

**IN MARCH AND APRIL**

- 3/1, 15, 29, 4/5 – Kids Kehillah
- 3/6, 13, 20, 27 – Jewish Youth Chorus
- 3/7 – USY Shabbat “Friend Raiser” Dinner
- 3/8, 21, 4/5, 13 – Kol Yeladim
- 3/9 – Shalach Manot orders due
- 3/12, 4/9, 11, 18, 26, 27 – Sr. USY events
- 3/14-16 – New England Regional Senior USY Weekend
- 3/16 – Congregational Meeting
- 3/20 – Megillah Reading, Queen Esther Karaoke Party
- 3/27, 4/24 – Wayside Soup Kitchen
- 4/6 – Jr. USY Skating Party
- 4/19-27 – Passover



*“All people, in every generation, must regard themselves as having been personally freed from Egypt.”*

—Haggadah

**CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF CHANGE**

I have always been envious of a friend of mine who seemed not to be disturbed by change and uncertainty. In fact, she seemed to thrive on it. All things new were opportunities to her. Travel opened doors, moving meant new friends and new interests, ambiguity meant exploration. I always admired her optimism and enthusiasm. Her glass was always “half full” and she seemed to exude an invigorating energy almost all of the time. I, on the other hand, am a person who knows that change can be wonderful and uncertainty an opportunity, but who needs to work a little harder than my friend to embrace it.

Over the past few years, our office and our synagogue have faced changes and uncertainty. Avis and I were just laughing about this the other day when we recalled the year — one of our colder winters — when the staff was in the trailer while the building was under construction. Although we all looked forward to the new offices and equipment, the thought of our beloved — warm — offices, filled with the things we knew so well made the construction even harder for a while. And the move into the trailer was worse knowing that the warmest restroom was at the Center for Assisted Living across the street! Moving from our 50-year-old offices into a trailer and back into a new office seemed impossible and frustrating — but we knew there would be a beautiful building on the other end.

The personnel changes we have experienced over the past few years initially, were not as certain as new construction. They too were uncomfortable and challenging, yet Liz, Jodi and Stacey have been fabulous new additions to our

Temple family. Over the past several years, our congregation has welcomed many new members. And while we love and embrace our new families, some of our long time members have told me how sad they are when they don’t see familiar faces, or hear the familiar melodies

R A B B I  
**CAROLYN BRAUN**

of their childhood or young adulthood. Some changes are easy and exciting, and others, while they open us for new possibilities, seem more challenging.

Avis’ notice that she will not be our Education Director past the end of her present contract, brings us to another moment of change. I want to be like my friend — full of excitement for Avis and for us. I want to take this opportunity to think creatively, and to take the lessons Avis has given us and then build upon them. While I am loath to say good-bye to her, I want to look forward to what God sends our way and what we see as fabulous possibilities for our community. I want to feel confident that our next step will be filled with exciting energy. It is hard to hold onto two opposing feelings — in some ways wanting things to stay the same, while wanting to be awash with the excitement of something new. But it is possible. I suppose that is one theme of Judaism: retaining and renewing at the same time.

We are blessed to have Avis on our staff as the Education Director for the next few months. May they be wonderful months, and may we together follow her strength with more strength.

—Rabbi Braun

## TEMPLE BETH EL

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

www.templebethel-maine.org

Rabbi . . . . .Carolyn Braun  
Education Director . . . . .Avis Smith  
Executive Director . . . . .Liz Rose-Cohen  
Rabbi's Assistant . . . . .Jodi Veysey  
Bookkeeper . . . . .Stacey Herwitz  
Facilities Manager . . . . .Bob Bradbury  
Rabbi Emeritus . . . . .Harry Z. Sky, D.D.  
Cantor Emeritus . . . . .Kurt Messerschmidt  
Senior USY Advisor . . . . .Rebecca Canter  
Junior USY Advisor . . . . .Jackie Soley  
Kadima Advisors . . . . .Natalie Ladd and Steven Berg

### Officers

President . . . . .Rick Finberg  
Vice President . . . . .Judy Gatchell  
Vice President . . . . .Paul Muscat  
Treasurer . . . . .Linda Jacobs  
Assistant Treasurer . . . . .Jon Brier  
Secretary . . . . .Rachelle Mack

### Executive Committee

Jon Brier, Rick Finberg, Judy Gatchell,  
Linda Jacobs, Rachelle Mack, Paul Muscat  
Immediate Past President: Judy Wilson  
At large: Ellie Miller, Elaine Rosen,  
Stephen Schwartz  
Ex officio: Rabbi Carolyn Braun,  
Liz Rose-Cohen

### Temple Beth El Board of Directors

Steve Alberg	Rachelle Mack
Joan Barkin	Benjamin Marcus
Tom Berman	Ellie Miller
Anita Bernhardt	Paul Muscat
Jon Brier	Sam Novick
Hedy Cohen	Geoffrey Rice
Barbara Dichter	Elaine Rosen
Gil Dichter	Shirley Rosen
Rick Finberg	Bruce Ruben
Jonathan Freedman	Stephen Schwartz
Tom Froncek	Andrew Shur
Gregg Garson	Ken Silver
Judy Gatchell	Olivia Solodar
Linda Jacobs	Virginia Squires-Eklund
Debbie Kanter	Patty Weber
Phil Levinsky	Judy Wilson
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

## SPRING AHEAD!

Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead at 2 AM Sunday, March 9, for Daylight Savings Time.

## CLOSURES

The Temple Beth El office will be closed on Monday, April 21.

