

B'nai B'rith Educators Unit



Essie Cherkin, President
51 Netherlands Drive
Holland, PA 18966
(215) 364-1684

#5290

September 2010

Message from the President

Dear B'nai B'rith Member,

I hope this newsletter finds you enjoying a carefree summer with friends and loved ones! Over the past year we have seen record snows, record cold and now record heat. The record we continue to set is the commitment our people have to each other and to Jewish causes. I see our B'nai B'rith Educators Unit as a microcosm of that spirit. We have enjoyed a rich legacy-- a commitment to the ideals that created this organization more than 40 years ago. We are fortunate to have many long-standing members continue to work with new members to realize their professional goals while enjoying personal connections and friendships. Many of you had the opportunity to relive the frustration, passion and drive that brought so many of our colleagues together in the late 1960's to fight for well-deserved opportunities in an unwelcoming environment, within the School District of Philadelphia, when the 40th Anniversary video premiered at the 2009 Awards Dinner. Thanks to our webmaster, Barry Drossner, that video can be viewed by visiting our website, bnaibritheducators.org. Today, while many of us have moved into retirement or into other professional pursuits, our members can always benefit from the rich experience of our membership.

During my two year Presidency, we focused on two core goals: to continue our established traditions and to rebuild an active membership. As I reflect over these years, I am proud to step down from the presidency, celebrate new leadership with our traditions in place and welcome new members. Accomplishing our goals was only possible with the ongoing support of several individuals from our Board and Trustees, namely: Betty Klear, Harris Lewin, Don Wittenberg, Larry Sperling, Debra Drossner, Barry Drossner, Ellen Cooper, Zena Sacks, Alice Heller, Renee Flehinger, Richard Raisman, Stefanie Ressler, Bobbi Willig, Kim Newman, and Karen Kolsky.

Our tradition to honor outstanding Jewish educators and service organizations in our community continued with the Annual Youth Appeals brunch in December of each year. In 2008, we honored high school principals, Eileen Weissman and Ed Koch and this past year we honored all educators. We successfully refocused our mission to raise funds in support of B'nai B'rith Youth and Leadership services and significantly increased our giving. In addition, our Annual Awards Dinner celebrated exceptional honorees each year. We enjoyed increased attendance and our Ad Book realized greater rewards under the fine leadership of Zena Sacks. One of our 2009 honorees, Richard Raisman, accepted an Executive Board position and has enriched our work. This year's award recipients included Paula Don, Kim Newman, Howard Butler, and Harvey Holper, all of whom, made us proud. We hope that Kim, who will become a Vice President, will go on to infuse her great energy and drive to Educators Unit and keep us moving forward. We hope that each of these honorees becomes more active in our organization. In addition to Richard Raisman, noted previously, the 2009 Award recipients also included Gary Brookstein, Rhoda Rothberg, and Rhona Cooper.

The City of Philadelphia Mural Arts Project and its Executive Director, Jane Golden received our Humanitarian Award this year as did Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeastern Pennsylvania, and Marlene Olshan, CEO in 2009.

Our financial house is strong due to our efforts and your support. I invite you to help us use these funds in support of meaningful Jewish outreach. Please consider areas that would deepen and broaden our reach. I invite you to share your thoughts with me or our new board members. Our work is never done and our mission is not completed. I look forward to continuing conversations around increased giving. We need to create more opportunities for giving: increase scholarship recipients to recognize young Jewish students who display a commitment to Jewish causes and increase our funding of humanitarian efforts worldwide.

Another area we want to pursue involves keeping our mission alive not only in the School District of Philadelphia but in schools and districts beyond the city limits. One strategy the Board is developing is to provide a volume of *The Diary of Anne Frank* to each school's library. We'd also like to provide study guides for its meaningful use.

It is my hope that this activity will take place with the new board who will be installed this fall. I am very excited to have Stefanie Ressler as our new President, as well as Kim Newman, Debra Drossner, Renee Flehinger, Zena Sacks and Richard Raisman as Vice Presidents. Bonnie Berman will serve as Recording Secretary. Alice Heller will continue as Treasurer and I will become the Counselor. I wish the new board much success! I hope you will join me in supporting these wonderful people.

As the High Holidays approach, I am reminded that this is a time of great reflection for all Jews. It is a time when we gather together with family and friends and treasure our relationships. From my family to yours, I wish you a Happy and Healthy New Year. May you know peace and joy and may we continue to enjoy good times together!

Best Wishes,
Essie Cherkin

2010-2011 EXECUTIVE BOARD

PRESIDENT
STEFANIE RESSLER

VICE PRESIDENTS
—
DEBRA DROSSNER
RENEE FLEHINGER
KIM NEWMAN
RICHARD RAISMAN
ZENA SACKS

TREASURER
—
ALICE HELLER

RECORDING SECRETARY
—
BONNIE BERMAN

COUNSELOR
—
ESSIE CHERKIN

BOARD OF TRUSTEES CHAIR
—
HARRIS LEWIN

CHAPLAIN
—
DON WITTENBERG

Upcoming Events:

SAVE THE DATE!!

