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THIS MONTH

- 11/5 – Kids Kehillah
- 11/12 – Alyssa Ladd Bat Mitzvah
- 11/12 – Kol Yeladim
- 11/19 – Kids Kehillah
- 11/24 – Volunteer at Wayside Soup Kitchen



*“I thank God for the privilege of living
at a time when I can travel to
Jerusalem, be nourished by her being
and drink from the cup of her dreams.”*

—Marlene Post
National President of Hadassah
(1996)

TOWARDS A MORE PLURALISTIC ISRAEL

The following is excerpted from Rabbi Braun’s sermon on Rosh Hashanah, Day 2, 2005-5766

Today, I want to speak of a *machloket l’shem shamayim* – a controversy that exists for heaven’s sake – in Israel: the wonderful, but uphill battle of the Conservative movement in a country where unaffiliated Jews comprise 80% of the Jewish population and joke that the synagogue they don’t attend is Orthodox.

When I lived in Jerusalem and attended Midreshet Yerushalayim, a yeshiva run by the Jewish Theological Seminary, I experienced plenty of discrimination. Some came externally, from Israelis who were distrustful of anything non-Orthodox, and some came internally, from my own movement, where women could not participate equally with men. In some ways, religiously, it was a very painful year. I wanted desperately to participate in the davening, or to be called up for an aliyah, or even to speak with my Israeli friends about my studies, but women could not participate and my Israeli friends would think that associating with a Jewish organization that was not Orthodox was wrong. When I stood at the Kotel, the Western Wall, it was quiet on my side – on the women’s side. But over on the other side, I could see and hear the different minyanim singing and dancing.

As Diaspora Jews, it is a challenge to know just how we might connect with Israel. In many ways, it is a foreign country to us. The language is different, the culture is unique – to say the least – the atmosphere is charged in a way that

we don’t experience here, and the landscape is exotic. In so many other ways, however, it ties us to our roots, connects us to our Holy texts and to our Judaism in ways we cannot anticipate. It holds the promise of some Jewish unity in a secular age, since both religious and secular Jews have a home there.

Today, I challenge you to think about

R A B B I
C A R O L Y N B R A U N

how we, as Liberal, Diaspora Jews can be part of the everyday life of Israel and be true to our own beliefs. I know that many of us are generous with our funds when asked to give to Israel. Do we know where that money is going? Is the organization supportive of your belief system? What can we do to create a homeland that will welcome us, too? How can we make changes respectfully, and meaningfully? This is our *machloket l’shem shamayim*, our challenge to the State of Israel: to become more pluralistic, and to open itself to different approaches to and different observances of Judaism, just as we, in the Diaspora have experienced.

As it stands now, the Chief Rabbis and the Rabbanut oversee all national religious issues. No Liberal, that is non-Orthodox, rabbi can be a member. Civil marriages and divorces do not exist. If I, or any other Conservative rabbi participates in a wedding ceremony, it has no legal or religious status. And even though the High Court ruled that those who have undergone even non-Orthodox conversion outside of Israel are entitled

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TEMPLE BETH EL

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Shofar

Joy E. Krinsky, Editor
shofared@maine.rr.com

“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

NOVEMBER CLOSURES

Temple Beth El will be closed Thursday, November 24, in observance of Thanksgiving.

There will be no Hebrew School Sunday, November 13, Wednesday, November 23, and Sunday, November 27.

TIKKUN OLAM — HELP REPAIR THE WORLD!

Volunteer at the Wayside Soup Kitchen with Bet Ha'am & Holy Trinity Church at the 252 Oxford St. location. Join us on Thursday, November 24 from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM.

What could be more meaningful than Thanksgiving night to volunteer! Temple Beth El is in need of a volunteer to coordinate our members in this most important project. If interested, please contact Ken Levinsky.



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



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

PREPARING THE FUTURE; PREPARING FUTURE LEADERS

The following remarks were delivered at Kol Nidre 2005.

L'Shana Tova. It is good to see you all.

I am again, and for one last time, going to enjoy the tradition of address-

P R E S I D E N T
E L A I N E R O S E N

ing you at this Kol Nidre service.

Tonight I would like to talk about three things:

- Two very important undertakings at our Temple;
- Our Temple as a community; and
- Future leadership of our Temple.

One of our most extensive undertakings over the last several years has been the Alban/Synagogue Visioning and Planning process.

