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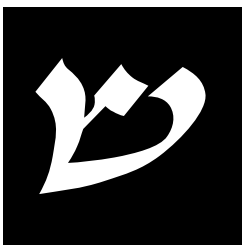
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THIS MONTH

- 12/5–6 – Gabrielle Garson Bat Mitzvah
- 12/7 – Kol Yeladim Menorah Making
- 12/13 – Kids Kehillah
- 12/13 – Rabbi Braun's 20th Anniversary Celebration
- 12/19 – Hebrew School Shabbat Dinner
- 12/25 – Wayside Soup Kitchen
- 12/27 – Kol Yeladim Hanukkah Party



"It's not how much or how little you have that makes you great or small, but how much or how little you are with what you have"

—Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch
Horeb, vol. 1
(1838)

T E M P L E B E T H E L shop for DECEMBER 2008 KISLEV/TEVET 5769

DECEMBER DILEMMA

Although I am writing this before Thanksgiving, the stores are all ready for Christmas. Some may display a little Hanukkah, some a little Kwanzaa, but the Christmas spirit is in full gear.

When I was a child, I believed that there was a Santa Claus. Our neighbors had a huge Christmas display – in fact, our dog used to bark at the Wise Men walking across the grass. Santa was lit up right outside of my bedroom window. I used to wonder if his light would go out while he was delivering presents all over the world, but I couldn't stay awake long enough to find out. One time, when Hanukkah and Christmas overlapped, both my neighbor and I received the exact same present. That only strengthened my belief because I assumed that he had 'overstocked' certain items, and those items went to the Jews. I doubt that I knew there were any religions other than Judaism and Christianity, so it never occurred to me that the overstock might go to a Muslim or Buddhist child. But it would seem logical, since I had never even seen this toy before, and I didn't know that I would like it!

When I worked on a college campus, the angst began in November, just as the white lights were placed on the gates to the college. Attempting to be sensitive to everyone's beliefs, the Chaplains, the Human Resources people, the students, faculty and staff tried to come together with a policy regarding decorations. We never succeeded in creating a policy that didn't feel offensive to one group or another.

Indeed, in many ways, December can be a challenging time for those who do not celebrate Christmas, for those who are conflicted about bringing Christmas

into their house or celebrating elsewhere, and for those whose Christmas celebrations are solely religious. The commercial Christmas has little religion in it, making it appealing to consumers, lovers of choral music, lovers of nature, and lovers

.....
R A B B I
CAROLYN BRAUN

of surprised children on Christmas day. It is hard to refuse the image of happy families sitting together wearing their new clothes, playing with their new toys, and eating cookies warm from the oven.

After all, none of this has anything to do with the birth of a Savior. So what is the December Dilemma?

For some, the dilemma is a gut feeling that Christmas is not a Jewish holiday, and so its celebration is a kind of betrayal of Judaism. For others it is, the Christmas-Hanukkah battle: worrying that the children will feel left out at school or deprived by a low-key candle lighting, dreidle playing, latke eating celebration rather than a tree, Santa, presents and hot cider. It is even more difficult in interfaith families where part of the family celebrates Christmas and another celebrates Hanukkah. The question of which holiday to celebrate, and how, takes on layers of meanings.

The 'answer' to this dilemma is as individual as each person and each family. As I understand it, there is really no one answer, but many – and even those answers will probably change over the years. What is important is to give the situation serious thought because it is not really just an issue that occurs in December, but also rather one that lasts

see **Dilemma** *page 4*

TEMPLE BETH EL

400 Deering Avenue
Portland, ME 04103
(207) 774-2649

www.templebethel-maine.org

RabbiCarolyn Braun
Interim Religious Professional . . .Dov Goldberg
Executive DirectorLiz Rose-Cohen
Rabbi's AssistantJodi Veysey
BookkeeperStacey Herwitz
CustodianBob Bradbury
Kitchen ManagerChristopher Ramos
Rabbi EmeritusHarry Z. Sky, D.D.
Cantor EmeritusKurt Messerschmidt
Senior USY AdvisorRebecca Canter
Kadima AdvisorsRobert Levine and Rubin Segal

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Vice PresidentJudy Gatchell
Vice PresidentPaul Muscat
TreasurerJon Brier
SecretaryRachelle Mack

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Officers: Jon Brier, Rick Finberg, Judy Gatchell,
Rachelle Mack, Paul Muscat

Immediate Past President: Judy Wilson

At large: Hedy Cohen, Joan Levy,
Ellie Miller, Stephen Schwartz

Ex officio: Rabbi Carolyn Braun,
Liz Rose-Cohen

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Joan Levy	Norman Wilson

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 TBE office will be closed on Thursday, December 25. The TBE Hebrew School will be closed on Wednesday, December 24 and Sunday, December 28.



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.

ROCKING AND UNROLLING

There are always wonderful things taking place in the Hebrew School each day. So many that I could never share with you all the special moments that occur in our classrooms. However, I'd like to share with you two major events that have occurred over the last few weeks.

On Sunday morning, October 26 we consecrated 15 young Temple Beth El students. Consecration is a ceremony to formally welcome students who are new to the formal study of Judaism and Torah. And so we invited those Temple Beth El students who over the past year or two have begun their studies in the Hebrew School or in Levey Day School to be recognized at Consecration. Joined by their parents and the entire Temple Beth El Hebrew School we celebrated their entrance into the world of formal study of Torah and the Jewish tradition.

