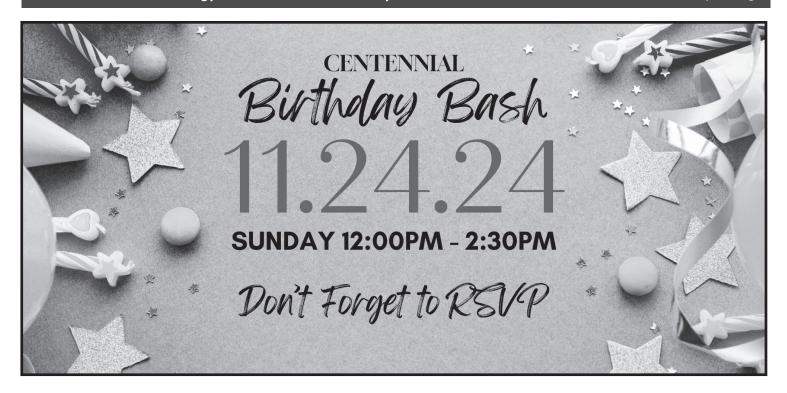


Vol. 88, No. 2 November/December 2024 Tishri/Heshvan/Kislev 5785

The Bulletin

1500 Hagys Ford Road, Penn Valley, PA 19072-1195 610-667-5000 harziontemple.org



A NEONAKKAH HANUKKAH TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 5:30 - 7PM NEON SPRAY PAINTED HATS ON SITE DJ WITH PRIZES PHOTO BOOTH STILT WALKER WITH LIGHTS NEON FACE PAINTING SING-A-LONG WITH CANTOR HERMAN LATKES • SUFGANIYOT • SPECIALTY DRINKS



Emotional Well-Being Series

Har Zion presents a four-part series designed to enhance wellness for both children and adults. Open to the community, these sessions are facilitated by professionals and designed to empower and support families through the challenges of modern life. Please let us know if you require any accomodations to participate fully.

Brought to you by the Inclusivity Committee in conjunction with Jewish Family and Childrens Services.

Watch your emails for how to register.

Parents of Tweens Sunday, November 3, 2024 • 10:15 AM - 12 PM

YouTube? More like you glued: Understanding and modifying problematic tech use in the digital age

Parents of Adolescents
Wednesday, December 11, 2024 • 7 - 8:30 PM
Managing your teen's increasing independence

Adult Self-Care Wednesday, January 15, 2025 • 7 -8:30 PM

Empty Nester/Sandwich Generation



Would you give 5 minutes and 5 dollars to help keep Israel strong, safe and democratic for years to come?

Voting to commence March 10, stay tuned for more info or to get involved contact Debbie Rose at: mercazeharziontemple.org

Sign up today to receive a reminder to vote when polls open online:

Scan the QR, or visit **mercazusa.org/votemercaz2025** where you can click to sign up for a reminder to vote from your community's MERCAZ captain – make sure to enter your community code.

Community Code: 41





Ritual Matters

Message from **Dr. Ely Levine**, Scholar-in-Residence and Ritual Coordinator

"Please rise!" Perhaps the most familiar two-word phrase in Jewish tradition. Unlike in worship services of other religions, Jews stand up and sit down more times in synagogue than in an aerobics class.



And over time, this up-and-down wears on our knees and on our backs; injury and debility can make it exceedingly difficult or impossible. But the rabbi invites us to rise: what are we supposed to do? We are uncomfortable sitting while everyone else stands, as we feel eyes judging us. And the more considerate "Please rise as you are able" that we have been hearing more often only highlights our disability.

This may be one of those times where it is useful to understand the rationale in order to figure out what to do. Once upon a time, in American society as well, we stood or were told to stand in order to show respect and at times that were of great import or required great focus. Courtroom procedure still holds standing in high regard: we stand when the judge enters to show respect; the defendant stands when the verdict is read to show focus and intention. In classrooms of yore where students answering questions were required to stand, we see a similar set of reasons. While these are not much part of our everyday lives outside of the synagogue anymore, I hope you understand the idea. But, I think, this also helps us to see a solution.

