CELEBRATE TU BISHVAT!
JANUARY 22, 2016
SEE PAGE 5 FOR DETAILS.

The Cantors and Choirs of the Old York Road Corridor are proud to present “Old York Road Story: Leonard Bernstein Tribute and Retrospective,” at Keneseth Israel on Sunday, January 31 at 4:00 p.m. See page 4 for details.
President’s Message

Arnold Meshkov
President

A Few Days With Friends

Dinner and Shabbat services with 5,000 of your closest friends: a rare occurrence but a Shabbat I look forward to every two years. I was fortunate enough to attend this year’s Union of Reform Judaism (URJ) Biennial convention in Orlando, Florida. This event is a great collaboration of the leaders of the URJ, and a meeting of Reform Jews from all over North America. It is nice to be reminded of how large and influential our movement has become, and to hear from many of the young, vital leaders of our movement, including rabbis, cantors, educators, and committed lay leaders.

Whenever I go to a Biennial, it allows me to view the Reform world from “30,000” feet. There is great good, great learning, and great application of the traditions and texts of our faith to our day-to-day lives, applications that offer greater depth and spirituality. And the music – to hear the music that our movement has generated, and completely changed the sound of Jewish music as a whole, is inspiring. The song session alone held after Shabbat dinner is worth the price of admission.

The Union is gifted with a wonderful leader, Rabbi Rick Jacobs. Rabbi Jacobs is an articulate and charismatic thinker and speaker. He and the Reform movement also discuss candidly the problems facing the Reform movement and the American Jewish world. The problems of synagogue affiliation is hardly limited to Eastern Montgomery County, and across the country many congregations have begun merging and collaborating, between Reform and other Reform temples, and also Reform and Conservative synagogues.

The URJ and Rabbi Jacobs have made the concept of “Audacious Hospitality” a key cultural objective. The value of joining and participating in synagogue life must be seen and felt through the warmth and inclusiveness of its members to each other, and to those considering joining. Programming is wonderful; it may draw an individual or family through your doors, but if people do not feel welcomed and heard, then the event they are attending becomes just another event, one of many such events available every week in a large city like Philadelphia.

A strong additional message this year was the importance of “Tikkun Olam,” emphasizing the special imperative that we as Jews have been given to help heal the world. This commitment should be paramount at our temples. Serious involvement with social action projects gives back to the greater community, but also builds bonds between our congregants that will strengthen our movement.

At KI, we are listening to these strong messages from our national movement. For our professional and lay leadership, the practice of “Audacious Hospitality” has been a part of our work for some time. Just this year, we have begun two new Social Action programs, one involving school tutoring and the other in feeding the hungry. Both of these are off to a great start, but need more people to be involved and serious nurturing over time to have the impact we want.

We are barraged by electronic information these days, and told that this YouTube video is something we “must see.” For some inspirational information about our Reform movement, to see most of the speakers and details of this year’s Biennial, sit down for an hour and log on to ReformJudaism.org. As an added benefit, you can search for and read Rabbi Sussman’s contributions about the history of the movement and American Judaism. I guarantee it will be time well spent.

Stay warm, both physically and spiritually, this challenging time of the year. Pretty soon there will be talk of baseball, golf, and Passover.
2016: A Year of Learning

As the New Year begins, I have been thinking a great deal about my work at KI and what I love the most. I’m blessed because I get to do so many different things as part of my work as a rabbi and there really isn’t anything I don’t like to do. But what stands out above the rest for me is learning and teaching.

I guess I’m naturally a student. In my free time (not really sure what that means in my case), I study. I read. I learn. I look things up. I spend too many hours on the Internet. I read newspapers from around the world. I study different languages. I prepare lectures and outlines for scheduled programs and for programs yet to be announced. I peruse the dozens and dozens of new books with which I surround myself. I study the weekly Torah portion and now, Rashi’s commentary (11th century, France). I look at maps and art and then I write some more. That’s what free time is to me.

In public, what I like to do is teach. I like to teach in a classroom setting. I like to teach in adult program settings. I like to run seminars. I like to use my preaching opportunities as teaching opportunities. I like to organize and share information and ideas. I like to “connect the dots” between what I learn in different subjects. I like to teach.

With all that in mind, I’ve been thinking about the year ahead at KI and how I can teach more in our congregational setting. In particular, I’ve been thinking about how to bring the joy of learning and the joy of Jewish study to you as individuals and as families. Together with my wonderful staff, we are working on ways of making 2016 the best year “ever” (as they say) of Jewish learning at KI.

Meanwhile, I hope you enjoy whatever it is that you love to do; and that you will dedicate part of the New Year to the pursuit of greater knowledge. It all counts and it all helps. And, hopefully, some of that learning and growing will include some significant Jewish content whether it is fiction or history or by thought. Maybe, the New Year will be a time of increasing your knowledge of Hebrew or your first shot at it.

Judaism is all about learning and growing. Let’s do both, together, in the year ahead.

