

TEMPLE BETH-EL



BULLETIN

June 2017 7 Sivan - 6 Tammuz 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.

Food-A-Rama 2017 A Success

The 55th Annual Food-A-Rama, Deli for a day, at Temple Beth-El is now in the books. Once again it was all hands-on deck to do everything from making blintzes to delivering sandwiches to manning our always popular and successful drive-thru. This year saw a new setup configuration and a new dessert menu. Both worked well

“Temple Beth-El earns the equivalent of 20 to 25 full dues paying members from this event.”

and will become part of next year's plan. Special thanks go out to Ronit Golan, Sharon Goldsand and Faye Marcus for managing food, money and personnel. “This annual event wouldn't be possible without all the hours put in by the volunteers,” according to Jay Sklar. “Temple Beth-

El earns the equivalent of 20 to 25 full dues paying members from this event.” While the numbers are not yet final, we expect to net dollars similar to last year. We continue to receive rave reviews from the public about Food-A-Rama and how they look forward to it each year. Mark your calendar for the 3rd Wednesday in May 2018, May 16, 2018.

Chaverim,

Happy June everyone! I'm glad to welcome the slower pace of things that the summer usually brings. I want to let you know of a few events happening in June and give you an overview of our family summer plans, but first, big thanks are due to everyone who helped make Food-A-Rama such a great success. Special thanks to chairs Ronit Golan and Jay Sklar. Your tireless work is so appreciated by us all! This is an amazing endeavor that involves almost everyone in the congregation so everyone pat yourself on the back for a job well done. And now for the events...



From Rabbi Binah Wing

Tuesday, June 6th – Torah on Tap at the Sinnissippi Band Shell

In lieu of our regular meeting at a restaurant, we will be going to hear the Phantom Regiment for the first of the summer concerts at the Band Shell at Sinnissippi Park. The concert begins at 7pm. For those who RSVP, we'll enjoy a picnic dinner together. We'll meet at the park between 5:30 and 6:00 (we need to get there early as it's a VERY popular night). I'll bring the chicken and sides from KFC. You can bring your own drinks. RSVP as soon as possible so we know if we'll have enough food! Please note that **this event will be on the 1st Tuesday of the month** instead of our usual 2nd Tuesday gathering.

Sunday, June 11th – Annual Meeting – 10am

Please come and hear what's going on at Temple and vote in our new Board members. A tasty breakfast is included.

June 23rd – City Market Shabbat – 6pm

We'll meet at Roni's art gallery for services and then head out to City Market for dinner. NOTE: Roni's gallery has moved since last year. It is now called The Underground and is located under Kuma's restaurant at 418 E.

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State Street. Marc Soriano and David Sklar will be leading services.

Rabbi Wing Summer Plans

June 18th – July 2nd – I'll be again serving as faculty at OSRUI, our Reform Jewish summer camp. During this time, I will have limited access to email and cell reception.

July 3rd – July 7th – I'll be in the office with limited hours.

July 8th – July 16th – I'll be on vacation with my family in Northern Wisconsin.

July 17th – August 5th – I'll be back at the Temple and in the office.

August 6th – 18th – I'll be mostly in the office during these two weeks but will be taking a few vacation days here and there.

Other dates to note:

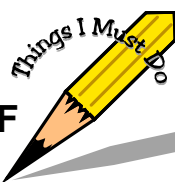
July 28th – S'more Shabbat – Always a favorite with a hot dog dinner and yummy s'mores!

August 18th – Pet Shabbat – Note – this will be a 6pm service even though it's not the 4th Friday. Come enjoy this popular but short service!

I hope that the summer brings you warmth, relaxation, and joy.

Shalom,
Rabbi Wing

NOTICE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF TEMPLE BETH-EL SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 2017 AT 10:00 A.M. SOCIAL HALL



The agenda will include:

- election of officers to the Board of Directors
- approval of the fiscal budget for the upcoming year

***Breakfast will be served at 10:00 a.m. with the meeting starting shortly thereafter.

(If you cannot attend please mail or drop off the proxy vote you received in the mail.)

HOPE TO SEE EVERYONE THERE!!!!

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



The Temple Board met on May 10th, 2017. Mary Roufa led the D'Var Torah. Mary's Torah portion was Parshah Emor. This Parshah connects Passover with Shavout. It talks about the counting of the Omer and how it was linked to agriculture. There are three interpretations of this Parshah. The first is an expression of gratitude that God provides for us. The second is that it is our duty to provide for the less fortunate even if we are not doing well ourselves. The portion talks about bundling barley, and if you drop it or forget it you should not go back for it, but leave it for someone else. The third interpretation is that we need not only to care for others but to take care of ourselves as well.

