

About Beit Tikvah

Beit Tikvah, founded in 1985, is a warm, welcoming, diverse and egalitarian Jewish Reconstructionist synagogue located in Roland Park. Services are held on Friday evenings and Saturday mornings. Members actively participate in congregational life; we often lead entire services, we develop and engage in adult education programs, and we organize social action activities. Beit Tikvah also operates the Sunday-only Keshet School (which meets at the Waldorf School), enrolling students from 1st to 8th grades. Beit Tikvah welcomes families, interfaith couples, and individuals regardless of race, ethnicity or sexual orientation. Our building is wheelchair accessible. As a scholar, former cantor, and former opera singer, Rabbi Elizabeth Bolton brings meaning and beauty to our congregation.

About Reconstructionist Judaism

Reconstructionist Judaism is a progressive, contemporary approach to Jewish life, which integrates a deep respect for traditional Judaism with the insights and ideas of contemporary social, intellectual, and spiritual life. Jewish Reconstructionist synagogues are centered around participation – at shul and in the community – observing the richness of the traditional ritual rhythms of Jewish life and creating new observances, which respond to our contemporary communal and personal cycles and often provide new and enriched pathways to spirituality and knowledge.

Learn more about Congregation Beit Tikvah and Reconstructionist Judaism at our Web site:

www.BeitTikvah.org



KEHILLAH CONNECTION

NEWS AND EVENTS FROM CONGREGATION BEIT TIKVAH
BALTIMORE'S JEWISH RECONSTRUCTIONIST SYNAGOGUE

MAY 2008

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting for the close of 5768 is right around the corner! Mark the date for Sunday, June 15 at 12:30 p.m.

Many topics are on the agenda for the meeting. First and foremost, the finances of our synagogue will be presented to the congregation.

Among the financial news to be communicated to the congregation are (1) the new membership dues structure that was approved by the Board of Directors at the April meeting, (2) the synagogue's proposed budget for 5769, and (3) the financial status of Beit Tikvah as of the end of the fiscal year.

What's Inside?

Todah Rabah	2
Avodah	3
Rabbi's Column	4
Calendar	insert
Oneg	6
Tikkun Olam	6
Fund Descriptions	7
About Beit Tikvah.....	8

Congregation Beit Tikvah
5802 Roland Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21210-1310
T: 410-464-9402
F: 410-464-9404

E: info@BeitTikvah.org
www.BeitTikvah.org

Other topics to be discussed:

- Committees will present their proposed activities for next year, and ask for volunteers.
- Member Forum: Come to comment, question, and / or make suggestions about Beit Tikvah's activities and programs.

Beit Tikvah Board of Directors

Editors: Wendy Meyeroff., Alan Baumgarten
newsletter@beittikvah.org

Todah Rabah...Thank You!

SHELLEY NEGIN GENERAL FUND

Sara Koplik and Rudy Yukich

Ilene London

Lisa Rubin and Michael Dvorkin

Jennifer Shapiro and Stuart Zang

Ruth and Larry Smith

Judith Stiefel and Michael Checknoff

David Bach, for aliyah to Torah

David Bach, for a yahrzeit

Beth Bugnaski, in memory of Daniel Denner

Marjorie Davis, for the recovery of Jerry Davis

Roseanne and Keith Gilbert, in honor of Aliza and Cory Gilbert

Susan Russell, in memory of Elliott E. Russell

Gil & Jean Cohen, in honor of Marjorie Davis' special birthday

Ginny Levin, in honor of Marjorie Davis' special birthday

Judy Pachino, in honor of Marjorie Davis' special birthday

Lorraine and Stephen Schoenfeld, in honor of Marjorie Davis' birthday

Judy Schwartz, in honor of Marjorie Davis' special birthday

Emma Sigler, in honor of Marjorie Davis' special birthday

Selma Woolf, in honor of Marjorie Davis' special birthday

Beth Bugnaski, in honor of Hannah Abrams Marker

Marjorie and Jerome Davis, in honor of Hannah Abrams Marker

Judith and Bob Jacobson, in honor of Hannah Abrams Marker

Carol Nemeroff, in honor of Hannah Abrams Marker

Bonnie Smith-May, in honor of Hannah Abrams Marker

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY ACCOUNT

Marcie and David Levenstein, in honor of Hannah Abrams Marker

William Lomax, in honor of Hannah Abrams Marker

Debra Wasserman and Charles Stahler, in honor of Hannah Abrams Marker

Thanks again to everyone for their generosity.

John Clark, Treasurer

Endless Ways Of Showing Your Love for Beit Tikvah

There are numerous ways of expressing your support of Beit Tikvah and at the same time honor or remember a loved one.

