

Chadashot Ha'am

A bi-monthly newsletter for Congregation Bet Ha'am

Jan/Feb 2016 | Tevet /Shevat/ Adar 5776



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Rabbi's Report

By Rabbi Jared Saks

We encounter in *Parashat B'haalot'cha* the famous scene where Aaron and Miriam speak out against Moses, which results in Miriam's being struck with leprosy for the siblings' engaging in gossip about their brother. Before the two even get to complaining about Moses' closer relationship with God than the two of them have, the text tells us that they complain about the

Cushite woman whom their brother has married (Numbers 12:1). Many *midrashim* and commentators tackle this complaint and seek to understand the siblings' criticism and what the Hebrew term *cushit* means. Many scholars accept that the Kingdom of Cush is a region that encompassed what is now modern day Ethiopia or Sudan and that Miriam and Aaron's complaint may well have been about the color of Moses' wife's skin.

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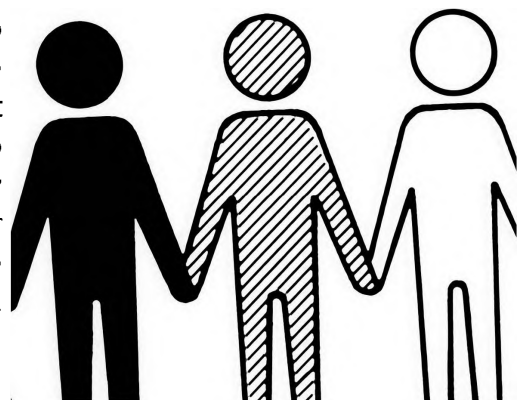
Phone: 207.879.0028
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Mon: Office Closed
Tues - Fri: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm



Some Hellenistic-Jewish literature accepts the possibility that Moses met a dark-skinned woman during his tenure as a prince in Pharaoh's court. Most *midrashim* and commentators, however, refuse to accept the possibility that Moses had married a woman of color. They insist that Moses had only one wife, Zipporah, the daughter of the Midianite priest, Jethro.

Rashi, for example, comments on the opening verses of chapter 12 of the book of Numbers, citing a *midrash* from *Tanchuma Tzav* 13 that Moses' wife was a Midianite, not a Cushite, and "that everyone acknowledged her beauty, just as everyone acknowledges a Cushite's blackness" (Rashi on Numbers 12:1). He implies that the word *cushit* in the text is metaphorical, not to be taken literally, and relies upon [gematria](#) to justify this explanation. Adding up the value of the Hebrew letters that spell the word *cushit*, he finds the phrase *yafat mar'eh*, meaning "beautiful in appearance" and suggests that Miriam and Aaron were speaking of Moses' beautiful wife, not his black wife.

Rashi's commentary leaves a sour taste in my mouth. Rashi is one to go with the simple, straightforward interpretation of the text, so it seems strange to me that he would jump through such hoops to avoid acknowledging the possibility that Moses had a wife who was black, a possibility that doesn't sit well with many of our commentators. What is it that concerns them so much? It seems that commentators like Rashi and the authors of many *midrashim* are impacted by the image of race in their own days, and their interpretations have bolstered that racism within Judaism ever since. The truth is, though, as educator, writer, and activist Paul Kivel points out, "Jews of color make up the majority of Jews in the world, as well as in Israel, but are largely invisible and exploited both here and in Israel."



Most of us are descendants of European and Eastern European Jewish ancestry and most of us classify ourselves as white in American culture, but that has not always been the case. For a very long time, Jews were not considered white, and while we may shy away from the notion of classifying the Jewish people as a separate race from other people, we have in our pockets a tool to combat racism in America, since we have a collective memory of not being counted among the white population with whom we lived. During the Civil Rights era of the 1960s, many Southern Jewish communities opposed the efforts of Northern Jews engaged in the movement out of fear for how their Northern coreligionists would impact their status in the South.

As Jews, who are accepted as white in American culture, we have the ability both to benefit from white privilege while also using it as a tool to speak up for people of color because we remember what it was like for our people when we have been the outsiders, beginning in Egypt under Pharaoh and continuing through modern times in this country. White privilege, a term that doesn't sit well with some, spans from the simplest things like the flesh-colored Band-Aid and the nude color pantyhose generally matching our skin tone to the likelihood that if we are pulled over by the police it will be justified and the response will be appropriate, and that we are not linked by virtue of the color of our skin to stereotypes of violence, indolence, or ignorance.

Our tradition hasn't always handled issues of race well, but our tradition has always urged us to advance toward a better world. Even if the authors of the *midrash* and the commentators were unable to see the racism in our Torah text, we are not blind to it. We have to answer the call of the text and speak up and act up against racism wherever we see it, using all of the tools that are at our disposal to make the world a more equitable and more peaceful place.

