

# Temple Beth El<sup>Electronic</sup> News

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Sivan 5768

June 2008

## **The End-of-Year Temple Social is this weekend!**

The Alexander's are once again hosting the social. (Thank you!) They plan to serve eggplant parmigiana and provide beverages. Barb and Dick ask that the rest of us bring side dishes, and RSVP via email to: [alexgalena@aol.com](mailto:alexgalena@aol.com). The dinner starts at 6:00pm.

## **Jewish Family Reunion**

if anyone has addresses for friends, relatives, past congregants, and other Jewish Dubuquers who should get an invite to the Jewish family reunion, please send their names to Barb Alexander by emailing her at the above email or at [jewishdubuque@aol.com](mailto:jewishdubuque@aol.com)

## **Temple Beth El Service and Mitzvah Schedule for 5768**

(Updated 6-2-08)

### NOTES:

- Rabbi Stephanie has brought a new dimension to our temple by offering a slew of activities on the weekends she is here. The schedule below does NOT include those specific activities (such as conversational Hebrew class, book discussion). Refer to each newsletter for the specifics of an upcoming weekend.
- Shabbat Services start at 7:00 PM, unless otherwise indicated.

Friday, June 6...7:00pm Shabbat service

dinner: Alexander, oneg: Reinstein

Saturday, June 7...6:00pm

End-of-Year Adult Social hosted by the

Alexander's

Weekend of August 22-24 is the Temple Beth El Reunion Weekend.

## From the Rabbi

As congregational rabbis, Aaron and I receive a host of temple publications—both from temples we have served and those we only know from mailings. In perusing their newsletters and bulletins we sometimes comment on an intriguing study topic or make note of an interesting program for future reference. And, of course, we always look to the rabbis' columns to see what has caught the eye of our colleagues. It was in this way that I came upon the following, written by a mom in Memphis, TN, and shared by Rabbi Brigitte Rosenberg with United Hebrew Congregation in St. Louis, MO. It seems particularly fitting to share with our own congregation as we prepare (after one more exciting weekend together) to take our summer hiatus. As she noted at the end of the piece, may the coming months be filled with gratitude for that which we have and the inspiration to reach out to others, in any way we can, to share our gifts with others.

*I am thankful for the income tax I pay, because it means I have income.*

*I am thankful for clothes that are a bit too snug, because it means I have more than enough to eat.*

*I am thankful for the lawn that needs tending to, the windows that need cleaning, and the gutter that needs fixing, because they mean that I have a home.*

*I am thankful for all the complaining I hear about the government, because it means that we have freedom of speech.*

*I am thankful for the parking spot, even at the far end of the parking lot, because it means that I am capable of walking and that I have a means of transportation.*

*I am thankful for my huge heating and electric bills, because they mean that I am comfortable.*

*I am thankful for the alarm that goes off so early in the morning, because it means that I am still alive and able to start a brand new day.*

And for the many largely unnoticed blessings we might each add to our own lists, may we each stop this summer and give thanks.

L'shalom,  
Rabbi Stephanie Alexander

### Upcoming Activities

- **Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 pm @ University of Dubuque (in Tech #201) – Film: “The Divan”**

“Documentary filmmaker Pearl Gluck left her Orthodox Jewish clan in Brooklyn for secular life in Manhattan as a teenager. Later, Gluck takes a creative approach to mend the breach. She travels to Hungary to retrieve a turn-of-the-century family heirloom: a couch upon which esteemed rabbis once slept. En route, she encounters a colorful cast of characters, including a couch exporter, her ex-communist cousin in Budapest, a pair of Hungarian-American matchmakers, and a renegade group of formerly ultra-Orthodox Jews.”

– *The National Center for Jewish Film at Brandeis*

"Pearl Gluck has made what may be the first movie to evoke in equal measure the attraction of Hasidic Judaism and the equally compelling reasons she abandoned it."  
– Stephen Holden, *New York Times*

You may remember that we attempted to show this film earlier this year, however, despite great interest, the timing simply was not meant to be. So now it's TAKE TWO. Thanks, in advance, to Alan Garfield for providing the space (and snacks!) to watch and discuss this thought-provoking film. Please join us!