Volume 27, Number 7

May 2009 Iyar / Sivan 5769

RABBI'S MESSAGE: SHAVUOT AND CONFIRMATION

An old joke has Moses paying a visit to Earth at Chanuka. He returns and reports to God, "You have nothing to worry about the Jewish people. If they put all of this effort into Chanuka, imagine what they must do for Shavuot!"

The fact is that people sense their own spiritual needs and vote with their feet. While rabbinically speaking, Shavuot is far more important than Chanuka, Shavuot will never outdraw Chanuka at Betenu!

Similarly, last month we commemorated "Birkat Hachama, the Blessing of the Sun" which occurs only once in 28-years. An infrequent attendee who took time off from work to come said, "It's like a Jewish version of Halley's Comet and I didn't want to miss it!"

The old joke about Moses could also have been told about paying a visit to Earth at Tu BeShevat. This minor event in the winter, celebrated as a seder, has really captured the imagination of the Betenu community. And as widely attended as is our annual Passover 2nd Seder, there are years when the minor Tu BeShevat Seder outdraws the more important Passover Seder.

None-the-less, I've never given up on Shavuot and have always tried to maintain a buzz on Shavuot. This is the season when schools are finishing and graduations are occurring. Shavuot commemorates the receiving of the Torah at Mt. Sinai. We commemorate confirmation on Shavuot when our Religious School graduates affirm and confirm their commitment to Judaism.

Historically, I used to send individual invitations to our previous confirmands to come to the service, celebrate their Jewish continuity and to sign the certificates of those who follow them. In recent years, as more and more of those invitations were coming back, "return to sender – address unknown", I decided that it was no longer practical to send these personal invitations. So I ask parents of Betenu confirmands: If your children who were confirmands in past years, will be in the area on Friday, May 29, 7:30 PM, please ask them to join us at Betenu to be part of this – and to the several Betenu confirmands who are members of Betenu, this is your personal invitation.

Happy Shavuot.

Be-ve-ra-cha,

Joshua L. Segal

BETENU BITS

ROSH CHODESH FOR WOMEN

Sunday, May 24 at 4pm:

Join the Rosh Chodesh group for a short service, group discussion and nosh. For more information contact Sheryl Liberman 424-4609 or SAML54@comcast.net.

KABBALAH GROUP

Saturdays at 12:30pm May 23 at TBA June 27 at Betenu

Congregation Betenu and Temple Beth Abraham have a Kabbalah group. The suggested book is <u>Inner Space</u> by Kaplan. For more information contact Sheryl Liberman 424-4609 or <u>SAML54@comcast.net</u>.

MAY BIRTHDAYS Jon Blotcky Cobi Burger Tovah Burstein Carolyn Chakuroff Seth Conchado Sarah Goldstein Marissa Goodman Liz Meltzer Matt Savage Peter James Stewart Trevor Silverman Lillian Campbell

BETENU THANKS

- ⇒ April oneg hosts. The Rimalover, Rice, Spokane and Silverman families all who contributed to the onegs.
- **★** Lay Leader(s): Craig Parsons-Kerins.
- **❖** All who donated to SHARE.
- **♦** All who attended the Pesach 2nd Seder.
- ★ All who attended the Yom HaShaoh Service.
- **♦** All who attended the Tot Shabbat.
- **⇒** Finance Committee for recent hard work.
- Rahel Limor for the Sunday School newsletter.



CONGREGATION BETENU

Rabbi: Joshua Segal 603-886-1633

or rabbi@betenu.org

President: Dave Spokane 603-672-0554

or president@betenu.org

VP Finance: Peter Stein 603-465-6036 VP Admin: Roberta Pavoll 603-672-9820 VP Educ: Sheryl Liberman 603-424-4609 Secretary: Elissa Kahn 603-673-8283 Treasurer: Joel Silberberg 603-472-8143 Asst. Treas: Vivian McGuire 603-882-3139 Trustee: David Stern 603-880-0442

Trustee: Michael Goldstein 603-424-9953
Trustee@Large: Sara Murphy 603-465-7119
Past Pres: Elsa Conrad 603-879-9189

