

INSIDE

Annual Meeting Notes *page 11*

Transition Update *page 11*

TBE Vision Includes Lay Leadership
page 9

May Lucky Day Lotto Winners *page 10*

IN JUNE

- 6/1 – Tikkun Olam Guest Speaker
Amy Dowler
- 6/1–2 – Sara Jacobson Bat Mitzvah
- 6/3 – Kadima at the Seadogs
- 6/6 & 6/20 – Chai & Chai
- 6/15–16 – Joshua Soley Bar Mitzvah
- 6/17 – USY Rafting Trip
- 6/22–23 – Ben Shapiro Bar Mitzvah
- 6/28 – Wayside Soup Kitchen
- 6/29–30 – Sarah Foster Bat Mitzvah

IN JULY

- 7/13–14 – Adam Berg Bar Mitzvah
- 7/23–24 – Tisha B'Av
- 7/26 – Wayside Soup Kitchen



"There are two ways to live: you can live as if nothing is a miracle; you can live as if everything is a miracle."

—Albert Einstein

TEMPLE shop for JUNE/JULY 2007 SIVAN/TAMMUZ/AV 5767

THANK YOU, CANTOR RUTH ROSS

Temple Beth El has been blessed to have a history of outstanding and memorable cantorial leadership, first with the operatic magnificence of Cantor Kurt Messerschmidt and more recently with the melodic, soaring beauty of Cantor Ruth Ross. The music presented by our Hazzan has been and is more than music — it is prayer, it is lament, it is sorrow, it is joy, it is celebration, and it is an expression of life itself — of the heart and of the soul.

In thinking about how to find the words to say thank you for all that Cantor Ross has been to this congregation, I came upon these appropriate words from a minister and hymn writer:

"When in our music God is glorified, and adoration leaves no room for pride, it is as though the whole creation cried Alleluia."

So Alleluia it is, in thanks to our Cantor for eight glorious years filled with singing, teaching, and connecting with every facet of TBE community life. The Cantor has had a central role in Bar and Bat Mitzvah training, in classes for adult Torah readers and Haftarah chanters, in directing, composing, and arranging music for the TBE community, and in so much more. Weddings, funerals, pastoral visits have all been a part of our Cantor's life here. Cantor Ruth has been a teacher in our Hebrew High School program, has served on the Ritual Committee, and has been both Rabbi and Cantor during the Rabbi's sabbatical leave. Friday night live, the musical Shabbat service, was an innovative highlight with our Cantor, and her

outreach into the greater Portland community with the choir participation in the Martin Luther King Day celebrations and in joint concerts with the First Church extended the Cantor's influence well beyond TBE.

My own life has been enriched through singing with and for the Cantor, both in Shabbat and holiday services and in the choir. Her voice and her very essence brought me spiritual peace and joy as my life has unfolded these past

BOARD MEMBER MIRIAM REMAR

years. I shall always remember and be grateful to Cantor Ross for her gift to me of healing as part of my spiritual journey.

We all have shared a part of the Cantor's life for these past eight years. I remember a conversation about the schools in Portland that her young children would be going to, and now these children are all grown up. Samuel, Mierka, and Nathan are college students while Abraham will be embarking on his high school education.

Thank you is simply not enough to say for all that Cantor Ruth has been to our TBE community. We want you to know, Cantor, that you have a special place in our hearts, a place of melodic beauty, of joy and of spirituality.

We wish you all the best that life can bring as you, your husband David, and your children go forward.

It is my privilege to present to you a tangible token of appreciation from our Temple Board of Directors.

May you go in peace... 

TEMPLE BETH EL

400 Deering Avenue
Portland, ME 04103
(207) 774-2649

www.templebethel-maine.org

Rabbi Carolyn Braun
Cantor Ruth L. Ross
Education Director Avis Smith
Executive Director Liz Rose-Cohen
Business Manager Kenneth Levinsky
Rabbi's Assistant Jodi Veysey
Facilities Manager Bob Bradbury
Rabbi Emeritus Harry Z. Sky, D.D.
Cantor Emeritus Kurt Messerschmidt
Senior USY Advisor Rebecca Canter
Junior USY Advisor Jackie Soley
Kadima Advisor Natalie Ladd

Officers

President Rick Finberg
Vice President Judy Gatchell
Vice President Paul Muscat
Treasurer Linda Jacobs
Assistant Treasurer Jon Brier
Secretary Rachelle Mack

Executive Committee

Jon Brier, Rick Finberg, Judy Gatchell,
Linda Jacobs, Rachelle Mack, Paul Muscat
Immediate Past President: Judy Wilson
At large: Ellie Miller, Miriam Remar,
Elaine Rosen, Stephen Schwartz
Ex officio: Rabbi Carolyn Braun,
Liz Rose-Cohen

Temple Beth El Board of Directors

Steve Alberg	Benjamin Marcus
Joan Barkin	Ellie Miller
Tom Berman	Paul Muscat
Anita Bernhardt	Sam Novick
Jon Brier	Miriam Remar
Hedy Cohen	Geoffrey Rice
Barbara Dichter	Elaine Rosen
Gil Dichter	Shirley Rosen
Rick Finberg	Bruce Ruben
Jonathan Freedman	Stephen Schwartz
Tom Froncek	Andrew Shur
Gregg Garson	Ken Silver
Judy Gatchell	Olivia Solodar
Linda Jacobs	Virginia Squires-Eklund
Debbie Kanter	Patty Weber
Phil Levinsky	Judy Wilson
Joan Levy	Norman Wilson
Rachelle Mack	

Shofar

Lisa Berman, Editor
Joy Krinsky, Production Design

"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

CLOSURES

The Temple Beth El Hebrew School last day will be Sunday, June 3.

The Temple Beth El Office will be closed on Wednesday, July 4.



MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger • 1990 S. Bundy Dr. Ste. 260 • Los Angeles, CA 90025
(310) 442-0020 • www.mazon.org • mazonmail@mazon.org



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.

FAREWELL WISHES

To my dear Congregants,

I have had the pleasure of knowing you and the honor of serving as your Hazzan for eight years. When I first arrived in Portland, I thought that I would never remember all your names. I had never led a choir. I had never run a public event. I had never been called upon to officiate solo at life cycle events. Over the past eight years, I have had the opportunity to learn and grow in ways I could never have anticipated. It has been a wonderful, transformative, and enriching learning experience.

I watched a television show once about human motion. The narrator pointed out that walking is essentially falling. We lean forward just a little too far and have faith that our foot will extend just in time to catch us before we fall. The narrator pointed out that it is good that we learn to walk for the first time when we are very young. Too young to understand the inherent risk. Otherwise, we would probably never get past the fear of falling.

Think of what we might miss if we never took that chance.

Once, when one of my sons was very little, he and I were alone in the house. I was on one end making the beds and he was being very quiet at the other end of the house. Way too quiet. Until he started sneezing. Again and again and again. I ran to the kitchen and found him standing on the counter, hands in the spice cupboard, pouring pepper onto his shoes and sneezing earnestly. He was very proud of himself.

