

THE BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF PENINSULA TEMPLE BETH EL

Slow the Circles Down

Rabbi Dennis J. Eisner



In the last few weeks or days how many of us have uttered the words "I cant believe it is already 2018," "It seems like just yesterday we . . . (you fill in the blank)," or "Where did the time go"?

With the advancement of age and technology the hands on our watches and the days on our calendars are moving faster and faster and we are having a tougher

and tougher time slowing them down.

If you are anything like me your datebook is filled months and even sometimes a year in advance. Business trips, lifecycle events, holidays, social and work events, caring for aging parents, and schlepping our children to

their countless activities keep us busy beyond belief. It is no wonder that days, months, and years go by at a blistering pace.

As my son turned 18 and my daughter started high school I, too, found myself asking where has the time gone and am trying harder and harder to slow the circle of life down. It is blatantly clear to me that if I don't, I will turn around one day and my kids will be heading off to college, Mandy and I will be contemplating an empty nest, and the next thing we know we will be downsizing and preparing for retirement. Sometimes I just want to yell, "Stop the ride I want to get off!"

Joni Mitchell sang it best in her iconic song,

See Rabbi Eisner on page 4



Bonim B'yachad – Building Our Future Together **Design and Construction Committee Update**

Michael Adler, Chair; Scott Hartley, Co-chair

2018 will be full of exciting progress for the Design and Construction team. Beginning in early January, we will begin the complete renovation of our kitchen. We anticipate completion of this first renovation of our campus to run approximately 12-16 weeks.

The Design and Construction team, along with the architects and our staff, have been

flexible and creative in their efforts to make sure that PTBE continues to be a place filled with celebrations and meaningful life cycle observances during construction.

Ground will be broken, walls will come down, and remodeling will commence. There will be joy . . . There will be exhilarating moments of discovery . . . there will be dust.

Tevet/Shevat/Adar 5778

January/February 2018

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Tevet/Shevat/Adar 5778 January/February 2018

KOLENU Published Bi-Monthly by **Peninsula Temple Beth El** 1700 Alameda de las Pulgas San Mateo. CA 94403 (650) 341-7701 Fax (650) 570-7183 www.ptbe.org **Education Office** (650) 931-0775 Gift Shop (650) 345-6563 A reform congregation affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism **PTBE Staff** Dennis J. Eisner Senior Rabbi Sara Mason-Barkin Associate Rabbi/Educator Lisa Kingston Associate Rabbi/Educator Elana Jagoda Kaye Cantorial Soloist Eric Stone Executive Director Meredith Liron Director, Ganon Early Childhood Education Center Cindi Serbin Communications Manager

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PTBE delegation at the URJ Biennial

Become a Heart of Many Rooms Lawrence Siegel, President



In early December, the Union for Reform Judaism held its biennial convention, and 6,000 Reform Jewish leaders and congregation members from 500 congregations gathered in Boston. Ten members of PTBE's clergy,

officers, Board of Trustees, and congregation participated in a broad array of activities including learning sessions, worship, Torah study, and Jewish music.

Celebrating Shabbat with 6,000 people is quite a remarkable experience! The daily themes of the conference were diversity, innovation, action, faith, and community in support of the overarching theme of reimagining Jewish life. Running throughout the meeting were tracks of programming aligned with the URJ vision and priorities: strengthening congregations, *tikkun olam*, transforming texts, music lab, audacious hospitality, and youth engagement. And if that weren't enough, the World Union for Progressive Judaism and the Women of Reform Judaism held an international humanitarian award dinner and concert.

Clearly there is not enough room in this brief column to discuss the vast array of meeting content. One theme that arose several times over the course of the meeting was exemplified by the session "How to Embrace and Honor the Diversity of Political Voices in the Reform Movement." The discussion was vigorous with some political conservatives expressing concern about positions taken by the Reform movement and wondering about being accepted by and fitting with the larger community. Rabbi Jonah Pesner, Director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, spoke to the need to seek and include diverse opinions in discussions and to find common ground in looking to Jewish traditions, values, and text for tools to understand and interpret the issues of today. In current times, a great challenge for

See President on page 16

Mission Statement of PTBE

Based on the principles of Reform Judaism, Peninsula Temple Beth El is a holy community that cares for its members, the State of Israel and her people, and the world around us. We promote the love of Torah from generation to generation by inspiring Jewish living through study, prayer, fellowship, and good deeds.





Tu B'Shevat Havdalah Pajama Family Concert

Saturday, January 27, 4:00 – 5:30 pm

FREE concert held at Peninsula Temple Beth El.

Join us for an afternoon of celebrating Tu B'Shevat—the Birthday of the Trees! Come in your pajamas as we say goodbye to Shabbat with Havdalah, and then rock out with a concert by Jason Mesches. We'll enjoy food and crafts, and celebrate the season at this fun family celebration. *Co-sponsored by PJCC and Peninsula Temple Beth El.*

Jason Mesches, currently known for his appearances on CBS' **The Big Bang Theory**, and **Two & A Half Men**, is also a member of the popular children's band **The Beat Buds** and a has released an album of original Jewish children's music.



Schedule of Shabbat Services

Friday, January 5 6:30 PM Shabbat Hallelu

Saturday, January 6 10:30 AM Shabbat Morning Service, Jake Lieberman becomes *bar mitzvah*

Friday, January 126:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

Saturday, January 13 10:30 AM Shabbat Morning Service, Evette Moussa becomes *bat mitzvah*

Friday, January 196:30 pm Erev Shabbat Service

Saturday, January 20 10:30 AM Shabbat Morning Service, Nicole Borshchenko becomes *bat mitzvah*

Friday, January 26 6:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service; Max Eisner: *Stand With Us*

Saturday, January 27 10:30 AM Shabbat Morning Service, Jacob Anderman and Drew Smith become *b'nai mitzvah*

Friday, February 25:30 PM Tree of Life Service7:15 PM Shabbat Hallelu

Saturday, February 3 10:30 AM Shabbat Morning Service, Delaney Schreiber and Ethan Torban become *b'nai mitzvah*

Friday, February 96:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

Saturday, February 10
9:00 AM This Shabbat Rocks!
10:45 AM Shabbat Morning Service, Sari Wachtelhausen becomes *bat mitzvah*

Friday, February 166:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

Saturday, February 17 10:30 AM Shabbat Morning Service, Sydney Franklin and Anna Preskill become *b'not mitzvah*

Friday, February 23 6:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service; Irvin Ungar: Szyk

Saturday, February 249:00 AM Tot Shabbat10:30 AM Shabbat Morning Service, Jacob and Zachary Sarver become *b'nai mitzvah*

Morning Minyan - Tuesdays at 8 am

Rabbi Eisner from page 1

"The Circle Game."

