



## WELCOME! NOW YOU'RE ONE IN A MINYAN!

**H**ow many of you remember your Bar or Bat Mitzvah as an intellectual, spiritual and fulfilling challenge? Do you remember it proudly? Did your Bar or Bat Mitzvah serve as a foundation for a continuing and meaningful relationship with Judaism? Was it inspiring? What did you do for “graduate work?”

I never know whether to laugh or cry when I hear some of the stories people tell me of their memories: a young man, more interested in baseball than bar mitzvah, who is dragged into the Rabbi's office for “tutoring,” while the rabbi, absently, asks him to repeat his Haftarah over and over. He finally finishes, and never looks back at the synagogue again. Or a similar situation, but for some miraculous reason, he does go back later — for his children — though not with enthusiasm. There are also the very grateful students whose teachers “put up” with no musical or language talent, and who patiently “got them through it!” I think we, as Jewish professionals, did a disservice to those who had less than inspiring experiences, as well as to the generations following them.

I am thinking about this because we have just celebrated several b'nai mitzvah over the last few months. There will be more to come, but I wanted to take time to say how proud I am of this year's B'nai Mitzvah. I know that some of the preparation can feel like drudgery. I know that some of our students would rather be elsewhere on Saturday morning or on Friday night. I also know that when they come, our congregation wraps our collective arms around them and their families, and hopes they will continue to come and participate. For us, this is not a one-time event, and I hope it is not the pinnacle of their Jewish experience, but rather the first of many. I thought they were brilliant!

I want to share some of our B'nai Mitzvah wisdom with you:

Jacob Haas compared the ritual lives of the Israelites in the desert to certain aspects of being at camp. “These mitzvot serve to remind us that we live in a community with other people, and even our private life has an impact on others... I [also learn] that I am responsible for the life of my camp, and that the camp is enhanced by including each individual...even pranks!”

Desi Isaacson was disturbed by the Torah saying that a person with a “defect” could not serve as a Kohen (Priest): “But why could a person who is blind, but [otherwise] physically fine, not be a priest because of his ‘defect?’ Why can't he mediate between heaven and earth and be closer to God and with the angels? In fact, in my opinion, someone who is blind might have a much better idea of what God and heaven and angels actually look like, than any Priest who could see.”

Drew Abramson reflected on the verse where God says, “for the land is mine, you are but residents...” His d'var Torah warned us to be careful of how we treat the land and the air: “God wants us to know that the land is not ours and we should never abuse it. The mistakes we make that affect our planet hurt not only ourselves, but every living thing on our beautiful planet.”

Isaac Finberg decided to tackle theodicy — the existence of evil in God's world. Quoting Rabbi Harold Kushner (*Why Bad Things Happen to Good People*) he said, “God does not send us the problem, but gives us the strength to cope with the problem.” Isaac concludes, “People don't understand God's actions, and we probably never will, because God is a complicated guy.”

Emma Hindall, who moved to Maine

when she was five years old, had her tallit presented to her by her pre-school teachers and her parent's friends, via DVD. She chose to focus on the importance of women in today's Judaism, and was blessed to have the women who formed her early Jewish education speak to her as they presented her with her tallit. When she spoke about the meaning of being a Bat Mitzvah, she said, “I am showing my commitment to this congregation. I am showing that being Jewish is important to me and it's a responsibility I take seriously. So I hope you like me because I'm not leaving!”

Ben Freedman's parasha was one in which the Israelites complained to Moses about the food in the desert. They were sick of manna, and wanted to eat quail. Ben questioned why this group of slaves would be nostalgic for Egypt, where they had been abused and mistreated! He came to the understanding that the Israelites were really just afraid of the uncertainty of their future. They took their fears and transferred them to anger...about food. Unlike us, they had not yet developed a sense of trust in God and in Moses. “[Also] we have been told about God since the day we were born, so it becomes a part of us. But to those people, it was a new concept.”

Harrison Pearl also took a psychological look at his parasha. He was intrigued that the spies, sent to scout out the Promised Land, projected their own self doubt onto the inhabitants. “We looked like grasshoppers to ourselves, and so we must have looked to them!” He compared this to his own experience on a soccer team. He'd heard that the other team was better, internalized it, and lost a game he might have won! “We make snap judgments of others based on rumors, and on the emotional instability of our own character. One of the reasons we do this, is because we are nervous or anxious.”

see *Rabbi* page 11

# ANNIVERSARIES

## NOVEMBER:

- 2 Steve and Chichi Levine
- 5 Harris Gleckman and Riva Krut
- 5 Andy and Kim Shur
- 7 Rubin and Sally Laskoff
- 7 Alan and Karen Lerman
- 11 Steven and Shelley Carvel
- 11 Arthur and Fran Jacobson
- 11 Greg and Janine Smestad
- 13 Wayne Eklund and Ginny Squires-Eklund
- 18 Phil and Elizabeth Levinsky
- 19 Ross and Patty Weber
- 30 Ed and Harriet Schultz

