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THIS MONTH

- 1/5 – New Member Oneg
- 1/6 – Kids Kehillah
- 1/6 – Kol Yeladim
- 1/20 – Kids Kehillah
- 1/21 – Jr. USY Skating Party
- 1/25 – Wayside Soup Kitchen
- 1/28 – Kadima Bowling Party



*Greatness lies in the faithful heroic
performance of whatever duties life
places upon us, and the generous
performance of the small acts of
kindness that God has made
possible for us.*

—Rabbi Sidney Greenberg
from *The Quotable American Rabbis*
(1967, Silver, ed.)

TEMPLE shofar

JANUARY 2007 TEVET/SHEVAT 5767

OPEN... BUT ARE WE AFFIRMING?

Over the past year I have received several queries asking if Temple Beth El is “welcoming” and/or “open and affirming” to Jewish gays and lesbians. I have answered, saying that I believe we are very welcoming — to all — regardless of race, gender, religion, socio economic class, etc. Specifically, I say that we do not make any distinction between Jewish heterosexuals and homosexuals regarding membership, or honors, or participation. I tell them that, indeed, we have members who are

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R A B B I
CAROLYN BRAUN


gay and lesbian; and who are in relationships, who are married, who are raising families, and who are single. But I don’t say anything about being “affirming.” Because, to my mind, to affirm means that we would have some sort of non-discriminatory policy, or some policy that affirms the participation of gay and lesbian Jews.

I believe that we can say that we are affirming of our *reyim ahuvim*, our beloved non-Jewish companions who walk a Jewish path with their families, thanks to our Interfaith Task Force and the brochure they created, “You are Welcome Here.”

Some weeks ago, the Committee on Jewish Law and Standards (CJLS) — the committee that interprets and determines Conservative *halacha* (law) — discussed and voted upon five *teshuvot* (opinions) regarding the ordination of gay and lesbian Jews and the possibility of performing commitment ceremonies

for gay and lesbian couples. (The press release of December 6, 2006, published in a Supplement to this issue of *Shofar*, explains in broad terms the parameters of the accepted *teshuvot*.) It will take me a while to read and understand the details expressed in the accepted opinions, but in broad terms, according to their reading of biblical and rabbinic sources, the opinion expressed by the “Dorff, Nevens and Reisner” *teshuva* (which received 14 of 25 votes), led them to permit the ordination of gay and lesbian Jews as well as the recognition and performance of commitment ceremonies. Rabbi Roth’s *teshuva* on the other hand (which also received 14 of 25 votes), came to the completely opposite conclusion because of his understanding that homosexual intimacy is prohibited in the Torah and in the rabbinic commentaries. His *teshuva* affirmed the prior CJLS opinion that would not permit ordination of gay and lesbian Jews, nor would it permit commitment ceremonies.

So where does this leave us? Well, in some ways the *teshuvot* don’t really affect us, since the clergy and Directors of TBE have generally followed what has become the Dorff, Nevens and Reisner *teshuva*. But maybe it’s time to make our position more public, as we did regarding our *reyim ahuvim*. Perhaps we could create a Task Force composed of members wishing to find ways to affirm that which we have been practicing all along. Perhaps we could create a brochure? Educational programs? Outreach?

Are you interested? 

TEMPLE BETH EL

400 Deering Avenue

Portland, ME 04103

(207) 774-2649

www.templebethel-maine.org

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Shofar

Joy E. Krinsky, Editor
shofared@maine.rr.com

"Our vision is to be an embracing, supportive and vibrant community which observes Judaism in the Conservative tradition and which is devoted to the perpetuation of Jewish values and culture. Temple Beth El honors the diversity of its members and is committed to their spiritual growth."

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Congregants are encouraged to make regular attendance at Temple Beth El a part of their lives.

DAILY SERVICES

Monday through Friday 6:50 AM

Saturday and Jewish Holidays 9:30 AM

Sunday and Secular Holidays 8:30 AM

FRIDAY EVENING SERVICES

First Friday Evening, September-June 7:30 PM

Remaining Friday Evenings 5:30 PM

"Do not separate yourself from the congregation."

