



# TEMPLE BETH EL OF NORTHERN WESTCHESTER

## DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

**2**

7:15 pm

Family Shabbat Worship Service with 5th Grade Participation and Children's Author Chris Moriarty, *The Inquisitor's Apprentice*

**3**

9:00 am Simchat Shabbat

**2 - 12**

Religious School and Adult Education Book Fair

**4**

9:00 am

Jewish Book Council Author Ellen Bari, *Jumping Jenny*

**7**

9:00 am Beginning Years Holiday Boutique

**8**

7:00 pm Beginning Years Open House

**9**

8:00 pm

Human Rights Shabbat Worship Service with Author Tina Rosenberg, *Join the Club*

**11**

11:15 am

Jewish Book Council Author Jill Jacobs, *Where Justice Dwells*

**13 - 14**

Beginning Years Book Fair

**16**

8:00 pm

Shabbat Worship Service

Jewish Book Council Author Alina Tugend, *Better by Mistake*

**23**

5:30 pm Chanukah Celebration

7:15 pm Chanukah Service and Candle Lighting

**SEE BACK COVER**

CHANUKAH CELEBRATION  
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23

MARTIN LUTHER KING COMMEMORATION  
FRIDAY, JANUARY 13

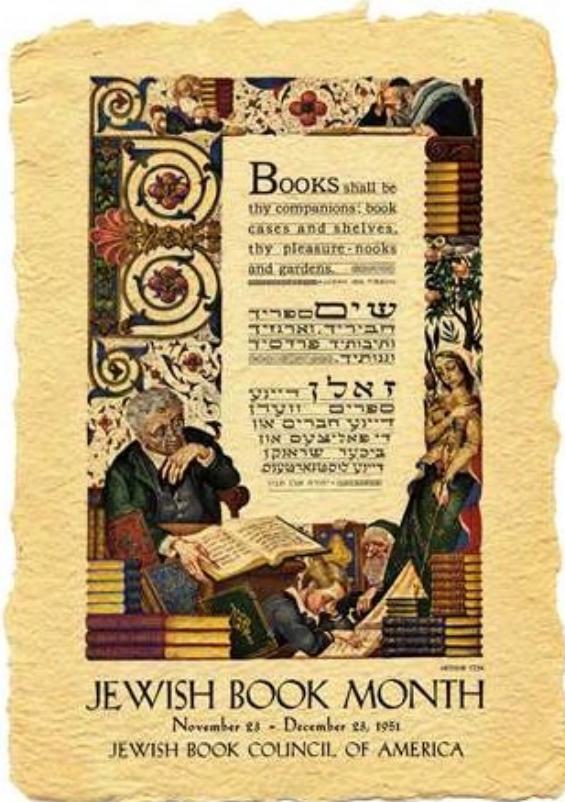
## JEWISH BOOK MONTH!

JEWISH BOOK COUNCIL AUTHORS

THROUGHOUT DECEMBER

(See page 9)

\* **ELLEN BARI \* JILL JACOBS \* CHRIS MORIARTY \***  
**\* TINA ROSENBERG \* ALINA TUGEND \***



THE JEWISH BOOK COUNCIL SERVES TO PROMOTE THE READING, WRITING, PUBLICATION, DISTRIBUTION, AND PUBLIC AWARENESS OF BOOKS THAT REFLECT THE RICH VARIETY OF THE JEWISH EXPERIENCE.



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in the online version of the bulletin.)

Front Cover  
Jewish Book Council Authors

Back Cover  
Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend  
Chanukah Celebration



### BLOOD DRIVE DECEMBER 18

Contact Gene Nadel  
to set up  
your appointment:

914-762-364  
or nadel30tac@aol.com

**SIMCHAT SHABBAT**

THE JOY OF SHABBAT  
LED BY CANTOR ELLEN DRESKIN



**SATURDAY  
DECEMBER 3  
9:00 AM**

NEXT DATE: JANUARY 7

A SPECIAL SHABBAT  
MUSICAL SERVICE,  
WHICH OCCURS ONCE  
A MONTH FROM 9:00 TO  
9:45 AM FOR CHILDREN  
AND ADULTS WITH DEVELO-  
PMENTAL DISABILITIES AND  
THEIR FAMILIES.



### FIRST FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2 NEW MEMBERS SHABBAT

- |                |                                                                                         |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>5:30 PM</b> | KABBAL-TOT SHABBAT<br>SERVICE                                                           |
| <b>6:15 PM</b> | FAMILY SHABBAT DINNER                                                                   |
| <b>7:15 PM</b> | SHABBAT WORSHIP<br>SERVICE WITH 5TH GRADE<br>PARTICIPATION AND AUTHOR<br>CHRIS MORIARTY |

Cost of dinner is \$10 per person,  
\$36/family  
children under 5 are free

Send your check to the temple  
or contact Rose at  
238-3928 x1320 or rhill@bethelnw.org.



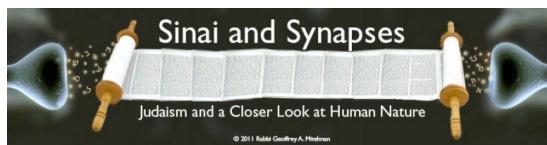
HEY

GIMMEL

SHIN



NUN



VISIT RABBI MITELMAN'S BLOG!  
[HTTP://SINAISANDSYNAPSES.COM](http://SINAISANDSYNAPSES.COM)

## RABBI JOSHUA M. DAVIDSON



Yom Kippur Eve 5772

### Planet Me

Dear Friends,

**One year ago, at the close of Neilah, I returned to my study to glance at my e-mail. There I found this politely written note:**

*Dear Rabbi and Board of Temple Beth El,*

*I live on Bayberry Close across the street from the temple. I realize that you are working on your parking situation, but I feel I must tell you the way we have been treated by some of your members.*

*We don't have a problem with people parking on the road. But for some reason every year there are those few who insist on parking in our private spaces no matter how nicely they are asked not to. This year was no exception and really stood out as one of the worst. Today a Mercedes parked in one of the private spots (even though the whole road was still open for parking). I informed the occupants that these were private spots for residents only. The woman looked at me and said, "I can park there if I want to." I informed her that this was not the case and she told me that I was a....*

I think I'll stop there.

Aghast at behavior so antithetical to the spirit of the Day of Atonement, I apologized profusely, informed our lay leadership, and made a note to address the situation this year. Then I printed the e-mail, jotted on it two words and placed it in my High Holy Days 2011 file. A couple of months ago I opened that folder and reread the e-mail and those two words, my title tonight: "Planet Me."

The cosmology of Yom Kippur is indeed about placing ourselves in proper relationship to the others with whom we share our universe. Yom Kippur reminds us that the world does not revolve around us; that we are not alone in it; and that in fact we need each other, often desperately.

*The World Does Not Revolve Around Us*

**The world does not revolve around us.**

In Pirkei Avot, Mishna traditionally studied in preparation for these Holy Days, the first century sage Hillel teaches, *Im ain ani li mi li*, "If I am not for myself, who will be for me?" But in the same breath, he also warns, *Uchshe'ani latzmi ma'anî*, "But if I am only for myself, what am I?"<sup>1</sup> It is important to recognize one's own needs. But there is a difference between acknowledging those needs and centering one's universe around them. This is Hillel's message.

There is a story I tell our kids at the two o'clock service. It's not a Jewish story per se. The more grown-up version goes like this:

Once upon a time, a woman was in purgatory until she had fulfilled the expiation of her sins. Finally cleansed, a messenger had come to lift her from the lowest depths to the height of heaven. The messenger put the end of a carrot in the woman's hand and said, "Hold fast to this carrot, and I will pull you up."

The woman seized the end of the carrot and clung to it fiercely. As the messenger rose and began to lift her upward, the woman passed others who were in these same depths. Hands were outstretched toward her, and voices said pleadingly, "Take us with you." The woman answered, "Grab on. The carrot will hold us all."

So they clutched at her, one seizing her by the arm, another by the skirt, and another about the waist. But miraculously, no one fell, and the odd-looking group moved steadily higher, supported by the carrot which was a link between the woman and the messenger.

Then suddenly the woman became afraid and she said to herself, "There are too many! The carrot will break. It cannot support all of us."

And she began to kick and turn, to shake off those holding her. She shouted, "Let go! Get off! It's my carrot!" As the words "my carrot" crossed her lips, the carrot broke and the woman tumbled back into purgatory.

The carrot was strong enough for all when she said, "It will hold us." It was too weak, even for her, when she said, "It's my carrot."<sup>2</sup>

My carrot! Have you ever driven into the temple parking lot and seen people parking in the handicapped spots you know should not park there; or carelessly taking up two spots instead of one? Now I'm well aware of the danger of pointing fingers: one points forward, three point back. And the truth is I've done it too. We all can be self-centered at times. It's not that we deliberately disregard the needs of others. We just don't see them. We become lost in our own worlds, distracted by our own concerns and wants.

I'll share with you a good example, one which may sound almost trifling, but in recent years has become a real problem in our community. It's the phenomenon of *b'nei mitzvah* sweatshirts. Those of you with teen-aged kids know exactly what I'm talking about. But for everyone else – for several years now the party favor of choice at *b'nei mitzvah* celebrations has been a sweatshirt with the *bar or bat mitzvah*'s name emblazoned on it. A cute gift, but one with unintended consequences.

First, those students invited to many *b'nei mitzvah* accumulate more sweatshirts than they could wear in a lifetime – an extraordinary waste. The second repercussion is felt in school on Monday when all those kids invited to the celebration wear the sweatshirt. Those who were not, feel even more excluded and isolated.

