



Temple B'nai Abraham

Beverly, Massachusetts

Bulletin Digest

February 2012 • Shevat - Adar 5772

Community Learning Day Sunday, February 5

Light breakfast at 8:30 A.M.

Sessions for all ages
begin promptly at 9 A.M.

Theme of the Day: Eco-Judaism

Featuring:

David Arfa, environmental educator
and storyteller who is dedicated to
celebrating Judaism's ancient
environmental wisdom

and musician **Jay Rapoport**



**Community Learning Day
is generously sponsored by
the Alan Kaplan Memorial Enrichment Fund.**

This free program is open to the entire community.
Bring your family and your friends.

A View From the Bima

I would like to share an update on TBA's social and environmental justice programming.

TBA members are very generous with their time when it comes to the Monday Night Suppers at the First Baptist Church. These suppers are an opportunity for our community to reach out to those in need. Last month, about 30 people from TBA came out to cook and serve. Thank you to all of our volunteers, and especially to Dave Carnevale, who does most of the shopping and schlepping each month.

The Social Action Committee has taken on the responsibility of making sure that there continues to be funding for the food. To that end, on **Friday, February 3**, the Social Action Committee will sponsor an oneg in honor of the Helman family for redirecting their fund to the Monday Night Suppers. Linda Helman thought this would be a good way to honor the memory of her husband, Stephen, because he was committed to the Monday Night Suppers. The theme of Shabbat services that evening will be Homelessness and Economic Justice. I hope you can join us. Donations may also be made to the Stephen Helman Monday Night Supper Fund through the TBA office.

This month is also Tu B'Shevat, a celebration of trees, environmental justice, and the coming of spring (yes, it will

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From the Leadership

A priest, a minister and a rabbi walk into a bar ...

As I write this, I'm anticipating Sisterhood's Comedy Night. Aside from being a great night of entertainment and a fundraiser for TBA, the idea of a night of comedy in a synagogue made me think about the role comedy plays in Jewish life in general, and why comedy, especially American comedy, has been dominated for the past century by Jewish writers and performers.

Much has been written about this subject. As Nathan Ausubel writes in the introduction to his book *Treasury of Jewish Humor*, "First you laugh at a Jewish joke or quip. Then, against your will, you suddenly fall silent and

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Rabbi's Message, Continued From Page One

come!). In addition to Tu B'Shevat being the theme of our Community Learning Day on February 5, we are partnering with Temple Shalom of Salem for a program on **February 8 at 5:30 p.m.**, where we will learn about the holiday, eat pizza, and plant seeds for Temple Shalom's new community garden.

Throughout the rest of the year we will join with Temple Shalom for a series of programs. These include:

- A Jewish Response to Ethical Raising and Slaughter of Animals (March 4);
- A Jewish Response to Disabilities (date to be announced);
- and, A Jewish Response to Homelessness (May 17).

Please stay tuned for further details.

Rabbi Alison Adler

President's Message, Continued From Page One

thoughtful. And that is because Jews are so frequently jesting philosophers. A hard life made them realists, realists without illusions."

Most scholars agree that humor is a Jew's way of dealing with life's adversity. According to Rabbi Reuvan Bulka, "By laughing at our fate, it is as if we were stepping out of a situation and looking at it from a distance, as if we were outsiders, so to speak."

It is said that most comedy is born out of tragedy and tragedy and adversity are deeply entrenched in our long history. We joke, according to Ausubel, as an instinct for self-preservation. "By laughing at the absurdities and cruelties of life, we draw much of the sting from them... And so [we] laugh boisterously, feeling superior to the poor *shmiggege*, while all the time it is [us] who are the target."

By using humor our "lament often turns into laughter" (Theodor Reik, *Jewish Wit*, New York, 1962).

According to Rabbi Bulka, we use humor to let the rest of the world know that we are determined to survive even the worst hell. Victims of discrimination, hatred and prejudice must use their wit and intelligence to overcome the hatred of their enemies.

