

# TEMPLE BETH-EL



## BULLETIN

April 2017 5 Nisan - 4 Iyar 5777

1203 Comanche Drive

Rockford, Illinois 61107 815-398-5020

**Mission Statement:** Temple Beth-El is a congregation of Jews and their families building a community committed to participation in all aspects of Jewish life. By community, we mean a group of diverse people who share a strong connection fostered by Temple Beth-El. By participation, we mean that all members will partake in and support the spiritual, cultural, educational and social life of Temple Beth-El.

## RUMMAGE SALE APRIL 6,7 & 9

### "Seriously Huge Rummage Sale"



Rummage Sale

Important Dates:

**Drop off Dates: SUN, April 2nd and 3rd,  
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

**Rummage Set-up days: April 4th and 5th  
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

### SERIOUSLY HUGE RUMMAGE SALE

open for business:

**Thursday, April 6: 8 a.m.-6 p.m.**

**Friday, April 7: 8 a.m.-4 p.m.**

**Sunday, April 9: 9 a.m.-12 p.m.**

**PACK IT UP:**

**SUNDAY, April 17: 12-3 P.M.**

If you haven't received your email regarding Sign-Up Genius/or rummage sale invite, please give Mary Roufa a call.

Chaverim,

With the arrival of spring there is much that I could write about. After all, there are a few important events happening at the Temple this month. There is the annual rummage sale (please volunteer) on April 6-7 and 9<sup>th</sup>; our Congregational Seder on Tuesday, April 11<sup>th</sup>; and a new event, an Open House for Prospective Members (we hope some of our current members will attend also to help welcome folks and answer questions) on Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> from 11am-1pm.

So, I could write about any or all of those but instead there is something else on my mind – a pregnant giraffe. Some of you may have seen stories about April, the pregnant giraffe at Animal Adventure Park in upstate New York. I understand that some of the major morning shows have been following the story. It may have shown up on your Facebook feed as a “popular video.”

Sometime in February, they began to livestream the pen that April dwells in with the idea that people would like to watch the pregnant giraffe give birth in real time. I don't remember exactly when I started to tune into this stream but I think it was about a month ago. Now, lest you worry, watching the video is hardly a full-time preoccupation. I seldom look at it during the day but I mostly glance at the video before going to bed and sometimes as I'm waking up as well. Lately, as it gets closer to the time when April is scheduled to give birth, I've even peeked at it if I can't get back to sleep in the middle of the night (yes, I'm aware this is counter-productive for falling asleep). Watching the video has been a lesson in many ways and I thought I'd share a little about what it has taught me.

**You can't rush life.** It reminds me in some ways of Slow TV that I spoke of at the High Holy Days. There's not much to look at at any time. Just a giraffe



From Rabbi Binah Wing

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walking around her pen. And yet this scene has mesmerized thousands of people around the world. I have found myself occasionally frustrated that it's not going faster. It's the same with life, sometimes you just have to appreciate the moment you're in and stop wishing it to go faster.

**Nature is amazing.** Part of the reason that this has gone on so long is the nature of giraffes in general. Because of fear for their newborns, female giraffes, even those in captivity, are very good at masking their pregnancies. For this reason, it's very hard to tell if anything is happening. It's even led some people to believe that she's not really pregnant and the whole thing is a hoax. I find this remarkable that a giraffe could be in labor and hardly anyone, even the experts, know for sure.

**You never know what is going to bring people together.** One of the off-shoots of the livestream are the comments that people are making. I've been watching these as well. It's quite lovely to see people commenting from all over the globe. For the most part, the comments are nice and supportive. I even have a sense that some people have become friends as co-watchers of the main event. I have even seen people come together when a troll comes on and wants to get nasty. Mostly, the comments are filled with kindness and love for this giraffe. It's refreshing.

**It's not a bad thing to be reminded that you're not always in control.** Occasionally I have looked at this video and been a little angry that she hasn't had this calf yet. Why did they start the livestream so early if it was going to take this long (see #2)? Am I just being strung along? But then I realize that I'm not in control. If I'm going to get any enjoyment out of this experience, then I just have to let go and wait. This isn't to say that I'm fatalistic about life. But sometimes, it is important to realize what you have control over and what you don't. You can act on the former and have to learn to live with the latter.

All in all, I've enjoyed watching April and look forward to the excitement of seeing new life in the form of a baby giraffe as well as the rebirth of spring that we celebrate with our Pesach holiday.

Have a sweet and joyous Passover,

Rabbi Wing

## ***From the Temple Board.... By Secretary Ellen Salley***



The Temple Board met on March 8<sup>th</sup>. Andrea Levey led the D'Var Torah. Andrea's Torah portion contains detailed instruction for building and decorating the Tabernacle before the Jews began to wander through the desert. Instructions were given to bring olive oil to light the Ner Tamid and God instructs Moses to make special clothes for Aaron and the priests. There is a seven day ceremony where they burned incense every morning and evening. Andrea felt that just as we ask God to fulfill our needs, God needs us to fulfill his needs. She also referred to a story of a blind man and a sighted man. The blind man asks the sighted man to kindle a light for him. Andrea took this to mean that everyone should help each other even people with disabilities.

Jim reported that the sanctuary renovation committee will meet in March. The committee members are: Jay Sklar, Jerry Paris, Larry Pearlman and Jim Gesmer. Brina Grigg will be the head of the nomination committee to find 3 members who will fill the open positions on the board. The annual Temple meeting will be on June 11<sup>th</sup>.

