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THIS MONTH

- 12/2 – Kids Kehillah
- 12/8–9 – Marlana Lantos Bat Mitzvah
- 12/9 – Kol Yeladim
- 12/10 – Israel Trip Meeting
- 12/16 – Kids Kehillah
- 12/17 – Kadima Latke Making
- 12/22 – Kol Yeladim Shabbat Service and Hanukkah Party
- 12/28 – Wayside Soup Kitchen



Piety, especially Jewish piety, respects the little — the little man, the little matter, the little task, the little duty. Through the little, religion meets the greatness that lies behind.

—Leo Baeck
(1873-1956)

TEMPLE BETHEL

SHOFAR

DECEMBER 2006 KISLEV/TEVET 5767

A DIFFERENT LIGHT OF CHANUKAH

Our rabbis taught: The mitzvah associated with Chanukah is that each household should light one light for the eight nights of Chanukah. The pious light one light per member of the household for each night of Chanukah. The extremely pious (mehadrin min ha mehadrin)... add one candle each night (according to Bet Hillel, we light one candle on the first night, two on the second, etc.).

Babylonian Talmud, Shabbat 21b

Chanukah has become a very important holiday for us, especially for those with children. It is a time of year when we identify with our Jewishness and, to a greater or lesser extent, so does the society around us. I have noticed that every year there are more and more decorations to create a kind of “Chanukah Heaven” in our homes. Further, we (and others) are bringing the celebration into schools and pre-schools, shopping malls and workplaces. Although we may be experiencing the secularization of Chanukah, for those of us who observe the holiday, it is important to “view it in a different light,” and infuse it with spiritual meaning.

What is [the reason] for Chanukah?

For our rabbis taught: On the 25th of Kislev, the 8 days of Chanukah begin. Lamentation for the dead and fasting are forbidden. For when the Greeks entered the Temple, they defiled all the oil and when the Hasmonean dynasty prevailed against, and defeated them, they searched and found only one cruse of oil which had the seal of the High Priest — and it was only enough for one day. A miracle occurred and it stayed lit for 8 days. The next year a festival was celebrated with the singing of Hallel and thanksgiving.

— Shabbat 21b

Chanukah celebrates a miracle, but the miracle is complicated. Historically, at

least a portion of the fight was an internal struggle between the Jews who leaned

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

towards Greek culture and Jews who felt that assimilation would damage the integrity of Judaism. Externally, it was also a struggle for religious freedom and political independence. The miracle is that for a short time, the Jews, the zealous Jews, prevailed. The Hasmoneans restored the service in the Temple and, therefore indirectly, the opportunity for greater Jewish observance. The Rabbis of the Talmud understood the miracle differently. For them, the miracle was Divine intervention connected to the ritual of the Temple, which to their minds was the essence of Judaism. The miracle today is that Chanukah, which was once associated with the most zealous of Jews, is now the holiday that is widely observed by all kinds of Jews and non Jews, observant and non observant. Those of us who light the Chanukah menorah (the *chanukiyah*), and add a candle each night of the holiday, are the “extremely pious” referred to in the Talmud!

Some years we teach that Chanukah is not a major holiday and that Shabbat is even more important. Every year we try to teach the society that Chanukah is not the Jewish Christmas. But this year, I’m letting

see **Rabbi** *page 9*

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

NEW OFFICE PHONE RECEPTION HOURS

Please note the following changes to the reception hours at Temple Beth El. Phones will be answered from 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM and from 1:30 PM to 5:00 PM. If you call between 12:30 and 1:30 PM, you will reach the voicemail system and can choose calling options from there.

As always, on Fridays we stop answering phones at 3:00 PM.

CLOSURES

The office will be closed on Monday, December 25.

Hebrew School will be closed on the following days this month: Sunday, December 24; Wednesday, December 27; and Sunday, December 31.

TIKKUN OLAM:

VOLUNTEER AT THE WAYSIDE SOUP KITCHEN

Help repair the world! Volunteer at the Wayside Soup Kitchen with Bet Ha'am & Holy Trinity Church, 252 Oxford St., Thursday, December 28 from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM. If you are interested, please contact Harlan Baker at 772-9640 or hbaker@maine.edu.



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.