So as we laugh at and with talented comedians such as Dan Naturman, we laugh at ourselves and at the expense of our enemies; we are the survivors of centuries of hatred and threats of extinction. And I wonder, as we continue to assimilate, feel more comfortable in and amongst our largely non-Jewish society, how will humor, especially Jewish humor evolve?

Time will tell. So in the meantime, a priest, a minister and a rabbi walk into a bar, and the bartender asks, "What is this, a joke?" Bada boom.

Alan Pierce
TBA President

JOINT TU B'SHEVAT CELEBRATION **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 5:30 P.M.** **TEMPLE SHALOM, SALEM**

Come for pizza and drinks and the planting of bean seeds for Temple Shalom's brand-new community garden, *Gan Rut* (see below).

Rabbi Adler and Leora Mallach from Beantown Jewish Gardens will teach about the holiday of Tu B'Shevat, a celebration of trees, nature and spring. David Gass of the Highland Coalition in Lynn will talk about how to leverage a garden to create community.

The program is free. RSVP to Rabbi Adler (so they know how much pizza to order). Bring your children!

GAN RUT – RUTH'S GARDEN **AT TEMPLE SHALOM**

The Torah teaches us that we are to share the bounty of our land with those less fortunate. It is incumbent upon us to use our property not only for ourselves but also for the benefit of others.

Leviticus 23:22: And when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap the corners of your fields, nor shall you gather the gleanings of your harvest; you shall leave them for the poor, and for the stranger. I am the Lord your God.

Ruth, the grandmother of King David, was among those who benefited from this obligation. *Ruth 2:2: And Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi, "Let me go to the fields and pick up the leftover grain behind anyone in whose eyes I find favor." Naomi said to her, "Go ahead, my daughter."*

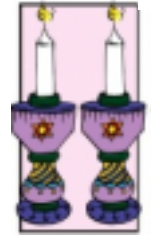
Temple Shalom expects that the harvest from Ruth's Garden will be shared with the families of the Little Beginnings Pre-School and, if there is enough, with others in need in the Salem community. We have so much; it is our obligation to give back.

In the TBA Family

Mazel Tov: To Donna and Alan Pierce, on the birth of their grandson Chase Jackson Lozow, son of Mimi Su and Matt Lozow.

Condolences: The congregation extends its condolences to Myra Strauss and her family on the death of her mother, Ruth Polinsky, and to the family of Albert W. Levine, on his death. May God comfort them among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

**Please join us for Shabbat services
as we honor the Helman Family
and the establishment of the
Stephen B. Helman Monday Night Supper Fund**



Friday, February 3, 7 P.M.

The Social Action Committee is pleased to announce that at the request of Linda Helman, TBA's Stephen Helman Fund, named in honor of Linda's late husband, is being redirected to exclusively support the Monday Night Suppers at the First Baptist Church in Beverly.

The fund will now be named the Stephen B. Helman Monday Night Supper Fund, and all future contributions to it will help pay for the dinners, which TBA supports monthly. Stephen was very committed to the suppers, and Linda thought it fitting that the memorial fund be used to sustain the program.

***Service Theme: Homelessness and Economic Justice
Special Oneg sponsored by the Social Action Committee***

School and Youth Programming

**Confirmation Class
With Rabbi Adler
(Grades 10, 11 and 12)**

Confirmation Class meets from noon to 1:15 P.M., with lunch included.

Next meeting: Sunday, February 12

**Pre-Confirmation
Madriach Program
(Grades 8 and 9)**

This program combines leadership training sessions with hands-on experience in TBA classrooms and office.

Next meeting: Sunday, February 12, 10 to 11 A.M.

Future dates: March 18; April 29

**Rosh Hodesh: 'It's a Girl Thing'
(For Girls, Grades 8 and 9)**

This monthly program uses Jewish values and engaging activities to empower adolescent girls to build their self-esteem, leadership skills, and Jewish identity.

We thank the Grant and Freed families for hosting meetings in December and January, respectively.

