

SHOFAR

MAY - JUNE 2013 • IYAR - TAMMUZ 5773

Upcoming SPECIAL EVENTS

Tuesday, May 14
6:00 pm

Festive Dairy Dinner &
Tikkun Leil Shavuot

Saturday, May 18
12:30 pm

Special Shabbat Luncheon
in honor of the 25th anniversary
of Rabbi Braun's ordination

Wednesday, May 29
5:30 pm

Israeli Buffet Dinner
&
6:30 pm

TBE presents:
The Israeli Scouts
Friendship Caravan
LIVE in concert!

Sunday, June 2
12:00 pm

TBE Open House
Celebration

Tuesday, June 18
5:30 pm

TBE Annual Meeting

WILL WE DO AND WILL WE HEAR?

Dov Goldberg, Director of Congregational Learning



Shavuot is often a major challenge to religious school educators. It doesn't seem to have the kinds of hands-on activities as do our other holidays; no *shofar*, no *sukkah*, no Chanukah menorah, no *grogger*, no *matzah*, no ritual object intrinsically characteristic of the festival. Frankly, blintzes and cheese cake (as much as I like them) and Ten

Commandments art projects just don't cut it. And more seriously, in some years (though fortunately not this one) religious school has actually ended by the time the holiday comes around. But, Shavuot is one of the three major pilgrimage festivals along with Pesach and Sukkot. In ancient times people made extraordinary efforts to try to get to the temple in Jerusalem for the festivals whenever they could. Certainly it is important for this holiday to be in our curriculum. So, despite the challenges we persevere.

What do we tell the students? We, of course, teach them that according to the Torah this is the anniversary of the giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai. We also explain that this also celebrates the beginning of the Spring harvest in Israel. And as they get older we often teach them the famous words which our ancestors uttered regarding receiving God's commandments: *Na'aseh v'Nishmah* (we will do and we will hear).

Na'aseh v'Nishmah can be an inherently dangerous thing to teach kids, and especially teens. On the surface it appears to give them license to do what they too often have a tendency to do anyway; that is, do what they want before learning about reasons and possible implications. So, rather than listen to us first they merely act and figure they'll deal with any potential consequences later. Actually, in some ways it's how most of us treat much of the Torah and *mitzvot*. Few of us truly consult the Torah, *halakhah* (Jewish Law), and Jewish tradition in depth before determining our actions. Our tradition is something we wish we knew more about and might want to make more a part of our lives, but, we rarely have as much time as we'd like to get around to it. Let's face it, most of don't spend a lot of time studying the *haggadah* and deciding what we'll talk about at our seder. For many of we just pull out the old reliable "Maxwell House" and more or less do what our grandparents did or didn't do. And we're usually happy with that because it feels right, even if there's a lot we don't understand about the why's and wherefore's of the ritual.

The most common and beloved interpretation of *Na'aseh v'Nishmah* is that without yet knowing the content of God's commandments the People of Israel were

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TEMPLE BETH EL

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

All are welcome.

Monday through Friday	6:50 am
Friday evening Kabbalat Shabbat service	5:30 pm
Saturday (Shabbat) and Jewish holidays	9:30 am
Sunday	9:00 am
Secular holidays	8:30 am

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2012-2013

President - Irwin Gratz

Leadership Team:

July-Sept. 2012 - Adam Arens

Oct.-Dec. 2012 - Jon Brier & Judy Gatchell

Jan.-March 2013 - Irwin Gratz & David Brenerman

April-June 2013 - Joan Levy

Vice Presidents - Adam Arens, Jon Brier & Joan Levy

Treasurer - Jon Brier

At Large: Barbara Dichter

Ex officio:

Rabbi Carolyn Braun

Jodi Veysey

TEMPLE BETH EL 2012-2013 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Adam Arens	Jodi Freedman
Jon Brier	Irwin Gratz
Barbara Dichter	Judy Gatchell
Becky DeLois	Karen Lerman
David Brenerman	Joan Levy
Kate Foye	Fae Silverman

TEMPLE BETH EL'S MISSION

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.



Rabbi Carolyn Braun

Dov Goldberg, *Director of Congregational Learning*

Jodi Veysey, *Administrative Director*

Anne Marie & Jeannine Poulin, *Administrative Assistants*

Sherri Quint, *Bookkeeper & TBE Memorial Park Administrator*

Deena Schoenfeld, *Communications & Special Events*

Bob Bradbury, *Custodian*

Rabbi Emeritus - Harry Z. Sky, D.D.

Cantor Emeritus - Kurt Messerschmidt

Shofar Design & Production - Deena Schoenfeld



THE RABBINICAL
ASSEMBLY

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Irwin Gratz



Running our synagogue takes more than just the efforts of our superb staff. It takes all of us. I'm sure you've heard that before. But, if you'll lend me a few minutes of your time, I'd like to detail how you can help our synagogue.

There are so many things we do during the course of a year, I'm sure there's something you might find interesting,

Let's start with the simple stuff. During the warmer weather months ahead, we're always looking for people to help us out with simple landscaping. Like, pulling weeds for an hour? Maybe you're an inside person. Whenever we have big meal events, we usually need help in the kitchen. And no, you don't have to be a gourmet chef. You only have to be able to open packages, chop onions or, my personal favorite, shell hard-boiled eggs. Oh, and before we cook, we need to shop. Having someone willing to make a grocery run in preparation for an event is always a great help.

