

Stephanie Ressler, President
8028 Jenkintown Rd.
Cheltenham, PA 19102

WINTER 2011

B'nai B'rith Educators Unit # 5290



President's Message

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Paid Up Membership Brunch
at the Chart House February
27, 2011 11:00

Trip to the Jewish History
Museum Date TBD

Annual Awards Dinner,
Philmont Country Club
May 5, 2011

Dear B'nai B'rith Member,

It's my pleasure to write to you as the newly installed President of B'nai B'rith Educators Unit. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Essie Cherkin for her commitment and dedication to our B'nai B'rith educator unit. Essie reminded us of our mission and under her leadership we were able to celebrate our past, present and future.

By remembering the roots of our organization and the common vision we hold, it provides me, as your new president, a focus to grow and build upon. Our work not only includes our commitment to supporting our youth groups and educational leadership programs but to our heritage, fighting the continued discrimination against Jews and providing service to the Jewish community and educating the community at large.

Our active membership has reduced over the years. So I hope to make my presidency a presidency of renewal and rejuvenation. Adding new membership to support the

work of the Board. My goal as your president is to increase our membership not just for the purpose of increasing membership, but obtaining new active and involved members, a new generation of committed teachers and administrators who will work alongside our current active members in projects and events that support our organization. I need your help in making his goal a reality!

I hope you will join for the events we've planned for this year. Our new board members were sworn into their leadership roles at the October 13, 2010 installation ceremony at Keneseth Israel Synagogue that was beautifully coordinated by Debra Drossner and Renee Flehinger. Our candle lighting service led by Don Wittenberg and Installation by Dr. Harris Lewin and Dr. Barry Drossner renewed our commitment to our call. I thank all of them for their work and dedication to the evening's success. In this newsletter you will be hearing about our paid-up membership brunch on February 27, 2011 at 11:00 AM that will be held at the

Chart House. Please mark your calendar and join us.

I look forward to seeing you at our annual events supporting our Youth groups and furthering our work to foster friendship and collaboration through social, cultural and recreational programs.

Best Wishes,

Stefanie Ressler

2010-2011 EXECUTIVE BOARD

PRESIDENT
STEFANIE RESSLER

VICE PRESIDENTS

—
KIM NEWMAN
DEBRA DROSSNER
RENEE FLEHINGER
RICHARD RAISMAN
ZENA SACKS

TREASURER

—
ALICE HELLER

RECORDING SECRETARY

—
BONNIE BERMAN

COUNSELOR

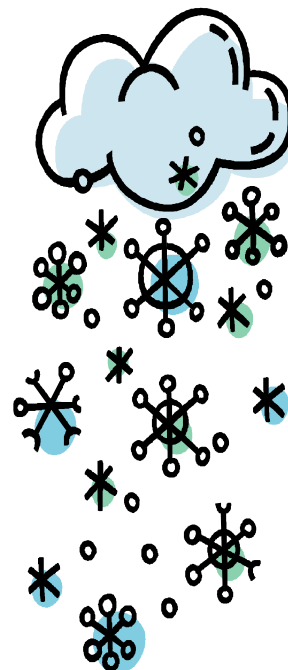
—
ESSIE CHERKIN

BOARD OF TRUSTEES CHAIR

—
HARRIS LEWIN

CHAPLAIN

—
DON WITTENBERG



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 Donald and Bonnie Wittenberg on the birth of their granddaughter, Lillian (Lilly) Elizabeth born on October 16, 2010! Lillian is named for Don's late wife, Louellan Wittenberg.

Mazel Tov to Essie and Bob Cherkin on the engagement of their daughter Alyssa to Steven Rosenberg!

Congratulations to Betty Klear for being honored at

the Schoolman's Award Dinner and for being elected as a Trustee of CASA!

Congratulations to Ann and Robert Tuteur on the birth of their granddaughter Madeline (Maddie) born on November 11, 2010!

Mazel Tov to Bob Cherkin on his retirement!

Mazel Tov to Donald Wittenberg on his recent

retirement!

Mazel Tov to Richard and Joan Raisman on the engagement of their son, Matt to Alysa Weiss!

