

Temple Beth Abraham Bulletin

December 2013 – Vol. 40, NO. 03 • telephone: 603-883-8184 • e-mail: office@tbanashua.org • www.tbanashua.org



The Season of Giving of Yourself
See the *President's article* as well as,
Something to Think About and
Sisterhood articles for some ideas...



December 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 Kislev Chanukah No School	29 Kislev Chanukah	30 Kislev Chanukah Chanukah Party 6:15 EXEC 8:00	1 Tevet Chanukah Neighborhood Watch	2 Tevet Chanukah Torah Study 10:30-noon No School	3 Tevet CL: 3:55 Family Service 7 PM	4 Tevet Vayigash Havdalah: 4:58 Shabbat Yachad Jr. Cong./Shabbat Shlaymah Lunch & Learn
5 Tevet	6 Tevet	7 Tevet	8 Tevet	9 Tevet	10 Tevet	11 Tevet
No School	Ritual Comm.	Avodah Shebalev w/Laura Hegfield 9:30 Daytime Activity Group 12:30 School Committee	Sisterhood B.O.D.	Torah Study 10:30-noon	Services at 8 PM	Veyechi Havdalah: 4:58
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
No School	Finance Committee	B.O.D. 8:00	Lifelong Learning Comm.	Torah Study 10:30-noon	Friday Night Jam 7 PM	Jr. Cong/Shabbat Shlaymah Kabbalah at Betenu 12:45
12 Tevet	13 Tevet	14 Tevet	15 Tevet	16 Tevet	17 Tevet	18 Tevet
Gan Katan Men's Club Breakfast	Finance Committee	B.O.D. 8:00	Lifelong Learning Comm.	Torah Study 10:30-noon	CL: 3:58 Friday Night Jam 7 PM	Shemot Havdalah: 5:01
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
No School	20 Tevet	21 Tevet	22 Tevet	23 Tevet	24 Tevet	25 Tevet
No School	No School	No School	Office Closed	No School	CL: 4:02 Services 8 PM	Va'era Havdalah: 5:05
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
No School	27 Tevet	28 Tevet New Year's Eve Avodah Shebalev w/Laura Hegfield 9:30 No School				
26 Tevet	27 Tevet	28 Tevet	29	30	31	
No School						
29	30	31				

Jared Steinberg Bar Mitzvah

Friday Night

There's a rule I heard somewhere that a rabbi shouldn't repeat a sermon he or she has given until a few years have passed. Then again, I heard somewhere that every rabbi has a few sermons that she or he delivers in different ways over and over.



Rabbi Spira-Savett

On Rosh Hashanah two years ago, I gave a [sermon](#) about eating together on Shabbat evenings. You may remember it: I started by talking about rectangular tables versus round ones... But my point was that some very special things happen when we meet each other on Shabbat outside the synagogue, in one another's homes.

As the winter approaches, we have a tendency to retreat into our own homes alone when it is cold and dark. But now is exactly the time I want to challenge us to do more of something in our community: to make Friday night dinner into Shabbat.

Let me suggest one thing that is easy and one that may be more difficult. The easy thing is this: Do one more thing to make the Friday night meal you already have special in a Jewish way.

Each month going forward we'll print a bulletin page about one of the rituals, its how's and why's, so you can add to your ritual repertoire. But it's your home – you choose how to add to your Shabbat. Light Shabbat candles – one for each person in your home or family. Say a blessing. Talk

about something important, like a proud moment in everyone's week or an issue in the world.

Now for the more difficult thing: Invite someone else over for dinner on Shabbat evening.

In that Rosh Hashanah sermon, I tried to coin a Hebrew term that would mean "a person I spend Shabbat with who isn't my good friend or relative." I called this a *chaver-se'udah* or *chaverat-se'udah*. I suppose you could translate this as a "feast companion", which is why it sounds better in Hebrew.

My point is that a Shabbat meal isn't only for friends, and it's not a commitment of friendship. Interesting, serendipitous things happen when you spend time with someone you know through the synagogue, but

(Continued on the following page ...)

The Six Senses of Chanukah

There are so many wonderful memories of Chanukah. What do you remember from when you were young?