For some events, we put up decorations in the Social Hall. Set tables. If it's an event you were already planning to attend, come an hour or two early and you'll be a big help.

Want to be more involved in how the synagogue runs? Join one of our committees: Adult Jewish Learning, Early Childhood, Kol Yeladim, or the Ritual Committee. Are you handy around the house? Our house of worship also needs the occasional door fixed, or wall painted. Join our House Committee and be an extra pair of hands when needed.

There's a Youth Advisory committee, a Hebrew School Committee, a Membership committee. Our Yad L'Yad committee is a big one, with a big mission: caring for our fellow congregants in their time of need. Yad L'Yad may provide a ride, or a visit, or a meal. Our Tikkun Olam Committee organizes our congregation's efforts to provide caring services out in the wider community.

Our Keshet Committee watches for other ways our Congregation is asked to participate in the social and political life of our community. Our Governance committee deals with questions about our Temple's constitution and participates in finding and recruiting members for our board of directors.

There are other projects: we have a gift shop and a library (yes, a library) that could use more attention. Can you help us? It's as easy as calling the Temple office and asking. I know we'll have something for you to do. ■



NEW MEMBERS

Carol Nemeroff &
Liam Harrison
and their children
Caitlin and Samuel

MAZEL TOV מזל טוב

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Douglas Chene and Jennifer Elowitch
- 7 Joel and Talia Timmins
- 8 Ben Marcus and Anita Bernhardt
- 12 Adam and Lisa Arens
- 12 Burt and Barbara Epstein
- 17 Randy and Pam Harding
- 25 Leticia Huttman and Rhetta Huttman
- 26 Eli and Katie Small
- 27 Murray and Shirley Rosen
- 29 David and Nancy Brenerman
- 29 Jeff and Becca Howes
- 30 Matt and Lynn Goldfarb
- 30 Michael and Linda Jacobson
- 30 Jerry and Phyllis Rosen

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 Myron and Ilene Berman
- 5 Harvey and Kathy Silverman
- 6 Ron and Gaye Blumenthal
- 8 Edward and Charlotte Shible
- 8 George and Ruthanne Singal
- 9 Michael and Thea Greene
- 9 Mickey Haas, Jr. and Sheryl Haas
- 9 David and Elaine Lewis
- 9 Linwood and Judy Small
- 12 James and Barbara Kriger
- 14 Brian and Connie Goldberg
- 14 James and Marjorie Goodman
- 14 Patrick and Jackie Maidman
- 15 Norm and Judy Wilson
- 16 Benjamin and Jeri Brem
- 16 Jon and Amy Brier
- 17 Lenny and Merle Nelson
- 17 Ernie and Toby Wallach
- 18 Harvey and Carole Cole
- 18 Hy and Peggy Osher
- 19 Mark and Norma Filler
- 19 Barry and Lori Saltz
- 20 Dov Goldberg and Danielle Romanoff
- 22 Harold Millman and Miriam Remar Millman
- 23 Bernie and Marlene Cohen
- 23 Dan and Phyllis Dunitz
- 24 Joe and Debbie Bornstein
- 24 Jerry and Sue Gordon
- 24 Joseph and Rhoda Wildstein
- 25 Jim and Bonnie Klein
- 26 Jon and Jodi Freedman
- 26 Alan and Geri Hirsch
- 27 Stan and Judy Elowitch
- 27 Stephen and Lisa Schiffman
- 30 Stephen and Francine Blattner

BAT MITZVAH

Jessica Brown



Jessica Ann Brown, the daughter of Larry & Sandi Brown, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on May 25, 2013.

Jessica is a 7th grade straight A student at Waynflete School in Portland. She is also a well rounded athlete who participates in soccer, basketball, and softball where she is an accomplished pitcher. Jessica is an avid reader and also enjoys skiing, tennis, golf, playing the piano, and spending time with her friends and family. Her favorite subject in school is Math, and she considers herself as a "mathlete," but her true talents lie in her creative skills.

Jessica is a recent recipient of Waynflete's Sportsmanship Award which recognizes strong teamwork qualities and positive attitude. She is also an amazing facilitator outside of athletics by continuously finding ways to bring friends from school, sports and other activities together.

Jessica is an involved citizen through Girl Scouts and her community service projects at school. Her love for reading and her experience volunteering for Head Start has helped formulate her Mitzvah Project to collect book donations and build a mini library for the Head Start program. As part of this project, Jessica is also helping the JCA preschool staff setup and organize their new preschool library.

Jessica is very spiritual and exhibits strong Jewish values. Her interest in her Jewish culture will help build a solid foundation for guidance, happiness, and support throughout Jessica's experiences in life.

Jessica and her parents would like to thank Rabbi Braun, Dov Goldberg and all of her Hebrew teachers who have along the way help strengthen her passion for Judaism, influenced her spiritually and have provided the guidance and preparation for this special day.

