



The Shofar

Congregation Beth Ahavah @ Rodeph Shalom Newsletter

A GLBT synagogue welcoming people of all gender and sexual identities since 1975

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Just wanted to share with you that this year I attended a second night Seder. It was hosted by friends of my friend Pauline who many of you know and have met at BA functions that she often supports. This couple is from Iran. They have five children ranging in ages from 1 to 24. The first four children are spaced in age three years apart. That made the youngest one 15 until a surprise baby was blessed upon them a little over a year ago. They are a religious modern orthodox family that made sure to do the complete Seder. Two things made this seder special to me. One was that we used the Rabbi Nathan Goldberg Passover Haggadah that is plain, simple, and was the Haggadah many Hebrew schools used as a teaching tool back in our day. It is quite familiar, no nonsense, and gave me warm thoughts of Hebrew school back to my youth. I was very able to partake and introduce songs I knew that have stuck with me through all these years. The second reason this Seder was so special is that we actually did the second half of the Seder. Everyone in this family helped clear the dishes so that moving right into finishing the Seder after the Passover feast was a breeze. I just love the songs at the end. It is a bit like attending the BA Tu B'Shevat Seders that Jerry Silverman has so skillfully led these past couple of years - referring to the fact that we sang all those tree songs at the end of the Seder! Need I say that the food was beyond delicious! This Mom not only has five wonderful children but she is also a fantastic cook. Everything from the matzoh balls (made with chicken and onion) to the beef stew and the roasted chicken with Persian spices was absolutely delicious. Pauline told me for years how fantastic of cook this Mom is, and boy was she right. I made sure to sample every dish and of course have seconds in some of them. I was so happy and glad that this family let me dwell within their midst. That truly was the spirit of the holiday. I do hope all of you enjoyed a delightful Passover.

Our BA family, twenty-five of us in all, enjoyed an inspirational Shabbat service and teaching by Rabbi Sue Levi-Elwell along with a delicious Passover meal catered by Feast Your Eyes. It was the same menu of items that was offered at the RS second night Seder. Thank you Joan for skillfully putting the program together.

Talking about programs, please do not miss our Equality Forum Shabbat scheduled on April 30, 2010 at 8 PM in the main sanctuary. Nurit Shein, board member of BA and director of the Mazonni Center will be the featured speaker. See you all then if not before and make sure to visit us at Equality Forum's Sunday Out at a new location this year. I welcome anyone who wants to help staff our table.

B 'Shalom,

Jeff

Jeff Strauss



Equality Forum Shabbat Services

**Friday, 8:00 PM
April 30th**

Join us in the main sanctuary for a special Shabbat in conjunction with Rodeph Shalom .

Guest Speaker: Nurit Shein, Executive Director of Mazonni Center, Philadelphia

TOPIC: EQUAL NOT SPECIAL: THE STRUGGLE FOR LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER INCLUSION - EXPLORING THE JEWISH ETHICAL CONCEPT OF LOVING THE STRANGER/NEIGHBOR IN OUR DIVERSE SOCIETY

BA Board Meeting

April 28th



Wed @ 7:00 PM

All BA members welcome

Yahrzeits



Frances Kahn
April 1, 1981
26 Adar/March 12
Beloved grandmother of
Eve Miller

Lola Grabin Glickstein
April 7, 1977
19 Nissan/April 3
Beloved mother of
Minna Davis

Sadie Kelinson
April 19, 1960
22 Nissan/April 6
Beloved kin of
Larry Finn

Beatrice Winoker
April 21, 1999
5 Iyyar/April 19
Beloved mother of
Jerry Winoker

Irving Lefton
April 22, 1989
17 Nissan/April 1
Beloved father of
Shelly Komito

Miriam Schachter
April 25, 1992
22 Nissan/April 6
Beloved mother of
Ruth Schachter

Bernard Speier
26 Nissan
Beloved grandfather of
Gloria Becker

Ed Traitman
May 10, 1990
15 Iyyar/April 29
Beloved friend of
Jerry Silverman

Harold Kiviat
May 20, 2000
15 Iyyar/April 29
Beloved father of
Jane Storman

Diana Joy Hollander-Speier
May 21, 2001
29 Iyyar/May 13
Beloved mother of
Gloria Becker

