



Chadashot Ha'am

May 2011

Nisan/Iyyar

President's Message — Tim Boulette

For nearly two years, I have had the honor and pleasure of serving Congregation Bet Ha'am as its president. This is my last president's column for Chadashot. On May 24, at our annual meeting, our new president will take over. I will stay on for two more years as our immediate past president before stepping down from the Executive Committee and the Board.



Another highlight – one that I'll remember for a long time – was last September's 25th Anniversary Gala, ably organized by Alison Berman and a host of volunteers. Those of you who were able to attend know what a great time it was. The rest of you may just have to wait for our 30th!

Most recently, the Mystery of Matzah event, held last month, was a wonderful success. The weekend was centered on thinking about what we eat and where our food comes from and included fantastic matzah-making sessions - just in time for Passover!

Of course, there have been difficult times too - nothing more so than losing Alice Goldfinger, our beloved rabbi of over 10 years, to injury. In March we held a wonderful event honoring Rabbi Goldfinger and her children, Zachary and Hannah; about 250 people turned out to express their support and good wishes.

But, as we must, we move forward. I could not be happier that we have found a wonderful new rabbi, Jared Saks, to serve as Bet Ha'am's sixth rabbi! Rabbi Saks officially begins in July. Of course, finding Rabbi Saks was the result of the monumental efforts of the Rabbi Search Committee, led by Elaine Falender, over the past months.

We have been through a lot these past two years. Early in my term, we completed the move into our new home and dedicated the sanctuary with a wonderful gathering that included many of our longstanding neighbors. Our Garden Committee worked long hours to put our garden together. (Incidentally, I suspect they need more volunteers for the summer!) We reopened our new, fully catalogued and organized library. We continued to educate our kids with an all-volunteer teaching staff.

Last March, Rabbi Wayne Dosick visited us for a weekend, thanks to the Rosalyn S. & Sumner T. Bernstein Scholar-in-Residence Fund. Rabbi Dosick's talks over that weekend about dealing with pain in our lives and our relationship with G-d inspired many of us.

On April 10, 2010, Jewish music star Rick Recht appeared at Bet Ha'am, performing a wonderful concert. We had a fantastic turnout, with our own musicians and singers occasionally joining Rick on stage.

Continued on page 4

Chadashot Chai-lights

What's Inside

- 2 Rabbi Seicol
- 3 School Registration
- 6, 7 Mystery of Matzah Photos
- 8, 9 Board Nominations/Bios
- 10 Community News
- 11 Social Action News
- 12 Transition Update

Dates to Remember

May 15

Plant Sale 9:00 AM-1:00 PM
Raised Bed Building
1:00-5:00 PM
Book Club 4:00 PM

May 18

Book Club Webinar—Food Justice

May 22

Last Day of Religious School
Teacher Appreciation Luncheon 12:15 PM

May 24

Annual Meeting 6:30 PM

Join us for some or all of these events!

Congregation Bet Ha'am

81 Westbrook Street
 South Portland, Maine 04106
 Phone (207) 879-0028
 Fax (207) 879-1866
 TTY available
www.bethaam.org

Interim Rabbi Sam Seicol

Orly Mendelson Biggie, Religious School Director
 Pam Denuette, Synagogue Administrator
 Teri Berenson, Bookkeeper
 Chris Skidgel, Custodian

Executive Committee

Tim Boulette, President
 Lisa Pierce, Vice President
 Tom Rosen, Treasurer
 Ben Grant, Secretary
 Sharon Newman, Past President

Board of Directors

Louise Abramson
 Sherri Carignan
 Mylan Cohen
 Jay Geller
 Howard Glass
 Ken Lehman
 Emily McEntee
 Michael Messerschmidt
 Jeremy Moser
 Lisa Munderback
 Jane Snerson
 Deborah Tillman Stone

Office Hours:

Tuesday - Friday, 9:00 AM-4:00 PM
 The office is closed on Mondays.
 Building Use: All meetings, events or gatherings
 must be scheduled with the office.