Please join us
for a special
Shabbat luncheon
in honor of
Rabbi Carolyn Braun



*Celebrating the 25th anniversary
of Rabbi Braun's ordination to the Rabbinate*

Saturday, May 18, 2013

Following Shabbat services, at approximately 12:30 pm

Temple Beth El - 400 Deering Avenue, Portland

Rabbi Braun was among the first class of women to be accepted for rabbinical training at the Jewish Theological Seminary, and was ordained in 1988.

All are welcome.



Save the date for TBE's

**OPEN HOUSE
CELEBRATION**

Sunday, June 2, 2013

12:00 - 2:00 pm

**Temple Beth El
400 Deering Avenue, Portland**

FREE! All are welcome!

**Music • Refreshments
Kids games & activities
Bounce house • Face painters
Fun for everyone!**

CONDOLENCES

Our sincere condolences to the Bridgman family; Geri, Peter, Glenn, Daniel, and Sarah, on the passing of Geri's mother, Muriel Shapiro, who passed away on Saturday, March 2, in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Our sincere condolences to Jerry and Phyllis Rosen on the passing of Jerry's sister, Beatrice Hyman, who passed away on Wednesday, March 6, in Silver Spring, Maryland at the age of 98.

Our sincere condolences to Rabbi Joel Klein and family on the passing of Rabbi Klein's wife, Anna, who passed away on Sunday, March 17 at her home in Portland.

Our sincere condolences to the family of Oscar P. Gottschalk, who passed away on Thursday, April 4. Oscar is survived by his two daughters, Anita Weiner of South Portland and Norma Elowitch of California. Four grandchildren, Daniel N. Weiner and his wife Deborah Cahn-Weiner of CA, Joseph B. Weiner and his wife Stephanie A. Shen of NY, Jonathan B. and his wife Lisa M. Weiner of NY and Heidi M. Elowitch of CA. He is survived by seven great grandchildren. Oscar was predeceased by his wife of 76 years, Gussy Gottschalk.

Our sincere condolences to the family of Charles Young, who passed away from lung cancer on Thursday, April 11th, 2013. Charlie is survived by; his sister Elizabeth Young Spector of Portland, his son Jonathan and his wife Susan of Falmouth, granddaughter Alisa and her husband Coley Andrews and their children Walker, Taylor and Lawson of Virginia, and his grandson Zachary Young of New York, and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents, brothers Lawrence and Manuel, sister Beatrice Carlin and his son Howard.

Our sincere condolences to the Foye & Gatchell families; Colin, Kate, Connor, Samuel and Joshua and to Judy, Dan and Ben on the passing of Kate's mother-in-law, Constance I. "Connie" Foye, who passed away on Monday, February 11.

Our sincere condolences to the Krinsky Kemmerer family; Joy, David, Samuel and Tova, on the passing of Joy's father, William Krinsky. William passed away on Monday, February 11 in California at age 83. He was predeceased by his wife, Estelle.

TODAH RABAH

To the volunteers who helped bake hamentaschen for Purim - Barbara Dichter and Clara Purinton.

To the volunteers who helped assemble Shalach Manot baskets: Daniela Skalina, Paul & Sarah Muscat, Harlan Baker, Tom & Margie Berman, Lisa Berman, Andrea Levinsky, Carolyn Turcio-Gilman, Lisa Schiffman, Clara Purinton, Evalin Stearns, Michael Peisner, Diana Staples, Sandra Kornblum, Valeria Sinelnikov, and Rabbi Braun.

To Greg & Janine Smestad for sponsoring the Oneg Shabbat on Friday night, March 1 and Kiddush on Saturday March 2 in honor of their son Gabe's Bar Mitzvah.

To Clara Purinton, for helping with TBE mailings.

To the volunteers who helped deliver Shalach Manot: Harlan Baker, Tom and Margie Berman, Anita Bernhardt, Jon and Amy Brier, Becky and Joe DeLois, Ginny Eklund, Fred and Karen Farber, Isabelle Johnston, Joy Krinsky, Mason and Sarah Legendre, Armand Lucier, Ellen and Jon Handelman, Rebecca Howes, Karen Lerman, Charlie and Ellie Miller, Susan Most, Sarah Muscat, Clara Purinton, Lisa Schiffman, Edward Schultz, Andre and Daniela Skalina, Vilean Taggersell, Carolyn Turcio-Gilman, Elliott Wincele and Olivia Solodar Wincele.

To Lisa Berman and Margie Berman who helped bag Hamentaschen.

To our Purim volunteers and helpers: Megillah readers: Rob Aranson, Barbara Dichter, Fred Farber, Rabbi David Freidenreich, Dov Goldberg, Paul Greene, Natan Kahn, Ellie Miller.

Audio visual setup: Tom Berman
Room set up and decoration: Robert Bradbury, Rabbi Braun, Dov Goldberg, Deena Schoenfeld.

To Karen Lerman who brought the TBE staff delicious pastries.

To Michael & Barbara Peisner for sponsoring in part the Community Shabbat Dinner on Friday night, March 8, in memory of Jack Kanter and Balfour Peisner.

To Isabelle Cohen Johnson and Lisa Schiffman, for helping with the TBE Shofar mailing.