President
Lisa Bonneau

I close my eyes and use my five senses to remember. I loved the smell of the holiday dinner cooking. Even now I can taste the delicious fried latkes. I remember my

parents taking out a huge jar of pennies. We would all sit around the table and play dreidel. When one of us ran out of pen-

nies another one would share theirs so the game wouldn't end. We had so many different size, color and textured dreidels that I can feel the stem rotating between my thumb and finger as we would try spinning them all at the same time or flipping them upside-down.

If you were inside the house or looking at the window from the street, the sight of at least 7 menorahs (we were 5 kids and often more with friends and family) full of colorful candles burned in the window area and it was an incredible sight, especially on the 8th night. I can still hear my father whistling the Chanukah tunes as we all sang together; when you are young

you can never sing Dreidle Dreidle Dreidle too many times.

The senses of smell, taste, touch, sight, and hearing are important to observing the world around us. I offer you to think about another sense, the 6th sense for this holiday: the sense of giving. Think of ways to break away from the cycle of children only "receiving" gifts on Chanukah. Many families have developed new holiday rituals where children give holiday gifts. Families can designate each holiday night for a different type of giving.

(Continued on the following page ...)



Friday Night continued ...

not in the synagogue. Conversations flow, you learn things, you talk about life and the world with people you don't usually talk with.

Think of it this way: Shabbat dinner isn't a party where you have to worry about who you are supposed to invite. So, maybe there's a family you are acquainted with through the Religious School, or maybe you'd like to welcome someone who is new to town or new to the community. Maybe you had an interesting conversation once with someone around Kiddush at the synagogue. Maybe you'd like to have someone who lives near you in the area.

This doesn't have to be a fancy dinner party. You don't have to make

matzah ball soup! Don't worry if you aren't doing everything perfect from a ritual point of view. Split the work with a friend, or do it potluck, if that makes it easier. Everything in your house doesn't have to be just so – it's amazing what a beautiful table, good company, and the magic of Shabbat create all by themselves.

Jews have believed for more than three thousands years that Shabbat is transformative—*me'ayn Olam Haba*, “a taste of the World to Come.” I'm convinced that Shabbat is how we can create and transform our community, and not only at services in the synagogue.

There are synagogues where anytime there's a new person, there is

automatically a Shabbat invitation – on the spot for lunch, or the following week for Shabbat dinner. Shabbat hospitality is contagious, and it's a path to all kinds of hospitality and generosity.

Part of our mission as Beth Abraham is to unleash the transformative power of Judaism by weaving it into all the places we live our lives. It's not just contained inside the synagogue.

I'm happy to talk with you and answer any questions you have about Shabbat, on any level. Open your calendar now, and pick a Shabbat you can share.

L'shalom,
Rabbi Jon

The Six Senses of Chanukah continued ...

Fill your homes with all the wonderful smells, sounds, sights and tastes of Chanukah that you remember as being special. Remember that young children especially learn through their senses and be sure to include children in holiday preparations for a complete learning experience. Expose children to the beauty and warmth of our faith. Give thanks and take time to gather with family and friends and to help those less fortunate.

Chag Sameach.

B'yedidut (In Friendship),

Lisa

In Case of a Storm

The next time there is a power outage in our area, the synagogue may be able to be of special service in a number of ways.

- If you have no one who checks on you regularly and you would like someone from the congregation to call you or stop by to make sure you are all right, please contact the office and let us know now ahead of time.
- If the synagogue has power and heat during a widespread outage, the building will be open during weekdays office hours and perhaps Sundays as well for people to drop in, stay warm, recharge phones, etc. If anyone is willing to be on a contact list to help monitor the building or organize any activities, please volunteer to the office.
- We hold both weekday and Shabbat services unless it is dangerous to travel or the power is out in

the synagogue. Use your judgment as far as your own safe travel. If we have to cancel our services or relocate them, we will post that information on the synagogue homepage and the voicemail if we can.

- We may use an automated phone call if there is information about services or other important activities. If you do not wish to receive such a call let us know and we can remove your number from that list. If the power is out we would include cell-phones, but if do not want your cellphone to receive such a call let us know.



December Service Schedule

Services are held every Friday evening at 8:00 PM (unless otherwise noted) and every Saturday at 9:30 AM.

