



Reflections As We Enter a New Year

by Sheryl Liberman

WHAT wonderful holidays Betenu observed! Thank you to all our congregants, visitors, families and friends. From the orchestration of our services, participation of many readers, set ups and break downs of chairs and tables, and food, to all the “behind the scene” preparations made by Rav Nate and the Board, we were certainly able to appreciate the devotion of so many of our Betenu families, and it is a joy to celebrate 5775 with you. Aren’t we lucky!

My reflections from the High Holidays linger, and I ponder the positive aspects Betenu and its rabbinic students have brought to our members in the last two-and-a-half years. We have had the chance to experience different traditions and attitudes toward Reform Judaism, novel ways to celebrate Shabbat and holidays, new songs and melodies, inspiring ideas and enthusiastic adult conversations, as well as creative new traditions. Yet we still find comfort and devotedly hold on to long-time traditions as well!

Betenu continues to be a welcoming place to worship and embrace our Judaism, a home where we can feel free to bring the family and friends, and build an essential foundation for a lifetime of Jewish learning and living.

With the fall changes of color, join us in switching gears by coming out to enjoy Shabbat services. With musical Friday nights, pot luck suppers, Sunday school participation Shabbat and lay-led services, there is something for everyone!



CELEBRATING SUKKOT Students and teachers proudly show off their sukkah during Sunday school classes on Oct. 5.

IN THIS ISSUE

President’s Message

News & Notes

Chunky’s Fundraiser

Pulpit Swap

Dec. 19 Chanukah Service

November/December Calendars

CONGREGATION BETENU

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To submit articles or information, please visit betenu.org and use our email link.



Please join us in acknowledging and thanking all of our volunteers and contributors!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY
Benjamin Conley
Evan Crotty

NEWS & NOTES

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thank You!

- ◆ **All Grade 5-7 students and parents** for our student participation service on Oct. 24
- ◆ **All** who came out on Oct. 23 for our Bertucci's fundraiser
- ◆ **Barbara Bailey and Elaine Schwartz** for helping the Sunday school students on their Torah crafts (see p. 3)
- ◆ **Steve & Pam Blotcky** for generously donating office supplies and paper goods
- ◆ **The Conley/Conrad, Dube, Golosarsky/Kirsh, Leary, Liberman and Spokane families** for hosting onegs
- ◆ **Ariel Crotty** for her office help, and the **Crotty family** for hosting a Shabbat oneg
- ◆ **Rabbi Beth Davidson** for joining us on Oct. 17
- ◆ **Sarah Noyovitz** for sharing both her musical talents and spiritual leadership during our Oct. 10 Sukkot service

Y AHRZEITS

In Loving Memory

- ◆ **Rabbi Ernst Conrad**
father of Elsa Conrad
November 6
- ◆ **William Wright**
November 11
- ◆ **Robert Burger**
father of Eric Burger
November 16
- ◆ **Pearl Gribetz**
mother of Jeff Gribetz
November 20
- ◆ **Harriet Fanny Witkowski**
mother of Ellen Hoffman
November 20
- ◆ **David Mendelsohn**
November 21
- ◆ **Josephine Kenswil**
mother of Jackie Rossier
November 21
- ◆ **Ruth Clarke**
grandmother of Elissa Kahn
November 22
- ◆ **Hava bat Shifra v'Yoel**
mother of Sonia Campeanu
November 25
- ◆ **Leo Silver**
grandfather of Paula Silver
November 25
- ◆ **Anne Werner**
mother of Sara Murphy
November 26
- ◆ **Wanda Burger**
mother of Eric Burger
November 27

CONTRIBUTORS

Diantha Gross

Educational Fund

- ◆ **Geoffrey Gross**

Holiday Appeal

- ◆ **Dr. Sanders & Rowena Burstein**

- ◆ **Elsa Conrad**

- ◆ **Craig & Marcella Dube**

- ◆ **Martin Harman**

- ◆ **Donna Joyce**

- ◆ **Frances Keefe**

- ◆ **Maureen MacGregor**

- ◆ **Nathan Michaels**

- ◆ **Daniel & Sara Murphy**

- ◆ **Paul Noyovitz & Paula Silver**

- ◆ **Andrew Prolman**

- ◆ **Robert & Kim Rimalover**

- ◆ **David Rosen**

- ◆ **Rabbi Joshua Segal & Karen Satz**

- ◆ **Joel & Elaine Silberberg**

- ◆ **David Spokane**

- ◆ **Dr. Peter & Jeanne Stein**

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FROM THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

by Sheryl Liberman

Post B'nei Mitzvah Classes

This month's class dates are Nov. 2 and Nov. 16, from 9:30 am to 11 am.

Musical Shabbat Service on Nov. 21

The third of our musical services with Sarah Noyovitz takes place at 7:30 pm on Friday, Nov. 21. It's a great way to combine spirituality, learning and fun! To learn more, call me at 424-4609.