Shortly before the Consecration ceremony was scheduled to begin Rabbi Braun and I headed down to the school wing where she began sounding the shofar. And as we passed each classroom students streamed out its door and joined the line that was snaking its way through the school corridors and into the main sanctuary. After brief greetings we began Consecration as our Hebrew School students do every Sunday morning with the havdalah ceremony. The students

informed their parents that while the ideal time to recite havdalah is at the conclusion of Shabbat on Saturday night with the appearance of three stars in the

INTERIM
RELIGIOUS PROFESSIONAL
DOV GOLDBERG

sky, havdalah may be recited as late as Tuesday if one has not done it earlier. And so we marked not only the sacred transition from Shabbat to the regular week but

...we
marked...the
holy transformation from
young children
to true students
of Torah.

also the holy transformation from young children to true students of Torah. Rabbi Braun led an interactive D'var Torah complete with props where she shared a teaching from the Pirke Avot, (Chapters of the Fathers) the classical rabbinic text that explains that there are four types of students; sponges, funnels, strainers, and sifters. Funnels retain nothing

that passes through and strainers retain only the dregs. On the other hand sponges retain everything and sifters remove the unwanted chaff. We were all reminded to try to be more like sponges or sifters than funnels or strainers.

We all joined in for a reading based on the Ten Commandments and parents then recited a blessing to their children regard-

see **Rocking** page 8

Gabrielle Garson Bat Mitzvah



Gregg and Patricia Garson invite the congregation to join them as their daughter Gabrielle becomes a Bat Mitzvah on December 6, 2008 at 9:30 AM.


Gabrielle is an honor student at Gorham Middle School. She is a member of the school cross country, track & field, and ski teams. She also loves music and dance.

She volunteers her time at The Cedars, a senior living community, where she is a junior member of The Auxiliary. Gabi has spent the last seven years serving residents at the annual Mother's Day Tea.

For her mitzvah project, she decided to hold a Benefit Bowl-a-Thon which raised over \$1,300 for The Cedars Auxiliary. The proceeds were used to provide a free spa treatment for each resident.

In preparation for her big day, Gabi has learned about the value of sacrificing for others. This is a value that comes naturally to her as she is a very giving and compassionate person.

She thanks the many Hebrew School teachers and her tutor, Laura Boenisch, for their guidance and encouragement.

<p>MICHAEL A. JACOBSON BROKER</p> <p>KRE KING REAL ESTATE</p> <p>46 Depot Road Falmouth, Maine 04105</p>	<p><i>Serving Greater Portland and Southern Maine Since 1985</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residential • Commercial • Investment Properties 	 <p>For all your Real Estate needs 207-781-2958 x11</p> <p>jacobson@maine.rr.com www.kingrealestate.com</p>
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Sisterhood Gift Shop

The Sisterhood Gift Shop at Temple Beth El is filled with your Hanukkah needs. We have plenty of menorahs, candles, gift items, as well as wrapping paper, and, of course, dreidels. The shop will be open during Hebrew School hours on Sunday, December 14 and 21, as well as Wednesday, December 17. If these hours are not good for you, you can visit the shop anytime the Temple office is open, and the staff can help you. Please support our gift shop. All profits benefit Temple Beth El.

If you have any questions, please contact Debbie Barlock at 774-1080 or cestme@aol.com. Enjoy your holiday.

Join Brotherhood: It's Not Just For Men!

Brotherhood needs your help in continuing its wonderful tradition of presenting a mezuzah to each Bar and Bat Mitzvah and particularly in sustaining the morning minyan. As our snowbirds go south, it becomes a greater challenge to provide a minyan for those saying Kaddish. How about attending one morning a week, or every other week, or once a month? Come alone, or together, you will be very welcome. It's a mitzvah! We encourage the women of our congregation to join us as Brotherhood members and at the morning minyan. If you would like to join Brotherhood, please send a check for \$18.00 to Fran Jacobson, 41 Jeanne St., Portland, ME 04102.

JEWRY DUTY


As we approach Hanukkah and the winter school break, it is a good time to remind ourselves of our wonderful morning minyan. As the winter months approach, making a minyan each morning becomes a little more challenging. Morning minyan not only offers us a wonderful opportunity to connect with others but also provides each of us with the opportunity to help make a minyan so that members of our Jewish community have a place to say Kaddish.

I know I often mention this fact but it is worth repeating. We are the only synagogue in southern Maine to offer a daily morning minyan with the help of Phil Levinsky, David Lewis and many others who have made a commitment to attend

morning minyan once a month, once a week, or more. Morning minyan starts at

PRESIDENT
RICK FINBERG

6:50 AM Monday through Friday and 8:30 AM on Sunday.

We need your help to sustain our decades old tradition of providing all members in the Jewish community with a morning minyan every day of the week. Please join me in pledging to attend one day a week (or more) and help fulfill your "Jewry Duty." Please complete the form below or just e-mail me at rfinberg@maine.rr.com with your morning minyan pledge. Thanks! 

JEWRY DUTY PLEDGE CARD

_____ am willing to assist our Congregation make a minyan so that those in mourning or observing a yahrzeit can say Kaddish.

I agree to attend on the following mornings each week:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday | <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday | <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monday | <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday | <input type="checkbox"/> Friday |

I am not able to attend morning minyan on a weekly basis, but pledge to attend one or more times a month on the following days: _____

Dilemma *continued from page 1*


a lifetime. It is a question of identity – what do I really believe? How am I Jewish, or Christian or any other religion?

Elsewhere in the *Shofar* I have included an article from InterfaithFamily.com. In it, the authors have "Ten Tips" for families engaged in the Christmas-Hanukkah dilemma. I have two more suggestions for families who feel that their kids will feel bad when everyone else celebrates the national tradition of Christmas:

Increase your family's Jewish fun quotient – make part of Shabbat very special and memorable in any way that

works for the family. Build and play in a Sukkah, plant a tree on Tu B'Shvat, decorate the house on Jewish holidays...

