

Temple Beth El^{Electronic} News

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Adar 1 5771

February 2011

Thank You

- ✧ To the Dyrkes for stepping up in our oneg emergency—and hosting a fabulous spread! And then for having to drive home to Galena in the snow.... Thank you.
- ✧ To Randy Sirk for hosting the rabbi for the weekend and for dinner.
- ✧ To the Garfields for hosting the adult study.
- ✧ To Emily Kruse for the extraordinary Havdalah Service. See more, below.

This Coming Weekend—Feb. 18 to 19 2011

- ✧ Friday evening Shabbat Service, 7:00 pm; oneg hosted by the Aidenbaums.
- ✧ Saturday morning Family School, 10:00 am—NEW LOCATION THIS TIME ONLY: at the Kruse home. Contact Emily for directions (kruseea@hotmail.com).
- ✧ Saturday evening Adult Study, 7:00 pm at Rea Kirk's home.

Havdalah and the BMV Sisters

From Cindy Mikel: A really big thanks to Emily Kruse for organizing, implementing, and running the recent Havdalah service at Mt. Carmel. It was a huge success with the BVM sisters. There were approximately 25 sisters there, and the response was so warm and welcoming. From our own sisterhood, there were Emily, Phyllis, Rina, Rea, Jacquie and her daughter Lisa, Esther, Lynn Werner, and me. Great turn out! Emily planned and presented a very nice program, and there was great participation in a question and answer session. Everyone brought soups and salads and of course the famous Garfield Challah—and it was delicious and enjoyable. Great Kudos to Emily and to all who participated. In fact, there was discussion of making this an annual event!

The next Sisterhood event will take place in the spring so think warm thoughts!

Baby Shower

Thanks to Cindy Mikel for hosting the wonderful baby shower for Jensen Garfield, his Mom & Grandparents! It was amazing to meet the newest little member of the extended Beth El family!

Condolences

We are saddened to announce that Lynn Verger's father recently passed away. Lynn and her mother were with him when he died. May God comfort Lynn and her family among all who mourn in Zion and Jerusalem.

Events in our Temple Community

March 3-6

Fiddler on the Roof, performed by Hempstead High School. Performances: March 3-6 at Roosevelt Middle School. [OK, this is not a Temple event, but it is a musical with a Jewish theme, and the newsletter editor's daughter (Emily Goldberg) is in the show! Contact me with any questions kscheinman@aol.com.]

March 14 and May 19

We are looking for volunteers to host Rabbi Jennifer for dinner on March 14th and May 19th. Contact Randy Sirk to sign up (randysirk@aol.com).

March 18

Our Purim Celebration is taking place on March 18. A 6:00 Purim Service (led by the Rabbi) is followed by our annual Purim Dinner. We need someone (or more than one) to host this event. Contact Cindy Mikel (mikelcinkc@aol.com) to volunteer or for questions.

April 8

Our Visitors' Service takes place on April 8. We have a group oneg for this large event, so everyone should plan to bring a dessert. Please bring items on trays, cut up and ready to serve. Be sure to avoid foods that require utensils to eat.

April 19

We will have a Congregational Seder on the second night of Passover (April 19). We would like to begin to get a count of how many people are planning to attend. This will be a catered meal so there will be a per-person charge, but the amount is to be determined. If you are thinking of participating, RSVP to Cindy Mikel at your earliest convenience (ie, right away) so that plans can get underway.

Dubuque Food Pantry

The Dubuque Food Pantry needs our support. Although most non-perishable items are useful, we have a standing request for peanut butter and jelly. These are among the most requested items because of the large number of families with children who rely on the Food Pantry. If you prefer to donate money (usually used for perishable items such as milk), please send it directly to the Food Pantry rather than bringing it to services.)

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 (563 583-3483). Even if Jennifer is unable to get to town, it is possible that the Worship Committee will hold a Lay Service.

Yente's (the Librarian's) Corner

Published randomly

Yente will periodically review 1 or 2 – maybe even more – of our holdings. Take a look at this month's summary.

The Covenant by Naomi Ragen (publication date 2004)

Wow, where do I start? THE COVENANT has so much depth, with characters so rich you want to telephone them for an interview and a story so frightening that it will leave your spine tingling for days, if not weeks. With its contemporary theme, it brings the horror that was Auschwitz to the present, and contrasts that historical inhumanity with today's terrors.

American Elise Margulies lives in the holy land, thrilled to own a piece of it where she and her husband, Dr. Jon, can raise their toddler Ilana and unborn child. The one drawback to the house is its distance from the hospital where Jon gives cancer patients treatment and hope. In the past few months, it has become increasingly dangerous to drive through the rural areas so vulnerable to terrorist attacks. Refusing to live in constant fear, the Margulies family continues life as usual, in the naïve belief that something is being done to keep the roads safe. But then one day the unthinkable happens. The car in which Jon drove Ilana to her ballet recital is found, empty --- and riddled with bullets.

With no bodies at the scene, Elise allows herself to hope. But she has forgotten that death isn't always the worst that can happen. A videotape arrives, showing her husband and her daughter in the hands of Muslim extremists, making unmeetable demands in exchange for their lives. Elise despairs, until she makes a call to her Grandmother Leah.

A petite Jewish lady, Leah has survived Auschwitz. And she has friends --- three powerful, determined, loyal old women who formed the Covenant during their encampment. There is little the world can throw at them that would hurt them more than they already have been. Injuring a granddaughter or her family is one of them. The members of the Covenant join together once again, this time to free Jon and Ilana. These women do not have government's limitations or its political paralysis. Favors are called in and the rescue operation begins. But it's a sticky business, and keeping faith that Elise's family will return home becomes an almost insurmountable task. To make matters worse, Elise starts to worry that she will lose her unborn child from the stress of it all. She sorely needs Grandmother Leah's strength. Thankfully, Leah has strength enough for them both.

The author lives in Jerusalem, so despite the fact that this is --- technically --- a work of fiction, it is very real. Her knowledge of the tensions between the Palestinians and the Israelis stems from dealing with it daily. Everything about this story rings with chilling authenticity.

I came away from my experience --- and, yes, it is an experience --- reading this book with a far better understanding of who today's terrorists are and how they choose their course in life. Ms. Ragen exposes them as bloodthirsty extremists with no real care about peace or the teachings of true Islam. If peace were to settle over the land they claim to be fighting for, they would need to stir up trouble elsewhere,

simply to feed their passion for violence. It is all they know.

It is very rare indeed that I consider a book a must-read, but THE COVENANT is a definite must-read.

--- Reviewed by Kate Ayers

Remember Yente's parting advice:

If you don't read a book
You'll become a schlemiel
And then, take my word,
So good you won't feel



Service and Mitzvah Schedule for 5771

Friday, February 18...7:00pm Shabbat service	oneg: Aidenbaum
Saturday, February 19...7:00pm adult study	dinner: Kirk; study: Kirk
	weekend host: Kruse
Friday, March 18...6:00pm Purim service	(with congregational dinner to follow; we
Saturday, March 19...7:00pm adult study	need a Purim Dinner host)
	dinner: TBD; study: TBD
	weekend host: Yaunches
Friday, April 8...7:00pm Visitors' service	Group oneg
Tuesday, April 19 (Passover)—Congregational Seder	
Friday, May 13...7:00pm Shabbat service	oneg: Glenn
Saturday, May 14...7:00pm adult study	dinner: TBD; study: TBD
	weekend host: Goldstein
Friday, June 3...7:00pm Shabbat service	oneg: Mikel-Pearce
Saturday, June 4... Time TBD	End-of-Year Adult Social (host needed)
	weekend host: Dyrke