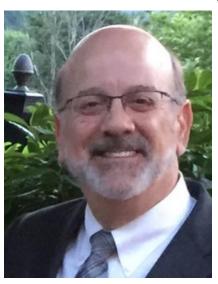
KOL: THE VOICE OF TBY



From the Rabbi's Desk

By Rabbi Arthur Rutberg

Happy New Year! In the immortal and eloquent words of the late great Yogi Berra, "it's like déjà vu all over again." On February 2nd, we will celebrate the strange holiday of Groundhog Day. It is based on the Christian festival of Candlemas associated with Mary's 40 days



of impurity following Jesus' birth (see Leviticus 12) and related to the European bubbemeiseh that clear weather on Candlemas forebodes a longer winter. Over time, the legend/myth morphed into using the shadow of an animal to predict the duration of winter. The people of central Europe.

mostly German speaking, used the badger as their forecasting animal. In Hungary, they primarily used the bear with the badger serving as backup if the bears were not around (especially during football season). But it is the Pennsylvania Dutch (Deutsch-German) people who transmogrified the Candlemas Bear/Badger legend into what we now know as Groundhog Day and the weather forecasting animal into an eternal semi-mythical groundhog named Phil who resides in a hole in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania between Harrisburg and Pittsburgh.

Although the American tradition of Groundhog Day in Pennsylvania Dutch Country began in the 19th century, our contemporary 21st century American society relates the day more to a 1993 fantasy rom-com film starring Bill Murray and Andie MacDowell than to any European Christian legend. In case you never saw the film, Bill Murray plays an obnoxious and cynical

weatherman who goes to Punxsutawney to cover the yearly "emergence" of the groundhog named Phil on Groundhog Day and finds himself in a time loop reliving the same day over and over again. Andie MacDowell plays the part of his new TV producer and his burgeoning love interest. Although for everybody else it is a new day, for Bill Murray, it is always the same day; monotonous, repetitive, unpleasant, predictable and very boring. Déjà vu all over again day after day after day.

The point of the story is that Bill Murray can only break out of this never-ending time loop by changing his character, his behavior, and becoming a better person. Now that we are in the winter months, things tend to slow down here at Temple Bat Yam. We find ourselves in a predictable pattern of events and programs, classes and services. Typically, we do not break out of this pattern until after Passover when the warmer weather begins. This year, I hope that things will be different.

This year, my plan is to shake things up a little; to try new things no matter if the winter is long or short, no matter if Phil sees his shadow or not. I am only forecasting right now but we should expect to see some new things on the horizon. Let's get ready for some bright new ideas shining through our typical winter dreariness. Hopefully, they will be successful and establish some new traditions and practices for our Temple even in the dark and dull days of winter.

May we soon see the dawning of a bright new day filled with fun activities, classes, events, and programs and not simply a repetition of the same old, same old, days and ways of winter.

L'shalom,

Rabbi Arthur Rutberg

President's Report

Dear Friends and Members of Temple Bat Yam,

As a new year begins, and we not so long ago finished celebrating the Festival of Lights, I want to take a moment to reflect on the meaningful moments we've shared this past year.

Chanukah is a time of hope, resilience, and the celebration of our enduring spirit. As we light the menorah each night, may we remember the miracles of the past and embrace the light within ourselves and our community. Let us gather with family and friends, share stories, and create new memories that will illuminate our paths in the coming year. I encourage you to participate in our festive gatherings at the Temple, where we celebrate together with song, prayer, and joy.

Looking back at the High Holidays, I am filled with gratitude for the profound experiences we shared. Our services were a beautiful blend of tradition and innovation, with heartfelt prayers and uplifting music that brought us closer together. Amber Ikeman was an inspirational Cantorial Soloist and Kimberly Hess played beautifully on the piano and organ. It was inspiring to see so many of you come together to reflect on the past year, seek forgiveness, and renew our commitments to one another and our community. We all felt the void left by Cheryl Taustin's absence and she will forever be remembered as her spirit remains in our sanctuary.

