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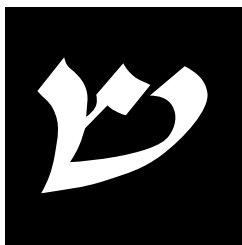
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**THIS MONTH**

- 2/2, 2/9 – Kids Kehillah
- 2/2, 2/29 – Kol Yeladim
- 2/8, 2/9, 2/13 – USY Events
- 2/10 – Jr. USY Cross Country Skiing
- 2/10 – Borscht Belt on the Bay (*see page 4*)
- 2/24 – Sr. USY, Jr. USY, Kadima Snow Tubing
- 2/28 – Wayside Soup Kitchen



*“Before God we are all equally wise — and equally foolish.”*

—Albert Einstein  
 (1897-1955)

**FOUR TIKKUNIM OF TU B'SHVAT**

**T**he Jewish year is filled with three kinds of holidays: regular holidays, Hebrew school holidays, and Jewish summer camp holidays. For example, Tisha B'Av, the day we commemorate the destruction of the First and Second Temples (and everything else that has negatively affected the Jewish people) happens in July. This is a summer camp holiday. The High Holidays, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are our regular holidays, and a holiday that we celebrated on January 22 – Tu B'Shvat – is a Hebrew School holiday. Why is there a difference? It's not found that way in Torah, rather, it's just the way we have come to celebrate them. Those 'non regular' holidays simply haven't made it into our repertoire of regular celebrations, perhaps because they seem minor compared to other holidays and perhaps because we have so many other things to do at this time of year.

As I write this, the next holiday is Tu B'Shvat – the 15th day of the Hebrew month of Shevat – is also known as the New Year for the Trees. By the time you read this, the day may have passed, but the values expressed by this holiday are relevant all year long. In many ways, Tu B'Shvat is a holiday about four kinds of *tikkun* or in English, **repair**: economic repair, spiritual repair, Diaspora repair, and environmental repair. In the Mishna (2nd century rabbinic work), Tu B'Shvat is described as the New Year of the Trees. Literally, it means the 15th day of the month of Shevat, but technically it was the day when the farmers began the year with regards to tithing their fruits. Recognizing that poverty existed, the

rabbis instituted this particular tithe or tax in order to make sure that those who did not have fruit to eat and those who did not have access to a field to grow fruit would be able to get some. Tithing, separating out a percentage of one's crops to provide for others, an **economic tikkun** is an attempt to address an economic disparity. Even if we do not tithe today, Tu B'Shvat reminds us to support our Tikkun Olam committee as they collect clothes, toiletries and food

R A B B I  
 CAROLYN BRAUN

to bring to Preble Street.

The Kabbalists of 16th century Tzfat took Tu B'Shvat in another direction – a **spiritual tikkun**. By eating special fruits – fruits mentioned in the Torah and grown in Israel – and drinking 4 cups of wine, they sought to come closer to Gan Eden – the Garden of Eden – a time of perfection, of peace and a direct connection to the Divine. Somehow, mystically, the act of eating the fruits in a particular order, and saying the blessings over them, would raise them to a higher level even closer to God. Perhaps you have been to a Tu B'Shvat seder? We are all in need of spiritual uplifting. Tu B'Shvat reminds us of the many blessings we have. The challenge is to be able to feel our everyday life as a blessing – as a connection with the Divine.

The Zionists saw Tu B'Shvat in terms of making the desert bloom, of celebrating the land of Israel and repairing the destruction of the Jews in the Diaspora. The tradition (a Hebrew School tradition) of planting trees in

*see Tu B'Shvat page 11*

## TEMPLE BETH EL

400 Deering Avenue  
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www.templebethel-maine.org

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Education Director . . . . .Avis Smith  
Executive Director . . . . .Liz Rose-Cohen  
Rabbi's Assistant . . . . .Jodi Veysey  
Bookkeeper . . . . .Stacey Herwitz  
Facilities Manager . . . . .Bob Bradbury  
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Stephen Schwartz  
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### Shofar

Lisa Berman, Editor  
Joy Krinsky, Production Design

*"Our vision is to be an embracing, supportive and vibrant community which observes Judaism in the Conservative tradition and which is devoted to the perpetuation of Jewish values and culture. Temple Beth El honors the diversity of its members and is committed to their spiritual growth."*

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Congregants are encouraged to make regular attendance at Temple Beth El a part of their lives.

### DAILY SERVICES

Monday through Friday . . . . . 6:50 AM  
Saturday and Jewish Holidays . . . . . 9:30 AM  
Sunday and Secular Holidays . . . . . 8:30 AM

### FRIDAY EVENING SERVICES

First Friday Evening, September–June . . . . 7:30 PM  
Remaining Friday Evenings . . . . . 5:30 PM

*"Do not separate yourself from the congregation."*

—Hillel, Pirkei Avot, 2:5

## CLOSURES

The Temple Beth El office will be closed on Monday, February 18.

The Temple Beth El Hebrew School will be closed on Sunday, February 17; Wednesday, February 20; and Sunday, February 24.

