



Temple Beth Israel

A vibrant Jewish community.

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Shabbat Services

SHABBAT **Friday Evening, February 3***

5:30 P.M. – Likrat Shabbat

See box below for contributors

6:15 P.M. – Kabbalat Shabbat

February Birthday Blessings

SHABBAT **Saturday Morning, February 4 at 10:30 A.M.**

Shabbat Shirah

Torah Portion “Beshalach”

SHABBAT **Friday Evening, February 10 at 8:15 P.M.**

6:00 P.M. – Shalom Shabbat

SHABBAT **Saturday Morning, February 11 at 10:30 A.M.**

Torah Portion “Yitro”

SHABBAT **Friday Evening, February 17***

5:30 P.M. – Likrat Shabbat

6:15 P.M. – Kabbalat Shabbat

7:30 P.M. – Brotherhood Dinner

SHABBAT **Saturday Morning, February 18 at 10:30 A.M.**

Shabbat Shekalim

Torah Portion “Mishpatim”

SHABBAT **Friday Evening, February 24 at 8:15 P.M.**

Shabbat Services with Koleynu

Commemoration of the Yahrzeits of

Rabbi Emeritus, Rabbi Ernst M. Lorge^{z”l} and

Founding Rabbi, Rabbi S. Felix Mendelsohn^{z”l}

SHABBAT **Saturday Morning, February 25 at 10:30 A.M.**

Torah Portion “Terumah”

SHABBAT **Friday Evening, March 2***

5:30 P.M. – Likrat Shabbat

6:15 P.M. – Kabbalat Shabbat

March Birthday Blessings

SHABBAT **Saturday Morning, March 3 at 10:30 A.M.**

Shabbat Zachor

Torah Portion “Tetzaveh”



Rabbi's Column

I hope that you will come to brunch here at TBI on Sunday March 4th. Of course, coming together with fellow TBI members is a great opportunity for camaraderie and stimulating conversation – especially over a nice meal and a hot cup of coffee - and especially when it only costs \$5 per person. And this brunch is no exception; it will offer both good food and good

conversation...and more.

First, I am excited to tell you that our guest speaker will be renowned author Peter Orner. The New York Times writes:

Peter Orner is the publishing equivalent of a character actor...Since his debut collection, *Esther Stories*, was published in 2001 to rave reviews, he has continued to rack up plaudits: a Guggenheim fellowship, two Pushcart Prizes, and space in esteemed publications like *Granta*, *The Atlantic* and *Ploughshares*. He has also done two oral histories for McSweeney's *Voice of Witness* series. Harper's called *Hope Deferred*, his 2010 book about life in Zimbabwe, one of the most important books about that country in 30 years.

For the past eight years, he has taught mostly graduate-level writing at San Francisco State University. His newest book: *Love and Shame and Love*, was recently designated Editor's Choice in the *New York Times Sunday Book Review*.

Second, this brunch is an opportunity to learn about and support the good work of the Jewish United Fund of Metropolitan Chicago. Whether it is in the neighborhoods of Chicago, or the rebuilding Jewish communities in Eastern Europe, or the immigrant communities in Israel, JUF is there on the front lines initiating new projects, supporting ongoing successes and, in many ways, working toward the betterment of our world. At our March 4th JUF Brunch I will have the honor of sharing with you some specific examples of the depth and breadth of JUF's reach. I think that you will be impressed and moved. Of course, you will be given the opportunity to join me in supporting JUF financially but all requests for financial support are private and unpressured.

If you can't find the formal invitation in your mailbox, don't worry! You can reserve a place at the brunch simply by calling the Temple office. Good food, stimulating conversation, an engaging speaker and a worthy cause – all for only \$5 and less than two hours of your time. Won't you please join me?

LIK RAT SHABBAT

Thank you to the following people who have made donations for the Likrat Shabbat on February 3 in honor of their **February** birthdays: Bob Agdern, Jean Freeman, Chuck Gryll, and Rachel Willens.

We also thank David Rubin who donated in honor of his birthday in **January**.

*Please note time

IN THE TEMPLE FAMILY

MAZEL TOV TO:

Faye and Arnie Oskin on the engagement of their daughter, Sarah, to Max Zepirinsky.

Nancy and Joel Goodman, on the engagement of their daughter, Julie, to Andrew Thompson.

Marianna Tax Choldin on her receipt of the 2011 Robert B. Downs Intellectual Freedom Award. This award is given by the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

ON THE ROAD TO RECOVERY

The following Temple members are recovering from recent illness injury or surgery: *Darius Zakeri, Ilene Klegon, Jordan Heinrich, Janet Lerner, Joan Hakimi, Clarisse Irwin, Helene Steen and Ellen Mosak*. We wish all our patients a speedy recovery.