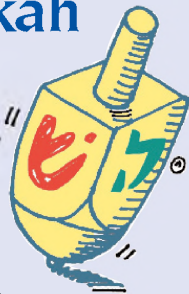
## DECEMBER:

- 2 Ernest and Diana Sturman
- 4 Paul and Sarah Muscat
- 5 Sid and Sue Steinkeler
- 17 Walter and Marcia Goldfarb
- 18 Bob and Saralee Harrisburg
- 21 Larry and Wendy Kane
- 23 Jerry and Rae Malina
- 25 Larry and Joan Levy
- 29 Charlie and Ellie Miller
- 31 Natan and Orly Kahn

### Save the Date!

## TBE Chanukah Party

Wednesday,  
December  
21, starting  
at 5:00 pm



Join us for lighting the menorah, latkes, live music with the Tumblers, crafts, chocolate gelt and more!

Free, all are welcome!

## Shofar is now going digital!

To receive the e-Shofar, please contact the TBE office at 774-2649 or [director@tbemaine.org](mailto:director@tbemaine.org) with your email address.

Limited printed copies will be available at TBE.



# TEMPLE BETH EL

*"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
- Friday Evening Services . . . . . 5:30 pm
- Saturday and Jewish Holidays . . . . . 9:30 am
- Sunday . . . . . 9:00 am
- Secular Holidays . . . . . 8:30 am

*"Do not separate yourself from the congregation."*

—Hillel, Pirkei Avot, 2:5

- Rabbi . . . . . Carolyn Braun
- Director of Congregational Learning . . . . . Dov Goldberg
- Administrative Director . . . . . Jodi Veysey
- Administrative Assistants . . . . . Anne-Marie . . . . . Jeannine Poulin
- Communications Coordinator . . . . . Deena Schoenfeld
- Bookkeeper . . . . . Sherri Quint
- Custodian . . . . . Bob Bradbury
- Rabbi Emeritus . . . . . Harry Z. Sky, D.D.
- Cantor Emeritus . . . . . Kurt Messerschmidt

### Officers

- President . . . . . Judy Gatchell
- Vice President . . . . . Joan Levy
- Treasurer . . . . . Jon Brier
- Secretary . . . . . Fae Silverman

### Executive Committee

- Officers: Jon Brier, Judy Gatchell,  
Joan Levy
- At large: Adam Arens, Irwin Gratz
- Ex officio: Rabbi Carolyn Braun,  
Jodi Veysey

### Temple Beth El Board of Directors

- Adam Arens Joy Krinsky
- Jon Brier Joan Levy
- Becky DeLois Paul Muscat
- Barbara Dichter Andrew Shur
- Kate Foye Fae Silverman
- Judy Gatchell Virginia
- Irwin Gratz Squires-Eklund

### Shofar

- Joy Krinsky, Production Editor



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.

# LEARNING THE PARASHAH OF KEDOSHIM WITH OUR 7TH GRADE

Each year our upcoming Bar and Bat Mitzvah students along with their parents attend a 4-5 session B'nai Mitzvah Family series with Rabbi Braun and me. We explore both practical and abstract issues concerning what it means to become a Bar or Bat Mitzvah and to mark that occasion through prayer, learning and celebration. One of our sessions is typically an introduction to writing a D'var Torah. As part of this session the students and their parents look at a Torah portion. Each student is then given a few individual sample questions to consider about a small part of that Torah reading. With the guidance of their parents the students write responses to these questions. Although a couple of students couldn't be with us that day, with very minimal editing I am happy to share with you these various insightful reflections on Parashat Kedoshim (specifically, Leviticus 19:1-16) from last year's 7th grade class.

**BY DOV GOLDBERG  
DIRECTOR OF  
CONGREGATIONAL LEARNING**

The Torah teaches us to be holy because God is holy. To be holy means to be close to God, which is to pray and observe His commandments. God made us in His image and God is righteous. We reflect what He is by learning, understanding, following, and teaching God's commandments. We believe in God, so although we are very different from God we try to be holy because He is our God and God directs us. By following His teachings we too can be holy. (Isaac Finberg)

The Torah says here that we are to revere our parents in comparison with the Ten Commandments where it says to honor them. When you revere someone they are higher than you, respected because of their superiority. With honoring someone you are on the same level and you give them respect because you feel they deserve it. Keeping Shabbat is also mentioned here in the same verse that speaks about revering parents. This may be because the Sabbath is the day God rested, and keeping and remembering that day shows respect to Him, the

father of all people. Though these teachings occur after the sin of the golden calf the next verse tells the people not to turn to or make idols, which we might assume is obvious. But, because the people had lived in

Egypt among idols for hundreds of years in times of great stress or need they might

turn back to old habits even though it was forbidden. God gives this as a reminder to help people not to stray. (Harrison Pearl)