Office extensions and email addresses:

Orly Biggie, Religious School Director, Ext. 102
orly@bethaam.org
 Pam Denuette,
 Synagogue Administrator, Ext. 104
pam@bethaam.org
 Teri Berenson, Bookkeeper, Ext. 103
teri@bethaam.org
office@bethaam.org

Count and Make It Count — Rabbi Sam

What would you do if you were told that your bank account would be credited with \$86,400 each day? There would be several stipulations. \$28,800 would be withheld and placed in a special health and well-being account. Funds could be withdrawn from that account but there could be later penalty and interest charges. The second proviso would be that all funds not used at the end of the day would be forfeited. Each day would start with the \$86,400 balance. Money could be spent on any tangible item, donated to charities, gifted to others, or invested in personal enhancement and development. While there would be demands and requests from others (at times with additional inducements or attempts at coercion), you would be free to choose how to use your funds.

This may sound like a crazy system. Or you may be excited as you visualize all the ways you would spend your money. This is, essentially, the reminder we are given during the time between Passover and the day before Shavuot, the time of the Omer. The 86,400 we are given each day is the number of seconds we have to spend. We use close to one third of these for sleep and the rest are ours to invest and spend as we choose.

When the day is over, the time is lost to us and can never be used again. How we invested the time lives on in memories and life enhancements, as well as in regrets and feelings of guilt. We are therefore challenged each day to make the time we are given count.

We are instructed to count the days of the Omer from the second day of Passover until the day before Shavuot, a week of weeks. One reason for this counting is to help us strengthen our commitment to make our days count. Prior to Passover, we removed all chametz (leavened material) from our homes and thus symbolically from our lives. We are taught that we did so to let go of all that has spoiled or damaged our lives. As we entered into the new spring season, we prepared to create new and fresh habits.

For the seven weeks following Passover we count each day, reliving the journey our ancestors took that brought them from redemption to revelation. They journeyed from the shores of the sea to the foot of Mt. Sinai. Their newfound freedom during the exodus from slavery was cemented into a true sense of community and nationhood, bound by commitment to Torah. These weeks of the Omer are also a time for us to enhance and strengthen our connection to the time we are given as part of our Jewish community and our lives.

May we all grow in this time of the Omer. Let us learn to count each day so that we may better make each day count.

Rabbi Sam

From the Religious School Director

Orly Mendelson Biggie

The theme for this year's morning school was Our Torah. Our assemblies and study sessions with Rabbi Sam explored the ins and outs of the Jewish people's Tree of Life. On Sunday morning, May 15, we will wrap up this year's theme with a special visit by Rabbi Miara, who is a *sofer*. A *sofer* is a scribe, someone who writes Torah, *mezuzot*, and other holy writings. Rabbi Miara will meet with grades one through three from 9:30-10:30 AM; he will meet with students in grades four through six from 10:45 AM—noon. This will be a rare opportunity to get a close look at the holy work of a *sofer*.

May 22 will be our last day of religious school. This day also happens to be *Lag B'Omer*, the 33rd day of the counting of the *Omer*. *Lag B'Omer* is not a major holiday in our Jewish calendar, but is one we observe and will celebrate as part of our closing events.

I would like to thank all of our dedicated teachers who – Sunday after Sunday – volunteer to teach our kids. We will have our special end-of-year Teacher Appreciation Luncheon after our closing events. More details are in the Religious School news.

Students forming Hebrew letters with their bodies



Religious School News

May 13 Family Service

Grade 3 will participate in the May 13 Shabbat Family Service. A potluck for the students and their families will be at 5:30pm. RSVP by May 6.

Thank You

Thanks to last month's substitute teachers Julie Russem and Lynn Urbach.

Teacher Appreciation Luncheon

Our faculty will be honored with a special lunch provided by school parents on Sunday, May 22 at 12:15 PM. To find out how you can help email Kerri Berman at kberman@maine.rr.com or complete sign up in the Bet Ha'am office.

2011-2012 School Registration

Registration for the 2011-12 school year is underway. To be eligible for the early school fee, your registration and deposit must be received by May 15th. Registration forms were emailed to all current school families. If your child will be a new student next year, please call Orly now.

Teachers Needed

We are looking for teachers for both our morning and evening school. Call Orly to become a part of our religious school faculty.



