



# Chadashot Ha'am

September 2011

Elul

## A Message from Rabbi Saks

As I write this, the last full moon of summer is beginning to wane. As it rose last night, I caught sight of its deep red-orange hue on my way home from Bet Ha'am. Throughout the rest of the year, catching sight of the moon at such a stage would have caught my attention but would not have given me reason to pause. At this time of the year, there is an added layer of meaning. By the time you read this, the new moon that marked the beginning of the Hebrew month of *Elul* will have come and gone, and the moon will be growing back towards its fullness. At this time of year, watching the cycle of the moon reminds me of the approaching holidays and of my preparation for Rosh Hashanah, when the moon will disappear once again.

There is, of course, the technical preparation, which this year, being my first year as rabbi at Bet Ha'am, takes a great deal of time and attention. It is learning the melodies that we will sing together. It is becoming comfortable with the schedule. When are Children's Services? When does the wall come down and go up? It is getting to know the many ways you, the members of Bet Ha'am, make the holidays come to fruition. It is considering sermon and study topics. I relish this type of preparation, not only because it gives me a sense that I have dotted every 'i' and crossed every 't,' but also because it connects me to the individuals who make Bet Ha'am a thriving congregation.

There is also the spiritual preparation, a preparation that looks different for me every year. While I am confident that our worship together will go wonderfully, I am not always confident that I will be as spiritually ready to get where I need to be in time for Rosh Hashanah. Where have I fallen short over the past year? Whom have I hurt? How can I be a better person? This is the more challenging preparation, the one that takes real conviction and dedication. This is the preparation that can seem insurmountable and unachievable.

As I noticed the moon, shy of full, last night, it more than caught my attention. It gave me reason to stop and reflect and evaluate my spiritual preparation for the High Holy Days. Will I be ready?



I am comforted by a passage in *Pesikta Rabbati*, a collection of *midrash*, rabbinic legends, from the 9th century. The *midrash* asks us to remember the story of a prince who was far away from his father, at least a hundred days' journey away. When the prince's friends told him that it was time for him to return home, he replied, "There is no way that I can do that. I don't have the strength." When his father heard about his son's response, the king sent word to his son saying, "Come back as far as your strength will allow you, and I will go the rest of the way to meet you there."

The *midrash* explains that these are God's words to us during the month of *Elul* as we prepare ourselves for the arrival of Rosh Hashanah. Perhaps we don't think that we have the strength to get all the way back, but God reminds us, "*Shuvu eilai v'ashuvah.*" ("Return to Me and I will return to you.") (Malachai 3:7). God is prepared to meet us, not just half way, but wherever we are, as long as we begin the journey.

But I don't think this *midrash* is only about God's willingness to meet us on our journey. It is also about our relationships with one another and the potential for return. Sometimes we find ourselves in the shoes of the prince and are not strong enough to do all of the work, so we rely upon the gentle words of friends to encourage us and upon the kindness of others to meet us where we are. Sometimes we discover that we are like the king, eager to reconnect and hoping others will take the step they need to take. And sometimes we are the friends who can recognize the pain that others experience and guide them along the path, perhaps one we've walked ourselves.

As we come together for the High Holy Days at the end of this month, I hope you will begin the journey and walk with me. We will begin in the darkness of the new moon, making our way together toward the light of the full moon of *Tishrei*, celebration of *Sukkot* and our bounty together. As we prepare to enter the new year, may we find the strength, alone and together, to return to one another and to God.

*L'Shanah Tovah Tikateivu*, May you be inscribed for blessing in the Book of Life.

Rabbi Jared Saks

**Congregation Bet Ha'am**

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

**Executive Committee**

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 Lisa Munderback, Vice President  
 Tom Rosen, Treasurer  
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 Joanne Turnbull

**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:**

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**High Holy Day Open Door Policy**

Since its founding in 1985, Bet Ha'am has been committed to being a house of worship where all feel welcome. In keeping with this goal, Bet Ha'am invites anyone seeking a place to worship on Shabbat and other holidays to join us for services. During High Holy Day services, we all - members and non-members alike - wear name tags to allow us to get to know each other better.

We hope to see you at services. *Shanah Tovah.*

**Parking**

In addition to our own parking lot, you may also park on Braeburn Avenue and across Westbrook Street at the Thornton Heights United Methodist Church parking lot (100 Westbrook Street).

