



# The December 2009 Shofar

Temple Beth El, 3 Marion Avenue, Glens Falls, New York 12801

(518) 792-4364 \* tbe@bny@gmail.com

Affiliate member of the URJ since 1950

## Chai Society Breakfast on December 20

Topic: The Graven Image

Speaker: Dr. Robert Arnold

Date and Time: Sunday, December 20 at 9:15 a.m.

Summary: The second commandment against worshipping graven images is the only commandment where God threatens retribution upon the parents who break it and also "upon the children, upon the third and the fourth generation." While murder, adultery, stealing, bearing false witness, dishonoring your parents are clearly bad, as well as destructive to human society, and while the commandments prohibiting this behavior are self-evident, it is not so clear what is wrong with idolatry, how it is destructive, and why, in light of the punishment down to the "fourth generation," God is so angry with those who break the commandment. This talk will try to answer these questions.

About the Speaker: Robert Arnold received his doctoral degree in philosophy from the University of Texas at Austin. He has taught at several colleges and at a private school in the Boston area as an instructor of philosophy and Spanish.

The chefs for the breakfast will be Mike Siegel and Larry Silver.



## Pizza & A Movie Saturday, December 5th at 7 p.m.

A Stranger Among Us (1992)

Rated: PG13

(Parents strongly cautioned.)

Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.)

When New York cop Emily Eden (Melanie Griffith) goes undercover in a Hasidic Jewish community to solve the brutal murder of a jeweler, she falls for devout religious student Ariel (Eric Thal) in this romantic drama from Sidney Lumet. Though Ariel becomes involved in helping Emily track down clues to solve the case, a romantic relationship between them is forbidden by the rules of his community. John Pankow and James Gandolfini co-star.



## HEBREW NAMING CEREMONY

Are there any Jews out there who do not have a Hebrew name or who have a Yiddish name and wish to have a Hebrew one? On January 15th, the Shabbat for which the parashah is *Shemot* or "Names," there will be a special ceremony to confer Jewish names to those who desire to participate. If you wish to choose a Hebrew name which has meaning and importance to you, please contact Rabbi Durbin at rabbidurbintbny@gmail.com and set up a time to meet and discuss possible Hebrew names.

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## RABBI'S MESSAGE

At this darkest time of the year, especially in these tumultuous times, we could use some extra light to warm us and comfort us and keep at bay the darkness and fear that can beset us in trying times. Chanukah, The Feast of Lights and Freedom, begins on the 25th of Kislev – the eve of December 12th, and lasts eight days.

Chanukah celebrates the victory of a small band of Jews, led by the Hasmonean family, who resisted the imposition of pagan Greek worship imposed by King Antiochus of Syria, ruler of Palestine at the time. The Jews, under their war leader, Judah the Maccabee, defeated the Hellenized Syrians, ensuring the existence of our nation for another two centuries. Chanukah means "dedication", and refers to the rededication of the Temple in *Modi'in*, a town in Israel, in 165 BCE.

We Jews celebrate Chanukah because some of our ancestors, stiff-necked as always, would not assimilate and disappear, as the ten tribes disappeared. Chanukah celebrates our stubborn endurance as a people. The lesson should not be lost on us. If we do not continue to learn and to live serious, creative Jewish lives, then assimilation and acculturation will yet overtake us in our own day.

We are free, thank God, to be who we are. But if we do not remain zealous in defense of our freedom and continue to defend such bedrock democratic principles as the separation of religion and state, we will yet be overwhelmed by the dark, exclusivist forces around us. Moreover, the spirit of Chanukah, which reaffirms our own identity, calls on us to labor for the freedom of all peoples.

But Chanukah is more than the commemoration of an ancient victory. It is also the Jewish response to the gloom of winter, which now descends upon us. For eight days, like the miraculous oil lamp in the Temple, we light one candle and yet another and so on. It is our way of expressing our profound belief that God will not permit utter darkness to prevail.

As the inheritors of a rich legacy sworn to create light, let us confront the darkness of uncertainty and fear, violence and terrorism, prejudice and intolerance, hunger and inhumanity. Let us give strength to one another, like the Maccabees, to light flames of compassion, justice, freedom and peace. Let us rededicate ourselves to "Be Torah" by being lamplighters against the darkness in these uncertain times.

As our world grows colder and darker during these winter months, we must do what Jews, Christians, and observers of Kwanza, have been taught to do at this season. Let us light a candle in someone's life and see how it diminishes the darkness. As in ancient days, a tiny flame can surely create a great light and shared blessings of warmth and hope.

From our home & family to yours, Rose & I wish a Happy Chanukah to you & all your loved ones!

## INTRODUCTION TO MIDRASH

Have you ever wanted to learn and study ancient Jewish texts and delve deeper into their meaning and gain a greater appreciation for our tradition? If so, please join us as we explore the conception of Midrash beginning December 1, 8 and 15 at 11 a.m. The word Midrash derives from the Hebrew root meaning "to examine carefully," and is the name given to the process of intense examination of the Bible undertaken by the rabbis of the Mishnah, Talmud and later generations. Midrash is a method of seeking deeper levels of understanding the Torah, often by means of storytelling, which is a form of teaching and testimony. Midrashic tales serve to fill in the gaps, exploring the motivations of the characters and the implications of their actions as presented in the Bible, as well as the Talmud.