It was frankly a long process, involving many people — with uncertain outcomes. It could have lost its way. It did not, thanks to the dedication of many.

We have had excellent results which will emerge over the next year in the areas of worship alternatives, governance and a new constitution to guide our Board, and the work of our Interfaith Families Task Force. Much has been undertaken, and accomplished, here.

Our Temple's financial stability is beyond critical. To this end I recently invited a group of members to my home to introduce a new "super dues program," something that has been successful in many shuls for years. I asked this group to become founding members of TBE Habonim (The Builders).

This founding group's three year financial commitments (over and above regular dues) we hope, joined by others, will help support our Temple's opera-

tions to ensure we keep our full spectrum of services.

And now, let me say a few words about our Temple as a community.

Jewish tradition has lasted more than 100 generations. Judaism has survived in the face of relentless persecution, despite the fact that we make up only .02% of the world's population and that we are scattered over the entire face of the earth.

Regardless of how much we might disagree on any given point, and no one has ever even remotely suggested that Jewish means unanimity of opinion, yet...

Being a Jew does mean that we share a profound love and respect for Judaism...and our heritage.

Very important within that is the tenet of community — and thus, we come to our Temple.

And so, I would like to share a story:

It is every President's goal to leave the institution stronger than they found it. To me, that means a strong line of succession.

This summer I asked all our Past Presidents to come to a meeting to discuss plans for future Temple leadership.

One July evening a minyan of Past Presidents came to my house to have this discussion.

We have had excellent results which will emerge over the next year

I began the meeting by thanking them for so readily agreeing to meet on this beautiful summer night — to which one retorted, "Of course, it's the Temple!"

It was said with a complete and utter commitment to this institution and its future. It was said because that person, and all in the room that night — and my guess is most, if not all, in this room tonight — feel it too. Whether you have been here 30 years or 3 months, Temple Beth El is our Temple, something warm, proud and important.

Because it is all those things, leadership is important. Leadership must reflect our members' interests and concerns, and be a guidepost to our congregation, our clergy and our staff and community

That night we began our succession plan.

I am proud to tell you tonight, on this special night when we honor all Past Presidents, that we also have up here on the Bimah three future Presidents.

Judy Wilson will ably succeed me; Paul Muscat will succeed her; and Rick Finberg will succeed him.

Each brings every possible necessary attribute to the role, and most essentially a love for our Temple.

A big Yasher Koach to each of them.

I would now like to make mention that our Temple will soon be the recipient of a beautiful handblown glass Ner

see **Future** page 4

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Alyssa Anne Ladd Bat Mitzvah



Steve Harris and Natalie Ladd are proud to announce that Alyssa Anne Ladd will have her Bat Mitzvah at Temple Beth El on November 12, 2005. In addition to being a High Honors student at Lyman Moore Middle School in Portland, Alyssa is a member of the Touring Company at A Company of Girls, has been dancing with City Dance for 5 years, and is an avid lover of Broadway musicals.

A fan of the arts in all mediums, Alyssa's favorite day-to-day pastime is reading. Alyssa's family is proud of her hard work and effort and are pleased to welcome friends and family from all over the country to Alyssa's simcha.

For her Mitzvah project, Alyssa has designed and created bookmarks (\$2.00 minimum donation) to benefit AIDS prevention/education for children in Botswana. For more information on this project or to order a bookmark, please call Alyssa at 878-3477.

LEAD! CHANT! SING!

Shalom Chaverim,
This year is the perfect opportunity to learn something new! On Sunday, November 6, from 9:00 AM to 10 AM, I will be teaching a Service Leading Workshop. I will briefly review the structure of the service, talk about body language in prayer, and give each participant text and recordings of the parts of the Weekday, Friday night and Saturday morning services that he or she wishes to learn. You do not need a flawless voice, but you do need to be able to read Hebrew and to be willing to make lots of mistakes. This class will be useful for beginners and for folks who want to brush up on rusty skills.

Beginning on Sunday, November 13 from 11:00 AM to 11:45 AM, I will teach a weekly Haftarah trope class. Trope (sometimes called cantillation or t'amim) is the system of symbols that tells the reader how to sing the text. It is one of the oldest forms of written music in the world. Like the Service Leading Workshop, you need to be able to read Hebrew. You do not need to be able to read music. Best of all, haftarah melodies have a very limited range so they are accessible to anyone's voice. If your bar/bat mitzvah

seems very long ago, or if you never had the opportunity to sing a haftarah, you owe it to yourself to give it a try!