It had been a steep climb, but he had been willing to risk falling to attain his peppery goal.

As you all know, at the end of June my contractual relationship with Temple Beth El will come to an end. While I will miss all of you very much, I know that every member of this community has the capacity to fill some of the gaps that will be created by my leaving.

CANTOR
RUTH L. ROSS

Change can be risky and scary. It can also be an exciting opportunity for adventure and growth.

I am embracing the risk and excitement of auditioning for new positions. I challenge you, my dear congregants, to take a similar risk. Learn how to read

While I will miss
all of you... I
know that every
member of this
community has
the capacity to
fill some of the
gaps that will be
created by my
leaving.

torah, learn to lead services, create programs, run community dinners, join the choir, learn Jewish songs, and share them with each other. All of these endeavors risk failure, but they all have the potential for success in their own right and as community building blocks as well. We tend to associate risk taking with youth. But it behooves all of us to remember how to think as children do. Let's put aside our fear of falling and reach for that big red ball. Let's balance on a rickety

chair and grab the pepper shaker in the high cupboard. If we could do it when we were little, how much more so now that we have an appreciation for the excitement and fulfillment that comes from conquering our fear of change and surmounting the next big challenge.

Warmest Regards,
Cantor Ruth L. Ross



Sara Jacobson Bat Mitzvah



Michael and Linda Jacobson welcome you to join them, as their daughter, Sara Michelle, becomes a Bat Mitzvah on June 1-2. Sara is a 7th grader at Falmouth Middle School where she plays field hockey and races on the alpine ski team.

During Sara's Bat Mitzvah preparation she raised money for the Barbara Bush Children's Hospital. Sara volunteered as a "change agent," and she assisted on the phone lines for a telethon.

Sara has learned to read from the Torah, and she has a new appreciation and respect for how much time and dedication is required to prepare for the Bat Mitzvah. Sara and her parents wish to thank all her Hebrew School teachers, Avis, the Cantor, and the Rabbi for helping her prepare for this day.



BAROUCH
& company
REALTORS

Deborah Barouch
Broker/Owner

www.RealEstateInPortlandMaine.com

75 Pearl St., Portland
774-8787

Joshua Soley Bar Mitzvah

Please join David Soley and Jackie Soley in celebrating the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Joshua, on June 15–16, 2007.

Joshua is a student at Freeport Middle School and loves to read. He is passionate about baseball, basketball, soccer, tennis, and other sports.

Joshua is pleased that his grandparents and his great aunt from Florida will be attending his Bar Mitzvah. Also attending the Bar Mitzvah will be his sister Barbara and his brother Daniel. He will be chanting Torah and Haftarah from Korah on Rosh Chodesh.

Joshua's mitzvah project is teaching basketball to elementary students at Mast Landing in Freeport.

Tikkun Olam: Guest from Habitat for Humanity to Speak at TBE on June 1

Tikkun Olam is working with the Habitat for Humanity Committee for Greater Portland. All members of the Temple family who own hammers are invited to participate. As part of our outreach to the community we have a representative on the Interfaith Build committee. Matt Goldfarb is our liaison.

We have invited Amy Dowler, associate executive director of Habitat for Humanity of Greater Portland, to speak to the Temple family on Friday, June 1, 2007 at our regularly scheduled service at 7:30 PM. Tikkun Olam is pleased to participate with our friends from the religious congregations of Greater Portland in this community-wide effort.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I start my first year as president of the Temple Beth El Board of Directors, I extend my thanks to my immediate predecessor in this position, Judy Wilson. Under Judy's leadership, the Governance Committee drafted and the Board adopted a new Constitution that addresses the changing composition and needs of our Congregation. The Board also created the new position of Executive Director as part of a broader office restructuring and hired Liz Rose-Cohen to fill that new position. Judy has also helped establish a process by which the Board, with input from the Congregation, will make important decisions this coming year regarding the composition of our staff of religious professionals. For all of this work and much more, I thank Judy. Temple Beth El is a stronger institution as a result of the work that was accomplished this year under her leadership.

I am fortunate to have the opportunity to work with an exceptionally dedicated Board of Directors... Linda Jacobs has served as our Treasurer for a number of years and has graciously agreed to do so again this year. Jon Brier has agreed to serve in a newly created position of Assistant Treasurer. Judy Gatchell, who Chairs the Ritual Committee and Paul Muscat, who led our Annual Appeal and Lucky Day Lotto fundraising efforts during the last year, will both return as Vice Presidents. Rachelle Mack will return as Secretary and has also agreed to succeed me as Chair of the Temple Beth El Memorial

Park Committee. The Board also welcomes new Board members Steve Schwartz, Ken Silver and Patty Weber.

The Board has a full agenda for the upcoming year. As previously reported in the *Shofar*, Ellie Miller will chair a Transitional Committee that will make

P R E S I D E N T
R I C K F I N B E R G

recommendations as to how best to structure how we deliver services to our

Congregation. The Committee's recommendation will include a proposed plan for how best to cover those responsibilities that Cantor Ross customarily performed for our congregation. Rabbi Braun and the Board must engage in discussion this year regarding the status of her contract. Anita Bernhardt has agreed to facilitate the gathering of data to facilitate this discussion.

Finally, Gil Dichter's House Committee has compiled a significant list of repairs to accomplish in the upcoming year and the House Committee will be busy overseeing these repairs to make sure that we can proudly welcome congregants and guests into our spiritual home. I have only touched upon a few of the most significant items on our agenda during the next twelve months. In addition to all of the above, our Board will continue to work to make our Congregation a welcoming home for all of our members.

I welcome your comments, concerns and suggestions. Please feel free to contact me at rfinberg@maine.rr.com.

B'Shalom,

Rick Finberg 

I am fortunate
to have the
opportunity to
work with an
exceptionally
dedicated
Board of
Directors...

CHOOSING A JEWISH LIFE, CIRCA 5TH CENTURY B.C.E.

Education Director's Annual Report, 2007

Throughout our Torah we read accounts of covenant-making between God and the Jewish people, narratives wherein God approaches a chosen human and enters into both an agreement and a relationship, binding upon each party. From the rainbow covenant with Noah, through the covenant of circumcision with Abraham, and the climactic revelation at Sinai, our tradition has a history of contracts, bargains and agreements with its deity. Less common but perhaps more important are the occasions in the TaNaCh where humans take matters into their own hands and initiate these agreements themselves. One such occurrence falls in the rarely-read book of Nehemiah, nestled near the very end of *Ketuvim*, the Writings. It is significant because it establishes a free-will commitment from the newly-returned exiles to separate themselves from their former way of life and honor God and God's Temple.

