

JUNE 2016



Rabbi Stephen Wylen

## FAITH

What does it mean to have faith?

In American English, to say “I believe” usually means to affirm that the statement “God exists” is a true statement.

I have trouble with this understanding of faith.

First of all, the mere existence of God makes very little difference in our life. It might be comforting to know that there is a God, but it doesn't change things much.

Secondly, we have no way to confirm whether we really believe what we are saying. I have met people who claim that they do not believe in God, but when they talk to me about their life and when I observe their behavior I come to the conclusion that they do believe in God, regardless of their denial. Sad to say, I have also known people who claim to believe in God whose actions seem to belie that affirmation.

Biblical law has a greater punishment for the burglar by night than for the burglar by day. There is an obvious practical rationale for this distinction, which is that the burglar by day does not expect to run into anyone in the home, while the burglar at night is prepared to do violence if the residents of the home wake up and find him there. But there is another explanation, which is that the burglar by day has no respect for God or humankind, while the burglar by night fears being seen by people but has no fear of being seen by God. In other words, the true mark of faith is how one behaves when we think no one is watching. Are you concerned that God sees?

The greatest difficulty with affirming God's existence is that God's justice is not apparent in the world as we experience it. Good people may die young. Wrongdoers prosper and take advantage of those who are trusting and good. How can one say that one believes in God in the face of such injustice?

The Jewish scholar Louis Jacobs defines “emunah” - faith - as the belief that despite the many injustices of the world, a life of integrity and obedience to God's law is ultimately rewarded in its own way. The fool believes that everything is happening as it should. The wise person of faith believes that you will never go wrong doing what is right, regardless of the outcome in real life experience. True faith is expressed as integrity.

I do not really know how to say “goodbye” after my year as your interim rabbi in Jackson. I feel so honored that you have called me your rabbi. I feel good knowing that I am leaving you in the capable hands of Rabbi Jeffrey Kurtz-Lendner. I cannot truly say goodbye because I know that a piece of my heart will always be here, and with God's help I will return to visit. I think my final word in this bulletin should be to thank those many people in Beth Israel Congregation who serve God, the Jewish people, and the community with integrity. Bless you!

## From the President...



June is here! Many of our Beth Israel children are out of school and getting ready to spend an enriching session or summer at URJ Jacobs Camp. As someone who spent every eligible summer there as a camper and staff member, I know how important camp is to continuing the Jewish education that takes place during the school year and helping foster the relationships with Jewish kids from around the South. I hope all children attending (and their parents staying home) have a wonderful summer!

I look forward to seeing you Sunday, June 5 at 4:30 p.m., for the semi-annual congregational meeting. In addition to sharing updates on programs/activities, we will be making plans for the future as we welcome Rabbi Kurtz-Lendner on July 1.

And with welcoming our new rabbi, it is a bittersweet moment as we say farewell to Rabbi Stephen Wylen. It seems such a short time ago when he came to lead us in High Holiday worship and then became our part-time rabbi during this transitional year. He has left his mark on Beth Israel, and we are grateful for his leadership and his friendship. We will celebrate and honor Rabbi Wylen with a special oneg after Shabbat services on Friday night, June 24. We hope all will attend to wish him well and say l'hitraot, until we meet again.

Michele Schipper  
President

### *Confirmation Service*

*and Erev Shavuot*

*Saturday, June 11, 2016*

*7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary*

*Festive Celebration to follow*

*T.J. Grossman*

*Hannah Guimbellot*

*Tovah Rubinsky*

*Please help our students and their families celebrate as they confirm their commitment to Torah and Jewish life on the sacred occasion of Shavuot, our festival of First Fruits and of the Giving of Torah.*

#### **REMINDER**

**Article Deadline for the following:**

#### **CHALIGHTS**

10<sup>TH</sup> OF EVERY MONTH

#### **FRIDAY NIGHT LEAFLET**

1:30 P.M. Wednesday

#### **BETH ISRAEL OFFICE HOURS**

Monday: **CLOSED**

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

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

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

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

Closed for lunch: 12:30-1:30 p.m.

# Sisterhood Spotlight: A Message from the Sisterhood Co-Presidents

**Shalom!** We are so thrilled and honored to become the next Co-Presidents for Beth Israel's Sisterhood! What an amazing organization and group of women supporting our congregation in incredible ways. We look forward to seeing you at future events.