—Hillel, Pirkei Avot, 2:5

NEW OFFICE PHONE RECEPTION HOURS

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

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

CLOSURES

Temple Beth El is closed Monday, January 1, in observance of New Years Day. TBE is also closed Monday, January 15, in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Hebrew School will be closed on Sunday, January 14.

TIKKUN OLAM:

VOLUNTEER AT THE WAYSIDE SOUP KITCHEN

Help repair the world! Volunteer at the Wayside Soup Kitchen with Bet Ha'am & Holy Trinity Church, 252 Oxford St., Thursday, January 25 from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM. If you are interested, please contact Harlan Baker at 772-9640 or hbaker@maine.edu.



Temple Beth El is a member of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.



Funding for Temple Beth El Religious School has been generously provided by the Jewish Community Alliance of Southern Maine, through its Annual Campaign.

I HAVE A SECRET...

On a recent Shabbat, I was talking with a friend after the Bar Mitzvah, and she spoke about feeling somewhat uncomfortable at services. Since taking classes, she has felt more at ease, although she still finds it difficult to follow the Hebrew prayers. I shared with her that, when I came to Temple Beth El almost 30 years ago, I felt the same way. I was raised in the classical Reform tradition, and I couldn't read Hebrew or follow the prayer book. My constant refrain was, "What page are we on?" I took several Hebrew classes when our children were in Hebrew School, but it was a long uphill struggle. Repetition was my only salvation, and when I finally began to attend services more regularly 11 years ago, I gradually became more comfortable. My Hebrew reading is slow, and I can't always keep up, but the prayers in song and word have become more familiar.

I would love to share some things that I have discovered while coming to synagogue.

Most of our services are small and relatively informal. They can be a comfortable place to meet other members of the congregation or to chat with someone you have met before. The more frequently you attend, the more comfortable you will feel, both during services and at the oneg or Kiddish that follows.

If you don't know Hebrew, you can always read the English or transliterations at your own speed. Even if page numbers are not called out, no one will

mind if you ask for the page or look over to see where they are. Stand and sit when others do and soon you will begin to understand the choreography of the service. No one seems to mind when I


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

stand or sit at the wrong times, even on the bima!

Being at services is a great opportunity to reflect on your personal thoughts and concerns, to make up your own prayers, or to just be. You are not expected to always pray in unison with others.

If you are afraid of being called up for an *aliyah* (to say the blessings before and after the Torah is read), you can always decline the offer or read the transliterations that are provided next to the Torah. Even those who are comfortable in front of the congregation get the "bima demons," and

most people make errors from time to time. My secret is out — I, and many others who attend services, don't always know all the prayers, nor do we always feel totally comfortable at services. However, we enjoy participating as part of the community.

I know that other Friday and Saturday Shabbat service-goers and morning Minyanaires join me in extending a special invitation to you, your friends and families to join us as we pray and socialize together at Temple Beth El. We come as we are, we continue to learn as we go, and we enjoy just being together. 

Being at services
is a great
opportunity to
reflect on your
personal
thoughts and
concerns...

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one Jew caring
for another*



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TODAH
RABAH תודה רבה

Thanks to the following individuals:

- Joan and Jeffrey Barkin for donating two plants for the sanctuary in honor of Jesse's Bar Mitzvah.
- Karen Hindall, Joan Levey, and Debbie Barlock for organizing the Hanukkah cookie fundraiser.
- Jeannine Poulin for her 8 years of organizational wizardry in the Temple Beth El office.
- Debbie Barlock, Pat Reef, and Clara Purinton who continue to volunteer their fast fingers to collate our monthly mailings.
- Richard and Leslie Abrahams for the Granola & Cookie Fundraiser.

Words of Thanks from Project FEED

November 1, 2006

Dear Rabbi Braun and Friends at Temple Beth El:

On behalf of the Board of Directors and all the volunteers at Project FEED, I would like to thank you for your very generous donation of over 90 bags of food and non-food items to Project FEED during your Holy Days this fall.

These 90 bags will go a long way in keeping us well-stocked over these next very busy weeks. We have experienced an increase in the use of the pantry over the summer and throughout the fall, and I imagine that this winter will be busier than usual. Thank you for once again stepping in to share your abundance with those who have so little.

Your donation means a great deal to our clients not only because it will supply food but also because the compassion and care you extend by such a gift lets them know that they are not forgotten. At FEED we strive to feed both body and soul, and your continued support to our mission helps us to achieve that goal!

