

# The Show for

*of Temple Beth Tzedek*

January 2016  
Tevet-Shevat 5776

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Sisterhood of Temple Beth Tzedek presents:

## Seeds of Hope Tu B'Shevat Seder

The Mishnah proclaims the 15th day of the month of Shevat  
as the new year for the trees, fruits and seeds

New Years are a time for hope and new beginnings

Come celebrate Tu B'Shevat  
with a Seder involving tasting new fruits  
complete with 4 glasses of wine and a sumptuous brunch

**Sunday, January 24, 2016**  
**10:00 a.m. \$12.00**

Guests welcome -- RSVP by January 19, 2016  
Linda Steinhorn - 634-6330      Rusty Zackheim - 634-6028  
oralin330@aol.com                      irisz@aol.com

## *A Word of Torah*

**Tu B'Shevat** is a Jewish holiday occurring on the 15th day of the Hebrew month of Shevat. It is also called "*Rosh HaShanah La'Tlanot*," literally "New Year of the Trees." In contemporary Israel, the day is celebrated as an ecological awareness day, and trees are

*Continued on p3*

The Jewish Federation, along with Temple Beth Tzedek, Congregation Shir Shalom and Temple Beth Zion is convening an information session about the AIPAC Policy Conference (March 20-22 in Washington, DC) on Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm at Temple Beth Tzedek. Anyone interested in attending the conference as part of our community delegation is welcome to attend. Sarah Walsh, AIPAC's Leadership Management Director for our region will be joining us to provide details on the program and logistics and to answer any questions. Limited subsidies are available.

## From the Cholent Pot

Perry Netter, Rabbi

We live in scary times. Used to be that parents could put their kids on the school bus in the morning and know that for the next eight hours their children were in a safe, secure, loving and protected environment. Used to be that a movie theater was a dark sanctuary to which we retreated in order to lose ourselves in cinematic fantasy and storytelling, where the biggest sin was found in a barrel of popcorn and a box of Milk Duds. Remember those days?

We have, collectively and individually, been on edge for the last fourteen years. Terror has become a way of life. Air travel has been changed in fundamental ways no matter where or when we are flying. Border control is tense and overly officious. Every stranger is viewed as a potential terrorist in the final planning stages of an attack; every large gathering is a potential terrorist target. We are driven by fear.

Terror works like an earthquake. If you live in a heavily populated fault zone, like I did in California, you know that the "big one" is going to hit. So deep in your subconscious mind is a low buzz, reminding you daily that a major earthquake is going to come. It could be in another thirty years. It could be tomorrow. As a result, many are crippled by their fear of an earthquake, and refuse to visit California.

The insidiousness of fear – and hence, the success of terror – is that it can transform a slim probability into an imagined certainty. Another terror attack is inevitable, we all believe, and no one

*Continued on p3*



## 13117 Beinaynu – Just Between Us

Harvey Brenner, Executive Director

As I am writing this column, it is a freakish 62 degrees, rainy, with no snow predicted for days, maybe even weeks! The weather is amazing and just when we think we've mastered it, Mother Nature flexes her muscles and shows us how very little we really do control. But that is not the subject of this month's column.

Today, I want to share with you a philosophy of life called "YIDDA-BIT." It's been relayed to me by my three-year-old granddaughter who is smart as a whip, cute as a button and sweet like sugar. No, really, she is! Yes, I know every grandparent says that about their grandchildren, but in my Averi's case, it's all true!

Anyway, she has a great attitude towards things that we could learn from and mimic.

If you ask her, "Do you want some more milk and cookies?" She answers YIDDA-BIT (in our adult language, "A Little Bit").

"Are you too warm in that sweater?" She answers, a "YIDDA-BIT".

"Do you want grandpa to read to you?" She replies, a "YIDDA-BIT". She doesn't ask for much, just a "YIDDA-BIT".

It dawned on me that this is a great, sagely and wise philosophy of life that all of us could follow. In this season of New Year's resolutions and promises we hope to keep, let's try to incorporate "YIDDA-BIT" into our everyday lives.

We don't have to commit to do too much, just a "YIDDA-BIT".

Will we attend more *Shabbat* and weekday services? A "YIDDA-BIT".

Will we give much more *tzedakah*? A "YIDDA-BIT".