Schedule of Services

Friday, May 6

Kabbalat Shabbat Service 7:30 PM

Saturday, May 7

Torah Study 9:00 AM
Worship Service 10:00 AM
Aaron Geller, son of
Jay Geller & Cathy Breen
Parsha Emor

Friday, May 13

Family Kabbalat Shabbat 6:30 PM

Saturday, May 14

Torah Study 9:00 AM
Worship Service 10:00 AM
Rachel Epstein, daughter of
Michael & Jill Epstein
Parsha Behar

Friday, May 20

Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30 PM

Saturday, May 21

Torah Study 9:00 AM
Worship Service 10:00 AM
Max Abramson, son of
Stuart & Louise Abramson
Parsha Bechukotai

Friday, May 27

Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30 PM

Saturday, May 28

Torah Study 9:00 AM
Worship Service 10:00 AM
Vera Gardner, daughter of
Laurence Gardner & Alison Noiles
Parsha Bamidbar

**Please join the congregation
in celebration as our students
are called to the Torah as
B'nai Mitzvah.**

President's Message continued from page 1

Throughout my time as president I have been blessed with a wonderful Board of Trustees. I am very grateful for their dedication and thoughtfulness. Special thanks are due to Rachel Reed, who completed her term as a trustee last year, and to Sherri Carignan, Emily McEntee, and Jeremy Moser, who complete their service this month.

I also wish to thank Pam Denuette, our synagogue administrator, Laura Coombs, her predecessor, Orly Biggie, our religious school director, Teri Berenson, our bookkeeper, and our many, many office volunteers for their support and assistance. Thanks are due also to Rabbi Sam Seicol, who came to aid us at a difficult time, and to past presidents Elaine Falender, Barbara Riegelhaupt, Dan Rose, and Rosie Wohl for their wise counsel and ongoing dedication to Bet Ha'am.

Finally, I simply cannot put into words how grateful I am to the Executive Committee: Lisa Pierce, our vice president; Tom Rosen, our treasurer; Ben Grant, our secretary; and (last but certainly not least) Sharon Newman, our immediate past president. In many ways visible and invisible, these leaders have given of their time, expertise, and good humor, and have done so way beyond the call of duty. Their support has meant a great deal to me. Ben returns to us as a continuing member of the Board. Lisa and Tom have been nominated to serve as our president and treasurer, respectively, for the next two years. For Sharon, this marks the end of six years of service on the Board, and I especially wish her well as she returns to focusing on chord and lyric sheets in place of spreadsheets! I hope you will all join me in thanking our board and executive committee for their service over the past two years.

* * *

At our annual meeting on May 24, our members, for the very first time, will vote to elect our officers. This change came with the new by-laws of the Congregation, which went into effect on July 1, 2009. Also, under our new by-laws, the new Board and officers take over immediately. The nominees are Lisa Pierce, President; Lisa Munderback, Vice President; Mylan Cohen, Secretary; and Tom Rosen, Treasurer.

As usual, we will also vote on our new trustees. This year, the nominees are Emily Brocks, JD Lichtman, Nathan Szanton, Joanne Turnbull, Deborah Tillman-Stone, each for a three-year term, and Steve Steinbock for a one-year term. Under our by-laws, my own term on the Board is automatically extended until I have completed my term as Immediate Past President.

Please join me at our annual meeting to show your support for our new trustees and officers and to let them know about any concerns you may have. You'll find more information elsewhere in this issue of Chadashot. I look forward to seeing you there!

The Mystery of Matzah was a Huge Success!

The weekend event began with Craig Lapine, Bet Ha'am member and Director of Cultivating Community, delivering a fascinating D'var Torah that encouraged us to think about the sources of our food and the importance of eating locally and in-season. After services on Saturday morning, almost 50 people joined us for a delicious luncheon followed by two engaging study sessions led by Elisheva Rogosa, our Scholar-in-Residence. In the first session, we learned about the origins of our wheat traditions and discussed food-source issues in smaller groups. In the second session, we had a dynamic conversation about how to grow wheat in Maine. Thank you to our participants for asking so many thought-provoking questions!

