



TEMPLE BETH EL

shofar

MAY-JULY 2011
NISAN-TAMUZ 5771

COUNTING THE DAYS

How are you counting the days? Four days until spring; 14 weeks until summer, one month until the NBA playoffs, 16 days before opening day for the Red Sox, two months until school's over? For me it's five days until Purim, five weeks until Pesach, and 12 weeks until Shavuot (I suppose I should also throw in 16 days before the Red Sox opener....)! Truly, the way we count our days is a reflection on what we consider to be important at any given time, and depends on our perspective.

BY RABBI CAROLYN BRAUN

I am thinking about counting because we will soon be celebrating Passover and counting seven times seven days until Shavuot. Everybody knows about Passover – the questions, the story, the seder, the songs, the cleaning and the cooking. But what about Shavuot; where does this holiday fit in our schedule?

Many people think of Shavuot as a school holiday, often celebrated with

graduation from Hebrew High School (Confirmation) and, maybe...blintzes and cheesecake! In some ways, Shavuot is a challenging holiday to integrate into our personal calendar. Like all of the pilgrimage festivals (Shavuot, Sukkot and Passover), its

origins are agricultural. Shavuot has two other names — *Hag HaKazir*, the “Feast of the Harvest,” and *Yom HaBikkurim*, the Day of the First Fruits. In ancient days, at the appropriate time, Jewish farmers would celebrate the end of the barley harvest and the beginning of the wheat harvest by bringing loaves of bread to the Temple as a thanksgiving offering. Some would also bring thanksgiving offerings for the first fruits of the season. It was a very festive time in Jerusalem, filled with music and song. Later, in addition to the agricultural aspect of the holiday, the rabbis added the “spiritual” aspect of *Matan Torah*, giving the Torah to

the people, Israel. Shavuot commemorates the very morning that the Israelites — three months out of slavery — stood at the foot of Mount Sinai amid lightning and thunder and Shofar blasts and received the Torah, the word of God.

Where will you be on Tuesday evening, June 7, Wednesday the 8th and Thursday the 9th? Will you have counted the days from the second night of Pesach to Shavuot? Will you be excited to receive the Torah this year?

More important, what does Torah mean for you? Some think of Torah as all wisdom, others look solely to the wisdom gained by studying the words in the first five books of the Hebrew Bible, others understand it to be the direct word of God, and still others understand it in all of these ways and more. How do you understand Torah? Shavuot also asks us to wrestle with our

see *Days* page 5

- RabbiCarolyn Braun
- Director of Congregational LearningDov Goldberg
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Shofar

Joy Krinsky, Production Editor

DREW JACOB ABRAMSON



David and Lynn Abramson invite you to join them on May 14, 2011, as their son, Drew Joseph, becomes a Bar Mitzvah.

Drew is a seventh grader at Mahoney Middle School in South Portland. He is a high honor student, an athlete and musician. He plays the alto saxophone in the School Band and the Training Jazz Band. Drew spends most of his time playing baseball, soccer, basketball, and indoor track. He is currently a member of the Maine Mariners AAU Travel Baseball League. Drew is an avid Red Sox fan, and enjoys watching Red Sox games and going to the Sea Dogs.

The Abramson family would like to thank Rabbi Braun, Dov Goldberg and all of Drew's Hebrew School teachers and friends for their help and guidance as he prepared for his upcoming Bar Mitzvah.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Douglas and Elisa Boxer-Cook and son Evan

Daniel and Sabina Freedman, and children Jahanara, Rohan and Zahra

Franziska Fritzsche-Jensen

Wendy Noyes and son Andrew

Daniel and Robin Pearl, and children Harrison, Mykel and Sydney



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

ARIANA SOLODAR-WINCELE ATTENDED TRY/USY HIGH PROGRAM IN ISRAEL

Ariana, a junior at Deering High School, was in Israel from January 20 – March 25, attending the Tichon Ramah Yeushalaim/USY High Program. She looks forward to speaking about her experiences with her TBE "family." Ariana was grateful to receive the Norman M. Finberg USY Scholarship, the Mel and Ruth Finn Hadassah Scholarship, and a New England Region USY Scholarship in order to assist her in attending the program. In addition, her parents contributed to the Gift of Israel Program through the Jewish Community Alliance since she was in first grade, which resulted in matching funds from the JCA and a contribution from Temple Beth El.