Nehemiah, cupbearer to the Persian King who rules over the Israelites still remaining in exile, begs to be sent back to Judah to rebuild the fallen city of Jerusalem. Upon his arrival he is able to inspire both the Levites and the common people to rebuild the walls and gates of the city. He then brings Ezra the scribe before the people to read aloud "*Torat Moshe*" — the Teaching of Moses — for several days, during which time the people learn what God expects of them, and begin to atone for their previous idolatrous practices. In an extraordinary

speech in chapters 9 and 10, seven leaders of the priesthood stand before the people and catalogue the actions of their God from creation through exodus, conquest, and kingship, and confess to God that the sinfulness of the people has

EDUCATION DIRECTOR
AVIS SMITH

accounted for their continuing woes. They thereupon take it upon themselves to initiate a good-faith agreement (an *amanah* in Hebrew) and put it in writing, signed by all the Levites, their officials and their high priests, and the people share in this agreement by taking an oath that includes the following voluntary measures: they will follow God's teachings, not intermarry, not purchase on Shabbat, observe the sabbatical year, donate offerings, provide fuel for the altar, provide food for the priests, collect tithes for the Temple storerooms, and lastly, assert that "we will

n o t

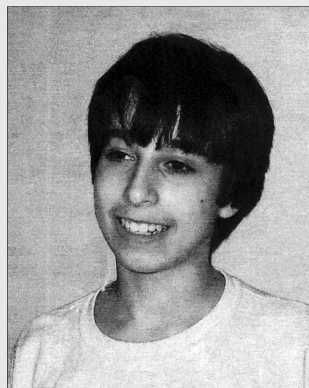
The coming year
will be one of
challenge and
change, and this
congregation will
attempt to redef-
ine its needs,
restate its goals,
and reexamine
its staffing
structure.

neglect the House of our God."

I am not suggesting that a congregation's annual meeting be a time for donning sackcloth and ashes and confessing our sins — but I was struck by that people's covenant, and sug-

see BCE page 15

Benjamin Howard Shapiro Bar Mitzvah



Barbara Carlin and Ira Shapiro welcome the TBE community to join them as their son, Benjamin Howard Shapiro, becomes a Bar Mitzvah on June 22–23, 2007.

Ben is a 7th grade student at Falmouth Middle School. He is a black belt in Karate and enjoys theater. Ben is also interested in Holocaust studies.

Ben's mitzvah project is Movies for Hospice House. He collected and donated a large number of movies to the Androscoggin Home Health Care and Hospice. His idea for the project originated while visiting his grandmother at the hospice. He noticed that the hospice was equipped with DVD and VHS players, but lacked a selection of movies.

It isn't the equipment that makes us better.

COLOR IMAGERS
PRINTERS
COPIERS
FAXES
DIGITAL
CORPORATE
SMALL OFFICE
NETWORKABLE
AFFORDABLE

ubiq

Better than you could have imagined.

SHARP
by sharp
Canon

IT'S ATTITUDE. After all, there's a lot of good equipment out there. So we go the extra mile [or two] to make sure you get what you need at the right price. Choose from a universe of copiers, faxes and digital imagers from Sharp and Canon, two of the leading innovators in electronic imaging. And we'll make your decision look better than you could have imagined.

UBIQ IMAGING SOLUTIONS
Westbrook, Maine
800.314.2638
www.ubiqimaging.com



Sarah Foster Bat Mitzvah



Please join Maxine Foster and David Foster as their daughter, Sarah Foster, becomes a Bat Mitzvah on June 29–30, 2007.

Sarah is in the 7th grade at Wescott Junior High School.

Sarah will be chanting the Haftarah from Parsha Balak in addition to reading from the Torah.

Chai & Chai

The Wednesday afternoon Chai & Chai study group continues with a new time and location. The group meets at 12 noon every other Wednesday with the dates for June set for the 6th and 20th. Remember, you do not have to have any experience with the text. You don't even have to know Hebrew (but it is fun, if you do), and you don't even need a Siddur as one will be supplied for you. Just come and learn with others, translate, and discuss. Find deeper meaning in the prayers and doors will be opened. Please feel free to bring a lunch or snack.

WAYSIDE SOUP KITCHEN

by Harlan Baker

Wayside is a non-profit effort with ecumenical roots. As Maine's largest soup kitchen, Wayside has been providing nutritious meals to the homeless and poor of Greater Portland for over 20 years. In 1986, a group of area churches gathered to provide an evening meal 3 days a week at the Immanuel Baptist Church. More churches joined to add meal service on two more nights each week. These meals were served at Williston-West Church. Wayside expanded dinner service to seven nights a week, enrolling more churches and moved to what was then called the Community Resource Center when it opened in 1994. Wayside collaborates with Preble Street and other social service agencies in providing services to the homeless and hungry in a central location.

According to Susan Violet, the soup kitchen's program manager, Wayside is Portland's only evening soup kitchen. Wayside is currently in its twenty-first year serving hot, nutritious, meals to the homeless and poor. Approximately 2500 volunteers annually are drawn from 60 churches and community groups. Wayside serves evening meals 365 days a year to an average of 210 people.

Donations to the Soup Kitchen are made by major local grocers, food service companies, manufacturers and distributors. Wayside welcomes sporadic donations from many businesses, organizations and individuals. This year, our Tikkun Olam Committee has provided bins for the collection of food from

our congregants, which our committee members deliver to them twice a month. Wayside has warehouse space in Sanford, Maine.


Temple Beth El's Tikkun Olam Committee is committed to providing volunteers to the Wayside Soup Kitchen every fourth Thursday night of the month. On that night volunteers from Bet Ha'am and the Holy Trinity Orthodox church join us. Other organizations will sometimes send volunteers on the same night. We are currently in need of more volunteers, particularly adults, or children ages 10 or older with adult supervision.

Volunteers assist with food preparation, setting up the dining hall, serving the meals and cleaning up, and leaving the dining hall ready for breakfast the following day.

Volunteers generally arrive around 5 PM although it is not uncommon to see volunteers in the kitchen preparing the meal earlier in the afternoon.

The dinner is served between 6 PM and 7 PM. Depending on the number of volunteers, the dinner is served in either "restaurant" or "cafeteria" style. "Restaurant" style means volunteers bring the meals to the tables as opposed to having people wait in line to be served, and most volunteers agree that "restaurant" style is preferable.


For more information on volunteering contact Harlan Baker at hbaker@maine.edu or 772-9640.

For more information on the Wayside Soup Kitchen, visit their website at www.waysidesoupkitchen.org. 

Tikkun Olam — Help Repair the World

The Tikkun Olam Committee would like to thank everyone who has participated in our collections of clothing and food this year for Preble Street Resource Center and Project FEED. They have been very appreciative of our efforts. During the summer months, we are continuing to collect staple food items, such as rice, beans, canned tomatoes, pasta, etc., and we encourage you to bring items for collection into the Temple. We will also be collecting new or gently used towels for the shelter, and personal care items, particularly for the women's shelter. So as you are traveling this summer, please save your little soaps, shampoos,

etc. that you won't be using, and bring them into the Temple. Please place the personal care items and food in the appropriately marked bins. We will be continuing and expanding on these projects next year, so stay tuned....