And the seasons they go round and round And the painted ponies go up and down We're captive on the carousel of time We can't return, we can only look behind From where we came And go round and round and round In the circle game

So how do we "slow the circles down?" How do we ensure life doesn't pass us by?

It is clear that we must learn how to carve out time, which is the one thing we don't seem to have. When can we take a moment to relax, read a book (when we are not on a business trip), take a bath, go for a walk, have a leisurely meal, and enjoy a glass of wine? When can we take a moment and let the often-overwhelming nature of the week go so we can recharge and rejuvenate our lives?

Well, I have a one-word answer: SHABBAT!

It's brilliant! It's what we need! Whether it is listening to (or hopefully singing along with) the remarkable voice of Elana Jagoda Kaye, connecting to the words of our liturgy, or simply being with family and friends in *shul*, Shabbat allows us to not simply let life pass us by.

And if you can't make it to temple, how about creating a Shabbat experience at home. Dinner,

candles, fruit of the vine, and a challah is all it takes to "drag your feet to slow the circle down."

There is nothing earth shattering in what I have written. There is no new idea here. Actually, I have borrowed from our ancient tradition to remind us of what we have known for thousands of years. We ought to honor, guard, and cherish our Shabbat because as the great philosopher *Ahad Ha-Am* wrote, "More than the Jewish People has kept Shabbat, Shabbat has kept the Jewish People."

So round and round we go as 2017 turns into 2018 in a flash.

Sixteen springs and sixteen summers gone now Cartwheels turn to car wheels through the town And they tell him, Take your time, it won't be long now Till you drag your feet to slow the circles down

We have been given one of the greatest gifts of all time, yet too few of us take advantage of it. Each week we are taught that with the words *Lahdlik Ner Shel Shabbat* – with the lighting of our Shabbat candles, we take a deep breath, we look back on the week that was, we drag our feet, and we slow the circle down.

I look forward to wishing everyone, at some time during the year, a *Shabbat Shalom*.

SHABBAT AT PTBE

Erev Shabbat Service *Fridays, 6:30 pm* (with the exception of our Tree of Life and Shabbat Hallelu services): **New Tree of Life Service** for Families with

Children 3rd Grade and Under: 5:30 pm on February 2, March 2, May 4 Shabbat Hallelu: 7:15 pm on January 5,

February 2, March 2, May 4

Community Shabbat Dinners: 6:00 pm on February 2, March 2, May 4 Shabbat Morring Semigron Saturdays at

Shabbat Morning Services: Saturdays at 10:30 am

This Shabbat Rocks!: 9:00 am on February 10, March 17, April 21, May 12 Tot Shabbat: 9:00 am on February 24 April 14, May 5 Shabbat fun for families with young children: 4:00 pm on January 27, 4:00 pm on March 25, 5:00 pm on June 1 Torah Study for Adults: 9 – 10 am on Saturdays Gesher l'Kesher & Rishonim B'Bayit (in the homes): Friday, January 19 SHABBAT SPEAKERS (7:45 pm): Max Eisner: Stand With Us January 26 Irvin Ungar: Arthur Szyk: Soldier in Art February 23 Mark Hetfield, President of HIAS, Welcome the Stranger March 23



Adult Studies at PTBE



Irvin Ungar: Arthur Szyk – Soldier in Art

Friday, February 23, 7:45 pm (following Erev Shabbat Services at 6:30 pm)

A master of miniature painting and calligraphy, Szyk (1894-1951) brought his unmistakable style to subjects as diverse as biblical stories, literary classics, and political cartoons. His work provides a visual and often acerbic comment on contemporary issues, including World War II, the Holocaust, and the creation of the State of Israel.

Arthur Szyk: Soldier in Art tells a New York immigrant story, a World War II story, and a Jewish and American story. This indispensable publication positions Szyk as one of the most extraordinary artists of his time, as an artist to be remembered and celebrated for generations to come.

Szyk expert Irvin Ungar is a popular and engaging speaker who brings the life of Arthur Szyk alive. Ungar is the tireless force behind the Szyk renaissance and is the foremost expert and leading dealer of the

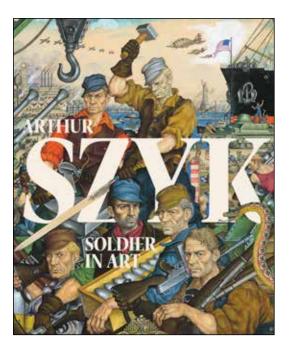
North Peninsula Scholar-in-Residence: Dr. Yehuda Kurtzer

January 19-24

PTBE Lecture: Monday, January 22, 7:00 pm

Zionism in Tension with Other Values: The Challenge of Coalition Building

Dr. Yehuda Kurtzer is the President of the Shalom Hartman Institute of North America and a leading thinker and author on the meaning of Israel to American Jews, the value of the Jewish past to the Jewish present, and questions of leadership and change in American Jewish life.



art of Arthur Szyk. A former pulpit rabbi fluent in Jewish history and tradition, Ungar has devoted the past quarter-century to the scholarship of Arthur Szyk.



Become a Member of PTBE's Legacy Circle All Legacy Circle members are invited to a brunch with Rabbi Dennis Eisner on Sunday, January 21.

If you cannot imagine a future without our beloved temple and what it represents in your or your family's life, perhaps it is time for you, too, to join your name with those names that appear below in declaring that you wish to perpetuate our PTBE community by leaving a legacy gift **in whatever amount**. **There is no need to name an amount or to pay anything now.** By indicating that you plan to support PTBE with a gift after your lifetime, you are committing to the vision of PTBE for your children, your grandchildren, and those yet to be welcomed into our community.