To Karen Lerman, for sponsoring-in-part the Sunday, March 3 Birthday Brunch for TBE members age 90 and older, in honor of her father, Abe Benjamen.

To Eden Johnson, for bringing Girl Scout cookies for the TBE staff.

To Rorie Lee and Ross Goldberg for watering the plants in the Sanctuary.

To Kate & Colin Foye for sponsoring the Oneg Shabbat on Friday night, March 15, in honor of their son Connor's Bar Mitzvah.

To the volunteers who helped with the Shabbat Dinner on Friday, March 8: Joan Levy, Karen and Emma Hindall, for helping in the kitchen.

To our dedicated volunteers for the hours of work that made our Passover Seder happen: Irwin Gratz, Judy Gatchell, Jennifer Read, Isabelle Cohen Johnson (and Riley & Eden Johnson), Becky & Joe DeLois, Cliff Kucine, Rhett and Leticia Huttman, Paul Muscat, John and Amy Brier (and Abby Brier) and Terry Veysey.

To Isabelle Cohen Johnson for the amazing French Matzah and to Bob Bradbury for setting up and cleaning up lunch.

Todah Rabah to Sam and Bette Novick for sponsoring the Oneg on Friday, April 12, in memory of Bette's mother, Violet Stern.

To Ernie and Toby Wallach for sponsoring the Kiddush on Saturday, April 13, in honor of Toby's birthday.

To Myron & Ilene Berman, Len & Anne Berman, Tom & Margie Berman and Shelley & Mark Chorney for sponsoring the Oneg on Friday, February 15, in memory of Samuel and Ruth Berman.

To Laura Piltch and Isabelle Cohen Johnson for bagging Hamentaschen for TBE's Shalach Manot project.

MAZEL TOV

To Gabe Smestad and his family on the occasion of Gabe's Bar Mitzvah.

To Connor Foye and his family on the occasion of Connor's Bar Mitzvah!

To Rabbi David Freidenreich, who was granted tenure at Colby College, where he is the Pulver Family Assistant Professor of Jewish Studies.

BAR MITZVAH

Devon Cohen



Please join Joan and Jim Cohen as their son, Devon is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on June 15, 2013.

Devon is a 7th grader at Lyman Moore Middle School. At Moore he has participated on the math, swim, tennis, and cross country teams. Devon has also been a lead in the Lyman Moore musicals, sings in the school chorus, and loves to play piano. He is a ski racer at Sugarloaf and recently learned how to do a front flip on the trampoline from his freestyle ski friends! Devon attends Chewonki overnight camp for part of the summer and this will also be his last year attending Sugarloaf's Outdoor Adventure Camp where he has gone every summer (except one) since he was 3 years old!

Devon would like to thank Rabbi Braun, Dov Goldberg and his Hebrew School teachers for all their help and encouragement in preparing for this special day.



Did you know?

Rabbi Braun sends out personal birthday and anniversary greetings to our congregation!

If your name isn't listed in our monthly birthday and anniversary announcements, it's possible we don't have your date(s) in our database. Please contact the Temple office at 774-2649 or office@tbemaine.org so that we can add your information to our system.

FUNDRAISING & MEMBERSHIP

Come on in, we're doing great things!

Karen Lerman, Fundraising & Membership Chair

Shalom! It's Spring and time to shed all those layers & trade in those mukluks for toe-tapping shoes. Please join us on Wednesday, May 29, beginning at 5:30 pm in our Social Hall for a delicious Israeli Buffet dinner. It's the perfect prelude to the Israeli Scouts Friendship Caravan, live in concert. This is a delightful musical evening with dancing and music sung both in English and Hebrew. The Scouts Friendship Caravan is currently touring the US and Canada and we are thrilled to be able to present them to our Temple family! Please call the office 774-2649 and reserve your tickets for dinner and this show today!

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE - Sunday, June 2

It's time once again for Temple Beth El's Open House. Join us on Sunday June 2 at 12:00 noon for our annual celebration of *kehillah* (our congregation). We'll have refreshments, fun, games and crafts for everyone. We hope you'll join us for a day of fun! ■

HOUSE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Dan Gatchell, House Committee Chair

