

SHALOM

from BETH SHOLOM

February 2025

3 Shevat – 30 Shevat



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Rabbi Peggy Berman de Prophetis

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Our Mission at Congregation Beth Sholom:

We remain committed to providing inspirational and vibrant contemporary services and programs for all regardless of personal Jewish education and personal levels of observance. We conduct traditional egalitarian services every Friday evening and Saturday services twice monthly. We embrace musical and rhythmical accompaniments. With strong rabbinical guidance and support, our priorities and philosophy are to maintain opportunities for Jewish education and spiritual growth within a friendly environment fostering Jewish community. We treat everyone with warmth and respect. We are very enthusiastic about our traditions and the opportunities Judaism offers to make life more spiritual and meaningful. We also recognize that our way is not the only path to a godly life. We reflect very warm accepting, personalized, and intimate bonds among the members of our Beth Sholom family.

RABBI'S COLUMN:

Happy New Year! This month we celebrate one of Judaism's four new years. The New Year for the Trees begins the evening of February 12th, the 15th day of the Hebrew month of Shevat. (In Hebrew, the number 15 is written *Tu*, hence the name of the holiday, *Tu B'Shevat*.) *Tu B'Shevat* is the beginning of a new year for the purpose of calculating a tree's age. So, if the tree was planted on the 14th day of Shevat, it begins its second year one day later, on *Tu B'Shevat*. Whether a tree was planted 30 days before or 364 days before, all trees planted during the year are one year old on *Tu B'Shevat*. This calculation was important because Leviticus 19:23-25 tells us that fruit from trees may not be eaten during their first three years, and the fourth year's fruit is tithed to God. We can begin eating the fruit in the fifth year. On this holiday we eat a new fruit from the seven species, fruits described in the Torah as being abundant in the promised land—wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives, and dates. As the 11th century Bible commentary, poet, and philosopher Abraham Ibn Ezra said regarding trees, "they are vital to man"—for food, furniture, kindling, shade, beauty, ecology, and more.



The Bible teaches us respect for trees. Deuteronomy 20:20 forbids cutting down fruit trees to make instruments of war.

Trees are the architecture of our outdoor sacred spaces. When I walk in the early morning, either on the Swarthmore campus or in Ridley Creek State Park, I often find myself saying the morning blessings as I walk or expressing wonder at the beauty and perfection of a particular tree.

This *Tu B'Shevat*, celebrate with new fruits, perhaps with a *Tu B'Shevat* seder. Plant trees at home or in Israel through JNF, the Jewish National Fund. In these new years, may all go well for us and for Israel and may there be health, sustenance, and peace for us all.

Rabbi Peggy Berman de Prophetis

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Congregation Beth Sholom

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Brr! It sure has been a cold and windy January! Despite the Arctic weather, our CBS family still managed to come together in prayer, study, song, and friendship each week.

February offers us many more opportunities for worship and celebration.

We welcome Charlie Schwartz to the Bima for his Bar Mitzvah on February 8th. We ask all of you to join Rabbi Peggy, Charlie, his parents, grandparents and his family and friends on this special occasion. Friday services begin at 7pm and Saturday morning services begin at 9:45a.m. A special Kiddish Luncheon will be served in honor of Charlie, and all are invited to share in his simcha.

February offers us a special opportunity to learn about our rich Jewish history in Delaware. A field trip to the Jewish Historical Society and the Historical Society of Delaware has been planned for Sunday, February 23rd. Learning is hard work, so we also plan to have a late lunch on the Wilmington Riverfront. Please read the article in the bulletin about the trip and call me with any questions and to RSVP and reserve your spot!

This month, in addition to our weekly Shabbat services, we will be celebrating the Holiday of *Tu B'Shvat*, the new year for trees. In honor of the holiday, we are planting a grove of trees in Israel. Donations will be accepted throughout the month. Please see the attached flyer for more information.

Opportunities this month to stay warm and engaged also include our Tuesday evening CBS Choir rehearsals, Wednesday evening Parsha classes, crafting on the 18th and an adult education class on the 24th. Herb Konowitz has also invited us to share in his Birthday celebration on February 16th. Please see the attached flyer.

Finally, I wish all of you a wonderful February and invite you to beat the chilly winds and enjoy the warmth of your Beth Sholom family.

