



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Elsa Conrad

**W**E AT BETENU are at our best when we have events and functions to bring us together. The recent weekend of Jan. 17-19 was a great example.

On Friday, Jan. 17, we held our annual Tu B'shevat Seder. About 30 of us celebrated the seasons and their changes. Moving from the white wine of winter to the deep red of fall, stopping for a delicious potluck dinner en route, all participants enjoyed the trip. Thanks to everyone who came, especially those who stayed late and helped with cleanup. Special thanks go out to our dynamic duo of **Barbara Bailey** and **Elaine Schwartz**, who once again took care of all the details that create a unique occasion.

Two days later, food brought people together once again as Betenu catered the Faith Episcopal Church's annual meeting.

Faith Episcopal always does a great job catering our Break-the-Fast at Yom Kippur and this is our chance to share with them. They were very grateful and we are in discussion for an event we can attend together—probably food related!

Our members came through with a variety of yummy goods. I was there to taste everything, so I can attest to the quality of their work! Among all those whose contributions are acknowledged on page 2, special thanks go to **Roberta Pavoll** for organizing and cooking like crazy, and to **Rowena Burstein** for helping with setup, serving and cleanup.

This month, join us for another big weekend. It starts on Friday, Feb. 14 with a rabbi-led service. Celebrate the love and avoid the Valentine's Day restaurant crowds! Then on Saturday, Feb. 15, Betenu offers something for everyone.

At noon, it's food for thought with our adult study brownbag lunch. The subject is Jewish food, *kasbrut* and how Judaism influences our relationship with food. Bagels, cream cheese and hummus will be served. You can also pack a lunch or bring a nosh to share. At 4:30, a family-friendly havdallah service will be followed by light food and a family movie. If you have movie ideas or wish to help, contact Rav **Nate DeGroot** or the office.

We succeed as a Congregation when we work as a team. Please be part of our lineup for these events and more to come.



## SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, March 22 • 10:30 am

Join us in celebration as **Jenna Goldstein** is called to the Torah at Congregation Betenu on Saturday, March 22 at 10:30 am. We hope to see you there, so that all of Betenu will be on hand to congratulate Jenna and her family!

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## CONGREGATION BETENU

A Member of the Union for Reform Judaism

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To submit articles or information, email:  
[betenu@nii.net](mailto:betenu@nii.net)



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To order, stop by our office or contact us at 886-1633/[betenu@nii.net](mailto:betenu@nii.net). Deadline is **March 1**, so order your Hannaford gift card through Betenu today!

## NEWS & NOTES

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

#### *Thank You!*

- ◆ The **Bailey and Schwartz** families for organizing our Tu B'shevat Seder, plus volunteers **Barbara Bailey, Pam & Steve Blotcky, Elsa Conrad, Ken McAdam, Elaine & Bob Schwartz, Dave Spokane**
- ◆ **Roberta Pavoll, Elsa Conrad** and **Rowena Burstein** for the FEC brunch
- ◆ Brunch contributors, including the **Baileys, Blotkys, Bursteins, Dubes, Crottys, Goldsteins, Kirsh/Golosarskys, Learys, Libermans, Pavolls, Spokanes, Starins**, and any others we may have omitted
- ◆ **Ariel Crotty** for providing Sunday school snacks
- ◆ **Marcella Dube** for cleaning up our school craft cabinet
- ◆ The **Kirsh/Golosarsky** family for our Jan. 31 oneg

### CONDOLENCES

#### *With Deepest Sympathy*

- ◆ To **Nora Kirsh** and her family on the passing of her grandfather, **Ilya Kirsh**

### YHRZEITS

#### *In Loving Memory*

- ◆ **Joan Dickes**  
mother of Ellen Lubitz February
- ◆ **Matthew Werner**  
brother of Sara Murphy February 2
- ◆ **Leon Earl "Nick" Nixon**  
cousin of Elissa Kahn February 6
- ◆ **Rene Fierman**  
mother of Barbara Bailey & Elaine Schwartz February 6
- ◆ **Stanley Moses "Papa" Krohn** February 8
- ◆ **David Michelson** February 11
- ◆ **Maurice "Maury" Franks**  
father of Paul Franks February 13
- ◆ **Kate Berger Gross** February 14
- ◆ **Betty McCoy**  
friend of Elissa Kahn February 15
- ◆ **Stanley Moses "Bud" Krohn, Jr.** February 18
- ◆ **Goodman Burstein**  
father of Sanders Burstein February 19
- ◆ **Wayne Lamminen**  
brother of Lin Robinson February 25
- ◆ **Harold Sandhaus** February 25
- ◆ **Stella G. Leczynski**  
aunt of Pam Blotcky February 28

