

RABBI'S MESSAGE: THE BLESSING OF THE SUN

Many of you might be anticipating a Passover message. On behalf of Karen and me, I offer you best wishes for Passover and I hope that many of you will join us for the temple's Seder on April 9, when many celebrate a 2nd Seder.

So what grand event is preempting the Passover message? There are events that occur weekly, such as Shabbat; there are events that occur monthly such as the New Moon (Rosh Chodesh) and there are yearly events which include the majority of the holiday calendar.

On the morning of April 8 is arguably the rarest of Jewish calendar liturgical events. It occurs once in every 28 Julian calendar years. The last time this occurred was April 8, 1981. The next will be April 8, 2037.

What is this event? It is called, "Bir-kat Ha-cha-ma, The Blessing of the Sun." On the fourth day of creation, God created the sun. About 365.25 days later, the sun is back in the same place in the sky. Those who follow a cycle of 28 years will discover that it takes 28 years to cycle through all combinations of the solar Julian calendar.

One tradition suggests that the Sun was created on a Wednesday in Nisan and as such, "Bir-kat ha-cha-ma – the Blessing of the Sun is to remind us of the place and position of the Sun in the sky when the creation of the world began.

For the scientists: Yes we all know that it isn't 365.25 exactly and that this calculation is flawed. But I propose that it becomes a special moment in which to contemplate the creation of the universe and our place in it.

The proper time for this event is not without controversy, but most authorities agree that it must occur after sunrise, but before noon on April 8. Perhaps the biggest impediment to commemorating this event is that the vast majority of us will be at school, at work or preparing for the Passover Seder that begins that evening. Still, I want to make it potentially available and I will nominally plan something for 9AM at the temple. If there is a groundswell of interest in being part of this event, I would be willing to schedule it as early as 7AM, if there are some who might like to come before going to work or school. Please contact me if you are interested and if you have a preference for the 7 AM time. The event will run about a half-hour, with a short teaching about the event followed by the event.

In the interest of keeping green, RSVP (rabbi@betenu.org), so that I do not make too many extra copies of this once in 28-year liturgy.

Be-ve-ra-cha,
Joshua L. Segal



BETENU BITS



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.



MAZEL TOV

Lisa and Bob Orenberg on the birth of their grandson, Greyson James, born March 1st. Mom Alison and baby are doing well.

MAZEL TOV

- ✧ Peter and Jeanne Stein on their son's admittance to Tufts Medical School.
- ✧ David and Diana Stern on their daughter's graduation Phi Beta Kappa.
- ✧ Elaine and Joel Silberberg on their 25th wedding anniversary.
- ✧ Roberta Pavoll on her dog Reuben on Rye's first place win in his category at his first dog show.

BETENU THANKS

- ✧ March oneg hosts. The Swartz, Burger, Dzen, Wunderlich, & Belesca families, Elaine Schwartz & Barbara Bailey and all who contributed to the onegs.
- ✧ Lay Leader(s): Sheryl Liberman.
- ✧ All who donated to SHARE.
- ✧ Roberta Pavoll for making the Hamantaschen.
- ✧ Rahel Limor for the production of "Am Yisrael Chai".
- ✧ The Sunday School kids and all who participated in "Am Yisrael Chai".
- ✧ Rahel Limor for the Sunday School newsletter.

CONGREGATION BETENU

Rabbi: Joshua Segal 603-886-1633

or rabbi@betenu.org

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or president@betenu.org

VP Finance: Peter Stein 603-465-6036

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VP Educ: Sheryl Liberman 603-424-4609

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Trustee: Michael Goldstein 603-424-9953

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Past Pres: Elsa Conrad 603-879-9189

Newsletter Editor: Elissa Kahn

APRIL BIRTHDAYS



Cameron Burger

Alison Chakuroff

Nicholas Gacharna

Jessica Goff

Ali Sagon

Mark Sagon

Annaliese Thomas

Alexander Dube

Samuel Dube



BETENU BITS continued

*****CHANGES, CHANGES, CHANGES*****

Hi everyone! Thanks to all who have supported this program! They have changed the way this works: receipts will be tracked electronically through your **Rewards card** for purchases made on **Tuesdays, Wednesdays** and **Thursdays**. You may sign up to support up to 4 organizations.



