

Adar II - Iyar
5771

April - May
2011

Volume 51, No. 8

Irv Selsley, Editor

Beth Israel Center



Centerments

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Editor's Note

An examination of the calendar in this issue shows that the next six weeks are indeed busy ones. It starts as soon as many of you open this issue. Adult Education on Sunday, April 3 is one you will not want to miss! Patricia Prattis Jennings will be joining us to tell us about her 40 years with the Pittsburgh Symphony as principal keyboardist and as the first African-American woman to be awarded a full contract by a major American symphony orchestra. By the way, "keyboardist" is the correct term as she played more than the piano, including the harpsichord, celesta and organ.

The next week, there will be a joint meeting of the Men's Club and Sisterhood at the John Heinz Pittsburgh History Museum for a guided introduction to the Rauh Archives, a collection of Pittsburgh-Jewish interest as it is a compilation of records and memorabilia from many congregations in the Pittsburgh area. The participants will enjoy free time to explore other areas of the museum as well as the Rauh collection, and then enjoy a meal together at a local restaurant.

The third major holiday season of the cycle of the year starts on April 18 with a Redemption of the Firstborn service at 7:00 AM and the first Seder to begin the Pesach celebration of freedom later that evening. We should not forget that Yizkor is observed at noon on the final day of Pesach, April 26.

Rabbi Greenbaum will challenge our intellects with a book discussion after our Friday evening service on April 29. The book is *Have a Little Faith* by Mitch Albom.

Men's Club, without Sisterhood, will hold its final meeting of the year on May 1 at 9:30. A world traveler, Stephen Mallinger, will relate his experiences among the Jewish communities in primarily Muslim countries in sub-Saharan Africa. There will be some surprises in this presentation.

And before you take that deep breath, thinking that the season has ended, I want to give you advance notice that it starts again the very next week with our final Adult Education session on May 15. The speaker will be Rabbi Symon, who was rescheduled from an earlier date due to scheduling conflicts. Please make BIC your Center for life events and companionship.

True Centerments

- A grand Mazel Tov to **Haley and Derek Kelly** on the birth of their daughter **Olivia**. The proud father is the son of **Beth and Shawn Greb**, and Beth of course is the daughter of **JoAnn and Elliott Weiss** - making them great-grandparents! The best part is that Haley and Derek live in Elizabeth, so JoAnn and Elliott get to see there fourth generation often.

News and Notes

- At the Congregation meeting on March 27, the following slate of officers was elected to the Board of Directors for 2011 - 2012:
 - President - Art Weinblum
 - Vice President - Martin Pomerantz
 - Vice President - Open
 - Corresponding Secretary - Ron Weiss
 - Recording Secretary - Ed Myerson
 - Financial Secretary - Rachel Weinblum
 - Treasurer - Ann Schubert
 - Director - Shirley Ravets
 - Director - Marni LattermanContinuing directors are William Hunt and Irv Selsley
- Paul Reiser returns to TV on Thursday, April 14 at 8:30 PM on NBC. His new autobiographical comedy is based on his life adventures, living with his shrink wife and two sons, and his group of oddball friends. Paul is married to Dr. Paula Ravets, daughter of Shirley Ravets.
- The BIC library has a wonderful variety of books and magazines that should appeal to everyone. Magazines may be kept, but books should be signed out and returned within a month. Thanks to Irv and Barbara Latterman for recently contributing three excellent books. They are *Jewtopia* by Bryan Fogel and Sam Wolfson ; *Why is This Night Different from All Other Nights?* by Alana Kurshan; and *Steel City Jews* by Barbara S. Burstin. Thanks to Howard and Carol Lang for giving the library a copy of *The Joys of Yiddish* by Leo Rosten.
- We announced a concert given by Sherry Kloss in our last issue. Sherry and her family are former members of BIC, Sherry having become Bat Mitzvah here, and her mother Myra Kloss having formed and directed the only choir BIC has had in its history. (There are still a few members of the original choir in the congregation.) Sherry's concert, to say the least, was a sell-out! Her playing was exciting to listen to as she used her very delicate touch to perform very high notes on her violin. The concert included short pieces by many famous and not-so-famous Jewish composers, including at least one whose composition was achieved while in Buchenwald. BIC was represented by a small, dedicated contingent.