Shana Tova (So to speak!)
Old York Road Kehillah Presents “Old York Road Story: Leonard Bernstein Tribute And Retrospective”

The Cantors and Choirs of the Old York Road Corridor will present “Old York Road Story: Leonard Bernstein Tribute and Retrospective,” on Sunday afternoon, January 31 at 4:00 p.m. in the Main Sanctuary of Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel. For the 11th consecutive year, our community’s Cantors and their choruses will join together for a spectacular program of music composed by the preeminent musical personality of the twentieth century. More than 90 singers from five congregations will sing in the combined choirs, together with a professional instrumental ensemble.

Born in 1918, Maestro Bernstein shared his creativity and genius with the entire world as composer of both classical and theatrical music. He was a virtuoso pianist, a superb conductor of orchestras all over the world, including the New York Philharmonic, the Israel Philharmonic, and the Vienna Symphony, and a music educator to multiple generations of children and adults at universities, summer festivals, and on television programs too numerous to count.

Maestro Bernstein was both a knowledgeable and committed Jew and passionate Zionist. He knew Hebrew and Jewish music. Bernstein utilized elements drawn from his Jewish identity in many compositions throughout his life.

Our January 31st program will feature selections from both his secular and Jewish music. As we approach the centennial anniversary of his birth, we recognize Bernstein’s artistry as integral to our collective musical and Jewish experiences.

The featured work on the program is Chichester Psalms, a setting of six Hebrew Psalms from the Bible written in 1965 for the Chichester Abbey in England. This 18-minute piece is one of his most popular and is performed by choirs and orchestras worldwide.

Also on our program are the composer’s electric arrangement of the Israeli song, Simhu Na, and his setting of the Shabbat evening prayer, Hashkiveinu. Our singers and instrumentalists will present selections from Bernstein’s most popular shows, West Side Story and Candide, as well as selections from Mass and other song cycles.

Cantor David F. Tilman serves as Music Director and Conductor. Under his direction, the annual Winter/Hanukkah Concert combining the Old York Road Jewish musical ensembles first took place in 2004. Cantor Tilman is conductor of Shir KI, the adult chorus of Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel, Associate Professor at the Miller Cantorial School of the Jewish Theological Seminary, and Cantor Emeritus of Beth Sholom Congregation.

Participating as soloists are Cantors Amy Levy of Keneseth Israel, Howard Glantz of Congregation Adath Jeshurun, Elena Zarkh of Old York Road Temple-Beth Am, Jeffrey Weber of Beth Sholom Congregation, and Rebecca Schwartz, Cantorial Soloist of Congregation Kol Ami. Andrew Senn and Mark Daugherty, virtuoso organists of Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel and Beth Am, respectively, will accompany the program on both organ and piano.

This Bernstein retrospective, “Old York Road Story,” will be an event not to be missed. Join us on Sunday afternoon, January 31 at 4:00 p.m. $10 in advance, $12 at the door. Tickets are available from Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel. For additional information contact Cantor Amy Levy at 215-887-8702, or the Keneseth Israel office.

Thanks for the Memories!

It was a blast from the past for all attending the Senior Planning Committee’s first event, A Stroll Down Memory Lane. Yearbooks and records were out on display, and a pink ’57 t-bird was in the synagogue driveway.

Save the date for the next event on March 31st!
Worship

Tu BiShvat

Tu BiShvat means the fifteenth day of Shevat, the fifth month in the Hebrew calendar. It is also known as the New Year of the Trees.

Scholars believe that Tu BiShvat was originally an agricultural festival, marking the beginning of spring. After the destruction of the Temple in 70 C.E. this holiday was a way for Jews to symbolically remind themselves of their homeland by eating foods that could be found in Israel. Some marked the day by eating fifteen different types of fruits. Fruits from Israel such as olives, dates, grapes, figs, and pomegranates were served. Of special note is the carob. Carob trees take many years to bear fruit, so they remind us of our obligation to plant for our children and grandchildren. We must take good care of the earth so that we leave a healthy world to those who will come after us.

In the seventeenth century Kabbalists created a ritual for Tu BiShvat similar to the Passover Seder. This ceremony focused on eating several varieties of fruit and drinking four different colors of wine. Today, the holiday has also become a tree planting festival, in which both Israelis and Jews around the world plant trees in honor or in memory of a loved one or friend.

KI will hold a Tu BiShvat Celebration on January 22. 5:45 p.m. Tot Shabbat, 6:15 p.m. Israeli-Style Dinner, 7:00 p.m. Family Service or Preschool Briarbush Program, 8:00 p.m. Oneg and Briarbush Kids Program. (For more information on this holiday, consult urj.org)

Here’s the Ticket!

Save the date for KI’s 3rd Annual Movie Night & Pre-Oscar Party Sunday, February 28, 2016 at 3:00 p.m.

More details to come!
JQuest B’Yachad – A Look at the First Trimester

As we move toward the start of the secular year, I wanted to take the opportunity to share how JQuest B’Yachad, our groundbreaking collaboration, is progressing. The good news is... it's better than anyone could have imagined.

