

Temple Beth El_{ectronic} News

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Elul 5771

September 2011

Thank You

- ✧ To Karin Pritikin, for her terrific work in putting together our recent lay service for the week when Rabbi Ann could not travel in due to Hurricane Irene.
- ✧ To Emily Kruse and Hank Goldstein for representing Temple Beth El at the 1st Faith Fair at Clarke University.
- ✧ To Barb Alexander, Alan Garfield, Rea Kirk, Ellie Landau, Cindy Pearce, Fern Reinstein, and Linda Rotman for their donations in Temple Beth El's name to St. Mark Community Center's annual "Apples for Kids" campaign. This annual fundraising request helps to provide school supplies to students who need them.
- ✧ To our painter and cleaners and Steamatic—our temple looks almost as good as ever!
- ✧ To our membership for your prompt payment of dues (see below) and loyalty to Temple Beth El.
- ✧ From Barry and Sheila Rudin, who write, "Thank you Temple Beth El for making a contribution to the Louis Rotman Fund in honor of the birth of our granddaughter Mollie Bella. Temple Beth El will always be a special place to us all. Mollie is a doll and we are happy to report that she has already had her baby naming with the rabbi and has attended several Shabbat services ...We thank everyone for their well wishes....We wish all of you La Shana Tova.

Membership Dues

Our treasurer, Ellie Landau, will be sending out the dues statements shortly. Please promptly pay your dues—especially in light of the damage to the temple from the recent rains. We suffered approximately \$5000 in flood-related damages.

High Holidays

Our complete High Holy Day schedule appears later in this bulletin.

Yartzeit/Yizkor Clarification

If you would like the name of a deceased loved one added to our Yartzeit list, then email the name of the person, their relationship to you, and the date of their death to Rina Sirk rinadbq@aol.com to have your loved one's name added to the list. The Yizkor list, read during the High Holidays, is an alphabetical compilation of all names from all the Yartzeit lists.

Our New Years Greeting booklet is not the same as either the Yartzeit or Yizkor lists. The yearly fundraising booklet is a separate thing altogether.

From the Worship Committee

Rebecca Gottlieb gottlieb@uwplatt.edu will be arranging the honors for the High Holiday services. Please let her know of any visiting adult children who we could include. Please contact her to volunteer. If you have already spoken to the rabbi, you don't need to tell Rebecca separately. If you do not volunteer, Rebecca may contact you with suggestions of how you might participate.

High Holiday Food Drive

When you attend services on Rosh Hashanah, you will receive a grocery bag. Please fill it with non-perishable food items and return the bag(s) during Yom Kippur. Our donations will go to the Dubuque Food Pantry, which is experiencing higher demand than ever before. After the High Holidays, our "assignment" from the Food Pantry will be to collect peanut butter and jelly (among their most requested items) every time we have services.

Crop Walk

Dubuque Area Congregations United (DACU), including Temple Beth El, will be participating in the Crop Walk on Sunday, October 2, in between Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur. The purpose of this walk is to raise awareness and especially to raise money to feed the hungry. While 75% of the funds go to fight hunger world-wide, 25% of the money raised stays in Dubuque, helping the Rescue Mission, the Food Pantry, and PIN (People in Need). Contact Rebecca Gottlieb for a pledge envelope (or if you just want to make a donation). All ages may participate.

Mazel Tov

To Emily Goldberg, who is now a member of Sigma Delta Tau at Bradley University. In the past, SDT was a "Jewish Sorority," although now it is home to both Jewish and non-Jewish members. Emily's grandmother is also an SDT sister!

HIGH HOLY DAY SCHEDULE 5772

Rosh Hashanah

Wednesday, September 28: Erev Rosh Hashanah Services, 7:00 pm

Thursday, September 29: Rosh Hashanah Morning Services, 10:00 am

For the luncheon following the Morning Service, please bring a salad, cold dish, or dessert to serve approximately 12 people. (**Dairy meal:** fish, eggs, and milk products.) Please bring in a serving bowl or tray and if possible with serving utensils. Thanks to Fern Reinstein for organizing. Contact Fern threemstamper@yahoo.com with any questions.