The Rabbi reported on her activities. She will be attending the CCAR Convention in Atlanta and is doing some midwinter planning for OSRUI. She led the 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade retreat in which 2 students from our Temple attended. Rabbi attended 2 FAR meetings and the Temple Game Night. She conducted the funeral for Evalyn Schaap. Her community work includes attending a planning meeting for the 815 Choose Civility committee, participating in an interfaith panel at Highland Community College, attending the YWCA Leader Luncheon, and the RR Star Conversation on Race. Rabbi will attend the MWARR Study Kallah in Arizona where she will be elected President in 2018.

Sharon reported that our finances are ok since our two fundraisers are coming up. We will be receiving money from Savant. Brina reported that at this time we have 88 members. Rob felt that the Foundation is doing better than we have in a long time. In February the Foundation gained about 4.29%. Purim will be held on March 12<sup>th</sup> during Sunday school and the Passover Seder will be on April 11<sup>th</sup>.

The carpeting in the lower level will be replaced soon and the wall in the sanctuary will be cleaned and fixed.

Lauren reported that the Sunday school students participated in music, art, and made hamentashen. Amira Ahles and Lilly Wing participated in the 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade retreat at OSRUI. There will be no Sunday School, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, and April 2<sup>nd</sup>. The GRTY participants made lots of hamentashen. The Puppy Wash they participated in was a huge success. The GRTY led Shabbat will be on March 17<sup>th</sup>. The teens have been working hard on writing and practicing their service.

Karen reported that the Temple has donated about 2 bins of school supplies to Ellis School. The committee is looking to do a social action project called Laundry Love in the next few months. The board voted to give a one year dues free membership to people who join the Temple for the first time. This idea came out of the strategic planning that was done. It will start in 2018. It was also decided that an Open House would be held for perspective members on

*Continue please on Page 3*



Next to Food-A-Rama, the Rummage Sale is Temple Beth-El's biggest fundraising event of the year. This year, the Rummage Sale will take place on Thursday April 6, Friday April 7 and Sun-

day April 9. I am calling upon the entire congregation to volunteer for this event. Please log onto sign-upgenius.com to sign-up for a shift or two or call Joyce in the Temple office. You can help with the Rummage Sale set-up, you can work during the Rummage Sale or you can help with the take-down. Mary Roufa has been working extremely hard to prepare for the Rummage Sale. Certainly, the Rummage Sale cannot be successful without all of our efforts. Come join us.

*I hope to see many of you at our Temple Passover Seder. If you cannot attend, a very Happy Passover from the Gesmer family.*

In my article in last month's bulletin, I reported that the Temple Board was reviewing the idea of offering free first year memberships to new congregants. I am pleased to report that at the March meeting, the Board voted to implement this proposal. The Board believes that offering first year memberships to new congregants will be an incentive for people to join our congregation, and that it will decrease the financial burden for younger people interested in joining our congregation. If you are aware of anyone who might be able to take advantage of this new program, please let them know and let us know too.

Finally, I want to thank our Temple Youth Group, Rabbi Wing, Nanci Soriano and Lauren Lamont for putting together a very meaningful Shabbat Service on March 17. They collectively worked very hard to put together the annual Youth Group service, which highlighted the needs of refugees who are attending Rockford area schools. The Youth Group is continuing to collect full-sized personal care toiletries, as well as cash donations, for the refugee students. Your contributions are greatly appreciated. I hope to see many of you at our Temple Passover Seder. If you cannot attend, a very Happy Passover from the Gesmer family.

-Jim

**From the Temple Board cont. from page 2....**

April 23<sup>rd</sup> from 11-1.

Mary reported that Food -A-Rama is moving along. All operations have leaders. The Temple will be set up in a different way based on a Food -A-Rama design from Madison. This will allow easier access to tables during the lunch times. The rummage sale is also moving along. Flyers have been e-mailed and Wendy Huss will be sending out Sign-up Genius to ask for volunteers. Rummage will be accepted starting March 31<sup>st</sup>-April 4<sup>th</sup>. The art auction committee met in February and talked with Roni Golan to get his thoughts on having local artists for the auction. At the next meeting they will be discussing a theme, cost and venue. Ellen Dietz reported that the campaign has collected \$20,000 out of the \$21,600 pledged. Ohave Sholom members will meet at the Hellman home on March 5<sup>th</sup> to make Hamentashen, eat lunch and watch a movie. Rabbi Fertig will be staying at the Geller home from March 10<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> for Purim. The next book talk will be on the book Once We Were Brothers. Details for the book talk are not planned yet. The Midway Village Cultural Heritage event will be on March 18<sup>th</sup>. March 19<sup>th</sup> will be another unity in diversity event. The combined Friday night service will be on April 21<sup>st</sup>. The Jeremiah Development Project will be on April 29<sup>th</sup> from 10-2. We will be pampering people who are needing help. The Holocaust Remembrance Service will be on April 30<sup>th</sup> at 4pm. The speaker will be Marian Blumenthal-Lazen. Prior to this groups of diverse people will meet from 1:30-3:30 at the Interfaith Cafe. This replaces the open houses at the different churches which happened last year.

There is a committee that is developing a Temple legacy giving program. They are creating a booklet that will explain legacy giving and develop a form for Temple members who decide to give to fill out. More information will be coming.



Stained glass artwork created by Brian Shore and donated to Temple by Brian and Mary. The piece was dedicated on March 3, 2017

# SCHOOL DAZE

## 200 Words or Less...

By Goldie & Adrian



March was about all things Purim. Students sang Purim songs with Barbara Simon and Mitch Kopnick, created art with Sandy Simon, and baked hamantaschen with Ronit Golan and her crew of volunteers. On March 12, we celebrated Purim. About 40 people attended the service. We waited to see Rabbi's



costume and we were not disappointed when we saw Rabbi, the COWBOY. The service was lots of fun. Then the games began. We played Win it in a Minute games. Students stacked pennies with one hand, moved skittles from one plate to another using straws, kept balloons in the air with one hand, carried marshmallows on a spoon, built cup pyramids, and restacked plastic cups. Everyone chose prizes and then ate a pizza and hamantaschen lunch. Everyone had a great time.