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to Hope Thomas.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Barbara Porges.

A speedy recovery is wished to Don Wittenberg on his upcoming surgery.



Installation of Officers

On Wednesday, October 13, 2010 at Reform Congregation Knesset Israel, Elkins Park, PA, the B'nai B'rith Educators Unit #5290 hosted our bi-annual installation program for the new Executive Board. The evening featured a delicious complimentary dinner at 6:00 PM for all guests, prepared and served by Curds and Whey.

This was followed by the traditional B'nai B'rith candle lighting ceremony, coordinated by Don Wittenberg, Chaplain. Dr. Barry Drossner, Vice President, Board of Trustees, discharged the 2008-2010 Executive Board. Essie Cherkin, outgoing President, delivered her closing remarks as President, before assuming her new role as our unit's Counselor. Dr. Harris Lewin, President, Board of Trustees, installed the

2010-2012 Executive Board. Stefanie Ressler, incoming President, delivered her opening remarks.

Thank you to our outgoing Executive Board:

Essie Cherkin,
President

Debra B. Drossner,
Vice President

Alice Heller, Vice President

Dr. Karen Kolsky, Vice
President

Stefanie Ressler, Vice
President

Zena Sacks, Vice President

Renée Flehinger,
Corresponding Secretary

Richard Raisman,
Recording Secretary

Kimberly Newman,
Treasurer

Betty Klear, Counselor

Don Wittenberg, Chaplain

Good luck to our incoming
Executive Board:

Stefanie Ressler, President

Kimberly Newman,
Vice President

Debra B. Drossner,
Vice President

Renée Flehinger,
Vice President

Richard Raisman,
Vice President

Zena Sacks,
Vice President

Bonnie Berman, Recording
Secretary

Alice Heller, Treasurer

Essie Cherkin, Counselor

Don Wittenberg, Chaplain

Debra B. Drossner, Vice
President, Membership,
introduced the guest
speaker, PA State
Representative Josh

Shapiro, 153rd
Legislative District.
State Representative
Shapiro shared his
political insight
regarding current
educational issues to
be faced by our new
governor and our PA
State legislators in
the upcoming
months. (FYI: Josh
was re-elected in the
November election.)

The delightful
evening ended with
schmoozing and
dessert. Kudos to the
committee on a
successful event:
Essie Cherkin, Dr.
Barry Drossner,
Debra B. Drossner,
Renée Flehinger,
Alice Heller, Dr.
Harris Lewin, Richard
Raisman, and Don
Wittenberg.

Spotlight on Members

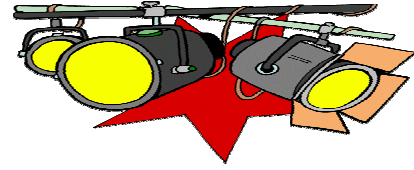
A new feature of this newsletter is to highlight and introduce you to a newer member and a veteran member. The first two members that we have selected are Melanie Lewin and Donald Wittenberg. I hope that you enjoy reading about them.

Donald Wittenberg

Donald Wittenberg worked in the School District for over 41 years. He was a classroom teacher, mathematics specialist, middle school teacher, principal and central office administrator. He retired this year from the Office of Grade and Space Planning as an Educational Facilities Planner.

He has been married to Bonnie Steele Wittenberg for over twelve years. Their children are Steven, Jan and Meghan and their newborn daughter, Lillian. His personal interests include family (near and extended), genealogy, Frank Sinatra music, eclectic reading, and religious studies. He is also the founder of the Festival of Friendship, organized to foster understanding among the various ethnic groups in the school district.

Donald has been an active member of B'nai B'rith since 1975. Shortly after joining the Educators Lodge he was asked to serve on the New Year Booklet and Program Book committees. From that time to the current he has continuously provided service to our unit. He chaired the New Year Booklet Committee followed by chairing the Program Book committee for many years. He is a charter member of our B'nai B'rith Educators Unit. His elected positions have included Vice President for Fund Raising, Treasurer, President and currently is our Chaplain. During his two years as President (1994-1996), our unit twice received the Membership Award for our B'nai B'rith Region and also Unit of the Year in 1996.