The program is an international secondary school program which offers an academic curriculum of general studies parallel to the student's home school, as well as courses in Hebrew, Judaica and Israel studies. It is designed to provide a cross-cultural experience while focusing on Jewish identity. Ariana had many wonderful adventures and hopes to share them with you!



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.

SEARCHING FOR FREEDOM AT THE SEDER

For years, even when not having my own class, I have tried to find opportunities to get into classrooms and teach, whether as a substitute or for special lessons. One of my favorite topics to discuss with students has always been the haggadah. I usually try to examine some of the major sections of the haggadah with an eye to allowing each student to enrich his or her own family's seder by developing a more sophisticated understanding of the structures, meanings and implications of these sections. Obviously, the older the student the more deeply I hope they'll begin to think about the seder. We usually spend a good deal of time trying to understand the underlying theme of the seder – freedom. What is it about freedom that we are supposed to explore? How many different ways can you really approach freedom so that it teaches you something different? How much new can you get out of it each year? And how do the different parts of the seder really address this central theme anyhow?

The questions are, of course, better than any of the simple answers. In fact, if the answers were really simple then the traditional haggadah would be much shorter. Perhaps there wouldn't really be any good reason to celebrate the seder every year. What I

BY DOV GOLDBERG
DIRECTOR OF
CONGREGATIONAL LEARNING

always want to encourage the students to recognize is precisely that the simple, reflexive explanations that we give to much of the seder should be a beginning, not an ending (as they too often are) to exploring the ideas of freedom as Jews and freedom to be Jews. I always gain a lot personally from these sessions as I do whenever I teach. The issues we discuss and the questions which are asked push me to rethink things I had long ago thought were settled in my mind. I would like to share a few of those thoughts with you.

The reality is that the implications of freedom are much more complicated than we often realize. As each of my children reached adolescence I developed a much broader recognition for what freedom is about and what it entails. This came as I struggled with giving them more and more freedom (or is it relinquishing my control or even having it torn away from me). I began to see more clearly the issues that had for me become automatic and routinized. And I began to consider for myself the ways in which non-reflective routines regularly need to again become reflective. The seder may, in part, be a way of encouraging us to engage in that reflection as human beings and especially as Jews. In classes we often talk about certain parts of

the seder which encourage the participation of children, such as reciting the Four Questions and controlling the fate of the afikoman. As a friend of mine, Rabbi Andrew Warmflash once pointed out to me, it is precisely the children, those people in our families who are most like slaves in their dependence upon on us and lack of power, that we empower, and in limited ways, make ourselves dependent upon at the seder. Much of the seder is about role reversals of power, especially psychologically. The point is not about political power over others, but personal, spiritual power over ourselves. How will we control and live our own lives as human beings and as Jews?

Pesach, no less than the High Holidays, needs to be about soul searching and self-reflection. Perhaps the introspection at this time of year is intended to be less universal and more specifically Jewish. It is clear from the Torah that God freed us from slavery in order to give us the Torah. But, it is also clear from the Torah that if the mitzvot are God-given then they limit our autonomy. It is also clear that in part we were freed from serving a human master in order to serve the Master of the Universe. On the other hand, it should also be clear to us that freedom without any limitation or

see *Seder* page 11

MAKING NEW FRIENDS AT KOL YELADIM

BY TALIA TIMMINS,
KOL YELADIM FACILITATOR

We have had an exciting and successful year of Kol Yeladim events at Temple Beth El. With events geared for kids under age 5, Kol Yeladim families are getting to know each other, make new friends, and learn about our Jewish traditions and culture. The 5771 (2010/2011) year began with making decorations and learning about the sukkah, lulav, and etrog. Fall programming continued with our celebration of Thanksgiving and giving thanks by making Tzedakah boxes,

turkeys, and learning about giving to others. The end of the 2010 year was celebrated with special Kol Yeladim crafts at the TBE Hanukkah Party. With latkes, music, making and "lighting" our own menorahs, our littlest participants were able to enjoy the Festival of Lights!

