

# MISHPOCHEH

Temple Beth Shalom ☆ Brigantine Jewish Community Center

November 2014 Vol. 22, No. 10

Rabbi Gerald R. Fox

Heshvan/Kislev 5775

## SERVICES



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

*Light Refreshments*

## Saturday Service

November 8 • 10 a.m.

## Sunday Board Mtg.

November 9 • 10 a.m.

## RABBI'S COLUMN

### *Gratitude Without Fear*

Gratitude. Sometimes it is easy to experience, and sometimes less so. For many reasons, raising up my experience of gratitude has been on my mind as we tumble through this odd Autumn, inexorably toward that most quintessential holiday of the American civic faith, Thanksgiving. Having just exited the Jewish New Year and the holiday of Sukkot, we are provided more than enough impulse to seek out and to find a spirit of gratitude welling up within us.

This year even more than recent ones, I have been thinking about how grateful I am to have such blessings in my life: some measure of good health, a fine family, a few true friends, and a life with a purpose that involves helping others every day. Some of you reading this might be feeling a bit twitchy over my acknowledging my blessings for fear that somehow they will be taken from me. It is true that they may be taken from me, but it will not be because I am appreciative of them. Quite the opposite, our tradition teaches and I believe that it is very important to acknowledge what we have as often as possible without it becoming a burden unto itself. After all, what would have become of our ancestors without such an approach that yielded a sense of accomplishment and hope bound together?

The question remains, however, should I be grateful that I have achieved only a portion of what I had wished to achieve by my age when I was looking forward to this stage of my life in my teens and 20s? This is the reasonable question that each of us asks ourselves, if not every day, certainly quite regularly.

Our openness to feeling a spirit of gratitude sometimes comes to us in very unusual ways. There was a moment this last month when I was standing near the rebuilt swing-set at the back of my backyard... I turned around and looked at a backyard filled with nearly 25 children (more than 50 people, overall) who chose to celebrate our sons' birthday with them. In the midst of Sukkot, it was a lot to pull off: Our normal sukkah (built in a few hours) and then, for the birthday party, we constructed a second, full-sized sukkah for our guests to decorate with directed craft projects, along with games and toys littered everywhere, and food to nosh on inside and out. Getting the food right, the projects right, the timing right, the cleaning right, and everything in between right — all of this and more was an exercise of love that also produced a great deal of stress and worry. And yet, in the moment, looking at everyone around me, I felt a sense of calm that I was in the right place at the right time, experiencing it all with the right attitude. I was grateful.

And so I offer this teaching. Within gratitude, it is true that a fear of relying on others may be found, but what waits for us is even more powerful. When we appreciate our blessings, when we allow ourselves to be aware of our "beholdenness" to the efforts and goodwill of others toward our safekeeping and our happiness — contrary to popular thought — we are not acknowledging our deficiency but rather acknowledging our "redeemability," our actual worth. It is a simple formula: When we acknowledge that we have blessings, we acknowledge that we are noticed; in so doing, our connectedness becomes a holy exchange.



## Coming Events

**Tuesday, Nov. 25**

**Thanksgiving Interfaith  
Service, 7 p.m.  
St. Thomas the  
Apostle Church**

**Thursday, Nov. 27**  
**Thanksgiving Day**  
**Office Closed**

*Happy  
Thanksgiving*



*(RABBI continued on page 4)*

## Donations in honor of Gerald & Sheila Cohen's 50th wedding anniversary

Robert & Christine Cohen  
Michele & Andreas Deslis  
Michael Marcantonio  
Joseph & Patricia Tranchitella

### Get Well

Barry Bornstein, Betty Chaikin, Fred Fabel, Sarah Fox,  
Norma Gittelman, Fred Horowitz, Diane Waxman

### General Donations

Beth & Carl Apter – Get well to Diane Waxman.  
Drs. Burton & Judy Schwartz in memory of Burt's  
cousin's mother, Lena Crisconi.

### Message Cards

Dr. Henry & Gloria Jacoby: Get well wishes to Betty  
Chaikin; Congratulations to Jerry & Sheila Cohen;  
Get well wishes to Sarah Fox.

Sid & Shirley Morgan: Get well wishes to Sarah Fox.

David & Estelle Silver: Get well wishes to Sarah Fox.

### Prayerbook Dedication

Max & Judy Blum-Crawford in honor of Sheila & Jerry  
Cohen's 50th wedding anniversary.

### Welcome New Members

Joel & Stephanie Miller of Atlantic City.

### Yahrzeit Donations

Ida Levin in memory of her sister, Sara Rutberg;  
mother-in-law, Fannie Levin; mother, Sima Lotstein;  
and brother, Leon Lotstein.