This three-week class is open to all who have an interest in exploring, discussing and debating our Jewish tradition and its stories which represent our past. All are encouraged to attend. No experience necessary! Looking forward to seeing you all there!

## Stories Wanted!

It has come to our attention that many of our members and friends have visited places of Jewish interest while on vacation. If any of you have photos or would like to write a brief article, we would be pleased to publish them in future issues of the *Shofar*. Please e-mail (tbegnfy@gmail.com) or drop them off to Katie in the Temple office.



## Chai Society Programs

To: Temple Beth El Members  
From: Martin Wasserman, President and Program  
Coordinator of the Chai Society  
Re: Speakers and Topics for 2009 - 2010

Here is a list of the tentative speakers and topics for the Chai Society breakfast programs between December 2009 and June 2010:

Dr. Robert Arnold on the graven image (see article on front page);  
Rose Durbin on her volunteer work experiences in Senegal;  
Geri Durbin on the Dead Sea Scrolls;  
Bernice Mennis on the importance of the Yiddish language; and  
Martin Wasserman on the connection between Zen sayings and the teachings of Martin Buber.  
Also, of course, there will be a program honoring Leonard Handen, the founder of the Temple Beth El Brotherhood.

When speakers decide on specific dates and times for their presentations, I will pass them along to you through announcements in the *Shofar* and/or by email messages. If you have any questions or comments pertaining to our Chai Society programs, please contact Martin Wasserman at 656-3053.

The yearly Chai Society dues which run from July 1 to June 30 are now being accepted. Checks should be payable to Temple Beth El Brotherhood for **\$18 per person** and should be mailed directly to Sanford Searleman, 12 Pollazzo Court, Queensbury, NY 12804.

## Meet the Rice Family

My great grandparents Vilma and Charles Gelman helped lay the cornerstone for the original building and "Nana Vilma" was there when the cornerstone for the addition was dedicated. Both my grandmothers, Elsa Rosoff and Lillian Leibman, and my grandfathers, Sidney Rosoff and Raymond Leibman, participated in services, served on the Board, were in the brother/sisterhoods and gave their time to better the building and its congregation. My father served as president and my mother is still a part of the ritual committee and one of the 'go-to people' when a challah needs to be baked.

My husband Dan and I are grateful to be back in Glens Falls. We spent five years away, four of them in Maui. Wherever we were I attended services and temple events. I was comfortable with the Jewish knowledge I received growing up within the walls of Beth El to sing and participate in services. On Maui I was able to learn from a modern orthodox rabbi. He taught me to question. He made me want to know the 'whys' behind what becomes so routine. I am very pleased to have Rabbi Durbin to study with when the time comes and to continue my questioning.

As for my family, I am an occupational therapist and Dan is a stay-at-home father who just happens to have his master's degree in education. In his words, he has a classroom of one. She is one lucky student. We are expecting our second daughter in late February; another in the Rosoff line will be named in front of our wonderful, thankfully, ever-growing congregation. I look forward to the years to come.

Sara Rice

## Tree of Life

Thank you to Erma and Philip Gordon. They are honoring their sons, Allan Gordon and Alan Schwartz, with leaves on our Tree of Life. Their contribution helps both our Tree of Life and our Temple to grow and prosper. For information on leaves for the Tree of Life, contact Barbara Rosoff, 792-1023 or barbnbob24@yahoo.com.



## Introduction to Judaism

About 4 years ago, I realized I had a strong and growing interest in Judaism. I began my quest to learn more about this religion by gathering books and searching the internet. As I rifled through page after page of information I thought to myself, this is not enough, I needed more. I needed more in the sense of experience. To read is one thing but to feel it is another.

I saw the advertisement for Introduction to Judaism in the newspaper. I thought this would definitely offer me more information, while keeping me busy during the long winter months in the North Country. I didn't know what to expect or really what I wanted to come of these classes. I just knew I was supposed to be there. As the classes began, I found myself looking forward to our Monday night group. I met a Rabbi who is very kind and patient and loves what he does and wants to share it with the world. I met a wonderful group of people who were all there for their own reasons, yet still with the same intent, to learn more about Judaism. I found that I would rush home to tell my kids all I had learned before they went to bed that night. As the weeks went on, I realized I wasn't just in it for the education anymore. It was more personal than that.

I loved everything that I was learning and in a strange way, I felt such a deep connection to it all. Maybe because of my Syrian roots and while growing up everything revolved around massive amounts of food and large family gatherings. Or maybe because somewhere on my mom's side a couple generations back they believe we were Jewish.

