Here’s the Ticket!

KI’s 2nd Annual Movie Night and Pre-Oscar Party
Sunday, February 22, 2015 at 3:30 p.m.
13 and over $20
12 and under $10
3 and under FREE

Movies for all ages,
Sweet Lucy’s BBQ, raffles, Oscar pool,
candy buffet and a Golden Ticket prize!

Wednesday, March 4
featuring students from Quest Noar
6:30 p.m. Brown Bag Dinner
7:00 p.m. Megillah Reading
7:30 p.m. Schmaltz - A Purim Musical

CELEBRATE PURIM

IS THE WORD!
“Aces Are Chai At KI”
Eat, Drink and Be Lucky!

Please join us for a grand evening of excitement and place your bet on KI!

Saturday, April 25, 2015 - 7:00PM
Blackjack, Roulette, Poker, Craps, Money Wheel, Mini-Poker Tournaments

Open bar, Hors d’oeuvres, Dinner Stations, Music, Silent Auction and Raffles!

Renew Your Vows in KI’s “Wedding Chapel of Love”

Festive Casual Attire
Feeling Lucky?

RSVP by April 6, 2015

Music, Mind, & Meditations

Shabbat Service
February 20, 7pm

Kehillah Purim Carnival
Sunday, March 8
11:15 a.m. - Preschool Entry Time
12:00 p.m. - General Admission

The Union for Reform Judaism - Where Is It Going?

Recently I was asked to become a member of the North American Board of the Union of Reform Judaism (URJ), and attended their bi-yearly conference in San Antonio, Texas in December. It is was inspiring to see so many committed Reform Jews from all over North America, from large and small congregations. The Union, the national presence for the Reform movement, is facing many of the same problems that congregations are facing, only on a larger scale.

As membership at many synagogues is decreasing, so is the revenue paid to the Union to conduct its operations. Most disturbing is that many congregations are questioning why they should be involved in the national Union at all, especially when they are not getting what they consider value for their financial support. This issue has been discussed extensively at KI in recent years as well.

I came away from the conference believing that supporting the Union is crucial to our movement. Reform Judaism represents the largest percentage of the North American Jewish world, and it is inconceivable that we should not have a strong organization that expresses our beliefs on worship, community and social action on a national level.

The Union has placed a tremendous emphasis on its camping program, which takes up 70% of its budget. There are 17 URJ-supported camps throughout North America, and our local camp, Harlem, has its largest congregational representation from KI. I feel that if you want your children or grandchildren to develop a Jewish identity, there is no better way than to have them go to a Jewish summer camp, where they develop lifetime friends and live a Jewish calendar for about two months a year. Our youth are our future, and I think the Union gets that loud and clear.

The Union runs our rabbinical and cantorial seminaries, and provides our rabbis and cantors, all of whom are well trained and eager to serve our communities. The scholarship provided by the Hebrew Union College is world class, and in the long-term tradition of Judaism as a changing, vibrant culture and belief system. Again, it is hard to believe that there would be a viable Reform Judaism without the Hebrew Union College to provide our spiritual, intellectual, and ethical leadership.

Finally, the Union “talks the talk and walks the walk” concerning Tikkun Olam and Social Action. The Religious Action Committee, a part of URJ, in Washington DC, has been a mover for creating social justice and religious freedom in both the United States and abroad. I learned that some of the language for the civil and voting rights legislation of the 1960’s was created in the offices of the RAC. Its charismatic leader, Rabbi David Saperstein, is internationally known and respected. After 40 years he is leaving the Union because he was nominated by President Obama and confirmed by the Senate as the U.S. State Department’s Ambassador-at-Large for international religious freedom. He is the first Jewish person to serve in this role.

So there is lot more to the Union for Reform Judaism than asking for dues from the congregations. The Union is working very hard to change its financial structure to meet its new reality. It deserves the support of one of the oldest and strongest Reform congregations in America, Keneseth Israel.

Shabbat Shira to Honor Miriam Finkel February 27

With her boundless charisma and charm, Shira Star Miriam Finkel is a driving force behind many of our fundraising efforts at KI. Please join us as we honor Miriam on Friday, February 27, 2015 at 8:00 p.m.

Miriam and her family have been members at KI for nearly 60 years. Miriam served as president of KI from 1989 to 1991 and was instrumental in the Antiques Fair, the Outreach Food Festival, Jewish Food Festival, Cantor Levy’s and Rabbi Sussman’s Anniversary Celebrations, the 21st Century Fund, Shelanu, and the Torah Project. Most recently, Miriam was dedicated to the creation of the King David Harp Society, and the acquisition and research of the 1850’s Fischer Cup silver goblet.

Through a donation to the King David Harp Society of only $36 a year per family, congregants can help sustain the legacy of Jewish music in its beautiful artistry at KI. Miriam has worked closely with the Mayer family to raise awareness and funds in our community, and has helped demonstrate the power of Jewish music, and the importance of keeping our program thriving.