Judith Blum-Crawford in memory of her father,  
Eugene W. Blum.

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

Stewart Lapayowker in memory of his grandmother,  
Mary Moskowitz.

David & Estelle Silver in memory of Estelle's mother,  
Lilian Waltzer.

S. David Pepper in memory of his wife,  
Florence Z. Pepper.

Howard Abber in memory of his sister, Joyce Small.

Carl & Beth Apter in memory of Carl's brother,  
Allen Apter.

Dr. Howard & Arlene Waronker in memory of Howard's  
father, Isadore Waronker.

Seymour & Norma Trachtman in memory of Seymour's  
mother, Yetta Trachtman.

Dr. Barry & Barbara Glaser in memory of Barry's father,  
Samuel Glaser.



### BIRTHDAYS - November

1 .....	Jamie Chaikin,	13 .....	Gale Donohue
	John A. Elzufon	14 .....	Trudy Durant
3 .....	Joseph Weinstein	15 .....	Steven Donohue
5 .....	Eric Goldstein		Steven Titlebaum
12 .....	Phyllis Hoffrichter	26 .....	Lisa Yuen

### ANNIVERSARIES - November

5 .....	Dr. Stephen & Rosalyn Weinstein
23 .....	Cary & Trudy Durant, Saul & Nancy Grossman
27 .....	Mitchell & Mina Kramer

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

#### For October

Saturday, October 11 – Ronald & Jo-Ann Massanova in  
memory of Jo-Ann's mother, Rose Aufiero.

Friday, October 17 – Jerald & Sheila Cohen in memory  
of Jerry's uncle, Frank Cohen;

Judith Blum-Crawford in memory of her father,  
Eugene W. Blum.

Friday, October 24 – Howard Abber in memory of his  
sister, Joyce Small;

Ronald & Lillian Shender in memory of Ron's mother,  
Leah Shender.

Friday, October 31 – Jerald & Sheila Cohen in memory  
of Jerry's grandfather, Albert Cohen.

## BOOK CLUB

Monday, Nov. 3 • 1 p.m.  
to review

### "The Art Forger"

by B.A. Shapiro.

The club will meet at the home of  
Judy & Burt Schwartz  
2107 Bayshore Avenue

RSVP to Shirley at [ssmorgan3@verizon.net](mailto:ssmorgan3@verizon.net)  
or call 609-266-8599.



### '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](mailto:office@seashul.org) or [rabbi@seashul.org](mailto:rabbi@seashul.org) for Rabbi Fox.

## November Yahrzeits

- 11/1 Jacqueline Fabel *in memory of her father-in-law, Lewis Fabel*  
Stephen & Eileen Engber *in memory of Eileen's mother,*  
Gladys Greenspun  
Jack Segal
- 11/2 Michael & Cheryl Guterman *in memory of Michael's father,*  
Hyman Guterman
- 11/4 Mark & Pearl Erdman *in memory of Mark's father,*  
Nathaniel Erdman  
Mitchell & Mina Kramer *in memory of Mitch's father, Harry*  
Kramer  
Ida Levin *in memory of her sister, Sara Rutberg*
- 11/5 Toby Waller *in memory of her brother-in-law, Shep Waller*
- 11/6 Jerald & Sheila Cohen and Martha Cohen *in memory of*  
Jerry's grandfather and Martha's father-in-law, Albert  
Cohen  
Dr. Martin & Linda Millison *in memory of Marty's brother,*  
Carl Millison  
Norman & Pearl Reiff *in memory of their daughter, Jill Reiff*
- 11/9 Barry & Sandy Cogan *in memory of Sandy's father, Morris*  
Rubinstein
- 11/10 Dr. Howard & Arlene Waronker *in memory of Howard's*  
father, Isadore Waronker
- 11/11 Fred & Marlene Paul *in memory of Marlene's father, Leon*  
Lindenberg
- 11/12 Ronald & Shelley Miller *in memory of Shelley's father,*  
David Gitomer  
Carol & Howard Serotta *in memory of Carol's cousin, John*  
Hecht  
Michael Axler *in memory of his mother-in-law, Ruth Myers*
- 11/14 Amy Hammel *in memory of her husband, William Hammel*  
Beverly Rosendorf & Erika Brooks *in memory of Beverly's*  
aunt and Erika's grandmother, Pearl Kaye
- 11/15 Mark & Pearl Erdman *in memory of Pearl's mother, Clara*  
Blady
- 11/16 Mark & Dr. Linda Baum *in memory of Linda's father, Jacob*  
Bornstein
- 11/17 Drs. Burton W. & Judith P. Schwartz *in memory of Burton's*  
father, Dr. Albert M. Schwartz  
Dr. Ira & Donna Wertheimer *in memory of Ira's father,*  
Jacob Wertheimer
- 11/20 Michael & Carol Albert *in memory of Michael's father,*  
Maxwell B. Albert  
Michael & Cheryl Guterman *in memory of Cheryl's aunt,*  
Rose Gilden Talbin
- 11/21 Dr. Joseph Hassman *in memory of his father-in-law, Morris*  
Davis  
Jerald & Sheila Cohen *in memory of Sheila's grandmother,*  
Sarah Levine
- 11/24 Lilyan Cralle *in memory of her mother-in-law, Sue Marie*  
Cralle  
Ida Levin *in memory of her mother, Sima Lotstein*
- 11/25 Dr. Henry & Gloria Jacoby *in memory of Gloria's mother,*  
Rose Yablonsky
- 11/26 Debbie & Gail Coplein *in memory of their mother,*  
Constance Coplein; and great-grandfather, Eli Erlichman
- 11/27 Edward & Judith Rubin *in memory of Judy's father,*  
Herman Lam  
Susan Mintz *in memory of her mother, Lilyan Politzer*
- 11/28 Jack Hanish  
Seymour & Dorothy Katz *in memory of Seymour's father,*  
Joseph Katz
- 11/29 Ida Levin *in memory of her brother, Leon Lotstein*  
Marvin & Diane Waxman *in memory of Diane's mother,*  
Ethel Rose