There is a positive, inclusive atmosphere. At the initial announcement, KI congregants were concerned about acceptance. Through specific and intentional training, our teachers and our new community have worked hard to ensure that all students and families feel accepted and welcomed for who they are as Jewish families. We are working to form friendships beyond those that initially existed and will be introducing family programming to ensure that parents are also forming a community.

Students are learning real, significant Jewish content. Collaboration breeds innovation. The chance to work with new lay and professional leaders has allowed us to examine our curriculum and ensure it is the very best. It's true teachers no longer stand in front of the class with students looking at textbooks. Instead, students learn about core topics of Jewish life, digging deep into specific areas of content. The Kindergarten made a book about the three synagogues and their professional leaders. The First Grade researched Jewish values and shared them with our preschool students. Second Grade designed tzedakah bags for the school and taught them about the value of giving tzedakah. Third Grade produced a 15-minute video on the Jewish holidays. Fourth Grade researched areas in Israel and presented a travel agency. The Fifth Grade researched their family’s immigration story and the Sixth Grade made presentations based on the Torah portion they will read for Bar or Bat Mitzvah. Many of these works are featured in our hallways or on jquest.org.

Hebrew learning and prayer comprehension is flourishing. At the same time our Hebrew program is growing. All of our students, grades K-6, can understand basic Hebrew commands and regularly learn Hebrew words associated with the holidays and Jewish life. Our 2nd-6th grade students participate in services, following along in Hebrew, and our 3rd – 5th grade students are able to explain the concepts of the prayers and how they connect with them. Our 5th and 6th grade students work with an individual teacher in small groups to make sure they can decode the Hebrew letters at a pace that is just right for them. And our 6th and 7th grade students are using all of this knowledge to produce their very own Bar and Bat Mitzvah visual presentations for their special day.

Any type of change takes some adjustment. The JQuest program, launched two and a half years ago, is unlike any other. Though it combines the best in Jewish educational practice, the methods are not “tried and true” and so it understandably brought anxiety to the parents and discomfort to some kids. Collaborating with two Conservative synagogues brought more opportunity for uneasiness. I want to thank the families for their trust in our synagogue’s leadership and their willingness to participate in something new. We are making big changes, but we believe that they are in the best interests of our students, so that they may have a Jewish education that is full of friendships and deep learning, and helps them become Jewish adults in every sense of the word. We may not have arrived yet, but we are on our way.

Looking Back, Looking Ahead

The year 2015 ended on a warm note at the KI Preschool. First, we collected winter clothing and school supplies for a Preschool in Wilmington which serves underprivileged children. All the gifts and materials were placed on our new “Mensch Bench” (a beautiful, decorated park bench and its permanent resident “sitter,” Mr. Mensch). The Yiddish word “mensch” means a truly good person who always thinks of others and “bench” in Yiddish actually means to say a blessing as in the word “benediction.” So a “Mensch Bench” is literally “a good person’s prayer.” It’s a two language, double play on words but what it really is, is something beautiful, memorable and inspiring. We want all of our kids (and ourselves) to think “Mensch Bench” as part of who we are.

If that wasn’t enough, we also celebrated Hanukkah 5776/2015 in style. We told the story of Judah Maccabee and their struggle for freedom. We learned about the ancient Temple, its Menorah and the miracle of the oil. We made pictures, learned Hanukkah songs, ate latkes and recited the blessings (did I say “Bench?”) and celebrated our festival of lights with joy and happiness.

So 2015 came to a beautiful close at our Preschool. Now, after a little winter break we will be ready for the New Year, 2016. It may get cold outside! It may snow! The wind may blow and the windows creak. But it's going to be warm inside and we are going to be busy with all our friends, our programs and our music. 2016 is going to be a great year at the KI Preschool.

Wishing everyone a healthy, happy 2016!
What is a Yad?

The pointer, or yad, was developed to aid in reading the Torah. Yad literally means ‘hand,’ as traditionally the end of it is shaped like a hand with the forefinger pointing forward.

Before the 16th century the Torah was read by pointing with one’s index finger to the words. This made it difficult for the person called to the Torah to see the script and follow the reading. It also damaged the Torah scroll as deposits of grease would build up over time and mark the scroll.

By developing the yad, the problem was solved. It was designed as a hand rather than just a pointer to represent the hand of the reader.

A yad makes a wonderful B’nai Mitzvah gift. Stop in our WKI Gift Shop and Gallery to see the beautiful yads we have available for purchase!

In Our Community

KIFTY

KIFTY had a busy December! JYK, which is a weekend program for 6th, 7th, 8th graders at Camp Harlam, started off our month. Many of our KIFTY teens and NFTY678 members had a blast! We had our Hanukkah event on December 19th and also helped out on Mitzvah Day! KIFTY is busy planning many exciting events for our 2nd to 12th graders as we bring in the New Year!

