

B'er Chayim Bulletin

July - August 2010
Tamuz-Av-Elul 5770

107 Union Street
Cumberland, Md. 21502
301-722-5688

www.berchayim.org



Some Congregational News

Betsy Woolfson, Congregational President, has announced that we have engaged the services of a cantor for the High Holidays. Cantor Janice Leuchter will sing for us and lead us in song on the High Holidays. She is sending us some music to use for practice and we plan to have an informal sing along before the holidays. This will be a real treat and something which we haven't had in a number of years.

Doug and I (your trusty editor) were pleased and honored to be invited to Sonya Valdman's Bat Mitzvah on June 26 in Greenville, NC. Not surprisingly, Sonya did a fabulous job conducting services and with her Torah portion. Max and Svetlana are very involved in their congregation and asked us to say hello to everyone here in their "first" congregation.

Ann Genova, the daughter of Jacquelynne McLellan, completed her conversion on May 21st at Temple Emmanuel in Roanoke, VA. She is Simcha bat Miryam.

Planning Ahead

Erev Rosh Hashanah
Wednesday, September 8
First Day of Rosh Hashanah
Thursday, September 9
Second Day of Rosh Hashanah
Friday, September 10
Erev Yom Kippur
Friday, September 17
Yom Kippur
Saturday, September 18



Irma's Input - One More Time

I so regret having to discontinue, "Irma's Input," for the time being. Hopefully, at some future date it can be resumed. I really enjoyed being a "roving reporter"!

The recent robbery at our store was a catastrophic blow, and Rick, Babs and I are still trying to come to grips with it. It truly, "knocked the wind out of our sails," so to speak. We no longer trust people the way we used to. Cumberland has lost much of its charm for us. There is a heaviness in our hearts that we feel will always be there.



I must, however, express my gratitude to a few people who were especially kind and understanding and who had a calming effect on us in the aftermath. First of all, our heartfelt thanks to Rabbi Sniderman, whom I called immediately after we discovered the break-in on Sunday morning, May 9 (a not to be forgotten Mother's Day for me!). Rabbi was there almost immediately; and in his patient, level-headed manner helped us to put the situation, horrific as it was, in the right perspective, reminding us that the three of us were unharmed. Rabbi stayed with us for several hours, talking to the police and making sure that overwrought Irma was in control of herself (never an easy task even in normal circumstances). He checked in on us the next day, insisting that we call him if we needed him beyond that. I am sure that without his steady presence, I would surely have broken down.

Of course, I must next thank my dearly beloved best friends Beshie, Katy, Corinne, Sandy German and Sondra who went far beyond the call of devoted friendship to sympathize and offer just the right words of consolation. Beshie came down as soon as she got the call, and the others wanted to but were told it was not necessary.

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From the Rabbi



Wednesday, September 8 is Erev Rosh Hashnah, Thursday, September 9 is the First Day of Rosh Hashanah, Friday, September 17 is Erev Yom Kippur and Saturday, September 18 is Yom Kippur. We need to put these dates on our calendar. We need to start thinking about preparing for what are called in Hebrew Yamim Noraim, Days of Awe. I happen to think that “Days of Awe” makes a point that “High Holidays” doesn’t. Yes, these days are important, hence, “high.” They are holy days, another form of holidays. But I guess I want to emphasize the sense of awe that comes from standing before God as we evaluate how we have lived our lives in the past year and make that solemn resolve to do better in the year ahead. We don’t have to wait for the Days of Awe to do this. Ideally we should make every day a Day of Awe.

We stand before God as individuals. We also stand before God as a community. We pray in the plural. We say, “For the sin which we have sinned against You,” not, “For the sin I have sinned against You.” How well have we done as a community? I intend to mention over the Days of Awe some of our accomplishments.

We have reason to be proud and satisfied. We should also be challenged to do better in the future

Spiritually we are supposed to prepare for these Days of Awe. Recognizing our failings, let us not dwell on them but rather emphasize how we intend to do better in the year ahead.

Rabbi Stephen L. Sniderman

IN AND AROUND B’ER CHAYIM

How well do we know our sanctuary? I am often asked about the Hebrew words above the ark. What do they say? What do they mean? I answer by reading the Hebrew: “Da leef-nay mee atah oh-mayd” - “Know before whom you stand.” And then I usually add the explanation: “obviously God.”