All this was possible because of our great volunteers, especially the youth group, Rabbi Wing, Sandy Simon and Max Tatman. The Purim party was sponsored by the Jewish Federation and Temple Beth-El Religious School.

We are now on spring break. Hebrew School will resume Wednesday April 5 and Sunday School will be back April 9. Religious School is collecting small school supplies, granola bars and small toiletries for Good Deeds Day on April 9. This is a good time to donate all those hotel hair products and lotions that you have been saving. All the small items will be packed in 50 gift bags that will be presented to Muslim refugees at East High School. Their teacher is Melissa Lawson, daughter of Carol Gordon. Have a great spring break!

Think spring,  
Goldie and Adrian

## Letters to the Editor...

### To my Temple Beth-El Family:

I was deeply moved and overwhelmed by the touching words offered by Jim Gesmer and Connie Paris in last month's bulletin. Chuck and I considered our efforts on behalf of the congregation to be an honor. We were repaid a hundred-fold with love and friendship. Whatever my future affiliation, I will continue to feel a part of Temple Beth-El. As others have quickly discovered, the Temple family is a unique group of people...not easily duplicated. No matter the number of miles or the number of years, Temple Beth-El will always be home to me. I thank you all so much for always being there for me and my family. You will always have a special place in my heart.

With love,

Milly

## Social Action on the Go...

Thanks to everyone who donated lots of pencils, crayons, note paper, etc. Parents and grandparents know that school supplies get used up for this time of year. Through your generosity, TBE was able to donate 2 bins of school supplies. Again we performed a mitzvah. *Tikkun Olam.*



# April Oneg Committee

April 7

Fred and Ellen Dietz  
Jan and Ted Liebovich

April 14

Jana and David Ahles  
Andrea Levey

April 21

Lauren and Mark Lamont  
Laura and Tim Sage

April 28

No oneg

The Temple  
Beth-El  
Family greatly  
appreciates and  
thanks our Oneg  
Hosts for helping to  
make our Services  
more meaningful  
and offering an op-  
portunity for us all to  
mingle and  
socialize.



# April Birthdays & Anniversaries

## Adults

John Rosenbloom	4/3
Katherine Rosenbloom	4/3
Joshua Zussman	4/3
Briana Lawson	4/4
Natalie Share	4/5
Kim Einhorn	4/8
Merle Langs	4/9
David Sklar	4/9
Nanci Soriano	4/10
Daniel Whitman	4/11
Mary Roufa	4/12
Jan Liebovich	4/12
Steven Lirtzman	4/12
Aaron Barenbaum	4/13
Madeline Libman	4/16
Rachel Shore	4/20
Fred Young	4/21

Rachel Zussman	4/22
David Weiss	4/24
Julia Barenbaum	4/27
Jamie Zussman	4/28
Andrea Bear	4/29

## Children

Brandon Lawson 4/26/06

## Anniversaries



Spring is just around the corner and what is the first thing that Temple members think of -----  
Food-A-Rama of course, and **what would FAR be without blintzes?**

I can't imagine. Everyone loves our blintzes and they are a BIG moneymaker for FAR. If we are to have enough blintzes to meet the demands of our customers, we need your help. We will be doing 4 cooking sessions between Sunday, April 23rd and Sunday April 30th. Plan ahead and mark your calendar to join us for one or more

Below are the dates and times:

**Sunday, April 23rd, 9 am - noon** – led by Ronit Golan ([pitagolan@yahoo.com](mailto:pitagolan@yahoo.com) – 815-394-1013)

**Tuesday, April 25th, 9 am – noon** - led by Barbara Simon ([bjsimon61114@yahoo.com](mailto:bjsimon61114@yahoo.com) – 815-637-6430)

**Wednesday, April 26th, 9 am – noon** – led by Sharon Goldsand ([sgoldsand@comcast.net](mailto:sgoldsand@comcast.net) – 815-335-4050)

**Sunday, May 7th, 9 am—noon** – led by Ronit Golan ([pitagolan@yahoo.com](mailto:pitagolan@yahoo.com) – 815-394-1013)

Contact the above leaders to volunteer today.

We need **YOU!!!!**

Thank you,  
FAR Committee

# The Temple Beth-El Gift Shop



## GIFT SHOP HOURS

Monday—Friday, call the office  
Sunday 10am - noon\*

\*Open Sundays when school is in session.

If you need to visit the shop at another time, please call the Temple office (398-5020)

### **YAHRZEIT LIST**

If you are interested in having your loved one's name on the Yahrzeit list, please call Joyce in the Temple Office, 398-5020

#### **Read April 7**

Sara Ellman  
Felicia Sachs-Levy  
Bertha Rossin  
Dr. Julian Greenberg  
Dr. Herman Blustein  
Margaret Slavin  
Thelma Spear  
Robert Garten  
Norman Share

#### **Read April 14**

Esther Druker  
Herman Salomon  
Stetler Young  
Morris Hertz  
Samuel Dryer  
Agnes Blumenthal  
Hannah Saal  
Clara Landy  
Ida Lans  
Evelyn Goldman  
Florence Holmstrom  
Jack Milsk  
Stewart Freifeld  
Mary Corpuel

#### **Read April 21**

Rose Kobrin  
Sylvia Sachs  
David Schaidler  
Ida Shanhouse  
Goldie Collier  
Karen Stern  
Leona Light  
William Feder  
Emma Laser  
Edna Froelich  
Mildred Shanhouse Frank  
Rose Rusnak Messinger  
Aaron Brenner  
Gussie Bagus

#### **Read April 28**

Dr. David Light  
Robert Hinton  
Anne Blumberg  
Esther Stone

### **YAHRZEITs cont.**

Frances Johnson  
Eli Stern  
S. Marvin Mansfield  
Joseph Rosenthal



### **MEMORIAL BOARD**

Honor the memory of your loved ones by placing their names on the board in our memorial alcove. Please supply the Temple office with the name, date of birth and date of death. The minimum donation is \$200. The light alongside each name is lit every year to mark the anniversary of the death, and the name appears in the annual memorial book.