With the warmest of regards and Prayers for Peace,

Gwen D. Stubbolo, President
Congregation Beth Sholom

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TREASURER’S MESSAGE

I will be sending out the 2024 Tax forms in mid-January along with a current statement. Your continued support is necessary to sustain the day-to-day operations of the synagogue. If there are any concerns or questions, please contact me.

This past year has been excellent for members returning their commitment forms. Remember, if you did not return the form by the end of December, we will assume that you are continuing your previous year’s commitment. Thank you again for your support.

Continue to bring your Redner’s receipts into the synagogue. There is a basket at the window in the office. We receive a percentage of the total amount of purchases. Remember we need the entire receipt, don’t tear any section off. Only by using your Redner’s membership card will it register the save-a-tape amount. If not, then your receipt and all your efforts are invalid for this program. This has been a terrific fundraiser for the Congregation. These dollars make a wonderful addition to our income and support our charity donations.

Also, if you have any old eyeglasses, remember to bring them to the synagogue and put them in the box near the office. These will be collected by Clyde Bragg for the Lions Club. A great way to repurpose your old glasses for a great cause.

Stu Handler

Stu Handler

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Vice President of Adult Education

February, this year, will be encompassed by the Hebrew month of Shevat. Shevat is the eleventh month of the Hebrew year counting from Nissan. On the 15th of Shevat, we celebrate *Tu B'Shevat* which is called the New Year for the Trees. In ancient times the fruits of the trees that blossomed after the 15th of Shevat were counted as belonging to the next year for the purpose of tithing. To celebrate, we eat a fruit that we have not tasted this season. Other customs include holding a *Tu B'Shevat* seder and eating fruits from Israel (Waskow, 1982), particularly the seven species as listed in Deuteronomy 8:8. Over the years there have been different ways to celebrate this holiday, however, in the 1970's many Jews became concerned that the United States' government policy of the destruction of the Vietnamese forests during the Vietnam conflict. The Torah requires, even during war, that trees must be protected (Deuteronomy 20:19). Out of this concern a Campaign for the Trees and Life for Vietnam was formed. It raised money for reforestation and reconstruction of devastated areas of Vietnam and planted symbolic trees of peace in such places as the lawn of the U.S. Capitol. Often these plantings were done on Tu B'Shevat (Waskow, 1982). With the growth of Zionism, the redemption of the land, and the founding of the State of Israel, the significance of the festival of Tu B'Shevat has increased. It has acquired the character of an Arbor Day with many tree planting ceremonies both in Israel and in the Diaspora (Eisenberg, 2004).

The *Parshat* Readings for February will be *Bo, Beshalach, Yitro, and Mishpatim* and their associated *Haftorot*, and will cover Exodus 10:1 – Exodus 24:18. This month we will read about the last three plagues before the Israelites are released from Egypt, the institution of Pesach and the crossing of the Sea of Reeds, the giving of Manna in the wilderness, the declaration of the Ten Commandments and the ordinances at Mount Sinai, and the receipt of the Tablets of the Law from Hashem. The Parsha reading sessions are open to all and meet on Wednesdays at 6:30pm on the synagogue zoom.

Additionally, the Torah Study group meets on the last Monday of each month at 7pm also on the Synagogue zoom. The next session will convene on Monday February 24th and will be led by Jerry Abrams.

Thank you

Newton Rennie

SAVE THE DATE

On Sunday February 23rd Congregation Beth Sholom is planning a trip to visit The Jewish Historical Society of Delaware and the Delaware Historical Society.

The Jewish Historical Society of Delaware's (JHSD) mission is to acquire, preserve, and publish material pertaining to the history of Jewish settlement and Jewish life in the State of Delaware. Our trip will include a tour of Coxe House which is the home of the JHSD which is on the Delaware Historical Society campus in Willingtown Square on North Market St., Wilmington.

The Delaware Historical Society is sponsoring an exhibit entitled "World War II: Voices of Service" which explores major events of the war through the photographs, letters, and oral histories of everyday Americans. From the attack on Pearl Harbor through the GI Bill, this traveling exhibition provides an overview of important events on the battlefield and the home front. The exhibit is created by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American. The second portion of our trip will include a viewing of this exhibit and as well as a viewing of the "Dear Mollye" exhibit which features letters written by and written to Mollye Sklut during World War II and were important for helping to maintain the morale of soldiers fighting in the various theatres of war.

