

# Temple Beth Electronic News

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Tishri/Cheshvan 5768

October 2007

## Many Thanks

... to the Sirks for the lovely Rosh Hashanah flowers on the bima.

...to Fern Reinstein for hosting a wonderful Rosh Hashanah luncheon.

...to the Reinsteins and Ruthie Silverberg for the beautiful Yom Kippur flowers on the bima.

... to Larry Goldberg and Kate Scheinman for their musical interpretations of Kol Nidre.

...to Karin Pritikin and Faye Wrubel for honoring the congregation with the Torah portion.

...to Rebecca Gottlieb for hosting the sumptuous break-the-fast meal..

...to Ellie Landau, Sheila Rudin, and Rina Sirk for organizing a very successful New Year's Bulletin.

...to everyone who contributed to the Food Pantry during the High Holidays food drive, and to Phyllis Garfield for delivering the 37 bags of food.

...to Alan Garfield, our own Jewish carpenter, for fixing the front door and lock.

## Odds 'N Ends

Remember, if you have a temple-related speaking engagement, bring a group to the temple for a tour, and so on, let Kate Scheinman know so that it can go in the next newsletter. Many of our members are active with these kinds of events, and we would like to acknowledge them.

## From Rabbi Stephanie

Once again let me wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year. I hope that yours is indeed off to a very sweet start. Personally I cannot imagine a more wonderful beginning—it was such a joy to once again welcome in the New Year with Temple Beth El. After each holiday, on my drive back to Cedar Rapids, I felt so invigorated by our time together. There is indeed a unique energy created when we all convene from our scattered locations, where we are one of few—or perhaps the *only*—Jews in town. What a powerful feeling it is, when precisely that which ordinarily separates us, unites us as one community in observance, worship, and celebration. May that feeling continue to grow with each of our gatherings throughout the year.

Yet, the reality is that we spend far more time apart than together. And, as a result, we are often called upon to represent the Jewish community—to teach about Jewish observances that may or may not correspond to our own practices; to explain “our views”, as though two or more Jews could ever be in complete agreement about anything; and, all too frequently as of late, to defend the actions of Israel in an area of the world where nothing is black and white. To where do we turn when presented with such daunting responsibilities—responsibilities we have not asked for, and yet we must accept, for if not us, who? Allow me to share a few resources:

(1) The Religious Action Center, [www.rac.org](http://www.rac.org) – This is a *tremendous* resource of, and for, our Reform Movement. Navigate its pages and find background on numerous issues facing our local communities, our nation, and our world. Find Jewish texts which inform our movement’s positions. And, if you are so inclined, contact leaders about these issues directly through the website.

(2) The Anti-Defamation League, [www.adl.org](http://www.adl.org) – This watchdog organization has been combating antisemitism and bigotry of all kinds for over 90 years. Its latest campaign is entitled “No Nuclear Iran” and provides background on the Iranian threat, as well as petitions asking for stronger legislation and sanctions.

(3) While the web offers an incredible amount of information, nothing matches the opportunity to hear an expert speak knowledgeably on the issues that confound us most. In that spirit, as I mentioned on Rosh Hashanah, I would like to pass along a very special invitation:

Professor Alan Dershowitz will be speaking in Cedar Rapids at Coe College on Thursday, November 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm. His topic is “The Case for Israel”. The event is made possible by the generous donation of Suzanne and Bert Katz to the Temple Judah Foundation, and co-sponsored by the Religion and Philosophy Department of Coe College. Tickets will be free to the public and are available by contacting the Coe College Box Office at 319-399-8600 or [coeboxoffice@coe.edu](mailto:coeboxoffice@coe.edu).

This year, may we each find resources to nourish us Jewishly—and may the responsibility of representing our diverse community come to feel less of a burden, and more of the opportunity it truly is.

L’shalom, Rabbi Stephanie Alexander

## Upcoming Activities

- **Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2:30 @ the temple – Conversational Hebrew**  
It's not too late to join... If you are familiar with the Hebrew alphabet, can read the prayers in the siddur, but realize that neither skill will get you far in carrying on a conversation – this class is for you. We will cover basic grammar, with an emphasis on building vocabulary.
- **Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 3:30 pm @ the temple – Book Discussion: *As A Driven Leaf***  
One of the most popular books for synagogue study, *As A Driven Leaf* (by Milton Steinberg) is an historical novel that brings to life the age of the Mishnah and Talmud. Set in Roman Palestine, it draws readers into the culture and drama of Rabbinic Judaism. In its pages, you will meet some of the great sages of the Talmud, watch them work in the Sanhedrin, hear them dispensing legal decisions, become immersed in their arguments about theology and Torah, and agonize with them over whether to cooperate with or rebel against increasingly oppressive Rome. You will also encounter the budding Christian groups and the debate over whether the Law of Moses had or had not been annulled. All-in-all, a fascinating read that lends itself to absorbing discussion.
- **Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm – Adult Study**  
Last year's line-by-line text study of the Torah's two stories of Creation was a great success. For this adult study, we will return to that same format with a close reading of the weekend's Torah portion, the story of Noah. We'll consider evidence of multiple authors contributing to the one story that so many of learned as little kids. And I *guarantee* you'll be surprised by at least one issue which has emerged from the verses we'll read!



## Service Schedule for 5768

### 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.
- Per the Board, there are no dinner hosts scheduled for the February 2008 weekends. The rabbi's baby is due around then. I kept adult study dates in for now.
- The dates for the Visitors' Service and the Purim Dinner have not been confirmed. Once those dates are finalized, the schedule will be updated.
- Also, remember, Shabbat Services start at 7:00 PM, unless otherwise indicated.

Friday, October 12...7:00pm Shabbat service      dinner: Reinstein, oneg: Reinstein  
Saturday, October 13...7:00pm adult study      dinner: Aidenbaum, study: Goldberg-Scheinman

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

November 16      SPECIAL SERVICE in Cedar Rapids

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

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

Friday, February 1...7:00pm Shabbat service      oneg: Mikel  
Saturday, February 2...7:00pm adult study      study: TBD

Friday, February 29...7:00pm Shabbat service      oneg: Gottlieb  
Saturday, March 1...7:00pm adult study      study: TBD

Friday, March 21...7:00pm Shabbat service      dinner: TBD, oneg: TBD  
Saturday, March 22...7:00pm adult study      dinner: TBD, study: TBD

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

Friday, April 25...7:00pm Shabbat service      dinner: TBD, oneg: TBD  
Saturday, April 26...7:00pm adult study      dinner: TBD, study: TBD

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?)