



Betenu News

Congregation Betenu • December 2014 • Kislev Tevet 5775

Turn Your Shopping into a Smile

by Elsa Conrad

THIS is a season when charities, including Betenu, ask for donations. While we do need your donations (tax-deductible if made by Dec. 31), I'd like to tell you about ways to help Betenu at no cost—just by doing the shopping you already have planned and budgeted.

AmazonSmile is an easy new way to make painless donations to us when you gift shop or buy anything online from Amazon. Follow these simple steps once and you won't even have to think about it again:

1. Go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You can also bookmark it for later use.
2. Login to your Amazon account, then go to "Your Account" and select a charity. We're listed as *Congregation Betenu C/O J. Ditman*.
3. Start shopping!

Saving on Movies? That's the Ticket!

December is always a blockbuster movie month, and our new fundraiser with Chunky's Cinema Pub is a great way to save. Buy prepaid movie tickets from Betenu for just \$6.00 apiece and you can attend any film Monday through Thursday at Chunky's Cinema Pub locations in Nashua, Pelham or Haverhill—while we get 40% of the proceeds! Tickets are good for up to a year, allowing



you to stock up in advance and ease the sticker shock that comes with taking your family to the multiplex these days. To buy your tickets, call us at 886-1633 or contact **Elsa Conrad** at 879-9189. In addition, our gift cards from Hannaford are still going strong, with 5% of all proceeds going to fund Betenu activities. Just stop by our office!



HANUKKAH AT BETENU, DEC. 19

Potluck Dinner	6:15 pm
Candle Lighting	7 pm
Musical Service	7:15 pm
Yankee Swap	To Follow

As Hanukkah approaches we hope to see you this month, particularly at our holiday potluck and musical service on Dec. 19. Please try to attend. It's a perfect time to rekindle bright childhood memories of dreidels and latkes and family joy, while lighting the flame of Judaism within our own children. *Chag Urim Sameach!*

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CONGREGATION BETENU

A Member of the Union for Reform Judaism

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Amherst, NH 03031
(603) 886-1633

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

**Sophia Dube
Jenna Goldstein
Nevin Jusczak**

NEWS & NOTES

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thank You!

- ◆ **Steve & Pam Blotcky** for generously donating stamps, bottled water and paper towels to the temple
- ◆ **Rav Rebekah Goldman** for a very enjoyable teleconference with our Sunday school students via Skype
- ◆ **Boris Golosarsky** for his presentation to our students on technological innovation in Israel
- ◆ **The Spokane family** for volunteering to provide the oneg for our Dec. 19 Hanukkah service and potluck
- ◆ **Students in Grades 2-4** for participating in our Nov. 14 service, **their families** for providing a delicious oneg, and **Alexa, Olivia and Tamara** for participating as our ushers

Yahrzeits

In Loving Memory

- ◆ **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
- ◆ **Edith Friedman**
grandmother of Allison Leary
December 15
- ◆ **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
- ◆ **Sally Hurwitz**
great-grandmother of Amy Jusczak
December 22
- ◆ **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

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 regretfully announce the passing of **Margaret Leczynski**, mother of **Pam Blotcky**, on Nov. 21 at the age of 91. On behalf of everyone at Betenu, our sympathies go out to the Blotcky and Leczynski families. May her memory be a blessing.



Donations in Margaret's name may be made to Circle Home, Inc., 336 Central Street, Lowell, MA 01852, as well as to any charity providing assistance to children, disabled veterans or other worthy causes.

Pirkei Avot: Deeds and Wisdom

by Alex Dube

In a season when we are urged to take stock of how we can best help others, Betenu student Alex Dube writes on Pirkei Avot and its lessons.

PIRKEI AVOT is the book of interpretations that helps us to better understand writings from the Torah, drawing upon oral laws and ideas of past rabbis. Of its many interpreters, Rabbi Chanina ben Dosa once said, “One whose deeds are greater than one’s wisdom, one’s wisdom shall last. One whose wisdom is greater than one’s deeds, one’s wisdom shall not last.” Another famous interpreter, Rabbi Shimone HaTzaddik said, “The world stands on three things: the Torah, worship and acts of loving-kindness.” However, Rabbi ben Gamliel puts it as, “The world stands on three things: truth, justice and peace.” These quotes give a better understanding of what the Torah is really saying and what it asks of the Jewish community.

