

Temple Beth El^{Electronic} News

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Cheshvan 5770

November 2009

Thank You

- ✧ To everyone who participated in our holiday food drive, with special thanks to Phyllis and Alan Garfield for transporting 30 bags of groceries and additional cash to the Dubuque Food Pantry
- ✧ To Rebecca Gottlieb, Emily Kruse, Cindy Mikel, and Sheila Rudin for baking for the DACU meeting which was hosted by the Temple. Thanks to Phyllis Garfield for her always-spectacular challah and to Alan Garfield for helping with the event. Around 35 people participated, and everything went very well.

Sisterhood Organizational Meeting

There will be a Sisterhood planning meeting organized by Emily Kruse on Sunday, November 15 at 2 p.m. at Phyllis Garfield's house. All women of the Temple are invited. We'll be discussing what we'd like to do for the coming year. Any and all ideas/suggestions are welcome. If someone can't come but has things to share, she can e-mail Emily at kruseea@hotmail.com.

Mitzvah Opportunity—Save the Date

Once again, Temple Beth El is going to volunteer at "Reflections in the Park" on December 24. This mitzvah brings us great community recognition and helps Hillcrest family services. Without our help, they would probably have to close the light show on one of the top money-raising evenings of the year. Rebecca Gottlieb is our temple organizer for this event. Contact Rebecca at gottlieb@uwplatt.edu for more information or to volunteer. Rebecca will bring a sign-up sheet to service on Friday. It's a fun opportunity, so please sign up!

Upcoming Lay Service

If you are interested in helping with the lay service on December 4, please contact Sheila Rudin (sgrudin@mchsi.com) or Phyllis Garfield (phyllisgarfield@hotmail.com).

Schedule Changes

Due to overwhelming consensus, our services and adult studies will go back to 7 PM start time. In addition, a new lay service has been added to the schedule. So use the new, updated schedule that appears toward the end of this bulletin.

The Dubuque Food Pantry Still Needs Our Help

Our High Holiday food drive was certainly successful, but the Dubuque Food Pantry needs continuing support. 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 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

Please sign up to host. As you will see on the schedule later in this bulletin, we have a full complement of hosts for 2009, but there are still many opportunities to host in 2010. Remember, in a larger temple, members don't often have the privilege of having dinner with their rabbi. Please sign up for one or more hosting opportunities!!

New Column

Starting with the last newsletter, we introduced a column, tentatively called "What I Did on My Jewish Vacation." (Please feel free to come up with a better title!). Since there are many congregants in our small temple family who have recently traveled or taken an interesting class or perhaps have taught a class or lead a trip or spent the summer at camp or visited their parents in Boca, this column is our opportunity to share our Jewish-related experiences with one another. PLEASE contact Kate Scheinman (kscheinman@aol.com) if you would like to submit a piece for an upcoming newsletter. Several of you have been asked if you would like to send in a write up, so please submit something soon!

Our second entry (a mini-entry) is from Ruthie Silverberg.

I feel as if I am on a Jewish vacation down here in Florida. It has been fun meeting lots of new people most of whom are Jewish from N.Y. Of course coming here from Iowa, I am not use to most of these folks. But they are fun.....Lots of Yiddish is thrown around, and I can understand most of it. They can't believe there are Jewish folk in Iowa.

Love, Ruthie, your Jewish correspondent in Florida....

From Rabbi Stephanie

As I write these words, I am currently in the company of over 3700 Reform Jews – rabbis, cantors, educators and dedicated and talented lay leaders of all types – at the Union for Reform Judaism’s Biennial Conference in Toronto. In learning sessions covering a diverse range of topics from synagogue transitions to making your congregation a welcoming place for GLBT Jews to engaging 20s/30s in Jewish life to American Orthodoxy, seats are filled by those seeking to find solutions to congregational and community challenges, share their own congregations’ best practices, or simply enrich their own personal knowledge and exploration.

Out in the hallways of the Convention Center – in addition to the wide array of exhibitors selling books, art, music, Torah mantles, tallitot, kippot, all manner of Judaica, consulting services and synagogue software – posters highlight the creativity and ingenuity of Reform congregations throughout North America. They tell of ...

