

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

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Adar 11 5771

March 2011

## Thank You

- ✧ To the Kruses for hosting Rabbi Jennifer the weekend she was here in February.
- ✧ To the Aidenbaums for preparing the yummys for the last oneg, and to Rebecca Gottlieb for setting everything up.
- ✧ To Rea Kirk for hosting the last Adult Study and taking the rabbi out for dinner that evening.
- ✧ To the Landaus for agreeing at the last minute to host the upcoming oneg.
- ✧ To Yente for his lovely literary contributions (past and present).

## This Coming Weekend—March 18 to 19, 2011

### Schedule

- ✧ Friday evening Purim Service, 7:00 pm; oneg hosted by the Landaus.
- ✧ Saturday morning Family School, 10:00 am at the temple
- ✧ Saturday at 2:30 pm, discussion on the Megillah
- ✧ Saturday at 5:00 pm, Purim pot luck dinner and games

### Explanation of the schedule

We have decided to change the Purim weekend schedule: The Friday night service will begin at 7:00 pm. This will be a Purim service, and Rabbi Jennifer will bring costume items. (Of course, feel free to come dressed in your own costumes!) EVERYONE is encouraged to come and to participate! Then on Saturday, we will have a discussion on the Megillah at 2:30 pm, which is expected to last about one hour. Then at 5:00 pm, we are planning a Purim pot luck dinner and games. The pot luck will be a diary meal. Please bring a main or side dish to share (we don't have a "host" this year to bring a huge main dish), or bring a dessert—but we don't want all desserts! Again, everyone is welcome and encouraged to come celebrate Purim with our temple family!

### **Upcoming Visitors' Service (April 8)**

Our Visitors' Service will take place on April 8. The rabbi will talk to our visitors and answer questions at **6:30pm**. The actual service will begin at **7:30pm**. Even though this is a bit later than our usual time, it is a good idea to come early to avoid possible parking problems. We need an excellent turn-out for this special service. And our own "Cantor Pritikin" is planning a musical component to the service.

We will 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.

### **Congregational Seder (April 19)**

We will have a Congregational Seder on the second night of Passover (April 19). 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 ([mikalcink@aol.com](mailto:mikalcink@aol.com)) IMMEDIATELY if you have not already done so.

## 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.)

## 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire

March 25, 2011 will be the 100th anniversary of the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire in New York City. It was one of the deadliest disasters in U.S. industrial history. Of the 146 victims, many were recently immigrated young Jewish women, some only 14 or 15 years old. You can learn more about it from many web sites like the one at <http://genealogy.about.com/b/2011/02/22/putting-history-right-list-of-factory-fire-victims-complete-100-years-later.htm>. A more thorough account can be found at [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Triangle\\_Shirtwaist\\_Factory\\_fire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Triangle_Shirtwaist_Factory_fire). Also, if you subscribe to HBO, there will be a 40-minute documentary, *TRIANGLE: REMEMBERING THE FIRE*, airing on HBO during several evenings in late March (check the HBO schedule for times).

## 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 Case for Israel*** by Alan Dershowitz, (publication date 2003)

This was an excellent book, but, unfortunately, it wasn't perfect. Anybody who is interested in Israel (especially the Israeli-Palestinian dispute) should read this book. Even more importantly, those who would like to defend Israel but who do not feel that they have the background to answer the allegations of Israel-bashers (or pro-Palestinians), then this book will provide you with much of the knowledge (and ammunition) needed. The book is laid out as a series of allegations leveled against Israel, each followed by examples of the allegation and by a rebuttal (often consisting of both a history lesson and legal or moral arguments). My biggest complaint with Dershowitz's book is that if you do not agree with some of the arguments that he makes in earlier sections, then the arguments raised in later sections may fall flat. For example, some people (being somewhat misguided) will never agree that Israel was fighting a defensive war in the 1967 Six Day War; if you do not accept this argument, then many of the arguments that are premised on this argument are weakened. Highly recommended!

For my parting words this month, Yente is borrowing parts of a song from *Fiddler on the Roof* (in which, of course, I was the star).

This is sung to the tune of *Tevye's Dream* (a.k.a. The Tailor Motel Camzoi)

A blessing on your head  
(Mazel Tov, Mazel Tov)  
To get a good book read  
(Mazel Tov, Mazel Tov)  
And such a great mecheieh  
You won't be chosser daieh [translation: feeble-minded]  
To read a book is a joy



## Service and Mitzvah Schedule for 5771

Friday, March 18...7:00pm Purim service	oneg: Landau
Saturday, March 19...5:00pm Pot Luck Dinner	Group dinner weekend host: Yaunches
Friday, April 8...7:30pm 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: Kruse; 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