

TEMPLE BETH-EL



BULLETIN

December 2017 13 Keslev —13 Tevet 5778

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.

Local Color Art Auction A Success

Temple Beth-El launched its first effort at a new take on an old fundraiser on November 11, 2017. Our **Local Color Art Auction** was held at Midway Village with an enthusiastic audience of 114 people, including 21 participating artists, Temple members and Rockford community members. Jon Rozman and guitarist, Ross provided a lively musical background as people ate, drank and viewed the amazing 97 pieces of art on display.

Thank you to our Art Auction committee: Barb Berney, Jim Gesmer, Lauren Lamont, Patty Kaufman, Roni Golan, Jay Sklar, Wendy Huss and Mary Roufa. Thank you to our Auctioneer Dan Cohen, and to Larry Pearlman for his auctioneer wrap up along with the great pictures that captured the essence of our fun evening! A BIG thank you to our Youth Group members: Adam and Joe Gesmer, Ben Kopnick and Maddox Towne for their expertise arranging and labeling the art. Thank you to Natalie Deutsch, Madi Reid, Aaron Tatman and Jamie Zussman for keeping the art straight and schlepping art (some of them pretty big!) to the auctioneer. Local Color was a unique event partnering with Rockford community artists and splitting the art proceeds 50/50 with Temple and the artist. Forty percent of the art up for bid was sold, totaling \$10,000. Some of the pieces were sold with 100% of those proceeds donated to Temple. Our net profit was over \$5,000.

Our committee met the following week to talk about what was great and what needs to be tweaked. All in all the decision was unanimous to offer this fun event again next year!

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Chaverim,

One of the things that I remember about the Religious school experience of my youth was the giving of tzedakah. I remember that I would be given a few coins from my parents or from my own money and I would carefully place it in the class tzedakah box that was passed around each week.

Perhaps some of you have a similar memory. At Temple Beth-El, we still do this in our religious school classes (friendly reminder to parents of current students – please remember this important mitzvah!). What happens sometimes, though, is that we begin to think of this kind of giving as an activity for children.

This past week there was a major reminder in our American culture about giving. It's even called Giving Tuesday, complete with its own hashtag and everything. Perhaps you received many emails from organizations that you've supported over the years asking for funds on that day. For Jews, the commitment to giving extends throughout the year and throughout our lives.

The word tzedakah is often mis-translated as "charity," but that is really incorrect. The word comes from the Hebrew root for justice. That is to say, then, that giving, for us, is more about justice. It's also more of an obligation for us, an action we are commanded to do, rather than something we do because we might feel like it at that particular moment.

Which brings me back to our tzedakah box giving. Some of you may not even realize, or have forgotten, that we have a beautiful tzedakah box in the foyer of the Temple. The idea is that when people come to Temple for services, adult education, meetings, etc. that perhaps they'll put a few coins or even a few dollars in that box, just like we did when we were kids.



From Rabbi Binah Wing

The Social Action Committee would like to increase the awareness of our Temple tzedakah box as well. Toward that end, they have decided to dedicate money placed in that box to different charitable organizations over the course of the year. Depending on how it goes, the money will be collected for one or two months per organization. The first charitable organization that was decided on is MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger.

MAZON is a fine organization that works on hunger issues in the Jewish community and far beyond as well. These winter months are for some, a time of great food abundance. We feast on Thanksgiving meals and Hanukkah as well. Our Christian friends feast on Christmas meals and enjoy special sweet treats all month. For this reason, especially, it is important to be reminded of those for whom there is little celebration food-wise and those who struggle with hunger all year-long. It makes sense that MAZON would be our designated tzedakah organization for the month of December.

We'll keep you posted as to what organization is next. In the meantime, I ask that you make an extra effort, whenever you're in the building, to see the tzedakah box and fulfill the mitzvah of giving. Even a few coins, when added to others, can add up quickly.

In less than two weeks, we will celebrate the holiday of Hanukkah. At its heart, this holiday is about bringing light into the darkness. This echoes the mission of the Jewish people. Together, we will continue to do this important work.

May Hanukkah bring light into the darkness for each and every one of us.

Chag urim sameach,
Rabbi Wing

Temple has upgraded WIFI Signal

Temple Beth-El has upgraded its WIFI with two additional wired access points. This allows access in all parts of the building. As a result, we are now able to offer the I-Pad to watch the security cameras from wherever you are in the building. If you often use the Temple in the evening call Jay Sklar for a short tutorial on how to set the I-Pad to monitor the front door.