The first quote inspires others to take action and responsibility in many ways. Once it has been narrowed down, it says that deeds are far more important than wisdom and that there should be a healthy balance between

your wisdom and your deeds. The greater your deeds, the longer your overall wisdom will last. However, if your overall wisdom is greater than your deeds, then your wisdom will not last. This inspires people to take action and feel rewarded for doing something of a kind-hearted nature; as a people and as individuals. We will have greater knowledge if we do more to help others and take action in our community.

The quotes by Rabbi HaTzaddik and Rabbi ben Gamliel are very similar. For example, when we study Torah we learn about truth. The Ten Commandments tell us not to steal, and the story of Jacob

and Esau teaches us not to lie and hurt others. From worship we learn about justice. In some prayers we pray for those who need it most, such as the needy, the sick or the wounded. We do our best to make what we pray for happen by donating money, food or clothing and physically helping others in need. If people continually showed acts of loving kindness, there would be peace because the world would be much happier and a much kinder place.

FOR A TEENAGER, the book of *Pirkei Avot* has many helpful life lessons. From handling social situations to taking appropriate action in physical situations, it has changed my perspective on how to live a healthy Jewish life. A challenge I face daily is organization—finding time to do homework and extracurricular activities and balancing them properly. The book of *Pirkei Avot* offers many cases where organization is important and finding balance can be the only way to stay healthily organized. Another challenge I face is helping friends in their time of need. *Pirkei Avot* tells of how to deal with your friends when they require a certain type of attention. For example, when a friend is in mourning, ask about how he himself is feeling, not about the loss he has suffered. In the future I plan to respond to my friends differently, finding ways to balance my life so that it is organized and easier for me.



FROM THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

by Sheryl Liberman

Post B'nei Mitzvah Classes

This month's class dates are Dec. 7 and Dec. 14, from 9:30 am to 11 am.

Class Participatory Service, Dec. 5

If you missed our first two student Shabbat services, take the opportunity to attend on Friday, Dec. 5 at 7 pm, when our Post B'nei mitzvah/confirm group will help lead us. Come support our kids and our Betenu family.

Craft Hour on Dec. 7

Our next craft hour is Dec. 7 at 11 am. Please bring the younger kids and your old toilet tissue rolls for use in crafting!

Upcoming Parent Presentations

Continuing our series of talks on how we find connections with Israel, parents will speak on Dec. 14.

Musical Shabbat Service on Dec. 19

The fourth of our musical services with Sarah Noyovitz takes place at 7:30 pm on Friday, Dec. 19. Join us!

Share Your Input and Ideas

So that Betenu can continue improving our school, we invite you to share your ideas, concerns and interests. Please feel free to reach **Sheryl Liberman** at 424-4609, or **Elsa Conrad** at 879-9189.

Join Us for Hanukkah on Friday, Dec. 19

Circle Dec. 19 on your calendar and plan to attend our Hanukkah potluck and service! If you enjoyed last year's "Ninth Night" service, our Festival of Lights this year promises to be every bit as joyous and fulfilling, spent among friends and family here at Betenu.

Highlights include:

- ◆ Potluck dinner at 6:15 pm—singles or couples can bring a side dish, or a main dish for families
- ◆ Hanukkah candle lighting—bring your menorah and candles along
- ◆ A musical service led by **Sarah Noyovitz**
- ◆ Our optional Yankee Swap, following up on last year's funfest of gifting and re-gifting all sorts of tacky, whimsical and utterly irresistible gifts



Other Holiday Highlights

NH Jewish Film Festival: *Body and Soul*, Dec. 16

The Jewish Federation of NH (698 Beech Street, Manchester) will screen this 64-minute film on the connection between the Jewish people and the land of Israel at 7 pm, followed by a discussion with producer/director Gloria Greenfield and a dessert reception. Tickets are \$10. Visit <http://bit.ly/1rdRPR> or call 627-7679.

