

Jewish Community Council
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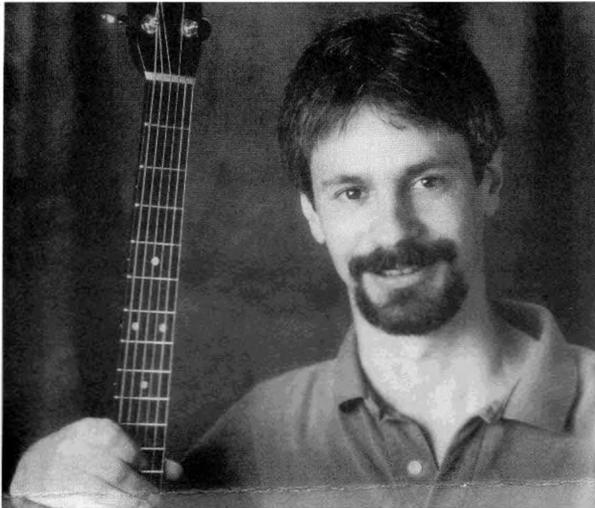
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THE COMMUNITY NEWS

JANUARY 1998

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Rabbi Larry Milder will be one of the performers on Sunday, February 8 at Beth Israel.

An Afternoon of Musical Fun!

On Sunday, February 8, the JCC will present a program of Jewish Music for the whole family. Rabbi Larry Milder of Congregation Beth El and the klezmer band "Tzena, Tzena" will perform their lively music at 2 p.m. at the Epstein Room in Beth Israel Synagogue, 144 York St., in Bangor. Rabbi Milder will play guitar and sing his original, humorous Jewish folk songs. "Tzena, Tzena" includes several musicians from local synagogues: Scott Rapaport, Ellie Shufro, David Simonds, Stan Davis and others. Tzena, Tzena plays toe-tapping music in the Eastern European Jewish tradition. You'll want to get up and dance. The program will delight young and old alike, so bring your kids, your parents, your friends. Refreshments will be served. Admission is free. For more information, call the JCC at 941-2950.

Mark Your Calendars for May 3!

This May, Israel will celebrate its 50th anniversary. The Bangor Jewish community will celebrate with a special program sponsored by the JCC for Yom Ha'atzma'ut, Israel Independence Day. On Sunday, May 3, singer Judy Bressler will perform klezmer and other Jewish music. Judy is the lead singer for the Klezmer Conservatory Band in Boston and is nationally known. Stay tuned for details!

To All Local Jewish Organizations — Let's Work Together!

The JCC keeps a master calendar of all events in the Jewish community. This helps avoid scheduling conflicts between the JCC, synagogues, Hillel, the Friendship Club, etc. When your organization is planning an event, please take a few minutes to call Samara Gopan at the JCC at 941-2950. She can tell you what's on the calendar for that day, so you won't schedule an event in conflict with others. Also, once you decide on a date, please call Samara and have her put it on the calendar.

In this way, we can work together as a community, supporting each other's events!

Beth Israel Adult Education

Beth Israel's Adult Education Committee has instituted some ongoing programs.

- Every month on the second Friday, we have a traditional dinner with prayers and songs (usually dairy costing \$2.50) The next one will be Friday, January 9, 1998 at 6:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome, but an RSVP is needed so we can plan. Please call Mona at 942-3716.
- Our Rosh Chodesh Women's group will have its first get together Tuesday, January 27 at 5:54 p.m.
- Reba Parla has a Snack and Learn prayer practice session every other Tuesday from 1:30-2:30 p.m. The next class will be Tuesday, January 6.
- Beth Israel will be having a series of breakfasts with speakers and other exciting activities. Please call Reba Parla with suggestions (223-4463).

Beth Abraham Sisterhood

Will be Holding a

RUMMAGE SALE

On Sunday, February 8, 1998

*For more information, or to contribute
clothes, toys, or furniture,
Call Naomi Podolsky at 942-8093 or
Patti Kornreich at 945-5457*

Erica Policow, daughter of Ellen and Neil Policow of Sharon, Mass. and granddaughter of Libby and Nate Smith of Bangor, was recently honored at the ADL Annual Dinner held in Boston. She was cited for the stand she took against Anti-Semitic remarks made during a soccer match with a neighboring town. Her speech from that evening follows.