- Repairs were made to the kitchen dish washer.
- The roof drain above the dairy kitchen ceiling had a minor leak but was corrected by clearing ice and snow from roof drain. This drain and roof area will be investigated ASAP in spring.
- A minor leak appeared in the ceiling above the steps from social hall to small chapel. It was Steve McBrady's (SMR) opinion that the leak is the result of deteriorating brick mortar in the wall in this area. Will be addressed this spring ASAP.
- The roof top HVAC (#12) that serves the kitchen, social hall and chapel had to have the heating burner ignition device replaced by Johnson and Jordan (J & J).
- Two of the roof top units serving Levey Day School had to be repaired by J & J as a result of the snow storm. Gregg Garson came in and checked to ensure that all HVAC units had the snow removed from critical areas of these units.
- Gregg Garson checked all refrigeration units for correct temps as there have been complaints from kitchen users that the temps have been erratic. Comparison of the TBE refrigerator/freezer temperature gauges was made with an electronic temperature monitoring device by Gregg. Discrepancies were noted and temperatures adjusted. Will monitor existing temperature gauges to see if they will need replacement. I am confident that this can be done by the House Committee if needed.
- TBE Director Jodi Veysey has recently discovered that TBE has been using an excessive amount of water than in the past. We (House Committee, Jodi and Bob) did our best to find the leak which was finally determined to be an outside hose faucet that was leaking. Our water usage has since declined.
- The kitchen grease trap located in the boiler room has begun leaking occasionally. A plumber had to be called in to clean and repair it. The unit has been added to the TBE Monthly check off list and a schedule set for routine maintenance.
- WE WANT YOU! A building the size of TBE requires a lot of maintenance and, of course, a lot of work, time and money. From my experience in the military, jobs in the plumbing and heating fields, and owning my own home I have found that a Preventative Maintenance System (PMS) works. This PMS can prevent small problems from becoming large, more expensive problems. This has already been implemented at TBE by the House Committee and has proven its worth with help and input from Jodi and her staff. Our current House Committee has been doing a great job and have often paid for parts/materials from their own pocket. There is just so much to do and our Committee members have commitments to work, family, etc. Please consider joining/helping the House Committee; "we are the proud but too few." A few hours from a lot of people can lighten the load, be a mitzvah, a learning experience, an opportunity to make new friends, build community, and set an example for our kids and new or potential members. Contact "Uncle Dan" at 725- 8018. With this deal there is no enlistment or contract, only a chance to help when you can. ■

TIKKUN OLAM CHAVURA

Carolyn Turcio-Gilman, Tikkun Olam Committee Chair

YOU have made the world a better place. Temple Beth El received a letter from Preble Street in late January which said: "On behalf of Preble Street's clients, staff and board of directors, I want to thank you for your December 2012 donation of five bags of food, six bags of clothing, and toiletries... Thanks to the generosity of friends like you, our busy December was a success. We met the urgent daily needs of the most vulnerable members of our community and we also distributed gifts to 700 people. Preble Street depends almost entirely on donations of clothing, personal hygiene products, and food from the community to provide services that are essential for health, safety, and survival. Thanks again for your generosity and for sharing our mission."

Their mission is our mission which is YOUR mission: turning the world into a better place. The donations of food, clothing and toiletries is delivered to Preble Street or other shelters every month, thanks to you. Todah rabah! ■

YAD L'YAD - TBE's Caring Committee

Becky DeLois, Chair

Yad l'Yad had a busy winter sending cards to those who have been ill and bringing Shabbat shiva meals to those who are in mourning. There also are two Yad l'Yad members who visit one of our Temple members at his home on a regular basis. If, however, we are not reaching out to everyone who is ill, it is not because we do not wish to; rather, it is due to the fact we are not always in the know due to privacy laws. I do encourage all of you to contact me or the Temple if you or a loved one would like a visit or a friendly call or a note of good cheer.

Have a great spring, which I do hope is warmer, sunnier, and drier than our winter! And remember, if you need a kind hand to reach out to you in Yad l'Yad, call Temple Beth El at 774-2649 or contact Becky DeLois, Yad l'Yad Chair at 899-4068 or radelois@gmail.com. ■

KOL YELADIM - Early Childhood Programs

Talia Timmins

We are in the middle of another wonderful year of fun with the Kol Yeladim program and I hope you can join us at an upcoming event. Kol Yeladim is designed to build a community for our Jewish youngsters, ages 0-5, and their families/caregivers. It's a great place for our children, and the adults who accompany them, to make new friends. We meet approximately once a month, usually on a Sunday morning at TBEL, for stories, games, crafts, baking, snacks, and lots of fun with friends. The topic of our program changes monthly and recently we learned about Tzedakah (charity) and Mitzvot (good deeds), and the holiday of Purim. Together with friends, we baked *hamantashen* and made *groggers* (noisemakers), collected winter hats and gloves for donation, and made our own Tzedakah boxes to use at home. Spring programs include Music Fun with Charlie and a Passover Extravaganza, as well as celebrating Israeli Independence Day. All children ages 5 and under are welcome to join us and I hope to see you soon at one of our upcoming events. Contact me at kolyeladim@tbemaine.org to be added to our email list. ■

KESHET COMMITTEE

Laws and Protections in Maine for Gay and Lesbian couples

Sandra Kornblum

Since 2004 when Maine made domestic partnership legal in the state, certain rights have been afforded to same-sex couples. Now that gay marriage is legal, my assumption is that these rights will continue and others will also be added. Currently, homosexual couples married by the end of 2012 must file joint tax returns.

According to GLAD, Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders, the following protections apply for domestic partners. My assumption is that these protections apply to homosexual married couples as well, though the information available has not been updated to say such.

Inheritance Rights: In the absence of a will, couples are given the same inheritance rights as a legally recognized spouse (although unequal tax burdens remain).

Legal Priority: The law provides that a domestic partner:

- will be treated like a spouse when seeking to be a guardian of his or her partner in the event of that partner's incapacity;
- will have the same priority as legal spouses in seeking a protective order concerning the partner's estate or the welfare of the partner;
- is entitled to notice of hearings concerning the appointment of guardians in the event of the partner's incapacity; and
- is entitled to notice of the issuance of protective orders in the event of death.