From the Temple Board....

By Secretary Ellen Salley

The Temple Board met on November 8th, 2017.



Ellen Dietz based her D'Var Torah on the book, The Happiness Prayer – Ancient Jewish Wisdom, for the Best Way to Live Today written by Rabbi Evan Moffic. His book is meant to provide a way for people to be happier and is based on the prayer Eilu Devarim. This prayer was written over two thousand years ago and consists of ten verses. Each chapter in the book is based on one of these verses. For example, in order to become happy Rabbi Moffic says that you have to believe that your life has meaning and you are here on this earth for a reason. Rabbi also believes that you need to have gratitude for the gift of life itself. He goes on to explain each chapter and at the end of the book is a Happiness Quick Start Guide to help readers begin to live by the happiness prayer.

Jim had Jerry Paris come in and give an update on the progress of the campaign committee. He reviewed the other campaigns that were run in 1995 and 2004. The board will be discussing the committee's suggestions for running this campaign.

Rabbi attended various meetings, officiated at Ella Holmstrom's Bat Mitzvah, the funeral of Gunther Frank and participated in the vigil for slain police officer Jamie Cox. Then, she explained that an anti-Semitic poster was placed on the door by the classrooms. Rabbi called the ADL, the Sheriff's department, and filed a report. The Temple security system gave us a picture of the man and a good look at his vehicle. Rabbi is working on a project to bring Rabbinic students to Temple to see how a small congregation works. This could happen mid to late January.

Brian reported that the Hanukkah dinner will be December 16th. Ronit will be cooking chicken and the congregation will be asked to bring desserts and salads. Members will be making Latkes.

David and his volunteers took down and stored the Sukkah. ComEd came and removed the freezers that didn't work and we received a rebate of \$100. The Art Auction sign was put up and the sprinkler system was winterized. The oven in the kitchen has been cleaned. We still have to make roof repairs quoted at \$108,620. Security projects include repairing doors and locks, putting in window blinds for the classrooms and office, and putting in a tool crib pro-



By now, I am sure that you are aware of the hate crime that took place at Temple Beth-El earlier this month when a man posted an anti-Semitic flyer on one of the entrances. Fortunately, thanks to our so-

phisticated video surveillance system and the efforts of the Winnebago County Sheriff's Police, a suspect was soon arrested.

Please be assured that security remains a top priority at Temple Beth-El. Following the crime that took place earlier this month, the Board decided to hire a private firm to provide security during the ensuing Shabbat service and during the ensuing day of Hebrew School and Religious School. In addition, it has now been decided to keep the doors locked at all times during Shabbat services and during Hebrew School and Religious School hours. When you are assigned to be the Oneg host during Shabbat services, I am asking you to remain in the lobby for the first five to ten minutes after services start in order to open the door for any late-arriving people.

The Board will continue to monitor our security situation and implement any steps that we feel are necessary to keep our members safe. We have been in frequent communication with the Winnebago County Sheriff's Police since the hate crime took place, and we have requested increased patrols in our area.

Please feel free to contact me if you wish to discuss your security concerns with me. My office number is (815) 968-1000. I can be reached via e-mail at jim@gesmerlaw.com.

On a much brighter note, the Gesmer family wishes everybody a Happy Chanukah and Healthy and Happy 2018. I look forward to seeing you all soon.

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

Shop and a portion of your purchase
dollar goes to Temple Beth-El.

smile.amazon.com/ch/36-2970986

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

tective enclosure. David got quotes for the HVAC system project. He also reported that Nicor will perform a free energy assessment with possible rebates afterwards.

Carol reported that the Sunday school students were busy with the fall holidays. They made decorations for the Sukkah, marched around with their flags on Simchat Torah, had music classes, and baked honey cakes with Ronit. They have had a school fire drill and will have a tornado drill. On November 3rd the students shared their Judaica at a special Friday night service. There will be no Hebrew on November 22nd and no Sunday School on November 26th due to Thanksgiving.

GRTY went to Camp Winnebago for a team building activity, apple picking and pie baking, and attended the Ben Hecht show on October 29th. Afterwards, Nanci presented the group with the Peace Builder Youth Award for their community service with the Rock River Valley Refugee Project. GRTY went bowling in November and will be going to Laser Quest and Sho Gun in December.

