



B'nai B'rith Educators

Winter 2009

Essie Cherkin, President
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Upcoming Events

March 20, 2009
Shabbat
6:15 PM

Musical Shabbat Service
Shir Ami, Newtown, PA
Join us for dinner after
services at a nearby
restaurant, to be announced.

May 14, 2009 5:30 PM
Annual Awards Dinner
Philmont Country Club

We will honor:

Gary Brookstein
Richard Raisman
Service to the Profession

Rhona Cooper
Rhoda Rothberg
Service to the Jewish
Community

Big Brothers Big Sisters
Southeastern PA
Marlene Olshan, CEO
Humanitarian Award

Contact Renee Flehinger:
imreneef@aol.com,
215 698 2630

Save the Date flyer enclosed.

Please recognize our
honorees with messages in
the Program / Ad Book.
See enclosure for more
information.

Contact Zena Sacks:
Zena1207@yahoo.com
856.751.1262

*Join us! Add these
dates to your calendar!*

Message from the President

Dear B'nai B'rith Educators Unit Member,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and comfortable at this cold time of year. I know we agree that in order to keep Educators Unit serving our community, we must breathe new life into it. Under the leadership of our energetic Membership Vice Presidents, Cheryl Glaser and Debra Drossner, I am proud to tell you that we have many new members. Our joint responsibility, now, is to keep these new members as well as our returning members close, informed, and involved.

With that thought, I'd like to introduce a few of these new members. **Adam Braunstein** is a member of the Empowerment Team in Philadelphia's Southwest Region. He will earn his Masters degree in Education Leadership from Lehigh University in May and is an aspiring Assistant Principal. Adam is married with two children, Zachary, 4 and Ella, 18 months.

Renee Flehinger is Assistant Principal at Baldi Middle School and is married to Allen. They are proud of daughter, Elana, an attorney and enjoy relaxing at the Jersey shore. We are very happy to have Renee actively involved with our unit this year!

Coming from New York, **Donald L. Bandel** joined the Philadelphia School District and B'nai B'rith last year. He is Principal of Anderson Elementary School where he is meeting the challenges and making a difference for children. Don is married and enjoying Philadelphia.

Sandra Snyder joins us as the Regional PreKindergarten Instructional Specialist, Office of Early Childhood Education in Philadelphia. Sandi is single and looking forward to becoming more involved, as are we!

David Shulick is an attorney and President of Delaware Valley High School, which he describes as his personal passion. DVHS is an alternative school serving students from Philadelphia and suburban districts. David is married to Cherie and is "Dad" to Julia, 3 and Skylar, 1.

I'll continue to welcome our new members in future newsletters.

Good and Welfare

MAZEL TOV to Ron and Anita Soloff announce the engagement of their daughter, Courtney Brooke Soloff to Joshua Seth England. A spring 2010 wedding is planned.

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY to Ellen L. Cooper and her family on the loss of Martin Fives, her beloved brother-in-law.

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY to Sharen Finzimer and her family on the loss of her beloved mother, Sandra Bellow.

Executive Board

2008-2009

President	Essie Cherkin
Vice Presidents	Debra Drossner
	Cheryl Glaser
	Linda Grobman
	Karen Kolsky
	Caren Trantas

Corresponding Secretary

Stefanie Ressler

Recording Secretary Zena Sacks

Treasurer Alice Heller

Chaplain Don Wittenberg

Counselor Betty Klear

President's message continued

Looking to the future, we hope to have all members join us for upcoming Educators Unit events including a March 20th Friday evening service at Shir Ami in Newtown, Bucks County, 6:15 PM. followed by dinner at a nearby restaurant. Our Annual Awards Dinner at Philmont Country Club, Thursday, May 14th 5:30 PM, is always a wonderful evening to celebrate our colleagues' commitment to improve our world. I hope you will mark your calendars and plan to be with us.

And, looking back to the recent past, I remember that December 7th, brought a hundred people together at Philmont Country Club to honor Eileen Maicon Weissman and Ed Koch, both high school principals in the Philadelphia School District for their accomplishments. (**continued, back page)

Do you have news, a life cycle event or a change of email or home address?