The kids loved getting dirty decorating flowerpots and then planting grass at our Tu B'Shevat seder. Everyone had a chance to taste nuts and fruits found in Israel and learn their tree horoscope! Kindergarteners and first-graders were invited to join the KY kids for Emma's Teddy Bear

Pajama Party in March. Everyone had lots of fun singing with Charlie, making crafts with Emma, and joining together as a community to end Shabbat with Havdalah led by Dov.

With the days getting warmer and brighter, and Spring and Passover just around the corner, we prepared for Passover with crafts, cooking, and a Chametz Hunt on Sunday, April 10.

I hope to see you at future events! For questions about the program or events please contact Talia Timmins at 233-6449.

ISAAC FINBERG



Please join Melissa and Stephen Finberg in celebrating the Bar Mitzvah of their son Isaac Finberg on May 20-21, 2011.

Isaac is a 7th grader at Lyman Moore Middle School where he is an honor roll student. He enjoys soccer, tennis and playing the saxophone for the school band! He plays soccer for PAYSA travel and has recently begun playing in USTA sponsored tournaments. Isaac is an avid reader, enjoys all types of movies and hanging out with his friends. He is looking forward to celebrating his Bar Mitzvah.

EMMA HINDALL



Emma is a seventh grader at Cape Elizabeth Middle School. She sings with the Musica de Filia Concert Choir, performs in middle school and STAGES Academy productions, and draws a lot of pictures.

For her Bat Mitzvah project, Emma organized a Kol Yeladim Teddy Bear Pajama Havdalah Party for families with young children. She is hoping that the Havdalah Party will become an annual TBE event.

Emma thanks Charlie Miller and Talia Timmons for helping her with the Havdalah event, and thanks Dov Goldberg and Rabbi Braun for helping her prepare for her Bat Mitzvah. The Hindall family invites the congregation to celebrate Emma's Bat Mitzvah at services on June 3 and June 4, 2011.

DREAM FIRST

"As you enter positions of trust and power, dream a little before you think."

—Toni Morrison

That is what our founders did at TBE in the late 1940's. They dreamed a vision for Portland's Jewish community and saw it through to the reality of a thriving synagogue. We are the heirs to that dream and it is up to us to leave it for our

BY JUDY GATCHELL
PRESIDENT

children and grandchildren. Just as the vision of our founders took so much from their ancestors and built a place that spoke to their generation, so do we in the 21st century move forward to create relevancy for our time. We do this by building on the strong foundation that was given to us – the Jewish values that continue to enrich our lives.

We are looking to see how we can work closely with other Jewish organizations in the community. We are looking to our national organization, the United Synagogue for Conservative Judaism for guidance. They have just released a new strategic plan (<http://www.uscj.org/index1.html>) that it is hoped will make the Conservative movement more relevant to younger people as well as address some of the issues, financial and otherwise, that have been facing Conservative Judaism in recent years.

The USCJ is striving to make prayer meaningful, support lifelong Jewish learning, nurture religious and spiritual growth along with excellence in leadership. Synagogues will now be called Kehillot – to reflect their role as sacred communities. This move forward for our movement can only enrich who we are as a community. Our Board has been working toward policy that will support these goals.

Our Ritual committee has ongoing discussions on meaningful worship experiences, our Adult Jewish Learning committee continues to provide challenging opportunities, our Hebrew school and early childhood programs address the needs

of our youth in ways that work for our families. We have many other committees that provide programming opportunities to meet the needs of our diversity of members. Once again – I encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities.

I have agreed to serve as your president for one additional year. For me this is an opportunity to work toward the completion of initiatives that will move TBE forward to be the most welcoming community possible. We will, over the next year, be working on leadership development to serve us in the future. We have the benefit of a strong financial standing thanks to the foresight of those who set up and contributed to our endowment. We will continue to build on that base. We will not look like we did in the early years – nothing really does – but we will carry forward the values that were left to us as we dare to dream of our future.

THIS IS PART OF THE STATEMENT OF VISION FROM USCJ:

The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism is a community of kehillot — sacred communities — committed to a dynamic Judaism that is learned and passionate, authentic and pluralistic, joyful and accessible, egalitarian or traditional.