SPECIAL EVENT SERVICES

December 6

Family Service 7 PM

December 7

Jr. Congregation & Shabbat Yachad

December 13 & 14

Jared Steinberg Bar Mitzvah

December 14

Jr. Congregation

December 20

Friday Night Jam – 7 PM

Oneg, Kiddush & Flower Sponsors

December 13 & 14

Audrey & Barry Steinberg in honor of Bar Mitzvah of son, Jared

Flower Sponsor Nov. 27 -30

Ellen Zucker & family in memory of grandmother, Hattie Porter

Jared Steinberg Saturday, December 14

Jared Steinberg, son of Audrey and Barry Steinberg, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, December 14, *Parashat Vayechi*. Jared is a 7th grade student at the Ross A. Lurgio Middle School in Bedford. Older sister, Kayla joins Jared's parents in wishing him a wonderful Shabbat and simcha. In addition, Jared enjoys hockey, tennis and golf. He also likes reading, listening to music, and playing the trumpet and piano.



Tuesday, December 10 & 31 9:30 - 10:45 AM Avodah Shebalev – Devotion of the Heart

Morning Prayer Circle Led
by Laura Hegfield

Drawn from the wealth of wisdom and inspiration found in *Birchot Hashachar*, the preliminary morning prayers and *Psukei D'zimra*, the Songs of Praise section of our traditional prayers and psalms that follow through to the *Shema*, the series will be an opportunity to connect as a *kehillah kedosha*, holy community, to learn about our own habits of body, mind, heart and soul, to devote ourselves to *avodah shebalev*, service, or devotion of the heart in relation to *Hashem*, and this miraculous world we live in and tend.

Simcha Club

Children whose birthdays occur in the month of December will be honored at the Family Service on Friday, December 6th at 7 PM. A special birthday dessert will be served to the children at the Oneg Shabbat. We ask the parents (or grandparents) to send a donation of \$9.00 per child to help defray the cost of refreshments. Please make checks payable to TBA Sisterhood and send or drop them off at the Temple office (mark the envelope "Simcha Club"). Be sure to include the names and birth dates of your children. Donations are always welcome and will be acknowledged in the next bulletin.

We will be celebrating the birthdays of Ilana Chasin, Ori Forest, Kory Garnick, Matthew Goldstein, Rebecca Kaiser, Ian Lewis, Samuel Oser, Anne Sherman and Jasper Workman at services on the 6th. Hope to see you there.

Shabbat Yachad שבת יחד

December 7

Temple Beth Abraham's
Intergenerational Shabbat
of Prayer, Learning and
Community

Services for All Ages
Learning for Adults and
Children
Kiddush Luncheon

- Traditional Service, Adult Learning Service and Meditation begin at 9:30 AM
- Students move to the School at 10:30 AM while adults join in the Sanctuary
- Students, Faculty and Community Members conclude services together in the Sanctuary beginning at 11:45 AM
- Kiddush luncheon for everyone following services

Please join us for this
special Shabbat!

Friday Night Jam!

December 20 – 7:00 PM

Bring any instrument and help lead Shabbat evening services with Rabbi Jon and other Beth Abraham musicians.

Havdalah
December 21 – 5:00 PM
at TBA

Community News

Best Wishes to:

- Bob Weisman on being named Nashua Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the year 2013

- Marty Fabian receiving Nashua Senior Don Drucker Center Award

Welcome New Members

- Sarit Itenberg & Jonathan Greenblatt (Bedford)

Condolences to:

- Merle Carrus on the loss of her beloved stepmother, Florence Eisman

- Daniel Palmer on the loss of his beloved father, Michael Palmer

- Lynn Schenker on the loss of her beloved sister, Marilyn McGinty

To all those people in our community who are ill we wish you a complete & speedy recovery.

Daytime Activity Group

The Daytime Activity Group enjoyed lunch and a movie on Tuesday, Nov.12. Joel Rosenblatt's mother was one of eight lucky residents of a nursing home in Connecticut who went on a thrilling trip to Israel. Joel and Noreen filled in all the details of this human interest story.

On the agenda for the Tuesday, Dec. 10 meeting is the playing of board games. We will eat at home and start the games at 12:30. All who like to be active during the day are welcome to come and to bring a game you would like to share.

For more information please call Marilyn Greenspan at 429-1675 or TBA.