BA Brunch & Theater Event

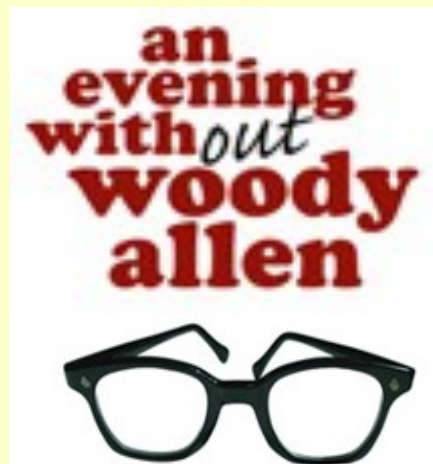
Sunday, May 16, 2010

**Brunch begins at
12:00 PM**

**Marathon Grill
on the Square
1829 Spruce St, Philadelphia**
(ticket prices do not include cost of brunch)

**Play begins at
2:00 PM**

**Plays & Players Theatre
1714 Delancey St, Philadelphia**
215.735.0630



Essays and Short Stories
by Woody Allen
Compiled & Directed by
Jennifer Childs

Come spend a cool and classy evening with the work of an American comedy master. *An Evening Without Woody Allen* features classic tales like: *The Whore of Mensa*, *The Kugelmass Episode*, *A Brief But Helpful Guide to Civil Disobedience*, and *Hassidic Tales, with a Guide to Their Interpretation by the Noted Scholar* among many other hilarious accounts of nebbishes, yentas, and bubbalas.

With three performers and one spotlight, 1812 Productions presents another exclusive world premiere comedy experience.

Tickets: \$24.00 per person by May 3rd

\$29 after May 3rd

RSVP: 215-923-2003 or bethahavah@rodephshalom.org

Brunch is ala carte and reservations are required.

All ticket payments and brunch reservations must be received by May 10th.

Brunch & Theater: May 16th—An Evening Without Woody Allen

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

of tickets ____ @ \$24 (group rate by May 3rd); # of tickets ____ @ \$29 (rate after May 3rd)

of ala carte brunch reservations _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Make check for tickets ONLY payable to Rodeph Shalom; mail with coupon to 615 N. Broad St, Philadelphia, PA 19123.



Equality Forum 2010

45 Programs, Parties & Special Events

Philadelphia - "Equality Forum 2010 with Africa as the international focus will be our best-ever annual forum," stated Malcolm Lazin, Executive Director, Equality Forum.

The weeklong national and international forum will be held from Monday, April 26 to Sunday, May 2 in Philadelphia. There is no registration fee and all substantive panels are free.

"SundayOUT! at The Piazza will take a GLBT festival to a new plateau," stated Lazin. "With The Piazza's professional stage and jumbotron, SundayOUT! will have seven hours of diverse and exciting entertainment featuring the best of our community." The Piazza is a cutting edge urban entertainment location created in the classic design of an Italian piazza. The Piazza in trendy Northern Liberties has restaurants, bars, cafés and unique retail with free parking and easy access by car and public transportation.

Special Events Highlights:

- International Equality Dinner at the National Constitution Center
- Brian Sanders Dance Tribute at the Merriam Theater
- 11th Annual Gay and Lesbian Art Exhibit featuring photographers Richard Renaldi and Marc Yankus, in collaboration with The University of the Arts

Program Highlights with national and international leaders:

- Obama GLBT Appointees Panel
- Conversation with Governor Ed Rendell
- National Sports Panel
- National Legal Panel

Two Documentary Films:

- "Preacher's Sons," including Q & A with filmmaker C. Roebuck Reed
- "OUT in the SILENCE," including Q & A with filmmakers Joe Wilson and Dean Hamer

Nine Parties including:

- 11th Annual Girl Fever
- Three SundayOUT! parties at The Piazza

For a complete schedule of events, visit www.equalityforum.com.

Equality Forum is a national and international GLBT civil rights organization with an educational focus. Equality Forum coordinates GLBT History Month, produces documentary films, undertakes high-impact initiatives and presents the largest annual national and international GLBT civil rights forum.

BIRTHDAYS



Gary Quinton
April 4

Larry Finn
April 10

Cindy Balzar
May 1

Jane Storman
May 11

Steven Mirman
May 17

Ken Richman
May 24



DONATIONS

Jay L. Segal
In honor of Jerry
Silverman's 60th Birthday

COMING SOON!

Sunday, June 13
Philadelphia Gay
Pride

June 2, 2010
*Transgender in the
Jewish Community:*
An Evening of Dis-
cussion with Noach
Dzuma, editor of
Balancing in the
Mehitza

ANNUAL MEETING

May 5th
Wednesday,
7:00 PM

**CONGREGATION BETH AHAVAH
@ RODEPH SHALOM**

615 North Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19123-2495

Phone: **215.923.2003**
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