We have been talking to our *b'nei mitzvah* families about this for a couple of years now, and recently my local colleagues have begun to address it too. We know that a unified message is required, or else we place parents in the difficult position of explaining to their children why they can't have what other kids can. While I think our words have had some impact and most families do understand what's at stake, there will always be some who just don't want to hear it. "Let go, Rabbi. It's my carrot!"

(continued on page 4)



(*Rabbi Davidson, continued from page 3*)

"You see, it's about other people's feelings," I try to explain. But too often we think only of our own.

Rabbi Jack Rudin described our self-absorption this way: "We live in the singular...in a kind of world hung with mirrors in which we see ourselves endlessly reflected. And there are very few of us who do not find this spectacle the most pleasing sight in the world. The job of a good life is to get out of the singular and into the plural; out of our selfish, narrow world hung with mirrors into the great, wide world of [other people] which is a world of windows."<sup>3</sup>

#### *We Are Not Alone*

When we do – when we get out of our world of mirrors and into a world of windows – we discover that we are not alone. And that the other people who inhabit the world with us also have feelings.

Upon retiring, a White House stenographer of forty years was asked his favorite boss. "Harry Truman," he answered without a moment's hesitation. "He was the only one who bothered to know my name."

Theologian Martin Buber believed we interact with the world around us in two ways: through I-It relationships and through I-Thou relationships. I-It describes encounters we have with objects we use – the chair you're sitting on – or with individuals serving in a purely functional capacity – a toll clerk, the security guard at passport control. I-It suffices to navigate in the world of things, but when we consider people simply for what they do for us, we don't really consider them at all – like when we treat coworkers or business associates as "stepping-stones to further our [own] ambitions."<sup>4</sup> Or when we push our children to achieve for the *nachas* we might *shep*. Or reduce our spouses to wage earners, homemakers or care-givers. And I'll speak to the middle and high school students here too, for you are certainly not too young to understand that your parents are more than chauffeurs and cooks and Laundromats, that they also have feelings and concerns, good days and bad ones. To know other people, to see them for who they are and not simply for how they serve us, requires that we recognize this – that we open ourselves up to their needs, their hopes, their fears. When we do, says Buber, we are rewarded with I-Thou opportunities for deep and profound connection. And we discover that we are not alone.

But what about those who say: "I am alone. My house is empty. Those who once filled it are gone. To whom shall I reach?"

Once there was a sorrowing woman who came to her rabbi with the heart-rending plea that he return to her, her only son whom she had just lost. He told her that he could comply with her request on one condition. She would have to bring him a mustard seed taken from a home entirely free from sorrow. The woman set out on her quest.

Years passed and she did not return. One day the rabbi chanced upon her on the street, hardly recognizing her, for now she looked radiant. He greeted her and asked her why she had never returned. "Oh," she said in a tone of voice indicating that she had completely forgotten about it, "well, this is what happened. In search of the mustard seed, I came into homes so burdened with sorrow and

trouble that I just could not walk out. Who better than I could understand their pain? Who better than I could offer them the sympathy they needed? So I stayed on in each home as long as I could be of service. And," she added apologetically, "please do not be angry, but I never again thought about our appointment!"<sup>5</sup>

We discover we are not alone when we reach out and share ourselves, when we carve our own anguish into staffs of strength on which others can lean. Or when we take them by the hand and walk through the valley of the shadow with them. How often I have called on members of our temple family who have fought through breast cancer, or addiction, or loss to come to another's aid. Reach out your hand! Someone will grasp it. The world is full of people just waiting for somebody to say, "I see you. I've been there. Let me help."

You know that every Sabbath eve we read the names of people struggling with illness or misfortune. It means a great deal to them to be in our prayers.

But prayers alone are not enough. That is why we have a Caring Community Committee, present at the drop of a dime with food, with rides, with friendly visits. Information about their work was on your seats when you entered. I hope you'll choose to become involved, because there is more to be done. There are elderly and homebound members of our temple for whom the lifeline of human connection has been all but cut. We need to do better at being present for them, not just in moments of illness or crisis, but all the time. And we could do better if everyone volunteered even just once during the year. No extended commitment is necessary. Think about it. If you are willing, please either hand the volunteer form to an usher tonight or mail it back when you can.

As my father once said of his Beth-El after it too had completed reconstruction, "Temple Beth-El is not here, renewed and beautiful, just to keep us busy. It is here because life can be lonely and the temple connects us with others who become extended family. It is also here to give us the opportunity to reach beyond our own lives."<sup>6</sup>

#### *We Need Each Other*

Nor should we be afraid, in our own hour of need, to let others reach out to us.

Rabbi Hayim of Tzanz told of a countryman lost in the forest. For days he wandered, unable to find his way, until he saw another man coming toward him through the trees, and he began to rejoice: "Now at last I will learn the way out of this darkness!... Brother," he said, "I am lost. Tell me: which is the way out?"

"I too am lost," the man answered. "But take my hand and we will search for the way together."

We are not meant to travel life's road alone, but to reach out to fellow travelers, to take their hands and strengthen them, even as they strengthen us.

Once before I shared with you this beautiful reflection by Rabbi Harold Kushner:

*(continued on page 5)*



(Rabbi Davidson, continued from page 4)

"I was sitting on a beach one summer day, watching two children, a boy and a girl, playing in the sand. They were hard at work building an elaborate sandcastle by the water's edge, with gates and towers and moats and internal passages. Just when they had nearly finished their project, a big wave came along and knocked it down, reducing it to a heap of wet sand. I expected the children to burst into tears, devastated by what had happened to all their hard work. But they surprised me. Instead, they ran up the shore away from the water, laughing and holding hands, and sat down to build another castle. I realized that they had taught me an important lesson. All the things in our lives, all the complicated structures we spend so much time and energy creating, are built on sand. Only our relationships to other people endure. Sooner or later, the wave will come along and knock down what we have worked so hard to build up. When that happens, only the person who has somebody's hand to hold will be able to laugh."<sup>7</sup>

#### *What the Winds Cannot Knock Down nor the Waters Wash Away*

After Hurricane Irene ripped through Westchester, once the temple's power came back, we sent out an e-mail to check in and see how people were faring. Most of the responses went something like this: "We were without power for a few days, and there was water in the basement, but thankfully we are all ok, and that's what matters." Indeed, from every note, every conversation, I got this sense that the storm had reminded people what was most important in their lives. But one e-mail conveyed it with special poignancy:

Dear Rabbi,

Thanks for reaching out. And since you asked....We are doing ok but we are now homeless, or rather "houseless." As I keep reminding my kids, home is not about buildings but about the people in our lives. Our little house was hit by a large tree, and we will be out of it for a year. So I suspect we may call on you for help. But I also recognize that we are very fortunate to be doing fine and to be together, and so if anyone in our temple is truly in need, please call on us so we can reach out to them.

We are fortunate, most of us, to live in communities of privilege. But privilege can sometimes warp our perspective, like a funhouse mirror in which we appear larger than we really are. It can teach us, falsely, that the things we can hold in our hands are more important than the people we can embrace in our arms. And before we know it, we too are shouting, "It's *my* carrot. Let go!"

Sometimes it takes an Irene to remind us of that which truly is most important in our lives – the people we care about, a community which sustains us, a tradition which roots the values we know to be right in something greater than ourselves.

Sometimes it takes a letter from a neighbor to set us straight: a little less entitlement, a little more consideration.

And sometimes it takes Yom Kippur to *utz* us: "a little less of ourselves, a little more of others; a little less of 'me' and [a little] more [of] 'us'."<sup>8</sup>

May this New Year be one of fewer mirrors and more windows. May we know that home truly is about the people in our lives. And may we reach out to them, for their sakes and for our own.

Amen.

<sup>1</sup> Pirkei Avot 1:14.

<sup>2</sup> Rabbi Jacob Phillip Rudin, "The Gourd of Jonah," *Very Truly Yours*, pp. 15-16.

<sup>3</sup> Rabbi Jacob Phillip Rudin, "The Gourd of Jonah," *Very Truly Yours*, pp. 14-15.

<sup>4</sup> Rabbi Chaim Stern, *Gates of Repentance*, p. 329.

<sup>5</sup> Rabbi Maurice Lamm, *Consolation: The Spiritual Journey Beyond Grief*, pp. 278-79.

<sup>6</sup> Rabbi Jerome K. Davidson, "Temple Beth-El – A Miracle and a Mission," *Rosh Hashanah Morning*, 9/27/2003.

<sup>7</sup> Rabbi Harold Kushner, "The Power of Holding Hands," *Chicken Soup for the Jewish Soul*, p. 106.

<sup>8</sup> Rabbi Jacob Phillip Rudin, "The Gourd of Jonah," *Very Truly Yours*, pp. 19-20.



CANTOR ANESI IS ON SABBATICAL  
UNTIL MARCH.



#### SHABBAT SHIRA FRIDAY NIGHT, FEBRUARY 3

COME ONE COME ALL!!  
**JOIN THE BETH EL VOLUNTEER CHOIR**  
AS WE PAY TRIBUTE TO DEBBIE FRIEDMAN  
ON THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF HER DEATH.