On Friday, November 20, JQuest B’Yachad sixth graders led a beautiful Family Shabbat Evening Service.
Great New Titles at Meyers Library

By Ellen Tilman

January is One Book One Jewish Community Month at the Meyers Library. This year’s selection is A Backpack, A Bear and Eight Crates of Vodka by Lev Golinkin. This memoir tells the story of a Jewish family fleeing persecution in the Ukraine and a young man seeking to understand his past. The citywide program begins with a Conversation with the Author at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday January 10, 2016 at Gratz College, which is free and open to the community. A variety of sponsorship opportunities are available. Copies of the book will be available for purchase and autographing by the author. The Meyers Library has copies of A Backpack, A Bear and Eight Crates of Vodka for you to borrow and read.

Adult Book Discussion Group

On Tuesday January 26 at 1:30 p.m., the Adult Book Discussion Group will explore A Backpack, A Bear, and Eight Crates of Vodka. This is a moderated book discussion and not a book review. Participants are expected to share their insights, reactions and comments with others who have also read the book. Bring a bag lunch (dessert will be provided) and share your reactions to this work. Future Book Discussion dates are: March 15 and May 10.

Jewish Film Series

The Meyers Library is sponsoring a Jewish Film Series in conjunction with the KI Community Night Program and The Temple Judea Museum. The final film in the series, The Woman in Gold, will be shown on Tuesday evening April 5.

Large Print Books

Did you know that the Meyers Library has a separate cart of LARGE PRINT books? Come and see our selection of both fiction and nonfiction books. We will even special order a large print Jewish book for you.

New Books

Ted Merwin has written Pastrami on Rye: An Overstuffed History of the Jewish Deli. This well-documented history begins in Eastern Europe and takes one to the present day. The first use of the world deli in the United States was in 1875. This book is enlightening and entertaining.

The Hours Count by Jillian Cantor is historical fiction about a woman who befriends Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, the only Americans put to death for spying during the Cold War. The day Ethel was first arrested in 1950, she left her two young sons with a neighbor, and she never came home again. Mixing fact and fiction, Jillian Cantor re-imagines the life of that neighbor, and the Rosenbergs.

Do you like to cook? Come to the library and take a look at Michael Solomonov's new cookbook, Zahav. You are sure to find something to add to your repertoire.

Automation Update

We are hard at work on the library automation. I expect that we will have entered over 7,500 titles into our system when you are reading this. Volunteers are needed to help process every book the Meyers Library. We have a scanner that helps enter the needed information. Contact Ellen for more details and to volunteer.

If you would like to receive information on new acquisitions, library events and updates please send your email address to library@kenesethisrael.org and ask to be added to our special Meyers Library list.

Do You Need Service Hours? Become a Library Volunteer

Are you a High School student looking for a service project? The Meyers Library is looking for volunteers. We can design a volunteer project to meet your interests and skills. Spend Sunday morning or Tuesday after school in the Meyers Library and earn service hours. Join the friendly volunteers who keep our library up to date. If you would like to volunteer, e-mail library@kenesethisrael.org or call: 215-887-8700, x 122.

Library Kindles

The Meyers Library has two Kindles which you may borrow. These E-readers are preloaded with our most popular titles. If you are thinking about purchasing a Kindle for yourself, borrowing one from the library is a way to take a “test drive.” You can adjust the type size on a Kindle to meet your vision needs. Kindles may only be borrowed during regular library hours.

The Meyers Library is a wireless computer zone. Bring your laptop or 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 to 6:00 p.m., whenever QJuest B’Yachad is in session. Visit our book carts Friday evenings after services. Make the KI Library your home away from home.
Hollywood’s Take on Nazi-Era Stolen Art

By Rita Rosen Poley

Hollywood has a way of almost creating history. The movie, “Monuments Men,” based upon a 2007 book by Robert Edsel is a case in point. The movie dramatizes the attempt, led by art historians and museum professionals who were part of Allied forces, to rescue the great art works of European civilization that had been stolen by Hitler and his henchmen. The complete title of Edsel’s book is Monuments Men: Allied Heroes, Nazi Thieves and the Greatest Treasure Hunt in History.

This is from the movie PR blurb: “During World War II, the Nazis steal countless pieces of art and hide them away. Some over-the-hill art scholars, historians, architects and other experts form a unit to retrieve as many of the stolen masterpieces as possible. The mission becomes even more urgent when the team learns about Hitler’s “Nero Decree,” which orders destruction of the artworks if the Third Reich falls. Caught in a race against time, the men risk their lives to protect some of mankind’s greatest achievements.”

Starring George Clooney, the 2014 movie brought the subject into clear focus for great numbers of people who knew nothing about this rescue. But what had happened after the end of WWII to all the rescued artwork? I have no real answer but I can trace certain steps. As an artist and a museum curator, I find the story fascinating and a continuing area of research. I recently found a 14-page, single-spaced bibliography of crime novels about Nazi art thefts. Who would have thought that possible?