CONDOLENCES

We note with sorrow the passing of Rosa Paloma de Herrera, mother of *Maria Goldstein*; Rita Farber, mother of *Jacob Farber*; Leonard Kessler, father of *Anna Cordeiro*; and Daniel Brown, father of *Lynn Herzog*. May their memories be a blessing.

IN MEMORIAM

Temple Beth Israel announces with profound sorrow the passing of
IRA ZEIDMAN
May his memory be a blessing

IN MEMORIAM

Temple Beth Israel announces with profound sorrow the passing of
RUTH ROTH
Beloved mother of Cynthia Roth-Garfield
May her memory be a blessing

IN MEMORIAM

Temple Beth Israel announces with profound sorrow the passing of
ARTHUR GARTZMAN
Beloved husband of Joyce Gartzman
May his memory be a blessing

IN MEMORIAM

Temple Beth Israel announces with profound sorrow the passing of
ROBERT MORTON
Beloved husband of Rita Morton
Beloved father of Steve (Nehama) Morton
May his memory be a blessing

IN MEMORIAM

Temple Beth Israel announces with profound sorrow the passing of
LESTER JAMESON
May his memory be a blessing

IN MEMORIAM

Temple Beth Israel announces with profound sorrow the passing of
ANNE P. LEVINE
Beloved wife of Sidney Levine
Beloved mother of Harold (Sharon) Levine
May her memory be a blessing

FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Lory Merritt

THE OPPOSITE OF ENTITLEMENT

Entitlement may not be a bad thing. In sports, an infraction of one team allows the other team a reward that is intended to, literally, level the playing field or even the score. If your team is losing, being entitled to profit from the penalty charged against the other team may make the difference between going home a winner or leaving as a loser.

In the case of our legal system, entitlement may mean going to a civil court if the federal court's decision didn't bring satisfaction. Lose and, under some circumstances, you could still win.

Now, just because entitlement (or the fear of giving your opponent some entitlement) may work on the playing field or in a court of law, it may not make entitlement a favorable attribute for daily living. Can you picture the person who demands something because they think they're justified to have it, at any cost? How does that person make you feel when you're around him? How do you feel when you feel entitled? Once you work past the anger, upset, and self serving, you just might discover it's one of the things that separates people - a me vs. you mentality.

I'm hoping you'll be willing to try an experiment: The next time your body's response system plays its entitlement card, consider that the opposite of entitlement to something is to receive a gift of that thing. It's not for us to decide that we're deserving of a gift; it's up to someone else. Receiving an unexpected gift is humbling. Certainly it creates "us" in constant relationship as opposed to me/you. I've thought about this a lot: most of what we think we're entitled to can be reframed as one's receiving a gift. Let me know what you think about this and if receiving a few gifts everyday builds momentum for your life's work.

שתהיו מאושרים ובריאים

May you be happy and healthy.

ADDITIONS TO THE MEMORIAL WALL

The following Plaques have been installed on our Memorial Wall by their loved ones:

EVELYN SATYR	by Marcia & Ira Satyr
IRENE FRIEDLIEB	by Iris & James Friedlieb
WALTER FRIEDLIEB	by Iris & James Friedlieb
ANNA P. EDELSON	by Judy & Steve Decker and Joanne & Steve Edelson
MARY I. OPPENHEIM	by Irv Oppenheim
SYLVIA LEVEN	by Mina Rose
RUTH LIEBERMAN	by Dale Meliker
LARRY FINK	by Sara & Billy Belkov
SARAH PERLMAN	by self
HAROLD FLEISHMAN	by Lee Emmett and Harris Fleishman
SAMUEL BROWNSTEIN	by Linn Ullenbrauck and Pat Brownstein
RHODA KATZMAN	by Marshall Katzman

CONGREGATIONAL THANKS

Many thanks to all of the wonderful people who helped to make the December 16th Likrat Shabbat so very special. We truly appreciate all your hard work, time and effort. You made the evening honoring our grandson, Dylan, very special and memorable.

Madelon and Chuck Gryll

Thank you to my TBI family for all of their care and support over the past couple of months. Your cards, donations., the iPad, calls, good wishes, are all powerful medicine. I am so very appreciative of everything you have done for me. Thank you.

Betsy Rotberg

On behalf of the family of Ruth Roth, I wish to thank the many individuals at TBI who reached out to us with prayers, thoughtfulness and compassion at this difficult time. I truly appreciate the kindness of the TBI community upon losing my beloved mother. Thank you so much.

