

Chailights

JANUARY 2015

Summer Camp in January?!

Summer always meant just one thing to me as a kid: Summer camp! I grew up going to the Union for Reform Judaism's Greene Family Camp in Bruceville, Texas and later worked as the Waterfront Director at Camp Henry S. Jacobs.

I don't remember whether or not my parents had to convince me to go the first year, but I do know that from my first week at camp I was hooked: New life-long friendships created and sealed within a month, new experiences explored, new talents discovered, new activities, new songs, new everything. What a wonderful summer!



Then came the second year, and the third year, and the fourth. . . . Beginning in September, I would count off the days until my return to camp. As each summer approached, both the excitement and the questions grew: Would it be as good as last summer? Would my friends be back? Would it be the same camp I had grown to love? Would there be new courses offered? New sports, new art projects, new songs, new cooks? Would Shabbat be the same?

Shabbat? Yes, every year, one of my favorite experiences was Shabbat. Even today, I survey students returning from Jewish summer camps about their favorite activities: "Was the highlight sports, art, ropes courses, bunk mates, meals . . . ?" Invariably the answer comes back: "Shabbat". As their Rabbi, I *kevell*.

Shabbat at camp is really like no other experience. Typically, the preparations begin soon after lunch on Friday. The camp is cleaned top to bottom. Campers are cleaned head to foot. As evening approaches, campers, counselors, and staff all gather by the cabins wearing their Shabbat whites as they begin walking together toward the dining hall, led by songleaders strumming their guitars in a medley of Shabbat songs. Everything is different that night: the food is special, siblings and friends mingle, song sessions are filled with both energy and warmth. And, then there are services under the stars. Whether the outdoor sanctuary is nestled in the woods or overlooks a lake or an ocean, a special *kavanah* (intention or spirit) spreads through the camp as a true sense of community is experienced. Singing and dancing go into the night and lights are shut out a bit later than normal.

On Friday, January 30, we're bringing a bit of summer camp to Beth Israel Congregation. Though we cannot replicate Lake Gary in our sanctuary, we'll bring the sounds and hopefully some of the feelings of a camp Shabbat to our congregation. If you would like to participate in leading the service or would like to help create the service, please contact me. And, if you consider yourself a camper (of any age), I hope that you will make it a priority to join us for this special Shabbat service at the end of the month.

If you are interested in sending your child or a grandchild to summer camp but are hesitant to do so for financial reasons, please contact one or all of the following for scholarships:

Jewish Federation of Jackson

Camp Henry S. Jacobs <http://jacobs.urjcamp.org/>

Foundation for Jewish Camp <http://www.jewishcamp.org/one-happy-camper>

Goldring Jewish Summer Camp Experience: <https://jefno.org/youth-camping/goldring-summer-camp/>

Happy 2015 and an early summer camp Shabbat Shalom!

Rabbi Ted Riter

From the President...



Howard T. Katz

I want to thank you for the honor of being President of Beth Israel Congregation. Yes, it can be challenging, but I get so much more out of this job than I put in. I learn constantly. I get to work with the best Board ever. I get to learn from and work with Rabbi Ted Riter and our committees. It has been a fun first year. Thank you!

On Rosh Hashanah I told you we are busy, excited and growing. I asked for your help, and I asked for you to increase your pledges. Thank you for your help.

Thanks to so many who help clean, oversee, provide music, teach, help with finances, participate in committees, participate in Sisterhood and Men's Club, help with pre-school, Jewish education or Hebrew, and much more. Thank you for your help.

Thank you for answering the financial call as well. As of December 14, 2014, 86 families had returned pledge cards, with an average increase of about 10% overall. Thank you!

We are busy, excited and growing. Our numbers are growing, but we do have some challenges. For 8 out of the last 9 years we have had a budget deficit. Our reserves are being depleted. Many of our higher contributing members have moved away, or worse, passed away. Despite this, our numbers are growing and our income is down a little. Unfortunately, day-to-day

expenses surpass our income. Our overhead runs about \$1800 per household per year. Not all can afford \$1800, but some can afford much more.

Approximately two thirds of our income comes from pledges.

There are a few ways to increase income:

1. OUR FUNDS—

THE FAULK FUND is well managed, and we plan to receive \$30,000 for the 2015 budget.