As the classes came to an end, I found myself disappointed. Sad actually. I loved going to these classes. Something about just being at the Temple also offered me a sense of peace. During our second to last class, my 14 year old son Lucas joined us. As the class ended, Rabbi Matt saw Lucas's interest and invited us to the Family Shabbat service that following Friday. My kids were excited to go and looked forward to it all week. Being our first Shabbat service we were a little nervous. As we entered the Temple, we were immediately welcomed and everyone was just wonderful. The whole evening was a great experience. As I watched my kids faces light up with the wonder of it all, I realized we will be back. We needed more.

Although the Introduction to Judaism classes have come to an end, my love for Judaism has not. I am now taking Beginner Hebrew classes with Rabbi Durbin and can already say the Hebrew Aleph-Bet!!!!

Wendy Abbott

## Meet the Nadler Family

My family and I would like to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves to everyone at Temple Beth El. I am Jennifer Nadler. My husband is Howard Nadler. We have two children, Zoe and Cooper. We are new members at the temple and are very pleased to be part of your community. Howard and I have been married for ten years and have lived in the area for eight years. Howard grew up in Long Island and I grew up in Warrensburg. We now call Lake George home. Our daughter Zoe is nine and in fourth grade at Lake George Elementary School. She is very active in dance. She dances in eight different dances at Bolton Dance Academy and loves every minute of it. Cooper, our son, is four and is in a pre-school program in Queensbury. He loves superheroes and playing with friends. We own and operate Adirondack Dream Homes located on Route 9 in Lake George. We are custom home builders and have over 5 communities in the area where we develop homes. Howard works for Marchon Eyewear located in Long Island and is an Executive Vice President. He oversees 60 sales representatives. I help in our business, am very active in Lake George School, and on the board at the World Awareness Children's Museum in Glens Falls. We look forward to meeting everyone at the temple. Jennifer Nadler

## Message from Lydia Adler

Dear Temple Family:

Thanks so much for the loving thoughts and support you have given me and Steve during the last several months. It has been a difficult time for us, but I know that the journey ahead will be made easier with all the positive vibes being sent our way. If you want to visit my web page, [www.caringbridge.org/visit/lydiaadler](http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/lydiaadler) will get you there.



## How To Light The Menorah

Kindling Channukah lights is the most important Channukah custom. Jews light Channukah candles to remember the miracle of the Maccabees' victory and the miracle of the oil that burned for eight days in the holy Temple. It is a *mitzvah* that Jews "publicize the miracle" by lighting a Channukah Menorah each night during the eight days of Channukah.

**What to Light:** Buy or make a Channukah Menorah. The Menorah should have eight candle holders in a row and a separate candle holder for the *Shamash*. The *Shamash* candle is used to light the other eight candles since it is forbidden to use the Channukah lights for any purpose other than viewing.

**Where to Light:** To best publicize the miracle, the Channukah Menorah is ideally lit outside the doorway of your house, on the left side when entering. If this is not practical, then the Menorah should be lit in a window facing the public thoroughfare. If the Menorah cannot be lit by the window, it may be lit inside the house on a table, which fulfills the mitzvah of "publicizing the miracle" for members of the household.

**When to Light:** The Menorah should preferably be lit immediately at nightfall. If necessary, however, the Menorah can be lit late into the night. It is best to wait until all members of the household are present to light the Menorah. The Menorah should remain lit for at least 30 minutes after nightfall. On Friday afternoon, the Menorah should be lit before sundown.

**How to Light on the First Night:** On the first night, place one candle in the Menorah's far right (as you face the Menorah) candle holder. Another candle is placed for the *Shamash* (helper candle). Say the below blessings and then light the candle using the *Shamash* candle.

**First Blessing to Recite:** *Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu Melech haolam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tsivanu l'hadlik ner shel Channukah.* Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, who hallows us with mitzvot, commanding us to kindle the Channukah lights.

**Second Blessing to Recite:** *Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, she-asah nisim laavoteinu v'imoteinu bayamim haheim baz'man hazeh.* Blessed are you, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, who performed wondrous deeds for our ancestors in days of old at this season.

**Third Blessing to Recite (only on the first night of Channukah):** *Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech Haolam, shehecheyanu v'kiy'manu v'higianu laz'man hazeh.* Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, for giving us life, for sustaining us, and for enabling us to reach this season.

**How to Light on the Second through Eighth Night:** The second night, place two candles in the Menorah's far right (as you face the Menorah) candle holders. Another candle is placed for the *Shamash* (helper candle). Say the first two blessings above and then light the candles using the *Shamash* candle. Light the left-most candle first and then light in order, from left to right. Follow this procedure for each night of Channukah.

**Hanerot Halalu:** While lighting the candles themselves, *\*Hanerot Halalu* is traditionally recited or sung. \*We light these lights for the miracles and the wonders, for the redemption and the battles that you made for our forefathers, in those days at this season, through your holy priests. During all eight days of Channukah, these lights are sacred and we are not permitted to make ordinary use of them, but only to look at them.

**Tips:** Sing *Maoz Tzur* and other Channukah songs together after lighting the Menorah. Play the dreidel game. Eat Channukah foods, like latkes, donuts or other fried foods. Enjoy!!