Co-Presidents Elect: Frankie Springer and Suzanne Freedman  
 1st Vice President: Esther Roberts  
 2nd Vice President: Susan Snyder  
 Treasurer: Raizy Grossman  
 Corresponding Secretary: Jan Docter  
 Recording Secretary: Elizabeth McGregor  
 Advisors: Tammy Rubinsky  
 Rebecca Laskin  
 Parliamentarians: Mindy Humphrey and Cheryl Katz

Please be sure to look for upcoming events in the Chailights, including our Membership Tea (date in August to be confirmed soon). We are enthusiastically planning our schedule of wonderful events for the year.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at:

Frankie Springer: [fmspringer5@gmail.com](mailto:fmspringer5@gmail.com)      Suzanne Freedman: [suzfreedman@aol.com](mailto:suzfreedman@aol.com)  
 Cell: 601-383-1209      Cell: 601-454-2148

The Sisterhood Mother's Day Tribute Fundraiser last month was a wonderfully way for Temple members to honor a very special woman. Donations were made in honor or in memory of these great ladies.



	IN HONOR	IN MEMORY	FROM
	Ms. Phyllis Levin		Beth and Steve Orlansky
	Ms. Shirley Orlansky		Beth and Steve Orlansky
	Ms. Hannah Orlansky		Beth and Steve Orlansky
	Ms. Dana Larkin		Jonathan Larkin
		Ms. Lona Freedman	Dana and Jonathan Larkin
	Ms. Bette Shornick		Tyler Daniel
	Ms. Billie Karno		Honorine and Allen Weiss
	Ms. Gilda Hesdorffer		Mindy Humphrey
	Ms. Joan Geiger		Mindy Humphrey
		Ms. Pearl Davison	Janice and Buddy Blumenthal
		Ms. Deborah Blumenthal	Janice and Buddy Blumenthal
		Ms. Victoria Finkelberg	Amy and Arty Finkelberg
	Ms. Sheila Rubin		John, Ashley, Abby, Becci and Jacob
	Ms. Betty Crystal		Devon, Remi and Max Erlich; Jordan and Alec Haber
	Ms. Honorine Weiss		Bert, Tammy, Jessica, Ashley and Tovah Rubinsky
	Ms. Reva Hart		Susan and Macy Hart, Jo Ann and Bill Gordon, Ellen Hart
	Ms. Phyllis Stern		Susan Hart

# BETH ISRAEL SISTERHOOD

## Carnival Triumph

Ship's Registry: The Bahamas

### 4 DAY WESTERN CARIBBEAN CRUISE

September 22-26, 2016

- \$ 406 inside stateroom
  - \$ 436 ocean view stateroom
  - \$ 526 balcony stateroom  
(new option this year)
- Suite prices available on request

Prices are per person, based on double occupancy  
Includes: port charges, taxes, meals, room service & entertainment  
Triple occupancy rates available upon request

Deposit: \$ 150 due May 19, 2016  
Final payment: due July 15, 2016

#### Cancellation penalties / dates:

July 16, 2016:	\$150
August 2, 2016:	50%
August 18, 2016:	75%
September 2, 2016:	100%

Trip cancellation is additional  
and highly recommended  
Prices vary- usually between  
\$49-69 per person

For more information contact:

Esther Roberts 901-230-8963 travelwithesther@yahoo.com



### HELP WELCOME OUR NEW RABBI

Beth Israel is planning parlor meetings in congregants' homes this summer to welcome Rabbi Jeffrey Kurtz-Lendner to our community. You will be receiving an invitation for an informal meet and greet soon. If you have not received a phone call or email invitation by June 15th, please contact Dana Larkin (601-291-7335) or Debra Jacobs (601-573-6198).

Thank you for being a part of welcoming Rabbi Kurtz-Lendner.



### Special Thanks to the Beth Israel Rabbi Search Committee

As Beth Israel prepares to welcome Rabbi Jeffrey Kurtz-Lendner and his family into the Beth Israel community, I would like to extend heartfelt thanks to all of the members of the Beth Israel Rabbi Search Committee for their dedication and hard work over the past two years.

In selecting the members of the Search Committee, we sought to include as many slices of Beth Israel's demographic pie as possible, and the result was a group of outstanding people, all with different perspectives, but all sharing the same commitment to Beth Israel. It was a pleasure and an honor to work with everyone on the Committee: (1) Shawn Alexander, (2) James Bowley, (3) Lynn Crystal, (4) Amy Finkelberg, (5) Alice Friedman, (6) Lawrence Haber, (7) Erik Hearon, (8) Dana Larkin, (9) Hannah Orlansky, (10) Greg Pollack, (11) Ben Russell, (12) Michele Schipper, and (13) Honorine Weiss.

