

# TEMPLE BETH-EL



## BULLETIN

December 2016 1 Kislev - 2 Tevet 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.

## Community Hanukkah Party Dec 18th

### Community Hanukkah Party

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

Sunday, December 18- 10:00-12:00

Stop by and enjoy the delights of  
Hanukkah.

Our religious school students 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!



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Chaverim,

Wow. November 2016 was certainly a dramatic month in many ways, perhaps one of the most dramatic months that I can remember in my life-time. It began with the tremendous, earth-shaking moment of the Cubs World Series victory on November 4<sup>th</sup>. I can still scarcely believe that it happened! For those of us who are Cubs fans, either "life-ers" or new-comers, Game 7 felt like several life-times passing before us. It is hard to put into words the sheer elation of that moment.



From Rabbi Binah Wing

I'm sure you know what the other major event of November was – Election Day on November 8<sup>th</sup>. Some people were happy with the result. For others it was a very difficult night and the days that have followed have continued those feelings. I spoke briefly about the election on two of the Friday nights in November and I want to share the essence of what I said on one of those nights.

I reminisced about how when I first was hired by Temple Beth-El, it seemed that every Shabbat had a theme – Reproductive Rights Shabbat, National Volunteer Shabbat, Hunger Awareness Shabbat, Earth Day Shabbat, and so on. I made it clear that, while these issues were important, and that I might choose to speak about them, that we weren't going to officially label Shabbat. The theme of Shabbat, I asserted, is Shabbat which is about rest, joy and holiness.

Toward that end, I reflected that night, each Shabbat could be considered Election Aftermath Shabbat, in which we continue to discuss the latest goings-on with the government. I made it clear that I do

not intend to engage in this constant conversation. And the reason is because of the single conclusion that I came to which is this: Our clarion call as Jews is unchanged. Unchanged. It is as it has always been. The Prophetic call of our tradition is clear what we are to do. What is that? Come to the defense of the oppressed. Feed the hungry. Give clothing and shelter to those who are without. Protect the weakest of our society. Our tradition speaks of the widow and the orphan. While we mean that literally, it also means that we are to care for those who are alone, who may be more vulnerable because of their status, who may have problems, like a widow or an orphan, that they did not create that stem from who they are and situations in their lives that they had nothing to do with creating.

These are the tasks that our tradition has always stood for. That is what we need to continue to stand for. That is the work we have to continue to do. Nothing has changed except perhaps our sense of urgency to this work.

Toward that end, in the sermon, I referenced the idea of trying to affect our individual spheres of influence – *dalet amot* in Hebrew. This is about trying to make a difference in our own relationships and experiences. Maybe your *dalet amot* is in your home or your workplace. Maybe you are volunteering somewhere. Maybe you could start. Maybe it's just buying the coffee for the person behind you in line. We can continue to influence our world for the good if we continue to bring kindness to our own spheres of influence.

In a few 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. Hanukkah also speaks of rededication, commemorating the rededication of the Temple. This Hanukkah we need to rededicate ourselves to our clarion call as Jews – to continue to be a light unto the nations – bringing light into the darkness and making the world around us, even on the smallest level, better for everyone within it.

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

Chag urim sameach,  
Rabbi Wing

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



The Temple Board met on November 9<sup>th</sup>. Ellen Salley led the D'Var Torah based on the Torah portion Lech Lecha. This Torah portion is about God telling Abraham to leave his homeland and go to a place where God will show him. God will bless him and make him a great nation. God is challenging Abraham's faith. Abraham is 75 years old when God challenges him and he has to decide if he is capable to take on the challenge both physically and mentally. Just like Abraham, we have to know ourselves and our capabilities as we face the challenges in our lives. Lech Lecha teaches us that if we have faith in God and ourselves we can overcome our challenges. Ellen read her son's Bar Mitzvah speech to the board because his Torah portion was Lech Lecha.

Jim reported that the fourth planning session would be at Mary Roufa's home. After the sessions, the board will meet to go over the findings. Jim thanked Mary and her committee for all the hard work they did on the Art Auction and the GRTY students who helped with the Art.

Rabbi led the Simchat Torah service ending it by singing "Go Cubs Go" in honor of the Cubs winning the World Series. She attended the second and third planning sessions and the Art Auction. She is still planning the fifth/sixth grade retreat.