**Food Drive**

Bet Ha'am will again be coordinating an annual food drive. We will distribute bags at Rosh Hashanah services along with a list of suggested items that will benefit the South Portland Food Cupboard, Project FEED and the JCA's food pantry. Please return the filled bags at Yom Kippur services.

**A Few Reminders****Scents.**

For the comfort and enjoyment of all, please avoid wearing perfumed health and beauty aids to Bet Ha'am events. Some of our members are allergic to the scents.

**Missing something?**

Check the closets near the bathrooms if you are missing items such as coats, hats or gloves. Valuable items such as glasses or jewelry are kept in the office.

**Rides.**

If you need transportation to attend services, please call the office (879-0028) and our Caring Committee will be happy to arrange a ride for you.

## President's Message – Lisa Pierce

### A Recipe for Community

As I write this piece, we are on a whirlwind tour of Bet Ha'am neighborhood homes, and, along with Rabbi Saks, I am thoroughly enjoying meeting and greeting many of our congregants.

Although getting to know our new rabbi has been the focus of these neighborhood gatherings, it has been just as interesting to see Bet Ha'am friends old and new connecting with each other. I have had wonderful conversations with many of you and gotten to know a little bit more about what interests you and what each of you brings to the table. I was struck, in particular, by a delightful interaction between two long-term members – each of whom I know pretty well. I never knew that they didn't know each other and was surprised because they seem to be such an obvious pairing. It occurred to me that our congregation still has some cooking to do to create an even stronger community.

I learned to cook from both my mom and my dad. My mom can make anything and will try any recipe. She taught me that if you carefully measure the right ingredients and follow the instructions to the letter, sometimes it really will look just like the picture in the magazine. My dad, on the other hand, brings to the kitchen mostly a passion for different flavors and great enthusiasm. Measuring cups and rules rarely enter the picture. My dad taught me that you rarely achieve anything extraordinary without taking a risk, and that, when all else fails, eggs can go on top of anything.

Both approaches are important as we consider our recipe for community. We've got the basic ingredients: a wise rabbi who shares our values and will be our guide and partner going forward, a beautiful place to worship and gather that can house our entire family, and a diverse collection of congregants who want to make a meaningful connection with Jewish life.

The recipe we have been following says: provide weekly services, a comprehensive religious school program, ample opportunities for adult learning, an environment for social action, and regular events that bring people together. That is enough to cook up a pretty good synagogue community. But if we want to reach a little higher, we can be

extraordinary. What might happen if we consider the individual flavors of each congregant and what each of us can add to the mix? What would happen if we shake things up and try new things together?

I've heard two comments this week about creating community that gave me pause. One was from a member who joined a few years ago and still does not feel quite connected to Bet Ha'am. And the other was from a founding member who noted that many of us sit in the same places at every service. Both of those comments reflect old recipes that we may have grown too accustomed to. It's easy to forget to look around to see who is there. And, if you are shy or feel ill at ease, it's not easy to approach someone new.

I present this challenge to myself and to you as we enter into this new year and phase of renewal in the life of our congregation: find someone unfamiliar to talk with each time you visit Bet Ha'am. Take the time to ask an extra question and to find out what is important to them. Think about who you know that the person might enjoy meeting and help foster a connection. I think we would all enjoy the results of this new recipe.

I wish you and your families a *Shanah Tovah*, a happy and healthy new year filled with good friends and delicious combinations.



## High Holy Days Schedule of Services 2011-5772

All High Holy Day services are held at Congregation Bet Ha'am, 81 Westbrook St., South Portland, ME

### Saturday, Sept. 24

*Selichot* 7:30PM

### Wednesday, September 28

*Erev Rosh Hashanah* 8:00PM

### Thursday, September 29

*Rosh Hashanah*

Children's Service 8:30 AM

Torah Study 9:00 AM

Worship Service 10:00 AM

### Saturday, October 1

*Shabbat Shuvah*

Torah Study 9:00 AM

Worship Service 10:00 AM

### Friday, October 7

*Kol Nidre* 8:00 PM

### Saturday, October 8

*Yom Kippur*

Children's Service 8:30 AM

Torah Study 9:00 AM

Worship Service 10:00 AM

Meditation & Healing Service 12:45 PM

Afternoon Study 2:00 PM

Afternoon Service 3:00 PM

*Yizkor* 4:30 PM

*Neilah* 5:00 PM

### October 2

*Sukkah Construction*

### October 13

*Sukkot* 10:00 AM

Join us for our Break The Fast Potluck after the Neilah service. We need food contributions of all kinds for this terrific potluck event. See details on page 6.