Thank you for your continued support of Project FEED. And a special thanks to those who delivered all those bags to the pantry!

Sincerely,

Kathy Helming
Director

HAPPENING IN THE HEBREW SCHOOL

Kindergarten — Grade 1: The classes have finished units on *tsedakah* and *mitzvot* — the children decorated *tsedakah* boxes, and collected food for a Thanksgiving basket to be distributed through Jewish Family Services. K and 1's were also guests at our December 2 Kids Kehillah service, where they led a presentation about the weekly parasha.

Grade 2: Students have finished six units in their Hebrew books and are rapidly expanding their repertoire of Hebrew letters, vowels and everyday vocabulary words. They are learning additional Shabbat blessings and singing and dancing their way through the year, as well as acting out the weekly Torah parasha.

Grade 3: Most students have finished their first Hebrew Review book and are ready to start *Zman L'Tefilah*. They have begun their study of Israel and are using bibliodrama to enhance their Torah text.

In *tefilah* they have learned the *shema* and *v'ahavta* and are working on the *aleinu*, in anticipation of receiving their siddurim after the first of the year.

Grade 4: Students are learning *Ashrei* and reviewing prayers from prior grades by davening every class session. They are also learning more about Israel and studying the judges and prophets in their Bible text. They play active Hebrew learning games and are earning "tickets" toward class-wide celebrations.

Grade 5: Fifth graders are using their Hineni computer discs to play Hebrew games and do reinforcement activities at home to supplement their classroom text,

which focuses on the *Amidah*. They use creative prayer time to get at the true meaning of the prayers for each student individually. They are well into the study of American Jewish history, and raised more than \$220 for *tsedakah* by auctioning off *Mizrachim* they had made and

EDUCATION DIRECTOR
AVIS SMITH


framed in class.

Grade 6: Sixth graders are already learning the haftarah blessings and are studying the Torah service in depth. They

are using creative projects to illustrate significant events in Biblical history and preparing to do the annual mitzvah hero interviews. The class helped lead Kids Kehillah on November 18 and presented a creative parasha skit, in addition to leading prayers and having *aliyot*.

All students now have access to our beautiful, newly organized Hebrew School Library, located in

the upper foyer of the school wing. It has been a privilege and a pleasure to work with Pat Reef in the reorganization process, with assistance from Clara Purinton, Debra Spark and Peggy Shapiro.

We are now looking into a software program that will allow us to catalog the collection on the computer for easy access and reference. Our thanks again to Pat for her donation of the beautiful and practical new bookcases. One entire case is dedicated to our collection of Israel materials (books, tapes and DVD's), purchased through the Scott M. Black Israel Enrichment Grant to the Hebrew School. 

Fifth graders...
raised more
than \$220 for
tsedakah by
auctioning off
Mizrachim they
had made and
framed

ADOPT THE MITZVAH OF *HIDDUR PNEI ZAKEN*

In Judaism we strive to fulfill mitzvot, commandments. But we also look to go a little beyond what we are commanded. We call this *hiddur pnei mitzvah*, literally "beautifying the face of a mitzvah." This is the idea that one enhances a mitzvah by beautifying it. Usually this term applies to ritual observance. For instance, one might use an especially beautiful holiday tablecloth to celebrate Rosh Hashanah or one might search for the most beautiful flowers to ornament our home for Shabbat. But really *hiddur pnei mitzvah* can apply to the performance of any mitzvah.

Hiddur pnei mitzvah has a parallel in the mitzvah *hiddur pnei zaken*; "Beautifying the face of the old." Judaism places a premium on honoring the old in our community, but *hiddur pnei zaken* means more than just honoring. It means calling an elder in your family to say hello. It means starting a conversation with an elderly neighbor who lives alone. It means visiting a nursing home patient who has no one else to visit him. It means offering a ride to a person who was once able to drive others around.

The Talmud discusses the story of Moses and the ten commandments in a very interesting way. As you know, the first set of tablets was broken when Moses came down from Mount Sinai and saw the Israelites dancing around the golden calf. One question the rabbis struggled with was what happened to the broken pieces of tablet that remained.