These words are very common in synagogues. We see, staring us in the face, the words which remind us of the obvious, that we are standing before God.

Some comments: Non-Jewish visitors so often ask about these Hebrew words that I anticipate the question when I show people around the sanctuary or welcome visiting groups. Jews are sometimes embarrassed to ask. If we don’t know and think we are expected to know, we can be uncomfortable. But did your religious school class ever cover this material? I hope to point out along the way bits of information about our sanctuary that would be relevant to any sanctuary, information that perhaps wasn’t covered in religious school or, if it was, well, it’s time for a review.

Rabbi Stephen L. Sniderman



**CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF
AMERICAN RABBIS**
Statements on Social Justice

Social action has always been a central theme and responsibility in Jewish life. The thoughts have not changed that much over the years, as we can see by the initial statement from 1875 and the more current, 1999 statement. Both statements are excerpted from the URJ Social Action website.

Pittsburgh Platform, 1875

In full accordance with the spirit of Mosaic legislation which strives to regulate the relation between rich and poor, we deem it our duty to participate in the great task of modern times, to solve on the basis of justice and righteousness the problems presented by the contrasts and evils of the present organization of society.

**A Statement of Principles for Reform Judaism,
Pittsburgh, 1999**

We bring Torah into the world when we strive to fulfill the highest ethical mandates in our relationships with others and with all of God's creation. Partners with God in tikkun olam, repairing the world, we are called to help bring nearer the messianic age. We seek dialogue and joint action with people of other faiths in the hope that together we can bring peace, freedom and justice to our world. We are obligated to pursue tzedek, justice and righteousness, and to narrow the gap between the affluent and the poor, to act against discrimination and oppression, to pursue peace, to welcome the stranger, to protect the earth's biodiversity and natural resources, and to redeem those in physical, economic and spiritual bondage. In so doing, we reaffirm social action and social justice as a central prophetic focus of traditional Reform Jewish belief and practice. We affirm the mitzvah of tzedakah, setting aside portions of our earnings and our time to provide for those in need. These acts bring us closer to fulfilling the prophetic call to translate the words of Torah into the works of our hands.

Irma's Input (cont.)

How lucky I am to have such a wonderful group of caring friends! They are all beautiful, and I adore them.

Adding to my list of very special people are Elena Manasse and Doug Schwab who stopped in the store the next day or so to offer words of concern. As I recall, they did exactly the same thing when I broke my wrist last February. I very much appreciate their constant thoughtfulness.

Thank you also to those who called and who offered words of encouragement at Friday evening services. I feel blessed to be a member of B'er Chayim.

Fate is indeed capricious, but as they say, this too shall pass and the three of us will survive, remembering as we do that God has been very good to us in so many ways and that in our lives there is much more to feel gratitude for than despair. With that in mind, we'll be just fine - in time.

Sincerely,
"Me, Myself and I"

What's In A Name?

by David Shapiro

Every Erev Shabbat Rabbi Stephen Sniderman reads the names of those individuals whose yahrzeits occurred during the week of the Friday night service. It is an honor and a privilege to sit in our sanctuary and hear the names of our loved ones, descendants, and friends as Rabbi reads their names.

In the book of Numbers, it emphasizes the importance of names. Moses is commanded to muster all the names of men of military age. The total number is 603,550.

When we visit the Vietnam and WWII Memorials in Washington, we see the names of tens of thousands of individuals who gave their lives for their country. When we visit the Hall of Remembrance at the US Holocaust Museum, we are deeply touched by names of the people who perished as a result of the Holocaust.

I hope we as Jews realize the importance of attending our yahrzeits at Temple to hear the names of our loved ones recited.

"Gates of Prayer" says, "And in the memory of our loved ones inspire us to continue their work for the coming of your sovereign rule."

