

Kehillah Connections

NOVEMBER 2009 / CHESHVAN - KISLEV 5770
VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3

"Kehillah" means community

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FROM BOB LIEBMAN

As the secular year starts to wind down, the Jewish year revs up. We're careening now towards Chanukah, then Tu b'Shevat – and even Purim can be seen on the horizon. Our Religious School students are in full-study mode – which sometimes means a trip to the zoo (read about it below); and our Adult Ed students are busy deciding what to wear for their first class of the semester, just a few days away.

Happily, Kehillah is just as busy as the calendar. Read on to find out about the unique Hanukkah celebration we're planning, and our first-ever Appreciation Party for new members. If you haven't joined Kehillah yet, we hope the prospect of attending our Appreciation Party will be just the gentle reminder you need. It promises to be a lovely evening at the beautiful home of Cathy and Alan Michels, one of Kehillah's founding families.

As we create our second year together, please let us hear from you! Any board member or advisory committee member would be happy to listen to your ideas and thoughts about Kehillah, and how we can continue to grow together. Thank you for caring.

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

KABBALAT SHABBAT

Friday, November 13, 7:30 pm

Kabbalat Shabbat is held at the New Vision Center (Hayden & Mountain View)
9659 N. Hayden Rd., Scottsdale.

Please note there is only one Kabbalat Shabbat in November (the fourth weekend is Thanksgiving) and only one in December (the fourth weekend is Christmas). We will offer birthday and anniversary blessings at each service.

TORAH STUDY

Saturday, November 21, 10:30 am, at the home of Barbara and Earl Sharfman
(Directions will be e-mailed on request)

***** PUT THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR TOO! *****

CHANUKAH CELEBRATION

Sunday, December 13, 4:00-6:00 pm
at the Villa Serena Clubhouse, 7155 E. Donald Dr., Scottsdale.
RSVP to the Kehillah office, 602-369-7667

Bring your own chanukiah and candles, plus an unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots, and join us for a special evening of lights, music and treats. Kehillah member Linda Feldman will demonstrate how to

make genuine lamp oil for your chanukiah out of olives, and we'll have a surprise guest guaranteed to thrill all children in attendance. Adults will enjoy this visitor, too!

APPRECIATION PARTY

Saturday, January 30, 6:30-9:00 pm

At this first-ever Kehillah Appreciation Party for new members and prospective members, we'll enjoy special Tu B'Shevat Seven Species cocktails and hors d'oeuvres at the gracious home of Kehillah members Cathy and Alan Michels. Watch for your invitation, arriving soon, for this unusual and memorable gathering.

*** See *SAVE THESE DATES* near the end of this newsletter for a more extensive Kehillah schedule. ***

SOCIAL ACTION

Our Social Action Chair, Amina D'Ambrozio, has uncovered three important ways you can take action this fall:

Story Time!

Remember how much you loved story time? UMOM New Day Center needs volunteer readers to read to children ages 4 and up on Tuesday nights from 6:00-7:30 p.m. Join Amina D'Ambrozio, our Social Action coordinator, on Tuesday, December 1 to bring story time to a child who will love it as much as you did! UMOM New Day Center provides homeless and low-income families with food, shelter, and tools to build a bridge to self-sufficiency; it is located at 3320 East Van Buren Street, Phoenix. E-mail Amina at adambrozio@gmail.com, and visit <http://www.umom.org> to learn more.

Eat Well, Do Good

Enjoy locally grown fruits and vegetables while creating a more sustainable world. *Tuv Ha'Aretz* is the community-supported agriculture program of *Hazon*, an organization whose mission is "to create a healthier and more sustainable Jewish community – as a step towards a healthier and more sustainable world for all". It is through the partnership of Jess Schwartz Jewish Community Day School, *Tuv Ha'Aretz* and Desert Roots Farm, a local farm, that we are able to bring the CSA to our community. *Tuv Ha'Artez* welcomes Jewish and non-Jewish members. A member registration form is attached. For more information, please contact Lisa Pinkus, Site Coordinator, at LPinkus@mac.com or 480-659-5598.

Tu B'Shevat Walk – Sunday, January 31, 2010 – Save the Date

Get your walking shoes ready and start gathering sponsors to support you in the Jewish National Fund's Tu B'Shevat Walk. This three-mile walk takes place on Sunday, January 31, 2010 at Tempe Beach Park from 11:30 AM to 2:30 PM. If three miles is too much, do the shorter one-mile walk! If you are not able to walk, please support a Kehillah member who is walking. This walk has a two-fold benefit; it raises money for a school for special needs in Israel and it raises money for Kehillah of Arizona.

Beginning next week, when the website is active, you will be able to visit www.jnf.org/azwalk and register to walk for Kehillah of Arizona. ***It is important that you indicate you are registering to walk for Kehillah of Arizona to ensure Kehillah is designated to receive funds.*** After you register online at www.jnf.org/azwalk send Amina a quick email at adambrozio@gmail.com to let her know your registration is complete. An information flyer and a pledge form are attached.