### **CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR FUNDS**

#### **Benjamin Schaidler Building Fund**

Best wishes to Milly Kaplan on her move to Arizona  
-Rose Gulatto

#### **Dermer Fund**

In memory of Martha Rosenbloom  
-John and Katherine Rosenbloom

#### **Lazarus Fund**

In memory of Evalyn Schaap  
-Sandy and Barry Keller

#### **Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**

Speedy recovery to Marian Peters  
-Rose Gulatto

#### **Rockford Refugee Project**

Speedy recovery to Mark Soriano  
-Rose Gulatto

#### **Sheldon Liebovich Fund**

In memory of Matt Matthews  
In memory of Marvin Eisenberg  
Speedy recovery to Marc Soriano  
-Barb and Steven Lirtzman

### **Unrestricted Donation**

In memory of Robert Silverman  
-Elisa Whitman

### **CONDOLENCES TO:**

Fred and Ellen Dietz and family  
on the passing  
of Fred's mother,  
Phyllis Bierman

The Temple has been the recipient of donations from the Temple Family in the name of many funds in order to supply much needed money for worthwhile programs and projects. We would like to spotlight a couple of these funds.

#### **Benjamin Schaidler Bldg Fund**

provides funding for unexpected and major repairs or enhancements to the Temple Building.

**Sheldon Liebovich Fund for Families in Crisis** provides funds for Temple families who are in need, at the discretion of Temple leadership.

**Rabbi's Discretionary Fund** provides for the Rabbi to purchase necessary items for the Temple or to help those in need, at her discretion.

**Unrestricted donations** allow, at the discretion of the board, the opportunity to fund or partially fund a worthwhile project that we have not budgeted for or does not fit any of our existing funds.

**The Robert and Joel Garten Youth and Scholarship Fund** is to provide camperships for religious school students. This fund is administered by the Education Committee and the Rabbi.

# Hashoah Memorial Observance

Please join us for our annual  
Community Holocaust Commemoration Program

Sunday, April 30 at 4:00 pm  
U of I College of Medicine  
1601 Parkview Ave., Rockford, IL 61107

Candle lighting and memorial ceremony  
Student essay, poetry and art contest  
Excellent educators of the Holocaust awards





Middle and High School students are encouraged to attend  
They are the last generation that will be able to hear from a survivor

## Featured Speaker

### Marion Blumenthal Lazan

International speaker, author of *Four Perfect Pebbles*,  
subject of PBS documentary, *Marion's Triumph*

For more information, contact Goldie at the Jewish Federation  
815-399-5497 [rockfordfederation@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rockfordfederation@sbcglobal.net)  
This event is free and open to the public

Memorial and Tribute Donation Form																	
 <p><b>From:</b></p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>City: _____ State _____ Zip: _____</p> <p><b>For:</b> (check one and fill in names as appropriate)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> In Memory of: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Speedy Recovery to: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Congratulations to: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> In Honor of: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p>	 <p><b>To:</b> Send the acknowledging card : <input type="checkbox"/> Same as from, or: Name: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>City: _____ State _____ Zip: _____</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Donation:</th> <th>Fund:</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Triple chai (\$54)</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Garten <input type="checkbox"/> Powell <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Double chai (\$36)</td> <td>Lazarus <input type="checkbox"/> Dermer <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Chai (\$18) <input type="checkbox"/> \$10</td> <td>Woodruff <input type="checkbox"/> Rabbi's Discretionary</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> \$4 (Min.)</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Pap <input type="checkbox"/> Kupperman <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</td> <td>Landscaping <input type="checkbox"/> Gifts&amp;Flowers</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Sachs <input type="checkbox"/> Liebovich Fund</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Donation:	Fund:	<input type="checkbox"/> Triple chai (\$54)	<input type="checkbox"/> Garten <input type="checkbox"/> Powell <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Double chai (\$36)	Lazarus <input type="checkbox"/> Dermer <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Chai (\$18) <input type="checkbox"/> \$10	Woodruff <input type="checkbox"/> Rabbi's Discretionary	<input type="checkbox"/> \$4 (Min.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Pap <input type="checkbox"/> Kupperman <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	Landscaping <input type="checkbox"/> Gifts&Flowers		<input type="checkbox"/> Sachs <input type="checkbox"/> Liebovich Fund		<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
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# PASSOVER SEDER

## Tuesday, April 11, At 5:30 PM

Come celebrate with the Temple family!

Adults - \$20.00, Children 3-12 \$10.00, Children under 3 free  
or \$50 per family

**Chicken, matzo ball soup, potato and vegetables will be served.**

Each family is asked to bring a Kosher for Passover dessert.

A portion of the money will go to MAZON to help feed the hungry.

Your check is your reservation.

**Deadline for reservations is Thursday, April 6th, 2017.**

Please send coupon with check to:

Temple Beth-El, 1203 Comanche Dr., Rockford, IL 61107

Or call the office to place your reservation on your Visa or MasterCard.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ seats for the Temple Seder. # of adults \_\_\_\_\_ # of children over 3 \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is a check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Dinner includes **gefilte fish or fruit** for each person.

