

RABBI'S MESSAGE: OY, THE ECONOMY

Most of us with 401k's, IRAs and retirement savings are a bit poorer this year. Based on my discussion, those who were conservatively invested, they are down between 15 and 25%; those a bit more aggressively invested are feeling the pain at the 35 to 45% level. As far as I know, no one at Betenu was directly impacted by the Madoff scandal, but to the extent that "*kol Yis-ra-eil a-ra-vim z eve-zeh* (all Jews are intertwined, one with the other), the scandal does serve to enhance some anti-Semitic myths and libels.

Many Jewish organizations are serious hurting. The JFNH campaign came up very short with the last number I saw showing a 35% shortfall from the campaign target. Many smaller Jewish organizations that have overlapping functions are looking to consolidate in hopes of finding an economy of scale – or in some cases: just survival.

I wish I could say that Betenu has been exempt from all of this, but the Treasurer's reports at the monthly board meetings are pretty gloomy and a major subject of the last several board meetings has been: what can we do to cut costs?

I wish I had a magic answer for us or anyone else for that matter. So here is the truth. Judaism and most synagogues survived the Great Depression. Even for our oldest members, the Great Depression is only a collection of stories we read about in a history book or perhaps heard about from parents who experienced it. So for the majority of us, we are in uncharted territory.

Nobel Laureates in economics, as well as many others, have done a great deal of research on the Great Depression. Their research has yielded a clear cut picture of things that definitely didn't work. Will the Obama stimulus package work? I have no idea, and neither do any of the so-called experts. What is true is that the administration seems to be sensitive to not repeating the old mistakes and is committed to the idea that even plowing ahead with a potentially wrong solution is superior to doing nothing. I can't imagine there is anyone who honestly wants to see this plan fail.

But regardless of the outcome, my message to you with respect to Betenu is simple:

If you lost your job and are hurting, please do not resign your membership. We will work with you; we will find you an abatement. Abatements are completely confidential. To get one, you can ask me; the President, David Spokane; or the Treasurer, Joel Silberberg.

AND

If you are among the majority who are still working, please consider a supplemental donation.

Together, we will get through what is - and will continue to be - a very difficult time.

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.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

In an effort to cut costs, this newsletter will now be sent electronically as a .pdf file email attachment. If you need a hard copy printed and mailed to you each month, please notify the office. There will be a few copies available at Betenu, and some copies of the calendar pages as well.

BETENU THANKS


- ✧ February oneg hosts. The Goff, Goldstein, Dube, Seiden and Claire families, and Paul & Betsy Franks.
- ✧ Lay Leader(s): Elsa Conrad, Sheryl Liberman.
- ✧ Barbara Bailey & Elaine Schwartz for chairing the Tu B'Shvat Seder.
- ✧ All who supported the School Haggadah Fund Drive.

- ✧ Sheryl Liberman for bringing our donations over to SHARE.
- ✧ Craig Parsons-Kerins for his continued book donations to our library.

CONGREGATION BETENU

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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

**MARCH
BIRTHDAYS**



Nathaniel MacGregor	Alec Smolski
Daniel Thompson	Eran Limor
Hannah Thompson	Jay Segal
Rebecca Savage	Cara Silverman



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!!!!



BETENU BITS continued

**ROSH CHODESH
FOR WOMEN**

Sundays at 4pm:
See Sheryl for dates

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 month of February:



General Fund

- Suzanne Maine
Earmarked for FEC Luncheon
- Roberta & John Pavoll
Earmarked for FEC luncheon
- Carol Simonds
Yahrtzeit for Father Joel Mendoza
Yahrtzeit for Mother Charlotte Mendoza
Yahrtzeit for Husband Clifford Simonds

Library Fund

- Elaine and Joel Silberberg
In honor of Paul & Betsy Franks
40th Wedding Anniversary

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:

- March 6: Swartz, Burger, Dzen, Wunderlich, Belesca families families
- March 13: Elaine Schwartz & Barbara Bailey in honor of their mother Rene Fierman's 85th birthday.
- March 20: Oneg open, Shabbat Across America at 6 pm
- March 27: Open