We are then taught to offer a sacrifice so it will be accepted. If you put thought into your sacrifice it will be accepted. It's not accepted if it is offered incorrectly. We are also taught not to eat the sacrifice if more than a couple of days have passed. If it's three days old it will no longer be healthy for consumption. We will then become sick and as a result also feel bad that we did not eat and appreciate it right away. (Desi Isaacson)

The Torah goes on to teach us to leave the edges of our fields for the poor. Because we have enough food we should give to the ones who have none. But, not only is this food left for the poor, but also for the stranger (who might not be poor). A stranger is unfamiliar with his/her surroundings. Giving them food helps strangers to feel hospitality in a place they don't come from. (Jana Freedman)

Next the prohibitions against stealing and dealing deceitfully are mentioned in the same verse. This is

because they are really almost the same thing. You can't do one without doing the other. For example, in the following verse when it says "the wages of a laborer shall not remain with you until morning," the reason we are not allowed to do this is because it is cheating, stealing and lying. As a result these verses are linked allowing the second one to be an example that helps explain the first. (Hannah Brier)

The Torah then tells us not to insult the deaf. The deaf can't defend themselves as easily and they might not even know you are insulting them. A deaf person might be seen as an easier target, so they might be targeted because someone might think the consequences are less harsh. The Torah also teaches us not to put a stumbling block before the blind. People might think putting a stumbling block in front of the blind is even worse because it is blatantly hurting them without them knowing in advance. But, this is actually very similar to a deaf person not knowing they are being insulted, and not being able to stop it. The Torah then goes on to say "You shall fear your God: I am the Lord." It adds this part about fear because this is a sort of threat, as if God is saying this isn't a rule to be broken, and if you think disabled people can't defend themselves, then God will defend them. (Ben Freedman)

Following this the Torah reminds judges, in addition to leaning neither

see *Dov* page 11

## TIKKUN OLAM WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE

As in past years, we are collecting food, coats and other warm clothing in good condition, white socks, and personal care items, such as travel size shampoo, soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, etc. for the Preble Street Resource Center and Wayside Food Rescue. Please place items in bins in the lobby. Thank you for participating in this mitzvah! We continue to serve meals at the soup kitchen the 4th Thursday of the month. If you'd like to be part of the Tikkun Olam committee, which plans community service projects or if you have ideas regarding projects, please call Barbara Peisner at 797-6651.

## JAHANARA SOFIA FREEDMAN



Please join Sabina and Daniel Freedman on November 5, 2011, as they celebrate the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Jahanara Sofia.

Jahanara is 12 years old and is an 8th grade Honors student at Cape Elizabeth Middle School. She swims with the Coastal Maine Aquatics team and plays soccer and lacrosse for the Cape Middle School teams. She received the Presidential Physical Fitness Award in June 2011. She enjoys drawing cartoons, art projects, and theatre set and costume design. She is an avid flute player and performs in the Southern Maine Honors Festival. She plays the saxophone in the Cape Middle School Jazz Band. Jahanara is a creative short story writer. Her short story 'Red' received honorable mention in the 2011 Maine Scholastic Writing Awards. She is proud of her 10 year old twin siblings Zahra and Rohan Freedman, for travelling with her on this journey thru Hebrew School.

Jahanara's mother grew up in New Delhi, India, and Jahanara performs modern Indian dance at the Indian Association of Maine holiday celebrations for Diwali (festival of lights) and Holi (spring celebration). She volunteers at the Children's Museum of Maine where she teaches young families about Indian and Jewish culture, festivals, dances and foods thru various classes and exhibits at the Museum.

Jahanara and her family would like to thank Dov Goldberg, Rabbi Braun, and the Hebrew School teachers for all their support, encouragement, humor and guidance in preparing for this milestone.

## BEHIND THE SCENES AT TBE

As I write this we are just a couple of days past Rosh Hashanah and looking ahead to Yom Kippur. As I reflect on family, friends, our time together at TBE, and the beautiful prayers that we chant together, I am overwhelmed by a feeling of warmth and satisfaction.

BY JUDY GATCHELL  
PRESIDENT

It was a pleasure to see so many of our members at services. It is a great view from my seat on the bima when our youngest members come into the sanctuary to hear the shofar. I enjoyed having the opportunity to greet so many — some of whom I see often and some less often.

So much is happening at TBE during these High Holy days from early in the morning until we all head home for lunch — and even after that. With few exceptions all seemed to go very smoothly — so smoothly in fact that we often forget the months of preparation that goes into these special days. It actually starts within weeks of the past year's services. The Board, Ritual committee, and staff come together in separate meetings to "debrief" and look at what worked well and what could be changed. These discussions inform the plans for the coming year. So much of what we do during the year is focused on the fall holidays — it drives the planning and scheduling.