July-August 2010

Friday, July 2	7:30 pm	Erev Shabbat Service Oneg - Manasse Family No Adult Hebrew
Monday, July 5		
Friday, July 9	7:30 pm	Erev Shabbat Service Oneg - Polly Hightower Torah Study
Saturday, July 10	10:00 am	Adult Hebrew
Monday, July 12	7:00 pm	
Friday, July 16	7:30 pm	Erev Shabbat Service Oneg - Litman Family Board Meeting follwoed by by Ninth of Av Study Session of the Book of Lamentations
Monday, July 19	7:00 pm	
Friday, July 23	7:30 pm	Erev Shabbat Service Arch Family Torah Study
Saturday, July 24	10:00 am	Adult Hebrew
Monday, July 26	7:00 pm	
Friday, July 30	7:30 pm	Erev Shabbat Service Oneg - Beshie Mandell & Irma Dezen
Monday, August 2	7:00 pm	Adult Hebrew
Friday, August 6	7:30 pm	Erev Shabbat Service Oneg - Brock Family Adult Hebrew
Monday, August 9	7:00 pm	
Friday, August 13	7:30 pm	Erev Shabbat Service Oneg - Smith-Drelich Family Torah Study
Saturday, August 14	10:00 am	Board Meeting
Monday, August 16	7:00 pm	
Friday, August 20	7:30 pm	Erev Shabbat Service Jacquelyne McLellan will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah Oneg - Adult Hebrew Class No Adult Hebrew
Monday August 23		
Friday, August 27	7:30 pm	Erev Shabbat Service Sallerson Family Torah Study
Saturday, August 28	10:00 am	Adult Hebrew
Monday, August 30	7:00 pm	



... We Remember

Yahrzeits for week ending July 3, 2010/21 Tamuz

Robert Friedland
Robert Shapiro
Harry Brock
A. Barnet Brumberg
Celia Isaacs
Myron Lee Cohn
Abe W. Schwab
Lee H. Waingold
Arthur Lazarus
Mary Schindler Liebowitz
Julius Wilner

Yahrzeits for week ending July 10, 2010/28 Tamuz

Della Y. Cator
Miriam Goldie Klawan
Morris Kline
Sophia Serebryanaya
Elly Gerson Daymont
Rebecca Pariser
Rosalind Caplan
Morris D. Fram
George Millenson
Abraham H. Lewine
Clarence Lippel
Max Silverman

Yahrzeits for week ending July 17, 2010/6 Av

Edward Gottesman
Jacob I. Grossman
Herschel Lange
Ben Lyons
Jack B. Becker
Matilda Pallik
Fannie Wilner
Selma Friedman
Tim Alvarado



Yahrzeits for week ending July 24, 2010/13 Av

Rachel Waingold
Harold Yankelevitz
Sidney G. Holstein
Leah Seiff Bauer
Alice Sack

Yahrzeits for week ending July 31, 2010/20 Av

Sam Olin
Samuel Boorda
Benjamin Levin
Lena Gula Shear
Henry Lippel
Dave Klein
Flora Abrams
Esther Lavine
Hadassah E. Lefkowitz
Samuel Wolfe Kaplan

Yahrzeits for week ending August 7, 2010/27 Av

Maxine Feigus
Eliot Elliott
Martha L. Peskin
Julius Schindler
Merrill Flora Bernstein
Minna R. Millenson
Benno Rapp
Pearl Marks
Irmel Steinberger
Bertha Goldfine Cohen
Mina Judenberg

Yahrzeits for week ending August 14, 2010/4 Elul

Kurt Steinberger
Emma White
Robert Marchand
Lazar Platt
Larry Cody
Sara Mendelsohn
Morris Wolf

... We Remember

Yahrzeits for week ending

August 21, 2010/11 Elul

Elsa Lichtenstein
Bronya Valdman
Anna Mandell
Abraham Olin
Margot Steinberger
Max Spear
Donald Truesdell
Samuel Arzt
Richard G. Kagey, Jr.
Annie Kaplon
Jacob Nathan

Yahrzeits for week ending

August 28, 2010/18 Elul

I. Robert Lichtenstein
Shile Devorah Margolis
Monroe Rosenthal
Edna A. Aronson
Sidney Dantzie
Murray Held
Doris Ann Herron
Joel Joseph Lipsch
Sarah Mendelsohn
Ossip
Marvin M. Lutz
Harry B. Beneman
Ruth (Wolf) Karras
Samuel J. Feigus
Benjamin Miller
Jerry Morton
Barbara Snow Sokoloff
Marie Boyd Eichler
Anita Feit
Sara Feldstein Ridgway