If you have specific questions of how you might plan for a legacy gift using proceeds from an IRA, life insurance policy, or one of the other many ways you can establish an after-lifetime gift, please contact legacycircle@ ptbe.org to arrange for a private, confidential conversation to discuss your options.

PTBE Legacy Circle Members as of December 15, 2017

Joan & Phil Abrams Edward Austin Jane & Ira Berk Judy Bloom Mandy & Rabbi Dennis Eisner Susan & David Folkman Sunny Grotsky Laurie J. Hepler Frank Jonas, *z*"l Lorna Siepser & Steve Klebe Ally Nuschy-Lenat & Rick Lenat Zelda Levin Margit, z"l, & Tom, z"l, Lowenstein Jeffrey A. Margolis Laurie & Laurence May Liane Ofenham Hall & Michael Ofenham, z"l Sylvia & Dr. George Prozan Rick Raybin Kathryn B. (Kaufman) Runcie Ellen & Jerry Saliman Patricia Curtis & Lawrence Siegel Sydney Kapchan and Steve Tulkin Cecile E. Winton, z"l

Bonim from page 1

We are working diligently on the timeline for the sequence of construction on our temple home. As we develop the construction plan, we will disseminate the information via our Kolenu and email notifications.

Even though there is a lot of construction on the Peninsula and throughout the Bay Area, we have been able to hire a top-notch contractor. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Scott Hartley at Scott.Hartley@fox-shjeflo.com, or Lorna Siepser at lornajan@pacbell.net.

Campaign Committee Update Lorna Siepser, Chair

We are pleased to announce that our Capital Campaign has raised \$8.35 million in gifts, pledges, and the \$1 million legacy gift from Mrs. Zelda Levin. The Capital Campaign is *officially* closed. But we do have a goal to raise additional funds to allow us to build two critically important add-ons to our building plan. The first add-on covers the expansion of our new chapel and additional multi-purpose room. We have raised \$250,000 since the High Holy Days for this first add-on. We





2nd-5th graders enjoy a winter retreat at Walden West.



PTBE ANNUAL APPEAL

Chai Giving Oneg February 2, 8:30pm

Thank you to those who supported our Chai Giving Campaign. Though your donations, we have raised \$165,000 as of early December.

Please join us for a special community Chai Giving Oneg following services on Friday, February 2, as we say thank you for supporting PTBE and Chai Giving. A complete roster of donors will be published in the March/April Kolenu as well as in the report for the Annual Meeting.



Sunday Sandwich Hevre (SSH) Needs Volunteers

Sunday, January 21, 11:30 am, and Sunday, February 18, 10:00 am

Many hands are needed to make 350 sack lunches which are distributed by Samaritan House to hungry people on the Peninsula. Thanks to our members, staff, and teen volunteers, the SSH closet is full, and sorted by expiration dates. All you need to do is show up!



B'nai Mitzvah

The congregation is invited and encouraged to attend the special Shabbat services when the children of our congregation become Bat or Bat Mitzvah.

Jake Lieberman–January 6

Jake is the son of Randi Shafton and Drew Lieberman. He has 18-year old twin sisters, Ellie and Zoey. Jake enjoys all sports, business projects, community service, and practicing improv. His goal is to go to a good academic college which is highly ranked in sports (football, basketball, and hockey) and to help people less fortunate than him as much as possible.

Evette Mousa–January 13

Evette is the daughter of Davina and Joseph Moussa. She has two older brothers, Ezra, 18, and Gabriel, 15. Evette is in the 7th grade at The Girl's Middle School and enjoys swimming, coding, shopping, creative design, and makeup art. Evette volunteers through programs like Kids and Art, who create healing and a sense of peace for children and families touched by cancer.

Evette is looking forward to sharing her *bat mitzvah* celebration with her friends and relatives from both near and far.

Nicole Borshchenko–January 20

Nicole is the daughter of Tatiana Blank and Alex Borshchenko. She has an older sister, Rachel, 17. Nicole's hobbies are dance (hip hop, lyrical, ballet, acro, and jazz). She would like to get straight A's throughout middle school and high school. She also wants to travel to many places across the world someday.

Jacob Anderman–January 27

Jacob is the son of Marci and Alex Anderman. Jacob loves to read, hang out with friends, and all things computer!

Drew Culiner Smith–January 27

Drew is the son of Lael Culiner and Josh Smith. He has an old sister, Arianna. Drew loves to play tennis, water ski, and snow ski. He aims to work hard and be fair.

Delaney Schreiber–February 3

Delaney is the daughter of Esther Diane and Joe Schreiber. A dancer and musical theatre performer, she loves to take center stage. Delaney is big sister to Carly, 8. Delaney hopes to become a therapist so that she can continue to help others. She is also looking forward to sharing her *bat mitzvah* celebration with her friends and family from both far and near.

Ethan Torban–February 3

Ethan is the son of Ruslan Torban and Elina and Konstantin Vilk. He has a younger brother, Aiden Vilk, 5. Ethan enjoys soccer, PlayStation, basketball, skiing, building stuff, and playing with dogs. His goals are to gain admission to a high school of his choice, continue getting good grades, attend a good university, travel to each continent, and fly to the moon one day!

Michelle Meskin–February 8

Michelle is the daughter of Fariba and Jamshid Meskin. She has two older sisters, Margot, 28, and Moriah, 18. Michelle's hobbies are singing, dancing, and watching YouTube videos. Her goal is to make a profound impact on the world.

Sari Wachtelhausen–February 10

Sari is the daughter of Todd Wachtelhausen and Blair Fingerhut and Andrew Nemiccolo. She has a step-sister and step-brother, Chaya Grace Nemiccolo, 13, and Noah Nemiccolo, 15. Her hobbies are softball, biking, coloring, and yarn crafts. Her goal is to do something that will help others in the future.

Sydney Noa Franklin–February 17

Sydney is the daughter of Rachel and Barry Franklin. She has an older sister, Jasmine, 15. Sydney enjoys reading, chemistry experiments, dancing, fashion design, baking, and singing. Her goal is to become a fashion designer, therapist, or a lawyer.



Anna Preskill–February 17

Anna is the daughter of Nancy and Robert Preskill. She has an older brother, Ethan, 14. She enjoys playing violin and guitar, hanging out with her friends, and spending time with her dog, Pixie. She is looking forward to celebrating her *bat mitzvah*!