Karen delivered 250 pounds of food and \$1,856 to the Rock River Pantry from our High Holy Day drive.

Mary reported that about 90 people have said they are attending the art auction. She met with Dan Cohen to go over the job of auctioneer. Jonathan Rozman will be playing at the auction. Mary was very grateful for Barb Berney's help with the auction and especially the brochure.

Jay mentioned that we have two iPads that can watch the cameras but the WIFI does not work in all parts of our building. Jay made a motion to fix this problem. The board discussed the motion and it passed unanimously.

Ellen reported that the 2016-2017 campaign raised \$24,000. The Federation kick-off will be on November 19th at Mauh Nah Tee See Country Club. There are 40 people participating in Yoga classes and Zumba is just getting started. The Federation's annual meeting will be December 3rd at 10:30 with breakfast at 10:00. Ohave Sholom will host a scholar-in-residence, Rabbi Andy Shapiro Katz on Sunday December 10th and will have their Hanukkah dinner on Saturday December 16th.

SCHOOLE DAZE

200 Words or Less...

By Goldie & Adrian



Hope you all had a lovely Thanksgiving with family and friends! And speaking of being thankful, we want to send a shout out to all our Religious School teachers, substitutes, and parent and other helpers who make our school possible. We can't say it often enough. THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO!!

In November, we had a great music class with Mrs. Simon and Dr. Kopnick, art with Sandy Simon, and a special Family Shabbat service when students had a chance to share a special Jewish item brought from home! We had a delicious dinner that evening thanks to Ronit!

We look forward to our annual Chanukah celebration on Sunday, December 17 sponsored by the Jewish Federation and Religious School. The Friday before on the 15th we have our Chanukah dinner. See bulletin for details.

We also had a tornado drill (going to lower level boiler room area) and explained safety instructions for such an event. Speaking of that, if you haven't yet toured the building taking note of all exits on all three floors please ask to do so. It's important that you know our building well in case of emergency.

We look forward to our annual Chanukah celebration on Sunday, December 17 sponsored by the Jewish Federation and Religious School. The Friday before on the 15th we have our Chanukah dinner. See bulletin for details.

We wish you all a wonderful winter break and a healthy happy secular New Year! There will be no Hebrew classes from Dec.20 Through Jan. 10. No Sunday school on Dec.24, 31, and Jan.7. We resume classes on Jan. 14.

Till next time, Shalom.

Social Action on the Go...

Thank you Temple members for your generous contributions to the Rock River Valley Pantry. For many years, we have held a High Holy Day food and monetary collection to benefit those in the Rockford area that depend on the Pantry to supplement their food budgets. According to an article in the RRSTAR, the Rock River Valley Pantry provided more than 1.5 million pounds of food last year. This was enough food for 1.3 million nutritious meals for families, including children. Many of these meals were for individuals who were homeless.

This year, we at TBE collected 250 lbs of food and donated \$1856 (which includes \$250 from the Cy Sachs Fund)!. This surpassed last year's donations! Thank you again, TBE and the larger Jewish community for understanding the real meaning of Tikkun Olam.

Faye Marcus and Karen Zussman

Ways & Means News

HELP WANTED!

Do you have an hour a week? A couple of hours a month?

Temple is seeking people who might be interested in:

- Listing books and other donated items to sell online,
 - Helping to clean gift shop, order new items, give your ideas for updating and continuing to offer the gift shop as a Temple service.
 - Helping to organize and sort rummage
- Questions? Call Mary Roufa, Ways and Means chair

CONDOLENCES TO:

Sara and David Deutsch on the loss of
Sara's sister,
Caroline Loniello

~

John and Wendy Huss on the loss of
John's mother,
Ardi Huss Gackle

December Oneg Committee

December 1	The Temple Beth-El
Julia and Aaron Anton	Family greatly appreciates and thanks our Oneg Hosts for helping to make our Services more meaningful and offering an opportunity for us all to mingle and socialize.
December 8	
Connie and Jerry Paris	
Michael Belinson	
December 15	
Hanukkah Dinner	
December 22	
No oneg	
December 29	
Goldie Pekarsky	



The Officers and Board of
Directors of the Jewish
Federation of Greater
Rockford
Cordially Invite You To
Attend the
Annual Meeting



Sunday, December 3
10:00 am at Temple Beth-El,
1203 Comanche Dr.

