

Temple Beth El^{Electronic} News

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Cheshvan 5768

November 2007

Thank You

...to Alan and Phyllis Garfield, for representing Temple Beth El in the Dubuque Crop Walk. We raised over \$100 through donations from the Reinsteins, the Rudins, and the Garfields themselves. THANK YOU!

Calendar of Events

Refer to the revised schedule in this newsletter for changes to some dates and times that were listed in the previous schedule. Be sure to sign up for available dinner, oneg, or adult study hosting opportunities.

Hanukkah Dinner

Our temple Hanukkah celebration will take place on Friday, December 7. The service starts at 6:00 PM, followed by a dinner hosted by Ruthie Silverberg. Ruthie is serving chicken and latkes, so this is a NON-DAIRY meal. Please bring a vegetable side dish, a salad, or a dessert to share with the rest of our temple community. Dinner will be followed by a group menorah-lighting, so bring your treasured menorahs and some candles.

Save the Date

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.

Updated Info

Ann Barrash, now living in Iowa City, would love to have Beth El visitors. Ann's new email address is: abarrash@oaknoll.com. Ann, we miss you!!

From Rabbi Stephanie

Rabbi Dov Peretz Elkins relates the following story:

“The carpenter that I hired to help me had a rough day on the job. A flat tire made him lose an hour of work, his electric saw quit on him in the middle of the job, and then his pickup truck wouldn’t start. I drove him home, and on the way he sat in stony silence. When we arrived, though, he invited me to come in for a minute to meet his family and have a drink. As we walked towards the front door, he paused for a moment in front of a small tree, touching the tips of its branches with both hands. I had never seen anyone do that before and I wondered what it meant.

“When he got to the door, he underwent an incredible transformation. His face was suddenly wreathed in smiles as he hugged his kids and gave his wife a kiss. Afterwards, he walked me back to my car. As we passed the tree, my curiosity got the better of me. I asked him about what I had seen a few minutes before.

“‘Oh, that’s my trouble tree,’ he explained. ‘I know that I can’t help having some troubles on the job once in a while, but one thing is for sure: My work troubles don’t belong in the house, affecting my family. So what I do is I hang them up on the tree every night when I come home. Then in the morning, when I am on my way out to work, I pick them up again.

“‘The funny thing is,’ he said with a grin, ‘when I come out in the morning to pick ‘em up there aren’t nearly as many there as I remember hanging up the night before!’”

Autumn is the season when trees capture the imagination—in fact, Aaron and I spent last Shabbat driving around the state for nearly six hours simply taking in their majestic beauty. Perhaps there is a tree in your own front yard that can serve the purpose of the carpenter’s “trouble tree.” But even if you don’t have such a tree, let me suggest another possibility.

There is a traditional custom, when entering a home with a mezuzah on its doorpost, to stop and kiss the scroll before walking in. Like a “trouble tree,” this practice keeps us from rushing across the threshold, entering our homes heavy with burden and stress, and forgetting to stop... and breathe... and relax.

Whether with a mezuzah or a tree, may we all find ways to unburden ourselves—from the stresses of work, the anxiety brought on by our many responsibilities, our concerns about the welfare and wellbeing of family. And when we return to the spot where we last left our troubles, may we too find that there aren’t nearly as many as we remember.

L’shalom,
Rabbi Stephanie Alexander

Upcoming Activities

- **Saturday, November 3rd, 2:30 @ the temple – Conversational Hebrew**
- **Saturday, November 3rd, 3:30 pm @ the temple – Film: “The Divan”**
From The National Center for Jewish Film at Brandeis:
“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.”

"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*

Thanks to the technical wizardry of Alan Garfield, we'll be able to watch and discuss this thought-provoking film right in our own “Cinemateque” space in the social hall at Temple Beth E!

- **Saturday, November 3rd, 7:00 pm – Adult Study**
Our discussion this evening will focus upon one of the topics most frequently raised for study by Jews and non-Jews alike – **Jewish Views of the Afterlife**. Among the questions we'll address: What does Judaism teach us regarding an afterlife? How has this teaching developed and changed from the Bible to the present? How does the view of an afterlife differ among Jewish denominations? How does one's understanding of the afterlife impact the living of one's life?