The Temple Beth El Hebrew School will be closed on Sunday, April 20; Wednesday, April 23; and Sunday, April 27.

## TBE PURIM FESTIVITIES

**Shalach Manot Project:** Let TBE members know you are thinking of them by ordering a Shalach Manot basket. Orders due by March 9. See page 7 for details.

**Queen Esther's Karaoke Party:** Bring your voice! Wear your costume! And get ready to stamp out Haman's dreaded name! Join us for Purim, Thursday, March 20, 6:30 PM. Refreshments will be served.



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.

# TALENT, TRIALS AND TU B'SHVAT BRIGHTEN UP THE WINTER

**O**n January 27, students from kindergarten through high school wowed the crowd (a little small because of the snow) in our mid-winter Hebrew School talent show, chaired by Nancy Levinsky and implemented with the help of the entire teaching staff. From vocalists, saxophonists and pianists to rope-jumpers and hula-hoopers, it was a varied and ruach-filled afternoon. Thanks to all those who participated and those who came to enjoy the entertainment, despite the weather. Our thanks also to Mister Bagel on Forest Avenue for providing refreshments and to Joan Levy and Debbie Barlock for helping to set up.

Meanwhile, back in the Hebrew School classrooms:

**From Morah Nancy:** K and 1 had great fun celebrating Tu B'Shevat. We explored the importance of trees. We talked about saving our earth, learned the Hebrew word for "tree" and even painted with tree parts. Can you imagine how fun it might be to use pinecones, leaves, pine needles or sticks as paint brushes? Try rolling a pine cone in some paint and then roll it on to paper. Makes a great collage!

**From Morah Debbie:** Kitah Bet students are working on the 8th chapter in their Hebrew books. They have learned many letters, vowels and Hebrew vocabulary words. For Tu B'Shvat the children created two wonderful murals and generated a long list of things trees give us. They also tasted many kinds of fresh and dried fruits.

**From Morah Lisa:** The 3rd grade is busy learning the Aleinu and practicing other tefillot. The students have finished their Hebrew review books and are now well on their way into the next book. The 3rd grade and the 4th grade classes

met together for a Tu B'Shvat seder. Everyone had the opportunity to discuss and taste the fruits from the seven species of Israel.

**From Morah Judi:** The 7th grade just presented their mock jury trial of the neighbors of Kitty Genovese. The neighbors were being tried in the "court of moral responsibility" and were accused of not doing anything to assist their fellow neigh-


EDUCATION DIRECTOR  
AVIS SMITH

bor, Kitty, during an attack on her which they witnessed. The attack ended in her

death. Based on an actual case history, the class was divided into Prosecution and Defense teams. Witnesses were called and the neighbors were tried by a jury of their peers (the 6th grade), who found the neighbors guilty of contributing to the young woman's death by doing nothing. The class spent many hours researching all aspects of the case and valuable lessons were

learned regarding our responsibility to our fellow human beings.

Many of our sixth and seventh graders met on January 26 for the B'nai Mitzvah Family Shabbaton, "walking" through the service in the morning in a learner's minyan, and then discussing the many aspects of the meaning of bar/t mitzvah in separate sessions — parents with the Rabbi and the kids with me. The remaining class sessions finished in February with each family creating a tallit.

We are looking forward to celebrating Purim with the congregation on Thursday evening, March 20 at the Megillah reading. Costumes encouraged! 

From vocalists, saxophonists and pianists to rope-jumpers and hula-hoopers, it was a varied and ruach-filled afternoon.

## ANNIVERSARIES

### MARCH 2008

- 17 Steve and Peggy Shapiro (45 years)
- 20 Thomas and Marjorie Berman
- 21 Marc Daniels and Lynne Eldridge
- 21 Rob and Annette Elowitch
- 21 Oscar and Gussy Gottschalk (73 years)
- 23 Larry and Lisa Plotkin (35 years)
- 24 Stan and Doris Pollack
- 25 Mark and Shelley Chorney
- 26 Brewster and Muriel Branz (58 years)
- 27 Joe and Becky DeLois
- 27 Fred and Ruth Miller
- 31 Andrea AskenDunn and Michael Dunn

### APRIL 2008

- 4 Jeffrey and Tamara Schwartz (10 years)
- 4 Peter and Barbara Shaw
- 6 Kurt and Sonja Messerschmidt (64 years)
- 13 William and Nancy Troubh
- 16 Tom and Ellen Froncek
- 16 David and Barbara Turitz
- 19 Jack and Carol Simensky
- 24 Scott and Alise Koocher (25 years)
- 24 Ira Shapiro and Barbara Carlin (25 years)
- 25 Elliot and Linda Levine
- 28 Joe and June Rubin

## IN OUR TBE FAMILY

### We mourn the passing of:

Al Goldman, Temple Beth El's first cantor, on January 7.

Dorothy Potter, founding member, on February 2.

Morris Lerman, father of Alan Lerman, grandfather of Larry Brown, Justin & Brandon Lerman, and great-grandfather of Jessica & Max Brown, on February 4, in Florida.

Milton Silverman, uncle of Adele Aronson and Elaine Lewis, on February 6.