Please indicate how many fish \_\_\_\_\_ fruit \_\_\_\_\_

We are contributing an additional \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to defray the cost for those who could not otherwise attend.

We cannot attend, but please accept a gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to help defray the Seder costs.

*Temple Friends-*

*Please share this with anyone you know who may be interested in learning more about Temple Beth-El. We would love for more people to share in our wonderful congregation!*

# **TEMPLE BETH-EL OPEN HOUSE**

***Sunday, April 23, 2017***

***11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.***



**COME LEARN WHAT TEMPLE BETH-EL IS ALL ABOUT...**

*Experience our family atmosphere while gaining information about our  
religious, social, educational,  
and social activities!*

**For more information contact Temple Beth El at 815.398.5020**

## GRTY NEWS

Submitted by:  
Jamie Zussman  
Co-President

March was one of the most momentous months GRTY has had of the year! Every weekend leading up to March 17<sup>th</sup> we were preparing for our annual Shabbat service.

been looking forward to all year! We will be going to the Museum of Science and Industry and the Comedy Sports Theatre for an exciting day filled with fun! As always, the teens of GRTY are excited for our weekly chances to be together and the beginning of spring will definitely be an eventful time for the youth group.

Our service was extremely successful and all of the teens did a fantastic job writing prayers, speeches and the sermon parts of the service. Besides the teens of GRTY that led a great Friday night, the whole service was successful due to the amazing leadership by Ben "Rabbi" Kopnick, our Religious and Spiritual Vice President. Nanci, Lauren and Rabbi guided us for the whole process, but the teens of GRTY all stepped up to put on a great service.

It was also very special that Amy Heilman, the Program Director of The Rock Valley Refugee Program, was able to be at the service with a few kids from the program as well. This is our community service project for the year, and they were able to truly see what GRTY is all about! The Refugee Program is a wonderful organization that we are supporting, and if you have any donations like full size toiletry items, which is just one of the many items on their wish list, please feel free to bring them in and place them in the bin located in the foyer of the Temple. Anything and everything is greatly needed and is going to a program in much need!

Our GRTY events will not be slowing down in the upcoming weeks and months with our annual Chicago trip on April 22 that everybody, including me, has





Madeline Towne's  
Mitzvah Project  
Noah's Ark is a local  
non-kill animal shelter

NOAH'S ARK IS ALWAYS IN NEED OF  
DONATIONS, BEING A NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION.

### DONATION WISHLIST

OLD TOWELS AND BLANKETS  
BLEACH  
CAT TOYS  
DOG TOYS  
POST IT NOTES  
PUPPY WIPES  
CERAMIC BOWLS  
GIFTCARDS FROM FARM & FLEET,  
MENARDS AND LOWES  
POSTAGE STAMPS  
DISTILLED WATER  
SWIFFER WET REFILLS

PLEASE PLACE YOUR DONATIONS IN THE BARREL  
WHICH IS LOCATED IN THE  
TEMPLE FOYER

**YOUR DONATIONS ARE  
GREATLY APPRECIATED!**



## ***Jewish Federation Sponsored Joint Shabbat Service***

Please join the Jewish Federation,  
Congregation Ohave Sholom,  
and Temple Beth-El in celebrating  
Shabbat together.



Where: Temple Beth-El  
Date: April 21, 2017  
Time: 6:00 service  
with dinner to follow

Menu: Vegetarian Lasagna,  
Salad, Garlic Bread, Dessert

No Charge,  
but Donations Appreciated

Please RSVP to  
Goldie at 815-399-5497 or  
[rockfordfederation@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rockfordfederation@sbcglobal.net)  
by Thursday, April 20

Please join us for this very special service  
that brings  
together the Rockford Jewish community



**TEMPLE  
BETH-EL  
MINUTE  
WITH  
A  
MEMBER**

Dear TBE  
Friends:

*This "Minute with a Member" features long time member David Sklar. We hope you will enjoy getting to know him a little better!*

**Tell a little about yourself and family:**

I have been a resident of the Rockford area for the last 60 years. I am married to my best friend and beautiful wife, Vicki. I have two of the kindest and most wonderful children I could ask for, Megan & Phillip. And I'm blessed to have a great brother, Jay Sklar.



**What do you do for fun?**

Spending time with family is at the top of my list. Vicki and I enjoy working out at Peak Fitness. I also love many sports, in particular – the Chicago Cubs.

**What are your favorite Temple activities?**

My favorite temple activities involve working with our youth, teaching Sunday school, Hebrew and helping them to prepare for their Bar and Bat Mitzvahs. I receive such joy in seeing our youth embrace Judaism and how their hard work pays off during their special day.

**Your favorite motto in life:**

Anything in life is possible if you want it bad enough. I appreciate the freedom we have in this country to pursue our hopes and dreams so freely. Life is truly what we make of it.

**What is the best advice you have ever received?**

The best advice I have ever received was from my Uncle Joey. His motto was, "there are no problems, only solutions." He always looked for the

positives and potential solutions versus dwelling on the negatives in any situation.

**If you could take two weeks off from all of your responsibilities, where would you go and what would you do?**

I would love to take my wife to Israel. I have been there twice and I would love to show her what a beautiful country it is and how friendly and warm the people are. I would be sure to include time in Jerusalem and all of the biblical sites in the land of Israel. To me, going back to Israel is like going back home.

**Favorite Judaic food:**

My favorite Jewish meal is a real kosher corn beef sandwich, with the meat carved hot off the brisket. Serve that on some seeded Jewish rye bread, accompanied by a bowl of piping hot chicken kreplach soup.....and don't forget the pickles!