Breakfast will be served at 10:00 am, /
meeting will begin at 10:30 am

Please RSVP to Goldie at 815-399-5497 or
rockfordfederation@sbcglobal.net

December Birthdays & Anniversaries

Adults

Payton Kammerer	12/01
Yana Peysakhovich	12/1
Colleen Morris	12/3
Lauren Weiss	12/3
Aron Tatman	12/4
Laura Sage	12/5
Arielle Einhorn	12/8
Susan Kamin	12/10
Philip Sklar	12/12
Jenna Glassman	12/13
Sean Pekarsky	12/15
Bud Wiener	12/17
Michael Whitman	12/19
Brian Bear	12/21
Geoffrey Feinstein	12/21
Mitchell Busch	12/26
Rachel Kammerer	12/26
Len Bernstein	12/27
James Gesmer	12/27
Jennifer Grubb	12/27
Brittany Busch	12/28
Gregory Rozman	12/29
Larry Pearlman	12/30
Mindy Kopald	12/31
Jill Shacter	12/31
Jillian Deutsch	12/31

Alma Quimby 12/31

Children
Eloise Towne 12/08/06
Adam Ahles 12/11/10
Regan Baird 12/28/05

ANNIVERSARIES

Jerry & Connie Paris 12/14/69
Ian & Amy Goldberg 12/16/84
Warren & Sharon Goldsand 12/20/70
Larry & Lisa Pearlman 12/20/14



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)

YAHZEIT 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 December 1

Rachel Feinstein
Leonard Block
Beila Levina
Mollie Sklar Stern
Esther Rothstein
Isador J. Behr
Mildred Friedberg
Shirley R. Zellick
Murry Halikman
Rose Osran
Julius Katz
Rose Beiman

Read December 8

Arthur Zussman
Harry Chemerow
Rabbi Saul B. Appelbaum
Walter Oppenheimer
Harold Vision
Max Brenner
Ralph Levin
Zella Turcott
Lillian Reicher
Rudolph Wertheim
Allen B. Cohen
Louis Marks
Gitel Furen
Anne Paris

Read December 15

Joe Kimmelman
Joseph Esrick
Morton Bernstein
Bernice Fusch
Dr. Oscar Weinstein
Ruth Oberndorf
Bess Weinstein
Morris Osran
Ben Rossin
Herbert Weissbauch
Eva G. Patlove
David L. Hillman

Read December 22

Bernice Ernstein
Goldie Simon
Lillian Bedsole
Walley Peters
Evelyn Goldberg Kupperman
George L. Shanhouse
Rae Sachs Bamberger
Sol Levy

Read December 29

Martha Silverstein
Ann Behr Alter
Max Swerdlik
Marcia Holmstrom
Marion Weiner
Wally Daniel
Emilia Pap
Aron Kleinberg



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 Schaider Building Fund

In honor of the birth of Adrian and Gerry Grubb's granddaughter
In honor of Ella Holmstrom's Bat Mitzvah
In memory of Cami Shultz
-Gerry Schaider

In memory of Cami Shultz
Mazel Tov to Adrian and Gerald Grubb on the birth of granddaughter, Kiora Sage Krystosek
-Jay and Susan Kamin

In memory of Cami Shultz
-Joan Davis

Congratulations to Adrian and Jerry Grubb on the birth of their granddaughter
Congratulations to Ronit and Roni Golan on Maya's marriage
-Brina Grigg

In honor of the birth of Adrian and Gerry Grubb's granddaughter
Congratulations to Ronit and Roni Golan and Julie and Greg Sparks being honored by the Jewish Federation

In honor Ella Holmstrom's Bat Mitzvah

In memory of Cami Shultz
In memory of Norbert Jakobs
In memory of Ardi Huss Gackle

Mazel Tov to Barb and Steve Lirtzman on the marriage of Robert and Jess
-Nanci and Marc Soriano

Garten Fund

In honor of the birth of Adrian and Gerry Grubb's granddaughter
-Judy and Chuck Picus

In memory of Cami Shultz
In honor of the birth of Ted and Jan Liebovich's granddaughter, Mila Danielle
-Ellen and Fred Dietz

In memory of Caroline Loniello
In memory of Cami Shultz
In honor of the birth of Adrian and Gerry Grubb's granddaughter
Get well wishes to Leda Nevler
Congratulations to GRTY on being nominated for the Peace Builder Youth Award
-Faye Marcus