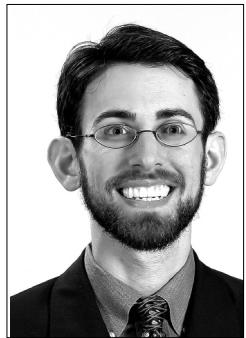
CHOIR REHEARSALS AT 8 PM  
NO MUSICAL BACKGROUND NECESSARY  
(JUST THE ABILITY TO SING ON PITCH!)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 19  
MONDAY, JANUARY 30

PLEASE CALL CANTOR DRESKIN AT THE TEMPLE  
TO LET HER KNOW YOU'LL BE THERE!



## RABBI GEOFFREY MITELMAN



### The Beauty in Science and the Beauty in Judaism

Think about the most inspiring piece of art you have ever looked at. Or the most powerful book you have ever read. Or the most moving play or movie you have ever seen.

Now — why did you find it so beautiful?

There were probably any number of reasons — it may have changed the way you thought about things. It might have emotionally affected you. It almost certainly stuck with you afterward.

But despite the fact that whatever you chose was personal and subjective, there seem to be certain facets of beauty that cut across all genres, times and places. Educator Howard Gardner argues in his book *Truth, Beauty and Goodness Reframed* that there are three main elements of beauty: we find something beautiful if it is interesting, if it is memorable, and if it has a “pull” to it, leading us to continually come back to it.

In fact, it's that third factor, what he calls the “invitation to revisit,” that is the *sine qua non* of beauty. The most beautiful objects are ones we can't seem to leave alone — there always seem to be more to them than meets the eye on first glance, and the more we experience them, the more we appreciate them. And Gardner explains that this “invitation to revisit” could arise from several possible factors: “one likes the experience, one has curiosity to learn or to understand better, or one has a feeling of awe...” (53)

But what's fascinating is that two of those elements — curiosity and awe — are two of the driving forces behind both science and Judaism. They are what lead us to see their inherent beauty.

The beauty of science was eloquently described by Nobel Prize-winning physicist Richard Feynman, who talked about what he saw when looked at a flower:

As he says, while he could appreciate the surface beauty of a flower as well as anyone else, knowing about the science broadened and deepened his experience: “I see much more about the flower... I could imagine the cells in there, the complicated actions inside, which also have a beauty...It adds...[a]ll kinds of interesting questions which the science knowledge only adds to the excitement, the mystery and the awe of a flower.” So a fuller understanding of science gave him a richer sense of beauty. And notice what specifically what enriched it: curiosity and awe.

So how do these two elements give us a sense of beauty both in science and in Judaism?

#### Curiosity

As Feynman tells us, the more questions we can ask about something, and the more ways we can look at it, the deeper our apprecia-

tion of it will be. Indeed, curiosity in science almost demands an “invitation to revisit,” asking how we can look at the same set of facts in a new way, and looking to see how an answer to one question leads to a whole host of new ones.

But that same process also guides the study of Jewish texts.

Study in Judaism begins with the Torah. But when we study Torah, we are not supposed to stop at the *p'shat*, the simple, literal level of the text. Instead, we are primarily seeking to create *drashot*, interpretations of the text. We are asking, “What are the unspoken assumptions here? What other questions do we need to ask? What are the different ideas that this text is trying to teach, and how many different ways can we read it?”

We do this because while the text is static, we are dynamic. While we read the same words each day, each week, and each year in our prayerbook and in our Torah, what we *take away from* them changes. We revisit the same texts because when we repeatedly come back to the same words, we find new meaning in them and new ways to discover values that guide our actions. The text is the always the same — but we are not.

And so curiosity, asking new questions, always wondering “What else could this mean?”, leads us to revisit both scientific data and Jewish texts, and elevates our sense of beauty in both realms.

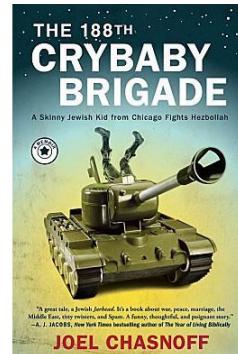
#### Awe

Science easily gives us a deep sense of wonder, whether we are looking out onto the vast reaches of space, or are examining how our mind works, or are wondering how the variegated species on this earth arose. But even as we intellectually explore those ideas, there will always be an emotional aspect to that experience that we cannot describe in words.

After all, when we feel a moment of awe, we are *not* seeking to analyze or describe it. Our most powerful experiences, our most wondrous moments, our most significant encounters simply cannot be put into words, let alone dissected and scrutinized. Indeed, it is that very inability to describe those experiences that makes them so beautiful.

And as Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel explains in his landmark book *God in Search of Man*, that sense of ineffability is the root of religion, as well:

*(continued on page 7)*



#### BOOK SERIES: THE MANY FACES OF ISRAEL

JANUARY 11 AT 7:30 PM

Rabbi Mitelman leads discussion on The 188th Crybaby Brigade by Joel Chasnoff. Order your copy now to read before the discussion with Rabbi Mitelman on January 11th at 7:30 pm. Contact [adulted@bethelnw.org](mailto:adulted@bethelnw.org) or 914-432-5821. Looking forward to seeing you there!

## DECEMBER B'NEI MITZVAH

December b'nei mitzvah profiles appear only in the printed version of the Temple Beth El of Northern Westchester monthly bulletin.

(*Rabbi Mitelman, continued from page 6*)

[I]n religious and artistic thinking, the disparity between that which we encounter and that which is expressed in words and symbols, no words and symbols can adequately convey. In our religious situation we do not comprehend the transcendent; we are present at it, we witness it. Whatever we know is inadequate; whatever we say is an understatement. We have an awareness that is deeper than our concepts; we possess insights that are not accessible to the power of expression...

The roots of ultimate insights are found...not on the level of discursive thinking, but on the level of wonder and radical amazement, in the depth of awe, in our sensitivity to the mystery, in our awareness of the ineffable. It is the level on which the great things happen to the soul, where the unique insights of art, religion and philosophy come into being.

[Our experience of God] is the result of wonder and radical amazement, of awe before the mystery and meaning of the totality of life beyond our rational discerning. Faith is *the response* to the mystery, shot through with meaning; the response to a challenge which no one can forever ignore. (116-117)

So no matter how often we look at a sunset, we will never cease to be amazed by it. No matter how accurately we understand the way babies develop in the womb, when we hold our child for the first time, we will never stop calling it "the miracle of birth." We are simply overwhelmed by those experiences.

And so religion, as Heschel argues, is how we respond to that sense of awe. Religion doesn't begin with trying to prove the existence of God. It doesn't even begin with asking whether we "believe in God" or not. It begins with a moment of mystery. And even if we can scientifically explain that mystery, it will never lose its emotional impact.

Indeed, while curiosity broadens our minds, awe deepens our souls.

### Turn it and turn it

Ultimately, it's that combination of curiosity and awe, that mixture of breadth and depth, that joining of head and heart that allows us to see the beauty not only in science, but in Judaism, as well.

In *Pirkei Avot*, Ben Bag Bag taught that there is always more to Torah than meets the eye. And so we are to "turn it and turn it, because everything is in it." (*Avot 5:21*) But it's not that the Torah has all the answers — it's that the more we turn it and turn it, the more we learn about ourselves and our place in the world.

Because there is beauty when we see connections that we had not made before. There is beauty when we discover things we never knew. And there is beauty when we realize just how much we don't know.

After all, the most beautiful things are ones we keep coming back to — not because the objects themselves have changed, but because we ourselves are constantly discovering new levels of meaning within them.



## **GET IN THE MIX** (MEMBER INITIATED XTRAS) AT TEMPLE BETH EL

With beautiful new building space and an energized membership, TBE invites your ideas, leadership and participation in new, member-initiated activities and events.

Cooking, book clubs, yoga, gardening, computers, college advising, crafts, photography, film club – you name it!

Have an idea and want to bring it to TBE, let the TBE Connections Group know! Contact Karen Silver at [kmsilver@optonline.net](mailto:kmsilver@optonline.net) and find out how TBE members can "get in the MIX!"



## **TZEDAKAH** AJWS

American Jewish World Service is an international development organization motivated by Judaism's imperative to pursue justice. AJWS is dedicated to alleviating poverty, hunger and disease among the people of the developing world regardless of race, religion or nationality. Through grants to grassroots organizations, volunteer service, advocacy and education, AJWS fosters civil society, sustainable development and human rights for all people, while promoting the values and responsibilities of global citizenship within the Jewish community.



## **HOLIDAY SINGING AT BRANDYWINE NURSING HOME**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4 AT 3:00 PM

Join us to bring holiday cheer to the residents of Brandywine Nursing Home in Briarcliff. Our Religious School students will sing holiday songs and distribute holiday cards to the residents. This program will count as service credit for our 7th Grade Religious School students. We will meet at Temple Beth El at 2:30 pm and pick up at Temple at 4:30 pm. Please rsvp to Hedy Simpson at [Hgsimpson@aol.com](mailto:Hgsimpson@aol.com) or if have any questions you can contact Hedy by e-mail or phone 244-1819.



## **DONATIONS JEWS FOR CUBA**

Help us strengthen our ties to the Jewish Communities in Cuba who are in need of humanitarian aid.

Members of Temple Beth El will be delivering aid during our trip To Cuba this December 2011. Please see our website for aid items and more information. Items may be dropped off at the temple.



## **BETH EL FOOD CHALLENGE** DO YOU LIKE TO COOK? OR EAT? WHO DOESN'T?

We are forming a group to do fun things in TBE's wonderful new kitchen. Some ideas are:

- cooking lessons, and tastings of course, with real chefs
- making challahs together for Shabbat and delivering them to some of our members who are homebound
- having "bubbies" teach us the fine art of rugelach making, chicken soup secrets and more
- cooking parties with parents and children (and you don't have to clean up)
- couples/adults nights out with wine tastings and good food
- cooking contests similar to the ones on the Food Network

Let's have some fun in the kitchen!