Upcoming Parent Presentations

Continuing our series of talks on how we find connections with Israel, parents will speak on Nov. 9 and Nov 23.

Class Participatory Services

What do all these have in common: Candle blessings, *Barechu*, *Shema*, *Avot*, *Aleinu*, challah and wine or juice?

If you answered Shabbat, you're partially correct. If you said "all the prayers our Grade 5-7 students participate in," you are right on! Our fine classes led us in song and prayer on Fri., Oct 24. We celebrated Shabbat with happiness, community and style, and if you missed our first student Shabbat service, there's another golden opportunity to attend on Friday, Nov. 14 at 7 pm, when our younger group will participate. Come support our kids and our Betenu family. You are sure to enjoy yourself and Shabbat!

School Attendance Requirements

To maximize learning opportunities for all students, we recommend these annual guidelines:



- ◆ **Sunday School classes**
All ages: 27 sessions
- ◆ **Shabbat/Holiday services**
Grades K-3: 4 or more services
Grades 4-5: 7 or more services
Grades 6-7: 15 or more services

KIDS & CRAFTS

On Oct. 12, students had fun making Simchat Torah scrolls. Our next craft hour is Dec. 7 at 11 am; why not bring the younger kids? (PS: save your old toilet tissue rolls and bring them along!)



will keep coming prepared to learn and wearing big smiles!

So that Betenu can continue improving our school and provide the best possible Jewish education for our children, I invite you to contact us with your ideas, concerns and interests. Please feel free to reach me at 424-4609, or you can contact **Elsa Conrad** at 879-9189.



Share Your Input and Ideas

Sunday School at Betenu has had a strong start this year, thanks to our staff and our phenomenal volunteers on the education committee. We hope students

Bertucci's Fundraiser Enjoys Big Turnout

Our Oct. 23 "Dining for Dollars" fundraiser at Bertucci's in Nashua attracted lots of hungry foodies, with 15% of all proceeds donated to Betenu. Thanks to event organizer **Ariel Crotty** and everyone who attended, with special thanks to the management and staff at Bertucci's for being fabulous hosts!



Thank You, Rabbi Beth!

Many thanks to **Rabbi Beth Davidson** of Temple Adath Yeshurun for taking part in our Pulpit Swap on Oct. 17. Our congregants greatly enjoyed Rabbi Beth's skillful blending of song, talk and spirituality during a night we'll long remember. And if we're not quite ready to switch allegiances from the Red Sox to the Mets, we are certainly more inclined to favor at least one team from New York City. *Todah rabah!*



Hanukkah Potluck & Service on Dec. 19

Circle Friday, Dec. 19 on your calendar and make plans to come out for our big Hanukkah service! Highlights include:

- ◆ A potluck dinner starting at 6:15 pm
- ◆ Hanukkah candle lighting
- ◆ A musical service led by our own Sarah Noyovitz
- ◆ And back by popular demand, our second annual Yankee Swap

Hanukkah is always a joyous time at Betenu, so be sure to save the date. For potluck signups, volunteer opportunities and additional details, contact the Betenu office or check out next month's newsletter.

Kristallnacht Commemoration in Keene, Nov. 9

On Sunday, Nov. 9, the Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Keene State College will join with the Colonial Theatre in hosting Keene's annual Kristallnacht Commemoration. Free and open to the public, the 7 pm event occurs at the Colonial Theatre, 95 Main Street.

Attendees will come together to witness and reflect in hope that tragedies such as 1938's Kristallnacht pogrom will never happen again.

For details about the event or to learn more on the history of Kristallnacht, visit the Cohen Center web page at keene.edu.



A Chunky's Fundraiser? That's the Ticket!

Our latest fundraiser is a box office smash. Buy prepaid movie tickets from



Betenu this November or December, and attend any film

at Chunky's Cinema Pub locations in Nashua, Pelham or Haverhill, Monday through Thursday—while we get 40% of the proceeds! Great for Hanukkah gifts or family outings, tickets can be purchased at our office for just \$6.00. To get details, call 886-1633.

IN BRIEF

Need a Little "Get Well" Cheer?

As we've noted before, privacy laws keep hospitals from calling us when our members are admitted. If you're going to be hospitalized and need support or company during convalescence, ask the hospital chaplain to notify us. We're here for you. (Related note: get well soon, Larry!)

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.

TAY Craft Fair on Nov. 16

And speaking of Hanukkah shopping, Temple Adath Yeshurun is holding its Sisterhood Craft Fair in Manchester on Sunday, Nov. 16. You'll find "Made in NH" crafts, silk, glass, art, baby clothes, candy, jams, quilted and knit items, jewelry, bath and body products, cosmetics and more! For details, visit taynh.org.



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.

Donations Needed

We'd appreciate donations of bottled water, ziplock sandwich and storage bags and/or postage stamps. Thank you for your generosity!

December Newsletter Deadlines

Please email newsletter submissions to the Betenu office by Monday, Nov. 17.