**Did you know...**

**Do you know why Jewish people put stones on graves when they visit?**

The custom is a very old one and there are different explanations. A superstitious explanation is that the stone keeps the soul down and keep them from haunting the living. Other explanations are more meaningful to us today. Flowers, while a nice symbol of life, eventually wither away. As it says in Isaiah, "the grass withers, the flower fades" (Isaiah 40:7). Memory on the other hand, is more permanent so a stone is a better symbol to remind the mourner of the permanence of memory and our enduring feelings of love for our dead. Additionally, it is a more lasting symbol that someone has been there and still remembers their loved one. Yet another lovely explanation is based on one of God's names in Jewish tradition, "Tzur Yisrael, "Rock of Israel." Thus we express our prayer that the deceased find peace in the embrace of Adonai and that God continues to be a source of strength to those who are bowed by sorrow. So we are comforted also by the ancient nature of the tradition as well as the symbol of permanence amidst the fragility of life.

The Jewish Federation and Temple Beth-El are sponsoring Good Deeds Day on April 9. We are collecting pens, pencils, post it notes, other small school supplies, granola bars, and small bottles of toiletries. This is the place to donate all your hotel hair products and lotions. We are assembling 50 gifts bags for Muslim refugees at East High School.



Good  
Deeds  
Day



## Interfaith Café

Sunday, April 30, 1:30-3:30

At Katie's Cup, 502 7th St., Rockford

Converse with people of varied  
faiths and nationalities



## Building Bridges of Understanding

**A Free Community Program. Open To The Public**

In cooperation with Unity in Diversity  
and the Unity, Pride and Culture  
committee of Transform Rockford.  
**Sunday, April 23, 2 pm – 5 pm**

Rockford is a very diverse community. As in the nation at large, issues of race, ethnicity and immigration have come to the surface of our public discourse time and again. Join us for an examination of how we have dealt with diversity through our history, as well as a look at what is happening in our community today.

**Key Note Speakers will discuss in depth topics for one hour with a question and answer session following the presentations.**

**Dr. Beatrice McKenzie,  
Professor of History, Beloit College**

Dr. McKenzie, a specialist in the history of immigration in the United States, will speak on the patterns of anti-immigration movements from a historical perspective on the National level.

**Joyce D. Higgins,  
Publisher of Chromelight  
and Local History Expert**

A noted speaker on race in the Rockford region, Ms. Higgins will address the history of racism as it relates to our community and its residents.

**Focused In-depth Breakout Sessions follow the Key Note Speakers and last 20 minutes each. Guests choose two of the five options. Focused In-depth Breakout Sessions follow the Key Note Speakers and last 20 minutes each. Guests choose two of the five options.**

**Midway Village Museum  
6799 Guildford Rd Rockford IL 61107  
Sunday, April 23, 2 pm – 5 pm**

## Temple Beth-EL 2017 Rummage Sale

Spring is just around the corner! Time to lighten up, freshen up, clean out that closet, basement, drawer! Time for our **SERIOUSLY HUGH RUMMAGE SALE.....**

**We are now accepting rummage!!!**

**Clean Rummage Drop-off:  
March 31, April 2, April 3**

Rummage organizing and tweaking April 4, April 5

**Seriously Hugh Rummage Sale!  
April 6, April 7 and  
morning of April 9**

Tear down, pack up April 9 after Noon.

Rummage left overs pick-up  
morning of April 10

**We need your help so be sure and sign up...**

**Sign-up Genius** worked very well last year.  
SO - Find a slot that works for you and join us  
to make this year's Rummage Sale the best ever!

Keep in mind: The more hands we have, the less  
time we need!

**Questions?** Don't have a computer/ email  
and want to help?

**Call Mary Roufa 815.543.6520**

Save these pages for future reference

**The Official Food-A-Rama Primer for Temple Members**

**55th ANNUAL FOOD-A-RAMA—Wednesday, May 17th, 2017**

The first four letters of “delicious” spell “Deli”—as in Delicious Delicatessen style lunches made from corned beef and breads imported straight from Chicago and assembled by scores of super volunteers from the Temple Beth-El Family for the Rockford community.

**Again This Year**

We are offering Turkey Pastrami to our sandwich offering both on the buffet and for delivery. For those not red meat fans, this is a tantalizing option we are sure will meet with great acceptance. It was well received last year so spread the word. Turkey Pastrami is now a full option.

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**FAR will be from 10-7:00pm with lunch buffet from 10-1:30pm**

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Each delivery lunch contains a generous quarter pound plus corned beef sandwich on rye OR Turkey Pastrami sandwich on rye bread, a kosher-style pickle, potato chips and a generous piece of mandelbrot. Dine-in and receive sides of cole slaw and our famous baked beans. And that's not all. In addition to the lunches, the Temple sells all kinds of Jewish specialty foods—from pies, cakes and cookies (baked by YOU) to blintzes, chopped liver, pastrami, herring and much, much more. We are adding exciting new desserts too!

**FOOD-A-RAMA WORKERS WANTED**

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You will receive an email from Wendy Huss asking you to volunteer to help. It is through “sign-up genius” a software that allows us to keep better track, send out reminders etc. It is safe to use, and if you have any questions, please contact Wendy Huss. Do you like to drive? We need delivery people. Like to bake? The bakery is a crucial part of Food-A-Rama, and we need bakers. Got muscle? We always need help with set-up and take down. How are you at packing pickles? Bagging cookies? Assembling lunches? Could you be a sponsor? We have a job for nearly every skill. So answer your email or call Wendy and be a part of Temple's largest fundraiser. Just say YES!