THE ENDOWMENT FUND The anticipated income is much less at \$12,000. We are working to improve the performance of this fund for future years.

THE GUS HERMAN HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL FUND is well managed, but that money is restricted in use. We plan to build an amazing Gus Herman Holocaust Memorial in the back. This money is all coming from the memorial fund, which is restricted and cannot be used for operating expenses.

2. Fundraisers —

Currently, we have not budgeted for a major fundraiser in 2015. Of course, we will have the Bazaar and the Film Festival. Additional fundraisers will be considered.

Your Board determined to have a balanced budget – to preserve and hopefully rebuild some reserves. To accomplish this we have had to make some tough choices. Kim, Peter and Mindy have spent dozens of hours working diligently to develop options to balance the budget. Your Board has prioritized, and we presented a **balanced budget** at our Annual Meeting on December 14.

We are busy, excited and growing! Our music program is delightful. Our Jewish education is strong. Our Holocaust memorial committee is innovative. Our Sisterhood is energized. Our preschool is doing well. Our finance committee is to be counted on. Our Temple is strong. We need your support, both financially and as volunteers. Please fill out your pledge cards, if you have not done so already. *Tzedakah* begins in the home. Your Beth Israel home is calling.

BETH ISRAEL OFFICE HOURS ARE CHANGING IN 2015

Beginning with the week of

January 5, 2015:

Mondays: CLOSED

Tuesdays: 10:00 a.m.-
5:00 p.m.

Wednesdays: 10:00 a.m.-
6:00 p.m.

Thursdays: 10:00a.m.-
5:00 p.m.

Fridays: 10:00a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Sisterhood Spotlight: A Message from the Sisterhood Presidents

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We hope everyone had a festive and happy holiday season. It was great to have family and friends back together to celebrate. It's 2015 and time to begin the New Year. Beth Israel Sisterhood is busy planning for the upcoming Sisterhood Shabbat, meetings and events, and let's not forget the **2015 Bazaar on March 25th!**

Sisterhood Shabbat is Friday, January 9, 2015.

Our guest speaker, Jennifer Daley from New Orleans, is young, dynamic and full of energy. We hope that you will attend and hear her speak. Don't forget to join us for a special Oneg following services.

SISTERHOOD CALENDAR

JANUARY 2015

January 7: Board Meeting

5:15 p.m.

January 9: Sisterhood Shabbat & Dinner

6:15 p.m.

January 14: General Meeting

6:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY 2015

February 8: Board Meeting (Bazaar planning)

8:30 a.m.

February 18: General Meeting

11:30 p.m.

February 22: Hamantashen Cooking/Meeting

10:00 a.m.

MARCH 2015

March 1: Board Meeting (Bazaar/2nd Seder)

8:30 AM

March 22: Bazaar Setup

9:00 AM

March 25: BAZAAR

APRIL 2015

April 4: 2nd Seder, 6:00 PM

BAZAAR!

Our Bazaar chairperson (JoAnn Gordon) and Silent Auction chairperson (Susan Fijman) need your help! If you have helped in the past, please join us again this year. If you have never been active in the Bazaar, but would like to get involved this year, please contact Jo Ann (jgordon@cantontourism.com) and let her know. Below is a list of our cooking and set up dates, and we need all hands on deck! Please take the time to contact the listed chairperson below if you can help. If you are at the temple on one of these dates, come on down to the kitchen and join in.

January 25: Brisket—Mark Fijman

February 1: Matzo Balls—Rebecca Laskin

February 8: Cabbage Rolls—Charna Schlakman

February 15: Kugel & Carrots—Betsy Samuels

& Beth Orlansky
March 22: Babaganoush—Lynda Balfour
March 22—SET UP FOR THE Bazaar—9:00 a.m.
March 25: BAZAAR DAY

JANUARY IS OUR SILENT AUCTION BLITZ MONTH!

That means we want **everyone** to bring in their Silent Auction items this month. We will be contacting each of our members to see how we can assist you in getting your items turned in this month.

Remember: when you make a contribution to the Silent Auction, you are benefiting Beth Israel Congregation!

Thanking you in advance for your generosity,
Silent Auction Team Captain
- Susan Fijman

Sit, Sip & Schmooze with Sisterhood

Wednesday, January 14, 2015

General Meeting — 6:30p.m. at Beth Israel

Come join Beth Israel Sisterhood as we hold the World Premier of:

"This Ain't Your Momma's Cruise!"

