

Temple Beth El^{Electronic} News

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Kislev 5772

December 2011

Thank You

- ✧ To everyone who donated to the Dubuque Food Pantry. Our donations went up in November and are much appreciated by the community. And to Lynn Werner for her continued work on world hunger.
- ✧ To Rebecca for hosting our previous oneg, and to Fern as always.
- ✧ To Lou for his powerful presentation at the Hazel Green, Wisconsin, Library, on his experience as a Holocaust survivor.
- ✧ To Kate for hosting the Aidenbaum baby shower.
- ✧ To Rabbi Ann for facilitating last month's Adult Study, the topic of which was Forgiveness. A short film was viewed, followed by a stimulating discussion. Thanks to all who participated.
- ✧ From Jacquie Dyrke, who writes, "thank you to everyone who took the time to call, send a card or visit me during my recovery. I saw the surgeon yesterday and he commented that so far I am ahead in my recovery from about 50% of most people. I think prayers from friends helped!

This Coming Weekend, Saturday and Sunday, December 10 and 11

- ✧ NO FRIDAY EVENING SERVICE
- ✧ Saturday, 11:15 AM Family School, at the temple.
- ✧ Saturday, 5:00 PM Hanukkah Service, followed by Dinner/Celebration (see below for details)
- ✧ Sunday, 11:00 AM, Introduction to Judaism session for adults (see more below)

Hanukkah Festivities

As noted above, we will have a Hanukkah Service at 5:00 PM on December 10. (See the Rabbi's comments toward the end of this bulletin for more info on the actual service.) Directly following the service, we will have our annual Hanukkah dinner/celebration. Randy will once again provide the latkes and the (vegetarian) matzo ball soup (thanks Randy). Everyone else is asked to bring a dish to share—salads, other side dishes, or desserts. (This is a dairy meal.) Also, bring your menorahs!! Even though Hanukkah does not officially start until later in the month, we will have a group Hanukkah candle lighting. (We will also have candles for sale; Rabbi Ann—thanks so much for bringing candles from NY!)

Mazel Tov to Carly Garfield for her recent engagement to Andy Zeiglar! And to their relocation to Estes Park, Colorado. Alan, Phyl, and family—we are so happy for all of you!

Mazel Tov to Emily Goldberg. The Beth El community is so proud of you!
<http://www.juf.org/college/blog.aspx?id=413237&blogid=4866>

Introduction to Judaism Session for Adults (from Rabbi Ann)

I will be teaching an interactive Introduction to Judaism class this year. The class is open to anyone interested in learning more about Judaism. No prior knowledge or experience required!

There will be five or six scheduled sessions but if you are not able to attend all the classes you are welcome to join when you can. The first class will be on Sunday, December 11th at 11:00 AM.

Potential topics, depending on interest, will be:

1. Jewish Holidays
2. Prayer
3. Life Cycle
4. Parenting
5. God and Spirituality

I have a few preliminary questions. Please respond by e-mail to ann.landowne@gmail.com. Your input will help me tailor the class to your individual interests and needs.

1. What are you hoping to take away from this Intro to Judaism class?
2. Do you have any specific goals, such as bar or bat mitzvah, exploring conversion to Judaism, Jewish parenting, learning Hebrew prayers, etc.?
3. Are you planning to attend every class or just a few?
4. What time or times work best for you? Early Shabbat morning 8:30-9:45 AM, Friday afternoon, 3-4:15 PM or Shabbat lunchtime, 12:30-1:45 PM?

I'm hoping to hear from many of you before the first class on December 11th at 11:00 AM at the temple.

Community and Social Action

Dubuque Food Pantry

The Dubuque Food Pantry needs our ongoing support. Please bring donations to services. While any non-perishable foods are accepted, we have a special assignment to collect peanut butter and jelly, among the most requested items. The demand continues to go up, and the price of peanut butter has also increased recently.

If you prefer to donate money (usually used for perishable items such as milk), please send a check to:

The Dubuque Food Pantry
1598 Jackson Street
Dubuque, IA, 52001

For many items, cash/check donations allow Sr. Lynne to purchase food at just pennies on the dollar, much better value than we could purchase individually.