On Sunday morning, Elisheva led our religious school students and their families in three action-packed matzah-making sessions. Everyone was involved in mixing, kneading, rolling, pricking, and baking - all within the 18-minute time limit! After a yummy and bountiful luncheon, more than 50 people joined us for a discussion about matzah followed by another baking session. This time we used the same einkorn and emmer flours grown by our ancestors in biblical times. David Neufeld and his amazing brick oven cranked out as much matzah as possible, but there always seemed to be another one waiting to be baked! Luckily, we were blessed with a bright and sunny day, and the conversations in the baking line were lively and full of enthusiasm about growing wheat, upcoming Passover meals, and the celebration of spring!

You can view photos from the event at www.facebook.com/bethaam.

We would like to thank the following people for helping ensure the success of this wonderful event:

Garden Committee members and garden volunteers: Toby Rosenberg (Chair), Julia Bailin, Kelly Brophy, Joannie Caldwell, Karen Lukas, Laura Kittle, Craig Lapine, Shai Levite, Beth Simpson, Donna Landau, Lisa Munderback, Susan Paris, Meryl Troop, Marilyn Sherry, Steve Steinbock, and Jane Snerson.

Other volunteers: Stephanie Cummings, David Caldwell, Asherah Cinamon, Cathy Breen and Jay Geller, Jill and Mike Epstein, Sharon and Perry Newman, Charlie and Dede Oehrtmann, Rachel and Piotrek Stamieszkin, Trish Wasserman and the Broad Cove Hadassah (Kerry Berman, Denise Mancall, Debbie Meagher), Lisa Munderback, Susan Caplan, and Ron Siegel (for the generous Pigs Might Fly bread donation).

Staff: Orly Biggie, Chris Skidgel, Teri Berenson and Pam Denuette.

And we send a very special thank you to Elisheva Rogosa (www.growseed.org); David Neufeld (www.truebrickovens.com); Craig Lapine (www.cultivatingcommunity.org); and, of course, Rabbi Seicol!

Virtual Book Club Webinar on Food Justice - May 18

Join the URJ and RAC on Wednesday, May 18, from 3:00 – 4:00 PM for a virtual book club discussion of Mark Bittman's *Food Matters*. This is the culminating webinar in our Virtual Beit Midrash series on Judaism, food justice and environmental sustainability. This interactive learning session is a great opportunity to connect with others who share your interest and passion for food justice and sustainability. You will also meet leaders from across the Reform Movement working on these issues.

Register today at http://urj.org/learning/meetings/webinars/?syspage=article&item_id=49142 to save your spot for the session.

After registering you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

System Requirements:

PC-based attendees - Windows® 7, Vista, XP, 2003 Server or 2000

Macintosh®-based attendees - Mac OS® X 10.4.11 (Tiger®) or newer.





Nominating Committee Report by Rosie Wohl

The members of the Nominating Committee are pleased to announce the following nominations. The congregation will vote on nominees for officers and Board members at the annual meeting of the congregation on May 24.

Nominees for three-year terms to the Board of Trustees are: Emily Brocks, JD Lichtman, Nathan Szanton, Joanne Turnbull, and Deborah Tillman-Stone, who currently serve on the Board. In addition, we nominate Steve Steinbock to fill a one-year term for the position vacated by Alison Watts.

Thank you to the following Board members who are completing their terms: Sherri Carignan, Emily McEntee, Jeremy Moser, and Sharon Newman.

Nominees for officers of the congregation are: President - Lisa Pierce; Vice President - Lisa Munderback; Immediate Past President - Tim Boulette; Treasurer - Tom Rosen; Secretary - Mylan Cohen.

Our nominees have much experience and many strengths to bring to the leadership of our congregation. Please read the biographies below to learn more about them.

Emily Brocks

Emily joined the Bet Ha'am community in the fall of 2009 just after moving to Portland. She has been an usher, baked for *onegs*, and cooked monthly dinners for Friendship House. She served on the Rabbi Search Committee and was inspired by the opportunity to hear from members about their vision and hopes for Bet Ha'am. She is participating in the work of the Transition Committee and feels honored to have so many opportunities to participate in Bet Ha'am's growth as a community, including as a nominee.

