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Beth Zion - Beth Israel

Temple Beth Zion-Beth Israel's Weekly E-Newsletter / November 22, 2023

What's in a Name?

As a people, we are called “Jews.” Have you ever wondered where the name “Jews” comes from? Let us recall that the very name of our people, “Jews” derives from the fact that we were once called Judeans. We lived in Judea, where the tribe of Judah was centered. As we approach this year’s Thanksgiving Holiday and as we read this week’s Torah portion, Vayetze, I am reminded that when Leah, our biblical mother, gave birth to her fourth son she proclaimed, "אודה את ה'", (Odeh et adonai!) I give thanks to Adonai. Therefore, she named him יהודה, (Y'huda) Judah. (Parashat Vayetze, Genesis 29:35; Etz Chayim page 174). The Hebrew word “odeh” and the Hebrew name Y'huda both derive from the same Hebrew root הדה, which is also the basis for the Hebrew word Todah, תודה, meaning “Thanks.”

How wonderful to remember at Thanksgiving time that the very name of our people, יהודים, *Yehudim*, is rooted in thankfulness and means those who thank. Nice to be reminded also that the very first word that a Jew is supposed to say upon waking is מודה, *Modeh/Modah*, I give thanks.

May we all find many things for which to be thankful, not only on this Thanksgiving Holiday, but on every day of the year.

Have safe, wonderful, and meaningful Thanksgiving celebrations.

Shlomo Cohen

Spotlight

The BZBI office will be **closed starting at 1:00 PM on Wednesday, November 22 through Friday, November 24**. Neziner Hebrew School will not take place on **Wednesday, November 22 and Saturday, November 25**. We wish everyone a very happy Thanksgiving.

BZBI families have committed to match your donations to our Annual Giving Campaign, up to \$30,000.

Please consider demonstrating your generosity to BZBI by donating (or pledging) to the Annual Giving Campaign. The funds go directly to support the synagogue's programming, overhead, and goals of the shul. Your pledge demonstrates your commitment to giving and to our BZBI community.



Not Tevia's Shtetl: The Story of our Ancestral Towns and What's Happening There Today

NEXT Wednesday, November 29 at 7:00 PM in the Klinghoffer Chapel

Jews around the world can trace their roots to small towns in Eastern Europe. Before they made the leap to a big *shtot* (city) they lived for centuries in *shtetls*. These places have become shrouded in myth and clouded by memories. Join us for an adventure into the stories of the towns where our ancestors fell in love, experienced frustration, and tried to get ahead. At the end we'll talk about what remains of these hallowed places and what's being done to preserve Jewish heritage in places where Jews are absent. We will welcome Dr. Zachary Mazur to BZBI for this lecture and Q & A session.

Registration is free and there is a suggested \$10 donation for security costs. [Click here to register!](#)



First Friday at BZBI is Back!

NEXT Friday, December 1 in the Kahaner Auditorium

Join us for the return of First Friday Shabbat dinner at BZBI! As we have done before, there will be an early dinner starting at 5:00 PM followed by **Kabbalat Shabbat services at 6:00 PM** and a late dinner following services at 7:15 PM. In celebration of Hanukkah, this First Friday dinner will feature chicken schnitzel, latkes and sufganiyot!

[Register now by clicking here!](#)

temple office. BZBI is committed to ensuring that everyone who wants to be a part of our programming can be.

Worship

Friday, November 24

4:21 PM Shabbat Candlelighting

Saturday, November 25

9:30 AM Shabbat Morning Services in the Goldberg Sanctuary

10:00 AM *Parashat HaShavua* is on break this week, class will continue next Shabbat

Parashat Va-yetzi

- Torah Readers: Rabbi Abi Weber, Rabbi Mort Levine, Oren Pollak, Leah Staub and Doug Barg
- Haftarah: David Miller
- Shabbat Learning: Shlomo Cohen

Flowers are sponsored by:

- **Arnold New & Shelley New** in memory of Marvin H. New
- **Shlomo & Doris Cohen** in honor of remembering the yahrzeit of Shlomo's mother, Chana Cohen

Our hearts, thoughts and prayers continue to be with our friends and family in Israel.

For updated information – [please visit the BZBI Israel page here.](#)

Members

We gratefully acknowledge this week's donations:

In Memory Of:

- **Joel Etra** by Matthew Closter & Julie Berger, Julie & Daniel Mozes, Michele & Adam Waxman and Ivy & Joshua Weingram
- **My beloved Aunt Esther Plumer** by Ruth Goldstein
- **Beatrice Klevan** by Hon. Shelley Robins New & Hon. Arnold New
- **Isadore Ruder** by Pearl Robins
- **Philip Robins** by Pearl Robins

In Honor Of:

- **Sharon Block** by Irv Block
- **Those who marched for Israel in Washington and those who were there in spirit** by the Trachtman & Friedan Family
- **The Schulz family: Randy, Amy, Meira and Eli** by Joyce & Mark Schulz

Yahrzeits November 24 – 30

Joseph Ashner | Jennie Axe | Samuel Axelrod | Nathan Berg | Morris Berger | Barney Berkowitz | Chana Cohen | Paul Divor | Max Feder | Delores Fink | Lena Gelb | Fannie Getter | David Globman | Cyrus Goldstein | Rebecca Green | Goldie Helfand | Myron J. Honigman | Arthur Kaplan | Matthew Kramer | Max Lefkovich | Kay Marks | Marvin H. New | Sarah Picker | Esther Plumer | Benjamin Schmerling | Albert Schwartz | Philip Shuchman | Sylvia Weiner



Thank you to all of those who supported the Latke and Candles Fundraiser this year!