Will we do more *chessed* (good deeds)? A "YIDDA-BIT".

Will we study more *torah*, take more adult ed classes and attend more events at Temple Beth Tzedek? A "YIDDA-BIT" is the right answer!

Let each of us vow to do just a "YIDDA-BIT" (A Little Bit) more than we have done in the past. Attend one more minyan service during the week so someone can say *Kaddish*; take/teach a class; give a bit more generously, whatever. The point is that if each of us tries just a bit harder and stretches just a bit more than in the past, the resulting increase in energy, commitment and community would be palpable and make 2016 a most extraordinary year for us all.

I vow to do a "YIDDA-BIT" better with the promises I make and the vows I undertake. Won't you do the same?

*B'ezrat HaShem* (God willing), may 2016 be a peaceful, safe and healthy year for us all!



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### *From the Volant Pot. Continued*

among us knows when or where one among us knows when or where it will strike. We know we are powerless to stop it, but maybe, just maybe, we can try to avoid it. One response entails magical thinking. That is how I understand the belief that we can minimize the carnage if each of us carried guns. If the patrons of the movie theaters and schools and shopping malls only had guns when the killers began their attacks, this thinking argues, the terror would have been stopped. Some even believe if Jews had been armed in Germany the Holocaust would not have happened.

It is the same thinking that leads millions of people to buy lottery tickets: someone is going to win. Even though the odds of buying a ticket and winning the lottery are just a little bit higher than not buying a ticket and winning the lottery, everyone believes that they are that someone. After all, why not me? Who knows whether or not I am in the right place at the right time to buy the right lottery ticket to hit the jackpot? Someone is going to win; why not me?

And so it is when facing the fear of terror: someone is going to die in a violent, bloody terrorist attack; why not me?

The natural, healthy human response to potential danger is to feel fear. Someone who is not afraid of terrorism is not sane.

### *A Word of Torah. Continued*

planted in celebration.

Tu B'Shevat appears in the Mishnah as one of the four new years in the Jewish calendar. "And there are four new year dates: the first of Nisan, the new year for kings and festivals; the first of Elul, the new year for animal tithes; the first of Tishrei, the new year for calculation of the calendar, sabbat

Facing danger without fear does not make one a hero. Not allowing fear to cripple us is what makes heroes.

That is the real meaning of what the Hassidic rebbe, Nahman of Bratslav, meant in his most famous yet much misunderstood phrase: *Kol ha-olam kulo gesher tzar m'od v'ha-ikkar lo l'faheid*

*k'lal*. "The whole world is a narrow bridge, and the essential thing is not to fear at all." For some reason, this has been transmitted and popularized from a scribal error. In fact, what Rabbi Nahman actually

***"Do not allow your natural and justified fear to stop you from doing what you need to do."***

said was "When a person must cross an exceedingly narrow bridge, the general principle and the essential thing is not to frighten yourself at all."

That is a necessary message for the twenty first century: the world is full of narrow bridges. Do not allow your natural and justified fear to stop you from doing what you need to do. Do not let it prevent you from crossing each narrow bridge. For if we allow that, we will never venture far from home, and we will miss much of what the world has to offer. Fear will stop us in our tracks, leaving our most noble goals unfulfilled. If we allow that to happen, terror will win.

See you in shul.

ical years and jubilees, for planting and sowing; the first of Shevat, according to the school of Shammai; the school of Hillel says: the fifteenth of Shevat." The rabbis of the Talmud ruled in favor of Hillel on this issue. Thus the 15th of Shevat became the date for calculating the beginning of the agricultural cycle for the purpose of biblical tithes.

## *Service Times*

### WEEKDAY

Sunday *Shaharit* 8:30a

Mon-Fri *Shaharit* 7:30a

Daily *Minha/Maariv* 6:00p

### SHABBAT

*Kabbalat Shabbat* 6:00p

*Shaharit* 9:00a

*Minha-Havdallah*

January 2 4:15p

January 9, 16 4:30p

January 23, 30 4:45p

*Junior Congregation* 10:30a

*Tot Shabbat*

January 9, 23 10:30a

### REFA'ENU

January 7 7:30p

## *Mazal Tov*

Cindy & Leon Komm on the birth of their grandson, Ethan Jacob Komm

Claire Chalmer on the birth of her great-grandchildren, Andrew & Emily Chalmer

Karen & Alan Wexler on the marriage of their daughter, Dara to Doug Dubow

Helaine & Harvey Sanders on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Michael Sanders

