



The February 2011 Shofar
 Temple Beth El, 3 Marion Avenue, Glens Falls, New York 12801
 (518) 792-4364 * tbegfny@gmail.com
 Affiliate member of the URJ since 1950

New Member Service

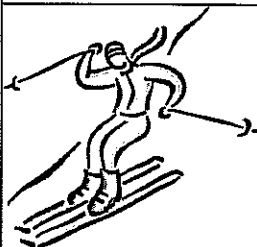
On Friday, February 11th, Temple Beth El will recognize new members who have joined the congregation in the past year.

There will be an Oneg following the 7 p.m. Shabbat Service.

This will be a good opportunity for you to meet our newer members and for them to get a sense of those who have been here for a longer period of time. Please make a special effort to come and welcome our relative "newcomers."

Thank you.

The Temple Board



Another Shabbat On The Slopes

Have you ever wanted to combine the love and thrill of skiing with Judaism ... carefree and surrounded by nature? If so, please join us on Saturday, February 26th at 5 p.m. at West Mountain where we will participate in a *Havdalah* service before dashing onto the slopes!

A minimum of 10 reservations with prepayment (\$35 for 4 hours) is required. If there are fewer than 10 reservations for any of these dates, we will have to cancel that event. So please do your part, invite your friends and family and phone or stop by the Temple office prior to February 15th to pay for and reserve your lift ticket.

These Shabbat events are wonderful and exciting with songs, prayer and the excitement of skiing.

Rabbi Durbin & Matt Levin



*Pizza & A Movie Night Sunday, February 13 at 4 p.m. Raid on Entebbe (1976)



Peter Finch, Charles Bronson and Yaphet Kotto star in this docudrama about the 1976 Israeli commando rescue of Jewish passengers of an Air France plane hijacked by Palestinian and German terrorists and forced to land at Uganda's Entebbe Airport. With time running out, Israeli officials devise a daring plan to end the tense standoff. Now, only precise execution will save lives as troops carry out one of the most successful military rescues in history.

Rated: NR (Not rated.)

We ask for a minimum donation of \$5 per person to help cover the cost of the pizza. Thank you!

***RSVP is required by Wednesday, February 9.**

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Rabbi's Message

We have been singing to God for at least 3,200 years if the song in the Torah portion of *B'shallach* is anything to go by. From the earliest times, music has been an integral form of Hebrew and Jewish worship, exclaiming God's power and majesty and expressing the human desire for transcendence and meaning. At the crucial moment of deliverance from the Egyptians pursuing them, the Israelites, first led by Moses and then by Miriam, broke out in song in thankfulness and joy. Moses' song (Exodus 15: 1-19), though scholars think now written by Miriam, is full of military victory and triumph reflecting a theology of the one God battling and overcoming an Egyptian god: No God can be like our God who can do such miraculous things. We take this line of poetry repeated in biblical parallelism '*Mi chamocho...*' and incorporate it into our *shacharit* prayers. Noting that the song is sung in the first-person singular, some pause before reciting it to recall those personal obstacles overcome through the week. Moses' song is then followed when Miriam the Prophetess takes up her timbrel and dances with the women. *V'ta'an lahem Miriam* (Exodus 15: 21) Miriam chants on their behalf expressing the praise for God that all feel at this moment of redemption.

Our Haftarah carries on this theme again with an ancient song ascribed to Deborah the Prophetess (Judges 5:1-31) who, together with Barak, sings aloud for the redemption of the People and in praise of a delivering God. It is not surprising that the Shabbat is aptly named *Shabbat Shirah* (Shabbat of Song). Tragically, this year that was the week in which our world renowned Reform Jewish composer and singer Debbie Friedman died at the age of 59, with much more of her music still within her. Debbie's compositions, however, have touched generations of Reform and Liberal Jews in all corners of the globe. She was able with her guitar, to express praise to God through her melodies in Hebrew and English, many of which were poetic interpretations of biblical verses and liturgical prayers. Whether it is Miriam's song or the Angels' song or *Mi Sheberach*, her attempts to contemporize ancient expressions of exaltation and jubilation enable all of us today to sing again a new song to God.

