

BSJC *Shofar BLAST*

An Events Bulletin for Beth Samuel Jewish Center

Stephanie Wolfe, Rabbi

Susan Hazen, President

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December 2008

Semi-Annual Meeting:

Sunday, December 7 at 9:00 am

All families should have at least one member in attendance at this meeting. We have, as always, good news, “bad” news, encouraging news; important issues to vote upon; important issues that are critical to the future of Beth Samuel to discuss.



- We will be voting on a by-laws change regarding the fiscal year.
- As we are not in a position to start a rabbi search, the Board will be recommending that we extend Rabbi Wolfe’s contract as interim rabbi for a second year.
- We will have a presentation of the dire straits of our current financial portfolio as a wake up call. If our current level of income and expenses stays the same, we could realistically be looking at having to close the doors of Beth Samuel in just 3 years.

During the next year, we must move forward on our renewal project and define who our community is and what our mission will be. We also need to incorporate new ways of funding to remain a viable community.

Adult Education:

Celebrating Chanukah in the Shadow of Christmas

Sunday, December 7 at 10:30 am



Rabbi Israel Miller will be leading our adult education session, where we explore the challenge of celebrating this holiday within a Christmas-obsessed society. What are the challenges of assimilation and the value or retaining our unique heritage. This is not just for families with young kids - Chanukah has value for all!

Brunch will follow the presentation. Please RSVP to the synagogue.



Coming in January

This Shofar BLAST advertises event in December. But mark your calendars now for these events in January.

- January 6 at 11:30 am - Mah Jong and More, synagogue.
- January 20 at 7:00 pm - Mah Jong and More, synagogue.
- January 24 at 6:00 pm - Progressive Dinner, starting at the McLeod’s home
- January 26 at 7:30 pm - Rosh Chodesh Shevat, Susan Nitzberg’s home.



Announce News in The Shofar

Share your good news and accomplishments. For your news to be included in the next full Shofar, email Karen, the newsletter editor, at webmaster@bethsamuel.org.

The next deadline for the Shofar is:

December 17, 2008.

A blue dreidel is positioned on the left side of the page, set against a background of a blue sky with white clouds and several yellow stars. The entire page is enclosed in a blue double-line border.

BETH SAMUEL JEWISH CENTER

CONGREGATIONAL
Chanukah Party

Presented by The Religious School and Women's Group

Everyone Welcome!

Sunday, December 14th at Beth Samuel Jewish Center

10:30 am Religious School Holiday Play & Presentation

11:00 am Latke Brunch

with the Famous Latkes of the BSJC Men's Club!

\$10 for adults/children under 13 free

Please **RSVP** by Friday, December 5th

to Esther Neft @ (412) 741-1685 or Gail Murray @ gamu1@mac.com



Beginner's Yoga

Tuesday, December 9 at 7:00 pm at BSJC.

Yoga has been shown to reduce stress, increase memory, lower blood pressure and improve mood. Let Jenny Ross introduce you to yoga.

Please keep in mind that this is a beginner class, although those with previous yoga experience will also (hopefully) benefit. Men, women, and kids 12 and older are all welcome and encouraged to participate. All postures, breathing and meditation will be discussed and explained.

One should be of good general health and fitness, but need not be a human pretzel. I happily welcome the everyday aches and pains, but respectfully suggest that this is not the class for those with significant health issues or injuries.

Here is some more information about our first Beth Samuel yoga class.

- If you have one, bring a yoga mat with you.
- Wear comfortable clothes - easy to move in and not too baggy (think leggings and a close-fitting top).
- We will practice bare-footed (pedicure optional).
- Make sure that have eaten no less than an hour prior to class.
- A water bottle is always a good idea.
- An open mind is a must!
- Class will last approximately 1 1/2 hours
- It is preferable to avoid wearing perfumes or scented lotions.



I look forward to sharing my enthusiasm for yoga with you.