## SUBSCRIBE TO THE NEW *E-SHOFAR!*

As you may have read in the December/January Shofar, we will be publishing an electronic supplement to the Shofar four times in 2008 (January, April, July, and October). The E-Shofar is a way to send up-to-date information during months when we are not sending out a printed Shofar. Sending the Shofar electronically provides a big savings for the Temple and for the trees! We would like to make sure this new resource reaches as many people as possible. If you did not receive the January, 2008 issue of the *E-Shofar*, please email Liz Rose-Cohen at [execdir@templebethel-maine.org](mailto:execdir@templebethel-maine.org) and ask to be added to the list.



Temple Beth El is a member of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.



Funding for Temple Beth El Religious School has been generously provided by the Jewish Community Alliance of Southern Maine, through its Annual Campaign.

# PREPARING FOR THE NEXT SIXTY YEARS

**T**his fall, I learned that Temple Beth El was not the first Conservative Synagogue in Portland. In 1918 there was an effort by some in Portland to break away from the orthodox community and form a conservative synagogue. With the assistance of the Conservative Movement's Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS), this break away group founded a conservative synagogue and named it Temple Israel. The founders hired Rabbi Lugo, a Rabbi recently graduated from JTS, to serve as Temple Israel's first Rabbi. Unfortunately, the members of this congregation were divided on basic ideological questions and some even pushed for Temple Israel to affiliate with the Reform Movement rather than the Conservative Movement. The congregation's leaders, along with Rabbi Lugo, were unable to reconcile the divergent views in the synagogue and within a year the conservative synagogue was dissolved and Rabbi Lugo left Portland.

Just shy of thirty years later, in 1947, about 100 adults tried again and founded our Temple Beth El. It is important to note that just as in 1918, the founders did not agree on all aspects of how the congregation would observe Judaism. But they were able to move forward using broad brush strokes to set the vision for the synagogue. We are now in our 61st year as a Congregation, and unlike Temple Israel in 1918 our Congregation has been able to succeed during its first 60 years by embracing the diversity and working diligently to find common ground.


Our Board of Directors along with Rabbi Braun and Education Director Avis Smith are hard at work to make sure that the diversity of views held by our congregants are an asset to our syna-

gogue. Rabbi Braun and I are in the process of establishing a small working group to develop a short-term action plan to govern our work over the next eighteen months or so. Why 18 months?


P R E S I D E N T  
R I C K F I N B E R G

We expect the Reconfiguration Committee to issue its recommendations to the Board by June 2008 regarding what religious professional staffing structure will best support Rabbi Braun's work with our congregation. After due deliberation, the Board, in cooperation with Rabbi Braun, will decide on a staffing model and work to implement that model by the end of the 18-month period. In working on these substantial issues, the Board will also be mindful of the very

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Judaism.

helpful detailed demographic study that the JCA just completed. The highlights of this study are available on the JCA's website, [www.mainejewish.org](http://www.mainejewish.org). By the end of my term in 2009, it is my hope that Rabbi Braun, Avis Smith, and the Board will have worked together to strengthen our synagogue's foundation so that the rich diversity of opinions held by our congregants can serve as the fuel for our next sixty years. 

## HELP THE TBE OFFICE RUN SMOOTHLY

When paying for various Temple Beth El obligations, please send separate checks for Temple, Hebrew School, and Memorial Park. The same thing goes for contributions that are sent in; separate checks for different funds will make it easier for the staff. Thank you! 

## PORTLAND CHEVRA KADISHA

*In time of need,  
one Jew caring  
for another*



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## Chevra Kadisha provides markers for unmarked graves at Temple Beth El Memorial Park

*by Darrell Cooper*

The Portland Chevra Kadisha is financing the purchase of markers for those graves at Temple Beth El Memorial Park that are unmarked. It is a new program that the Chevra Kadisha has implemented this year. Providing funds are available, it will try to assist the local Jewish cemeteries in marking those graves that have no identification. In order to obtain assistance from the Chevra Kadisha, one must prove a financial hardship or the fact that there are no existing family members available to provide a marker. For more information, contact the Portland Chevra Kadisha at 774-3733.

## Borscht Belt on the Bay?

by Larry Koch

Remember the era of Sam Levenson, Myron Cohen, and Jack Benny? How about, more recently, Billy Crystal, Rodney Dangerfield, and Buddy Hackett? Steve Allen, an honorary member of the tribe (his writers included Mel Brooks, Woody Allen, Larry Gelbart, and Neil Simon), once said that, in his era, "98% of America's comedians were Jewish." Today the Jewish invention of "stand-up" has practitioners who come from every ethnic group in the nation, but sometimes it is worthwhile to once more enjoy its undiluted origins.

It's been a snowy cold winter! On Sunday, February 10, warm up to a special "Borscht Belt on the Bay: An Evening of Jewish Stand-up and Storytelling." This event will raise money for the Sharon Koch Endowment administered by the Jewish Community Alliance. Suggested donation is \$8.00, but if you want to give more, no one is stopping you. The February 10 event will be held at Temple Beth El, but the program itself will benefit the entire community. The money that is raised will help bring Gail Rosen, an accomplished storyteller (Google her, if you are curious), to Portland to perform for the Bet Ha'am and Temple Beth El Hebrew Schools, Cedars, and other locations.