Jacob Sarver–February 24

Jacob is the son of Jennifer Sarver and Steven Sarver. His siblings are Zachary, 13, Sam, 15, and Eliana, 11. His hobbies are reading, playing tennis, and writing. Jacob hopes to meet his favorite authors, go to McGill University, and become a successful author.

Bonim from page 6

have another \$185,000 to raise to completely fund this piece. The second add-on will increase square footage in the Fireside Room, improve entry into the Sanctuary and the Fellowship Hall, and add seating space to the Sanctuary. The cost of this add-on is \$325,000.

The Campaign Committee along with clergy and lay leadership are in active discussions

Zachary Sarver–February 24

Zachary is the son of Jennifer Sarver and Steven Sarver. He has a twin brother, Jacob, and older brother, Sam, 15, and a younger sister, Eliana, 11. Zachary enjoys reading, euphonium playing, video games, tennis, and skiing. His goal is to go to Stanford and to become either a scientist or an author.

with many families who are interested in giving second gifts or first gifts.

We recently held a small reception honoring Mrs. Levin and the start of the kitchen construction. The attendees were all the leaders of this project, most of whom have been with us since its beginning, nine years ago. Rabbi Eisner led us in blessing the project, Mrs. Levin, and our community.



Zelda Levin and Harriet Borofsky





Center for Jewish Spirituality Peninsula Temple Beth El San Mate

A Breath Away - Finding Peace in a Frantic World

Or HaLev (Light of the Heart), the Center for Jewish Meditation at PTBE, is in its 15th year providing the opportunity for one of our meditation teachers to teach about a different Jewish topic related to Jewish mindfulness meditation along with one or two short sits. Whether you are an experienced meditator or have never meditated before, please join us!

Our sits are held on Mondays, 7:00 - 8:15 pm, in our meditation room located behind the ark in the Sanctuary.

January 8..... Led by Marla Kolman Antebi

January 15..... NO SIT

In Memoriam

We express our heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of the recently departed. May their memory be a blessing.

Gerald Abraham Father of Al Abraham (Pam) Grandfather of Shayna

Sylvia Aftel

Mark Eskenazi Father of Allen Eskenazi (Joan Fisher)

Dr. William "Bill" Katz Father of Audra Greenspan (Drew) Grandfather of Zoe and Noah

Mary Hartley

Mother of Scott Hartley (Sharon) Grandmother of Ariella and Elana Mother of Laura Gschwind (Mark) Grandmother of Matthew and Will

Terence McDowell Father of James McDowell (Caryn)

Go Scent Free

January 22...... Led by Jueli Garfinkle January 29...... Led by Bobbi Bornstein February 5...... Led by Marla Kolman Antebi February 12..... Led by Jueli Garfinkle February 19..... NO SIT February 26..... Led by Judy Fisher

Our programs are open to the community and are offered at no charge. If you have any questions or want more information about our program, please contact Judy Fisher, Or HaLev Director, at judithrfisher@gmail.com.

Grandfather of Juliana and Lara Husband of Joyce McDowell

Daniel Meyers

Brother of David Meyers (Julie) Uncle of Ayal and Zev

Mary Townsend Richardson

Grandmother of Valerie Hoffman (Zachary Hoffman) Great-grandmother of Siona, Perri, Edie, and Noa Hoffman

Barbara Meader Roof

Mother of David Roof (Michal) Grandmother of Danielle and Dylan

Idell Weiss

Mother of Eric Weiss (Lydia Bigelow) Grandmother of Adam and Abigail Weiss

Werner Wohl

Father of Ron Wohl (Geri) and Vivian Wohl Grandfather of Michael and Deborah Husband of Eva Wohl

You never know who will end up seated next to you in the Sanctuary, and they may not have a tolerance for strong perfumes or lotions. For some, strong scents can bring on headaches, migraines, or an asthma attack. Please be considerate and come to the temple scent free.





Welcome New Members—*Bruchim Haba'im*

Please welcome these new members into our temple community. We look forward to many years of sharing Jewish enrichment together.

Mazal tov

מזל טובווו

Mazal tov to Noemi and Hector Avram on the birth of their granddaughter, Gia Siena Avram, daughter of Karen and Dario Avram.

Mazal tov to Susan and Gordon Bardet on the birth of their granddaughter, Sydney Rose,

Kol hakavod (well done) and Thank You to Jeffrey Bernstein— Jeffrey Completes Boy Scout Eagle Project at PTBE

Have you noticed anything new next to the playground? Jeffrey and his team made six portable planter boxes for the use of our young children. They are a beautiful addition to our *outdoor classroom* and will be used intensively for fun and learning.

Eagle projects require planning, development, and leadership to others in a service project to benefit a worthy institution. The planter boxes will have numerous uses including educating the preschool children about gardening and *tikkun olam*. Since the boxes are on wheels, they can be lined up end to end to create a smaller contained play area for all our students. The entire temple community will be able to watch the new plants bloom and grow.

The project took over three months to

Keren Solomon and Igor Beckerman and their son, Joshua

Marti Jacobs

Tara Kyle and Eric Kolovson and their son, Jack

Paula and Ken Meier and their children, Lauren and Daniel

Gail and Brandon Reimer and their children, Chloe and Cole

daughter of Jackie and Adrian Bardet. Her big sister, Reese, is proud to welcome her to the family.

Mazal tov to Judy and Alex Quintana on the birth of their daughter, Susana Amelia.

Mazal tov to Carol and Hal Wilner on the birth of their granddaughter, Emma Grace, daughter of Lindsay and Hunter Lipincott.

complete and approximately 270 hours of demanding work from friends and family. Jeffrey felt that after all his years attending Tot Shabbat, Religious School, B'nai Mitzvah classes, Wednesday Night Teen Program, and Confirmation, he wanted to give back to where he planted his roots and grew into an adult.

Jeffrey is currently a senior in the founding class at Design Tech High School. He has been working as the office *madrich* for the past four years in the Rishonim program. He is a member of Boy Scout Troop 301 in Belmont.





Welcoming our Baha'i Faith House Friends to Shabbat Services

Michele Epstein and Judy Maller, Interfaith Friendship Committee Co-Chairs

Our energetic and growing group is gearing up and planning some new interfaith programs in the coming year. If you still haven't signed up for the Peninsula Multifaith Coalition's Martin Luther, Jr., Day of Service, there may be a few spots left. Check in at peninsulamultifaith.org. Let's continue our record for largest group participation!

