

Temple Beth El^{Electronic} News

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Tishri-Cheshvan 5770

October 2009

Thank You

- ✧ To Rebecca Gottlieb for all her High Holiday organizing efforts including her leadership of the Worship Committee, hosting the Yom Kippur break-the-fast meal, organizing the temple food drive, and temple participation in the CROP Walk
- ✧ To the Sirk family for the Rosh Hashanah flowers adorning the bima
- ✧ To Larry Goldberg, Rebecca Gottlieb, Karin Pritikin, and Kate Scheinman for their musical contributions to our High Holiday services
- ✧ To Fern and Jesse Reinstein for hosting the Rosh Hashanah luncheon
- ✧ To the Reinstein and Silverberg families for the Yom Kippur flowers gracing the bima
- ✧ To Sandy Carleton, Roscoe, IL; Douglas Fisher, Dubuque; David Landau, Madison, WI; Rachel Rudin, Norwalk, CT; and Dennis & Beth Siegel, Highland Park, IL for their donations during the High Holidays
- ✧ To HyVee for supplying the food-drive bags, and to Kate Scheinman for bringing them to temple
- ✧ To everyone who participated in our food drive, with special thanks to Phyllis and Alan Garfield for transporting the bags of food to the Dubuque Food Pantry
- ✧ To new members Lou and Jeannine Sandler for volunteering to host the Purim dinner
- ✧ To Alan and Phyllis Garfield for participating in the CROP Walk, and to everyone who donated as well: we raised \$130.00
- ✧ A thank you from the Rudin family for the donation made by the temple to the Rotman Tribute Fund in memory of Barry's mother, Rebecca, and for the many cards, notes, and kind expressions of sympathy

Welcome to Our New Members

The Beth El community welcomes
David and Wendy Landau, Madison, Wisconsin, as new associate members.

If You Haven't...

Driven by the temple lately—do so. The new railings are in as well as three new doors, and the landscaping is complete. Thanks to all those who helped with this massive project!

New Years Greeting Fundraiser

The Temple made \$2,822.00 net profit on the donations to the New Years Greeting booklet. Donations were received from our present congregants, past congregants, past student rabbis, and other friends of the Temple Beth family, from as far away as Seoul, South Korea. We want to thank everyone who contributed to making this project, our only fund raiser, so successful. Thanks again to Ellie Landau, Sheila Rudin, and Rina Sirk for organizing this fundraiser.

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.

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

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 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!!

Yartzeit/Yizkor Clarification

If you would like the name of a deceased loved one added to our Yartzeit list, then email the name of the person and the date of their death to either Rabbi Stephanie (stephalex75@gmail.com) or Rina Sirk (rinadbq@aol.com) to have your loved one's name added to the list. The Yizkor list, read during the High Holidays, is an alphabetical compilation of all names from all the Yartzeit lists.

Our New Years Greeting booklet is not the same as either the Yartzeit or Yizkor lists, and we apologize for any confusion. The yearly fundraising booklet is a separate thing altogether.

The Rotman Tribute Fund

Fern Reinstein is now in charge of the Rotman Tribute Fund. You can purchase Rotman Tribute cards from Fern for \$20.00 for a package of 5 while supplies last. After that, she may need to adjust the price depending on the cost for printing new ones. The proceeds of this fund go to sending children to camp and the beautification of the temple.

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.

Dubuque Area Congregations United (DACU)

The DACU Meeting place rotates among its member congregations, and Temple Beth El is hosting the October meeting. For October 27th we need three people to bake cookies, non-goopy brownies, or cake—something that doesn't require forks. (Or, if timing is an issue, you can bake ahead of time and freeze.) In addition, we could use someone to set up the table, make coffee, punch etc. The meeting starts at 7 PM, with snacks following about 8 PM. Please contact Cindy Mikel (Mikelcinkc@aol.com) or Sheila Rudin (sgrudin@mchsi.com) if you are able to help. Sheila, Cindy, and Phyllis are the temple representatives to DACU.

New Column

Starting with this newsletter, we are introducing 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 first entry is by Emily Goldberg, who wrote an essay for school, describing her recent summer at camp (Olin Sang Ruby Union Institute—OSRUI) in Oconomowoc, WI.

Chalutzim 2009, Best Summer of my Life ☺

Over the summer, I went to my Jewish summer camp called OSRUI. This was my 8th summer at camp, and finally I was old enough to join the 7-week-long Hebrew immersion program called *Chalutzim*. During this program, counselors and staff members only spoke to us in Hebrew, except for lights out just before bedtime. I felt so honored to be in this program because it was the best experience of my life, and here is why.

