across North America.

Yes! Temple Beth Shalom will be participating. We will have dinner at 6:30 p.m., services will follow. We invite you and anyone you want to bring along to attend. We plan to have a catered dinner. The cost will be \$25/person. To make your reservations, please call the office 609-266-0403 no later than February 26.

The Prez Sez

In December I made my first visit to Israel. The trip far exceeded my expectations. I spent the entire twelve days with my eyes wide and my jaw agape at the sights I was exposed to. It is an amazing country, but the people are more amazing.

The first question most people ask when they heard of my trip is, “Weren’t you afraid?” The answer is, not for a single moment. I am sure that if I had spent more time near the West Bank or ventured closer to the Lebanon or Syrian borders, there could have been some trepidation. However, in visits to Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Tzfat, Jaffa, Haifa, The Golan Heights, The Dead Sea and Kfar Blum, there never was a moment of anxiety. Yes, there were armed IDF evident along the border and in Jerusalem, but you see armed police in every town you visit in the U.S. Does that frighten you?

The second question I am invariably asked is, “What was the highlight of your trip?” My response is that there was no single highlight. There were many high spots and all were inspiring. I couldn’t select one. How can you compare a quiet moment at the Kotel with a trip through a stalactite cave? How do you select between touring four thousand year old ruins with standing at the podium where Israeli independence was declared? They will all be indelible memories.

During some quiet reflection after my return, I did have these thoughts:

You probably are in Israel when:

All the men in the restaurant are wearing hats;
Olives are served at every meal, including breakfast;
Your salad comes to the table in 14 separate dishes;
Your lunch consists of five different kinds of hummus;
Your bagel is toasted in a Panini press and it is served the size of a hub cap;
The Santa in the store window is surrounded by Hebrew writing;
Black is the dominant color in men’s fashion;
The Hummus is served with a pool of olive oil in the middle and chick peas are swimming in the oil;
Within 30 minutes you see a modern skyscraper and a 5,000 year old archeology site;
You can see the borders of Jordan, Lebanon and Syria within an easy drive;
Shofars from 8’ long to 4’ long are for sale everywhere and Chinese tourists are trying to see how loud they can blow them;
You can read a newspaper while floating in a sea;
Men are donning and wearing *Tefillin* in the street and in store windows all day long;
You can see the holiest sites for three major religions within a 5 minute walk;
High school grads are walking around with assault rifles and they know what they are doing and it makes you feel safe;
You are in a foreign country but everyone speaks English;
Sideburns are distinctive, but not a fashion statement;

There are stores dedicated to selling *Kippas*, like *Kippa Man* and *Kippas* are for sale on street corners and in every other store;

The people on the street smile and cheer when it starts to rain;
Men are wearing big, black hats and they are not Stetsons;

You go to a Reformed synagogue for *Kabalah Shabbat* and the service is all in Hebrew;
There is a mezuzah on the door of every hotel room, even at the Crown Plaza;

There are two entrances to McDonalds – one for meat and one for dairy, and a cheeseburger is non-existent;
The weekend is Friday and Saturday so the school week is Sunday to Thursday;

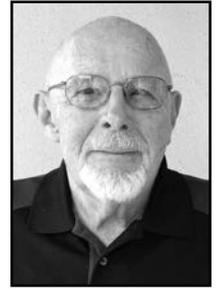
Your hotel has special instructions for turning off motion detectors for observing Shabbat;

All in all, I am sure you understand that I enjoyed every minute of the journey.

Another thing I enjoy is spending time with TBSers. We had a dedicated group attend the *Tu B’Shevat Seder*. It was a great evening. There was a “*Haimish*” feeling to the event and good will and congenial conversation dominated.

Make plans to attend Shabbat Across America and you too will be able to share in the fellowship.