Jan Lazarus Fund

In memory of Jan Lazarus
Sandy Lazarus Keller & family

Landscaping Fund

In honor of Ella Holmstrom's Bat Mitzvah
In memory of Cami Shultz
-Milly Kaplan

In memory of Ardi Huss Gackle
-Sara and David Deutsch

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In memory of Cami Shultz
-Susan and Stephen Weiss

In memory of Cami Shultz
-Sara and David Deutsch

In memory of Cami Shultz
-Brina Grigg

Unrestricted Donations

In memory of Carolyn Bornstein
-Ann Politic

In memory of Lillian Gersten
In memory of Anna Gersten Perlman
-Sharon Goldenson

In memory of Howard Hart
-Michael and Donna Kelner

In memory of Cami Shultz
In memory of Caroline Loniello
In memory of Ardi Huss Gackle
Congratulations to Natalie Deustch for induction into National Honor Society
In honor of the choir, Stuart Bard and our musicians
-Elisa Whitman

**Congregation Ohave Sholom invites the Jewish community to a Scholar in Residence
Program provided by the:**

**CENTRAL DISTRICT
UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM**

SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE 2017

Rabbi Andrew Shapiro Katz

Topic: "Rebels and Rabbis-When the authorities are wrong:
resistance, critique and acquiescence"

Sunday, December 10th
10:00 Breakfast / 10:30 Program

A community-builder, educator, and avid cook, Andy Shapiro Katz moved to Beer Sheva in 2010 with his family to start a new intentional pluralistic religious community there called Kehilat Be'erot. Andy is an alumnus of Project Otzma, the Conservative Yeshiva, and the Pardes Educators Programs and Kollel, receiving smicha in 2004 from Rabbis Daniel Landes and Aryeh Strikosky. He holds a B.A. in American Studies and M.A. in Educational Administration from Stanford University, and an M.B.A. from Ben Gurion University of the Negev. While living in San Francisco from 2005-2010, Andy served as Assistant Head of School at the Jewish Community High School of the Bay and was an active participant/leader of the Mission Minyan. Prior to his work for the Conservative Yeshiva, Andy spent 2 years as the Director of General Studies at the Negev Campus of the Alexander Muss High School in Israel and 2 years as the Director of Resource Development at Atid Bamidbar, a pluralistic Beit Midrash based in Yeroham. He also teaches pizza-making and cooking science, caters small events, and hosts a periodic pop-up restaurant at a local soup-kitchen. He and his wife Emily have two boys, ages 4 and 6, and two girls, ages 9 and 12.



Memorial and Tribute Donation Form



From:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip: _____

For: (check one and fill in names as appropriate)

☐ In Memory of: _____

☐ Speedy Recovery to: _____

☐ Congratulations to: _____

☐ In Honor of: _____

☐ Other: _____

To: Send the acknowledging card : ☐ Same as from,
or: Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip: _____

Donation:

☐ Triple chai (\$54)

☐ Double chai (\$36)

☐ Chai (\$18) ☐ \$10

☐ \$4 (Min.)

☐ Other: _____

Fund:

☐ Garten ☐ Powell ☐

Lazarus ☐ Dermer ☐ Building ☐

Woodruff ☐ Rabbi's Discretionary

☐ Pap ☐ Kupperman ☐

Landscaping ☐ Gifts&Flowers

☐ Sachs ☐ Liebovich Fund

☐ Other: _____

GRTY NEWS

Submitted by:
Ben Kopnick
Co-President

Hello Temple Beth-El

GRTY President Ben Kopnick here bringing you another monthly update into all things GRTY. In this past month of November our teens enjoyed a fun Sunday afternoon bonding at a bowl-

ing alley. We all laughed and shared memories over the sound of banging pins and the delicious smell of pizza. Due to the unfortunate closing of the Petland, our youth group was unable to partake in the annual puppy washing event. With heavy hearts, we look to next year to hopefully be able to partake in the event once again.

Girls - 1994, 1998, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2005, 2007
2012 2013
Boys - 2003, 2006, 2007



As November comes to a close, our teens are extremely excited for our annual Hanukkah party. Our teens will first start our exciting day by playing several rounds of competitive laser tag. Once a hearty appetite is worked up, we will move next door to our favorite Hibachi grill restaurant, Shogun! Here our teens will enjoy a delicious meal while presenting one

another with their Secret Maccabee gifts! Our teens will get to enjoy a fun night out to celebrate the holidays as well as a tremendous year in GRTY! More to come from GRTY in 2018, and we wish everyone happy holidays!