It is no coincidence that the ancient women who led us in song are described as prophetesses. The rabbis ask, what is it that Miriam prophesied while Deborah is noted for her judgments rather than her prophecy. For some, Debbie Friedman was 'just' a singer. What we learn from our *parasha* and *haftarah* is that redemption is sealed with our songs of praise. Too often the People complain or fear the miracles or the Revelation in the wilderness, but the moment of true appreciation, true understanding of God's role in history is when music enables the souls to reach pure exaltation and transcend body and mind. Prophets lead us in identifying and marking those moments for us as individuals and as a People. Maimonides understood prophecy as the ability to discern the divine elements in the universe distinct from the 'noise' of the everyday. The 'noise' is random and chaotic, but music joins sounds together in patterns, creating harmony and beauty that resonates with the soul's vibrations.

The prophetesses of Israel including Miriam, Deborah and Debbie Friedman singing to God and encouraging and enabling us to sing our ancient words with new meaning, bring us to an encounter with the Divine. The meaning we make of our lives is the work of redemption in order that we can affirm God's purpose for us and dedicate ourselves anew to the daily and weekly tasks of improving and repairing our world.

It is with a song that the world will be redeemed.
And the women dancing with their timbrels,
followed Miriam as she sang her song,
sing a song to the One whom we've exalted,
Miriam and the women danced and danced the whole night long
And Miriam was a weaver of unique variety
the tapestry she wove was one which sang our history.
With every strand and every thread she crafted her delight!
A woman touched with spirit, she dances toward the light

(Continued on page 3)



When Miriam stood upon the shores and gazed across the sea
the wonder of this miracle she soon came to believe.
Whoever thought the sea would part with an outstretched hand
and we would pass to freedom and march to the promised land!
And Miriam the prophet took her timbrel in her hand,
and all the women followed her just as she had planned,
and Miriam raised her voice in song-
She sang with praise and might
We've just lived through a miracle: We're going to dance tonight!!
(From the album Songs Of The Spirit: The Debbie Friedman Anthology)

Rabbi Matthew J. Durbin

President's Message

L'dor va dor... "from generation to generation."

That's what we witnessed on a snowy Friday evening when, at Shabbat services on January 7, Howard Serlin, age 97, and Benjamin, Olivia and Rebecca Steuer, age 3, received birthday blessings from Rabbi Durbin, were serenaded in Hebrew with "Happy Birthday," and ate pizza with family, friends and fellow worshippers who braved the snow to share the *Simcha*. The warm, family like atmosphere that evening is a re-affirmation that Temple Beth El, the building, is a home away from home, and that congregation Temple Beth El is an extended family.

Temple Beth El is also part of the greater Glens Falls civic community. On January 14 we celebrated a special Martin Luther King Shabbat service with invited guest Lee Braggs, and on January 15 we were "Comedy Central" for a while as the Improv Group showed off their talents for a fund-raiser for the Temple. Thank you, Jack, for your hard work in organizing it. And thanks to the Improv Group for the laughs.

So what's in store for February? Highlight February 11, 7 p.m. on your calendars. That's when we will honor Beth Kramer and Eric Reed; Mary Lehecka and David Lang; and Mark Fleisher, our new members. Welcome to our Temple family. We thank you for your support of Temple Beth El and for your commitment to Reform Judaism and its importance in the North Country. Of course, this special Shabbat service will be followed by an equally special Oneg. So please, start thinking of what you will contribute to it. And as you always do, check your Shofar calendar for all the events happening at Temple. While we're on the topic of Onegs, how about hosting one? I know, you always read this from me. But, there is something special about an Oneg Shabbat. It is a time for us to relax, sit, talk, and catch up on children and grandchildren, to get to know each other better, and to share in the warmth of Shabbat on a wintery night. Call Katie or me and let us know which date you would like to host your Oneg Shabbat. February 25 is already taken. Robert and I invite you all to Shabbat services and the Oneg in celebration of our wedding anniversary.

In January's Shofar, I asked you to contact me with comments, suggestions, ideas...anything that you think would help Temple spiritually, socially and financially.

My phone hasn't rung. With one exception (Thanks Katie, Tyler and Jonathan) I haven't heard the wonderful words "Need help". This forces me to invoke the ancient lamentation of our people: *You never call; you never write*. Or in the 21st century, you never call, write, e-mail, Skype, Facebook, Twitter or text...