Survivor Rights: In the event of one partner's death, the law makes the surviving partner the first of the next of kin when determining who has the right to make funeral and burial arrangements.

In addition, the following protections apply:

- State law requires all insurers providing health coverage in the State of Maine to offer their policyholders the option of additional benefits for their partner.
- Maine's Family Medical Leave Law was amended in June 2007 to include the employee's partner and child of the employee's partner.
- In 2007, the Maine legislature passed an "Act Regarding Fairness for Families Regarding Worker's Compensation Coverage" which added "domestic partners" of employees to the list of individuals who may waive worker's compensation coverage in certain circumstances.
- Also in 2007, the law concerning absentee ballot procedures was amended to include "domestic partners" under the definition of "immediate family" for the purpose of requesting an absentee ballot.

In addition, couples can jointly adopt children. There is much more information available on the GLAD website, www.glad.org. ■

KADIMA BETH EL SHABBAT DINNER SPONSORS

Jonathan and Ellie Handelman

BROTHERHOOD

Dick and Adele Aronson *In honor of Matt Goldfarb's 75th birthday*
 David and Elaine Lewis *In honor of Matt Goldfarb's 75th birthday*
 Mark Crasnick *In memory of Rose Crasnick*
 Phil and Elizabeth Levinsky *In memory of Hyman Zaitlin*
 Burt and Barbara Epstein *Speedy recovery Elaine Lewis*

KOOCHER/ROBINOV FUND

Paul and Susan Trusiani *In honor of Ethel Koocher's birthday*
 Ethel Koocher *In memory of M. Gould's sister, Bobbi*
 Ethel Koocher *In memory of Beatrice Hyman*
 Ethel Koocher *In memory of Dorothy Heller*
 Scott and Alise Koocher *In memory of Nathan Koocher*
 Scott and Alise Koocher *In memory of David Koocher*
 Jackie Robinov *In memory of Eva Wald*
 Jackie Robinov *In memory of Alec Bookbinder*
 Jackie Robinov *In memory of Isaac Wald*
 Jackie Robinov *In memory of Rachel Riemer*
 Jackie Robinov *In memory of Frank Robinov*
 Stan and Sherrie Schatz *In memory of Dorothy Heller*
 Ethel Koocher *Speedy recovery Paul Trusiani*
 Paul and Susan Trusiani *Speedy recovery Stan Schatz*

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

John Cole *In thanks for Rabbi Braun's help*
 John Cole *In thanks for Norm Wilson's help*
 Geoffrey and Harriet Rice
 Erwin and Audrey Muscat *In honor of Passover*
 Rabbi Lawrence Troster and Elaine Kahn *In honor of Rabbi David Freidenreich being granted tenure at Colby College*
 Les Klein and Toby Rose MD & Judy Klein-Golden and Rich Golden *In memory of Anna Klein*
 Joy Krinsky and David Kemmerer *In memory of Norman Krinsky*
 Benjamin and Jeri Brem *Speedy recovery Elaine Lewis*

WILSON FAMILY FUND

Adam Johnson and Isabelle Cohen Johnson *In honor of Norm Wilson*

EDWARD WEISBERG FUND

Phil and Elizabeth Levinsky *In memory of Beatrice Hyman*
 Carl and Recia Richman *In memory of Dianne Richman*
 Rita Weisberg & Children *In memory of Rose Weisberg Kaplan*
 Rita Weisberg *In memory of Beatrice Hyman*
 Rita Weisberg & Family *In memory of Dianne Schwey Richman*
 Alan and Karen Lerman *In memory of Connie Foye*

GENERAL FUND

Erwin and Audrey Muscat
 Abe and Tama Fineberg *In honor of Adele Mack's special birthday*
 Jennifer Goldman *In honor of Peggy & Steve Shapiro's 50th anniversary*
 Larry and Joan Levy *In honor of Gabe Smestad's Bar Mitzvah*
 Larry and Joan Levy *In honor of Ellis Craig's Bar Mitzvah*
 Larry and Joan Levy *In honor of Connor Foye's Bar Mitzvah*
 Ivan and Sue Most *In honor of Peggy & Steve Shapiro's 50th anniversary*
 Ernie and Toby Wallach *In honor of Connor Foye's Bar Mitzvah*

Ernie and Toby Wallach

In honor of Jodi Veysey's new granddaughter, Ava

Oscar Gottschalk *In memory of Selma Gottschalk*
 David Band *In memory of Benjamin Band*
 Peter and Sandy Bennett *In memory of Herbert Bennett*
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 Charlotte Farber *In memory of Beatrice Hyman*
 Jerry and Susan Goldberg *In memory of Jerry Slivka*
 Barbara and Robert Goldfarb *In memory of George Wolf*
 Eric and Jackie Goldman *In memory of Edward Goldman*
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 Leonard and Anne Kovit *In memory of Max Kovit*
 Steve and Cindy Lerman *In memory of Richard Lerman*
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 Steve and Cindy Lerman *In memory of Ruth Sprince*
 Steve and Cindy Lerman *In memory of Morton Sprince*
 David and Elaine Lewis *In memory of Isaac Weisberg*
 David and Elaine Lewis *In memory of Blanche Weisberg*
 David and Elaine Lewis *In memory of Paul Lewis*
 David and Elaine Lewis *In memory of Minnie Weisberg Lewis*
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 David and Elaine Lewis *In memory of Bernard Lewis*
 Harold Millman and Miriam Remar-Millman *In memory of Irving Remar*