President's Report



By Andrew Kosak, President



As the twenty seven candles blazed brightly at my house last night and the smoke detectors shrieked their shrill songs, the contrast reminded me how difficult it can be in our modern world to focus on what's most important amongst the din. So much competes for my attention—smart phones, computers, Instagram accounts, the New York Yankees, the latest issue of *Bon Appetit* magazine, wondering where I hid the *Chanukah* presents from inquiring minds, and the dog scratching at the door—that it's easy to be distracted.

What accounts for our distractibility? After all, most people speak at a rate of about 125 words a minute, whereas we can hear about 400 words a minute, so you would think that we would be expert listeners (<http://extension.missouri.edu/p/CM150>). Perhaps the problem is that we can think at a rate of one to two thousand words a minute. Thus, our thoughts can get ahead of both what we say and what we hear and may block our ability to listen. If we're so busy thinking about our response to what is being said, can we actively hear another person? Or as William Ury asks in a recent TEDx San Diego talk, "If people speak and no one listens, is it really communication?"

As a father of two teenagers, the issue of real communication is one I think about frequently, and I am pretty sure that my daughters do not hear the pearls of wisdom that I offer them. At the same time, I can guarantee you that they are equally convinced that I am not hearing them. We're both correct. While I would like to blame Steve Jobs, the creator of many highly distracting gadgets that would try even the patience of Job, the truth of the matter is that often neither my daughters nor I actually hear each other.

The word LISTEN contains the same letters as the word SILENT.

Alfred Brendel

What on earth does this have to do with Bet Ha'am, you may be wondering? Well, we have a diverse population at Bet Ha'am, and, as a result, we have many opinions about religious, social and political issues. We may even disagree about what constitutes a political or social action issue.

Exchanging ideas is valuable when we listen in an open and respectful way, but it can be destructive to our institution if we don't use our amazing capacity to hear and, instead, think about what we plan to say in response. If we cannot hear each other, we risk more conflict and less true communication.

Therefore, as we head into the secular new year, I hope that each of us can try to hear each other better. While we are not going to agree on every issue, we can agree to listen to each others perspectives with respect, honor and love.



Religious School Report

By Orly Biggie, Religious School Director



The middle of the winter brings the holiday of *Tu B'Shvat*. Growing up in Israel, I looked forward to this day because it meant a nice trip to somewhere in the country to plant trees. *Yom Netivot*, planting day, was very special. This modern Interpretation of this holiday helped the State of Israel have more trees. The holiday of *Tu B'Shvat* was one of the four new years mentioned in the *Mishna*. According to *Beit Hillel* the holiday was needed in order to calculate the age of the trees in Israel. In Leviticus 19, we are told, "When you come to the Land and you plant any tree, you shall treat its fruit as forbidden; for three years it will be forbidden and not eaten. In the fourth year, all of its fruit shall be given to God. In the fifth year you may eat its fruit." *Tu B'Shvat* became known as the birthday of the trees in Israel, and each tree is considered to have aged one year as of *Tu B'Shvat*.

Why was the 15th of *Shevat* chosen? According to the Babylonian *Talmud*, this is when most of the rainy days are over in Israel and the fruit starts to ripen. According to the Jerusalem *Talmud*, last year's ground water has been used and the current year's rain is providing water to the trees.

Tu B'Shvat used to be a holiday that was observed mainly in Israel. Jews outside of Israel have developed customs for the holiday to connect them with their homeland. *Ashkenazic* communities ate fruits from Israel and blessed them with the *Shehecheyanu* prayer. Rabbi Binyamin HaLevi from Safed wrote about a special meal, *seuda*, when three fruits from Israel are consumed while saying a blessing and prayers. This became the practice in many of the *Sephardic* communities; other communities also celebrate with a *seder* where participants eat a variety of fruits and study the connection between trees, nature and people.

Fresh fruits from Israel are more difficult to get than dried fruits. To celebrate *Tu B'shvat* eve at home on Sunday evening, January 24, you can add dried fruits to your meal. You can also plant trees in Israel in honor of a joyous occasion or in memory of a loved one through the Jewish National Fund (JNF).





Religious School Schedule

By Orly Biggie, Religious School Director

Kindergarten dates are January 24 and 31.

