



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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Shabbat Services



**Friday
8:00 PM**

Join us for a rabbi or lay led BA style service each month preceded by dinner and followed by an oneg & shmoozing.

January 29th

**Tu B'Shvat Seder at 7:30 PM
instead of regular Shabbat Service
led by Jerry Silverman**



BA Board Meeting

Tuesday

January 26th @ 7:00 PM

Tentative: Call 215-923-2003 to confirm

All BA members welcome

Deli Dinner @ 6:30 PM \$12 per person

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



December 30th

Phyllis Ehrlich & Chris Baker

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The holiday of lights has passed us and by now some of us had some days off, others went to Hanukkah and holiday parties, and some of us may just have plodded along in the things we do. I ask that you make January special by joining us for some events. Consider our celebration of Tu B'Shevat on January 29, 2009. We will celebrate Shabbat and conduct a Seder, an event we have held for many years. Also please spread the word about our "Joey and His Girls" Cabaret Night on January 16, 2009. Give it a try and come support us. I have seen Joey and His Girls. They are spirited and stylish, brassy and bawdy, fun and flamboyant. Please come out and support us. I have to tell you a funny thing about this event. At the last Rodeph Shalom board meeting, of which I sit on as a member and representative from Beth Ahavah, I was called on to make some announcements about our upcoming events. I got up, faced the forty or so board member attendees that evening and said, "I want you to know that we are having a Cabaret Night on January 16th. Please come out to this event" I went on to say, "Okay, let us better say that it is a night featuring female impersonators". "Okay, it is really a drag show!" I concluded by saying, "As far as I know, this is the first time Rodeph Shalom has had an event of this type". "I think we are breaking new ground here!" Well, the room of board members, including all the rabbis just cracked up! It was a very funny moment. I am truly glad we can put on this event and I do hope we reach out to our entire family and friends to come out and support it.

I spoke about the Biennial in last month's message. When I was there, I learned that our sister congregation Sha'ar Zahav of San Francisco printed a brand new siddur. It is a comprehensive siddur with LGBTQ and feminist sensibilities. In many cases they have added to traditional prayers or they offer alternative prayers if adding to prayers changes them more that what is intended to make them gender inclusive. The Beth Ahavah board authorized the purchase of two siddurs. I have presented one to the rabbis of RS, and the other one will be part of our BA library. Please feel free to have a look at it or borrow it. Please contact me if you would like to review it or need it as a reference.

As always, it is pleasure to serve our community and I pray we go from strength to strength.

B'Shalom,
Jeff Strauss



Joey & His Girls

One performance only!

Saturday, January 16th • 8:00 PM

Teller Auditorium

hosted by

Congregation Beth Ahavah @ Rodeph Shalom

615 North Broad Street, Philadelphia

Tickets: \$20 per person

Refreshments Served

Join us for a night of song and laughs, the closest we could get to bringing you your favorite headliners – among them Connie Francis and Judy Garland (aka Joey Josephs) as well as Les Harrison, “Katrina” Banks and Precious Calente as...).

RSVP by January 9th

For reservations, call BA@RS, (215) 923-2003,

or email bethahavah@rodephshalom.org

This production of “Joey & His Girls” will benefit the Bikur Holim Committee of Congregation Beth Ahavah@Rodeph Shalom. *Bikur holim* means “visiting the sick,” and an act of *bikur holim* is considered a mitzvah. At BA, we have always been mindful that our responsibility to an LGBT congregation may, at times, include caring for members who, because they are LGBT, don’t have the same kind of family ties as are found in most mainstream congregations and who consequently depend on BA to fulfill needs which might otherwise be met by a family of origin. The Bikur Holim Committee at BA@RS proudly accepts this responsibility and will always try to perform this mitzvah with dignity and compassion for all of our members.

Joey & His Girls • January 16, 2010

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone number _____ Email: _____

No. attending: _____ x \$20.00/per person = _____ (total enclosed)

Please return with your payment (check or money order only) to:

Beth Ahavah @ Rodeph Shalom, Attn: Joey & His Girls, 615 N. Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123



BA Annual

Tu B'Shevat Seder

Friday ☆ January 29th ☆ 7:30 pm
Immediately followed by Shabbat Services

For reservations, call 215-923-2003

Tu B'Shevat is one of the four new years in the Jewish calendar, representing a time for hope and new beginnings. The *Mishnah* proclaims the 15th day of the month of *Shevat* as the New Year for Trees. Two thousand years ago, *Tu B'Shevat* marked the beginning of a new year for calculating the agricultural *ma'asrot* (tithes - one tenth of each person's harvest). Part of the *ma'asrot* went to the *Levites*. Depending on the year, part fed the poor, and part was used in a festive celebration in Jerusalem.

Since the destruction of the temple, Jews continue to mark *Tu B'Shevat* by eating *shiv'at haminim* — the seven grains and fruits that are Biblically associated with *Eretz Yisrael* (wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives, and dates). In 16th century Rabbi Isaac Luria, a mystic, seeded a transformation of *Tu B'Shevat* by developing a festive Passover-like seder featuring teachings, wine and the fruits of the Land of Israel.

Join us as we celebrate in spirit and song, nurturing our Jewish identity, the Jewish state of Israel and the Jewish soul.