Emily grew up in New York City, but has called New England home (with a few brief interruptions) since moving to western Massachusetts to attend Williams College. Emily moved to the Boston area to run a tea café where she did everything from hiring and training staff to fixing recalcitrant dishwashers. After the dishwasher broke one too many times, Emily moved to Philadelphia where her partner Becca was finishing medical school at Drexel University. Emily took a job that involved no dishwashers, working for a non-profit organization focused on adult education, workforce development, documentation of best practices in professional training programs, and partnership-building. This work led her to earn a Masters in Education at Harvard and to return to New England. Emily moved to Seattle and taught fourth grade at an independent school for gifted children during Becca's residency there. When Becca accepted a position as a General Surgery resident at Maine Medical Center, both Emily and Becca were thrilled to move back to New England. They enjoy cooking, playing outside with the dog, and spending time with friends and family. Emily and Becca were married at the end of September and look forward to continuing their active involvement with the congregation, as well as including their future children in the Bet Ha'am community.

Steve Steinbock

Steve served on the Bet Ha'am Board of Directors nearly twenty years ago, soon after he and his wife, Sue, moved to Maine. Steve has been active in Bet Ha'am's education programs, including religious school, the *b'nai mitzvah* program, and adult education classes. He has also had the opportunity to teach his two sons within our religious school. Steve looks forward to returning to the Board.

Steve earned a Masters Degree in Jewish Education from Hebrew Union College in 1985, and last year Hebrew Union College awarded him an honorary doctorate for his service in the field of Jewish education. He has authored two books that are published by URJ Press and are in use at Reform congregations throughout North America. Steve is also recognized as an international authority on mystery and detective fiction, and he has spoken at conferences throughout the US, Canada, and Great Britain. Since 2008, he has served as president of the North American chapter of the International Association of Crime Writers. He has written for various newspapers and magazines, including *The Portland Press Herald*, *The Armchair Detective*, *Mystery Scene*, and *The Strand Magazine*. He is a contributing editor for AudioFile Magazine and is the book critic for *Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine*.

J.D. Lichtman

*It is not your obligation to complete the task,
but neither are you at liberty to desist from it entirely...*
Pirke Avot 2:16

I have been affiliated with Bet Ha'am since 2004. I came to Maine in 1998 to attend Bates College and moved to Portland upon graduation. I originally hail from the New Haven region of Connecticut. I am unmarried, yet taken, and have no children. My work is in management and direct practice within the field of youth development. I am both a camp professional at Camp Tapawingo and a Child and Family Therapist at Community Counseling Center. My interests and hobbies include being an avid outdoors person (ski, bike, run, swim, surf, hike), a foodie (eating, growing), a perpetual student (currently trumpet and Melton Mini-School), and learning to be a homeowner / landlord of an aging and historic Portland multifamily building.

At Bet Ha'am I am the Youth Group Advisor. I consistently enjoy but inconsistently attend Torah study and services. My work on the Rabbi Search Community helped me experience the depth and richness of our community and to accept the nomination to serve on the Board. I accepted the nomination for reasons of personal growth and to support our community.

Nathan Szanton

My wife Sarah and I have been members of Bet Ha'am since 1987, when we moved to Portland from Washington, D.C. A product of a non-religious Jewish father and a Quaker mother, I converted to Judaism with Bet Ha'am's first rabbi, David Sandmel, in 1988. Our two sons, Jules (born 1990) and Carl (1992) went through Bet Ha'am's Religious School and Confirmation programs and had wonderful summers at URJ Camps Eisner (Jules) and Crane Lake (Carl).

I volunteered in the office on Sunday mornings one year; another year I taught an elective course called *You Be The Judge* in the Sunday evening religious school. I have served dinners with Bet Ha'am volunteers at Wayside and helped raise money for Bet Ha'am's new building. As a member of the House Committee, I wrote a User's Manual to our new building for staff and volunteers. Recently, I had the great honor and pleasure of serving on the Rabbi Search Committee, which was a great Jewish growth experience for me. I now would like to learn more Hebrew and, in the next few years, have an adult Bar Mitzvah.

A lawyer by training, I'm president of The Szanton Company in Portland, which develops new rental housing for low- and middle-income Mainers. In my spare time I enjoy running, hiking, history, biography, and music.