Thanks to the following individuals:

- Nancy Levinsky for organizing the Hebrew School Talent Show.
- Tom & Ellen Froncek for sponsoring a kiddush in February.
- Leslie Abrahams for baking a number of delicious goodies in preparation for Rabbi Ayalon's Shabbat visit.
- Debbie Barlock, Clara Purinton, Pat Reef, the Hindall Family, and the Rose-Cohen family for their help stuffing and labeling.
- To John Barlock for his work updating the Temple website every week, and Tom Berman for his ever present technology support.
- The Portland West Service Works crew for their help clearing snow.
- Pat Reef for her donation of *The Jewish Americans* (book and DVD) to the TBE library, in memory of her parents.

## A BIG THANK YOU TO AVIS SMITH

**A**s many of you know, Avis Smith, our Education Director, has informed us of a personal decision to leave her position on June 30, 2008, when her present contract ends. I want to make use of my column in this issue of the *Shofar* to recognize the contributions of Avis and re-publish the letter that was mailed to Congregants a little more than a month ago.

Avis started her career at Temple Beth El in 1987, as a part time teacher at the Portland Community Hebrew School. Over the years, Avis, a respected and gifted teacher, agreed to assume more responsibility for Jewish education at Temple Beth El, becoming Education

Director in 1997. In this position, Avis has overseen our successful Hebrew School and Hebrew High School programs as well as our B'nai Mitzvah program. She has also provided invaluable

PRESIDENT  
RICK FINBERG

support to the Adult Jewish Learning Committee, davens from time to time for our Congregation, and often serves, in many respects, as our liaison to other educational programs of other religious organizations. Avis often provides these other programs with tours of Temple Beth El and an informative and interesting tutorial on what it means to be a Jew.

Avis's work at Temple Beth El was and is fueled by her love for and lifelong loyalty to our synagogue and by her passion for Judaism and making quality Jewish education available for her students of all ages. We hope to be able to properly recognize her wonderful work at Temple Beth El at a function later this year. We wish Avis the best and hope that the next chapter in her life brings much joy and fulfillment.

As we have communicated over the last several months, our Reconfiguration Committee is developing a recommendation as to the best way to configure our professional staff to meet the needs of our congregants within our financial abilities. That Committee remains on schedule to complete its work later this spring. Avis has already provided valuable input to the

see **Thank You** page 8

### ■ Congregational Meeting

Please join us for a Congregational Meeting, Sunday Morning, March 16, at 9:15 in the Social Hall. The meeting will feature reports from:

- Anita Bernhardt: TBE Survey & Focus Group Findings
- Ellie Miller: Reconfiguration Committee Report
- Rabbi Carolyn Braun & President Rick Finberg: Remarks from the Leadership

**Note:** The Morning Service begins at 8:30 on Sundays. All are welcome to attend prior to the Meeting. Refreshments will be served.

**MICHAEL A. JACOBSON**  
BROKER

**KRE** KING  
REAL  
ESTATE

46 Depot Road  
Falmouth, Maine 04105

*Serving Greater  
Portland and  
Southern Maine  
Since 1985*

- Residential
- Commercial
- Investment Properties



For all your Real Estate needs  
**207-781-2958 x11**

jacobson@maine.rr.com  
www.kingrealestate.com

# UPDATE FROM THE RECONFIGURATION COMMITTEE

by Ellie Miller, Chair


Over the summer, this new Committee was formed to focus on the current roles of our professionals and to determine how best to meet the needs and priorities of Beth El members as the professional team is reconfigured. The Committee came into existence following the end of Cantor Ross's tenure at TBE when it became clear that the synagogue would no longer be able to afford to employ three full time religious and educational professionals: a Rabbi, a Cantor, and an Educational Director. Our goal was to determine how a new configuration could be developed that would serve the multitude of congregational needs while being fiscally responsible and having realistic expectations of the professionals who serve us.

A Committee drawn from a broad range of Temple members has been meeting since the fall to gather information and develop recommendations for presentation to the Board later in the spring. Members include current committee chairs, past presidents, Board members and those new to Temple committee service. The following are the members of the Reconfiguration Committee: Hedy Cohen, Norma Filler, Melissa Finberg, Judy Gatchell, Joy Krinsky, Robert Levine, David Miller,

Sam Novick, Dan Skwire, Olivia Solodar, Norman Wilson, and Ellie Miller, chair.

Since the fall, we have met with Rabbi Braun, Avis Smith, Anita Bernhardt, Treasurer Linda Jacobs and Assistant Treasurer John Brier, all of whom have helped us review congregational input provided through surveys and meetings. We also reviewed data from the Alban process. We have been guided to a better understanding of the educational needs of our families by our Hebrew School Committee's participation. We have reached out to talk with other congregations about their structure and have asked for information from the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.

Rabbi Braun helped us focus our initial discussion and once we refine the list we are developing of essential functions, she will again join us to help shape the recommendation we will be presenting to the Board.

As often happens when a new group forms, old ideas are looked at in new ways, and new ideas are expressed and developed. The process is helping all of us to focus both on members' needs and essential synagogue functions. We are all fully engaged in this important process and look forward to discussing our recommendations later in the spring. 

## You are invited: Catch a Movie! Make the Omer Count! Celebrate Israel's 60th Birthday!

by Thomas Froncek

■ A World Premier sponsored by TBE! On April 3, join Temple Beth El and the Adult Jewish Education Committee as we host a **World Premier at the Maine Jewish Film Festival**. *At Home in Utopia* is a must-see documentary that tells the fascinating story of the United Workers Cooperative Colony: co-op apartments built in the Bronx in the 1920s by visionary Jewish garment workers seeking to escape the tenebrous life of the Lower East Side. The movie's director will be on hand after the screening to discuss the film.