American Jews & Chinese Food

Adapted from *Moment Magazine* by Jerry Silverman

The first Chinese restaurants appeared in San Francisco at the beginning of the Gold Rush in 1849. Some Chinese migrated to New York City in the 1870's due to discrimination against them out West. New York City was teeming with immigrants of all kinds, including Irish, Italians, and Jews. "Bohemians" in the immigrant quarters in the Lower Manhattan tenement district fell in love with chop suey, which became the great crossover food that initiated American into Chinese food.

Chop suey is a cross between a stew and a stir fry, usually containing chicken or pork, with bean sprouts, onions, celery, water chestnuts, and bamboo shoots, all cooked in a thick sauce and served over rice. It really did originate in the town of Taishan as a local peasant food, which became Americanized with the removal of the black bean sauce and dried seafood. Children of Jewish immigrants of those days, as opposed to their parents, were willing to venture out to restaurants like other new Americans. Eating Chinese in the 20's and 30's was considered a sophisticated thing to do, but also affordable. Chinese restaurant owners did not discriminate against certain ethnic groups the way other owners did, and they were open 365 days a year, so Jews could eat in Chinatown on Christmas, Easter, and on Sundays.

After World War 2, Chinese food was often considered to be "safe treyf", because the pork or shrimp was cut into such tiny pieces that it was unrecognizable and therefore safe for Jews to consume. Kosher Chinese restaurants became popular in the 50's in the Lower East Side, without the pork or shellfish, of course. As Jews moved out of the Lower East Side Chinese restaurants followed into the suburbs. By the 1960's, people tired of chop suey and chow mein, and after passage of the 1965 Immigration Act, Chinese chefs from Taiwan and Hong Kong opened eateries in San Francisco and NYC. Spicy Szechuan food became especially chic and exotic. The eating of Chinese food is featured in the book Marjorie Morningstar, as a metaphor for the young woman rebelling against her Jewish tradition.

Oh, lest I forget, your fortune reads, "Come to Beth Ahavah and have a gay time!". See you in Chinatown next December 25th, if not sooner!

T'was the night before Christmas
and there was hardly a sound,
As Jews jumped in their cars
and drove to Chinatown.
Their orders were given to waiters
with care,
In hopes that wonton soup soon
would be there.

The children finished their noodles
and nestled in their beds,
While visions of fortune cookies
danced in their heads.
Now we can take an inquiring look,
at how this love affair between
Jews and Chinese food took.

YAHREZITS



Bela Hollander
January 3, 2000
29 Tevet/January 15
Beloved grandfather of
Gloria Becker

Ruth Finn
January 3, 2000
25 Tevet/January 11
Larry Finn

Louis M. Kahn
January 5, 1963
9 Tevet/December 26
Beloved grandfather of
Eve Miller

Louis Finn
January 11, 1936
16 Tevet/January 2
Beloved grandfather of
Larry Finn

Jack Silverman
January 14, 1997
7 Shevat/January 22
Beloved father of
Jerry Silverman

Joyce Forman
January 21, 1997
13 Shevat/January 28
Beloved mother of
Abbe Forman

Esther Lefton
January 22, 2001
13 Tevet/December 30
Beloved mother of
Shelly Komito

BIRTHDAYS



January 10
Linda Thomas

January 24
Jerry Silverman

January 25
Michael Valoris

January 31
Carol Fisher

**CONGREGATION BETH AHAVAH
@ RODEPH SHALOM**

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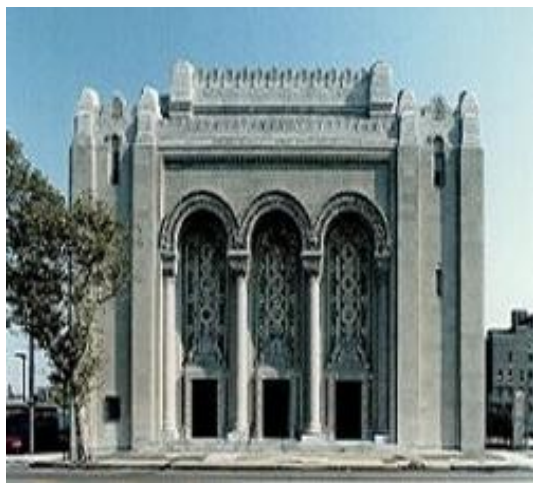
President	Fred Strober
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Rabbi Emeritus	Holzman
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Web Maven	Leslie Polss
Women's Chavurah	Shelly Komito
	Jocelyn Block



A MEMBER OF...



TOGETHER, WE CAN BE THE DIFFERENCE - Super Sunday 2010

Sunday, January 10

Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia will once again bring together the Greater Philadelphia Jewish community at Jack M. Barrack Hebrew Academy in Bryn Mawr to make and take calls that raise vital funds for Federation's Annual Campaign - the largest local campaign that provides critical funds to support Jews in need here, in Israel and in the Former Soviet Union. Mark your calendar and plan to join us for this unique and important community-building effort. For more information and to register, call 215-832-0630. There are morning and evening calling sessions or you can stay all day! Make Super Sunday a full day of philanthropy and fun. During the phoning break from 1 to 3 p.m., LimmudPhilly will present interactive Jewish learning opportunities for all ages. For more information, visit www.limmudphilly.org/events.