Once you have lead a service, read a haftarah or chanted a Torah reading from the scroll, you are entitled to

.....
CANTOR
RUTH L. ROSS

...if you
never had the
opportunity to
sing a haftarah,
you owe it to
yourself to give
it a try!

membership in our eService, eHaftarah or eTorah lists; mailings that inform you which Service Leading, Haftarah and Torah reading opportunities are available for the next two months. If you are able to do any of these things already and are not receiving the applicable emails, please let me know. I will be happy to

add you to our roster.


Finally, remember that we are always looking for new choir members. If you think you might like to join, please let me know. I anticipate beginning rehearsals sometime in December; rehearsals are held Monday nights from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM at the Temple. We will be preparing for a June choral event and while we do, we will enjoy singing, laughing and sharing the wonders of creating gorgeous harmonies together. 

Future *continued from page 3*

Tamid (Eternal Light). It will grace our current and future sanctuary. This is a gift of the Koocher/Robinov families in memory of Dave Koocher. Our sincere thanks.

My compliments and thanks to Rabbi Braun, Cantor Ross, the Ritual Committee, Choir and Temple staff for

these beautiful services. A special note – this is our Rabbi's 10th High Holidays with us.

And to each of you, with special thanks to our Board of Directors and Executive Committee – I wish you a happy and healthy New Year. Good Yontif and may you have an easy fast. 

MEET THE DEMON AZAZEL (YOU MAY HAVE MISSED HIM ON YOM KIPPUR...)

In the Avodah service, the service of the high priest that stands at the core of the Yom Kippur morning liturgy, we read the narrative of the scapegoat – the goat bearing the sins of the people that is sent into the wilderness to Azazel. This intriguing ritual from Leviticus seems fairly straightforward on the surface, but becomes transfigured into a world of angels and demons when we ask the sim-

EDUCATION DIRECTOR
AVIS SMITH

ple question, "Who or what is Azazel?"

Our tradition has some eye-opening answers, as our Hebrew High School students found out in our examination of the texts this fall.

We began by looking at three texts which describe satyrs or "goat-demons" who were the object of the wayward Israelites' worship and sacrifices. Lev. 17:7, II Chron 11:15, and Isaiah 34:14 all describe these evil goat-demons (*s'irim*), and the existence of numerous small goat statuettes found by Israeli archaeologists strongly suggests there were cults of goat worship throughout the land of Israel in biblical times. It is conceivable that an attempt to counter this particular sin with a symbolic gift or sacrifice of a goat may have been part of the ancient unspoken tradition behind the high priest's Day of Atonement ritual.

As to Azazel, his identity is well known in our midrashic and apocalyptic literature. We learn that when God began to regret creating humanity just before the flood, the angels Azazel and Shemhazai reminded God that they had opposed the creation of humans in the first place, saying that men would be too easily cor-

rupted. They convinced God to let them go down to earth to prove that angels, unlike humans, would not be overpowered by the evil inclination. Once below, however, they were lured by the beauty of the daughters of men (a midrash on Gen. 6: "when the divine beings cohabited with the daughters of men" – yes, that's really in our Torah!), took lovers and then wives, and were tricked (à la Samson and Delilah) into revealing the secret name of God. The midrash tells us that, having been caught, Shemhazai repented, "hanging himself upside down between heaven and earth.

"But Azazel refused to repent, and God hung him upside down in a canyon, bound in chains, where he remains to this day. That is why a scapegoat is sent to Azazel on Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, bearing the sins of Israel."

There is an even more fascinating passage found in the first century Apocalypse of Abraham, however, which links

Azazel with Abraham, who is, as you may recall, the subject of the Rosh Hashanah Torah reading in the story of the Akedah! In the apocalyptic text (not included in our Bible), an angel comes to fetch Abraham to take him to Mount Horeb to offer the sacrifice for the covenant of the pieces (Gen. 15:9-18). An unclean bird tries to warn Abraham off, saying that he does not belong there with the holy ones, and that the heavenly beings will consume him with fire should he go any further. He asks the angel who the bird is, and the angel responds "This is ungodliness; this is Azazel." The angel then sharply rebukes Azazel, reminding him that he has been

see **Azazel** page 11

pull quote goes here

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IN OUR TBE FAMILY

New Members:

Rick Isaacson of Portland.

Leslie Arnson, Travis Mencher, 17, Hannah Mencher, 14, and Daniel Mencher, 6, of Portland.