Boston Celtics Jewish Heritage Night, Dec. 17

See the Celtics tip off against the Orlando Magic at the TD Garden, with a 6:15 pm menorah lighting, holiday crafts, kosher concessions and postgame concert by Benny Friedman. Order tickets at least three days in advance by visiting online today at <http://bit.ly/1xQiVQt>.

Todd Oliver & Friends at the Palace, Dec. 21

Manchester's Palace Theatre (80 Hanover Street) will host a 6:30 pm Hanukkah show highlighted by comedian and ventriloquist Todd Oliver, plus music by Harmonia. For tickets, call 668-5588 or visit palacetheatre.org.

8 Fascinating Facts about Hanukkah

By Aish.com

- 1** In the 2nd century BCE, the brave Maccabees recaptured the Holy Temple in Jerusalem from the Greeks. The first thing they did was light the golden menorah. They found only one jar of oil, but it burned miraculously for eight days. Today we light a menorah for eight days to recall this miracle, and to be inspired by its message.
- 2** The war of the Maccabees was the world's first ideological war, fought by a small band of pious Talmudic scholars who engaged in cunning stealth warfare. (In Israel you can visit the caves they hid in!)
- 3** Around 17.5 million oily doughnuts (*sufganiyot*) are eaten in Israel during Hanukkah, commemorating the miracle of oil. (Not a good time to start a diet!)
- 4** The word Hanukkah means dedication. That's what it takes to launch a war against a superpower, and light a single flask of oil that can't possibly last enough time. With enough dedication and commitment, God creates miracles.

חנוכה
- 5** Spinning the dreidel was originally done by students illegally studying Torah. When Greek soldiers would make a surprise raid, students would whip out a dreidel, pretending to play a gambling game.
- 6** Hanukkah is celebrated 8 days even though the miracle of the oil was really only 7 (the first day's light shouldn't count – it's natural) to teach us that everything in the 'natural' world is really a miracle caused by God. Nothing happens without Him willing it.
- 7** Throughout Hanukkah, each menorah burns through 44 candles, adding one candle each night, plus the "shamash" – the extra helper candle. That's a lot of light to dispel the darkness.
- 8** The menorah in the Holy Temple was gold. The Maccabees lit one made out of wood. Your menorah can be made out of any material, any size. You can see a solid gold replica of the menorah right outside Aish HaTorah in Jerusalem. It cost 3 million dollars.
- 9** Hanukkah is not the Jewish Christmas. There is no significance to giving gifts during the holiday. But there is a tradition to give gelt (money) to give kids an incentive to learn Torah (Hanukkah also comes from the Hebrew word "hinuch," education).

For more inspiring wisdom on Hanukkah visit Aish.com/hanukkah

A Sweet Hanukkah Nosh

This no-hassle recipe makes *sufganiyot* a breeze

EASY JELLY DONUT HOLES

While not quite like the ones Bubbe used to make, this jelly donut recipe from P.J. Hamel at the King Arthur Flour Co. (kingarthurfLOUR.com/recipes—we love them!) is a fast, easy way to delight your family with Hanukkah *sufganiyot*. Enjoy.



Directions

1. Get out a skillet that's at least 2 1/2" deep; a 10" electric frying pan is a great choice, if you have one. Fill it with about 1" of vegetable oil, peanut oil preferred for best flavor.
2. Start heating the oil to 375°F while you make the donut batter.
3. To make the donuts: Whisk together the flour, sugar, baking powder, and salt.
4. Whisk together the lukewarm milk, melted butter, egg, and vanilla.
5. Stir wet ingredients into dry ingredients to make a thick batter (or soft dough).
6. When the oil has come up to temperature, use a tablespoon cookie scoop (or spoon) to drop balls of batter into the hot oil. This recipe will make 2" donut holes using a tablespoon cookie scoop and dropping in balls of dough about as big as an undersized ping pong ball.
7. Fry the donut holes for 2 minutes on the first side, or until they're a deep golden brown. Some of them may turn themselves over; that's OK, just use a pair of tongs to turn them back. After 2 minutes, turn the holes over, and fry for an additional 2 minutes, until golden brown. Transfer the donut holes to a baking sheet lined with paper towels to drain and cool.
8. When the donuts are cool, use a piping bag with a long, plain tip to fill them with as much jelly as you like. If you don't have a piping bag, try using an inexpensive plastic condiment squeeze bottle (think mustard or ketchup), with its tip cut off midway down to make it wider.
9. Shake the filled donuts gently in a bag of granulated sugar. Enjoy warm, or store at room temperature, loosely covered, for a day or so. *Makes 24 donuts.*