YAD L'YAD

BY BECKY DELOIS

As many of you may know, Yad l'Yad — from hand to hand — is Temple Beth El's caring committee. Although it was originally created approximately 15 or more years ago, the committee went into hibernation for a few years until early 2009. We are a small group, always looking for more hands, who offer a kindness to those in need at our temple. Through the generosity of The Wilson Family Fund, we primarily deliver Shabbat shiva meals to those who have lost a loved one and to those who have had a new baby. We also have Yad l'Yad volunteers who pay visits, talk on the phone to those who just need to hear a friendly voice, and visit residents at The Cedars. A much appreciated mitzvah from a Yad l'Yad member is writing heartfelt notes to families who are mourning a loss or celebrating the birth of a baby.

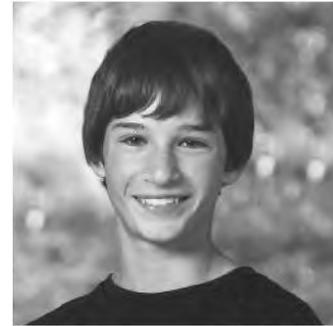
Yad l'Yad is an interesting committee in that there often are 2 or three months when all is quiet and we may almost forget we are a group. Then, as

has happened several times, we have more than one need to be met on a given day— usually Friday afternoons with meal delivery. What is so great about this lovely group of volunteers is that those challenging times in terms of coordination is when we come together and work in the spirit of giving. It really is quite miraculous. This past fall and this past month in February are clear examples of how well we work when everything is happening at once. I owe many thanks to all those who were involved.

I have personally noticed in the past year or so our Temple Beth El has lost many members who were the foundation of its soul. I am very sad every time I hear of a loss, but glad we are here when those hands are needed. Yad l'Yad is a rich and most rewarding program and I heartily invite anyone interested in learning more to contact me at 899-4068. Also, please contact me if you or someone you know wants some help. That's what we are here to do.

May you all have a beautiful spring and be well.

BEN FREEDMAN



Please join us when our son, Ben Freedman, is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, the 11th of June, 2011 at 9:30 am

Ben is currently a 7th grade honor student at Waynflete Middle School. Ben is very involved in the athletics program at Waynflete and plays on the soccer, basketball and baseball teams. He also participates in many of the supplemental sports programs, including open gym basketball on Sundays and the Middle School ski program. Aside from the athletic programs, Ben has enjoyed learning to play the steel drums and participating in steel drum performances with his friends.

We would like to thank the Rabbi, Dov and all of Ben's teachers for helping to prepare him for this milestone.

Days *continued from page 1*

understanding of God, as well as Torah. From where does your understanding of God come? How often does your understanding change? Do you wrestle with your understanding as our ancestor Jacob did? Are you more accepting like Abraham when asked to sacrifice Isaac? Are you like the Prophets who seemed to understand the social and ethical implications of God's messages? How do you understand God and your relationship with God? And what is your relationship to Torah? Are the words and/or ideas sacred? Are they ancient and inaccessible? Are they the word of God, or the word of humans, or both? Do they impact you in ways that require you to act?

Ironically, we celebrate Shavuot as a completion of study when it is really the celebration of ongoing study, exploration, engagement, and searching. If we understand the month of Nisan to be the first month of the year, Shavuot actually marks the beginning of a life-long relationship. A kabalistic teaching understands the experience at Sinai as a great marriage between God and the people, Israel. The Torah is our ketubah; the celebration is the wedding feast! There is a wonderful tradition of an all night study session on the first night of Shavuot. My practice of this tradition does not have me study all night — just until it's time to go to sleep in order to be awake at 9:30

am services! You will hear about our "all night (just until 9:00ish)" Tikkun Leil Shavuot — opportunity for study on June 7. I have heard of families (who use the television on the holidays) getting a bunch of Jewish and/or Bible and/or Jewish-comedy DVDs and camping out in the TV room for an "all night" movie session.

As the Psalmist says (Ps. 90:12),

למנות ימינו כן הודע ונבא לבב חכמה

"Teach us how to count our days, so that we will attain a heart of wisdom."

Hag Sameach

HARRISON PEARL



Please join Daniel Pearl, Robin Henry-Pearl, and Jodi Pearl as they celebrate the Bar Mitzvah of Harrison on June 18, 2011.