If you are interested in being part of the organizing committee OR participating in one of the many upcoming kitchen events, please e-mail Beth Jacobson at [brjacobson@optonline.net](mailto:brjacobson@optonline.net). This is not a committee with lots of long meetings – it's meant to be quick organizing and fun.



## **INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM** A JOURNEY THROUGH JEWISH LIVING AND LEARNING

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS, 7 – 8:30 PM  
THROUGH FEBRUARY 29

### Schedule of classes:

Nov. 9, 16, 30; Dec. 7, 9, 14, 2012

Temple Beth El of Northern Westchester (914) 238-3928  
220 South Bedford Road, Chappaqua, NY 10514

Dec. 21; Jan 4, 6, 11, 18, 25, 2012

Bet Torah (914) 666-7595  
60 Smith Ave., Mt. Kisco, NY 10549

Feb. 1, 8, 10, 15, 22, 29, 2012

Congregation B'nai Yisrael of Armonk (914) 273-2220  
2 Banksville Road, Armonk, NY 10504

Fee: \$180 per family. Partners/Spouses are encouraged to attend at no additional charge. Books are purchased by the student from a reading list that will be provided prior to the start of the course.

For more information, please contact Sandy at:  
[sandy.kellogg@gmail.com](mailto:sandy.kellogg@gmail.com) or (914) 238-5497.



**Friday, December 2 at 7:15 pm**

Chris Moriarity, author of  
*The Inquisitor's Apprentice*

Chris is an award-winning science fiction writer from New York City. She and her husband are raising their children Jewish in a complicated (but fabulous) multicultural family, and Chris wrote *The Inquisitor's Apprentice* so that her son could read a fantasy series where the nice Jewish boy gets to be the hero instead of the comic relief.

**Friday, December 9 at 8:00 pm**

Tina Rosenberg, author of *Join The Club*

Tina Rosenberg, the winner of a MacArthur grant, is a contributing writer for *The New York Times Magazine* and a former member of the Times editorial board. *The Haunted Land*, her searing work on how Eastern Europe faced the crimes of Communism, garnered both the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize. In *Join The Club*, she identifies a brewing social revolution that is changing the way people live, based on harnessing the positive force of peer pressure. *Join The Club* explains how we can better our world through humanity's most powerful and abundant resource: our connections with one another.

**Friday, December 16 at 8:00 pm**

Alina Tugend, author of *Better by Mistake*  
The Unexpected Benefits of Being Wrong

Alina Tugend, a graduate of U.C. Berkeley, was one of four journalists nationwide awarded a grant to study at Yale Law School. She has written for numerous publications including *The New York Times* and *The Atlantic*. Since 2005, she has written the biweekly consumer column "Shortcuts" for *The New York Times Business Section*. In this persuasive book, the author examines the delicate tension between what we are taught as young children – that we must make mistakes to learn from them – versus the reality that we are often punished for making mistakes and therefore try to avoid, or cover them up, as much as possible. Through fascinating cutting-edge research, Tugend reveals how mistake-avoidance can affect us from the earliest stages in our lives and shape us into adults who steer clear of risks and challenges. She also tells us how to change our approach when we and others make mistakes in ways that will benefit us and those around us.



Coming up...

Shabbat Worship Service - January 27, 8:00 pm  
Jewish Book Council Author Mary Zamore, *The Sacred Table*

**Sunday, December 4 at 9:00 am**

Ellen Bari, author of *Jumping Jenny*

Ellen Bari is an author, educator and creator of award-winning multimedia exhibits and programs for children and adults. As a pioneer of new media, Ellen was instrumental in developing the USHMM Learning Center. At Sesame Workshop, she produced unique initiatives in early elementary education, later on exhibit at EPCOT. Ellen co-founded Momasphere, to create innovative programs for moms of all ages.



Ellen Bari's playful and humorous side shines through when writing for children. Her picture book *Jumping Jenny* teaches the Jewish value of *tikkun olam* in terms to which contemporary kids can relate and at the same time promotes physical fitness.

**Sunday, December 11, at 11:15 am**

Jill Jacobs, author of *Where Justice Dwells*  
*A Hands-on Guide to Doing Social Justice in Your Jewish Community*.



Rabbi Jill Jacobs is the Executive Director of Rabbis for Human Rights-North America. She has been named to *The Jewish Daily Forward's* list of fifty influential Jews and *Newsweek's* list of the fifty most influential rabbis. In this important and practical look at social justice work from a Jewish perspective, Rabbi Jill Jacobs examines the ideological basis for organizing explicitly Jewish responses to social justice issues in our communities. She explores how we define our communities and how they compare to Jewish visions of the ideal city. She provides practical tips for involving synagogues, schools and other institutions in effective social justice work while strengthening their own communities.



Jewish Book Month is an annual event on the American Jewish calendar dedicated to the celebration of Jewish books. It is observed during the month preceding Chanukah, thus the exact date changes each year.

During Jewish Book Month, as well as throughout the rest of the year, the Jewish Book Council serves as the coordinating agency for promoting Jewish books nationwide. As part of the Jewish Book Month celebration, the Council prepares educational and promotional materials, commissions a color poster featuring the original work of a noted artist, and designs and disseminates bookmarks with lists of recommended books for adults and children from the past year. Jewish Book Council also advises local communities on exhibits, book fairs, book clubs, author speaking tours and literary programs.

## SUSAN COSDEN, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION



*"Torah is a tree of life to all who hold fast to it." – Proverbs 3:18.*

This month I continue exploring how the four pillars of Temple Beth El are taught in our Religious School. Our four pillars are: *Torah*, *Avodah* (Prayer and our Relationship with God), *Tzedek* (Social Justice) and *Kehillah* (Community). This month we examine the pillar of *Torah*. (To learn about *Avodah*, please see my

October bulletin article.)

In our Religious School's mission statement, after talking about *Avodah* and God, the section on *Torah* reads:

### *Torah Study, Talmud Torah:*

*Our sacred texts also provide us with a variety of different models of relationship with God and each other. We will give our students an understanding of what our sacred texts are; a fundamental overview of themes, storylines and history derived from the texts; and the thirst to explore these texts fully throughout their lives and for meaning in their lives.*

Our students begin their studies of *Torah* in kindergarten and first grade, exploring *Torah* as *Torah* stories and how these stories apply to their lives today. They study the stories of our ancestors as part of their studies of *Me and My Jewish Family*. They explore how they adopt the good qualities of our ancestors and learn from the not-so-perfect qualities of our ancestors. For example, while studying about Abraham and Sarah, they wrestle with the following questions: What are the qualities that Abraham and Sarah possess that would make God think they are worthy to be the founders of Judaism? How can I incorporate Abraham and Sarah's positive qualities into my own life? (obviously, worded appropriately for Kindergarten and First Graders). While studying Joseph some of the questions they explore are: What did Joseph do that made his brothers jealous? Can we behave in a good way, even when we are feeling bad? What happens to Joseph in Egypt? How did Joseph and his brothers change in order for them to forgive each other?

As our Second Graders take their docent course on Temple Beth El of Northern Westchester, they will explore the sacredness of the *Torah*. They will examine how we dress the *Torah* and why we dress it that way. They will explore where the *Torah* is kept and why. They will also study the *Torah* to explore the history of how we prayed and where, while we wandered for 40 years, and how that changed when we settled in the land of Israel.

(continued on page 11)



## JANET GOLDSTEIN, EARLY CHILDHOOD DIRECTOR



## Beginning Years

December is known to be the month of giving. We make Chanukah gifts for the parents and, of course, the children look forward to receiving presents. However, at the Nursery School, we teach the children that every month is the month for giving. We do this by giving tzedakah. We do this by giving to clothing and other items that we are all so fortunate to have to people in need.

We teach the children that this is our responsibility. The social and intellectual learning is very prevalent and important in our program, but we stress Jewish values and the obligations that we have to help each other and give to those in need as people of the Jewish community.

We are getting ready for our Chanukah parties at school. We will be decorating the social hall with painted *dreidels*, *menorahs* and centerpieces that will be placed on the tables for our school celebration.

We want to thank our chairpersons who help to make the Chanukah parties a wonderful experience for the two, three and four-year-old classes and a celebration for all. I want to thank Amy Rinzler, Julie Scott, Samantha Golub, Danielle Gootzeit, Lisa Nissman and Alicia Kalish.

The children get very involved with preparation for this event. We make delicious potato latkes and chocolate *dreidels* (a favorite of all). They understand the story of Chanukah through the books that we read to them. We are looking forward to celebrating this holiday with all of our families here at Beginning Years.

Last month we had our Fall Family Event. It was a great! I want to thank Danielle Shalov, Stacey Stambeck, Debbie Jacobs and Devra Glick for their efforts and hard work in getting the event and volunteers together.

The Israeli soldiers came to visit the children in their classrooms. It was very interesting for the children to see them in uniform and learn where they live and what they do.

Registration for the Fall of 2011 is now in progress. If you would like to speak with me about any of our programs or take a tour of our school, please call me at 914-238-5735.



(Susan Cosden, continued from page 10)

Our Third Graders are learning how to decode the letters of the *Torah* and how they look different in the *Torah* than in the siddur, prayer book. As their studies focus on community, they explore what the *Torah*, and Jewish texts throughout tradition, teach us about community and the values we need to practice to build and strengthen our community, including taking care of those in need. In fact, this month our Third Graders will be doing a project with a dog, learning to serve a member of our larger community in need.