Some rabbis felt that the pieces were cast away, but they were uncomfortable with the idea, so they completed the midrash by saying that the pieces were actu-

ally made of sapphire and that God gave them to Moses for safekeeping.

"Rabbi Judah bar Ilai taught that two arks journeyed with Israel in the wilderness—one in which the Torah was kept and one in which the tablets broken


.....
C A N T O R
R U T H L . R O S S

by Moses were kept. The one in which the Torah was placed was kept in the Tent of Meeting; the other, containing the broken tablets, would come and go with them."

A third midrash states that the broken pieces of the tablets and the whole

[N]ew year can be our chance to pay particular attention to *hiddur pnei mitzvah* and *hiddur pnei zaken*.

second set of tablets were placed side by side in one ark, not two. And from this the rabbis inferred a teaching about the importance of respecting the elderly: "Take care to respect an old man who, through [the] unavoidable circumstances [of aging], has forgotten what he once knew."

Although we Jews usually make our resolutions in the fall, during Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, we have the opportunity to adopt new mitzvot all year long. This secular new year can be our chance to pay particular attention to *hiddur pnei mitzvah* and *hiddur pnei zaken*. If not now, when? 

2007 B'nai Mitzvah: Save these Dates

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

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TIKKUN OLAM NEWS: EXPANDED CONNECTION TO PREBLE STREET RESOURCE CENTER AND "FOOD OF THE MONTH"

We are excited to announce that we have expanded our relationship with Preble Street Resource Center. For several years, Temple Beth El members have been joining members of Bet Ha'am and the Greek Orthodox Church to help prepare and serve dinner at Preble Street on the 4th Thursday of each month. We will continue to do this (contact person is Harlan Baker, 772-9640) and we will also begin collecting useful items for the shelter. Preble Street has provided us with a Wish List of their most important needs, and they are thrilled to welcome us as a partner in meeting the needs of the homeless community in Portland.

Our first collection for Preble Street will consist of teen and adult jackets, coats, gloves, hats, scarves, and socks. They are especially in need of new athletic socks. We will also collect children's jackets and funnel them to the appropriate resource, so if you have jackets your children have outgrown, you can drop them off at TBE, too.


We are also starting a "Food of the Month" collection, noting that hunger and limited resources exist year round for many people. Each month we will be asking Temple members to bring a particular kind of food for us to contribute to local food pantries each time you come into the building. During

December we collected pasta. January is Rice and Beans month.

Our collection boxes are now available in the TBE foyer and school wing and are waiting for your supplies. Please join in our Tikkun Olam efforts by bringing pasta (or other food items you'd like to donate) for food pantries and items mentioned above for the shelter. To help you in planning for future collections, in January or February, we will begin collecting travel size bottles of shampoo and other personal items. Thank you for helping us help people in need. If you would like to be part of this committee, please contact Barbara Peisner at 797-6651 or bpeisnel@maine.rr.com. 

SAVE THESE DATES: HELP FIX THE WORLD IN FEBRUARY

Tzohar Biloxi, United Synagogue's program to help clean up the hurricane damage in Biloxi, Mississippi, one ruined house at a time, will send a group of volunteers there from February 18 to February 21. The program is spearheaded by our New Jersey region; everyone, from all over the continent, is welcome to join us. We will arrive on Sunday and


work on until Tuesday; on Wednesday we will tour the storm-struck area. We'll stay at a hotel and meet members of Congregation Beth Israel, which is affiliated with United Synagogue. For more information call Dr. Richard Lederman, the head of our public policy and social action committee, at 301 230-0801, or email him at lederman@uscj.org. 

FROM THE LIBRARY

The TBE Library has a budget for new books. If there's a title that you would like to see added to the collection, please e-mail Debra Spark at daspark@colby.edu with your suggestion.


Regarding donations, if you are interested in donating books, please ask Debra Spark or Pat Reef whether we need or want the books before you donate them. We are grateful for everyone's generosity, but we have very little

library shelf space left. Often, donated books are ones that we already have or can't use. This leaves the synagogue staff with the burden of disposing of a surprising number of titles. Also, note that we are most in need of contemporary titles. Inquiries about adult books should be addressed to Debra and inquiries about children's books should be addressed to Pat.

Thank you! 