Our evening at Wayside Soup Kitchen is the 4th Thursday of the month, which will continue throughout the summer. Adults or children with adult supervision are encouraged to help out. If anyone is interested in becoming a member of this committee or would like to participate in or have more information about our committee, please call Barbara Peisner at 797-6651 or bpeisne1@maine.rr.com. 

Adam Berg Bar Mitzvah



Cindi and Steven Berg proudly welcome you to join them, as their son Adam becomes a Bar Mitzvah on July 13-14.

Adam will be entering the 7th grade of Lyman Moore Middle School this fall. He loves playing baseball and was a member of the Maine State Champion All Star Little League team this past season. He is also an active participant in his school outing club. Adam is a huge sports fan and tries to attend as many of the local sports games as he can. He especially loves the Red Sox, the WWE and spending his free time with his friends.

According to Adam, "Practicing and studying for my Bar Mitzvah required a lot of work but the Rabbi, Avis, and Cantor were very helpful preparing me for this important day."


As part of his mitzvah project, Adam plans to volunteer at Cedars.

NCJW ANNUAL MEETING


National Council of Jewish Women, Southern Maine Section will present the Hannah G. Solomon Award and award scholarships to eight deserving students at its Annual Meeting on Wednesday, June 13, 2007, at 7:00 PM at the Atrium at Cedars, 640 Ocean Avenue, Portland. Gail J. Volk, Scholarship Chairperson and Roberta Gordon, Beacon Club chair will be presented with the awards by Rosalyn Bernstein, former Hannah G. Solomon Award recipient.

Scholarship awards include the Frances Marcus Scholarship, The Sarah Bernstein Scholarship, The Harry Schwartz Scholarship and the Rita S. Willis Scholarship. NCJW is pleased to

announce the 2007 recipients: Brandi Albahary, a sophomore at Ithaca College; Lauren Rose-Cohen, a senior at USM School of Nursing; Lauren Kanter, a sophomore at Manhattanville College; Andrew Koch, a junior at Lyndon State College; David Zimmerman, a junior at University of Hartford; Yonatan Melamed, a freshman at Clark University; Bess Beller-Levesque, a freshman at American University; and Alexandra Brinkman-Young, a freshman at Barnard College.

If you have any questions or need transportation please call Gail Volk at 797-8945 or email her at gjvolk@aol.com. 

THIS SUMMER ON THE PREMISES

Temple Beth El welcomes Mad Science Summer Camp to the school wing this summer. The young scientists will be conducting experiments from June 18 through August 10. The camp is run by Richard and Ellen Maringione. 

**MICHAEL A.
JACOBSON
BROKER**

**KRE KING
REAL
ESTATE**

46 Depot Road
Falmouth, Maine 04105

*Serving Greater
Portland and
Southern Maine
Since 1985*

- Residential
- Commercial
- Investment Properties



For all your Real Estate needs
207-781-2958 x11

jacobson@maine.rr.com
www.kingrealestate.com



Thanks to the following individuals:

- Brenda Haberman for her help with the yahrzeit mailings.
- Dan Gatchell and Bob Bradbury for securing the tarps on the roof.
- Natalie Ladd, Jennie Aronson, and Edie Pryzant for cooking lunch for the Hebrew School aides last month.
- Cantor Ross for her 8 years of service to the Temple.
- Ken Levinsky for his 12 years of service to the Temple.
- Judy Wilson for her tireless leadership as president of TBE.
- Fred Farber for his work as chair of the Youth Commission.
- Pattie Garson for her work as Chair of the Early Childhood Committee
- The Tikkun Olam Committee for their success integrating repair of the world in a tangible, visible way to all who visit the Temple.
- Summer and fall B'nai Mitzvah families for their flexibility with the transition of the Temple's religious leadership.
- The Temple Beth El Choir for performing at the Annual Meeting.
- Shelley Carvel and Daniella Skalina for their many years of service on the Youth Commission.
- Vilean Taggersell and David Brenerman for their service on the Board.
- Gerry and Marilyn Sherry for their continuing support of our Hebrew School.

KADIMA AT SEADOGS

It's a sad "Yer Out!" to our 6th graders, and a happy "Safe Slide" into Home Base to our incoming 4th graders as the Kadima Bull Pen wants to:

Take You Out To The Ball Game!

Join us as we cheer on the Portland Seadogs on Sunday, June 3rd at 1:00 PM. We'll all meet at the Slugger Statue in front of Hadlock Field at 12:45 PM. Kadima will pay for your reserved seat, but please bring money for peanuts and Cracker Jacks. We have a limited number of excellent seats, so RSVP to Natalie Ladd



at 878-3477. Remember, all Jewish kids of Kadima age are welcome.

Kids: Please dress appropriately, bring your glove, & plan on having a blast.

Parents: Please plan to drop off and pick up your child at the Slugger Statue. Listen to AM 1080 Sports Radio so you'll know when the game is almost over. Please be on time to pick up your child.

Co-Advisors, Steve Berg & Natalie Ladd, have come up with an awesome schedule of FUN things to do for next year. Be on the lookout for the dates and events coming soon! 📅

USY

We wish all USY members and graduating seniors a Mazel Tov in all their future endeavors. May you go from strength to strength. We welcome all of next year's 9th graders into senior USY. We welcome your participation in our future events. Look for a schedule in August. If you have any questions feel free to contact Rebecca at rcanter@maine.rr.com. 📅

Senior USY & 9th Grade White Water Rafting Trip

The USY end of the year and step-up event will be a white water rafting trip with North Country River in Bingham. The trip is on Father's Day (June 17), so Dads are more than welcome! Meet at TBE at 6:00 AM; we'll pick up breakfast on the way. Cost is \$58/person, which includes: wet suits, veggie lunch, and a tour guide. RSVP is required with a check to North Country River and liability release form, available at the Temple office. Please call the Temple at 774-2649 for more information. 📅

Do You Like To GARDEN? YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

An outdoor beautification project began last year with a generous donation from a temple member. Plantings were added around the parking area, other plants, which were donated, were added to other spots around the circular driveway, and the tall bushes were trimmed and shaped, all of which enhance the appearance of the front of the temple.

The House Committee would like to maintain this area and perhaps add to it. We are looking for a few volunteers to help with minor gardening tasks — mostly weeding and possibly some planting. Weeding needs to be done periodically, probably every few weeks. If you would like to help, contact Barbara Dichter, call 797-3726 or email bdichter@maine.rr.com. 📅

Weisberg Fund Marked for Teaching and Learning


by Avis Smith, Education Director

Temple Beth El Hebrew School is proud and honored to be the designated recipient of the Edward L. Weisberg Lilmod U'L'amed Fund (To Learn and To Teach), which is used for acquisition of teaching and learning materials. The fund was created from contributions made in memory of Eddie Weisberg, who served the Temple community for decades as a member of the minyan, a teacher of children and adults, a haftarah reader par excellence, and leader of high holy day shacharit services.

Fund trustees Rita Weisberg and Karen Lerman wanted to see the monies used to further children's Jewish education, a cause near and dear to Eddie's heart. With this fund the school is able to purchase needed resources for both children and teachers, including audio-visual materials, library books, the latest in teaching tools, and supplemental Hebrew learning materials.

