

RABBI'S MESSAGE: CHANUKA

One of the grand truths of every synagogue that I have ever been associated with is that the younger people with the greatest need for the services of a temple are the ones who can least afford it.

Young people have mortgages and huge expenses including furniture, children expenses, and college expenses: including both paying off their loans as well as saving for their kids' education and so on. By contrast the people of the older generation, in many cases have much fewer expenses and inevitably see the value that the synagogue was to them, to their children and to society in general – and are in a position to support the institutions of Judaism.

At temple board meetings that I have attended as laity as well rabbinically, I have heard the older generation, who often fill the board positions, complain that no one ever acknowledges them as they vote with their feet time and again to support the synagogue expenses that they understand to be for the greater good.

Last year, when Betenu was in financial difficulty, we were kept alive by four donations of \$1500 or more. The common thing about the four donors – not a one has children in our school.

So, for those of us with adult children, I have a suggestion for a Chanuka gift. Buy them a temple membership. Synagogues everywhere are bleeding red ink and due to the recession, many synagogues have been reluctant to increase dues and are drawing on reserves.

Synagogues have heating and utility bills, not to mention, salaries to pay. Synagogues have disappeared and do disappear. The operative oft quoted statement for the times we are going through: "Ein kemach, ein Torah": No flour (interpreted to mean money or physical sustenance), no Torah. Betenu's dues are substantially lower than any of our neighboring synagogues and yet I am told, about 28% of membership dues are partially abated. If the economy has been good to you, a little extra for Betenu would help us through these tough times! Thanks.

Best wishes for a great Chanuka and a happy secular New Year.

Be-ve-ra-cha,

Joshua L. Segal, Rabbi



BETENU INFO

SPECIAL NOTE: Some members of Betenu are physically sensitive to certain aromas coming from perfumes, colognes, hairsprays the like. These aromas can cause migraines and a host of other problems. Please be aware of that when you come to Betenu.

Please **DO NOT** bring scented items for the SHARE donation bin.

Betenu has natural cleaning products available for use. Please **DO NOT** bring your own cleaning products for oneg or other cleanup.

Thank you!



AND FOR ONLINE SHOPPING... TEXTBOOKS AND A MILLION 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!!!!

BETENU NOW ACCEPTS MC, VISA & Discover!

You can use MasterCard, VISA or Discover card 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.



CONGREGATION BETENU

Rabbi: Joshua Segal 603-886-1633

or rabbi@betenu.org

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or president@betenu.org

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VP Educ: Sheryl Liberman 603-424-4609

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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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: HOUSECLEANING

Between changes at work, sickness at home, and a whole myriad of life's little "opportunities", it's taken me a while to put together this month's message. From time to time, I like to do a little housecleaning, and share some random thoughts on Betenu things.

One of our favorite services of the year is always the Chanukah Shabbat service when everyone brings in their Chanukiah and we light up the night. This year, there are 2 such services, and I hope everyone takes the opportunity to join in this special celebration

As I look out over our snow covered yard, it reminds me that January is "lay leader month" at Betenu. I remember a few years ago Matthew telling me how much he liked it when we "made a circle" at Friday night services. It really is a nice and intimate way to share Shabbat with friends