**Next meeting: Sunday, February 12, 6 to 8 P.M.
at the home of Kerri and Joseph Sabino**

Future dates: March 11; April 29; May 20

Religious School News

Our first Sunday session this month, on February 5, is a Community Learning Day. A light breakfast will be served at 8:30 a.m. and classes will run from 9 a.m. to noon for all ages. Community Learning Day counts as a Religious School session for your children, and we encourage parents to take in the programming, too.

TBA is joining Temple Shalom for a Tu B'Shevat celebration at the Salem synagogue on Wednesday, February 8, at 5:30 p.m. Pizza will be served.

No Religious School classes will be held Sunday, February 19, through Sunday, February 26, due to the public school winter break. Classes will resume on Thursday, March 1.

Our next Parent Coffee and PTA meeting will be held Sunday, March 4, at 10:30 a.m., or immediately following Rabbi Adler's Adult Holiday Workshop on Purim, which is scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. that day. Don't forget to turn in your Haggadot orders by that date.

Tot Shabbat Service

With Miriam Blue

Saturday, February 11 • 10 to 11 A.M.

Designed for children in grades 2 or younger
and their caregivers

TBA Healing Service • Sunday, February 12, 5 to 6 P.M.

Please join Rabbi Adler, Marcy Yellin, and musicians from the Healing Havurah.

For those in need of healing, and their friends and loved ones

Sisterhood

Book Club

Wednesday, February 29 • 7:30 P.M.

Join us for an informal discussion of

The Woman Who Named God, by Charlotte Gordon
(see Author Brunch announcement, below)

Meeting at the home of Deb Greenstein

Rosh Hodesh Group for Women

Rosh Hodesh honors the new moon and the new Hebrew month, and has been traditionally celebrated by women. Our monthly meetings, led by Rabbi Alison Adler, involve ritual, discussion, and food. The next meeting dates are:

February 27 • March 26 • April 30

Bagels and Books

Sunday, February 12 • 10 A.M.

Do you like to read? Do you have some books that you've enjoyed but no longer need?

Back by popular demand, Bagels and Books is an informal gathering to visit, swap books, and, of course, eat.

Minimum of one, maximum of six tradeable books: fiction, nonfiction, biography, sports, trivia, children's books, cookbooks, etc. No magazines, reference or textbooks, please.



Save the Date: Sunday, March 25, 11 A.M.

Sisterhood's Ninth Annual Author/Lecture Brunch

Featuring: Charlotte Gordon

Prize-winning writer of poetry, non-fiction, and fiction

Charlotte Gordon's latest book, *The Woman Who Named God: Abraham's Dilemma and the Birth of Three Faiths*, explores the story of Abraham, Sarah, and Hagar, and gives new perspective on these Biblical characters who—with their jealousies, passions, and doubts—actually behave like human beings. (Sisterhood's Book Club will discuss the book on February 29.)

Since 1986, Ms. Gordon has taught creative writing, history, literature, religion, and theater at both the college and secondary school level. From 1992-2002 she was the director of the writing program at The Waring School in Beverly. She currently teaches at Endicott College and conducts writing workshops for adults from her home in Gloucester.

Brunch details will be announced

*Copies of *The Woman Who Named God* will be on sale through the TBA office*

Donations

The Congregation Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Contributions

(Recorded December 16, 2011, through January 13, 2012)

Brotherhood

Kurman family to the Silverstein family, in loving memory of Heshie

Bruce Kurman to Jack Israelsohn, best wishes

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Gerri Gordon to Susan Wolper, in recognition of our friendship

Janice and Kiva Skolnick to Ruth Helman, mazel tov on Joshua's engagement to Johanna

Janice and Kiva Skolnick to Jack Kriteiman, hope you are feeling better

Garelick Fund

Joan and George Heller to Joel Black, healthy new year

General Fund

Joan and George Heller to Ruth Helman, mazel tov on Josh's engagement

Sandra T. Thompson to James and Phyllis Singer, in memory of Rena L. Katz

Barbara K. Silverman to Marilyn K. Rappaport, in memory of your beloved mother, Rena Katz