Thursday, September 29:

- ✧ Tashlich Service immediately following luncheon. Tashlich will take place at the pavilion on the Mississippi, near the River Museum.
- ✧ In conjunction with and following Tashlich, Rabbi Ann will conduct a brief Family Program.

Yom Kippur

Friday, October 7: Kol Nidrei Services, 7:00 pm

Saturday, October 8: Yom Kippur

- ✧ Morning Services, 10:00 am
- ✧ Yizkor, 3:45 pm
- ✧ Afternoon Service, 4:30 pm
- ✧ Concluding Service, 5:45 pm

Break-the-Fast Meal immediately following Concluding Services. Rebecca Gottlieb will once again host the break-the-fast meal following the Concluding Service. Rebecca will have a sign-up sheet over the next few weeks, and she asks that you sign up to bring one of the following: herring, hard-boiled or deviled eggs, egg salad, lox, cream cheese, bagels, sliced vegetables, fruit, or kugel. Contact Becca with any questions or if you would like to help her (gottlieb@uwplatt.edu).

Sunday, October 9

- ✧ Cemetery Service, 10:00 am, at Linwood Cemetery
- ✧ Family School, 11:00 am to 12:30 pm, at the temple

From the Rabbi:

Elul 5771

Dear Temple Beth El,

By now, we had intended to celebrate Shabbat together on August 27th, watch a movie about the Kol Nidre prayer in our Adult Education meeting and get to know each other more informally at the picnic. Unfortunately Hurricane Irene interfered with our plans and my first visit will be on Rosh Hashanah. In an attempt to get to know each other a little before the holidays, I'm asking everyone in the congregation who has the time and inclination to send me an e-mail or a letter with responses to any of the following questions.

1. What does being Jewish mean to me.
2. My favorite thing about living in Dubuque is...
3. A book that influenced me and why.
4. I'd recommend this movie to a friend because...

Of course, feel free to write about something else or just to say hello.

I'll start the process by answering the question about a book that influenced me.

The book is *Turbulent Souls: A Catholic Son's Return to His Jewish Family* by Stephen J. Dubner, written in 1998 and retitled in 2006 as *Choosing My Religion: A Memoir of a Family Beyond Belief*. You might recognize the author as one of the writers of *Freakonomics*, but in this earlier book he describes his life as the youngest child in a large Catholic family and his exploration of his family's past. His parents were both born Jewish. Prior to meeting each other they had converted to Catholicism and he grew up in a deeply religious, Catholic family. The book is about his quest to understand his parents and their choices, and his own path to a Jewish identity and life.

This book appealed to my religious, spiritual, and psychological interests. It was fascinating to see how his parent's religious identities were transformed during their early adult years and how he in turn found his identity as a Jew, as an adult. Stephen Dubner wrote that he probably would never have been born, as the youngest of six, if his parents hadn't converted to Catholicism as most Jewish families were not that large. Yet despite his Catholic upbringing, he always felt something missing, and eventually discovered an ability to connect on a deeper level with Jewish prayer and ritual.

There is a certain sense of mystery in how the author found his way to Judaism. Although there are psychological reasons for choosing a different path than one's parents or even returning to something your parents rejected, neither of these explanations fully explain Stephen Dubner's story. How we chart our course in life or where life takes us is beyond our complete control.

I related to the story on many personal levels having grown up in a large, traditional, Jewish family where a girl becoming a rabbi was a totally foreign concept. I thought that my connection to Judaism was weak and unimportant after I rejected much of what I had learned as a young person. Later in life, I found myself drawn to Torah study and a new home in Reform Judaism. In fact, I first discovered *Turbulent Souls* in a book group at Temple Beth El in Chappaqua, NY, and it was one of the books that helped me reshape my own Jewish identity.

In this month of Elul, a time for renewal and reflection before the *Yamim Noraim*, "The Days of Awe", I'd love to hear from you, begin to get to know you, and share some personal reflections if the spirit moves you!

Shana Tova Umetukah,
"A Good and Sweet Year"

Rabbi Ann

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.

Day of Atonement by [Faye](#) Kellerman (publication date 1991)

Greetings everyone! Yente is back again, continuing her efforts to make you feel guilty about not reading a good book. This month, Yente will attempt to review *Day of Atonement* by Faye Kellerman. Such an apt title for my first review of the season. Right? Of course right!