FOUR DONATION FUNDS:

- A donation to the **Shelley Negin General Fund** supports the operations of Beit Tikvah.
- The **Bonnie London Future Fund** earmarks the development and support of our youth programs.
- The **Hope Sigler Fund** was originally set up to purchase our new kosher Torah; now the funds are to purchase Torah and Ark adornments, the possible repairing of our first Torah or the purchase of a second kosher Torah.
- The **President's Reserve Fund** supports future acquisitions and a building program.

OTHER WAYS TO DONATE:

The **Rabbi's Discretionary Account** enables the Rabbi to discreetly support those in need.

New prayer books can be purchased for \$36.00 to honor, memorialize, or mark a milestone event. Mail-in donation cards are available on our greeting table at every Beit Tikvah service.

Beautiful memorial plaques can be purchased to honor the memory of family and friends for \$180.00. It is a wonderful way to keep the memory of our loved ones perpetually in our hearts as it is displayed at every service at Beit Tikvah. Please contact Steve Libowitz for further information.

Contributions can be made by mailing in a Dedicated Giving card or by calling the treasurer at 410-464-9402, option 3.

A Huge Todah Rabah

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every person and/or family that volunteered to sponsor an Oneg or Kiddush this year. Thanks to your devotion, every slot has been filled through the end of June.

There were also some new participants this year, and I would love to see this trend continue. Again, many thanks for making my job easier.

Marcie Levenstein, Chair

Tikkun Olam News

Good News!

It is a pleasure to announce that the most recent family hosted by the Baltimore Interfaith Network has found permanent housing. As you may be aware, BIHN is taking a sabbatical from accepting new families while Rabbi Liz and other board members take some time to restructure the organization and its finances.

Membership & Tikkun Olam Committees Adopt a New Structure.

The Membership & Tikkun Olam committees just announced at the April Board Meeting that they have agreed to work together to create an activity schedule for next year, and to adopt a new project-oriented volunteer structure. More details about this will be available at the Annual Meeting.

*Abby Cohen & Janet Felsten
Co-chairs*

Avodah Spring Highlights

May is full of opportunities for all to share in the ritual life of our community. We continue with our regular schedule of services; below are just some of the highlights.

In May, we welcome the opportunity to celebrate the third and fourth B'nei Mitzvah of the year, **as Olivia Libowitz is called to the Torah on Saturday, May 3 and Simon Regenold is called to the Torah on Saturday, May 17.**

Please join us in supporting and welcoming Olivia and Simon as they make their public debut as members of Beit Tikvah and the Jewish community at large.

Friday, May 9, we will have a brief Kabbalat Shabbat service at 7:30 p.m., followed by a very special program entitled *Peacebuilding: Dialogue Between Israeli and Arab*. We are honored to have two speakers from the program: Hilla Keren and Tarek Abuata, who will introduce us to the process of Living Room Dialogue and share their personal transformations from victims of war to peace activists.

Remember to mark the date for **Lag B'omer on May 23 and May 24**. We will be communicating details on our traditional Shabbaton activities in the next few weeks. Look for details on the weekly email blast.

Esther Miller, Chair

Bagels and Books

Moderated by Beth Bugnaski and Marjorie Davis, Bagels and Books will meet in the Beit Tikvah Library on Saturday, May 10 at 10:00 a.m. to discuss the book *The World to Come* by Dara Horn.

Bring a little nosh to share, and your opinions and insights about the book.

From the Rabbi's Study...

At our first Bat Mitzvah of the spring, Niko Marvit-Suyemoto, offered a powerful teaching on *Parshat Tazria's* depiction of skin diseases, and she asked the congregation to name contemporary versions of that plague-ish affliction, or, as she put it, "dis-eases" of contemporary life.

Two current heroes of mine are leaders from other faith traditions who are battling two prominent contemporary dis-eases – homophobia and Islamophobia - with courage and grace.

Dr. Gene Robinson is the Episcopal Bishop of New Hampshire. During, and since, his consecration to that position four years ago, he has been reviled, harassed, and threatened because of his sexual orientation and his proud commitment to a life partner.

Robinson has been excluded from attending the forthcoming international gathering of Episcopal bishops by the Archbishop of Canterbury, under pressure from conservative bishops who threatened to boycott if Robinson attended, even in the formally-termed "diminished capacity."

Robinson, however, will be visible at the conference's Marketplace, a literal bazaar for advocacy groups and vendors, where, he hopes, "even some of the more negative bishops will be encouraged by the American participants to come with them and to see that I don't have horns, or I don't wear a dress or I don't fit any of the stereotypes that are often held by people who don't really know gay people, and in fact will see how normal I am, and to hear about the incredibly normal life I have as a bishop in my diocese."

He is planning a civil union with his partner of 20 years, Mark Andrew, prior to departing for the conference, in part to provide some legal protections for his partner and children, as a result of death threats to which he has been subject.