THANK YOU

Dear Temple members, clergy and staff,

My 91-year-old father was diagnosed with a brain tumor on September 9 and died on October 22. Friends and family surrounded me when we buried him in Boston and had our first shiva minyan at the home of our son, Josh, and daughter-in-law, Stephanie. Our daughter, Sara, returned to Maine with Norm and me that evening, and we continued to sit shiva at home. For the next 3 days, we were comforted and cared for by friends, many of whom are part of our Beth El family. They brought us food and lovingly met our every need. Each evening, during services, I felt supported by my community as we prayed together in memory of my father. Standing in my living room with the singing of my community behind me was a very special experience.

I have begun to join the morning minyan at Temple Beth El several days a

week and appreciate the warmth and comfort offered there. I know that those who attend morning services welcome

P R E S I D E N T
J U D Y W I L S O N


all who are in mourning or remembering a loved one.

I know that I
will continue to
feel the arms of
my community
around my
family and me.

While observing the Jewish rituals involved in the 11 months of mourning, I know that I will continue to feel the arms of my community around my family and me.

My thanks go to all of you who have offered support and kindness to me in so many ways.

We Jews have a wonderful way of honoring those whom we have lost by gathering with those who love us. My Temple Beth El community has generously given me that love.

With gratitude,
Judy Wilson 

Jesse Barkin Bar Mitzvah



Please join Joan, Jeffrey and Rachel Barkin when they celebrate the Bar Mitzvah of Jesse on December 1-2, 2006.

Jesse is an honors student at King Middle School in Portland. He enjoys life and joking around with his family and friends. His biggest loves are playing guitar, listening to music, cooking up surprise dishes and playing tennis. He bikes to school and totally looks forward to skiing.

Jesse's family writes, "We think he is the greatest brother and son. Congratulations, Jesse. We love you. We'd like to freeze dry you right now. Meow! XOXOXOX"

For his mitzvah project, Jesse plans to attend a morning minyan each week, and hopes to inspire his friends to do the same.

TBE LIBRARY OPENS ON DECEMBER 3

Come check out the newly reorganized and refurbished library, which is now open for operations. Debra Spark, who has chaired the re-creation of the library, was on hand at the Grand Opening from 10:15 AM to noon to give tours and help familiarize members with what resources are available.

For those who were unable to come in that day, here's the scoop on how to use the library:

As of December 3, the TBE Library is officially open. The main library (across from the current cloak room) and the annex library (in the back off Bob's office) will be open when TBE is open.

The main library consists of English language non-fiction titles. The annex library consists of English language fiction, folk tales, poetry and drama, as well as AV material and all Hebrew and Yiddish titles.

The children's library (located in glass bookcases in the school hallways) will be open during Hebrew School hours. If you are interested in looking at the children's books at any other time, see Avis for the key to the bookcases.

see **Library** page 5

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2007 B'nai Mitzvah: Save these Dates

February 16–17	Alyson Palacci
March 2–3	Nathan Ullman
March 16–17	Noah Finberg
March 23–24	Rebecca Elowitch
April 20–21	Molly Paris
May 4–5	Clair and Emily Muscat
May 25–26	Ariana Solodar-Wincele
June 1–2	Sara Jacobson
June 8–9	Arielle Harding
June 15–16	Josh Soley
June 22–23	Ben Shapiro
June 29–30	Sarah Foster
July 13–14	Adam Berg
August 24–25	Carly Ladd
August 31– September 1	Max Aronson
October 12–13	David Adler
October 19–20	Samuel Goldberg
October 26–27	Ali Abramson
November 9–10	Zachary Hindall

Lucky Day Lotto Books are in

Everyone's favorite fundraiser, Lucky Day Lotto books cost \$20.00 which may easily come back to you through one of the daily drawings which range from \$25 to \$200. They make great gifts for friends and family... last year many members found them easy to sell to co-workers and others. The books need to be sold by January 1 so the drawings can come in, so please call the office today and let us know how many you would like.

I REFUSE

I refuse to write an article about Hanukkah. Period. In fact, I'm willing to risk being labeled whatever the Jewish equivalent of the Grinch is to hold my ground. Were it not for the seasonal accident of coincidence with that "other" December holiday, Hanukkah would be, at best, a minor blip on our Jewish calendar — and, I dare say, no one's favorite holiday. (After all, those Maccabees and their descendants, the Hasmoneans, were certainly no angels — theirs is a story of war, sectarianism, assimilation and institutional corruption, and it certainly isn't pretty.)

