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Beth Zion - Beth Israel

Temple Beth Zion-Beth Israel's Weekly E-Newsletter / February 2, 2023

Each year, the Jewish calendar encourages us to celebrate not one but four New Year's Days (and that doesn't even include January 1). First, there is the obvious one: Rosh Hashanah, the head of the year, on which we atone and prepare spiritually for the year to come -- **a New Year of the Soul**. Second, the Torah refers to the first of Nissan (the month in which we celebrate Passover) as "the beginning of the months," a chance to celebrate liberation from Egypt and the birth of the Israelite people -- **a New Year of the People**. The third New Year's is perhaps the least well-known: the first of Elul, on which Israelites would tithe their cattle from the previous year -- a New Year of the Cows.

But my favorite of all four New Years' is coming up this weekend: Tu Bishvat, the fifteenth of Shvat, known as **the New Year of the Trees**. In ancient Israel, this was a time of year when the fruit trees were beginning to ripen and the sap started to rise. Soon, the land would be full of blossoms and tasty delights. Over time, Tu Bishvat became a mystical holiday and an opportunity to celebrate the natural environment in which we live.

Here in Philadelphia, where it is 39 degrees outside, it feels a bit premature to welcome spring -- but it's never too early to take joy in our natural world. Join us this **Sunday morning** (10:00 AM-12:00 PM) as we celebrate our very own BZBI tree, Etzi, planted just outside our 18th Street entrance last fall. People of all ages are welcome as we plant saplings, eat delicious "mud," and make birdfeeders. **Let us know you're coming here** (registration is free). Happy Tu Bishvat!

-Rabbi Abi Weber

BZBI's Instagram has a fresh new look! **Follow our account @templebzbi** to keep up with us on social media.

Spotlight

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Party.



POWER Interfaith Meeting

TONIGHT, Thursday, February 2 at 7:30 PM

Please join the BZBI POWER Committee for our winter planning meeting to discuss our approach for the coming months. We're looking for input from the congregation to guide our direction for 2023. Please fill out [this Google Form](#) to let us know which direction you're interested in. [Join our Zoom meeting here.](#)



First Fridays @ BZBI featuring The Penn Shabbatones

THIS Friday, February 3 at 5:45pm

While our First Fridays dinners are at capacity, all are welcome to join us in the sanctuary for a musical performance and Kabbalat Shabbat service. In honor of Shabbat Shirah, listen to the vocal magic of the **Penn Shabbatones**, the University of Pennsylvania's Jewish a cappella group. Maariv will be led by BZBI's own **Elle Baker**. *Please plan to arrive by 5:45 PM for the performance.*



Shabbhakti Yoga is Back at BZBI with Deb Glassman

THIS Saturday, February 4 at 9:45 AM

Join BZBI in an alternative spiritual journey into the heart of Shabbat through yogic movement, meditation, and song with Dr. Deborah Glassman. Classes will take place on *select Saturdays from 9:45 AM to 11:00 AM in the Kahaner Auditorium.*

Registration is required for these classes, and non-members must pay in advance. **The cost is \$18 per**

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The class schedule is as follows: February 4, March 4, April 22 & May 6.

Worship

Friday, February 3

5:04 PM Shabbat Candlelighting

5:45 PM Performance by the Penn Shabbatones, followed by Kabbalat Shabbat and Maariv

Saturday, February 4

9:30 AM Shabbat Morning Service

A Kiddush sundae bar is sponsored by Kati Steiner in celebration of her divorcery.

Flowers are sponsored by David Lerman, Shelley Wallock, Jeanette Lerman-Neubauer and Joe Neubauer in memory of Miles Lerman.

Parshat B'shallah

- **Torah Readers:** Johannah Lebow, Tamar Fox, Oren Pollak and Harris Devor
- **Haftarah:** TBA
- **Shabbat Learning:** Rabbi Abi Weber

6:05 PM Shabbat Ends

BZBI's Shabbat Learning and related videos are now available on the Shofar Blog.

Click here to view all of the special well wishes made to our beloved Phyllis Kramer from last Shabbat.

Members

We gratefully acknowledge this week's donations:

Mazel Tov to Sarah Dain and Mishu Matijkiw on the birth of their daughter, Riva Miriam!