*Shalom.
Jack*



Rabbi (continued from page 1)

One step that our Jewish heritage recommends quite often with regard to changing old, negative patterns is to see the world upside-down; in other words, we should challenge the way we think so deeply that we no longer make presumptions that lead us to the same conclusions. The month of Adar and the holiday of Purim is about doing just that: We are commanded to be happy and reminded that being happy is a byproduct of thinking and doing things counter from how we’ve seen and done things in the past. Finding ways to bring a depth of purpose and meaning into our lives, along with cultivating positive, healthy relationships, these are how we become happy.

At this time of year, our heritage gives us a clue of how to start: In order to be happy, we must first think and do the unexpected. We must find our happiness not so much in fleeting smiles and giggles but rather in finding a place in our world, in thinking and doing, that leaves no doubt in our minds that we are where and who we ought to be. It is at that moment, so often ignored, that we can consider ourselves happy.

May we be blessed to see the world as a place of wonder in which we have a vital role to play — let us not forget to create purpose in our lives if one does not seem to exist . . . real happiness will follow.

Hag Purim Sameach

Rabbi Gerald R. Fox

Congratulations

to **Dr. Harry & Sarah Chaikin** on the birth of their grandson, Logan Anthony Rizzo, who was born on January 8 to their daughter Hannah and her husband Tony.

Betty Chaikin is the proud great-grandmother! *Mazel Tov* and best wishes to the entire family!

Get Well

Beth Apter, Dr. Roberta Ball, Barry Bornstein, Fred Fabel, Bernie Gittelman, Saul Grossman, Diane Waxman

General Donations

Dr. Henry & Gloria Jacoby
for the recovery of Beth Apter.

Edward & Susan Hoffman
in memory of Emanuel Meyer.

Ellen & David Wetzel, visiting for Shabbos.

Message Cards

Get well wishes to **Dr. Harry Chaikin**:

Sid & Shirley Morgan

Ron & Lill Shender

Beth & Carl Apter

Get well wishes to **Beth Apter**:

Ron & Lill Shender

Jackie & Fred Fabel

Sid & Shirley Morgan

Mitch & Mina Kramer

Betty Chaikin

Sid & Shirley Morgan:

Congratulations to **Dr. Harry & Sarah Chaikin** on the birth of their grandson, Logan.

Yahrzeit Donations

Cary & Trudy Durant in memory of their mothers, Janet Durant and Bernice Deutsch.

Linda Oram in memory of her father, David Masket.

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

Brenda Sacks in memory of her husband, Alfred Sacks, and father, Jack Altschuler.

Gail Coplein in memory of her parents, Dr. Leonard & Constance Coplein; and grandparents, Anna Gomberg, Sylvia Coplein & Harry Coplein.

Deborah Cimini in memory of her parents, Gerson & Shirley Goldberg.

Fred & Marlene Paul in memory of Fred's mother, Celia Paul, and Marlene's father, Leon Lindenberg.

Albert & Barbara Dragon in memory of Barbara's parents, William Meinster & Miriam Meinster-Hyman

Michael & Susan Axler in memory of Michael's mother, Frances Axler.

Beverlee Bearman Reiter in memory of her cousin,

Irwin S. Scherzer.

Ronald & Lillian Shender in memory of Lill's father, Jule Harrison.

David Horowitz in memory of his sister, Louise Horowitz.

Irene Siegel in memory of her father, Max Perlstein.

Robert & Eileen Linzner in memory of Robert's mother, Jeannette Linzner, and their friend, Laila Orr.

Betty Chaikin in memory of her brother-in-law, Mason Waronker, and sister-in-law, Lillian Waronker.

Sheila Feder in memory of her father, Sholem Werbin.

Allan & Andrea Abramowitz in memory of Allan's father, Bernard Abramowitz .

Faye Kahn in memory of her father, Leroy Landau.

Harvey & Diane Steiner in memory of Harvey's mother, Hilda Steiner.

Jeffrey & Sheryl Mazur in memory of Sheryl's mother, Rose Lena Gandel.