NCJW SCHOLARSHIPS

The Southern Maine Section of the National Council of Jewish Women will again award scholarships to Jewish students from the Greater Portland area who plan to continue their education. Scholarships are awarded on the basis of financial need with consideration for academic achievement, Jewish commitment and general community involvement.

Applications must be received by March 31, 2007. For applications, please contact Gail Volk, Chairperson, Scholarship Committee, 62 Bartley Avenue, Portland, ME. 04103. Email: gjvolk@aol.com. Secondary contact: Jodi Freedman, jodi.freedman@verizon.net. 


ANNUAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

by Paul Muscat

The recent Annual Campaign, which closed on December 31, was a tremendous success thanks to the more than one hundred and fifty congregants and friends of Temple Beth El who generously donated more than \$36,000 to the effort. The timing could not have been more expedient, as these funds were critical to our ability to finance the current repairs to the Temple's roof. Pledges ranged from \$10 to \$2,500, with nearly forty percent of the congregation participating; Board participation was one hundred percent.

As is the case in most synagogues, our dues do not nearly cover annual operating expenses, and we mostly depend on monies from our endow-


ment as well as voluntary giving to make up the difference. The budgetary challenges we face will continue, and I anticipate that the Annual Campaign will remain an increasingly important part of our ability to balance our budget as time goes on. Judging from the generosity and good will of our community this year, future efforts will be even more successful.

December's Shofar contained a list of contributors as of mid-November. Pledges received between then and the end of December will be recognized in the February edition. My personal thanks again to all who donated and have allowed our Temple to move forward in strength. 

WELCOME, JODI VEYSEY

by Liz Rose-Cohen

I am pleased to announce that we have hired Jodi Veysey to fill the Rabbi's Assistant/Administrative Assistant position. Jodi brings a wealth of experience including public relations work at a Jewish community center in Boca Raton.

I am sure that the congregation will welcome her warmly when she begins on January 8. Our thanks to Lisa Roberts, from Bonney Staffing Center, for her assistance in the three weeks prior to Jodi's arrival. 

ANNIVERSARIES

JANUARY 2007

- 1 Nachum Bitan and Sally Sandler Bitan
- 3 Jerry and Marilyn Sherry
- 6 Joe Manning and Linda Jacobs
- 7 Sam and Deb Barouch
- 7 S. Richard and Adele Mack (64 years)
- 13 Mitchell and Thelma Cope (55 years)
- 15 Charlie and Eddy Dibner
- 21 Guy Scarpino and Judith Burtman
- 24 Michael and Harriet Turkanis
- 29 Gilbert and Marilyn Praver (51 years)
- 30 Jack and Barbara Berenson (63 years)

IN THE COMMUNITY

Mah Atah M'Chapes Thursday Night Gatherings

Mah Atah M'Chapes, the social group for Jews in their 20's & 30's announces ongoing Thursday Nights: Food/drinks & live music 7:30-9:30 PM at the new Dogfish Café on Free Street featuring Leah Finkelstein. Email mahatahmchapes@yahoo.com for more info or to RSVP.

Drivers Needed at Jewish Family Services

Kosher Meals on Wheels Drivers are needed for 2-3 hours per month. Call Jewish Family Services for more information at 772-1959.

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IN OUR TBE FAMILY

Mazel Tov

To Rhoda and Joe Wildstein on the birth of their great grandson, Caleb Harvey, on November 29.

To Lynn and Matt Goldfarb on the Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter, Olivia Byer, daughter of Leah Beth and Michael Byer, at Temple Beth A'mi in Rockville, Maryland on Saturday, December 2.

To Barbara and Peter Shaw on the birth of their grandson, Duncan, son of Emily Shaw & Leigh Rose, on December 5. Great grandmother is Doris Ginsburg.

To George and Bobbie Gordon on the occasion of the marriage of their son, Gabe Gordon, to Kate Tierney, on September 15 on Little Diamond Island.

To Alice Teitelbaum on the birth of a great-grandson, Deane William Ayden MacBeth, son of Heather & Deane MacBeth of Shapleigh, on August 30.

Welcome New Members

Rebecca Canter, of Portland.

Fay Silverman, of Portland.

Lucky Day Lotto Books Still on Sale!