In Honor Of:

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- **Rabbi Mort Levine's Birthday** by Judy & Bill Brookover, Sally & Robert Brown, Sheryl & Seth Gross and Barbara Spector
- **Ziva Perry Levine's Bat Mitzvah** by Judy & Bill Brookover, Eileen Dwell & Charles Steinberg, Arlene Fickler and Robin H. Lebow
- **Esta Schwartz** by Arlene Fickler
- **Marty Rosenblum's Birthday** by Deborah & Robert Fleischman

In Memory Of:

- **Miles Lerman** by Shelley Wallock & David Lerman and Jeanette Lerman - Neubauer & Joe Neubauer
- **Mitchell Litt** by Zelda Litt

Yahrzeits February 4 - 10

Yehuda Agmor | Albert Berkowitz | Claudia Goodman
 | Hilton Herman | Maurice Laver | Miles Lerman
 | Beatrice Rintel | Samuel Rubin | Marion Siegel
 | Stephen Skale | Maurice Stein | Lillian Stillman | Mina
 Val | Renee Zuritsky



Events



Sisterhood Monthly Planning Meeting

Monday, February 6 at 7:00 PM on Zoom

Join the Sisterhood for their monthly planning meeting. **To sign up for the meeting, click here.**



Scarves, Hats, and Fringes: The How and Why of Jewish Ritual Garb

Saturday, February 11 after Kiddush (approx. 12:45 PM)

Have you wanted to wear a tallis or kippah but didn't know where to start? Are you thinking about what you will wear on the bimah for your child's brit mitzvah or other simcha? Are you interested in learning more about the mitzvot of Jewish ritual garb? Join us for a discussion and demonstration of Jewish ritual items. We will study texts and share our own personal stories about the mitzvot of Jewish wear. All are welcome regardless of prior knowledge or experience.

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Do you love to sing? Join BZBI's Singing Group! Meetings are the first and third Wednesday each month. This group is mask-optional. **Please contact Liat** with any questions, or to let her know you will be attending. We look forward to singing with you here!



HipCityKiddush: Judaism and Animal Advocacy

Saturday, February 18 from 12:00-1:00 PM

Enjoy a tasty vegan Kiddush sponsored by **SHAMAYIM: Jewish Animal Advocacy**. Educational materials about Jewish approaches to animal welfare will be provided. All are welcome!



What's Next for Israel? An Evening with the Israel Policy Forum's Michael Koplow

Wednesday, February 22 at 7:00 PM at BZBI

With tumult in Israel and throughout the Middle East, what can we expect from the new Israeli government and its relationship with the United States? Join BZBI and the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of Philadelphia for an evening with political analyst Michael Koplow. **Register here**. Following the program, young professionals are invited to have a drink with Michael at Misconduct Tavern, 1511 Locust Street.

Koplow is the chief policy officer of Israel Policy Forum. He holds a Ph.D. in Government from Georgetown University, where he specialized in political development and ideology, and the politics of Middle Eastern states. He writes Israel Policy Forum's weekly Koplow Column and edits Israel Policy Exchange, which is a leading source for commentary and analysis on Israel and American Jewry, and his work regularly appears in Foreign Affairs, Foreign Policy, the Atlantic, and the Forward, among other publications.



Board Game Shabbat

Saturday, February 25 from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Join members of BZBI after Kiddush for Board Game Shabbat! Play some of your favorite games including Scrabble, Bananagrams, Mahjong, Rummikub, LCR, and Uno. Snacks and drinks will be provided. Registration is preferred, but not required. Feel free to



Congregational Ski Trip

Sunday, February 26 at Elk Mountain

Travel through the wilderness and make *aliyah*. BZBI will be traversing the Northeast Extension and riding the chair up Elk Mountain. That's right, we're going skiing! In order to plan the day, we need an idea of how many people are coming. **Please click here to let us know your interest, skiing level and equipment status.**

You will be able to sign up for equipment rentals, group or private lessons as well as lifts. Sixteen people have expressed interest so far, and cost will depend on how many people sign up. So join us!

Around the Community

The BZBI Israel Engagement Committee has found a Middle East centered Israel TV channel which comes with some basic subscriptions to Xfinity/Comcast TV. The station is I24 Israel News and as suggested by its name, is on 24 hours per day. It is also available on Xfinity channel 1118. There are news programs specifically on Israel, the Middle East and other countries of interest like Iran, Iraq, Turkey, UAE, Bahrain, Qatar, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, and Palestine. If you have an interest in what's happening in Israel and in the Middle East, check it out. This channel is also available on radio service apps and on regular smartphone apps.

Are your kids interested in sports? Sign them up for Ramah's Sports Academy! Sports include soccer, basketball, baseball, swimming and tennis. Information sessions are held on Wednesday nights at 7:30 PM. **Click here to register for a session or sign up now!**

JFCS supports more than 32,000 individuals in the Greater Philadelphia area. Some people come to JFCS when they are experiencing a crisis and others require longer term help. JFCS serves children, families, and individuals from all backgrounds and faiths, from creating families to building community, from providing care during a crisis to helping older adults age safely in their homes. Right now they are in need of more donations to continue supporting people in need. **Click here to learn more and donate.**

One Book, One Jewish Community presents **Who By Fire: Leonard Cohen in the Sinai** by Matti Friedman. A reading will be presented online on March 19 at 11:00 AM. **Register here!**

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