***We keep alive their memories
when we recall and perpetuate the
acts of goodness they performed***

Yahrzeits for week ending

September 4, 2010/25 Elul

Ida Feldman
Arthur Bauer
Frances Glicksman
Joseph Shapiro
Mayer Tzvi Abraham
Abraham Kaplon
Rabbi Aaron H. Lefkowitz
Mae Viola Bernstein
Bess Fichter
Lena Brodell
Etta Bashe Lichtenstein
Boruch Serebryanaya
Harry Mandell



Donations

Yahrzeits

Donor

Irene Tabackman
Sue Marchand

Elizabeth B. Weisman
Paul Snow
Louise Hall

Anita Bauer
Betty Waingold
Beatrice and
Bernard Hirsh

In memory of

Jacob Goodman
Fred Brooks
Kurt Gottlieb
Rabbi Morris Baron
Charles Snow
Jeanne Lazarus
Gerson
Milton Gerson
Hillel Bauer
Lee H. Waingold
Albert C. Eskin

In Memory of Jane Schwab

Maria Sallerson-Joyner
Linda Zambelli
Morton Peskin, Jr.

In Memory of Richard Schwab

Linda Zambelli
Morton Peskin, Jr.

Directory: Whom To Call

Rabbi Stephen Sniderman
B'er Chayim Temple Home
107 Union Street 401 LeFevre Road
301-722-5688 301-759-4454
slshome@aol.com

President Betsy Woolfson
301-724-6663
wolflady@atlanticbb.net

First Vice President Debby Schaaf
301-697-4808
debraschaaf@gmail.com

Second VP Deb Litman
301-729-2784
dlitman814@atlanticbb.net

Corresponding Secretary Natalie Rosten
301-722-1411
dinglemom2005@aol.com

Recording Secretary Betsey Hurwitz-Schwab
301-759-9385
bhs@9northcentre.com

Financial Secretary (Dues) Doug Schwab
301-759-9385
doug@dougschwab.net

Treasurer Gayle Griffith
301-777-8598 (h)
301-722-8345 (w)
gayle@atlanticbbn.net

Membership Open

Plaques/Tree of Life Gayle Griffith
301-777-8598 (h)
301-722-8345 (w)
gayle@atlanticbbn.net

Religious School Deb Litman
301-729-2784
dlitman814@atlanticbb.net

Bulletin Betsey Hurwitz-Schwab
301-759-9385
bhs@9northcentre.com

Cemetery Larry Brock
301-729-8257
lbrock@gapselfstorage.net

Hadassah Beshie Mandell
301-729-2773

Endowment Committee Open

Grocery Scrip Elena Manasse
301-729-8308
ebmanasse@atlanticbb.net

Ways In Which You Can Help B'er Chayim

Many people have asked how to make contributions to Temple of a more long-lasting nature. Following is a brief list of opportunities.

Endowment Fund

Western Wall Memorial outside of sanctuary
Small stone \$1000 - \$4999 Patron
Middle stone \$5000 - \$9999 Sponsor
Large Stone \$10,000 - \$19,000 Benefactor
Largest stones over \$20,000
Foundation Contributors
You may also donate through
your WILL or a TRUST.
Contact Treasurer Gayle Griffith for more
information on any of these options.

Yahrzeit Plaques

Cost of plaque - \$250
Preparation of plaque - about 1 month
Contact Gayle Griffith for more information

Tree of Life Leaves

Cost of leaf - \$40, which includes engraving
preparation of leaf - about 2 weeks
Contact Gayle Griffith for more information

Building Fund

Contributions of any amount may be made and
may be given for general building use, or a specific
building project (subject to Board approval).
Contact Debbie Lang for more information

Hadassah

Cards and certificates for all occasions
Contact Beshie Mandell for more information

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

This is a fund solely under the discretion of the
Rabbi. Contributions can be made to this fund
by making arrangements directly with the Rabbi.
The amount contributed is not disclosed to the
membership, nor is the use for these funds.

Ritual Committee

Bob Manasse	Marlene Sallerson
301-729-8308	301-777-2926
Lee Schwartz	Polly Hightower
301-777-8598	304-788-6622