Our Children's Services are designed for children in second grade and younger with their families.

## Adult Library

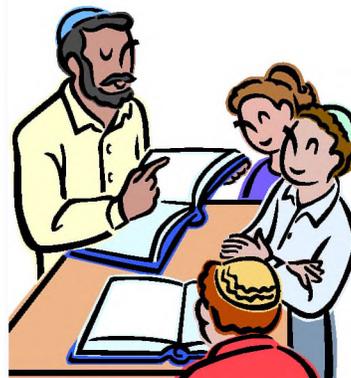
Our project to collect and display pictures of every confirmation class is nearly complete. Please let us know if you have confirmation class photos for 2004, 2005 or 2010.

Thank you to Deb Stone, Karolyn Rossein, Susan Cummings-Lawrence, and Evie Polisner for donating books to the collection. New titles include:

- *Holocaust Project* by Judy Chicago
- *Passing Through, the Later Poems* by Stanley Kunitz
- *The Jews - A Treasury of Art and Literature* by Keller
- *Children of the Holocaust, Conversations with Sons and Daughters of Survivors* by Helen Epstein
- *Stars of David, Prominent Jews Talk About Being Jewish* by Abigail Pogrebin
- *The Einstein Scrapbook* by Ze'ev Rosenkranz
- *My Grandfather's Blessings, Stories of Strength, Refuge and Belonging* by Rachel Naomi Remen, MD

Stop by soon to pick up some titles for late summer reading. Whether you seek books on serious topics or a relaxing read, there is something for everyone!

Please contact Donna Landau at [dmlandau@hotmail.com](mailto:dmlandau@hotmail.com) or Sherrie Bergman at [sbergman@bowdoin.edu](mailto:sbergman@bowdoin.edu) if you are interested in joining the Library Committee.



## Yom Kippur Memorial Booklet

During Yom Kippur services, we recite *Yizkor* (Memorial) prayers and hold memories of our departed loved ones close to our hearts. We are continuing the Bet Ha'am tradition of printing and distributing a memorial booklet again this year. As a courtesy, names that were included last year will be included and printed again. Please send your donation for listings to the office. If you forget, we will send you a reminder bill after the High Holy Days.

If you have new entries or changes, please complete the form below and return it and your donation by September 23. The suggested donation is \$18.

You can email the information to [teri@bethaam.org](mailto:teri@bethaam.org) or mail the form to the office at 81 Westbrook Street, South Portland, ME 04106. Please either mail or bring your donation to the office.

Your name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

New Listings: (Please give name, relationship and date of death for each)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Death \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Death \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Death \_\_\_\_\_

Please do not repeat my listing from last year

## High Holy Days Childcare and Registration Form

We are delighted to be able to offer child care for children between two and eight years old on Rosh Hashanah morning, Thursday, September 29, and Yom Kippur morning, Saturday, October 8. Please pre-register and submit a deposit of \$20 per service by Monday, September 20. For more information, please contact our office at 879-0028.

Cost: \$10 per hour for one child and \$5 per hour for each additional child.

Parent(s) Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please register the following child(ren) for:  Rosh Hashanah  Yom Kippur

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies:

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies:

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies:

DEPOSIT ENCLOSED @ \$20 PER SERVICE = \_\_\_\_\_

Please return check and registration form by September 20 to:

Congregation Bet Ha'am  
81 Westbrook Street  
South Portland, ME 04106

## SPORTY's Fall Kick-off Event: Hanging Out & Catching Up!

Join us on Sunday, September 11, from 4:00 - 5:30 PM at Bet H'am

All interested high school age students are welcome.

We will make plans to make the 2011-2012 year with SPORTY awesome!

For more information, contact: JD Lichtman, SPORTY advisor, at [lichtmanjd@gmail.com](mailto:lichtmanjd@gmail.com)

## Reaching out to College-age Youth

On Sunday evening, August 7, about 20 college-age youth, including current and past members, gathered around a long table at Otto Pizza in Portland to meet Rabbi Saks and his partner, Kirk Boettcher.