Our neighbors of the Baha'i faith will be our guests at Shabbat services on Friday, February 2. Please join us in welcoming them at our Halellu Service and at the oneg afterwards. Thank you to Rabbi Eisner for initially reaching out to new friends and encouraging this new faith house partner relationship.

A new interfaith book group is on the horizon. Rabbi Eisner and Father Eric Hinds, Senior Rector of the Episcopal Church of St. Matthew, have teamed up to facilitate a book group discussion open to all members of both PTBE and St. Matthew's. The clergy are in the process of choosing books that will bring our faiths together in interfaith dialogue. Dates and more details will be coming soon.

Also, look out for more information about the upcoming Freedom Seder in late March, sponsored by the JCRC and hosted by the Congregational Church of Christ in Belmont.

If you are interested in learning more about PTBE's Interfaith Friendship Committee and/or have a contact at any of our local faith houses, please contact either Michele Epstein at mk.epstein@comcast.net or Judy Maller at judy@maller.com.

FEBRUARY 2 • PTBE



January/February 2018

Beth El Women

Jane Herzog, President Pam Barasch, Communications Chair

Happy 2018! We are sleeping better in the New Year thanks to Lori Schulman and her program, Sleep for Health and Well Being. Thanks to all of you who helped us with Home & Hope last month. If you haven't joined us yet for an event, you are in luck. There are a wide variety of choices coming up!

Thursday, January 18, 7:00 pm Rosh Chodesh Shevat

Here's your chance to explore your spiritual side! Join BEW for this fun and informative ritual and learning opportunity as we welcome the month of Shevat with music, refreshments, friendship, discussion, and peace of mind. No prior knowledge necessary.

Sunday, January 28 BEW Does Broadway

We are off to Herbst Theater to see **Seth Rudetsky** (Sirius XM) in conversation and song with **Kelly O'Hara**. This event is **SOLD OUT** but be on the look out for another theater opportunity in March.

Wednesday, January 31, 6:30 to 8:30 pm *Tu B'Shevat* Seder for Women

Join Sholom Women and BEW in this unique, beautiful and participatory Seder to rejoice in the beauty of the trees, fruit, and all creation. On Tu B'Shevat, the New Year for the Trees, we commit to protecting the environment, eat delicious food, sip wine and reflect upon spiritual and political concepts that this holiday inspires. This is a great opportunity to see old friends and make new ones! \$25/person. **RSVP** by **January 17** to **Judy Thalheimer** at judytdec@gmail.com

NOTE: Due to the construction of our new kitchen, we will not be able to host our annual BEW Pre-Seder; Sholom Women has graciously offered to host this event for us instead.

Saturday, February 10, 3:30 to 6:30 pm A Shabbat Afternoon with BEW

"The Difference One Can Make—The Heroines Among Us"

Join us for afternoon tea and to hear how Beth El Women are leaping over roadblocks to solve community problems. To **RSVP** or for questions, contact **Ellen Wang** at lilac16@att.net.

February usually means **Hamantashen Baking** for BEW. With no kitchen, we have come up with an **alternative** this year. Be on the **LOOKOUT** for more information and your order form for **Mishloach Manot** in the next few weeks.

Be sure to watch out for (**and open**) your **BEW emails** for more information about what is going on each month with BEW.

The Belarus Holocaust Memorial Project

By Cary Kletter

On September 9, 1942, the remaining Jews living in Kurenets, Poland, now Belarus, were rounded up by the police. More than half of them were children and the elderly. They were all put in a large shed, which was set on fire by the Kurenets fire department. Those who tried to escape were shot. 1052

Jews were murdered that day. This is the shtetl where my family is from. My very fortunate great bubbe Rose Alpert (Alpertovitz) and her family had emigrated from Kurenets to Upstate New York before WWII. At the time









Dr. Steven Windmueller of Hebrew Union College

Brotherhood Darin Leviloff, President

Brotherhood finished 2017 strong and wants to keep the momentum going into 2018. The fall featured many great events and none more memorable than our Rick Kadet Memorial Scholar-in-Residence, Dr. Steven Windmueller. Dr. Windmueller entertained and educated the whole congregation with a post-service presentation on the future of American Jewry and shared more wisdom at a nice Havdalah program the next day where he spoke of the political changes facing American Jews. The Barkoffs were great hosts for an intimate Brotherhood brunch on Sunday where he shared his wisdom of male communal leadership. It was a great honor to have Dr. Windmueller speak to the congregation, but it was also great to honor the memory and leadership of past Brotherhood President and Board of Trustee Rick Kadet. His memory was indeed a blessing.

We also were given a special treat to have Assemblyman Kevin Mullen attend our monthly meeting as our speaker and share his insight into the California legislative process. But Brotherhood didn't end there. We had a wonderful Chanukah party and game night on December 14 with the "Daves" (David Greenseid and David Bauer) providing a wonderful salmon dinner. Fun and prizes abounded.

But between learning and socializing, in December we helped with Home & Hope serving a meal to homeless families living in our area. Our *Tzedek* Committee has been meeting and working on making a commitment to helping others and performing social justice in the community as well as serving the needs of the community. We urge all members of Brotherhood (and anyone else) to help on January 15 with the MLK, Jr., Day of Service. I'll be there.

We have more events coming up and we hope to see new brothers attend. Remember, not only is membership free for new temple members, but in most cases, your first event is free. We have a nice slate of activities planned in the future. On January 11, Rick Raybin will share with us his new book on index stock investing and discuss opportunities in the market. On January 25, we're having a sports night where we can get together and watch the Golden State Warriors and enjoy a beer or two. We are working on a combined event with Beth El Women for a jazz night. Keep your eyes peeled for more information.

Of course, our famous Chinese Banquet is in March. State Senator Jerry Hill will be joining us this year. In the spring we will have a series of sporting events—a golf tourney, a tennis tournament with Beth El Women, and the Daniel Berk Memorial Softball Game. More speakers are sure to follow as well. Join us!

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Senior Friendship Club

Zara Jaffe, President

Meetings are now held at the PJCC in Foster City on Wednesdays from 12:00 to 2:00 pm.