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## Simply Shirley . . .

*Welcome to all of my readers.*

The TBS book club met on Monday, October 6th and reviewed: "The Orphan Train" by Christina Baker Kline. This is a most heart-warming book and has been discussed on many television programs recently. November 3 our selection is: "The Art Forger" by B. A. Shapiro and our gracious hosts will be Burt and Judy Schwartz. We will be taking a vacation break in December and will resume on January 5, 2015. This will be a book of your choice and will be hosted by Sid and I. It should be a wonderful way to begin a new year.

Would like to mention how wonderful the holidays were at our Temple as well as the break the fast, followed by the putting up of our Sukkah. Of course following the building of the Sukkah, we held our wonderful Sukkot Shabbat dinner which was held Friday, October 10. Unfortunately, thanks to Mother Nature, it was a rainy night and therefore the dinner was moved inside; however it was a wonderful, delicious dinner enjoyed by the many who attended. To all involved in making this such a memorable night I say thank you. The evening ended with a celebration of Matan's and Doron's 4th birthdays and, of course, there was the sharing of a delicious birthday cake.

May this be a wonderful year for all and may you all have a year of good health, happiness and peace.

Please contact me at 609-266-8599 or [ssmorgan3@verizon.net](mailto:ssmorgan3@verizon.net) should you be interested in being added to our book club list.

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

Enjoy the lovely fall weather and happy reading to all of my readers.

*Simply Shirley*

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## Rabbi *continued from page 1*

Don't get me wrong, we are worthy without this affirmation, but acknowledging our gratitude is, in short, a spiritual way of stating the obvious: namely, that we have value. And who doesn't gain some spiritual nourishment by being reminded that we are important, especially when considering the vastness of the Universe?

So, as we approach Thanksgiving, whether shared with a crowd or more quietly, let us remember that we are not diminished by appreciating those things that can be taken from us in a single moment. Rather, let us cherish our greatness that arises from our ability to appreciate each precious moment, each treasured element, of our existence.

May we cultivate a sense of gratitude as one of our blessings in this life, as doing so will lead us to a life of fulfillment, joy, and purpose, all of which bring meaning to our otherwise confused lives.

*Rabbi Gerald R. Fox*

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

## FOR CHILDREN OF ANY AGE

### Four Thanksgiving Questions:

- 1) What does Thanksgiving mean to you?
- 2) How do you think living in America is different from living in other countries?
- 3) Who are your heroes?
- 4) What would you like to be thankful for next year?

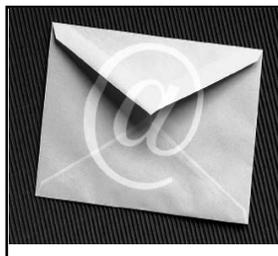
### Follow-up Activity:

Think of and share and act on ways to share our good fortune.



## 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](mailto:office@seashul.org) or [rabbi@seashul.org](mailto:rabbi@seashul.org) for Rabbi Fox.



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## Browse Our Library

Books that have been discussed by our Book Club and other best sellers have been placed in the Temple Library for your enjoyment. If you would like to read any of these books, or any others that we have, the office is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. each day of the week.