---

**PREORDERS FOR TEMPLE MEMBERS**

**Pick-up after 1:00 pm, Tues., May 16<sup>th</sup>, the day before FAR**

One of the most important purposes of Food-A-Rama is to open our Temple to the Rockford community and share our gastronomic delights with them, but we want to be able to purchase those goodies, too. You will be receiving an order form with a list of Food-A-Rama foods and their prices. Fill it out and return it to the Temple if you want to preorder these goodies and reserve them for your family at special pricing on many items.

## FOOD-A-RAMA TICKET SALES

Soon, you'll be getting seven tickets to FAR in the mail. Please sell them. The price is \$11.00 each, and the lunch is worth every penny. Remember, Turkey Pastrami is now an option, too! Call the Temple office if you need more tickets. Please do not get them from other Temple members, as it confuses the records. And please send in the ticket money as soon as possible. If you can't sell all your tickets please return them to the office.

## BEAUTIFUL BAKED GOODS FOR FOOD-A-RAMA

Each Temple family is asked to bake something to sell in the Food-A-Rama bakery. **You can bake cakes, strudels, cookies, pies, breads, whatever you like and as many items as you like.** Cakes and pies usually sell for \$5-\$10. Cookies by half dozen sell for about \$2-\$3. **Bakery Ideas:** (Include some smaller portions for singles; for example, half a cake. Bar cookies (toffee, brownies, strudel, lemon bars, butter-scotch, etc.)

Coffee cakes (sour cream, cinnamon, pecan, etc.) Cookies (chocolate chip, peanut butter, Mandelbrot, rugelach) Cakes (chocolate, sponge, Bundt, poppy seed, carrot, pound, etc.) Pies (cheese, fruit, pecan) Breads/Muffins/Rolls: Any specialty you may have!

Here's an idea.... You could bake items from our cookbook. Identify the recipe and list the page number on the label.

**Label each package clearly and in detail so we know exactly what the item is. The Board of health is requiring a list of ingredients (recipe not required).**

**Packaging:** Make each package look pretty so it sells quickly. Foil pans enclosed in clear plastic baggies, tied with a twist or colored ribbon look attractive. Ask the butcher at your favorite store for some Styrofoam trays or keep the small plastic containers from purchased rolls or cookies. **Cakes and Pies** can be lightly covered with plastic wrap since we put them in boxes when they are sold. **Breads** should be wrapped in clear plastic so they can be seen.

### **Where and When to Deliver Baked Goods**

Bring your items to the Temple on Tuesday, May 16th, the day before Food-A-Rama. Sign in at the bakery table. Leave your name and what you brought.

*If you cannot provide baked goods, we ask you to make a \$25 donation, but we hope you will bake since the community really looks forward to a full bakery table. They really do look forward to your goodies!*

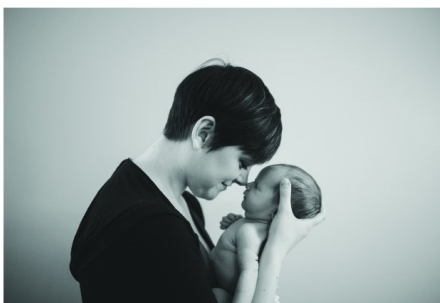
*Here we go. The 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Food-A-Rama. Thank you for making it a success!*

# Mindy Joy

## PHOTOGRAPHY

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Providing photographic coverage in Rockford and the surrounding areas.



Mindy Joy Young  
Call me: 815.985.4005

**Look up info & Pricing**  
[mindyjoyphotography.com](http://mindyjoyphotography.com)

**Inquire about dates & reservations**  
[mindy@mindyjoyphotography.com](mailto:mindy@mindyjoyphotography.com)

Friends of Temple Beth-El

## It's a.... Car Mitzvah



Our car mitzvah donation program has earned over \$40,000 in the last 8 years. This comes about through the incredible generosity of our congregants. Jerry Paris has sold his Midas Auto Repair facility on North Main St. after being in business for 38 years. It is now owned by Butitta Bros, and the manager's name is Neil. **The new organization has agreed to continue the car donation program under the same arrangement as before.**

**Our car mitzvah donation program has earned over \$40,000. in the last 8 years.**

Please contact the new manager at 815-962-7914, and he will insure that Temple is properly rewarded. If you have any questions, please call Jerry at 815-222-6016.  
Thank you for your support.

**3012 North Main Street Rockford, IL 61103  
815-962-7914**

### Huge Selection of Stunning Wedding Invitations



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CELL: 1.815.222.6076  
FAX: 1.815.282.2268  
E-FAX: 1.815.231.8414  
EMAIL: cparis@GoGambino.com



**Connie Paris**  
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## BRING ON THE BOOKS!

For the past eight years, the TBE Book Sale committee has been accepting your used and/or new books for listing online or for the Rummage Sale. To date **we have raised over \$18,000!**

We accept your donations throughout the year. There is a bin in the classroom hallway (to the right of the gift shop) for you to place your donations.

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# Coming Attractions

## May 2017

Wed. 17th Food-A-Rama

Sat. 27th Madeline Towne Bat Mitzvah

## June 2017

## July 2017

## August 2017

Sun. 27th Ethnic Festival and Parade

## September 2017

## October 2017

Sat. 21st Ella Holmstrom Bat Mitzvah

Sun. 29th Adult Ed: Ben Hecht Play

## November 2017

Sun. 12th Federation Kick Off

## December 2017

## January 2018

## February 2018

## March 2018

## April 2018

Tentative Date \*

Temple Board

Meets the 2nd Wed. each month  
Library 7:00 PM

We hope this page of Coming Attractions helps you plan ahead for activities at Temple Beth-El. Please understand that some dates and times might be tentative and will be updated each month as dates get closer.