Beginning in the spring, plans are made for cleaning and mailings and honors and children's services and so much more. We must consider office coverage and security. Volunteers are recruited to bake honey cakes, help with mailings, polish silver. Staff and volunteers spend hours during the summer in meetings to set timelines and schedules, develop mailings, write letters. As anyone who has ever run an event — whether a wedding, Bar

Mitzvah or dinner party at home knows, coordination is the key to success.

Flyers are produced and must be sent out on a timely basis. We must check the sound system, change the

Torah covers to white and make sure that the lights on the memorial board are working

for the Yizkor service. Letters are sent to local hospitals and colleges inviting people to join our services. The city is contacted for parking needs. There is food shopping for the snacks that we provide. There are many phone and email inquiries to answer. All of this happens as Hebrew school begins a new year and the unexpected happens — funerals, illnesses and just the continued function of a busy office.

As volunteers fill the slots for Torah readers and aliyot, the office creates lists and letters of follow-up. Sponsors are contacted, the building, including the kitchen, is cleaned, the exterior landscaping needs are coordinated. The Annual Appeal committee meets and the office follows up with materials, printing and mailing.

I know this is not an all inclusive list — I may have missed some important tasks completed by our wonderful staff and volunteers. I know there is a lot of time that Rabbi Braun and Dov Goldberg spend planning and coordinating services. I want to take this time to thank all who participate in making sure that we can come to services and focus on prayer and community. There is always an opportunity to participate in a way that works for you. What is your passion, your talent, your need — tell us and help us find a way to make your experience at TBE fulfilling for you.

## MAZEL TOV

To Michaela Paratore on the occasion of her Bat Mitzvah. Michaela is the daughter of TBE members Elaine Kerachsky and Tony Paratore.

To Rachael and Justin Alfond on the birth of their new baby boy, Jacoby Loring Alfond, who was born on Friday, August 19. Proud grandparents are Jack & Deena Weinstein and William & Joan Alfond.

To Linda Jacobs, the winner of our TBE Membership and Hebrew School Registration Raffle. Linda won a Kindle Reader!

To Rebecca Silver, on her recent High School graduation and being named a National Merit Scholar.

To David and Betty Small on the marriage of their son, Taylor, to LaKeshia Parker. The wedding took place on Sunday, September 18.

## WE MOURN THE PASSING OF:

Jerry Robinov, brother of Ethel Robinov Koocher, husband of Jacqueline, father of Richard Robinov, Gary Robinov, and Mara Robinov-Moorhead, grandfather of Brea, Alec, Mesa, Reece, India, and Devan Robinov and Zane and Eliza Moorhead, on August 8.

Phyllis Brynes, mother of Gary Brynes and Dr. Bruce Brynes, grandmother of three and great-grandmother of one, on August 17, in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

Ruth Steinkeler, mother of Sid Steinkeler and his wife Susan, grandmother of Jill, Andrew and Jennifer, on September 9, in Indianapolis.

Sandra Sternburg, sister of Geoffrey Rice and his wife Harriet, aunt of Judith and Adam Rice, niece of Hazel Brenerman and Rachel Popkin, cousin of David Brenerman, Susan Korobkin, Martin Brenerman, Elene Rudnick, Sara Ruth Salzberg and Charles Popkin, on September 11.

Goldie Strassler Sambol, mother of David Strassler, on September 14, in Arundel.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Robert & Irina Kahn

Anna & Nathan Collins and daughter, Sophia

Lisa & Stephen Schiffman

David & Beth Strassler

Joseph & Joyce Palacci

Andrew and Sabrina Novick and their children, Alexander and Martin.

Jane and Rachel Herst

## TODAH RABAH

To Rabbi Braun for the cherry tomato plants and to Judy & Dan Gatchell for the lettuce plants, which were lovingly planted in our new garden bed by our Director, Jodi Veysey.

To Elaine Kerachsky and Tony Paratore for sponsoring the special Oneg Shabbat Friday, August, 26th, in honor of their daughter Michaela's Bat Mitzvah.

To Dan Gatchell for single-handedly clearing the courtyard of weeds and debris.

To Sue Romanoff for sponsoring the Kiddush on Saturday, September 10, in honor of her 65th anniversary with her husband, Sam Warsoff, and in honor of Dov Goldberg and Danielle Romanoff Goldberg's marriage.

To Gil & Barbara Dichter, who sponsored the Kiddush on Saturday, September 17, in honor of the anniversary of Gil's Bar Mitzvah.

To Terry Veysey, who cut the lettuce and tended to the TBE garden!

To Gregg Garson for completing the painting of the outside of the Sanctuary side door.

To the TBE Landscaping Day volunteers: Dan Gatchell, Gregg Garson, Jon Brier, Barbara & Gil Dichter, Geoff & Karen Hindall, Debbie Kanter and her grade 2 & 3 Hebrew School class.

To the Annual Appeal Mailing helpers: Debbie Barlock, Hedy Cohen, Clara Purinton, and Lisa Arens.