Harrison is an honor student and a seventh grader in Falmouth. A lover of technology and a voracious reader, Harrison's favorite books so far are *Eragon*, *Eldest*, and *Brisinger* by Christopher Paolini. Harrison plays travel soccer in the fall, is a member of Riptide Soccer Club in the winter, and enjoys Little League baseball in the spring. A passionate skier, Harrison hits the slopes at Sugarloaf and Waterville Valley as much as possible, and he enjoys hiking to get the fresh powder. During the summer, Harrison attends overnight camp at Camp Manitou where he especially likes College League.

Harrison has attended Hebrew School for four years, starting at Congregation Etz Chaim in Biddeford and continuing at Temple Beth El. Harrison has volunteered to deliver Meals On Wheels, a Jewish Family Services program of the JCA, and also at the Falmouth High School community garden.

Harrison, his parents, and his step mom would like to thank Rabbi Braun, Dov Goldberg, Heidi Nottonson, David and Beth Strasser, and all his Hebrew School teachers for their help, guidance, and encouragement in preparing for this special day.

9TH ANNUAL SHALACH MANOT PROJECT

BY DANIELA SKALINA AND
OLIVIA SOLODAR, SHALACH
MANOT CO-CHAIRS

It is hard to believe that we started the TBE Shalach Manot Project nine years ago! It has grown in so many ways—we now make sure that every member of our congregation receives a Shalach Manot, each year we are delivering to more and more recipients, and this year we instituted online ordering for those who would like to utilize that service. The response continues to be one of overwhelming support for the project, and we are grateful to everyone.

The giving of Shalach Manot, gifts of food to friends and family, is one of the four mitzvot performed on Purim. It is a heartfelt way to emphasize the Jewish unity that lies at the core of the Purim holiday, and to create meaningful connections within our own community at the same time. We are delighted to help our congregation fulfill this mitzvah, remember friends and family, and support Temple Beth El.

As is traditional on Purim, we will be donating a portion of our proceeds to tzedakah. This year we have chosen to contribute to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, which is partnering with the Japanese Jewish community to provide funding for emergency needs including food,



water and shelter in the disaster region.

Here are some “quotable quotes” that you may enjoy:

Armand Lucier said as we piled him high with over 20 containers to deliver: “Anything I can do to help!”



Randy Harding called to tell us he would deliver to Kennebunk, Alfred, Biddeford, Saco and points south (even though he lives in Falmouth): “I love doing this. People are so appreciative—they even want me to come in and have coffee with them and visit.”

Noah Craig said as he assembled shalach manot: “This is really cool. There's a lot of stuff here. I can do (assemble) more than two at once!”

Kate Foye said when asked if she minded the continuous stream of e-mails from us: “It was great—I'm the kind of person who needs many reminders. If I hadn't received them, I wouldn't have remembered to place my order until it was too late.”

Rick Finberg said about the new online ordering: “It was actually very easy. It took me no time at all.”

(Of course, we acknowledge that wasn't true for everyone, but there is a learning curve and this was our first year—we apologize if you encountered any difficulties!)

There are so many people to whom we owe our appreciation. **Please see page 9 for a complete listing of Shalach Manot Todah Rabahs!**

We apologize if we left anyone out. It is certainly not intentional.

Many, many thanks to everyone for their participation in the mitzvah of Shalach Manot!

Wishing you a wonderful spring.



PURIM
MEGILLAH READING
and
Costume Ball



& Purimpalooza



ANNIVERSARIES

MAY:

- 7 Joel and Talia Timmins
- 8 Ben Marcus and Anita Bernhard
- 12 Adam and Lisa Arens
- 12 Burt and Barbara Epstein
- 17 Randy and Pam Harding
- 20 Gary and Shannon Auritt
- 25 Leticia Huttman and Rhetta Huttman
- 26 Eli and Kate 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:

- 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 Jon and Amy Brier
- 17 Lenny and Merle Nelson
- 18 Harvey and Carole Cole
- 18 Hy and Peggy Osher
- 19 Mark and Norma Filler
- 19 Barry and Lori Saltz
- 22 Harold Millman and Miriam Remar-Millman
- 23 Bernie and Marlene Cohen
- 23 Dan and Phyllis Dunitz
- 24 Joseph and Debbie Bornstein
- 24 Jerry and Sue Gordon
- 24 Joseph and Rhoda Wildstein
- 25 James and Bonnie Klein
- 26 Jon and Jodi Freedman
- 26 Alan and Geri Hirsch
- 27 Stan and Judy Elowitch
- 30 Stephen and Francine Blattner