Sincerely,
Co-President Ben Kopnick



Temple Beth-El Annual Chanukah Dinner

Friday, December 15th
6:00 PM -Shabbat Service, Dinner to Follow

Send your reservations to:

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

Cost: Free (donations will be accepted)
Please RSVP by December 12th

We ask that each family bring a dish to pass.
A-R bring a side dish/salad S-Z bring a dessert

Ronit's chicken will be served

If you are making Latkes let Brian Shore know and that will be your dish.



Also, it is a tradition for each family to **bring a menorah** to light at the table. It is very special as we all light our menorahs together, as one congregational family; so, please remember to bring your menorah. We will provide the candles and the matches.



Please contact the Temple office or Brian Shore with your reservation.

If you have any questions or would like to help out with this dinner, (we are looking for volunteers to help with this!) please don't hesitate to contact Brian Shore 815-282-5259.

Name _____ Number of people _____

Call the Temple office with your reservation at 815-398-5020



TEMPLE BETH-EL MINUTE WITH A MEMBER

*Dear TBE Friends:
The bulletin this month
will feature our next*

*"Minute with a Member". Please take a few
moments to learn a bit more about Adrian
and Jerry Grubb. Below are answers to a few
questions. We hope
you will enjoy get-
ting to know them
a bit more!*

Tell a little about yourself and family:

Adrian grew up in Chicagoland and Jerry in Belvidere. We met at NIU and married at TBE in 1970 by Rabbi Frazen. Jerry had a long career as a lawyer and judge and Adrian as an educator. Our daughter, Jennifer, married 2yrs ago and just recently made us proud grandparents (our first)!

What do you do for fun?

Travel, we spend our winters away, mostly in Florida and Arizona. Lately, we have taken a few cruises in Europe. We love to exercise at the gym (we are silver sneakers now!), go to the theatre locally and in Chicago when Jenny has a play, going out to dine with friends, volunteer for several Boone and Winnebago county organizations and Jerry has taken up golf.

Favorite Temple activities?

Adrian loves working as co-principal of the religious school, especially with Goldie as her partner. We both love attending Torah on Tap evenings (learning and eating with friends).

Most memorable TBE moment?

Our Temple trip to Israel where Jenny became a Bat Mitzvah at the Hebrew Union College overlooking the Old City in Jerusalem, with Rabbi Kahn, Stephanie and the boys and a number of Temple members and family. A thrill of a lifetime for all.

Where is your favorite place to go in this area?

Lake Geneva, without a doubt. What a gem of a place so close by! Feels like a vacation when you go. We love to walk the pathway around the lakeshore and picnic at the park by the beach. On occasion, we will hike the nature trails at Geneva National Golf resort. Very pretty in the fall. Of course, the shopping in Lake Geneva city.



What was the last movie, TV show, or book you could not stop watching or put down?

We often binge watch Netflix or PBS series, like Breaking Bad and Better Call Saul. We just finished Reign, and The Crown. Jerry will watch the Golf Channel in order to take a quick nap. It's the soft whispering voices of the announcers!

What is the first thing you would do

if you won the lottery?

Call our Banker at 2:30 in the morning, make him meet me at the bank, issue me a very large letter of credit, give him my new phone number and address, and have him promise to not reveal it to anyone! I would also set up a foundation to manage charitable requests (that's the lawyer in me).

Community Hanukkah Party

Sponsored by the Jewish Federation,
Temple Beth-El Religious School, and
Congregation Ohave Shalom

Sunday, December 17- 10:30-12:00

Stop by and enjoy the delights of
Hanukkah.



We will be treated to a
special morning of games,
crafts, and yummy Hanukkah
treats by Ronit

Bring your friends and
family.

Everyone is welcome to this free event.
See you there!

POTATO PANCAKES FOR PARKINSON'S



Please come to our Potato Pancakes for Parkin-
son's Disease
Event taking place on December 17

Sponsored by the Jewish Federation and TBE Re-
ligious School

Lunch will be served from 11:30-12:30 at Temple
Beth-El. Donations
will be accepted for the potato latke lunch and
100% of the donations will be sent to
Hadassah Hospital for Parkinson's research.

For more information, please contact Goldie at
the Jewish
Federation - 815-399-5497 or rockfordfederation@sbcglobal.net

**This event is in honor and
memory of our friend,
Sterne Roufa**

TBE SOCIAL ACTION ON THE MOVE...