From Amina: *"Keep your suggestions and ideas for future Social Action activities coming! You can reach me through the Kehillah office or by e-mail."*

Amina D'Ambrozio, Chair, Social Action

(Assistant to the Chair Kaden D'Ambrozio has signed up his first sponsor – his doctor!)

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Our Religious School Goes to the Animals

Students in the Kehillah Religious School recently spent a morning at the Phoenix Zoo – what better place to learn the story of Noah's ark? Students were asked to choose four animals they'd include on their own arks, and their choices may surprise you. The girls picked zebra, white goose, giraffe, and pregnant orangutan, while the boys chose hornbill (bird), fennic fox, meerkat, and cattle.

New students are still welcome to join this year's class. Late registration is available for K-8th grade and Bar/Bat Mitzvah students. High school students may enroll in the madrichim/teaching assistant program. Applications can be downloaded or mailed directly from our website. Scholarships are available.

ADULT EDUCATION

Kehillah's Adult Ed students may not be heading for the zoo, but they're still going to have fun. Classes will be held in November on the 10th, 17th and 24th; and in December on the 8th and 15th. You can still sign up for these classes: Navigating the Siddur/Prayerbook (beginning Hebrew), Foundations of Judaism, and Adult B'nai Mitzvah. Call the Kehillah office for more details.

ATTENTION, WOMEN OF KEHILLAH!

Are you interested in celebrating and learning about Rosh Chodesh each month with Rabbi Sharfman and other women of Kehillah? If you are, please let the Kehillah office know. If there is enough interest, we will start our Rosh Chodesh celebrations in January.

IN OUR COMMUNITY

Mazal Tov

to Larry Lesser and Ivy Kalin on their engagement;

to Gil and Lynne Blumenthal on the birth of their grandchild Grant Cole Blumenthal, son of Jennifer and Larry Blumenthal on November 1st;

to Gil and Lynne Blumenthal on the marriage of their daughter Rachael to Bryan Spatz on November 7th.

Condolences

to Ellie Joseph on the deaths of Timothy and his wife, Nicole Bomicino, her young great-nephew and niece, in a tragic car accident in California.

350.ORG – A NOTE FROM OUR RABBI

On Friday night, October 23rd, Kehillah of Arizona joined an international network of faith groups and environmental activists in observance of "Global/Climate Healing weekend", a prelude to the crucial

United Nations conference on global warming scheduled for Copenhagen in December, 2009. We gained an understanding together of global warming as human responsibility and connected the Torah portion of the week, Noah (ark, flood, rainbow covenant) to extensive Jewish teachings focusing on the actions we need to take to prevent further destruction and heal the planet.

A few key points:

- Did you know that America produces more CO2 than any other country, and leads the industrialized world in per capita emissions?
- Global warming is happening faster than ever and humans are responsible. Global warming is caused by releasing what are called greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. The most common greenhouse gas is carbon dioxide.
- Many of the activities we do every day like turn the lights on, cook food, or heat or cool our homes rely on energy sources like coal and oil that emit carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping gases. This is a major problem because global warming destabilizes the delicate balance that makes life on this planet possible. Just a few degrees in temperature can completely change the world as we know it.
- The idea of the weekend, with events taking place in over 170 countries, was to create a grassroots movement connected by the internet to hold our decision-makers accountable to producing an international treaty that is strong, equitable, and grounded in the latest science.
- The treaty's purpose is to reduce carbon emissions – quickly. It means transforming our world, building solar arrays instead of coal plants, planting trees instead of clear-cutting rainforests, increasing efficiency and decreasing our waste, which can also be a very personal contribution...on Kehillah's website, you'll find info and a link to send a letter to our senators. Please take a moment and add your voice.

Attached is a checklist of smaller and larger things that each of us can do, now, in our own homes and lives, to make a difference. I recommend that you print it out and pick a few actions that you can commit to now, and then check back at the start of the new calendar year and see how you're doing.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Have you returned your Kehillah Membership Form? As we begin our second year, Kehillah launched its religious school, increased its Shabbat service schedule, and more. We cannot do it without you! During our entire first year we ran purely on volunteer power and donations. To continue to thrive, we need your financial support. Please fill out and return the Membership Form you received by mail. If you need another form, or didn't receive one, please call the office at 602-369-7667 and we will mail one to you; or you can print the application from our website, www.kehillahofarizona.com. Join in time to attend our first Appreciation Party on January 30th! Thank you!