TBE congregants of all ages have been

taught to read Hebrew by Eddie, who, after years as a Hebrew School teacher, volunteered his time to lead adult classes in Hebrew Literacy. He had a thorough knowledge of the language, was a fluent davener, and was happy to share that knowledge as both a teacher and a *shaliach tsibbur* (prayer leader). Those who came early enough on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur mornings had the pleasure of hearing Eddie lead the preliminary part of the service, and regulars at Shabbat morning minyan often heard his melodious voice chanting that week's haftarah.

In an era of deficit budgets and cut-backs, it is all the more gratifying to know that our teachers and students are not lacking the tools they need for a rich and fulfilling Jewish educational experience. We extend heartfelt thanks to Rita and Karen, as well as to those who contribute to the fund, for their continuing generosity, and promise to keep alive Eddie's memory and his love of Jewish learning. 


TBE VISION INCLUDES LAY LEADERSHIP: THAT MEANS YOU!

As we begin the process of evaluating the short and long term needs of our congregation regarding the composition of our religious professional staff, we see that our future includes a partnership between lay leadership and professionals. The current time of change is a gift — an opportunity to teach ourselves how to be one another's spiritual leaders. If we use this gift of transition wisely to foster lay leadership and learning, we will emerge able to partner with our hired professionals to create the Jewish community in which we want to worship.

Regardless of our level of knowledge and experience, there is a way that we can each play an active role in the spiritual life of our congregation. The Ritual

Committee is currently working closely with our religious professionals to plan lay leader trainings that will begin in the late Summer and Fall. In particular we will be looking for members who would like to:

- Lead shiva services
- Help lead Shabbat services
- Chant Torah
- Teach what they know to other congregants

Trainings will be suitable to those who just need a refresher and those who are just beginning. Please accept this invitation to let go of whatever keeps you off the bima and contact Judy Gatchell, Ritual Committee Chair, (gatch@suscom-maine.net or 725-8018) to talk about how you can participate. 

PORTLAND CHEVRA KADISHA

*In time of need,
one Jew caring
for another*



JEWISH FUNERAL HOME
PreArrangement Counseling

471 Deering Avenue
Portland, ME 04103

207•774•3733

IN OUR TBE FAMILY

Mazel Tov

To Sam and Bette Novick on the occasion of the aufruf of their son Matthew Novick and daughter-in-law Becky Antar on April 7.

To Harry and Florine Gorsky on the occasion of their granddaughter Griffin Gorsky's Bat Mitzvah at Temple Beth El on April 28.

We mourn the passing of:

Jeanette Praver, mother of Josh Praver, on April 25 in Oakland, California.

Harriet Seltzer, mother of Sandy Kahn, on May 10.

ANNIVERSARIES

JUNE 2007

- 5 Ilene and Myron Berman
- 5 Harvey and Kathy Silverman
- 6 Ron and Gaye Blumenthal
- 8 Edward and Charlotte Shible (60 years)
- 8 George and Ruthanne Singal
- 9 Michael and Thea Greene
- 9 David and Elaine Lewis (50 years)
- 12 James and Barbara Kriger (52 years)
- 14 Brian and Connie Goldberg (15 years)
- 14 James and Marjorie Goodman
- 14 Patrick and Jackie Maidman (20 years)
- 15 Robert and Evelyn Litman (55 years)
- 15 Norm and Judy Wilson
- 16 Jon and Amy Brier
- 17 Jon and Deborah Himmelfarb
- 17 Lenny and Merle Nelson (51 years)
- 18 Harv and Carole Cole
- 18 Hy and Peggy Osher (57 years)
- 19 Mark and Norma Filler
- 19 Barry and Lori Saltz (20 years)
- 23 Richard and Leslie Abrahams
- 23 Bernie and Marlene Cohen
- 24 Joseph and Debbie Bornstein
- 24 Daniel and Phyllis Dunitz (50 years)
- 24 Jerry and Sue Gordon (51 years)
- 24 Joseph and Rhoda Wildstein
- 25 Peter and Sandy Bennett
- 25 James and Bonnie Klein (35 years)
- 26 Jon and Jodi Freedman


see June page 11

TRANSITION UPDATE

by Ellie Miller, Committee Chair

As incoming President Rick Finberg reported in last month's Shofar, an ad hoc committee of both our professionals and lay people has been working together to develop plans for the congregation for the period following the Cantor's departure on July 1. As a member of the committee, I am pleased to report that we have contracted with Cantor Deborah Marlowe to teach our fall B'nai Mitzvah students. She has also agreed to lead services on these dates. Cantor Marlowe provided these services to us previously about ten years ago and we are delighted that she has agreed to again serve the Temple in this capacity. Cantor Ross and Cantor Marlowe are in contact with each other to assure a smooth transition for the kids. Over the summer, on Bar/Bat Mitzvah Shabbatot, the Rabbi and Avis will lead our services. We can all look forward to beautiful chanting and wonderful davening. We are also in the process

of scheduling Torah readers for these Shabbatot. Please see Ritual Affairs Committee Chair Judy Gatchell's article as well which highlights that this time period will be a wonderful opportunity for many volunteer members of our community who would like to read Torah, haftarah or take a turn leading any portion of services on non-Bar/Bat Mitzvah Shabbatot.

The Committee is meeting on a regular schedule to insure that all planning, including that for the high holidays, is taken care of so that congregants will enjoy services that will be well planned and beautifully led. Once we have fully planned for the immediate future, I will begin committee meetings to develop ideas and plans for the longer term. I will be reporting to the congregation as this process unfolds. 

Ken Levinsky to Leave TBE Office


After 12 years of service to Temple Beth El, June marks Ken Levinsky's last month in our office. Ken joined the Temple staff in 1995, serving as Administrator for 11 years and then as Business Manager for the last year. Throughout his time in the Temple office Ken has been known for his welcoming presence. Whether he is hopping up from his desk to open the front door for a senior member, welcoming guests at a funeral, or sharing due excitement with a Bat Mitzvah parent, he is always a gracious host.

Ken has treasured his 12 years at the Temple and especially the chance to get to know and work closely with its members. He and his family will continue their involvement at the Temple as members and look forward to seeing everyone on a regular basis.

Please join us on Sunday, June 24 at 9:00 AM in the Temple Beth El Foyer as we honor Ken for his years of service at the Temple. 

May Lucky Day Lotto Winners

- Denise LaRue
- Frank Dailey
- Anita Bernhardt
- Myron Stone
- Rachel Kiel
- Larry Fineberg
- Bruce Bornstein

These lucky folks will take home \$25, except Bruce Bornstein who will take home \$50. They are already earning back what they paid for their Lucky Day Lotto books. It doesn't get better than that! If you don't have a book yet, call the Temple office today or stop in and buy one. You will be supporting TBE and having fun at the same time!! 