During the last 10 minutes of a night soccer game in Mansfield, Massachusetts, I was subjected to a barrage of anti-Semitism. It was a zero to zero score and each girl was playing to their fullest. It didn't help that the Sharon J.V. soccer team only had eleven players to start and therefore there were no girls for substitution. I myself am a defensive player and my position is in front of the goal. Throughout the second half there were four Mansfield boys sitting on a bench behind the goal. At first there were occasional comments about how we play, about girls playing soccer in general, and then about how we looked. This was nothing new. There are always a few obnoxious parents or students in the crowd yelling out and so we have become accustomed to sideline comments. Yet never before this game had we experienced the type of comments these boys made. They screamed out "Kikes" repeatedly and then asked the riddle out loud, "What's the difference between a pizza and a Jew?" They answered their own riddle, shouting, "A pizza doesn't scream when you put it in the oven." When I heard the Anti-Semitic slurs, I didn't have to think about it. I just knew that the rest of the team and I did not have to listen to it. I approached the referee, who, by the way, is a pretty tough ref, and asked him to stop the game. It is very unusual for a student athlete to stop a game. In fact, my mother was in the stands and when she saw me approach the ref she was afraid that I might be ejected. But when I told the ref what the boys

were saying, he agreed that the comments were unacceptable and he asked the boys to leave. Then he informed the coaches of both teams why I had stopped the game and why he had removed the boys from behind the goal. After the game the Mansfield coaches tried to identify the perpetrators. They also apologized to our team on behalf of the entire community of Mansfield. They were clearly embarrassed and upset. Since that time I know the coaches, the Athletic Directors and the principals of both towns along with the referee have been working with the ADL to educate people about this incident.

If you had asked me right then to tell you why I did what I did I couldn't tell you. I just knew that those spectators had crossed the line and no one should have to listen to that type of hatred. Now that I've thought about this experience I feel I can understand the factors that pushed me to act. First I know the difference between right and wrong, and this situation was clearly wrong. The other factor is that I've learned from my family that whatever needs to be done, I can deal with it. That is what I did. I stood up against anti-Semitism.

But I never expected that this decision to speak out would result in an all day sensitivity training at Mansfield High School or an effort to bring students from different schools together to learn about each other. And I couldn't imagine that this would lead me to be invited to give this speech here tonight.

The fact that I am sitting here now telling you all what happened is a shock, but I'm happy to be given the opportunity to share this incident with you. I am thankful I have the ADL being me and supporting me in my decision to fight against bigotry.

Senior Citizen News

- The Senior Citizen's Friendship Club held their annual Latke Party at Beth Israel Synagogue on Wednesday, December 17. Thank you to everyone who helped prepare the meal, and a special thank you to John Miller for providing containers in which to deliver latkes to shut-ins.
- On Wednesday, January 7, a luncheon outing was held at Miller's Restaurant.
- The next meeting of the Senior Citizens will take place on Wednesday, February 4, 1998. A movie will be shown.

Beth Abraham Sisterhood

We hope everyone enjoyed a warm and de"light"ful Chanukah! The Sisterhood has been busy lately, preparing for our upcoming Rummage Sale, which will be held February 8. As always, we appreciate any contributions, such as clothes, toys, furnishing etc. For more information, please contact Presidents Patti 945-5457 or Naomi 942-8093.

**FOR OURSELVES. FOUR OUR CHILDREN
FOR ISRAEL. FOREVER**



Please make checks payable to the Jewish Federation of Bangor and mail to 6 State Street, Rm. 314, Bangor, Maine 04401.