On the Horizon...

- **Saturday, December 8th, 3:30 pm – Book Discussion: *The Case for Peace: How the Arab-Israeli Conflict Can Be Resolved*, by Alan Dershowitz**
From the publisher: “In this important book, Harvard Law School professor Alan Dershowitz sets out a practical, realistic road map for Arab-Israeli peace, rigorously analyzing all the tough issues surrounding the conflict and pointing the way toward a secure and equitable two-state solution. From the division of Jerusalem and Israeli counterterrorism measures to the security fence and the Iranian nuclear threat, he identifies twelve geopolitical barriers to peace, explaining how to move around them and push the process forward.... Dershowitz's analyses are clear-headed, well-argued, and sure to be controversial.” So, let's read... and discuss!



Service and Mitzvah Schedule for 5768

(Updated 10-28-07)

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, November 2...7:00pm Shabbat service dinner: Dyrke, oneg: Aidenbaum
Saturday, November 3...7:00pm adult study dinner: Alexander, study: Landau

November 16 SPECIAL SERVICE in Cedar Rapids

Friday, December 7...6:00pm Hanukkah Service (dinner hosted by Ruth Silverberg and menorah
lighting to follow)
Saturday, December 8...7:00pm adult study dinner: Gottlieb, study: Kirk & Gottlieb

Monday, December 24 REFLECTIONS IN THE PARK

Friday, January 4, 2008...7:00pm Shabbat service dinner: Landau, oneg: Landau
Saturday, January 5...7:00pm adult study dinner: TBD, study: Pritikin/Wrubel

Friday, February 1...7:00pm Lay Shabbat service oneg: Mikel

Friday, February 29...7:00pm Visitor's Night Service with Rabbi Lane Steinger, Group oneg
Saturday, March 1...7:00pm adult study dinner: TBD, study: TBD

Friday, March 21...6:00pm Purim dinner hosted by Faye Wrubel and Pritikin with service to follow

April 11 SPECIAL MUSICAL SHABBAT IN CEDAR RAPIDS with visiting artist Dan Nichols

Saturday, April 26... A Saturday Morning Service during Passover. Time TBD.
Saturday, April 26...7:00pm adult study dinner: TBD, study: Dyrke

Friday, May 16...7:00pm Shabbat service dinner: Dyrke, oneg: TBD
Saturday, May 17...7:00pm adult study dinner: TBD, study: TBD

Friday, June 6...7:00pm Shabbat service dinner: Alexander, oneg: Alexander
Saturday, June 7...7:00pm End-of-Year Adult Social (who would like to host?)

HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR COOKBOOK

The Most Important Hanukkah Gift you will ever give!

Over the past two years we have collected 129 stories and over 200 great Jewish recipes from Holocaust Survivors all over the world.

We have compiled these miraculous stories and delicious recipes to create an amazing Holocaust Survivor Cookbook. A cookbook that belongs in every Jewish home in the world!

**The Theme of the Cookbook is:
RECIPES YOUR FAMILY WILL ENJOY... STORIES THEY WILL NEVER FORGET!**

"Thank you so much for the amazing and beautiful cookbook. I just sat down and cried when I received my book"

"The cookbook came today and it is wonderful. I read it from cover to cover - smiling, weeping, and remembering"

"You cannot yet appreciate the impact on the lives of the people who have not even shared the benefits of this book yet, nor the impact upon those who cannot yet read, or who have not even been born yet."

"Reading the book is a perfect way to honor the memories of those who perished in the Holocaust as well as those who have carried on such important traditions."