Instead, come back with me to the Torah, the book from which we derive our sacred calendar. In it we are commanded to observe our new year festival, our day of atonement, the coming of each new moon (Rosh Hodesh), and the "big three" pilgrimage festivals — the *shalosh regalim* — Pesach, Sukkot and Shavuot. These *chagim* are historically important to the Jewish understanding of our ancestors' relationship to God, to the land, and to the natural rhythm of the universe. These are holy days, our Torah tells us, ordained by God, with explicit instructions for observance. They are mitzvot — we are commanded to observe them. We even get eight days of chances (nine, if you count the erev) to celebrate Sukkot, to build our structures, celebrate with the lulav and etrog, and invite our *ushpizin* (guests) into our booths. How many of us did that this year with our children, and if not, why not?

As for Shavuot, we have seven weeks to prepare by counting the Omer and remembering our ancestors' commitment to daily offerings of the spring

harvest, and two days to celebrate what became known as the days of the giving of the Torah — *the giving of the Torah!* Can you get much more important than that? Yet were it not for the fact that

EDUCATION DIRECTOR
AVIS SMITH

the recitation of *yizkor* falls on the second day, many of our shuls would struggle to get a minyan to celebrate the very origin of the laws that make us Jews in the first place!

We don't have
to ignore
Hanukkah...
but let's put
it back in its
place on the
priority list.

We do our children a grave injustice, I think, in our choices of celebrations. We insist they come to the longest and least kid-friendly (generally speaking — there are exceptions) services of the year because, after all, "what would people say if we didn't show up on the High Holy Days?" — and yet

barely a week later, when we have the incredible opportunity to build a sukkah together and spend quality family time sharing our meals and our stories in it, and the following day when we have the chance on Simchat Torah to let our kids sing, dance, receive candy (!), and parade with flags and Torahs, those holidays pass almost unnoticed. And dare I even mention how many families will be dressing their children up and sending them out to trick-or-treat on Halloween (yes, I'm writing this at the end of October) in comparison to those who will dress their children up and send them out bearing treats for those same neighbors (*shalach manot*) on Purim? Why do we minimize or let slip the opportunities for joyous Judaism for our children?

It is a fact that were it not for Sukkot, Hanukkah would not be an

see **Refuse** page 8

RE-READING THE ORIGINS OF CHANUKAH

Chanukah, Chanukah, *chag yafe kol kach* (such a lovely holiday)... It is hard not to like Chanukah. It is an opportunity for light, warmth and celebration during the darkest and shortest days of the year. Latkes, songs and

colonial times, the Kingship of England was considered divinely ordained; the King was head of the Church of England. The revolt was economic and political, to be sure, but the very nature of the conflict pitted those who considered the King the arm of God against those who did not.

.....
CANTOR
RUTH L. ROSS


gifts, not to mention the story of the miraculous vial of oil and dreidl games. It is easy to forget that Chanukah is really a holiday about winning a war.

We have an uneasy relationship with this concept. How does one rejoice over the discomfiture of someone else? Our sages struggled with this issue around the story of the Exodus from Egypt when they describe God reprimanding the angels for singing as the Egyptian army drowned. "How can you sing when my children are dying?" says God in that midrash. During Chanukah, too, we struggle with this midrash; that is probably why the story of the oil has taken precedence over the battle itself.

Although we are often asked to compare Chanukah with Christmas, it is more accurately compared to the Fourth of July. In a way, the War of Independence was a war about religion. During

It is easy to forget that Chanukah is really a holiday about winning a war.


This year, I read in the Jewish newspaper, *The Jewish Daily Forward*, that some congregations were engaging in a Fourth of July Tikkun Leyl (all night study session) in which they would study and discuss the Declaration of Independence. Just as it would be instructive to participate in that study session, so too would it behoove us to study the origins of our own Chanukah by reading the account of the battle which it commemorates. A good place to start is online. Try www.hope.edu/bandstra/BIBLE/2MA/2MA1.HTM where one can find a translation of the Book of the Maccabees.