JULY:

- 1 Steve and Cindy Lerman
- 3 Charles and Lisa Dewey
- 3 Stu and Carol Gilbert
- 3 Jonathan and Ellie Handelman
- 3 Stan and Sherrie Schatz
- 4 Alan and Betsy Levenson
- 5 Ivan and Sue Most
- 6 Irwin Gratz and Bonny Rodden
- 8 Michael and Hedy Cohen
- 11 Carl and Recia Richman
- 13 Alan Cardinal and Sylvia Most
- 18 Tommy Darhower, Jr. and Sarah Darhower
- 19 Joseph Herszkopf and Carmela Soto

TIKKUN OLAM NEWS

BY BARBARA PEISNER

Habitat for Humanity Interfaith Walk — May 22, 12:00

Come join the fun and walk for a great cause!

On Sunday, May 22, 2011, Temple Beth El will join a group of diverse Portland area congregations for the Habitat for Humanity Spring Interfaith Walk. This year marks the fourth year that Habitat's Springtime Walk is an Interfaith event and that Temple Beth El is participating. The walk will be held from 12:00-3:00 p.m. and will begin at St. Pius X church on Ocean Avenue near Payson Park in Portland. Between noon and one there will be food and games for young children, followed by a blessing prior to the official start of the walk given by several religious leaders. The official kick-off time for walking is 1:00 p.m., although participants can start sooner or later if they wish. The walk is through Payson Park and then around Back Bay for a total of about four miles. We are hoping that individuals, families and youth from our Sunday school will participate in this event. Funds are raised through donations to individual walkers which will be collected the day of the walk. Walkers and teams can also come to the walk and participate and donate whatever they feel they can. Pledge brochures will be available in the lobby here at Temple Beth El, and pledges can also be made on-line at www.firstgiving.com/habitatme. The goal of this year's walk is to raise funds for a home being constructed for a local family. For more information, please contact Sarah Muscat at smuscat@maine.rr.com, who is coordinat-

- 19 Beth Weiner Park and Steven Park
- 21 Scott and Yoon Cohen
- 22 Deborah and John Barlock
- 23 Mel and Fran Stone
- 24 Al Lefebvre and Ann Fleischer
- 24 Phillip and Judy Sher
- 28 David Freidenreich and Sara Kahn-Troster
- 29 Sumner and Barbara Berkovich

ing Temple Beth El's participation in this event, or Barbara Peisner at bpeisne1@maine.rr.com or 756-3028.

Soup Kitchen Opportunities — An Addition is Announced

We are continuing to prepare meals and serve at the Preble Street on the 4th Thursday of each month. In addition, based on responses from a recent survey from this committee, we will also be participating in Tuesday Family Dinners at The Parkside Neighborhood Center on the corner of Grant and Mellen Streets. The meal is served from 5:15-6:15 p.m. The meal is followed by an activity for children, which volunteers are also welcome to help with or lead. If you are interested in volunteering for either of these activities, please contact Carolyn Turcio-Gilman by phone (899-0695) or e-mail (cturciogilman@yahoo.com).

Collections for Preble Street and Wayside Food Rescue

We are continuing to collect new white socks, towels, and personal care items, such as soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, etc. during the summer months. Please also drop off food donations for the Wayside Food Rescue Program. The food pantries are in great need of food during summer months when children are home from school.

ADULT JEWISH LEARNING

BY JOAN BELSKY BARKIN

The Adult Jewish Learning committee thanks all of you who help make the events we sponsor engaging and successful. Thank you to Rabbi Braun, Dov and Jodi for all your efforts and ideas. More Special thank you's to Deena Schoenfeld for her contributions and Barbara Dichter for giving us Challah baking classes. We welcome any members to join AJL and help us make decisions for TBE's 2011-2012 Adult Jewish Learning programs.

WE MOURN THE PASSING OF:

Amelia Eryn Samet Kornfeld, sister-in-law of Bobbie and George Gordon, on January 22, in Houston, Texas.

Henry Oertelt, brother of Cantor Kurt Messerschmidt, on Thursday, January 27, in Minneapolis.