Not much happened to publicize the aftermath of the art rescue before the late 1980s. In 1985 European governments began to issue lists of artworks confiscated by the Nazis along with details of a process for recovery of those works. At almost the same time Lynn Nicholas was in the midst of a 10-year journey of research into the story of Europe’s plundered artwork. An Oxford history graduate, Nicholas had recently taken a job at the National Gallery of Art in Washington. While there, her background led her to question the provenance (legal background) of the art that surrounded her and, as well, in similar collections in other important museums. The result of that research was her prize-winning 1994 book, “The Rape of Europa” which detailed the story of Hitler’s plunder of art owned by Jewish families, museums, other private collectors and, in many cases, from artists themselves.

Just a few years later, in 1998, the U.S. Government and the Holocaust Memorial Museum co-hosted the Washington Conference on Holocaust Era Assets. Edsel’s book followed along with numerous other restitution conferences, continuing to this day. “Monuments Men” was followed by “Woman in Gold”, the movie that detailed the restitution of the famous painting by Gustav Klimt to its rightful owners, the Brauer family. So, all you have to do is follow Hollywood to keep up with the story of, as Edsel put it, Allied Heroes, Nazi Thieves and the Greatest Treasure Hunt in History!

Reform Lends a Hand

By Bill Dodics

Most interesting, the first Reformer was not a rabbi, but a German layman named Israel Jacobson. Jacobson was a businessman and in the course of his many business trips he saw the need for many ‘improvements’ in Jewish education and synagogue worship. People enjoyed the services because they were in their own German, music was introduced with the organ and decorum and dignity became the norm. The weekly sermon was also introduced. Orthodox Judaism maintained that nothing from the Bible and Talmud could be changed.

We move now to the latter part of the 19th century and the first half of the twentieth century. There was a great development in Reform Judaism, but most important was the affect of American Reform in the establishment of Israel. American Zionists have played a major role on the world scene. During the United Nations debate over the creation of a Jewish state, the spokesman for world Zionism was an American Reform Rabbi, Abba Hillel Silver. It was he who announced to the UN that our people would accept the offer of a tiny portion of Palestine as the basis for a Jewish State, and he declared proudly “that the Jewish State would survive!”

“The Jewish people in Palestine are prepared to defend it. It is not impressed by idle threats. A people that has survived the accumulated fury of the centuries, faced powerful empires in bitter battles for survival, and during the last war saw hundreds of thousands of its sons fighting for freedom in all of the liberating armies of the allied nations, while the head of the Palestine Higher Committee was broadcasting Nazi propaganda from Berlin and congratulating Hitler in his African victories over the allies - such a people will not be intimidated.”

By then the American Jewish Community was contributing more than 100 million dollars a year. The American government has also given large sums of money to the government of Israel. Yet, while the Israeli government has given large amounts of money to America, it has received much in return... Israel has been the only ally of the Middle East...the only ally in the area which has stood up for democracy. For American Jewry the benefits of supporting Israel have been even more dramatic. The cause of Israel and its survival have helped to unify American Jews. The miraculous survival of the Jewish State has contributed greatly to the revival of Jewish pride and sparked growth in Jewish knowledge, inspired increased study of Hebrew, Hebrew literature and Jewish history.
Mazal Tov to our Bar/Bat Mitzvah Students

My name is Mark Shur, my Bar Mitzvah is January 23, 2016. I am in seventh grade at Abington Junior High School. I love playing soccer, being social with friends, listening to music and going for runs. I have two older brothers, Jake, age 20, and Matt, age 17. I am close with both of them, they also had their Bar Mitzvahs at KI. My parents are Donna and Howard Shur.

The True Meaning of ‘Caring Community’
By Donna Bleznak Keller

It was Yom Kippur morning and our member, Susan Zaslow, had a headache. Thinking it was just from fasting, she rested, but it only got worse. So much worse, in fact, that Susan would be rushed to the hospital and into emergency surgery for an aneurysm bleeding into her brain. She would spend two weeks in the hospital and in the eight weeks that followed, during her recovery at home, Susan would come to realize the true meaning of the words “caring community.”

“A simple request was made by a close friend to Cantor Amy Levy -- our family just needed help with meals,” says Susan. “Cantor Levy connected with Tracy Werner of KI’s Caring Community. Friends and members of KI worked with Tracy to compile a list of both members and non-members, an email was sent, and in mere moments, the ‘Meal Train’ was filled! For eight weeks, thoughtful, nourishing meals were delivered to our door, often with notes of love and healing, challah, flowers, and sometimes hugs, tears and laughter. They came from dear friends and acquaintances. The outpouring of support from our KI community was truly beautiful and overwhelming. And it was not just the meals. Visitors came and cleaned our kitchen; volunteers grocery shopped, ran errands and drove my children to activities, lessons and appointments. We received hundreds of cards, flowers, Edible Arrangements, gift cards, cupcakes, balloons, and donations. Many prayers were said on my behalf – all from our KI family!”