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE



With the start of the New Year, students have already
used up a good deal of school supplies from the start
of the school year.

The Social Action Committee of Temple Beth El
would like to help **Rock House Kids** by providing
them with new school supplies. Rock House Kids is a
local organization that seeks to help at risk children
physically, spiritually, and emotionally. It is an out-
reach center that cares for children in Rockford's in-
ner city. They provide evening programming, which
includes: free meals, mentoring, tutoring, and field
trips. They also send kids home with food bags of
non-perishable food items.

We would like to help them by providing school sup-
plies to be used at the center and some for the chil-
dren to take to school.

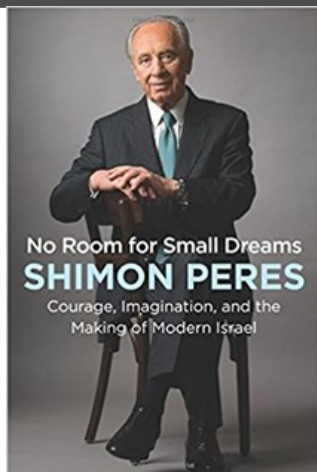
Please consider donating some new school supplies
to this worthy cause. There will be a box set up in the
entry foyer for collections during the **month of Janu-
ary**. Some items that are always needed are: pencils,
pens, spiral notebooks, notebook paper, solid colored
folders, crayons, markers, etc.

Monetary donations are always welcome (please
leave in the office, with checks made out to Temple
Beth El).

Let's help our children in the community have a suc-
cessful learning experience

Any questions, please contact Faye Marcus:
fe.marcus@att.net or 815-877-4285.

******NEW THIS YEAR:** Temple Beth-El will make
it easier for you to make a donation!! Stop by
Temple Beth-El on January 21st from 10am-
12pm. You can purchase a "ready made bag of
school supplies" that will then be donated to Rock
House Kids. No need to stop at a store! Just
come on by and make your donation for this wor-
thy cause!****



Jewish Federation Book Discussion January 21, 2018, 2:00 at Temple **No Room for Small Dreams: Courage, Imagination, and the Making of Modern Israel**

By Shimon Peres
Pages 240 ISBN-13:
978-0062561442

Shimon Peres was one of Israel's founding fathers and for more than six decades was an architect of its ascent from a fragile state to a global power. In 1994, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his extraordinary efforts to forge peace between Israel and the Palestinians. In 1996, he founded the groundbreaking Peres Center for Peace and Innovation to focus on developing and implementing imaginative peace building programs around the world. Peres died in September, 2016, shortly after finishing his work on this book. He was ninety-three years old.

No Room for Small Dreams is a must read for anyone who is interested in the history of Israel. Peres's autobiography details his experiences, and importantly gives a first hand account of the history of Israel. This is truly a phenomenal book written by someone who lived the experience.

Please read, but even if you do not finish it, come to the discussion. The date is January 21, 2018, 2:00 at TBE.

The study questions to think about while reading the book:

1. What were the major events in his life that formed who he is?
2. What was Peres' role in the early days of Israel?
3. How was Israel able to defend herself in light of the numbers out to destroy her?
4. How was Peres able to develop the idea of nuclear deterrence?
5. What was the promise that Peres made to his grandfather and how did that affect his actions?
6. What happened at Entebbe?
7. What does the title mean?



Midway Village Museum
Rockford's
HISTORY MUSEUM

Victorian Holiday Celebration
Saturday, December 9 and
Sunday, December 10; 11am – 4pm

Midway Village Museum invites families of all ages to add a new tradition to their holiday season as we celebrate in the Victorian Village! Enjoy the sights of 1800s decorations on several of the historic buildings and stroll around to the following activities:

Dancing at the Fezziwig Ball
1800s Immigrant Holiday Traditions
Christmas Carol Performances by 2nd City Chorus
Holiday Cards Made at the Print Shop
Craft Projects for Kids
1800s Decorations and Traditions Display

Jewish Traditions with Ohave Shalom Synagogue

And a Visit from Father Christmas!

Special snacks and beverages for the holiday season will also be for sale.