In the *Chalutzim* program I met lots of counselors from Israel. It was such a captivating experience. I was able to ask them lots of questions about Israel and about being in the Israeli army. Also over the course of the summer I learned a lot about the country Israel, and how I am personally connected to it for one very important reason: I am a Jew and I am strongly connected to the land of Israel because it is the land of the Jews. We often discussed issues going on in Israel right now. For example, we talked about Gilad Shelit, the Israeli soldier who was kidnapped several years ago by Palestinians. We prayed for his safe return back home. The night we talked about Gilad was so moving. I realized that I should be thankful for this life that I have—a nice home and great family. Sometimes I complain about life not being fair, but looking at where Gilad is right now, he should be the one complaining, not me. Overall we learned a lot about Israel and its people. It was a very moving experience.

Another thing we did at camp was have a whole day of celebration for Israel. On this day we played color wars involving the whole camp, and *Chalutzim* led the entire event. Each color team represented a city in Israel, and we played games against each other all day. The Israelis were very moved by this day because it showed how much we love their country, and how we honor it. At the very end of the color wars event, at night, we lit up the word “Yisrael,” which means Israel, and we sang the “Hatikvah,” which is the Israeli national anthem. We were honoring Israel and how much it meant to us.

This whole experience made me think that I should visit Israel someday because it is the land of my people, and Israel feels like another home to me. If I had no place to go in life, Israel would always be there for me, like a second *home*.

Since *Chalutzim* is a Hebrew language immersion program, I also, of course, learned lots of Hebrew. For two hours a day, we had Hebrew classes. We were divided by level, and I was in the beginning Hebrew class because of how I did on the Hebrew test we took when we got there. On the first day of camp, when I took the test, I only scored 17 percent. At the end of the program, after 7 weeks, I retook the test (the same one), and I had moved up to 93 percent!!! I cried. That night was full of bliss, cheer, and comfort. It was the most heartwarming night of my life (the night we found out our new scores and saw how much we had improved.)

During the summer of *Chalutzim* 2009, I grew not only as a person, but as a Jew. Not only did I learn Hebrew, but I also learned how to love and cherish life more, and how I should appreciate it. I learned about Israel and how important it is. This experience was very breath taking and life changing. This is the summer that I will never ever forget. It's a part of me. This was the best experience of my life.

From Rabbi Stephanie

Typically speaking, if someone is described as having the attention span of a 2-year-old – well, let's just say it's not a compliment as toddlers are known for many things, but the ability to focus on one thing for an extended period of time is not one of them. Yet, there are times when something will captivate their attention and imagination, and the rest of the world seems to just melt away. Such fixations in our house have run the gamut from trucks to trains to Multigrain Cheerios (not just Cheerios, mind you, but *Multigrain* "O's").

This week's fascination has captivated the rest of our household, as well. Eli was the first to notice it. We were leaving a restaurant one dark, starry night and he stood next to the car in the middle of the parking lot, his finger extended up to the sky. "Moon!" he exclaimed. And, indeed, glowing brilliantly directly up above was a full moon. It shouldn't have surprised us. The previous night we had celebrated the beginning of the Festival of Sukkot, whose first day—like so many holidays on the Jewish calendar—is timed precisely to coincide with the full moon. Without the benefit of watches and calendars, the moon was one of the most accurate tools the ancients had for calculating time, and what more easily recognizable sign to await in the sky than a full moon? But the previous night had been a cloudy one, so we hadn't seen it—and it was indeed a magnificent sight.

"Moon" was the last word we heard on the monitor as Eli went to sleep that night, and the very first word we heard the next morning. Throughout the day, he would suddenly stop what he was doing and run to the window, repeating "Moon, Moon" as he scanned the sky. He told us, repeatedly, in his broken toddler language, that the "moon" was "way up" in the sky, "fly"ing with the "stars." And each time (after time after time) he would ask us to show him the moon, we would explain that we would see it when it got dark; then we prayed—hard—for a clear night.

Unfortunately, early bedtimes and moon sightings do not always jive and when it was time for bed, the moon was nowhere to be seen from the windows of our house. We went out onto the deck. Still no luck. A check on the computer confirmed that indeed the moon had risen, so we looked at our little boy, his eyes looking questioningly back at us, and we went on a hunt. We hopped in the car to find the moon; after all, Eli clearly wasn't going to sleep until we did—and that meant *no one* was going to sleep.

When we found it, car parked in front of a clearing at the end of a cul-de-sac, it was even more magnificent than the night before. Clearly the rabbis were on to something when they ordained a holiday, Sukkot, that commands us to leave our cloistered lives in our comfortable homes, and spend a few nights in a hut staring up at the wonders of the sky. Thank you, God, for the full moon; for a gorgeous, clear autumn night on which to enjoy it; for the wisdom of the sages; and for the incomparable awe of a 20-month old at this and so many things.