Joanne Turnbull

I have been a Bet Ha'am member for almost three years and have been attending services for almost four. I regularly attend Saturday morning services and participate in Torah study. Last winter, I co-led the *Introduction to Judaism* course. I celebrated my Bat Mitzvah in 2010 and would now like to delve more deeply into Torah and improve my Hebrew. I was honored to serve on the Rabbi Search Committee. If elected to the Board of Trustees, I will serve to the best of my ability.

I'm married to Bet Ha'am member H. Michael Alpen; ours was the last wedding in the old building. Between us we have seven children who range from 23 to 46 years old and nine grandchildren - six boys and three girls, ranging in age from 3 to 21.

I am a psychiatric social worker (MSW, University of Michigan) and psychologist (MA and Ph.D., University of Michigan) and have enjoyed stints as a psychotherapist, professor, researcher and administrator. Prior to an early retirement due to illness (MS), I was Executive Director of the National Patient Safety Foundation. In 2005, I co-authored *First Do No Harm*, a book of strategies to prevent harm from reaching patients, written for healthcare professionals. I completed an MFA at the University of Southern Maine's Stonecoast program (Fiction concentration) in January, and I am working on a novel about the aftermath of a medical error. In my spare time I enjoy reading, swimming, movies, and music.

Garden Day at Bet Ha'am on May 15

Come to our Annual Plant Sale 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Sunday, May 15, will be a very busy and green day at Bet Ha'am. We will kick off the morning with our annual plant sale. This year's sale promises to be bigger and even more exciting than last year's because members have scouted out lots of plants to dig and donate from their gardens. Some of our greenhouse gardeners have sprouted vegetable starts for us, including heirloom tomatoes. Come for great bargains and bring all your friends. The more we sell at this easy, cost-free fundraiser, the more we will have in our coffers to support our own gardening activities.

Raised Bed Building 1:00 – 5:00 PM

Come join our seventh graders, their families, Craig Lapine and Cultivating Community staff who will lead a hands-on workshop to build our raised bed gardens. You will also see the profits from last spring's garden sale be put to use! If you have wanted to make your own raised bed gardens this is an opportunity to learn from the best. At the end of this session we will have built and planted two raised beds on the south-facing area outside our kitchen wing. Bring a brown bag lunch, hand tools, cordless drills, shovels and garden tools. We'll start with the carpentry, followed by shoveling and then planting.

Seventh graders and their families have held discussions on what to grow and what to do with our harvest. One great idea: grow our own potatoes to make latkes!

The seventh graders and their families will be spearheading care of our raised garden beds and would love the help of anyone interested in tending our crops. Please call the office to volunteer.

Community News

Yom HaShoah

The community observance of Yom HaShoah will be on May 1 at 1:30 PM at the Abromson Center at the University of Southern Maine. The film "A Film Unfinished" will be shown.

Yom HaAtzmaut

Israel's 63rd birthday will be celebrated on Monday, May 9, from 4:30-7:00 PM at Temple Beth El in Portland. This will be a community-wide celebration with Israeli folk dancing, singing, Israeli food and activities for the children. Come join the celebration!

Bet Ha'am Book Group

The Bet Ha'am book group will discuss *Day After Night* by Anita Diamant on Sunday, May 15, at 4:00 PM at the home of Alan Mills in South Portland.

Be Part of Bet Ha'am's Annual Plant Sale

Sunday, May 15, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

RAIN OR SHINE

Great prices on plants of all kinds, shapes and sizes: perennials, annuals, shrubs.



Donations needed!

Drop off plants at Bet Ha'am starting Friday, May 6, and no later than 9:00 AM on Sunday, May 15.

Please deliver each plant in a well-watered container or punctured plastic bag and label with name, shade/sun preference, color and any other details you want to share.

Leave plants along the side of the trash shed, facing the bio-retention basin.

Come volunteer! It's great fun! All proceeds go to the Bet Ha'am garden.

For more information, contact Beth Simpson at 329-5097 or BethJSimpson@yahoo.com

or Joan Caldwell at 799-6005 or mush1@gwi.net.