Cynthia Roth-Garfield

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF CONGREGATIONAL LEARNING

I write this as I prepare to send Benji to Israel for the first time. It is, for me, as significant a Jewish milestone as a brit or Bar Mitzvah, and I believe, in many ways, is more long-lasting. (Well, I guess not longer-lasting than the brit!)

I am aware that my feelings are not shared universally, but I believe that getting your children to Israel is, next to a strong Jewish education, a strong Jewishly-infused home, and a Jewish summer camp experience, the most important thing you can do to insure Jewish identity. I also believe that this is the job of Jewish parents.

My goal is to make my children ineligible for Birthright which, by many accounts, may not be around when Benji would be old enough to participate. It is my obligation as a Jewish parent to take my child to Israel or provide the framework for him to get there with his peers.

This is a commitment and one I am willing to make. This is a sacrifice and one I am willing to make. I am willing to do this because I know what an Israel experience did for me and what it did for my husband and for my daughter and for the hundreds, if not thousands, of teens I have encouraged to go to Israel throughout my life. There is, simply put, nothing like it.

Over the course of winter break, a friend of Eliana's came to visit immediately upon returning from her Israel trip. She told Eliana "now I get it." Our job is to help our children "get it." Get what being a part of this Jewish world means. Get that they have a homeland that is different than their American homeland. Get that being a part of this world Jewish community is, simply put, the most important Jewish lesson we can teach them. Once they "get it," the rest just flows.

Israel must be a priority for this generation who has had the luxury of never knowing a time when the modern state did not exist. Israel must be a priority to insure engagement with Israel for future generations of Diaspora Jews. I urge you to put Israel travel on your family agenda.

The TBI Israel trip leaves in June of 2012. I hope you can join in the fun!
B'shalom,

Lori B. Sagarin

LORI'S BOOK GROUP

Lori's Book Group continues in February. We continue this year on Sunday morning at 11:00 a.m. in the Cohn Library. The remaining books this season are:

February 26 *Wherever You Go*
by Joan Leegant

March 18 *Mr. Rosenbloom Dreams in English*
by Natasha Solomons



VISIT OUR LIBRARY

Next time you are in the building, take a moment to visit the Cohn Library on our lower level. We have a wonderful and well-organized collection thanks to the hard work of Barbara Agdern, Judith Simon and Minna Einhorn and our library committee. Spend a little time browsing, and then stop in the office to check out your selections. You'll be glad you did!

THE GREEN CORNER SAVING HEAT



There's good news and bad news if you're a homeowner who's bracing yourself for the annual rise in winter heating costs. The bill won't hurt more this year, but it won't hurt much less. The Energy Information Administration forecasts that the average household heating fuel cost this winter will decrease to \$928 per household, down from \$947 last year. This is the first price drop since the winter of 2001-2002. If you hope to save more than the projected \$19, there are many steps you can take. This month, we will address no-cost options and next month we will discuss low-cost ways to save heat.

Turn down the thermostat. The rule of thumb is that you can save about 3% on your heating bill for every degree that you set back your thermostat full time. Turn down the thermostat 10 degrees when you go to work, and again when you go to bed - a total of 16 hours a day - and you can save about 14% on your heating bill.

Use fans wisely. In just one hour, a bathroom or kitchen fan can expel a houseful of warm air. Turn them off as soon as they've done their job.

Keep the fireplace damper closed. Heat rises and an open damper is like a hole in the roof. Also, limit use of the fireplace, since fires actually suck heat from a room.

Turn down the water heater. Lowering the temperature of water in the water heater to 115-120 degrees reduces power use often without a noticeable difference to the user.

Keep heating vents clear. Vents blocked by rugs and furniture prevent heated air from circulating efficiently.

Use curtains. Opening curtains and shades on south-facing windows during the day allows solar radiation to warm a living space; closing all curtains at night helps prevent the escape of that heat.

FROM THE EDITOR

Reminder: Material for the bulletin is due electronically to Barbara Seaver at BarbaraTBI@aol.com on the 10th of the month prior to publication. If you do not have access to a computer, please submit paper copy to the Temple office by the 7th of the month prior to publication so that it can be transcribed and sent by the 10th. The deadline for the March bulletin is February 10.



SIGNS, SIGNS, SIGNS!

Our TBI program schedule is busy, and we produce many flyers and signs to publicize events. Please check with Carolyn Kraus in the TBI office (carolyntbi@yahoo.com) to find out where and how to hang your sign. Signs posted without prior authorization may be removed.

ADULT EDUCATION LIVING A LIFE THAT MATTERS



SUNDAY MORNING ETHICS SYMPOSIA
February 5, 2012 10:30 a.m. **Political Ethics**

Join us as we strive to understand what it means to act ethically in politics and why it matters. As we head into a new round of national and local elections, our panel will explore ethical issues in the development of policy and law and will look at campaign finance as it impacts lawmakers' work.