You do this online by going to www.shaws.com/neighborhoodrewards and follow the directions to link your Rewards card number to **Betenu's ID #, which is: 49001019148**.

If you would like us to register you for Betenu, please let us know and send us your **Rewards card number** and **telephone number**.

Betenu will receive a quarterly check for 1% of qualifying purchases. Thanks for your continued support!!!

When the final check for paper receipts is in, we will have received over \$120!



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!!!!



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT: SPRING CLEANING

As I prepare to clean up after the December ice storm, take the cover off the motorcycle, and switch dishes for Passover (not really), I thought I'd "clear my desk" of some items that you may find interesting. Or not.

- Despite more than a few weather related challenges, the Betenu Education Department has had an amazing year. We have a dedicated staff that brings a wealth of experience and fresh ideas to the school program. I've seen 8 years of Sunday school (with 7 more to go!), and this year had the best set of programs I've seen, with field trips, music programs, differentiated learning opportunities and an emphasis on connecting the school to the larger Betenu community.
- Despite my solicitations, I still haven't received an e-mail at president@betenu.org, as a result of this newsletter. J
- Last year, we celebrated our Rabbi's 25 years in the rabbinate with a wonderful luncheon. This year, there won't be a luncheon, but we can still take a moment to be thankful to have a spiritual leader who offers so much to our congregation. I've had the privilege of working with and around Rabbi Segal on the board for the past 5 years, and more frequently over the past year as Matthew prepares for his Bar Mitzvah. Rabbi's ability to make connections with students, parents, new members, and long-time members is remarkable, and Betenu remains fortunate to have him.
- When you see Joel and Elaine Silberberg in your travels, please congratulate them on the celebration of their 25th wedding anniversary, and thank them for all they do for Betenu – they are truly precious.
- On the subject of spring cleaning, our building will again be undergoing some renovations and repairs from some additional ice damage we took on this winter. There will be some cosmetic improvements and some additional structural changes to avoid problems next year.

Finally, we are getting ready to complete our planning cycle for next year, culminating in our annual meeting in May. As always, we welcome your ideas and contributions to help Betenu continue to deliver the right set of programs for our members.

L'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.

Anyone proposing bylaw amendments should have them to the temple office by the end of the day, Tuesday, April 28. This will allow time to prepare the proposal for presentation.



BETENU BITS continued

**ROSH CHODESH
FOR WOMEN**

Sundays at 4pm:
Next date: April 26th

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.

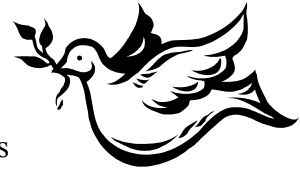
KABBALAH GROUP

Saturdays at 12:30pm

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

DONATIONS

Congregation Betenu acknowledges with appreciation the following contributions made during the months of February & March:



General Fund

Joel & Susan Mascott

Seymour & Lois Goff
In Honor of Granddaughter's
Bat Mitzvah

Sheryl Liberman
Yahrtzeit for Father Joel Mendoza
Yahrtzeit for Mother Charlotte Mendoza
Yahrtzeit for Husband Clifford Simonds

Elaine and Joel Silberberg
In honor of Matt Stein's acceptance at
Medical School

Roberta and John Pavoll
In honor of Joel and Elaine Silberberg's
25th Anniversary

Betenu Bailout Fund

Elissa Kahn

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:

- April 3: Open
- April 10: Open
- April 17: Rimalover, Spokane, Rice and Silverman families
- April 24: Open



