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

# B'nai B'rith Educators Unit #5290

November  
2009

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Youth Appeal Brunch**  
Sunday, December 6, 2009  
10 a.m.  
Philmont Country Club

**Paid Up Membership Brunch**  
Sunday, January 31, 2010  
Chart House Restaurant

**Avenue Q**  
June 18, 19 or 20, 2010 (t.b.d.)  
Academy of Music

**Rain - A Tribute to the Beatles**  
Thurs., February 4, 2010  
7:30 p.m.  
Academy of Music

**Awards Dinner**  
Philmont Country Club  
May 6, 2010

## Message from the President

I hope this newsletter finds you well and enjoying life. During the 2009-2010 year, Educators Unit will continue our customary activities as well as plan a few new events designed to energize our loyal membership and encourage new members.

We began the New Year with the *L'Shanah Tovah* Memorial Booklet compiled beautifully by Faye Benshetler. Thanks to Faye's efforts we honor our Jewish tradition by remembering loved ones we've lost. In addition, the booklet provides us the opportunity to wish all of our members and their families the best in the New Year.

On October 25<sup>th</sup> we supported Liberty Region's Luncheon at Temple Sinai honoring Mayor Michael Nutter as the Person of the Year. The Mayor appreciated this recognition and was warm and gracious in his acceptance speech. Liberty Region is the umbrella organization for all B'nai B'rith organizations in this area.

Each year, another tradition is maintained as our trustees and past presidents form a nominating committee to select honorees for our Youth Appeal Brunch and Spring Awards Dinner. This year the Nominating committee made the unique decision to honor all *Educators: Past, Present, and Future*, during the Youth Appeal Brunch on December 6th. This exciting decision was based on the knowledge that throughout the past 40 years of B'nai B'rith Educators Unit's existence, our members have collectively dedicated countless years to nurtur-

ing and educating thousands of children from Philadelphia and the surrounding areas. These contributions have been so significant that on that morning we will acknowledge each person's efforts to make a difference in the lives of so many children by choosing careers in Education. An invitation is included in this newsletter. We hope you will be present for this very special event. I appreciate the work of Betty Klear, Past President and the program chair, as well as the support of Kim Newman and Stefanie Ressler.

Please save January 31<sup>st</sup> for another wonderful Paid-Up Membership Brunch at the Chart House. That morning is always a delightful and warm way to spend a cold winter Sunday morning (with no scheduled football games). Alice Heller will serve as brunch chair.

Look for the Spring Award Dinner's honorees listed in another article in this newsletter. In March or April, we plan to have an Educators Unit Friday night Shabbat service and dinner. Let us know your recommendation for a synagogue where we can welcome Shabbat together and enjoy dinner in a nearby restaurant. I invite you to call or email me with your suggestion. We're also talking about a fun activity like a bowling party so please keep close to your email for details. Of course, we need a current email for you so that we can keep you up to date on all news and information.

Probably the most exciting news is that the 2009-2010 Executive Board includes new members who have already

brought us innovative ideas. It is my pleasure to announce that Richard Raisman, Principal, Emlen Elementary School and a 2009 Educators Unit Jewish Community Award recipient, has accepted the role of Recording Secretary. Also, joining our board as Treasurer is Kim Newman, Principal of Houston Elementary School. Continuing board members, Alice Heller, Stefanie Ressler and Zena Sacks, have stepped up from their previous roles as Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary and Recording Secretary to become Vice Presidents. Renée Flehinger, Assistant Principal, Baldi Middle School is our new Corresponding Secretary, taking responsibility for this newsletter and other communication with members. I am grateful to have returning Vice Presidents, Debra Drossner, who will continue to serve as Membership Vice President, and Karen Kolsky, who will continue to support us with programming, having searched the theater scene for tickets (see Karen's article). I'm grateful to each of our officers for their hard work last year and this and look forward to more fun and inspirational events.

Our success depends on the strength, knowledge and commitment of each of our members. We are fortunate to have dedicated Board Members providing needed leadership. Remember that we need **you** too! Please let Debra Drossner, Membership Vice President ([ddrossner@philasd.org](mailto:ddrossner@philasd.org)) know how you'd like to help.