Kellerman is a practicing Orthodox Jew. Her writing frequently deals with Jewish themes and characters, incorporating them into the framework of the traditional mystery. The Peter Decker/Rina Lazarus books center on a police detective who was born to a Jewish mother but was adopted and raised as a Southern Baptist. He returns to his Jewish roots after falling in love with Rina Lazarus, a widowed Orthodox Jew.

Faye Kellerman has the ability to involve the reader from page one. Her entire series of Peter Decker/Rina Lazarus books have been hailed as spellbinders. She follows the relationship between Peter and Rina from when they first met in the first book, *Ritual Bath*, through to *Hangman*. She weaves her books beautifully around the life of orthodox Jews plus those whom the orthodox consider less religious and those who are not Jewish.

Day of Atonement is the 4th installment in this series (there are now 20, one scheduled to be published in January, *Gun Games*, and one in the works, *The Burnt House*), but you don't need to read the first 3 to enjoy this story or understand the characters. Kellerman finds logical ways to re-introduce material from earlier stories that is needed for continuity. Even if you've never read a Decker / Lazarus book, you'll be able to follow this one.

In *Day of Atonement*, Peter Decker is a detective with the Los Angeles police department. At the beginning of this episode, he and Rina have wed and have embarked on a rather strange honeymoon. They are in Brooklyn visiting Rina's 'ex-in-laws' (from her previous marriage), who live in the Orthodox Jewish community of Boro Park in Brooklyn. Peter and Rina have arrived to celebrate the High Holy Days with the family. Peter is a recent convert to Rina's religion, having being raised as a Baptist (did Yente mention this previously?).

Their unconventional honeymoon quickly takes a bizarre turn when Peter stumbles upon a shocking family secret that changes his life forever. In the midst of that discovery, it becomes apparent that a fourteen-year-old boy is missing - the nephew of a friend of the family they are visiting. Loam failed to appear at the family's Rosh Hashanah dinner. Peter takes charge and applies his investigative skills to find this rather mysterious and troubled teenager. It seems that Loam has befriended a deranged man, and the suspense builds as to whether Peter will be able to save him.

Despite not having read previous books in the series, it was easy to get to know Peter and Rina. My interest gravitated from Loam's disappearance to Peter's struggle to come to grips with his family's past and his adjustment to his recently adopted religion. Kellerman does an excellent job of developing complex, emotional relationships between the characters. Orthodox Jewish tradition and lore is woven throughout the novel. I found ***Day of Atonement*** entertaining, and will be reading more in this series.

Yente's reader warning: While Kellerman does well at portraying the dark sides of the human condition, the only thing that mars this book, and probably the whole series, is the ugly language

used whenever Decker gets together with his LAPD colleagues. There is also very rough language in many portrayals of the villain (enough even to make Yente blush).

Although our Temple library has only two of the titles in this series, almost all of them are available at the Carnegie-Stout public library in Dubuque. Some are also available in large-print format, which, for Yente's aging eyes, is like the balm of Gilead.

Yente's parting words for this holiday season: As a Yiddish proverb teaches us, "Everyone is kneaded out of the same dough, but not baked in the same oven." To Yente, one meaning of this saying is that we are all largely the same in terms of amount of shared genetic material; it is our actions towards others that define and differentiate who we are as human beings.

Yente is looking forward to seeing you at Temple soon and wants to wish you,

L'shanah tovah tikatev v'taihatem (May you be inscribed and sealed for a good year).



Service and Mitzvah Schedule for 5772

Wednesday, Sept. 28-Thursday, September 29 - Rosh Hashonah

Friday, October 7 – Saturday, October 8 - Yom Kippur

Friday, November 18-Saturday, November 19

Friday, December 9 – Saturday, December 10

Friday, January 6-Saturday, January 7

Friday, February 3- Saturday, February 4

Friday, March 2- Saturday, March 3 (Purim)

Saturday, April 7 – Seder – Lay Lead – No rabbi visit

Friday, April 13 – Saturday, April 14 (Visitor service – April 13)

Friday, May 18 – Saturday, May 19

Friday, June 8- Saturday, June 9