Nominated for 8 *Golden Menorahs*

Produced by Cheryl Katz

Starring some of your favorite Sisterhood Members

Sit and watch the movie as it chronicles the misadventures of the ten brave Sisterhood members who cruised to Mexico this past October. (*Note: Information will be released about this year's cruise.*)

Sip your choice of coffee, tea, & fun drinks with umbrellas & alcohol.

Schmooze as you learn how to play Mah Jong from our resident scholars.

— *A little Nosh will be served* —



Sisterhood Shabbat
January 9, 2015
6:15 p.m.

Oneg following services

Please RSVP to Cheryl Katz at wckatz601@aol.com
or Mindy Humphrey at consulthns@comcast.net

Jennifer is a member of the sisterhood of Gates of Prayer in Metairie, Louisiana, and currently serves on the Fundraising and Executive committees for her sisterhood.

For the past two years, Jennifer has been an Area Director for WRJ Southwest District. She has served as President, Vice President of Membership and Vice President of Fundraising for Congregation Beth Shalom Sisterhood of Arlington, Texas.



In 2011, Jennifer was named “Congregant of the Year” from Congregation Beth Shalom. She has attended the last two WRJ Assemblies as a delegate and spoke on “Innovative Programming” at the Assembly in Washington D.C. Along with her volunteer duties, Jennifer runs her own company JD Sports, providing preschool sports instruction to over 140 child care centers in the Dallas/Ft Worth Metroplex and New Orleans areas. Jennifer is married to Ken Daley, and they have two kids, Eileen (23) and Jake (9).



Join us as our son

JACKSON GREGORY HABER

יעקב אוריאל

IS CALLED TO THE TORAH
AS A BAR MITZVAH

Saturday, January 17, 2015
10:15 in the morning

Beth Israel Congregation
5315 Old Canton Road
Jackson, MS 39211

Give me understanding, so that I may keep your law
and obey it with all my heart. Direct me in the path
of your commands, for there I find delight.

PSALM 119: 34-35

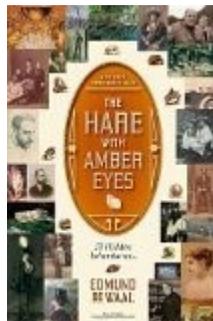
Kelly and Lawrence Haber

January Book Club

Our next Sisterhood Book Club meeting
will be held at the Temple on

Sunday, January 18 — 11:00 a.m.

January's selection is
The Hare with the Amber Eyes
by Edmund deWaal.
Please plan to join us.



“Edmund de Waal is a world-famous ceramicist. Having spent 30 years making beautiful pots, he has a particular sense of the secret lives of objects....”

“*The Hare with Amber Eyes* is an exquisite history of an Old World family, of the society in which they lived, and of their beloved objects. It's a tale of art and wealth, of survival and bittersweet memories of family heirlooms lost and found.”



Meals on Wheels Needs Your Help on Our Monday Delivery Routes

If you have an hour or two to spare one day a month, Sisterhood needs drivers to assist with delivery of the food. The recipients profoundly appreciate our work.
It is truly a mitzvah—one that is open to the entire congregation, not just Sisterhood members.

The routes are local Jackson areas (e.g., Fondren & Belhaven), and we've mapped them out to be easily manageable. We suggest two person teams working together on each route—a driver and an assistant.

To volunteer, please contact Charna Schlakman at
charna515@aol.com

Education Spotlight

BITY Buzz:

The NFTY-SO Winter Kallah

January 16-18
 Temple Israel in Memphis, TN
 Open to all 9th-12th Graders
 Register Today!
<http://www.nfty.org/so/events/winter/>
 Questions? Contact Abram and Hannah Orlansky
 at BITY@bethisraelms.org

Movie Night at Jewish Cinema Mississippi

Details To Be Announced

Tu B'Shevat Seder

February 6
 Following Shabbat Services

Tot Shabbat!

January 9, 2014
5:30 p.m.