As guests came and went, the discussion was lively and included where students were attending college and what they were studying, the proposed changes to the Willard Square neighborhood, Seeds of Peace Camp and American synagogues supporting Israel and marriage equality.

Rabbi Saks asked each youth what he or she appreciated most about Bet Ha'am. Responses included Religious School and the friendships forged there as well as the participatory nature of our services and the importance of singing. Students voiced pride in our new building complex and how it enhances worship, learning, and celebration of *simchas*.

Participants said they were excited about Rabbi Saks's open and inclusive approach. They also said that they appreciated his reaching out to them and his desire to keep Bet Ha'am relevant for people of all ages. And, of course, they enjoyed that the pizza was delicious and plentiful!

## Do you have a student headed off to college?

Please email your child's name, email address, and mailing address to us at [office@bethaam.org](mailto:office@bethaam.org) so we can send a Jewish care package from time to time.

The Holiday Committee invites  
the congregation to a

## Break the Fast Potluck

after Neilah services on  
Saturday, October 8, at 5:30 PM



Please RSVP to the e-vite that you received or call the office to RSVP and indicate what you will bring.

Can you help?  
We could sure use it.

Call Gail at 207-833-6004 or  
Email [yomkippur@ashcovepottery.com](mailto:yomkippur@ashcovepottery.com)

## Break the Fast Details

We need food contributions of all kinds for this terrific pot-luck event: entrees, side dishes, salads, desserts. Please do not mix milk and meat in one dish or include pork or shellfish. Label your dishes and supply serving utensils if needed. We always have a big turn-out so we ask that the serving size of food you bring be equal to the number of people in your party times four. Please arrange to have your food in the Bet Ha'am kitchen as soon as possible after noon on Yom Kippur day. Help is also needed for set-up and clean-up.

## From the Religious School Director

A message from Orly Mendelson Biggie

The first day of our 5772 Religious School will be **Sunday, September 18**. As has been our *minhag* (custom), we will schedule parents' meetings during the first three Sundays. These meetings provide an opportunity to get to know other parents in your child's class, to hear about this year's programs, to look over textbook and class resources, and to find out how you can be more involved in Religious School and synagogue. The schedule of meetings is in the Religious School News article and on the school calendar you received. I hope to see all of you at these meetings.

The theme for this year's morning Religious School is *Midot*. The Hebrew word *midot* comes from the verb *madad* (to measure) and has a number of different meanings. Rabbis use this term to describe peoples' personalities, temperaments, and characteristics. *Midot* also refers to a collection of virtues that is intended to provide moral guidance for people in their daily lives. Throughout the year, we will explore different *midot* during class time, assemblies and study sessions. Some of these *midot* will be *derekh erez* (common decency), *hachnasat orcheem* (hospitality), and *kavod* (honor).

We welcome Rabbi Saks to religious school! Rabbi Saks will lead our students and parents in study throughout the year.

I am looking forward to a great year. I wish you all *Shana Tova* - a happy and sweet year!

## Religious School News

Beginning on Sunday, September 18, our schedule is:

Kindergarten will meet from 9:00 -10:30 AM.  
Grades 1-6 will meet from 9:00 to noon.  
Grades 7-10 will meet from 5:00-7:30 PM.  
All students must be registered to attend.  
Students cannot register on the first day of Religious School. Please call Orly if you have any questions.

### Parent Meetings:

1st Grade: September 18 at 9:30 AM  
2nd Grade: September 25 at 9:30 AM  
3rd Grade: October 2 at 9:30 AM  
4th Grade: September 18 at 11:30 AM  
5th Grade: September 25 at 11:30 AM  
6th Grade: October 2 at 11:30



### School Fees Must Be Paid by September 18

The balance of your Religious School fees is due by the start of school. The fee schedule is below. If you have paid your \$25 registration fee for each child, subtract this amount from your fee to get your balance.

Fee for Grades 1-10	Registered before 5/16	Registered between 5/17 and 8/16	Registered after 8/15
1st child	\$310	\$350	\$400
2nd child	\$210	\$250	\$300
Add'l child	\$185	\$225	\$275

**Volunteers are needed** to help set up the classrooms for the first day of school. Please call Orly for more information.