Jim asked Brian Shore to give us an update on the sanctuary renovation proposals. Brian said that the committee met and got quotes from three different architects. The quotes all start with a basic fee and then will be changed as the plan is developed and refined. The goal was to keep the look of the Temple and the acoustics the same. The committee recommended Hagney and associates. After discussion, the board voted and went with the committee's recommendation. Brian thought the project if and when approved would take about six weeks to finish.

Jim then asked Jerry Paris to present the findings from the evaluation committee. Jerry explained that the same members of the committee from two years ago, also participated on this committee to try to keep things consistent. Jerry handed out the final evaluation to the board. After the board discussed the contents, a motion was made to accept the recommendation of the evaluation committee as headed by Jerry Paris. The motion passed unanimously.

Rabbi led a Passover Seder for over 100 people at Christ United Methodist Church. She explained that the Jewish Seder is not what Jesus did and is not the "Last Supper". She felt the Seder went well. Jay was there also, and he felt the Seder was very meaningful for them and very much appreciated. Jordan brought up that we could donate plates to the United Methodist Church since we have so many extras. The Rabbi taught a world religion class to the seniors at Keith School. The Rabbi attended the Temple Beth El open house, helped make blintzes for FAR, coordinated and helped lead the Federation joint Shabbat service, and participated in the Holocaust Remembrance.

Sharon reported that there was nothing unusual financially this month. Rob reported that we had a slight gain in the Foundation in April, and we are still doing well for the year.

The Religious Functions committee met and decided on the dates for the special summer Shabbat services. The dates are:

June 23- City Market Shabbat

Continue please on Page 3



I want to thank all Temple members who volunteered to help make Food-A-Rama another great success. From those who delivered lunches, to those who made sandwiches and

baked beans, to those who packaged the lunches, to those who served lunches, to those who sold baked goods and to those who helped with set-up and clean-up, your help was greatly appreciated. Most of all, I want to give a big thank you to Ronit Golan, Sharon Goldsand, Faye Marcus, Sara Deutsch and Jay Sklar for organizing things and to help to ensure that all went smoothly. Without their leadership and devotion, Food-A-Rama would not be the success that it has become.

This year's Food-A-Rama was the first time that I had spent the entire day at Temple Beth-El. During the day, I spoke to several members of the community-at-large who told me that they are grateful that we continue to hold this event. It was gratifying to hear that our biggest fundraising event is held in such high regard by the Rockford area community. Obviously, this is great P.R. for our congregation.

I also want to thank Lauren Lamont and Jordan Towne, who are ending their terms as Temple board members. Lauren is finishing her term as Vice-President of Education and Jordan is finishing his term as Vice-President of Buildings and Grounds. They both have worked very hard in their positions, and their presence will be missed on the Temple board.

Please plan to attend the Temple annual meeting on Sunday June 11. Breakfast will be served at 10:00, followed by the annual meeting. This past year has been hectic and exciting, as we embark upon implementing our Strategic Plan. Larry Pearlman will present a Strategic Plan update at the annual meeting.

Jim

I also want to thank Lauren Lamont and Jordan Towne, who are ending their terms as Temple board members.

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

July 28- S'More Shabbat

August 18- Pet Shabbat and honoring graduating seniors

Jordan reported that the carpeting in the basement is done. He moved all the furniture and cleaned the closets. Jordan is fixing the rolling carts. The heat is working upstairs now and the kitchen door and the dishwasher will be fixed. The board approved a motion to fix some landscaping that Barbara Simon brought to the board's attention.

Lauren reported that Sunday school is over for the year. The students celebrated Israel's birthday on the last day. GRTY'S trip to Chicago was a big success. They went to the Museum of Science and Industry and were able to go behind the scenes of some of the exhibits. After the Museum, they went to the Comedy Sportz Theatre and had a good time. Lauren thanked all the chaperones. The teens helped with the Holocaust Memorial Service, the Golden Years Prom, and setting and cleaning up Food-A-Rama. The annual pot luck/bonfire will be on May 20th where the new Executive Board will be installed.

Karen reported that the social action committee will be collecting peanut butter for the Rock River Pantry in June. The Membership Open House brought us three new members. Karen thanked the Temple members that were there to greet the perspective members. Karen had poster boards, membership information packets and food for the occasion. Roni Golan called Karen to propose that we have a social event at his Underground Studio. More information and a date will need to be determined.

Mary reported that the art auction will have a theme and will be at Midway Village. ABC catering has been contacted for the food. The auction will be on November 11th.