I also would like to express my appreciation to Peter and Tamar Sharp for epitomizing Southern hospitality and hosting all of our visiting Rabbi candidates, and to travel maven Esther Roberts. The Search Committee appreciates all the support it received from the Beth Israel Board, the Sisterhood, the Past Presidents, Kim Graham, Rita Hobgood, Rabbi Debra Kassoff and all the Beth Israel members who met with the visiting Rabbi candidates and who attended our "Meet and Greets" and Torah studies. Thank you to Howard Katz for beginning the process of finding a new permanent Rabbi. Thank you to Rabbi Ted Riter and Rabbi Stephen Wylen for their spiritual guidance and friendship to this community. Special thanks to Susan Fijman for all her loving help and encouragement over the past two years.

In actuality, **everyone** at Beth Israel was a member of the Search Committee, and I would like to thank every Temple member for their patience, encouragement and involvement during the entire process.

Mark Fijman  
Beth Israel Rabbi Search Committee (Ret.)

# Education Spotlight

## A MESSAGE FROM RABBI KASSOFF

Rabbi Hanina bar Papa said: Anyone who enjoys anything from this world without a blessing, it is as if they have stolen from God and the community of Israel.

--BT Brakhot 35b

This has been a good year. I spent my first year in this position mostly learning what we've done before and considering what we must do now; this second year I've had the opportunity to do, and to enjoy.

I have enjoyed so much:

- the support and generosity of our religious school parents, not least in the gift of your children—their time, your trust;
- the creativity and dedication of a wonderful faculty;
- the enthusiasm and brilliance of our Bagel Bunch chairs, Stefanie and Allen Salvage;
- the youthful energy and talents of a terrific team of madrikhim, our teenagers whom we hope one day will fill our shoes as parents, leaders, teachers in Israel;
- the perspective and guidance of my co-workers on staff, of my local rabbinic colleagues, of our lay leaders;
- the bagels Mark Fijman brought us each week, courtesy of the Men's Club.
- Most of all, I've enjoyed our students. Playful, challenging, earnest, curious, struggling with their Jewishness or embracing it with uncomplicated joy, happy to be here or not. I've enjoyed and learned much from our students.

As Hanina bar Papa used to say, I have much to bless, much for which to feel grateful.

In addition, I particularly wish to thank two who rarely receive the recognition they deserve. Beth Israel Temple Youth (BITY) has benefited the last two years from the experience and guidance of Abram and Hannah Orlansky. Abram once served as Jacobs Camp Assistant Director, and Hannah preceded my predecessor as religious educator and youth director. It has been a joy to watch what BITY could become and accomplish with the help of these pros. I am sorry to see them move on from their advisory role with BITY, but they have laid a strong foundation for their successors. I am delighted for this opportunity to celebrate, bless, and thank them for their gifts.

For all of you, every soul who has in any way contributed to the learning and growth of our children this year, I ask the One who blessed our ancestors—Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, Jacob, Rachel, and Leah—to bless the gifts of your hands, heart, pockets, wisdom, innocence, experience, time, energy, questions, solutions, friendship, and trust. May your gifts grow

as you give them; may the fruits of your labors bring you tenfold the blessing and honor you have given me.

### *Thank you*

to our teachers and madrikhim, and to all the parents, congregants, and students (too many to name) who contributed in other ways. You make our Religious School shine!

#### Teachers:

Leah Apothaker  
Rivka Cohen  
Chloe Edwards-Stowe  
Suzanne Freedman  
Gino Giammarco  
Dave Miller  
Bill Morris  
Shira Moskowitz  
Bette Shornick

#### Madrikhim:

David Crystal  
TJ Grossman  
Benjamin Hearon  
Lily Katz  
Tovah Rubinsky  
Eric Schipper  
Richard Smith  
Jonathan Springer

What better way to kick off the summer than by registering for another year of religious school?

Watch your mailbox (electronic and otherwise) for details!!!!

Beth Israel Preschool will host 9 weeks of camps this summer! Please reserve your spots today as the camps tend to fill up quickly. All camps are from 8:30-11:30 a.m.