This discussion will be moderated by Michael M. Lorge with a panel that will include Cook County Commissioner Larry Sufferdin and Illinois State Representative Daniel Biss.

SPRING MONDAY NIGHT ADULT EDUCATION

We are pleased to welcome Rabbi Nina Mizrahi, Director of JCC's Chicago Pritzker Center for Jewish Education, who will speak to us on the subject of *Grounding Our Ethics through the Practices of Anavah/Humility and Kavod (Honor, Respect, Preserve Dignity)*.

During the course of our four sessions we will explore how honor and humility ground us ethically and prepare us to fulfill holy obligations such as: *Kibud av va'eim* – Honor your father and mother; *K'vod ha-briyot* – Honor all of creation; *K'vod Shabbat* – Honor the experience of Being in God's Universe; *V'ahavta l'rei'echa kamocho* – loving your neighbor as yourself; *K'vod atzmi* – loving ourselves by honoring the Divine within; and *Ahavat ha-ger* – loving the stranger.

This series will meet in the Cohn Library on March 5, 12, 19, and 26, 2012 from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

TORAH 101

The Torah 101 class starts promptly each week at 9:00 a.m. at the Temple and will continue throughout the year. Please read the portion(s) as indicated below before each class, and bring your questions or comments to share. Beginners are always welcome!

February 5 Yitro – Exodus 18:1 - 20:23

February 12 Mishpatim – Exodus 21:1 - 24:18

February 19 Terumah - Exodus 25:1 - 27:19

February 26 Tetzaveh – Exodus 27:20 - 30:10

March 4 Ki Tisa – Exodus 30:11 - 34:35

March 11 Vayakhel-Pekude – Exodus 35:1 - 40:38

March 18 Vayikra – Leviticus 1:1 - 5:26

March 25 No Class

ONE BOOK, TBI READS

This year we will be reading and discussing the book *Living a Life That Matters: Resolving the Conflict Between Conscience and Success*, by Harold S. Kushner (author of *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*). This is a profound and practical book about doing well by doing good. Harold Kushner tells us that the path to a truly successful and significant life is through friendship, through family, and acts of generosity and self-sacrifice. He describes how, in affecting the life of even one person in a positive way, we make a difference in the world, and proves that we do, in fact, matter.

Several copies of this book are now available in the TBI Library. Rabbi Weinberg and Lori Sagarin will lead a discussion of the book on April 1, at 10 am.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Dr. King once said that the arc of the moral universe is long but it bends towards justice. It bends towards justice, but here is the thing: it does not bend on its own. It bends because each of us in our own ways put our hand on that arc and we bend it in the direction of justice

--Senator Barack Obama, speaking on the 40th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King

If you have questions or suggestions, please contact us at meg-amom@gmail.com or 847.256.7959 (Barbara) or ilpioneer@aol.com or 847.251.5158 (Madelon).

Madelon Gryll & Barbara Agdern
TBI Adult Education Co-chairs



Mazal Tov to the 2011 Adult B'nai Mitzvah class! Back row, left to right: Lori Sagarin, Larry Cohen, Ronda Shaykin, Robert Neuhaus, Amber Wood, Rabbi Weinberg. Front row, left to right: Debbie Talsky, Lorri Fishman, Lori Helfand, April Levy, Marla Bentley.

CHAI NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC



I am delighted to announce that Christopher Mahieu will serve as our new Temple Beth Israel Accompanist. Chris's hiring was the result of an extensive search and audition process. I would like to thank members of the Koleynu Steering Committee for helping me throughout this process: Harriet Arons, Morris Levy and Marcia Satyr. The committee and I heard four highly qualified candidates; Chris was our first choice.

Chris plays with insight and sensitivity. For his audition, he shared with us a piece of his own composition. We were very pleased with his technique, ability to sight read with ease, and his

teaching skill. Chris has a Bachelor and Master of Music degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in Piano Pedagogy, and is an accomplished Jazz pianist. In addition to his work as a composer, Chris serves as the Assistant Director of Music Ministry at Mary, Seat of Wisdom Catholic Church in Park Ridge.

Chris will accompany Koleynu rehearsals and services, as well as our 8:15 p.m. Shabbat Services and holidays. We are very happy to have Chris join our Temple Beth Israel family. I hope you will join me in extending him a heartfelt welcome!

Joy & Blessings,

Marla Aviva Bentley

CONTRIBUTIONS

A minimum contribution of \$12.00 (unless otherwise noted) for donation to be acknowledged with a card and published in the bulletin.