- Jenny

Mah Jong and More Club:
First Tuesdays at 11:30 am and
Third Tuesdays at 7:00 pm

**Tuesday, December 16 at 7:00 pm and
Tuesday, January 6 at 11:30 am**

The first few games will especially be for beginners who want to learn the game. Or bring another game to play with others who don't play Mahjong.



We canceled our first session due to low attendance. RSVP to Karen Beaudway at karen5@andrew.cmu.edu or 724-266-0776 if you plan to attend. If mah jong sounds fun, but these times aren't good for you, let us know so a schedule change can be considered.

Dear Friends of The Ladle,

Beth Samuel is going to join with another group to serve a meal at the Ladle in 2009. In its 4th year, The Ladle is seeing approximately 80 people every week. And the numbers are increasing as Guests feel the pinch from the struggling economy.

What can you do for The Ladle this holiday season? Last year, our Advisory Board distributed \$10 gift cards to all the adults who attend the weekly dinners at our last dinner before Christmas. The cards were from Giant Eagle, Wal-Mart and K-Mart. We used some of the extra cards to buy gifts for the children and babies who eat at the church each week.

If you would like to help in this way, please drop off your gift cards at The Ladle by Monday, December 14th or contact Marjorie Goldfarb (mmg210@comcast.net) to have her pick them up.

The Advisory Board of The Ladle and The Hearth appreciate your continued support of those in need in Ambridge.



Religious School Dates to Note:

December 7:

Teens attend adult education
program at 10:30am;
Bagel brunch at 12:00.

December 14:

Chanukah Party 10:30 - 12:00
(regular school 9:00 - 10:30)

December 19:

4th - 5th grade lead services

December 21 & 28:

No school (Chanukah break)



Holiday gift list...

Mom, Dad, Sister,
kids, boss, paper
boy, daycare worker,
kids' teachers,
employees, ...

Beth Samuel.

Please
remember Beth
Samuel during
this season of
giving.



BSJC Gift Shop Chanukah Sale All items are 18% off!

Please come to shop for your Chanukah needs. For more
information, please contact us:

Amy Rosenberg at 724-266-2423 or Amyrosenberg@aol.com

Louise Dobsch at 724-266-4236 or LouiseDobsch@aol.com

Susan Hazen at 724-846-2135 or Michaela421@comcast.net

Denise Mancini at 412-771-7029 or Mancini584@msn.com

Do you want a sports-themed kippa? Contact Susan
Hazen!

Shalom,
Gift Shop Staff

Camp JRF Summer 2009 Registration

Believe it or not, the chill of winter is the best time to start thinking about summer camp. Make sure your child has the summer of a lifetime in 2009 at Camp JRF on the Aaron and Marjorie Ziegelman Campus in the Pocono Mountains.

Exciting and innovative programs of varying lengths are available for youth entering third through twelfth grades, and now also for families.



Registration is now open and available online at www.campjrf.org.

Beds fill quickly -- apply today so your child can be part of the magic of Summer 2009 at Camp JRF!

Be a Minyon Mensch - Attend the Oneg of Your Friends

If you are unable to fulfill your Oneg, please try to switch with another member or to contact a member who is not assigned an oneg. Then, notify the office of the change (office@bethsamuel.org or call 724-266-5238) If you have an emergency cancellation or have been unable to find someone to take over your date, contact Susan Hazen to discuss alternatives.

Service Dates Oneg Host - Service Information

December 5/6:	Dawn and Mitch Ackerman; Kris Braslawscce Young Children Shabbat services
December 12/13	Host TBD Traditional Shabbat services
December 19/20	Mike Karp, and Barb & Richard Dripps-Wilson Older Children Shabbat services
December 27	Marilyn & Bernard Caplan No Friday Night Shabbat service
January 2/3:	Deborah Kitay and Denise Bonfilio Young Children Shabbat services
January 9/10	Lynn & Milt Klein and Michele Klein Fedyshin Traditional Shabbat services
January 16/17:	Marvin and Dot Wedeen Older Children Shabbat services
January 23/24	Sharon Roseman and Paul Palevsky Traditional Shabbat services
January 30/31	John and Catherine Levine Traditional Shabbat services
February 6/7	Lauren & Tom McLeod Young Children Shabbat services
February 13/14	Russell & Nancy Fuhrer Traditional Shabbat services
February 20/21	Teens Older Children Shabbat services
February 27/28	Dan & Patricia Nadler Traditional Shabbat services
March 6/7	Shelley & Jeff Lipton Young Children Shabbat services

