

Temple Beth El^{Electronic} News

Visit our temple website at <http://be.urj.net>

Tevet-Shevat 5770

January 2010

Thank You

- ✧ To Randy Sirk for hosting the Hanukkah dinner and for serving his scrumptious latkes and matzah ball soup! (See more, below.)
- ✧ To the Farber family (Farber Bags) and the Sirk Family Foundation for sponsoring the Hanukkah display as part of Hillcrest's Reflections in the Park.
- ✧ To everyone who volunteered at the Reflections event on December 24. (See more, below.)
- ✧ From Karyn Pritikin for the wishes, cards, and donations made in the memory of her father, Neil, who passed away on December 14, 2009. Karyn writes, "Your caring and compassion have helped to bring peace in this sad time for me.... I hope to see you all in February."
- ✧ From Rabbi Stephanie, who writes, "Thank you Temple Beth El family for the generous and much appreciated Hanukkah gift card. As surprised as I was by the gesture, I was even more touched. I hope the Hanukkah holiday was a joyful one for each of you and your families, and that 2010 is off to a very happy and healthy start. With many thanks and deep appreciation."

Hanukkah Celebration

Our Temple Beth El Hanukkah Dinner was festive, very well attended, and delicious. Rabbi Stephanie's service was energetic, and we all enjoyed singing the "I am a Latke" song. It was such a catchy tune that many of us kept humming it for days after.... We are a small congregation, and it is wonderful when we have such strong participation.

Our Family School students and Rabbi Stephanie's son, Eli, were given tzedekah boxes, which ties in nicely with what they are learning about Judaism and repairing the world.

Hillcrest's Reflections in the Park

An enormous thank you to the Beth El members from Dubuque who volunteered at "Reflections in the Park" on December 24: Barry & Sheila Rudin, Alan & Phyllis Garfield, Steve Aidenbaum, Emily & Terry Kruse, and especially Scott Kruse. Scott's efforts with the candy canes resulted in more people leaving their change, which definitely increased the amount of money we raised for Hillcrest.

Although our total amount collected this year was less than usual, the members from Wisconsin and Illinois, who originally volunteered to participate but who could not come into Dubuque due to the horrible weather, truly appreciate the efforts of the Dubuquers, which enabled Beth El to continue this mitzvah tradition. Hillcrest Family Services and the community at large are grateful for our congregation's contributions, and there was a nice follow-up article on the front page of the *Telegraph Herald*. (And thanks to Rebecca Gottlieb!)

Schedule Change

The date for our Visitor's Service has been changed to April 9, 2010. The updated calendar appears at the end of this newsletter. Please note this change.

Sisterhood "Soup"er Bowl Gathering

Please join us for a soup and bread potluck at the home of Phyllis Garfield on Super Bowl Sunday, February 7, at 11:30 a.m. Phyllis will teach us how she braids her beautiful challahs. RSVP to Emily Kruse at 563-557-3084 or kruseea@hotmail.com and let her know what you would like to bring. Hope to see you there!

Board of Directors

The Temple Beth El Congregational Meeting will take place on Sunday, April 11, at 1:00 pm. Anyone who is interested in serving on the Temple Board of Directors should contact Sheila Rudin (sgrudin@mchsi.com) before then as the new slate is voted on at that time. Also, contact Sheila if you have anything you would like to bring up at our upcoming board meeting.

The Dubuque Food Pantry Still Needs Our Help

Please bring donations of peanut butter and jelly when you come to services. These items are in high demand because of the number of families with children served by the Food Pantry.

Reminders

This year, the worship committee (usually Rebecca) will be arranging aliyot and other honors in advance of the rabbi's visits. Please call or email Rebecca if you would like to volunteer, especially to celebrate a special date, or if you will have offspring visiting who should be included, etc. If you do not volunteer, you will get called on eventually. ☺

- ✧ To volunteer to host an oneg contact Fern Reinstein: threeamstamper@yahoo.com
- ✧ To volunteer to host the rabbi for dinner contact Randy Sirk: randysir@aol.com
- ✧ To volunteer to host an adult study contact Barbara Alexander: alexgalena@aol.com

Mitzvah Moments

One of the perks (actually, the only perk ☺) of being newsletter editor, is that I can include mitzvah moments from my family—but so can you. Please submit your "Mitzvah Moment" and "Jewish Vacation" items to Kate Scheinman (kscheinman@aol.com) to be included in upcoming newsletters. Don't be shy!

Congratulations to Ben Goldberg, who this weekend will be arriving home from nearly a month in Israel. Ben spent 10 days on a Birthright Trip (<http://www.birthrightisrael.com/site/PageServer>) followed by several weeks staying with Israeli friends. Ben says this was an incredible trip, and we all look forward to hearing about his adventures.

Mazel Tov to Emily Goldberg, who had the honor of being accepted into the Havaya International 2010 program, organized by the 92nd Street Y in New York (www.92Y.org/havaya). Havaya International is a 5 week long, life-changing opportunity to travel like a local in both Israel and across the United States, while making a positive difference in our global village. Made up of eighteen American teens and eighteen Israeli teens, going into 10th-12th grade, Havayaniks will spend two and a half weeks traveling throughout Israel with local Israelis from the 92nd Street Y's sister city in Ramat Hasharon and two and a half weeks in the U.S. getting the opportunity to share their lives with their Israeli counterparts. A large focus of this program is being active in community service projects.