Barbara Rosoff



10 Minutes of Torah

"Who among us is so busy that he cannot spend 10 minutes a day in the study of a Jewish text? Just 10 minutes? Such a commitment would enable us to meet our Jewish obligation to make Jewish study a fixed occurrence. If we make time to answer our cell phones a dozen times a day and to check our email five times an hour, surely we can find 10 minutes to contemplate sacred words that nourish the soul." Rabbi Eric Yoffie, November 8, 2003, 13 Cheshvan 5764.

The Union will send you a one-page e-mail each day on a topic of Jewish interest. All you need to do is find 10 minutes a day to "do Torah."

It only takes 10 minutes a day to get started on a lifelong journey. Spend 10 minutes a day – and before you know it you'll have completed 100 hours of Torah study!

WHO? Reform Jews committed to having Judaism inform their daily lives. Congregational officers, board members, committee chairs and adult learners are encouraged to participate.

WHAT? 10 minutes a day of personal connection to a Jewish text, issue or topic. Each day has a separate theme: Torah, Mishnah Day, Israel Connections, Delving into Liturgy, and Jewish World and Social Action. Select all five days or any combination.

HOW? Each weekday morning (Monday – Friday) an e-mail will be delivered to your inbox for you to study at your convenience.

The process is simple. You choose the time to study and the Union's Department of Lifelong Jewish Learning will provide the resources.

Sign up to receive 10 Minutes of Torah at: www.urj.org/learning/torah/ten.

Take your study of 10 Minutes of Torah to the next level by signing up for *Eilu V'eilu*.

Torah Portions

February 5

Ex. 25:1-27:19

Num. 28:9-15

Pr. Is 66:1-24

February 12

Ex. 27:20-30:10

Pr. Ez. 43:10-27

February 19

Ex. 30:11-34:35

Pr. I Kings 18:1-39

February 26

Ex. 35:1-38:20

Pr. I Kings 7:40-50

Book Club

Here is the list of books that we will be discussing in the upcoming months:

February 8, 2011: Cutting for Stone by Abraham Verghese

March 8, 2011: My Father's Paradise by Ariel Sabar

April 12, 2011: As A Driven Leaf by Milton Steinberg and Chaim Potok

Don't forget, we meet the second Tuesday of the month at 10 a.m. at the Temple. All are welcome and happy reading!

Karen Marks

Martin Wasserman's New Chapbook

We were pleased to receive and read *The Confucian Wisdom of Franz Kafka (with Introduction and Translations by Martin Wasserman.)* In 18 pages the reader can enjoy the thinking of Confucius and Kafka through the poetic and translation gifts of Temple's own Martin Wasserman. Our appreciation goes out to Martin.

Jack & Lois Hellman

Get Well Soon

Rabbi Jeffrey Ballon, Ronald Binns, Sheldon Binns, Paul Cattabiani, Mia Corton, John Dessingue, Caryl Doe, Elaine Faller, Victor Friedman, Dawn Gideon, U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, Gayle Goldstein, Jacqueline Gordon, Mark Grunblatt, Lina Hellman, James Hipp, Mike Jucowics, Shirley Kanofsky, Jack Kornblum, Gay Katz, Walt Kendall, Paula Knight, Leonard Meyers, Linda Miller, Karen Muller, Howard Nadler, Rabbi David Novak, Tom O'Brien, Paul Offricht, Jessica Panebianco, Dave Peyton, Edie Rudnick, Bob Savarin, Alan Schwartzer, Sonny Segan, Frank Sheridan, Ann Silk, Walter Stern, Alfred Supe, Judy Supe, Robbie Wedge, Carol Wells, Jarod Winchell, Bertel Wolfe



FEBRUARY 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	*SAT
		1	2 6 p.m. TSRS at Synagogue	3	4 7 p.m. Family Service / Oneg	5 <i>Rabbi Away</i>
6 9:30 a.m. TSRS at Temple	7	8 10 a.m. Book Club Meeting (Cutting for Stone by Abraham Verghese) 4 p.m. Ritual / Pulpit Committee Meeting	9 6 p.m. TSRS at Synagogue <i>Rabbi Returns</i>	10	11 7 p.m. New Member Service / Oneg <i>Rededication of Sanctuary and Home Room</i>	12 10:30 a.m. Torah Service <i>Lincoln's Birthday</i>
13 9:30 a.m. TSRS at Temple 4 p.m. Pizza and a Movie (<u>Raid on Entebbe</u>)	14	15 Shofar Deadline Reserva- tion Deadline for Shabbat on the Slopes	16 6 p.m. TSRS at Synagogue	17	18 7 p.m. Shabbat Service / Oneg	19 10:30 a.m. Tot Shabbat
20 No TSRS	21 <i>Presidents' Day</i>	22 7 p.m. Temple Board Meeting <i>Washing- ton's Birth- day</i>	23	24	25 7 p.m. Torah Service / Oneg hosted by the Rosoff Family	26 5 p.m. <i>Havdalah on the Slopes</i>
27 No TSRS	28					