Jerald & Sheila Cohen in memory of Jerry's grandmother, Rose Cohen.

Dr. Joseph & Lillian Hassman in memory of Lill's uncle, Robert Magalnick.

Thank You **To the Oneg Shabbat & Kiddush Sponsors**

For January

Friday, January 8 – **Albert & Barbara Dragon** in memory of Barbara's parents, William Meinster and Miriam Meinster-Hyman.

Friday, January 15 – **Michael & Susan Axler** in memory of Michael's mother, Frances Axler.

Friday, January 22 – **Tema Steele** in memory of her father, Moe Lurie;

Michael & Carol Albert in memory of Carol's mother, Betty Eisen.

Friday, January 29 – **Deborah Cimini** in memory of her parents, Shirley & Gerson Goldberg.

For February

Friday, February 5 – **Harvey Fern** in memory of his father, David Fern.

Friday, February 12 – **Dr. Howard & Arlene Waronker** in memory of Arlene's mother, Edith Rosenthal.

Friday, February 19 – **Terry & Fred Horowitz** in memory of Terry's mother, Elinore Scher.

Friday, February 26 – **Jack Lieberman** in memory of his son-in-law, Jonathan Friedman.

LATE BREAKING NEWS: TBS to Host Stockton Hillel

In addition to our Purim celebration on March 25, we will also host an unusual event. A group of students from Stockton Hillel will visit in the early afternoon to learn how to make Hamantashen. We will need volunteer teachers. If you can participate, please call Diane. We are also working on plans for a light Shabbat meal for the participants.

March Yahrzeits

- 3/1 Leon & Harriet Ackovitz *in memory of Harriet's father, Sidney Singer*
- 3/2 John & Lena Elzufon *in memory of John's mother, Muriel Elzufon*
Susan Mintz *in memory of her husband, Jeffrey A. Mintz*
Stephen & Jamie Satz *in memory of Steve's brother, Elliott Satz*
Dorothy Swartz
- 3/3 Joel & Stephanie Miller *in memory of Joel's uncle, Alfred Adler*
Vera Getz *in memory of her husband, Solomon Getz*
Joseph Goldstein
Dr. Joseph Hassman *in memory of his uncle, Robert Magalnick*
- 3/4 Jack Lieberman *in memory of his son-in-law, Jonathan Friedman*
- 3/5 Natalie Solomon *in memory of her mother, Muriel Samuelson Schenker*
Seymour & Norma Trachtman *in memory of Norma's sister, Joan Weiss*
- 3/6 Betty Chaikin *in memory of her father, Harry Schindler*
- 3/7 Carol Dranoff *in memory of her father, Max Epstein*
Bret Bergman *in memory of his grandmother, Jean Wiener*
- 3/8 Judith Blum-Crawford *in memory of her grandmother, Lillian Blum*
Stephen & Eileen Engber *in memory of Stephen's mother, Anna Engber*
- 3/9 Drs. Robert & Roberta Ball *in memory of Bob's mother, Anna Ball*
- 3/12 Howard & Carol Serotta *in memory of Howard's father, Paul Serotta*
- 3/15 Howard & Myrna Levin *in memory of Myrna's father, Max Cylinder*
- 3/18 Joan Rosenfeld *in memory of her father, William Hirsch*
- 3/20 Betty Chaikin *in memory of her sister, Helen Lipkin*
Gerald Pepper *in memory of his father, George Pepper*
- 3/25 Michael & Cheryl Guterman *in memory of Cheryl's mother, Lillian Brownstein*
- 3/27 Leslie & Susan Tuerk *in memory of Leslie's father, Stanley H. Tuerk*
- 3/28 Harry Labkow
- 3/31 Vera Getz *in memory of her father-in-law, Nathan Getz*
Barbara Pearlman *in memory of her brother, Herbert Salus*

Simply Shirley . . .