Take Christmas out of Hanukkah. Don't get caught up in the consumer side of Christmas, but do something different and fun for all of the 8 days – make doughnuts from scratch (!), do a Tzedakah project or two, make a chanukiah out of bananas, pretzels and marshmallows...

Most of all may you spread light wherever there is darkness as we celebrate Hanukkah 5769. Chag Urim Sameach – Happy Holiday of Lights. 

TEMPLE BETH EL ANNUAL APPEAL

As of this writing, 78 Temple Beth El members have pledged a total of \$21,439 towards the Annual Appeal, putting us just over two-thirds of the way to our budgeted goal of \$30,000. We wish to thank all those who have contributed thus far for their generosity. To those who have not yet pledged to participate in this year's appeal, let us remind you that the campaign continues through December 31. We understand that these are the most challenging of economic times, but please remember, no one person needs to contribute the \$8,600 left to raise; with donations of \$18, \$54, \$100, \$250, and \$500, we will all reach the goal as a unified community.

Thank you to the following for kicking off the campaign with such a strong start:


Merril Abramson and Rebecca Thompson-Greaves	Irwin Gratz and Bonny Rodden
Steve Alberg	Zelda Greenspun
Adam and Lisa Arens	Jonathan and Ellen Handelman
Joan and Jeffrey Barkin	Marc and Stacey Herwitz
Thomas and Marjorie Berman	Karen and Geoff Hindall
Judy and Benjamin Bertram	Rebecca and Jeffrey Howes
Stephen and Francine Blattner	Helen Isenman
David and Nancy Brenerman	Susan Isenman
Sharon Bresler	Linda Jacobs and Joseph Manning
Gerri Bridgman	Ronald and Ruth Jacobs
Jonathan and Amy Brier	Alvin Jolovitz
Gerald and Mary Carp	Gregory and Louise Kandel
Esther Chorney	Larry and Wendy Kane
Michael and Hedy Cohen	Shirley Kazon
Jonathan Crasnick	James and Bonnie Klein
Mark and Maybelle Crasnick	Phyllis Klein
Charles and Eddy Dibner	Marvin and Caryl Kolkin
Gilbert and Barbara Dichter	Seth and Anne Kolkin
Mildred Drees	Ethel Koocher
Wayne Eklund and Virginia Squires-Eklund	Leonard and Anne Kovit
Fredric and Karen Farber	Joy Krinsky and David Kemmerer
Frederick Finberg	Alan and Karen Lerman
Rabbi David Freidenreich and Sara Kahn-Troster	David and Elaine Lewis
Judythe and Daniel Gatchell	Steven Maier
Pearl Gerber	Benjamin Marcus and Anita Bernhardt
Jerome Gillis	Charles and Elinor Miller
Jerome and Susan Goldberg	David Miller and Veronica Dudar
James and Marjorie Goodman	Audrey and Erwin Muscat
Oscar and Gussy Gottschalk	Paul and Sarah Muscat
	Holly Newstein
	Miriam Remar and Harold Millman
	Samuel and Bette Novick

PORTLAND CHEVRA KADISHA

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



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Murray and Shirley Rosen
Bruce and Ellen Ruben
Barry and Lori Saltz
Susan Samberg
Jeffrey and Tamara Schwartz
Irvin Shapell
Stephen and Peggy Shapiro
Andrew and Kim Shur
Harvey and Kathleen Silverman
Sidney and Susan Steinkeler
Jeanne Tinkle
Tara Turcotte
Susan and Paul Trusiani
Carolyn Turcio-Gilman and John Riley
Ross and Patrice Weber
Norman and Judy Wilson
Charlie Young 

Tikkun Olam Fair Agencies

The following are agencies who attended the fair. If you'd like information about volunteering at these organizations, we have contact information for you.

- Cancer Community Center
- Independent Transportation Network
- Mercy Hospital
- Gary's House
- Wayside Soup Kitchen
- The Cedars
- Jewish Family Services
- Habitat for Humanity
- Project Feed
- Sexual Assault Response Services
- Planned Parenthood
- Goodwill



TIKKUN OLAM NEWS

We are pleased to report that the Tikkun Olam Fair, held the first weekend of November, was a great success. Representatives from twelve agencies were on hand to show and tell about their good works and to enlighten and answer questions about volunteer opportunities. In addition to learning about the various organizations, Hebrew School classes and other children participated by decorating holiday bags for the Preble Street Resource Center and cards for people in the hospital. And to top it off, a fabulous lunch was served! Our resource book for volunteer opportunities is brimming with suggestions and is located in the office. Please come in sometime and browse through!

The Cancer Community Center is looking for people to volunteer at their kiosk at the Maine Mall for 2 to 4 hour shifts throughout the month of December. If you would like more information about this volunteer opportunity, please contact Barbara Peisner at 797-6651 or bpeisne1@maine.rr.com, or Jani Druck at the Cancer Community Center, 774-2200 or jdruck@cancercommunitycenter.org. You can access more information about the Cancer Community Center at www.cancercommunitycenter.org.



Ongoing projects:

- Collecting food, coats and other warm clothing in good condition, white socks, and personal care items, such as travel size shampoo, soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, etc. for the Preble Street Resource Center.

- Collecting Shaw's receipts, which benefit Project FEED. You can bring in your Shaw's receipts to the Temple and place in the appropriate box in the lobby or you can send them directly to Project FEED at Woodfords Congregational Church, 202 Woodfords St., Portland, ME 04103.