*Saturday Services: Unless noted otherwise, there will be a *Shabbat* Service and Torah Study every Saturday. When a "Torah Service" is scheduled, the Torah will be removed from the Ark, we will read from the Torah and one or more Individuals will be called to the Torah for an Aliyah.

**MARCH 2011**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	*SAT
		1	2 6 p.m. TSRS at Synagogue	3	4 7 p.m. Family Service / Oneg hosted by Jack & Lois Hellman ICO Jack's birthday	5 10:30 a.m. Torah Service
6 9:30 a.m. TSRS at Temple 12 p.m. Community Luncheon	7	8 10 a.m. Book Club Meeting (My Father's Paradise by Ariel Sabar) 4 p.m. Ritual / Pulpit Committee Meeting Reserva- tion Deadline for Shabbat on the Slopes	9 6 p.m. TSRS at Synagogue	10	11 7 p.m. Shabbat Service	12 10:30 a.m. Tot Shabbat
13 9:30 a.m. TSRS at Temple	14	15 Shofar Deadline	16 6 p.m. TSRS at Synagogue	17	18 7 p.m. Shabbat Service	19 11 a.m. Shabbat on the Slopes
20 TSRS Family Purim Carnival	21	22 7 p.m. Temple Board Meeting	23 6 p.m. TSRS at Synagogue	24	25 7 p.m. Torah Service	26 10:30 a.m. Torah Study
27 9:30 a.m. TSRS at Temple	28	29	30 6 p.m. TSRS at Synagogue	31		

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In memory of Babette and Henry Metzner

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In appreciation of Temple Beth El's hospitality

Bonnie Yanklowitz

In loving memory of her cousin, Eileen Slawsby

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

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In memory of Herbert Goldstein

Dr. Richard & Jane Reisman

In honor of Rabbi Durbin and his contributions to our Temple community

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In memory of Vilma & Charles Gelman and Jeanette & Herman Metzner

CEMETERY FUND

Dr. Carol Suitor

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Ruth Lichtman

In memory of Dr. Sherman Lichtman

Tree of Life

In January, I took a car full of Dick's books to a Day School in Albany. The Librarian at the school was thrilled to get the books and I was thrilled to get them someplace where they will be used and loved. To thank Martha Searleman and Maxine Wasserman for all the time they have spent helping me organize the books, I have purchased leaves on the Tree of Life in honor of their granddaughters, Layla Rane McDonnell and Sasha Rae Rubenstein. People do wonderful things for us every day - acknowledge their support by purchasing a leaf at the temple. For only \$25 you can connect them with the history and the future of Temple Beth El.

Elaine Sobel

LEAH CONKLIN

Mazel Tov to Leah Conklin! Leah has been honored by the New York State Office for the Aging at their Annual Celebration of Senior Citizens at the Executive Mansion in Albany. Leah is also a dedicated and willing volunteer at Temple Beth El, participating as frequently as she is able.

The citation states: "Leah is an 80 year old "Dynamo-On-Wheels" and has been volunteering for over 15 years at the community center. She logged in 127½ RSVP hours for 2009. Leah works at the Great Escape from May-October every year, but manages to fit volunteerism into her hectic schedule. Leah is a regular Home-Delivered meals driver and a regular volunteer at the congregational meal site, serving hundreds of meals a year. Once a month, she distributes "Extra Helpings" (food co-op buying program) at the Center. She helps in the Food Pantry organizing the food and restocking the shelves. Every month she helps assemble 3,000 senior newsletters. She also helps label the 7,000 Center's "Connection" newsletters that are mailed out three times a year. Leah has spent hours sitting at local nursing homes selling May baskets for the Center's Senior Program fundraiser every year. She is also very involved with her church and helps them organize a big rummage sale once a year. She personally checks on some homebound (with no relatives) by calling them every day." (New York State Office for the Aging)