Adult Education



On March 13, we were privileged to have Ken Rice of KDKA speak on his life in the media. We learned that, more than being just a news reader, there is a lot of participation by the anchors and news teams in preparing and rewriting the news we hear and see on TV. Mr Rice has spent most of his media career in Pittsburgh, first at WTAE and then at KDKA. In addition to his news desk duties, Mr. Rice also moderates Hometown High-Q, a quiz show for highschool students, and participates in other political roundtables. Mr. Rice's lecture drew one of the largest crowds this lecture series has enjoyed!

On April 3, Patricia Prattis Jennings, former keyboardist for the Pittsburgh Symphony, will be our speaker. She will relate her experiences with the Symphony over a long and varied career.

Shirley Schultz, Chair

The lectures this year are sponsored by Shirley Ravets in memory of Dr. Jack Ravets

Men's Club

The next Men's Club meeting will be a joint meeting with Sisterhood; a visit to the Heinz History Center for a guided presentation on the Rauh Archives. More details are given in the Sisterhood item below.

Our final meeting of the year is the rescheduled March meeting. Stephen Mallinger, a friend of Barry Tunick's and a world traveler, has spent an extended period of time in countries in sub-Saharan Africa. He has accepted my invitation to present his experiences in that region in a short illustrated presentation and a discussion, titled "Among the Believers: Jewish Life in Islamic Sub-Saharan Africa". Reserve May 1 at 9:30 AM for coffee and stimulating discussion.

Irv Selsley, Pres.

Sisterhood

Spring is an exciting season for Sisterhood, full of holidays and special events. First was Purim and our annual hamantaschen sale, and we baked and sold a lot. Thank you to those women who rolled, filled, pinched, and baked about 50 dozen hamantaschen, Carol Lang, Elaine Small, Louise Hunt, Ann Schubert, and Janet Selsley. Thanks also to Joan Glickstein who made the dough, and Shirley Ravets who counted and distributed the finished product. Thank you to all the members who bought the tasty merchandise.

Our next event is a very special one. It will be a joint meeting with Men's Club. We are honored to have Susan Melnick, curator of the Rauh Archives at the Senator Heinz Pittsburgh History Center, give us a personal talk about the archives, and a tour of Jewish points of interest in the Museum. The archives contain records and memorabilia of Jewish life in the Pittsburgh area. There will also be free time to independently explore the History Center. The visit will take place at 9:45 AM on Sunday, April 10. If you are interested, please call Janet Selsley as soon as possible. The cost is \$5.50 a person.

Our annual Night at the Movies takes place on Saturday, May 7 at 7:30 PM. The movie this year is "Infidel", a comedy about a Muslim who discovers he was born to Jewish parents. Come and enjoy this excellent film, as well as the refreshments. The price is \$5.50. Call Carol Lang and say you are coming.

To all members and friends of Beth Israel Center Synagogue, Happy Passover.

Janet Selsley and Joan Glickstein
Co-Presidents

Beth Israel Center thanks the following for their support

Yahrzeit Fund

In memory of beloved mother Esther Glickstein, by Joan and Stan Glickstein
In memory of beloved mother Dora Krifcher, by Sara and Charles Krifcher
In memory of beloved daughter Donna Landon, by Arlene and Richard Green
In memory of beloved mother Pauline Grandell, by Sally Petri
In memory of beloved mother Barbara Krupp, by Cindy Balchunas
In memory of beloved grandfather Julius Krupp, by Cindy Balchunas
In memory of beloved grandmother Sophie Krupp, by Cindy Balchuna
In memory of beloved grandfather Louis Regal, by Cindy Balchunas
In memory of beloved father Benjamin Kloss, by Sherry Kloss
In memory of beloved wife Judy Weiss, by Joe Weiss
In memory of beloved mother Judy Weiss, by Cindy Weiss
In memory of beloved father-in-law Daniel Szafir of Marjorie Bernstein Szafir, by
In memory of beloved husband Albert Bernstein, by Frances Bernstein
In memory of beloved mother Dora Needle, by Frances Bernstein
In memory of beloved father Morris Needle, by Frances Bernstein
In memory of beloved sister Mildred Needle, by Frances Bernstein
In memory of beloved mother-in-law Flora Bernstein, by Frances Bernstein
In memory of beloved father-in-law Julius Bernstein, by Frances Bernstein
In memory of beloved sister-in-law Sylvia Lipinsky, by Frances Bernstein
In memory of beloved brother-in-law Morry Burns, by Frances Bernstein
In memory of beloved brother-in-law Melvin Blair, by Frances Bernstein
In memory of beloved brother-in-law Michael Vinopal, by Frances Bernstein
In memory of beloved husband Dr. Hyman Schultz, by Shirley Schultz
In memory of beloved mother-in-law Lily Hirsch, by Dr. Harry Binakonsky
In memory of beloved father Joseph Binakonsky, by Dr. Harry Binakonsky