When Parents Get Older

On Sunday, November 17, about fifteen people gathered to talk about some of the challenges and dilemmas of caring for our older parents. This first in a series of programs was facilitated by Rabbi Beth Naditch from Newton, a professional who specializes in chaplaincy work with elderly people. Rabbi Naditch led us through some Jewish teachings probing the implications of the Torah's command to "honor your father and your mother." She showed that even two thousand years ago, the rabbis of the Talmud wrestled with dilemmas of caregiving – for parents with diminished cognitive capacities, in the context of family conflict.

Around the table, people shared stories about the complexities of our families. For many people, an important take-away was that they are not alone – other people and families wrestle with the same challenges. We began to develop a list of resources, which will be published on the synagogue website. Watch through the winter for more programs in this series.

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Havdalah

Beth Abraham

December. 21

5:00 PM



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Spotlight on our Teachers

Professionals Engaging in Professional Development

As I have written before, Temple Beth Abraham Religious School takes a serious approach to Jewish education. A vital aspect of this is the professional development of the teachers who work in our community. Not only do I as Director continually look for opportunities for myself to continue to improve my practice and stay current about issues in the field of education, but it is also an important part of my job to bring opportunities to our faculty.



Director of
Education &
Programming
Heidi N. Lovitz

We are always moving forward to improve our practice, the teaching and learning that occurs in actual classrooms.

We are fortunate that in the last decade, the models of professional development have themselves developed. Teachers can share best practices in a variety of ways not limited to taking a class and then returning to the classroom to teach in a vacuum. In our school, we have continued the tradition of using all of our faculty meetings as an opportunity for professional development and collaboration. Administrative details and news are shared through other venues. When our teachers sit around the table together, we learn together. They feel more prepared and empowered to meet the demanding needs of our 21st century learners.

It is also our responsibility to train our next generation of professionals and religious school educators.

As *madrichim*, our teens also learn together and participate in professional development. We hope that they will take these skills to do work in other organizations and educational settings as they grow. Many of our teens become camp counselors (informal Jewish educators) and even Hebrew School teachers and tutors when they go to college!

On Sunday morning, December 8, 2013, our entire faculty, our Gan Katan leaders and even some of our teen *madrichim* will be participating in *LimmudBoston*. *LimmudBoston* is a learning opportunity that is open to all learners, not only our professionals, and we encourage you to join us!

From storytelling, music and meditation to Torah and Talmud, we will become the learners, being inspired and educated.

The *LimmudBoston* website boasts, “*LimmudBoston* is an innovative, volunteer-driven celebration of Jewish lifelong learning for the entire community, beginner to scholar and young to young-at-heart. We present the best in Jewish scholarship, arts, music and community opportunities.

One of the most powerful investments a school can make is in developing its teachers' skills and knowledge.

One of 60+ Limmud conferences worldwide that model the very successful Limmud UK, LimmudBoston recognizes that everyone is a learner—and everyone can be a presenter. LimmudBoston offers over 100 learning presentations and hands-on sessions covering Torah text, Jewish identity, movement, meditation, music, food, lifecycle, theory and practice—and more.”

For more information or to join our faculty at LimmudBoston, please contact Heidi Lovitz, Director of Education and Programming (603)883-9844 or director@tbanashua.org.

Heidi N. Lovitz

director@tbanashua.org
(603) 883-9844

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CROPWalk

By Becky Green

“There are people in the world so hungry that G-d can only appear to them in the form of bread” Gandhi

Yes!! Some of our monies raised is helping Church World Service joining relief efforts in the Phillipines following the massive destruction of Typhoon Haiyan.

This year’s CROPWalk was once again a big success for the greater Nashua area interfaith community and for TBA as hosts. The weather was clear and cold. Two of the three refreshment stops were staffed by some of our Zayin class and parents:

Missy Gaffney, her daughter Hannah and a friend

Harry Vig and son Ben, along with Yami and Isaiah Baker.

USY answered my last minute call and Rosie Hegfield, Zev Sernick, and Naomi Goodman came through to staff the third table at the Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter. Naomi also greeted walkers and sold hats. Ben Goodman and a friend patrolled

Mines Falls on their bikes. Lisa Bonneau and son Aaron drove the emergency van around Nashua and brought back a few cold and tired walkers. Volunteers Paul Moverman, Ira Grollman, Alan Green, Robin and Larry Rubin, Sara Brest, Barry Sack and Daniel Grossman helped with set up and clean up and Larry and Robin served as registrars as well.