Stephen T. Emery, Campaign Chairman

Member of

United Way of Penobscot Valley & Jewish Federation of Bangor

COMMUNITY NEWS

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CONGREGATION BETH EL NEWS

- **CONGREGATION BETH EL**, Bangor's Reform synagogue, is located at 183 French Street, Bangor. Unless indicated otherwise, all events take place at the synagogue. All are welcome. For more information on the synagogue or its activities, call Beth El at 945-4578.
 - **FRIDAY EVENING SHABBAT WORSHIP** — Services will take place at 7:30 p.m. on the following dates: January 2 and 16, and February 6 and 20. Free babysitting and a playroom for young children are provided. Services are followed by an Oneg Shabbat.
 - **EARLY MINYAN** — A brief Erev Shabbat service, conducted mostly in Hebrew, will be held at 5:30 p.m. on the following Friday evenings: January 9 and 23, and February 13 and 27.
 - **FAMILY SHABBAT SERVICES** — will take place on the following Saturdays: January 10 and February 14. Family services are open to all, and are geared toward families with young school-age children. The services include songs and a story, last less than an hour, and use a children's prayer book. They are followed by an Oneg Shabbat of juice and cookies.
 - **TORAH STUDY** — Held on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month, between 9:30-11:00 a.m., and led by Rabbi Milder: January 3 and 17, and February 7 and 21. Refreshments are served and all are welcome. You do not need to have attended previous sessions in order to participate.
 - **MONTHLY DISCUSSION GROUPS** — Congregation Beth El sponsors a monthly discussion on topics of Jewish interest, hosted by congregants in various locations of our region. Events are held on the second Wednesday evening of each month, and discussions are usually facilitated by Rabbi Larry Milder. Monthly discussions begin at 7:00 p.m. with light refreshments, and conclude at approximately 9:00 p.m. Please join us for the events listed below. For directions or information, call Congregation Beth El at 945-4578.
 - **BAR HARBOR DISCUSSION GROUP** — On January 14 at 7:00 p.m., the Bar Harbor Discussion Group will meet to explore "Awe and Wonder; The Legacy of Abraham Joshua Heschel (in honor of his 25th Yahrzeit)". The Discussion Group will meet at the Friedman home in Bar Harbor.
- The Bar Harbor Discussion Group will also meet on February 11 at 7:00 p.m. to talk about "Six Principles of Reform

Judaism Today." The Discussion Group will meet at the home of Marjorie Russakoff in Southwest Harbor.

HAVDALAH DISCUSSION: A Havdalah Discussion will be held at the Blum-Evits home in Patten on February 28 at 7:00 p.m.

MID-COAST DISCUSSION GROUP — The Mid-Coast Discussion Group will meet on March 25 at 7:00 p.m. for the first of a three part series on Jewish Mysticism. This discussion topic for this evening is "Jewish Mysticism, Part 1: The Zohar." Location to be announced.

• **SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER** — Beth El is pleased to present a very special guest speaker, Dr. Paula Rackoff, Vice-Chair of the New Israel Fund, on Shabbat Hagadol, Friday, April 3 at 7:30 p.m. The NIF is a joint effort by Israelis, North Americans and Europeans, rooted in the traditions of tikkun olam (helping the world) and the pursuit of justice. The Fund works to strengthen democracy and advance social justice in Israel. The opportunity to learn about the NIF, and the cooperative effort of Israeli and Diaspora Jewish communities to build a society of peace and justice in Israel, is an important event for the Jewish community in central Maine. Please mark the date on your calendar and join us. Call 945-4578 for details and directions.

• **HAVDALAH POT LUCK SUPPER** — Join Beth El for a Havdalah Pot Luck Supper on January 24 at 5:00 p.m. Families, singles — all are invited to attend. Bring a vegetarian dish to share, and come out and meet some new friends! For details, contact the temple at 945-4578.

• **JEWISH SINGLES GROUP** — If anyone has programming ideas for the Beth El Singles Group, "Alone Together," please call Mary-Anne Saxl at 947-3962.

• **SOUP KITCHEN** — On the second Wednesday of each month, Beth El serves a mid-day meal to 70-100 needy people at the Dorothy Day (Salvation Army) Soup Kitchen in Bangor. Volunteers are needed to bake lasagne and desserts, to transport donated food, and to prepare, serve and clean up after the meal. Any monetary donations will be used to buy vegetables, paper goods, etc. This is a wonderful opportunity to see some immediate good result from volunteer efforts right here in our community. For information, contact Lois Latour at 866-2802.



Beth Abraham Religious School

It has been a hectic few months in our Religious School, preparing for Chanukah! Our students are well informed on why, when, where and how to light a menorah. In addition, we learned why Chanukah is celebrated for eight days rather than seven, and how to tell the difference between a dreidle made in Israel and a dreidle made in the Diaspora.

We Are very pleased with the progress in reading, particularly with our youngest students. Most adults would have a difficult time learning two languages, especially when they go in different directions. But these little guys give it their all, and their effort is paying off.

As the first snow covered Bangor, we wrapped up our fall

fundraiser. A total of over \$300 was raised by our students and donated to the Beth Abraham Kiddush Fund!