Standing during prayer is our way of responding to holiness and participating in holiness. When we are standing, we can be more focused, and we can project our attentions on more elevated matters. The prayers that are traditionally recited standing up are the ones that are most important or central to the service, are the ones that demand the most focus, or are recited when the Ark is open or when the Torah is on the move. And we can increase the solemnity, focus, or respect, by specifically not moving our feet, or by taking three steps forward, as we do for the Amidah.

Is this the only way to show focus or respect, or to engage in holiness? Of course not. Focus, respect, and holiness are a mental – or spiritual – states, but we demonstrate them with a physical act as a symbol. I used to wonder why we used the nearly archaic expression, "Please rise," instead of asking people to stand, but I understand now that we want to rise up – to rise in spirit, to engage in prayer with more holiness, with more attention and intention. We want to turn up the emotional volume during these central moments in our services.

If your knees or back or hips will not let you, do not fear. The physical rising is a way to access the emotional rising, and it is still a *very* good way, but it is not the only way.







10 YEARS OF "PAPER CLIPS"

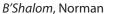
The Philly Friends of Paper Clips marked its 10th anniversary trip in Whitwell, TN on September 15-16, 2024.

An incredible, game-changing moment was shared as Har Zion member Dr. David Tabby dedicated the Dr. Gilbert Tabby Artifacts Collection of European Life Under Nazi Rule. Thank you David for championing this incredibly generous and transformative gift!

And thank you to Rabbi Haaz (and Bonnie Rose and Sophie!) for joining us this year!

To the hundreds of people who have experienced our "Paper Clips" trips for the last ten years – I hope the memories will last a lifetime!

Here's to many more trips to Whitwell and many more visits from the "Paper Clips" community to Philly. May we continue to be blessed with this beautiful relationship and experience.













ADULT JEWISH LEARNING . . .

Please watch the weekly emails for more info and updates for these classes.

1 PM - NaKh: The Rest of the Bible with Dr. Ely Levine **In-person and Zoom**

We spend a lot of time on certain parts of the Bible – chiefly, the Torah. It is time to read through the Prophets and the Writings more carefully. Join this class to read and discuss the rest of the Bible. We will move at a comfortable pace, but include some deep exploration of texts. New participants are welcome at any time! We are reading now about Solomon and his reign in the book of Kings.

2:15 PM - Movements in American Judaism with Dr. Michael Schatz Eight-part series starting January 6 (excluding MLK Day and President's Day) **In-person and Zoom**

Over the course of eight sessions we will explore the history of how American Judaism and its various denominations came to be. We will see how these evolved among the landscape of American Jewish history and American culture in general, and we will look at the current state of each Reform, Conservative, Orthodox and Reconstructionist Judaism as well as various expressions of post-denomination Judaism in America.

8:30 PM - Talmud Study with Rabbi Gary Charlestein

Please call Gary (215-290-0405) if you need to pick up new text.

TUESDAY

12 PM - Study of the Book of Samuel with **Rabbi Gary Charlestein In-person and Zoom**

1710 Romano Dr., Plymouth Meeting

WEDNESDAY

8:15 AM - TISCH with Rabbi Shawn

In-person and Zoom

Join Rabbi Shawn for inspirational learning. In this class we will engage in weekly Halakha (legal text) study from the Rambam's Mishneh Torah.

10:30-11:30 AM – Current Events: Contemporary Israel and Jews in the News with Norman Einhorn

November 13 and December 4

In-person only - at the home of Patty Grobman

Email Patty to RSVP and join the email list for this class: pgrobman@comcast.net.

Jan 8, 22, Feb 5, 19, March 5, 19, Apr 2, 23, May 7, 21

10:30 AM - Commentaries on Exodus with Rabbi Ira Flax **In-person and Zoom**

Join us for an in-depth study of the Book of Exodus. Starting with the commentary of the Hertz and Etz Chaim Chumash we then delve into the insights found in the Talmud, Midrash, and the major commentators spanning the length of Jewish history. It's Torah as you have never studied it!

12 PM – Jewish Books in Christian Bibles with Dr. Ely Levine **In-person and Zoom**

Ancient Jewish literature was quite varied. What Jews decided to preserve was just a small portion; Christians preserved many, many Jewish texts. Come read through some of these Jewish texts, including the Gospels, Jubilees, and Maccabees. See what other ideas Jews had that may not have been preserved in mainstream Judaism, other ideas that seemed to find a roundabout way into normative Judaism, and still other Jewish ideas that ended up being used against Jews.