At this Shabbat, we will honor Miriam Finkel - we are deeply appreciative of all of her efforts throughout her many years of leadership, along with her family’s consistently generous support of KI.

This evening, Shir KI will be singing all of Miriam’s favorite Shabbat songs, which mark KI’s history of great Jewish music, including Shalom Rav, by Ben Steinberg.

Hazzan David Tilman will also speak about the Landau Stained Glass Windows, and how their stories will weave through the music at our March 29, 2015 King David Harp Society Concert, Hear the Songs, See the Light! A Musical Celebration of the Landau Stained Glass Windows.

To celebrate this award and all of Miriam’s many achievements, please consider making a donation to the King David Harp Society.
**Rabbi’s Message**

**KI’s Top 10 List for 2014!**

We are blessed to have shared so many wonderful moments and events together in 2014. All of us in the clergy office are looking forward to creating even more memories together in 2015! One highlight on this list represents each of our seven core values, then ends with a final top three peak moments of the year.

**Kehillah/Community** – By the High Holy Days, our membership surpassed 1,000 households. The Caring Community and Guess Who’s Coming to Shabbas dinner programs continue to create personal relationships in our growing congregation.

**Reform Judaism** – Our annual four-day Confirmation Class trip to the L’taken Conference in Washington, DC run by the Religious Action Center.

**Tefillah/Prayer** - Sabbath for the Soul Services led by our members Ross M. Levy, Adam Guth, Craig Reinheimer, and Mark Adler.

**Tikkun Olam/Repairing the World** – Our annual December 25th Mitzvah Day benefiting homebound elderly neighbors and homeless families and providing thank you gifts to first-responders. This year both our Mitzvah Menorah and our Mitzvah Day were Bat Mitzvah projects. A special thank you goes out to Daria Lapidus and Rachel Eisenman and their families!

**Hiddur Mitzvah/Arts and Culture** – The Gary Graffman Concert and all the Temple Judea Museum exhibits.

**Limmud/Sacred Learning** – This year we had more than 100 Adult Education Programs including the Maimonides Café, Rabbi Sussman’s forums, Torah Study Havurah, and our new Community Nights.

**Ahavat Yisrael/Love of Israel** – KI strongly supported Israel during the conflict with Gaza this past summer.

**And our top 3 highlights from 2014 . . .**

3. The year-long celebration of the 40th Anniversary of our beautiful Jacob Landau windows in the Sanctuary and the High Holy Day theme of exploring the Prophetic Quest.


1. The Kehillah of Old York Road Hanukkah concert: “Hanukkah Illuminated, Can You Handel It?” Together, Cantor Amy Levy and Hazan David Tilman and our organist, Andrew Senn, along with 100 voices + 1000 audience members = one incredibly memorable and inspiring performance!

As you can see, we had a great year in 2014. We could not have accomplished all of these wonderful programs and services without our dedicated corps of volunteers. THANK YOU to the Women of KI, KI’s Brotherhood, KIFTY, our choirs, our leadership, our staff, and each and every member of our congregation for their contributions in 2014. I know that this new year we will continue to build on our past successes and continue to be a warm, vibrant, and inclusive congregation.

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**February 2015 Worship Schedule**

**Wednesday, February 4**

Tu BiShvat

**Friday, February 6**

Shabbat Yitro – Exodus 18:1

8:00 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service

**Saturday, February 7**

9:00 a.m. Torah Study
10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service

**Friday, February 13**

Shabbat Mishpatim/Shekalim – Exodus 21:1

8:00 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service

**Saturday, February 14**

9:00 a.m. Torah Study
10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service

**Friday, February 20**

Shabbat Terumah – Exodus 25:1

5:45 p.m. Tot Shabbat
7:00 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service – Music, Mind & Meditations

**Saturday, February 21**

9:00 a.m. Torah Study
10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service

**Friday, February 27**

Shabbat Tetzaveh/Zachor – Exodus 27:20

5:30 p.m. Blue Bell
Tot Shabbat
6:00 p.m. Blue Bell

**Saturday, February 28**

9:00 a.m. Torah Study
10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service
Bat Mitzvah of Maia J. Arbel
5:30 p.m. 4th Grade Havdalah Service

**Family Service**

8:00 p.m. EP Shabbat Shira

**Our Main Sanctuary is looped for those who have T-Coil-Enabled Hearing aids or cochlear implant processors. Additionally, the FM system is also available.**
KINGO, KI’s Annual Movie Night & Pre-Oscar Party, Other Family Fun Events...& YOU - Make All the Difference

Much has been written in the press recently about the high cost of synagogue affiliation. There is no doubt about the costs to belong to a synagogue and to participate in religious life. The numbers are equivalent no matter where you go, as most synagogues have buildings and staff to support, which comprise the majority of costs associated with a synagogue. No matter how lean you budget or how hard an institution tries to make good use of its unused space, the cost remains the same. The only organizations that have managed to change this pattern successfully for the long term are those that don’t have their own space or those that are in a constant cycle of fundraising.