Grades 1-6

Friday, January 8	Family service
Sunday, January 24	Class session
Sunday, January 31	<i>Tikun Olam</i> family program
Sunday, February 7	Class session
Friday, February 12	Family service
Sunday, February 28	<i>Tikun Olam</i> family program

Grade 7

Friday & Saturday, January 23 & 24
Shabbaton at Camp Ketcha

Sunday February 7	1:00-3:00 PM	<i>Chavaya</i>
Sunday February 28	5:00-7:30 PM	<i>Shiur</i>

Grades 8-10

Sundays, January 10 and 31
 5:00-7:30 PM

Friday & Saturday, January 23 & 24
Shabbaton at Camp Ketcha

February 7	Last evening of second quarter
February 28	First evening of third quarter

Tikun Olam Day



Tikun Olam Day



7th
 Grade
Chavaya





Executive Director's Message:

"Creative Volunteering"

By Kris Dorer, Executive Director

The Membership Committee recently created a flyer titled, "18 Ways to Fall in Love with the Bet Ha'am Community." It is colorful and describes some (certainly not all) of the many ways the efforts of our volunteers can help Bet Ha'am thrive through the years. I want to focus this month on some of the ways volunteers support our congregation. The brochure is on the next page of this newsletter.

Not long ago, I went into the Bet Ha'am kitchen to take a photo of a volunteer-in-action, Sam Hirsh, in a white chef's jacket. Sam had just finished making 208 latkes over two days for the *Chanukah* celebration. Our building was filled with the wonderful smells of frying potatoes, and we were delighted to taste test the results!



Cynthia Weitz volunteers her time to be our grocery shopper. She shops for our *onegs*, board meetings and office-sponsored events. John Cole came annually to help clear out a closet of our choosing and organize what must stay and what should go. Jerri Donn and other office volunteers do tasks ranging from data entry to organizing the Judaica Shop to helping to answer phones.



Committees are a starting point for thinking about who might help with some volunteer roles, but there are also rare and creative opportunities, like Sam's and John's contributions. For example, you might consider volunteering to wash tablecloths after a large Bet Ha'am event, a need that comes up every month or two.

Some volunteers have specific expertise, as in the case of Bill Welch, who used his professional knowledge to assist with creating and negotiating a rental lease. Martin Connelly, with baby on his hip, has taken staff and facility promotional photos and continues to assist from time to time with technical challenges related to our website.

These people are just a few of the many volunteers who help in different ways throughout the year. I'm hoping to spark your thinking about how *you* can help while enriching your own involvement with Bet Ha'am, whether you have time weekly, monthly or sporadically. Better yet, I invite you to give me a call, and we can talk about whether there is a match of any of Bet Ha'am's needs with your interests and skills.



Are you thinking you might like to get to know Bet Ha'am a little better?

The congregation is filled with resourceful and fun people doing all kinds of interesting things.

Here's a sampling of ways to get more involved, and who to contact...

18 WAYS TO FALL IN LOVE WITH THE BET HA'AM COMMUNITY

Join our **Caring Committee**. Cook a meal, send a card, visit a newborn, participate in a *shiva minyan*, or help knit a prayer shawl for members of our community in a time of need. No meetings involved!

(Rosie Wohl, wohlrosie@gmail.com or Karen Silverman, karensilver65@hotmail.com)

Write a **book review** for our web blog or our newsletter, *Chadashot Ha'am*, of a new acquisition or suggested acquisition from our Library.

(Donna Landau, dmlandau@hotmail.com.)

Propose a **study group** for yourself and fellow congregants on some aspect of Jewish life.

(Rabbi Saks, ravsaks@bethaam.org)

Join our **Education Committee**. Help create and implement the curriculum and support our school staff in delivering a varied and exciting classroom experience for our kids.

(Josh Levy, jlevy@brunswick.k12.me.us)

While here Sunday mornings, **volunteer in our office or Judaica shop**.

(Orly Biggie, orly@bethaam.org)

Pitch in to **help steward our gardens**. The gardens offer hands-on experience for the knowledgeable and the novice. Join a big group of volunteers, or work independently at your own convenience.

(Toby Rosenberg, tobyr@gwi.net)



more...



More of the 18 WAYS TO FALL IN LOVE WITH THE BET HA'AM COMMUNITY

Volunteer to usher and welcome your fellow congregants. This ensures that you get to services once in a while (not to mention a great way to learn names!)
(Donna Landau, dmlandau@hotmail.com)

Try out our Saturday morning (9 AM) **Torah Study class**. Rabbi Saks is a wonderful discussion leader. No preparation necessary. Torah Study finds depth even in Leviticus!
(Rabbi Saks, ravsaks@bethaam.org)

Sponsor an oneg following Shabbat evening services, by yourself or with a friend.
(Karen Hindall, Karen@bethaam.org)

Help make our **holiday celebrations** happen! There are countless roles people can play in each holiday, all of which are deeply appreciated by our community.
(Erin Koepf, ekoepf@gmail.com)