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



March 2009

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9:30 am Religious School #22 4PM—Rosh Chodesh					7 pm Purim activities 7:30 pm Rabbi-led Purim Service	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9:30 am Religious School #23	Sunset: Purim begins				7:30 pm Rabbi-led Service	10:30 am Tot Shabbat
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9:30 am Religious School #24	7:30 pm Executive Board Meeting				6:00 pm Rabbi-led Shabbat Across America 7:30 Rabbi-led service	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9:30 am Religious School #25					7:30 pm Lay-led Service	
29	30					
Rel Sch snow make-up day						
12:45 pm Pre-Passover Brookline trip						

R Ch Nisan



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 service	18
19 NO Religious School	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 9:30 am Religious School #28 4PM—Rosh Chodesh AYELET	27	28	29 Sunset: Yom Haatsmaut	30		



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT: IT'S NOT EASY BEING GREEN

There is a good chance you are reading this message on your computer, as we have made the decision to “go green” with our monthly newsletter. As with most things, there were a lot of factors that went into our decision to change format.

While reducing our carbon footprint is probably a good thing, the primary motivation for the change was cost. We review our financial position each month, and we are facing the same economic realities as many of our members – decreasing revenue in the face of increasing costs. So a few months ago, realizing that we were running out of revenue streams, we looked seriously at reducing our operating expenses. Saving on the printing and postage for some 200 newsletters per month seemed like a wise policy change, and so we are trying it out.

Now, there are a few other side benefits to electronic delivery. For example, I can now procrastinate another few days before sending in my monthly President’s message! It also provides a unique opportunity for feedback. I try to solicit feedback from the membership, with generally limited success. Now, I can hope that including my e-mail address in the message will give you the opportunity to click a link, and give me some “Start-Stop-Continue” feedback on your Betenu experience – I’d love to hear what you think we can do that we’re not, what we shouldn’t do that we are, and what you think works well. Hopefully you can click on president@betenu.org or dspokane@charter.net and share your perspective.

The global economic crisis has affected many of us in some way. We appreciate every donation we receive, and going green is just one way we are working to maximize the impact of those donations at Betenu.

L'Shalom
Dave

BOARD POSITIONS

Board Positions: Right. The annual meeting isn’t until May, but here are the board positions that will come up for a vote this year: President; Financial VP; Assistant Treasurer; Secretary; and two Executive Trustees.



COMING UP...



PURIM

Friday, March 6



6:30 PM: Children’s activities with Rahel and Diane Becker!

7:30 PM: Rabbi-led service & Megillah reading!

TOT SHABBAT WITH RAHEL

Saturday, March 14 at 10:30 AM



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

SHABBAT ACROSS AMERICA/CANADA

March 20, 2009 at 6 pm

RSVP / Payment deadline: March 12



This year on Friday, March 20th, Congregation Betenu is joining with synagogues throughout North America in sponsoring “Shabbat Across America”. Coordinated by the National Jewish Outreach Program, we will learn about and share the beauty of Shabbat as a community. We will have a short, interactive prayer service and explanation of Sabbath customs and rituals and share a delicious catered meal and joyous song.

RSVP / prepayment required. Please see the attachment.

Want to help? We need hosts, help with setup and cleanup, and volunteers for D’var Torah.

Please contact: Rahel at 603-672-3682 or rahel@rahelmusic.com, or Elissa at 603-673-8283 or eckahn@hotmail.com.

PRE-PASSOVER BOSTON OUTING

Sunday, March 29, 12:45 PM

RSVP Deadline: Wednesday, March 25

Get your Passover shopping done! Meet at Betenu after Sunday school for a group trip to Brookline. We will visit the bookstore, butcherie, bakery and have lunch at one of the area kosher restaurants, all within a one block radius! Please call the office to let us know if you’re coming by Wednesday, March 25th: 886-1633.

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.



BETENU BITS continued



YAHREZITS FOR MARCH



Charlotte Mendoza.....	mother of Sheryl Liberman	March	1
Murray Cooper.....	father of Roberta Pavoll	March	3
Elizabeth Krohn ‘Betty’ Keiser		March	3
Dorothy Franks	mother of Paul Franks	March	3
Abraham Applebaum.....	grandfather of Elyse Wasserman	March	7
Joel Mendoza	father of Sheryl Liberman	March	7
Gertrude Orenberg	mother of Bob Orenberg	March	13
Marion Krohn ‘Jane’ Harris		March	16
Etta Schuldwach	grandmother of Lenny Wasserman	March	16
Robin Kulm.....	friend of Roberta Pavoll.....	March	20
Lillian Sidransky.....	grandmother of Daniel Becker.....	March	22
Lillian Sigel	mother of Martha Sandhaus	March	23
Scott Thomas Nichols.....	brother of Suzanne Maine.....	March	24
Louis Arthur Gross		March	24
Hannah Wasserman	grandmother of Lenny Wasserman.....	March	25
Clifford Simonds.....	brother-in-law of Sheryl Liberman	March	25