At KI one of our greatest joys has been the creation of a family fun committee, whose goal was to combine fun raising with fund raising. Five years later we have done just that! The family fun committee (now called the youth committee,) created KI’s family bingo – KINGO - that has become a win-win for all involved. Families win great prizes, kids enjoy games on a winter afternoon, and KI receives about $10,000 in donations to supplement our education program with all the “extras” that get trimmed from the budget – technology, arts, snacks for holiday celebrations, and the like.

Some of the same individuals who joined forces for past KI fund raisers created another multi-generational hit – KI’s Annual Movie Night & Pre-Oscar Party. This year being held on Sunday, February 22 at 3:30 p.m. gather with your KI friends, enjoy kids programming, movies for all ages, and great food while still giving back to our synagogue.

As the spring holidays arrive we will also invite people to purchase Purim baskets for friends or Passover candy for home as another fundraiser that we hope adds to the holiday festivities. While we recognize that our needs are ever increasing in our religious education and family programming, we work hard to try to have a balance between the need for fun and the needs for funds.

Personally, I could not be more appreciative of the immense efforts of those who work to plan these events and give of their time and energy and those who participate in these events or go above and beyond sponsoring and donating at a sustaining level. Thanks for all the fun and funds you add to KI – we truly could not do what we do without you.

An Amazing Infant Center

Most congregants know that we have a Preschool in the building but not many are aware that we start enrolling as young as three months old! Times have changed since The Richard E. Rudolph Jr. Preschool opened its doors as a part-time three-year-old program. The needs of our members and community have also changed drastically in the last 50 years. Today families need childcare that opens early, closes late and offers a year-round program. We work each day not only to provide an exceptional learning environment, but also to meet the demands of an ever-growing workforce.

Our Infant Center was born in September, 2007. We are fortunate that Cindy Goodman, who assisted in the Center’s design and implementation, is still the lead teacher. Cindy keeps the Infant Center clean, organized, developmentally appropriate, but most importantly, filled with love. We have already had more than 70 little graduates over the years, and I’m proud to say the majority of them can be seen walking the halls of JQuest. This also includes babies of each one of our clergy, which is a huge stamp of approval for our program.

As a new parent it is extremely difficult to drop off your most precious cargo to someone you barely know. It is important that we make the parent feel as comfortable as possible. We send pictures throughout the day and encourage parents to feel free to call us. Our curriculum looks at each baby as an individual who is constantly learning. Think about all that a baby needs to learn: sit up, roll over, play peek-a-boo, grab for items... the list goes on and on. Our youngest students enjoy Havdalah on Mondays, Music with Chana on Tuesdays and they love seeing the KI Puppets on Fridays. It is our goal to stimulate their young minds with storytelling, music, fun visuals, outside play and so much more.

Though we spend most of the day with the babies, we’re also here for the parents. There is always a listening ear to hear worries or concerns such as “Why won’t he eat?” “How can I get her to sleep through the night?” “Do you know any good babysitters?” It’s an integral part of our job, as educators, to partner with parents and assist in any way as they go through this wonderful and sometimes confusing journey.

If you are looking for an amazing loving Infant Program or know someone who is interested please have them contact Beth Rabinowitz at beth@kenesethisrael.org or 215-885-2425 for a tour.
Youth and Education

Multigenerational Fun!
At our Preschool, it's happy babies, toddlers, parents and grandparents.

KIFTY UPDATE

There are lots of exciting things happening with KIFTY, KI's high school youth group! In December, more than 20 teens spent the day playing Laser Tag and participating in a Social Justice Project at KI. KIFTY made no-sew blankets for a local homeless shelter. In celebration of Hanukkah, the event also featured a latke snack.

In mid-January, KIFTY teens joined with nearly 200 teens from around the NFTY-Pennsylvania Area Region for WINSTY, the regional social justice event hosted in Lancaster, PA. The weekend featured unique learning and action opportunities about causes relevant to teens. KIFTY teens met new friends, engaged in deep learning and innovative worship experiences. We hope you or your teen will join KIFTY for Spring Kallah! Stay tuned for more information!

KIFTY is part of NFTY-PAR as well as the North American movement of NFTY which comes together every other year at NFTY Convention. NFTY Convention is February 13-17 in Atlanta, GA and will bring together nearly 1,000 teens from around the continent and for the first time, at a parallel convention, 2,000 teens from BBYO. The KIFTY teen board will all be in attendance with advisors Tara Cherwony, Andrew Keene and Rabbi Kevin Kleinman. Be sure to ask our teens about their incredible experience!