Sharon gave the treasurer's report. Brina reported that the Finance committee is working on the five year plan and met with Scott Laue. Scott said that our average rate of return on our investments are around 7%. At this time we have 88 members. Rob reported that the Foundation lost-1.76% for the month of October but is doing fine for the year.

Andrea said that the Religious Functions committee decided to do a Hanukkah Oneg instead of a dinner this year since Hanukkah is so late.

Jordan reported that the parking lot will be fixed sometime this fall or next spring. A concern was brought up about the carpeting in the sanctuary. He will be looking into that. Jordan discussed other minor issues he is working on.

There were five new students consecrated at the Simchat Torah services. The Sunday school students were allowed to attend the adult education chocolate program and enjoyed it. They will be able to attend the Jewop program as well. Lauren thanked all the parents and GRTY members who made a record number (54) of pies



On behalf of the Temple Board of Directors, I want to thank all of you who participated in the Strategic Planning process. We have now held four Strategic

Planning sessions, under

the guidance of Larry Pearlman, and I believe that we heard from a cross-section of our membership. The Board of Directors plans to meet with Larry for an extended retreat style forum, sometime in late December or early January. During the retreat, we will discuss the many views that were presented at the Strategic Planning sessions and discuss how best to move forward in order to strengthen our Temple religiously, culturally and financially. The Board will thereafter present its plan to the entire congregation.

If you were not able to attend one of the Strategic Planning sessions, please feel free to contact Larry or me in the next couple of weeks to give us your opinions about what you perceive to be the strengths and weaknesses of Temple Beth-El. Your comments are most welcome.

The next time you come to Temple Beth-El, please take a look at the rear parking lot near the dumpster. That area of the parking lot has long been in need of repair. Thanks to the efforts of Jay Sklar, Jordan Towne and Ben Holmstrom, that work was completed in November. We can now feel at ease when the garbage truck drives over that part of the parking lot to empty the dumpster.

Finally, on behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to wish everybody a happy Chanukah. Please join us at Shabbat services on Friday evening December 30, 2016, to celebrate Chanukah and to nosh on some latkes.

## We Need Volunteers!!

We are looking for help and donations for the Soup Kitchen on December 25th. We do 2 sessions: 9:00-11:30 or 11:30-1:30 We also need turkey carvers for Friday the 23rd at around 5:00.

If you are interested in helping in any way please contact Ronit  
815-222-4259 or [pitagolan@yahoo.com](mailto:pitagolan@yahoo.com)  
Thank you!  
Ronit

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

this year. The GRTY students also participated in a Team Building workshop and helped at the Art Auction.

Karen and Faye delivered 225 pounds of food and \$1200 to the Rock River Food Pantry from our High Holy Day drive. We will still be collecting plastic bags and have already donated 5 bins full.

The Art Auction went well and Mary received a lot of compliments. Mary felt this was a learning experience since it was done differently than in the past. She will be meeting with her committee to discuss what went well and suggestions for improvement.

Ellen Dietz reported that Goldie gave two talks about the Holocaust and is collecting household goods and clothing for a family from Burma. Barbara Brown will be talking to a Lutheran Men's Club and at Rockford University. She will also be doing the next book discussion on the book, The Boston Girl by Anita Diamant. The time and place has not been chosen yet. The annual meeting of the Federation will be on December 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 at the Temple. A Hanukkah cookie making and spaghetti dinner will be held at the Geller home on December 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:30.

The board held a discussion about the Temple Facilitator. Jay's term will end in January 2017. Due to the lateness of the meeting more discussion will be held at the next meeting.

## Ways & Means News

Start with a Smile at

[smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) this Holiday Season

Support us and find all of your holiday essentials including gifts, decorations, and more.

You shop. Amazon gives.

**amazon**smile

*StartWithaSmile at*  
[smile.amazon.com/ch/36-2970986](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/36-2970986) for your holiday gifts and Amazon donates to Temple Beth-El.



# SCHOOLE DAZE

200 Words or Less...

By Goldie & Adrian



The students had a great time when they attended another wonderful Adult Ed program in November. Jewop, a Jewish A Cappella group from Madison entertained all of us for over an hour. These talented college students shared all types of Jewish songs as well as songs written by several Jewish artists. Our students were very engaged and asked a lot of great questions. Thanks for the opportunity to see and hear these talented Jewish young adults!