NANETTE B. MENDELSON TREE OF LIFE FUND

Funds used for the beautification
of Temple Beth Israel
Minimum contribution of \$4.00

Donor	In Honor of
Harriet Arons	.Congratulations onretirement to Jane Page
Harriet Arons	.Birthday ofAmber Wood
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Harriet & Richard Arons	.Speedy Recoveryof Betsy Rotberg
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Provides camp scholarships
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Provides for the continued maintenance
and beautification of our sanctuary
(\$18.00 minimum)

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HERZL B. MENDELSON LIBRARY FUND

Provides funds for the purchase of books,
periodicals, furnishings and supplies
for our Temple Beth Israel Library

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Provides funds for charitable uses
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TORAH FUND

Provides support for all Temple programs

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Bill Levy & Patrick Schwarz	Speedy Recovery of Joan Hakimi
Pam, Ted, Eric & Cooper Lavine	Retirement of Jane Page
Bill Levy & Patrick Schwarz	Birthday Greetings to Bill Klopsch
Litchfield Family	Wedding Anniversary of Diane & Ed Mehlman
Joanne Merritt	
Betsy & Richard Rotberg	
Bill Levy & Patrick Schwarz	Birth of Helen Martha Levy
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Betsy & Richard Rotberg	Speedy Recovery of Roz Heimann
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Rachel & Michael Willens	Bat Mitzvah of Lori Helfand
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Alice & Sheldon Solovy	Rose Levin
Betty Cone, Joe, Dale & Ari Cone	Lena Starr
Betty Cone, Joe, Dale & Ari Cone	Joseph Cone
Karen-Gray-Keeler & Tom Keeler	
Joanne Merritt	Jerry Kreiman
Harriet & Richard Arons	
Phyllis Cantor	
Elaine Clearfield	
Dena Mae Cohen	
Karen-Gray Keeler & Tom Keeler	
Lotus & Irv Greene	
Diane Hirsch	
Bill Klopsch	
Rhoda & Arnie Lev	
Bill Levy & Patrick Schwarz	
Barbara Nidetz	
Linda & Dr. Alan Nidetz	
Betsy & Richard Rotberg	
Beth & Ralph Sair	
Rachel & Michael Willens	
Lisa Wynn	Norman Sussman
Steven Edelson	Leonard Edelson
Elaine S. Fox & Alan A. Fox	Jack Fox
Elaine S. Fox & Alan A. Fox	Rhoda Saphier
Lisa & Steve Friedland	Grunya Dolgin
Lisa & Steve Friedland	Grandmother Garbel
Karen-Gray Keeler & Tom Keeler	Sam Gray
Doris Levin	Bertram Levy
Barbara Nidetz	Melvin Nidetz
Ione Novak	Wendy Richards
Ione Novak	Nathan Richards
Ione Novak	Jeanne Richards
Lynn & Jack Roth	Jason Roth
Roberta & Howard Rosell	Pearl Rosell
Lillian Rubenstein	Brother Julius
Charles H. Sandler	Phyllis Sandler
Charles H. Sandler	Katie Brown
Charles H. Sandler	Louis Sandler
Diane Venet	Libby Getz
Pat Weller	Harry Frank
Rachel & Michael Willens	Ruth Roth

SISTERHOOD NEWS

He told us a story about negotiating with his daughter about which skirt she should wear to that week's Bat Mitzvah. A battle over skirt length may not be a surprise to you, but the identity of the parent may be.

Lorri Fishman and I were fortunate to be able to attend the WRJ (Women of Reform Judaism) Assembly and the URJ (Union for Reform Judaism) Biennial December 14 – 18, 2011 at the beautiful Gaylord Convention Center located just outside of Washington D.C.

We learned about women in leadership roles and about great accomplishments and contributions of Jewish women as well as about the impressive leaders in the WRJ and the URJ.

At the WRJ opening plenary session we heard from Cecile Richards, a nationally respected leader in the field of women's health and the current president of Planned Parenthood. She is also the daughter of the late Ann Richards, the former Governor of Texas. She emphasized the rights of all women, rich and poor, old and young, to have equal access to healthcare.

We heard from the leaders of the URJ: Rabbi Eric Yoffie, President, and Rabbi Rick Jacobs, President Elect. Their discussions included the URJ's support for women's rights in Israel, some of which are, sadly, under attack from some of the extreme groups. We also heard about the support for a two-state solution in Israel. As Rabbi Yoffie is retiring soon, the Biennial focused on his many years of service, his accomplishments and his legacy.

We learned that the WRJ is under the leadership of our thoughtful and caring WRJ President Lynn Magid Lazar; and we were introduced to the new executive director of the WRJ, Rabbi Marla J. Feldman.