We are looking forward to upcoming events this spring including Ultra Zone for our younger teens, Skyzone and a Sixers game for our older teens!

Check email blasts for updated information!

Mark your Calendar for Community Night
Classes from 6:45 - 8:15 PM
February 10th
March 10th
April 14th
FREE for members of KI
For more information and to register:
www.kenesethisrael.org/community
On Sunday, March 22 at 2:00 p.m. at Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel, Dr. Mirjam Thulin of the Leibniz Institute of European History (Mainz, Germany) and the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies (University of Pennsylvania) will present *From Europe to America: The Birth of Modern American Jewish Movements.*

KI’s Senior Rabbi Lance J. Sussman, Ph.D. will then join Dr. Thulin in a conversation about the origins and ongoing evolution of the largest American Jewish denominations. This event is free and open to the public.

The most prominent divisions within the Jewish landscape in America today—between the Reform, Conservative, and Orthodox movements—are not native to the United States, but rather reflect a crisis of 19th-century Judaism, centered in Germany, in which Jews questioned long-held assumptions about Jewish learning, prayer, and community. How did European Jewish immigrants import new models of Jewish life, and how were they transformed on American soil, to shape a new Jewish culture?

The program will begin with a short performance of the four hand piano original music to *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* by Felix Mendelssohn, performed by KI favorites, DUO Stephanie and Saar.

This piece is the original version written for Mendelssohn’s sister, Fannie and himself. It was then transcribed into the famous orchestral piece, which remains very popular in current orchestral repertoire the world over. DUO will also perform a short concluding program of Mendelssohn’s work following the presentation by Dr. Thulin and Rabbi Sussman. Following the program, there will be a reception including fine German desserts. A real taste of 19th-century European culture!

Stephanie Kai-Win Ho, of Taiwanese descent, and Saar Ahuvia, a native of Israel, perform as DUO Stephanie and Saar, and possess a keen interest in programming innovative and thought-provoking repertoire. Performance highlights in recent seasons include a special collaboration with the New World Symphony Percussion Consort in Miami of a brand new arrangement of Stravinsky’s *Petruchka* by Michael Linville and Washington DC’s Dumbarton Oaks concert series. Notable engagements include the Portland Piano International Festival, Dranoff Two Piano Foundation’s outreach event *Piano Slam* at Miami’s Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts, Chicago’s Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concert Series, and Baltimore’s Yale Gordon Center for the Performing Arts.

Sunday, March 22, 2015 at 2:00 p.m.
Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel
8339 Old York Road
Elkins Park, PA, 19027
Free and open to the public.
RSVP to Clergy Office at 215-887-8702.
Children who visit our library frequently amaze me with their knowledge of Jewish books. One girl asked where she could find a copy of *Joseph Who Loved The Sabbath*. I showed her two versions of the same story. She wanted to read the Marilyn Hirsh book as she had *Joseph and The Sabbath Fish* by Eric Kimmel in her personal library. Sometimes, when I introduce a story to a preschool class, most of the students say, “I have that book. The PJ Library sent it to me.” At KI we have well-educated Jewish children.

**Upcoming Author Events**

**Pam Jenoff**, the author of the international bestseller, *The Kommandant’s Girl* and other novels will speak about her new novel, *The Winter Guest*, on **Tuesday April 14** at 7:00 p.m. A young girl in rural Poland during World War II finds a wounded American airman. She hides him, placing her entire family in jeopardy. This novel begins in the present with a mystery that relates to her Polish past.

**Charles Belfoure**, the author of *The Paris Architect* will be at KI on **Tuesday June 2** at 7:00 p.m. to talk about his book, set in Nazi occupied Paris. Lucien, a struggling architect is given a commission to design a Nazi munitions factory. Lucien changes as the story progresses in this exciting World War II thriller.

Check e-KI and the KI website for details and updates about these and other library programs.

**Adult Book Discussion Group**

Our Adult Book Discussion Group is having another great year. Everyone has strong opinions about the books. The only requirement to join is that you have read the book. This is a moderated book discussion and not a book review. Participants are expected to share their insights, reactions, and comments. The next session is **Tuesday, February 3 at 1:30 p.m.** discussing *The UnAmericans* by Molly Antopol. This book is a collection of eight short stories, with strong main characters who are trying to find their place in the world. Save the following dates for future Adult Book Discussion Group sessions: April 21 and June 2. All books are available in the Meyers Library.

**Become a Book Reviewer**

Have you noticed the book recommendations appearing in Shalom KI? Have you read a Jewish book that you recommend others read? Would you like to see your name in print? Contact Ellen about becoming a Book Reviewer for our “Good Reads” Column.

**New Books in Our Collection**

Library circulation increases during the winter months. Readers are enjoying *The Ice Cream Queen of Orchard Street* by Susan Gilman and *Days of Atonement* by David Liss. I also recommend Anita Diamant’s new book, *The Boston Girl* and *Life Could Be Verse* by Kirk Douglas.

