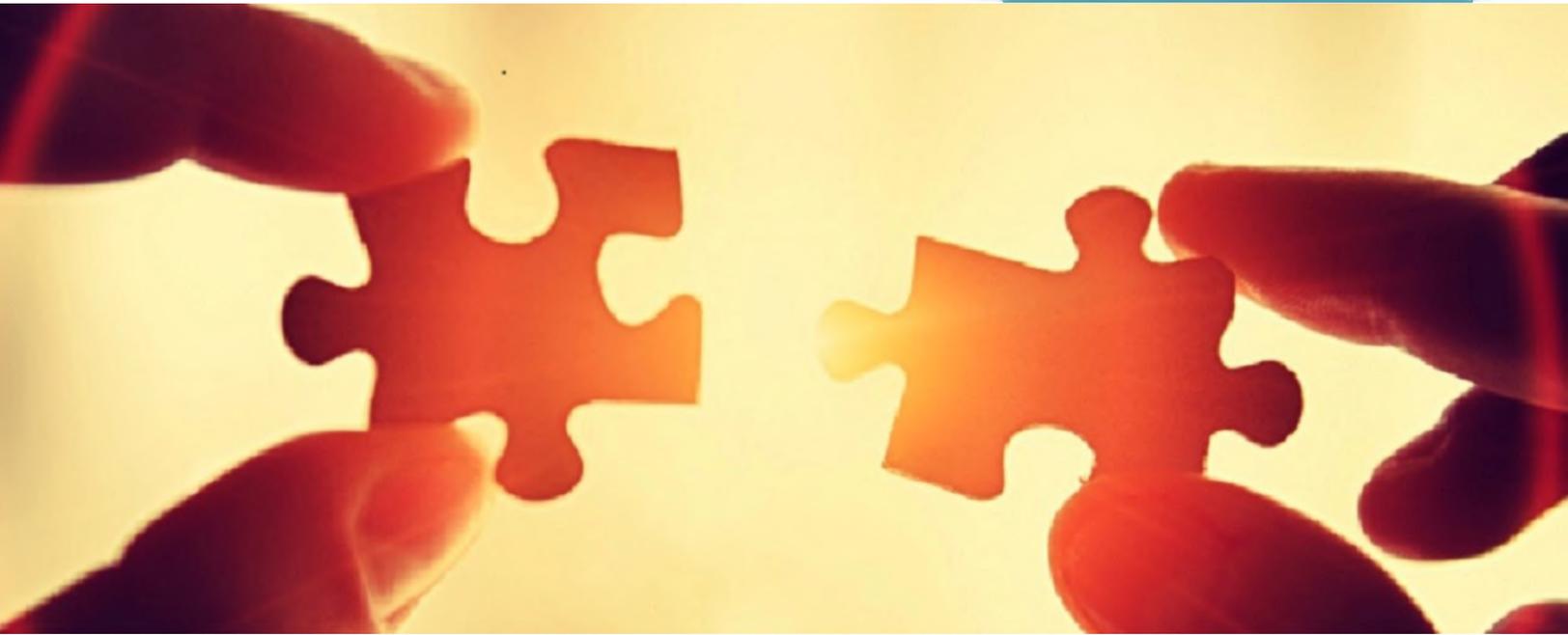


Chadashot Ha'am

A bi-monthly newsletter for Congregation Bet Ha'am

Mar/Apr 2016 | Adar/Nisan 5776



WHAT'S INSIDE

Rabbi's Report	pg. 1
President's Message	pg. 3
Religious School	pg. 5
Garden Committee Update	pg. 7
Congregant Interview	pg. 9
Green Space Update	pg.10
Congregant Reflections	pg.11
Upcoming Events	pg.13
Music Review	pg.17
Donor Gallery	pg.18
Bi-monthly Calendars	pg.19

Rabbi's Report



By Rabbi Jared Saks

Over the past few months, we've begun some important conversations about the future of *Tikkun Olam* (repair of our world) at Bet Ha'am. In a letter that you received in December (that has been posted on our congregational [blog](#)), I outlined the religious and moral principles of Judaism that command us to engage in both social action, the righteous acts that attend to immediate needs, and social justice, the righteous work aimed at eradicating the systemic problems in our society and our world. The prophetic voices of our tradition demand that we both meet the immediate needs of people suffering in our world, while also tackling the underlying evils in our society that cause that suffering.

81 Westbrook Street
South Portland, ME 04106

Phone: 207.879.0028
Fax: 207.879.1866
Mon: Office Closed
Tues - Fri: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm



Our congregation has a long history of involvement in social justice and social action. We have numerous members involved in countless projects and causes, including fighting hunger and homelessness, welcoming strangers and refugees and tending to the care of our environment. The past work of our community and that which continues today have created a strong foundation for the work that we will be able to do in the future. I am grateful to all of those who have dedicated their involvement at Bet Ha'am to our role in *tikkun olam*.

We have had two recent community conversations around *tikkun olam*. A dialogue with our religious school parents, which was connected to one of our *Tikkun Olam* Family Programs, raised issues that both keep our parents up at night and get them going in the morning to make the world a better place for their children. The conversation also summarized this kind of work that many of our parents are already doing in the world. A congregational, community-wide forum helped us to envision the community that we want to have, along with the pathways and obstacles to that vision. From these two conversations, a plan has begun to emerge.



With the guidance and wisdom of many advocates for *tikkun olam*, I have assembled a *Tikkun Olam* Steering Committee that will direct the process of establishing a *Tikkun Olam* Task Force that will be formed in the near future. The Steering Committee, comprised of six members, represents diversity within our congregation so that we can bring together varied voices that will move us forward as we honor the work we have done and ground our future *tikkun olam* efforts in the foundations of our past. The members of this Steering Committee are Andy Abrams, Dana Gold, Alan Mills, Sylvia Most, Daniel Oppenheim, and myself. It is my hope that through the guidance and wisdom of this team, as well as the work of the *Tikkun Olam* Task Force, we will spend the next six to nine months learning about where we've been, where we want to go, and how to frame a vision and mission for our congregation's role in the repair of our world.