Our Master of Ceremonies will be Paul Aronson, and some of the other tellers include Martin Steingesser, Deb Freidman, Larry Koch, Jodi Fein, Phil Levinsky, and many others (many of whose arms are being twisted as we go to publication!). I don't care about any survey; who says we got no Jewish culture here in Portland? A bisel cake and coffee will be served but don't skip supper. Come out and enjoy for a good cause. Those interested in helping, learning more, contributing, underwriting, etc., please call Larry at 797-6701.

## THE MINYAN OF YOUR LIFE

**R**abbi Goldie Milgram, in her book *Make Your Own Bar/Bat Mitzvah*, asks an incredibly powerful question: Who is in the minyan of your life? In trying to get young Jewish adults to focus on thinking beyond themselves and their immediate needs, Milgram asks them what prayers they have for those in their life and in the world, and how they go about formulating such prayers.

How do you decide who is in the minyan of your life? In Milgram's words, "Who do you show up for, and who shows up for you? The spiritual meaning of a minyan is more than the traditional ten people needed as a quorum to hold a service. Your minyan is also the inner circle of your life, those who not only care about you but who also help when needed and those for whom you care. These are the first members of your guest list, and the faces you will most eagerly seek on the day of your B-Mitzvah."

It is an extraordinary concept that has applicability far beyond the age of 13. When we pray, we are frequently focused on ourselves and our own needs – our troubles, our discontents, our fears. True, during our Torah service we offer prayers for the congregation and for those who are ill, and we remember our departed when we say Kaddish or Yizkor. But Milgram suggests that we turn our thoughts both inward and outward as we think about those who mean the most to us, and what we can add to our tefillah that will strengthen our connection to those family members and friends, as well as to God. The opportunity for personal prayer at the end of the Amidah is the perfect spot to think about those in our personal minyan.


Many of us are blessed with wide social networks, extended families, and

large groups of friends. Others can barely count a minyan of ten to whom we are close. We live in an age of email and instant messages, anonymous internet partners and chat rooms; we have many superficial "friends" through our jobs, civic obligations, our children's activities. But how much time do

EDUCATION DIRECTOR  
AVIS SMITH

we devote to those who really mean the most to us? Part of being a responsible Jewish adult, to Rabbi Milgram's way of thinking, is showing genuine care and concern for those who mean the most to us, and including them in our conversations with God as a way of extending prayer beyond ourselves and our own needs.

The spiritual meaning of a minyan is more than the traditional ten people needed as a quorum to hold a service.

For Jews there is something sacred in the concept of minyan. Some of us may feel it every time we pray; others may never realize it until we need that minyan to say kaddish for a loved one. There is something sacred as well in the concept of a minyan of your life, the holiness of deep and abiding friendships, or the special love of family members. When you regard others in this way and offer your prayers with a full heart, says Milgram, you can, "like the high priest of old and cantor of today, face your community as one who is *kodesh l'Adonai*, filled with the holiness of Becoming. A person's mind clears and heart opens after such a prayer sequence...even your voice will sound different because of all the feelings about family and friends that will enrich the sound of who you are." May we all draw strength and give strength in return through the minyanim of our lives. 

# BRING THE MAGIC HOME

by Judy Gatchell, Vice President

The 2007 Biennial Convention of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism (USCJ) began on November 29 with a choice of seminars ranging from a Beit Midrash learning opportunity with teachers from the Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem to outreach, synagogue financial operations, and a presentation on newly discovered Temple treasures along the Dead Sea. I chose to follow the social justice track and attend a workshop on Hekhsher Tzedek. This is a topic close to my heart since I work in a world connected to food and health and have a personal love of cooking and good wholesome food. This is a project that makes me proud to identify as a Conservative Jew. The Rabbinical Assembly and USCJ are leading this effort to display a seal on already designated kosher foods that reflects production benchmarks consistent with Jewish ethical standards, including how companies treat their employees. This is a work in progress, and I encourage you to visit the website to find our more: [www.hekhshtzedek.org](http://www.hekhshtzedek.org).

The official opening program that evening was highlighted by the new Chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminar, Dr. Arnold Eisen. He really "wowed" the crowd. He was positive and

upbeat speaking of excitement and possibility for the future of our movement. He spoke of the strength of Conservative Jews as people committed to full engagement with the Jewish people and with the society of which we are a part, noting that whatever comes at us makes Torah stronger. We were challenged by his words to love tradition and to undertake change. The talk ended with a standing ovation!

Although the convention was held at a beautiful resort in Orlando, there was very little time for exploring our surroundings. Friday morning started early with davening and more seminars. Before lunch, Rabbi Yafet Alemu, the first Ethiopian-Israeli to be ordained a Conservative Rabbi, shared the extraordinary story of his escape from Ethiopia, his trek across Sudan, his arrival in Israel, and his determination to help Ethiopian Jews fit into Israeli society. I will share information at a later time on efforts to partner with congregations in the U.S. to build a support network for Ethiopian Israelis. As an aside, I recognized Rabbi Alemu from his visit to our congregation about 7 or 8 years ago when he was participating in a summer nursing program at UNE. He and his wife earn their living as nurses at Hadassah hospital. It is very

see *Magic* page 11



Thanks to the following individuals:

- Sonja Messerschmidt for repairing the Torah mantel.
- Paul Muscat, Ellie Miller, Mark Aranson, Barbara Dichter, Robert Aranson, Rebecca Canter, Hedy Cohen, Debbie Kanter, Linda Jacobs, Jon Brier, Michael Peisner, Judy Gatchell, Avis Smith for reading Torah in December and January.
- Tom and Ellen Fronceck for reframing and mounting TBE's Ben Shahn print of King David in honor of Ellen's 65th birthday.
- Robert & Jean Aranson, Tara Turcotte, Robert Levine & Vilean Taggersell, Phyllis Klein, Peggy & Steve Shapiro, and Marc Daniels & Lynn Eldridge for sponsoring Kiddushim in December and January.
- Karen, Alan, Justin, & Brandon Lerman and Sandi, Larry, Jessica, & Max Brown for purchasing a digital camera, video camcorder, and a recharging unit for the sanctuary assistive listening devices. They have made these generous donations in loving memory of their mothers and grandparents: Judith Schwey Benjamin, Lillian Stiman Lerman, Ann Silverman Goodman, Dorothy & Arnold Goodman, and Miles J. Goodman.
- Jodi Freedman for all her help in the Temple office during December.
- Debbie Kanter for leading services.
- Jennifer Read, Debbie Barlock, Clara Purinton, Dan Dunitz, and Melanie Gordon (Stacey Herwitz's mother) for their help with mailings.
- Richard Abrahams and Karen Hindall for sponsoring Hebrew School fundraisers in December.

see *Todah* page 7

## It isn't the equipment that makes us better.

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## IN OUR TBE FAMILY

### Mazel Tov

To Alan & Geri Hirsch on the birth of their grandson, Nathan. Nathan's parents are Howard & Kristi Hirsch.

To Judy & Norm Wilson on their double simcha, the birth of their granddaughter, Ella Tal Frajnd, on November 23 to Sara & Amos Frajnd, and the birth of their grandson, Benjamin Eytan Wilson, on December 27 to Josh & Stephanie Wilson.

To Linda Abromson on the birth of her grandson, Elijah Julius Abromson, on Sunday, November 25. Elijah joins his older sister Kayla and parents Eric & Falamak Abromson.

To Dick & Adele Aronson on the birth of their granddaughter, Katherine Grace. Katherine's parents are Daniel & Beth Aronson.

To Liz & Lauren Rose-Cohen on the arrival of their new son, Jonas, who was born on November 18 and joined their family on December 8.

To Michael & Harriet Turkanis on the engagement of their daughter Lauren Turkanis to Alec Shkolnik.

To David Brenerman, TBE member and former board member, on his recent promotion to Vice President, Government Affairs at UNUM.

To Harriet Turkanis on her opening at Crow's Gallery in Cape Elizabeth.

To Jonathan Dunitz on his photography exhibit at Head Games in Portland.

To Jodi Freedman on beginning her new position as Major Gifts Specialist for the Alzheimer's Association of Maine.

### We mourn the passing of:

Joseph Taylor, brother of Harriet Small, on October 13, in Florida.

see Family page 7

## CELEBRATING HANUKKAH WITH NEW ISRAELI FRIENDS


by Avis Smith, Education Director

On Sunday morning, December 9th, an international connection was made between Temple Beth El Hebrew School and the Yotzer Or community in Jerusalem, as students lit Hanukkah candles together via a web-cam set up. Temple Beth El's congregational trip to Israel stopped at Yotzer Or last summer, and Rabbi Braun and Rabbi Uri Ayalon began an effort to establish a bond between the two communities. Rabbi Ayalon came to the states in October and met with the Hebrew School students to tell them about his Jerusalem congregation and encourage them to get to know their peers in Israel.

Kehillat Yotzer Or is part of the Conservative (Masorti) movement in Israel; it is a community of new immigrants and established Israelis who are seeking to build a diverse yet cohesive communal model which strengthens their Jewish and Israeli identity. Shared activities such as arts programs, workshops, a library, community celebrations of Shabbat and holidays, and tours of Jerusalem help create a feeling of friendship and fellowship within the Talpiot neighborhood.

Thanks to the miracle of technology, Yotzer Or and Temple Beth El Hebrew School joined together to exchange greetings and to light their respective hanukkiyot on Sunday morning (Sunday evening Israel-time). Our thanks go to Tom Berman who set up the necessary elec-

tronic equipment and to the Scott Black Foundation for its financial support of this ambitious project. Future intercontinental get-togethers are being planned, and it is our hope that enduring friendships will be created as well. Our thanks go to Rabbi Braun and to Rabbi Ayalon for establishing this link between the two communities.

This month the Hebrew School is also accepting applications for the final year of the Golda Sneider Memorial Holocaust Education Award. Seventh and eighth graders enrolled in the school are eligible for the \$1000 stipend, which funds a trip for the students and a companion to visit the United States Holocaust Museum in Washington, DC. Past recipients of the award are Sarah Loudon, Ilana Freedman, Ben Abrahams, and Ben Shapiro. The award was made possible through the generosity of the late Philip Sneider, in memory of his wife Golda who taught Hebrew School at Temple Beth El. A winner will be announced March 1. 

## Welcome New Members

Lisa & Charles Dewey, and Derek, 10, of Portland.

Sharon & Stephen Craig, Ellis, 7, and Noah, 2, of Portland.