Newsletter Editor: Elissa Kahn





MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT: YOUTH IS SERVED

At Betenu, we invest a lot in our youngest members. Over the years we have seen a good return on this investment, as we have welcomed many new members who join based on our education programs. Our dedicated staff of professional educators and aides delivers a diverse curriculum that provides an excellent foundation in both Jewish studies and Hebrew. Our Sunday school serves Grades 1-7, and we hold a wonderful Tot Shabbat series for the Kindergarten and pre-school children. Sunday school typically ends for the kids at their Bnei Mitzvah. In May and June this year, 5 students will reach the end of one journey, and the beginning of the next. I have been fortunate enough to witness this journey, as my son Matthew is a member of this year's class. Each of these students has worked extremely hard to satisfy our religious school requirements, attend group and private Bnei Mitzvah classes, and learn to read and interpret their specific Torah portion.

One of the things the Rabbi reminds us is that it is the Congregation that "certifies" the Bnei Mitzvah candidate, and therefore we make every effort to have 10 members in attendance for each Saturday morning Bnei Mitzvah service. It is springtime, there are beds to weed and mulch, flowers to plant, baseball and soccer games to attend. It may be difficult to prioritize a Saturday morning service above these chores, but I'd ask you to please consider trying to make it to at least one. It is a pleasure to share in the joy of the event, and you can see the impact that Betenu has on our children.

Mazel Tov to Matthew Spokane, Alex Claire, Matt Claire, Jessica Goff, Eric Rimalover and their families.

B'Shalom Dave

ANNUAL MEETING PREPARATIONS

The Betenu Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, May 31. Elections will be held for President; Financial VP; Assistant Treasurer; Secretary; and two Executive Trustees. Anyone interested in running for office is invited to contact the temple office: 886-1633 or betenu@betenu.org.

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGE:

Article 6 Section 4. Special provision "B" -- "The Education committee shall have the joint responsibility to recommend the hiring and removal of teachers and aides, their duties and compensation. After Board of Trustees approval, the Education Committee is responsible for implementation."

Change to: The Education committee shall have the joint responsibility to recommend the hiring and removal of teachers, aides, <u>interns and classroom volunteers</u>, their duties and compensation. After Board of Trustees approval, the Education Committee is responsible for implementation.

DONATIONS

Congregation Betenu acknowledges with appreciation the following contributions made during the months of March and April:



General Fund

Sheryl Liberman
Yahrtzeit for Father Joel Mendoza
Yahrtzeit for Mother Charlotte Mendoza
Yahrtzeit for Brother-in-law
Clifford Simonds

David & Julie Spokane In honor of Elaine & Joel Silberberg's 25th Anniversary

Sheryl & Larry Liberman In honor of Elaine & Joel Silberberg's 25th Anniversary

Tree of Life

David & Julie Spokane In honor of Matt's Bar Mitzvah

Dr. Leonard & Elyse Wasserman
In honor of Audra Wasserman and
Austin Wasserman

Memorial Plaques

Arnold & Maureen Lerner In memory of Joseph C. Lerner In memory of Rose L. Lerner

Elsa Conrad in Memory of In memory of Edith Gossman In memory of Vilma Kartman

Betenu Bailout Fund

Elissa Kahn Philip Weinshenker Dr. Leonard & Elyse Wasserman Dr. Peter & Jeanne Stein Robert & Lisa Orenberg Suzanne & Vernon Maine Roberta Pavoll Arnold & Maureen Lerner Mary & Paul Franks Steven Mailman Shelly Osborne Elaine & Joel Silberberg Gordon & Carolee Clarke Rahel Limor Steven & Pamela Blotcky Amy Kirschner Larry & Sheryl Liberman Dr. Sanders & Rowena Burstein Danielle & Steven Goff

COMING UP...



BNEI MITZVAH

Celebrate with and support the May Bnei Mitzvah:

May 2, 10:00am: Matt Spokane

May 9, 10:30am: Alex Claire and Matt Claire

May 16, 10:30am: Jessica Goff



WOW! WHAT A DAY!

Friday, May 29 starting at 7:30PM

7:30pm Rabbi-led Confirmation / Shavuot Service starts. All prior confirmands are encouraged to attend and support this year's confirmands. This is a wonderful service for all. Followed by...