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



April 2009

S M T W T F S

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|----|--------------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 7:30 pm Rabbi-led 1st Friday | 4 |
| 5 9:30 am Religious School #26 | 6 | 7 | 8 Passover 1st Seder | 9 6:30 pm Rabbi-led Passover 2nd Seder | 10 7:30 pm Lay-led Service | 11 |
| 12 9:30 am Religious School #27 | 13 7:30 pm Gen. Board Meeting—all are invited | 14 | 15 Sunset: Passover ends | 16 | 17 7:30 pm Rabbi-led Yom HaShoah | 18 |
| 19 9:30 am Religious School #28 | 20 Sunset: Yom HaShoah | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 7:30 pm Lay-led Service R Ch Iyar | 25 10:30 am Tot Shabbat #6 |
| 26 <u>NO</u> Religious School 4PM—Rosh Chodesh AYELET | 27 | 28 | 29 Sunset: Yom Haatsmaut | 30 | | |



May 2009

S M T W T F S

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| | | | | | 1 7:30 pm Rabbi-led Service | 2 10:30 am Matt Spokane Bar Mitzvah |
| 3 9:30 am Religious School #29 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 7:30 pm Rabbi-led Service | 9 10:30 am Alex Claire & Matt Claire B'nei Mitzvah |
| 10 9:30 am Religious School #30 Mother's Day | 11 | 12 Lag Ba-Omer | 13 | 14 | 15 7:30 pm Rabbi-led Service | 16 10:30 am Jessica Goff Bat Mitzvah |
| 17 Religious School #31 snow day make-up | 18 7:30 pm Executive Board Meeting | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 7:30 pm Lay-led Service | 23 Yom Yerushalayim (will be moved due to Shabbat) |
| 24 Religious School #32 snow day make-up | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 Sunset: Shavuot | 29 7:30 pm Confirm/Shavuot Service / Torah study w Rabbi /Tikkun Leil Shavuot -All nt Torah w/ Rahel | 30 |
| 31 7:30 pm Betenu Annual Meeting | | | | | | |

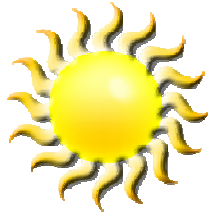


COMING UP...

RABBI-LED FIRST FRIDAY

Friday, April 3, 7:30 PM

Don't miss the first Friday! It's a family-friendly service with Rabbi-led Torah study after the oneg.



BIRKAT HACHAMA (BLESSING OF THE SUN)

Wednesday, April 8 (see Rabbi's message for time and RSVP)

We say this blessing once every 28 years for the sun. Rabbi will hold a short service and explain this rare event.

RABBI LED YOM HASHOAH SERVICE

Friday, April 17, 7:30PM

Come for this special Rabbi-led Service and honor those who died in the Holocaust.

TOT SHABBAT WITH RAHEL

Saturday, April 25 at 10:30 AM

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



RABBI-LED PASSOVER SECOND SEDER

Thursday, April 9, 6:30 PM

Join your Betenu family for the Rabbi-led traditional seder on the second night of Passover. It will be a potluck supper, so everyone needs to bring a pesadicha dish. (If you have any questions on whether or not a specific food is kosher for Passover, please call the temple office). Families should bring a main dish, and individuals, a side dish or a dessert. The cost is \$5 per person, or \$18 per family, to cover the cost of wine, matzah, seder plate items, and paper goods.



We will be using the Rabbi's revised Haggadah. Copies are available to purchase for your home Seders. To preview a copy, or to purchase the Haggadah at \$6.00 per copy, please call the temple office.

Please call to reserve your seat(s): 886-1633, or use the sign up sheet on the front table.

Let us know if you are interested in helping plan and prepare our popular seder.