Thank you to everyone who contributed their time and talents to make our High Holidays a success. Your dedication and spirit have helped strengthen our bonds and ensure that Temple Bat Yam remains a warm and welcoming home for all.

As we step into a new year, let us carry the lessons of the High Holidays and the light of Chanukah with us. Together, we can continue to foster a community filled with love, support, and understanding.

Wishing you all a new year filled with peace, joy and light!

Warm regards,

Jerry Selig President, Temple Bat Yam

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Sisterhood Report

In December, our Sisterhood had a wonderful Chanukah party, complete with a door prize for each participant, a delicious potluck luncheon, a fun gift exchange which included stealing gifts from each other, and a 50/50 raffle and more prizes. Sisterhood gave special thanks to Dr. Dara Murray who singlehandedly sold so many yellow ribbon lapel pins.

Also, Sisterhood and the Social Committee will be co-sponsoring a rock painting art activity on Sunday, January 19 at 1pm at TBY. Come and join in this terrific artsy event.

Sisterhood is always seeking TBY Members to sponsor an Oneg Shabbat after Friday night services. Volunteer to take the lead on an Oneg as a Mitzvah to honor a special occasion or in memory of someone special.

We are also looking for a Sisterhood member to serve as our Recording Secretary. If you want more information, please contact Rozzie Graber at: Sisterhoodpresident@templebatyam-oc.org

Wishing all of you and yours a very Healthy, Happy 2025!

Rozzie Graber President TBY Sisterhood

Social Committee Report

The Social Committee met on December 4th for a Planning Session for 2025 and we came up with a great line-up. Most of these activities are still in the planning stages so stay-tuned to hear more about them.

- Inspirational Rock Painting, Sun., 1/19/2025 @ 1pm
- Movie & Dinner at Flagship Theater, West Ocean City (1/2 price on Tuesdays) & dinner at Carraba's
- "Trivia Night" at Southside Grill, Ocean Pines, MD
- Coordinating going to 'Rehoboth Beach Jewish Film Festival'
- Dickens' Theater for either a Magic Show or singer Brian Clark
- 'Family Game Night' at Alley Oops
- Touring Wallops Island followed by dinner at Ray's Seafood Shanty
- 2-hour tour of Dover Air Force Base.
- Events at Windmill Creek Winery
- Sun., 6/1/2025: Annual BBQ & Pot Luck / Sing-A-Long
- Sat., 8/2/2025 at 6pm: Country Western Hoe-Down & Chili Cook-off
- October: Annual Nine & Dine Golf Outing, River Run Golf Course

Shelley Klapholz

My Thoughts for the Year

I don't know about you but at this time of the year I'm thinking about a New Year resolution that will hopefully make me a better person. Go to the gym...no, that won't work although it is a good idea. Read more books.... nope. How about cook more...a big "forget that one!" So, I thought of a really good resolution Thursday night when I should have been sleeping (I do that, think when I should be sleeping). What I came up with is... let people know I love them. There are so many people that fill my heart with a good or great feeling as a person. Why not tell them?

I tell my sweet grandsons I love them just about every time I speak to them in person or on the cell (it's not phone anymore, it's cell...get with the times, Bubby). I tell my children I love them, all of the time. Barry and I tell each other we love each other every day, sometimes several times. You know what? It feels so good.

Last Friday I was at the Temple service (it was the third night of Hanukkah) and my mind wandered, as it usually does, and I read some English writings (I can understand them). I came across a part of a writing that not only spoke to me but was on the same theme and here it is:

We pray for love to encompass us for no other reason save that we are human, for love through which we may all blossom into persons who have gained power over our own lives.

So, if I have just one resolution this year it's to tell people that I love them. Perhaps you would like to make one resolution that will enhance your life and others.