Ina Sanders on the Bar Mitzvah of her grandson, Michael Sanders

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Rena Wallens  
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*Barukh Dayan Haemet — may their memories be a blessing*

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Father of Harris Witkin  
Father of Lori Sherman  
Father of Renee Krotz  
Father of Rhonda Reid  
Brother of Lois Levine  
Brother of Anita Brody

**Jack Levin**

Father of Sandy Saada  
Father of Lori Newberg

**Robert Seller**

Husband of Maxine Seller  
Father of Michael Seller  
Father of Douglas Seller  
Father of Stuart Seller

**Phyllis Cohan**

Wife of Bahry Cohan  
Sister of Larry Magil  
Mother of Jeffrey Cohan  
Mother of Alan Cohan  
Mother of Marcia Taylor

**Steffi Bloch**

Mother of Lisa Bloch Rodwin  
Mother of Susan Bloch  
Mother of Andrea Bloch

**Ellis (Ollie) Adel**

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Father of Carolyn Margulies  
Father of Jane Lebofsky

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Sister of Hannah Katz

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*90th Birthday*

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*granddaughter, Nicole, to*  
*Jordan Balsom*

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James Sterman  
Harvey Breverman

*Happy Chanukah*  
Stu & Jane Fischman

*In Honor of the birth of Ethan*  
*Jacob Komm*

Linda & Larry Boxer

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Dr. & Mrs. Norman Weiss

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## January Shabbat Times

CANDLELIGHTING	HAVDALLAH
1 4:32p	2 5:40p
8 4:39 p	9 5:46p
15 4:47 p	16 5:53p
22 4:56p	23 6:01p
29 5:05p	30 6:10p

## Lifelong Learning

### TUESDAYS WITH THE RABBI

January 5, 19, 26 10-11a

### LUNCH AND LEARN

Wed January 20 12noon-1:30p

### TALMUD

Sun January 17 9:30-10:30a

### GESHER

Tues January 5, 12, 19, 26 4:15-6:15p

Sun January 10, 24, 31 9:00a-noon

### MISHPAHA

Sun January 24 10:30a-noon

## January Calendar

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>7</b> <sup>26 Tevet</sup><br>Refa'enu 7:30p  | <b>21</b> <sup>11 Shevat</sup><br>Adult Ed Comm 7:30p                               |
| <b>9</b> <sup>28 Tevet</sup><br>Jr. Congregation 10:30a                                 | <b>23</b> <sup>13 Shevat</sup><br>Jr. Congregation 10:30a                           |
| <b>10</b> <sup>29 Tevet</sup><br>Weinberg Mincha 3:30p                                  | <b>24</b> <sup>14 Shevat</sup><br>Mishpacha 10:30a<br>Tu B'Shevat Seder 10:00a      |
| <b>12</b> <sup>2 Shevat</sup><br>Sisterhood Board 9:45a<br>Board of Trustees 7:30p      | <b>25</b> <sup>15 Shevat</sup><br>Tu B'shevat                                       |
| <b>14</b> <sup>4 Shevat</sup><br>Investment Comm 6:50p<br>AIPAC Info Mtg 7:30p          | <b>26</b> <sup>16 Shevat</sup><br>Rabbi's Class 10:00a<br>Officers Meeting 7:00p    |
| <b>16</b> <sup>6 Shevat</sup><br>Michael Sanders Bar Mitzvah<br>Jr. Congregation 10:30a | <b>27</b> <sup>17 Shevat</sup><br>Social Action Comm 7:30p                          |
| <b>17</b> <sup>7 Shevat</sup><br>Talmud Class 9:30a                                     | <b>28</b> <sup>18 Shevat</sup><br>Youth/Ed Comm 7:30p                               |
| <b>19</b> <sup>9 Shevat</sup><br>Rabbis Class 10:00a<br>Finance Comm 7:00p              | <b>30</b> <sup>20 Shevat</sup><br>Jr. Congregation 10:30a<br>Jan/Feb Simcha Shabbat |
| <b>20</b> <sup>10 Shevat</sup><br>Lunch & Learn 12:00p<br>Personnel Comm 7:00p          |   |