**Library Kindles**

The Meyers Library has two Kindles to borrow, preloaded with 30 of our most popular titles. If you are considering purchasing a Kindle, borrowing one is a way to take a “test drive.” You can adjust the type size to meet your vision needs. Kindles may only be borrowed during regular library hours.

**Become A Library Volunteer**

We need YOU! The Meyers Library is a wonderful resource, with a huge selection of books for your reading and research, a comfortable environment, and good coffee! Join the friendly volunteers who keep our library up to date! We have jobs you can do either in the library or from home. If you would like to volunteer, e-mail library@kenesethisrael.org or call: 215-887-8700, x 122.

The Meyers Library is a wireless computer zone. Bring your laptop; enjoy a cup of gourmet coffee and explore the latest book arrivals in your KI home. The Library is open on Tuesday and Wednesday from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and on Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We are also open on Sunday morning from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and on Tuesday afternoons from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., whenever JQuest is in session. Visit our book carts Friday evenings after services. Make the KI Library your home away from home.

**You can always find a comfy place to read in the Meyers Library.**
Lifelong Learning

From the Museum

No one hates rushing through the seasons more than I do. Hateful! But I am already thinking of spring, the coming of Passover and planning our winter exhibition for the Temple Judea Museum (TJM). I’ve been given the opportunity to guest curate and design an exhibition of Haggadot in celebration of the diversity of the haggadah: old and new, traditional, rare and culturally reflective. As a calligrapher myself, I most often work with ketubot (marriage contracts) but I have always been fascinated by the haggadah.

Passover is all about telling The Story. Each year we gather around the dining table and read and share Our Story. The Exodus, Moses and the Pharaoh. We were slaves, the suffering. The 10 Plagues, the 4 Questions, the 4 Sons, 4 cups of wine. And the fun part: finding the Afikoman and bargaining a price to sell it back in order to finish the seemingly endless service. Singing Had Gadya.

Every year it’s the same and it’s different. Depending on who is at the table. Same old family members? A new baby? A child who can read the questions who couldn’t read last year? A non-family visitor who makes the story newly relevant by sharing their Seder traditions. Does everyone have the same page numbers? Are we using the familiar, old wine-stained Haggadot? Or a new, more modern version with colorful illustrations and interesting commentaries that might get the table-talk off on a slightly off-topic discussion?

This late winter, early spring exhibition will display Haggadot from many sources including: the widely diverse Haggadot from our TJM Collection; those of Judy Maslin, founder and former Director of the Temple Judea Museum who has graciously consented to share some of her family’s personal collection of Haggadot; from Ellen Tilman who will open the treasure-trove from the Myers Library for me to forage the library’s best examples for the display.

The overall emphasis will be on the variety of pictorial material accompanying the haggadah texts. In many and most Haggadot, the text stays the same but the artists have free-reign to express their visions of the Story. Being a non-Biblical book, (the Jewish Bible is never illustrated as we use it for prayer and study) the Second Commandment ban on representing the human form does not apply, giving illustrators a whole world of possible image sources.

Do you know about the “birds-head” haggadah created in southern Germany about the year 1300? It is suggested that the ‘people’ were illustrated with birds’ heads, instead of human heads, to skirt the contentious issue of representing human form or drawing graven images. In our own time, artists such as Leonard Baskin, Saul Raskin and Arthur Szyk have created astoundingly individual, powerfully poignant Haggadot.

The variety of the exhibition installation will surprise and amaze the museum visitor with the culturally diverse and beautiful, or admittedly dated and ‘funky’ versions of Haggadot. Hopefully, you’ll be reminded of your own family Passover gatherings, treasured Haggadot, and “Tellings of Our Story.” Wait ‘til you see the Chinese haggadah from Shanghai!

Karen Shain Schloss
Temple Judea Museum, Chair

Center City Lunch ‘n Learn with Rabbi Sussman

Join Rabbi Lance Sussman, Ph.D., in Center City for the series, “The Inhabitants Thereof: Jewish Life in Philadelphia from William Penn to Today.”

New this year: Lunch ‘n’ Learn will be coordinated by our hosts, the Gershman Y. Kl members fee $5 per session/$36 series (contact Clergy office for discount code); non-members $10 per session/$75 series.

On the following Thursdays at 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. Bring your own lunch.