Jennifer Elowitch & Doug Chene, and Nathaniel, 12, of Portland.

Karen & Geoff Hindall, Zach, 10, and Emma, 7, of Cape Elizabeth.

Carol Aft & Robert Lowe, and Alex, 9, of Falmouth.

Sarah & Thomas Darhower of Portland.

Elaine & Yofred Isajar, Kaia, 3, and Nathan, 2.

Andrew & Lori Abramowitz, and Abigail, 1, of Kennebunkport.

Robert & Saralee Harrisburg of Portland.

see **Family** page 10

Welcome New Members: The Barkins

by Tom Froncek

Jeff and Joan Barkin recently moved to Portland from Bangor, where Jeff had a medical practice and where they were members of Beth Israel congregation. Jeff, a New York native, studied at Yale University and is a psychiatrist with a private practice in the Old Port. Joan, who hails from New Jersey, studied at Washington University in St. Louis, where she earned a master of fine arts degree. A painter, she has exhibited her work in various galleries and for a time even ran a gallery of her own. Right now, however, she is concentrating on raising their two children. Their daughter, Rachel, who is 15, attends Portland High School and enjoys singing as well as many other activities. The Barkin's son, Jesse, who is 12, attends King Middle School, loves tennis, and is studying for his Bar Mitzvah at the Temple's Hebrew School. The entire family enjoys the outdoors and Jeff in particular is a great baseball fan. He prefers, however, not to mention which team he roots for.

Lucky Day Lotto Winners

Congratulations October winners:

- Eitan & Talie Miller
- Elizabeth Fiore
- Charles Young
- Elaine Lewis
- Tracey Weisberg
- Bonnie Ruotdo
- Phyllis Cohen
- Josh & Steph Wilson
- Ruth Doughty
- Ernest Sterman
- Diane Landeck

FAMILY SERVICE/KIDS KEHILLAH PARTICIPANTS

Many thanks and *yasher koach* to the numerous kids who volunteered to participate in the Family Services/Kids Kehillah services for High Holidays! I hope I haven't left anyone out and apologize if I inadvertently did.

FIRST DAY OF ROSH HASHANAH:

Mackenzie Bunch, Jack Schwartz, Andrea Levinsky, Ariana Solodar-Wincele, Andrew Schwartz, Samantha Levy, Carly Ladd, Emily Muscat, Leo Hilton, Sara Jacobson, Arielle Harding, Max Aranson, Lenny Schwartz, Rachel Muscat, Nicole Jacobson, Alyssa Ladd, Noah Finberg, Noah Levy, Claire Muscat, Caleb Levine, Renata Levine, Elijah Gratz, Emma Hindall, Sam Freedman, Ben Abrahams, Alex Robinoff, Alicia Fortier, Perri Arens.

Adult gabbayim and hagbah: Steve Harris, Olivia Solodar & Elliott Wincele.

SECOND DAY OF ROSH HASHANAH:

Lynea Harding, Max Aranson, Abe Ross, Elicia Fortier, Jeff Peisner, Ariana Solodar-Wincele, Michelle Fortier, Will Barlock, Sam Goldberg, Rebecca Goodman, Bea Maidman, Mierka Ross, Jonah Paris, Carly Ladd, Jake Goldberg,


Kevin Goldberg, Isabelle Goldberg, Simon Handelman, Hannah Paris, Rachel Eklund.

Adult gabbayim and hagbah: Deborah Klotz-Paris, Olivia Solodar & David Paris.

YOM KIPPUR

Gabrielle Garson, Claire Daniels, Rebecca Manning, Eliot Daniels, Rebecca Silver, Marlena Lantos, Benjamin Garson, Rebecca Elowitch, Jesse Barkin, Alexis Elowitch, Lucy Lantos, Sydney Kucine, Noah Finberg, Lucas Ashbaugh, Harrison Weber, Adam Sleeper, Rachel Barkin, Rachel Becker, Alana Becker, Nathan Ullman, Ariana Solodar-Wincele, Ari Weber, Eliana Finberg, Michaela Paratore, Abbey Elowitch, Noa Bengis, Tanner Nussinow, Tyler Nussinow, Alexandra Shapiro, Jacqueline Kucine, Jacob Kucine, Noah Sleeper, Karin Bitan.

Adult gabbayim and hagbah: Gregg Garson, Rick Finberg & Fred Aronson.