In April 2005, **Debbie Almontaser** was invited by a non-profit organization to develop a curriculum for a public school that would teach Arabic. Ms. Almontaser, a teacher and native Arabic speaker who began to wear the *hijab* in her twenties, had been previously tapped by Education Department officials, following 9/11, to hold school workshops

on cultural sensitivities. She was known for her bridge-building among and between Muslims, Christians, and Jews, and for her pride of her son's efforts as a National Guardsman at Ground Zero.

For her efforts to establish and lead the Khalil Gibran International Academy, Almontaser has been publicly discredited, forced to resign, and made to endure a smear campaign declaring her an Islamist proselytizer.

One of the fiercest campaigners against the school, Montaser, and all public efforts towards respect and tolerance of the Islamic faith is Daniel Pipes, director of a conservative research group, who decried Arabic language instruction as "inevitably laden with pan-Arabic and Islamist baggage."

Accompanying attacks on accommodating modesty requirements for Muslim women at swimming pools, and the development of commercial and financial products in compliance with *sharia*, the Islamic code of law, the echoes of attacks on Jews, Judaism, Jewish language, and *halakha*, resonate all too clearly.

Montaser was replaced at Khalil Gibran Academy by a principal who speaks no Arabic. A judge hearing her appeal declared she was subject to sanction - not for anything she said or did - but due to distorted media reports. While Montaser's case proceeds to the Federal District Court, groups continue to protest the school's existence. Montaser still participates in interfaith activities, and currently works for the city's Office of School and youth Development.

Debbie Montaser and Gene Robinson model the firm yet gentle stance of speaking truth to power, declaring their values without volume, and inspiring us to live our own faith, despite the challenges we may face for our commitments. May their lives and work serve as a model, a heroic bulwark against these dis-eases, and others, that plague us and the cultures in which we reside.

References:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/04/25/us/25bishop.html>
<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/04/28/nyregion/28school.html>

Rabbi Elizabeth Bolton

Congregation Beit Tikvah

May 2008
26 Nisan 5768 - 26 Iyar 5768

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 §8:46PM <i>Yom Hashoah</i> 26 Nisan/11 L'Omer	2 ii7:42PM 7:30pm Ruach Service Oneg by Eleanor Simon & Pat O'Neill 27 Nisan/12 L'Omer	3 §8:46PM <i>Kedoshim</i> 9:00am Torah Study 10:00am Torah Service / Olivia Libowitz Bat Mitzvah Kiddush by Libowitz Family 28 Nisan/13 L'Omer
4 9:30am-12:30pm Keshet School 29 Nisan/14 L'Omer	5 <i>Rosh Hodesh I</i> 30 Nisan/15 L'Omer	6 <i>Rosh Hodesh II</i> 1 Iyar/16 L'Omer	7 §8:50PM <i>Yom Hazikaron</i> 2 Iyar/17 L'Omer	8 §8:51PM <i>Yom Ha'Atzmaut</i> 7:00pm Executive Committee Meeting 3 Iyar/18 L'Omer	9 ii7:49PM 7:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat Oneg by Tom Foreman & Michelle Guideman 4 Iyar/19 L'Omer	10 §8:53PM <i>Emor</i> 10:00-11:00am Bagels & Books 5 Iyar/20 L'Omer
11 9:30am-12:30pm Keshet School 6 Iyar/21 L'Omer	12 7 Iyar/22 L'Omer	13 8 Iyar/23 L'Omer	14 9 Iyar/24 L'Omer	15 7:00pm Board Meeting 10 Iyar/25 L'Omer	16 ii7:56PM 7:30pm Erev Shabbos Live Oneg by Brian Berele and Lauren Siegel 11 Iyar/26 L'Omer	17 §8:59PM <i>Behar</i> 9:00am Torah Study 10:00am Torah Service / Simon Regenold Bar Mitzvah Kiddush by Regenold Family 12 Iyar/27 L'Omer
18 9:30am-12:30pm Keshet School (last day) 13 Iyar/28 L'Omer	19 §9:01PM <i>Pesach Sheini</i> 7:00pm Membership / Social Action Committee Meetings 14 Iyar/29 L'Omer	20 15 Iyar/30 L'Omer	21 16 Iyar/31 L'Omer	22 17 Iyar/32 L'Omer	23 §9:05PM/ii8:02PM <i>Lag B'Omer</i> Lag B'Omer Shabbaton 18 Iyar/33 L'Omer	24 §9:06PM <i>Behukotai</i> Lag B'Omer Shabbaton 19 Iyar/34 L'Omer
25 11:00am Avodah Committee Meeting 20 Iyar/35 L'Omer	26 21 Iyar/36 L'Omer	27 22 Iyar/37 L'Omer	28 23 Iyar/38 L'Omer	29 24 Iyar/39 L'Omer	30 ii8:07PM 25 Iyar/40 L'Omer	31 §9:11PM <i>Bemidbar</i> 26 Iyar/41 L'Omer