These books make great gifts for friends, family, and co-workers! Each holder of a Lucky Day Lotto calendar gets entered in drawings all year long for winnings ranging from \$25 to \$200. Please stop by the office or call us at 774-2649 to purchase yours.

DOCUMENTING OLD PORTLAND JEWRY: A COLLABORATIVE GENEALOGY AND HISTORY OF PORTLAND MAINE'S JEWISH COMMUNITY

by *The Committee for Documenting Old Portland Jewry*


(On the web at davidkrut.com/pj)

There have been Jewish communities in Maine since the mid-1800s and a Jewish community in Portland since the late 1880s. The Documenting Old Portland Jewry Project is an effort by a number of Jewish Mainers to understand the history of the Portland Jewish community, to preserve memories of the people involved in that history, and to enhance the documentation of Portland Jewish cemeteries. The DOPJ database also has information on Jews from some 130 other Maine towns and cities. It is a project that is open to all with a good curiosity about the past or good recollections of people and organizations that have been part of that past.

Documenting Old Portland Jewry has opened up some new intergenerational opportunities. The project encourages senior members of the community to preserve their recollections of being Jewish in Maine by making oral history tapes, works with Mt. Sinai cemetery to re-document all their burials records, is pioneering in making available online some 600 headstone images as a virtual cemetery visit and working with the fifth grade Hebrew school on Maine Jewish family history.

In the past year, the project's volunteers have expanded the online database with information from the 1900

Federal Census of Maine, shared the information with some 200 users, exhibited the information on Maine Jewry at the August International Conference of Jewish Genealogical Associations and built working alliances with all the Portland-area Jewish institutions as well as with some leading Maine historical societies. If you know of old organizational membership lists, publications, or photographs from Jewish communal organizations, the ones that are sitting somewhere in your attic or basement, please let us know. We would like to preserve the information in our online database.

To continue this important project, DOPJ is seeking financial contributions and additional volunteers to expand our work. We have a 2007 plan to upload another 600 new headstone images, to incorporate the student records from the North School, and to evaluate the documents in the basement of Cedars and storage area of the Chevra Kadisha. The database itself is open to all with a healthy interest in Maine Jewry. Complete access to the database is available only on request. Contributions should be made to the DOPJ project account at Jewish Community Alliance, 57 Ashmont St., Portland 04102 or directly online with the PayPal pushkie button on the DOPJ home page. For further information, contact: dopj@mind-spring.com. 

KIDS KEHILLAH

by Debbie Kanter

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

On the first and third Shabbat of every month we hold special services for grades K-5 to provide children the opportunity to practice and lead a family-friendly, age-appropriate service, and have fun at the same time!

It was wonderful to see so many K and 1 families when Morah Nancy's classes led on December 2. The children showed illustrations of Jacob's ladder and gave their interpretations of what it meant. We also acted out the story of Laban tricking Jacob.

Please join us in the school wing on these upcoming dates. While certain classes are sometimes assigned to lead, all students are welcome each week. 🕍

- January 20 — 5th grade leads
- February 3 — 2nd and 3rd grades lead
- February 17
- March 3 — 6th grade leads
- March 17 — K and 1 lead

KADIMA IN JANUARY: BOWLING & PIZZA PARTY

Kids: Don't Strike Out!

The annual Kadima Bowling & Pizza Party will take place on Sunday, January 28, immediately following Hebrew School. We'll leave directly from Temple Beth El for Yankee Lanes on Riverside Street in Portland. We'll eat pizza, bowl like champions, and have a great time. Have a parent RSVP today to Natalie at 878-3477.

Parents: Kadima will pay for shoe rental and two games of bowling. Please send your child with \$3.00 per child to cover the cost of pizza and a drink. Transportation and chaperone volun-

teers would be greatly appreciated. Kadima will make plans to get the kids to Yankee Lanes, but parents are asked to pick up their children in the lobby at 2:00 PM. Please call Natalie at 878-3477 to RSVP for your child, and to sign up to drive and/or chaperone.

Kadima is the middle school age affiliate of USY, and is the Hebrew word for "forward"! 🕍



KOL YELADIM

The January Kol Yeladim Shabbat service for children under six was held on January 6. The Torah portion was Abraham and Sarah. We made pillars of salt and jars of stars, to illustrate the story.