Cantor Levy and Tracy Werner started KI’s Caring Community for precisely this purpose: when a KI family is in need, they hope to be first in line to help ease the burden and coordinate needed support.

“The Caring Community is a channel through which KI can reach out to our congregants who are either home-bound due to illness, recent surgery, or for other reasons -- sometimes we just know that a person is feeling depressed,” says Cantor Levy. “Usually I learn of a need in the community and I work with Tracy to determine how we are best able to help.”

Cantor Levy confirms that the congregant wants support from the Caring Community’s volunteers, which Tracy has the Herculean task of overseeing and coordinating. Services offered depend on the situation and include providing meals, reassuring phone calls, congregant or clergy visits, rides to services or KI programs and financial support.

Lynore Eisman and KI’s Sisterhood make themselves available to provide rides and meals, even at the last minute. This type of collaboration is a perfect example of how committees within KI share resources and information and work together seamlessly.

“At this time of year, there is a lot of talk about community, giving and generosity – we experienced it all first hand. My family is eternally grateful for the love and support from KI’s clergy, staff and its most caring community,” says Susan.

“We are grateful to know that through the work of KI’s Caring Community, the Zaslows found some measure of comfort and relief during a difficult time,” says Tracy. “We want our congregants to remember that it’s always okay to ask for help.”

If you or someone you know is in need of support from the Caring Community, please don’t hesitate to contact Anita or Pam in the Clergy Office at 215-887-8702.

Mazal Tov to the following congregants on their Special Simchas . . .

Births
Zoe Faye Ziluca, daughter of Abby and Daniel Ziluca, great-granddaughter of our member Judith Monheit (Herbert Monheit z”l)
Aiden Mathew Richman, son of Rachel and Justin Richman, great-grandson of our member Myrna Rosenau
Asa Janosh Pillischer, son of Karen Meshkov and Matthew Pillischer, grandson of our members Norma and Arnold Meshkov; great-grandson of Stanley Meshkov and Marcella Dworkin

We mark with Sorrow the Passing of . . .
Marcie H. Sussman, our member
Elaine Myzel, aunt of our member Theodore (Diane) Feldstein; sister-in-law of our member Joshua Feldstein
Alice Bourbonnais, mother of our member Nicole Adelman
A Focus on Trees and Helping Others

By Lynore Eisman

On the Women of Reform Judaism website, we learn that Tu BiShvat is celebrated on the 15th (tu) of Sh’vat (typically in January or February) and is frequently referred to as “Jewish Arbor Day” or “Jewish Earth Day.” Originally, the holiday was believed to represent the end of the fiscal year for fruit-bearing trees. Much like the end of the modern fiscal year, it was also an important time to set aside earnings to support the poor.

Today many celebrate the holiday with a Seder and/or by planting trees in Israel to demonstrate commitment to Israel and to preserving the Earth for future generations. To buy Trees for Israel, send your check for $15.75 per tree to KI. Thank you!

Be a Part of KI’s Social Action Programs!

This month’s “HaMotzi KI Community Dinner” is scheduled for Sunday, January 24 at 5:00 p.m. At KI we recognize the reality of food insecurity as a significant problem in our community. It has been a blessing to help our neighbors and to see the amazing response from our KI Community. Contact Sue Fried at 215-327-8065 or simcha1818@gmail.com or Paulette Sterman-Soroko at 215-287-1073 or stermanp@comcast.net to become involved.

KI Brotherhood Welcomes 2016!

By David Pinsky

As the clock neared midnight and the ball was set to drop, what thoughts occupied your mind? Were you, like many Americans, thinking of the promise of a New Year and the inspiring 2016 resolutions that you vowed to achieve?!?! Or were you, like some American Jews, thinking about how much you enjoyed celebrating two annual New Year’s Holidays . . . one measured by the sun and the other measured by the moon? Others of you reading this article might analogize the weekly Shabbat as an important and valuable time to self reflect, seek forgiveness, and/or petition for something.

Regardless of your experience, the common message of New Years is the opportunity to take a moment and ask oneself those personal questions that each one of us deems important to our lives. Jewish philosopher Martin Buber and other existentialists believed that human beings, through their own conscience, create their own values and determine a meaning to their lives. Reform Judaism speaks of the importance of doing good deeds and working toward Tikkun Olam. It speaks of the shared principles that will someday unite all of humanity. It speaks of the personal responsibility and choices that each one of us makes that potentially lead toward such a goal. As the proud leader of our KI Brotherhood, I firmly believe that we are, in our own way, working on programs and activities that extend beyond ourselves and reach out to the greater good of the community. Your presence at our fourth Monday of the month meetings to discuss such community opportunities is welcomed and encouraged. Best wishes to all for a happy, healthy, and joyous 2016!

Upcoming Events

Women of KI Board Meeting
Sunday, January 10 @ 10:00 a.m.