If you know a teen, encourage them to join in a **youth group** event like Otto Pizza, archery or a concert. Help support the future of Judaism in Southern Maine.
(Zoe Eiber, youthadvisor@bethaam.org)

Volunteer to teach Hebrew or Jewish life/history on Sunday mornings. Our volunteer teachers usually find that they get more out of this than they put into it. ([Only Biggie, only@bethaam.org](mailto:OnlyBiggie@bethaam.org))

Are you good with numbers or a finance whiz? Consider **joining the Finance Committee** (Tom Rosen, Treasurer, camp_rosen@hotmail.com)

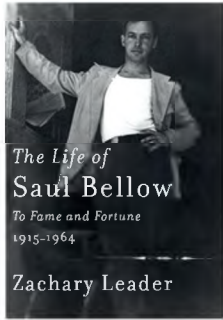
Volunteer to staff Bet Ha'am's library Sunday mornings. Send library cards to new members, catalog new books, or scan documents for the Library's Archives project.
(Donna Landau, dmlandau@hotmail.com)

Join our Membership Committee. Help integrate our newest members into the community, and help our existing members find meaningful ways to connect to it. (Nathan Szanton, nszanton@szantoncompany.com)

Help **plan and participate in special events**, like the Purim Carnival, Welcome Back Breakfast for religious school families, or a fundraiser.
(Kris Dorer, kris@bethaam.org)

Help deliver recyclables, shop for Oneg treats, or other **occasional volunteer jobs** for the office.
(Kris Dorer, kris@bethaam.org)

Volunteer to help take down or set up the wall between the sanctuary and social hall, get the kitchen ready for Passover, or other **general building needs**.
(Ben Grant, bgrant@kaplanandgrant.com)



The Life, Literature, and Legacy of Saul Bellow: A Book Review

BY RABBI ROBERT ORKAND, 6/02/2015

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To mark the 100th anniversary of the birth of Nobel Prize-winning author, Saul Bellow (1915-2005), Zachary Leader, professor of English Literature at the University of Roehampton, has published the first of a two-volume definitive biography. [*The Life of Saul Bellow: To Fame and Fortune, 1915-1964*](#) (Jonathan Cape/Vintage) covers the years from Bellow's birth to Russian Jewish immigrant parents in Lachine, Quebec, to his publication of [*Herzog*](#), about the midlife crisis of a Jewish man named Moses E. Herzog.

To a greater extent than any previous Bellow biographer, Leader meticulously shows how Bellow's life and fiction were inextricably intertwined. Names and locations may change, but his novels, including *Herzog*, [*The Adventures of Augie March*](#) and [*Humboldt's Gift*](#), are all drawn from the Jewish writer's life experiences. "Facts are just facts," Bellow once observed, "until they are electrified by the current of imagination, at which point the magic happens."

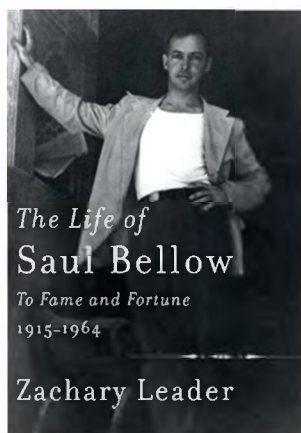
When *Herzog* was published, the poet John Berryman sent his friend Bellow a note saying, "Nobody has ever sat down and wallowed to this extent in his own life, with full art." Berryman was acknowledging Bellow as the first American novelist to interject his own grievances and humiliations, the muck of his life and make of it art. The muck is there for all to see: heartbreak, one divorce after another, petty jealousies, academic disputes, betrayals, rivalries and the continual grumpiness of a man who had a very high opinion of himself. In later years, Bellow became well-known and sometimes notorious for his fictional representation of real people.

One gets an inkling of Bellow's propensity for intellectual dueling in his response to a snipe from the great scholar of Jewish mysticism, Gershom Scholem:

I am told that a statement that I was said to have made in 1976 when I won the Nobel Prize put him in a rage. I was quoted in the papers as saying that I was an American writer and a Jew. Perhaps I should have said that I was a Jew and an American writer. Because Scholem is one of the greatest scholars of the century, I'm sorry I offended him, but having made this bow in his direction, I allow myself to add that the question reminds me of the one small children used to be asked by clumsy Sunday visitors in olden times: "Whom do you love better, your Papa or your Momma?" I recognized that I answered the reporters unthinkingly, "writer first, Jew second."

Though Bellow was not a practicing Jew, he described his Jewish consciousness, a product of growing up speaking to his immigrant parents in Yiddish, as "my given and it would be idle to quarrel with it, or try to revise or efface it."

continued...