Bill & Denise Swyers of Freeport.

Tara Turcotte of Wells.

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# Kadima – The Fun Continues!

by Natalie Ladd, Kadima Co-Advisor

We picked, we painted, we laughed ... it was better than *Cats*! After a great outing of Pizza & Bowling in November, Kadima went to The Pick & Paint Pottery Shop where we ate lunch and made gifts for Hanukkah. Expanding the schedule to monthly events has made a big difference, and we look forward to snow tubing, a Day of Caring at Cedars, and a Portland Seadog's game. For more information about Kadima events for all Jewish kids in 4th, 5th & 6th grade, contact Co-Advisors Natalie Ladd at 878-3477, or Steve Berg at 989-8394.



Natalie Ladd & Alex (our Pick & Paint helper) look on as Kadima has a blast at the Hanukkah Gift making event December 2 at The Pick & Paint Pottery Shop in Westbrook.

**Scheduling Changes:** The Portland Pirate's did not have a Sunday afternoon game in January, so we will be rescheduling it. All Kadimaniks are invited to go snow tubing with the whole USY group on **February 24**. This annual event is always a success and with the snow we've had – WOW! Lastly, Kadima is invited and encouraged to participate in the Shabbat Dinner and Service on **March 7** (save the date). More on this to come! 📧

## SHABBAT WITH KOL YELADIM

by Kim Shur, Early Childhood Committee

This month we will celebrate Shabbat on Saturday, **February 2** at 9:30 AM. Join in the fun while we sing songs, listen to a story, and play games. Mark your calendars for a special Shabbat program and family dinner on Friday **February**

**29** from 5-7 PM. We will celebrate Shabbat and enjoy a delicious meal together. Please call the Temple office (774-2649) to RSVP by February 25. 📧

## Kids Kehillah Dates

- February 2 – 2nd grade leading
- February 9 – 6th grade leading
- March 1 – Kindergarten/First grade leading
- March 15 – 4th grade leading
- March 29 – 5th grade leading

Please join us! 📧

## USY NEWS

by Rebecca Canter, Sr. USY Advisor

Hope everyone had a fantastic New Year. Some upcoming events for Senior USY are:

- February 8 – Cedars and Shabbat Dinner
- February 9 – NERUSY T.O. Formal
- February 13 – USY Meeting/Lounge Night at the Youth Lounge
- February 24 – Snow Tubing with Jr. USY and Kadima

**Save the Date:** Friday, March 7. USY Israeli/Middle Eastern (Friend-Raiser) dinner. If you have any questions, email Rebecca at rcanter@maine.rr.com. 📧

## JR. USY EVENTS

By Jackie Soley, Jr. USY Advisor

In order to stave off the snow blues, we are not going to fight it; we are going to embrace it! Here is how and when we are going to do that:

- February 10 – Cross Country Skiing at LL Bean's Golf Course from 1 PM to 3:30 PM
- February 24 – Snow Tubing. While in Maine, do as the Mainers!

Please RSVP to any event by reaching me at 865-2123 or via e-mail at JASoley@gmail.com. Thank you for your continued participation. 📧

## ANNIVERSARIES

FEBRUARY 2008

- 11 Bruce and Ellen Ruben (40 years)
- 12 Jerry and Mary Carp
- 14 Carol Aft and Robert Lowe
- 14 Denise and Bill Swyers
- 15 George and Bobbie Gordon
- 18 Laurence Gardner and Alison Noiles
- 18 Naum and Zhenya Litvin
- 19 Mihai and Nora Ciffer
- 23 Richard and Frances Carvel (58 years)
- 25 Rena and Michael Becker
- 26 Larry Brown and Sandi Goodman-Brown
- 26 Josh and Anne Praver

## Todah *continued from page 5*

- Tom Berman for making the technological arrangements for our live Israel videoconference.
- Jodi Veysey for one year of excellent service to Temple Beth El.

## Family *continued from page 6*

- Esther Wish, sister of Bernard Givertz, on November 7, in Ohio.
- Murray Klein, father of Deborah Himmelfarb, on December 6, in New York.
- Barbara Brenner, wife of Robert Brenner, on December 7.
- Albert Lucier, father of Armand Lucier, on December 14.
- Isaiah Albair, son of Abigail Klein & Shaun Albair, grandson of Stephen & Lyndall Klein, on January 4.
- Ruth Salzberg on January 7.

# DONATIONS TO TEMPLE FUNDS

We are grateful for the following gifts to our Temple Funds. Donations not designated for specific funds will be placed in the General Fund.

Donations to a Temple Fund provide a wonderful opportunity to remember loved ones, honor friends and family and continue to bring strength to our Temple Beth El community. We encourage your donations and welcome your thoughtfulness.