June 6-10: iheart art  
June 13-17: Soccer Shots  
June 20-24: ComputerTots Summer Olympics Rio Style  
June 27-July 1: SkyHawks Sports includes flag football, soccer and basketball  
July 5-8: Busy B's Cooking Camp (no camp on Monday, July 4)  
July 11-15: i heart art  
July 18-22: ComputerTots- Dinomite Dino Days  
July 25-28: Bricks for Kidz  
August 1-5: Leaps and Bounds Dance

Contact Susan Rockoff, Preschool Director for more information at 601-956-6216 or [director@bethisraelpreschool.com](mailto:director@bethisraelpreschool.com)

**Semi-Annual Meeting**  
**Sunday, June 5, 2016**  
**4:30 p.m.**

Rabbi Stephen Wylen's schedule for June:

**June 10-June 25, 2016**


Please feel free to contact him at:  
[smwylen@gmail.com](mailto:smwylen@gmail.com) or mobile at 973-768-3942

Beth Israel is planning parlor meetings in congregants' homes this summer to welcome Rabbi Jeffrey Kurtz-Lendner to our community.

You will be receiving an invitation for an informal meet and greet soon. If you have not received a phone call or email invitation by June 15<sup>th</sup>, please contact Dana Larkin (601-291-7335) or Debra Jacobs (601-573-6198).

Thank you for being a part of welcoming Rabbi Kurtz-Lendner.

If you are hosting an event at Beth Israel, please submit all requests, set-ups or special instructions on the Room Set-Up Form.

**REMINDER** 

You can get the form by stopping by the Temple Office or you can go to our website at [www.bethisraelms.org](http://www.bethisraelms.org). We must have at least a **4 week notice** for all set-ups.

If you have any questions, call or text Gilbert Sollek at 601-317-5506.

**STEW POT LUNCH SCHEDULE**  
**2016**

June 6-9  
 October 31-November 3

We're supposed to have 5 people per day Monday–Thursday during our weeks. Please come when reminded and encourage others to join you—men and women are welcome.

As usual, a reminder of the schedule will be sent the week before.

Contact Beth Orlansky at:  
[bethorlansky@gmail.com](mailto:bethorlansky@gmail.com)



**STEW POT PANTRY SCHEDULE 2016**

June 27-July 1  
 September 5-9  
 December 12-16

We must have 2 people per day Monday-Friday of our weeks. Please come when reminded and encourage others to join you--men and women are welcome.

As usual, a reminder of the schedule will be sent the week before.

Contact Beth Orlansky at:  
[bethorlansky@gmail.com](mailto:bethorlansky@gmail.com)

**Please join Rabbi Stephen Wylen in the Beth Israel Library for the next interesting and enlightening learnings on:**

**JUDAISM'S GREAT DEBATES**

**Tuesday, June 14th at 7:00 p.m.**

**WE APPRECIATE THE THOUGHTFULNESS OF THOSE WHO SUPPORT BETH ISRAEL  
BY REMEMBERING AND HONORING THEIR FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES THROUGH THEIR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS**

*Donations may be applied to the following funds, per your request:*

GENERAL FUND	MEMBERSHIP & ENGAGEMENT	CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND	TIKKUN OLAM FUND
ENDOWMENT FUND	ONEG FUND	LIBRARY/PRAYER BOOK FUND	WEBSITE FUND
RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND	SATURDAY MORNING FUND	MUSIC FUND	CEMETERY FUND
CARING FUND (SISTERHOOD)	ART FUND	PROGRAM FUND	JEWISH CINEMA MISSISSIPPI
BITY		RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	