■ **Make the Omer Count!** During the 49 days between Passover and Shavuot it is traditional to mark each day with a special blessing. The Adult Jewish Learning Committee will help us learn more about the meaning and practice of this ancient custom through special programs. Details to follow.

■ Join us as we celebrate **Israel's 60th Birthday** over the weekend of May 2-4. We will begin with an Israeli dinner at 5:30 PM on Friday evening, May 2, co-sponsored by the Adult Jewish Learning Committee and the Hebrew School Committee. Services will follow at 7:30, and will include a talk by our own scholar in residence, Dr. Sanford Freedman, who will explore the birth of the dream of an Israeli homeland as envisioned by Theodore Herzl.

■ On Sunday afternoon, May 4, our **Salute to Israel** continues with a presentation on the history of modern Jerusalem by Dr. Stephanie Gerber Wilson, Assistant Director of Israel Program at Brandeis University.

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

COLOR IMAGERS  
PRINTERS  
COPIERS  
FAXES  
DIGITAL  
CORPORATE  
SMALL OFFICE  
NETWORKABLE  
AFFORDABLE

**IT'S ATTITUDE.** After all, there's a lot of good equipment out there. So we go the extra mile [or two] to make sure you get what you need at the right price. Choose from a universe of copiers, faxes and digital imagers from Sharp and Canon, two of the leading innovators in electronic imaging. And we'll make your decision look better than you could have imagined.

**ubiq**


*Better than you could have imagined.*

**SHARP**  
so sharp  
**Canon**

UBIQ IMAGING SOLUTIONS  
Westbrook, Maine  
800.314.2638  
www.ubiqimaging.com



# 5768 ANNUAL APPEAL A SUCCESS

Thank you to all who contributed to this year's Annual Appeal. To date we have raised \$27,264, which soundly covers the building projects undertaken last summer and begins to build a reserve for the many items still on the House Committee's list. The success of this year's campaign lies in the breadth of the donors, with 120 families contributing at a wide variety of levels. Thank you to Paul Muscat who has developed such a sound campaign over the last three years; Temple Beth El is a stronger community as a result of his leadership... *and can he tell a good joke!* 

Ruth Abramson  
Steven and Patrice Adler  
Steve Alberg  
Adam and Lisa Arens  
Shannon and Gary Auritt  
Joan and Jeffrey Barkin  
Sam and Deb Barouch  
Abraham Benjamin  
Thomas and Marjorie Berman  
Dauna Binder  
Stephen and Francine Blattner  
Ronald and Gaye Blumenthal  
David and Nancy Brenerman  
Sharon Bresler  
Gerri and Peter Bridgman  
Jonathan and Amy Brier  
Rose Brinn  
Gerald and Mary Carp  
Joseph and Marjorie Chandler  
Esther Chorney  
Mihai and Nora Ciffer  
Michael and Hedy Cohen  
Mark and Maybelle Crasnick  
Gilbert and Barbara Dichter  
Mildred Drees  
Daniel and Phyllis Dunitz  
Wayne Eklund and Virginia Squires-  
Eklund  
Fredric and Karen Farber  
Frederick Finberg  
Nancy Finberg  
Ann Fleischer and Albert Lefebvre  
Jonathan and Jodi Freedman  
Thomas and Ellen Froncek  
Patricia and Gregg Garson  
Judythe and Daniel Gatchell  
Jerome Gillis  
Bernard and Phyllis Givertz  
Harris Gleckman and Dr. Riva Krut  
David and Amy Goldberg  
Esther Goldberg

Joseph and Hilary Goodman  
James and Marjorie Goodman  
George and Bobbie Gordon  
Oscar and Gussy Gottschalk  
Jonathan and Ellen Handelman  
Bernice Heifetz  
Marc and Stacey Herwitz  
Karen and Geoff Hindall  
Rebecca and Jeffrey Howes  
Craig and Suzanne Hurwitz  
Helen Isenman and Susan Isenman  
Linda Jacobs and Joseph Manning  
Ronald and Ruth Jacobs  
Michael and Linda Jacobson  
Ronald and Constance Jacobson  
Alvin Jolovitz  
Richard and Sandy Kahn  
Eileen Kalikow  
Larry and Wendy Kane  
Debra Kanter  
Shirley Kazon  
James and Bonnie Klein  
Phyllis Klein  
Ethel Koocher  
Leonard and Anne Kovit  
Joy Krinsky and David Kemmerer  
Natalie Ladd  
Stephen and Cynthia Lerman  
Robert Levine and Vilean Taggersell  
Shirley Levine  
Philip and Elizabeth Levinsky  
Lawrence and Joan Levy  
David and Elaine Lewis  
Rachelle Mack and Armand Lucier  
Steven Maier  
Jerold and Rafela Malina  
Benjamin Marcus and Anita Bernhardt  
Cantor and Mrs. Kurt Messerschmidt  
Charles and Ellie Miller  
David Miller and Veronica Dudar  
Ivan and Susan Most