To Ginny Eklund, Becky DeLois and Joan Levy for preparing a delicious dinner prior to the Board Meeting.

## CALEB KEIL LEVINE



Please join Robert Levine and Vilean Taggersell on November 18-19 as their son, Caleb Levine is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah.

Caleb is a 7th grader at Waynflete School. He is passionate about school, skateboarding, and snowboarding. Caleb plays the drums and swims competitively as a past member of the YMCA swim team and present member of the Portland Porpoises.

Caleb, Robert, and Vilean thank Rabbi Braun and Dov Goldberg for their help and encouragement in preparing for this special day. Caleb's parents and sister, Renata, look forward to sharing this day with Caleb and friends and family.

## SIMON HANDELMAN



Simon Handelman holds the esteemed position of first born to Ellen and Jonathan Handelman. He invites the community to celebrate his Bar Mitzvah with him and his family on December 10, 2011, at Temple Beth El.

Although born in Texas, Simon is nevertheless a scholar and a gentleman. Like the hero of the Tin Tin series, Simon has embarked upon a life of adventure and mitzvot.

## SAMUEL (SAM) SEGAL



Please join Madeleine Segal and Rubin Segal as they celebrate the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Sam, on December 16–17, 2011.

Sam is 13 years old and a 7th grader at Lyman Moore Middle School in Portland. He has attended the Hebrew School since Kindergarten and looks forward to becoming a Hebrew School aide. He is an ice hockey goalie for Portland Middle Schools, a member of the Lyman Moore track team, and an avid baseball player. In addition, he enjoys spending time and his shared interests with his brother, Stephen.

The Segal family wishes to thank Rabbi Braun, Dov Goldberg, Jodi Veysey, the teaching staff, and the Hebrew School Committee for all of their support throughout the years.

## ANNUAL APPEAL 2011–2012 HIGH HOLIDAY CAMPAIGN

The Estate of Shirley Kazon  
Allan and Susan Abravanel  
Adam and Lisa Arens  
Richard and Adele Aronson  
Joan and Jeffrey Barkin  
Deborah and John Barlock  
Barbara Berenson  
Myron and Ilene Berman  
Benjamin and Judy Bertram  
Dauna Binder  
Stephen and Francine Blattner  
Ronald and Gaye Blumenthal  
Harriet Bogdonoff  
Rabbi Carolyn Braun  
David and Nancy Brenerman  
Sharon Bresler  
Peter and Gerri Bridgman  
Jonathan and Amy Brier  
Esther Chorney  
Mark and Shelley Chorney  
Brona Cohen  
Janine Collins  
Mark Crasnick  
Joseph and Rebecca DeLois  
Gil and Barbara Dichter  
Gerri Eastment  
Wayne Eklund and Ginny Squires-Eklund  
Charlotte Farber  
Fredric and Karen Farber  
Mark and Norma Filler  
Frederick Finberg  
Eve-Karen Finkelstein  
Martin and Patricia Finkelstein  
Colin and Katherine Foye  
Franziska Fritzsche-Jensen  
Gregg and Patricia Garson  
Dan and Judy Gatchell

Stuart and Carol Gilbert  
Jerome Gillis  
Lauren Glotzer  
Gerald and Suzanne Gordon  
Irwin Gratz and Bonny Rodden  
Michael and Thea Greene  
Zelda Greenspun  
Geoff and Karen Hindall  
Jeffrey and Rebecca Howes  
Helen Isenman  
Susan Isenman  
Joseph Manning and Linda Jacobs  
Ronald and Ruth Jacobs  
Michael and Linda Jacobson  
Alvin Jolovitz  
Larry and Wendy Kane  
David Kemmerer and Joy Krinsky  
James and Bonnie Klein  
Phyllis Klein  
Ethel Koocher  
Sandrea Kornblum  
Alan and Karen Lerman  
Scott Lerman  
Stephen and Cynthia Lerman  
Lawrence and Joan Levy  
David and Elaine Lewis  
Steven Maier  
Benjamin Marcus and Anita Bernhardt  
Charlie and Ellie Miller  
David Miller and Veronica Dudar  
Alan Cardinal and Sylvia Most  
Paul and Sarah Muscat  
Samuel and Bette Novick  
Harold and Peggy Osher  
Daniel Pearl and Robin Henry-

Pearl  
Henni Polak  
Pat Reef  
Harold Millman and Miriam Remar-Millman  
Geoffrey and Harriet Rice  
Carl and Recia Richman  
Stephen Gleit and Dana Robbins  
Elaine Rosen  
Murray and Shirley Rosen  
Bruce and Ellen Ruben  
Barry and Lori Saltz  
Stephen and Lisa Schiffman  
Jeffrey and Tamara Schwartz  
Stephen and Peggy Shapiro  
Andrew and Kimberely Shur  
Fae Silverman  
Harvey and Kathleen Silverman  
Andre and Daniela Skalina  
Daniel Skwire  
David and Betty Small  
Harriette Small  
Linwood and Judith Small  
Greg and Janine Smestad  
Elizabeth Spector  
Sidney and Susan Steinkeler  
Daniel Tarplin and Suzanne Richman  
Paul and Susan Trusiani  
John Riley and Carolyn Turcio-Gilman  
Douglas and Gail Volk  
Alan Weiner  
Rita Weisberg  
Norman and Judy Wilson  
Elliott Wincele and Olivia Solodar



*Thank you*  
for your  
generous support  
of our  
High Holiday Campaign.