- The fourth Thursday of the month continues to be the evening, from 5:30-7:30 PM, during which Temple Beth El members join with Bet Ha'am and other community members to serve dinner at the Wayside Soup Kitchen. For further information, please contact *see Tikkun page 8*



HOUSE COMMITTEE UPDATE

by Gil Dichter, Chair

The House Committee has been working on many of the projects on its To Do List. We tried to complete as many as possible prior to the High Holidays. Some items that were completed are:

1. The frame of the windows and doors in the lower lobby were given a new coat of paint, both inside and out. Outside the frame was painted a dark brown and inside a blue was used around the stained glass, while the rest of the frame was painted white. This made a significant change to the appearance and I hope many of you observed this change.
2. After many years the handicapped ramp had to be replaced. This was a project of love for the House Committee. We used composite boards for the ramp and treated wood for the sides and railing. Thanks go out to Andy Shur for his hard work and for the use of his truck in picking up materials at Home Depot. I also got to know Andy and he is a real asset to our committee and to our Temple. Thanks also to Dan Gatchell for his expert advice and the use of his power saw. Bob Bradbury also gave me a hand for a few hours as well. I was able to do most of the work on Fridays, after the initial kick off on Labor Day weekend. Tom Froncek and Bob Zellan also gave me some assistance one afternoon. In the spring, the treated wood will be stained.
3. The coat closet was painted and the curtains were cleaned.
4. The small lamp post that always gets knocked down was repaired. Let's hope this is the last time.
5. The flower beds and shrubs were cared for. The grass has been cut all season, and the outside is beginning to take shape and look good. The flower beds and shrubs will get further attention in the spring and again in the fall before the Holidays. During July and August, I will ask the land-

scaping sub-committee to remove weeds and keep the area up.

Several items will be attended to in the near future:

Fred Farber has agreed to donate and install four etched glass windows to be placed in the recesses in the small chapel. He will meet with Lynn Goldfarb and Dan Gatchell to review the project before it starts. Many thanks to Fred for his generosity.

Dan Gatchell removed the etched glass windows from the 3 old lower lobby doors. We will look for suggestions on where to place them and the commemorative plaque.


We had hoped to replace the old exit signs with new Light Emitting Diode (LED) signs, as well as placing motion switches in the bathrooms and some of the closets. This was anticipated to be completed in September, but hope to have this completed before the end of December. This will also reduce energy consumption and cost.

The offices and the outer office are scheduled to be painted in the spring of '09 as part of the rotating schedule. Liz will obtain separate estimates for this.

In the summer '09, the outside steps in the lower courtyard will be repaired. This was scheduled for September, but the weather prevented this from happening. In addition some areas will require more work with the expectation that some of the repairs to the steps will not need to be done yearly.

In December, the HC will inspect and determine the condition of all the parts of the Tree of Life sculpture. We will obtain estimates to have this installed on the wall in the lower lobby.

Gregg Garson will insulate the exposed hot water pipes from the boiler. This is another example of conserving energy and reducing cost. Thanks Gregg.

I also want to thank our Executive Director Liz Rose-Cohen who is a major asset to the Temple and has made my job much easier. 

Welcome New Members

David Freidenreich & Sara Kahn-Troster of Portland.

Zelda Greenspun of Portland.

Richard Isaacson and his son, Desi (10), of Portland.

Elaine Kerachsky & Tony Paratore and their children, Alexander (11) and Michaela (10), of Falmouth.

Eric & Dani Kolben and their sons, Jack (7) and Ryan (4), of Cumberland.

Nathaniel Plotkin of Portland.

Emily & Stanley Chaleff of Portland.

Linwood & Judy Small, of Raymond.

Beth Weiner-Park & Steven Park and their son, Cameron (7), of Falmouth.

Another Family Jewish Book Fair Success

It takes a dedicated team of people to put together the Family Jewish Book Fair. Once again, it was a huge success. Many thanks to the following people who helped to make the book fair successful and run smoothly:

Bob Bradbury, Liz Rose-Cohen, Kirsten Cappy, Stacey Herwitz, Lynne Gass, Debbie Barlock, Debbie Kanter, and Ellie Miller.

A huge thank you goes to The Law Offices of Joe Bornstein for sponsoring the event.

See you in November of 2009 for Book Fair #6!

Happy Reading,
Nancy Levinsky

Rocking *continued from page 3*

ing Torah study which concluded with the wish "may your conversation, even of the commonplace, be a blessing to all who listen to your words and see the Torah glowing on your face." Students were called up individually to receive their Certificate of Consecration, and everyone joined together to recite the Shehecheyanu b'rachah praising God for allowing us all to reach this wonderful occasion. A Torah scroll was then removed from the Ark and unrolled in its entirety around the edge of the sanctuary so that everyone could engage in a brief Torah Scavenger Hunt as clues were followed to locate various unique spots in the Torah.


Following the scavenger hunt Hebrew School students paused for celebratory refreshments on their way back to class as the Consecration students and their parents were invited to remain and come onto the bimah in front of the Ark. There, parents were given the opportunity to share some personal thoughts with their children before joining together to recite the traditional priestly benediction asking God's blessing and protection for their children. The Consecration students each received a special chocolate Jewish Star/Torah lollipop wrapped with a ribbon wishing "Mazel Tov from Temple Beth El" as well as a mini-Torah Scroll and/or pen with a retractable sheet containing the Hebrew alphabet. Surprisingly the pen was the biggest hit among the gifts. Not to

worry, the new Consecrees were also able to enjoy the refreshments as they and their families left the sanctuary.

The second special event, the first ever Hebrew School Rock-a-thon, was held on November 10. Intentionally scheduled for erev-Veterans' Day, despite the common misapprehension the Rock-a-thon had nothing to do with rock music. Rather, some two dozen students from tots to teens schlepped in rocking chairs to raise money for the Temple Beth El Hebrew School and the Maine Veterans' Home in Scarborough. The approach of Veterans' Day reminded us that the freedom to practice our Judaism and to teach Torah to our children is a blessing of living in the United States. Among those who have made this possible are most certainly veterans, who have served in our country's armed forces to protect the American values which allow us to have a synagogue and Hebrew School. We wanted to recognize this interconnection and to mark it by holding an event in support both of the Temple Beth El Hebrew School and the Maine Veterans' Home.