The kitchen was competently staffed by a crew of nine young adults managed by Shoshana Green and Tami Mainemer Marshall. Elaine Brody assisted in producing her famous oriental cabbage salad! The young adults purchased, prepped, chopped, mixed, grilled, served, cleaned up, and packaged left-overs. Their work included production of large numbers of apple crisps the previous weekend, assisted by Rosie, Zev and Aaron from USY (and by the unprecedented help of the newly koshered Mega Mixer!!).

The Raymond Street Klezmer Band – Alan, Gordon, Sandy, Ruth, Bruce

and drummer Nip Frissele – played the walkers home and kept us happy during the celebration. The Gospel Choir from New Fellowship Baptist Church, directed by our friend Olga Tines, added their spirit and music to the celebration.

We were able to feed one Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter client family that afternoon. As invited, they followed the walk back to TBA and were able to partake in the hot dog BBQ.

All in all, there were about 340 walkers (including 45 from TBA) and 40 TBA volunteers who helped to make this event possible. We raised \$45,000.

Next year and future years the walk will be coordinated by an interfaith committee chaired by myself. We hope to continue the spirit, to grow with inclusion of more faith communities, and to celebrate our community fellowship and another \$50,000 + annually to be raised for poverty and hunger relief locally and world wide!!



Temple Beth Abraham
4 Raymond St., Nashua, NH 03064

Gan Katan 2013 – 2014



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Classes Meet Two Times a Month from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Curriculum Includes – Music, Jewish Values, Holidays, Crafts, Games, Symbols
Parent Education with Heidi Lovitz, Director of Education and Programming

Next Classes Meet on December 15, 2013, January 5th and 12th, 2014

Tuition: \$125 (first child) \$100 (additional children)

For more information and Registration Form please contact Heidi Lovitz at (603)883-9844 or
director@tbanashua.org

Lighting Shabbat Candles

How to Light the Candles

1. Set up the candles in a place where they can remain through Shabbat. There are different traditions about how many candles we light: two candles, one for each person in the family, or one for everyone present if you have guests.
2. Light the candles. One person can light them, or each person can light one.
3. After the candles are lit, bring your hands three times toward your eyes. Then close your eyes.
4. Say the blessing (open your eyes if you need to in order to read or sing the blessing):

Blessed are You, Adonai	בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה'	<i>Baruch Atah Adonai</i>
our God, Supreme throughout time and space	אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם	<i>Elohaynu Melech Ha-olam</i>
Who makes us holy through the commandments	אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו	<i>Asher Kid'shanu B'mitzvotav</i>
and commands us to light the Shabbat candles.	וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל שַׁבָּת	<i>V'tzivanu L'hadlik Nayr Shel Shabbat</i>

5. Look at the light from the candles and say *Shabbat Shalom!*

Why do we light candles?

Shabbat candles are not mentioned in the Torah, and we do not know exactly when the practice started, though likely it is about two thousand years old. Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel teaches that since the Creation of the world began with light in the darkness, the celebration of the completion of Creation also begins with light. Shabbat candles represent the special light of spiritual inspiration that comes to us on the seventh day.

Why do we cover our eyes?

There is a technical reason for this in *halacha* (Jewish law). Normally, blessings are said before an action. Here, the recitation of the blessing inaugurates Shabbat -- but once it is Shabbat, lighting fire is not allowed according to the Torah. So, we light the candles without looking at them, and only do so after the blessing is said.

The custom of bringing the light of Shabbat candles toward us adds another layer. Shabbat is a special realm, different from the days of the work week. According to the Talmud, our souls expand on Shabbat, and so from the first moment of Shabbat we bring the extra light and divine spirit of the day toward ourselves.

When should candles be lit?

The most common tradition is 18 minutes before sunset. The day of Shabbat, and other holy days, is in this way made longer than the other days of the week, which are considered to begin at sunset. Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik connected the 18 minutes to a Talmudic custom of announcing Shabbat with six shofar blasts, the last interval leaving enough time "to roast a small fish." In Israel, this custom continues, as a siren is sounded at candlelighting time.

Education and Programming

Torah Study with Rabbi Jon – The Book of Kings

Thursdays (except December 26) from 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

We are studying the biblical books of Kings, following the successors of David and Solomon and the early prophets. Join us any week or every week!