In Fourth Grade, our students spend the entire year developing their *Torah* study skills; increasing their knowledge of the key themes, values, and wisdom found in the *Torah*; and applying this growing body of knowledge to their own lives and family situations. Through exploring the *Torah* text itself and the mitzvot contained in the *Torah*, the students will begin to develop a lifelong appreciation for, and commitment to, *Talmud Torah*, the study of *Torah*. We help the students identify and interpret symbols and techniques used in the *Torah*. In fact, our Fourth Grade family education program on December 4 is entitled, "Being Torah."

During Fifth Grade, our students learn about *Torah* in two different ways. In their culture class, the students are exploring Israel. One of the many faces of Israel we share with our students is Israel as our ancient homeland, with the connection of Israel going all the way back to Avram before he was even Abraham. Therefore, during this year they study *Torah* to make that connection with Biblical Israel and also to begin to understand the significance Israel has in our lives as Jews. In addition, the Fifth Grade explores the second part of our Bible, the Prophets. In their Hebrew classes the students learn about the sources of the prayers they are studying, some of which originate in the *Torah*, such as the *Vahavta*. They learn the prayer and then get excited that they can read actual lines of *Torah* text that they already know. Also, for each prayer they learn they also explore stories, sometimes Biblical, that tie into the meaning of each prayer, including the prayer of *Ahavat Olam* and *Ahavah Rabah*, which both talk about God loving us so much that God gave us the *Torah*.

Our Sixth Graders study *Torah* in terms of holidays and life cycle events, and finding modern meaning in all these rituals. In addition, they explore the third part of our Bible, the *Writings*, which includes, among other texts, the *Scroll of Esther*, *Proverbs*, and *Psalms*. During their Hebrew studies, a large component of their year is spent exploring the entire *Torah* service and, once again, examining the sacredness of the *Torah* and its part within the entire Shabbat morning service, and how this part of the service works.

(continued on page 12)



# Beginning Years

## OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, December 8 at 7:00 pm- 8:30pm

Learn What Makes a Child's Pre-School Experience Magical at TBE!

### ENROLLMENT FOR 2012-2013 NOW OPEN

Tour our new facility, meet our pre-school community,  
hear about our wonderful programs!

2's, 3's, 4's Classes \* Lunch Bunch \* Extended Day \* Mommy & Me

Our warm, professional staff helps children develop  
a love of learning at an early age;  
Jewish culture, holidays and Shabbat;  
adult programs offered during school hours.

Questions? Contact Janet Goldstein, Director  
238-3928 or [jgoldstein@bethelnw.org](mailto:jgoldstein@bethelnw.org).

## BETH EL HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE

*presented by Beginning Years Nursery School*

apparel  
accessories  
gifts  
jewelry  
toys  
kids  
and more...



*Everyone is welcome!*

## Save the date:

Wednesday, Dec 7<sup>th</sup>

9am – 1pm

Temple Beth El

220 South Bedford Rd, Chappaqua

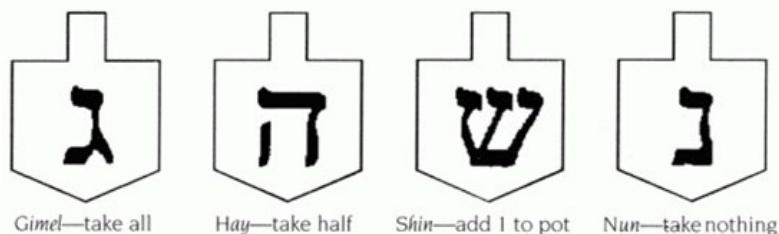
(914) 238-5735

(Susan Cosden, continued from page 11)

Within our new 7th Grade *Kehillah* and *Na'aseh* programs, the students examine *Torah* in less traditional ways. On Monday nights, as we work to expand our circles of caring, we use *Torah* to guide us and teach us about ways to be a part of each of our communities: our families, our synagogue, our American Jewish community, Israel, world Jewry, and the larger world community. Throughout the year during our *Na'aseh* program, the students choose ten hours of activities under the category of *Torah* (in its largest sense) that might include visiting the Tenement Museum, visiting the Jewish Heritage Museum, attending the Jewish Film Festival, or participating in a Jewish book group. At the end of the year the students will share a project with the congregation on the meaning of Judaism in their lives at home, within the congregation, and globally, which will include the lessons they have taken and applied from *Torah*.

8th through 12th Grade students continue to apply their studies of *Torah* and Jewish texts in a variety of different classes and units. Our 8th and 9th Graders just finished a course where they learned *Torah* through yoga and/or with yoga. *Torah* gets expanded to include other sacred Jewish texts such as Talmud and Midrash.

Our curriculum is less concerned with the students' ability to retell a particular narrative in the *Torah* than with the possibility for them to ground an understanding, decision or behavior in their study of that *Torah* text. Our enduring understandings, based on the Reform Movement's *Chai* Curriculum are: *Torah* is an ongoing dialogue between the text and its students. *Torah* is real in our daily lives; it is with us wherever we are. Developing the skills to study *Torah* is essential to integrating *Torah* into our lives. As Cantor Dreskin said at a 5th grade Family Education Day last month, "Torah is an instrument. What matters is how we play it, how we live it – and to play it well, we must *practice, practice, practice.*"



## SAVE THE DATE

### THE MANY FACES OF ISRAEL BOOK SERIES

Modern Israel - January 11, 7:30 pm  
*The 188th Crybaby Brigade* by Joel Chasnof  
Led by Rabbi Geoffrey Mitelman

Biblical Israel - February 8, 7:30 pm  
*As a Driven Leaf* by Milton Steinberg  
Led by Rabbi Joshua Davidson

The Early Settler Period - March 28, 7:30 pm  
*Blue Mountain* by Meir Shalev  
Led by Susan Cosden

Technology - April 22 at 11:15  
Start Up Nation by Dan Senor and Saul Singer  
TBA

Life in Modern Israel - May 9, 7:30 pm  
*Someone to Run With* by David Grossman  
Led by Cantor Dana Anesi

### RELIGIOUS SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS DECEMBER 2011

- |  |                                                                                                |
|--|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | 2-11      Book Fair                                                                            |
|  | 2          Erev Shabbat Family Services with 5th Grade participation                           |
|  | 4          4th Grade Family Education Day and Jewish Book Council author visit                 |
|  | 10         Shabbaton for all students and their parents who are becoming b'nei mitzvah in 2013 |
|  | 16-17      7th Grade Shabbaton/overnight 6:00 pm – noon                                        |

December 23 - January 2    Winter Recess



Suggestions for a Meaningful

# Chanukah



How can I make Chanukah about more than just opening presents and lighting candles? Why not do special activities after lighting the candles, with a different focus each night of the holiday?

**Tuesday night - Dreidel night.** In addition to the traditional *dreidel* game, you could play a variation that a colleague shared with me – Barbara Binder Kadden, RJE – which she learned from Faye Tillis Lewy. For this activity you will need 8 sheets of construction paper or copy paper, scissors, markers, pens or crayons. Cut a large *dreidel* shape from each of the 8 sheets of construction paper. Write one of the discussion starters listed below or your own discussion starter on the *dreidels* you have cut out. Then, draw in 8 blank lines below the discussion starter. As a family, try to come up with 8 answers for each of the discussion starters. Choose one family member each night to be the scribe who writes down the answers on the *dreidel*. Discussion starters: Togetherness is part of our family when . . . Sharing is part of our family when . . . Loving is part of our family when . . . Fun is part of our family when . . . Celebration is part of our family when . . . Mitzvot are part of our family when . . . Learning is part of our family when . . . Tradition is a part of our family when . . .

**Wednesday night - How to make the oil last with a gift to the earth and your home.** On this second night, you could base discussion or activities on energy conservation. One activity might be to change the types of lightbulbs you use. For more information on this Chanukah activity, visit [www.coejl.org/climatechange/cc\\_cfl.php](http://www.coejl.org/climatechange/cc_cfl.php). COEJL, Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life, has many Chanukah age-appropriate lessons on the environment. Two of my favorites are global change for Kindergarten through 4th Graders, and “Hanukkah Energy Scavenger Hunt” for 5th through 8th Graders. Both of these can be found at [http://www.coejl.org>Resources>Seeds](http://www.coejl.org/Resources/Seeds), then type Hanukkah into the Keyword Search.

**Thursday night - The Story of Chanukah and Other Chanukah stories.** The entire family can have fun with charades centered around the holiday. The gifts you give your children on this night could be Chanukah books to read together as a family. For a wonderful list of Chanukah books for various ages, please visit [www.admin.emanuel-nyc.org/media/documents/doc\\_422.pdf](http://www.admin.emanuel-nyc.org/media/documents/doc_422.pdf). A separate link for this can also be found on the URJ’s webpage on Chanukah.

**Friday night - We hope all of you will join us for the fourth night of Chanukah at Temple Beth El of Northern Westchester to celebrate Shabbat and Chanukah.** Before you attend, discuss the fact that Chanukah means dedication and celebrates the Rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem. The design of the space where we worship

*Tuesday, December 20 and Thursday, December 22 we will light Chanukah candles and celebrate Chanukah at 5:30 each night. Parents are invited to join us to celebrate Chanukah as a community before celebrating as a family at home.*



plays an important role in setting the tone. For example, the Rabbis derived a moral message from the description of the ark covered with gold both inside and out (*Exodus 25:11*). This teaches us that a truly wise person’s inside and outside should match (*Yoma 72b*). If you have time for family discussion before you enter the sanctuary, share the feelings you get in our synagogue. What messages do you get from the way the space is designed? What is your favorite part of our synagogue and why? How does it look different at different times of the day or year? How are you feeling as we work toward having an entire new section of our synagogue to dedicate?