Sylvia Most and Alan Cardinal  
Audrey and Erwin Muscat  
Paul and Sarah Muscat  
Samuel and Bette Novick  
Camilla Polisner  
Stanley and Doris Pollack  
Eleanor Potter  
Miriam Remar  
Carl and Recia Richman  
Michele and Ed Riley  
Gerald and Jackie Robinov  
Murray and Shirley Rosen  
Elaine Rosen  
Bruce and Ellen Ruben  
Barry and Lori Saltz  
Susan Samberg  
Leonard Sanborn  
Frederic and Arlene Schwartz  
Jeffrey and Tamara Schwartz  
Stephen and Susan Schwartz  
Irvin Shapell  
Stephen and Peggy Shapiro  
Edward and Charlotte Shible  
Andrew and Kim Shur  
Harvey and Kathleen Silverman  
George and Ruthanne Singal  
Rabbi Harry Sky  
Jerry Slivka  
Olivia Solodar and Elliott Wincele  
Sidney and Susan Steinkeler  
Jeanne Tinkle  
Susan and Paul Trusiani  
Carolyn Turcio-Gilman and John Riley  
Ross and Patrice Weber  
Joseph and Rhoda Wildstein  
Rita Willis  
Norman and Judy Wilson  
Charlie Young  
Zelda Zack

# MAZEL TOV TO POST B'NAI MITZVAH TORAH READERS!

At Shabbat Services on February 9th we were treated to many post B'nai Mitzvah readers chanting Torah and Haftarah. Mazel Tov to our Torah readers Zach Hindall, Sorrel Dunn, Ariana Solodar-Wincele and Alyssa Ladd as well as Carly Ladd who was called to the Torah for an Aliyah. Yasher Koach to


Reanna Herwitz for beautifully chanting Haftarah. And of course, Pat Reef, the most recent Bat Mitzvah had her ceremony 5 days before, once again reading Torah for the congregation. We will hear from more post B'nai Mitzvah students on May 3. Please join us on Shabbat morning at 9:30.

## SENIOR USY

Hey Senior USY...Just wanted to let you know what is going on during March and April: March 7th is our annual friend-raiser dinner. The dinner will start at 5:30 with a Middle Eastern/Israeli theme to it. On March 12 there will be a USY Meeting/ and lounge night. In April we look forward to our monthly meeting/lounge night, Cedars, Carbs/Shabbat Dinner and Galaxy Bowling. Hope to see you there. Any questions feel free to contact Rebecca at rcanter@maine.rr.com. 

## Kids Kehillah

### Dates:


March 1 – Kindergarten/1st grade leading  
March 15 – 4th grade leading  
March 29 – 5th grade leading  
April 5 – 3rd grade leading  
May 3 – 6th grade leading  
May 17 – Kindergarten/1st grade/2nd grade leading  
May 31 – 4th grade leading  
Please join us! 

## Trustees of Norman M. Finberg Scholarship Fund Accepting Applications for 2008 Awards

by Rick Finberg

The Trustees of the Norman M. Finberg Scholarship Fund are now accepting applications for additional 2008 Awards. The Scholarship Fund, created in 1972 in memory of Norman "Buddy" Finberg, was established to encourage the future leaders of our Jewish Community, our Jewish youth, to strengthen their Jewish identity and their bond with the State of Israel. The Fund is an important resource for any high school student affiliated with Temple Beth El or TBE USY who wants to participate in educational travel in Israel or in other Jewish educational programs. The Fund has helped more than thirty students participate in a number of wonderful programs including United Synagogue Youth's summer programs in

Israel, and the United States.

The Trustees encourage interested students to begin gathering information for 2008 summer programs. The Trustees are accepting applications until April 15, 2008. Applicants must submit a letter of application to Rick Finberg, The Bennett Law Firm, P.A., P.O. Box 7799, Portland, Maine 04112. The application should include a summary of the student's participation in USY, Temple Beth El and other extra-curricular activities. The applicant should also include a description of the program the applicant plans to attend and the cost of such program. If you would like additional information about the Award, please call Rick Finberg at 773-4775. 

## Ilana Freedman Awarded Norman M. Finberg Scholarship

by Rick Finberg

The Trustees of the Norman M. Finberg Scholarship are pleased to announce that they have awarded a scholarship to Ilana Freedman to help defray the cost of her attending an exciting high school program in Israel this semester. Ilana will participate in Tichon, Ramah, Yerushalayim (TRY).

TRY is run by Ramah, an organization affiliated with Conservative Judaism. Ramah also operates summer camps throughout the United States and operates other Jewish programs for teenagers. TRY is an accredited high school program based outside of Jerusalem. During her four months in Israel, Ilana will be able to take her required high school classes, AP exams and SAT exams. In addition to her traditional course work, Ilana will participate in an intensive Hebrew language program and will have an opportunity to travel throughout Israel with her classmates.

Ilana is a junior at Edward Little High School in Auburn and actively participates in programs at Temple Beth El. She is a student of the Community Hebrew High School program, and prior to leaving for Israel, she was a teacher's aide in the Hebrew School's seventh grade class. We know that Ilana will have a wonderful experience in Israel. Ilana plans to share her experiences with other Hebrew High Schoolers, USY'ers, and Hebrew School students upon her return. Ilana has also agreed to give a talk to the Congregation about her experience at a Friday night service this fall.

## Passover At Temple Beth El

### Service & Fast of the First Born:

**Thursday, April 17 at 6:50 AM.** In remembrance of the first born who were killed in the final plague, it is customary for first born to fast from sun up until they participate in the completion of the study of a holy text. We will break the fast together with a breakfast following the service.

### Pesach (Passover) Services:

Sunday, April 20 from 9:30 AM to 12:00 NOON

Monday, April 21 from 9:30 AM to 12:00 NOON

Saturday, April 26 from 9:30 AM to 12:00 NOON

Sunday, April 27 from 9:30 AM to 12:00 NOON, Yizkor.