We were impressed with the accomplishments of Ambassador Nancy Brinker, who was presented with the Maurice N. Eisendrath Bearer of Light award for her lifelong work with the Susan G. Komen for the Cure, an organization she founded after losing her sister to breast cancer.

We paid tribute to Debbie Friedman and learned about her life and contributions as we sang many of her songs throughout the entire Assembly. We also had the opportunity to hear and enjoy many other Jewish musicians as music and songs were woven into the entire event.

And, of course, what an honor it was to hear, as our keynote speaker, the President of the United States, Barack Obama. He was eloquent and funny as he enumerated the many reasons he is a good friend to the Jewish community. All the anticipation and waiting in line to see him speak was well worth the effort; it was an event we will never forget.

Finally, there was Shabbat. More than 5,000 of us prayed and ate Shabbat dinner together. Rumors spread around the Biennial that this might be a "Guinness Book of World Records" for a Shabbat dinner at a convention. TBI's very own Marla Goldberg, President of the Midwest District WRJ, showed us the way to find a good spot for the Shabbat evening sing-along and had us dancing in the aisles of the convention hall. We also worked on a project at the Assembly with the MD WRJ District making blankets for a Veteran's group. It was a spiritual and a moving experience for us.

It was a great experience and honor to attend WRJ Assembly/URJ Biennial. If you are looking for a reason to step up into a leadership role in Sisterhood or at TBI, the opportunity to attend this event could be the perfect excuse!

By the way, are you still wondering who the parent was who was worried about his daughter's skirt for the upcoming Bat Mitzvah? It was President Barack Obama!

Jolie Rubin and Lorri Fishman
Co-Presidents Sisterhood

SISTERHOOD DAYTIME BOOK CLUB

The next meeting of the TBI Sisterhood Daytime Book Club will be on Monday, February 20 at 1:00 p.m. when we will discuss *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay* by Michael Chabon. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize, this book is a page-turner in the widest sense of the word. The books are available in the Temple office. Please bring the book to the meeting so that it can be returned to the library in a timely fashion. Join us at the home of Elaine Clearfield, 8122 N. Harding, Skokie for our discussion. Please call Elaine at 847-674-6388 if you plan to attend.



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EVENING SISTERHOOD BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The next meeting of the Evening Sisterhood Book Discussion Group will be held on Wednesday, February 22nd at 7:00 p.m. when we will discuss *Around Sarah's Table: Ten Hasidic Women Share Their Stories of Life, Faith and Tradition* by Rivka Zakuntinsky and Yaffa Leba Gottlieb. According to *Publisher's Weekly*, "Some are housewives, while others balance demanding careers in law or publishing with home responsibilities. All are united in their devotion to faith and family, and in their determination to live their values." The discussion will be held at Temple Beth Israel and will be led by Jane Page and Linda Crohn. The book is available in public libraries or can be purchased in paperback. If you plan to attend, please notify Jane (jane.page@aol.com) or Linda (EVPortia@aol.com). New members are welcome.



CELEBRATE YOUR SIMCHAS AT TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL

Being a member of Temple Beth Israel is like being part of a large family. When a family simcha occurs, such as a special anniversary, birthday, baby naming, aufruf or Bar/Bat Mitzvah, your friends at TBI would love to celebrate with you and help make your celebration a success. Plan to mark your special occasion by hosting a Friday night Oneg, and let the Catering committee make sure every detail is perfect. You can also help celebrate other simchas by volunteering your time to work with the catering committee.

To schedule a date and make arrangements for your simcha or to volunteer your time to help others celebrate, please contact Linda Lewison at (847) 677-9369.

All profits from Catering events are donated to the congregation to support programming and daily operations.

SISTERHOOD ANNIVERSARIES AND BIRTHDAYS

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Linda and Barry Lewison1/26/1969

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Barbara and Sandy Alper2/2/1969
 Minna and Marvin Einhorn2/8/1959
 Rita and Allen Pomerance2/14/1971
 Doris and Harold Kaufman2/19/1967

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Judi and Cary Weinstein3/2/1996
 Mary Anne and Raymond Wexler3/5/1967
 Paula and Daniel Sabin3/14/1993
 Shana and Matthew Johnson3/25/2001
 Rita and Lowell Goone3/27/1955
 Shirley and Hy Levens3/30/1946