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 Steve and Harriet Passerman *In memory of Jerry Slivka*
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 Paul and Susan Trusiani *Speedy recovery Pat Reef*
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>> committing themselves to following God's will. It seems a beautiful sentiment, and we do often teach it in the school. But, not far below the surface it's a bit problematic. The reality is that with our modern sensibilities we are only occasionally willing to commit ourselves to anything significant without having collected all the facts, analyzed every implication, and made what we consider to be a reasoned cost-benefit judgment. Why should our observance of the mitzvot and Jewish tradition be any different?

These opposing factors in our Jewish learning and observance often conflict. We may be uneasy about accepting the tradition without investigating it seriously, but, we also don't have the time or resources to do so. Consequently, our involvement with the tradition usually suffers, with maybe only a couple of notable exceptions.

I would like to suggest a couple of ways of looking at this situation. Neither one is original, nor do they exhaust the possible approaches one might take. The first thing we might consider is whether the common rational assumption is necessarily correct that we always need to intellectually prove the legitimacy of a traditional practice before accepting it. As I mentioned above, we do make occasional allowances for some observances like the Passover seder. And the truth is that when we step outside the realm of religion there are actually a lot of activities that we engage in without subjecting them to much intellectual scrutiny. We don't examine the rational efficacy of doing the wave or shaking a banner at a college football game. The desire (or accepted pressure) to be a part of the group as well as the experience of participation itself are their own sufficient justifications. But, we hesitate before joining the *Hakafot* (processions) on Simchat Torah or waving the *lulav* and *etrog* on Sukkot. Part of the reason may be a certain discomfort with practices we didn't much grow up observing. However, the same reasoning probably wouldn't stop us at a football game even if we didn't grow up with that as a Fall weekend ritual. Why are we so self-conscious when it comes to religious practice even when we're surrounded by other committed Jews? We scream with abandon at the game, even willing to make fools of ourselves, but, are afraid that the person sitting in front of us will hear our voice if we join in with the singing during Shabbat services. Why are we not sure that being a part of the group or trying to get into the experience is sufficient justification when it comes to millennia old Jewish prayers and traditions. Is it that we place Judaism on too lofty a pedestal; one we dare look at only from a distance? Are we afraid that we're unworthy or that we'll break it? Do we require the most profound and spiritual meanings and the most absolutely persuasive and convincing reasons before we'll buy into a traditional Jewish practice? Certainly I believe that there is much more significance and meaning to waving the *lulav* on Sukkot than to doing the wave at a game. Nevertheless, I would suggest that these possible meanings (or

>> our lack of knowledge and understanding of them) ought not be an impediment to Jewish celebration and practice. After we get beyond their initial seeming strangeness, doing them may actually turn out to be its own sufficient justification and reward. And the act of participating in some observances, even without completely understanding them, can serve as reminders that there are elements of the tradition for us to explore when we have the time – *Na'aseh v'nishmah* (we will do and we will hear).

I would also suggest another way of looking at this issue. We generally assume that when Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the stone *Luchot Ha-b'rit* (Tablets of the Covenant), that it was *Aseret Ha-Dibrot* (the Ten Commandments) that were written upon them. It's what we were no doubt taught in religious school and it's what Charlton Heston was carrying in his hands. But, the Torah is hardly clear on this. The only thing about this that is clear is that God spoke these words while the people were gathered at the foot of Mount Sinai, before Moses ever went up on the mountain. In fact, the experience was so overwhelming that many of the people were terrified. But, the Torah never tells us explicitly what was written on the tablets. As they are called the Tablets of the Covenant, perhaps it was merely the *b'rit*, the covenantal commitment itself that was inscribed in stone without a listing of particular obligations. The ancient rabbis often describe the tablets as the *ketubah*, the marriage contract, between God and the People of Israel. Marriage is a covenant and our people's covenant with God is often beautifully compared to a marriage. The terms of a marriage are mostly implicit without every obligation, responsibility, and expectation specified in advance. There may be times of struggle for a couple in trying to determine what those responsibilities and expectations are and ought to be. But, inherent in the agreement to marry is the notion of *Na'aseh v'nishmah*. I will bind myself to do for you and with you even before I know for certain everything that will entail. I will commit myself to do things for the sake of the relationship even before I fully understand why you want me to do them or what benefit they may have for me. And at times I may continue doing them for the sake of the relationship even if I never truly come to understand why they're important to you. The doing, the value of the relationship, and the importance my partner places on the act are sufficient justification. No analogy is perfect, but, perhaps we should be more willing to look at the *mitzvot*, the Jewish tradition, and our relationship with God in a similar light. A true covenant is not based on the need to constantly legitimize each and every detail of that commitment at each and every moment. The covenantal relationship must have some of its own inherent worth as a relationship.

