



President's Message

by Elsa Conrad

READ recently about a winter festival that took bears as its symbol, because it was celebrated around the same time bears were supposedly coming out of hibernation. Smart bears probably stayed in their dens a long time this winter, but with April arriving, they must be ready to come out. Many of us feel the same way after months of cold temperatures and blocked driveways. It's time to get out and see the world.

If winter weather or commitments have kept you away from Betenu events, it's time to come back, and we have some special events to tempt you out of your cave.

- ◆ Nothing symbolizes spring like Passover and the seder. Betenu's annual congregational potluck seder takes place on Saturday, April 4 at 6 pm; join us in recounting the Exodus and sharing our Passover favorites.
- ◆ Also in April, we will celebrate Israel, and its culinary traditions,



PASSOVER AT BETENU
Betenu 2nd Night Passover Seder
Saturday, April 4—Potluck Dinner, 6 pm

Singles and couples please bring a side, salad and/or dessert; families please bring a main dish. Minimum \$8 per person donation.

with a *Yom Ha'atzmaut* inspired Adult Education session on Sunday, April 19. Food is at noon with discussion to follow. Rav Rebekah will share her recent experiences in Israel and we all can relate our fondest food memories.

- ◆ With warmer weather, we're planning our second spring outdoor havdallah in conjunction with our spring social the evening of Saturday, May 30. This short but meaningful service takes on special significance in nature.

Special note: Some of our Betenu friends cannot get out because of injury or illness. We want to restart our Sunshine Committee to better reach these people. If you can help make or deliver food, or just deliver a smile via a call or note, please contact the office or Sheryl Liberman. Thanks!



PURIM MASQUERADE. Congregants shared a weekend of fun, music, reflection and *hamentaschen*. Photos on pages 4-5.

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CONGREGATION BETENU

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On the Web:
www.betenu.org

To submit articles or information, please visit betenu.org and use our email link.



*Please join us
in acknowledging
the generosity
and achievements
of these members
and friends.*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Alison Chakuroff
Jessica Goff
Alexander Dube
Samuel Dube

NEWS & NOTES

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thank You!

- ◆ All who attended our Purim services
- ◆ **Roberta Pavoll** for supplies and leading our Hamentaschen Workshop
- ◆ **Barbara Bailey** for providing our “Blizzard Box” Purim craft
- ◆ Our **Grade 2-4 students** and **Sophia Dube** for their Shabbat services contributions
- ◆ **Sandra Whitman** and **Elsa Conrad** for leading our PJ Havdallah, and all attendees
- ◆ **Sandra Whitman** again, for leading our Torah for Tots program on March 14
- ◆ **Jen Starr & Family** for their generous donations of judaica
- ◆ **Rav Rebekah** and attendees of her adult education session on March 28



YAHARZEITS

In Loving Memory

Irving Starr father of Jen Starr	April
Edward David Finkelstein	April 3
Edith Fisher grandmother of Karen Satz	April 3
Augusta Levinson grandmother of Paula Silver	April 5
Frances Stewart mother of Jamie Stewart	April 6
Steve Meltzer cousin of Joel Mascott	April 7
Frances Krohn Fries	April 8
Robert August cousin of Elaine Silberberg	April 16
Louise Levine mother of Dan Levine	April 19
Rachel Miriam Gatland mother of Marcella Dube	April 19
Alfred White father of Rowena Burstein	April 20
Arnold Dickes father of Ellen Lubitz	April 21
Arthur Stewart father of Jamie Stewart	April 22
Edwin Sleight father of Kim Rimalover	April 24
Guy Darrow father of Dara Smolski	April 25
Marilyn Franks cousin of Paul Franks	April 29
Rabbi Solomon Segal father of Joshua Segal	April 30
Merrill Jay Gross	April 30

CONGREGATION BETENU OFFICERS

Co-Presidents: Elsa Conrad 879-9189, Sheryl Liberman 424-4609

VP Finance: Bob Rimalover 672-5629

VP Education: Pam Blotcky 882-4029

VP Administration: Barbara Bailey 880-9355

Membership: Mark Starin 486-8083

Trustees: Steve Blotcky 882-4029, Allison Leary 672-4774,
Vivian McGuire 882-3139, Roberta Pavoll 672-9820

Trustees At-Large: Sara Murphy 465-7119, Joel Silberberg 472-8143

Oneg/Interfaith Representative: Roberta Pavoll 672-9820

Publicity: Barbara Bailey 880-9355, Marcella Dube 673-9412

Rabbi Emeritus: Joshua Segal emeritus@betenu.org

In Sympathy

We are saddened to report the passing of **Edna Sysyn**, aunt of **Pam Blotcky**, on March 9, and of **Marge Satz**, mother of **Karen Satz**, on March 14. To both families we extend our heartfelt condolences and best wishes. May their memory be a blessing.