Mihai Ciffer, husband of Nora, on February 18, in Portland.

Anna Stillman, wife of the late Joseph Stillman, founding members of Temple Beth El, sister of Myer M. Marcus, mother of David and his wife Barbara, Neal and his wife Lorry, grandmother and great-grandmother, on February 23, in Portland.

Evelyn Wincele, mother of Elliott

Wincele and his wife Olivia Solodar, grandmother of Ariana, Demian, Tov and Irrae, on February 24, in Yonkers, NY.

Anne Berman, mother of Harvey Berman (former Temple Beth El Board member and past president), mother-in-law of Sara, and grandmother of Ari, Daniel, Benjamin, and Ilana on February 28, in Massachusetts.

Mary Davidson, mother of Cinndi Davidson, on March 26.

James B. Marcus, father of Ben Marcus, father-in-law of Anita Bernhardt, grandfather of Hannah and Nathan, on April 7, in Massachusetts.

MAZEL TOV

To Rabbi Akiva Herzfeld of Congregation Shaarey Tphiloh, and his wife, Michal, on the birth of their daughter, Devora Bina, born Wednesday, January 26.

To Joshua and Karen Klein on the birth of their son, Jake Bradford Klein, born Wednesday, January 26, in New York. Jake is the first grandchild of TBE members Bonnie and James B. Klein, and the great-grandson of TBE member Phyllis S. Klein.

To the Novick family on the birth of Jack Ronen Novick, born to Dena and David Novick, in Woodbridge, CT, on February 12, 2011. Jack is a new brother to Henry Max Novick, grandson to Sam and Bette Novick, great-grandson to Rose Novick, nephew to Matthew and Rebecca Novick, and Andrew and Sabrina Novick, and cousin to Alex Novick.

To TBE member Barbara Dichter, who was featured in a recent article in the Portland Daily Sun newspaper entitled "Carrying on Jewish Cooking Traditions."

To Harvey & Sara Berman on the birth of their new granddaughter, Sadie Maya Anne Berman, Monday, February 28. Sadie is the new daughter of Benjamin Berman and his wife Heather Budd. Harvey is a former Temple Beth El Board member and a past president, now residing in Massachusetts.

To TBE Volunteer Extraordinaire Tom Berman, on his nomination for the 2011 USCJ New England Area 'Alan Karlsberg Tzedek Award' for his outstanding dedication and service to Temple Beth El. Tom and the other award nominees will be honored at a special luncheon at Temple Reyim, in Newton, MA, on Sunday, May 1.

To our Purim Costume Ball Winners

Matt & Lynn Goldfarb, Best Couple (gift certificate to What-A-Pita)

Emma Hindall, Most Creative (gift certificate to Cinemagic Theaters)

Rachel Shapiro and Litel Pilosof, Queen(s) of the Ball (gift certificates to Akari Spa)

Natan & Orly Kahn, "How many M&Ms in the jar?" contest (Contents of jar)

Jeff Scher for his professional photography

What-A-Pita for their prize donation

Akari Salon for their prize donation

TBE Staff for all of their hard work in preparation for the evening

TODAH RABAH

To Robert Levine & Vilean Taggersell, and Patricia Davidson Reef for the donation of a new coffee urn for the TBE kitchen.

To Hedy Cohen for helping prepare the Shofar newsletter mailing!

To Barbara Dichter and the (February 3) Challah Baking class participants: Hedy Cohen, Joan Barkin, Sandrea Kornblum, Armand Lucier, Carmela Soto and others, for preparing challot for our Shabbat Onegs and Kiddush.

To Barbara Dichter for organizing and leading the February 6th Hamentaschen Baking.

To the Feb. 6 Hamentaschen bakers: Hedy Cohen, Barbara Peisner, Deena Weinstein, Ellie Miller, and Sandrea Kornblum, for helping with the filling and baking. Hundreds of hamentaschen were made for Purim!

To Shannon & Gary Auritt for hosting the Shabbat Kiddush on Saturday, February 12, in memory of Shannon's grandmother, Edna Zysk.

To the children of Harry and Lillian Weisberg for the generous donation of a beautiful new Challah board and knife.