ANNUAL MEETING NOTES

On May 15, Temple Beth El held its annual meeting. Rabbi Braun and Avis Smith gave their reports for the year. The Congregation thanked and honored Cantor Ross for her eight years of service. The TBE Choir serenaded us with *Mood Indigo* and other selections.


A new slate of officers were elected: Rick Finberg, President; Judy Gatchell and Paul Muscat, Vice Presidents; Linda Jacobs, Treasurer; Jon Brier, Assistant Treasurer; Rachelle Mack, Secretary. Three new board members were installed: Stephen Schwartz, Ken Silver, and Patty Weber.

Olivia Solodar was named the Eleanor W. Merdek Volunteer of the Year. Olivia serves, with enthusiasm, as Chair of the Hebrew School Committee, a member of the Youth Commission and the TBE Board, and coordinator of the High Holiday Kids Kehillah services. In particular, Olivia showed her dedication to getting things done by spearheading the USY Dinner and once again co-organizing the Shalach Manot project. Olivia's unwillingness to say "no" keeps us all going.



Olivia Solodar, Eleanor W. Merdek Volunteer of the Year

Outgoing President Judy Wilson also presented the following TBE volunteers with "Honorable Menschen" Awards: Gil Dichter, for his work on the House Committee; Debbie Barlock, for her work in the Gift Shop, the kitchen, and the office; John Barlock for his work on the Web site; Miriam Remar and Barbara Dichter for their work revising the TBE Constitution; Pat Reef and


Clara Purinton for their help in the office; Debbie Kanter for her High Holiday Ritual Committee work; Jon Brier for his work on the Cemetery Committee; and Vilean Taggersell for her work as Chair of the Accessibility Committee. 

SYNAGOGUE COUNCIL UNITY SHABBATON

by Marilyn Lipman, Assistant Director, Synagogue Council of Massachusetts

Announcing the Synagogue Council of Massachusetts' Tenth Annual Unity Shabbaton: An Adult Weekend of Study & Prayer to be held Friday, August 3 – Sunday, August 5, 2007 at the Holiday Inn, Tewksbury, Mass. This rich and unique Shabbat experience, which brings together Jews from various streams of Judaism in an atmosphere of respect and understanding, will feature a diverse faculty of noted rabbis for high-level Judaic study, inspirational services (with mechitza and egalitarian davening



options), delicious Kosher, ruach-filled meals from Catering by Andrew, and entertainment, outstanding accommodations and air-conditioned facilities. This year our esteemed faculty includes Rabbis Daniel Liben, Avi Bossewitch, and Alan Ullman. In addition, to help celebrate this special tenth anniversary, Cantor Jeff Klepper and Bonnie Greenberg will join us as Musician and Storyteller-in-Residence, respectively. FMI: Contact the Synagogue Council of Massachusetts at (617) 244-6506, ext. 10 or visit our website at www.synagoguecouncil.org. 

June *continued from page 10*

- 26 Alan and Geri Hirsch
- 27 Stan and Judy Elowitch
- 29 Leslie and Paula Harris (10 years)
- 30 Stephen and Francine Blattner
- 30 Marshall and Jane Mack

JULY 2007

- 1 Stephen and Cynthia Lerman
- 3 Jim and Joanie Cohen
- 3 Carol and Stu Gilbert (40 years)
- 3 Jonathan and Ellen 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
- 14 Jack and Anne Spiegel (61 years)
- 17 Roger and Avis Smith (30 years)
- 18 Sarah Darhower and Tommy Darhower, Jr
- 19 Joseph Herszkopf and Carmela Soto
- 19 Sylvia Most and Alan Cardinal (10 years)
- 19 Beth Weiner Park and Steven Park
- 20 Cliff and Barbara Kucine
- 21 Scott and Yoon Cohen (5 years)
- 22 Deborah and John Barlock
- 22 Steve and Joani Willis (40 years)
- 23 Mel and Fran Stone (63 years)
- 24 Ann Fleischer and Al Lefebvre (25 years)
- 24 Phillip and Judy Sher
- 29 Sumner and Barbara Berkovich (56 years)

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.

Bima Fund (Adult Education)

Brotherhood Fund

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

Gerry & Marilyn Sherry

Sam & Bette Novick, In Honor of Cantor Ross's participation in Rebecca & Matthew's aufruf

David and Ethel Wilson Family Fund

Edward L. Weisberg Fund

Sandie Antar, In Honor of Bette & Sam Novick

Karen, Alan, Justin, & Brandon Lerman, In Honor of Kevin Gerber's engagement

Jeanne Tinkle, In Honor of Shana Tinkle's graduation with honors from United World College, NM and her acceptance to Brown University

Harvey & Helen Levine, In Memory of Abe Levine

Gerald & Selma Cope, In Memory of Al Sneider

Steven Brinn, In Memory of Al Sneider

Rose Brinn, In Memory of Al Sneider

Harvey & Helen Levine, In Memory of Dianne Schwey Richman

Harvey & Helen Levine, In Memory of Esther Levine

Harvey & Helen Levine, In Memory of Gladys Glovsky

Rita Weisberg, In Memory of Gladys Glovsky

Harvey & Helen Levine, In Memory of Henry Schwey

Harvey & Helen Levine, In Memory of Judith Schwey Benjamin

David, Nancy, & Molly Brenerman, In Memory of Lillian A. Lerman

Harvey & Helen Levine, In Memory of Lillian Lerman

Steven Brinn, In Memory of Lillian Lerman

Ms. Rose Brinn, In Memory of Lillian Lerman

Abe Benjamin, In Memory of Lillian Lerman

Hy Benjamin, In Memory of Lillian Lerman

Jack Silva, In Memory of Lillian Lerman

Natalie Brenner, In Memory of Lillian Lerman

Edward Richman, In Memory of Lillian Lerman

Norm & Judy Wilson, In Memory of Lillian Lerman

Jerry & Phyllis Rosen, In Memory of Lillian Lerman

Jack & Rose Novick, In Memory of Lillian Lerman

Helen Isenman, In Memory of Lillian Lerman

Bruce & Ellen Ruben, In Memory of Lillian Lerman

Michael Cutler & Dale Rosenthal, In Memory of Lillian Lerman

Karen, Alan, Justin, & Brandon Lerman, In Memory of Lillian Lerman, our beloved mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother

Larry, Sandi, Nicholas, Jessica, & Maxwell Brown, In Memory of Lillian Lerman, our beloved mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother

Karen, Alan, Justin, & Brandon Lerman, In Memory of Mary Lillian Kaplan

Harvey & Helen Levine, In Memory of Mitchell Cope

Karen, Alan, Justin, & Brandon Lerman, In Memory of Mitchell Cope

Harvey & Helen Levine, In Memory of Myra Branz

Rita Weisberg, In Memory of Myra Branz

Phil & Elizabeth Levinsky, In Memory of Myra Branz

Jack & Rose Novick, In Memory of Myra Branz

Jeanne Tinkle, In Memory of Norman Tinkle, beloved husband

Rita Weisberg & children, In Memory of Rose Weisberg Kaplan

Harvey & Helen Levine, In Memory of Sarah Schwey

Harvey & Helen Levine, In Memory of Shirley Bogg

Rita Weisberg, In Memory of Shirley Bogg

Marcia & Henry Cutler, In Memory of Shirley Bogg

Jerry & Phyllis Rosen, In Memory of Shirley Bogg

Joan & Arthur Cope, In Memory of Shirley Bogg

Jack & Rose Novick, In Memory of Shirley Bogg

Don & Joyce Freedlander, In Memory of Shirley Bogg

Gerald & Selma Cope, In Memory of Shirley Bogg

Bob & Barbara Brenner, In Memory of Shirley Bogg

Phil & Elizabeth Levinsky, In Memory of Shirley Bogg

Jeanne Tinkle, In Memory of Shirley Bogg

Harvey & Helen Levine, In Memory of Shirley Levine Morris

Rita Weisberg, Speedy Recovery to Jerry Rosen

Don & Joyce Freedlander, Speedy Recovery to Jerry Rosen

Rita Weisberg, Speedy Recovery to Shirley Rosen

Endowment

Harvey & Sara Berman, In Memory of Alvin Blattner

Carol & Stu Gilbert, In Memory of Alvin Robert Blattner

Carol & Stu Gilbert, In Memory of David H. Schwartz

Matt & Lynn Goldfarb, In Memory of David Schwartz

Harvey & Sara Berman, In Memory of David Schwartz

Carol & Stu Gilbert, In Memory of Lillian A. Lerman

Carol & Stu Gilbert, In Memory of Miriam Lillian Kaplan

Carol & Stu Gilbert, Speedy Recovery to Sue Most

General Fund

Gerry & Marilyn Sherry

Ronald & Constance Jacobson, In Honor of Sara Jacobson

Steven & Shelley Carvel, In Honor of Amy Carvel's acceptance in the PhD art history program at NYU

Betts Gorsky & Mark Googins, In Honor of Avis Smith for supporting Griffin's Bat Mitzvah study

Betts Gorsky & Mark Googins, In Honor of Barbara Dichter for supporting Griffin's Bat Mitzvah

Steven and Shelley Carvel, In Honor of David Carvel making Phi Beta Kappa at Brandeis University

Douglas & Gail Volk, In Honor of Josh Klein's engagement

Phil & Elizabeth Levinsky, In Honor of Tama Fineberg's birthday

Susan & Paul Trusiani, In Honor of Oliver, the new grandson of Joan & Steve Willis

Susan & Paul Trusiani, In Honor of Ruby, the new granddaughter of Cindy & Jim Baker

Steve & Shelley Carvel, In Honor of the aufruf of Rebecca Antar & Matthew Novick

Pearl Wislin, In Memory of Abe Wislin

Susan & Paul Trusiani, In Memory of Al Sneider

Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Sneider, In Memory of Allen Sneider