Reflections in the Park

Once again, Temple Beth El is going to volunteer at "Reflections in the Park" on December 24. This mitzvah brings us great community recognition and helps Hillcrest Family Services. Without our help, they would probably have to close the light show on one of the top money-raising evenings of the year. Rebecca Gottlieb is our temple organizer for this event. Contact Rebecca (gottlieb@uwplatt.edu) for more information or to volunteer.

Interfaith Opportunities

Alan Garfield is co-presenter for a series of interfaith conversations called "Children of Abraham." This series is presented by Dr. John Eby of Loras College, Alan Garfield of University of Dubuque and Temple Beth El, and Dr. Adib Kassas of the Tri-State Islamic Prayer Center. Each session will offer a discussion of one topic from the viewpoints of Christianity, Islam, and Judaism. The schedule for the remaining sessions is as follows. All are free and open to the public.

February 23, 2010: "Joseph/Yusuf," University of Dubuque Technology Building, Hadley Auditorium, 8:00 PM

March 22: "Scripture," Temple Beth El, 8:00 PM

April 19: "Peace," Loras College, ACC Ballroom, 8:00 PM

Feel free to contact Alan with any questions at agarfield@dbq.edu

Yahrtzeits

Starting with our last bulletin, we have begun to list the Yahrzeit names for the upcoming service. If you have names of loved ones you would like to be put on the Temple Beth El Yahrtzeit list, please email them to Rina Sirk (rinadbq@aol.com).

Joseph Jacob Barrash	11/21/68	Richard Keene	12/02/**
Emile Levi	11/24/**	Baby Levi	12/2/**
Emma Bergard Medow	11/24/67	Ida Rotman	12/2/93
William Goldberg	11/25/98	Lillian Olanosky	12/4/77
Michael Blumenthal	11/26/1901	David Urbach	12/4/**
Nathan Rotman	11/26/97	Dora Oller	12/6/44
Irene Slivken	11/28/96	Nathan Gerson	12/7/00
Esther Fruma Gordon	11/29/38	Robert Garfield	12/8/85
Rose Rotman	11/29/69	Harry Render	12/8/28
Harold Shapiro	11/29/99	Baby Brin	12/11/**
Martin Leon	11/??/97	Harry Shuman	12/11/**
Abba Leifer	12/1/89		

From the Worship Committee

Rebecca Gottlieb will be coordinating the honors for Shabbat services. If you have a special occasion to mark (or expect a visit from college-age offspring), please contact Becca (gottlieb@uwplatt.edu) to request an honor.

Hosting Opportunities!

The schedule at the end of this newsletter has been updated to show who has volunteered so far to host Rabbi Ann for the weekend, to host her for a dinner, to host an oneg following a service, and to host an adult study. There are still hosting opportunities available, so if you have not yet signed up, please do so!

- ✧ To host the rabbi for a weekend, contact Cindy Pearce (mikelcinkc@aol.com)
- ✧ To host the rabbi for a dinner, contact Randy Sirk (randysir@aol.com)
- ✧ To host an oneg, contact Fern Reinstein (threeamstamper@yahoo.com)
- ✧ To host an adult study, contact Lynn Werner (lynn.o.werner@att.net)

Winter Weather

In case of bad weather, the outgoing message on the Temple's answering machine will reflect any cancellation of a service. If you have a question about services taking place please call the Temple. Even if Rabbi Ann is unable to fly in, it is possible that the Worship Committee will hold a Lay Service.

From Rabbi Ann

Dear Temple Beth El Community:

I'm looking forward to seeing you at the Shabbat afternoon service on December 10th (at 5:00 PM). After *Havdalah*, the ceremony marking the end of Shabbat, we're going to have a preview of Chanukah. The holiday actually begins on Tuesday, December 20th, the 25th of the month of *Kislev* in the Hebrew calendar, with the lighting of the first candle, and ends on Wednesday, December 28th. The eighth and final candle is lit on the evening of December 27th.