Shavuot Holiday Torah-thon; Torah study until 11pm beginning with Rabbi and continuing with Rahel.

(coffee and tea available with the oneg).

ANNUAL MEETING

Friday, May 31 at 7:30PM

The Betenu Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, May 31. Please attend and vote on officers and the bylaw change. If you can't attend, you may send your proxy to the office or with someone. Proxies should be presented to the Secretary (Elissa Kahn) before the meeting.

TOT SHABBAT WITH RAHEL

Saturday, June 6 at 10:30 AM

For ages 2-5 yrs. with parents. Please bring a nosh and drink!



CALL FOR JEWISH PERFORMING ARTISTS

Do you sing, act, recite poetry, tell jokes? Bring your act to the coffeehouse on June 6. Interested talent please contact: RAHEL at (603) 886-1633, <u>rahel@rahelmusic.com</u> by the end of the day, Thursday, June 4.









Sadly we inform you of the death of Bernard Rubin (Ben Tzion ben Yorachem Fischel), father of Davida Rubin-Baker. May the Rubin-Baker family be comforted among the mourners of Zion.

Sadly we inform you of the death of Steve Meltzer, cousin of Joel Mascott. May the Mascott family be comforted among the mourners of Zion.

Sadly we inform you of the death of Lois Goff, mother of Steve Goff. May the Goff family be comforted among the mourners of Zion.

Sadly we inform you that Paula Silver's father, Richard Silver, passed away on Monday evening, April 20. May the Silver/Noyovitz family be comforted among the mourners of Zion.



YAHRZEITS FOR MAY



Elinoir Fierman	twin sister of Elaine Schwartz	May 1
Rebecca Groden	grandmother of Karen Satz	May 4
Irvin Harry Nichols	father of Suzanne Maine	May 4
Saul Korins	father of Sarah Korins	May 8
Estelle Mailman	mother of Steve Mailman	May 10
Solomon Macks	grandfather of Elsa Conrad	May 12
Kheren Lillian Limor		
daughter of	Chana Rahel & Gilead Yehuda	May 16
Elaine Rimalover	mother of Robert Rimalover	May 18
David Vincent Romanel	li	May 21
Dylan Robinson	son of Lin Robinson	May 24
Zara Milamed	aunt of Sheryl Liberman	May 24
Ana Lilia Montes	grandmother of Nancy Gacharna.	May 26
Gertrude Wiener	mother of David Wiener	May 27



MAZEL TOV FERN SEIDEN!

Counselor's success gleaned from others

As classy people tend to do, Fern Seiden pointed first to people who surround her when telling the story of how she came to be named the state's top elementary school guidance counselor.

Cut and paste the link below to read the full article by Dean Shalhoup published in the Nashua Telegraph on April 11 (photo by Don Himsel):

http://www.nashuatelegraph.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090411/COLUMNISTS16/304119956/-1/XML04

SAVE THESE DATES:

Friday, June 5 at 7:30pm: Rabbi-led 1st Friday Services and Torah Study Saturday, June 6:

10:30am—Tot Shabbat

6:00pm—Animated Family Havdallah Service led by Steve Soreff & Rahel... followed by

Am Yisrael Chai film with the students of Betenu and Etz Hayim... followed by

Special Guest Daniel Tuksar, New England's Shaliach "Journey from Croatia to New Jersey to Jerusalem" (see next page)... followed by

Betenu Coffeehouse—relax with friends to a variety of entertainment... then

Grand Finale: Betenu slideshow!

Sunday, June 7 at 10am (RSVP by May 31): Federation Annual Meeting

Thursday, July 16: Jewish Pride Night 2009 at Merchants Auto Stadium, Manchester—watch for more info on Betenu going as a group!

Monday, June 15 at 7:30pm: General Board Meeting, all are invited.

Saturday, June 20 at 10:30am: Erik Rimalover's Bar Mitzvah.

EDUCATION

REGULAR RELIGIOUS SCHOOL / POST HEBREW SCHOOL ACCEPTING STUDENTS

Registration is open for 2009-10 for our weekly Sunday classes in Jewish studies, Hebrew, Music and Bnei Mitzvah preparation for Grades 1-7 and our Rabbi-taught post Bnei Mitzvah classes for Grades 8 & 9. Please call the temple office at 886-1633 to get a registration form or pick one up at school.