**Saturday night - A great family night at home in the kitchen celebrating oil!** Consider how many different latke recipes you could make! For help with latke recipes, please visit the TBE website. (For another interesting Chanukah recipe site, please visit [www.reformjudaism-mag.org/Articles/index.cfm?id=1081](http://www.reformjudaism-mag.org/Articles/index.cfm?id=1081). Have an *Iron Chef* contest with the oil as a secret ingredient. As you have fun in the kitchen, this might be a great night to make a donation to Mazon, a Jewish hunger organization, donating 3% of the cost of tonight’s festivities.

**Sunday night - Tzedakah.** For the past few years, The Reform Movement has asked families to make the sixth night “*Ner Shel Tzedakah*” (Candle of *Tzedakah*), a night of giving to address issues of poverty, instead of yet another night of gifts for our children. This would also be a lovely night to donate your time as a family to an organization of your choice. For more information on *Ner Shel Tzedakah*: A Hanukkah Project please visit [www.urj.org/socialaction/issues/poverty/ner\\_shel\\_tzedakah/](http://www.urj.org/socialaction/issues/poverty/ner_shel_tzedakah/).

**Monday night - An educational night with themes of courage and gratitude.** For a wonderful family ceremony on Chanukah and role models of courage see “*Kindling Flames of Courage*” at [www.babaganewz.com/teachers/kindling-flames-of-courage-a-hanukkah-ceremony](http://www.babaganewz.com/teachers/kindling-flames-of-courage-a-hanukkah-ceremony). (This ceremony includes a great way to give your children chocolate Chanukah gelt.) For a wonderful activity on gratitude and the Chanukah prayer *Al HaNisim*, see [www.babaganewz.com/holidays/hanukkah](http://www.babaganewz.com/holidays/hanukkah).

**Tuesday night - How Chanukah is celebrated in Israel.** You could make *sufganiyot*, jelly doughnuts (recipe provided on our website) and get a *dreidel* from Israel and discover the different letter on it (the letter *peh* for *Poh, here*, instead of the letter *shin* for *sham, there*). There is a wonderful game on the internet entitled “*poh and sham game*” found at [babaganewz.com/holidays/Hanukkah](http://www.babaganewz.com/holidays/Hanukkah), prompting guesses at which pictures are from Israel and which are not!

(continued on page 14)



(Susan Cosden, Chanukah, continued from page 13)

If you would like different ideas to do for each of the eight nights of Chanukah you can visit [www.babaganewz.com/articles/8-ways-to-rededicate-your-room](http://www.babaganewz.com/articles/8-ways-to-rededicate-your-room) for activities your children can do in their own bedrooms or [www.babaganewz.com/activities/8-days-of-hanukkah](http://www.babaganewz.com/activities/8-days-of-hanukkah) for ways you can celebrate as a family and caring for the larger community each of the eight nights. One last resource I wanted to share is the Reform Action Center has a Social Justice Chanukah Gift Guide at [www.rac.org/pubs/holidayguides/channukah/giftguide/index.cfm?%20](http://www.rac.org/pubs/holidayguides/channukah/giftguide/index.cfm?%20).

Chag Sameach to you and yours. Please know that each night of Religious School the students will be gathering shortly before carpool to light candles, recite the blessings and sing a few songs. If you would like to park, you are welcome to come inside and join us.

L'Shalom,  
Susan Cosden



The Tikkun Olam Council is our congregation's catalyst for seeking social and economic justice. Consistent with the Torah's moral teachings, we are committed to engaging in acts of tzedakah in order to relieve suffering, inequity, and misunderstanding in our local, national, and global communities. We seek others who are similarly situated in doing mitzvot to join us in our mission and to share their ideas for bettering the world.

In November we celebrated Thanksgiving with our wonderful Inter-faith Thanksgiving service and meal. This year's celebration was made even more special with the dedication of our new Campus for Jewish Life. Thank you to all who contributed food for the delicious pot-luck meal following the service.

For further information about the TOC and how you can become involved, please contact Sheila Schneiderman ([sheilasyogi@aol.com](mailto:sheilasyogi@aol.com)) or Brenda Haas ([brendaphaas@yahoo.com](mailto:brendaphaas@yahoo.com)).

The Caring Community Committee is looking for someone to deliver baby gifts and good wishes to temple members who are welcoming a new baby. This is a wonderful way for Temple members with young children to connect with new people in the congregation. It requires just a few minutes of your time several times a year and can be done at your convenience. If you are interested, please contact Phyllis Biren at 666-3339 and she will be happy to describe the job to you.



### TIKKUN OLAM CHANUKAH TOY DRIVE

DECEMBER 1-22

PLACE YOUR DONATIONS  
IN THE COLLECTION BOX  
AT THE TEMPLE ENTRANCE

HEIDI AUERBACHER  
[HAUERBACHE@AOL.COM](mailto:HAUERBACHE@AOL.COM)

Please support the Tikkun Olam Council's annual Chanukah Toy Drive. All toys will be donated by the UJA to children in need in our surrounding communities. Beginning December 1, please look for the donation box in the temple lobby and help bring joy to a child in need this holiday season.

## SISTERHOOD NEWS

### KNITZVAH CORPS:

Knitzvah Corps meetings have returned to the temple. We will generally be meeting the 3rd Wednesday of the month from 7:30 to 9:30 pm.

We welcome all who knit or who want to learn. For more information, contact Hilary Kent [hilaryk13@gmail.com](mailto:hilaryk13@gmail.com) or 238-9793

**Next meeting: December 21**

**Thanks** to the generosity of Temple Beth El's Sisterhood our sanctuary is equipped with an infrared sound system which will enable those with difficulty hearing to have personal amplification through the use of an individual receiver. You do not need a hearing aid for these units to be of assistance. The units are available at the entrance to the sanctuary fifteen minutes before services begin.

**92ND STREET Y BROADCASTS  
CONTINUE AT TEMPLE BETH EL!**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 7 PM

MAKING OUR DEMOCRACY WORK:  
US SUPREME COURT JUSTICE STEPHEN BREYER,  
MODERATED BY LEGAL SCHOLAR LINDA GREENHOUSE

\$10 CHARGE  
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ARE FREE

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
KEY BY: Beginning Years RS: Religious School				1		3 9:00 AM Simchat Shabbat 9:15 AM Torah Study 10:30 AM Shabbat Worship Service with b'nei mitzvah 5:00 PM Shabbat Worship Service with b'nei mitzvah
					2 5:30 PM Kabbal-tot Shabbat Worship Service 6:15 PM Family Shabbat Dinner 7:15 PM Family Shabbat Worship Service w/ 5th Grade Participation & Child Author Chris Moriarty 8:30 PM Youth Movie Night	
4 RS Book Fair 9:00 AM RS 4th Grade Family Education 9:00 AM RS K - 4th Grades 9:00 AM Jewish Book Council Author - Ellen Bari, "Jumping Jenny"	5 BJE - Teacher Professional Day - NS Closed 3:45 PM RS 5th & 6th Grades 6:15 PM RS 7th Grade 6:15 PM RS 8th - 12th Grades	6 12:00 AM BY - Parent Conferences for 2's (no school for 2's) 4:00 PM RS 3rd & 4th Grades	7 9:00 AM BY Holiday Boutique 9:00 AM BY & Sisterhood Mah Jongg 7:00 PM Introduction to Judaism - A Journey through Jewish Learning and Living	8 3:45 PM RS 5th & 6th Grades 6:00 PM B'nei Mitzvah Chavurah - Group 2 Session 3 (RM) 7:00 PM Communications Meeting 7:00 PM BY Open House 8:00 PM Executive Committee Meeting	9 6:15 PM Introduction to Judaism Dinner 8:00 PM Human Rights Shabbat Worship Service w/ Tina Rosenberg, Author "Join the Club"	10 9:15 AM Torah Study 10:30 AM B'nei mitzvah 2013 Shabbaton
11 NFTY Social Justice Day 9:00 AM RS K - 4th Grades 11:15 AM Jewish Book Council Author - Jill Jacobs 7:00 PM 92nd St. Y Broadcast: Making our Democracy Work: US Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer	12 3:45 PM RS 5th & 6th Grades 6:15 PM RS 7th Grade 6:15 PM RS 8th - 12th Grades 8:15 PM Finance Committee Meeting	13 4:00 PM RS 3rd & 4th Grades	14 URJ Biennial 2011 7:00 PM Introduction to Judaism - A Journey through Jewish Learning and Living	15 3:45 PM RS 5th & 6th Grades	16 RS 7th Grade Shabbaton 8:00 PM Shabbat Worship Service w/ Alina Tugend, Author "Better by Mistake"	17 9:15 AM Torah Study
18 8:00 AM TBE Blood Drive 9:00 AM RS K- 4th Grade 9:15 AM What's the Point of All This?	19 3:45 PM RS 5th & 6th Grades 6:15 PM RS 7th Grade 6:15 PM RS 8th - 12th Grades 8:15 PM Board of Trustees Meeting	20 Chanukah - 1st Night 11:00 AM Chanukah Party for 2's Classes 4:00 PM RS 3rd & 4th Grades	21 Chanukah 7:00 PM Introduction to Judaism 7:30 PM Knitz-vah Meeting 8:00 PM Volunteer Choir Rehearsal	22 Chanukah 11:00 AM Chanukah Party for 3's & 4's Classes 3:45 PM RS 5th & 6th Grades 8:00 PM Worship Committee Meeting	23 Chanukah 5:30 PM Chanukah Party 7:15 PM Chanukah Service	24 Chanukah 9:15 AM Torah Study
25 Chanukah Winter Recess - BY & Religious School Closed	26 Chanukah BY & RS Winter Recess - School Closed Legal Holiday - Temple Office Closed	27 Last Night Chanukah BY & RS Winter Recess - Religious School Closed	28 Last Day Chanukah BY & RS Winter Recess - Religious School Closed 7:30 PM Israeli Book Group - "Blue Mountain" by Meir Shalev	29 BY & RS Winter Recess - Religious School Closed	30 BY & RS Winter Recess - Religious School Closed 8:00 PM Shabbat Worship Service	31 9:15 AM Torah Study