With Torah as the foundation of our tradition, the classical rabbis, whose ideas and philosophies are found in the [Mishnah](#), the [Talmud](#) and the [Midrash](#), outline what is expected of our people when it comes to belief and action. One of the greatest treasures of Judaism is its moral guidance. The classical rabbis and sages sought to impel an ethical impulse in us through our practice of Judaism. They drew upon the general moral values and proverbs of our sacred texts, such as the obligation to care for the needy and to educate both adults and children, to formulate laws and values to guide our lives. They witnessed God's acts of kindness and viewed them as emulative guidelines for our practice. In the Talmud (BT *Sotah* 14a), Rabbi Hama, the son of Rabbi Hanina, teaches that just as God clothed Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, we are called upon to clothe the naked. Just as God visited Abraham when he was ill, we are called upon to visit the sick. Just as God provides food for the hungry, so are we to feed the hungry. Our tradition teaches that though God created the world, God gave the Jewish people Torah so that we could be God's partners in redeeming the world through our care for it and repair of it.

Over the next months, I look forward to your involvement in this ongoing conversation about the future of Congregation Bet Ha'am's work in *tikkun olam*. For my part, I pledge to honor the past and work toward an even stronger future in this realm. I am committed to engaging as many of us as possible in this conversation and keeping everyone up to date on the progress of our work. I hope that when I stand before you during the High Holy Days ushering in 5777, we will have begun the next stage of this important work for our congregation, our community, and our world.



President's Report



By Andrew Kosak, President

To quote the immortal John Hannibal Smith, “I love it when a plan comes together.” It’s not often that a synagogue president has the opportunity to cite the leader of 1980s television’s “The A-Team,” but as I write about the progress our synagogue is making in enacting its strategic plan, it seems appropriate, because our plan is coming together in so many positive ways.

For example, in February we held a congregational forum on *Tikkun Olam* at which members shared their ideas about how Bet Ha’am might help heal the world. As a result of input from members on that Sunday afternoon, we now have a steering committee that will help determine the synagogue’s *Tikkun Olam* goals and the best methods for achieving them. I’d like to thank Andy Abrams, Dana Gold, Alan Mills, Sylvia Most, and Daniel Oppenheim for joining this group led by Rabbi Saks.



Also as part of our efforts to make the world better, we will hold an educational forum about refugees on the evening of March 24. While the event is still in the planning stage, I hope that you will join us at 6:30 PM to learn more about issues facing refugees in our community and around the world. Please make sure to check the weekly email and our website for more information in the coming weeks.

Clearer communication is another goal of the strategic plan, and the Board is committed to making information easily accessible to all congregants. Recently Tom Rosen and the Finance Committee sent out a very detailed and clear report about the synagogue’s finances, how we fund operations, and our synagogue expenses. I appreciate the tremendous effort Tom and others put into composing it. Furthermore, you can always request Board meeting minutes from the office, and any member is welcome to attend our meetings. Moreover, if you’ve missed a service, you can now go to our blog and read Rabbi Saks’s sermons there.

Another aim of the strategic plan is to find ways to enhance life-long learning for all members. This winter we offered wonderful educational series for adult learners. Professor Robert Morrison taught the very well-received course “An Abrahamic Career: Abraham in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam,” and in February, Rabbi Saks began his latest “Taste of Judaism” class, which focuses on daily Jewish living.

Meanwhile, our innovative religious school programming continues to receive positive feedback from families and students. Once a month, all students in first through sixth grade and their families gather for a *Tikkun Olam* program. Louise Abramson and Orly Biggie have devoted many hours to create events that meet the students' interests and teach participants about Jewish values, and I want to thank them both for the incredible job they are doing. Programs on food and hunger and caring for animals have been big hits. In addition to attending Sunday morning classes and programs, these students help lead our family worship services each month by singing songs, reciting prayers, teaching Torah lessons and sharing favorite Hebrew words and concepts. I hope that you'll be able to join us for one of these wonderful services.

On Sunday evenings our older students select electives, activities and projects that appeal to them and fit their schedules. Attending a "Jewish" play, ushering at services, cooking with Sheri and Mayer Fistal, going to a youth group event, and gathering in the *Sukkah* for a service are just a few ways students can actively engage in learning about Judaism.



One of the perks of continuing religious education at Bet Ha'am—besides greater knowledge about Jewish history, customs and ritual—is a special trip that we have begun to run each year for older students. Thanks to the generous support of the Bronstein Family Foundation, during four wonderful days in the beginning of December, six 9th, 10th and 12th grade students were able to bond with each other as they learned about Judaism and Jewish life in the United States by traveling to New York City. Among the places they visited were the Tenement Museum, the Jewish Museum, the Stanton Street Shul, Katz's Delicatessen, and the Museum at Eldridge Street. As a father of one of the student participants, I am grateful that my daughter had such a meaningful spiritual and educational experience, and to Rachel Stamieszkin, Louise Abramson, Orly Biggie and Rabbi Saks for making this trip a reality.

Building community is another aim of the strategic plan, and I hope that you'll join us this spring for several very special events. From May 3rd to May 8th Cantor Linda Hirschhorn will be our Bernstein Scholar-in-Residence. She will offer a series of workshops during the week (there is a small fee for attending each one), help lead us in Friday night worship along with a choir made up of congregants (if you'd like to join, please contact Kris Dorer), guide a song circle on Saturday, teach a free Havdalah workshop and give a public performance on Sunday. This should be an incredibly exciting and fulfilling week; thank you to Roz Bernstein for sponsoring Cantor Hirschhorn's residency.