Next month, we will meet on Shabbat, February 3, at 9:30 AM in the School Wing. The Torah portion will be Isaac and Rebecca. We will also be celebrating Tu B'Shevat, the New Year of Trees.

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



IN THE COMMUNITY

Jewish Youth Chorus: Calling All Teens

The Jewish Youth Chorus of Southern Maine is inviting 13-18 year olds to join the chorus. Rehearsals are Monday evenings 6:30-8:30 at The Cedars Nursing Home on Ocean Ave. in Portland. The co-ed group is comprised of teens from all over Cumberland County and beyond. Under the energetic direction of Matt Fogg, a fantastic pianist and jazz musician, the chorus explores a diverse repertoire of Jewish music, including international, liturgical, Yiddish and contemporary selections. The chorus performs at Jewish institutions as well as the greater Portland community. Come and sing with us, and at the same time make new friends and have a great time with this warm and welcoming group of teens! Tuition is \$110 per semester and partial scholarships are available. Our next semester begins soon after the new-year. Please call Sue Howard at 883-6418 or the Jewish Community Alliance at 772-1959 for more information and/or registration materials.



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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Ray & JoAnn Oransky, In Memory of Evelyn Kasen

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Rachelle Mack & Armand Lucier, In Honor of Charlie and Ellie Miller's grandchildren, Daniel Jonathan & Emily Rose Cleek

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Charlie & Ellie Miller, Speedy Recovery to Dan Gatchell

Edward L. Weisberg Fund

Larry Brown & Sandi Goodman-Brown, In Honor of Karen & Alan Lerman's 30th anniversary

Rita Weisberg, In Honor of Jack Novick's 80th birthday

Bob & Barbara Brenner, Speedy Recovery to Jay Weisberg

Harvey & Helen Levine, Speedy Recovery to Arthur Jacobson

Rita Weisberg, Speedy Recovery to Samuel Weisberg

Karen, Alan, Justin & Brandon Lerman, In loving memory of our mother & grandmother, Judy Schwey Benjamin

Abe Benjamin, In loving memory of my wife, Judy Schwey Benjamin

Endowment

General Fund

Judythe & Daniel Gatchell, In Honor of Phil Levinsky's 80th birthday

Frances Lyons, In Memory of Anna R. Finkelman

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David & Janis Cohen, In Memory of Bertha Cohen

Ellen, Jon, Jack & Theo Mehlman and Barbara, David & Gayle Fleischer, In Memory of Stanley Worth

Judythe & Daniel Gatchell, In Memory of Roberta Seals

Linda Abromson, In Memory of Stanley Worth

Michael & Barbara Peisner, In Memory of Stanley Worth

Norm & Judy Wilson, In Memory of Joan Brand

Norm & Judy Wilson, In Memory of Evelyn Kasen

Norm & Judy Wilson, In Memory of Harry Sher

Norm & Judy Wilson, In Memory of Mike Moscovitz

Judythe & Daniel Gatchell, Speedy Recovery to Marilyn Westerfield

Judythe & Daniel Gatchell, Speedy Recovery to Steve Alberg

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Norm & Judy Wilson, Speedy Recovery to Harry Sky

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Hebrew High School

Ricki Small, In Memory of Richard Jaffe

Hebrew School Fund

Elaine Rosen

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Harvey & Sara Berman, In Memory of Esther Z. Kantor

Nancy, Molly & David Brenerman, In Memory of Harry Sher

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Kol Yeladim

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Memorial Park

Molly Finkelman Choir Fund

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Mark & Norma Filler, In Memory of Evelyn Kasen

Mark & Norma Filler, In Memory of Stanley Worth

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Pat Reef, In Memory of Evelyn Kasen

Pat Reef, In Memory of Stanley Worth

Norman Finberg USY Fund

Prayer Book

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

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Yad I'Yad

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Youth Activity Fund

Miriam Remar, In Honor of Charlie and Ellie Miller's grandchildren, Daniel Jonathan & Emily Rose Cleek

Donations listed were received at Temple Beth El by December 3, 2006.

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Shofar Deadlines — February issue is December 28; March issue is January 28.

Please submit material via e-mail as text included in the body of the message or as an attached Microsoft Word document to shofared@maine.rr.com. Submissions on paper will also be accepted.