FRIDAY

8:15 AM – Legally Speaking with Rabbi Shawn **In-person and Zoom**

This class will read, analyze and discuss contemporary issues and how they are handled in Teshuvot/Legal Responsa of the Conservative movement. No prior legal knowledge necessary.

SATURDAY

Following morning services - Milton Pomerantz **Interactive Torah Study**

This participant-led and organized study group wrestles with the meaning of the weekly Torah portion.

Shabbat Talmud Class with Rabbi Gary Charlestein Saturday afternoon, one hour before Minha In-person only in the Rudofker Library

This class is in addition to his Monday evening class

Sisterhood Rosh Hodesh – 4 PM

In-person and Zoom – check your emails for updates Tuesdays, December 3, January 7 and 28

Warm, interactive, and challenging discussions related to the holidays and themes of each month are led by group members. For more information, please contact Debbie Golden, goldendagg@gmail.com or Janice Katz, rhk101@hotmail.com.

Israel Education Class

Early Zionism to October 7: An In-Depth Exploration of the Arab-Israeli Conflict

with Danny Stein, Israel Studies Educator at Alexander Muss High School in Israel

Most Sundays thru May 18, 2025 | 10:30 AM | Zoom only | \$150 (no one will be turned away due to cost)

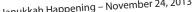
Register at: tinyurl.com/IsraelEd24-25

Sponsored by Har Zion Temple, Congregaton Beth Or, Adath Israel, Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El, Jack M. Barrack Hebrew Academy, Perelman Jewish Day School and Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia

Honoring our strong traditions, it is with great pleasure to take a look back at our glorious past.

From the 25th Anniversary Book – 1924-1949 Hanukkah celebration in the Kindergarten















Har Zion has had lots to celebrate!



























6 ■ November/December 2024

TIKKUN OLAM ...

Shul Stitchers are "Knitting at Top Speed" And Our Numbers Prove It!

Donation tallies in September:

- Operation Gratitude to our USA deployed soldiers:
 - 44 Red Scarves 15 Red Hats
- Jewish Relief Agency:6 Baby Blankets
 - 11 Scarves
 - 9 Twin Blankets
 - 2 Lap Blankets
 - 3 Baby Hats
 - 4 Childrens' Blankets



Cook for a Friend

Watch your emails for the upcoming schedule.

For more info, contact us at cookforafriend@harziontemple.org



Friday, September 27 was a gray, drizzly day, but inside Saunders House all was bright and cheery. Hazzan Vogel led a *heimisha* service with his storytelling, question and answer period and of course, beautiful singing. Residents sat with family members or with our volunteers who were their "surrogate" family members that day. Our volunteers who "schmoozed and served" at this lovely luncheon were Penny Shuman, Maxine Waxman, Bobbie Jaffee and Andy Coren.

On Wednesday, September 25, a group of volunteers from Har Zion brought sunshine and *Yiddishkeit* into the lives of residents and some family members at Inglis House. There, we hosted a traditional Rosh Hashanah meal that was preceded by lively singing led by Cantor Barowsky. Our terrific volunteers were Judy & Michael Solomon, Caryn Harris, Sheila Gerson, Maxine Waxman and Andy Coren. Our Har Zion Sisterhood generously gave a lovely donation to help defray the cost of the kosher and delicious meal!

NACHES, ETC...

BIRTHS

Welcome to the world to

Micah Dor Benario, son of Jamie & Paul Benario, grandson of Phyllis & Murray (z"l) Gorson, great grandson of Janice & S. Marshall (z"l) Gorson, nephew of Eric & Kaylee Gorson and Michelle Gorson, great nephew of Sherrie Willner and Lynne Gorson Cohen. He is named



in memory of Murray Gorson and Paul's great aunt Dora. Micah arrived on September 8.

Demi Sage Kendall, daughter of Hannah & Harrison Kendall, and first great grandchild for Sandi & Max Paul. Demi Sage arrived September 13.

ENGAGEMENT

Mazel toy!

Jennie Anne Reisman is engaged to Ryan Wainer. Jennie is the daughter of Suzy & Jason Reisman, and sister of Aaron Reisman. Ryan is the son of Lisa & Richard Wainer of East Rockaway, New York, and brother of Ariel & Sid Sathe and Taylor Wainer. An October 2025 wedding is planned.