March 13/14	Marc & Melissa Schneiderman Traditional Shabbat services
March 20/21	Reggi & James Levin Older Children Shabbat services
March 27/28	Hadassah Traditional Shabbat services
April 3/4	Beaudway family, Isaacs family Young Children Shabbat services
April 10/11	Rosenbergs, Louise Dobsch Traditional Shabbat services
April 17/18	Shina and Katz families Older Children Shabbat services
April 24/25	Florence & Irvin Iwler Traditional Shabbat services
May 1/2	Sue Ellen and Leonard Ganz Bar Mitzvah - Michael Ganz
May 8/9	Nancy & Dennis Ciccone Traditional Shabbat services
May 15/16	Susie & Tom Hill Older Children Shabbat services
May 22/23	Gail and Jeff Murray Bat Mitzvah - Clara Murray
May 29/30	Robert and Susan Nitzberg Traditional Shabbat services

Oneg/Synagogue Baking Made Easy - Kosher Frozen Gourmet Cookie Dough

Do you want to provide freshly baked cookies for your Oneg, but don't have the time or desire to bake from scratch in the synagogue? Now it's easy. The synagogue has purchased kosher gourmet frozen cookie dough in five varieties (Chocolate Chunk, White Chocolate Macadamia Nut, Sugar, Honey Oatmeal Raisin and Chocolate Reece's Pieces).

Just \$2.50 per dozen cookies.

Just let us know you want to use it, and we'll be sure it's defrosted for you. In about 10 minutes, you can have all the fresh cookies you need. Available now.



The Promise Haggadah Passover Fundraiser

Your first or last name
printed here



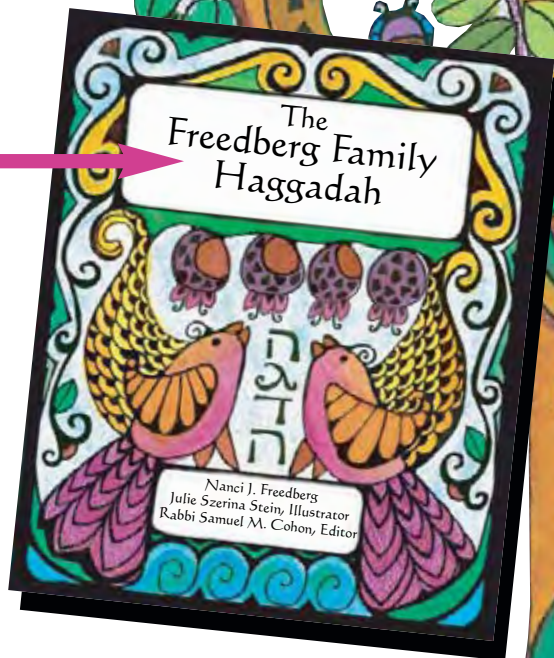
Each Passover Haggadah
can be personalized with a
different name!

**Finally! A Haggadah that is easy to
complete in its entirety!**

The Promise Haggadah offers a complete
Passover seder service for everyone in the family.
It is written so that children can understand
Passover concepts and appeals to adults with its
beautiful interpretations and illustrations.

- Forever a keepsake for your family.
- 18% of all sales are donated directly back to your organization.
- The seder service is complete and concise.

Make checks payable to: "Beth Samuel Jewish Center"



Please return this order form with full payment made payable to your organization.