Melanie Lewin

Melanie is currently serving as a Consultant Teacher in the School District of Philadelphia. She brings a great deal of knowledge, experience and caring to this role.

Melanie graduated from Lafayette College with a Bachelor's degree in Spanish. She completed her Masters Degree in Early Childhood and Elementary Education at Bank Street College in New York. After serving as an assistant teacher at the Horace Mann School and as a grade teacher at the Rodeph Sholom School in New York she embarked on a career in public education. She was an elementary school teacher in both Camden and Marlton New Jersey before joining the School District of Philadelphia in 2004. Since joining the School District, Melanie has been a sixth grade teacher, a Literacy Lead, an eighth grade math teacher and now works to support both new and tenured teachers.

Melanie is proud to be a member of B'nai B'rith Educators Unit. Melanie lives in Bluebell, PA with her husband Adam and her son Marc.

Renee's Recipes

As we approach the holiday of Purim, which will occur on March 20, 2011, I am often asked if I have a good recipe for Hamantashen. I have one that is terrific and I have used this recipe for the last twenty years and received it from a nursery school cookbook. I hope that you enjoy it as much as I do!

Hamantashen

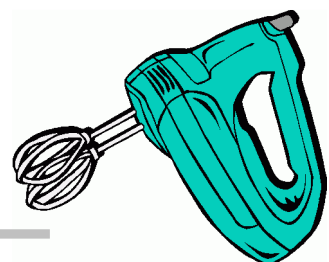
Ingredients:

1 cup butter
2 cups sugar
1t. vanilla
3 eggs
4 cups flour
½ t. salt
1lb. filling

Instructions:

Beat butter, sugar and eggs with a mixer. Add flour and mix well. Refrigerate the dough until it is stiff. Roll dough to ¼ inch and cut into circles with a glass. Fill and pinch into a triangle. Bake at 350 for approximately 20-30 minutes.

If you have a recipe that you would like to share for a future newsletter, please email it to me at imreneef@aol.com.



More Recipes...

Dirt Pudding

1 lg. pkg. Oreo cookies
 1/2 stick butter
 1 (8 oz.) pkg. cream cheese
 1 c. powdered sugar
 3 1/2 c. milk
 2 pkgs. instant French vanilla pudding
 1 (12 oz.) carton Cool Whip
 Large bowl or 8 inch diameter (at top) plastic pot
 Optional – Gummy worms to decorate

Crush well (to fine crumbs) one whole package of Oreo cookies. Set aside.

Cream together butter, cream cheese and powdered sugar.
 In separate bowl, mix together milk and pudding mix, add to creamed mixture. Fold in Cool Whip.
 If using flower pot, plug hole in pot by placing a plastic container lid into bottom of pot.
 Layer cookies and pudding mix. End with cookies.
 Refrigerate. (Recipe should

be cut in 1/2 for smaller pot or bowl.) Decorate with gummy worms before serving.

Hungarian Cucumber Salad

Three steps to making Hungarian cucumber salad from Don Wittenberg.

Step One–

Make Salad Dressing
 1/2 cup of vinegar (actually a bit more vinegar than water to give a tangy taste)
 1/2 cup of water
 1 tablespoon of sugar
 1/2 teaspoon salt

Dash of freshly ground black pepper
 6-10 thin slices of a sweet onion (using the potato grater side)
 Mix these ingredients together.

Step Two–

Take 3-4 nice size cucumbers. Use a potato grater (the side with 2-3 slits for slicing). Slice the cucumbers (thin slices) and place in a bowl with the cucumber dressing described in Step One

Step Three

Add the cucumbers to the salad dressing and let stand for one hour. Even better, put it into a refrigerator overnight. Strain the cucumbers from the dressing. Sprinkle sweet Hungarian paprika on top and serve. Enjoy!!!!

Caramel Matzo Crunch

This is a great recipe to use for a Passover dessert. Even though it is made with matzo, I get requests for it all year long. Enjoy!