Trip details:

- Date: Sunday February 23, 2025
- Time: Meet at the Synagogue at 10:15am
- Travel by van to Wilmington
- Jewish Historical Society of Delaware – 11:30am
- Delaware Historical Society – 1:00pm
- Afterward we plan to have Lunch at a restaurant on the waterfront.
- Return to the Synagogue by 6pm

Please RSVP Gwen Stubbolo, Newton Rennie or the CBS office.

Thank you

Tu BiShvat 2025 - the original Earth Day - February 13 / Shevat 15

For a Tu BiShvat synagogue project, CBS will be collecting donations for an orchard of trees to be planted in Israel. Planting trees in Israel is a beautiful way to show you care.

In addition, this year it is more important than ever to plant:

- To show your love for our homeland
- In recognition of brave IDF soldiers and those on the frontlines
- As a beacon of hope for the hostages and their families
- As a memorial to someone who passed away
- In honor of your heroes and the important people in your life

Celebrate life. Plant trees now.

*Please send a donation to
Congregation Beth Shalom
write Tu Bishvat 2025 in the memo line
of your check and we will take care of the rest
Please contact Cindy Konowitz if you have questions*



Speaking of Simchas

From Caroline and Steve Schwartz

*Steve and I would like to announce a 'Save the Date' for
our grandson's,
Charlie Schwartz's,*

Bar Mitzvah

Saturday February 8 at morning services 9:45.am.

*Please plan to join us for this wonderful simcha
with kiddish lunch following.*

Steve has been tutoring Charlie for a year and Charlie is ready. We are so proud of all he has accomplished. We can't wait to share our family simcha with you.

Thank you.

Caroline and Steve Schwartz



You're Invited to
Herb's Birthday Dinner

DATE: 02.16.2025

@6:00 PM



263 N DUPONT HWY
DOVER, DE 19901

RSVP BEFORE 2.10.2025 TO:
CAPECODLADY05@GMAIL.COM



Let's gather for a great time!
Meals and drinks will be self pay.

This Month's Simchas

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

February 2	Diana Sheinblum	February 13	Sheri Brill
February 3	Ernesto Rivera	February 13	Herb Konowitz
February 7	Janis Chester	February 19	Stu Handler
February 11	Paula Bragg Retzlaf	February 28	Garth Stubbolo

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO

No anniversaries to celebrate this month

Mazel Tov and Simon Tov

****If you have a special simcha to share please let us know and we will post it in our Bulletin.... Pictures are welcome! ****

February 2025
3 Shevat – 30 Shevat 5785

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 <i>Bo</i> 3 Shevat
2 4 Shevat	3 CBS Board Mtg 6:30 (Z) 5 Shevat	4 Choir Practice 6:00 pm (H) 6 Shevat	5 Parsha Study 6:30 pm (Z) 7 Shevat	6 8 Shevat	7 Rabbi Peggy 7 pm (H) 9 Shevat	8 Rabbi Peggy Charlie Schwartz Bar Mitzvah 9:45 am (H) Kiddush Lunch <i>Mazel Tov</i> <i>Beshalach</i> 10 Shevat
9 Rabbi Peggy learning 9:30 am (Z) 11 Shevat	10 12 Shevat	11 Choir Practice 6:00 pm (H) 13 Shevat	12 Parsha Study 6:30 pm (Z) 14 Shevat	13 <i>Tu B'Shevat</i> 15 Shevat	14 Newton & Janet Rennie 7 pm (H) 16 Shevat	15 <i>Yitro</i> 17 Shevat
16 Happy Birthday Dinner for Herb Konowitz Olive Garden Dover 6 pm 18 Shevat	17 19 Shevat	18 Crafting 10:30 am Choir Practice 6:00 pm (H) 20 Shevat	19 Parsha Study 6:30 pm (Z) 21 Shevat	20 22 Shevat	21 Barry Brill 7 pm (H) 23 Shevat	22 Steve Schwartz 9:45 am (H) Kiddush Lunch and Book Club <i>Mishpatim</i> 24 Shevat
23 Field trip JHSD & DHS of Wilmington Time TBD 25 Shevat	24 Jerry Adult Education 7:00 pm (Z) 26 Shevat	25 27 Shevat	26 Parsha Study 6:30 pm (Z) 28 Shevat	27 29 Shevat	28 Steve Schwartz 7 pm (H) <i>Rosh Chodesh Adar</i> (1) 30 Shevat	