The PJCC bus will drive those who need transportation, either from your home in San Mateo County or from PTBE leaving at 11:35 am. Call Nena at 650.378.2750 to register.

JANUARY EVENTS

January 3: Celtic Music and More! Sugo Music recording artists Margaret Davis and Kristoph Klover perform original arrangements of Celtic music from the British Isles and the Medieval and Renaissance melodies of the European courts and countryside, interweaving soaring vocals with Celtic harp, octave mandolin, guitars, flute, recorders, and whistle.

January 10: The Eclectics Michael Mendelsohn is a professional opera singer and guitarist, and when she's not singing with him, Erfert Fenton runs a horse stable. Despite their different backgrounds ("chorale" and "corral"), the emphasis is on harmony. They perform a variety of songs from arias to show tunes and old-time favorites.

January 17: Al Cabusas: One-Man-Band

Al Cabusas joins us for an afternoon on the piano, first playing a few good old favorites. Then he moves over to the keyboard as a One-Man-Band to play styles including the ChaCha, boogie, and tango.

January 24: Italian Songs We Love Marilyn Cooney, singer-pianist, presents our favorite Italian and Italian-American hits, woven together with stories about the songs and the artists who made them famous. Who can forget Frank Sinatra, Connie Francis, Dean Martin, Rosemary Clooney and Louis Prima? Listen and sing along, too!

January 31: The American Songbook

Guitarist, singer, arranger, and songwriter, Robert Holland has been entertaining audiences for more than 35 years. He will present an afternoon of standards from the American songbook (singing along and toe-tapping required), as we wander through the evolution of his many styles from folk to jazz, Broadway to blues, that compose his repertoire of good-time guitar music.

FEBRUARY EVENTS

February 7: Arrangements to Put a Smile on Your Face! Lee Allen is a solo pianist who also provides the sound of a professional jazz trio, by making the accompanying instrument parts beforehand and replaying them along with his live piano playing. Lee Allen performs regularly at many upscale senior residences, as well as at major Bay Area hotels and at Cavallo Point Resort at Fort Mason (Sausalito).

February 14: Musica Para el Alma Alberto Peña sings and plays guitar, with his musical abilities ranging from Spanish classics to modern tunes to Sinatra and Bocelli to the Beatles—and he even adds in a little Flamenco flavor along the way. Singing along is encouraged!

February 21: Sing Along with Scott Holiday Singer/guitarist Scott Holiday plays a lively variety of songs in different genres, including pop, jazz, country, rock, the Beatles, and more. A little something for everybody!

February 28: A Swingin' Affair! Join singer Jeff Wessman in this musical program that celebrates over five decades of popular songs. Lyrics sheets are provided so everyone is invited to join in! Songs include those by Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Bobby Darin, as well as Hank Williams, Johnny Cash, Gene Autry, Elvis Presley, Willie Nelson, the Beatles, and more.



President from page 2

each of us is to make the effort to try to truly understand those with different opinions to listen with empathy and to have the Judaism and noting the growing influence and importance of Reform Judaism in Israel. He also underscored that divisions in Israel are deep but that efforts to engage, to understand, and to have empathy provide

patience to achieve understanding before forming a reaction. We are reminded that there are many facets to each issue, each situation, and each person. Certainly, public policy and politics are highly complex and we often see unanticipated consequences to even carefully considered plans.



Delegation at URJ Biennieal.

In his D'var Torah on Shabbat, Rabbi Rick Jacobs, President of the URJ, provided an enthusiastic assessment of the state of Reform hope for genuine progress.

I took great inspiration from my experience at the URJ Biennial and encourage all of you to consider attending in Chicago in December, 2019. It was wonderful for me to share the experience with members of the PTBE community.

Much interesting information can be found at urj.org.

Belarus from page 13

of the September 9 massacre, one-third of the Jews living in Kurenets had the last name Alpertovitz.

Every summer UK citizens Diana and Michael Lazarus and representatives of the families of their US counterparts return to Belarus. I have had the honor of joining them on several occasions. Dedication ceremonies are held to say Kaddish and El Malei Rachamim for the deceased, many of whom were killed along with all of their heirs-leaving no one alive to mourn them. Eyewitnesses often describe the horrors that occurred on the day of the executions. This is a very meaningful ceremony and one way to engage in the mitzvah of honoring the deceased. For those whose families suffered unspeakably tragic losses in Belarus during the Nazi occupation, it is our earnest hope that knowledge of these memorials, in the cities, towns, villages, farmer's fields, and

forest clearings, the very sites where the massacres took place, will afford some small comfort. As one family put it: "now we have somewhere where we can stand to remember and mourn."

The Lazarus family created the Simon Mark Lazarus Foundation and formed a de facto partnership with local Jewish organizations to erect memorials which became the Belarus Holocaust Memorial Project, identifying locations where atrocities occurred and coordinating the construction of the Holocaust memorials. To date (November 2017), more than 105 memorials have been erected throughout Belarus. There are more than 500 sites in Belarus where massacres of Jews took place; the Belarus Holocaust Memorial Project plans to erect a memorial at as many of them as possible. More information is available on their website: www.belarusmemorials.com.



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To learn about other ways of meaningful tributes and ways to support PTBE, please contact Executive Director Eric Stone, estone@ptbe.org or 341-7701.

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Tevet/Shevat/Adar 5778





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Happy Big 60

Love, Jan & Dad

In Memory of Loving Parents and Grandparents:

BERNARD AND SHIRLEY LEVIN And Good Friend: LEO BLUM

In Honor of:

LORNA SIEPSER

From: Zelda Levin

In Honor Of:

HARRIET BOROFSKY, M.D.