No school is as proud as ours when we listen to our older students recite a Dvar torah on Shabbos. The Mishmor group, which meets on Wednesday evenings for dinner and learning, studies the particular Mitvos contained in the weekly Sedra. Then one student prepares a summary in his/her own words to deliver in Schul. Some have even been brave enough to do so from memory. We are proud of each and every one of them, as they have all taken their first turn with courage and eloquence.

Congregation Beth Israel News

- Junior Congregation in January has been rescheduled from January 3 to January 10, because of school vacation. Junior Congregation begins at 9:30 a.m.
- The Bar mitzvah of Alexander Rosenblatt will take place on January 10.
- The Hebrew School Zimriah originally scheduled for January 31 has been postponed until the spring.
- Thank you to our Adult Education Committee, which coordinated the second in a series of traditional Friday night dinners on December 13.
- Congratulations to Ron, Rose and Shaina Dennis on the Birth of a baby girl, Mariah. A baby naming ceremony was held on December 20 at Beth Israel Synagogue.
- Everyone is welcome to attend services at Beth Israel. Our service schedule is: Monday - Friday 6:55 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., Saturday 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., Sunday 8:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.
- The next Board Meeting of Congregation Beth Israel will be held January 12 at 7:00 p.m. in the vestry.

Beth Israel Sisterhood

- The Sisterhood will be providing tickets to the January 10 Bangor Symphony family concert to any Beth Israel Hebrew student and family. The pre-concert events begin at 6:00 p.m., and the one-hour concert begins at 7:00 p.m. Please contact Cindy Kubtez for tickets.
- The membership enjoyed a filling luncheon on December 9, followed by a business meeting and a lecture by Barbara Kates, coordinator of Literacy Volunteers. Anyone interested in joining the Sisterhood may contact Sharon Theeman for information.
- The next Sisterhood Board meeting will be held on Thursday, January 15 at 7:00 p.m. in the vestry of Beth Israel.

CONDOLENCES

- To Laura Dilts, on the death of her brother, Jeffrey Sternheim
- To Edwin Jay Bruno on the death of his father, William S. Bruno. Died December 18, 1997.

MAZEL TOV

- To Michela Rebecca Wilde on the occasion of her Bat Mitzvah on October 25 in Chicago. Michela is the daughter of Michael and SueMay Wilde, and the granddaughter of Alex and Barbara Wilde of Brewer.
- To Ron and Rose Dennis on the birth of a daughter, Mariah.

Youth Aliyah

Sometimes facing the future is hard for Israeli-born children. In Israel today, nearly half a million Jews live below the poverty level. Many are impoverished second-and third-generation immigrants who never fully integrated into Israeli life. In these communities, thousands of children and teens suffer in school and at home. Coming from broken homes, many with parents who are drug abusers or worse, they have trouble overcoming their difficult circumstances. These youngsters are the disenfranchised of Israel — the children at risk. Through the Youth Aliyah network, they are not alone.

Youth Aliyah builds courage and confidence for at-risk youngsters of all social, cultural and ethnic backgrounds. Through sophisticated support systems of academic learning, vocational training and life-skills management, teens develop a sense of initiative built on self-esteem. Special attention and tailored programs help students with learning or behavioral disabilities to thrive. From one-on-one support from teachers, counselors and social workers, to language lessons and classes on Jewish heritage to hot meals and warm clothes, students are provided with everything they need to become productive Israelis.

- We send appropriate cards for all occasions. Please send in your contribution. "Our children" need your help. Please call Florence Lieberman at 942-3313 or Samara Gopan at 941-2950.

—Mildred Kominsky, Chairperson

HONOR ROLLS

First Quarter

BANGOR HIGH SCHOOL

Seniors: Sara Kates-Chinoy, Andrew Silver
 Juniors: Sara Peddicord, Rachael Weinstein
 Sophomores: Garrett Corbin, Eric Goldsmith, Claire Gross,
 Alyson Theeman, Jessica Rosenblatt
 Freshmen: Jesse Kates-Chinoy, Sam Kates-Goldman

JOHN BAPST MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL

Junior: Jerry Brodksy

BREWER HIGH SCHOOL

Junior: Abby Weissman

HAMPDEN ACADEMY

Senior: Gabriel Brooks
 Sophomore: Max Brooks

ORONO HIGH SCHOOL

Senior: Miriam Brownstein
 Sophomores: Caroline Levy, Rose Whelan

NOTE: If your name has been omitted, please call 941-2950 so that we may place it in our next issue.

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