We will have a pre- Chanukah celebration at the temple, including songs, playing dreidel, potato latkes (pancakes), and candle lighting of the *Chanukiah* or Chanukah Menorah. The *Chanukiah* has eight candle holders and an additional ninth candle known as the *shamash*, the "helper" candle. This is used to light the candles that symbolize each of the eight days of *Chanukah*. It is customary to light the *Chanukiah* from left to right. Lighting each additional candle first, over the course of the eight days.

I had a couple thoughts about our celebration of Chanukah at the temple a bit earlier than the actual holiday. I heard from Larissa Shebroe, our wonderful assistant teacher, that the Chanukah celebration at Temple Beth EL was cancelled last year because of a snowstorm. So we are making up for the missed celebration last year with an early celebration. We will then be inspired to celebrate Chanukah again at its rightful time in our homes.

Another thought is related to the history of the holiday. One explanation for the eight days of Chanukah is the miracle of the oil. Against all odds a small container of oil burned for eight days until new pure olive oil could be prepared for rededication of the temple. This miracle also hinted at the military victory of the Maccabees, who against all odds achieved political independence.

A historical explanation for the eight days of Chanukah is related to timing. The Maccabees were in the midst of war against Antiochus Epiphanes IV, the ruler of the Syrian kingdom in the month of *Tishrei* (168 BCE) when the holiday of Sukkot is celebrated. In a letter quoted in the Second Book of the Maccabees, circa 124 BCE, we learn that the Maccabees decided to celebrate Sukkot in the month *Kislev*, after their victory and two months later than usual. The fighting was over and they could rededicate the Temple and properly celebrate the eight-day holiday of Sukkot and *Shemini Atzeret* (a one day festival that concludes the Sukkot holiday). With this history of Chanukah we can understand the eight-day celebration as a delayed celebration of Sukkot.

So although it is a little unconventional, there is historical precedence for adjusting the timing of holiday celebrations.

See you on Shabbat,

Rabbi Ann



Service and Mitzvah Schedule for 5772

(Family School and some other events are not included on this schedule.
Refer to each newsletter for times/dates.)

Saturday, December 10 to Sunday, December 11

- ✧ NO FRIDAY EVENING SERVICE
- ✧ Saturday morning, Family School, 11:15 AM at the temple.
- ✧ Saturday evening: 5:00 PM Hanukkah Service, followed by Dinner/Celebration
- ✧ Sunday morning, 11:00 AM, Introduction to Judaism session for adults

Saturday, December 24 REFLECTIONS IN THE PARK

Friday, January 6, 2012...7:00pm Shabbat service
Saturday, January 7...7:00pm adult study

dinner: Shebroe; oneg: Garfield
dinner: Garfield; study: TBD
weekend host: TBD

Friday, February 3...7:00pm Shabbat service
Saturday, February 4...7:00pm adult study

dinner: Goldberg/Scheinman; oneg: TBD
dinner: Landau; study: Goldberg/Scheinman
weekend host: Goldberg/Scheinman

Friday, March 2 to Saturday, March 3

This is our Purim celebration. Times and events need to be finalized. Dinner host for 3/3 is Pearce. Adult Study host TBD. The Landaus will host the rabbi for the weekend.

Saturday, April 17 (Passover)—Congregational Seder--No Rabbi

Friday, April 13...7:00pm Visitors' service
Saturday, April 14...7:00pm adult study

Group oneg; Dinner: Gottlieb
dinner: Pritikin/Wrubel;
study: Pritikin/Wrubel
weekend host: Pritikin/Wrubel

Friday, May 18...7:00pm Shabbat service
Saturday, May 19...7:00pm adult study

dinner: Alexander; oneg: Kruse
dinner: Dyrke; study: TBD
weekend host: Alexander

Friday, June 8...7:00pm Shabbat service
Saturday, June 9...Time TBD

dinner: Werner; oneg: Reinstein
End-of-Year Adult Social (host needed)
weekend host: Werner