General Fund

In honor of the retirement of Dr. Perry Haalman, by Lee and Marvin Leibson
In honor of the 90th birthday of Roselle Roth, by Gloria Weiss
In memory of Ms. Brooke Freehling, by Gloria Weiss

Adult Education

In memory of husband Dr. Jack Ravets, by Shirley Ravets



**BY OUR PRESENCE AT SABBATH WORSHIP, WE HONOR THE MEMORY OF
THOSE WHO ARE NO LONGER WITH US.**

Friday, April 8, 2011

Sarah Mirsky, mother of Carolee Burack; 6 Nisan / April 10
Mabel Goldman, mother of Robert Goldman; 6 Nisan / April 10
Harry L. Grossman, father-in-law of Lee Leibson; 7 Nisan / April 11
Martha L. Jacobs Kaplowitz, mother of Renee J. Freudenheim; 10 Nisan / April 14

Friday, April 15, 2011

Morris Needle, father of Frances Bernstein; 15 Nisan / April 19

Friday, April 22, 2011

Louis Reifer, father of Phyllis Silverman; 20 Nisan / April 24
Fannie Davis Hoffman; 21 Nisan / April 25
Sanford Eugene Sontag, brother of Irene Berliner; 22 Nisan / April 26
Samuel Parker, father of Earl Parker; 22 Nisan / April 26

Friday, April 29, 2011

Daniel Tamler, father of Louis Tamler; 26 Nisan / April 30
Samuel Hyman Feinberg, father of Lee G. Leibson; 26 Nisan / April 30
Pearl Janowitz, mother of Allan Janowitz; 29 Nisan / May 3
Harriet Silberman, mother of David Silberman; 30 Nisan / May 4
Mary O'Toole, mother of Arlene Green; 30 Nisan / May 4
Judy Joseph, sister of Louise Hunt; 1 Iyar / May 5

Friday, May 6, 2011

Eric Weiss, son of Joseph Weiss, brother of Cindy Weiss; father of Robin, Sara and Jordan Weiss
3 Iyar / May 7
Arthur Small, father of Elaine Small and Steven Small; 5 Iyar / May 9
George Teplitz, brother of Rita Rosner; 5 Iyar / May 9
Jacob E. Rosenberg, father of Anne Gerson; 5 Iyar / May 9
Mildred Needle, sister of Frances Bernstein; 6 Iyar / May 10

Friday, May 13, 2011

Louis Eckstein, father of Carol Lang and Gerry Tessler; 10 Iyar / May 14
Morris Rosenberg, father of J. Edgar Rosenberg; 10 Iyar / May 14
Ruth Weiss, mother of Joseph and Elliott Weiss; 11 Iyar / May 15
Celia Keller, mother of Pat Melhado; 14 Iyar / May 18
Daniel Keller, father of Pat Melhado; 14 Iyar / May 18
Barbara Robison, sister-in-law of Edward Weingart; 15 Iyar / May 19
Harry Myerson, father of Ed Myerson; 11 Iyar / May 15

PREPARING FOR PASSOVER

Dear Member,

The first night of Passover falls on Monday evening, April 18, 2011. The following is merely an outline of general information that you may find beneficial.

Passover, the Festival of Freedom, begins on the 15th day of the Jewish month of Nisan, at sunset Monday, April 18 2011 and ends after sundown on Tuesday, April 26, 2011. Throughout the eight days of the festival, we abstain from eating any "Chametz" or leaven, i.e. that which contains grains that have been subjected to water or even the slightest amount of moisture for 18 minutes or more.