Wintertime Hora:
A Shabbat Celebration
in Music and Dance

For BIC Members age 0-7
with Caregivers and Siblings

RSVP to debra@bethisraelms.org by January 7

IMPORTANT RELIGIOUS SCHOOL DATES

HEBREW SCHOOL RESUMES **JANUARY 7**

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL RESUMES **JANUARY 11**

Wish List

Want to show your appreciation for Beth Israel Religious School and all it does for the future of Jewish life in our community and beyond? Here's what's on our wish list:

- Paper napkins
- White paper plates for crafting
- Healthy snacks for Hebrew Hangout
- Kroger gift cards
- Volunteer office attendant during Sunday school and/or Hebrew school

Anything you can donate saves congregational resources for educational materials & special programs

Todah Meirosh . . . thanks in advance!

Registration for Jacobs Camp Summer 2015 Is Now OPEN!



jacobsonurjcamp.org/register

Beth Israel Religious School
is Now Accepting
Box Tops for Education



Clip your box tops and place them in the box
 outside the Beth Israel office
 or in the box on the table in the foyer.



January 21-22 and 24-25

Grandview Malco Theater in Madison, MS

Jewish Cinema Mississippi (JCM) is entering its 13th year and looking forward to another successful festival year.

JCM has become a well-established and anticipated cultural event in the greater Jackson area.

Our objective is to promote Israeli and Jewish themed films by presenting important subject matter that is relevant in today's society and to promote cultural diversity.

JCM 2015 Festival Passes

EARLY BIRD: Purchase before January 18, 2015

Student \$15 — Adult \$35

After January 18, 2015

Student \$20 — Adult \$40

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS:

Student \$5 — Adult \$10

For a complete 2015 film listing with specific dates and times, as well as film trailers and additional information about this year's films, please peruse their excellent & thorough website:

www.jewishcinemams.com

Enjoy a brief summary of this year's films:

Sukkot in Warsaw: In the district of Muranow, located at the site of the Warsaw Ghetto, the second generation Jews, the children of Holocaust survivors, celebrate Sukkot as they remember their parents who miraculously lived against all odds. At the Jewish youth organization Moishe House, college students speak about what it means to be Jewish in the 21st century Poland.

The Dove Flyer: This film, based on a book of the same name, is narrated by a teenage protagonist named Kabi, and depicts the final years of the Jewish community in Baghdad before its expulsion and resettlement in Israel in the 1950s. The film paints a portrait of a family living in a world full of contradictions and ambivalent relationships; it illustrates the complex existence of the Jewish community in Iraq, which had strong ties to the surrounding Muslim world and Arabic culture, yet simultaneously feared for its safety. It pays tribute to the nearly 130,000 Jews who fled Iraq, never to be the same again.

(continued on page 7)

January Birthdays

1/3	Drew Harris	1/11	Bernard Blumenthal
1/3	Greg Pollack	1/12	Jackalyn Schwartz
1/4	Joy Roffwarg	1/13	Shelley Crunk
1/5	Peter Sharp	1/14	Kathy Barham
1/6	Arty Finkelberg	1/16	Michael Balfour
1/6	Marshal Klaven	1/16	Kimberly Schneider
1/7	Eric Schipper	1/17	Caroline Metz
1/7	Sophie Sharp	1/19	Mikaela Phillips
1/8	Jackson Haber	1/22	Andrew Johnson
1/8	David Taub	1/22	Bob Lazarus
1/9	Francis Springer	1/23	Alachua Haskins
1/10	Carol Kossman	1/25	Jennifer Rosenberg

Anniversaries

1/3	Macy and Susan Hart
1/4	Michael Lehman and Lique Coolen
1/4	Peter and Tamar Sharp
1/17	Gary and Shirley Eriksen
1/17	Arty and Amy Finkelberg
1/18	Kenneth and Michele Schipper
1/19	Peter and Jarmila Zapletal
1/26	Robbie and Marcia Barron

**HAPPY 60TH
WEDDING ANNIVERSARY
ALLEN & HONORINE WEISS**

Under the Same Sun: The film is set in the near future, and it looks back at the story of two businessmen—one Palestinian and one Israeli—who struggle to set up a solar energy company. Both come from societies where there is strong opposition to cooperating with the other, and the film tells how they overcome hostility from within their own families and from the people around them. In the end, they mount a Facebook campaign that impacts both their joint venture and ultimately changes the political map.