On Sunday, May 22nd, we'll continue to enjoy fantastic music when the amazing Rick Recht returns to Bet Ha'am for a free concert. We'll soon have links to some of his songs on our website, so you'll be able to practice in order to sing along when he performs.

Finally, on April 9th we will celebrate our 30th anniversary with a free gala evening at the synagogue. Please join us for an evening of hors d'oeuvre, dancing, conversation, and reminiscences by members. During the evening you'll also learn how the Capital Campaign Committee, so ably led by Jeremy Moser, Jay Geller, Ken Lehman, and many others, has been securing our financial future—another one of the strategic plan's goals.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at 729-0207 or andrew.kosak@gmail.com

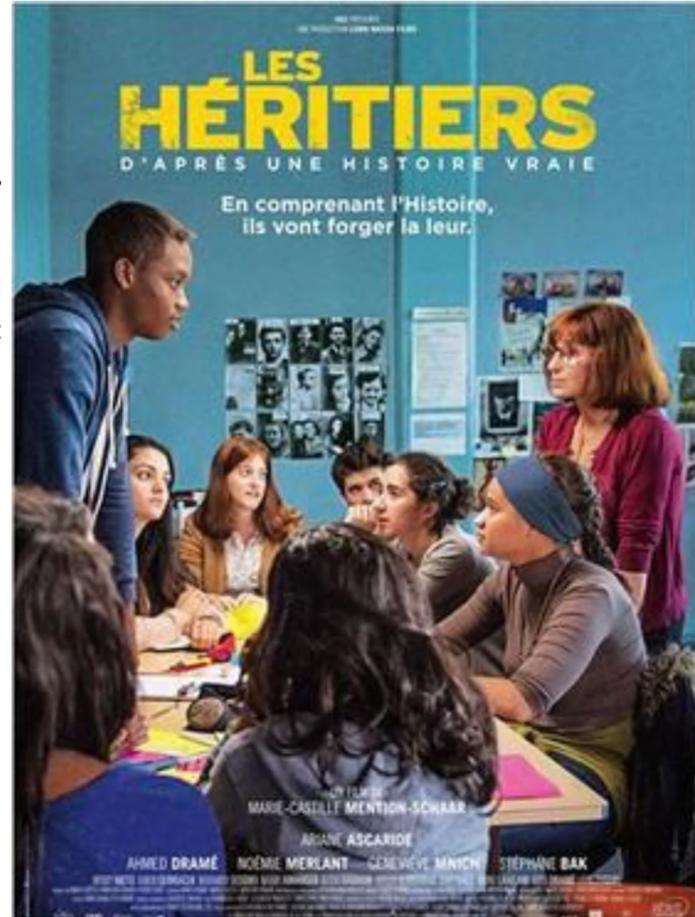
Religious School Report



By Orly Biggie, Religious School Director

March brings the Maine Jewish Film Festival with its films related to Judaism from Israel and other countries. I have been a member of the selection committee for a few years, and one of my goals has been to find a good, engaging movie for the Festival's free youth film screening. This summer, while visiting Israel, I saw the movie *Once in a Life Time* (*Les Héritiers*). This French drama, based on true events, tells the story of a rough high school in the outskirts of Paris. The school has students of different religions, mostly Muslims and Jews. It chronicles a teacher working with teenagers who had dropped out of school. The teacher decides to participate in a national competition about Children and Adolescents in the Nazi Concentration Camp System. Without giving too much away, I can tell you that the project changes their lives. I knew that I had found the right feature for this year's Youth program. The recent terrorist events in Paris made it clear to the committee that this was a perfect film to choose.

On Sunday, March 10, at 1:00 OM, *Once in a Life Time* will be shown at the Hannaford Auditorium of USM. This is a movie that will spark discussion with both your teens and your peers, and I would encourage adults to attend too. I encourage you to consider also attending other fine movies, not available in other local theatres, at this year's Maine Jewish Film Festival.



Mazel tov to our upcoming B'nai Mitzvah!

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

Ben Stone | Saturday, March 5, 2016
Claire Anton | Saturday, March 19, 2016
Jacob Orenstein | Saturday, March 26, 2016
Chaia Alford | Saturday, April 16, 2016
Julian Ray | Saturday, April 30, 2016

Religious School Schedule

Grades 1-6

March 6: regular classes, 9:00 AM to noon
March 11: Shabbat Family Service – pizza at 5:30 PM and service at 6:00 PM
March 20: *Purim* Carnival, 10:00-12:30 (Please note date change)
March 27: *Tikkun Olam* family program and Hebrew, 9:00 AM to noon

April 3: regular classes, 9:00 AM to noon
April 8: Shabbat Family Service – pizza at 5:30 PM and service at 6:00 PM
April 10: *Tikkun Olam* family program and Hebrew, 9:00 AM to noon

Kindergarten

March 20: *Purim* Carnival, 10:00-12:00
(Please note date change)
March 27: 9:00-10:30 AM
April 3: 9:00-10:30 AM
April 10: 9:00-10:30 AM

Grade 7 - *Gesher*

March 13: 1:00 PM, *Chavaya*: Maine Jewish Film Festival at Hannaford Hall, USM
March 20: Help with the *Purim* Carnival
March 27: Dinner and *Shiur*, 5:00-7:30 PM

Saturday, April 2, 7:30 PM, *Chavaya*: Portland Stage, *My Name is Asher Lev*
April 10: Dinner and *Shiur*, 5:00-7:00 PM