Students came with pledges for their rocking and spent several hours rocking the night away for these two good causes while having fun at the same time. Chaired by Amy Brier and with the support of numerous parents and teachers, over the course of the night students watched the movies *Shrek*, *High School Musical* and *The Simpsons Movie*, played Bingo and other games, won prizes, ate lots of food, and had a great time with

each other just hanging out and rocking in their rocking chairs. As I write this column we are approaching \$1000 raised for the Hebrew School and the Veterans' Home and are delighted to continue to accept donations in support of the Rock-a-thon if you'd like to support the effort and haven't yet had the opportunity to do so. (You can send a check to the Temple office made out to the TBE Hebrew School with Rock-a-thon noted in the memo.)

On the surface the Consecration ceremony and the Rock-a-thon hardly seem related. But with some reflection we can see that they both celebrate the ongoing study of Torah and Judaism here in Portland. And that is most certainly something for all of us to celebrate. The next celebration in the Hebrew School is a Thanksgiving Seder for our Hebrew High students. But you'll have to wait until my next column to hear about that. 

Tikkun *continued from page 6*

Harlan Baker at 772-9640 or Barbara Peisner at 797-6651, or just show up at the soup kitchen on the 4th Thursday of the month and go in the volunteer door. We desperately need volunteers...it's fun and a great mitzvah!

A special thank you to the Tikkun Olam committee members for your help with the Fair. We always welcome new committee members — if you are interested in learning more about this committee, please contact Barbara Peisner at 797-6651. 

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Help! Can Anyone Read Yiddish?

by N. Daniel Dunitz

While packing for our move to Maine, I discovered an application for a visa for my paternal grandparents and one of my father's brothers. It was signed by Jacob Dunitz, another of my father's brothers, who lived in the United States. It was dated in the early 1930s. For whatever reasons, they never came to America. My grandfather died in 1935. The rest of the family was killed in the Holocaust, except for one cousin who managed to escape from the Nazis.

I sent the visa application to one of my cousins. She was the oldest survivor of Jacob. She in turn forwarded it to her son, who returned it to me. I had become the family historian. One of our neighbors at the Atlantic Heights retirement community where we live is a genealogist. He has traced his family to the 1300s. I became interested in genealogy. From a humble beginning of about fifty I have expanded my father's family tree to over 400 names, going back to 1835. The family's roots are in Slonim, a city of major Jewish historical importance

which was a part of Lithuania, Poland, or Russia, and is now a part of Byelorussia in Gvorno gubernia.

Among the other papers that I found were two packets of letters. One contains correspondence from my grandfather to my father. The other packet is from the surviving member of the family who somehow was able to locate my father from a DP camp in Germany. They are written in Yiddish. I can not read Yiddish, although I do understand some. I am looking for someone who can translate these letters into English. The software program that I use has provision for a scrap book into which I will scan this material. There are about fifty letters in total.

If anyone who has read this article is willing and able to assist me in this effort, I would appreciate hearing from you. My contact information is:

N. Daniel Dunitz
7 Breakwater Way
Saco, ME 04072
Telephone: 571-9953
E-mail: ddunitz@maine.rr.com



SUKKAH HOPPED!

On Sunday, October 19, four Temple families, Olivia Solodar and Elliott Wincele, Dov Goldberg, Norm and Judy Wilson, and Wayne Eklund and Ginny

Squires-Eklund, hosted TBE guests at their sukkot. Pictured here are the Shurs, Kucines, Fronceks, and Stacey Herwitz, hosted by the Wilsons. Thanks to all who

participated for making the most of a glorious October afternoon.



Rabbi Daniel Goldfarb's Visit to Temple Beth El

Rabbi Daniel Goldfarb, director of the Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem, served as Temple Beth El's visiting scholar from October 31 through November 2. Sponsored by the Adult Jewish Learning Committee, Rabbi Goldfarb's programs were both well attended and well received, with many members commenting on his tremendous warmth and gift for teaching.



Here Rabbi Goldfarb speaks on "Self Defense in Jewish Law," following Morning Minyan on Sunday, November 2.



IN OUR TBE FAMILY

Mazel Tov

To Joseph Herszkopf & Carmela Soto, whose daughter, Gabriella, was born on October 28.

To Shannon & Gary Auritt, whose twin sons, Jack Jackson & Max Joseph, were born on September 9.

To grandparents Alvin Mack & Pya Chang, great grandparents Thelma Cope and Adele & Richard Mack, on the birth of Spencer Mitchell to Shana & Greg Treger.

To Sam & Bette Novick on the birth of their grandson, Alexander Remy Novick, born October 1 to Andrew & Sabrina Novick.

To Mark & Norma Filler on the birth of their granddaughter, Gabriella Nicole Filler, on October 25 to Joshua & Lucia Filler.

To Doug & Gail Volk on the occasion of the marriage of their son, Dr. Jonathan Efreem Volk to Dr. Alan Le on October 25 in San Francisco. Jonathan is a third year Resident at Stanford Medical School in Palo Alto. His partner, Dr. Le, is an Attending Physician at Kaiser Permanente of California.

To Emily & Stanley Chaleff who were married on October 19.

To Lynnea Harding, daughter of Pam and Randy Harding, who appeared in Portland Stage's production of *Wait Until Dark*.