Yahrzeits
February 2025

3 Shevat	Jeryle Lloyd Konowitz	No Pl
3 Shevat	Florence Green	No Pl
3 Shevat	Marvin Landau	No Pl
4 Shevat	Pauline Fromowitz	No Pl
5 Shevat	Judith Schenkein	No Pl
8 Shevat	Erna Monheimer	No Pl
9 Shevat	Louis Talmud	No Pl
10 Shevat	Lester Morton Brill	No Pl
10 Shevat	Samuel Haim Harrison	No Pl
11 Shevat	Morris Rosker	Bd 2 R2
11 Shevat	Stanley Mainster	Bd 3 R4
11 Shevat	Rachel Shuman	No Pl
12 Shevat	Arthur Adler	No Pl
12 Shevat	Jacob Eskenazi	No Pl
12 Shevat	Herbert Scott	No Pl
13 Shevat	Gertrude Dannemann	No Pl
14 Shevat	Esther Smith	Bd 3 R4
15 Shevat	Belle Bettelman	No Pl
15 Shevat	Nathan Cohen	No Pl
15 Shevat	Louis Pikus	Bd 3 R1
15 Shevat	Louis Gitlin	No Pl
16 Shevat	Wilmeta Engelson	No Pl
18 Shevat	Philip Diamond	Bd 2 R3
20 Shevat	Fannie Arbeit Auerbach	Bd 3 R3
23 Shevat	Isaac Brill	No Pl
24 Shevat	Marsha Cohen	No Pl
24 Shevat	Celia Jacobson	Bd 2 R1
24 Shevat	Yetta Cohen	No Pl
25 Shevat	Sarah Brill	No Pl
25 Shevat	Robert Cohen	Bd 5 R3
25 Shevat	Barbara Widder	No Pl
26 Shevat	Lucille Brill Friedman	No Pl
26 Shevat	Isaac M. Borish	No Pl
26 Shevat	Frank Zaback	Bd 1 R4
26 Shevat	George Dannemann	No Pl
26 Shevat	Arline Silverman	No Pl
27 Shevat	Howard Stein	No Pl
27 Shevat	Bruce Michael Harrison	No Pl
28 Shevat	Esther Behar Eskenazi	No Pl

28 Shevat	Maury Berman	No Pl
28 Shevat	Isak Arditi	No Pl
29 Shevat	Shirley Katz	No Pl
29 Shevat	Nathan Eisenberg	No Pl
29 Shevat	Barney Wolin	No Pl
30 Shevet	Max Glass	No Pl

Memorial Plaques

Our Memorial Wall is the rear wall of the main sanctuary. If you would like to remember a loved one with a permanent memorial plaque, please contact Religious Vice President Steve Schwartz. These take a few weeks to arrive. The cost is \$450.00. If you wish, Steve will arrange with you to conduct an unveiling and pay homage to your relative at a subsequent Friday evening service. You may also choose to host the oneg in conjunction with the unveiling. In case you are unaware of the Yahrzeit list within the bulletin, if there is a plaque in memory of a relative, the board (**Bd**) and row (**R**) number has been listed for your convenience. **No pl** means there is no plaque.

Chesed and Misheberah information

If you hear or have knowledge of anyone who is in need of **r'fuah sh'leyma**, please contact the office and leave a message. We are trying to do more outreach and can only act when we are aware of the need. Names for the Misheberah list will be placed and read at services until we are notified differently. Please let us know when to remove the person from the list.

Donations to Congregation Beth Sholom

When donating to Congregation Beth Sholom, your generosity will be acknowledged with letters sent to the honorees. Schedule now to host an oneg for your important date(s) for the coming year. Reminders are published in the bulletin each month. It is customary to make a donation in memory of a relative listed in the Yahrzeit list. If we have missed any names of close family members, please let us know. Please contact the office and leave a message. Also, Rabbi Peggy maintains a confidential Rabbi's Discretionary Fund for special needs of members or charitable causes within our Jewish and secular community. You can specify your donation be applied to her fund and if you wish to direct that money, please contact Rabbi to discuss it with her.

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We're on the Web!

Visit us at

www.cbsdover.net



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