## **Bima Fund (Adult Education)**

Joe & Becky DeLois

## **Brotherhood**

Marilyn Westerfield & Bob Fried, In Honor of the Wedding Anniversary of Phil & Elizabeth Levinsky

Pat Reef, In Memory of Jack Berenson

Pat Reef, In Memory of Barbara Brenner

Pat Reef, In Memory of David D. Davidson

Phil & Elizabeth Levinsky, In Memory of Royal B. Levinsky

## **Building Fund**

Mel & Fran Stone

Sylvia Elowitch, In Honor of Jack Spiegel's 90th Birthday

Abe & Tama Fineberg, In Honor of Jack Spiegel's 90th Birthday

Pearl Levine, In Honor of Jack Spiegel's 90th Birthday

Shirley Levine, In Honor of Jack Spiegel's 90th Birthday

Jerry & Phyllis Rosen, In Honor of Jack Spiegel's 90th Birthday

Murray & Shirley Rosen, In Honor of the 65th Wedding Anniversary of Diana & Ernie Sturman

Murray & Shirley Rosen, In Honor of Jack Spiegel's 90th Birthday

Bertram Silverman, In Honor of Jack Spiegel's 90th Birthday

Ernest & Diana Sturman, In Honor of Jack Spiegel's 90th Birthday

Bill & Herta Whitman, In Honor of Jack Spiegel's 90th Birthday

Charlie & Ellie Miller, In Memory of David Bartel (contribution toward sound system)

Pearl Levine, Speedy Recovery to Shirley Rosen

## **David and Ethel Wilson Family Fund**

### **Edward L. Weisberg Fund**

Joan & Arthur Cope, In Honor of marriage of Elaine & Marc Oppenheimer's daughter

Karen, Alan, Justin, & Brandon Lerman, In Honor of David Brenerman's promotion to VP, Government Affairs for UNUM

Phil & Elizabeth Levinsky, In Honor of Jack Spiegel's 90th Birthday

Jerry & Phyllis Rosen, In Honor of Frannie & Arthur Jacobson's 45th Wedding Anniversary

Rita Weisberg, In Honor of the marriage of Elaine & Marc Oppenheimer's daughter, Rachael

Rita Weisberg, In Honor of Jack Spiegel's 90th Birthday

Abe Benjamin, In Memory of Jack Berenson

Nancy Bogg & Mark Kiefner, In Memory of Sally Bogg

Joan & Arthur Cope, In Memory of Jack Berenson

Joan & Arthur Cope, In Memory of Barbara Brenner

Joan & Arthur Cope, In Memory of Helen Freedman

Marcia & Henry Cutler, In Memory of Jack Berenson

Don & Joyce Freedlander, In Memory of Ida Shrago

Karen, Alan, Justin & Brandon Lerman, In Memory of Judith Schwey Benjamin

Karen, Alan, Justin, & Brandon Lerman, In Memory of Florence Seltzman

Karen, Alan, Justin, & Brandon Lerman, In Memory of Jack Berenson

Harvey & Helen Levine, In Memory of Jack Berenson

Harvey & Helen Levine, In Memory of Barbara Brenner

Harvey & Helen Levine, In Memory of Helen Freedman

Phil & Elizabeth Levinsky, In Memory of Barbara Brenner

Phil & Elizabeth Levinsky, In Memory of Cuddy Cohen

Jack & Rose Novick, In Memory of Barbara Brenner

Jerry & Phyllis Rosen, In Memory of Jack Berenson

Jack & Anne Spiegel, In Memory of Jack Berenson

Jack & Anne Spiegel, In Memory of Albert Lucier

Rita Weisberg, In Memory of Judith Benjamin

Rita Weisberg, In Memory of Jack Berenson

Rita Weisberg, In Memory of Helen Freedman

Phil & Elizabeth Levinsky, Speedy Recover to Phyllis Rosen

Phil & Elizabeth Levinsky, Speedy Recovery to Shirley Rosen

Jack & Anne Spiegel, Speedy Recovery to Phyllis Rosen

Jeanne Tinkle, Speedy Recovery to Phyllis Rosen

Jeanne Tinkle, In Memory of Florence Seltzman

Jeanne Tinkle, Speedy Recovery to Norman Rosen

### **Endowment**

Bernie & Phyllis Givertz

### **General Fund**

David & Elaine Lewis

Audrey & Erwin Muscat

Barbara Berenson, In Memory of David Beckelman

Barbara Berenson, In Memory of Rose Beckelman

Ms. Lillian Blotner, In Memory of Jack Berenson

Ron & Gaye Blumenthal, In Memory of Dorothy Cohen

Stan & Judy Elowitch, In Memory of Abraham Lister

Charlotte Farber, In Memory of Charles Farber

Charlotte Farber, In Memory of Zella Farber

Charlotte Farber, In Memory of Yetta Zimmerman

Joel & Diana Gold, In Memory of Beatrice Gold

Allen & Patricia Grossman, In Memory of William Grossman

Phyllis Klein, In Memory of Eva H. Slater

Ethel Koocher, In Memory of Jack Berenson

Phil & Elizabeth Levinsky, In Memory of Jack Berenson

Frances Lyons, In Memory of Anna R. Finkleman

Deborah Migdol, In Memory of Benjamin Zolov

Ivan & Sue Most, In Memory of Alfred Sheinwald

Ellie Potter, In Memory of Jack Berenson

Jack & Carol Simensky, In Memory of Betty & Stellar Simensky

George & Ruthanne Singal, In Honor of Norm & Judy Wilson's new granddaughter, Ella Tal