## OUR JOYS, OUR SORROWS

*For everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven.  
- Ecclesiastes 3:1 -*



Michael Adler  
Samuel Birenbaum  
Michael Bloom  
Danielle Boilen  
Maximilian Brodsky  
Emily Burack  
Ashley Charleson  
Benjamin Deutsch  
Cara Dorst  
Nicole Dorst  
Gabriel Duran  
Benjamin Ehrlich  
Danielle Jacobson  
Jacklyn Katz  
Mikayla Kibel

Harris Klein  
Sarah Koestler  
Nadia Langsam  
Erica Lazarus  
Caroline Lesser  
Annabel Levin  
Dylan Mutkoski  
Matthew Mutkoski  
Samantha Nack  
Rebecca Newborn  
Jack Panzer  
Carly Penn  
Haley Penn  
Danielle Perelman

Joshua Perlmutter  
Jessica Prizer  
Sophie Rader  
Jack Rifkin  
Jessica Rosendorf  
Grace Rubin  
Joseph Saltzman  
Rachel Schelling  
Zachary Schmolka  
Elexa Shaiken  
Korie Shaiken  
Adam Stein  
Samantha Troob  
Ashley Wachtfogel  
Sebastian Zucker



*Our special thanks to those sponsoring Onegs:*

Shari and Paul Friedman  
Nancy and Len Panzer  
Bettina and Michael Prober

*Mazal Tov from the congregation to:*

Steven & Alissa Dorfman on the birth of their daughter,  
Beatrice Hope Dorfman on October 17



## RECENT GIFTS

*List of Tributes from 10/17/2011 to 11/14/2011*

### Associate Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Lisa, John & Leonore Janis  
Beth & Evan Greenberg in honor of Rabbi Mitelman on the occasion of Tess Greenberg's Bat Mitzvah  
Stan Kravet in honor and in appreciation of Rabbi Mitelman's support of our family  
Joan & Sam Ginsburg in memory of Rebecca Goldman  
Joan & Sam Ginsburg in memory of Sol Ginsburg  
Joan & Sam Ginsburg in memory of Rose Ginsburg  
Joan & Sam Ginsburg in memory of Simon Goldman  
Joe Goldreich in memory of Miriam Hirschfeld  
Richard & Lucille Goldsmith in memory of Henry Goldsmith  
Barry & Linda Slotnick in memory of Hannah Slotnick  
Sheila Crespi & Andy Sparks in memory of Isaac Crespi

### Betty & Jack Bader Adult Education Fund

Barry & Gloria Meisel in honor of Eleanor and Ted Altman  
Fred & Amy Robin in memory of Robert Harrison

### Cantor's Discretionary Fund

Beth & Evan Greenberg in honor of Cantor Anesi on the occasion of Tess Greenberg's Bat Mitzvah  
Joe Goldreich in memory of Benjamin Jaffe  
Richard & Lucille Goldsmith in memory of Walter Meyer  
Barry & Linda Slotnick in memory of Louis Leiboff

### Caring Community Fund

Alice Ozaroff in honor of Susan & Cliff Ray's 50th Anniversary  
Rachel & Benjamin Rosin in honor of Phyllis Biren and the Caring Committee  
Ronni Diamondstein in memory of Saul Diamondstein  
Ronni Diamondstein in memory of Charlotte Diamondstein  
Ann Wray in memory of Irene Zuckerman, mother of Ilene Saltzman

### Ellis & Rae Zimmer Fund For Children In Need

Susan & Stewart Alpert in memory of Sam Datz  
Steven & Elaine Dreyer in memory of Helen Dreyer

### Temple Beth El Endowment Fund

Carol, Albert, Adam & Jeremy Tucker in memory of Belle Finkel

### Rabbi Chaim Stern Caring Community Endowment Fund

Sandra & William Flank in honor of Cliff & Sue Ray's 50th Anniversary  
Marjorie Kern & family in memory of Fred Malina and Chaim Stern  
Bonnie & Larry Kivel & family in memory of Ruth Gold & Shirley Finger

### Torat Chayim: A Youth Enrichment Endowment Fund

Renee & Martin Kimelman in honor of Kyle Tucker  
Bernice & Milt Bassin in memory of Fannie Blasenheim

## DECEMBER YAHRZEITS

### December 1 - 3

Herman Ackman  
Joel Eisenberg  
Sam Hantman  
Max Kivel  
Walter Laufer  
Mitchell Levy  
Evelyn Meisel  
Todd Nelson  
Samuel Schacter

### December 4 - 10

Miriam Bassin  
Sydney Benzer  
Abraham Braslow  
Sam Browdy  
Joseph Cahn  
Mildred Danziger  
Robert Fast  
Esther Fleischman  
Mildred Frisch  
Ruth Ginsberg  
Lee Harris  
Joy Kaplan  
George Katz  
Simon Kellman  
Paula Kimmel  
Richard Knox  
Henrietta Levin  
Gilbert Lipshutz  
Blanche Michaels  
Rita Paprin  
Howard Pottak  
Isadore Reitzes  
Harold Rosenblum  
Michael Rossman  
Sarah Rothman  
Sidney Silverman  
Jacobina Winter-van der Weel  
George Wishny

### December 11 - 17

Helen Amdur  
Reuben Baum  
Muriel Berger  
Benjamin Bloom  
Joseph Chan  
Molly Cohen  
Mildred Danziger  
Shirley Dobkin  
Gilbert Dorfman  
Ruth Fishman  
Debby Franklin  
Elana Lauren Greenberg  
Harold M. Harrison  
Theodore Hyams  
Claire Nieburg Katcher  
Samuel Kaufman  
Judi Khan  
Sarah Kirsch  
Irving Kraus  
Charles Kraver  
Reggy Levy  
Lillian Malina  
Jessica Nack  
Claire Nortman  
Zena Pierce  
Max Rosedale  
Jacob Rosenfeld  
Marc Ross  
Gladys Stein  
Sophie Stern  
Carol Sussberg  
Aaron Saul Tell  
Michael Zale

### December 18 - 24

Frieda Bleicher  
Dorothy Hazen Burns  
Rosette Cohen  
Pearl Ezratty  
Clara Beeber Galowitz  
Ron Glick

### Max Greenwald

Florence Haber  
Joel Hamroff  
Esther Jacobs  
Sheldon Kaplan  
Michael Lapatine  
Samuel Levy  
Maxwell Ochsner  
Harry Pollack  
Stanley Samuel  
Irving Shapiro  
Gladys Shaw  
Jean Star  
Mildred Weber  
Shepherd Weitman

### December 25 - 31

Janice Bernstein  
Frank Burbank  
Rose Burbank  
Samuel Chertoff  
Charles Dressner  
Bernice Fleisher  
Harold Friedlander  
Irme Gellert  
Ruth Gewitz  
Ray Glickman  
Marvin Goldberg  
Raymond Hoffman  
Abraham Katcher  
Arthur Meyers  
Selma Miller  
Betty Moche  
Adele Newman  
Sarah Norkin  
Adele Price  
Alan Routman



**Yahrzeit - a year's time - is the anniversary of the death of a dear one.** In the temple, it is symbolized by reading the names of the loved ones and the recitation of the Kaddish. Our temple office will remind you of Yahrzeit, following the Jewish or the solar calendar, as you prefer. As so often in Jewish life, we mark a Yahrzeit by giving tzedakah in the name of our beloved.

At home, a twenty-four-hour light is kindled on the eve of Yahrzeit. The family may gather at dusk, and say:

At this moment, in memory of our beloved, we join hands in love and remembrance. A link has been broken in the chain that has bound us together, yet strong bonds of home and love hold us each together. We give thanks for the blessing of life, of companionship, and of memory. We are grateful for the strength and faith that sustained us in the hour of our bereavement. Though sorrow lingers, we have learned that love is stronger than death. Though our loved one is behind our sight, we do not despair, for we sense our beloved in our hearts as a living presence.