Steven & Shelley Carvel, In Memory of Alvin Blattner

Mark & Kathy Aranson, In Memory of Alvin Robert Blattner

Norm & Judy Wilson, In Memory of Alvin Robert Blattner

Linda Abromson, In Memory of David H. Schwartz

Douglas & Gail Volk, In Memory of David Schwartz

Norm & Judy Wilson, In Memory of David Schwartz

Alan & Betsy Levenson, In Memory of David Schwartz

Steven & Shelley Carvel, In Memory of David Schwartz

Joel & Marjorie Baseman, In Memory of Ed Sacknoff

Carole Cole, In Memory of Esther Spill

Lillian Blotner, In Memory of Ethel Sneider

Richard Waxman, In Memory of Golde Aranson

Judith Filderman, In Memory of Golde Aranson

Howard & Shari Messerman, In Memory of Golde Aranson

Dauna Binder, In Memory of Henry Binder

Susan & Paul Trusiani, In Memory of Lillian Lerman

Linda Abromson, In Memory of Lillian Lerman

Douglas & Gail Volk, In Memory of Lillian Lerman

Steven & Shelley Carvel, In Memory of Lillian Lerman

Ivan & Sue Most, In Memory of Martha Lewenberg Seegal

Stephen & Cynthia Lerman, In Memory of Martin Sprince

Larry & Lisa Plotkin, In Memory of Miriam Lillian Kaplan

Norm & Judy Wilson, In Memory of Miriam Lillian Kaplan

Ivan & Sue Most, In Memory of Miriam Lillian Kaplan

Douglas & Gail Volk, In Memory of Mitchell Cope

Norm & Judy Wilson, In Memory of Patricia Benady

Peggy Levy Keaney, In Memory of Richard J. Levy

Pearl Wislin, In Memory of Shirley Bogg

Susan & Paul Trusiani, In Memory of Shirley Bogg

Norm & Judy Wilson, In Memory of Shirley Bogg

Morris & Adele Silverman, In Memory of Shirley Bogg

Lee & Lisa Tabenken, In Memory of Shirley Levine Bogg

Gerald & Selma Cope, In Memory of David Schwartz

Phil & Elizabeth Levinsky, Speedy Recovery to David Lewis

Hebrew School Fund

Joan & Jeffrey Barkin, In Honor of Claire & Emily Muscat's Bat Mitzvah

Debbie Kanter, In Honor of Janine Collins's Bat Mitzvah

Robert & Aileen Tabachnick, In Memory of Betty Tabachnick

Perla Kimball, In Memory of Eleanor Merdek

Larry & Joan Levy, In Memory of Golde Aranson

Debbie, Josh, & Lauren Kanter, In Memory of Norman Bogg

Perla Kimball, In Memory of Paul Figa

Carl & Recia Richman, In Memory of Shirley Bogg

Douglas & Gail Volk, In Memory of Shirley Bogg

Natalie Brenner, In Memory of Shirley Bogg

Miriam Remar, In Memory of Shirley Bogg

Andre & Daniela Skalina, In Memory of Shirley Bogg

Edward Richman, In Memory of Shirley Bogg

Emma Schlosberg, In Memory of Shirley Bogg

Charlie Young, In Memory of Shirley Bogg

Michael & Barbara Peisner, In Memory of Shirley Bogg

Larry & Lisa Plotkin, In Memory of Shirley Bogg

Ann Fleischer & Albert Lefebvre, In Memory of Shirley Bogg

Tom & Ellen Froncek, In Memory of Shirley Bogg

Helen Isenman, In Memory of Shirley Bogg

Patricia & Gregg Garson, In Memory of Shirley Bogg

Nancy Finberg, In Memory of Shirley Bogg

Michael A. Cope & Family, In Memory of Shirley Bogg

Larry & Joan Levy, In Memory of Shirley Bogg

Cyndie Lentner, Chris Bunch, & MacKenzie Bunch, In Memory of Shirley Bogg

Joan Della Torre, In Memory of Shirley Bogg

Jerry & Susan Goldberg, In Memory of Shirley Bogg

Sam & Bette Novick, In Memory of Violet Stern

Jonas B. Klein Fund

Mark & Kathy Aranson, In Memory of Jonas B. Klein

Foreside Common Association, In Memory of Jonas B. Klein

Kiddush Fund

Kol Yeladim

Koocher/Robinov Hebrew School Scholarship Fund

Scott & Alise Koocher, In Memory of David Koocher

Stan & Sherrie Schatz, In Memory of David Koocher

Jacqueline Robinov, In Memory of Eva Wald

Stan & Sherrie Schatz, In Memory of Lil Lerman

Ethel Koocher, In Memory of Nathan Koocher

Ethel Koocher, In Memory Of Rachel Reimer

Kulanu Fund

Sharon Minkowitz

Ruth Cantor, In Honor of my dear friend Sue Most

Lenny & Merle Nelson, In Memory of Anne Schultz

David & Elaine Lewis, In Memory of Blanche Weisberg

Lenny & Merle Nelson, In Memory of Ed Sacknoff

Lenny & Merle Nelson, In Memory of Golde Aranson

Jerry & Susan Goldberg, In Memory of Golde Aranson

David & Elaine Lewis, In Memory of Isaac Weisberg

Maybelle & Mark Crasnick & family, In Memory of Rose Crasnick

Lenny & Merle Nelson, In Memory of Ruthie Finn

Jerry & Susan Goldberg, In Memory of Seymour Filler

Paul & Susan Korobkin, In Memory of Shirley Bogg

Steve & Peggy Shapiro, In Memory of William Shapiro

Joan Della Torre, Speedy Recovery to David Lewis

Paul & Susan Korobkin, Speedy Recovery to Nancy Brenerman

Mary & Benjamin Lazarus Library Fund

Memorial Park

Nancy Finberg, In Memory of Ezra Finberg

Molly Finkelman Choir Fund

Music Fund

Oscar & Gussy Gottschalk, In Honor of the Shabbat dinner and program

Sue Pinansky, In Memory of Dr. David Polowe

Joan & Jeffrey Barkin, In Memory of Jane Lee Belsky

Ray & Jo Ann Oransky, In Memory of Molly Finkelman

Norman Finberg USY Fund

Prayer Book

Ellen J. Tabachnick, In Memory of my beloved mother Betty G. Tabachnick

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Rick Finberg

David Salomon & Marilyn Leeds

Sam & Bette Novick, In Honor of
Rebecca & Matthew's Aufruf

Miriam Remar, In Memory of Ruth Braun

Dorothy Braun Porter & Jerome Porter,
In Memory of Ruth Braun

Debbie, Josh, Lauren Kanter, & Elaine,
Marc, Rachael, Amy & Jessie
Oppenheimer, In Memory of Shirley Bogg

Sisterhood

William & Ida Cohen Teacher's Conference Fund

Joe & Becky DeLois, In Memory of
Shirley Bogg

Yad I'Yad

Yahrzeit Fund

Edward & Honey Goldman

Helen Isenman, In Memory of Abraham
Isenman

Barbara Simensky, In Memory of Elinor
Feinstein

Sol & Florine Sulka, In Memory of
Freeda Nelson

Arthur & Frances Jacobson, In Memory
of Freida Jacobson

Gilbert & Marilyn Prawer, In Memory of
Harry Siegel

Phil & Elizabeth Levinsky, In Memory of
Hymann Zaitlin

Sharon Bresler, In Memory of Larry
Murinson

Mihai & Nora Ciffer, In Memory of Leon
Ciffer

George & Ruthanne Singal, In Memory of
Malka Singal

Sol & Florine Sulka, In Memory of Mark
Sulkowitch

Harlan Baker, In Memory of Milton
Herbert Baker & Helen Baker

Joseph & Rhoda Wildstein, In Memory of
Philip Butler

Stephen & Cynthia Lerman, In Memory
of Samuel Lerman

Judi Peddersen, Shaari Peddersen, &
Stan Weiner, In Memory of Sophie Wiener

Natalie Brenner, In Memory of William
Goldstein

*Donations listed were received at Temple
Beth El by May 1, 2007.*


BCE *continued from page 5*

gest that we might think of this time as an opportunity to reassert that we too will not neglect this Bet El, this house of our God. The coming year will be one of challenge and change, and this congregation will attempt to redefine its needs, restate its goals, and reexamine its staffing structure. What oaths can we take to recommit ourselves to our purpose? As education director I have a bias that says being a literate Jew is a priority, and that our educational programs can assist you in achieving that goal whatever your age, from Kol Yeladim and Hebrew School through our Adult Jewish Learning programs and courses. A house of God must be a house of prayer, a house of meeting, and a house of study. If we, individually or collectively, neglect any one of those aspects, we are neglecting this Bet El, this house of God.

I do not know what the outcome of the restructuring process will be, but I am taken aback when I hear people say,

"Don't worry — we'll always have a Hebrew School," as though the most appropriate forum for Jewish learning is for children. No thirteen-year-old on the completion of the seventh grade of Hebrew School is a Jewishly-literate adult. For Judaism to have relevance and meaning, it must be a Judaism that we learn as we grow, that we reexamine, requestion, and reassess throughout our lives — and that translates to committing ourselves and this House of God to Jewish education in all of its forms — our libraries, our Torah discussions, our holiday observances, our structured courses, our visiting scholars, and, yes, our Kol Yeladim and Hebrew School. Being a Jewishly literate adult means that we shouldn't have to drop our children off and say "make them Jewish;" we shouldn't have to say, "go ask the Rabbi" when a life cycle question or holiday observance or — God forbid — a question about mourning arises. We shouldn't have to avoid discussing Israel's political climate because we ourselves don't really understand how

things got to be the way they are; and we shouldn't be afraid to find out the answers, and perhaps confront friends who may be misinformed by the media. And, above all, we shouldn't be uncomfortable talking about God and finding a way to do so that makes our prayers and our oaths meaningful.

This is all Jewish education in its many guises, and it is a source of wisdom, of wonder, and of infinite worth. But for most of us it is, sadly, not a priority. And that is why, in contemplating the year to come, when I read the stirring account of the Levites looking to rebuild Jerusalem from the rubble, I look to the example of Nehemiah, who had the *seychel* and the foresight to bring Ezra to teach the people. To teach and to learn. That is the way we rebuild Jerusalem; that is the way we honor God and God's house. Please make a commitment to Jewish education — then you can truly stand with your ancestors who stood up with Nehemiah, make your covenant with God, and said "*v'lo na'azov et Bet Eloheinu* — we will not neglect the house of our God." 

shofar

Temple Beth El

400 Deering Avenue
Portland, ME 04103

PRSRTR-STD
U.S. Postage

Paid

Permit No. 1404
Portland, ME

■ Tisha b'Av

Tisha b'Av observance will be

July 24, 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM

We will read the book of
Eicha, the Book of
Lamentations, accompanied
by readings and song.

Temple Beth El Wishes to thank a group of Anonymous Donors for sponsoring this Shofar

Temple Beth El wishes to thank
Cantor Ruth L. Ross
and
Ken Levinsky
for their many years
of service to
Temple Beth El.



Shofar Deadlines — August issue is June 28; September issue is July 28.

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