**We will have a workshop for our teachers on Wednesday, September 7, at 7:00 PM.**

## Shalom Yeladim

We invite all three-, four-, and five-year-old children and their parents to join us for Shalom Yeladim from 11:00 AM to noon on one Sunday a month. Andrea Krasker will lead sessions in which participants will celebrate and learn about Jewish life through prayer, songs, stories and arts and crafts. The fee is \$25/year, which covers the cost of supplies. Shalom Yeladim will meet on the following dates:

- September 25: Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur
- October 16: Sukkot and Simchat Torah
- November 20: Shabbat
- December 18: Chanukah
- January 29: Tu B'Shvat
- March 4: Purim
- April 1: Pesach
- May 6: Israel and Jewish Values

To register, please complete the form below. Questions? Contact Orly at 879-0028

\*\*\*\*\*  
 Child's name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Mother \_\_\_\_\_ Father \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please enclose your check for \$25 with this registration form.

Do you make a *kugel* or brisket as good as your *bubbeh's*? Share your culinary skills with us!  
 We're looking for *batmpte* (tasty) Jewish treats!



### Jewish Community Alliance

#### Jewish Food Festival and Cook-Off

Come have dinner with us!  
 Thursday, September 15, 2011  
 5:30 – 7:30 PM

Congregation Bet Ha'am, 81 Westbrook Street, South Portland



#### Four Categories!!!

☆ *Kugel* ☆ Brisket ☆ Latkes ☆ Other

\*\*Kosher meats and *pareve kugels* welcome but not required. Participants should identify if the dish is kosher and/or made in a kosher kitchen.

Open to the community.  
 Enter a dish or make a donation at the door.

Judging by local judges and a surprise guest! If you are interested in submitting an entry or to RSVP, please contact Samantha Johnson at 772.1959 or [sjohnson@mainejewish.org](mailto:sjohnson@mainejewish.org) by August 29.

## Join us for Adult Learning during 5772 (2011-2012)

The Adult Education Committee, with help from Rabbi Saks, is excited to announce the following classes. More classes and learning opportunities will be offered after Sukkot. Watch for announcements in the weekly email.

**1. Classes about the Tishrei holidays** taught by Rabbi Saks in our Adult Education classroom:

**Wednesday, September 14, 7:00-8:30 PM:**

The High Holy Days are a time for soul searching and performing *t'shuva* (repentance and forgiveness). We will explore the themes of *Rosh Hashanah* and *Yom Kippur* and prepare ourselves for the beginning of the new year. This class is designed for people who have experienced the High Holy Days as well as those new to these traditions.

**Wednesday, September 21, 7:00-8:30 PM:**

The holidays during the Jewish month of *Tishrei* continue with *Sukkot*, our fall harvest festival, and *Simchat Torah*, when we start reading from the beginning of the Torah with *B'reishit* (Genesis) again. These holidays are filled with celebration and joy. This class will help us find new meaning in the observances and customs associated with these holidays.

**2. Come join us for classes on Sunday Mornings!**

Two adult classes will be offered on Sunday mornings this fall. We hope this time will be convenient for both Religious School parents and others.

**Jewish Values:** We will have ongoing discussions of *midot*, Jewish values, which will also be the theme for Religious School this year. After reading a short story or passage, we will discuss the values in the story and how to make them part of our lives with our families. The values we discuss will parallel those taught in Religious School.

**Basic Hebrew Reading:** Would you like to be able to help your child learn Hebrew but do not know the language? Do you wish you could read the prayers in Hebrew instead of the transliteration? If so, then join us! We will progress from the *aleph-bet* (alphabet) to reading from the *siddur* (prayer book). This class will be offered only if there is interest, so please contact the office or Lynn Urbach (lurbach1@maine.rr.com) if you would like to participate.

**3. Melton Class:** A new session of this extremely popular course will start in October. The text-based classes were developed at Hebrew University, and there is no homework. Classes will be offered Tuesday mornings and Wednesday evenings. Check the Jewish Community Alliance website, <http://www.mainejewish.org/>, for more information.

As always, please contact the office or Lynn Urbach (lurbach1@maine.rr.com) with suggestions, offers to teach, or if you would like to join the Adult Education Committee.