ADULT EDUCATION

HEBREW LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION, TORAH STUDY AND MORE

Bar / Bat Mitzvah... not the end of the road! There's Torah study with the Rabbi, Hebrew language instruction with Rahel, Kabbalah Havruta with Eitan Zeira, and plenty of other learning opportunities throughout the year. Maybe you have an idea, or would even like to teach a class. If so, contact the office 886-1633 or Betenu@nii.net.

Quench your thirst — jump into the well of Judaic studies.

(Rahel's classes are offered at a discount to Betenu members.)



MORE BETENU BITS

Croatia to Boston, Daniel Tuksar Brings Israel Home



In 1991, as war clouds gathered over Yugoslavia, the Jewish Federation of South New Jersey conducted a bold rescue operation and airlifted dozens of Jewish Croatian teenagers to foster homes in the U.S.

Twelve-year-old Daniel Tuksar was one of them.

Hear his story at the coffeehouse on June 6th.

ONEG SHABBATS

To host an Oneg, one brings the desserts, fruit, and challah, and sets up and cleans up.

To sponsor an Oneg, one pays \$54 and the Oneg committee will purchase the food, set up and clean up. Either way you do it, you can honor a birthday, an anniversary, or any other special event in your life, by choosing the Oneg closest to that special date. Or you can remember the Yahrzeit of a loved one by hosting or sponsoring the Oneg on the Shabbat when you come to say Kaddish. If you have a date in mind, please call Roberta Pavoll at 672-9820.

The following Onegs will be hosted by:

May 1: B. Mitzvah families

May 8: B. Mitzvah families

May 15: B. Mitzvah families

May 22: Open

May 29: Confirmation families



Won't you please choose an Oneg date and help foster the sense of community at Betenu? Thank you.

May 2009

S	\mathbf{M}	Т	W	Т	F	S
					1 7:30 pm Rabbi-led Service	2 10:00 am Matt Spokane Bar Mitzvah
9:30 am Religious School #28	4	5	6	7	7:30 pm Rabbi-led Service	9 10:30 am Alex Claire & Matt Claire Bnei Mitzvah
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:30 am Religious School #29 Mother's Day		Lag Ba-Omer			7:30 pm Rabbi-led Service	10:30 am Jessica Goff Bat Mitzvah
17 Religious School #30 snow day make-up	18 7:30 pm Executive Board Meeting	19	20	21	7:30 pm Lay-led Service	Yom Yerushalayim (will be moved due to Shabbat)
24 R Ch Sivan	25	26	27	28 Sunset: Shavuot	7:30 pm Confirm/Shavuot Service / Torah study w Rabbi /Tikkun Leil Shavuot - Torah w/ Rahel	30
31 7:30 pm Betenu Annual Meeting						

June 2009

S	\mathbf{M}	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5 7:30 pm Rabbi-led 1st Friday Service	6 10:30pm—Tot Shabbat #7 6:00 pm Havdallah & Coffeehouse
7	8	9	10	11	7:30 pm Rabbi-led Service	13
14	7:30 pm Gen. Board Meeting—all are invited	16	17	18	7:30 pm Rabbi-led Service	20 10:30 am Erik Rimalover Bar Mitzvah
21	22 R Ch Tammuz	23	24	25	26 7:30 pm Lay-led Service	27
28	29	30				



Mazal tov to Eran Limor on graduating from Prozdor at Hebrew College. Yasher Koach to Eran on reaching this milestone event in his Jewish education. Eran will graduate Milford High School in June (09) and plans to pursue a career in 3D Character Animation and Game Design.

Prozdor is Boston's premier community Hebrew high school located at Hebrew College in Newton Centre, MA. Classes also take place in Nashua. If receive additional information about Prozdor, please contact Abigail Kulick, Director of Admissions and Student Services for Prozdor at (617) 559-8805 or akulick@hebrewcollege.edu





Inbal Limor, daughter to Rahel and sister to Eran, is completing her second year of service in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) as a military driver. Mazel Tov Inbal and Chag Samayach to ISRAEL on her 61st birthday.