In his mid-20s, Bellow came to New York City for the first time and was introduced to the author and critic Alfred Kazin, who described Bellow as “an unembarrassed Yiddishist.” He also said of him, “He seemed at ease with his Jewishness – Jewishness seemed the source of his ease.”

Zachary Leader attributes Bellow’s genius to his ability to closely observe the world in which he found himself and fictionalize what he saw. Since his family and many of his friends and colleagues were Jewish, it follows that many of Bellow’s fictional characters were likewise Jewish.

Bellow’s final novel, [Ravelstein](#) (2000), is a thinly veiled portrait of the author’s friend, the philosopher Allan Bloom. As the novel ends, Abe Ravelstein is dying of AIDS. His friends come to his hospital room to say their goodbyes, and Bloom says something that could sum up Bellow’s life: “I had a Jewish life to lead in the American language.” Zachary Leader amply (at 800-plus pages) fills in the details of Bellow’s first 51 years in the first volume of his masterful portrait of Bellow’s tumultuous life and interrelated literary legacy.

(**Rabbi Robert Orkand**, who retired from the pulpit rabbinate in 2013, lives in the Boston area. He is immediate past-chair of [ARZA](#), the Association of Reform Zionists of America.)

The Seal of Solomon, Shlomit & RebbeSoul

A Music Review by Gail Wartell, host of Sunday *Simcha* on WMPG radio

I am happy to share my pick for the best Jewish music CD of 2015: *The Seal of Solomon*, described by the artists as the New Wave of Jewish World Music. It is a delightful album.



RebbeSoul (Bruce Berger) travels between the U.S. and Israel. He has created an impressive two decades of original Jewish music and fresh interpretations of traditional standards. He is most noted for his fabulous electric guitar but also plays a wide range of instruments. In addition to his solo recordings, this versatile musician teamed up with the remarkable Sam Glaser for an album of *niggunim* (spiritual melodies).

Shlomit Levi has an amazing voice - powerful, sweet and sensual - just beautiful. She brings her Yemenite cultural heritage to life.

Together they made an unforgettable album of contemporary Middle-Eastern and religious music. They sing prayers and love songs in compelling arrangements in Hebrew, Yemenite (Judeo-Yemeni Arabic), English and Aramaic. Helpfully, the CD includes an insert with English translations of the lyrics.

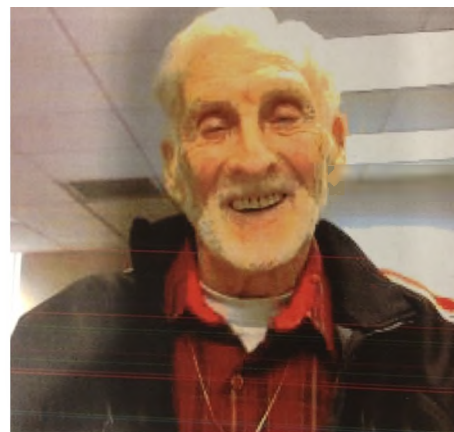
Their duet of *Avinu*, a traditional prayer for *Yom Kippur*, is a flawless blend of the ancient and the contemporary; it is very moving, with great depth of feeling. They also sing a tender *Havdalah* piece that combines prayer with a traditional Yemenite song. Other songs have a driving beat and are very danceable.

The CD is available at CDBaby and other places where music is sold. Visit www.shlomit-rebbesoul.com for more info and a free song download.

Congregant Interview:

Ray Spiro

We'd like to introduce you to long-time congregant, Ray Spiro. Ray lives with his wife, Ginger, in Portland.



Current or past profession: Retired Regional Express Mail Manager with the United States Postal Service

Hobbies: Teaching at Junior Achievement, teaching golf with the 1st Tee Program, woodworking, building Shaker-style cradles and bookcases

Volunteer work, especially at Bet Ha'am: Board of Directors for two terms, building the ramp to make Bet Ha'am accessible before we renovated the old building and built our new synagogue

Some life accomplishments: Surviving 88 years, World War II, US Navy, married 35 years and enjoying it, completing Outward Bound by scaling Bald Mountain, crew member on the Lightship NANTUCKET

How long have you been a member of Bet Ha'am? From its beginning; Ginger and I joined in 1985.

Tell us about a few funny, interesting, fond memories of your life as part of Bet Ha'am: Meeting the original members and Rabbi David Sandmel and his guitar. Being told to mouth the words, since too many congregants would convert to another religion if I kept singing. Nothing has changed.