• • •  
We  
have raised over  
**\$26,000**  
towards our ongoing  
Annual Appeal  
goal of \$50,000.



**NOVEMBER**

**Weds., Nov. 2**

8:00 - 9:30 am Ninth Annual Jewish Book Fair  
& 2:45 - 5:30 pm  
3:30 pm Hebrew School  
6:30 pm Melton Adult Ed School

**Thursday, Nov. 3**

8:00 - 9:30 am Ninth Annual Jewish Book Fair

**Friday, Nov. 4**

8:00 - 9:30 am Ninth Annual Jewish Book Fair  
5:11 pm Shabbat candle lighting time  
5:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service & Janahara Freedman Bat Mitzvah

**Saturday, Nov. 5**

9:30 am Shabbat Services & Janahara Freedman Bat Mitzvah  
6:12 pm Havdalah time

**Sunday, Nov. 6**

8:30 am - 2:00 pm *Daylight Savings Time ENDS*  
9:00 am Ninth Annual Jewish Book Fair  
Morning Minyan  
Hebrew School  
Schmooze & Shmear  
9:45 am Rabbi Braun's class: *Asher Bachar Banu (Who has chosen us?)*  
11:00 am Rabbi Freidenreich's class: *Food & Identity in Judaism, Christianity and Islam*  
11:00 am Bnai Mitzvah Parents Meeting

**Tuesday, Nov. 8**

5:30 pm Ritual Committee Meeting  
7:00 pm Executive Committee Meeting

**Weds., Nov. 9**

3:30 pm Hebrew School  
6:30 pm Melton Adult Ed School

**Friday, Nov. 11**

4:03 pm Shabbat candle lighting time  
5:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Services

**Saturday, Nov. 12**

9:30 am Shabbat Services followed by  
12:00 noon approx. Talkin' Torah Lunch & Learn  
5:05 pm Havdalah time

*Dates and times are subject to change.*

*Please see our website and announcements for the most current information.*

TEMPLE BETH EL 400 Deering Avenue, Portland, ME  
(207) 774-2649 www.tbemaine.org

**Sunday, Nov. 13**

9:00 am  
9:45 am

11:00 am

**Tuesday, Nov. 15**

5:30 pm

**Weds., Nov. 16**

3:30 pm  
6:30 pm

**Friday, Nov. 18**

3:56 pm  
5:30 pm

**Saturday, Nov. 19**

9:30 am

4:59 pm

**Sunday, Nov. 20**

9:00 am

9:45 am

**Tuesday, Nov. 22**

6:30 pm

**Weds., Nov. 23**

**Thursday, Nov. 24**

8:30 am  
5:30 pm

**Friday, Nov. 25**

6:50 am  
3:51 pm  
5:30 pm

**Saturday, Nov. 26**

9:30 am  
4:55 pm

**Sunday, Nov. 27**

9:00 am

**Weds., Nov. 30**

3:30 pm  
6:30 pm

**NO HEBREW SCHOOL**

Morning Minyan  
Rabbi Braun's class: *Asher Bachar Banu (Who has chosen us?)*  
Rabbi Freidenreich's class: *Food & Identity in Judaism, Christianity and Islam*

TBE Board Meeting

Hebrew School  
Melton Adult Ed School

Shabbat Candle lighting time  
Kabbalat Shabbat Services & Caleb Levine Bar Mitzvah

Shabbat Services & Caleb Levine Bar Mitzvah  
Havdalah time

Morning Minyan  
Hebrew School  
Schmooze & Shmear  
Rabbi Braun's class: *Asher Bachar Banu (Who has chosen us?)*

Melton Adult Ed School

**NO HEBREW SCHOOL  
NO MELTON CLASSES**

*Thanksgiving Day*  
**TBE OFFICE CLOSED**  
Morning Minyan  
Volunteer at Preble St. Soup Kitchen