## PORTLAND CHEVRA KADISHA

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



JEWISH FUNERAL HOME  
PreArrangement Counseling

471 Deering Avenue  
Portland, ME 04103  
207 • 774 • 3733

## TIKKUN OLAM FAIR A SUCCESS

### RESOURCES AVAILABLE IN OFFICE; HOLIDAY COLLECTIONS APPRECIATED

by Barbara Peisner


The Tikkun Olam Fair, held the first weekend of November, was a great success. Representatives from sixteen 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 to top it off, a fabulous lunch was served! This event also served to launch an information-gathering project for our committee. We are putting together binders, which are available for perusal in the office, with information about organizations and volunteer opportunities. Another binder is available with ideas for B'nai Mitzvah Tikkun Olam projects, with forms filled out by our own students describing their projects, as well as other information and ideas. Thank you to Tikkun Olam Committee members for your hard work in putting this event together: Rena Becker, Sarah and Paul Muscat, Harlan Baker, Eydie Pryzant, Matthew Goldfarb, Margo Mallar, Sharon Bresler, Susie Schwartz, Craig Hurwitz, and chair, Barbara Peisner.

Shaw's is now supporting Project FEED through collecting Shaw's receipts and returning a portion of the total spent at Shaw's to this worthwhile program. Please bring your Shaw's receipts to the Temple and place in the box on the table in the foyer. or you can send

them directly to Project FEED at Woodfords Congregational Church, 202 Woodfords St., Portland, ME 04103.

Preble Street Resource Center has been very appreciative of the items we have been collecting for them. So many of you have responded, and we'd like to keep the momentum going. We are continuing to collect food and personal care items for the Preble Street Resource Center, as well as warm clothing, coats, hats, gloves, and socks in good condition. They have told us that they continue to run low on kitchen staples such as beans, rice, pasta and canned tomatoes, and have requested these items, for which they are deeply appreciative. Please bring in any of these food, toiletry, or clothing items and place them in the marked container.


The fourth Thursday of the month continues to be the evening, from 5 PM to 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 Harlan Baker at 772-9640, or just show up at the soup kitchen on the 4th Thursday of the month.

The Tikkun Olam Committee meets Sunday mornings approximately monthly, and we welcome new members. Please call Barbara Peisner at 797-6651 if you'd like more information or send an e-mail to [bpeisne1@maine.rr.com](mailto:bpeisne1@maine.rr.com) or just show up at a meeting...we'd love to have you join us! 

---

### Thank You *continued from page 4*

Committee, which will certainly inform its work. In the meantime, we will begin to develop an effective interim plan that will ensure that we have appropriate staff in place to continue our strong educational programs, including but certainly not limited to our Hebrew School and B'nai Mitzvah programs.

We will have more to report about our plans at our Congregational Meeting already scheduled to take place on Sunday, March 16, 2008, at 9:15 AM at Temple Beth El. Please join us at what we expect will be a very informative meeting. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. 



# CAJE Brings People Together

by Andrea Levinsky

It is not very often that I receive mail. It is even less often that I receive a letter. So, you can imagine the joy I felt today when I came home and found that I had received a letter from my friend, Tohar. Tohar isn't just any friend. She is my CAJE friend. As I read the letter I was as joyful as the bright orange paper to have heard from her.

I met Tohar this past summer at the CAJE (Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education) Conference. I went with my mom to the conference, which was in St. Louis, MO. Tohar and I were in Bogrim together, a program especially designed for 7th–9th graders. We were a group of about 15 students who participated in some of the sessions offered at the main conference, met with educators and performers, and spent time together as Jewish teens from all over the USA. Our homes ranged from California to New Mexico to Michigan to Maine. Some were children of clergy, some of the parents were presenters at the conference, and some of us, like me, were children of other conference attendees.

We first met in a small room with long white tables. I was a bit apprehensive at first, looking around and seeing that some kids already knew each other and I was one of the few 9th graders. I admit I was embarrassed when I realized that I was one of the only people with a red ribbon displaying that this was my first CAJE. I whispered to the girl next to me, "How many CAJE's have you been to?" "Only a few," she replied, "But that was when I was little so I don't remember them." I let out a sigh of relief. I wasn't the only person who had no ripe memories of CAJE. We got to talking and I found out that she was in 7th grade and from New York. I, being two years older, was worried that she would not want to befriend such an "elder." I'm so glad I was wrong!

Later that evening there was a kick-

off to the CAJE program with music and a speaker. The Bogrim were told to sit together. Not knowing another soul I sat next to the 7th grade girl from before. During the program we became friends incredibly fast. We discovered that we had so much in common. We both love musical theater! We had so much in common that I thought to myself, "Is she Jewish too?" Thinking about the number of anti-Semitic people in this world and how few Jews there are, I decided it would be best not to say anything. Then I realized, "Of course she's Jewish! I'm at a Jewish conference!" I told her what I had almost asked her. We laughed and all of my previous worries about our potential friendship vanished and we could not stop talking the entire night. I couldn't wait to see her the next day.

The next morning began 4 days full of learning, adventure, fun, and excitement. The only problem was that I could not remember my new friend's name. As hard as I tried, I could not make her name stick in my head. We spent from 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM together in Bogrim and even did some evening activities together, but I still could not remember her name! It finally stuck after we exchanged cell phone numbers. My mom and I spent a lot of time with Tohar and her parents. We ate meals together and on the last night we went to look at the St. Louis Arch together. It was hard to believe how close we had become in just 4 days.