I love my friends at Temple Bat Yam....there, that wasn't so hard to do, and I feel so good about how I feel.

Happy New Year, my friends, and may it be healthy, as well.

Candy Gusst

Membership Report

The Gift of Membership program is no longer being offered. The annual fee for the Friends program is now \$290 for those participating. Associate Membership is no longer being offered to new congregants.

Our current Membership Committee is now Co-chaired by Doreen Linehan (Dagsboro, DE) and Cindy Brown (Salisbury). Membership also consists of Sly & Joan Sobel (Ocean Pines-Gathersburg), Terri Broemm (Ocean Pines), Paul Schwab (West Fenwick), Jodi Meyers (Salisbury), Tiffanie Nichols (Berlin) and Dara Murray (Ocean Pines). Other congregants are involved with membership-related matters, mostly helping by being Greeters on Friday nights and Chamber of Commerce events.

The TBY GUIDES program continues with each new member being assigned to a "Buddy" who will be available to answer their questions and help them become acclimated to the many important aspects of TBY. The membership committee is in partnership with the Chambers of Commerce in Berlin, Ocean Pines, Millsboro, and Rehoboth. We are excited to be able to spread the word in these communities about our Temple.

Membership has added two comprehensive subcommittees. The first new subcommittee is the Shalom Committee which seeks to contact each new and existing congregational member to say "hello" through calls and other contacts and also interview those who have left. This effort continues to be headed by Tiffanie Nichols.

The other new subcommittee is the Publicity Committee which is headed by Dara Murray. It functions specifically for advertising for the Temple. This committee seeks to write and distribute routine ads such as our new colorful ads on placemats at local restaurants. Take a look at one at Abi's if you get the chance! New or updated ads have been placed in the local Chamber's newsletters and local papers. Also, Dara has been making our presence known at the local farmer's market at Ocean Pines to answer questions in the community about TBY and gather names of those who are interested in what TBY has to offer.

We want to remind congregants that volunteering to serve as greeters at Shabbat services is an important contribution to the Temple through welcoming our existing and potential new members coming to our services. Also, let us know if you can help out at the farmer's market. Please contact Doreen at timdoreen@verizon.net if you wish to volunteer. As we look at it, all congregants are extensions of our committee. Please contact Doreen regarding a family member, friend, neighbor, office worker, etc., who would like to learn more about TBY, including our special membership promotions.

Cindy and I welcome congregants interested in joining the membership committee. Please contact Doreen if interested. Our Greeters ARE the first faces people see coming into our Temple and we all want to make them feel welcome and comfortable joining us. We have received much positive feedback on this from people unfamiliar with Temple Bat Yam and how unique this is compared to other communities where they have attended service. Let's keep this going as we are a welcoming community.

Membership Committee Chairs

Doreen Linehan and Cindy Brown

Bagels and Books

First-time discussion leader, Terri Broemm, made excellent use of her teaching skills for this session's book, The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store by James McBride. By providing background information about the author and focusing on themes and the interactions of characters, Terri set the stage for a good discussion. She even made sure that everyone had an opportunity to participate by using tried and true classroom management techniques!

Terri provided personal information about the author's parents who were an interfaith and interracial couple. His mother was an Orthodox Jew and his father, an African American Baptist pastor. He grew up in public housing in Brooklyn and experienced what it was like to be poor financially, but rich musically. In fact, he majored in Musical Composition as an undergraduate at Oberlin and Journalism at the graduate level at Columbia. Identity, religion and community social change are key themes in McBride's works.



Participants added to the discussion using examples from their own lives. For example, Jane Rosenthal mentioned the name of a neighbor in Ocean Pines who lived in Chicken Hill, the setting for this book, which is near Pottstown, PA. Tim Linehan asked about one of the characters who was referred to as Son



of Man, a truly evil person in the book. He explained that in the Catholic religion, Jesus used Son of Man to refer to himself, often signifying his shared humanity with others while also alluding to his role as the future Messiah. Tim's question generated discussion about why the author would use this name for an evil character.