FOR FACEBOOK FANS

If you're into FB, join our group at <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=62401064843&ref=ts> Amy Wasserman hosts our group page and posts all services, events and opportunities. So friend us, if you haven't already, and give Amy and all the rest of the Kehillah FB gang a shout-out.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS

Torah Fund

In memory of Edward Mark Sterling, brother of Reisa Miller, by Reisa & Warren Miller

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Penny Celmins

In memory of Craig Lamb by Reisa & Warren Miller

Kehillah Fund

In memory of Erich Gottlieb by Gary Mihalik & Frank Pieri

Tallitot for Tallinn

Harriet Brussel

Clara Stander

FOR THE LOVED ONES IN YOUR THOUGHTS

The Kehillah Memorial Board is available to you to honor loved ones who have passed away. Our beautiful, lasting remembrance is on display at every service, just inside the sanctuary doorway. Engraved brass plaques are \$180 each. Please contact the office to discuss your needs.

A REMINDER FROM OUR RABBI

I am available to you in times of joy and sadness.

Please let me know when I can extend timely support and comfort to you and your family.

— *Rabbi Sharfman*

LOCAL PROGRAMS OF INTEREST

“On the Cutting Edge: Today's Jewish Woman”

This is the 5th year for this symposium which will be held on Sunday morning, November 8th. The morning keynote speaker is Catherina Anaya of Channel 5 News. The cost is \$40.00, which includes fabulous speakers and a delicious luncheon.

Information and to register: Call Kehillah member Linda Feldman at the Bureau of Jewish Education 480-634-8050

RABBI SHARFMAN IS TEACHING AT THE JCC

“Being a Mensch, Infusing our Contemporary Lives and our Family Life with Core Jewish Values and Ethics”

Using primary sources, classical and modern Jewish texts, this course will focus on key issues and challenges in family life and society. Beginning with ourselves, how does Judaism address today's choices and ethical behavior in our Jewish daily life and practice and in an increasingly complicated world?

12701 N. Scottsdale Rd., Ste. 206, Scottsdale, AZ

Dates: October 14, 21, 28; November 4, 18; December 2, 9, 16

Time: 10:40 am to 11:40 am, Fee: \$105

Information: 480-634-8050 or info@bjephoenix.org

ANOTHER LEARNING OPPORTUNITY WITH RABBI SHARFMAN!

“It Isn't Always About Money: Ethical Wills – Your Values Live On”

Wednesday, December 2, 7:00 pm

in the sanctuary of the Pardes Jewish Day School, 3916 E Paradise Lane, Phoenix

RSVP to Roberta Scharf, Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Phoenix, 480-699-1717 Ext. 1405; www.jcfphoenix.org.

SAVE THESE DATES – KEHILLAH 5770 CALENDAR

Kabbalat Shabbat/Holidays/Events

All at 7:30 pm unless otherwise indicated

Friday, November 13 Kabbalat Shabbat

Friday, December 11 Kabbalat Shabbat and First night of Chanukah

Sunday, December 13th Chanukah Celebration! 4:00-6:00 pm, at the Villa Serena Clubhouse. RSVP to the Kehillah office 602-369-7667

Friday, January 8 Kabbalat Shabbat

Friday, January 22 Kabbalat Shabbat

Saturday, January 30, Appreciation Party for new and prospective members, 6:30-9:00 pm at a private home. RSVP required. Call the Kehillah office, 602-369-7667

Sunday, January 31st Walk for Israel! Join Kehillah and the JNF as we Walk for Israel! Registration information is attached to this email

Friday, February 12 Kabbalat Shabbat

Saturday evening, February 27 Purim Celebration

Friday, March 12 Kabbalat Shabbat

Friday, March 26 Kabbalat Shabbat

Friday, April 9 Kabbalat Shabbat

Friday, April 23 Kabbalat Shabbat, 6:30 pm

Friday, May 14 Kabbalat Shabbat

Tuesday, May 18 Erev Shavuot service (Ten Commandments) and Yizkor

Torah Study

Saturday/Shabbat mornings at 10:30 am at host homes

Saturday, November 21

Saturday, December 5

Saturday, January 16

Saturday, February 20

Saturday, March 20

Saturday, April 17

December Kehillah Connections Deadline: Friday, November 20th at noon

Kehillah of Arizona

Bonnie Sharfman, Rabbi

Bob Liebman, President

Toby Gerst, VP for Education

Ceil Siegel, VP for Partnership Development and Program
Evelyn Simon, VP for Hospitality
Sherry Siegel, VP for Administration and Secretary
Dan Simon, Treasurer
Lindsay Gilbert
Warren Miller
Jonathan Seeliger
Amy Wasserman

Ellen Lerman, Office Manager

Kehillah Connections is published monthly except for July. Please send notices, photos, event or calendar information, volunteer opportunities, etc. to Ellen at kehillahofarizona@gmail.com or mail them to the address below.

Kehillah of Arizona, Inc. is a duly incorporated 501(c)(3) under IRS law. Contributions are tax deductible. Checks may be made out to Kehillah of Arizona and mailed to the address below.

To receive Kehillah Connections monthly and other Kehillah news, please send us your e-mail address. We promise not to sell or give out that address.

Kehillah of Arizona

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