FROM THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

With spring in sight, we're looking forward to warm temperatures, Pesach celebrations and the end of the Betenu school year! *Hamentaschen* making was great fun and delicious. Our March PJ Havdallah was a big hit, as was our mock seder with the children. Thanks to all who contributed and helped out!

Our June 30 school deadlines are approaching, so please keep Betenu's Shabbat minimum service requirements in mind:

Grades K, 1 and 2	4 services
Grades 3	4 services
Grades 4 and 5	7 services
Grades 6 and 7	15 services



Please check with **Sheryl Liberman** at 424-4609 to verify your child's attendance.

Important Upcoming Dates

- ◆ **Saturday, April 4:** Betenu Second Pesach seder with a potluck dinner, 6 pm
- ◆ **Friday, April 10:** Shabbat service assisted by Confirmation class, 7 pm
- ◆ **Friday, April 17:** Rav Rebekah Shabbat services, 7:30 pm
- ◆ **All Sundays in April:** Religious school sessions due to snow makeups
- ◆ **Sunday, May 3:** Last day of Sunday school with progress reports handed out
- ◆ **Sunday, May 3:** B'nei Mitzvah parent and student meeting, 9:15 am

Do You Have a Child Who Was Confirmed at Betenu?

Our Reunion Confirmation service is always a moving and memorable event, so please be sure to invite past alumni and family to attend our service on Friday, May 29 at 7:30 pm. For more about this Betenu tradition, see page 6.

IN BRIEF

Yom Hashoah Observance at Rivier University, April 16

Holocaust Remembrance Day at Rivier University will feature German consul general **Rolf E. Schütte** on April 16 at 7 pm, including a Q&A session and a candle lighting ceremony. The free program is open to all. To learn more, phone **Sheryl Rich-Kern** at 881-7264 or email sherylrchkern@mac.com.

Hannaford Gift Card Fundraiser

Convenient for your Passover shopping, these popular cards are still available with 5% of all proceeds donated to Betenu. Contact the office or call **Elsa Conrad** at 879-9189 to order cards.



Shop at Amazon, Benefit Betenu

Buying online can benefit Betenu at no cost to you with the AmazonSmile program. Follow these simple steps once and it's automatic:

- ◆ Go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or via your mobile device.
- ◆ Login to your Amazon account.
- ◆ Select Betenu as your preferred charity in the "Your Account" section. We're listed as *Congregation Betenu C/O J. Ditman*.
- ◆ Every time you shop at smile.amazon.com afterward, we'll receive a half-percent of each sale's proceeds. It's that easy!

Channel Your Inner Office Worker

Betenu needs a little weekly or monthly office help, and all support big or small is welcome. Hours are flexible, requiring only a few small chores. If you can help, contact **Sheryl Liberman** at 424-4609 or email saml54@comcast.net.



FRIENDS IN KNEAD

**Fun and fellowship helped make
our March 8 Hamentaschen Workshop
a sweet success. *Photos on next page >***

BETENU SCRAPBOOK

Hamantaschen Workshop – March 8, 2015

Many thanks to
Roberta Pavoll,
our volunteers
and all workshop
participants for
a deliciously
good time!



Grandma Macks' Hamantaschen Recipe

1/2 cup butter
1 cup sugar
1 egg
2 cups all-purpose flour
2 tsp baking powder
2 Tbs milk
1/2 tsp lemon or vanilla extract
Filling of your choice

Cream butter and sugar until well combined. Add egg and extract. Mix flour and baking powder in a 1-quart bowl, adding milk and extra flour alternately until desired texture.

Refrigerate dough for 15 minutes or longer before rolling out to 1/4" thickness on lightly floured board, and cut into circles.

Place 1 teaspoon of filling in center of circles. Shape into triangles, pinching top seam to enclose filling. A little should peek through the opening.

Bake at 375°F on parchment-lined cookie sheets until delicately brown. Makes two-dozen.