Grades 8-10 - *Chavayot*

March 6: Dinner and classes (third quarter), 5:00-7:30 PM
March 13: 1:00 PM, *Chavaya*: Maine Jewish Film Festival at Hannaford Hall, USM
March 20: Dinner and classes, 5:00-7:30 PM
March 27: Dinner and classes, 5:00-7:30 PM

Saturday, April 2, 7:30 PM, *Chavaya*: Portland Stage, *My Name is Asher Lev*
Sunday April 3: Dinner and classes, 5:00-7:30 PM
Sunday April 10: Dinner and classes, 5:00-7:30 PM

Grades 11 & 12

March 20, 5:00-6:30 PM
April 3: 5:00-6:30 PM *Tikun Olam* Day



Garden Committee Notes



By Toby Rosenberg, Garden Committee Chair



Most gardeners enjoy quiet time between the harvest of the fall and spring seed buying, but not the Bet Ha'am Garden Committee. We have been working toward integrating even more into congregational life.

This fall we coordinated a great *Tikkun Olam* program with our Religious School. Students and families planted in our gardens, trimmed back dying plants and made new compost piles. Orly and Rabbi Saks connected all our activities to concepts of *Tikkun Olam*. We knew we had succeeded when we saw an abundance of huge smiles at morning's end, including on the faces of Garden Committee members.

In January we again co-hosted the annual *Tu B'Shevat seder* with the Holiday Committee. Participants planted parsley that will be ready for *Pesach*. It was a delight to have many children join us for this year's celebration.

In early February we hosted speaker Jesse O'Brien, who gave a fact-filled talk on environmentally friendly ways to care for lawns. We want to make sure Bet Ha'am's grounds maintenance is environmentally friendly, safe and sustainable and thought the information might be valuable to others in our community. Participants included Bet Ha'am members, South Portland residents and landscapers who were earning credits toward licensing. This was the second time we have offered an educational program during the winter.

In March we plan to host a **seed-starting booth at the Purim Carnival**. This will keep our students connected to our raised bed gardens. The seeds they start will eventually be planted in our raised beds and will become the food we donate to Wayside Food Rescue.

May 7, Mothers Day, will bring our **7th Annual Plant Sale**. We encourage you gardeners to start imagining which plants you might dig from your own gardens to donate. Our plant sale supports a wide range of garden programs that the Bet Ha'am budget could never fund. These have included the entry courtyard garden, the accessible pathway through the Sanctuary Garden, our wheat garden and our raised beds. Your plant donations and purchases make all this possible.



On Fathers' Day, **June 19**, we will host our first **Garden Tour**. The tour will be open to the public and proceeds will go to Bet Ha'am's General Fund. We look forward to showing off our many gardens and the bio-retention basin. We could use your help with any of the tasks below that will help us make this first Garden Tour a success. If you see anything that interests you or have additional ideas, please contact Toby Rosenberg at tobyr@gwi.net to volunteer.

- | | |
|--|--|
| planting | baking |
| weeding | greeting guests and collecting money |
| tree moving | serving the snack and beverage |
| Mulching | guiding guests through the building |
| repairing raised bed | guiding guests through the gardens |
| priming gardens | teaching about specific gardens (we will provide training) |
| coordinating a snack and beverage for our guests | publicity and/or graphics |

If you have never worked with the Garden Committee, we are a fun group that enjoys accomplishing things and getting to know each other. We invite you to get involved with one of our projects and/or consider joining our committee. As you can see, we are integrating our passion for our gardens into the Bet Ha'am community – and hope you will join us.



***Zecher T'zaddik L'vrachah* | Condolences to:**

David & Harriet Pinansky on the loss of their sister-in-law, Roxanne Holland Pinansky
Julie & Rick Davis on the loss of Julie's brother, Michael Card
Cathy Breen & Jay Geller on the loss of Cathy's brother, Chris Breen

Congregant Interview:

Samantha Johnson

Name: Samantha Johnson

Family members:

Harold (Harry) Johnson, Ruby Johnson (third grader)

Town you live in: Saco

Current or past profession: Sales Support Manager for Vets First Choice. I am responsible for planning all tradeshow, assisting with B2B marketing and managing the team that enrolls the veterinarians in our services.

Hobbies: I'm a craftaholic, though I don't spend nearly enough time creating! I make jewelry, knit and take on Ruby's craft projects (I'm always the last one sitting at the table, diligently working). As a family, we love to explore and often pick random day trip destinations.

Volunteer work, especially at Bet Ha'am: My volunteer work is pretty much centered around Bet Ha'am these days. I am a Board member and Board secretary, a member of the Education Committee and co-chair (with Marie Leavitt) of the 30th Anniversary Gala. I am looking forward to carving out some time to volunteer with Ruby at the Animal Welfare Society in Kennebunk, hopefully this summer.

Some life accomplishments: My biggest accomplishment is a happy family. Raising a curious and kind child and having a true partner in life are more than I could have hoped for. I'm also pretty proud of the 200-year-old farm house that Harry and I restored.

How long have you been a member of Bet Ha'am? We've been members for almost five years.

Tell us a few funny, interesting, fond memories of your life as part of Bet Ha'am: This year, I'm really enjoying the restructuring of the Hebrew school program. I love the *Tikkun Olam* sessions and the conversations with Ruby that they help start. I also love the Family Shabbat services. It's great to see how involved the kids are, and it's a beautiful way to take a pause and step back from the busy week.

What are 3 words/phrases that you would use to explain what Bet Ha'am is or means to you? Community, faith, continuity. I love that Bet Ha'am provides the framework for me to embrace my faith in a way that works for me.