## Survey Shows Bet Ha'am Members Value Social Action

Earlier this year, the Bet Ha'am Social Action Committee developed a survey to help us determine our direction, as well as projects and activities for the coming year and into the future. The survey was available to the congregation on-line and in hard copy throughout the spring of 2011.

Nearly 60 people completed the survey. The Committee was impressed by the strong interest in social justice issues that was apparent in the responses and by the desire to more fully integrate social action into services, Religious School and other contexts. Many of the people who completed the survey are already involved in social action activities; the Committee sees its challenge as getting more people to participate in social action activities within a Jewish context as part of Bet Ha'am.

Major issues identified for future projects include poverty in Maine, marriage equality, and immigrant and civil rights. Survey responses reflected a strong interest in partnering with other organizations. Examples might be working with LearningWorks or Portland Adult Education on refugee issues, Interfaith Power and Light on energy issues and/or the National Council of Jewish Women on its Darfur project. The survey suggested interest in having speakers about current events at services.

The Committee is working with Rabbi Saks on plans for a series of speakers and activities related to immigrant issues in Maine. The series will kick off in the fall with a program about immigrants' educational

needs and how Bet Ha'am members can get involved. We also will hold a book drive to provide books for the free bookshelf at Portland Adult Education. Stay tuned for more details.

The Committee also discussed marriage equality. The referendum drive to put marriage equality on the ballot in 2012 will focus attention on this issue. We are checking into how the congregation can be most helpful.

If you are interested in receiving a compilation of survey results, please contact Eleanor Goldberg at [egoldbe1@maine.rr.com](mailto:egoldbe1@maine.rr.com).



We welcome your participation and involvement in the Social Action Committee, and we continue to solicit ideas for our activities. Please check the weekly email for meeting dates.

## Bet Ha'am Building Complex Wins Awards

By Jeremy Moser

Our building complex, both the renovated and new work, has received three notable distinctions for design excellence over this past year. This is a wonderful reflection on our congregation's vision in designing and building a religious house of the people that will adapt to our needs for generations to come!

One of the most prestigious architectural scholars, Kenneth Frampton, chose our building as a Current and Significant Building in America (from Mexico to Canada!), which was presented by our architects, Brigitte Shim and Howard Sutcliffe, at The Columbia University Symposium for American Architecture.

Our building complex was also selected as one of the most significant modern institutional projects built in Maine over the past 50 years. Bet Ha'am is one of four institutional buildings to receive this recognition.

And, most recently, a design jury for the international magazine, *Faith and Form*, and the Interfaith Forum on Religion, Art and Architecture at Duke University awarded our building Merit Distinction for Religious Architecture. The awards will be published in November 2011. You can view past winners at the magazine's website:

<http://www.faithnform.com/awards/index.php>



## Welcome New Members

- Joshua & Rebecca Hoffman Frances
- John Anton & Rena Schwalberg
- Jeremy Stein & Lindsay Cadwallader
- Andrew Abrams & Priya Natarajan
- Chris & Erin Koepf

Welcome back:

- Samantha & Harold Johnson
- Lee Jacobson & Cory Kuhl
- David Ray & Margaret Carver

## Mazel Tov

We Welcome Our Newest Member

Samuel Morris Scott

son of Rebecca Hoffman Frances &  
Joshua Frances

## Rabbi Transition Update

Thanks to our dedicated staff, a hardworking crew of volunteers, and Rabbi Saks's good nature, the transition to our new rabbinic leadership has been delightful and easy.

By the time you read this, Rabbi Saks will have met and had conversations with close to 200 congregants at neighborhood meetings this summer. Thank you to all of our hosts and to everyone who joined us for introductions, study and socializing! Rabbi Saks has used the information cards that people filled out to make flashcards for each of us. He is learning our names and about the skills and interests we each have. The process of sharing this information helps us to strengthen our community.

Rabbi Saks is also already working with *b'nai mitzvah* families, learning our *minhag* and melodies, providing a supportive presence in the office, and providing pastoral care for our members in need.

**We are planning a formal installation of our new rabbi including celebrations during the weekend of November 18-20.** Rabbi Joel Soffin plans to join us for the festivities and some special programming. Please save the date and be on the lookout for further information!