An incredibly HUGE thank you and *yasher koach* to our chazzan, Paul Aranson. We couldn't have this service without you and appreciate your guidance, involvement and expert davening!!! 

NCJW COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

The Southern Maine Section of the National Council of Jewish Women awards scholarships to Jewish students from the Greater Portland area who plan to continue their education. Scholarships are awarded on the basis of financial need with consideration for academic achievement, Jewish commitment and general community involve-

ment.

Applications must be received by March 31, 2006.

Please contact Gail Volk, Chairperson, Scholarship Committee, 62 Bartley Ave., Portland, ME 04103. Email: givolk@aol.com Secondary contact: Jodi Freedman, jodi.freedman@verizon.net. 

TODAH RABAH

Thanks to the following individuals:

- Joan Levy and Laura Ullman for planning the first Hebrew School Pancake Breakfast and for cooking a zillion delicious pancakes!
- Bonnie and Jim Klein for sponsoring upcoming landscaping projects encompassing our foundation plantings and lawn.
- Nancy and David Brenerman and Natalie Ladd and Steve Harris for general sponsorship.
- All of the participants in the Kids Kehillah/Family Services for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.
- Debbie Kanter, Barbara Epstein, and Avis Smith for organizing and assigning High Holiday honors and ushers.
- All those who served as ushers and floor gabbayim for the High Holidays.
- Ellen Froncek and Barbara Epstein for polishing the silver Torah ornaments.

- Olivia Solodar for assigning parts for the Kids Kehillah/Family Services.
- The Torah Readers for Rosh Hashanah: Linda Jacobs, Wayne Eklund, Paul Greene, Robert Aranson, Michael Peisner, Fred Farber, Ellie Miller, Mark Aranson.
- The Haftarah Readers for Rosh Hashanah: Joy Krinsky, Judy Gatchell.
- The Choir Members participating this year: Sharon Bresler, Bernie Cohen, Hedy Cohen, Mierka Ross, Robert Aranson, Miriam Remar, Roger Smith Paula Harris, Avis Smith, Ken Silver, Robert Tabachnick, Rick Silver, Lenora Leibowitz, Carolyn Turcio-Gilman.

THANK YOU, HIGH HOLIDAY SPONSORS


- Michael and Linda Jacobson and family for sponsoring the grounds beautification. They wish everyone a healthy and happy New Year.
- Paula and Les Harris for the gift of restoring the Sanctuary curtains.

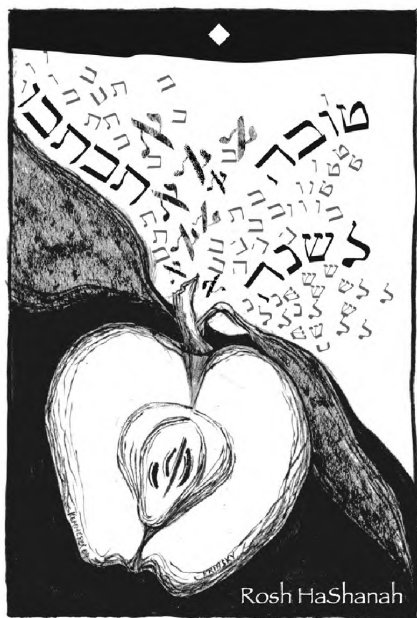
Rosh Hashanah

- Fran and Arthur Jacobson who donated the flowers in the Sanctuary in memory of their son, Stephen Brent Jacobson.
- Vilean Taggersell and Robert Levine who donated the flowers for the Kids Kehillah/Family Service in memory of Robert's parents, Arthur B. Levine and Elaine Levine.

- Laura and Joe Ullman who sponsored the Tuesday oneg in memory of Ezra Finberg.
- Leslie Arnson and Daniel and Hannah Mencher who sponsored the Wednesday oneg in honor of Rabbi Braun.
- Jon and Amy Brier and family who sponsored the Tuesday Kol Yeladim/Young Children's service.
- Ross and Patty Weber and family who sponsored the Wednesday Kol Yeladim/Young Children's service.
- Susan Trusiani who sponsored the babysitting provided for our young families. She wishes everyone a happy New Year.