Social Action Opportunities: Volunteer at Wayside Food Program

The Social Action Committee is happy to announce two opportunities for Bet Ha'am members to volunteer with Wayside programs that feed the hungry.

Beginning on May 26, we will serve dinner every fourth Thursday of the month at Woodford's Congregational Church in Portland. The Woodford's meal will reach groups not previously helped, specifically the elderly, women, and children.

If you would like to serve, arrive at Woodford's at 5:00 PM and stay through 7:00 PM. If you are interested in cooking the main dish, making a salad or making dessert, please come at 4:00 PM. Serving dinner and cooking are family-friendly options; children ages seven and up are invited to participate.

Wayside is also increasing its efforts to establish mobile pantries for areas in Portland without food pantries. There are two opportunities to help: setting up the boxes of food for distribution, i.e., packing food items into boxes for distribution, and going out on the distribution runs to deliver the food. If we have enough interest in mobile pantries, then specific times for Bet Ha'am will be assigned. Please contact Molly Bergman Quaid at mquaid@gmail.com for more information and to sign up to participate!

Join the Bet Ha'am Bike Train

Help Bet Ha'am observe Commute Another Way Week by walking, biking, carpooling or using public transit to get to services on Saturday, May 21. You can join a Bike Train and cycle to services with other Bet Ha'am members from Falmouth, Portland, South Portland, Cape Elizabeth and Scarborough.

Ride for as little as three miles - or as long as your legs allow! This will be a leisurely, family-friendly ride, much of it on bike paths. Everyone must wear a bike helmet. Children

under 16 must be accompanied by a parent. Participants will be on their own getting home from services.

If you'd like to find out more or to sign up, please e-mail Shoshana Hoose at shoose@maine.rr.com.

Please Fill Out the Social Action Survey

We want to know your priorities for future social action projects at Bet Ha'am. Paper copies of the survey are available at the office; please return the completed surveys to the office. You also can fill out the survey online; the link will be sent in the weekly e-mail. Please submit your survey by June 15.

Other Social Action Events

Join members of the Social Action Committee at the June 19 matinee performance of *Silver Spoon*, a new musical by Si Kahn and Amy Merrill about two young lovers in the 1960s who fight for justice and search for acceptance from their families and society. Buy your tickets directly from the Nora Theatre in Cambridge, MA, www.centernalsquaretheater.org. To arrange carpools and a group lunch, e-mail Shoshana Hoose, shoose@maine.rr.com.

Help recycle plates, napkins and other items at Bet Ha'am's onegs by using the recycle container near the kitchen. Thanks to all who helped institute the new recycling procedures.

Join a community walk in support of Habitat for Humanity on May 22 at noon, starting from St. Pius X Church near Baxter Boulevard in Portland. Find out more about this walk and other community events on our blog: <http://bhsocialaction.blogspot.com>.

The next meeting of the Social Action Committee will be on May 22 at 10 AM in Room 101. All are welcome.

Join the Bet Ha'am Donor Gallery

We invite you to join the Bet Ha'am Donor Gallery today! We have many needs and many ways for you to contribute. If you have an event you would like to celebrate, a person you would like to honor, a *yahrzeit* to remember, or you just want to help support our programs, please fill out the form and send it along with your check to Bet Ha'am. Include an address if you would like an acknowledgement to be sent.

Our Donor Gallery listing should read:

Please acknowledge to: _____

Your name: _____

Check enclosed for \$ _____

Fund choice (please check one):

_____ General Fund

_____ Sandmel Education Fund

_____ Building Capital Campaign

_____ Berkowitz Open Door Fund

_____ Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

_____ Youth Fund

_____ Cohen Fund for Worship & Learning

_____ Religious School Library Fund

_____ Adult Library Fund

_____ Rosalyn S. & Sumner T. Bernstein

Scholar in Residence Fund

_____ *Bikur Cholim* (hospital chaplaincy)

_____ Tutor Fund

Bet Ha'am Donor Gallery

We thank our generous contributors

Capital Campaign

- Sending healing thoughts and prayers for Michael Barriault by **Laura Kittle & Jeremy Moser**