Ingredients:

4-6 unsalted matzohs
 1 c. firmly packed brown sugar
 1 c. unsalted butter
 3/4 c. coarsely chopped chocolate chips or semi sweet chocolate

Prep:

Preheat oven to 375. Line cookie sheet with foil and then parchment paper. Line bottom of cookie sheet with broken matzohs. Combine butter and brown sugar in a 3 qt. saucepan over medium heat, stirring constantly until mixture boils. Boil for 3 minutes, stirring constantly. Remove from heat and cover matzoh completely with mixture. Place cookie sheet in oven and lower heat to 350. Bake for 15 minutes, checking every few minutes for burning. If burning, lower temperature to 325. Remove from oven and sprinkle with chocolate. Let stand for 5 minutes and then spread the melted chocolate over the matzoh. While still warm, break into squares or other shapes. Chill in pan or freezer until set.

Membership Update

Educators, please encourage potential new members to attend an upcoming B'nai B'rith Educators Unit event with you! As the enclosed membership application 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".

B'nai B'rith headquarters in Washington, DC is permitting us to continue to promote NEW memberships with special rates. Please contact Debra B. Drossner, Vice President, Membership, for information (application and contact numbers are included in this newsletter). Renewing members are asked to reply to the mailing from B'nai B'rith headquarters as soon as possible. Invoices and payment should be mailed directly to Washington, DC, as directed. Thank you for your continued support.

Please contact me with any ideas regarding building membership and

indicate your availability to support your suggestion(s):

Debra B. Drossner,
 Membership Vice President,
 2010-2011
 H: (215) 540-9269
 C: (267)-679-6237
 ddrossner@philasd.org

I received the following email from Essie Cherkin that she wanted to share:

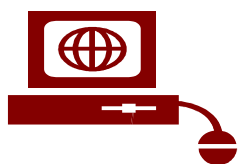
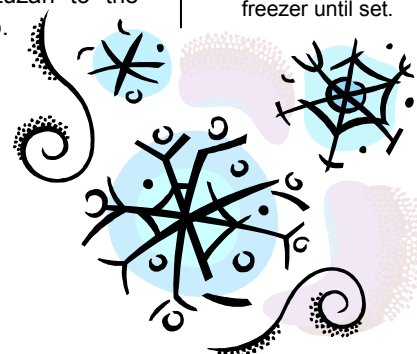
Dear Debra,

Thank you for creating a wonderful evening of transition on October 13th.

I am absolutely thrilled by the gift you selected for me. The mezuzah will always welcome visitors as well as Bob and me with beauty.

I am so grateful for this honor. Please extend my gratitude for the beautiful mezuzah to the entire membership.

Fondly,
 Essie



We're on the Web!
 See us at:

www.bnaibritheducators.com

ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER



This year the B'nai Brith Educators Annual Awards Dinner will be held on Thursday, May 5, 2011 at Philmont Country Club. This wonderful event is always the highlight of the Spring season and this year promises the same. In addition to a wonderful dinner, celebration and dancing, we will honor exceptional individuals and an outstanding Philadelphia institution. Sheldon S. Pavel, A.B., Ed.M, Ed.D. Principal and President of Central High School since 1984, will receive the Service to the Profession Award.

Renee Flehinger, Assistant Principal of Baldi Middle School will also be the recipient of the Service to the Profession Award. To honor her important service to the Jewish Community, we will present the Service to the Jewish Community award to Tara Feiner, Executive Director of Grants Compliance. The Service to the Jewish Community Award will also be presented to Gary Feldman, Coordinator of Psychological & Counseling Services. Lastly, the Humanitarian Award will recognize The National

Liberty Museum. This museum is dedicated to preserving freedom and democracy by fostering good character and understanding for all people through education. The exhibits illuminate the strength and fragility of democracy and recognize the role each person plays in safeguarding our freedom. Please plan to join us on May 5th for this wonderful B'nai Brith Educators tradition.