WELCOME TO ALL OF MY READERS
HAPPY AND HEALTHY 2016

TBS update:

The TBS book club met at Sid and Shirley's on January 4 and celebrated a New Year's tradition which is a BYOB – Bring your Own Book. We had Mimosas and discussed a variety of many different books. What a fabulous way to spend an afternoon. The book I chose was Harper Lee's "Go Set A Watchman" – not one of my favorites, but an interesting read.

The February book club met at the home of Arlene Waronker to discuss the book "The Common Struggle" by Patrick Kennedy. This book is not one which you would say you enjoyed reading; however, in my opinion is a very important book to read. I feel this book served as therapy for Patrick Kennedy and with all of his hard work is making people aware of the Common Struggle. He is dedicating his life in helping medical insurance accept the fact that mental illness is one which must be recognized and, therefore, coverage should be available for those in need. Regardless of political beliefs, I feel Patrick Kennedy is helping those who do have this struggle in making them realize they are not alone.

Our March book club will be held at the home of Mary Anne Miller on March 7 at 1 p.m., and the book we will discuss is "A Bitter Veil," by Libby Fischer Hellmann.

Our April book club is discussed in a separate article in this newsletter ("Save the Date"), and will be held on Sunday, April 17 at 1 p.m. at the synagogue. The book to be discussed is "A Backpack, A Bear and Eight Crates of Vodka." All fellow Bookies will be invited to attend this special book club gathering which will be hosted by Sid and myself. For further information on why this book was chosen, please read the special article written.

And yes, we have already picked May 23 for our May book club date and the Balls have graciously offered to host this. The book suggested is "Turbulent Souls," by Stephen Dubner.

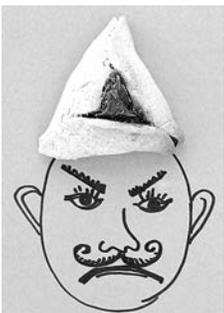
Your RSVP is necessary:

Please contact Shirley at 609-266-8599 or ssmorgan3@verizon.net should you be interested in attending.

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

Happy Reading,

Simply Shirley



Purim Funny Hat Shabbat with Hamantashen

Purim this year is on Thursday March 24. It is a tradition in many congregations to come to the Megillah reading dressed in appropriate costumes. TBS will not be having a service on March 24 therefore we encourage all to attend services in one of our area

synagogues.

HOWEVER, we will have services on Friday evening, March 25, and at that time we'd like to have our own Purim celebration. As part of that fete we will have a funny hat contest.

We would like everyone who attends that service to wear a funny hat to celebrate the joy of our

(Purim continued on page 5)

SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY, APRIL 17

Hear Ye Hear Ye For those of you who have always wanted to attend our book club but could not for some reason, there will be a special book club gathering on Sunday, April 17 at Temple Beth Shalom.

We will be discussing the book:

“A Backpack, A Bear and Eight Crates of Vodka” which is a memoir written by Lev Golinkin. I chose this book since it is being read by a group which I recently became involved with called “One Book, One Jewish Community.” This book can be gotten at the library or purchased through Amazon or Ebay (which I did).

One Book, One Jewish Community is the largest community-wide Jewish literacy program and each year they make a recommendation for a book to read. I thought it would be interesting to give this a try. I did get the book from the library and have also purchased a copy to share with Sid. Please do join us on April 17 at 1 p.m. and share in the interesting discussions I know we will have.

There will be coffee, tea, cake and more for your pleasure, and Sid and I will be the hosts of this event.

Your RSVP is necessary:

Please contact Shirley at 609-266-8599 or ssmorgan3@verizon.net should you be interested in attending.

Of course my fellow Bookies will be included in the afternoon of delight.

Simply Shirley



Tu B'Shevat Seder

As we planned for the Tu B'Shevat Seder and dinner, the weather report got more and more ominous. As predictions for snow grew earlier and earlier, there was more trepidation.