10/13/10
INSTALLATION OF 2010-11
EXECUTIVE BOARD
Location to be announced

12/5/10
NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE
APPEAL BRUNCH
Philmont Country Club

Good & Welfare

Do you have a change of email or mailing address?

Do you have a life event that you wish to have included in the Good & Welfare Column?

Correspondence can be sent to me at:

Renée Flehinger

122 Gardner Street

Philadelphia, PA 19116

imreneef@aol.com

Mazel Tov to Essie and Bob Cherkin on the birth of their grandson, Adam Izak on April 2, 2010!

Mazel Tov to Paula and Shelly Pavel on the birth of their grandson, Jesse Samuel Bardach on May 6, 2010!

Mazel Tov to Janice Wagman on the birth of her grandson, Halen Micha Snitow on April 18, 2010!

Mazel Tov to Stephanie and Paul Ressler on their daughter Becky's graduation from Cheltenham High School!

Best wishes to Dr. Harris Lewin on his "special" birthday!

Congratulations to Dr. Karen Kolsky on her appointment as Deputy Chief of Professional Development for the School District of Philadelphia! She provided the leaders of the Philadelphia School District with a meaningful and inspirational leadership conference!

Congratulations to Melanie Lewin on her new position as Consulting Teacher!

Congratulations to Stefanie Ressler on being selected to share Roosevelt's recipe for success to raise student achievement at the 2010

Superintendent's Leadership Conference!
Congratulations to the 2010-11 Executive Board Members!

Our gratitude to Faye Benshetler for compiling New Year's Greetings and Memorial Remembrance Booklet for 15 years!

Get Well wishes to Caren and George Trantas!

Congratulations to Marcia Schulman's husband, Peter on the publishing of his first novel, Circumstantial Evidence! The book is available online at Peter's website:

<http://www.petersschulman.com>

Welcome to our New Members !

A warm welcome to our new members! They are Howard Butler, Nancy Chesin, Alan Greenberg, Marlene Mermelstein, Penny Rudolph, Betsy Schwartz, Ron Soloff, Hope Thomas and Paul Thomas. We look forward to seeing you at our future events.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE, DESIGNED BY BARRY DROSSNER

@

[HTTP://WWW.BNAIBRITHEDUCATORS.COM](http://www.bnaibritheducators.com)

Educators, please encourage potential new members to attend an upcoming B'nai B'rith Educators Unit event with you! As the membership application on our website indicates, all special membership promotions are currently being continued. Invite all Jewish colleagues in your schools, offices, professional developments, synagogues, graduate classes, fitness centers, mah jong groups, bridge clubs, tennis teams, etc. to consider joining B'nai B'rith Educators Unit! This is an ideal group for networking, connecting, and supporting the many worthy initiatives supported by B'nai B'rith locally, nationally, and

internationally!

We cannot grow our membership and sustain our organization without your support! We truly cannot spell s-u-c-c-e-s-s without "u". Please contact Debra Drossner at ddrossner@philasd.org for additional information.

Jewish Heritage Night at Citizens Bank Park

On August 12, 2010, twenty five B'nai B'rith Educators and their guests attended Jewish Heritage Night at Citizens Bank Park as the Phillies played against the Dodgers. It was one of the most amazing and exciting games this year! The Phillies were down 9-2 in the 8th inning, and came back to win the game 10-9. It was fun to listen to "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" sung in Yiddish. We also listened to wonderful Klezmer music during the game. The Phillie Phanatic added to the festivities by dancing with the world famous Bottle Dancers.



Thomas S. Jacoby Scholarship Recipient

On June 8, 2010, Ross Marks, a student at Masterman High School was awarded the 2010 Thomas Jacoby Scholarship. A reception was held in his honor at Philadelphia Academy Charter School. Ross's parents, counselor, coach, and B'nai B'rith members were present at this celebration. Ross will be pursuing a career in Biotech Engineering and attending PSU. We are very proud of his accomplishments and wish him the best of luck! Please take the time to read the lovely handwritten thank you note sent by Ross.

Dear Ms. Cherkin and the B'nai B'rith Educators Unit,
Thank you so much for making me the recipient of the Thomas S. Jacoby Scholarship - B'nai B'rith Educators Award. The scholarship will help support my college education. It was very nice to meet you and the members of the Unit. The entire evening was more than I expected it to be. Everyone was very welcoming to my family. I will stay in touch to let you know how I am doing.

Sincerely,
Ross Marks