What are words/phrases that you would use to explain what Bet Ha'am is or means to you? Rabbis come and go. We have been fortunate to have five rabbis who helped us reach each new goal we needed at that time.

Zecher T'zaddik L'vrachah | Condolences to:

The family and friends of Dr. Robert Haas

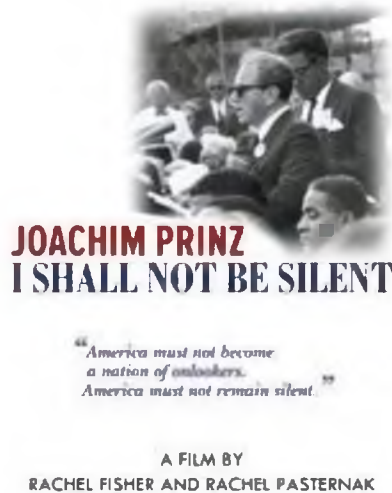
Roberta Bass on the loss of her father, Albert Bass

Bernie Freedman and family on the loss of Stephanie Freedman

The family of Caroline Israelson on their recent loss

Jen & Scott Frank on the loss of Jen's step-mother, BJ Martin

Gretchen & Gerry Greenberg on the loss of Gretchen's father, Arthur Andres



Please join Congregation Bet Ha'am for a documentary film screening of:

Joachim Prinz: I Shall Not Be Silent

Friday, January 15, 2016

5:30 PM Potluck *Shabbat* Dinner

6:00 PM Film Screening

7:30 PM *Shabbat* Worship with Facilitated Discussion

In observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Bet Ha'am will host a screening of *Joachim Prinz: I Shall Not Be Silent*, a documentary about the leading rabbi in 1930s Berlin who emigrated to America. Rabbi Prinz became one of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s closest confidantes and spoke just prior to Martin Luther King at the March on Washington at the Lincoln Memorial in 1963. Rabbi Prinz's address has been widely acclaimed throughout the history of the civil rights movement and is remembered for its contention that in the face of discrimination, "the most urgent, the most disgraceful, the most shameful and the most tragic problem is silence." In our time, too, Rabbi Prinz is a leading example of empathy and taking action in the face of prejudice. Incidentally, Rabbi Prinz was the family rabbi of many of Rabbi Saks's relatives, marrying his parents, aunt and uncle, grandparents, and others.

Join us on Friday, January 15, at 5:30 PM for a potluck *Shabbat* dinner followed by a screening of the film at 6:00 pm before our regular *Shabbat* service at 7:30 pm. Our service will include a facilitated discussion of the film. You are welcome to attend any or all of this program.

To view a trailer of the film, click [HERE](#) or access at <http://youtu.be/8Hw8N2XF6Hk>.



The PAYSA U13 girls soccer team, featuring **Claire Anton, Jonna Rosenthal, and Lydia Stein**, and coached by **Lindsay Cadwallader**, won the 2015 State Championship. They went on to participate in a New England regional tournament.

Julia Gmeiner married Josh Wurzman on September 6, 2015 at Moon Tide Park next to Ocean Gateway in Portland. Julia's Bet Ha'am Religious School learning helped the couple design the *chuppah* they built with birch trees from her family's yard in Kennebunk. Josh's childhood rabbi traveled from Texas to officiate. Julia and Josh live in New York City, where she is a young opera singer and he teaches high school forensics and debate.

Please submit your news to kris@bethaam.org bimonthly on the first of the month.
The next deadline will be February 1, 2016.

Welcome New Members!

Michelle Dietz
Pauline & Erich Haller
David & Cindy Stein

Mazel tov to our upcoming B'nai Mitzvah!

We look forward to celebrating with them as a congregation.
All are welcome!

Ella Stanley | Saturday, January 2, 2016
Jonna Rosenthal | Saturday, January 30, 2016
Levi Lilienthal | February 18, in Israel



CONFIRMATION TRIP TO NYC

DECEMBER 2015



Bet Ha'am Donor Gallery

We thank our generous contributors:

Annual Fund

- Wilma Rose
- Mindy Carter & Ron Ashkenasy
- Matthew & Joyce Tabenken
- Wendy & Bill Sirois
- Bonnie & Jon Rotenberg
- Sherri Bergman & Don Quaid
- Paul Rothman
- In honor of Andrew Kosak's presidency and fine leadership by Peter Scott & Larisa Semenuk
- Ray & Ginger Spiro
- Brett Stillman
- Alison & Jonathan Dreifus
- Solomon & Janet Yusim
- Jane Snerson
- David & Lynn Unger
- Joshua & Lynn Ottow
- Erich & Pauline Haller