INGREDIENTS

2 cups King Arthur Unbleached All-Purpose Flour
2 tablespoons sugar
1-1/2 tablespoons (4-1/2 teaspoons) baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt

1 cup lukewarm milk
1/4 cup melted butter
1 large egg
1 teaspoon vanilla extract (optional)
Your favorite jelly or jam

IN BRIEF

Hanukkah Shop Helpers Needed

We would appreciate help setting up our Hanukkah shop on Sunday, Dec. 7 around 9 am. Volunteers can contact **Sheryl Liberman** or **Elsa Conrad**.

Need a Little "Get Well" Cheer?

As we've noted in the past, privacy laws keep hospitals from calling us if members are admitted. If you're going to be hospitalized and need support or company during your convalescence, simply ask the hospital chaplain to notify us. We're here for you.



Jewish Music Festival Preview

The Jewish Federation of New Hampshire will host a sneak preview of the Boston Jewish Music Festival at 7 pm on Dec. 11, 698 Beech Street in Manchester. Hear a little music and learn about spring performances in Manchester and Nashua from festival director **Joey Baron**. The event is free. To learn more, call 627-7679.

Shop at Amazon, Benefit Betenu

Buying your Hanukkah gifts online can benefit Betenu at no cost to you—click the Amazon.com link at betenu.org when you're ready to start shopping, and we'll get part of the purchase price. It's an easy way to help with fundraising.

MC, Visa and Discover

With shopping such a big topic, it's worth repeating that your credit card can pay Betenu dues, tuition, gift purchases or donations. Call the office or stop in to arrange the charge details.

January Newsletter Deadlines

The end of the year makes publication a little more difficult, so please email newsletter submissions to the Betenu office no later than Monday, Dec. 15.

December at Betenu

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5 Student Participation Service (Post Bar/t Mitzvah Class), 7 pm	6 <i>Vayishlach</i>
7 Religious School, 9 am Craft Hour, 11 am	8	9	10	11	12 Lay-Led Service, 7:30 pm	13 <i>Vayeshev</i>
14 Religious School, 9 am; parent presentation, 11 am	15	16 <i>Erev Hanukkah</i>	17 <i>Hanukkah</i>	18 <i>Hanukkah</i>	19 6:15 pm Potluck & 7 pm Musical/Candle Lighting Service with Sarah Noyovitz	20 <i>Miketz</i> <i>Hanukkah</i>
21 <i>Hanukkah</i> Religious School, 9 am	22 <i>Hanukkah</i>	23 <i>Hanukkah</i>	24 <i>Hanukkah</i>	25	26 NO SERVICE	27 <i>Vayigash</i>
28 NO SCHOOL	29	30	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i>	<i>New Year's Day</i>		

January at Betenu

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 New Year's Day	2 NO SERVICE	3 <i>Vayechi</i>
4 Religious School, 9 am	5	6	7	8	9 Musical Service w/Sarah Noyovitz, 7:30 pm	10 <i>Shemot</i>
11 Religious School, 9 am	12	13	14	15	16 Lay-led Service, 7:30 pm	17 <i>Vayera</i>
18 Religious School, 9 am	19 Martin Luther King Day	20	21	22	23 Service w/ Rav Rebekah, 7:30 pm	24 <i>Bo</i>
25 Religious School, 9 am	26	27	28	29	30 Lay-led Service, 7:30 pm	31 <i>Beshalach</i>