Rabbi Jon's Tish

Every Saturday Morning at 9:00 AM (except December 28)

Singing and discussion before services

Learning Service with Noreen Leibson

Saturday, December 7 from 9:30-10:30 AM

Explore the meaning of sections of the morning service each month throughout the year

Shabbat Morning Meditation Hour with Laura Hegfield

Saturday, December 7 from 9:30-10:30 AM

Lunch and Learn

Saturday, December 7 after services

Kabbalah with Eitan Zeira

December 14 -12:45 PM at Betenu

Study the Zohar, the classic medieval work of Jewish mysticism and spirituality

Beginning in January: Adult Bar and Bat Mitzvah Class!

For adults – whether or not you celebrated a Bar/Bat Mitzvah
Learn about the core ideas of Judaism and Jewish prayer

Develop skills to read Hebrew, chant Torah, lead services
Take on the commitments of Jewish living

...toward a community celebration next winter!

If you are interested in learning more, contact Rabbi Jon this month.

*rabbijon.com is now.... **rabbijon.net***

Jewish Learning Always at the Ready

- Text of sermons from High Holy Days and some Shabbat mornings
- * Podcasts – audio presentations on Jewish prayer, the Israel-Palestinian conflict, and *middot* (developing our ethical qualities)
 - Information, news, and perspective on Israel
- Teachings about the weekly Torah reading and the prayerbook
 - Links to Jewish learning and news on the Web

Temple Beth Abraham Annual Chanukah Party

Tuesday, December 3, 2013
6:15 PM - 8:00 PM

Deli, Latkes and Sufgoniot
Family Entertainment
Bring your Menorah

Adult (13 & older) \$15.00
Child (4 - 12) \$8.00
3 & under free



RESERVATIONS by **November 27** are a MUST!!! Please help us out by getting your RSVP in on time so we can order enough food. Mail to TBA Office
4 Raymond St., Nashua, NH 03064.

For added convenience you can charge your payment via PayPal on the TBA website <http://www.tbanashua.org/>. Go to "Donate" on the menu on lefthand side of home page and follow the instructions.

Name _____

Number of Adults _____

Number of Children _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

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December Sisterhood Events

Sisterhood's December program gives us the opportunity to give back to the greater Nashua community. We will be working with the Soup Kitchen staff and other organizations to give food to those in need in greater Nashua.

For over 20 years, the Nashua Soup Kitchen has provided food boxes that include a turkey and all the "fixings" for Christmas dinner. The boxes also include enough extra food for several additional meals. The Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter gives out about 700 boxes at Christmas and they need our help to do this.

We are offering to help organize food boxes on **Tuesday, Dec. 17th from 9:00 AM to noon** and we need volunteers. No matter what your physical health there will be something that each of us can do. It is a wonderful "feel good" activity and we will, as a group, go to lunch after we complete our shift.

The date to give out the food is **Monday, Dec. 23**. This is a change from last year, as there is only one day to distribute all of the boxes. There will be **2 shifts, one from 8:00 AM to noon and the other from noon to 4:00 PM**. There are a variety of positions to be filled. Some require lifting, or standing and some are sedentary, so again, no matter what your physical health you can volunteer and you *are* needed.

You don't have to be a Sisterhood member to volunteer on the 17th, or the 23rd. We would love to get help from husbands, friends and older children. Please RSVP to Carol Kaplan at (603) 860 4163, or cakaplan@hotmail.com, if you are able to help on either, or both days.

Thank you.

Carol Kaplan & Carol Mann-Cohen

Sisterhood Coat Collection

The Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter is in dire need of winter coats and jackets for men, women and children. If you have a jacket or coat to donate, please bring it to the TBA coatroom. Richard has marked off one corner of the coatroom and any coats that are left in this corner will be brought to the Soup Kitchen. This will be an on-going project, so please bring warm coats and jackets any time this winter and we will see that they get to the Soup Kitchen.