YOM KIPPUR

Excerpts from Rav Nate DeGroot's sermon of Oct. 4, 2014

ON this day, this one day a year, on Yom Kippur, we free ourselves from the world of fantasy, we release old stories that are no longer helpful, we shed the parts of our self we can tell no longer serve us. Why? This is how we praise God. When who we are is covered up by who we think we're supposed to be, our divinity is diminished and we diminish the divine. When we exist in the world of fantasy and don't live into who we are, the *Shechinah* wails.

We are each a gift, our uniqueness unlike any other, and the more we can discern and honor and live out our own potential, our personal strengths, our individual singularity, the more whole God is. We pray to an infinite God with magnificently diverse expression, creating all creatures and all moments, creating each of us perfectly unique and absolutely different.

To fulfill the will of this God, I'm proposing, is to continually manifest our most authentic self, to be the gift that only we can be, to share ourselves generously and courageously. We are the gift. It is who we are that we alone get to share and that is our contribution to the tapestry that is haShem.

AFTER revealing Torah at Mount Sinai, God addresses Moses, asking him to tell the Israelite people that they should bring God gifts.

*vayidaber adonay el moshe l'emor
daber el b'ney yisrael
vayik'chu li terumah*

*m'et kol ish asher yidveynu libo,
tikchu et terumati*

(And God spoke to Moses, saying, "Tell the Israelite people to bring me gifts, from every person who wants to offer from their heart, receive that gift on my behalf.")

FROM every person who wants to offer from their heart, who can get real with who they are and what their heart desires, from every person who wants to give from that place, that is a gift God will receive. In the next line He then says, *v'asu li mikdash v'shacanti b'tocham*—

**As we repent we confront and embrace reality ...
leading with our hearts, discerning our passions
and offering ourselves as a gift.**

make for me a mikdash, so that I may dwell within you and amongst you.

How do we build sacred space? How do we construct a world around us in which to experience God's most intimate presence? How do we invite God into our lives, into our selves, into our communities? How do we manifest the sacred? The answer is by sharing ourselves and our truth from the inside out, sharing our hearts, and fearlessly being the gift we each are intended to be.

However, if reality is such a blessing, why do we defend the curse? Why is it that we perform our lives with renditions of masks and layers of protec-

tion? Perhaps because we're afraid. Maybe we're afraid to do anything other than try to fit into society's expectations of who or what we're supposed to be. Maybe we're afraid of not being loved, or of losing a loved one. At the end of the day, we hide because we're afraid of confrontation with reality and the rupture that causes, and with good reason.

Like Abraham being asked to sacrifice his son, his only son, we are scared of what might be asked of us and the damage it might cause. After all, we know that Isaac is blinded from the experience and some say he

Yom Kippur gives us an opportunity to release, unbinding our hearts and making room for new growth and for new habits. This holiday is a practicum on how to incorporate that philosophy into our lives. We know we're constantly evolving and changing. We know that anything that's not growing is dead. It's up to us to embrace the cycle.

As some of you may know, when we speak of someone who has passed in the Jewish tradition, it is customary to say, "May his or her memory be for a blessing." We carry with us the legacies, the teachings, and the love of our dearly beloveds, and in really concrete and significant ways, their memories really do, God willing, become a blessing for us, shaping and guiding us in life.

AS WE REPENT this Yom Kippur, as we release all that is keeping us stuck and constraining us, as we allow old stories and stuck habits to be discarded, and as we confront and embrace reality, leading with our hearts, discerning our passions, and offering ourselves as a gift, I want to wish for us all that the old selves we're letting go of this Yom Kippur—the former versions of ourselves that we are burying today—that their memories too may be a blessing for us, allowing us always to stay connected to who we have been, to who we are, and to who we are becoming. *G'mar batimah tovah!*

This and other sermons are available for study online at betenu.org/archive.

November at Betenu

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 <i>Lech Lecha</i> PJ Havdallah Service, 4:30 pm
2 Religious School, 9 am	3	4	5	6	7 Lay-led Service, 7:30 pm	8 <i>Vayera</i>
9 Religious School, 9 am	10	11 Veteran's Day	12	13	14 Student Participation Service (Grades 2-4), 7 pm	15 <i>Chaye Sarah</i>
16 Religious School, 9 am	17 Executive Board Meeting, 7:30 pm	18	19	20	21 Musical Service w/Sarah Noyovitz, 7:30 pm	22 <i>Toldot</i>
23 Religious School, 9 am	24	25	26	27 Thanksgiving Day	28 NO SERVICE	29 <i>Vayetze</i>
30 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL						

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 Erev Hanukkah	17 Hanukkah	18 Hanukkah	19 6:15 pm Potluck and 7 pm Candle Lighting Service w/Sarah Noyovitz	20 <i>Miketz</i> Hanukkah
21 Hanukkah Religious School, 9 am	22 Hanukkah	23 Hanukkah	24 Hanukkah	25	26 Lay-Led Service, 7:30 pm	27 Vayigash
28 NO SCHOOL	29	30	31 New Year's Eve	New Year's Day		