Wheat, oats, barley rye and generally speaking all grain and grain products (which is allowed to remain undisturbed in contact with water for 18 minutes or more), and foods or drinks made from them, are subject to the laws of chametz. Grain vinegar and products containing such vinegar such as pickles, horseradish, etc. are chametz. All articles made of flour such as matzot, cakes, macaroons, etc. require reliable endorsement by a Rabbi (so that in their preparation moisture is not in contact for 18 minutes or more. etc.) No one else is qualified to pass on Jewish law. Only endorsed matzo meal or potato starch may be used for home baking. No ordinary flour is permitted to be used, since it may have been moistened. Endorsement is also required for candy, soft drinks, wines, liquors, milk, canned food and dried fruits. All green vegetables may be used except peas, and beans. Rice must also not be used.

Since we are not permitted to have any trace of leaven in our food during Passover, special attention must be given to dishes and utensils. It is, of course best to use dishes and utensils that have been specially set aside for Passover use. However, under certain conditions some of the utensils used throughout the year may also be used on Passover. They must be "Kashered" or prepared in a special manner for Passover use.

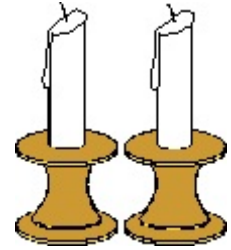
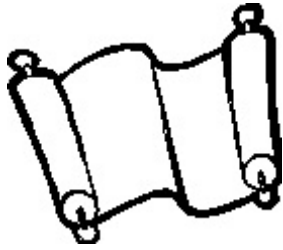
Any chametz owned by a Jew during the Passover week is forbidden for actual use forever. If, therefore, one cannot dispose of all chametz before the approach of the Passover holiday, he must arrange for a formal "Mechirat chametz" or sale of the chametz to a non-Jew. At the conclusion of the first born service beginning at 7:00 A.M., on Monday, April 18th, you will be able to make arrangements to sell your chametz.

Because the first born of the male Israelites were spared when the first born of the Egyptians were smitten in the 10th plague brought upon Egypt, all Jewish males who are first born in their families, fast on Erev Pesach (Passover Eve). This is called "Taanit B'chorim." The Fast is observed this year on Monday, April 18, 2011. If, however, one attends a "Seudat Mitzvah" (a feast that is part of the performance of a religious duty) one is not required to fast. It is, therefore customary in all synagogues that a "siyum" or conclusion of a Talmudic tractate follows the Morning Service on this day. The conclusion of the Talmudic book is an occasion of rejoicing and is followed by a feast. **Attend our Synagogue for Services and "Siyum on Monday morning, April 18th at 7:00 A.M. The Men's Club is sponsoring this service and it is customary for many of those attending the service to meet for a stimulating fellowship breakfast after the service. As usual, the breakfast is free to all of our young attendees.**

Remember that no matzo may be eaten until the First Seder, which starts after sundown, Monday April 18, 2011

FIRST BORN SERVICE

The *First Born Service* will be held on Monday, April 18th at 7:00 A.M. The Men's Club will sponsor it. It has been a tradition for the past 40 years at Beth Israel to hold this morning minyan at the Center and then retire for breakfast afterwards at a nearby restaurant. *The breakfast is free for all of our young attendees.* The reason for this service is explained on the pages that discuss this year's Passover celebration. It has also been an opportunity for those persons wishing to sell their chametz to be able to sign the appropriate documentation for completing the sale. We look forward to seeing all our first born members at this year's service as well as all of our other members, young and old wishing to join us.



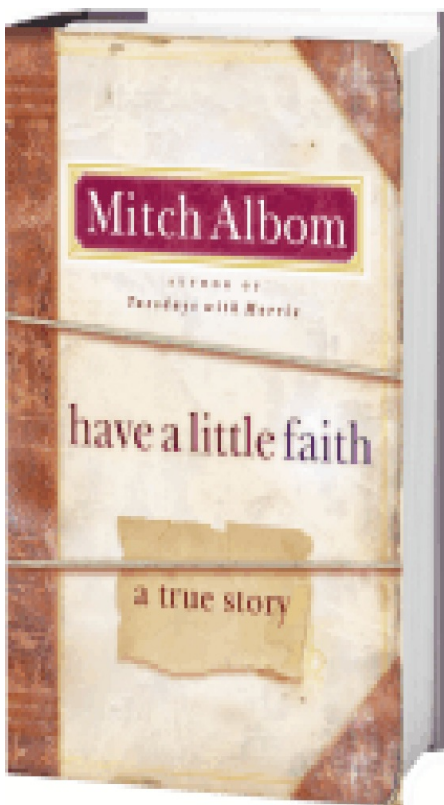
JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT SHABBAT SERVICE WITH

Rabbi Amy Greenbaum

Friday, April 29th at 7:30 P.M.