Artist-in-Residence Fund

- In celebration of the birth of Zak Saks Boettcher by Laura Kittle & Jeremy Moser
- In celebration of the birth of Zak Saks Boettcher by Tom & Elizabeth Rosen

Capital Campaign Fund

- In appreciation to all who made our holiday services so special, including Rabbi Saks, Sharon & Perry Newman & Daniel Oppenheim, by Lee & Jamie Broder

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

- In appreciation of my sister, Sheila Ravitch Gitlitz, by Lee & Jamie Broder
- Richard & Edna Krull

General Fund

- In appreciation of High Holy Day services by Martin & Diane Cohen
- In memory of Carl & Shirley Lerman by Marc Lerman
- In appreciation of High Holy Day services by Beth & Jeffrey Mendel
- In memory of Saul Polisner on his *yahrzeit* by Duane & Evie Polisner
- In memory of Sonja Messerschmidt by Evie & Duane Polisner
- In memory of Thelma Konowitz on her *yahrzeit* by Annette & Noel Goodman
- In honor of Aaron Tabenken as he becomes *bar mitzvah* by a friend
- In memory of loved ones by Ray & Ginger Spiro
- In appreciation of Rabbi Saks's participation as Xander became *bar mitzvah* by Pam Weiss & Ken Lemieux
- In appreciation of Sharon & Perry Newman and their music as Xander became *bar mitzvah* by Pam Weiss & Ken Lemieux
- In appreciation of Ellie Miller for leading services by Pam Weiss & Ken Lemieux
- In honor of the Sullivan-Michaelson family by Pam Weiss & Ken Lemieux
- In honor of Sharon & Perry Newman and their music by Ari & Kirsten Berman
- In appreciation of Karen Hindall by Kirsten & Ari Berman
- In celebration of Zak Saks Boettcher by Evie & Duane Polisner
- In celebration of Zak Saks Boettcher by Leora Rabin & David Inger
- In celebration of Zak Saks Boettcher by Bill & Ki Leffler
- In memory of my mother, Gertrude Schick, on her *yahrzeit* by Andrea Schick
- Rabbi Phillip & Nancy Berkowitz
- In memory of Caroline Israelson by Yael Seligman
- In memory of Captain Adam Patterson by Sharon Ash Tancredi

Rabbi Berkowitz Open Door Fund

- In appreciation of High Holy Day services by Iris & Larry Kleinman

Rabbi Goldfinger Fund for Israel Travel

- In appreciation of Rabbi Alice Goldfinger by Katie Ryer & Peter McCormack

Rabbi Sandmel Education Fund

- In memory of Delores Gale on her *yahrzeit* by Gerry & Gretchen Greenberg

Join the Bet Ha'am Donor Gallery

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

Please acknowledge to: _____

Your name: _____

Check enclosed for \$ _____

Fund choice (please check one of the options at below):

- _____ Annual Fund
- _____ General Fund
- _____ Rabbi's Discretionary Fund
- _____ Adult Library Fund
- _____ Rabbi Berkowitz Open Door Fund
- _____ Building Capital Campaign
- _____ Rabbi Cohen Fund for Worship & Learning
- _____ Rabbi Goldfinger Fund for Israel Travel
- _____ Lehman Fund for Gardens & Grounds
- _____ Religious School Library Fund
- _____ Rosalyne S. & Sumner T. Bernstein Scholar-in-Residence Fund
- _____ Rabbi Jared H. Saks and Kirk J. Boettcher Artist-in-Residence Fund
- _____ Rabbi Sandmel Education Fund
- _____ Tutor Fund
- _____ Youth Fund