On November 19th we celebrated the Bar Mitzvah of Joe Gesmer. We would like to say Mazel Tov to the entire Gesmer family!

We would like to thank Andrea Baird for sharing her computer expertise and helping us find several computers to update our computer lab. We appreciate all her efforts!

Our annual Chanukah celebration will be on Sunday, December 18, the last session before winter break. Everyone is welcome to attend.

In our last newsletter we listed our newly enrolled students in Religious School. We inadvertently omitted Regan Baird's name. Welcome to Regan, our only fifth grader!

We will be showing the new OSRUI summer camp video before winter break. Students should be taking camp brochures home to share with you. If you have any questions regarding camp, please give us a call or call the number in the brochure. We encourage families to consider this wonderful opportunity for their children. Camperships are available locally through Temple and Federation and OSRUI as well.

Sunday School resumes on January 15. Have a great vacation and till next time, Shalom.

## Social Action on the Go...

Thank you to all our members who donated both food and monetary gifts to the Rock River Pantry during our annual High Holy Day collection. This year we donated 225 lbs. of food and



\$1200! The Pantry serves residents in Rockford and Winnebago county. As Jewish people, we look to Tikkun Olam as part of our social action initiatives.

We are continuing to collect plastic bags for the homeless veterans. So far, we have sent 5 barrels of plastic bags to the local organization. Please continue to bring in your bags.



**Save the Date**

**KICK-OFF MEETING**

**January 18th, 2017**

## December Oneg Committee

December 2  
Wendy and John Huss  
Karen and Marc Zussman  
December 9  
Pam Reum  
Andrea Levey  
December 16  
Mary Roufa  
Ellen Salley  
December 23  
No oneg  
December 30  
Latke 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.



## POTATO PANCAKES FOR PARKINSON'S



Please come to our Potato Pancakes for  
Parkinson's Disease  
Event taking place on December 18

Sponsored by the Jewish Federation and TBE  
Religious 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' research.

For more information, please contact Goldie at the  
Jewish  
Federation - 815-399-5497 or [rockfordfederation@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rockfordfederation@sbcglobal.net)

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

## December Birthdays & Anniversaries

<b>Adults</b>		Jill Shacter	12/31
Payton Kammerer	12/01	Jillian Deutsch	12/31
Yana Peysakhovich	12/1		
Lauren Weiss	12/3	<b>Children</b>	
Aron Tatman	12/4	Eloise Towne	12/08/06
Laura Sage	12/5	Adam Ahles	12/11/10
Arielle Einhorn	12/8	Regan Baird	12/28/05
Susan Kamin	12/10		
Philip Sklar	12/12	<b>ANNIVERSARIES</b>	
Jenna Glassman	12/13	Jerry & Connie Paris	12/14/69
Sean Pekarsky	12/15	Warren & Sharon	
Bud Wiener	12/17	Goldsand	12/20/70
Michael Whitman	12/19	Larry & Lisa Pearlman	12/20/14
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		



## 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 Dec 2**

Mildred Friedberg  
Shirley R. Zellick  
Anne Paris  
Jack Dermer  
Nathan Kobrin  
Belle Dermer  
Murry Halikman  
Rose Osran  
Rose Beiman  
Rachel Feinstein  
Leonard Block  
Beila Levina  
Mollie Sklar Stern  
Esther Rothstein  
Isador J. Behr  
Shirley Ruthe Chamberlain  
Harry Chemerow

#### **Read Dec 9**

Rabbi Saul B. Appelbaum  
Walter Oppenheimer  
Harold Vision  
Max Brenner  
Ralph Levin  
Zella Turcott  
Lillian Reicher  
Allen B. Cohen  
Louis Marks  
Gitel Furen  
Joe Kimmelman

#### **Read Dec 16**

Morton Bernstein  
Bernice Fusch  
Dr. Oscar Weinstein  
Ruth Oberndorf  
Bess Weinstein  
Morris Osran  
Ben Rossin  
Herbert Weissbauch  
Julius Katz  
Eva G. Patlove  
Arthur Zussman  
David L. Hillman