Jerry Slivka, In Memory of the martyred family

Mark Willis, In Memory of Lester Miller Willis

Rita Willis, In Memory of Lester Willis

Davras & Yvonne Yavuz, In Memory of Fred Haber

Ethel Koocher Speedy Recovery to Joan Willis

### **Hebrew School Fund**

Barry & Lori Saltz

TBE Adult Jewish Learning Committee, In Honor of Tom Berman for helping with the Jewish Maine/Jewish Portland Event

Joan & Jeffrey Barkin, In Memory of Abe R. Belsky

Harvey & Sara Berman, In Memory of Yona Meyer Kantor

David & Nancy Brenerman, In Memory of Saul Brenerman

David & Nancy Brenerman, In Memory of Helen Freedman

David & Nancy Brenerman, In Memory of Dorothy Goodman

David & Nancy Brenerman, In Memory of Gertrude Moskowitz

David & Nancy Brenerman, In Memory of Michael Moskowitz

Tom & Ellen Froncek, In Honor of Norm & Judy Wilson's new granddaughter

Debbie Kanter, In Memory of Florence Seltzman

Debbie Kanter, In Honor of Norm & Judy Wilson's new granddaughter

Debra, Lauren & Josh Kanter, Speedy Recovery to Shirley Rosen

Sam & Bette Novick, In Memory of Alex Stern

Ray & JoAnn Oransky, In Memory of Jack Berenson

Jerry & Marilyn Sherry, In Memory of Burton Federman

Jerry & Marilyn Sherry, In Memory of Rose Sherry Greenblatt

Robert Traill Jr., In Memory of Cuddy Cohen

### **Jonas B. Klein Fund**

James & Bonnie Klein, In Memory of Jonas B. Klein

James & Bonnie Klein, In Memory of Jerry Schulman

Ross & Patty Weber, In Memory of Harold Weber

### **Kiddush Fund**

#### **Kol Yeladim**

#### **Koocher/Robinov Hebrew School Scholarship Fund**

Ethel Koocher, In Memory of Joseph Taylor

Jerry & Jackie Robinov, In Memory of Ida Robinov

Ethel Koocher, Speedy Recovery to Linda Abromson

Ethel Koocher, Speedy Recovery to Adele Aronson

Ethel Koocher, Speedy Recovery to Phyllis Rosen

Ethel Koocher, Speedy Recovery to Ernie Sturman

Ethel Koocher, Speedy Recovery to Joan Willis

Ethel Koocher, Speedy Recovery to Rita Willis

## **Funds** *continued from page 9*

### **Kulanu Fund**

Judy & Benjamin Bertram, In Honor of Jack Spiegel's 90th Birthday

Judy & Benjamin Bertram, In Honor of Anne Spiegel's Birthday

Esther Goldberg, In Honor of Jack Spiegel's 90th Birthday

Larry & Lisa Plotkin, In Honor of The engagement of Lauren Turkanis & Alec Shkolnik

Larry & Lisa Plotkin, In Honor of Harriet Turkanis' opening at the Crow's Gallery in Cape Elizabeth

Steve & Peggy Shapiro, In Honor of Linda Abromson's new grandson, Elijah Julius

Steve & Peggy Shapiro, In Honor of Dick & Adele Aronson's new granddaughter, Katherine Grace

Steve & Peggy Shapiro, In Honor of Lynn & Matt Goldfarb's new grandson, Andrew

Steve & Peggy Shapiro, In Honor of Alan & Geri Hirsch's new grandson, Nathan

Steve & Peggy Shapiro, In Honor of Linda & Martin Rogoff's new granddaughter, Josie

Steve & Peggy Shapiro, In Honor of Norm & Judy Wilson's 1st granddaughter, Ella Tal

Rita Willis, In Honor of Jack Spiegel's 90th Birthday

Rita Willis, In Honor of the birth of Norm & Judy Wilson's granddaughter, Ella Tal

Dauna Binder, In Memory of Ardyth Webb

James & Martha Burns, In Memory of Mitchell E. Burns

James & Martha Burns, In Memory of Gail Burns Pelletier

David & Elaine Lewis, In Memory of Albert Lucier

David & Elaine Lewis, In Memory of Betty Silverman

Irwin Gratz & Bonny Rodden, In Memory of Beatrice Gratz

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Paul & Susan Korobkin, In Memory of Saul Brenerman

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Steve & Peggy Shapiro, In Memory of Esther Wish

Harriette Small, In Memory of Jack Berenson

Linda Abromson, Speedy Recovery to Mary Carp

Nancy Finberg, Speedy Recovery to Shirley Rosen

Elaine Rosen and Ben & Judy Bertram, Speedy Recovery to Rebecca Rice

### **Mary & Benjamin Lazarus Library Fund**

#### **Memorial Park**

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Robert & Evelyn Litman, In Memory of Esther Slosberg Green

Robert & Evelyn Litman, In Memory of Julius Litman

Robert & Evelyn Litman, In Memory of Sarah Nicole Litman

Pearl Levine, In Memory of Morris Kaufman

Pearl Levine, In Memory of Bertha Malkin

Leonard & Merle Nelson, In Memory of Lillian Royte

### **Molly Finkelman Choir Fund**

#### **Music Fund**

Leah Cohen, In Memory of Jack Berenson

Leah Cohen, In Memory of Cuddy Cohen

Leah Cohen, In Memory of Frances Kaatz

Leah Cohen, In Memory of A. Alan Olllove

### **Norman Finberg USY Fund**

#### **Prayer Book**

### **Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**

Barbara Berenson & Family, In Honor of Rabbi Braun for being there and helping us through this difficult time