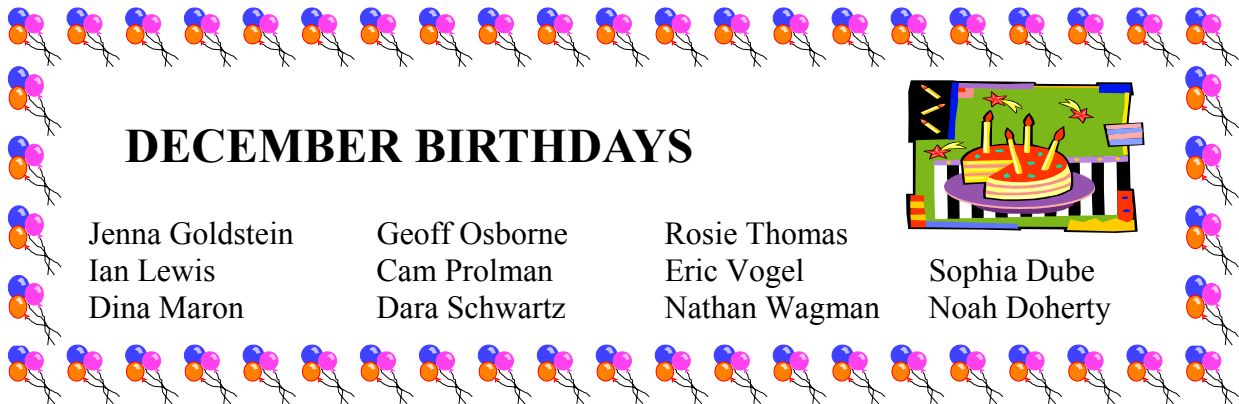
Last month I put out the call for volunteers to help with Betenu "long range planning". I did learn that some people actually do read the newsletter, and I'm looking forward to working with the new committee after the first of the year.

At our Q4 Finance Committee meeting we met to see how we were doing in these difficult economic times. Fortunately we are in a better overall position this year, but we will still be running a deficit. If you can, please consider an end of year donation to help – tax season will be here before you know it!


Happy Chanukah to all!

L'Shalom

Dave



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

| | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---|
| Jenna Goldstein | Geoff Osborne | Rosie Thomas |  |
| Ian Lewis | Cam Prolman | Eric Vogel | |
| Dina Maron | Dara Schwartz | Nathan Wagman | |
| | | | Sophia Dube Noah Doherty |



December 2009 (5770)

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|---|---|---|--|--|
| | | <i>1</i> | <i>2</i> | <i>3</i> | <i>4</i> 7:30 pm Rabbi-led FAMILY Service | <i>5</i> |
| <i>6</i> 9:30 am Religious School #11 | <i>7</i> | <i>8</i> | <i>9</i> | <i>10</i> | <i>11</i> 7:30 pm Rabbi-led Chanuka Day 1 Service Chanuka— 1st candle | <i>12</i> 4 pm Chanuka Meditative Service - Rahel Chanuka— 2nd candle |
| <i>13</i> 9:30 am Religious School #12 Chanuka— 3rd candle | <i>14</i> 7:30 pm General Bd Mtg—All are invited Chanuka— 4th candle | <i>15</i> Chanuka— 5th candle | <i>16</i> Chanuka— 6th candle | <i>17</i> Rosh Chodesh: Tevet Chanuka— 7th candle | <i>18</i> 6 pm Pot-luck Dinner & Party 7:30 pm Rabbi-led Chanuka Day 8 Service 8th candle | <i>19</i> Chanuka— ends (sunset) |
| <i>20</i> 9:30 am Religious School #13 | <i>21</i> | <i>22</i> | <i>23</i> | <i>24</i> | <i>25</i> 7:30 pm Lay-led Service | <i>26</i> |
| <i>27</i> <u>NO</u> Religious School 10th Tevet - | <i>28</i> | <i>29</i> | <i>30</i> | <i>31</i> | | |



January 2010 (5770)