## Judaica Shop



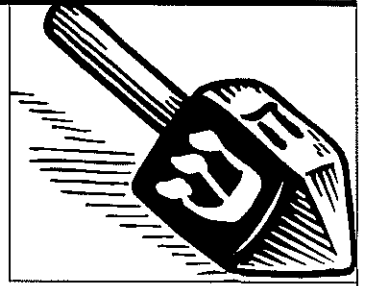
Time to think about *Channukah*! It will be here before you know it. Place your orders now for dreidels, gelt (chocolate coins), paper goods, new items, one of a kinds are here now.



Gift shop is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to noon, and Sunday mornings (11 a.m. to noon).

## How to Play Dreidel

Dreidel is a traditional game played by children during the eight day Channukah celebration. The dreidel is a 4-sided top of ancient origin. The Hebrew letters on the side are *nun*, *gimel*, *hay* and *shin*. They form an acronym (*Nes Gadol Hiya Sham*) in Hebrew which means "A great miracle happened there." This game is best played in groups of 4-6. Each player gets an equal number of items (candy, pennies, chips, stones, etc.) to use. Some people use a point system or pen and paper to play. Each person starts with the same amount of points. Each player takes turn spinning the dreidel.

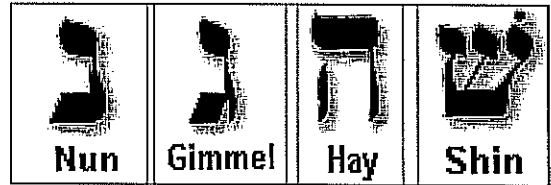


If it lands on *nun*, the player takes nothing and the next player spins.

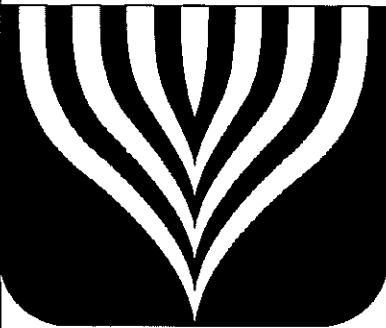
If it lands on *gimel*, the player takes all of the pot.

If it lands on *hay*, the player takes half of the pot.

If it lands on *shin*, the player puts a playing piece into the pot.



Each time the pot is emptied out, each player puts in a playing piece and the game continues. The winner can be determined by the person who has the most items or points at the end of a set time or when all the player but one have no more items to put in the pot.



# UNION FOR **MEMBER** REFORM JUDAISM

האיחוד ליהדות רפורמית

SERVING REFORM CONGREGATIONS IN NORTH AMERICA

## Temple Beth El is an Affiliate Member of the Union for Reform Judaism

The Reform Movement is the largest Jewish religious movement in North America, with 1.5 million Reform Jews and more than 900 congregations that are part of the Union for Reform Judaism. Although each congregation is autonomous and very individual in its programs, worship style, and culture, all are characterized by the same core values:

- \* A God-centered Judaism that combines respect for Jewish law and Jewish tradition with a progressive religious outlook designed to remain relevant and meaningful to contemporary North American Jews
- \* A commitment to Torah (lifelong Jewish learning), *Avodah* (worship of God through prayer and observance), and *G'milut Hasadim* (the pursuit of justice, peace, and deeds of loving kindness) – expressed in lifelong study of the sacred Jewish texts, creativity and spirituality in worship, and social action fulfilling the vision of the Prophets
- \* A commitment to *klal Yisrael*, the entirety of the Jewish people, with special focus on the people and the state of Israel, and on world Jewry, particularly on the needs of Progressive congregations everywhere
- \* A community-focused religion that honors the personal autonomy of the individual and the institutional autonomy of the congregation, within a framework of egalitarianism and inclusiveness