- Essie Cherkin

B'NAI BRITH EDUCATORS UNIT #5290

IT IS TIME AGAIN FOR THE
"PAID-UP MEMBERSHIP BRUNCH"

JOIN US FOR A GREAT MEAL,
SOME "OUT OF SCHOOL" TIME WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES, AND
OUR SPECIAL GUEST, **MR. DAVID WEINER**
ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT OF ACADEMICS
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2011 @ 11 AM
CHART HOUSE RESTAURANT
555 SOUTH COLUMBUS BLVD.
PHILADELPHIA

RSVP BY SENDING A CHECK TO
"B'NAI BRITH EDUCATORS UNIT
\$18. FOR PAID MEMBERS
\$33. FOR GUESTS

"FREE" VALET PARKING

RETURN TO:
ALICE HELLER
209 RADBURN ROAD
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19115
RSVP BY FEBRUARY 18TH;
QUESTIONS - CALL ALICE @ 215-939-1456

www.bnaibritheducators.com





B'NAI B'RITH MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

"B'nai B'rith America" Campaign

Join for two years, get the third year free

I am/we are of the Jewish faith and pledge to support the high ideals and purposes of B'nai B'rith. (Please print)

NAME

SPOUSE'S NAME

MAILING ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

OCCUPATION

TELEPHONE HOME & CELL

TELEPHONE WORK

EMAIL

FAX NUMBER

BIRTHDATE – ONLY IF UNDER AGE 35

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT

DATE

REFERRED BY

UNIT/LODGE AFFILIATION

Special Campaign Dues Categories

Individual (3 yrs).....\$165
Couple (3 yrs).....\$250
Individual (1 yr).....\$90
Couple (1 yr).....\$135

Under age 35

Individual (3yrs).....\$100
(no couples discounts apply)
Individual (1 yr).....\$45
Couple (1 yr).....\$90

These introductory rates apply to new and rejoining members only.

Return completed membership form with check to:

Stefanie Ressler, President
8028 Jenkintown Road
Cheltenham, PA 19012
(215) 880-3592

or

Debra Drossner, Membership VP
1026 Bell Lane
Maple Glen, PA 19002
(215) 540-9269

WHY B'NAI B'RITH?

Dear Fellow Educator,

THE EDUCATORS UNIT OF B'NAI B'RITH was formed in 1968-1969 in response to a **pervasive atmosphere of anti-Semitism** that was affecting educators throughout the school system. It became our mission to stop this from taking hold. **WE WERE SUCCESSFUL.** We adopted the position that we wanted an "even playing field" for Jews applying for positions in the system. We continue fighting for the issues that commenced our formation. Additionally, our programs appeal to a variety of interests. One of our unit's interests is to raise funds for B'nai B'rith Youth Services, as well as other related activities.

Within Philadelphia Council, **THE EDUCATORS UNIT HAS ALSO BEEN A LEADER.** We were one of the first groups to change to Unit Status (men and women in one group). Several members of our unit have served in leadership roles in Philadelphia Council. We are one of the largest B'nai B'rith groups within the council area. Our unit is respected within B'nai B'rith circles **due to the DIVERSITY OF OUR PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES.**

B'nai B'rith is the oldest and largest Jewish fraternal and service organization of its kind in the world. For many Jews, it has been the flame that has kept Judaism alive in hostile countries. B'nai B'rith activities include establishing orphan and old age homes and hospitals. You are probably familiar with the Hillel Foundation houses on many college campuses and AZA and BBG chapters for our youth. Additionally, B'nai B'rith has achieved a prominent position in the United Nations having the only "Observer Status" seat of its kind.

Following the anti-Semitic lynching of Leo Frank (ca 1913) in the South, B'nai B'rith formed the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) to fight against anti-Semitism and other forms of racism. ADL has been one of the main leaders in this fight. ADL exposed Norman Lincoln Rockwell to public scrutiny in the same way it exposed Farrakhan – by exposing his public statements to scrutiny.

IT HAS NEVER BEEN EASY BEING A JEW. The cost of not being united is even greater. We charge LESS than most B'nai B'rith groups, but even if this cost seems high on your budget, the yearly investment you make for yourself and others is very low. **WHY B'NAI B'RITH?** Because we need **the strength of organization** to help Jews – around the world, within our country, within our profession and especially, within the Philadelphia School District and suburban school districts.

PLEASE JOIN US NOW!