Na'aseh v'nishmah (we will do and we will hear) is a beautiful phrase, but, it is empty unless our actions fill it with meaning. I know from my own family's personal experiences that this is much harder to do than to say. Teaching this core message of Shavuot, whether to our students, our children, or ourselves, will be much easier if we can find more ways to "go with the flow" and just put a little more of the tradition in our lives. ■



Friday, May 3

5:30 pm Family Kabbalat Shabbat services
6:15 pm Community Shabbat Dinner
7:28 pm Shabbat candle lighting time

Saturday, May 4

9:30 am Shabbat services
8:38 pm Havdalah time

Sunday, May 5

9:00 am Morning Minyan, Schmooze & Shmear
Kadima Beth El Religious School
9:45 am Prayerbook Hebrew class with Rabbi Braun

Tuesday, May 7

5:00 pm Executive Committee Meeting
7:00 pm *Eat Pray Love* discussion at Etz Chaim

Friday, May 10

5:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat services
7:36 pm Shabbat candle lighting time

Saturday, May 11

9:30 am Shabbat services
8:45 pm Havdalah time

Sunday, May 12

9:00 am **Mothers Day**
Morning Minyan, Schmooze & Shmear
Kadima Beth El Religious School
9:45 am Prayerbook Hebrew class with Rabbi Braun
11:00 am Kadima Beth El *B'Yachad* Activity

Tuesday, May 14

6:00 pm **Leil Shavuot**
Shavuot Dairy Dinner
7:00 pm *Tikkun Leil Shavuot* Study Session
7:41 pm Holiday candle lighting time

Wednesday, May 15

9:30 am **Shavuot - TBE office closed**
8:50 pm **No Kadima Beth El**
Holiday services
Holiday candle lighting time

Thursday, May 16

9:30 am **Shavuot - TBE office closed**
11:15 am (approx.) Holiday services
8:51 pm *Yizkor* service
Havdalah time

Friday, May 17

5:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat services
7:44 pm Shabbat candle lighting time

Saturday, May 18

9:30 am Shabbat services
12:30 pm Luncheon Honoring the 25th Anniversary of
Rabbi Braun's Ordination
8:53 pm Havdalah time

Sunday, May 19

9:00 am Morning Minyan, Schmooze & Shmear
Kadima Beth El Religious School
9:45 am Prayerbook Hebrew class with Rabbi Braun

Tuesday, May 21

5:30 pm TBE Board Meeting

Friday, May 24

5:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat services & Jessica Brown's
Bat Mitzvah
7:51 pm Shabbat candle lighting time

Saturday, May 25

9:30 am Shabbat services & Jessica Brown's
Bat Mitzvah
9:00 pm Havdalah time

Sunday, May 26

9:00 am

Monday, May 27

8:30 am

Weds., May 29

6:50 am Morning Minyan
3:30 pm Kadima Beth El
5:30 pm Israeli Buffet Dinner
6:30 pm Israeli Scouts Friendship Caravan Concert

Friday, May 31

5:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat services
7:57 pm Shabbat candle lighting time

Saturday, June 1

9:30 am Shabbat services
9:09 pm Havdalah time

Sunday, June 2

9:00 am Morning Minyan, Schmooze & Shmear
12:00 pm Last Day of Kadima Beth El Religious School
TBE Open House Celebration

Friday, June 7

5:30 pm Family Kabbalat Shabbat services
6:15 pm Community Shabbat Dinner
8:03 pm Shabbat candle lighting time

Saturday, June 8

9:30 am Shabbat services
9:11 pm Havdalah time

Tuesday, June 11

5:30 pm Executive Committee Meeting

Friday, June 14

5:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat services & Devon Cohen's
Bat Mitzvah
8:06 pm Shabbat candle lighting time

Saturday, June 15

9:30 am Shabbat services & Devon Cohen's Bar
Mitzvah
9:15 pm Havdalah time

Tuesday, June 18

5:30 pm TBE Annual Meeting

Friday, June 21

5:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat services
8:08 pm Shabbat candle lighting time

Saturday, June 22

9:30 am Shabbat services
9:17 pm Havdalah time

Friday, June 28

5:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat services
8:00 pm Shabbat candle lighting time

Saturday, June 29

9:30 am Shabbat services
9:17 pm Havdalah time

Memorial Day Weekend

No Kadima Beth El
Morning Minyan

Memorial Day - TBE office closed

Morning Minyan

Morning Minyan
Kadima Beth El
Israeli Buffet Dinner
Israeli Scouts Friendship Caravan Concert

Kabbalat Shabbat services
Shabbat candle lighting time

Shabbat services
Havdalah time

Morning Minyan, Schmooze & Shmear
Last Day of Kadima Beth El Religious School
TBE Open House Celebration

Family Kabbalat Shabbat services
Community Shabbat Dinner
Shabbat candle lighting time

Shabbat services
Havdalah time

Executive Committee Meeting

Kabbalat Shabbat services & Devon Cohen's
Bat Mitzvah
Shabbat candle lighting time

Shabbat services & Devon Cohen's Bar
Mitzvah
Havdalah time

TBE Annual Meeting

Kabbalat Shabbat services
Shabbat candle lighting time

Shabbat services
Havdalah time

Kabbalat Shabbat services
Shabbat candle lighting time

Shabbat services
Havdalah time

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for the July - August 2013 issue

Friday, May 17, 2013

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