The account is worth reading, not because we glorify war, but because it helps us remember how much we have sacrificed for the right to worship God in the way we choose. Those sacrifices were real and no less painful because they happened hundreds of years ago than are the losses of men and women in uniform we have suffered in our lifetimes. 

.....
Library *continued from page 3*

Until the collection is on-line, please use the borrowing logs (in three-ring notebooks) to borrow books. There is a log on the table in the main library and another log on the children's bookcases. Please keep books for no longer

than a month. Thanks, and we hope you enjoy the books.

We'll be adding new titles throughout the year, and we welcome recommendations for books. Please direct questions and suggestions to Debra Spark at daspark@colby.edu. 

Marlena Lantos Bat Mitzvah



Please celebrate with Tom and Jessica Lantos on December 8-9 when their daughter, Marlena Mishel, becomes a Bat Mitzvah.

Marlena is a 7th grader at Falmouth Middle School. She loves participating in theater and playing tennis and basketball, and is looking forward to having her family and friends join her for this special day.

see *Marlena* page 10

PORTLAND CHEVRA KADISHA

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



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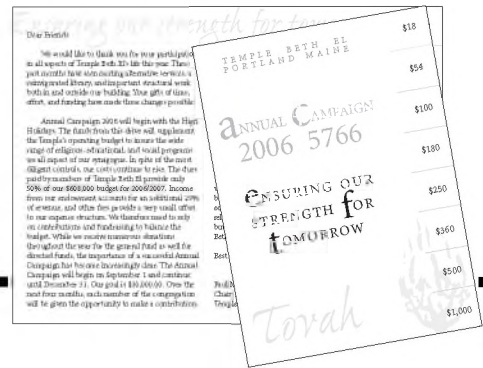
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The Board of Directors would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to the many members of the Temple Beth El family who have generously contributed to the Annual Fund. *(Funds received as of November 1, 2006.)*

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TODAH RABAH

Thanks to the following individuals:

- Debbie Barlock, Judy Bertram, Libby Blotner, Paul Muscat, Pat Reef, Clara Purinton, and Pat Reef for their help stuffing, labeling, and posting a host of mailings in September and October.
- Arleen Schwartz, Barbara Peisner, Karen Hindall, Joan Levy, Miriam Kranton, and Carol Gilbert for their work in the kitchen preparing the Rosh Hashanah honey cakes.
- Jeannine Poulin and Bob Bradbury for their extra efforts in preparation for the High Holidays.
- Elizabeth Levinsky and Saralee Harrisburg for helping in the office.
- Jennifer Read for facilitating the September *Shofar* mailing and helping in the office.
- Debbie Kanter, Barbara Epstein, and Avis Smith for organizing and assigning High Holiday honors and ushers.
- Judy Gatchell and the Ritual Committee for their work to make the High Holiday services meaningful for everyone.
- All those who served as ushers and floor gabbayim for the High Holidays.
- Olivia Solodar for assigning parts for the Kids Kehillah Services.
- All of the participants in the Kids Kehillah Service for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.
- The High Holiday Torah Readers: Paul Muscat, Elicia Fortier, Sorrel Dunn, Michael Peisner, Barbara Dichter, Robert Aranson, Bob Tabachnick, Linda Jacobs, Andrea Levinsky, Hedy Cohen, Paul Greene, Rebecca Silver, Andrea Asken-Dunn, Amy Eklund, Rachel Eklund, Mark Aranson
- The High Holiday Haftarah Readers: Michael Peisner, Joy Krinsky, Bob Fried, Bob Tabachnick
- Choir Members: Hedy Cohen, Avis

Smith, Paula Harris, Annette Elowitch, Miriam Remar, Clara Purinton, Lenora Leibowitz, Sharon Bresler, Roger Smith, Stanley Elowitch, Robert Aranson, Robert Tabachnick, Ken Silver, Richard Silver, Bernie Cohen, Lisa Berman

- Avodah Service: Bernie Cohen, Charlie Dibner

Thank You, High Holiday Sponsors

- To Pattie and Gregg Garson who sponsored the babysitting provided for our youngest members during all of the High Holiday services.