Not only did CAJE bring Tohar and me together, it also brought me closer to others from Temple Beth El. By spending so much time with my mother, we became much closer and understand each other much better. Seeing a familiar face in a crowd of hundreds of "CAJE nicks" during mealtimes is quite a relief. I looked forward to telling Avis and Roger everything I had done that day and loved hearing about their adventures.

see CAJE page 11

## Welcome New Members

Rafael & Helen Blatt, Joseph, 6, and Aaron, 3, of Scarborough.

## Kiddush Sponsorship Program

Thank you to all those who have chosen to sponsor a kiddush this year. Since we formally began the program in July, we have had kiddush sponsors for 22 out of 31 Shabbats – a wonderful beginning! Members have chosen to sponsor a kiddush on the yahrzeit of a loved one, or to celebrate a birthday, wedding, conversion, anniversary, bar/t mitzvah, or the anniversary of a bar/t mitzvah.

We still have many kiddush sponsorship dates available in March and April. Please consider contacting the office to arrange a sponsorship in honor of an occasion important to your family. Friday night kiddush sponsorship levels are \$50 (covers 2 loaves of challah, cheese, crackers – or dessert following the 7:30 service – and a cold drink), and \$65 (covers the same with the addition of a fruit selection). Saturday's kiddush costs \$75 and includes a selection of gefilte fish, herring, a variety of snacks, and coffee.. As an alternative to these options, please consider using the Temple kitchen to prepare a kiddush yohiring one of the Temple approved caterers. Finally, thank you many times over to the Temple Beth El Sisterhood, which continues to nurture and nourish the TBE community by paying for all kiddushim not otherwise sponsored.

# DONATIONS TO TEMPLE FUNDS

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

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

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

### **Brotherhood**

Michael Kaplan, In Memory of Alice Serotick

Carla Marcus & Larry Mohr, In Memory of Douglas Schair

Pat Reef, In Memory of Sally & David Davidson

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

Abraham Benjamen, In Memory of Marty Stein

Bill Bennett, In Memory of Dianne Schwey Richman

Karen, Alan, Justin, & Brandon Lerman, In Memory of Isaiah Albair

Karen, Alan, Justin, & Brandon Lerman, In Memory of Marty Stein

Fred & Ruth Miller, In Memory of Nathan Tapper

Eddie Richman, In Memory of Dianne Schwey Richman

Mark & Jeffrey Richman, In Memory of Dianne Schwey Richman

Rita Weisberg, In Memory of Al Goldman

Abraham Benjamen, Speedy Recovery to Esther Goldberg

Karen, Alan, Justin, & Brandon Lerman, Speedy Recovery to Mary Carp

Karen, Alan, Justin, & Brandon Lerman, Speedy Recovery to Esther Goldberg

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

#### **Endowment**

#### **Eva Sacknoff Fund**

Cynthia Gould, In Memory of Eve & Ed Sacknoff

#### **General Fund**

Nancy Finberg, In Honor of Pat Reef's Bat Mitzvah

Miriam Remar, In Honor of Norm & Judy Wilson's new granddaughter, Ella Tal

Miriam Remar, In Honor of Norm & Judy Wilson's new grandson, Benjamin Eytan

Peter & Barbara Shaw, In Honor of Norm & Judy Wilson's new granddaughter, Ella Tal

Peter & Barbara Shaw, In Honor of Peggy & Steve Shapiro's new granddaughter

George & Ruthanne Singal, In Honor of Norm & Judy Wilson's new grandson, Benjamin Eytan

Susan & Paul Trusiani, In Honor of Matthew Goldfarb's Birthday

Susan & Paul Trusiani, In Honor of Pearl Levine's Birthday

Susan & Paul Trusiani, In Honor of Pat Reef's Bat Mitzvah

Linda Abromson, In Memory of Joel Abromson

Dave Astor, In Memory of Esta Astor

Dave Astor, In Memory of Abraham Venner

Libby Blotner, In Memory of Alfred Goldman

Mildred Drees, In Memory of Milton Israel Kaplan

Marjorie Feinberg, In Memory of Dr. David I. Brownstone

Jerry Gillis, In Memory of Barbara & Harry Gillis

Laurence & Wendy Kane, In Memory of Gertrude Kane

Gail Lerman, Marlene Cohen, & Leonard Nemon, In Memory of Arthur Joseph Nemon

Robert Levine & Vilean Taggersell, In Memory of Arthur B. Levine

Peter & Barbara Shaw, In Memory of Jack Berenson

Peter & Barbara Shaw, In Memory of Edward Ginsburg

Peter & Barbara Shaw, In Memory of David Shaw

Peter & Barbara Shaw, In Memory of Doris Shaw

Peter & Barbara Shaw, In Memory of Roberta Seals

Peter & Barbara Shaw, In Memory of Esther Wish

Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Sneider, In Memory of Alfred Goldman

David & Barbara Turitz, In Memory of Bella Turitz

David & Barbara Turitz, In Memory of Dora Turitz

Susan & Paul Trusiani, Speedy Recovery to Shirley Rosen

### **Hebrew School Fund**

Debbie, Josh, & Lauren Kanter, In Honor of Norm & Judy Wilson's new grandson, Benjamin Eytan