February 19 - A House Divided: Civil War and Reconstruction
March 19 - Philadelphia and the Great Awakening of American Judaism, 1869-1905 (Gratz, Dropsie, JTS, JPS, Jewish Agriculture)
April 16 - South Philadelphia: An American Shtetl
May 21 - Once Upon a Neighborhood: Fifty Years of Jewish Life in Philadelphia, 1910-1960
June 18 - Suburban Frontiers, 1960-1990 (Elkins Park, Main Line, Bucks County)
Mazel Tov to our Bar/Bat Mitzvah Students

My name is Maia J. Arbel. My Bat Mitzvah is February 28, 2015. For my mitzvah project, I was a teacher’s assistant for KI’s PAJE group, which is the Sunday school’s group of advanced Hebrew learners. I also collected blankets and supplies for the many stray cats of Philadelphia, and I helped with the trap-neuter-release (TNR) program. I attend Joseph J. Greenberg School. My hobbies include playing guitar, piano and drums, singing and drawing, playing basketball and video games and eating. My parents are Michelle Olsher and David Arbel.

We mark with sorrow the passing of . . .
Julius E. Isaacson, Jr., father of our member Kim (Fredric) Plotnick
Netty Lowenstein, mother of our member Vivian (Glenn) Goldenberg
Earle Weiss, our member and husband of our member Edythe, father of our member Marion (Marc) Kirsch
Charles Nathanson, step-father of our member Randy (Michele) Brandt
Alice B. Rubin, our member
Ethel Schaer, mother of our member Theodore (Nancy) Schaer
Frank Burstein, father of our member William Burstein

Caryl Levin’s adult ed events bond and strengthen the KI community!

Rabbi David Einhorn Tikkun Olam Award
KI member Doris Parker will receive the Rabbi David Einhorn Tikkun Olam Award in recognition of her lifelong dedication to KI and her service to our community. She will be recognized at the March 27th Heritage Shabbat service, which will also acknowledge our many volunteers. Rabbi Sussman’s sermon will focus on Rabbi Samuel Hirsch.

Blue Bell Campus Celebrates Rabbi Kleinman’s Birthday

On January 8, 2015, Rabbi Kleinman turned 35. The teachers and students at Blue Bell planned a surprise party for him. There was homemade cake, birthday cards, and even an improvised birthday song! Thank you to everybody in our Blue Bell Community for making his day so special. He’s looking forward to celebrating many more happy occasions together.
In Our Community

Dear Women of Keneseth Israel,

Tu BiShvat is the New Year of the trees. In ancient times, this holiday was an agricultural festival, but today Tu BiShvat has become a tree planting festival in Israel. Israelis and Jews around the world plant trees in honor or in memory of loved ones and friends.

A celebration honoring trees reminds us that we need to take care of the earth and be mindful of the cycles of the seasons. Even in the cold of winter, celebrating Tu BiShvat reminds us to start planning ahead for spring.

One of our most important Social Action Projects is our Mitzvah Garden. We are always looking for interested families, singles, couples and persons of all ages to help our garden grow! Feel free to contact me, Lynore Eisman at lynore@comcast.net or Janice Schwartz-Donahue janicedonahue98@verizon.net for further information. Our first planning meeting for our 2015 season will be held on Sunday, March 8th at 10:00 a.m.

Please join us for these upcoming events:
- **Lilith Salon** - Sunday, February 15th at 2:00 p.m. RSVP to Paulette Sterman-Soroko, 215-646-7997 or stermanp@comcast.net.
- **Our next Board Meeting** - Sunday, February 8th at 11:00 a.m. in the Board Room. We will be making Breakfast Bags for the Klein JCC, so please bring any of the following with you, tea bags, snack packs of applesauce, pudding, cookies, breakfast bars, oatmeal packets, raisins, etc. We will also discuss March and April events.

**SAVE THE DATES:**
- **Clear Your Plate, Fill Your Cup** - Wednesday, March 18th at 6:30 p.m.
- **Designer Bag BINGO** - Thursday, April 30th at 6:30 p.m. Come and win a designer bag!

Become a part of the nurturing soul of our KI Community.

Lynore Eisman
lynore@comcast.net, 215-676-1812

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**KI Gift Shop**

We have beautiful NEW scarves to keep you warm and the snow off your neck!

Need a new sweater? We have beautiful hand-crafted sweaters to keep you cozy. We also have wine for your Guess Who’s Coming to Shabbas dinner party. Do you need a tallit, a yad, a gift for a Bar or Bat Mitzvah? Come see our selection.

Our hours are Sunday 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and Tuesday, 4:15 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. when JQuest is in session. During the month of February, if these hours are not convenient for you, please call the office and you will be put in touch with a W of KI to make an appointment.

Thanks for thinking KI first!

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Hello from Brotherhood

The next monthly meeting will be Tuesday, February 17th at 6:30 p.m.

Brotherhood Shabbat, **Men as Caregivers: Fulfilling Mitzvah within the Family**, is scheduled for May 22nd at 8:00 p.m.

To volunteer to speak at the May 22nd service, or with any comments or questions, please contact **Ross Schriftman**, Brotherhood President, at rfs270@aol.com or 215-628-7075.