To Natalie Cohen, daughter of Hedy & Michael Cohen, on her induction into the Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society and the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. She is a sophomore at the University of Maine.

see **Family** page 11



Thanks to the following individuals:

- To Nancy Levinsky for all of her hustle putting together another successful Jewish Book Fair.
- Olivia Solodar & Elliott Wincelle for hosting recent visiting scholars.
- The Adult Jewish Learning, Tikkun Olam, and Early Childhood Committees for a wide array of programming this fall.
- Natalie Ladd and CVC Catering for donating their time preparing the luncheon on November 2.
- Peggy Shapiro for leading some member care efforts.
- Rabbi Braun for weeding and planting around the Holocaust Memorial.
- Olivia Solodar & Elliott Wincelle, Ginny Squires-Eklund & Wayne Eklund, Norm & Judy Wilson, and Dov Goldberg for being Sukkah Hop hosts.
- Gil Dichter for taking charge of the rebuilding of the ramp and to Andy Shur, Dan Gatchell, Bob Bradbury, Tom Froncek and Bob Zellan who assisted.
- John Barlock for transforming our online Temple Calendar in time for the High Holidays.
- Jerry & Susan Goldberg for having the parking lot markings repainted.

Thanks to the following individuals who assisted with High Holiday preparation:

- Arlene Schwartz, Carol Gilbert, Patrice Finklestein, Clara Purinton, and Ellen Handelman, who baked the honey cakes.
- Karen, Geoff, Zach, and Emma Hindall, Debbie & Will Barlock, Clara Purinton, Kira Turcotte, and Lauren & Willa Rose-Cohen for their folding, stuffing, labeling, and cleaning during Elul.
- Rabbi Braun, Dov Golberg, Judy Gatchell (Ritual Committee Chair) and the entire Ritual Committee for their work in preparing for the High Holiday Services; Stanley Elowitch for

chanting Kol Nidre; and Rabbi David Freidenreich for leading the Yom Kippur study and discussion program.

- Debbie Kanter, Hedy Cohen, & Barbara Epstein for their work assigning High Holiday Honors.
- Olivia Solodar, Pam Harding, Evan Eklund, Arielle Harding, Rebecca Silver & Ariana Solodar-Wincelle for assigning honors for the Family Service.
- Jodi Freedman and Lisa Berman who served as floor gabbayim for the Family Service.
- Stan & Doris Pollack who polished the Temple's silver, and Lynn Goldfarb who schlepped it.
- Joy Krinsky for designing the High Holiday tickets and Annual Appeal cards.
- All of those members who served as ushers and gabbayim throughout the High Holidays.

Thanks to the following High Holiday Sponsors:

- Pattie & Gregg Garson who sponsored the High Holiday Child Care program.
- Elaine Rosen who sponsored our High Holiday outreach.
- Fran & Arthur Jacobson who donated the flowers in the Sanctuary in memory of their son, Stephen Brent Jacobson.
- Karen, Alan, Justin, & Brandon Lerman who provided the New Year Table Oneg on the first day of Rosh Hashanah in memory of their parents and grandparents, Judith Schwey Benjamin, Lillian Stiman Lerman, and Morris Lerman.
- Joan & Jeffrey Barkin who sponsored the oneg on the second day of Rosh Hashanah in memory of Jane & Abe Belsky, parents of Joan and grandparents of Rachel & Jesse.
- Jerry & Jackie Robinov who sponsored the upper level entry mums in memory of Jackie's parents, Alec & Esther Bookbinder, and Jerry's parents, Frank & Ida Robinov.
- Lynn Goldfarb who sponsored the courtyard entry mums in honor of her husband, Matt Goldfarb.

see **Todah** page 11

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Statistics are from "Research Findings on the Impact of Camp Ramah," a report for the National Ramah Commission at JTS.

Todah *continued from page 10*

- Natalie, Alyssa, & Carly Ladd who donated the flowers for the Rosh Hashanah Family Service.
- Andy & Kim Shur who sponsored the Kol Yeladim Service on the first day of Rosh Hashanah.
- Jonathan & Ellen Handelman who sponsored the Kol Yeladim Service on the second day of Rosh Hashanah.
- Susan & Jerome Goldberg who donated the flowers in the Sanctuary in memory of their parents, Annette & Benjamin Goldberg, and Bella & Harry Turitz.
- Vilean Taggersell & Robert Levine who sponsored the Yom Kippur break the fast snack in memory of Robert's parents, Arthur B. Levine and Elaine Levine.
- Jon & Amy Brier who sponsored the Yom Kippur Kol Yeladim service.

Thanks to the following High Holiday Torah and Haftarah readers:

- Mark Aranson, Rob Aranson, Jon Brier, Rebecca Canter, Hedy Cohen, Barbara Dichter, David Freidenreich, Paul Greene, Linda Jacobs, Joy Krinsky, Ellie Miller, Paul Muscat, Michael Peisner, Arianna Solodar-Wincele, and Norm Wilson. 

USY News...


by Rebecca Canter, Senior USY Advisor

I am pleased to announce that Perri Arens and Katie Martin will be going to the International Convention in Washington, D.C. this year. It is held over the course of a week during winter vacation. They will be joining over a thousand other Jewish young adults studying, praying, touring, and practicing Conservative Judaism.

From a random drawing and by getting in their membership forms by October 1, Rebecca Manning and Jessica Goodman each won a \$25 iPod gift certificate. Congratulations!

There has been a date change for the friend raiser dinner. We will be having the dinner on February 27 instead of February 6.

Watch the announcements for upcoming events including: Lounge Nights, Cedars, Hanukkah Party, and Ronald McDonald House.

For more information please email Rebecca at rcanter@maine.rr.com. 

KIDS KEHILLAH

Kids Kehillah Shabbat morning services for children in grades K-6 will be held on December 13, January 10, 24, and 31 in the school wing. Debbie Kanter leads an age appropriate one-hour service starting at 9:30 AM. Bob Tabachnick reads from the Torah, and parents and siblings are always welcome.