Pick up dates and times are as follows:

- Saturday, December 2 at Kiddush
- Monday, December 4 at Preschool Pickup Times (1:00 PM and 3:00 PM)
- Tuesday, December 5 at Preschool Pickup Times (1:00 PM and 3:00 PM)
- Wednesday, December 6 at Preschool Pickup Times (1:00 PM, 3:00 PM and 5:30 PM) and at Neziner Pickup 6:00 PM

Every box will be labeled with the name provided for the order, please see a BZBI staff member for assistance in picking up your order.



HIAS PA Needs Warm Winter Coats for New Immigrants and Refugees

NOW through November 28

In response to this urgent call from HIAS PA, BZBI's

clients who are arriving in our community unprepared for a cold winter and we have the opportunity to wrap them in warmth! The coats donated may be new or gently used.

A good source for new coats is HIAS PA's Target Registry. To purchase a new winter coat, please visit the [seasonal Target registry](#) and look for "most wanted" items. Target will automatically ship to HIAS PA. "Gently used" coats are also welcome. They must be in good condition, dry-cleaned or washed, no stains or tears, with zippers and buttons intact. Please bring these items to the 18th Street lobby. We will celebrate the conclusion of our coat drive on "Giving Tuesday," November 28.

SERVE FOR 8 SAVE THE DATES & COLLECTIONS

BZBI builds community through acts of Tikkun Olam. Please see how you can help the larger community during Hanukkah! More information about Serve for 8 and Hanukkah programming at BZBI will be available soon.



MANNA Volunteering

Monday, December 4 from 5:00-8:00 PM, 420 North 20th Street, Philadelphia 19130
Volunteers will meet at the MANNA facility and work in the kitchen area. [Please e-mail Suzanne Dayanim](#) if you would like to be part of the BZBI crew. Teens are welcome if they are at least 14 years old. We are looking for 20+ volunteers for the shift. You can learn more about MANNA [here](#), let us know you plan to volunteer by filling out [this brief google form](#).

American Red Cross Blood Drive in Partnership with BZBI & the Tenth Presbyterian Church

Thursday, December 7 from 2:00 PM to 7:00 PM at Reception Hall, 1701 Delancey Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103

Join BZBI at Tenth Presbyterian Church to donate blood for the Red Cross. The blood drive will run from 2:00 PM to 7:00 PM. [Click here to visit the American Red Cross website](#), type in the red search box "BZBI" to register for your donation!

BZBI is looking for unwanted wrapping paper from past holidays or special occasions! Please drop off your unused or unwanted wrapping paper so we can use it to wrap clothing gifts for the Bethesda Project and Project Home. **Donation bins can be found in the Sanctuary.** If you would like to join us in wrapping gifts, please [fill out this form](#).

Baking for the Gift of Life House

Sunday, December 10 (drop off at BZBI from 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM)

Plan a bake with your friends or family for the Gift of Life House! Baked goods can be made at home or store bought, you can drop off your items at BZBI on December 10 from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM. Let us know what you are baking by [filling out this form](#).

Snacks and Toiletries Collection for Bethesda Project

Wednesday, December 13 from 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM

As part of Serve for 8 this year, we are collecting packaged snack food and toiletries for the Bethesda Project, a nonprofit organization that provides support for unhoused adults in Philadelphia. We hope to pack 50 bags to be donated this year! A collection box in the **18th Street lobby** will be set up for you to drop off the following items:

Packaged Food Items:

- Cheese crackers
- Granola bars
- Candy

Personal Items:

- Disposable Razors
- Wired ear phones (with a jack)
- Travel or sample size toiletries (shampoo, body wash & moisturizer)
- Deodorant
- New or gently used backpacks



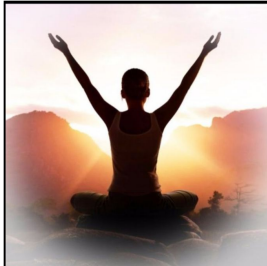
Sisterhood Updates

Are you interested in a trip to the Jewish Theological Seminary in NYC? If so, let the Sisterhood know by [filling out this form](#).

**Sisterhood membership for
2023-2024 is open.**

information on how to become a member.

Events



Shabbahkti Yoga with Deb Glassman

Shabbat, December 2 at 9:45 AM in the Kahaner Auditorium

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. Member cost is \$18 per person, and general community is \$25 per person.

To register for December, [click here](#).



Volunteer Shabbat

Shabbat, December 9 at 9:30 AM in the Goldberg Sanctuary

Join us in honoring all of the dedicated volunteers at BZBI. Kiddush will feature Hanukkah treats like sufganiyot! To become a Kiddush sponsor for this special Shabbat, **[click here](#)**.



Hanukkah Party & Quizzo

Monday, December 11 beginning at 6:30 PM

BZBI is hosting a Hanukkah celebration filled with fun on the 5th night of Hanukkah. Join us for latkes, sufganiyot and an evening of trivia. Bring your own festive drinks to share! Winners of our Hanukkah trivia will receive prizes!

Start creating your teams of up to eight people! A Hanukkah lighting will take place at 6:45 PM, so bring your Hanukkah and candles (if you do not have a

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