Adam & Lisa Arens, In Memory of Carole Jaffe

Adam & Lisa Arens, In Memory of Perry S. Jaffe

Adam & Lisa Arens, In Memory of Richard Jaffe

Alfreda Barber, In Memory of James Paul Barber

Andrew & Linda Brenner, In Memory of Barbara Brenner

David & Nancy Brenerman, In Memory of Jack Berenson

Oscar & Gussy Gottschalk, In Memory of Nathan Feiner

Oscar & Gussy Gottschalk, In Memory of Hilda Rothschild

Dorothy & Jerome Porter, In Memory of Herman Braun

Charlie Young, In Memory of Jennie Young

Charlie Young, In Memory of Jack Berenson

Charlie Young, In Memory of Barbara Brenner

### **Sisterhood**

#### **Yad I'Yad**

#### **Yahrzeit Fund**

Dick & Adele Aronson, In Honor of Betty Silverman

Sam & Deb Barouch, In Memory of Esther Barouch

Jack & Barbara Berenson, In Memory of Abraham Berenson

Mark Bramson, In Memory of Fannie Mappew

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Joseph & Marjorie Chandler, In Memory of Dora Wine & Leo Wine

Esther Chorney, In Memory of Nathan Chorney

Patti & Leonard Drapeau, In Memory of Samuel I. Burokoff

Robert & Ruth Finegold, In Memory of Marlene Finegold

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Ed & Harriet Schultz, In Memory of Sarah & Abraham Simonds

Arthur & Donna Silverman, In Memory of Dr. Benjamin Zolov M.D.

Ernest & Diana Sturman, In Memory of Madeline Sturman

Ellen Tabachnick, In Memory of Dr. Henry M. Tabachnick


Joseph & Rhoda Wildstein, In Memory of Theresa Wildstein

*Donations listed were received at Temple Beth El by December 26, 2007.*

## Tu B'Shvat *continued from page 1*

Israel — or sending off the JNF blue pushke in order to have trees planted — symbolized the rebirth of the land of Israel and a **tikkun of the Jewish people**. Tu B'Shvat reminds us of our connection to Israel. We may or may not always agree with Israel's policies, but we share a deep connection with the people and the land.

The most modern understanding of Tu B'Shvat comes from today's environmentalists. Tu B'Shvat is Jewish Earth Day — a day to **repair the earth**, to conserve, to plant, to combat global warming. There is a wonderful organization with a great website of resources dedicated to a Jewish approach to Environmentalism: COEJL, the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life. The website is [www.coejl.org](http://www.coejl.org) and well worth a visit. Tu B'Shvat reminds us to be connected to our environment, and to protect the world we live in so that our children, and their children, etc. will also be able to enjoy it.

One holiday — Tu B'Shvat — and four approaches. Next year it falls on February 9, but it's not too late to take on the holiday's message. 

## Magic *continued from page 5*


difficult for the non-orthodox in Israel to support their families as Rabbis.

We then had the privilege of hearing Salai Meridor, Israel's ambassador to the US. He arrived fresh from the talks in Annapolis and was both entertaining and alarming. His connection to the Conservative movement goes back ten years when his youngest daughter told him she wanted a Bat Mitzvah like her brothers had — not just a party like her older sisters. He told an amusing story of how he offered her a number of options including a women's minyan and a home-based ceremony. She continued to insist that she wanted full participation in a synagogue-based service. They ended up in a Conservative synagogue in Jerusalem; and not only did his daughter become a Bat Mitzvah and read the Torah portion and Haftorah, but his 75 year old mother was called to the Torah for an aliyah for the first time. As Ambassador Meridor moved to a more serious note, the emphasis was on Annapolis and the threat of Iran. He acknowledged that while the record of such talks is not good, he did hold out that the hope of something com-

ing out of them was worth pursuing.

We did get a bit of time to prepare for Shabbat. We shared a beautiful Kabbalat Shabbat service complete with dancing by hundreds of people. Saturday morning presented opportunities for a variety of services and the afternoon had several rounds of study sessions. I attended a beautiful healing Mincha service led by Rabbi Amy Eilberg. After Havdalah we were treated to a delicious buffet dinner and wonderful entertainment.

Sunday morning was highlighted by a keynote address by Ron Wolfson, "Envisioning the Synagogue in the 21st Century." The focus was on building welcoming communities. I attended Dr. Wolfson's workshops on Sunday afternoon and again on Monday. I plan to share my impressions and ideas with the Board and Ritual committee and will write about this more at a later date. In the meantime, I encourage you to read his two latest books, *The Spirituality of Welcoming* and *God's To-Do List*.

There is much more, and I am still sorting through my notes and resources. I hope to share more in the future and hope that more of us from TBE can attend the 2009 Biennial in Cherry Hill, NJ. 

# shofar

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Please submit material via e-mail as text included in the body of the message or as an attached Microsoft Word document to [lisab@maine.rr.com](mailto:lisab@maine.rr.com). Submissions on paper will also be accepted.