Kids Kehillah provides an opportunity for children to practice the songs/prayers they are learning in Hebrew school and to become familiar with new ones. It's also a great time for families to meet each other.

Hebrew School classes leading in December and January:

December 13 – 4th grade leading

January 10 – 6th grade leading

January 24 – Kindergarten/1st grade leading

January 31 – 3rd grade leading 

Family *continued from page 10*

To Phil & Elizabeth Levinsky, whose grandson, Ian Levinsky, son of Eric and Lisa Levinsky, was one of 10 scholar athletes honored by the Maine Sports Hall of Fame.

To Andrea Levinsky, daughter of Ken & Nancy Levinsky, granddaughter of Phil & Elizabeth Levinsky, who has been elected president of the sophomore class at Deering High School.

To Matthew Novick & Rebecca Antar Novick, son and daughter in law of Sam & Bette Novick, who have respectively received a law degree and MBA.

We mourn the passing of:

Beatrice Chorney, mother of Mark Chorney and Susan Fine, on October 9 in Portland.

Dorothy Lerman, sister of Charlotte Farber, on August 25 in Massachusetts.

Icky Abramson, father David Abramson, on August 25 in Portland.

Russ Riseman, husband of A.J. Riseman and father of Sydney and Isabella, on August 29 in Freeport.

Howard Shapiro, brother of Gregory Shapiro, on August 30 in Vermont.

Alan Bernstein, cousin of Jo Ann Oransky, on September 8 in Scarborough.

ANNIVERSARIES

DECEMBER 2008

- 2 Ernest and Diana Sturman (62 years)
- 4 Paul and Sarah Muscat (20 years)
- 5 Sid and Sue Steinkeler
- 6 Rich and Rachel Robinov
- 8 Andrea and Christopher Garland
- 9 Louis and Tina Fineberg (68 years)
- 16 David and Elizabeth Turesky
- 17 Walter and Marcia Goldfarb (53 years)
- 18 Bob and Saralee Harrisburg (53 years)
- 21 Laurence and Wendy Kane
- 25 Larry and Joan Levy (25 years)
- 29 Charlie and Ellie Miller (40 years)
- 31 Natan and Orly Kahn

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 out Temple Beth El community. We encourage your donations and welcome your thoughtfulness.

Accessions Committee

Jerry & Susan Goldberg, In Honor of Alexis Elowitch's Bat Mitzvah

Jerry & Susan Goldberg, In Honor of Steve Schwartz's recognition from the Maine Criminal Defense Lawyers

Matt & Lynn Goldfarb, In Honor of Alexis Elowitch's Bat Mitzvah

Matt & Lynn Goldfarb, In Honor of Nathan Finberg's Bar Mitzvah

Bima Fund (Adult Education)

Brotherhood

Building Fund

Ernest & Diana Sturman, In Honor of Russ Bornstein's 90th Birthday

David & Ethel Wilson Family Fund

Edward L. Weisberg Fund

Phyllis Weisberg

Abe Benjamen, In Honor of Hazel Brenerman's birthday

Abe Benjamen, In Honor of Sam & Bette Novick's new grandson

Joan & Arthur Cope, In Honor of the Marriage of Elizabeth & Phil Levinsky's granddaughter Denise Rose Levinsky to Nicholas Aaron Coughlin

Karen, Alan, Justin & Brandon Lerman, In Honor of Hazel Brenerman's special birthday

Phil & Elizabeth Levinsky, In Honor of the 60th Anniversary of Rose & Jack Novick

Karen, Alan, Justin & Brandon Lerman, In Honor of Izzy Newfeld

Karen, Alan, Justin & Brandon Lerman, In Honor of Bette & Sam Novick's first grandchild & new grandson

Karen, Alan, Justin & Brandon Lerman, In Honor of Sharad & Thrity Saraf's new grandson

Karen, Alan, Justin & Brandon Lerman, In Honor of Stephen Schwartz being the 1st Recipient of the President's Award from the Maine Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

Karen, Alan, Justin & Brandon Lerman, In Honor of Susan & Paul Trusiani

Phil & Elizabeth Levinsky, In Honor of Mathew Novick receiving his M.B.A. Degree

Phil & Elizabeth Levinsky, In Honor of Rebecca Novick receiving her law degree

Rita Weisberg, In Honor of the Novick's new grandson, Alexander Remy Novick

Rita Weisberg, In Honor of Matthew Novick receiving his M.B.A. Degree

Rita Weisberg, In Honor of Rebecca Novick receiving her Law Degree

Rita Weisberg, In Honor of Rose & Jack Novick's 60th Anniversary

Abe Benjamen, In Memory of Dorothy Lerman

Abe Benjamen, In Memory of Lewie Lourie

Helen Isenman, In Memory of Dorothy Lerman

Susan Isenman, In Memory of Dorothy Lerman

Karen, Alan, Justin, & Brandon Lerman, In Memory of Beatrice Chorney

Harvey & Helen Levine, In Memory of Bea Chorney

Eddie Richman, In Memory of Beatrice Chorney

Rita Weisberg, In Memory of Bea Chorney

Rita Weisberg, In Memory of Henry Schwey

Rita Weisberg, In Memory of Edward L. Weisberg

Rita Weisberg, In Memory of Samuel Weisberg

Karen, Alan, Justin, & Brandon Lerman, Speedy Recovery to Tom Berman

Karen, Alan, Justin, & Brandon Lerman, Speedy Recovery to Jerry Slivka

Karen, Alan, Justin & Brandon Lerman, Speedy Recovery to Paul Trusiani

Karen, Alan, Justin & Brandon Lerman, Speedy Recovery to Alan Zimmerman

Endowment

General Fund

Sylvia Most & Alan Cardinal

Judy & Benjamin Bertram, In Honor of Becky DeLois's Bat Mitzvah

Judy & Benjamin Bertram, In Honor of Sam & Bette Novick's first grandchild, Alexander Remy Novick