Terri suggested that, if we'd like to have more of an understanding of <u>The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store</u>, especially as related to the many characters and

themes, we should reference Marmalade and Mustardseed which is a guide to book discussions. Thank you, Terri!

COMING MARCH 2, 2025

Arie Klapholz will lead the discussion of <u>Born to Kvetch</u>: <u>Yiddish Language and Culture in All of Its Moods</u> by Michael Wex

Bagels & Books

Date: Sun., March 2, 2025

Time: 12:30pm

Place: Temple Bat Yam

Book: "Born to Kvetch: Yiddish Language & Culture in All of Its Moods" Author: Michael Wex

Discussion led by Arie Klapholz

From The Three Stooges to Seinfeld, Born to Kvetch is a smart and witty portrait of Yiddish and its relationship to both Jewish culture and American life. "An earthy romp through the lingua franca of Jews.... This treasure trove of linguistics, sociology, history and folklore offers a fascinating look at how, through the centuries, a unique and enduring language has reflected an equally unique and enduring culture." —Publishers Weekly, starred review The main spoken language of the Jews for more than 1,000 years, Yiddish offers a comprehensive picture of the mind-set that enabled them to survive a millennium of unrelenting persecution across Europe. Through the idioms, phrases, metaphors, and fascinating history of this wonderful tongue, Michael Wex gives us a moving and inspiring portrait of a people, and a language, in exile. From tukhes to goy, meshugener to bobe mayse (cok-and-bull story), Born to Kvetch offers a wealth of material, some that has never appeared in English before, on all elements of Yiddish life, including food, nature, divinity, humanity, and even sex.

Contributions as of December, 2024

Note: Earlier contributions made for several of the listed funds have been acknowledged in one or more previous Newsletters.

GENERAL FUND

Michaele Battles & Gerald Berns Bette Bohlmann & Stuart Smolins

~ in memory of Billy Lafferman, husband of Jane

Lafferman

~ in memory of Luanne Hintz, sister of Rabbi Susan

Warshaw

~ in memory of Richard David Devine, son-in-law of Judy Warshaw

and Bill Johnstone

Terri Broemm

and Bill Johnstone

Melvin & Betty Fine Foundation

Christine Glick

~ in memory of Bruce Benjamin, brother of Andrew

Benjamin

Homer & Martha Gudelsky Family Foundation

Candy & Barry Gusst

~ in memory of Billy Lafferman, husband of Jane

Lafferman

~ in memory of Luanne Hintz, sister of Rabbi Susan

Warshaw

 \sim in memory of Richard David Devine, son-in-law of Judy \sim in memory of Billy Lafferman, husband of Jane

and Bill Johnstone

Bill & Judy Johnstone

~ in memory of cantorial soloist Cheryl Taustin, wife of

Jay Taustin

~ in memory of Luanne Hintz, sister of Rabbi Susan

Warshaw

Susan Kaltenbaugh

~ in memory of Billy Lafferman, husband of Jane

Lafferman

Veronica Kahn

~ in memory of Luanne Hintz, sister of Rabbi Susan

Warshaw

~ in memory of Bruce Benjamin, brother of Andrew

~ in memory of Richard David Devine, son-in-law of Judy

and Bill Johnstone

Steven & Bonnie Kirschbaum

~ in memory of Billy Lafferman, husband of Jane

Lafferman

~ in memory of Richard David Devine, son-in-law of Judy

and Bill Johnstone

Arie & Shelley Klapholz

~ General Fund

~ in memory of Luanne Hintz, sister of Rabbi Susan

~ in memory of Billy Lafferman, husband of Jane

Lafferman

 \sim in memory of Richard David Devine, son-in-law of Judy \sim in memory of Richard David Devine, son-in-law of Judy

and Bill Johnstone

Lee & Jennifer Klepper

~ in memory of Cheryl Taustin, wife of Jay Taustin

Shelley Levinson

~ in memory of Bruce Benjamin, brother of Andrew

Benjamin

Susan & Howard Rubenstein

~ in memory of Billy Lafferman, husband of Jane

Lafferman

Susan & Stan Schwartzbart

~ in memory of Cheryl Taustin, wife of Jay Taustin

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Warshaw

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~ in memory of Billy Lafferman, husband of Jane