WEDDING

Rebecca Sara Coren married Trevor Cauble Lahoz on August 9. Rebecca is the daughter of Andy & Bill Coren. Trevor is the son of Lee & Sal Lahoz.

MAZEL TOV!

Bonnie Squires was honored with the Pioneer in Communications award at the 32nd annual Brighter Futures award luncheon of Philadelphia Disability Services at the Live! Casino. Bonnie has been an advocate for members of this community for decades.

Do you have other good news to share? Just let us know: jfetscher@harziontemple.org.



Save these dates and join us for Joy of Shabbat

Fridays: December 13, January 31, March 7, April 4, May 2 and June 6

Watch your emails to RSVP

The Joy of Shabbat Dinners Need Your Support BE A SPONSOR!

In order to assure the continuity and viability of our low-cost Joy of Shabbat program, we need sponsorships. A sponsorship of \$360.00 will help maintain the low per-person cost as well as help cover the increasing costs of food, supplies and labor.

EDUCATION . . .

Message from

Dr. Michael Schatz, Principal JFGRS

The Jane Fishman Grinberg Religious School opened our 5785 school year with the dedication of the Abiri-Jean Family Torah. We were pleased to participate in the day's festivities with the entire Har Zion congregation! Children received a miniature Torah scroll to commemorate the day, and a team of our Vav students honored the Torah by being the first to read from it, chanting the



first few verses of *Sefer Beresheet*, using the ancient cantillation system that they have been studying.

In October, while we enjoyed treats and blessings in the Kendall Sukkah, we participated in a family concert with Rick Recht, a musician who has been inspiring Jewish singers in schools, camps and youth groups for two decades. Our children learned some of Rick's songs to be able to sing with him, and we are also now using Rick's original composition for Havdalah each Sunday morning to mark the separation between Shabbat and the weekdays.

In the coming months we will be focusing as we have on our *Hiddur Mitzvah* program highlighting Jewish ritual art. Our Gimel classes will be going to The Mud Room in Ardmore to paint ceramic *Hanukkiot*, in time to take home and use for the late-December Hanukkah this year. Our Dalet students will go to the Philadelphia Woodworks in Manayunk to create wood-turned Mezuzah cases. This is the same studio where our Zayin class has been going to make wood Challah boards. I was excited to visit the wood studio this past summer and had a behind the scenes tour with owner Mike Vogel – coincidentally I was Mike's teacher and Ramah division head many years ago, and he was in the same Hebrew school class with Rabbi Haaz!

In December, our Vav Better Together cohort will hold a Ritual Object museum with their empty-nester partners, and we will invite our Dalet class to visit the "Museum" in preparation for their Museum of Jewish Family heirlooms later in the winter.

As Jews, we strive to do mitzvot all the time – both those that help us become better people, better friends, and better family and community members (we call this *Bein Adam Le-Havero*, Between Man and his Fellows), as well as *Mitzvot Bein Adam Le-Makom*, those between Man and G-d. A way that we have to enhance the performance of certain of these mitzvot is to make them more beautiful (*Hiddur Mitzvah*), by using special objects for their performance. Today there are many exceptional artists who work in this area, and our curriculum emphasizes bringing art into our learning to create such objects among the students.

Upcoming JFGRS Events

Nov 17 – Better Together II - Walking Tour Better Together III - Weitzman Museum

Nov 19, Nov 26 – Hay Class Clay Studio Tzedakah Box Project

Nov 24 – Gimel Class Mud Room Hanukkiah project

Dec 8 – Dalet Class Philadelphia Woodworks Mezuzah Project

Dec 15 – Better Together II - Ritual Object Museum Better Together III - Bar/Bat Mitzvah Memories

Dec 22-29 - No School - Winter Break

Message from Sandi Toben, Director of Early Childhood Education

The NCCECE enjoyed a joyous fall holiday season which included special programming with Rabbi Shawn and Dr. Levine, visits to the Sukkah, and Har Zion community moments. Each of our full classrooms of students engaged in hands on learning to explore the shofar as they heard the loud blast, felt the texture of different horns,



and some even tried to create their own sounds. The weather couldn't have been better during Sukkot! Our students added their own decorations to the sukkah and enjoyed many snacks and story-times in the sukkah's wonderful shade. We celebrated Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur with Cantor Herman and some of our students participated in the Sukkot and Simchat Torah services. We had a busy Fall season full of holidays that filled our classrooms with cheer.