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**Hinei Matov - How Good It Is!**

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**PURIM!**

Come and watch, as all the characters in the Purim story go back to those lively, irreverent high school days, in one of the happiest musicals ever, “Grease.”

You will love this retelling of the story of Esther, Ahasuerus, Haman, and Mordecai; replete with so many well-known numbers from that popular musical, “Good Riddance, Queen Vashti” (“Look At Me, I’m Sandra Dee”); “Shushan Nights” (“Summer Nights”); and “You’re The One That I Want”, (“You’re The One That I Want”).

The Shpiel will be performed by our Quest Noar Students, grades 7th through 10th.

Be here or be square - Wednesday, March 4, 2015 – 6:30 p.m. Brown Bag Dinner, 7:00 p.m. Megillah Reading, 7:30 p.m. Schmaltz: A Purim Musical.
# February 2015 Calendar

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<td>9:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Torah Study</td>
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<td>JQuest</td>
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### Kenesseth Israel Phone Directory

- Administrative Office: 215-887-8700
- Rabbinic Office: 215-887-8702
- Religious School Office: 215-887-8704
- Fax: 215-887-1070
- Preschool: 215-885-2425
- Museum: 215-887-2027
- GiftShop: 215-884-4364

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## March 2015 Calendar

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<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Adult Choir Rehearsal</td>
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<td>Board of Directors Mtg.</td>
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14 FEBRUARY 2015
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...by remembering and honoring their friends and loved ones through their generous contributions to KI's special funds.

We apologize ahead of time for any donations that may be missing from this issue. If you would like it to appear next month, please contact Anita by phone (215-887-8702) or e-mail (anita@kenesethisrael.org). Sorry for any inconvenience.

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Trees for Israel
If you wish to purchase a tree in the KI Forest in Israel, please contact Beryl Halpern (215-635-0452). She will be glad to mail a beautiful tree certificate for you. The cost is $10.75 per tree.

Please mail checks, payable to: KI Forest, Keneseth Israel, 8339 Old York Road, Elkins Park, PA 19027. Attn: Beryl Halpern.
What a season this has been for KI Music Arts audiences so far!

October with members of the Philadelphia Orchestra and Natalie Zhu, pianist; December featuring world-class, beloved pianist Gary Graffman and the Dover Quartet. Then, internationally renowned cabaret legend Karen Akers singing to an adoring, huge audience who are clamoring to have her return with her upcoming new show. DUO Saar Ahuvia and Stephanie Ho will return (remember the Schumann/Brahms program 4 years ago?) on Sunday, March 22 at 2:00 p.m. On April 19, Ignat Solzhenitsyn, superb conductor, pianist, and teacher will present a one person “master class” lecture, demonstration and performance of the phenomenal piano work, Sonata No. 8 by Prokofiev - all by himself! And Orli Shaham will return on May 16.

Don’t miss these concerts that our audience is calling, “Kimmel North!”

Cake & Conversation

Rabbi Kleinman enjoyed facilitating Adult Ed’s lively Maimonides Café on his birthday, and everyone enjoyed his cake, too!

Adult Education at KI

Don’t miss out on the fun! We had a potluck dinner on January 12th that was attended by 50-plus people. Be part of our get-togethers and part of our community of learners and friends. Join us at the following programs:

- February 5 at 11:30 a.m.: Maimonides Cafe facilitated by Rita Poley.
- February 19 at 7:30 p.m.: “Autumn Hearts” movie, shown and discussed by Isak Kruger
- February 26 at 7:30 p.m.: “Orchestra of the Exiles: Founding of the Palestine Symphony,” movie, shown and discussed by Isak Kruger.
- March 5 at 11:30 a.m.: Maimonides Cafe facilitated by Ellen Sklaroff.
- March 12 at 11:30 a.m.: Reform: A Documentary History of KI,” produced by Ellen Sklaroff & Arnold Meshkov, shown and facilitated by Ellen Sklaroff.

We want you!!! For more information, please contact me at caryl.levin@verizon.net.

Caryl Levin

Israel Committee:
Knesset Israel

By Bill Dodies

The name of our congregation is “Keneseth Israel” - and so we are connected with the national legislature of Israel. The “knesset,” which means the “gathering” or “assembly,” is the law-making branch of the Israeli government. It passes all laws, elects the President and Prime Minister and supervises the work of the government.

The building of the Knesset was a gift in the will of James A. deRothschild, who had previously come to then Prime Minister David Ben Gurion and told him that he wished to pay whatever the costs were for the building. The building was completed in 1966.

There are 120 members of the Knesset who are elected to four-year terms, subject to calls for early elections (quite common.) All Israeli citizens age 18 and above may vote in elections, conducted by secret ballot. A party must pass the election threshold of 3.25% of the overall vote to be allocated a Knesset seat. Parties select their candidates using a closed list. Thus voters select the party of their choice, not any specific candidates. With a large number of parties, it is nearly impossible for one party to govern alone, let alone win a majority. Every Israeli government has been a coalition of two or more parties. The Knesset is located in Givat Ram, Jerusalem.