From Rabbi Stephanie

When you think back over the most influential and pivotal moments that have shaped your Jewish identity, what stands out the most? When you consider the strongest bonds you have formed – the friendships that have lasted a lifetime, the connections that seemed to develop most quickly and reach most deeply – what do they have in common? I will tell you that, for me, those moments and those relationships have come through one and the same experience: Jewish trips. Whether a summer spent at Kutz Camp in Warwick, NY; a week's exposure to social justice learning and advocacy in Washington, D.C.; or the trip-of-all-trips to the heart and soul of the Jewish people in Israel – every Jewish trip I have been privileged to make has left a lasting marker on my Jewish journey and defined the path of so many of my relationships in the Jewish community.

It is just such an experience I expect we will have during Temple Beth El's upcoming congregational trip to New York City planned for **April 23 – April 26, 2010**. *You* are cordially invited; *your extended family* is most welcome (several members are planning to bring children and grandchildren for the experience); and we invite you to extend the invitation to *former members of the congregation* with whom you may still be close and would wish to join us.

Highlights of the trip include:

- Kabbalat Shabbat at B'nai Jeshurun, *Upper West Side*
- Shabbat morning services at Central Synagogue, *East Side*
- Ferry to Ellis Island and exploration of the outstanding Immigration Museum
- A Broadway Show of your choice
- Touring with a professional guide through:
 - *The Lower East Side*, including the very worthwhile Tenement Museum
 - Borough (Boro) Park, *Brooklyn* – home to the world's largest Jewish community
- A visit to Congregation Emanu-El, *Upper East Side* – with a membership of approximately 3000 households, regarded as the largest synagogue in the world
- Self-guided visitation to The Jewish Museum, *Upper East Side*

I welcome you to be in touch with me by phone or email for more information about accommodations, cost, and other details of the trip. Commitments are required by **February 1**.

I truly hope you will plan to join us, so that when we each look back at the course of our Jewish journeys, we will share this wonderful mile marker in common.

L'shalom,
Rabbi Stephanie Alexander

Upcoming Events

- ✧ **Friday, January 15th @ 7:00 pm** – Shabbat Evening Service
- ✧ **Saturday, January 16th @ 10:00 am** – Family School
- ✧ **Saturday, January 16th @ 3:30 pm (at temple)** – All Things Being Equal

In the spirit of MLK weekend, a discussion of the equality for which many are still striving in Judaism: gender equality. The response for gender equality in Judaism has historically taken many forms. At the Kotel in Jerusalem, separate but (almost) equal has governed the prayer space. In our liturgy, gendered God language has been neutralized, thus eliminating masculine (and feminine) images of the divine. Together we'll explore the ground-breaking efforts of

several pioneering women and consider what meaningful equality is beginning to look like, not only in Reform Judaism, but across the denominational spectrum.

☆ **Saturday, January 16th @ 7:00 pm (at the Rudins – Adult Study: Ethical Wills**

The practice of leaving a written legacy of one's values and highest wishes for later generations has a storied history in Jewish tradition. In our study session this evening, we will explore the "how to's" of creating such a document, considering a variety of questions and prompts that might spark the process.

☆ **And because it's never too early to start planning your costume, remember: **The Purim Service and Dinner are coming – February 12th!****



Service and Mitzvah Schedule for 5770

(Updated 01-10-10)

NOTE: Rabbi Stephanie has brought a new dimension to our temple by offering a slew of activities on the weekends she is here. The schedule below does NOT include those specific activities. Refer to each newsletter for the specifics of an upcoming weekend.

Friday, January 15, 2010...7:00pm Shabbat service

dinner: TBD oneg: Garfield

Saturday, January 16...7:00pm adult study

dinner: Kruse, study: Rudin

Sunday, February 7...11:30am SISTERHOOD EVENT

Friday, February 12...6:00pm Purim service

(dinner hosted by Jeannine and Lou Sandler to follow)

Saturday, February 13...7:00pm adult study

dinner: Goldberg-Scheinman,
study: Goldberg-Scheinman

Friday, March 12...7:00pm Shabbat service

dinner: TBD, oneg: Dyrke

Saturday, March 13...7:00pm adult study

dinner: TBD, study: TBD

Friday, April 9...7:00pm Visitor's service (Passover)

dinner: TBD, Group oneg

Saturday, April 10...7:00pm adult study

dinner: Gottlieb, study: Gottlieb

Sunday, April 11...1:00pm CONGREGATIONAL MEETING at the Temple

April 23-26: Trip to New York City

Friday, May 14...7:00pm Shabbat service

dinner: TBD, oneg: Mikel & Pearce

Saturday, May 15...7:00pm adult study

dinner: TBD, study: Dyrke

Friday, June 4...7:00pm Shabbat service

dinner: TBD, oneg: Gottlieb

Saturday, June 5... Time TBD

End-of-Year Adult Social