To our Shalach Manot volunteers and helpers:

Co-Chairs: Olivia Solodar and Daniela Skalina

Container researchers and buyers: Joan Levy and Karen Hindall

Sticker designer: Deena Schoenfeld

Hamantashen baggers: Debbie Kanter, Ellie Miller, Clara Purinton, Lisa Berman, Laura Piltch

Assemblers: Gina Elowitch, Sheryl Haas,

Marjorie and Tom Berman, Kate Foye, Sharon, Noah and Ellis Craig, Joy Krinsky and Samuel Kemmerer, Carol Dayn, Irwin and Eli Gratz, Laura and Trevor Piltch, Joan Levy, Janine Collins, Armand Lucier, Kyle Lucier

Deliverers: Armand Lucier, Randy Harding, Cliff Kucine, Fred and Karen Farber, Becky Delois, Clara Purinton, Patty and Ross Weber, Barabara Dichter, Dan Freedman and Jana, Amy and Jon Brier, Jon and Jodi Freedman, Larry Brown, Laura Piltch, Patty Gardson, Madeline Segal, Kim and Jay Baker, Ellen Haldeman, Michael Peisner, Leticia and Rhetta Huttman, Harlan Baker, Elaine Kerachsky, Doris and Stan Pollack, Sylvia Most, Sandrea Kornblum, Pat Reef

On-Call Troubleshooter: Tom Berman

Computer Wizard: Andre Skalina

Support of every kind: Anne-Marie, Deena, Sharon, Sherri, Jodi, Bob, Gardner (TBE office staff)

To our Purim Megillah readers:

Joy Krinsky, Natan Kahn, Dov Goldberg, Robert Aranson, Fred Farber, Dani Kahn, Ellie Miller, Michael Peisner, and Barbara Dichter.

To our Purim Costume Ball volunteers and supporters:

Karen Farber for decorating the tables

Fred Farber for manning the Scotch tasting table

Hedy Cohen & Connie Goldberg for their help with food preparation

Tom Berman for audio support

Patty & Ross Weber for their donation of wine

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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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Seder *continued from page 3*

direction is merely anarchy. The Torah and the mitzvot are intended to channel our freedom not to obliterate it. However, this dichotomy runs perilously close to contradiction. Isn't this "channeling of freedom" merely a concept designed to prevent us from recognizing that God with the Torah and mitzvot didn't really intend to liberate us but only to supplant Pharaoh? I do not believe that this is a subtle deception. Rather, I do believe it is a sophisticated and nuanced challenge to us to understand how the limitations imposed upon us by the Torah and mitzvot can and do enhance our freedom as Jews. It is precisely the difficulty and subtlety of the challenge which requires us to spend serious time at the seder exploring this issue. It is why the haggadah is designed to help us examine it in a variety of ways and from a variety of perspectives. Each year we are somewhat different people with different issues confronting us, requiring us to re-examine this challenge anew.

The seder, as we know, means order. We often explain that this is because our celebration has a specific structure and each part has a particular order. Perhaps this fact, though, is really underscoring something about the greater issue of Pesach. How will we move beyond the potential anarchy of freedom to use that freedom, channeled by the Torah and mitzvot, to help us order our lives constructively and productively as Jews? I would suggest that this is the most fundamental question about living a Jewish life. It is a question addressed to us, and under our guidance, to our children at this time of year. Perhaps this is what we are being told when the haggadah says "in every generation each person is obligated to see himself as if he left Egypt." To understand what it means to be free to live as a Jew is no less our challenge than it was our ancestor's. May your journey to freedom this year be a truly joyous and successful one.

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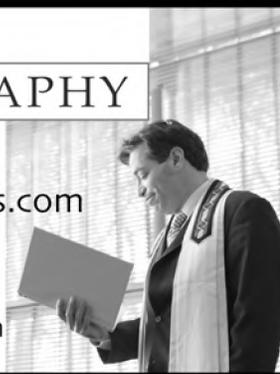
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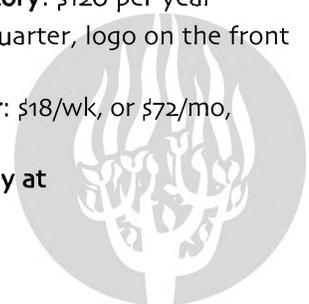
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