City of South Portland Conservation Easement Preserves Green Space

By Sharon Newman

On December 22, 2015, the City of South Portland officially created the city's newest park, to be known as "Sawyer Park," on the 2.3 acre green space at the corner of Westbrook and Main Streets next to Bet Ha'am's sanctuary. The City signed a conservation easement that designates the South Portland Land Trust (a non-profit corporation) as the "holder" of the easement and requires that the park "remain in a substantially undeveloped, open state ... providing the general public access for quiet recreation." The easement allows a playground for young children, community gardens and "other uses not inconsistent with quiet enjoyment of neighboring property owners."

Finalization of the easement culminates a multi-year effort to protect and preserve the green space from potentially disruptive commercial development. When Bet Ha'am purchased the Thornton Heights School and associated property from the City in 2005, it proposed purchasing the green space and placing restrictions on its use, so that it would remain a park open to the community on a permanent basis. The City Council did not support selling the land but agreed to grant Bet Ha'am a "right of first refusal." The right of first refusal was scheduled to expire on December 31, 2015.

Two years ago, unaware of this right, the City discussed potentially offering the land to a Dunkin' Donuts franchisee seeking to replace its nearby leased store location after Thornton Heights neighbors had objected to having a 24-hour facility as a neighbor in the former St. John the Evangelist property the Dunkin' Donuts franchisee had bought. The congregation also objected to having a 24-hour facility as a neighbor, and many members of Bet Ha'am spoke up against this use of the green space in numerous City Council and Planning Board workshops and meetings. Ultimately, the City agreed that neither location was appropriate for the proposed drive-through.

In July 2014, Bet Ha'am held a community meeting and representatives of the South Portland Land Trust (SPLT) indicated their interest in supporting the congregation's desire to preserve the green space in perpetuity. SPLT representatives worked closely with Bet Ha'am and the City to negotiate the conservation easement. To ensure the success of this effort, the congregation agreed to donate \$100,000 to a fund managed by SPLT for park improvements to be constructed by the City.

The City is using the land as a laydown area during construction of sewer system upgrades in the Thornton Heights area. This temporary use of the green space is allowed only until December 31, 2016. Improvements to Sawyer Park will be constructed when this work is completed. These improvements are not expected to change the green space significantly, but will enhance the park's appearance, ease of maintenance, and accessibility. The Sawyer Park Fund is being supported by restricted gifts to Bet Ha'am (in some cases being matched by employer contributions to SPLT). These gifts are separate from and therefore do not have any impact on the Congregation's operating budget.

The following members of Bet Ha'am have given most generously of their time, attending many, many meetings with the City and with SPLT: past presidents, Lisa Munderback and Sharon Newman; Board member, Jeremy Moser; and Jamie Broder. Board member Bill Welch was of great assistance in finalizing the terms of the conservation easement. Past presidents Barbara Riegelhaupt, Elaine Falender and Tim Boulette provided invaluable planning and strategic advice. Many thanks to all who made their voices heard – This couldn't have been done without you!

A Congregant's Reflections: Syrian refugees

By Debbie Plager

It was late August and I had just started getting my son's school supplies ready. Early fall is usually one of my favorite times of year. The rhythm of starting a new school year combined with *Rosh Hashanah* and the Days of Awe bring a feeling of a clean slate - of possibilities, of the future. I am the child of two teachers, and this rhythm is woven deeply into the fibers of our home.

It was early September when I saw the images of Aylan Kurdi, the toddler refugee who drowned on a crossing to the Island of Kos, Greece. I was getting my younger son, just a year older than Aylan, ready for preschool. He was so excited about his new classroom. He felt the power of new beginnings.

Like many of you, I was haunted by the images of Aylan. I mourn for him and for his father, who lost his whole family on the passage to Kos. Aylan gave a face to all those children, who are a majority of the 12 million internally displaced Syrian refugees. They do not have a feeling of possibility, and their reality is not one any of us would wish on innocents.

I wrote to Andrew Kosak during the High Holy Days to ask whether Bet Ha'am had plans to do something to support Syrian refugees. Andrew brought this conversation to the Board. On the morning of November 13, Andrew wrote me to confirm the Board's desire to do something in support of Syrian refugees. That night the Paris attacks happened.

The days following the Paris attacks lit up questions, fears, and pleas. I read headlines of national politicians demanding Muslims register in the United States. I read concerns for safety and repeated requests to close America's doors to Muslim refugees. I also saw postings reminding people of a similar "request" for Jews to register in Germany. At Northwestern University, where I studied, a 1938 poll of the student body asked whether the United States should let in Jewish refugees; 68% voted no.

Although the United States has the most thorough screening in the world of refugees asking for asylum, some still argue that we should close our doors. Despite the fact that not one of the 750,000 refugees who has come to the United States since 9/11 has been implicated in a domestic or international terrorist attack (*The Economist*, October 17, 2015), some still argue that we should close our doors to Syrian refugees.

So I choose to believe in the power of possibility, the power of the future, and the right of children to grow up with security and safety. I continue to reach out to my public officials to let them know I believe in an America that keeps its doors open to those who need it most. As a Jewish American, it is my duty to educate others of the dangers of calling for "registration" of those of any religion or culture and/or seeking to close America's doors. Jewish Americans have a powerful perspective on these issues, and we should not be silent. Though I cannot do anything to change Aylan's life, I can honor his legacy by advocating for refugee support in Europe and for increased refugee acceptance into the United States.

If you are thinking, “What can I do if I want to support Syrian refugees?” here are some ideas:

Communicate with your elected officials:

- Senator Susan Collins | Washington, D.C. Office (202) 224-252
- Senator Angus King | Washington, D.C. Office (202) 224-5344
- Congresswoman Shelly Pingree | Washington, D.C. Office [202-225-6116](tel:202-225-6116)

Find your Maine representative | <http://legislature.maine.gov/house/townlist.htm>
Governor LePage | 207-287-3531 and Toll-free: 1-855-721-5203

Support one of the many reputable small and large organizations focusing on relief efforts for refugees who are making their way across Europe.