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|---|---|
| | | | | | <p><i>1</i> 7:30 pm Lay-led Service</p> <p>New Year's Day</p> | <p><i>2</i></p> |
| <p><i>3</i> 9:30 am Religious School #14</p> | <p><i>4</i></p> | <p><i>5</i></p> | <p><i>6</i></p> | <p><i>7</i></p> | <p><i>8</i> 7:30 pm Lay-led Service</p> | <p><i>9</i></p> |
| <p><i>10</i> 9:30 am Religious School #15</p> | <p><i>11</i></p> | <p><i>12</i></p> | <p><i>13</i></p> | <p><i>14</i></p> | <p><i>15</i> 7:30 pm Lay-led Service</p> | <p><i>16</i> 10:30 am Tot Shabbat #3 Rosh Chodesh: Shevat</p> |
| <p><i>17</i> 9:30 am Religious School #16</p> | <p><i>18</i> 7:30 pm Executive Board Meeting MLK Day</p> | <p><i>19</i></p> | <p><i>20</i></p> | <p><i>21</i></p> | <p><i>22</i> 7:30 pm Lay-led Service</p> | <p><i>23</i></p> |
| <p><i>24</i> 9:30 am Religious School #17</p> | <p><i>25</i></p> | <p><i>26</i></p> | <p><i>27</i></p> | <p><i>28</i></p> | <p><i>29</i> Time TBA Rabbi-led Pot-luck Tu B'Shvat Seder</p> | <p><i>30</i> Tu B'Shvat Shabbat Shirah</p> |
| <p><i>31</i> 9:30 am Religious School #18</p> | | | | | | |



COMING UP AT BETENU...



RABBI-LED FIRST FRIDAY SERVICE

Friday, December 4th, 7:30pm

- ✧ family-friendly service followed by an
- ✧ oneg followed by
- ✧ Torah study with Rabbi.



CHANUKA MEDITATIVE SERVICE WITH RAHEL

Friday, **December 12th** at 4 pm

Please join singer/songwriter/cantorial soloist, Rahel, for a pre-Chanukah musical meditation and celebration of light, love and the joy of miracles. The meditation is followed by a short Havdalah service and Melave Malkah Chanukah sing along! Children aged 5 years and older are welcome to participate. Bring instruments and voices!

Rabbi Debra Orenstein (www.rabbidebra.com) reminds us that, "It is a miracle that Jews, in the days of the Maccabees and today, have managed to survive despite the appeal and acceptance of the general culture (disappearance through assimilation) and, equally, despite the ugly underbelly of intolerance in society (destruction through anti-Semitism, oppression, and war). It is a miracle that Jews who love and absorb the dominant culture are nevertheless willing to die for the right to remain Jews. It is a miracle that people possessed of few resources dare to do great things. Remember: a small band of fighters, a tiny cruse of oil, one "little" idea can change everything."

GENERAL BOARD MEETING

December 14th, 7:30pm

All are invited to attend the general board meetings which are even months (February, April...), usually the third Monday at 7:30pm. Talk to Dave Spokane ahead of time if you are interested in putting something on the agenda.

KEEP US UPDATED

Please let us know if your contact info has changed (address, phone, email...). You may email the office at betenu@nii.net, call the office at 603-886-1633, or call Elissa at 603-673-8283.

Thanks!



COMING UP AT BETENU...(cont.)

CHANUKA SERVICES— BRING YOUR CHANUKIOT

Friday, December 11th at 7:30pm
Friday, December 18th at 6pm, services at 7:30pm



Please bring your chanukiot, candles (available from the gift shop if you forget), and matches to **both services** as this year we light one candle on the 11th and all 8 on the 18th!



CHANUKA PARTY & POT LUCK

December 18th at 6pm—Bring a dish and come early for pot luck dinner & party.



We still need volunteers to bring
✧latkes (more than one volunteer okay);
✧suf ganyot (jelly doughnuts);
✧applesauce.

Please contact ROBERTA PAVOLL to coordinate at: 603-672-9820.



TOT SHABBAT

January 16th, 10:30am

For the little ones kindergarten and under: bring a healthy snack and a drink and join the fun as Rahel leads with music and movement.
Note: please accompany your child(ren).



TU B'SHEVAT SEDER

Friday, January 29th—time TBA

Hold the date for our famous Tu B'shevat seder on January 29th. Those attending the seder are asked to bring a seder item as well as a dish for the potluck supper. Seder items can be selected by choosing a leaf from the Tu B'Shevat tree which will be in the front lobby. A sign up sheet will also be located there. People are also asked to sign up to help set up tables on Thursday evening, January 28th, to set up the evening of the seder, or to help with clean up after the seder.