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 Kids Kehillah in memory of Robert's parents, Arthur B. Levine and Elaine Levine.
- Karen, Alan, Justin, and Brandon Lerman for providing the apples, honey, and challah for the Saturday oneg, in memory of Judith Schwey Benjamin.
- Stephen, Francine, Zachary & Arielle Blattner who sponsored the Sunday Rosh Hashanah Kol Yeladim service in honor of the children.
- Irv Shapell for sponsoring the Oneg following the Sunday Rosh Hashanah services.
- Arlene Schwartz for providing the honey cake ingredients.

Yom Kippur

- Susan and Jerome Goldberg for donating the flowers in the Sanctuary in memory of their parents Annette & Benjamin Goldberg and Bella & Harry Turitz.
- Elaine Rosen for sponsoring the Yom Kippur Break-the-Fast in honor of Judy Wilson's presidency.

- Jon and Amy Brier for sponsoring the Yom Kippur Kol Yeladim service.

Others

- The Interfaith Task Force (Rabbi Braun, David and Nancy Brenerman, Karen Farber, Ann Fleischer, Joy Krinsky, Ben Marcus, and Charlie Miller) for their hard work and many long hours in producing *You Are Welcome Here*, an informational brochure for interfaith families, and for their donations to cover the printing costs.
- Gil Dichter and Dan Gatchell for their ongoing commitment to keeping the building in order and for their recent work securing handling the roof project.
- Shirley Rosen for her work as liaison to the City of Portland in conjunction with the paving of Wadsworth Street.
- Nancy Levinsky for organizing the Jewish Book Fair which was a success again this year.
- Tom and Ellen Froncek and the rest of the Adult Learning Committee for the many events they have sponsored recently including the Candidates Forum, the Day of Jewish Learning, and the Sunday Adult Learning courses.
- Michael Peisner, Rabbi Braun, Irwin Gratz, Sanford Freedman, and Danielle Freedman for their work as teachers and facilitators during recent Adult Learning events.
- Judy Bertram and Elaine Rosen for helping to plan and organize our Temple Beth El Journey to Israel.
- Tom Froncek for organizing the Board Advance; Shirley Rosen and Joan Levy for feeding us; and Andy Shur and Greg Garson for helping before and after the meeting.
- Nate Ullman for helping the Cantor to change the Torah mantles. 

EDUCATION UPDATE

by Avis Smith, Education Director

October and November were busy months as we all settled in after the *chagim* to a full slate of activities. Our Hebrew School children are occupied with classroom lessons, *parshat hashavuah*, tzedakah projects and music. K and 1 parents met on October 29 for an informal after-school lunch organized by Morah Nancy, and will be helping with a Thanksgiving basket tzedakah project in cooperation with Jewish Family Services. Our fifth and sixth graders have a new music curriculum this year with Cantor Ross, and are learning some torah and haftarah trope and signing up for a spring talent show and a Hebrew School rock band! Our new community 11th/12th grade class has finished its first trimester and will now be studying modern Israel with Rabbi Alice

Dubinsky for the second module.

Our Hebrew School is the recipient of a beautiful half-size Torah scroll, donated by Gerry Sherry. This lovely Torah is vowelled and contains the trope, in order to be used as a teaching tool for students to practice their Hebrew and/or chanting. It is a wonderful addition to our classroom resources and we extend a *todah rabah* to Gerry for his kindness!

Our b'nai mitzvah family class is also in session, and we will be making tallitot together on December 14th. Our thanks as always to TBE sisterhood for their continuing support of this family program.

Kol Yeladim and Kids Kehillah Shabbat services are underway — watch for details of the Kol Yeladim Hanukkah Shabbat Service and Party on December 22, and bring your family to Kids

Kehillah on the first and third Saturdays of every month.

At the other end of the scale, our Adult Jewish Learning Committee sponsored its fall Day of Jewish Learning on November 5, hosting classes on Talmud and Israel, and a showing of the film *Ushpizin*. We thank presenters Michael Peisner and Rabbi Braun for their insightful and informative sessions, and our committee members who helped organize the event. Read Hebrew America has also wrapped up its fall Level 1 session — many thanks to teacher Miriam Remar for expert teaching and her devotion to her students. Watch for a Level 2 class after the first of the year. To share your ideas for educational programs at TBE, please give me a call at 774-2649. 