**TBE OFFICE CLOSED**  
Morning Minyan  
Shabbat candle lighting time  
Kabbalat Shabbat services

Shabbat Services  
Havdalah time

**NO HEBREW SCHOOL**  
Morning Minyan

Hebrew School  
Melton Adult Ed School

# DECEMBER

## Friday, Dec. 2

3:47 pm

5:30 pm

Shabbat candle lighting time

Kabbalat Shabbat Service

## Saturday, Dec. 3

9:00 am

9:30 am

4:52 pm

Hebrew School Shabbat Experience

Shabbat Services

Havdalah time

## Sunday, Dec. 4

9:00 am

9:45 am

11:00 am

### NO HEBREW SCHOOL

Morning Minyan

Rabbi Braun's class: *Asher Bachar Banu (Who has chosen us?)*

Rabbi Freidenreich's class: *Food & Identity in Judaism, Christianity and Islam*

## Weds., Dec. 7

3:30 pm

6:30 pm

Hebrew School

Melton Adult Ed School

## Friday, Dec. 9

3:46 pm

5:30 pm

Shabbat candle lighting time

Kabbalat Shabbat Service &

Simon Handelman Bar Mitzvah

## Saturday, Dec. 10

9:30 am

4:52 pm

Shabbat Services &

Simon Handelman Bar Mitzvah

Havdalah time

## Sunday, Dec. 11

9:00 am

9:45 am

11:00 am

Morning Minyan

Hebrew School

Schmooze & Shmear

Rabbi Braun's class: *Asher Bachar Banu (Who has chosen us?)*

Rabbi Freidenreich's class: *Food & Identity in Judaism, Christianity and Islam*

## Tuesday, Dec. 13

7:00 pm

Executive Committee Meeting

## Weds., Dec. 14

3:30 pm

6:30 pm

Hebrew School

Melton Adult Ed School

## Friday, Dec. 16

6:50 am

3:47 pm

5:30 pm

Morning Minyan

Shabbat candle lighting time

Kabbalat Shabbat Services &

Samuel Segal's Bar Mitzvah

## Saturday, Dec. 17

9:30 am

4:53 pm

Shabbat Services &

Samuel Segal's Bar Mitzvah

Havdalah time

## Sunday, Dec. 18

9:00 am

Morning Minyan

Hebrew School

Schmooze & Shmear

Rabbi Braun's class: *Asher Bachar Banu (Who has chosen us?)*

9:45 am

## Tuesday, Dec. 20

5:30 pm

TBE Board Meeting

## Weds., Dec. 21

6:50 am

3:30 pm

5:00 pm

6:30 pm

### First Night of Chanukah

Morning Minyan

Hebrew School

TBE Chanukah Party

Melton School

## Thursday, Dec. 22

6:50 am

5:30 pm

Morning Minyan

Volunteer at Preble St. Soup Kitchen

## Friday, Dec. 23

6:50 am

3:50 pm

5:30 pm

Morning Minyan

Shabbat candle lighting time

Kabbalat Shabbat Services

## Saturday, Dec. 24

9:30 am

12:00 noon approx.

4:57 pm

Shabbat Services followed by

Talkin' Torah Lunch & Learn

Havdalah time

## Sunday, Dec. 25

9:00 am

### NO HEBREW SCHOOL

Morning Minyan

## Monday, Dec. 26

8:30 am

### TBE OFFICE CLOSED

Morning Minyan

## Weds., Dec. 28

## Friday, Dec. 30

6:50 am

3:54 pm

5:30 pm

### NO HEBREW SCHOOL

### NO MELTON CLASSES

Morning Minyan

Shabbat candle lighting time

Kabbalat Shabbat Services

## Saturday, Dec. 31

9:30 am

5:01 pm

Shabbat Services

Havdalah time

## Sunday, Jan. 1

9:00 am

### New Year's Day

### NO HEBREW SCHOOL

Morning Minyan

## Monday, Jan. 2

8:30 am

### TBE OFFICE CLOSED

Morning Minyan



# TBE ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

## Fall 2011 — Spring 2012

All are welcome. No experience is necessary!

**Asher Bachar Banu: Who has Chosen Us...?** with Rabbi Carolyn Braun

Sundays: October 30, November 6, 13, 20, December 4, 11, 18  
9:45 am – 10:45 am

We will explore the concept of “chosen-ness” from different perspectives — Jewish and non-Jewish. Our exploration will lead us to examine the concepts of Torah, God and Israel.

**Food and Identity in Judaism, Christianity and Islam** with Rabbi David Freidenreich

Sundays: October 30, November 6, 13, December 4, 11  
11:00 am – 12:00 noon

Refusing to share a meal or accept food prepared by others does more than just express the notion that “We” want nothing to do with “Them.” This kind of anti-social behavior also reinforces ideas about who They are and, perhaps more importantly, who We are. Join us to explore the evolution of Jewish food practices and the ideas about Jewish identity they convey. We’ll also examine the role food restrictions play in shaping Christian and Islamic identity, and we’ll consid-

er the ways in which traditional ideas about Us and Them continue to shape interfaith relations today.

**Polish Poetry from the Shoah** with Prof. Danielle Freedman

Sundays: January 8, 22, 29, February 5, 12, March 4  
9:45 am – 10:45 am

When studying literature of the Holocaust, the question is, how does one write the disaster?