Yom Kippur

- Joan and Jeff Barkin who sponsored the Kol Yeladim/Young Children's service in honor of Joan's parents, Jane Lee Belsky and Abe Rubin Belsky.
- Laura and Joe Ullman who donated the floral arrangements for the Kids Kehillah/Family Service in memory of Ezra Finberg.
- Paula and Les Harris who sponsored the Yom Kippur Break-the-fast snack in honor of Paula's mother, Betty Druker.
- Gregg and Pattie Garson who sponsored the babysitting provided for our young families. 



Wishing you a
Year of Happiness
and Peace

Barbara and Gil Dichter



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Gift Shop is Open!

The ordering has been done, the boxes have been delivered, and now, it's time to stop in at the Gift Shop to see what's new.

Special November-December hours:

- Sunday, November 6, 9-12:30
- Sunday, November 13, 9-12:30
- Sunday, December 11, 9-12:30
- Sunday, December 18, 9-12:30
- Friday, December 23, 9-12:30

If you are unable to visit the Temple Beth El Gift Shop during these hours, the office staff is usually available to assist you during office hours.

Another Way to Support TBE this Chanukah

In case you didn't know, there is a great way to support Temple Beth El when you are doing your holiday shopping, and it doesn't cost you anything! We have arrangements with three programs, Barnes & Noble, Amazon and eScrip, and by buying through them via the Temple Beth El Web site, we earn 5% on all purchases. It's easy and effortless...just:

1. Go to the TBE Web site:
<http://www.templebethel-maine.org/>
2. Click on the site you want to purchase from located at the top right side of the Web page.
3. Once you are at the site, order items as you normally would.

Bookmark the TBE homepage or add it to your Favorites to make return shopping easier. Try it out and see how easy it is. Support TBE at no cost to you.

Israel *continued from page 1*

to make Aliyah under the Law of Return, the Rabbanut still refuses to accept those conversions. Further, the Rabbanut controls most of the mikvaot; Reform and Conservative converts, brides or anyone else needing a mikveh must find an alternative. Although there is now a place at the Kotel, the Western Wall, where both egalitarian and women's minyanim can meet safely without risk of harassment, a group of women cannot go to the main Women's section of the Kotel and read from the Torah, nor could there ever be a mixed minyan. And while there are Conservative, Reform and Reconstructionist congregations, kibbutzim and schools, they do not receive anything close to the kinds of government subsidies their Orthodox counterparts receive.

This is not to say that there is an absence of non-Orthodox alternatives in Israel. In fact, the movements have slowly been making inroads every year. The Conservative Movement in Israel has been around for almost 30 years. Founded by a group of *olim* — people who made aliyah — in 1979, they chose the name, Masorti, 'traditional.' Like the Conservative movement here in the United States, the Masorti movement is described as a combination of "devotion to Jewish tradition and Jewish law (halacha) with an open and positive approach to the modern world, democracy and Zionism."


Today, the Masorti Movement in Israel comprises some 50 kehillot and havurot, the Religious Affairs Bureau, a kibbutz, a moshav, the NOAM youth movement, IDF Garinim (Masorti groups in the army), the Marom students and young adults organization, programs for children with special needs, regional and local educational learning centers

for adults as well as pre-school programs.

One of our connections to Masorti is through Mercaz, the umbrella Zionist organization of the Conservative movement. Mercaz USA is our voice in the World Zionist Organization and the Jewish Agency for Israel. The WZO and the Jewish Agency are the "unofficial parliament of the Jewish people" allocating over \$300 million to Jewish organizations promoting aliyah and Jewish life in Israel.

Every four years there is an election in the World Zionist Organization's Congress, and this is the year. Their funds are distributed in proportion to the number of votes each organization receives. And so, one way to have a direct impact is to vote, through Mercaz, in the upcoming elections. It costs only \$7 and some time on the computer, but to Masorti Jews in Israel, it is worth much more. The more we can support Jewish alternatives in Israel, the stronger the State will be. Indeed, this is a *machloket l'shem shamayim*, a dispute for the sake of heaven, where you and I can have a positive impact. It won't necessarily change the government overnight, but it will bring needed funds to important programs.

Finally, I want to encourage you to stay informed of where your donated funds to Israel actually go and how they are distributed, just as you should do for your donations here. There are many, many worthy causes. I urge you to explore Masorti and Mercaz; to speak to those who have been involved in the movement and in the TAL schools; and to visit their Websites: www.mercazusa.org and www.masorti.org. And when you visit, include the Conservative Yeshiva, Kibbutz Hanaton or Ketura or one of the Masorti congregations on your itinerary. I think you will be surprised and encouraged.