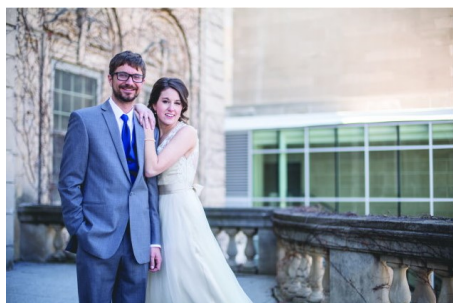
Admission is \$7 per adult, \$5 per child (3-17 years old), children under 3 are free, Museum Members are FREE. Tickets can be purchased online at www.midwayvillage.com, at the Museum's Gift Shop, or at the event. For questions, please call 815-397-9112.

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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
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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 \$21,000!**

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

January 2018

Sun. 14th Rabbi Schechter Jewish Humor
Sun. 21st Book Discussion

February 2018

Sun. 4th Lox Box
Fri-Sun. 9-11 OSRUI 5/6 Grade Retreat
Sun. 18th Jewop
Wed. 28th Purim Service

March 2018

Sun. 4 Purim games
Sun. 18th Chocolate Seder
Sun. 21st Purim
Thur.- Sun. 22 -25 Rummage Sale

April 2018

Sun. 8th Holocaust Remembrance
Sun. 15th Good Deeds Day

May 2018

Sun. 6th Israel Day
Wed. 16th Food-A-Rama

June 2018

July 2018

August 2018

Sat. 18th Lilly Wing Bat Mitzvah

September 2018

October 2018

November 2018

December 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.

Have a Date to add?
Well!
Jayskl@aol.com

GRTY 2017-2018 Calendar

Sun. Dec.17 Laser Quest & Shogun Hanukkah Party: 3:20-7:00 pm

Sun. Dec. 24* Soup Kitchen: (4/shift) 9-11:30; 11:30-2:00 pm

****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 (2nd child \$20)
9-12 graders: \$40 (2nd child \$25)
NFTY on line Registration:
www.nfty.org/no/events/

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 cggor-don50@hotmail.com.

Membership

Do you know of any unaffiliated Jews looking for a congregation?
If so, contact Karen Zussman membership chairperson at kzussman@aol.com

PLANT A TREE IN ISRAEL

Commemorate happy occasions...

births, engagements, marriages,

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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 Web Site Address...

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

Check it out!

**The
Yiddish
Corner**

BAGROOBEN
(behGROObn)

Buried

I am so *Bagrooben* with work.

On the Lighter Side...

The Eight Nights of Hanukkah

On the first night of Chanukah, my Jewish mother said to me, "You'd better lose some weight or you'll be dead."

On the second night of Chanukah, my mother said to me, "Have a few more latkes, but you'd better lose some weight or you'll be dead."

On the third night of Chanukah, my mother said to me, "Here's your chocolate dreidel, have a few more latkes, but you'd better lose some weight or you'll be dead."

On the fourth night of Chanukah, my mother said to me, "Taste my sugar cookies, here's your chocolate dreidel, have a few more latkes, but you'd better lose weight or you'll be dead."

On the fifth night of Chanukah, my mother said to me, "YOU'RE GETTING FAT! Taste my sugar cookies, here's your chocolate dreidel, have a few more latkes, but you'd better lose some weight or you'll be dead."

On the sixth night of Chanukah, my mother said to me, "Don't you like the doughnuts? YOU'RE GETTING FAT! Taste my sugar cookies, here's your chocolate dreidel, have a few more latkes, but you'd better lose some weight or you'll be dead."

On the seventh night of Chanukah, my mother said to me, "Take another brownie. YOU'RE GETTING FAT! Taste my sugar cookies, here's your chocolate dreidel, have a few more latkes, but you'd better lose some weight or you'll be dead."

On the eighth night of Chanukah, my mother said to me, "Try my home-made strudel. Take another brownie. YOU'RE GETTING FAT! Taste my sugar cookies, here's your chocolate dreidel, have a few more latkes, but you'd better lose some weight or you'll be dead."



**December 2017
Religious Services**

December 1
Family Shabbat Service 7:30 pm

December 8
Erev Shabbat Service 7:30 pm

December 15
Erev Shabbat Service 6:00 pm
Dinner to follow

December 22
Kabbalat Shabbat Service 6:00 pm

December 29
Erev Shabbat Service 7:30 pm

Temple Beth-El Leadership

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President Elect	Robert Levy
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Web Maven	Harvey Melamed
V.P. Community	Karen Zussman
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V.P. Religious Functions	Brian Shore
V.P. Building & Grounds	David Quimby
Jewish Federation Rep.	Ellen Dietz
Past President	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, is preferred.