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Bernice Faintuch1/1	Marilyn Skair1/16
Leah Beth Ostrar1/2	Linda Lewison1/17
Kathy Kirn1/3	Harriet Arons1/21
Rochelle Berne1/6	Amber Wood1/21
Cheryl Manilow1/6	Judith Hultzen1/21
Paula Hyman1/7	Rozanne Epstein1/21
Andi Drileck1/8	Cindy Goldstein1/21
Peggy Fiala1/10	Alice Solovy1/24
Sylvia Arnold1/14	Gale Nudelman1/25
Lorri Fishman1/16	Bena Bloom1/28

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Lotus Greene2/2	Barbara Alper2/13
Jan Levin2/2	Clarisse Irwin2/16
Jean Freeman2/4	Diane Hirsch2/18
Sandra Terman2/6	Suzanne Sherman2/18
Laura Cooper2/7	Ina Hill2/18
Joyce Garzman2/8	Rachel Willens2/24
Bonnie Gorelick2/11	Marianna Tax Choldin2/26

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Lorrie Woos3/1	Joan Hakimi3/11
Rachel Garson3/2	Florence Berman3/13
Elizabeth Kaiz3/2	Norma Pearl3/14
Margrit Baerman3/3	Roslyne Heimann3/17
Devy Weitzman3/4	Ione Novak3/19
Rea Robin3/6	Linda Perlin3/21
Rita Morton3/8	Ilene Lanin-Kettering3/21
Marsha Richman3/8	Elaine Clearfield3/25
Louise Starkman3/8	Dale Cone3/26
Fanny Morris3/8	Ruth Dauber3/27
Hilda Demsch3/9	Ardel Fogel3/28
Margie Goldzweig3/9	Andrea Blain3/30
Sara Cohan3/10	Lee Schur3/30

Want to celebrate these simchas? Do so with Uniongrams! At \$2.00 each, they're a bargain and they benefit Temple Beth Israel Sisterhood. For anniversaires, contact Sheila Rosenfeld (847-677-8982 or sunny5596@aol.com). For birthdays, contact Sandie Rubin (847-676-3691 or sandieboo1@aol.com).

DIRECTORY CORRECTION

In the 2011-2012 TBI Directory, this ad was printed with an incorrect phone number. Please cut out this corrected copy and keep it with your directory.



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OWNER

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LIK RAT SHABBAT SPONSORS

On the first Friday of each month our worship is Kabbalat Shabbat (welcoming Shabbat) at 6:15 p.m. This short service filled with Shabbat songs and music is preceded at 5:30 p.m. by Likrat Shabbat when we approach Shabbat by greeting friends and enjoying a “nosh” together.

We invite you to host Likrat Shabbat in celebration of a family simcha or other special event. Please contact Flo Berman at (847) 673-9191 for information on underwriting the cost of food and refreshments for Likrat Shabbat.

VISIT THE TBI WEBSITE

Take a look at our NEWLY UPDATED AWARD WINNING web site at www.tbiskokie.org. You'll find loads of up-to-date, easy to find information about worship services, school schedules, regular programs, and special events, along with important phone numbers and other handy and useful information.



TELL YOUR FRIENDS ABOUT TBI

Temple Beth Israel has so much to offer – a diverse, involved, and caring community, a top-notch professional staff, a warm and welcoming home for worship and spiritual exploration, outstanding schools and adult education, friendly and active Sisterhood and Brotherhood, a commitment to community service and social justice, and lots more. So let your friends know about us. Invite them to join you for services and programs throughout the year . . . and invite them to join us!

HOW I SPENT MY WINTER VACATION

By *Barbara Seaver*

I'm a music lover. In fact, as I write this, I'm listening to some lovely classical music. I also like show tunes, jazz, music from other countries, and I can tolerate elevator music. I even like Christmas music – for about 30 minutes. Then I'm done; I'm tired of it. So I've discovered a way to run away from the constant “Hark the Herald Angels Sing,” “Silent Night,” and “The Little Drummer Boy,” the strains of which invade my car radio, the commercials on television, and interrupt the streaming music on my computer. Radio stations in Israel play a couple of Christmas songs on Christmas day and they're done. Perfect.

My (almost) annual trip to Israel is as important to my well-being and my sanity as is my morning coffee and my time with my family. I return from these visits reinvigorated. Instead of Christmas trees, Christmas music, and the never-ending Christmas sales, I see chanukiot in every window, on every lamppost, even on the roof of the prisons. Sufganiot (jelly-stuffed donuts) are sold on every street corner and in every grocery store. Just down the street from my Jerusalem home is a yeshiva, and the young men are outside singing and dancing every night during Chanukah.