Our winters can be very cold, please help Sisterhood to help people in need in our community.

rabbijon.net

- Podcasts – audio presentations on Jewish prayer, the Israel-Palestinian conflict, and *middot* (developing our ethical qualities)
- Information, news, and perspective on Israel
- Teachings about the weekly Torah reading and the prayerbook
- Text of sermons from High Holy Days and Shabbatot
- Melodies and more

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Jewish Reader's Corner

Jewish Book Council Recommended Reading

Book Review by Merle Carrus

The Mothers – by Jennifer Gilmore

So many times when young mothers get together they tell and retell the story of their childbirth experiences. They compare the details of labor and the sleeplessness of the first year of their child's life. Many women who cannot conceive a child naturally, go through many different kinds of fertility treatments. If they are lucky, they will have a story to tell as they hold their infant in their arms. *The Mothers* by Jennifer Gilmore is the story of what happens when the fertility story doesn't have a happy ending.



The Mothers is a story told by Jesse, a college professor who is nearing 40. As a result of having cancer in her 20s she cannot conceive a child naturally. After going through a series of in vitro fertilization, she and her husband, Ramon decide to pursue adoption. We are like a fly on the wall in the lives of Ramon and Jesse as they go through the process of connecting with open adoption agencies, creating an introduction letter and receiving phone calls from possible birthmothers. Jesse and Ramon also meet up with the diversity of parents looking to adopt.

They feel the pressure to be present themselves as the perfect parents so that a birth mother will pick them first. So they write their profile with qualities that they will appeal to the prospective mothers, but may stretch the truth just a little.

Jesse is obsessed with the idea of becoming a mother. She talks about it incessantly. She sees mothers and babies everywhere she goes. All their friends have children and are having children. At any social function they attend their friends are offering helpful suggestions. As one mother hands Jesse her baby to hold saying, "I just held a baby whenever I saw one. They say it helps for some reason." Another mother gives her some more advice, "If you go to a bris and if you are the one to give the baby to the rabbi. That helps. It's good luck. Just do it. It can't hurt."

Jesse explores her relationship with her own mother and her mother-in-law. As she looks back at her childhood, thinking about what she feels her mother did right and what she did wrong. Jesse has an important insight about the importance of becoming a mother, "She fixes the past from the future. If you cannot be a mother, how do you fix the way in which you were mothered?"

Jesse's narrative style reader draws the reader into the inner feelings of what it is like to experience the ups and downs of wondering if this next phone call will bring you a family or if your family will always on consist of you, your husband and a dog.

Womens League for Conservative Judaism has chosen this novel as their book club pick of the year. *The Mothers* connects perfectly with the Women's League initiative for 2013-14 - *Mishpachah: The Modern Jewish Family*. Families have changed over the years and become quite diverse. Whether it is a mother/father/children, couples with no children, same-sex unions with or without children, single parents, widows, singles, joined families, families with children who are biologically conceived or adopted, a Jewish family defines itself as such, it is not defined by others.

Jennifer Gilmore has written two other books, *The Golden Country*, 2006 *New York Times* Notable Book and a finalist for the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize and the National Jewish Book Award, and *Something Red*, a *New York Times* Notable Book of 2010. She has also written for many magazines and journals. She teaches at Princeton University and lives in Brooklyn.

Temple Beth Abraham's Sisterhood book discussion group will be reading and discussing this book at their January meeting. Wednesday, January 22, 2013 at 8 PM

Something to Think About

Chanukah, Oy Chanukah, a yontif a shayna. When this bulletin arrives on you device or in your mailbox, we will be ready to celebrate this beautiful holiday. In fact, we will have begun even before the Thanksgiving turkey has been put in the oven. We will retell the story we learned as children, light candles in Chanukkiot, sing songs, play games, go to parties, share gifts.



Elaine Brody

Most of us are fortunate. Need is not usually part of the equation when we think of things to give as gifts. Many

of us remember a different time when the gifts we received included the socks or hats or mittens we needed. Now, we mostly satisfy wants. Not a bad thing. I love presents. I love giving and receiving gifts although I am not so enamored of shopping for them.

Last year, in addition to something tangible, Buzz and I gave each of our grandchildren a certificate, which they could redeem, in the form of a donation to the charity of their choice. It was a rewarding experience to watch them make their decisions. It will be an annual gift to them going forward.

As you celebrate and complete your holiday shopping, consider a gift for someone in need. Invite someone you know is alone to light candles with your family. Volunteer at the Nashua Soup Kitchen or some other agency. Help the next generation learn philanthropy.

From our home to yours, may the glow from the lights in your windows remind you there is always something to think about.

*Chag Sameach,
Elaine*

Starry, Starry Night a Great Event!