Bet Ha’am is one of a few designated drop off sites for Carry The Future. This small organization collects gently used infant and toddler carriers and sends them to Greece. Volunteers help match refugees with free baby carriers to aid their families in their travels.

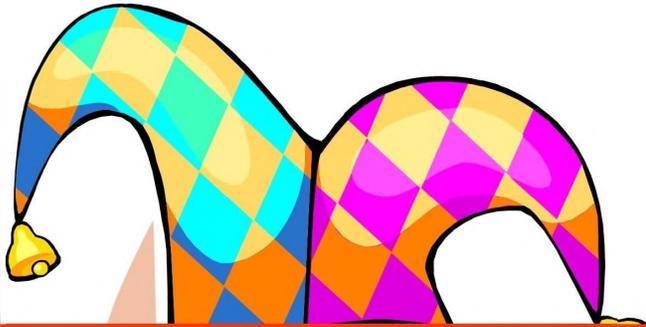


Advocacy for Inclusion of Religious Holidays on Brunswick’s School Calendar



Members of Bet Ha’am and others in the Jewish community recently advocated for Brunswick’s school district calendar to include *Rosh Hashanah*, *Yom Kippur*, and Passover. Bet Ha’am member Natasha Goldman pointed out to the School Board that other non-federal/state holidays, such as Christmas Eve and Good Friday, are included on the calendar. Having religious holidays on the school calendar can increase awareness of religious holidays and might decrease important school district events being scheduled on these dates. The proposal did not include a request that the holidays be non-school days for all students.

After discussion, the School Board issued a statement supporting multi-faith inclusion on the district calendar and requested that the Superintendent develop a proposed school calendar that included the major religious holidays.



purim carnival

Sunday March 20
10:00 AM Megillah Reading and Shpiel
followed by games, goodies, prizes and fun!

Come in costume! Bring your friends! Buy some Hamentashen! Fun for the whole family!



81 Westbrook Street, South Portland
www.bethaam.org



SAVE THE DATE

30th Anniversary

Celebration & Masquerade Gala



Saturday, April 9, 2016

7:00 to 10:00 PM

Please mark your calendar for a
celebration of community,
friendship, and the future of
Congregation Bet Ha'am

Free to attend. Festive attire optional. Childcare will be available. Details and invitation to follow.



RICK RECHT



Save the Date
Congregation Bet Ha'am
05.22.16
1:00PM



www.bethaam.org 207-879-0028
81 Westbrook St.
South Portland, ME 04106



rickrecht.com • facebook.com/rickrechtworld



This event is a strategic initiative of **Atid Ha'am - For the Future of Our People**, Bet Ha'am's Capital Campaign to sustain our future.





Free Acupuncture Clinic

A free community-style Acupuncture clinic has come to your area for veterans and their family members.

- Improve mental clarity, focus, concentration and memory
- Boost energy
- Enhance performance
- Improve sleep
- Reduce stress
- Reduce anxiety and irritability
- Alleviate hyper-vigilance, flashbacks & nightmares



**Congregation Bet Ha'am Members
and Friends are
invited to participate in the**

Portland Veterans Acupuncture Clinic

Tuesdays, 6 - 8 pm (starting 3/8/16)

(All participants must be signed in by 6:30)

Congregation Bet Ha'am

81 Westbrook St, So. Portland ME

For more information please call:

1-800-871-9012 Ext. 90895#

<http://www.portlandvetsacuclinic.org/>

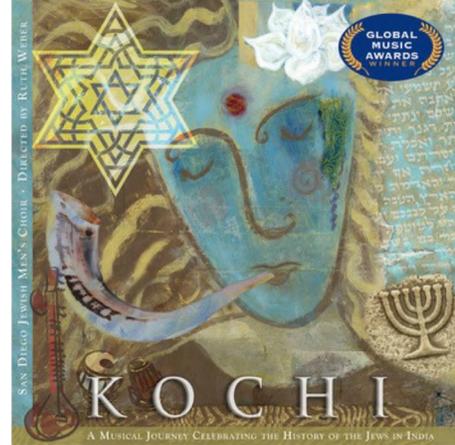
Community service training provided by Acupuncturists Without Borders

Kochi, San Diego Jewish Men's Choir

A Music Review by Gail Wartell

host of *Sunday Simcha* on WMPG radio

If you like choral music, you will love *Kochi*, the second CD from the renowned San Diego Jewish Men's Choir, directed by Ruth Weber. Released in 2015, this new collection of world Jewish music sparkles. The album won a Global Music Award.



One of the most interesting and unexpected places that Diaspora Jews settled was the fishing port of Kerala on the coast of India. The area Kochi (or Cochin) welcomed the Jews as they escaped persecution, and the Jewish community there grew to over 5,000 strong at one time. This CD honors that history by including traditional Indian instruments in the accompaniment, which gives a delightful flavor to the interpretations.

The collection includes favorites in Ladino (Expulsion Era Spanish), Yiddish and Hebrew. The fresh versions are very enjoyable, the performances strong and polished. The instrumental work is top-notch. Selections include a moving version of *Lecha Dodi* with complex harmonies and a charming interpretation of *Adio Querida*.

A portion of the CD sales will go to the Gabriel Project Mumbai, a non-profit organization that provides vital services to children in the slums of Mumbai, India.