Cohen Fund for Worship & Learning

- Wishing Jane Snerson a speedy recovery by Laura Kittle & Jeremy Moser

General Fund

- In memory of Marcia Wilkow by **Elliot Wilkow**
- In honor of Melinda Molin being honored as a Great Woman of Maine by **Rosie Wohl & Jay Pollack**
- In memory of my father, Mo Blackman, on his *yahrzeit* by **Wendy & Bill Sirois**
- In memory of Elaine Kopans by **Rona & Robert Rosenthal**
- In memory of Edythe Weinberg and Jacob Spiro on their *yahrzeits* by **Ray & Ginger Spiro**
- In appreciation of Toby Rosenberg and her work on our Mystery of Matzah weekend by **Judith Wohl**

Transition Team Update

Plans are underway to help make our rabbinic transition as smooth as possible. Our Transition Team is looking at each aspect of synagogue life to develop the best plan to introduce Rabbi Saks and facilitate his integration into our community. The team is planning both small group and larger community events throughout this summer and fall to give everyone a chance to meet our new rabbi. Some of the plans include small neighborhood get-togethers, a Monday night at Bayside Bowl, a community service project, and a havdalah service at the beach.

The transition team is also looking at ways to introduce Rabbi Saks to our committees, our teachers, our tutors, our students, and the larger Jewish community. Our plans include an article in The Voice and a press release submitted to other local papers.

We will continue to update the congregation about meetings and events as we move forward. In the meantime, please mark your calendars for Friday, July 8, when Rabbi Saks will lead his first service at Bet Ha'am. We are planning to officially welcome Rabbi Saks and his partner, Kirk in true Bet Ha'am style with a Shabbat potluck (of course!) before the service. We hope you all can be there.

Rabbi Saks recently asked if we could share recordings of our worship melodies so he could have a piece of us with him while he finishes his tenure in Minneapolis. Rachel Stamieszkin and Sharon Newman are already working on this! If you'd like to get to know Rabbi Saks and hear some of his thoughts as we prepare to add his voice to the chorus that is our community, please check out his blog at www.reformingjudaism.blogspot.com.

The Transition Team, led by Lisa Pierce, includes the following dedicated Bet Ha'am volunteers: Deborah Tillman Stone, Elaine Falender, Emily Brocks, Emily McEntee, Howard Glass, JD Lichtman, Jill Epstein, Joanne Turnbull, Laura Kittle, Lee Broder, Lynn Urbach, Mylan Cohen, Nathan Szanton, Rachel Stamieszkin, Rosie Wohl, Sharon Newman, Stephanie Cummings, and Susan Cummings-Lawrence. The team will also rely on the expert advice of many others, including our office staff, our Personnel Committee, and our Membership Committee. Please contact Lisa (lispie@maine.rr.com) or any member of this team if you have questions or suggestions at any time.



Bet Ha'am
Gift Shop!

20.7x10.5

25% Off!

Jewelry and select items!

SALE

April 26th- May 15th

MAY 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6 <i>Kabbalat Shabbat</i> Service 7:30 PM	7 Torah Study 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM Aaron Geller Bar Mitzvah
8 Grades 11-12 5:00-7:30 PM	9	10	11	12	13 Grade 3 potluck dinner 5:30 PM <i>Family Kabbalat</i> <i>Shabbat</i> Service 6:30 PM	14 Torah Study 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM Rachel Epstein Bat Mitzvah
15 Sofer visit to Religious School Grades 1-3 with parents 9:30-10:30 AM Grades 4-6 with parents 10:45 AM-12:00 PM Plant Sale 9:00 AM-1:00 PM Raised Bed Building 5:00 PM Book Club 4:00 PM	16	17 Board of Trustees meeting 6:30 PM	18	19	20 <i>Kabbalat Shabbat</i> Service 7:30 PM	21 Torah Study 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM Max Abramson Bar Mitzvah
22 Last Day Religious School Social Action Committee Meeting 10:00 AM Teacher Appreciation Luncheon 12:15 PM	23	24 Annual Meeting 6:30 PM	25	26	27 <i>Kabbalat Shabbat</i> Service 7:30 PM	28 Torah Study 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM Vera Gardner Bat Mitzvah
29	30	31				

Save the Date: **June 5**, Woodfire Pizza Dinner Fundraiser