You can buy the cookbook at the US Holocaust Museum in Washington, DC
OR

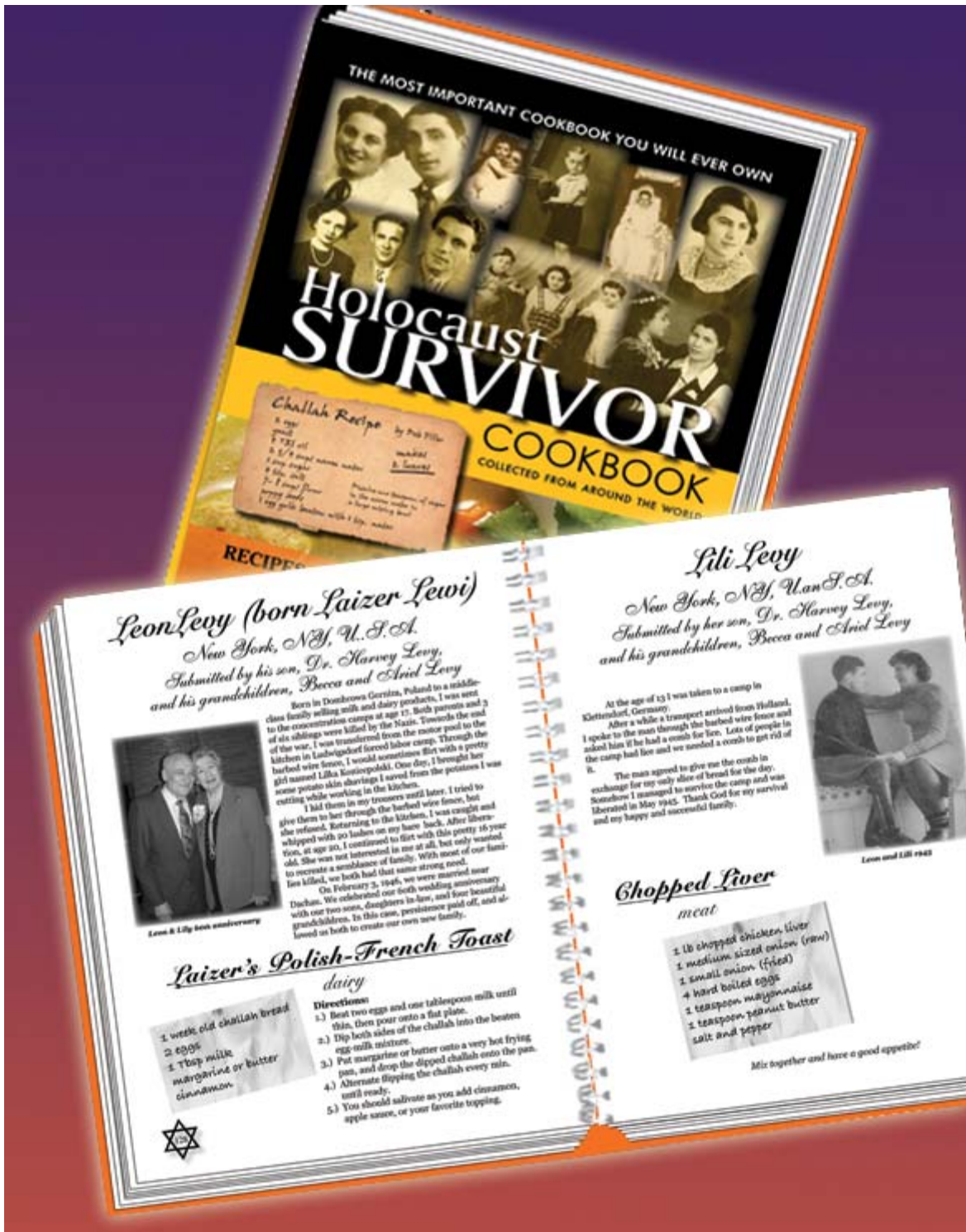
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* PROCEEDS FROM EACH COOKBOOK SOLD WILL GO TO HELP FEED HUNGRY ISRAELIS AT CARMEI HA'IR SOUP KITCHEN IN JERUSALEM.
(For more information, visit www.carmeihair.org.il)

Please forward this email to everyone you know who would be interested in purchasing the **Holocaust Survivor Cookbook**. Together we can make a difference!



**129 Miraculous Stories of Survival
Over 200 Great Jewish Recipes**