## **GRTY 2016-2017 Calendar**

**Apr. 2\*Set Up Rummage Sale:** 9-noon PARENTS and teens needed  
**Sat. Apr. 8 Chicago Trip!!**

**Apr. 9\*Take Down Rummage Sale:** 1-4:00 pm PARENTS and teens needed

**Apr. 16\*Soup Kitchen:** (4/shift) 10-11:45 am.; 11:30-1:30 pm

**Thur. Apr. 20-24 NFTY Spring Kallah:** Milwaukee, WI

**Apr. 23 Holocaust Service** 3:00 pm

**Apr. 30 Exec. Board Brunch/ Lunch:** Time/place to be decided

**\*Means you can earn service hours**

**Advisors:** Nanci Soriano H: 654-7677 cell: 222-9626

Lauren Lamont: cell: 988-3727

**RSVP to ALL activities quickly** please even if you can't attend  
**Dues:** 7-8 graders: \$25 (2<sup>nd</sup> child \$20)  
9-12 graders: \$40 (2<sup>nd</sup> child \$25)

**NFTY** on line Registration:  
[www.nfty.org/no](http://www.nfty.org/no)

## **HELP WANTED: CARING COMMITTEE**

The Caring Committee was formed to provide a meal(s) to a member in the event of a birth, death or illness. Anyone interested in being on the Caring Committee list or is interested in providing a ride to a Temple function, please contact Carol Gordon at 815-398-4214 or [cggordon50@hotmail.com](mailto:cggordon50@hotmail.com).

## **Membership**

Do you know of any unaffiliated Jews looking for a congregation?  
If so, contact Elisa Whitman, membership chairperson at 815-988-2134

**PLANT A TREE IN ISRAEL**  
Commemorate happy occasions...  
**births, engagements, marriages, anniversaries, graduations or memorialize a loved one.**  
**"A tree lives on forever in our sacred land"**

Call Carol Gordon  
398-4214

or email requests to:  
[cggordon50@hotmail.com](mailto:cggordon50@hotmail.com)  
Effective April 1, 2013 the price will be  
**\$18.00**

**sponsored by**  
**Sponsored by Jewish Federation of Rockford**

**Torah**  
Study Group  
Saturday Morning 10:00 AM

## **The Tree of Life**

Remember a loved one or celebrate a wonderful occasion by noting it forever on the Temple Beth-El Tree Of Life in the foyer. Contact the Temple office for details.

## **The Temple Bulletin goes away to College....**

If you have a student heading off to college, we would like to send him or her a copy of the Temple Bulletin. Let them have one more connection to home while they are away. All we need are name and address, and we will do the rest. Give Joyce a call in the office, and add one more piece of mail from home for your student.

**Visit the Temple Beth-El New Web Site Address...**

<http://templebethel-rockford.org/>.

**Check it out!**

Have a Date to add?  
Well!  
[Jayskl@aol.com](mailto:Jayskl@aol.com)

**The  
Yiddish  
Corner**

**MOISHE KAPOYER**

*MOIshe kaPOYR)*  
A contrary person

He doesn't care what anyone thinks. He is such a *moishe kapoyer*.

**On the Lighter Side...**

A young woman brings home her fiancé to meet her parents. After dinner, her mother tells her father to find out about the young man. The father invites the fiancé to his study for a drink.

"So what are your plans?" the father asks the young man.

"I am a Torah scholar," he replies.

"A Torah scholar. Hmmm," the father says.

"admirable, but what will you do to provide a nice house for my daughter to live in, as she's accustomed to?"

"I will study," the young man replies, "and God will provide for us."

"And how will you buy her a beautiful engagement ring, such as she deserves?" asks the father.

"I will concentrate on my studies," the young man replies, "God will provide for us."

"And children?" asks the father. "How will you support children?"

"Don't worry, sir, God will provide," replies the fiancé.

The conversation proceeds like this, and each time the father questions, the young idealist insists that God will provide.

Later, the mother asks, "How did it go, darling?"

The father answers, "He has no job and no plans, but the good news is, he thinks I'm God."



**April 2017  
Religious Services**

**April 7**  
Family Shabbat Service 7:30 pm

**April 14**  
Erev Shabbat Service 7:30 pm

**April 21**  
Erev Shabbat Service 7:30 pm

**April 28**  
Kabbalat Shabbat Service 6:00 pm

**Temple Beth-El Leadership**

<b>Rabbi</b> .....	Binah Wing
<b>President</b> .....	Jim Gesmer
<b>President Elect</b> .....	Robert Levy
<b>V.P. Communication</b> .....	Ellen Salley
<b>Bulletin Publisher</b> .....	Jay Sklar
<b>Web Maven</b> .....	Harvey Melamed
<b>V.P. Community</b> .....	Karen Zussman
<b>V.P. Finance</b> .....	Brina Grigg
<b>Treasurer</b> .....	Sharon Goldsand
<b>V.P. Ways &amp; Means</b> .....	Mary Roufa
<b>V.P. Education</b> .....	Lauren Lamont
<b>School Principals</b> .....	Goldie Pekarsky & Adrian Grubb
<b>V.P. Religious Functions</b> .....	Andrea Levey
<b>V.P. Building &amp; Grounds</b> .....	Jordan Towne
<b>Jewish Federation Rep.</b> .....	Ellen Dietz
<b>Past President</b> .....	Jay Sklar

The Temple Beth-El Bulletin is a monthly publication of Temple Beth-El, Rockford, Illinois. Items for the bulletin should be submitted to the Temple office. Typewritten is acceptable, but text format on a computer disk or e-mailed to the publisher, Jay Sklar [jayskl@aol.com](mailto:jayskl@aol.com), is preferred.