Undaunted, our brave congregants did show up to celebrate the “New Year of the Trees” and to sample another culinary masterpiece from the Shenders.

The tables were set with all of the ingredients for the Seder; fruits with big seeds (olives and dates), fruits with small seeds (apples, figs, bananas, pomegranates), nuts (almonds, walnuts, cashews) and an assortment of dried fruits. The Seder went on to explain the significance of each of these elements as they relate to the story of Judaism. As with the Passover Seder, the short service was accompanied by four glasses of white and red grape juice (or the adult equivalent). The Seder was a joint venture with all attendees participating.

The Shender meal consisted of a seven layer salad, baked rigatoni accompanied by garlic bread and a finale of chocolate cake and ice cream.

With everyone pitching in, the cleanup was fast and all were able to depart before the storm got serious.

Mark your calendar for next year when the Seder will be held on February 10.

As of now, the forecast is good for our March 4 Shabbat Across America dinner.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 2.....Patricia Koutcher, Rosalyn Weinstein
- 9.....Sandy Cogan
- 10.....Michael B. Albert
- 11.....Norma Gittelman
- 12.....Stanton L. Levin, Dr. Eli W. Zucker
- 13.....Marvin A. Waxman
- 15.....David S. Horowitz
- 19.....Jerald Cohen
- 20.....Dr. Barry L. Glaser
- 23.....Howard Serotta
- 25.....Frances Goldstein
- 27.....Bret Bergman
- 30.....Sarah Fox

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 22.....John & Lena Elzufon

Purim *(continued from page 4)*

ancestors once again triumphing over forces out to destroy our heritage. It would be great if your hat was in the spirit of the holiday, but any amusing hat will do. There will be a judging by acclimation and the winner will get an appropriate prize. (Don't get too anticipatory, our budget is very small.)

Speaking of Purim, one of the tastiest of our holiday traditions is the Hamantash. Do you have a famous Hamantash recipe? Do you want to show it off? If so, why not make a small batch of Hamantashen and bring them with you along with your funny hat? As long as you make them with appropriate ingredients (see our website for guidance), we'll be happy to have them and your fellow TBSers will be happy to devour them.

Jewish Websites

Among the millions of websites, there are many that deal specifically with Jewish related topics. As a service to you, our readers, we will bring your attention to some of the sites of interest.

<http://www.jewishhumorcentral.com> – This site provides a daily dose of frivolity. The gamut covers jokes, music and Jews in unusual places.

<http://www.shiva.com> – Learn about Jewish mourning, Shiva traditions, customs and more.

<http://www.sharsheret.org> – For Jewish breast cancer survivors.

<http://www.israel21c.org> – Modern Israeli culture and hi-tech news.

<http://www.uscj.org> – This is the site of the U.S. Conservative movement. Under the tab for Jewish Living and Learning there are a number of resources like a discussion of the weekly Torah portion.

<http://www.jewishbytheshore.org> – The site of the local Federation. There is a calendar of local events and lots of Jewish interest material.

If you have a favorite Jewish site, let us know. An email to office@seashul.org will work.

BOOK CLUB

Monday, March 7, 1 p.m.

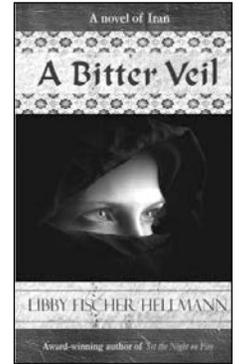
to review

"A Bitter Veil"

by **Libby Fischer Hellman.**

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MISHPOCHEH NEWS

Published Monthly by
 Temple Beth Shalom

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*Affiliated with the United Synagogue of
 Conservative Judaism*

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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.

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Oneg Shabbat Sponsor	\$25
Kiddush Lunch Sponsor	\$100
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Yizkor Memorial	Minimum \$10
Building Fund	Whatever you desire
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Library Fund	Whatever you desire