Another question arose soon after Israel’s independence. What language must be used and be “official?” I quote from David Ben Gurion; “When I came to Israel, language was a big issue. At that time the overwhelming majority of immigrants were coming from Russia and Eastern Europe. They all spoke Yiddish. Yet despite the fact that Yiddish was the ‘lingua franca’ among the Jews of the day, we didn’t declare it the speech of Eretz Israel. Why? Because its association was basically one of sadness, of exile, of loss and persecution.”

At independence it was obvious that English would be the most useful vehicle of world communication. We might have made our national tongue - but by that time we were all speaking Hebrew and enjoying it! At once, everything became simple. We brought Hebrew “up to date.” We could discuss Physics and microbiology! Hooray!!

May Israel prosper and grow! May Hebrew bloom! May the Knesset bring true democracy to Israel - and to all.

BARUCH HASHEM!
The words “What hath God wrought” appear in the Torah in Bemidbar, were uttered when the Baltimore-Washington telegraph line was officially opened in 1844, and appear as the title of a book about the transformation of America in the first half of the 19th century. I could not resist the above play on words while planning to write about author Philip Roth, and what he did to incur the outrage of certain influential members of the American Jewish community.

His first public battle came at 26, after The New Yorker published his short story Defenders of the Faith in March of 1959, not quite 14 years after the end of World War II. A few months later, the story appeared in the book Goodbye, Columbus, which contained the eponymous novella and several short stories.

The story is about a Jewish soldier in basic training in Missouri at the end of the European war. He tries to manipulate his sergeant—a fellow Jew—by preying on their shared ethnic backgrounds to keep from getting shipped off to the Pacific and to dishonestly extract other favors. Many felt that this upheld the long-standing stereotype that Jews are cunning and greedy. A prominent rabbi wrote that “Medieval Jews would have known what to do with him,” meaning Roth, and probably, meaning excommunication a la Spinoza. Many Jews could not accept Roth’s revelation of their “secret”—that “the perils of human nature afflict the members of our minority.”

Roth was blindsided and received a deluge of letters, demonstrating the rawness of Jewish nerves. But he stood his ground then and in later writings, by stating that if Jews pretended not to be subject to the failings that mark the lives of others, they were unnecessarily choosing to live as victims in a country that had freed them from that role. He said that “the undue tolerance of persecution that history had bred among the Jews must end now, in America, where the only response to a threat of any restriction of liberties was, No, I refuse.”

Roth was extremely prolific and continued to write until his voluntary retirement in 2012. I intend to explore and write about his works in future issues.
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For The Future

Wednesday, March 4
Purim Celebration
6:30 p.m. Brown Bag Dinner
7:00 p.m. Megillah Reading
7:30 p.m. Schmaltz: A Purim Musical

Sunday, March 8
Kehillah Purim Carnival
11:15 a.m. Preschool Entry Time
12:00 p.m. General Admission

Sunday, March 22
2:00 p.m. Rabbi Sussman
European History/Judaic Studies Program

Saturday, April 4
10:30 a.m. Passover Shabbat Service
6:00 p.m. Passover 2nd Night Congregational Seder

Sunday, April 19
TBA Music Arts Presents
Pianist Ignat Solzhenitsyn

Saturday, April 25
7:00 p.m. KI Casino Night

Thursday, April 30
6:30 p.m. Designer Bag Bingo

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR CONGREGATIONAL LEADERSHIP

In accordance with Article XVII, Section 1 of the Temple’s By-laws, notice is hereby given that the Nominating and Board Development Committee will be meeting to propose nominees to fill the following positions for election at the Annual Meeting on June 4, 2015: One year term: President, First Vice President, Vice President(s), Treasurer, Associate Treasurer(s), Secretary, Associate Secretary(ies), Directors (up to 12); Three year term: Trustees. In addition, the Nominating and Board Development Committee may propose nominees to fill other vacancies that may arise in lay leadership positions identified in the Temple’s By-laws.

Members of the Congregation may submit names (with resumes) for prospective nominees to Andrew J. Flame, Chair of the Nominating and Board Development Committee, c/o KI, by February 27, 2015.

CORE VALUES

As a diverse community representing a broad constituency of nearly 1,000 families strong, we have identified seven core values that define the heart and soul of our congregation.

Look inside for the core value symbol – revealing our commitment in action!

Yahadut Mitkademit
Reform Judaism
T’filot
Prayer and Spirituality
Tikkun Olam
Social Justice/Repair of the World
Hiddur Mitzvah
Arts and Culture

Limmud
Sacred Learning
Kehillah
Community
Ahavat Israel
Jewish Pride/Love of Israel