- ✧ A community garden – planted, nurtured and harvested by an interfaith alliance – whose produce is contributed to a local food pantry...
- ✧ A play, written and performed by members of a Reform congregation, which puts a community on trial for its failure to act to stop the genocidal atrocities in Darfur. Thus far, in addition to increasing awareness, several thousand dollars have been raised for the cause, as well...
- ✧ An Early Childhood Center blog that allows parents (and far-away grandparents) to get a glimpse of their children’s activities in and out of the classroom. Each day teachers post pictures, parenting tidbits, information about upcoming Jewish holidays, descriptions of the day’s activities – even videos and lyrics of the songs the children are learning and so excited to continue singing at home...

So many congregations and their leaders are doing incredible things; it is truly inspiring to read, hear, and be in the presence of their passion.

You should know that special things are happening at Temple Beth El in Dubuque, as well. If you haven’t been to services or a temple program lately, I must tell you there is quite suddenly a very different vibe in the congregation – one for which I claim zero responsibility but can easily explain: We have young kids in our congregation again! And what a difference their presence makes. Their energy is infectious; their excitement to be in the temple and with one another is inspiring; and their mere attendance reminds us of what our ultimate purpose is as a congregation – to raise, support, and ultimately pass the reigns of our tradition to the next generation.

I have the particular pleasure of meeting with these young boys (at the moment they are all boys) for what we are calling our Family School. Dads, Moms and children all come together on Shabbat mornings for a fun and interactive exploration of Jewish holidays and values. So far we have learned about Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and Simchat Torah. We heard the shofar and got a sense of how hard it is to blow! We talked about how committing a sin is like missing the mark – and with a little “pin the tail on the donkey”-esque activity learned that you simply have to try a little harder to hit the mark again the next time. We looked at the Torah scroll up close and made flags to wave in the sanctuary when the Torah is brought out during the next Shabbat service. And

we've learned body parts in Hebrew – something the children have found especially fun. (Ask them where their *rosh* is next time you see them!)

Good things are happening throughout the URJ, and right here at home – I hope you can feel the excitement and will be a part. So mark your calendars now for ...

- (1) Our next Shabbat service on Friday, November 13th, when the excitement will fill our sanctuary and infuse our worship; and
- (2) December 14th – 18th, 2011, in Washington, DC when you too can join with more than 3700 of your closest friends in the joy of a URJ Biennial Conference.

L'shalom,
Rabbi Stephanie Alexander

Upcoming Events

- ✧ **Friday, November 13th @ 7:00 pm** – Shabbat Evening Services
- ✧ **Saturday, November 14th @ 10:00 am** – Family School
- ✧ **Saturday, November 14th @ 3:30 pm (at Café Manna Java)** – Book Discussion of *One More Year*, by Sana Krasikov with a particular focus on the stories “Maia in Yonkers,” “The Alternate,” and “Debt”
- ✧ **Saturday, November 14th @ 7:00 pm (chez Goldberg-Scheinman)** – Adult Study: A “hot off the presses” look at the major initiatives, resolutions, and programmatic suggestions put forth at the 70th Biennial Conference of the Union for Reform Judaism



Service and Mitzvah Schedule for 5770

(Updated 11-07-09)

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, November 13...7:00pm Outreach service	dinner: Mikel & Pearce, oneg Alexanders
Saturday, November 14...7:00pm adult study	dinner: Goldberg & Scheinman, study: Goldberg & Scheinman
Friday, December 4...7:00pm Lay service	Oneg: Rudins
Friday, December 18...6:00pm Hanukkah service	(dinner hosted by Randy Sirk with menorah lighting to follow)
Saturday, December 19...7:00pm adult study	dinner: Gottlieb, study: Alexanders
Thursday, December 24...5:00pm to 9:30pm	REFLECTIONS IN THE PARK
Friday, January 15, 2010...7:00pm Shabbat service	dinner: TBD oneg: Garfields
Saturday, January 16...7:00pm adult study	dinner: TBD, study: TBD
Friday, February 12...6:00pm Purim service	(dinner hosted by Janine and Lou Sandler to follow)
Saturday, February 13...7:00pm adult study	dinner: TBD, study: TBD
Friday, March 12...7:00pm Visitors' service	dinner: TBD, Group oneg
Saturday, March 13...7:00pm adult study	dinner: TBD, study: TBD
Friday, April 9...7:00pm Shabbat service (Passover)	dinner: TBD, oneg: Dyrkes
Saturday, April 10...7:00pm adult study	dinner: Gottlieb, study: Gottlieb
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: TBD
Friday, June 4...7:00pm Shabbat service	dinner: TBD, oneg: Gottlieb
Saturday, June 5... Time TBD	End-of-Year Adult Social