## RECENT GIFTS

(Tributes, continued from page 15)

### Flower Fund

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Spitalny  
Kathy & Michael Lavyne in memory of Carol Lavyne Altomare  
Jean & Harold Baker in memory of Eva Susman  
Anita & Stuart Beeber in memory of Jack Beeber  
Debra & Jeffrey Geller in memory of Warren Hyman  
Penny & Stan Hamlet in memory of Werner Hamlet  
Dick & Lee Laster in memory of Caroline Laster  
Dick & Lee Laster in memory of Irma Schneider  
Dovia Lerrick in memory of Phillip Guinness  
Steven Ross & Francine Falk-Ross in memory of Corrine Falk

### Gregory Altman Music & Arts Fund

Keith & Dona Schaitkin in honor of Theodore Altman's 70th Birthday

### Prayer Book Fund

Dr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Shein

### Senior Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Barbara & John Heffer in honor of the baby naming of Charles Benjamin Heffer  
Stan Kravet in honor and in appreciation of Rabbi Davidson's support of our family  
Janet & Mark Ackerman in memory of William Stern  
Janet & Mark Ackerman in memory of Sophie Stern  
Donna & Dodd Farber in memory of Florence Gelber  
Frederick & Vicki Feiner in memory of Edward Ross Aranow  
Joe Goldreich in memory of Frieda Goldreich  
Joe Goldreich in memory of Colonel John A. Coleridge  
Richard & Lucille Goldsmith in memory of Fred Grubel  
Barry & Linda Slotnick in memory of Lillian Engelman

### Tributes

Susan & Stewart Alpert in memory of Bernard Daroff

(Yahrzeits, continued)

Arthur Sarowitz	Sarah Sanders Shultz
Marilyn Schacter	Milton Spitz
Bertram Schleimer	Audrey Strelzyn
Alex Schneiderman	Hyman Wachtfogel
Bertha Schwartz	Joseph Weinstein

## IN TIMES OF SADNESS AND IN TIMES OF JOY, PLEASE KEEP US INFORMED!

It is always a pleasure to hear good news from our temple members and to share joys. Often it helps to share problems or illnesses, too. Our Rabbis, Cantor, and Caring Community Committee want to respond to the needs of our congregants. Please let us know if you, or some other temple member, might be helped by a visit or telephone call. Many people assume that everyone knows, but a note or call to the temple office, at 238-3928, will get the message to our clergy.

As part of the second phase of our Listening Campaign, TBE members are focusing on environmental issues and encourage the support of congregants in recycling both at the temple and at home. Please feel free to clip this listing for easy reference and watch for appropriate receptacles in the building. More in next month's bulletin.

# What Can We Recycle?

## RECYCLABLE ITEMS (Glass, Metal, & Plastic Items should be rinsed clean):

Place in blue bins, or blue or clear bags for Commingled Curbside Collection.

- A. Glass bottles and jars (food bottles & jars, wine bottles, liquor bottles)
- B. Metals (must be clean)
  - 1. Food and beverage cans
  - 2. Aluminum foil, pie plates, baking or roasting pans
  - 3. Empty aerosol cans
  - 4. Pet food cans
  - 5. Old license plates (render unusable, cut in half, deface plate number)
- C. Plastic Bags [Grocery, store and dry-cleaner bags (bag & tie in a plastic bag)]
- D. Numbered Plastic Containers (Numbers found stamped within triangle or arrows)
  - 1. PET or PETE (Soft drinks, water, juice, beer, mouthwash, PB&J jars, microwavable trays)
  - 2. HDPE (Bottles for milk, water, juice, shampoo, detergents, household cleaners)
  - 3. PVC (Rigid packaging, blister packs & "clamshells," flexible packaging)
  - 4. LDPE (Bags for dry-cleaning, newspapers, bread, produce, frozen foods, squeeze bottles)
  - 5. PP (Yogurt, margarine "tubs," medicine bottles, catsup & syrup bottles, bottle caps)
  - 6. PS (Food service items, hinged takeout containers, foam packaging for furniture and electronics, packing "peanuts," compact discs, aspirin bottles)
  - 7. Other (Custom packaging ["multi-layer combinations"], and some citrus & catsup bottles)
- E. Paper and Corrugated Cardboard Items (clean without food residue)
  - 1. Newspapers, magazines, direct-marketing mail
  - 2. Cardboard, cereal, tissue boxes (remove plastic or wax paper liners)
  - 3. Clean pizza boxes
  - 4. Office or copier paper



**WJCS PUBLISHES ONLINE GUIDE  
TO AUTISM SERVICES**

WJCS has published an online Guide to Autism Services, which contains information about various services and supports WJCS offers for those on the autism spectrum and their families. This excellent resource is available at [www.wjcs.com/AutismGuide](http://www.wjcs.com/AutismGuide).

For those who do not have internet access, the Guide is available by calling 914-761-0600 x 228.

**DONATIONS REQUESTED  
FOR THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL:**

New or gently used/almost new:  
Flip video cameras

Digital photo cameras that can be plugged directly into computers  
Laptop computers  
iPads

If you would like to donate any of these items or would like to make a donation toward a purchase, please contact Susan Cosden, at 914-238-5641 or [scosden@bethelnw.org](mailto:scosden@bethelnw.org).

**MAH JONGG!**

Sponsored by the Sisterhood and Beginning Years  
December 7, 9:00-12:30 pm

Open to all ladies. Refreshments served!

The Westchester Jewish Council wishes all of you a Happy Chanukah!

**SAVE THE DATE!**

The 36th Annual (Double Chai)  
Westchester Jewish Council Gala  
Saturday, February 11, 7 pm, honoring  
The Honorable Martin Rogowsky and Toby Rogowsky,  
Fred and Joyce Claar

Featuring the comedy of the Chicago City Limits  
Westchester Jewish Center, Rockland & Palmer Avenues  
Mamaroneck

For more information call the Westchester Jewish Council  
(914) 328-7001 [info@wj council.org](mailto:info@wj council.org)

(Formerly the Westchester Jewish Conference)  
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Visit us at [www.wjcouncil.org](http://www.wjcouncil.org)

# TEMPLE BETH EL OF NORTHERN WESTCHESTER

**220 South Bedford Road • Chappaqua, NY 10514**

www.bethelnw.org

temple@bethelnw.org

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## Cantor - Dana Anesi

danesi@bethelnw.org

## Assistant Cantor - Ellen Dreskin

edreskin@bethelnw.org

## Executive Director - Gennifer Kelly

executivedirector@bethelnw.org

## Director of Education - Susan Cosden

scosden@bethelnw.org

## Early Childhood Director - Janet Goldstein

jgoldstein@bethelnw.org

## WE ARE AN INCLUSIVE CONGREGATION

Temple Beth El of Northern Westchester welcomes all who wish to participate in Jewish life – singles, couples and families in all their forms, gays, lesbians, interfaith couples – all people regardless of age, sexual orientation, or financial means. In the words of Rabbi Davidson: “The synagogue is a kehilah kedoshah – a sacred community. It’s like a sukkah. A sukkah is constructed of many different branches woven together. So is the synagogue: the young and the old, the rich and the poor, the married and the unmarried, single parents, grandparents, gays and heterosexuals, non-Jewish spouses. The broader the sukkah’s reach, the more tightly its branches are woven, the stronger it stands. So too the synagogue: the greater the variety of people welcomed within it, the closer they feel to one another, the stronger the temple stands.”

## TEMPLE BETH EL BULLETIN

Published monthly, September through June, by the congregants of Temple Beth El of Northern Westchester

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## BOARD OF TRUSTEES OFFICERS

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## TRUSTEES

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## AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

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## PAST PRESIDENTS-HONORARY

## MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

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Ernest M. Grunbaum - May Rolle - Barry Meisel - Melvin Ehrlich  
Gloria Meisel - David Ruzow

## NEW TELEPHONE EXTENSIONS

**1300** Life Cycle Emergency

**1310** Rabbi Joshua M. Davidson (917- 439 - 6757)

**1312** Rabbi Geoffrey A. Mitelman (646 - 853 - 4421)

**1316** Cantor Dana Anesi

**1317** Assistant Cantor Ellen Dreskin

**1321** Gennifer Kelly, Executive Director

**1320** Rose Hill, Executive Assistant

**1310** Jaclyn Trustman, Secretary to Rabbi Davidson

**1323** Galia Silverberg, Media Coordinator

**1323** Abby Hines, Communications Specialist

**1322** Ann Testone, Bookkeeper

**1121** Susan Cosden, Director of Education

**1120** Deborah Ross, Admin. Asst. Religious School

**1221** Janet Goldstein, Early Childhood Director

**1220** Nancy Silver, Admin. Asst. Early Childhood

**1600** Gregory Allen, Building Manager

Cemetery information: 238-3928

**TEMPLE BETH EL OF NORTHERN WESTCHESTER**

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CHAPPAQUA, NY 10514

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**MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. WEEKEND**  
**JANUARY 13, 15 & 16**

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 13**

Rev. Dr. Paul Briggs and special musical guest, the Afro Semitic Experience. Join us and friends from Antioch Baptist Church of Bedford Hills for our 10th annual Shabbat Service to honor the legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



Led by David Chevan and Warren Byrd, the Afro Semitic Experience has been playing together since about 1997, participating in all kinds of events, from services to concerts, all over the country. They've been featured on PBS and were the focus of a large story on NPR's Weekend Edition. As is their style, we will be treated to a variety of cultural genres of music that will include Gospel, Klezmer, and African drumming, among others..



*And join us for Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Observances at Antioch Baptist Church, 3 Church Street, Bedford Hills.*

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 15 AT 4 PM**  
COMMUNITY WORSHIP SERVICE

**MONDAY, JANUARY 16**

EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR FOR ALL AGES

8:00 am Coffee/Registration

9:00 am - 12:00 pm Educational Seminar

Dialogue and Community

**HAPPY CHANUKAH!**  
**(DECEMBER 20 - 28)**



**\$10 PP - PLEASE RSVP TO ROSE AT  
RHILL@BETHELNW.ORG BY DECEMBER 19.**

**JOIN US!**

