



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

Fridays, 8:00 PM

Join us for BA style services preceded by dinner and followed by an oneg and shmoozing.

May 28th

Dinner - 6:00 PM

Sazon Restaurant & Café

941 Spring Garden St, Philadelphia
215-763-2500,
www.sazonrestaurant.com

Call Jeff Strauss to let him know you



BA Board Meeting

May 26th

Wed @ 7:00 PM

All BA members Welcome

ANNUAL MEETING

June 16th

Wednesday,

7:00 PM

It is with deep sadness that we mourn the passing of Irving Block on May 1st, beloved father of Jocelyn Block. Details in separate email.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I was so pleased to see many in our congregation attend the Equality Forum Shabbat service so graciously led by Rabbi Jill Maderer. Nurit Shein, Executive Director of the Mazonni Center in Philadelphia and BA member was the featured speaker. Her speech was entitled Gay Rights - Equal not Special. Nurit relayed stories of institutional and personal homophobia. Nurit also spoke about the history of Rabbis adapting to social change. She acknowledged the wonderful column Rabbi Kuhn wrote about homosexuality in the most recent RS bulletin. I personally thank Nurit for a wonderful talk with a question and answer session afterward. In case you were unable to make the service, we hope to publish her speech in our next issue of the Shofar.

I also wanted to thank you for the opportunity I was afforded by attending the URJ Scheidt seminar last weekend held in Peachtree City, GA. The conference is run by URJ leadership and is for incoming or current presidents of URJ congregations. There were just over 100 individuals from all over North America representing congregations as small as BA and as large as well over 1000 plus families. We learned about all aspects of synagogue leadership. We had poster sessions one afternoon where we presented successful program ideas we did in our own synagogues. You may recall that Ned Hanover presented our affiliation agreement idea at the same conference two years ago which led to our Epstein Communicate award which I accepted this past November at the URJ Biennial in Toronto, Canada.

My poster presented a combination of the two synagogue tours we led of North and then South Philadelphia. The North Philadelphia tour was researched by and led by Rich Pardies, who was intrigued about all the synagogues that used to line Broad Street and the neighborhoods going north from RS. It was this signature event that truly enhanced the relationship between BA & RS. We also followed that with a tour of South Philadelphia shuls two years later, which also was very interesting and captivating. The idea was certainly unique and generated quite a bit of interest by the participants in my seminar.

I was also especially glad to make new friends. All of us were immersed in three and one half days of seminars, services, and meals that brought us together in very inspirational and meaningful ways. My thanks to the many URJ folks that led us and entertained us. So, what we can do is keep thinking of ideas to make our synagogue interesting and participatory by all. I cannot close without reminding you to join us May 15th for our theater event and May 28th for a BA service. Also please plan on attending our congregational meeting on June 16th. More information will follow.

Shalom,



Jeff Strauss



**An Evening Discussion with Noach Dzmura,
editor of *Balancing on the Mechitza:
Transgender in the Jewish Community***

**Wednesday, June 2nd @ 7:00 PM
Congregation Rodeph Shalom**

Please join us for the east coast launch of the new anthology, *Balancing on the Mechitza*, edited by Noach Dzmura, an activist for transgender inclusion in the Bay Area Jewish communities and a consultant for Jewish Mosaic: The National Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity.

Mr. Dzmura will introduce and read selections from the text to illustrate the celebrations and challenges of transgender Jewish life from all points on the gender spectrum.

This event is co-sponsored by Congregations Rodeph Shalom, Beth Ahavah @ Rodeph Shalom, Mishkan Shalom, and the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, the YES! Coalition and the TransFaith Online.

This event will be of interest to Jewish and non-Jewish participants of all genders. Although the event is free, please RSVP so that we may plan for refreshments.

Telephone: 215-923-2003 or Email: bethahavah@rodephshalom.org

Yahrzeits



Sadie Kelinson
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

BIRTHDAYS



Cindy Balzar
May 1

Jane Storman
May 11

Steven Mirman
May 17

Ken Richman
May 24

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**

Tickets

\$24 before May 3

\$29 after May 3

RSVP: 215-923-2003

bethahavah@rodephshalom.org

Brunch is ala carte and
reservations are required.

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

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 *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.

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

**CONGREGATION BETH AHAVAH
@ RODEPH SHALOM**

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Philadelphia, PA 19123-2495

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