As the school year progresses, our three-year-old and prekindergarten classrooms have been forming relationships with our two visiting Shinshiniot, Einav and Shira. It is wonderful to see our students lead with their curiosity by asking so many questions to get to know our visitors. These organic relationships are benefiting our students by creating a concrete link to Israel through personal experiences. This unique program brings Israel to life right here in our classrooms and I am looking forward to seeing these relationships blossom over the school year.

The NCCECE is looking forward to continuing Fall and Winter activities. We will celebrate community in November with grade level feasts and will invite all our NCCECE families to our school wide Hannukah party in December. The HSA's Hanukah Gift Bazaar is back this December! We hope you join us (and bring your friends too) to shop, socialize, and help support the NCCECE. We appreciate our community!

Upcoming NCCECE/HSA Events

November

- 8 Friday Dismissals Begin 2:45 PM
- 15 Shabbat Sha-Blue Jeans featuring Shorashim
- 27 Thanksgiving Celebration for students only 12 PM Dismissal
- 28-29 Thanksgiving NCCECE Closed

December

- 5 HSA Holiday Gift Bazaar
- 11 Parent/Teacher Conferences NCCECE Closed
- 20 In-School Hanukkah Celebration 10:30 AM-12 PM, Families invited – 12 PM Dismissal
- 23-1/3 Winter Break NCCECE Closed Reopens 1/6

January

- 12 Sunday Fun Day
- 17 Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend 12 PM Dismissal
- 20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service NCCECE Closed
- 24 Shabbat Sha-Blue Jeans featuring Garinim

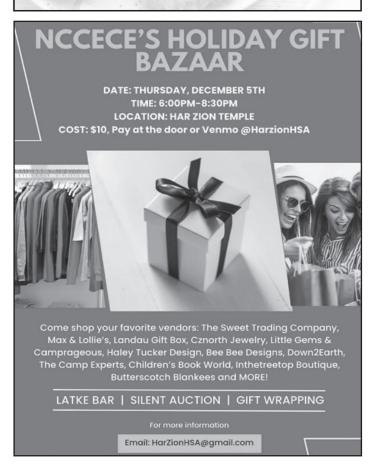


Latkes are back!

\$12 for 1 box of 24 frozen latkes
Pre-orders only
Orders must be submitted by Friday, December 6
to arrive in time for Hanukkah!

All proceeds benefit the HSA of the Noreen Cook Center for Early Childhood Education and fund holidays programs and special events for our students. Thank you for your support!

Please contact HarZionHSA@gmail.com to order yours today!



The Twelfth Annual

Open a Book...Open Your Mind for 2024-25

Proudly presented by the Sisterhood of Har Zion Temple and the Department of Lifelong Learning

Admission is \$18 per author* or \$180 for the series

All programs will be in-person – check your emails closer to the program date.







Sunday, November 10 11:30 AM For Such a Time as This Rabbi Elliot Cosgrove *Admission: \$36 (Book included)

Wednesday, November 20 12:00 PM Lunch and Learn The Last Ships from Hamburg Steven Ujifusa

> Monday, December 2 7:00 PM What We Buried Robert Rotenberg

Monday, January 6 7:00 PM Becoming Janet Janet Singer Applefield

Monday, February 3 7:00 PM Two Wheels to Freedom Arthur Magida Wednesday, February 12 12:00 PM Lunch and Learn 10/7: 100 Human Stories Lee Yaron

Wednesday, February 19 1:00 PM There Was Night and There Was Morning Sara Sherbill

Monday, March 3 7:00 PM *Max's War* Libby Fischer Hellmann

Monday, March 31 11:30 AM Sisterhood Luncheon The Love Elixir of Augusta Stern Lynda Cohen Loigman

For reservations, go to harziontemple.ticketleap.com or email us at openabook@harziontemple.org.

This program is brought to Har Zion Temple in collaboration with the Jewish Book Council.



Floral Fund Donation Cards Minimum contribution: \$10 / Four for \$30

Questions? Please contact Janice Katz, 610-525-1101 or rhk101@hotmail.com.

See contributions page for Floral Fund donations.