This week's services will feature a discussion of the book

Have A Little Faith by Mitch Albom



Have A Little Faith begins with an unusual request: an 82-year-old rabbi from Albom's old hometown asks him to deliver his eulogy. Feeling unworthy, Albom insists on understanding the man better, which throws him back into a world of faith he'd left years ago. Meanwhile, closer to his current home, Albom becomes involved with a Detroit pastor – a reformed drug dealer and convict – who preaches to the poor and homeless in a decaying church with a hole in its roof.

Moving between their worlds, Christian and Jewish, African-American and white, impoverished and well-to-do, Mitch observes how these very different men employ faith similarly in fighting for survival: the older, suburban rabbi, embracing it as death approaches; the younger, inner-city pastor relying on it to keep himself and his church afloat.

This is a remarkable, true story of contrast, of two men of God; one an aging rabbi, and the other, an African American pastor working in a ghetto. Two men--two different faiths; two entirely different backgrounds. In the end, the message is clear: Faith ties us closely together and can give us the chance to accomplish things we never dreamed possible.

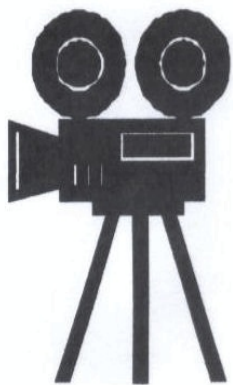
Albom's anecdotal tale of his own personal experience with faith--losing it and regaining it--carries an inspirational message for anyone, regardless of religious affiliation, or lack thereof. We come away with a better understanding of how life can be so meaningful, if we'll only give it a chance.

Future Dates:

Friday, May 20th

Friday, June 17th

The Rabbi's participation is made possible through the Jack Ravets Memorial Fund



Saturday Night at the Movies

Beth Israel Center
Sisterhood
Presents



"Infidel"

Starring Omid Djalili, Richard Schiff & Archie Panjabi
*an identity crisis comedy centered on a successful Muslim
business owner who discovers he's adopted - and Jewish!*

Saturday, May 7th

7:30 p.m.

Refreshments Included

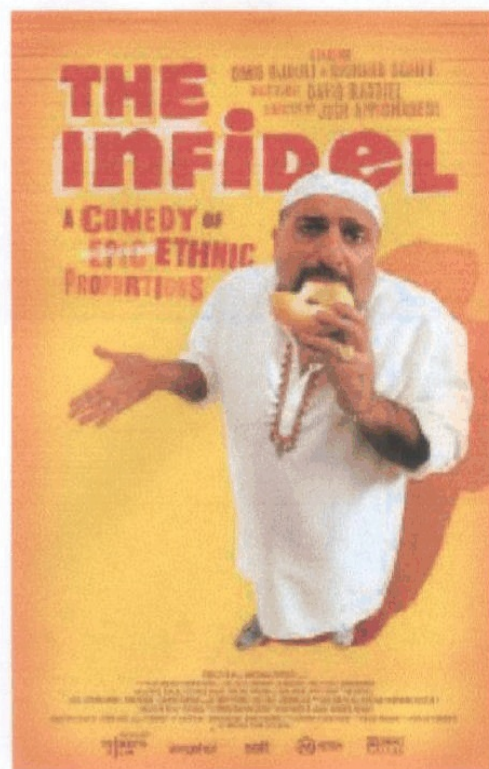
Donation: \$5.50

Invite Friends and Neighbors

Please RSVP to:

Carol Lang - 412-884-5008 or

langhc@verizon.net



BETH ISRAEL CENTER
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APRIL MAY 2011
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Highlights for April- May

Patricia Prattis Jennings
Adult Education, April 3, 7:30 PM

April 18
Redemption of First Born Service - 7 AM
First Seder - after sundown
Yizkor - April 26, noon

April 29
Rabbi Greenbaum
discusses *Have a Little Faith*
by Mitch Albom

Advance notice
Adult Education - May 15, 7:30
Rabbi Symon