**DECEMBER 2009**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		<b>1</b> <b>11 a.m.</b> Intro to Midrash <b>5:30 p.m.</b> Beg. Hebrew	<b>2</b> <b>10 a.m.</b> Text Study <b>6 p.m.</b> Hebrew School at synagogue	<b>3</b> <b>2 p.m.</b> Int. Hebrew Study <b>7 p.m.</b> Doing Jewish	<b>4</b> <b>7 p.m.</b> Torah Service / Oneg hosted by the Lieberman Family ICO Molly's birthday!	<b>5</b> <b>10:30 a.m.</b> Torah Study <b>7 p.m.</b> Pizza & a Movie (A Stranger Among Us)
<b>6</b> <b>9:20 a.m.</b> Religious School	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <b>10 a.m.</b> Book Club Meeting ( <u>The Forger's Spell</u> ) <b>11 a.m.</b> Intro to Midrash <b>5:30 p.m.</b> Beg. Hebrew <b>7 p.m.</b> Ritual/Pulpit Committee Meeting	<b>9</b> <b>10 a.m.</b> Text Study <b>6 p.m.</b> Hebrew School at synagogue	<b>10</b> <b>2 p.m.</b> Int. Hebrew Study	<b>11</b> <b>7 p.m.</b> Service / Oneg hosted by David Coleman IMO Sharon Coleman  <b>1st Channukah Candle</b>	<b>12</b> <b>10:30 a.m.</b> Torah Study  <b>2nd Channukah Candle</b>
<b>13</b> <b>9:20 a.m.</b> Religious School Party  <b>3rd Channukah Candle</b>	<b>14</b> <b>4th Channukah Candle</b>	<b>15</b> <b>11 a.m.</b> Intro to Midrash <b>5:30 p.m.</b> Beg. Hebrew <b>7 p.m.</b> TBE Board Meeting <b>Shofar Deadline</b> <b>5th Channukah Candle</b>	<b>16</b> <b>6 p.m.</b> Hebrew School at synagogue  <b>6th Channukah Candle</b>	<b>17</b> <b>2 p.m.</b> Int. Hebrew Study  <b>7th Channukah Candle</b>	<b>18</b> <b>6 p.m.</b> Channukah Dinner <b>7 p.m.</b> Channukah Family Service / Oneg hosted by the Paige Family ICO Sade's 18th birthday <b>8th Channukah Candle</b>	<b>19</b> <b>10:30 a.m.</b> Torah Service
<b>20</b> <b>9:15 a.m.</b> Chai Society Breakfast (Dr. Robert Arnold) <b>9:20 a.m.</b> Religious School	<b>21</b>  <i>Rabbi Away</i>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>  <b>No Hebrew School</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <b>7 p.m.</b> Service / Oneg host to be announced <b>Temple Office Closed—Christmas</b>	<b>26</b> <b>No Torah Study</b>
<b>27</b> <b>No Religious School</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> <b>No Hebrew School</b>	<b>31</b> <b>New Years Eve</b>		



**JANUARY 2010 (Preliminary Calendar - subject to change)**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					<b>1</b> <b>7 p.m.</b> Shabbat Service / Oneg host to be announced <b>New Years Day</b>	<b>2</b> No Torah Study
<b>3</b> <b>No Religious School</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> <i>Rabbi Returns</i>	<b>7</b> <b>2 p.m.</b> Int. Hebrew Study	<b>8</b> <b>7 p.m.</b> Service / Oneg host to be announced	<b>9</b> <b>10:30 a.m.</b> Torah Study
<b>10</b> <b>9:20 a.m.</b> Religious School	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> <b>10 a.m.</b> Book Club Meeting (The Book Thief)  <b>7 p.m.</b> Ritual/Pulpit Committee Meeting	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <b>2 p.m.</b> Int. Hebrew Study	<b>15</b> <b>7 p.m.</b> Hebrew Naming Service / Oneg host to be announced	<b>16</b> <b>10:30 a.m.</b> Torah Study  <b>7 p.m.</b> Pizza & a movie (The Chosen)
<b>17</b> <b>No Religious School</b>	<b>18</b> <b>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> <b>2 p.m.</b> Int. Hebrew Study	<b>22</b> <b>7 p.m.</b> Service / Oneg host to be announced	<b>23</b> <b>10:30 a.m.</b> Torah Study
<b>24</b> <b>9:20 a.m.</b> Religious School	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> <b>7 p.m.</b> TBE Board Meeting	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <b>2 p.m.</b> Int. Hebrew Study	<b>29</b> <b>7 p.m.</b> Tu B'Shevat Service / Oneg host to be announced	<b>30</b> <b>10:30 a.m.</b> Torah Study <b>Tu B'Shevat</b>
<b>31</b> <b>9:20 a.m.</b> Religious School						





## Ritual/Pulpit Committee Update

Attending: Jack Hellman, Lois Hellman, Sandy Searleman, Barbara Rosoff, Judy Shepherd, Karen Marks, Florence Handen, Rabbi Matthew Durbin

1. Rabbi is planning to teach another "**Taste of Judaism**" class. It will run for three sessions and we will advertise as before. He is seeking funding to cover the cost.
2. There was a discussion about responding to the needs of all those who attend functions of the Temple. Our goal is **to make the Temple a welcoming place for all people** - members, friends, visitors and potential members. It is a challenge to balance all of these needs but it is important and we will strive to do so.
3. Channukah: The **Post Star** has approached Rabbi Durbin regarding a **feature article** about observing the holiday. Rabbi will arrange for several young people to be available for the interview and photo opportunity.
4. The Temple **Channukah dinner** will precede services on Friday, December 18th, the final night. The dinner will be catered but we will need volunteers to help set up and serve.
5. The **New Member service** will be on February 5, 2010. We will introduce and honor new members and invite them to participate in the service.
6. There will be a **Tu B'Shevat Service** on January 29th to observe the "New Year of the Trees."
7. **Yom Ha Shoah candles**. Sandy Searleman will oversee this project (to remember the Holocaust once more. The committee discussed ways to minimize cost and ensure that candles are available for all those who wish to receive them.
8. The **Purim Family Shabbat Dinner** will be Friday, February 26, 2010. Save the date.
9. The **Passover Seder** (second night) will be on March 30, 2010. As in the past the *Seder* will be catered. Volunteers are encouraged to work with the caterer and with those who have helped to organize in the past. Our goal is to have a festive *Seder* with a minimum amount of work. The inclusion of all generations in the Temple will help us to know one another better and to ensure the continuity of this most meaningful observance in our Temple.