Lafferman

LIBRARY FUND

Arie & Shelley Klapholz

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~ in memory of Richard David Devine, son-in-law of Judy

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Larry & Ivy Hecker

- ~ in memory of Cheryl Taustin, wife of Jay Taustin
- ~ in memory of Luanne Hintz, sister of Rabbi Susan

Warshaw

Arie & Shelley Klapholz

Judith Steinfink

~ in loving memory of our special friend, Billy Lafferman ~ in memory of Billy Lafferman, husband of Jane

EVENT SPONSOR

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~ Nine & Dine 10/1/24

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~ Nine & Dine 10/1/24

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Christine Glick and the Family

~ in memory of Hal Glick, husband of Christine Glick Bill & Judy Johnstone

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Christine Glick and the Family

~ in memory of Hal Glick, husband of Christine Glick Bill & Judy Johnstone

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Dr. Dara Murray

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Rosalind & Bernard Graber

~ Large outdoor Hanukkah menorah

David Lipstein

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Doreen & Tim Linehan

~ in memory of Billy Lafferman, husband of Jane Lafferman

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

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~In loving memory of Fannie Klein, grandmother of Rachel White

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- ~ in memory of Brian Wechsler, brother of Mady Segal
- ~ in memory of David Gold, grandfather of David Segal **Stuart Smolins**
- Sharon Stern
- ~ in memory of Renie F. Kremer, mother of Sharon Stern Bernard & Kathleen Sussman
- ~ in memory of Alfred Dunn, father of Kathy Sussman
- ~ in memory of Hubert Anderson, best friend of Bernard Sussman
- ~ in memory of Linda B. Taylor, best friend of Kathleen Sussman
- ~ in memory of mother of Bernard Sussman & motherin-law of Kathy Sussman

Ieff & Rina Thaler

- Rachel & William White
- ~ in memory of Morris Lampel, grandfather of Rachel White

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

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Ira & Debra Chilowitz

Dr. Stephen Pulley & Kathleen Sardella

Alvin (Al) Frederick

Joy & Leonard Davis

Remembering Our Loved Ones

January 2025 Yahrzeits

Lawrence Bledsoe Roz Cohen Herman Eagle Samuel Fromme David Gold Anne Goldberg Ben Goldberg Pat Green Maurice Gross Marcia Israelov Arthur I Levin Helene Morris Rose Pack Harold Rosenfeld Albert Schwab Michael Seigel Sarah Sitkoff Susan Sitkoff Larry Smolins **Ruth Soloff** Karl Stahre **Ruth Starr** Arthur Thaler Pearl Winkler

Husband of Fran Bledsoe Sister of Sharon Mevers Father of Sidney Eagle Father of Myra Novick Grandfather of David Segal Aunt of Arna Miller Son of Harry Goldberg Mother of Susan Warshaw Grandfather of Joan Sobel Sister of Malcolm Karl Father of Lori McDonald Mother of Raymond Morris Mother of Laurence Pack Uncle of Marcia Hirsch Father of Paul Schwab Son of Donna & Allen Seigel Grandmother of Joan Sobel Mother of Ioan Sobel **Father of Stuart Smolins** Aunt of Stephen Pulley Father of Denise Stahre Mother of Sylvia Burkom Richard Sternberger Former Rabbi of TBY Father of Jeff Thaler Meyer Wiedermann Father of Joel Wiedermann Mother of Steve Winkler