Order Your Personalized Haggadahs

Your Family Info (As to be printed on the front of each, individual Haggadah, i.e. "Rachel's Haggadah".
Hyphenated names accepted. Please print VERY clearly).

Name _____ Qty _____
Name _____ Qty _____
Name _____ Qty _____
Name _____ Qty _____
Name _____ Qty _____
Name _____ Qty _____
Name _____ Qty _____

Information

Name _____
Name of organization _____
Address, City, State, Zip _____
Phone (_____) _____

Total Number of Personalized Haggadahs

Qty _____ x \$11.00 each= _____

AZ residents, please add 5.6% sales tax to the total.

Special gifts will be awarded to
children selling 10 or more
haggadahs!

Haggadahs will be shipped directly to your
organization.

Make checks payable to your organization.

Be Sure To Order By

January 31, 2009

Contact Information

**Lauren McLeod, at
laurenmcleod@comcast.net**



Go to <http://promisehaggadah.com/sample.html> to view a sample of the full Haggadah.
These make great gifts for children and grandchildren, baby gifts, or children's gifts.

UJF Events in Pittsburgh



Monday, December 15, 2008
5:15 p.m.

Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney
One Oxford Centre - 20th Fl

*Presented by the United Jewish Federation's
Community & Public Affairs Council.*

A panel of distinguished financial experts will address the impact of the current economic turmoil on Pittsburgh and the nation and present their expectations for 2009.

Seating is limited. Reservations required.
Questions? Contact Chava Lilove at 412-992-5214
or at clilove@ujfpittsburgh.org.



Thursday, December 25, 2008

Give back to the Pittsburgh community this holiday season by participating in Mitzvah Day 2008. See <http://www.ujf.net> for a list of all available sites and to register to participate!

**FREE Breakfast for Volunteers: 8 - 10am
Jewish Community Center - Squirrel Hill**

Please bring new school supplies to the breakfast to be donated to local children in need.

Mitzvah Day 2008 is coordinated by Shalom Pittsburgh, the outreach and engagement arm of the United Jewish Federation's Young Adult Division.

Give the gift of a Good Time!

Sports Nite Out 2009

Just in time for the holidays... Don't simply **invite** family and friends to join you at this year's Sports Nite Out, featuring Bob Costas, one of TV's most accomplished sports broadcasters...

give the gift of a Good Time!

Your guests at Sports Nite Out, on Thursday, Feb. 12 at the Pittsburgh Hilton, will have a great time, as they enjoy dinner, our keynote speaker and an amazing silent auction of prized sports art and memorabilia. Buy your tickets **now**, and you pay \$125/ticket (the cost will be \$150 after Jan. 15). And if you fill a table, you'll be eligible to attend our VIP Reception, where you can mingle with Bob Costas and special guest Mark Wilf, Owner and President of the Minnesota Vikings. This year, give a fun holiday gift and be charitable at the same time!



UPCOMING YAHRZEITS

We divide our list from Thursday (Yom Chamishi) to Wednesday (Yom Rivi'i). Using the original Hebrew date of death, we find the corresponding Hebrew date for this year and read the name on the closest Shabbat's evening and morning services. You will receive a notice regarding when your loved one's name will be read.

Observed December 12 - 13

Edith Gorelick, mother of Hilary Neumann
Lillian Cohen
Belle Maretsky Stern
Froim Greenberg
Joseph Reisz, father of Harold Reisz
Leah Lehman
Harry Fisher, father of Sonia Cohen

Observed December 19 - 20

Martha Lubovsky Wekselman, mother of Milly Klein
Stanley Rubin, father of Margee Denver

Observed December 27

Clara Koffman, mother of Sarah Mantica
Max Levine
Michael Edberg
Chaim Lehman
Gizella Klein, mother-in-law of Millie Klein
Ralph Cohen, father of Elaine Herskovitz
Leonard Levin, uncle of Stanford Levin and Marilyn Levin



Shofar BLAST

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