Liilith Salon - Out of Bldg.
Sunday, January 17 @ 2:00 p.m.

“Paint with a Twist at Jenkintown”
Sunday, January 24 @ 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
You don’t have to be an artist to be able to paint a masterpiece! Dessert, coffee and tea will be served. BYOB. $40/person
To join us for this artistic learning experience, send your check by 1/18/16 to:
attn: Sue Fried Women of KI, 8339 Old York Road, Elkins Park, PA, 19027

Joint Brunch “The Vinyl Dialogues” Sunday, February 7 @ 10:00 a.m.
Michael Morsch will share stories about the albums of the 70’s, as told by the artists. His book made it into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Archives. Members $10 - Guests $12. Send check to KI attn: Brotherhood. Your check to KI is your reservation. Send by 2/1/16

THANK YOU for making the HaMotzi Dinners possible!!

KI Donors:
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2. M. Levin and Co.
3. Jerry and Charlotte New
4. Lois and Stan Singer

Merchant Donors:
1. Bagel Squad in Dresher
2. Fill a Bagel in Oreland
3. Jules Thin Crust Pizza in Jenkintown
4. Panera in Jenkintown

Want to support KI? Call 215-887-8700 or visit www.kenesethisrael.org. Thank you!
## January 2016 Calendar

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<th>Sunday</th>
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<td>9:15 a.m.</td>
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<td>Offices and School Closed</td>
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<td></td>
<td>JQuest B’Yachad @ KI</td>
<td>Taste of Judaism (1 of 3)</td>
<td>Maimonides Café</td>
<td>Shabbat Evening Service</td>
<td>Happy New Year</td>
<td>Torah Study</td>
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<td>Women of KI Mtg.</td>
<td>Shir Joy Rehearsal</td>
<td>6:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Adult Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Shabbat Morning Service</td>
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<td>Bernstein Musical Retrospective</td>
<td>Lilith Salon - out of bldg.</td>
<td>MLK Day</td>
<td>Tu BiShvat - out of bldg.</td>
<td>Torah Study</td>
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<td>JQuest B’Yachad @ KI</td>
<td>Taste of Judaism (2 of 3)</td>
<td>Boards of Directors Mtg.</td>
<td>Shabbat Evening Service</td>
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### January 2016 Phone Directory

- **Administrative Office**: 215-887-8700
- **Clergy Office**: 215-887-8702
- **JQuest B’Yachad**: 215-887-8704
- **Preschool**: 215-885-2425
- **Keneseth Israel Phone Directory**: 215-884-4364
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
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<td>RAC Trip</td>
<td>4:30 p.m. Torah Study</td>
<td>6:15 p.m. Guest Noar</td>
<td>7:30 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>8:00 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service</td>
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<td>9:15 p.m. JQuest B’Yachad</td>
<td>10:00 a.m. W of KI &amp; Brotherhood Brunch</td>
<td>Taste of Judaism (3 of 3)</td>
<td>12:00 p.m. Shir Joy Rehearsal</td>
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<td>10:00 a.m. JQuest B’Yachad @ KI</td>
<td>12:00 p.m. Shir Joy Rehearsal</td>
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<td>4:30 p.m. JQuest B’Yachad</td>
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<td>9:15 a.m. Family Education Day at KI</td>
<td>6:30 p.m. Brotherhood Mtg.</td>
<td>4:30 p.m. JQuest B’Yachad</td>
<td>9:00 a.m. Torah Study</td>
<td>10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service</td>
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<td>9:30 a.m. JQuest B’Yachad</td>
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<td>3:00 p.m. Pre-Oscar Party</td>
<td>8:00 p.m. King David Harp Society Shabbat Italiano</td>
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Want to support KI? Call 215-887-8700 or visit www.kenesethisrael.org. Thank you!
We Appreciate The Thoughtfulness Of Those Who Support KI...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.

Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel
8339 Old York Road, Elkins Park, PA 19027

Date:__________________

The enclosed contribution is to the ____________________ Fund

In Memory of ____________________
In Honor of ____________________

Please acknowledge to:

Name ____________________

Address ____________________

City ____________________ State ____________________ Zip__________________

Donors Name ____________________

Address ____________________

City ____________________ State ____________________ Zip__________________

Please make checks payable to Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel.