L'shalom,
Stephanie

Upcoming Schedule of Events

- **Friday, October 16th @ 7:00 pm – Shabbat Evening Services:** Join us (at the new-old time) as we not only celebrate Shabbat, but also rejoice with Jaclyn and Steve Aidenbaum as they formally welcome their daughter, Emily Dina, into the covenant of the Jewish people.
- **Saturday, October 17th –**
 - ❖ **10:00 am @ the temple – Temple Beth El Family School**
 - ❖ **3:30 pm @ the temple – Text Study: Cain & Abel**

This week's Torah portion—the very first in the Torah—begins at the very beginning. In previous study sessions, we have delved into the words that tell the stories of creation. This year we will immerse ourselves in the tale of the world's first siblings and the *midrashim* (the tales of the rabbis) that make this story truly timeless and immediately relevant in our own lives.

- ❖ **7:00 pm @ Goldstein & Chapman – Adult Study: The Challenges & Discoveries of Aging**

Brief excerpts from the anthology *A Heart of Wisdom: Making the Jewish Journey from Midlife through the Elder Years* will be made available at Friday night services to read in advance of our discussion. However, the personal experience you bring to the table—what aging has meant in your own life and as you've cared for aging loved ones—will be the most important “texts” of this conversation.

On the Horizon...

- November is National Jewish Book Month, so what better time to schedule our first book discussion of the year? Mark your calendars now for **Saturday, November 14th** and check out the library or bookstore nearest you for **Sana Krasikov's collection of short stories entitled *One More Year***. The suggestion to take a turn at discussing short stories was made last year and Hadassah, who has made this book one of its seven selections for Hadassah Book Clubs in the coming year, describes this particular collection as follows:

“Every so often a new writer appears who is wiser than her years would suggest, whose flesh-and-blood characters embody more experience than a young writer could know. Sana Krasikov is one of those writers. Her first published story appeared in *The New Yorker*, her second in the *Atlantic Monthly's* fiction issue. *One More Year* is her debut collection, illuminating the lives of immigrants from across the terrain of a collapsed Soviet empire – people in search of love and the good life – forging new paths and sometimes retreading old ones. A man abandons Wall Street after eleven years to seek his fortune in his native Moscow, leaving his wife to make sense of this sudden reversal of their lives. A divorcee who boards with an older man finds herself an outsider among her more prosperous immigrant friends. A young wife from Central Asia struggles to break out of a polygamous marriage to a husband she still loves. A widow from Tbilisi, supporting her son from abroad, finds the boy a stranger when he visits her in Yonkers.

“With novelistic scope, Krasikov captures the fates of people making their way in a world whose rules have changed. Full of emotional insight and compassion, these stories tap into universal aspirations that resonate beyond each character's connection with country or place. A work of astonishing maturity and human depth, *One More Year* puts Krasikov on the map with today's most talented authors.”

As we get closer to November 14th, we'll identify particular stories that we will focus upon in our discussion. If, in your reading, you find stories you want to make sure we include, please email Rabbi Stephanie at stephalex75@gmail.com.



Service and Mitzvah Schedule for 5770

(Updated 10-10-09)

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, October 16 ...7:00pm Shabbat service and Aidenbaum baby naming!	dinner: Reinsteins, oneg Randy Sirk
Saturday, October 17...7:00pm adult study	dinner: Goldstein & Chapman, study: Goldstein & Chapman
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: TBD
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
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

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Temple Beth El Committee Chairs

Adult Study Organizer: Barbara Alexander
Oneg Organizer: Fern Reinstein
Rabbi Dinner Organizer: Randy Sirk

Cemetery: Cindy Mikel
Challah Preparation: Phyllis Garfield
Chanukah Dinner: Randy Sirk
Cleaning Person (organizer): ?
DACU Representatives: Sheila Rudin, Phyllis Garfield, Cindy Mikel
End of Year Social: ?
Gift Shop: ?
Kitchen Supplies: Cindy Mikel
Maintenance: Brett Pearce
Membership: ?
New Year Bulletin: Ellie Landau, Sheila Rudin, Rina Sirk
Newsletter: Kate Scheinman
Phone Messages and Mail: Sheila Rudin
Purim Dinner: Lou and Janine Sandler
Rabbi Car Arrangement: Alan Garfield
Rosh Hashanah Luncheon: Fern Reinstein
Sisterhood: Rebecca Gottlieb and Emily Kruse
Social Action: Rebecca Gottlieb
Summer Family Picnic: Barry and Sheila Rudin
Worship Committee: Rebecca Gottlieb
Yahrzeits: Rina Sirk
Yom Kippur Break-the-Fast: Rebecca Gottlieb