Please update us.
Send information to

Stefanie Ressler
8028 Jenkintown Road
Cheltenham, PA 19012
sressler@philasd.org

Visit our website!
bnaibritheducators.com
Barry Drossner,
Webmaster
drossner@comcast.net

Remember!
Send a card or donate to:

LEONARD R. SUSSMAN
Scholarship Fund
Supports youth leadership training
Amount of your choice
Contact Barbara Porges
215-663-0245

CIRCLE OF LOVE
Certificate
\$10 minimum
Lovely certificate supports youth services
Contact Betty Klear
856-795-6941

THOMAS S. JACOBY
Scholarship Fund
Supports scholar athletes.
Amount of your choice
Contact Karen Kolsky
215-816-5535

DR. ALAN BARSON
Youth Leadership Fund
Amount of your choice
Contact Karen Kolsky
215-816-5535

JOE GOLDSTEIN FUND
This fund purchases books for Temple Hillel.
Amount of your choice
Contact ...Chuck Connor
215-757-1424

**** President's message continued**

It was clear to all in attendance that our Awards Committee chose well. We wish Eileen and Ed continued success. Thanks go to Caren Trantas, Kim Newman, and Betty Klear for their attention to detail and the morning's success. Thanks go to Harris Lewin for stepping in to handle the emcee responsibilities so well, to Don Wittenberg, for his inspirational blessing and to Linda Grobman for closing the event with warmth.

Thirty of us gathered for a delightful brunch on January 25th at the Chart House, arranged expertly by Alice Heller. We ate well, chatted and recognized those new members who attended. We all enjoyed a great event!

Let's continue to do good things together!

Best Wishes,
Essie

Israeli Film Festival of Philadelphia

March 7-April 18, 2009

Don't miss the Israeli Film Festival of Philadelphia. The IFF is a celebration of Israeli culture, with the aim of enriching the American view of Israeli culture and society through film. Opening night on Saturday, March 7 features **Lost Islands**, an autobiographical film about an Israeli family with five children. It was the biggest box office success in Israel last year.

SATURDAY, MARCH 7th 8:00 pm

Gershman Y 401 South Broad Street Philadelphia, PA 19147

WE NEED YOU!

The Executive Board still needs members to help:

- **Archivists:** to organize artifacts from years of our events.
- **Artists:** to create new cards to commemorate important life cycle events.

Please let Essie Cherkin know if you're interested in helping.
echerkin27@yahoo.com 215 364 1684

Programs and Services for Culture and Education

B'nai B'rith spreads the message of tolerance through education, utilizing art and music, books, speeches and diplomacy to build a world of understanding.
<http://www.bnaibrith.org>

The Blessing of a Broken Heart Thursday, March 19, 2009 7pm

On Thursday, March 19th, the Koby Mandell Foundation will present the San Diego Repertory Theatre production of *The Blessing of a Broken Heart* at Temple Sinai in Dresher, PA. This one-woman show played to sold-out audiences in San Diego and Baltimore, and four other cities in 2008. As part of its national tour, this production will be coming to the area for one night only. The play based on Sherri Mandell's award-winning book follows Sherri's journey after her son, Koby, was killed by terrorists in Israel and how she and her husband, Rabbi Seth Mandell, took their grief and decided to help others by creating the Koby Mandell Foundation. In Seth Mandell's own words, "It is a moving and inspirational account of Sherri's journey from darkness to light during the first year of mourning and it will inspire you and your children to appreciate each other and the world we live in."

Tickets can be purchased online at www.kobymandellfoundationphiladelphia.ticketleap.com/. ALL proceeds benefit the Koby Mandell Foundation and Camp Koby, a therapeutic healing program for children who have lost an immediate family member to terror attacks in Israel. For more information on the Foundation, visit www.kobymandell.org <<http://www.kobymandell.org/>>

Please purchase tickets in advance. We hope to see you on March 19th at 7pm. Should you have any questions regarding this event, please don't hesitate to contact rcohen65@comcast.net.



Tickets can be purchased online at www.kobymandellfoundationphiladelphia.ticketleap.com
Don't Miss Out on this Meaningful and Inspiring Journey!
The Blessing of a Broken Heart, a one-woman play, based on the award-winning book of the same name, is coming to our community for a limited one-night engagement. This meaningful and inspiring performance follows the journey traveled by Sherri Mandell after the tragic loss of her son, Koby. Sherri's dramatic path and search for purpose after the tragedy is the real heart of her story. Sherri learns to find comfort from her community, to pray with meaning, and ultimately turns her grief into action as she and her husband start a foundation that provides support for families in Israel who have lost a family member to terrorism. For more information on The Koby Mandell Foundation visit www.kobymandell.org