14 JANUARY 2016
Contributions All listings indicate donor first, followed by the honor or memorial in italic print.

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Gerald & Isrela Franklin,
Keneseth Israel

HA MOTZI PROJECT
Donor, In Honor Of
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Birthday of Susan Glauser

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Donor, In Memory Of
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Arthur Abrahams;
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Sallie Olson, Miriam Kane

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Donor, In Memory Of
Kay Brylawski,
Babetta K. Krauskopf

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Elizabeth Manas, Miriam Kane
Nancy & Frank Wurman,
Joan Glickman
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Barbara Bronstein,
Birthday of Lynn Neigut;
Marriage of daughter of
Lois & Jerry Rosenau
Phyllis & Charles Salinger,
Speedy Recovery of
Bill Dodies

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Donor, In Honor Of
Marjorie Caddy, Birth of Aiden;
80th Birthday of
Ellis Jacobs
Ben Richman, Birth of Aiden

SHARING IS CARING FUND
Donor, In Memory Of
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Barbara DeLuca

Donor, In Honor Of
Myrna & Howard Asher,
Maya Rigler
Paulette Serman &
Skits Soroko,
Bat Mitzvah of
Fried’s granddaughter

TEMPLE JUEVA MUSEUM/FINE ARTS FUND
Donor, In Memory Of
Bonnie & Mike Eisenman,
Doris Belfield;
Louis Soffer; Ruth Soffer
Robyn Miller & Les Cooperson,
Edith Shaw

21st CENTURY FUND
Donor, In Memory Of
Marc & Andy Brookman,
Bianca Korson

TYSON RADIO FUND
Donor, In Memory Of
Jan C. Finkelman,
Harold Finkelman
Donor, In Honor Of
Joanetta Wills, Radio Broadcast

11th Anniversary Musical Collaboration of
the Cantors & Choirs of the Old York Road Kehillah

Sunday, January 31 at 4:00 p.m.
A Musical Celebration of Leonard Bernstein
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Tickets: $10 adults / $12 at door | $5 students / $7 at door
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(215) 887-8700
BOTANICAL HEBREW NAMES
By Dick Weiss, Immediate Past President

The Mishnah teaches that Tu BiShvat is the Rosh Hashanah for trees. Since the holiday reminds us that our role in protecting and preserving our environment is a sacred duty, I thought I would list the Hebrew names of some familiar flora.

Alon (Allon) - Oak
Amir - Treetop
Arava (Arabah) - Savanna, prairie, willow tree
Daliya - A long branch rising up or hanging on posts. Resembles the name of the flower Dahlia
Enav (Einav) - Grape
Erez - Cedar tree
Eshcol (Eshkol) - Bunch or cluster (of grapes, etc.)
Hadassah - Myrtle
Iris - Iris
Jarah (Yaara) - honeycomb; honeysuckle
Moran - Viburnam
Narkis - Daffodil, narcissus
Nitza - Bud
Oren - Pine tree
Rakefet - Cyclamen
Rimmon - Pomegranate
Shaked - Almond
Shamir - Dill
Shoshana - Lillium or rose
Sigal - Violet
Smadar (Semadar) - Nascent or newly developed fruit
Tamar - Palm tree; date
Tirza - Birch
Tsabar - Indian Fig Opuntia - a cactus that grows in Israel; Sabra-native born Israeli
Vered - Rose
Zuph - Nectar, honeydew

There is another connection I would like to make which may kindle some of our Jewish memories. The above is a sort of a glossary. That word comes from the Greek glossarion, derivative of the word for tongue, glossa. Who remembers when that was served as the main course of many a meal in years gone by? Some of you may even remember that with fondness.

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Ms. Joseph earned her B.A. from the Pennsylvania State University in 1991, and her J.D. from Temple University’s Beasley School of Law in 1994, where she received a trial advocacy award. She is Secretary of the Pennsylvania Bar Association’s Workers Compensation Section and served as Treasurer in 2014. In 2011, she was honored by her peers as one of Pennsylvania’s Top 50 Women Lawyers and has been recognized as a Workers’ Compensation “Super Lawyer” for a decade. She is an AIL rated lawyer, who frequently lectures on workers’ compensation law. Ms. Joseph received the 2004 “Lawyers on the Fast Track” award, from The Legal Intelligencer. She served on the Philadelphia Bar Association’s Board of Governors and was the Chair of its Young Lawyers Division in 2001.

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- Two private bedrooms, each with two beds and a private bathroom with shower*
- 24/7 private kitchen and stocked pantry
- Spacious lounge and private space for minyan

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We look forward to helping ensure a comfortable Shabbat environment.

100 East Lancaster Avenue
Wynnewood, PA 19096

*Living facilities available only during Shabbat and holidays.
For The Future

Sunday, February 7
10:00 a.m. Taste of Judaism – Rabbi Sussman on Jewish Thought

Friday, February 19
5:45 p.m. Tot Shabbat Dinner
7:00 p.m. Music, Mind & Meditations Shabbat

Friday, February 26
8:00 p.m. Shabbat Shira King David Harp Society - Shabbat Italiano

Sunday, February 28
3:00 p.m. Movie Night & Pre-Oscar Party

Sunday, March 20
12:00 p.m. Purim Carnival

Wednesday, March 23
7:30 p.m. Purim Celebration & Megillah Reading

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

KI

Kingo: KI’s Favorite Fun-raiser!

Kingo, our annual fundraiser for youth programming, is known for bringing KI families together for an afternoon full of fun, and this year was no exception! Laughter and happy faces, all around! Thanks to all for making it another very successful event.

Address Service Requested:
8339 Old York Rd., Elkins Park, PA 19027-1597