Kochi is available on Amazon or wherever CDs are sold. For more information about the San Diego Jewish Men's Choir, go to www.sdjmc.org

Join the Bet Ha'am Donor Gallery

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

Please acknowledge to: _____

Your name: _____

Check enclosed for \$ _____

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

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

Bet Ha'am Donor Gallery

We thank our generous contributors:

Annual Fund

- In honor of Orly Biggie by Cathy & Lance Prichard
- Cynthia Davidson
- Anonymous
- Lee Jacobson & Cory Kuhl
- Rabbi Jared Saks & Kirk Boettcher
- In memory of Lillian Sandler by Trudy Goldstein
- Steve & Elaine Smith
- Mike & Nicole Richman
- Nanette & Larry Chern
- Gene & Jeanne Grindlinger
- Helene Obler
- Leslie Simmons
- Solange Kellermann
- Elizabeth Buchsbaum
- In memory of parents, Dorothy & Harry Bielfeld and Sylvia & Aaron Smith, by Steve & Elaine Smith
- Duane & Evie Polisner
- Larry Landau
- Stephen & Harriet Passerman
- Jessica & David Butzel
- Gordon Gayer & Elaine Falender
- Larry Adlerstein
- Sylvia Most & Alan Cardinal

Artist-in-Residence Fund

- Andrew & Jennifer Kosak

Capital Campaign Fund

- In memory of Virginia Kittle on her *yahrzeit* by Laura Kittle & Jeremy Moser
- In memory of Martin B. Kohn on his *yahrzeit* by Laura Kittle & Jeremy Moser
- In memory of Chris Breen by Laura Kittle & Jeremy Moser

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

- Pond Family Foundation
- In honor of Aaron Tabenken becoming *bar mitzvah* by Lee & Lisa Tabenken
- In appreciation by Michael & Christine Kleinman
- In honor of Ginger Spiro on her birthday by Marilyn & Gerry Sherry

Endowment

- In honor of Andrew Kosak and his presidency by Judith Kosak

General Fund

- In appreciation by Robert McComish
- In celebration of Jane Snerson at *Chanukah* by Margot Snerson, Adam & Rachael

- In honor of Alan Davis at *Chanukah* by Josh Davis & Sarah Moulton
- In appreciation by Jonathan Pollack
- In appreciation of High Holy Days by Judith & Richard Coates
- In honor of Sharon & Perry Newman for their beautiful music by the Franz-Lieberman family
- In honor of Nate, Chris and Betty-our wonderful custodial staff-by the Franz-Lieberman family
- In honor of Rabbi Saks for his support as Lilliana became *bat mitzvah* by the Franz-Lieberman family
- In honor of Orly and all of the Bet Ha'am teachers for their support as Lilliana became *bat mitzvah*
- In memory of Calvin Jacobson by Lee Jacobson & Cory Kuhl
- In appreciation of Tot *Shabbat* and the Religious School by Izzy Chaleff
- In memory of Anna Schanzer and Carrie Ballin by Ki & Bill Leffler
- In appreciation of Rabbi Saks by Ki & Bill Leffler
- Andrew & Jennifer Kosak
- In honor of Aaron Tabenken becoming *bar mitzvah* by Andrew & Jennifer Kosak
- In memory of loved ones by Ray & Ginger Spiro
- Naomi Quenk
- In appreciation of Rabbi Saks by Annette & Noel Goodman
- Michael Pock
- In appreciation of Sharon & Perry Newman and their music by Jeremy Stein & Lyndsay Cadwallader
- In appreciation of Sharon & Perry Newman and their music by Lee & Lisa Tabenken
- In memory of Richard Hirschhorn by Mark, Dana, Douglas & Erica Hirschhorn
- In appreciation by anonymous
- In appreciation by Toby Rosenberg
- In appreciation by Emily & Stanley Chaleff
- To honor Doug Kaplan and Ben Grant by Joe & Deb Bornstein
- In appreciation of High Holy Days by Judi Clifford
- In appreciation of High Holy Days by Lindsay Copeland
- In appreciation of High Holy Days by Susan Rosenfield
- In appreciation of Taste of Judaism by Gina Easley
- In memory of Elaine Kopans on her *yahrzeit* by Rona & Robert Rosenthal
- In honor of Cory Kuhl & Lee Jacobson by a family friend
- In memory of sister Elizabeth Thomases on her *yahrzeit* by Andrew Schick
- In honor of Sharon & Perry Newman for their beautiful music by the Rosenthal Shaler family
- In appreciation of Robert Morrison by Harry Beskind & Ginny Swain
- In memory of Marsha Blackman on her *yahrzeit* by Wendy & Bill Sirois
- In memory of Lewis Rosenthal on his *yahrzeit* by Robert & Rona Rosenthal
- In appreciation of Robert Morrison and his class by Jane Snerson
- In memory of Chris Breen by Charlie & Ellie Miller

Rabbi Sandmel Education Fund

- Andrew & Jennifer Kosak

Youth Fund

- In appreciation of Lesley Levy, Jen Frank & Trish Wasserman, Bet Ha'am teachers, at *Chanukah* by the Jenkins family