### CONTRIBUTORS

#### *January/February*

- ◆ **Pam & Steve Blotcky**
- ◆ **Andrew Prolman**
- ◆ **The Spokane Family**

### BIRTHDAYS

- ◆ **Jonathan Crotty**
- ◆ **Rachel Liff**

#### CONGREGATION BETENU OFFICERS

**President:** Elsa Conrad 603-879-9189  
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**VP Education:** Sheryl Liberman 603-424-4609  
**VP Administration (Acting):** Barbara Bailey 603-880-9355  
**Secretary:** Pam Blotcky 603-882-4029  
**Membership:** Mark Starin 603-486-8083  
**Trustees:** Steve Blotcky 603-882-4029, Vivian McGuire 603-882-3139, Roberta Pavoll 603-672-9820  
**Trustees At-Large:** Sara Murphy 603-465-7119, Joel Silberberg 603-472-8143  
**Oneg/Interfaith Representative:** Roberta Pavoll 603-672-9820  
**Publicity:** Barbara Bailey 603-880-9355, Marcella Dube 603-673-9412  
**Rabbinical Intern:** Nate DeGroot [rabbii@betenu.org](mailto:rabbii@betenu.org)  
**Rabbi Emeritus:** Joshua Segal [emeritus@betenu.org](mailto:emeritus@betenu.org)

## FROM THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

by Sheryl Liberman

### Progress Reports Issued Feb. 9

Students in Betenu Religious School will be issued their second-trimester progress report on Sunday, Feb. 9.

### Adult Education Lunch and Family Havdallah Movie, Feb. 15

At noon on Saturday, Feb. 15, Rav **Nate DeGroot** will host a brownbag talk on food, *kashrut* and Judaism. At 4:30 pm we'll have a havdallah service with a family movie and light dinner. For details, see our cover article or contact the Betenu office.



### Fashion Show on Feb. 16

On Sunday, Feb. 16, Betenu's Jewish Studies students will stage a fashion show featuring t-shirts they've created. Doors open for parents at 11 am.

### No Sunday School on Feb. 23

Reminder: there will be no school on Sunday, Feb. 23 while many parents and students have school vacation.

### Thanks to Daniella Preminger

Able stepping in as a substitute teacher in our Hebrew classes, Daniella truly enjoyed the students and mentioned how eager they are to learn to read Hebrew. Thanks, Daniella!

### New Events for Your Children

Are the kids getting cabin fever during the endless winter days? Help us come up with new activities at Betenu! We need volunteers to plan and recruit members for children's events on Saturday afternoons and/or Sunday social times. Just contact **Shery Liberman** at [saml54@comcast.net](mailto:saml54@comcast.net) or [betenu@nii.net](mailto:betenu@nii.net).



## Wanted: Assistant to the Principal

Betenu's Sunday school has an opening for a volunteer assistant. Some experience with children is helpful—even if it's only with your own kids! Requirements include:

- ◆ 8:50 am - 12:10 pm, two Sundays a month (negotiable)
- ◆ Oversee arrival and dismissal of students and parents
- ◆ Maintain records of students' school and service attendance
- ◆ Track teacher work hours
- ◆ Organize sign-up sheets for onegs and volunteer duties
- ◆ Collect parent signatures on documents
- ◆ Communicate with Principal/VP Education

If you are interested or know a potential candidate, please contact a Betenu board member (see page 2), or notify our office via email ([betenu@nii.net](mailto:betenu@nii.net)) or phone (886-1633). Thank you!

## BETENU BITS

### Spring Yard Sale Needs Organizers

If you love yard sales, here's a chance to plan one for Betenu! We're looking for volunteers to help organize a spring fundraiser that will turn old goods into new cash for temple activities. Contact the office for details.



### 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**.

### Shop at Amazon, Benefit Betenu

Buying online can benefit Betenu at no cost to you—just click the Amazon link at [betenu.org](http://betenu.org), and we get part of the purchase price.

### MC, Visa and Discover

Your credit card can now pay Betenu dues, tuition, gift purchases or donations! Just call the office or stop in today to arrange the charge details.

### Help for the Hospitalized

National privacy laws keep hospitals from calling us when our members are admitted. If you need help or a little friendly support, ask for the hospital chaplain and request that Betenu be notified. We're here for you!