More info to follow.



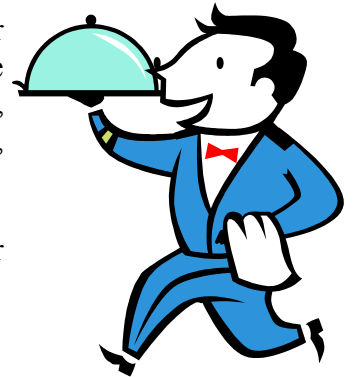
UPCOMING EVENTS:

YOUR HELP NEEDED: FEC LUNCH

Catered by Betenu

Date: TBA usually a Sunday, late January

Each year the Faith Episcopal Church in Merrimack caters our Yom Kippur Break-the-Fast and we cater their annual meeting. We need volunteers to make or purchase meals and desserts, hot and cold. We also need people for setup, serving and cleanup from 10-12:30 (all or part). Please contact our coordinator, Roberta Pavoll 672-9820.



Food can be dropped off at Betenu at the beginning of Sunday school, or brought (by 10 AM) directly to:

Faith Episcopal Church, 590 Daniel Webster Highway, Merrimack, NH

For directions:

<http://www.faithnh.org/contact.html>.

They do a wonderful job for us—let’s return the favor!

EDUCATION

Sunday Religious School Personnel:

VP Education: Sheryl Liberman

Principal: Rahel Limor

Hebrew: Sonia Campeanu

Jewish Studies: Don Wunderlich

Assistant Teacher: Nina Matouka

Madrichim: Dan Thompson, Alison Chakuroff, Rachel Liff, Izzy Starr



**ACCEPTING STUDENTS
REGULAR RELIGIOUS
SCHOOL /
POST HEBREW SCHOOL**

Registration is ongoing 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. For questions or to get a registration form please call the temple office at

886-1633 or contact Rahel at rahel@rahelmusic.com.



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.)



ROSH CHODESH FOR WOMEN

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—once a month
December 19th at TBA
January 23rd at Betenu

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.

Video of Sh'ma Meditation by Rabbi Aryeh Kaplan:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=x9bwEFS7Btk&feature=related





BETENU PAGES



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Amy & Derek Juszczak and their daughter Mackenzie of Brookline.

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:

Dec 4: The Gingras & Wunderlich families

Dec 11: Sarah Getchell in honor of Grammy's birthday, and the Belesca Family

Dec 18: Open

Dec 25: Open



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

SAD NEWS

Rabbi Ernst Conrad, (Elsa's father), passed away Friday, Nov. 6th. May the memory of his life be an eternal blessing.

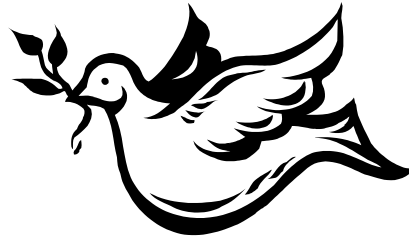
It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of Hava bat Shifra v'Yoel, mother to Sonia Campeanu, who died on Wednesday, November 25th (2009). May the Holy One bring peace to all who mourn.



BETENU PAGES

DONATIONS

Congregation Betenu acknowledges with appreciation the following contributions made during the month of November