From: Zelda Levin

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Sam Rose	Lynne and Bill Mayer
Library	
supports the purchase of new books	
In Memory of	Donor
Ruth Kaufman Donk	
Marcus Leadership Development	,
	damala barrand
supports programming for lay leader	aevelopment Donor
In Memory of Hubert C. Marcus	201101
	Diane Marcus
Memorial	
helps fund the temple operations	
In Memory of	Donor
Harry Bloom	Judy and Jordan Bloom
Marvin Gold	Judy and Jordan Bloom

Sophye Gold Robert Mazer	
Prayer Book / Machzor / Tanach <i>funds acquisition of new prayer books</i>	, Machzors, Tanachs, and boly
books for Torah Study	_
In Memory of	Donor
Bernice Ellison	Bonnie and Mel Goldman
Oneg	
enhances our communal worship with	5
In Memory of	Donor
Marleen Katz	Sunya Shaw
Senior Friendship Club	
supports the club's activities to help ke	eep event fees down
In Honor of	Donor
Mildred Cohn's special birthday	Sunya Shaw
Summer Camp Scholarship	
In Memory of	Donor
Arlene Hoeving	
Gary Brown	Lisa and Blair Brown
Sunday Sandwich Hevre	
supports our sandwich making progra	m for feeding hungry people
In Honor of	Donor
In Appreciation	Charles Fetterman
In Appreciation	Stephanie and Rudy Hoffman
Temple Endowment	
helps support temple operations	
In Memory of	Donor
Leo Silber	Maryanne and David Silber
Asset-in-Kind Donations	
Stephanie and Michael Leavitt	
*	

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		Tevet/Sh	Tevet/Shevat 5778 • January 20	ry 2018	Peninsula Tei	Temple Beth El
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 I4 Tevet	2 IS Tevet	3 16 Tevet	4 I7 Tevet	5 18 Tevet	6 19 Tevet
Live Streaming of Shabbat Services Is Now Available www.ptbe.org/watch-live	New Year's Day Office & Ganon Closed	8:00 am Morning Minyan 7 :00 pm Lay-led Torah Study	7:00 pm Israel Trip Info Meeting @ Peninsula Temple Sholem		6:30 pm Shabbat Hallelu Service	9:00 am Torah Study 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service, Jake Lieberman Becomes <i>Bar Mitzuah</i>
7 20 Tevet	8 <i>21 Tevet</i> 4:30 pm Hebrew 7:00 pm BEW Meeting 7:00 pm Or HaLev Meditation	922 Tevet8:00 amMorning Minyan12:00 pmLunchtime LearningCircleCircle4:00 pmHebrew7:00 pmEComm7:00 pmLay-led Torah Study	10 23 Tevet 2:30 pm Hebrew 6:00 pm WNP Middle & High School	11 24Tevet 1:30 pm Hebrew 7:00 pm Ed Committee 7:00 pm Intro to Judaism 7:30 pm Brotherhood Meeting	12 25 Tevet 4:25 pm Hebrew 6:30 pm Erev Shabbat Service	 13 26 Tevet 9:00 am Torah Study 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service, Evette Moussa Becomes Bat Mitzvah
14 27 Tevet	15 <i>28 Tevet</i> Martin Luther King Jr. Day Office & Ganon Closed	1629 Tevet8:00 amMorning Minyan12pmLunchtime Learning12pmCircle4:00 pmHebrew7:00 pmBoard of Trustees7:00 pmLay-led Torah Study	17 <i>I Shevat</i> 2:30 pm Hebrew 6:00 pm WNP Middle School & Confirmation	18 2 Shevat 1:30 pm Hebrew 7:00 pm Intro to Judaism 7:00 pm Rosh Chodesh	193 Shevat4:25 pmHebrew6:00 pmGesher PKesher & Rishonim B'Bayit (in the home)6:30 pmErev Shabbat Service	20 <i>4 Shevat</i> 9:00 am Torah Study 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service, Nicole Borshchenko Becomes <i>Bat Mitzvah</i>
21 5 Shevat 8:20 am Hebrew (early) 9:30 am Rishonim 11:30 am SSH 11:35 am Hebrew (late)	22 6 Shevat 4:30 pm Hebrew 7:00 pm Scholar-in- Residence	237 Shevat8:00 amMorning Minyan12:00 pmLunchtime LearningCircleCircle4:00 pmHebrew7:00 pmLay-led Torah Study	248 Shevat1:00 pmWise Aging 22:30 pmHebrew6:00 pmWNP, Middle &High School	25 9 Shevat 1:30 pm Hebrew 7:00 pm Intro to Judaism	26 10 Shevat 4:25 pm Hebrew 6:30 pm Erev Shabbat Service 7:45 pm Stand With Us Program - Max Eisner	27 <i>11 Shevat</i> 9:00 am Gesher l'Kesher 9:00 am Torah Study 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service, Jacob Anderman and Drew Smith Become <i>B'nat</i> <i>Mitzuah</i> 4:00 pm Tu BiSh'vat Family Concer
28 12 Shevat 8:20 am Hebrew (early) 9:30 am Family Learning Day K/1 Day K/1 9:30 am Rishonim 11:35 am Hebrew (late) 5:00 pm BEW Theater Night	29 13 Shevat 4:30 pm Hebrew 7:00 pm Or HaLev Meditation	30 14 Shevat 8:00 am Morning Minyan 12:00 pm Lunchtime Learning Circle 4:00 pm Hebrew 7:00 pm Lay-led Torah Study	31 15 Shevat Tu BiSh'vat 2:30 pm Hebrew 6:00 pm WNP, Middle School 6:30 pm Joint BEW and PTS Women Tu BiSh'vat Seder at PTS	Pa January 6 January 13 January 20 January 27 E	Parshat Hashavuah Shemot Va'eira Bo Beshalach	Exodus 1:1 – 6:1 Exodus 6:2 – 9:35 Exodus 10:1 – 13:16 Exodus 13:17 – 17:16

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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CALENDAR	OF EVENTS
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Peninsula Temple Beth El