Roger & Avis Smith, In Honor of Karen Lerman's Birthday

Roger & Avis Smith, In Honor of Cantor Kurt Messerschmidt's Birthday

Roger & Avis Smith, In Honor of Bette Novick's Birthday

Debbie Kanter, In Memory of Zavil Levine

Robert, Aileen, Abe, & Elijah Tabachnick, In Memory of Mya Joan Tabachnick

### Jonas B. Klein Fund

David Weil, In Memory of Jonas B. Klein

### Kiddush Fund

### Kol Yeladim

### Koocher/Rovinov Hebrew School Scholarship Fund

### Kulanu Fund

Larry & Lisa Plotkin, In Honor of Pat Reef's Bat Mitzvah

Steve & Peggy Shapiro, In Honor of Pat Reef's Bat Mitzvah

Steve & Peggy Shapiro, In Honor of Liz & Lauren Rose-Cohen's adoption of Jonas

Steve & Peggy Shapiro, In Honor of Norm & Judy Wilson's new grandson, Benjamin Eytan

Esther Goldberg, In Memory of Abraham & Ann Morrison

Stephen & Lyndall Klein, In Memory of Maxine Young

Paul & Susan Korobkin, In Memory of Gertrude Moscowitz

Robert Levine & Vilean Taggersell, In Memory of Arthur B. Levine

Steve & Chichi Levine, In Memory of Maurice Levine

Steve & Chichi Levine, In Memory of Esther Wiener

Phil & Elizabeth Levinsky, In Memory of Al Goldman

David & Elaine Lewis, In Memory of Louis Weisberg

David & Elaine Lewis, In Memory of Rachel Weisberg Palais

Steve & Peggy Shapiro, In Memory of Isaiah Albair

Rita Willis, In Memory of Anna & Samuel Sacknoff

### Mary & Benjamin Lazarus Library Fund

### Memorial Park

Pearl Levine, In Memory of Samuel Kaufman

### Molly Finkelman Choir Fund

### Music Fund

### Norman Finberg USY Fund

### Prayer Book Fund

### Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Martin & Lenore Barr, In Memory of Ruth Salzberg

Robert Braun, In Memory of Gene Braun

Cathy Cohen, In Memory of Cuddy Cohen with thanks to TBE and Rabbi Braun

Oscar & Gussy Gottschalk, In Memory of Arthur H. Gottschalk

### Sisterhood

### Tikkun Olam

### Yad I'Yad

### Yahrzeit Fund

Alan & Gail Atkins, In Memory of Samuel Atkins

Barbara Berenson, In Memory of Nathan Berenson

Natalie Brenner, In Memory of Miriam Goldstein

Steven Brinn, In Memory of Katherin Brinn

Mihai & Nora Ciffer, In Memory of Ana Coman

Mihai & Nora Ciffer, In Memory of Avram Coman

Bill & Vera Clenott, In Memory of Anne Rosen

Dan & Phyllis Dunitz, In Memory of Jesse Dunitz

Robert & Ruth Finegold, In Memory of Henry Lucas

Anne Goldman, In Memory of Rose Hechtkop

Elliot & Linda Levine, In Memory of Maurice Levine

Phil & Elizabeth Levinsky, In Memory of Anna Chozick Weinstein

Phil & Elizabeth Levinsky, In Memory of Irving Zaitlin

Nancy Kaye, In Memory of Gertrude Kane

Murray Mack, In Memory of Philip Mack

Henni Polak, In Memory of Bernard-Burech Polak


Gilbert & Marilyn Prawer, In Memory of Sam & Iona Prawer

Arthur & Donna Silverman, In Memory of David Brownstone

*Donations listed were received at Temple Beth El by January 25, 2008.*

### CAJE continued from page 9

CAJE also brought me closer to my Judaism. What an incredible feeling it was to sit in the auditorium packed full of Jews and listen to Sam Glaser. It opened my eyes to a world I had never seen before that is quite common to many other people. It was a world full of Jewish people and some my age that I have not known since kindergarten!

I can't wait to go back to CAJE again next year. While Tohar and I may not be in the same group anymore, we will still get to see each other. For CAJE 2008 I will have shed my CAJE 1 ribbon and will become an official CAJE veteran. I truly believe that meeting Tohar at CAJE was a miracle because I know that our close friendship will continue for a long time. I would like to thank Sisterhood, Rabbi Braun, the JCA, and my parents from the bottom of my heart for helping to fund my trip. 

*Andrea Levinsky is a 9th grade student at Deering High School and the TBE Hebrew High School. Andrea is also a teacher's aide in the 4th grade at the TBE Hebrew School.*

# shofar

## Temple Beth El

400 Deering Avenue  
Portland, ME 04103



## Queen Esther's Karaoke Party

Queen Esther's Karaoke  
Party: Bring your voice!  
Wear your costume! And  
get ready to stamp out  
Haman's dreaded name!  
Join us for Purim,  
Thursday, March 20,  
6:30 PM. Refreshments  
will be served.

PRSRTR-STD  
U.S. Postage

Paid

Permit No. 1404  
Portland, ME

**Temple Beth El Wishes to thank Filler & Associates for sponsoring this Shofar**

## Filler & Associates, P.A.

Certified Public Accountants



At Filler & Associates, we offer the following services:

- Management consulting
- Tax planning for the small business entrepreneur
- New business start-ups - incorporate or not? S corporation or LLC?
- Business valuations
- Advice on buying or selling a business
- QuickBooks installation

The Staples School  
70 Center Street  
P.O. Box 4177  
Portland, Maine 04101-0377

Tel: (207) 772-0153  
Fax: (207) 761-4013  
Email address:  
[fillercpa@filler.com](mailto:fillercpa@filler.com)

**April E-Shofar Deadline: March 17. Shofar Deadlines** — May issue is March 28; June/July issue is April 28.

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