We will study Jerzy Ficowski’s, “Odczytanie Popiotow” (*Recitation of the Ashes*)—twenty-five poems translated into English by Prof. Freedman.

**The Rest is Commentary: An Exploration of Parashat HaShavua (the weekly Torah Portion)** with Rabbi Carolyn Braun

Sundays: January 8, 22, 29, February 5, 12, March 4  
11:00 am – 12:00 noon

In this class, we will continue to explore the implications of the weekly portion for Jews, Judaism and our own lives.

**Jewish Literacy on One Foot** with Rabbi Carolyn Braun

Sundays: March 11, 18, April 1, 29, May 6, 20  
9:45 am – 10:45 am

A very brief exploration of Judaism based on Rabbi Joseph Telushkin’s book, *Jewish Literacy*.

**Shaking Off Jewish Identity: Assimilation Then and Now** with Prof. Sanford Freedman

Sundays: March 11, 18, April 1, 29, May 6, 20  
11:00 am – 12:00 noon

If we teach ourselves by means of histories, memoirs, and fictions how our ancestors disguised their Jewish markings, can we then, with any facility, place our own moment to disappear willfully under scrutiny?

This course primarily attempts to image how certain central and eastern European Jews from 1780 to 1930 adjusted and altered their inherited image of being Jews. The class first reads two primary texts, one, a family memoir entitled *The Hare with Amber Eyes*, and second, a biography of the American Ambassador to Germany and his daughter, *In the Garden of the Beast*. Then a selection of chapters that also address the topic of Jewish cultural assimilation is drawn from *The Jews of Odessa*, *The Jews of Kiev*, *Fin de Siecle*, *Philosophy without God*, and *Mendelssohn on the Roof*.

## Talkin’ Torah: A Group Discussion over Lunch

Following our regular Shabbat morning services in the TBE Social Hall, at approximately 12:00 noon.

Seven Saturday sessions remaining:

- November 12
- December 24
- January 21
- February 11
- March 31
- May 12
- June 9

## YAD L’YAD

Remember that Temple Beth El’s caring committee, Yad l’Yad, is made up of a group of people who are willing to donate time to help when there is a need with anyone in our temple family. However, in order for help to be given, Yad l’Yad needs to know. Do not hesitate to call or e-mail Yad l’Yad’s chairperson, Becky DeLois, at 899-4068 or [radelois@gmail.com](mailto:radelois@gmail.com), to let her know you or a loved one or a friend need help such as a friendly visit or doing errands, or a ride to a doctor’s appointment, etc. Happy Thanksgiving and then Happy Chanukah!

# 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.

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Armand Lucier and Rachelle Mack, in Memory of Jerry Robinov  
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Ethel Koocher, Speedy Recovery to Richard Mack  
Stan and Sherrie Schatz, Speedy Recovery to Richard Mack

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Stu and Carol Gilbert, in Memory of Esther Porter  
**Donations listed were recieved at Temple Beth El by September 20, 2011.**

The family of Jerry Robinov would like to offer their heartfelt thanks to their extended family and many friends for their help and support during this time of great loss.

## Rabbi *continued from page 1*

These are the incredible thoughts of our 13 year olds. Each one of them was articulate; each one taught us an important lesson. Each one had a meaningful mitzvah project; each one could explain what Bar/t Mitzvah meant to them: "It's about realizing you can...It shows you that when you go into your Canaan, you can come back as Caleb or Joshua, confident that you can overcome [a challenge]."

"Any other achievement that I have reached before this point in my life is something I was proud of in the moment, and for a short time after; but this is so much bigger than that."

"Being a Bar Mitzvah is an amazing thing and I am so glad I went through it."

"For one day you are looked up to as you stand on the bimah. From that moment on you are looked at as an equal."

I/we are so excited to support these young adults as they navigate the world before them. It takes a community to raise an excited, inspired, educated Jew. It can't be done alone or without the support of family and community. How will our B'nai Mitzvah describe their experience in 20 years? I hope they will have continued with "graduate work," and that they will be inspired to 'teach these words to their children.'

Hope you had a wonder-filled summer,  
Rabbi Braun

## Dov *continued from page 3*

toward the rich nor the poor, also to judge kinsmen fairly. It should be obvious that everyone should be treated fairly (i.e. the same). It shouldn't matter if people are your relatives or strangers, poor or rich. The Torah then tells us not to profit by the blood of our countrymen, even if we aren't the ones who harmed them. You shouldn't profit directly or indirectly from something that costs your neighbor. (Michaela Paratore)



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**Shofar Deadlines** – January – February 2012 issue is November 15.

Please submit material via e-mail as text included in the body of the message or as an attached Microsoft Word document to [office@tbemaine.org](mailto:office@tbemaine.org). Submissions on paper will also be accepted.