We Remember

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

February 4

*Louis E. Brown, *Max Burick, Rose Charnow, *Sadie Esner, *Charles Ginsburg, Rita Housman, *Abraham Kohn, *Samuel T. Kohn, David Krantz, Matthew Markowitz, Hyman Proller, Robert Siegel, *Samuel Slater

February 11

Sadie Barondess, Edward Buyer, Guglielmo D'Amico, Louis Feigenbaum, *Anna Maslon, *Babette Metzner, George Pfeiffer, *Rose Sollosy Rabhan, Nathan Rosoff, Faye Schlesinger, Phillip Stogel, *Isidore Winer, *Beulah S. Yanklowitz

February 18

Mollie Bourstein, Gussie Gordon, Helen Levin, Donald Levy, *Emanuel Pawel, *Henry Pawel, Saul Silverstein, Philip Sovetts, Marcia Siegel Tanzman, Etta Wein

February 25

*Sharon Barclay, Alan Bessen, Peggy Chanis, *Sophia Cline, Isadore Cohen, David Gancher, Saul Goldfarb, Otto Heller, *Dr. Abraham Reed, Melvina Wieder

*(*name appears on yahrzeit plaque in the sanctuary)*

Condolences

Robert Aronson passed away on Friday, December 31, 2010 at the age of 78. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Joan; their daughter, Ruth (Michael) Schulman and grandson, Zachary; son, Jack and grandchildren Jason and Lindsey; sisters: Miriam (Howard) Hirsch, Sunny (Paul) Buchman, and Barbara (Barry) Ziff; brother-in-law, William (Paula) Ginsburg.

Linda Leinoff passed away on Thursday, January 13, 2011 at the age of 58. She is survived by her parents, and by her father-in-law and Temple member, Ralph Leinoff, her husband, Stuart, and her two children, Michael and Craig.

Mannie Lieberman passed away on Friday, January 14, 2011 at the age of 86. He is survived by his beloved wife of 67 years, Anita Zlochover Lieberman, and his devoted children, Bill Lieberman (Rita Jones), Temple Beth El's David (Susan) Lieberman, and Wendy (Greg) Pyle. Cherished grandfather of Jeremy, Devin and Zachary Pyle and Temple's Molly Lieberman. Great-grandfather of Emily and Jacob Pyle.

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President: Barbara Rosoff

Vice President: Jack Hellman

Co-Treasurers: Karen Marks & Ami Goldstein

Recording Secretary: Kathy Naftaly

Immediate Past President: Stephen Adler

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Cemetery Chair, Michael Seidel

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House Chair, Larry Silver

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President, Ellen Katz

Director, Adam Fine

Temple Board Members: Elissa Eichin, Linda Friedman, Ellen Katz, David Lieberman, Jennifer Nadler

Synagogue Board Members: Ben Cohen, Mitchell Cohen, Melissa Korot, Dolly Morrissey, Bonnie Yanklowitz

Rabbi Durbin and President Barbara Rosoff will be ex-officio members of all committees.



Temple Beth El History

[Following is an excerpt from the early history of Temple Beth El, written by Ella Cline. "Tree of Life" is the chapter for 1928-1929.]

Soon our loyalty to Reform Judaism was put to a stern test. Rabbi Eppstein was to be graduated from the Jewish Institute of Religion in May, and would doubtless go to a larger congregation. Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Bronne, who had been active and very helpful in establishing Beth El, were leaving Glens Falls to travel indefinitely. Mr. and Mrs. Pickard were leaving town – Mr. and Mrs. Julius Erlanger had left town; a lessening membership was threatening to close the doors of our Temple within whose walls we found sanctuary and peace.

A special meeting of the congregation was called for May 27. It was then decided to make a tentative budget of unavoidable expenses for the coming year and to meet again on June 10 for election of officers and further consideration of the threatening situation. There was some talk of having no rabbi at all for the coming year.

Meanwhile the Sisterhood met in May and held its annual election of officers, having decided to hold its election in May instead of September. With a few exceptions, all the officers willingly consented to serve another term. Plans were discussed for earning money in various ways. There was praise for members turning in their ten-dollar pledges promptly. The picnic for the religious school was left in charge of Mrs. Nathan Marcus, the new chairman of the religious school committee.