BETENU IN REVIEW



Birkat HaChama (Blessing of the Sun) at Betenu, April 8, 2009 From left to right: Paul Franks, Betsy Franks, Dave Spokane, Suzanne Maine, Davida Reuben-Baker, Rabbi Segal, Don Wunderlich, (Ben Gingras and Alan Kabel not shown) Elissa Kahn, Susan Mascott, Carolee Clarke, Joel Mascott and Rahel Limor (Rahel is taking the picture).



INVITATION FOR BETENU MEMBERS

Betenu members are invited to come sailing with Mark and Deborah Starin this summer on Lake Massabesic in Manchester. Lake Massabesic is a beautiful 2000+ acre lake just off I-93 with plenty of wildlife to observe. Their boat is a 1974 Venture Newport which is 23 feet in length and can accomodate up to 4 adults. Children can also come along but if 12 or under they must wear a life jacket at all times when on the boat (per New Hampshire State Law). For more information, call Mark at 486-8083 or e-mail him at k1rmc@aol.com.



AM YISRAEL CHAI: All For One and One For All כל ישראל ערבים זה לזה By Rahel Limor

"Project Am Israel Chai gives people an opportunity to show support for Israel using their Creativity."

It is taught that "each Jew is responsible for every Jew". In today's world we are called to reach out locally and globally and recently I had the opportunity to do just that. A call for "musicians, artists and creatives from all over the world" came to me by way of a musical colleague and friend, Bruce Burger (aka RebbeSoul), who had just last year made aliyah to Israel. Asked to participate in a "world-wide collaboration to create One Song, One work of Art that would bypass all borders and barriers to support Israel, our soldiers, and to enable our collective humanity", I immediately jumped into action. During the month of February I had the pleasure of involving eager students from Congregation Betenu in Amherst and Etz Hayim Synagogue in Derry in the production of a short musical film.

...continued on next page



AM YISRAEL CHAI continued

The students learned Bruce's version of the popular song, "Am Yisrael Chai"; rehearsing to a soundtrack he recorded in Israel. The students then choreographed their own original dances. These moments were professionally filmed and edited by Jim McClure of Betsy's Folly Studios in Lyndeboro resulting in a beautiful and heartwarming video/DVD. Clips from this production have been integrated into the Israeli production and will soon be available for viewing. You can have your own personal copy, together with Rahel's newly released compilation of beautiful music, for a suggested donation price of \$18 (to cover production costs); contact RAHEL at: (603) 672-3682 or rahel@rahelmusic.com.

Participant's Websites:

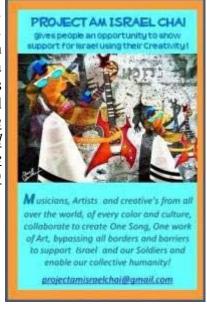
Bruce Burger/REBBESOUL: www.rebbesoul.com

Rahel: www.rahelmusic.com

Betsy's Folly Studios: www.betsysfolly.com

Project Am Israel Chai:

http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#/group.php?gid=49872076268&ref=ts







BETENU NOW ACCEPTS MC & VISA!





You can use MasterCard or VISA to pay membership fees, school tuition, gift store purchases, or even to make a donation! Call the office (or stop in) to arrange the charge and let us know the amount and what it's for.

AND FOR ONLINE SHOPPING... TEXTBOOKS AND A MILLIION OTHER THINGS...

Don't forget to shop through Betenu's link to Amazon.com. Betenu will receive a percentage of the purchase price.

You can shop for books and a million other things through this link. Just go to our website: www.betenu.org, put your cursor over "Search new and used, Amazon.com", and when the cursor changes, click. Or you can enter your search right there and click "Go".

It's that simple! And don't forget to purchase your textbooks here!

We receive about \$20 a month from this program - Thank you & keep shopping!!!!



COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

B"H

Tikkun: Shabbat Morning Prayer Service



Songs of the Heart, Prayers of the Soul

A joyful musical meditative Shabbat morning service led by Rabbi Louis Rieser with a special focus on **Shavuot.**

Saturday, May 30th, 2009 @ 9:30AM Etz Hayim, 1 1/2 Hood St., Derry; FREE

Gallerie Judaica at Etz Hayim presents Traditiona and Visiona of the

Traditions and Visions of the Changing Role of Art in a Jewish Community

Exhibit Hours: Fri 6 - 9 PM, Sat 9 - 9, Sun 9-2 May 29 - 31, 2009

Closed for Shabbat Services Fri 7 - 8:30 & Sat 9:30A - 12:00P Gift Shop closed for Shabbat Fri 7 PM - Sat 6 PM

Featured Artists
Amalia Flaisher
Joan Vick
Moishe Ragieme
Nurit Niskala-Graziani
Rahel Limor

A Special Presentation by

Rahel Limor

"A Modern Approach to Ancient Spiritual Music" Saturday, May 30 at 5:30 PM A Special Presentation by

Frann S. Addison

"The History of Jewish Ceremonial Objects" Saturday, May 30 at 7:00 PM

Etz Hayim Synagogue 1 1/2 Hood Road Derry, NH

www.etzhayim.org



COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS



Everyone is invited to

See a play Hear a talk Have Dessert



Susan Sandager

JoAnn Magnuson

Susan Sandager will perform a one-woman re-enactment of the life of the remarkable Corrie ten Boom, a Dutch Christian who risked her life to save the lives of many Jews during the Holocaust

Susan co-founded Yad B'Yad (Hand in Hand), a movement which has become an international model for Christian - Jewish relations programs. Susan received the New Mexico Humanitarian Award in 2008 and was chosen the Hadassah Woman of the Year in 1998.

JoAnn Magnuson will talk on her life work improving Christian – Jewish relations and her insight on Israel

JoAnn Magnuson is an international leader in building bridges of understanding between Christians and Jews. JoAnn has led more than 60 tours to Israel and has headed US Protestant delegations to March of the Living in Poland. JoAnn has served as the Interfaith Relations Director of Bridges for Peace in the US and is the US Director of Christian Friends of Yad Vashem.

- **★ May 16th at 7:30pm: Temple Emanuel 7 Haggetts Pond Rd. Andover, Mass. Call (978)- 470-1356**
- **★ May 17th at 6:30pm: Temple Shalom and The Christian Renewal Church 287 Lafayette St Salem, Mass. Call or email (978)-741-2880, (978)-741-4880, denette1@comcast.net**
- **★ May 18th at 6:30pm: Etz Hayim Synagogue 1 Hood Rd. Derry, N.H. (603)- 432-0004**

COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS



Quality Jewish Day Camping for an Affordable Price!

New Hampshire Special

Register a NEW camper to Camp Hadar during the month of May for at least 1 week and get 1 week FREE!

Offer valid for new campers only. Limit 1 free week per new camper. Offer expires on May 31, 2009. This ad must be included with your camper registration form to receive 1 free week.

Download a camper registration form at camphadar.org.

For more info about our programs, please visit our website at camphadar.org

Camp Hadar is a beneficiary of the Merrimack Valley Jewish Federation

Centrally Located Bus Stops in New Hampshire Include

Manchester: Macy's Parking Lot Nashua (NEW): NH Welcome Center, Exit 6 Windham: Park and Ride



INFO FROM VISION

Voice of Israel Initiative of NH

Check the website for the next VISION MEETING and other important information. Meetings will be held on Wednesdays and Thursdays this year! All friends of Israel are welcome.

Check out www.nh4israel.org for more upcoming events, articles and more...

INFO FROM SNHJMC Southern NH Jewish Mens Club



How the Program Works

Youth through age 18 can raise money for a trip to Israel by asking family and friends to plant trees with JNF. Half of the proceeds of each donation (\$36 minimum) will go towards planting a tree in Israel and the other half goes into a student account which can be redeemed for any trip to Israel. Special tree certificates (one per each \$36 donation) is sent to a designee on behalf of the donor. Funds may be redeemed when a total of 10 sales have been made, and \$180 is accrued towards the student trip.

For more info see the brochures at Betenu or visit www.jnf.org/pyw.



BUILD YOUR WAY TO ISRAEL

Is a similar program for college students age 18-25. Please visit www.jnf.org/byw for more info.