SISTERHOOD ...

Reflect, Return, Renew, Reboot Message from Meryl Littman, Sisterhood President

Kudos go to our co-chairs, Kathy Soloff and Rachel Steerman, for planning a delightful Opening Membership Dinner! It was a huge success, attended by roughly 115 ladies (and some gents). We enjoyed



camaraderie, a wonderful dinner by Classical Caterers, a beautifully decorated room (white orchids with little 100's strewn about), and interesting speakers. Cantor Herman led us in our prayer for Israel to the tune of "Yerushalayim shel zahav". Rabbi Haaz talked about our Sisterhood's 100th anniversary and our special relationship with our Paper Clips sister-city, Whitwell, TN. I spoke about the three bones we need in life (wish bone, back bone, and funny bone), all of which are strengthened by our Sisterhood. Aimee Silverman spoke about the marvelous programs and events coming this year, and Susie Markowitz, President of the Mid-Atlantic Region of Women's League, welcomed everyone. Finally, our speaker, Alice Golembo, shared personal memories of her amazing great-aunt, Golda Meir, and the impact she had on building and saving Israel.

And now, I wax philosophic. I am writing this article as it is 'due' in late September, after the pagers and rockets have gone off in Lebanon, but before the High Holidays, the anniversary of the heartbreak of October 7th, and before knowing about subsequent events affecting the hostages, Israel, and our national election results. My remarks may seem quite out of place by the time you read this in November. But this time of year, at the start of 5785 and soon-to-be 2025, many of us are reflecting on our behavior during these tumultuous times and possibly making New Year's resolutions, maybe to ask forgiveness or to forgive someone, to be more patient and loving, exercise more, clean the house, work harder for our causes, and the like. I try to reboot, too, but I also like to ponder some spiritual enigmas again and see if my outlook has changed this year: Why is there something instead of nothing? Are people just fancy apes or are we something more? Is truth absolute or relative? Do prayer and ritual have an impact beyond comfort and a placebo effect? And of course, the biggee: Why do bad things happen to good people? I renew my struggles with God, while at the same time marvelling at the mysteries and paradoxes within us and around us.

How wonderful that we get to read Genesis again this time of year! I delight in the Torah's creation story once again, and how reasonable it is compared to so many other creation myths of other cultures, and how it seems so close to my vision of the "breathing of existence": black hole contraction, the Big Bang, universe expansion, and evolution. Some of you may also wish to renew or readjust your concepts of God, and so here I will share a poem from our old Siddur Sim Shalom (page 393).

A Woman's Meditation, by Ruth F. Brin

When men were children, they thought of God as a father; When men were slaves,

Sisterhood Calendar

Open a Book...Open Your Mind November 10 – Rabbi Elliot Cosgrove November 20 – Lunch & Learn with Steven Ujifusa December 2 – Robert Rotenberg (See page 9 for schedule)

Sisterhood Moroccan Speaker/Food Tasting Wednesday, November 13, 7 PM RSVP requested - watch your emails

Women's League Mid-Atlantic Region Founder's Day Program Sunday, November 17, 10:30 AM at Temple Sinai

Sisterhood Rosh Chodesh
Tuesdays, December 3, January 7 and 28, 4 PM

Sisterhood Book Club
Wednesdays, December 4, January 8, 12:30 - 1:30 PM
For info, contact Barbara Kardon, barbkardon@comcast.net

Sisterhood Torah Fund Luncheon
Sunday, December 8, 12 PM
Special Guest: Rabbi Joel Seltzer
By reservation only – watch the mail for your invitation

Sisterhood Hanukkah Gift Exchange Wednesday, December 18, 7 PM

> Sisterhood Yoga/Meditation Most Mondays, 11 AM

they thought of God as a master; When men were subjects, they thought of God as a king. But I am a woman, not a slave, not a subject, not a child who longs for God as father or mother.

I might imagine God as teacher or friend, but those images, like king, master, father or mother, are too small for me now.

God is the force of motion and light in the universe; God is the strength of life on our planet; God is the power moving us to do good; God is the source of love springing up in us. God is far beyond what we can comprehend.

I hope this time of year is meaningful to you!

May we be happy. May we be healthy. May we be safe. May we live with ease.

See you in shul!

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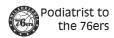
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