When the congregation met again on June 10 the outlook was still far from cheerful. The unavoidable, fixed expenses for the coming year, if a salary for a student-rabbi was included, were greatly in excess of the probable income. And even if we could manage the salary for a student-rabbi every other week, our congregation was already past the first experimental stages, and a student-rabbi coming every other week, no matter how capable, would prove sadly inadequate. Yet the prospect of no rabbi at all was even less pleasing. The members of older standing promised to donate as liberally as before, many of the new members doubled their previous donations – and still the sum was less than the required amount.

Nevertheless it was of the utmost importance to continue as an active, living, effective, Jewish congregation and, regardless of our crippled finances, we decided to continue with a student-rabbi. Correspondence was begun with the Jewish Institute of Religion in New York about sending us a rabbi for the coming year.

Their friendliness and understanding of our dilemma was most encouraging! We received a letter from them later that a student-rabbi would come to Glens Falls every weekend, regardless of the amount we were able to pay.

At this meeting Byron Jacobson was unanimously elected president of Beth El, a worthy successor to his sainted father. Max Weiner and Charles Schulman were elected to serve on the Board of Trustees; Daniel Fried was elected recording secretary. All other officers were re-elected.

Relieved that the danger of closed doors had been averted for the coming year at least, we attended with light hearts the Confirmation exercises on June 14. Jean Fried and John Sidur were confirmed. They were presented with Bibles by Mrs. Jacobson, gifts from the Sisterhood. That Friday evening the organ that had recently been installed in the choir room was heard in the Temple the first time for services. The acquisition of the organ was made possible by the generous gift of Adolph Ochs and donations from other members of the congregation.

During the reception that followed the Confirmation Rabbi Eppstein was presented a purse of gold by Byron Jacobson as a farewell gift from the congregation.

Rabbi Eppstein, Max Cline, Miss Edith Weiner and Miss Harriet Maslon had taught classes during the year in the religious school.



Happy Birthday!

Denise Jackson (2/3), Beth McDonnell (2/5), Elizabeth Solomon (2/9), Dale Tracy (2/11), Tammy Kafin Taylor (2/12), Louise Binns (2/14), Joyce Yaffee (2/15), Samuel Marks (2/16 - 9 years old!), Lisa DeLuca (2/17), Don Schwartz (2/17), Jonah Levin (2/18 - 6 years old!), Kathy Naftaly (2/19), Mitch Corton (2/20), Charles Waimon (2/22), Jonathan Nemer (2/23), Mattea Rice (2/26 - 1 year old!), Jared Brender (2/26), Deena Gill (2/27)

Happy Anniversary!

Mike & Gilda Siegel (2/9 - 59 years!)
Dan & Phyllis Brown (2/13 - 23 years!)
Bob & Barbara Rosoff (2/20 - 39 years!)

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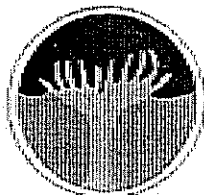
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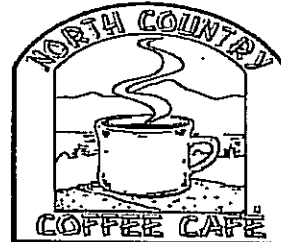
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The Shofar

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Writing for *The Shofar*? Think Ahead!
The deadline for getting articles to Katie for the March issue of
***The Shofar* is Tuesday, February 15th!**

TSRS Update

Everything has been running very smoothly through the first half of the school year, and I am looking forward to the second half. Progress reports were sent home for each student at the end of December. We have a file on each student in the office, and it is my intention to keep adding to those files every year. By the time a student finishes studying in the religious school, we should have a written record of everything that they have learned over the years. This will be a fantastic resource and will help to hold everyone accountable for our religious education.

I am always looking for people with a specific expertise, interest, or hobby that they would like to share with our students. If you or anyone you know has something that they would like to share with our students please contact me. Utilizing our entire Jewish community can only help the Jewish education of our students.

Due to the holiday schedule at this time of year, we have several Sundays off from school over the next two months. Our next upcoming event is the annual Purim carnival on the morning of March 20th. The carnival will be held, as always, in the Synagogue.

B'Shalom

Adam Fine

TSRS Director