Next Ritual & Pulpit Committee Meeting - December 8, 2009, 7 p.m.

### Torah Portions

#### December 5:

Gen. 32:4-36:43

Pr. Obadiah 1:1-21

#### December 12:

Gen. 33:1-40:23;

Num. 7:1-17

Pr. Zech. 2:14-4:7

#### December 19:

Gen. 4:1-44:17

Num. 7:54-8:4

Pr. I Kings 7:40-50

#### December 26:

Gen. 44:18-47:27

Pr. Ez. 37:15-28

### Book Club

Here is the list of the next few books that we will be reading:

December 08, 2009: The Forger's Spell by Edward Doinick

January 12, 2010: The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

All are welcome to join us at the Temple from 10 a.m. until noon.  
Happy reading to you all,

The Tuesday Morning Turning Points Book Club

### Temple Membership List

We plan to distribute an updated Temple membership list in the near future.

**If there are any changes in your address or phone number, or if you do not want all or some of your information publicized (ie, address, phone number, e-mail address, etc.), please notify Katie in the Temple office to let her know.**



## Temple Beth El History

[Following is an excerpt from the early history of Temple Beth El, written by Ella Cline. The second volume, "The Mansion of My Soul," covers the year 1926.]

So far we have continued all our activities and divine services on Friday evening through the summer. Whether we shall do so in the future remains to be seen.

In May Rabbi Parker completed his studies in the Jewish Institute of Religion. He had accepted an offer to minister to a congregation in New York city and was to leave us in September.

We shall always remember Rabbi Benjamin Parker kindly. During his first year with us our Temple was built. It will always remind us of him.

Rabbi David B. Alpert, a fourth year student in the Jewish Institute of Religion, was engaged to officiate for the High Holidays in September 1926 and to come every two weeks as the student-rabbis had done before. Rabbi Alpert proved to be a tireless worker and, as he was later referred to by Dr. Stephen S. Wise, a loyal Jew.

He was born and educated in Boston. He is a graduate of the Boston University Liberal Arts School and had studied one year in the Harvard Divinity School.

Friday evening, August 27, we had three rabbis in our Temple. Rabbi Parker, Rabbi Alpert, and one who had encouraged us since our beginning, Dr. Adolph Guttman, Rabbi Emeritus in Syracuse.

Our Temple was crowded that evening with worshipers who also came to bid farewell to Rabbi Parker and to welcome Rabbi Alpert. Dr. Guttman blessed us all with words that could come only from a great and loving soul. He blessed the young rabbis in their work and all of us with peace.

There was a reception after the services in the Home Room. This was arranged by the Honorary President of our Sisterhood, Mrs. Julius Jacobson.

Rabbi Alpert announced that he would remain in Glens Falls during September and until school opened in October. That he would have office hours in the Temple every morning that he was in town. That at present there would be services every Friday evening at eight and he would do his utmost in order to have services in the Temple every Friday evening through the winter, led by members of the congregation, if he could not come himself, or could not send another student-rabbi to take his place. The Religious School would meet Saturday morning as well as on Sunday morning and that there would be a Bible Class on Saturday evening for the adults.

## TSRS Update

One of my new initiatives for the religious school this year was the implementation of a mitzvah project for each class. I have asked each class to choose and perform their own volunteer projects to pursue during the year. I want our school to give back to the community and show the students that *tzedaka* means more than just money. The 4-5 class has chosen to collect children's winter hats, mittens, and books as a donation to the Glens Falls hospital. You will find donation boxes located in both the Temple and Synagogue. The students and I would appreciate your support in providing donations and spreading information about their project to other interested people in the community.

The TSRS family Chanukah celebration will be held during the morning of December 13<sup>th</sup>. The second half of our celebration will be Israeli dance instruction. We would like to open this experience up to the entire Jewish community. The instruction will be primarily geared towards our students, but the instructor is expecting there to be adults as well and fun will be had for all in attendance. There will be no fee for the event, but donations to the school are always appreciated. Further details will be provided as we get closer to the event.

I would like to thank Professor Phil Naftaly for coming into our school and discussing anti-Semitism with our 6-7 class. It was a very educational and important lesson for our students. I would also like to thank our music teacher, Debbie Friedman, who has been in twice already this year to teach music and sing with all of our students. It is always a pleasure to hear the students sing and see how much they enjoy the music classes.

*B'Shalom,* Adam Fine



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**Carol Wiener**

In memory of Jeannette Wiener Yaffee

**Jerry Starr**

High Holy Day Donation

**Dorothy Creager**

In memory of Herbert Creager and Ida Schwartz

**Ralph Leinoff**

Congrats to Rabbi Matt & Rose Durbin on their first anniversary. Only 69 more to go!