EDUCATION

REGULAR RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Doors open for regular classes at 9:15 AM. If you haven’t already registered your child(ren) please call the temple office at 886-1633 to get a registration form.

POST HEBREW SCHOOL

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

ADULT EDUCATION

HEBREW CLASSES

Rahel will be offering her evening adult education classes at Betenu 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).

Adult Hebrew – For beginners and continuing students. This is MODERN Hebrew (reading, writing, speaking and comprehension) and leads to Biblical. Textbook required.



JFNH JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

The March 28th opening night of the New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival kicks off with the statewide premier of **The Deal** which will be followed by 5 additional movies screening between March 31st and April 5th. As part of the festivities, we will offer a wine and cheese, dessert reception. This inaugural event will be held at the Walker Auditorium at Southern New Hampshire University.

Excitement has been building in the community! Together with our partners, Red River Theatres of Concord, and the hard work of a dedicated committee chaired by Roberta Brayer, the Jewish Film Festival will be presenting 6 films:

- Saturday, March 28th – The Deal
- Tuesday, March 31st – The Case for Israel: Democracy’s Outpost with Alan Dershowitz
- Thursday, April 2nd – Seven Days
- Saturday, April 4th – Noodle
- Sunday, April 5th – Eli and Ben
Holy Land Hardball
Noodle

“We are very excited to present a sampling of films which promote Jewish themes, explore Jewish identity and present a richness of Jewish culture relative to a diverse modern world,” states Roberta Brayer. “Through films we have a wonderful opportunity to build community throughout New Hampshire.”

“We hope to attract a diverse audience to these films,” states Jeff Fladen, Federation Executive Director. “While we hope that a large number of our affiliated Jewish community members come to see these films, we also hope, through partnership with Red River Theatres and the community press, that we will get the word out and see many new faces.”

We look forward to welcoming you at the screenings – come to one or come to all! Help make this film festival an annual New Hampshire tradition!

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>



Mazel Tov to Rabbi Rieser and the Etz Hayim Congregation on their new Synagogue!!! They are holding the following Building Dedication Events:

Kitchen Housewarming & Open House

Saturday, March 21, 7 - 9 pm

A wishlist for the kitchen is on our web site. www.etzhayim.org. This is a casual event for our members and friends. This is your chance to come and see the building in a relaxed atmosphere. We'll be giving tours and answering questions. Since the building is brand new, the kitchen is empty! We've compiled a wishlist of items we'd like to have. If you like to bring a gift, we'd appreciate it. If you can't .. that's OK. stop by for a snack and chat. Click here to go to our list.

Torah Procession and Building Dedication

Sunday, March 29 at 1:00 pm

Please join us for the dedication of our new home! We'll start at the church and carry the Torahs in a Grand Procession into our new Synagogue! There will be a special dedication ceremony led by Rabbi Rieser. The ceremony will be followed by refreshments and a chance to browse the building.

Kabbalat Shabbat Service: Oneg sponsored by our Sisterhood

Friday, April 3 at 7:15 pm

Our first Friday evening services in the new building. Please join us as we welcome the Shabbat! We'll have an extra special oneg afterwards presented by our Sisterhood.

Shabbat Morning Service, Torah Study and Potluck Lunch

Saturday, April 4 at 9:30 am

Our first Shabbat services in the new building. Please join us as we try out our new Bimah. Rabbi Rieser will lead what is sure to be a very special service for all of us. Services will be followed by a dairy/vegetarian pot luck lunch and Torah study. Come for any or all.

Family Havdalah Service

Saturday, April 4 at 7:00 pm

A special family Havdalah service. We'll celebrate Havdalah with singing, dancing and an Original Story! This is a great service for the entire family! And of course, there will be food!



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

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 \$6 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 \$6.95 per copy, please call the temple office.

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

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