Judy & Benjamin Bertram, In Honor of the wedding of Emily Rosenberg & Stanley Chaleff

Abe & Tama Fineberg, In Honor of Russ Bornstein's 90th Birthday

Ray & Jo Ann Oransky, In Honor of Paul Trusiani's 75th Birthday

Elaine Rosen, In Honor of the wedding of Emily Rosenberg & Stanley Chaleff

Murray & Shirley Rosen, In Honor of Ellie & Hal Spiegel's 50th Wedding Anniversary

Susan & Paul Trusiani, In Honor of Becky DeLois's Bat Mitzvah

Susan & Paul Trusiani, In Honor of Betty Forschein's special birthday

Susan & Paul Trusiani, In Honor of Fran & Arthur Jacobson's Anniversary

Susan & Paul Trusiani, In Honor of Stan & Livie Leiberman's Anniversary

Susan & Paul Trusiani, In Honor of Gail Mack & Dan Rosen's 13th Anniversary

Susan & Paul Trusiani, In Honor of Bob & Judy Rosen's 10th Anniversary

Susan & Paul Trusiani, In Honor of Myra Sallet's birthday

Susan & Paul Trusiani, In Honor of Stan Schatz's birthday

Linda Abromson, In Memory of Ada & John Abromson

Linda Abromson, In Memory of Julius Elowitch

Anonymous, In Memory of Louis Levey

Adam & Lisa Arens and Family, In Memory of Carole Jaffe

Adam & Lisa Arens and Family, In Memory of Richard Jaffe

Dave Astor, In Memory of Marion Venner

Jeff, Joan, Rachel & Jesse Barkin, In Memory of Abe Rubin Belsky

Rafael & Helen Blatt, In Memory of Samuel Pinchanski

Libby Blotner, In Memory of Louis Blotner

Steven Brinn, In Memory of Katherin Brinn

Esther Chorney, In Memory of Charles Chorney

Esther Chorney, In Memory of Jacob Chorney

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David & Nancy Brenerman, In Memory of Beatrice Chorney

Debbie Kanter, In Honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Becky DeLois

Funds *continued from page 13*

Debbie Kanter, In Honor of Phil & Liza Levinsky for their kindness and generosity

Debbie Kanter, In Honor of Rose & Jack Novick's 60th Wedding Anniversary

David & Nancy Brenerman, In Memory of Harold Shapiro

George & Bobbie Gordon, In Memory of Ruth Kornfeld

Jerry & Marilyn Sherry, In Memory of Samuel Sherry

Jonas B. Klein Fund

Phyllis Klein, In Memory of Joseph B. Klein

Phyllis Klein, In Memory of Eva Slater

Steve Maier

Kiddush Fund

Charlie & Ellie Miller, In Memory of Rose Bartel

Kol Yeladim

Koocher/Robinov Hebrew School Scholarship Fund

Arthur & Frances Jacobson, In Honor of Robin Koocher's special birthday

Jerry & Jackie Robinov, In Honor of Libby Koocher's 85th Birthday

Stan & Sherrie Schatz, In Honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Stan & Judy Elowitch's granddaughter, Alexis

Jerry & Jackie Robinov, In Memory of Leonard Robinov

Stan & Sherrie Schatz, Speedy Recovery to Selma Pluznick

Kulanu Fund

Nancy Finberg, In Honor of Sam and Bette Novick's 1st grandchild, Alexander

Alan & Betsy Levenson, In Honor of the 45th Wedding Anniversary of Barbara & Burt Epstein

Alan & Betsy Levenson, In Honor of the marriage of Lynn & Matt Goldfarb's daughter Leah Beth to Stuart Farmelant

Steve & Peggy Shapiro in Honor of Becky DeLois's Bat Mitzvah

Steve & Peggy Shapiro in Honor of Mark & Norma Filler's granddaughter, Gabriella

Steve & Peggy Shapiro in Honor of Sam & Bette Novick's new grandson, Alexander Remy

Steve & Peggy Shapiro in Honor of the marriage of Gail & Doug Volk's son Jonathan & his partner Alan Le

Nancy Finberg, In Memory of Howard Shapiro

Frances Landau, In Memory of Bessie Silver

Steve & Chichi Levine in Memory of Herman Wiener

Robert Levine & Vilean Taggersell in Memory of Elaine Levine

Barry & Lori Saltz in Memory of Adrienne Saltz

Barry & Lori Saltz in Memory of Mildred Shulman

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Jerry & Mary Carp, Speedy Recovery to Dr. Walter Goldfarb

Nancy Finberg, Speedy Recovery to Walter Goldfarb

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Leiba Cohen Webber, In Honor of Rabbi Braun's support during the Conversion/Affirmation, Beit Din, and Mikveh Process

Charlie Young, In Honor of Ethel Young

David & Janis Cohen, In Memory of Milton Cohen

Oscar & Gussy Gottschalk, In Memory of Bernhard Gottschalk

Joy Krinsky & David Kemmerer, In Memory of Estelle Krinsky

Sisterhood

Tikkun Olam

Yad I'Yad

Michael & Hedy Cohen, In Honor of Elliot Cohen's recent graduation from Union College with a BA Degree in Visual Arts

Michael & Hedy Cohen, In Honor of Natalie Cohen's induction into Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society & the National Society of Collegiate Scholars

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Marjorie & Lewis Janicola, In Memory of Rose Livingston

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shofar

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*see page 2 for
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Shofar Deadlines — January/February issue is November 28; February E-Shofar issue is January 13.

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. Submissions on paper will also be accepted.