**Karen Marks**

In honor of Rabbi Matt & Rose Durbin's anniversary

**Ruth Heller**

In memory of Jay Agranov

**Ruth Heller**

In memory of Jean Yaffee

**Ruth Heller**

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**Irene Paltrowitz**

In loving memory of Madeline Bassin, beloved mother of Stephen Bassin

**Deena Gill**

In loving memory of father Bernard Grablow

**Ellie & Dick Krakower**

In honor of Ilene Kravitz's special birthday

**Adriane & Bob Sirkus**

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In memory of Wolf Greenman

**Barry & Susan Orenstein**

In memory of Jeannette Yaffee

**Sandy Terwilliger & Larry Silver**

In memory of Andrea Silver

**Judith Metzner Shepherd**

Welcoming new member, Bari Nisoff Mattison, in honor of Fred Fagelman and Sandy Searleman, and in honor of the birth of Max Sobel-Drum, grandson of Rabbi and Mrs. Dick Sobel

**David & Clair Gordon**

Building Renovation Fund

**Phyllis & Dan Brown**

In honor of Sandy Searleman and Fred Fagelman

**RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

**Friday Nite Tzadaka Box (Gilda & Mike Siegel)**

For your kind and caring ways!

**Albert J. Beson**

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**ENDOWMENT FUND**

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In memory of Madeline Bassin

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In memory of Hilda Siegel

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In honor of Fred Fagelman and Sandy Searleman

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In memory of Ann Daniels



### We Remember

Mourners Kaddish for the following individuals will be recited in Temple on the noted dates:

#### December 4

Anna Binns, Cerf J. Levy, Evelyn Lockwood, \*Jeanette C. Metzner, Matilda Schwartz, \*Leonard Seidel, Morris Shorr, \*Chester Sirkus, \*Mark Tracy, \*Ruth Wasserman, \*Alice Strauss Yaffee

#### December 11

\*Maxwell Bassock, \*Sharon Coleman, Samuel Frank, Emil Grossman, \*Dr. Sherman Lichtman, Ace A. Orange, \*Alec Howard Silverman, \*Joseph Tucker

#### December 18

\*Edward Brender, \*Reuben Cohen, \*Blossom Friedman, Blanche Gitel, Berdie Gladstone, \*Morris Hellenberg, Alfred Korner, Bert Kusserow, Aaron Mandel, Cecelia Hecht Marks, Henry Patack, Sander Steinberg

#### December 25

Herman Aronson, \*Walter Cohen, \*Jeanette Ginsburg Feller, \*Adolph Fonfa, Ella Friedman, Louis L. Ginsburg, Ruth Olson, \*Edith L. Pawel, Alvin Rudnick, Stephen Schulman, Annette Socher, \*Sandra Suckman  
*(\*name appears on yearzeit plaque in the sanctuary)*

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### December Oneg Hosts

#### December 4:

Lieberman Family in celebration of Molly's birthday!

#### December 11:

David Coleman in memory of Sharon Coleman

#### December 18:

Paige Family in celebration of Sade's 18th birthday!

#### December 25:

Host Needed

**Remember that there are still open dates that need hosts!! Sign up today!!**

#### Committees

Ritual/Pulpit Chair, Jack Hellman

Fundraising Chair, Mike Siegel

Cemetery Chair, Michael Seldel

Membership Chair, Lydia Adler

Personnel Chair, Kathy Naftaly

Musical Director, Diane Martin

*Rabbi Durbin and President Adler will be ex-officio members of all committees.*

#### The Shofar

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Co-Editor, Judith Metzner Shepherd

Administrative Assistant, Katie Weaver

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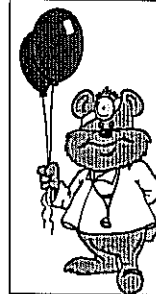


### Happy Birthday!

Naomi Marks (12/3), Robert Rosoff (12/4), Sonny Segan (12/5), Charles Searleman (12/10), Molly Lieberman (12/10 - 13 years old!), Lee Schwartz (12/10), Dick Sobel (12/10), Ana Bazan (12/13), Noah Hellman (12/15 - 13 years old!), Marcia Krantz (12/16), Jason Wodicka (12/20), Betty Gancher (12/21), Gail Waimon (12/23), Harlan Steuer (12/23), Joseph Bittman (12/23), Scott Segan (12/24), Travis Amengual (12/26), Victor Friedman (12/28), Jaclyn Adler (12/28), Helene Leopold (12/29)