I never cease to be amazed by what has been accomplished by this tiny country in just a bit more than half a century. No, I'm not blind to her faults nor do I believe that everything Israeli is, by definition, good. Israeli political nonsense is as bad as American political nonsense and there are issues of living vs. minimum wages, unfair treatment of various segments of the population. People can be rude and loud. But hearing “Shabbat Shalom” from every vendor, waiter, and stranger on a bus beginning on Thursday is amazingly uplifting. Listening to Hebrew spoken by the youngest child and the oldest “pensioner” (and even the dogs and cats!) is a reminder of our stubbornness (in a good way) as a people, refusing to give up, refusing to lose our traditions. And yet, hearing words like “televisia,” “autobus,” and “proyect” (my personal favorite meaning project) remind us that, with all of our tradition, we adapt (which is probably how we stay alive – but that's the beginning of an anthropological discussion and a story for another day.)

During every visit to Israel, I stay with my friend, Rivka, who opens her home and her heart to me. And I visit my old haunts – Ben Yehuda street in Jerusalem; Nachalat Binyamin in Tel Aviv (a great upscale crafts fair every Tuesday and Friday); the cemetery at Mount Herzl; the little shops along Beit Lechem and Hevron streets in the Baka area of Jerusalem; and Ikea. I spend time with old friends and make new ones. And during each visit, I visit a new place, learn new facts, meet some new people.

This year I ventured into a part of the Galilee I had never visited before. I stayed one night in a cute little bed and breakfast in a moshav called “Bethlehem of the Galilee” run by a young man who never seemed to sleep. After a typical Israeli breakfast (fresh-squeezed orange juice, strong coffee, freshly baked rolls, a variety of cheeses, salad, and an omelet), my friends and I set out to explore the area and to head toward a small Druze village called Peki'in which is famous for its olive oil soap, especially that made by Savta Gamila. (Google her.) While we were there we discovered that there are many others who make olive oil soap, but she is, by far, the best marketer. We ate “Druze food” – humous, salad, falafel (sound familiar?) But this falafel was unlike any we had ever tasted. They added cinnamon! It was delicious!

We also visited a synagogue that has been in this village since 1873 and is said to have been constructed on the site of a study hall built by Rabbi Joshua Ben-Hanania in 200 CE. Although in tourist materials the synagogue is referred to as “ancient,” it's quite new by Israeli standards. According to the tradition, Jews have lived in Peki'in for over 2000 years, long before the 11th century when the Druze began to settle there. (More Google.)

We then climbed and climbed and climbed (steep streets and many stairs) so that we could visit the cave where Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai hid from Roman persecution, and is said to have composed the Zohar. We saw the carob tree that fed him and his son for 12 years. The cave is very small. Either Rabbi Shimon was not much taller than I am or he never stood up straight. Thanks to the modern cell phones with digital cameras, I'm able to show you what it was like in that cave.

When was the last time you were in Israel? If the answer is “never,” what are you waiting for? If you're waiting for complete peace to suddenly happen, you'll never go. If you're waiting for the perfect time, buy your tickets now; there will never be a more perfect time to go than now. Join the upcoming TBI trip; there's no better way to see Israel for the first time. And when you come back, I want to hear your stories.

And now I think I'll return to my music. I've just tuned in to Reshet Gimmel – All Hebrew All the Time.



HELP US GET IT RIGHT!

Please help us recognize your upcoming simcha *correctly* in the *Bulletin*. If you are planning a bar or bat mitzvah, aufruf, baby naming or other life cycle event, please make sure we know exactly how you want your names to be listed. Without prior notification, the *Bulletin* will list names as they appear in our official TBI records. Please contact Barbara Seaver via email at BarbaraTBI@aol.com with your information.

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DATED MATERIAL – PLEASE RUSH

*Honor Rabbi Michael Weinberg
on his 25th Anniversary at
Temple Beth Israel
at our
83rd Annual Spring Gala*



*Saturday, May 12, 2012
Doubletree Hotel, Skokie
Dinner Price \$75*

TBI GALA UPDATE

We are hard at work on plans for the Spring Gala honoring Rabbi Michael A. Weinberg on his 25th anniversary with Temple Beth Israel. If you haven't already done so, please mark your calendar and plan to celebrate with the congregation on Saturday evening May 12, 2012.

To date, fifteen generous underwriters have pledged \$1000 each so our dinner price is set at only \$75.00 per person. We welcome additional underwriters to support this very special event and to help us make it an outstanding fundraiser for the congregation.

You can further reduce the price of your dinner by selling (or buying) ads for the Spring Gala Program Book or by donating to the Education Fund in honor of your simchas and in memory of your loved ones. Every dollar you raise in this way will earn 50% credit toward the price of your dinner. If you have questions about the Program Book or the Education Fund, please contact Janet Jablon via email at jnjablon@gmail.com or by phone at 847-251-7228.

Watch for more details to come . . . and be sure to check out our Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/events/334869909857180/>.