Refuse *continued from page 4*

eight-day festival. If you read the historical books of the Maccabees (no, they are nowhere in our Bible — you have to go to the Apocrypha or the Catholic Bible to find them — oh, and you have to know Greek) you will discover that there is no mention anywhere of a miraculous cruse of oil lasting eight days; rather, the reasons given for the celebration are that the Jews had been unable to celebrate Sukkot that fall because of the battle, and thus were holding a belated Sukkot to fulfill the biblical commandment, and that their rededication of the Temple mirrored King Solomon's week-long dedication ceremony some 800 years prior.

And yet Hanukkah has become the highlight of our children's Jewish year, aided and abetted by a society which doesn't know any better and assumes that everyone must have a Christmas or its equivalent. As an educator who fre-

quently speaks to school groups, I can count on one hand — actually on less than one finger — the number of times I have been invited into a public school classroom to explain either Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Simchat Torah, Tu B'Shevat, Purim, Lag BaOmer, Pesach, Shavuot or Tisha B'Av. But in a week or two my phone will begin to ring off the hook with requests to come and talk about Hanukkah, so that the Jewish students won't feel left out at the holiday season.

So maybe the world at large doesn't know better — but we should. We can give our children the weekly holiday of Shabbat; think of it — a holiday every week! How special is that? How about doing *havdalah*, with the mesmerizing flaming candle, the sweet spices and the kiddush cup brimming with grape juice? I've yet to meet a child who isn't fascinated at least by the pyrotechnics! There are pre-fabricated sukkah kits

available all over the internet — why not order one for next year? You've got eight months to figure out how to assemble it! The next new moons will appear on December 10th and January 8th — why not go out, look up at the sky and talk about the miracle of the universe and the cycles of time? (I know, it's Maine — wear your Bean boots and snowsuits.) Plant an indoor garden and have a seder for Tu B'Shevat, and maybe look up the passage in the Torah that tells us why trees need a birthday in the first place; fruits and nuts are traditional, but birthday cake always works! We don't have to ignore Hanukkah — it too has its beauty — but let's put it back in its place on the priority list. There is so much wonder for our children to experience in their Judaism throughout the year; every month and every season can be special if we just make it so — we already have the blueprints — we just need to build on them. Let's get to work... 



DECEMBER KOL YELADIM

The December Kol Yeladim Shabbat service for children under six will be held on December 9 at 9:30 AM in the classroom at TBE. The Torah portion will be Noah's ark. The service will be followed by a Kiddush and HaMotzi.

We will also be hosting a Family Shabbat & Hanukkah Dinner on December 22 from 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM. Please RSVP by December 19 to 450-8203.

Kol Yeladim is for children ages 0-5 and their parents. It is free and open to the community.

COMING UP IN KADIMA

- Sunday, December 17 — Latke Making with Steve, following Hebrew School.
- Sunday, January 28 — Board Games, Cards and Lunch, following Hebrew School.
- Sunday, February 25 — Snow Tubing with USY. Details to come.

Kadima is the 4th-6th grade affiliate of USY and is the Hebrew word for "forward"! For more information, contact Steve Harris & Natalie Ladd at 878-3477.

KIDS KEHILLAH

by Debbie Kanter

How can children learn *tefillah* and feel at home in services? The answer is simple and fun: Kids Kehillah!

On the first and third Shabbat of every month we hold special services for grades K-5 to provide children the opportunity to practice and lead a family-friendly, age-appropriate service, and have fun at the same time! Please join us in the school wing on these upcoming dates. While certain classes are sometimes assigned to lead, all students are welcome each week.

- December 2 — K and 1 lead
- December 16
- January 6 — 4th grade leads
- January 20 — 5th grade leads

Rabbi *continued from page 1*

all of that go. This year, as we light the *chanukiyah*, let us think of ourselves as "pious" and identified Jews. What implications does that thought hold for us? How does that piety manifest itself in us? In our families? In our businesses? Can we add one more mitzvah to our lives? Can we think about what we already do in new ways? What is it about you that feels Jewish? Let us use the eight days of Chanukah to begin to rededicate our lives to our spiritual selves. Let us celebrate many miracles.