January 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 New Year's Day (Office Closed) <i>Kabbalat Shabbat</i> Service 7:30 PM	2 Torah Study 9:00 AM Worship Service with <i>Bat Mitzvah</i> 10:00 AM
3 No Religious School	4 Office Closed	5 Executive Committee Meeting 5:00 PM	6 Morning <i>Minyan</i> 7:00 AM <i>An Abrahamic Career: Abraham in Judaism, Christianity and Islam</i> , with Robert Morrison (8 week series) 7:00 PM	7	8 Pizza Dinner (donations accepted) 5:30 PM <i>Shabbat</i> Family Service 6:00 PM	9 Torah Study 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM Youth Group Outing: Gelato Fiasco 5:00 PM Parents' Night Out Fundraiser 5:00 PM
10 Grades 8-10 Religious School 5:00 PM Grades 11-12 Community High School Program 5:00 PM	11 Office Closed Finance Committee Meeting 10:00 AM	12 Nominating Committee Meeting 4:45 PM	13 Morning <i>Minyan</i> 7:00 AM Committee Chair Mid-Year Check-in 6:30 PM <i>An Abrahamic Career: Abraham in Judaism, Christianity and Islam</i> 7:00 PM	14 Education Committee Meeting 6:30 PM	15 Documentary Viewing of <i>Joachim Prinz: I Shall Not Be Silent</i> Film and Potluck Dinner 5:30 PM <i>Kabbalat Shabbat</i> Service 7:30 PM	16 Torah Study 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM
17 No Religious School	18 Office Closed Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	19 Board Meeting 6:30 PM	20 Morning <i>Minyan</i> 7:00 AM Garden Committee Meeting 5:30 PM Purim Shpiel Planning Meeting 6:30 PM <i>An Abrahamic Career: Abraham in Judaism, Christianity and Islam</i> 7:00 PM	21	22 Teen <i>Shabbaton</i> at Camp Ketcha Grades 7-10 <i>Kabbalat Shabbat</i> Service 7:30 PM	23 Teen <i>Shabbaton</i> at Camp Ketcha Grades 7-10 Torah Study 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM
24 Kindergarten 9:00 AM Grades 1-6 Religious School 9:00 AM <i>Shalom Yeladim</i> 11:00 AM Grades 3-4 Social 12 Noon <i>Tu B'Shevat Seder</i> 6:30 PM	25 Office Closed	26 Bet Ha'am Volunteers at Wayside - 4:00 PM Grade 6 <i>Bar/Bat</i> <i>Mitzvah</i> Family Program 6:30 PM	27 Morning <i>Minyan</i> 7:00 AM Purim Shpiel Planning Meeting 6:30 PM <i>An Abrahamic Career: Abraham in Judaism, Christianity and Islam</i> 7:00 PM	28	29 Tot <i>Shabbat</i> & Pizza Dinner 5:30 PM <i>Kabbalat Shabbat</i> Service 7:30 PM	30 Torah Study 9:00 AM Worship Service with <i>Bat Mitzvah</i> 10:00 AM
31 Grades 1-6 Religious School <i>Tikkun Olam</i> Family Program 9:00 AM Kindergarten 9:00 AM Grades 8-10 Religious School 5:00 PM						



February 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Office Closed	2 Executive Committee Meeting 5:00 PM	3 Morning <i>Minyan</i> 7:00 AM <i>Purim Shpiel</i> Planning Meeting 6:30 PM <i>An Abrahamic Career: Abraham in Judaism, Christianity and Islam</i> , with Robert Morrison (8 week series) 7:00 PM	4 "A Taste of Judaism" with Rabbi Saks 7:00 PM	5 <i>Kabbalat Shabbat</i> Service 7:30 PM	6 Torah Study 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM Youth Group Outing: Otto Pizza 5:30 PM
7 Kindergarten 9:00 AM Grades 1-6 Religious School 9:00 AM <i>Shalom Yeladim</i> 11:00 AM Grade 7 Early Session - <i>Chavaya</i> (Experience) 1:00 PM Grade 8-10 Early Session 1:00 PM Youth Group Lunch 1:00 PM	8 Office Closed	9 Nominating Committee Meeting 4:45 PM	10 Morning <i>Minyan</i> 7:00 AM <i>An Abrahamic Career: Abraham in Judaism, Christianity and Islam</i> 7:00 PM	11 Education Committee Meeting 6:30 PM "A Taste of Judaism" with Rabbi Saks 7:00 PM	12 Tot <i>Shabbat</i> 5:30 PM Pizza Dinner for Tot <i>Shabbat</i> and Family <i>Shabbat</i> (Donations accepted) 5:30 PM Family <i>Shabbat</i> Service 6:30 PM	13 Torah Study 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM
14 No Religious School	15 Office Closed	16	17 Morning <i>Minyan</i> 7:00 AM Garden Committee Meeting 5:00 PM	18	19 <i>Kabbalat Shabbat</i> Service 7:30 PM	20 Torah Study 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM
21 No Religious School	22 Office Closed	23 Bet Ha'am Volunteers at Wayside – 4:00 PM Board Meeting 6:30 PM	24 Morning <i>Minyan</i> 7:00 AM <i>An Abrahamic Career: Abraham in Judaism, Christianity and Islam</i> 7:00 PM	25 "A Taste of Judaism" with Rabbi Saks 7:00 PM	26 <i>Kabbalat Shabbat</i> Service 7:30 PM	27 Torah Study 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM
28 Kindergarten 9:00 AM Grades 1-6 Religious School Family <i>Tikkun Olam</i> Program 9:00 AM Grade 7 Religious School - <i>Shiur</i> (Lesson) 5:00 PM Grades 8-10 5:00 PM Grades 11-12 Community HS Program 5:00 PM	29 Office Closed					