February 2025 Yahrzeits

Elaine Auerbach Sister-in-law of Ron Auerbach William Barnard Sr Father of William Barnard Mother of Cindy Fox Ruth Beck Alvin Bramow Father of Steven Bramow Lawreake Burman Father of Frances Burman Gabriel Bush Father of Lewis Bush Beatrice Fox Mother of David Fox Mother of Susan Friedman Norma Friedman B. Lewis Garshman Father of Arna Miller Gertrude Garshman Mother of Arna Miller Arnold Green Father of Ellen Krawczak **Lorraine Gross** Cousin of Joel Wiedermann Elizabeth HershmanMother of Barbara Southwell Irene Himelfarb Mother of Ronnye Levin Howard E. Kahn Brother of Stan Kahn

Mother of Malcolm & Beatrice Karl Mother-in-law of Karen Karl Warren Katz Brother of Joane Wolpin Gertrude Kessler Mother of Bernard Kessler Ann Klein Sister of Rachel White David Klein Grandfather of Rachel White Ionathan Klein Son of Marion Longberg Kurt Klein Brother-in-law of Marion Longberg

David Korman Morris Lafferman Fred Miller Irwin Sonny" Pack" Elaine Rabinowitz Nathan Rosenberg Hans Rosenfeld Herman Rosenfeld Helen Rutberg

Isadore Sall **Tobye Faye Seigel** Jake Shmukler **Bessie Smolins Ruth Steinberg** Harry Taustin Ella Warshaw **Irving Warshaw** Paul Warshaw Benjamin

Westervelt Rose Wiedermann Lauria Wiener Ida L. Wolf Richard Wolf

Father of Hank Korman Father of Bill Lafferman Father of Cheryl Taustin Cousin of Larry Pack Mother of Robin Rabinowitz Grandfather of Sylvan Sobel Father of Warren Rosenfeld Father of Terry Bramow Mother of Rabbi Arthur Rutberg Father of Patti Wiedermann

Mother of Allen Seigel Father of Rebecca Zweigbaum Mother of Stuart Smolins Mother of Ivy Hecker Father of Jay Taustin Mother of Richard Warshaw Father of Richard Warshaw Brother of Richard Warshaw Father of Bette Bohlmann

Mother of Joel Wiedermann Mother of Joyce Cohen Mother of Veronica Kahn Brother of Veronica Kahn

March 2025 Yahrzeits

Leon Bartz
Father of Marsha Rosenstock
Alicia Beach
Mother of Samantha Yegros
Jack Berger
Father of Leonard Berger
Nita Bergman
Sister of Gary Bergman
William, Judah
Husband of Terri Broemm

Broemm

Mary Presto Di Ianni Mother of Patti Selig Margaret Dunn Mother of Kathy &

> Mother-in-law of Bernard Sussman

Bessie Eanet Grandmother-in-law of

Ellen Eanet

Hyman FoxFather of David FoxJesse Paul FrankfortFather of Barbara PatrickMaurice GilbertFather of Suzanne Scheer

Michael Glick Brother-in-law of Christine Glick

Pearl Goldfarb Sister of Sidney Eagle
Mickey Gonen Husband of Lynda Gonen
Jack L Green Brother of Susan Warshaw
Ella Gusst Mother of Barry Gusst
Harry Hershman Father of Barbara Southwell

Leon I. Kahn Father of Stan Kahn Evelyn Kallish Cousin of Susan Antigone Bernard Katz Father of Ioane Wolpin Father of Nancy Benjamin **Jerome Kaufman** Sylvia Kesler Mother of Steven Kesler Simon Kessler Father of Bernard Kessler Aunt of Rachel White Corlotle Klein Joyce Klein Mother of Rachel White Helen Laser Mother of Anita Winkler Joseph Laser Father of Anita Winkler Marc McDonald Son of Lori McDonald **Thomas Messemer** Brother-in-law of Bette

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