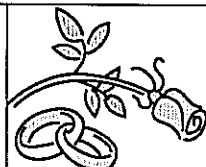
### Get Well Soon

Lydia Adler, Rabbi Jeffrey Ballon, Ronald Binns, Paul Cattabiani, Mia Corton, John Dessingue, Victor Friedman, Allan Gordon, Jacqueline Gordon, Mark Grunblatt, Mike Jucowics, Paula Knight, Joan Forrest Latz, Ellen Leibman, Linda Leinoff, Joan Livingston, Jan McBean, Irit Mendelsweig, Gilbert Metz, Gerald Miller, Sade Paige, Donnalee Peters, Dave Peyton, Edie Rudnick, Alan Schwartz, Sonny Segan, Ariel Sharon, Frank Sheridan, Helen Silverstein, Susan Shpeen, Allen Suckman, Jarod Winchell, Bertel Wolfe



### Happy Anniversary!

Elliott & Cory Heyman  
(12/24 - 7 years)



### Mazel Tov

To Ari Sobel and Christina Drum (and big sisters Zoe and Heather) on the birth of their son Max Jules Sobel-Drum on October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Max weighed 10 pounds 6 ounces. Paternal grandparents are Dick & Elaine Sobel and Judith Sobel. Maternal grandparents are John & Terry Drum.



### Welcome New Members!

Barry & Ami Goldstein

### Our Condolences

**Charles Wodicka**, husband of Pat Wodicka, father of Scott (and Camille) Wodicka, Jeffrey (and Neil) Castro, and Frank Wodicka, and grandfather of Jason (and Sylvia) Wodicka, Justin Wodicka, Todd Wodicka, and Laurie (and Jason) Wodicka-Laustrup, and great-grandfather of Louis Wodicka, passed away on Friday, November 20, 2009.

### Appreciation

- Thank you to Barbara Rosoff, Lois Hellman and Jack Hellman for cleaning out the Temple refrigerator after the High Holy Days.
- Thank you to Karen Marks, Judy Shepherd, and Lois Hellman for selling Bon Ton Coupon Booklets in the mall to raise money for Temple.
- Katie Weaver: Thank you - you are the epitome of prompt efficiency. Ralph Leinoff
- A huge thank you to Maxine Wasserman, Rachel Gartner and all of their helpers who put a lot of time and effort into making this year's rummage sale another huge success!
- Thank you to those who hosted Onegs in November: specifically, Ralph Leinoff and Maxine & Martin Wasserman.
- Thank you Allison Levin for organizing the family potluck and to all those who brought food to share or donated to defray costs.
- Thank you to the Mitzvah Plaque Committee (Steve Adler, Linda Friedman, Karen Marks, Barbara Rosoff, Steve Smoller, Dick and Elaine Sobel, and Katie Weaver) and Patrons (Lydia and Steve Adler, Mary and Norman Enhorning, Lois and Jack Hellman, Marcia and Howard Krantz, Eva and Ronald Pierce, Barbara and Robert Rosoff, Norman Schips, Judith Metzner Shepherd, and Steve Smoller) for helping make the dinner and ceremony for Fred Fagelman and Sandy Searleman a wonderful evening for all.



## PEDLARS FAIR – NOVEMBER 1, 2009

Thanks to all those who gave their time and efforts to make this a successful sale. We could not do this without your generous support and hard work.

Larry Silver

Helen Kraus

Peter LaGrasse

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Bari Mattison

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Elaine Sobel

George Conable

Lois Hellman

Gilda Siegel

Dave Coleman

Meta Pfeiffer

Norm Schips

Lynne Silverberg

Nancy and Fred Fagelman

Sandy Allen and Steve Smoller

Dale Tracy and Jerry Starr

Martin Wasserman

Leah Conklin

Sandy Katz

We want to thank the Alternative Sentencing Program of Washington County. They come and help us set up and return at the end of the sale to help us clean up. Our thanks go to this program and the dedicated people who work in it. We also want to thank Cathy Viele for her help.

Rachel Gartner and Maxine Wasserman

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Thank you, Dr. Friedman!

**Writing for *The Shofar*? Think Ahead!**

Writing something for *The Shofar*? REMEMBER YOUR DEADLINES. Articles and announcements for *The Shofar* should be sent to the Temple Administrative Assistant, Katie Weaver, well in advance of the desired publication date. The deadline for each issue (usually the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the preceding month) is shown on the Calendar page, but your article should arrive as early as possible. *The Shofar* is published before the first day of each month, and PUBLICATION WILL NOT BE DELAYED for late articles and announcements.

Remember: If your article will be timed to coincide with a holiday or event, you will want it to appear at least as early as the issue preceding the event. And if you are asking for volunteers, for reservations, or for advance ticket or merchandise purchases, your article or announcement may need to appear several months in advance. Even for something that is several months away, it is never too early to submit an announcement to get *The Shofar* readers to "save the date"!

The Editors welcome letters and other reader contributions. E-mail submission (tbegefny@gmail.com) is preferred. Submit your article as an e-mail message or as an attachment. If you lack internet access, you may deliver or mail your submission to the attention of Katie Weaver at Temple Beth El, 3 Marion Avenue, Glens Falls, NY 12801, to arrive prior to the deadline.

**The deadline for getting articles to Katie for the January issue of  
*The Shofar* is Tuesday, December 15th!**