BETENU BITS continued

BAR MITZVAH

Please share in our happiness
when our son
Matthew Spokane
is called to the Torah
as a Bar Mitzvah
on Saturday, May 2, 2009
at 10:30 AM

David and Julie Spokane



**YAHREZITS FOR
APRIL**



- Irving Starr father of Jen Starr April
- Edward Jenner step-father of Deborah Spear April
- Daniel Gribetz father of Jeff Gribetz April
- Waldemar Schaffer father of Paula Ellis April 1
- Edward David Finkelstein April 3
- Edith Fisher grandmother of Karen Satz April 3
- Augusta Levinson grandmother of Paula Silver April 5
- Frances Krohn Fries April 8
- Robert August cousin of Elaine Silberberg April 16
- Louise Levine mother of Dan Levine 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
- Betty Werner grandmother of Sonia Ascher Nisan 26
- Felix Werner grandfather of Sonia Ascher Nisan 26
- Heinz Werner uncle of Sonia Ascher Nisan 26
- Rabbi Solomon Segal father of Joshua Segal April 30
- Merrill Jay Gross April 30
- Rachel Miriam Gatland .. mother of Marcella Dube April 19



EDUCATION

REGULAR RELIGIOUS SCHOOL ACCEPTING STUDENTS

Doors open for regular classes at 9:15 AM. Registration is open for 2009-10. Please call the temple office at 886-1633 to get a registration form or pick one up at school.

POST HEBREW SCHOOL

Registration is open year round. Call the temple office at 886-1633 for a registration form.

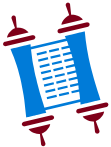
ADULT EDUCATION

HEBREW CLASSES

Rahel offers Hebrew classes for adults on Monday evenings between 5 and 9 pm. Please email or call her (RahelMusic1@yahoo.com or call 672-3682) for info. Monthly fees are \$62 (or \$18 per class).

BETENU BITS continued

SAVE THESE DATES:



Saturday, May 2 at 10:30 AM: Matt Spokane Bar Mitzvah

Saturday, May 9 at 10:30 AM: Alex Claire & Matt Claire B'nei Mitzvah

(Note: May 12 at sunset: Lag B'Omer)

Saturday, May 16 at 10:30 AM: Jessica Goff Bat Mitzvah

Saturday, May 29 at

7:30 PM: Confirmation / Shavuot Service

Followed by... Torah study with Rabbi

Followed by... Tikkun Leil Shavuot—All night Torah with Rahel

Saturday, May 31 at 7:30 PM: Betenu Annual Meeting



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 accommodate 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.



COMMUNITY



Susan Sandager

Everyone is invited to

**See a play
Hear a talk
Have Dessert**



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



INTERFAITH HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE

The Greater Nashua Holocaust Remembrance Committee presents a Holocaust Remembrance Day interfaith observance, sponsored by Rivier College and funded in part by the New Hampshire Humanities Council.

Wednesday, April 22
7:00 p.m. at Temple Beth Abraham,
4 Raymond Street, Nashua

Featured speaker: James Carroll

Carroll is a long time Boston Globe columnist, honorary Brandeis University Doctor of Humane Letters, and celebrated author of *Constantine's Sword: The Church and the Jews, A History*. The book tells the story of the many missed opportunities for good will between the Catholic Church and members of its mother religion, from the early years of separation between the Jewish sect of those following the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth, to the mainstream Rabbinic Judaism in the first century.

A question-and-answer session, as well as a candle-lighting ceremony memorializing the victims of the Holocaust, will follow the presentation.

For more information on this program, please call (603) 897-8537, or e-mail pdemers@rivier.edu.

JFNH JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL



The film festival continues with the following films:

Thursday, April 2nd – Seven Days

Saturday, April 4th – Noodle

Sunday, April 5th – Eli and Ben

Holy Land Hardball

Noodle

For more info see www.jewishnh.org.



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

Membership form: <http://snhjmc.home.comcast.net/~snhjmc/resources/SNHJMCFORM.pdf>



CONGREGATION BETENU
FIVE NORTHERN BLVD #1
AMHERST, NH 03031 USA

**DON'T MISS THIS ONCE
EVERY 28 YEARS EVENT...**

**BIRKAT HACHAMA
BLESSING OF THE SUN**

Wednesday, April 8
See Rabbi's Message for time and RSVP