Congratulations to the  
2009-2010  
Executive Board

**President** — Essie Cherkin

**Vice Presidents**

—  
Stefanie Ressler  
Debra Drossner  
Karen Kolsky  
Alice Heller  
Zena Sacks

**Treasurer**—Kim Newman

**Corresponding Secretary**

—  
Renée Flehinger

**Recording Secretary**

—  
Richard Raisman

**Counselor**

—  
Betty Klear

**Board Of Trustees Chair**

—  
Harris Lewin

**Chaplain**

—  
Don Wittenberg

## CALL FOR MEMBERS

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".



Please contact me with any ideas regarding building membership and indicate your availability to support your suggestion(s):

Debra B. Drossner, Membership Vice President, 2009-2010  
H: (215) 540-9269 C: (267)-679-6237  
[ddrossner@philasd.org](mailto:ddrossner@philasd.org)

## GOOD & WELFARE

Our Deepest Sympathy to Linda Grobman and her family on the passing of her father, Robert Grobman on November 11, 2009.

Our Deepest Sympathy to Rhonda Lauer and her family on the passing of her mother, Dorothy Handleman on November 2, 2009

Best wishes to all of the Spring 2010 Award Winners!



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

Do you have a change of email or mailing address?

Please contact the Corresponding Secretary as needed. Correspondence can be sent to me at:

Renée Flehinger  
122 Gardner Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19116  
[renee.flehinger@gmail.com](mailto:renee.flehinger@gmail.com)

## AWARDS DINNER

The Spring Awards Dinner will be held on Thursday evening, May 6<sup>th</sup> at Philmont Country Club. This evening provides us a wonderful opportunity to pay tribute to those among us who have given outstanding service to our profession or to the Jewish Community. Our Nominating Committee announces the following awardees:

**Service to the Profession:**  
Kimberly Newman, Principal, Houston School  
Paula Don, Office of Instructional Technology

**Service to the Jewish Community**  
Howard Butler, PFT staffer and Hebrew school educator  
Harvey Holper, Psychologist and Hebrew school educator  
**Humanitarian Award**  
Mural Arts Project: Jane Golden

Please save the date and let me know if you'd like to be on the dinner committee.

Essie Cherkin,  
[echerkin@verizon.net](mailto:echerkin@verizon.net)



## BROADWAY ON BROAD ST.

215 364 1684

Once again our B'nai B'rith Educators Unit is looking into an Evening of the Arts through Kimmel Center's Broadway Series. We are considering two shows. Please check your interest and availability on the dates and times below, and email me at [jk236@aol.com](mailto:jk236@aol.com) with your interest and the possible number of tickets that you would be interested in.

Rain:

February 4, 2010  
Thursday, 7:30 P.M.;  
Parquet Boxes; Balcony Boxes,  
approximately \$85 pp

Avenue Q:

June 18-June 20, 2010  
(not sure of date yet; Sunday is Father's Day and Friday is Shabbat).  
Parquet Boxes, Balcony Boxes,  
approximately \$100 pp

Both shows are at the Academy of Music.

-Karen Kolsky



## YOUTH APPEAL BRUNCH

Calling all Educators  
Past, Present and Future!

We think you are so wonderful that we are planning a special presentation at our Annual Youth Appeal Brunch to honor you. So please come and bring a retired, current or future educator to Philmont Country Club on December 6th at 10:00 AM for a delicious brunch.. Not only will you be honored, but you will meet and hear AZA and BBYO members along with

their chapter leaders tell inspiring stories of their experiences and how your donations help these youth organizations prosper and keep our traditions alive.

An invitation with more information is included with this newsletter. I'm looking forward to seeing you there.

- Betty Klear





*B'nai B'rith Educators Unit #5290*

*Honors All Educators*

*Past, Present and Future*

*At our annual*

*B'nai B'rith Appeal Brunch*

*Benefiting B'nai B'rith Youth Programs*

*Sunday, December 6, 2009 10:00 a.m.*

*Philmont Country Club*

*Philmont & Tomlinson Roads*

*Huntingdon Valley, PA. 19006*

*\$40.00 per person*

*Please return by November 25, 2009 to*

*Betty Klear*

*1205 Crane Drive*

*Cherry Hill, New Jersey 08003*

*609-276-0843*

*Name* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ *I will attend*    *# of people* \_\_\_\_\_    *\$* \_\_\_\_\_ *enclosed*

\_\_\_\_\_ *I am unable to attend but would like to make a donation in*  
*honor of* \_\_\_\_\_





# 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

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

or

**Debra Drossner, Membership VP**  
**1026 Bell Lane**  
**Maple Glen, PA 19002**  
**267-679-6237 cell**

# 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!**