Organizers Joy Monfried, Mara Friedman, Sharon Weiss and Alyse Savage joined by Amy Finkelstein, Amy Dagan, Ally Sharpe and Maryellen Rothenberg in their Awesome 80's Attire! It was like a totally fun night! Thanks to everyone who participated and to all of our donors!

הקשר היהודי שלך

Your Jewish Connection

Brought to you by the Lifelong Learning Committee – By Linda S Trapasso

Missing Jerusalem? Go to Boston!

Go to the Museum of Science in Boston, that is. The film Jerusalem is showing in the Mugar Omni Theater “where the world’s largest film format is projected onto a five-story-tall IMAX® Dome screen. It wraps audiences in larger-than-life images and includes a state-of-the-art digital sound system to complete the immersion effect.”

From the MOS: “Take an inspiring, eye-opening tour of one of the world’s oldest, most enigmatic cities. De-



Jerusalem panorama (Wikipedia.com)

stroyed and rebuilt countless times over 5,000 years, Jerusalem’s timeless appeal endures. Learn how it became the center of the world for three major religions and how its historical, artistic, and spiritual connections have made it so important to so many different cultures.”

The film is at the Boston Museum of Science until the end of January, 2014. [Check here](#) for details.

To learn more about Jerusalem, or to refresh your memories, try these Web sites:

- [My Jewish Learning on Jerusalem](#). This is a basic overview with links to additional topics to explore. A good place to start your online explorations.
- The [Jewish Virtual Library on Jerusalem](#). This site covers many topics, such as history, international relations, politics, laws and legislations, in addition to reference and tourist information.



Yemin Moshe Neighborhood
(jewishvirtuallibrary.org)

- [Wikipedia on Jerusalem](#). This article provides much information about Jerusalem as a city and as the capital of Israel. It touches on geography, demographics, education, sports, and more, including an extensive list of references (scroll to the bottom of the page).

- GoIsrael.com’s section on [Jerusalem](#). It offers information on the Old City, the New City, history, various sites and attractions, maps, and events.

• The [official Web site of Jerusalem](#). You can find out many things here, including the weather, traffic, public transportation, a currency converter, and more. The menu bar has Visitors and Events menus. Scroll down the page to a list that includes The Statistical Yearbook of Jerusalem 2013 that “presents an up-to-date picture of life in Jerusalem”.

- [Jerusalem.com](#) offers videos, photos, an interactive map (my favorite), and more.



Jerusalem Light Rail (Jerusalem.com)

- National Geographic has a [travel page for Jerusalem](#). There are articles about the city, a list of walking tours, and a trip planner.

- [Ancient Maps of Jerusalem](#). This is the The Eran Laor Cartographic Collection overseen by The Jewish National and University Library and The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. It

includes a map gallery (where you can click on the map image and then “stroll” across the map), maps listed by author and by date, and links to associated information.

- [Aish.com](#). This Web site offers a view of the Kotel via a live webcam. The image refreshes every 20 minutes. It’s almost like being there!

So go to Boston and take a tour of Jerusalem. It’s sure to be a bright spot in the coming winter days!



The Knesset
(goisrael.com)

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*During Friday evening and Saturday morning services,
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Steven Alexander, grandfather of Joshua & Justin Alexander
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Joseph Devine, father of Chris Devine
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Peter Marcoux, brother of Nancy Ferman
Harry Matzkin, father of Fern Getto
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Harry Rosen, father of Marilyn Rosen
Nachum Salomon, brother of Zahava Salomon
Guillermo Sernik, father of Enrique Sernik
Irma Speyer, mother of Jane Weber
Randi Thibeault, sister-in-law of Carol Gorelick
Charles Winograd, father of Leila Kupper
Rozalia Dubrovinski
Herbert Gold
Ada Harkaway

December 13 & 14

Steven Goodman, brother of Deb Waldman
Harry Gordon, father of Lillian Kessler
Max Pollack, father of Stanley Pollack
Giela Rosen, grandmother of Susan Crupi
Enid Savett, aunt of Rabbi Jonathan Spira-Savett
Lifscha Schachter, mother of Ruth Ginsburg
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December 20 & 21

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Max Cohen, brother of Sara Brest
Mitchell Holt, father of David Holt
Jerome Lasky, father of Elliot Lasky
Israel Lederfajn, grandfather of Shari Zedeck
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