## 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**

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

- To welcome Rabbi Saks & Kirk Boettcher to Bet Ha'am by Laura Kittle & Jeremy Moser
- Wishing the best to Rabbi Saks & Kirk Boettcher at Bet Ha'am by Jill & Robert Edelstein
- Wishing the best to Rabbi Saks & Kirk Boettcher at Bet Ha'am by James & Nancy Proman
- In honor of Rabbi Saks in his new position by Jay & Joan Binder
- With a warm welcome and in appreciation for Rabbi Saks by Russ & Lisa Pierce
- In honor of Rabbi Saks by Heidi & Ken Farber

##### **Sandmel Education Fund**

- In honor of Matthew Fishbein becoming Bar Mitzvah by Jill & Michael Epstein

##### **Youth Fund**

- In honor of Vera Noiles Gardner becoming Bat Mitzvah by Jim & Karen Harris
- In honor of Sam Carignan becoming Bar Mitzvah by Jeremy Moser & Laura Kittle
- In honor of Maya Kosak becoming Bat Mitzvah by Jeremy Moser & Laura Kittle

##### **Capital Campaign**

- In memory of Marcia & Max Abramson by Beatrice Rheame
- In appreciation of Jane Snerson, Eileen Kalikow and Ben Grant for their support by Doug & Ann Kaplan
- In honor of Sharon & Perry Newman for sharing their music by Heidi & Ken Farber

##### **General Fund**

- In appreciation of Rabbi Seicol and Orly Biggie for preparing the confirmation class of 2011 by the Ravin family
- In honor of Ben Grant on his birthday by Laeh K. Grant
- In love and honor of Doug Kaplan and Ben Grant by Deb & Joe Bornstein
- In honor of Sharon & Perry Newman for sharing their love of music by Nancy & Ken Levinsky
- In appreciation by Anne Babineau
- In appreciation of services by Dr. Rich Levy

##### **Religious School Library Fund**

- In memory of Faith Moritz's grandmother by Olivia Solodar

### ***Zecher T'zaddik L'vrachah***

- Condolences to Miriam & Yehonatan Schloss on the loss of Miriam's mother, Jaffe Hermosa
- Condolences to the Zeitlin family on the loss of Paula's grandmother, Lillian Silverman
- Condolences to Karen Silverman on the loss of her stepmother, Ruth Silverman
- Condolences to Faith Moritz and Janet Jones on the loss of Faith's grandmother, Pearl Karpas
- Condolences to Warren & Mara Robinov-Moorhead on the loss of her father, Jerry Robinov
- Condolences to Mark & Sherri Carignan on the loss of Mark's father, James Carignan

# SEPTEMBER 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6 Melton Class 9:30 AM	7 Teacher Workshop 7:00 PM	8 Neighborhood Meeting, Portland 7:00 PM	9 Family <i>Kabbalat Shabbat</i> Service 6:30 PM	10 Torah Study 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM Bat Mitzvah Lanie Kropp
11 Board Retreat 9:30 AM-3:30 PM SPORTY 4:00 PM	12	13 Melton Class 9:30 AM	14 Adult Education Class <i>Tishrei</i> Holidays 7:00 PM	15 JCA Cookoff 5:30 PM	16 <i>Kabbalat Shabbat</i> Service 7:30 PM	17 Torah Study 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM
18 First Day of Religious School 9:00 AM-12:00 PM 5:00 PM-7:30 PM 1st Grade parent meeting 9:30 AM 4th Grade parent meeting 11:30 AM	19	20 Melton Class 9:30 AM  Board of Trustees 6:30 PM	21 Medicare Seminar with Bob Goldman 12:00-2:00 PM and 6:00-8:00 PM  Adult Education Class <i>Tishrei</i> Holidays 7:00 PM	22 Wayside Food Program at Woodfords' Congregational Church 5:00 PM	23 <i>Kabbalat Shabbat</i> Service 7:30 PM  Deadline for Additions to <i>Yom Kippur</i> Booklet	24 Torah Study 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM <i>Selichot</i> Service 7:30 PM
25 Religious School  <i>Shalom Yeladim</i> 11:00 AM 2nd Grade parent meeting 9:30 AM 5th Grade parent meeting 11:30 AM	26	27 Melton Class 9:30 AM	28 <i>Erev Rosh Hashanah</i> 8:00 PM	29 <i>Rosh Hashanah</i> Children's Service 8:30 AM Torah Study 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM	30 <i>Kabbalat Shabbat</i> Service 7:30 PM	