March 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Morning <i>Minyan</i> 7:00 AM	3 Library Open 11:00 AM-1:00 PM <i>A Taste of Judaism</i> (Intro to Judaism Series) 7:00 PM	4 <i>Kabbalat Shabbat</i> Service 7:30 PM	5 Torah Study 9:00 AM Worship Service with <i>Bar Mitzvah</i> 10:00 AM
6 Grade 1-6 Religious School 9:00 AM Library Open 10:00 AM—12 NOON Shalom Yeladim 11:00 AM Grade 8-10 Religious School 5:00 PM Grade 11-12 Community HS Program 5:00 PM Robert Morrison Class - <i>My Name is Asher Lev</i> by Chaim Potok 6:30 PM	7 Office Closed	8 Nominating Committee Meeting 4:45 PM Executive Committee Meeting 6:30 PM	9 Morning <i>Minyan</i> 7:00 AM	10 Library Open 11:00 AM-1:00 PM Education Committee Meeting 6:30 PM	11 Pizza Dinner (donations accepted) 5:30 PM <i>Shabbat</i> Family Service 6:00 PM	12 Torah Study 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM Grade 6 <i>Bar/Bat Mitzvah</i> Family Program 10:00 AM
13 Grades 7-10 Maine Jewish Film Festival Time TBD Youth Group Gelato After Film Festival 3:00 PM	14 Office Closed	15 Board Meeting 6:30 PM	16 Morning <i>Minyan</i> 7:00 AM Garden Committee Meeting 5:30 PM	17 Library Open 11:00 AM-1:00 PM Membership Committee Meeting 7:00 PM	18 <i>Kabbalat Shabbat</i> Service 7:30 PM	19 Torah Study 9:00 AM Worship Service with <i>Bat Mitzvah</i> 10:00 AM
20 Purim Shpiel & Carnival 10:00 AM Library Open 10:00 AM-12 NOON Youth Group Bowling 3:00 PM Grade 7 Religious School - <i>Shiur</i> (Lesson) 5:00 PM Grades 8-10 Religious School 5:00 PM Grade 11-12 Community HS Program 5:00 PM Robert Morrison Class - <i>My Name is Asher Lev</i> by Chaim Potok 6:30 PM	21 Office Closed	22 Bet Ha'am Volunteers at Wayside 4:00 PM	23 Morning <i>Minyan</i> 7:00 AM Purim for Grownups! 6:30 PM	24 Library Open 11:00 AM-1:00 PM Educational Forum: Refugees 6:30 PM	25 Tot <i>Shabbat</i> & Pizza Dinner 5:30 PM <i>Kabbalat Shabbat</i> Service 7:30 PM	26 Torah Study 9:00 AM Worship Service with <i>Bar Mitzvah</i> 10:00 AM
27 Grade 1-6 Religious School— <i>Tikkun Olam</i> Family Program 9:00 AM Kindergarten 9:00 AM Library Open 10:00 AM-12 NOON Grade 8-10 Religious School 5:00 PM Robert Morrison Class - <i>My Name is Asher Lev</i> by Chaim Potok 6:30 PM	28 Office Closed	29 <i>A Taste of Judaism</i> (Intro to Judaism Series) 7:00-8:30 PM	30 Morning <i>Minyan</i> 7:00 AM	31 Library Open 11:00 AM-1:00 PM Bet Ha'am Volunteers at Wayside—Hope Gate Way 4:30 PM		



April 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 <i>Kabbalat Shabbat</i> Service 7:30 PM	2 Torah Study 9:00 AM Worship Service with Adult <i>Bar</i> <i>Mitzvah</i> 10:00 AM
3 Kindergarten 9:00 AM Grade 1-6 Religious School 9:00 AM Second Grade Family Connection Program 9:30 AM Library Open 10:00 AM-12 NOON Shalom Yeladim 11:00 AM Grade 7 Religious School <i>Shuir</i> (Learning) 5:00 PM Grade 8-10 Religious School 5:00 PM Grade 11-12 Community High School Program 5:00 PM Youth Group Dinner 5:00 PM Robert Morrison Class - <i>My</i> <i>Name is Asher Lev</i> by Chaim Potok 6:30 PM	4 Office Closed	5 Executive Committee Meeting 6:00 PM <i>A Taste of Judaism</i> (Intro to Judaism Series) 7:00 PM	6 Morning <i>Minyan</i> 7:00 AM	7 Library Open 11:00 AM-1:00 PM Education Committee Meeting 6:30 PM	8 Pizza Dinner (donations accepted) 5:30 PM <i>Shabbat</i> Family Service 6:00 PM	9 Torah Study 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM Bet Ha'am 30th Anniversary Gala 7:00 PM
10 Kindergarten 9:00 AM Grades 1-6 Religious School— <i>Tikkun Olam</i> Family Program 9:00 AM Grade 7-10 Portland Stage Company— <i>My Name is</i> <i>Asher Lev</i> 6:30 PM	11 Office Closed	12 <i>A Taste of Judaism</i> (Intro to Judaism Series) 7:00 PM	13 Morning <i>Minyan</i> 7:00 AM	14 Library Open 11:00 AM-1:00 PM Education Committee Meeting 6:30 PM	15 Tot <i>Shabbat</i> & Pizza Dinner 5:30 PM <i>Kabbalat Shabbat</i> Service 7:30 PM	16 Torah Study 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM
17 No Religious School	18 Office Closed	19 <i>A Taste of Judaism</i> (Intro to Judaism Series) 7:00 PM	20 Morning <i>Minyan</i> 7:00 AM Garden Committee Meeting 5:30 PM	21 Library Open 11:00 AM-1:00 PM	22 <i>Erev Pesach</i> — First <i>Seder</i> Minyan 6:00 PM Congregational Passover <i>Seder</i> 6:30 PM	23 Torah Study 9:00 AM <i>Shabbat Passover</i> Service 10:00 AM <i>Matzoh Brei</i> Cookoff 11:30 AM
24 No Religious School	25 Office Closed	25 Bet Ha'am Volunteers at Wayside 4:00 PM Board Meeting 6:30 PM	27 Morning <i>Minyan</i> 7:00 AM	28 Library Open 11:00 AM-1:00 PM	29 Office Closed—Last Day of <i>Pesach</i> Last Day of Passover Morning Service with <i>Yizkor</i> and Potluck <i>Kiddush</i> 10:00 AM <i>Kabbalat Shabbat</i> Service 7:30 PM	30 Torah Study 9:00 AM Worship Service with <i>Bar Mitzvah</i> 10:00 AM