#### **Read Dec 23**

Bernice Ernstein  
Goldie Simon  
Lillian Bedsole

### **YAHRZEITS cont.**

Walley Peters  
Rudolph Wertheim  
Evelyn Goldberg Kupperman  
George L. Shanhouse  
Rae Sachs Bamberger  
Joseph Esrick  
Sol Levy

#### **Read December 30**

Martha Silverstein  
Ann Behr Alter  
Max Swerdlik  
Marcia Holmstrom  
Marion Weiner  
Wally Daniel



### **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**

#### **Dermer Fund**

In honor of Jay and Louise Gesmer and JJ and Fere Javaherian, 2016 Federation honorees  
In memory of Ed Light  
In memory of Julie Spark's mother  
-Adrian and Gerald Grubb

#### **Garten Fund**

In honor of Jay and Louise Gesmer being honored by the Jewish Federation  
-Glori Rosenson

In memory of Julie Spark's mother  
In memory of Ed Light  
-Faye Marcus

### **Landscaping Fund**

In honor of Jay and Louise Gesmer being honored by the Jewish Federation  
-Judy and Chuck Picus

### **Sheldon Liebovich Fund**

Mazel Tov to Barb and Steven Lirtzman on the engagement of Robert and Jess  
-Jay and Susan Kamin

In honor of Robert and Jess' engagement  
Congratulations to Jodie and Greg Kay on the birth of Rimona  
In memory of Sheldon Liebovich  
In memory of Tony Toback  
In memory of Ruth Einhorn  
In memory of Toni Mulford  
-Barb and Steven Lirtzman

In memory of Shirley Shapiro  
In memory of Rochelle Rubin  
In honor of Barbara and Steven Lirtzman's move back to Rockford  
-Rosie and Chuck Hyman

### **Unrestricted Donations**

In honor of Rabbi and all of our friends and congregants at Temple Beth-El

-Joy and Steven Schneider

In memory of Tony and Marilyn Toback

-Matthew and Patricia Lerner

In memory of Lillian Gersten  
-Sharon Goldenson

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 Schaider 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.





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

*Dear TBE Friends:*

*This "Minute with a Member" features David and Alma Quimby. Please take a few moments to learn a bit more about them. Below are answers to a few questions. We hope you will enjoy getting to know them a little better!*

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

We originally met in Jr. High. David moved away our freshman year of High School. Years later we were brought back together and fell in love. After getting married, we moved to Winnebago where we currently reside with our children, Aidan and Aariah, and our dog Brinkley.

### **Something people would be surprised to learn about us:**

We home school.

### **Your favorite Temple activities:**

Torah Study!

### **Favorite Judaic holiday or food:**

Alma's homemade Challah bread.

**Your motto in life:** If you do good, people may accuse you of selfish ulterior motives and the good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway.

**What is the best advice you have ever received?** This too shall pass.

**Favorite movies, books, or music:** David - It's A Wonderful Life; Alma - The Da Vinci Code.; Aidan- Star Wars, and Aariah-Harry Potter.

**-If you could meet anyone, living or dead, who would you want to meet?** Abraham and Sarah.



## **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:  
GRTY Board member  
Ben Levy

While we are now making the transition from November to December on GRTY's calendar, I have been given the privilege to write and reflect on what our fantastic youth group has accomplished during November and what

we will be diving into as we flip our calendars to December.

Our first event of November was the Temple Art Auction which was on Saturday, November 5. For this event, GRTY members were asked to volunteer from

3:30 P.M. to 6:30 P.M. or from 6:30 P.M. to 10:00 P.M.

Those who chose to volunteer in the first time slot helped set up

the auction, while those who chose to volunteer in the latter helped with the operation of the auction itself. Everyone who participated did an outstanding job keeping up with the fast-paced nature of the auction. An added bonus occurred when the teens recognized and appreciated interesting Jewish values depicted in many of the pieces.