The Power of One Word

by Rav Rebekah Goldman

I HAVE a collection of beautiful stories told by important Jewish figures. This one is relevant to *Tazria-Metzora*, so I thought I'd share it with you:

The Dubna Maggid, a Lithuanian-born storyteller, used to say that many people gossip (*Lashon HaRab*) because they are not fully aware of the power of the spoken word. We often rationalize the things that come out of our mouths by denying that words have any impact. Often our rationalizations sound like this:

“I only said a few words.”

“I only told one person!”

“Everyone knows. Why shouldn't we talk about it?”

The person who has been afflicted with disease in this Torah portion is called a *metzora*. He or she is presumed to be ill because they were gossiping. The *metzora*, the sick person, is taught a lesson about the power of a single word. He/she must go to a priest who will decide if they are afflicted or not. Just one word out of the mouth of the priest (“Unclean!”) will completely isolate the *metzora* from society for a specified period of time.



**Even a single word of gossip
can cause destruction,
so we should never minimize
the importance of what we say.**

Of course, after experiencing this isolation brought on by just a single word, our *metzora* will never again minimize the destructive capability of words.

WORDS CAN cause destruction: They can destroy someone's reputation. They can destroy friendships. They can destroy someone's successful business or someone's marriage. Therefore, we must be just as careful with them as we would be with explosive material.

There are many stories in Talmud, told by our rabbis, to explain just how important our words are. Let's make sure that we allow our teeth and lips to act as gates—keeping dangerous words from escaping and doing harm to those around us.

Do you have questions or comments on this article? Contact Rav Rebekah by email, at rabbi@betenu.org.



May Preview: Shavuot

Shavuot, occurring May 23-24 this year, often takes a back seat to better-known Jewish holidays. But if spring's long-awaited arrival (fingers crossed) makes you feel like celebrating, you'll really enjoy Shavuot in tandem with Betenu's Reunion Confirmation service on May 29 at 7:30 pm.

In addition to its place as *Yom Ha-Matan Torah* (The Day of the Giving of the Torah), Shavuot traditionally marks the end of the grain harvest and the start of fruit harvesting. Abundant fruit and dairy are staples of this agricultural festival, but it is also a key life-cycle event at Betenu.

Going back to our early days, Rabbi Segal invited past confirmands far and wide to return for Shavuot. The result was a fascinating reunion with many past students returning as adults with their own families. This year's service promises to be rich with memories, fun and reflections. Why not attend and be part of it?

TEST YOUR SHAVUOT KNOWLEDGE

1. What does *Shavuot* mean?
2. What is the *Omer*?
3. What are the three “pilgrim holidays” for visiting the temple in Jerusalem?

ANSWERS

1. Weeks.
2. Counting of days between Passover and Shavuot.
3. Shavuot, Passover and Sukkot.

April at Betenu

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3 Passover Begins at Sunset— NO SERVICE	4 Lay-led 2nd Seder Potluck 6 pm
5 School, 9 am	9	10	8	9	10 Class-Led Service/ Confirmation Students, 7 pm	11
12 School, 9 am	16	17	15	16	17 Service w/Rav Rebekah, 7:30 pm	18 <i>Shemini</i>
19 School w/Rav Rebekah, 9 am Israel Food Cele- bration, Noon; Adult Ed follows	20 Board Meeting, 7:30 pm	21	22	23	24 Lay-Led Service, 7:30 pm	25 <i>Tazria-Metzora</i>
26 School, 9 am (Snow makeup)	27	28	29	30		

May at Betenu

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Service w/ Rav Rebekah & Sarah Noyovitz, 7:30 pm	2 <i>Acharei Mot-Kedoshim</i>
3 Last Day of School w/ Rav Rebekah, 9 am B'nei Mitzvah Mtg, 9:15 am	4	5	6	7	8 Lay-Led Service, 7:30 pm	9 <i>Emor</i> Torah for Tots, 10:30 pm
10	11 Board Meeting, 7:30 pm	12	13	14	15 Lay-Led Service, 7:30 pm	16 <i>Behar- Bechukotai</i> PJ Havdallah, 4:30 pm
17 Annual Meeting, 7:30 pm	18	19	20	21	22 Lay-Led Service, 7:30 pm	23 <i>Bemidbar</i> Erev Shavuot
24 <i>Shavuot</i>	25 Memorial Day	26	27	28	29 Reunion Confirmation Service, 7:30 pm	30 <i>Naso</i>
31						