<p><b>BITY</b>  <i>In Appreciation of Rabbi Kassoff for Teacher Appreciation Oneg</i>          —The Haber Family  <i>In Memory of Lynn Ucci—Tovah, Tammy and Bert Rubinsky</i>  <i>In Memory of Robyn Goodman—Tovah, Tammy and Bert Rubinsky</i>  <i>Get Well Wishes to Mary Ann Lazar—Tovah, Tammy and Bert Rubinsky</i>  <i>In Appreciation of Rabbi Wylen—Tovah, Tammy and Bert Rubinsky</i></p> <p><b>CEMETERY FUND</b>  <i>In Memory of Sydney Geiger, Sr.</i> —Mindy and Clay Humphrey  <i>In Memory of Sydney Geiger</i>—Mindy and Clay Humphrey  <i>In Memory of Jerry Crystal</i>—Lynn Crystal  <i>In Memory of Meyer Crystal</i>—Lynn Crystal  <i>In Memory of David Harris</i>—Joe Harris          Jackson Jewish Federation</p>	<p><b>GENERAL FUND</b>  <i>In Memory of Robyn Goodman</i>—Mindy and Clay Humphrey  <i>In Memory of Lynn Ucci</i>—Mindy and Clay Humphrey  <i>In Celebration of the Marriage of Raizy Grossman and Justin Gould</i>          —The Haber Family</p> <p><b>PROGRAM FUND</b>          Jackson Jewish Federation</p> <p><b>RELIGIOUS SCHOOL</b>          Jackson Jewish Federation</p> <p><b>JEWISH CINEMA MISSISSIPPI</b>          Jackson Jewish Federation</p> <p><b>BETH ISRAEL PRESCHOOL WALL OF GIVING</b>          Lynn Crystal          The Haber Family</p>
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<p><b><u>JUNE BIRTHDAYS</u></b></p> <p>4 Robert Briggs          6 Mark Johnson          6 Gino Giammarco          6 Aaron Trubman          6 Art Salomon          8 Malcolm Barham          8 Erica Abeles          9 Elizabeth Springer          9 Howard Roffwarg          10 Casey Smith          10 Joan Amman          10 Kelly Haber          15 Caroline Norris          15 Jim Goodman          16 Roger Rosenfield          21 Sarah Printz          21 Lynne Rosenfield          21 Sarah Printz          22 Michael Jacobs          22 Ian Paul          23 Jo Ann Gordon          24 Lindsey Topp</p>	<p><b><u>JUNE ANNIVERSARIES</u></b></p> <p>7 Mark and Helene Johnson          10 Steve and Bernice Silberman          11 Robert and Carey Emmich          12 Ian and Julie Paul          12 Gavin and Rachel Brannan          13 James and Suzanne Freedman          15 Ralph Daniel, III and Melissa Daniel          16 Matthew Drefffen and Erica Weil          17 Philip and Kay Pollack          18 Clifton and Jennifer Tucker          19 Joshua and Judy Wiener          20 Bob and Gail Dellar          21 Howard and Cheryl Katz          21 Marcelo and Cookie Ruvinsky          22 Erik Hearon and Marla Harbor          24 Clay and Deborah Crystal          25 Eric Phillips and Mindi Hellschein-Phillips          26 Shawn and Ellen Alexander          29 George and Sherrie Glass          30 Donald and Anne Sawyer</p>
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## *We Remember — Yahrzeits for JUNE 2016*

### **June 1-June 4**

Florence P. Stiebel  
Mae Robbins  
Friedel Nash  
Marlene Kahal  
Ike Grundfest  
\*D .H. Orkin  
Harry Ades  
Charles Hendrix  
Harry Praver  
Barbara Sandler

### **June 5-June 11**

\*Alan Fields  
Michael Lasky  
Samuel Roffwarg  
Edith Stone  
Jack Avins  
Florence Wiener  
\*Raymond Oppenheim  
Birgitte Hoffberg  
Sarah Beckerman  
\*Bernard Weiss

Herbert Grief  
Judith Rivlin  
Joe Goldstein  
Ruth Schwartz  
\*David Gordon  
Mitchell Pollack  
Michael LeBlanc  
Minnie Wolff  
Goldie Kweller  
\*Myer A. Segal  
Peter Ziman  
William Rosenblatt  
\*Ida Muskin  
\*Julia Hart  
Leo Sonnabend  
Hillel Sloan  
Paul Silberman

### **June 12-June 18**

\*T. Orkin  
\*Isaac Simon Ascher  
Gertrude Schwartz  
Elsie Neveleff Mesirov

Charles Miller  
\*Bernard Finkelberg  
Margaret Laboda  
Nathaniel Bloom  
Morris Neveleff  
Bill Krock  
Sandra Zalowitz  
Steve Braver  
Mayer Robbins  
Homer Benson  
\*Jennie Carp  
Rhea Hubal  
Irving Rosen  
Elizabeth Taffet  
Earl Solomon

### **June 19-June 25**

James Gibb  
Esther Draft  
Minnie Hart Dreyfus  
Helen Lasky  
Bob Emmich  
Ella Goodman

Robert Gamzon  
Rosalie Rotwein  
Bessie Balkin  
George Bloom

### **June 26-July 2**

Anita Mittleman  
Lena Kahn  
Isadore Beckerman  
\*Walter Berman  
Shirley Kreisman  
Sumner Levine  
Joseph Elfassy  
\*Edwin Ascher  
Gussie Roffwarg  
Davera Goldstein  
Carla Willenzik  
Stuart Altshool  
Celia Rozman  
Carl Rost

\*Memorial Alcove