		Shevat/Adar 5778	•	February 2018		
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	February 3 February 10 February 17 February 24	Parshat Hashavuah Yitro Mishpatim Terumah Terzaveh	Exodus 18:1 – 20:23 Exodus 21:1 – 24:18 Exodus 25:1 – 27:19 Exodus 27:20 – 30:10	1 16 Shevat 1:30 pm Hebrew 7:00 pm Intro to Judaism	217 Shevat4:25 pmHebrew5:30 pmTree of Life Service6:10 pmGesher l'KesherCommunityDinner7:15 pmShabbat Hallelu8:30 pmChai Giving Oneg	3 18 Shevat 9:00 am Torah Study 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service, Delaney Schreiber and Ethan Torban Become B'nai Mitzvah
4 19 Shevat 8:20 am Hebrew (early) 9:30 am Rishonim 11:35 am Hebrew (late)	5 20 Shevat 4:30 pm Hebrew 7:00 pm BEW Meeting 7:00 pm Or HaLev Meditation	6 21 Shevat 8:00 am Morning Minyan 12:00 pm Lunchtime Learning Circle 4:00 pm Hebrew 7:00 pm Lay-Led Torah Study	7 22 Shevat 2:30 pm Hebrew 5:00 pm D'var Torah 6:00 pm WNP Middle School & High School	8 23 Shevat 10:00 am Michelle Meskin Becomes Bat Mitzudb 1:30 pm Hebrew 7:30 pm Brotherhood Meeting	9 24 Shevat 4:25 pm Hebrew 6:30 pm Erev Shabbat Service	10 25 Shevat 9:00 am This Shabbat Rocks! 9:00 am Gesher l'Kesher 9:00 am Totah Study 9:00 am Totah Shudy 9:00 am Sari Wachtelhausen 9:00 am Becomes Bat Mizzudb 3:30 pm BEW Havdallah & Program
11 26 Shevat 8:20 am Hebrew (early) 9:30 am Rishonim 11:35 am Hebrew (late)	12 27 Shevat 4:30 pm Hebrew 7:00 pm Or HaLev Meditation	1328 Shevat8:00 amMorning Minyan12:00 pm Lunchtime LearningCircle4:00 pm7:00 pmLay-Led Torah Study	14 29 Shevat 2:30 pm Hebrew	15 30 Shevat 1:30 pm Hebrew 7:00 pm Intro to Judaism	16 <i>I Adar</i> 4:25 pm Hebrew 6:30 pm Erev Shabbat Service	17 2.4dar 9:00 am Torah Study 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service, Sydney Franklin and Anna Preskill Become <i>Biot Mizzuth</i>
18 <i>3 Adar</i> 10:00 am SSH	19 4 Adar Presidents' Day Office & Ganon Closed	20 5 Adar 8:00 am Morning Minyan 12:00 pm Lunchtime Learning Circle 7:00 pm Lay-Led Torah Study	21 6Adar	22 7.Adar	23 8 Adar 6:30 pm Erev Shabbat Service 7:45 pm Irvin Ungar Lecture on Szyk	24 9.44ar 9:00 am Torah Study 9:00 am Tot Shabbat 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service, Jacob & Zachary Sarver Become Binai Mitzuah
25 10 Adar	26 11 Adar 4:30 pm Hebrew 7:00 pm Or HaLev Meditation	27 12 Adar 8:00 am Morning Minyan 12:00 pm Lunchtime Learning Circle 4:00 pm Hebrew 7:00 pm Lay-Led Torah Study	28 13 Adar 2:30 pm Hebrew 6:00 pm WNP Middle School & High School	Live Streaming of Shabbat Services Is Now Available www.ptbe.org/watch-live	ing of vices ls (

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JANUARY YAHRZEITS

Read January 5 Albert Altman Jill Ascher Morris Bach Joseph Benard Gertrude Berman John V. Bock, Jr. Lawrence Brandes Susan Condon Frances Cooper Isadore Diamond Sylvia Fink Max Fisher Nina Fox Jack Frankel Sylvia Freeman Leona Goldberg Carl Goldstein Robert Gottesman Leo Gradinger Gilbert Granet Milton Grev Mary Holderman Rose Jacob Carolyn Jones Ben Katzman Joseph Kay Helen Klein Mike Kuchinsky Henry Lee Sam Leemon Susan Mason Eleanore Matthews Joseph Miller Sol Nathan

Bertram Nelson Alyse Nussbaum Max Pearlman Phyllis Wood Power George Raybin Philip Samuels Catherine Schear Jack Schreiber Harold Schwartz Celia Semanoff Minnie Smith Jose Varizzi Sanuel Victor Esta Vogel Sol Vogel Ruth Weinstein Jerome Weinstein Ruth Weinstein Mara Wolper

Read January 12

Fred Andersen Bertie Aschner John Bean . Ron Bloom Ruth Boehme Naomi Boyarsky David Clipp Leonard Cohen Jeremy (Jeremiah) Cohen Dora Cohn Dorothy Corrao Richard Henry Dana Jean Wilner Fein

Firestone Carolyn Fletcher Fay Glick Ann Goldberg Jim Gross Sylvia Gross Hannah Habas Ada Haikin Meta Holzman Jacobson Samuel Irving Leonore Jacobs Dora Kamalman Moritz Karl Nick Karnell Marleen Katz Horace Katz Mildred Klein Miles Kletter Edith Kuchinsky Cosme Larios Irving Lash Shirley Levi Celia Linsey Margit Lowenstein Bertha Mandell Ina Mason Joseph Miller Marge Papermaster Miriam Pasqualitti Manuel Phillips William Pincus Marilyn Rosenthal Murray Ross

Molly Fine

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Bertha Saffran Marion Samter Harold Schwartz Beatrice Schwartz Irving Share Bobbie Silverstein James Simmons Saul Sorkin Sandra Sperling Jack Strichard Barry Tankel Morris Wilner Marina Yoguel Rose Zimet Albert Zimmerman

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Dan Borkon

Ruth Katz Ethel Klinger Anna Kremen Patricia Landman Natalie Lee Joseph Leipziger Sally Lev Milton Lustig Ruth Madfes Claire Samuelson Meadow Mandle Mierbach Saul Miller Alfred Miller Joseph Mindell Rose Mozer Murray Novak Melba Rosen Angela Rosenbaum Ina Lee Rubenstein Sally Ruby Ester Shore Evelyn Silber Mark Silverstein Louis Traub Daisy Vezpremi Read January 26

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George Selby Natalie Seliber Herbert Senoff Marcus Shimoff Joseph Siegel Bill Sinaisky Peter Ungar Ruth Wander David Weingrun Ida Winograd

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Mike Ofenham Cynthia Otie Lillian Paley Ernst Philippi Helen Ruth Raiskin Lorraine Rose Albert Rudofsky Kathe Salzer Julius Simon Benjamin Simpson Kurt Stern Maurice Strause Morris Talesnick Ursula Thalheimer Sarah Tiano Charlotte Whorl **Read February 9**

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