A short documentary preview: Please join us on Saturday evening for a sneak preview of a brand new short documentary film created by a new local filmmaker about ISJL's most recent itinerant Rabbi, Marshal Klaven. This preview will be your only opportunity to view the film in Mississippi prior to its premier this year.

Hill Start (original title, *Zinuk BaAlia*): Israeli comedic-genius Shlomo Bar-Aba stars in this tragic-comic story of the bourgeois Geva family from Jerusalem. Following a car accident, the mother falls into a coma, leaving behind her a broken family—two kids, a husband and a daughter-in-law to be—all willing to do anything for her to wake up. All the while, tempers flare, passions run high, a wedding looms and... a driving test is required.

Broken Branches (original title, *Anafim Shvurim*): It was the eve of World War II. Michal Richter was 14 years old when she left Poland for a boarding school in Israel, expecting her family to join her. She never saw them again. A lifetime later, at the age of 92, Michal tells her story to her granddaughter, the film's director.

The Zigzag Kid (original title, *Nono het Zigzag Kind*): In this spirited and action-packed adventure young Nono, a nearly 13 year old dreamer, longs to be a detective like his father, the famous police inspector; but his wild nature constantly gets him into trouble.

Dear Congregational Family,

Our family has been overwhelmed with the outpouring of your love during this last year. There are no words of gratitude to express to each of you that have given and helped us in so many ways. We have received calls, visits, food and rides. Yard work, house maintenance, kosher grocery shopping and enormous emotional support. How can we ever thank you? Truthfully, we don't even know who some of the silent supporters have been. You know who you are, and we wish we could thank you personally.

Our journey is not over. Your prayers and love are still needed. I speak for the entire family when I say thank you from the bottom of our hearts. In appreciation, we have made a modest contribution to Beth Israel Congregation and promise to someday "pay it forward" to someone in the future that has a special need.

Sheila Rubin

BETH



ISRAEL
CONGREGATION

Non-Profit Org
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID

Permit #123
JACKSON, MS

Located at 5315 Old Canton Road
Jackson, MS 39211
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 13249
Jackson, MS 39236

Phone: 601-956-6215
Fax: 601-952-0895
E-mail: office@bethisraelms.org

bethisraelms.org

We Remember

Yahrzeits for January 2015

December 28-January 3

Joseph Rotwein*
Ann S. Cohen*
Simon Rubinsky
Helen Praver
Samuel Steeg
Daniel Aven Hendrix
Adolph J. Orkin III
Morris Danzinger
Kitty Steckel
Fradie Bear
Cecil Julia Cohen
Arnold Draft
Izzy Stone
William Rofes
Jacobo Jose Fijman
Rose Kirby
Leo Phillip Gradinger*
Julius E. Hatry*
Anna Kuerschner
Greer Beth Pollack*
Pauline Samuels

January 4-January 10

Adolph Joseph Orkin, Sr.*
Toby Grossman
Bertha Helen Geiger*
Max Turteltaub
Rosa Wolff Schwartz*
Edward Byous
Moody Grishman*
Pearl Hesdorffer*
Shirley Klateman*
Morris Priesbatsch*
Joseph Sawyer
Dorene Norma Bowley
Francis Berman*
Beatrice Binder
Julian Wiener*
Lena Schwartz*

January 11-January 17

Sadie Jacobs
Phillip Patton
Lester Laskey

Estelle Pollack
Ada Berman Daniel
Leah Grossman Kantor
Sally Spiegel
Ida Stein
Anne Garshman Goldberg*
Ann Plotkin*
Maurice Luxenberg
Dora S. Orlansky
Hassiba Ifrah Elfassy
Ephram Cohen
Tom Underwood
Marshall Nirenberg
Heyena Gorelik
Sol A. Lind
Cecille Shornick*
Bernard Stein
Raymond Docter
Odessa Goldstein*

January 18-January 24

Marilyn Leona Sherwood

Shepherd Tucker
Norman Muskin*
Rhea C. Shindell*
Anita Kaminsky
Abe Ronas
Lottie Brady
Florine Abrams
Erna Ascher*
Harold McRae Loeb*
Ethel Neveleff*
Mae Freedman*
Shirley Goodman

January 25-January 31

Thelma Mitchell*
Joel Mykoff
Alfred Sternberg*
Abby Hesdorffer*
Miriam Moran*
Adolph H. Schwartz*
Eva Marmel