Chag Urim sameach — Happy Chanukah.

Sisterhood Gift Shop Open for Holidays

Temple Beth El's Sisterhood Gift Shop offers a wide variety of Judaica items: ritual and holiday items, jewelry, mezuzahs, menorahs, candles, and gifts for all occasions. We are also happy to place special orders for kip-pot, tallit, or other items not found in the shop. Although the Gift Shop does not have regular hours, the wonderful staff of Temple Beth El can open it any time the Temple Office is open. You can also e-mail or call Debbie Barlock at cestme@aol.com or 774-1080 with any questions. For convenient Hanukkah shopping, the Gift Shop will be open during Hebrew School hours on Sundays, December 3 and 10 from 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM, and Wednesdays, December 6 and 13 from 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM.

TBE Israel Trip Update

- SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10: TRIP MEETING
- FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15: DEPOSITS DUE

A wonderful group is forming for our Temple Beth El trip to Israel, which will take place July 15 – July 25, 2007. Please join us on Sunday, December 10, at 3:30 PM at the home of Judy and Ben Bertram, 3 Hoylake Circle, Falmouth, to further plan our journey and to meet one another. The initial deposit of \$500 per person will be due on Friday, December 15. You can also bring it to the meeting. We still have room, so please call Judy Bertram at 671-2247 or email her at jbertram@maine.rr.com.

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IN OUR TBE FAMILY

Mazel Tov

To Anna and Josh Prayer, and big sister Emma Chaya, on the birth of Zev Aaron on November 15.

To Yoon Cohen on her acceptance to University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine.

We mourn the passing of:

Harry Sher, father of Phil Sher, on October 27, in Florida.

Richard Jaffe, brother of Lisa Arens, on November 12, in Alabama.

ANNIVERSARIES

DECEMBER 2006

- 2 Ernest and Diana Sturman (64 years)
- 4 Paul and Sarah Muscat
- 5 Sid and Sue Steinkeler (30 years)
- 6 Rich and Rachel Robinov
- 8 Bob and Barbara Brenner (53 years)
- 8 Andrea and Christopher Garland (5 years)
- 9 Louis and Tina Fineberg (66 years)
- 16 David and Elizabeth Turesky
- 17 Walter and Marcia Goldfarb (51 years)
- 18 Bob and Saralee Harrisburg (51 years)
- 21 Laurence and Wendy Kane (15 years)
- 21 Ken and Diane Volk
- 22 Harold and Beatrice Carlin
- 25 Larry and Joan Levy
- 29 Charlie and Ellie Miller
- 31 Natan and Orly Kahn (15 years)

Marlena *continued from page 5*

Marlena's mitzvah project was with HART (Homeless Animal Rescue Team), the clinic in Cumberland, where she cared for more than 100 cats.

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)

Building Fund

Daniel & Phyllis Dunitz, In Memory of Stanley Worth

Brotherhood Fund

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

David and Ethel Wilson Family Fund

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Charlie & Ellie Miller, In Memory of Stanley Worth

Anna Stillman, In Memory of Stanley Worth

Charlie & Ellie Miller, In Honor of Stephanie Wilson's PhD in Judaic Studies from Brandeis University