### March Newsletter Deadlines

Please email newsletter submissions to [betenu@nii.net](mailto:betenu@nii.net) by Friday, Feb. 21.

## This Generation's Tabernacle

by Rav Nate DeGroot

**I**N THIS WEEK'S *parashah*, the selection we read from Torah each week, we are transported with the children of Israel into one of our mythical narrative's most pivotal scenes: Enveloped in the clouds hovering atop Mount Sinai, having just received revelation and with the Ten Commandments in hand, Moses receives a prophecy from God detailing how the ancient Israelites are to build the *mishkan*—the Tabernacle—a portable home and dwelling place for the Divine presence. Positioned always at the center of the wandering Israelite community, the Tabernacle holds the tablets inscribed with God's commandments and serves as God's home here on earth.

The medieval commentator Rashi explains that the specific blueprint of this original Tabernacle should be reconstructed and recreated forever into the future—*v'chen ta'asu l'dorot*—and so you shall make it [like this] forever. Every time we Jews construct a new home for God, Rashi says, it should be built using the exact design Moses received at Revelation, nail by nail, screw by screw. Rashi's pesky grandchildren—the Tosefot, commentators in their own right—raise a difficulty. When Solomon built the temple some 300 years later, the design was totally different, the blueprint altogether new. How can this be?

Levi Yitzchok of Berditchev, rabbi and Jewish leader in 18th century Ukraine, reads it this way: All the measurements and the exact blueprint of the *mishkan* are physical



trappings like the garments of the Holy Spirit. These specific garments are a direct response not only to the prophecy that Moses saw on Mount Sinai, but to the prophecy the entire generation of Israel saw there. Just as no two prophets prophesy exactly alike, no two generations build God's house exactly alike.

The Kedushat Levi, as he is often referred, rereads Rashi's "*l'dorot/forever*" as "*l'dorot/in every generation*." That is, each generation should build their version of the *beit ha'mikdash*—their Temple—according to their context, their needs, and that specific moment. There is not one design forever, but rather, each generation should build their temples, their homes for God, according to their particular prophecy.

**B**ETENU IS IN a moment of significant transition. To grow, to sustain, and to thrive moving forward, we must support a new generation of leadership from within.

Religious school parents and younger families, you are the

new generation of Betenu. For this community to begin a new and generative life-cycle, it is up to you to step into leadership positions and begin to shape Betenu according to your unique and empowered vision. With the wisdom and experience of the founding and early generations to guide us, we must ask ourselves: What is the blueprint that will guide this new iteration of Betenu? What is this particular moment asking of us?

**O**NCE WE'VE BEGUN to craft this vision, we get to ask: How do we get there? Until then, it is up to us to listen closely to each other and that voice within; to share bravely that which draws us in, makes us curious, and inspires both action and asking within us; and of course, to dream big.

Here's to constructing this generation's Tabernacle that we call Betenu, together. Please be in touch if this visioning process speaks to you and is something you want to get involved in, and we will begin to dream together!

**Questions or comments on this article? Email Rav Nate at [rabbi@betenu.org](mailto:rabbi@betenu.org).**

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# February at Betenu

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 <i>Terumah</i> <i>Rosh Chodesh</i>
2 School, 9 am	3	4	5		7 Lay-led Service, 7:30 pm	8 <i>Tetzaveh</i>
9 School, 9 am; Progress Reports issued	10	11	12		14 Rabbi-led Service, 7:30 pm	15 Adult Study, 12 pm  Havdallah service & movie, 4:30 pm
16 School (Rav Nate), 9 am  Board Mtg, 12:15 pm	17 Education Meeting, 6:30 pm	18	19		21 Lay-led Service, 7:30 pm	22 <i>Vayakhel</i>
23 NO SCHOOL	24	25	26		28 Rabbi-Led Service, 7:30 pm	

# March at Betenu

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 <i>Pekude</i>  Deadline for Hannaford fundraiser
2 School (Rav Nate), 9 am	3	4	5	6	7 Lay-led Service, 7:30 pm	8 <i>Vayikra</i>
9 School, 9 am	10	11	12	13	14 Rabbi-led Purim Service, 7:30 pm	15 <i>Tzav</i> Purim Event (TBD)
16 School (Rav Nate), 9 am	17	18	19	20	21 Rabbi-led Service, 7:30 pm	22 <i>Shemini</i> Goldstein Bat Mitzvah, 10:30 am
23 School, 9 am	24	25	26	27	28 Rabbi-Led Service, 7:30 pm	29 <i>Tazria</i>
30 School, 9 am	31					