*The Yiddish Policemen's Union* by Michael Chabon

*The Ministry of Special Cases* by Nathan Englander

*People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks

*Chicken Soup for the Jewish Soul* – Stories to Open the Heart and Rekindle the Spirit

# Thanksgiving Reflections

During the Fall season, we read the Book of Genesis – a spirited narrative recounting the experiences of our ancestors. In *Parashat Vayetze*, we find the Patriarch Jacob working in the home of his uncle Laban, laboring tirelessly to win the hand of his beloved Rachel. As we all know, he ends up with two wives, Rachel and her sister Leah. Understanding that Jacob prefers Rachel, God seeks to compensate Leah by “opening her womb,” allowing her to bear four sons.

Regarding the fourth son, we read: “She conceived again and bore a son, and declared, ‘This time I will thank (*odeh*) the Lord.’ Therefore she named him Yehudah (English: Judah).” (Gen. 29:35) Yehudah, from the same root as *todah*, thanks.

It is not surprising that we, as a people, *Yehudim*, have come to be identified by the name of this son, Yehudah. For one of the hallmarks of the Jewish nation has been our ongoing commitment to praise the Almighty and to thank God for demonstrating a continued interest in our national destiny.

Still, when Leah chose, in naming her son, to thank God for granting her the gift of children, she demonstrated a keen awareness that God’s role is not limited to intervention in our collective affairs. Rather, it can be felt by each of us in our own lives. Leah was not simply thanking the Lord on behalf of her people – she was uttering a personal prayer of thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving – a Jewish tradition. And, as we know, a North American tradition as well. Both cultures recognize the need to thank God for the good in our lives, and both provide ways in which we can express our gratitude.

How can we thank God each day?

- One way is through our prayers. How do we begin each day? By reciting *Modeh/Modah Ani*, thanking God for restoring our souls to us each morning. In addition, we include a special blessing of thanks every time we recite the *Amidah*. This long section, which begins “*Modim anahnu lakh*” and ends with the *berakhah* of “*l’hodot*” (to give thanks) is unchanging, whether we recite it on a weekday, on Shabbat, or during a Festival. In addition, to emphasize the importance of giving thanks, we actually bow as we begin and end this section.

- How else do we thank God? We do it through acting ethically, kindly, and generously, modeling in our own behavior those qualities ascribed to God. As the *midrash* relates: “Just as God is gracious and compassionate, you too must be gracious and compassionate... As the Holy One is faithful, you too must be faithful. As the Holy One is loving, you too must be loving.” Can we get away simply with paying lip service to these admirable qualities? Absolutely not! As the Talmud relates: “As God clothes the naked, you should clothe the naked. [As] the Holy One visited the sick, you should visit the sick. [As] the Holy One comforted those who mourned, you should comfort those who mourn. [As] the Holy One buried the dead, you should bury the dead.” Clearly, we can’t get away with delegating these tasks to others.

- We thank God when we are optimistic and when we demonstrate that “*Ashreinu mah tov helkeinu*” is more than just a children’s song – that we are indeed happy with our lot and appreciative of God’s role in our life. It’s easy to remember God when things go wrong and to ask for help when we’re facing hard times. It’s harder to keep in mind that God is there when things go right and when good things do happen to good people.

- Another opportunity to show our gratitude arises when we hear good news. In reciting the blessing “*Barukh Atah... hatov v’hametiv* (Bless are You our God...Who is good and does good),” we acknowledge the beneficent influence of God in our lives.

We read in Psalms: “The earth is God’s in all its fullness.” (Ps. 24:1) But in a later Psalm we read that “The heavens are God’s heavens and the earth (God) gave to mankind.” (Ps. 115:16) How can we reconcile these seemingly contradictory statements? According to the Talmud, the answer lies in giving thanks – in explicitly recognizing God’s role in the world. Everything belongs to God. Yet, when we recite a *berakhah* – whether on eating an apple, smelling fragrant spices, or witnessing the beauty of nature – we acknowledge God’s sovereignty over all the earth and therefore gain the right to enjoy all that we have. A small price to pay for so large a gift!

Consider reciting Psalm 100 (*Mizmor L’Todah*, A Psalm of Thanksgiving) at your Thanksgiving table this year, as it was recited in the Temple when a thanksgiving offering was made. And – in the words of the Psalm – may we be privileged this Thanksgiving to “worship God in happiness and come before God in joyful song.”

## 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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who could join us?*

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## MISHPOCHEH NEWS

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**Newsletter Production & Design: Jackie Caplan**

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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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