Edward L. Weisberg Fund

Rita Weisberg, In Memory of Evelyn Kasen

Rita Weisberg & children, In Memory of Henry Schwey

Alan & Karen Lerman, In Memory of Evelyn Kasen

Carl & Recia Richman, In Memory of Evelyn Kasen

Alan & Karen Lerman, In Memory of Joan Brand

Alan & Karen Lerman, In Memory of Michael Moscowitz

Rita Weisberg, In Memory of Stanley Worth

Harvey & Sara Berman, In Memory of Evelyn Kasen

Endowment

General Fund

EC Nussinow, In Memory of Joan Brann

Henni Polak

Joan & Jeffrey Barkin, In Memory of Abraham Belsky

Shirley Kazon, In Memory of Bernard Kazon

Lillian Blotner, In Memory of Elizabeth Blotner

Shirley Kazon, In Memory of Eva Hurwitz Slater

Larry Brown & Sandi Goodman-Brown, In Memory of Evelyn Kasen

Judy & Benjamin Bertram, In Memory of Evelyn Kasen

Judy & Benjamin Bertram, In Memory of Stanley Worth

Larry Brown & Sandi Goodman-Brown, In Memory of Joan Brand

Larry Brown & Sandi Goodman-Brown, In Memory of Shirley Lerman

Joan & Jeffrey Barkin, In Memory of Stanley Worth

Lillian Blotner, In Memory of Stanley Worth

Abe & Tama Fineberg, In Memory of Stanley Worth

Shirley Kazon, In Memory of Stanley Worth

Larry & Lisa Plotkin, In Memory of Stanley Worth

Murray & Shirley Rosen, In Memory of Stanley Worth

Joseph & Rhoda Wildstein, In Memory of Stanley Worth

Frederick & Jenny Aronson, In Memory of Eris Renczenski

Pearl Wislin, in appreciation of High Holidays aliyah

Carol & Stu Gilbert, In Memory of Stanley Worth

Gift of Israel

Sandi Bartel & David Polsky, In Honor of Charlie & Ellie Miller's new grandchildren, Daniel Jonathan & Emily Rose Cleek

Hebrew School Fund

Barry & Lori Saltz, In Memory of Adrienne Hinda Saltz

Sam & Bette Novick, In Memory of Alex Stern

Barry & Lori Saltz, In Memory of Mildred Shulman

Debbie, Josh & Lauren Kanter, In Memory of Stanley Worth

Kiddush Fund

Kol Yeladim

Koocher/Robinov Hebrew School Scholarship Fund

Ethel Koocher, In Memory of Evelyn Kasen

Stan & Sherrie Schatz, In Memory of Evelyn Kasen

Stan & Sherrie Schatz, In Memory of Stanley Worth

Kulanu Fund

Peggy & Stephen Shapiro, In Memory of Evelyn Kasen

Douglas & Gail Volk, In Memory of Evelyn Kasen

Miriam Remar, In Memory of Stanley Worth

Douglas & Gail Volk, In Memory of Stanley Worth

Natalie Brenner, In Memory of Evelyn Kasen

David & Elaine Lewis, In Memory of Evelyn Kasen

David & Elaine Lewis, In Memory of Joan Brand

Peter & Barbara Shaw, In Memory of Laura Ullman

Peter & Barbara Shaw, In Honor of Charlie & Ellie Miller's new grandchildren, twins Daniel Jonathan & Emily Rose Cleek

Camilla Polisner, In Memory of Saul Polisner

Natalie Brenner, In Memory of Stanley Worth

Miriam Remar, In Memory of Stanley Worth

Peter & Barbara Shaw, In Memory of Stanley Worth

Rita Willis, In Memory of Stanley Worth

Steve & Peggy Shapiro, In Memory of Roberta Seals

Steve & Peggy Shapiro, In Memory of Sidney Kodis

Jeannine Poulin, In Memory of Stanley Worth

Mary & Benjamin Lazarus Library Fund

Memorial Park

Alvin Jolovitz, In Memory of Sarah Jolovitz

Molly Finkelman Choir Fund

Music Fund

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Steve & Peggy Shapiro, In Memory of Joan Brand

Dick & Adele Aronson, In Memory of Stanley Worth

Norman Finberg USY Fund

Nancy Finberg, In Honor of Charlie & Ellie Miller's new grandchildren, twins Daniel Jonathan & Emily Rose Cleek.

Nancy Finberg, In Memory of Evelyn Kasen

Nancy Finberg, In Memory of Joan Brand

Nancy Finberg, In Memory of Stanley Worth

Prayer Book

Lenny & Merle Nelson, In Memory of Evelyn Kasen

Lenny & Merle Nelson, In Memory of Michael Moscovitz

Lenny & Merle Nelson, In Memory of Stanley Worth

Sam & Arlene Dodek, Marlene & Murray Blitstein, Salena & Don Silver, Gail & Harvey Zarchin & Rose & Ennio Riga, In Memory of Joan Brand

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

David & Nancy Brenerman, In Memory of Evelyn Kasen

Yad I'Yad

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Ann Fleischer & Al Lefebvre, In Memory of Bernice Fleischer

Harriette Small, In Memory of Irving Small

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Shofar Deadlines – January 2007 issue is November 28; February issue is December 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.