Shanah Tovah 

USY News

by Stephanie Hague, USY President

As our academic school year begins so does an amazing year in USY. As the president of Portland United Synagogue Youth I want to be sure that everyone understands the fact that USY is something that can completely alter your life. USY offers social, community and religious aspects to be added to all of our already busy lives. Last year, as a chapter, we had an amazing night of Salsa Dancing, three social action events




2005–2006 Portland USY Board: (Left to Right) Nicole Jacobson, Stephanie Hague, Karin Skalina and Amy Ecklund.

each month, Shabbat dinners, snow tubing and much more. Last year Portland USY sent members to Leadership Convention,

Max Greene, a sophomore, and Stephanie Hague, a senior, represented Portland USY at the NERUSY Boat Cruise on Sunday, September 25. The day was full of reunion, conversation and ocean air.




Spring Convention and a number of other regional USY events. With an exciting year ahead of us we would love you to join us. If you are a Jewish High Schooler you are eligible and invited to become a member of USY. For more information about programs and membership please contact me! Thank you so much and we all hope to hear from you.

Stephanie Hague
Portland USY President 

KADIMA NEWS

by Olivia Solodar

By the time you are reading this, Kadima will have had their what has come to be an annual dinner-in-the-sukkah party on October 23 at Ariana Solodar-Wincele's sukkah. Undoubtedly, we will have had a great turn out (we usually do) and our 4th, 5th and 6th graders will have had loads of fun playing games,

shaking the lulav and etrog and eating delicious food in the sukkah. Our next event will be bowling after Hebrew School on a Sunday in November. Watch your mail for more details. Also, if you haven't sent in your membership dues (\$20) or forms, please contact Olivia Solodar (772-2249) or Jenny Aronson (799-4174) as soon as possible! We are looking forward to a year of fun activities with Kadima-niks! 


KIDS KEHILLAH

by Debbie Kanter

On October 1, Kids Kehillah held its first Shabbat morning service. It was wonderful to see so many families as the 5th grade led many of the prayers. Morah Sara Kramer had had her students illustrate their favorite Tishre holiday and the drawings were placed together like a patchwork quilt. The 5th graders who attended — Elijah Tabachnick, MacKenzie Bunch, Ellie Olshan, Zach Hindall, AJ Lockman, Nathan Finberg, Carly Ladd and Josh Abrahams — gave explanations about their illustrations. Nicely done.

This year the Hebrew school has a service attendance requirement. Students need to attend 10 services during the year and Kids Kehillah counts toward that total.

Bob Tabachnick, as always, did several beautiful Torah readings as Avis translated and interpreted what was read.

Kids Kehillah meets the first and third Shabbat mornings of each month from 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM in the school wing. Please join us! 

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IN OUR TBE FAMILY

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Mazel Tov

To Bette and Sam Novick on the engagement of their son, David, to Dena Springer.

To Danielle Gallant Allen, on the birth of her son Braden Richard Allen. Grandmother is Helene Shorey, of Rangley, Maine; great-grandmother is Roberta MacMahon, great aunt is Victoria Lynch of San Marcos, California; and great uncle is Lenny Levy of Punta Gorda, Florida.

To Bette and Sam Novick on the engagement of their son, Matthew, to Rebecca "Becky" Antar.

We mourn the passing of:

Beatrice Slotsky, aunt of Arthur Slotsky, on September 5 in Silver Springs, Maryland.

Eli Goodman, on October 3 in Portland.

Ruth (Klein) Wolfson, sister of Jonas Klein, on October 17.

Bill Shapiro, father of Gerri Bridgeman, on October 24 in Florida.

David Farber, husband of Charlotte Farber and father of Ken Farber, on October 29 in Portland

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 Fund

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Bob & Marcia Whiting, In Memory of Sally Finkelstein

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Charles Mack, Rachel Mack & Armand Lucier, In Memory of Charles & Lillian Kaatz

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Barbara & Jack Berenson, In Memory of Rosalyn Hahn

Esther Chorney, In Memory of Charles Chorney

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Barbara & Peter Shaw, In Memory of Claudia Finkelstein

Barbara & Peter Shaw, In Honor of Andrew Novick's marriage to Sabrina Saraf

Joan Levy, In Memory of Benjamin Remar

Harriette Small, In Memory of Jeffrey Klayman

Mary & Benjamin Lazarus Library Fund

shofar

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Shofar Deadlines – December issue is October 28; January issue is November 28.

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