Bernice Gilman to the Katz family, in memory of Rena Katz

Bernice Gilman to Marilyn Rappaport, in memory of Rena Katz

Sheila and David Katz to Jacob Kriteiman, best wishes for a complete recovery

Linda and Dan Magalnick to Tracey Schwartz, wishing you a full and speedy recovery

Ellen and Rick Steinberg to the Katz, Rappaport, and Singer families, in memory of Rena Katz

Diane Isenberg to Jack Kriteiman, wishing you a speedy recovery

Diane Isenberg to Joel Black, wishing you a speedy recovery

Stephen B. Helman Monday Night Supper Fund

Susan and Jerry Wolper to Jacob Kriteiman, here's to a full and speedy recovery

Susan and Jerry Wolper to Joel Black, hope this finds you back on your feet soon

Susan and Jerry Wolper to Kiva Skolnick, a well-deserved honor for your dedication to the Beverly Dental Clinic

Susan and Jerry Wolper to Lily Goodspeed, thinking of you; hope you're feeling better

Susan and Jerry Wolper to Tracey Schwartz, our thoughts are with you

Paul Weinberg to Tracey Schwartz, wishing you a speedy and complete recovery

Religious School

Fran and Jordy Baker to Tracey Schwartz, get-well wishes

Sterman-Isenberg Fund

Bob, Mee, David, Mark, Jim and Alan to Diane Isenberg, in honor of your birthday and in memory of Dad

Sam and Eve Weinberg Fund

Paul Weinberg to the Katz, Singer, and Rappaport families, in memory of Rena L. Katz

Paul Weinberg to the Strauss family, in memory of Ruth Polinsky, mother of Myra Strauss

Yarhzeits

Eileen Edelstein in memory of Rose Edelstein, mother of Ralph Edelstein

Eileen Edelstein in memory of Max Edelstein, father of Ralph Edelstein

Gail Sinitzki in memory of her mother, Lillian Toll

Judith Dawson in memory of her mother, Sara Freedland

S.L. Levy in memory of Nathan Isenberg, father of Shirley Levy

Nathalie Rothblatt in memory of her father, Fred Berkowitz

Gerri Gordon in memory of her husband, Larry Gordon

Sheila Singer in memory of Esther Shapiro, mother of Paul Singer

Sheila Singer in memory of her aunt, Lena Zion

Amy Blake in memory of her stepfather, Larry Gordon

Sally Dorfsman in memory of her sister, Mary Epstein

Sally Dorfsman in memory of her sister, Ruth Epstein

Sally Dorfsman in memory of her brother, Joseph Epstein

Philip Goldberg in memory of his uncle, Oscar Smith

Leo Berman in memory of Isadore Torf, father of Dorothy Berman

Elane and Peter Gilmore in memory of Susan Burke, sister of Elane Gilmore

Elane and Peter Gilmore in memory of Ruth Simons, mother of Elane Gilmore

Ann Lederman in memory of Bessie Cutler, grandmother of Warren Lederman

Susan Hacker in memory of her father, Arthur Hacker

Scrip

The Temple Thanks Our Recent Scrip Purchasers

(Recorded December 16, 2011, through January 13, 2012)

Jayne and Joel Gordon

Paige and Michael Katzenstein

Sue Richard

Lisa Kosan and Scot Petersen

Julia and Len Rubin

Anita and Philip Freed

Jewish Journal Offer

If you are not receiving home delivery of the *Jewish Journal*, or would like to receive copies at your business location, please contact the newspaper by email, subscription@jewishjournal.org, or phone, 978-745-4111, ext. 121.

Help Us Feed the Hungry in Our Community

Please join adult and Youth Group members of Temple B'nai Abraham on the third Monday of each month as we prepare and serve a meal to those in need at First Baptist Church, Beverly.



Our next Monday Night Suppers are February 20 and March 19.

Join us anytime between 4:30 and 6:30 P.M.

Donations are needed to offset the costs of food and supplies. Please direct your donation to the temple.

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