Office Administration

Suzanne Maine

Oneg Fund

The Dube Family

General Fund

Joel and Elaine Silberberg
In memory of Elsa Conrad's father,
Rabbi Ernst Conrad



**Yahrzeits for
DECEMBER**



| | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| Sophie Starr | mother of Jen Starr | December |
| Fay Gladys Nichols..... | mother of Suzanne Maine | December 1 |
| Shirley Sleight | mother of Kim Rimalover | December 3 |
| Harry Rice..... | father of Alan Rice | December 8 |
| George Orenberg | father of Bob Orenberg | December 17 |
| John Marcuccio..... | cousin of Elissa Kahn..... | December 18 |
| Peter Leslie Stewart | brother of Jamie Stewart | December 20 |
| Ruth Mann | mother of Frank Mann | December 22 |
| Edith Cohen | grandmother of Judith Silverman | December 24 |
| Sophie Silver..... | grandmother of Paula Silver..... | December 25 |
| Evelyn Lamminen..... | mother of Lin Robinson | December 25 |
| Lois Goff..... | mother of Steve Goff..... | December 30 |
| Eddie Lamminen..... | father of Lin Robinson | December 31 |

תודה

BETENU THANKS

תודה

- ✧ November oneg hosts. Elsa Conrad, the Goldsteins, the Dubes, Rabbi Segal, the Gingras and Wunderlich families, and all who contributed to the onegs.
- ✧ All who donated to SHARE.
- ✧ Rabbi Segal for hosting The 5 Rabbis.
- ✧ Rabbis Joshua Segal, Susan Abramson, Joel Klein, Louis Rieser and Larry Karol.
- ✧ Suzanne Maine for her fundraiser.
- ✧ All who attended the fundraiser.



Suzanne Maine (left) pictured at her Mary Kay Fundraiser for Betenu with Pam Blotcky (right).

Betenu thanks Suzanne Maine for her effort and for donating all the profits from the Mary Kay Fundraiser!



COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

FOOD NEEDED!

The food pantries are in desperate need this year. Any donation would be appreciated. You may bring a food item directly to SHARE or the Nashua Soup Kitchen. If it is nonperishable, you may drop it off at Betenu (no scented products please) and we will deliver it to SHARE.

Wish lists: www.sharenh.org/food.html and
www.nsk.org/CurrentWishList.asp

OTHER ITEMS

For a list of other items needed please see:

www.sharenh.org or 603-673-3660: seasonal clothes and new socks and underwear
www.nsk.org/CurrentWishList.asp Questions? Call Carol at 889-7770 ext 21



“ISRAEL IS REAL”

Listen live on the radio WSMN 1590AM or via the Internet at www.wsmnradio.com Fridays from 9-10 am. Or go to israelisreal.weebly.com and click on Archives at the top to listen to previous weeks' shows. Now you can hear what you've been missing. Advertising and show sponsorship available.



Voice of ISrael Initiative of New Hampshire

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...

SOUTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE JEWISH MENS CLUB

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



CHANUKAH LIGHTING THE CANDLES

On the first night, you light only the shamus and one Chanukah candle. By the eighth night, you light all of the candles. Candles should be added to the menorah from right to left (like Hebrew writing). The shamus candle is lit first. While holding the shamus candle, recite the following blessings. After reciting the blessings, use the shamus to light the Chanukah candles from left to right (newest to oldest). Candles should be left burning until they go out on their own. They must burn for more than half an hour.

BLESSINGS OVER THE CANDLES

(Each night) **Barukh atah Adonai, Eloheinu, melekh ha'olam asher kideshanu b'mitz'votav v'tzivanu l'had'lik neir shel Chanukah. (Amein)**

Blessed are you, Eternal our God, sovereign of the universe who has sanctified us with God's commandments and commanded us to kindle the lights of Chanukah. (Amen)

(Each night) **Barukh atah Adonai, Eloheinu, melekh ha'olam she'asah nisim la'avoteinu bayamim haheim baziman hazeh. (Amein)**

Blessed are you, Eternal our God, sovereign of the universe who performed miracles for our ancestors in those days at this time. (Amen)

(On the first night only) **Barukh atah Adonai, Eloheinu, melekh ha'olam shehecheyanu v'kiymanu v'higi'anu laz'man hazeh. (Amein)**

Blessed are you, Eternal our God, sovereign of the universe who has kept us alive, sustained us, and enabled us to reach this season. (Amen)



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