On Sunday, November 6th, GRTY gathered once again for the Team Building activity with Tony Tosh, a guidance counselor/social worker from the Palatine school District. During team building, we played several fun games/activities such as a ball activity which helped members become better acquainted with one another and reinforced the important GRTY idea of group contribution to leadership rather than one individual always leading the group. Another experience was The Helium Stick Activity. In addition to being incredibly challenging and somewhat mind-

boggling, this challenge helped with team bonding, trust, and once again reinforced another GRTY value-listening to others' ideas. Later on, we discussed the Johari Window and how it can be used to increase trust between group members and emphasized introspection as the key to do so. We were so fortunate to have Tony come out to Rockford once again since it had been a couple of years since he was here last. Thank you to the Jewish Federation for making this possible for us!!!

The following Sunday, November 13th, Amy Heilman from Rock Valley College came in to further inform GRTY about the service project that we are doing this year. In case you didn't know and want to know, GRTY is helping the Rockford Refugee Program collect personal hygiene items, winter clothing, etc. The

meeting was wonderful, and we even had the opportunity to speak with a teen refugee, Zara, and learn more about what it is like to be a refugee.

As we move into December, GRTY's annual Laser Quest and Shogun Chanukah Party and gift exchange on December 4th is a highlight of the GRTY calendar and a favorite of many GRTYites (including myself). Then, on December 25th, many GRTYites will give back to the community through volunteering at the Soup Kitchen.

It's been a fantastic year for GRTY so far, and we all are looking forward to many more months of GRTY-packed fun!



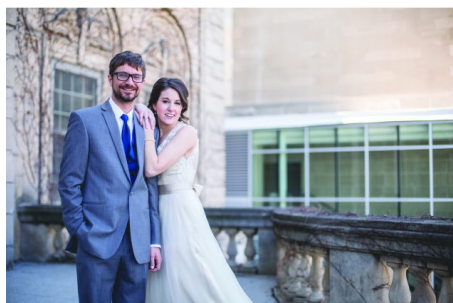


# Mindy Joy

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[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**

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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

## January 2017 February 2017 March 2017

Sun. 12th Purim Service and Federation Party

## April 2017

Sun. 2nd Good Deeds Day  
Sun. 23rd Holocaust Remembrance  
Sun. 30th Israel Day

## May 2017

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

## November 2017

## December 2017

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

Dec. 4 Laser Quest & Shogun Hanukkah Party: 3:20-7:00 pm

Fri. Dec. 16-18 NFTY Winter Kallah: OSRUI-Oconomowoc, WI

Dec. 25\*Soup Kitchen: (4/shift) 9-11:45; 11:30-1:30 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 (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**

**FARPOTSHKET**

(farPOTCHket)

Mixed-up, nonsensical

I've never seen or heard such a *farpotshket* argument. He doesn't know what he's talking about.

**On the Lighter Side...**

The Italian says, I'm tired and thirsty. I must have wine.

The Scotsman says, I'm tired and thirsty. I must have Scotch.

The Russian says, I'm tired and thirsty. I must have vodka.

The Jew says, I'm tired and thirsty. I must have diabetes.

An Orthodox man was traveling on El Al, when his seat mate asked what he did for a living.

"I'm a rabbi."

"Well," said the man condescendingly, "I was born Jewish. I don't know much about it, but I presume you could sum it up in one sentence: 'Do unto others as you would have others do unto you.'"

The rabbi smiled, then said, "And what do *you* do for a living?"

"I'm an astrophysicist," he replied smugly.

Well," said the rabbi, "I don't know much about it, but I presume I too, could sum it up in one sentence: 'Twinkle, twinkle, little star -- how I wonder what you are.'"

Rivka Baumgarten tottered into a lawyer's office.

"I want a divorce."

"A divorce?" asked the shocked lawyer.

"You hoid me, sonny! A divorce."

"Mrs. Baumgarten ... how old are you?"

"Ninety."

"And your husband?"

"Irving? Ninety-two -- next month."

"Well ... how long have you been married?" he asked in disbelief.

"Tomorrow, 70 years."

"Seventy years?! Why a divorce now?"

"Sonny," said Rivka ... **"enough is enough."**



**December 2016  
Religious Services**

December 2  
Family Shabbat Service 7:30 pm

December 9  
Erev Shabbat Service 7:30 pm

December 16  
Erev Shabbat Service 7:30 pm

December 23  
Kabbalat Shabbat Service 6:00 pm

December 30  
Hanukkah Service  
& Latke Oneg 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.