Ellen reported that on Thursday May 11th, Frank Ingardona will give a safety presentation. He is the training director of the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office. On Sunday June 4th, Elie Rekhess will speak about "The Legitimacy of the State of Israel – Historical Perspectives". There will be breakfast at 10:00 with the presentation at 10:30. The book talk on Once We Were Brothers will be on July 9th. The talk will take place at 2:00 tentatively at the Temple. The Federation will participate in One Rockford Plate at Midway Village on July 13th.

Congratulations to Aaron Gesmer and Rachel Bagne on their graduation from college.

SCHOOL DAZE

200 Words or Less...

By Goldie & Adrian



Welcome to summer break! Where did the school year go? We had a great year which ended on Sunday, April 30 with lots of fun celebrating students and teachers. We presented attendance awards to three students: Maddox Towne, Eloise Towne and Dana Wing. Each student received a gift card from Barnes & Noble.

We called to the bimah our wonderful teachers to rounds of deserved applause! We all are so thankful for each and every one: Carol Gordon, David Sklar, Jim Gesmer, Andrea Levey, Barbara Simon, Mitch Kopnick, Ronit Golan, Sandy Simon and our own Rabbi Wing. Thanks to Jordan Towne for taking care of our building needs and special thanks to our youth group leaders Nanci Soriano and Lauren Lamont who set such wonderful examples for our youth! Everyone received a sweet treat as a token of our appreciation.

Later in the morning students created beautiful colorful maps of Israel with the guidance of Sandy Simon and continuing with our Israeli Day celebration theme, the children sang Israeli songs directed by Barbara Simon and Mitch Kopnick. The morning culminated with our Israeli falafel and more festive lunch. Thanks so much to chef Ronit and all of her volunteer kitchen helpers! We so appreciate everyone who lent a helping hand during our school year!

Thanks to our Education Committee and chair Lauren Lamont who kept the Board informed of school activities.

We'd like to take this opportunity to say a hearty Mazel Tov to the entire Towne family on the Bar Mitzvah of Maddox Towne on May 27!

Have a great summer vacation and to hear more details about Religious School come to the annual meeting on June 11th.

Till next time, Shalom.

Letters to the Editor...

It's Friday and I got home in the afternoon and I'm tired. I enjoy going to services, but I just don't think I have the energy. My bride says, "Cindy will be singing tonight" and I think, well I enjoy Cindy and I enjoy services, so okay I guess we will go. This is a case of I needed a push because I am always glad when I go to services but often just don't. Before services began, a guest walked in the front doors and it was Linda (Footerman) Saccamondo. We hugged and caught up and of course wanted to know how she wound up to be in the Midwest after so many years. What a pleasant surprise and chance for all of us to catch up with a former member, former choir member and longtime congregant.

Services began and Cindy began to sing, and I relaxed into the spirit of Shabbat. Rabbi read a note from Kathy Rettig asking for a discussion on Mental health issues and their importance. The Rabbi in lieu of a sermon led the discussion and everyone participated and shared their thoughts and views. A discussion, that carried over to the Oneg as well. On our way home, I found myself humming the prayers. I also reflected on how close I had come to staying home and what a meaningful and enjoyable Erev Shabbat I would have missed.

-Jerry Paris

10 Minutes of Torah

UNION FOR REFORM JUDAISM'S
DEPARTMENT OF LIFELONG JEWISH LEARNING

The Union will send you a one page e-mail
each day on a topic of Jewish Interest.
All you need to do is find 10 minutes a day
to "do Torah."

Sign up by logging on to
WWW.urj.org/Torah/Ten

June Oneg Committee

June 2

Lisa and Larry Pearlman
Jill Shacter

The Temple
Beth-El

June 9

Ginny and Sheldon Weiss
Susan and Stephen Weiss

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.

June 16

Jay Sklar
David and Vicki Sklar

June 23

No Oneg

June 30

Andrea and Brian Bear
Merle Langs



SAVE THE DATE!!

Please join us for our next
Temple Beth-El Social
Get Together

An enjoyable adult evening

August 26, 2017

7-10pm

at Roni Golan's

THE UNDERGROUND ART GALLERY

Havdallah, socializing and create a collaborative painting for
our Temple!

A GREAT NIGHT OUT NOT TO BE MISSED!!!

June Birthdays & Anniversaries

Adults

Gillian Weiss 6/4
Stephen Weiss 6/4
Jason Gesmer 6/5
Andrea Levey 6/5
Terry Gordon 6/6
Steven Schneider 6/6
Shlomo Wing 6/6
Andrea Olson 6/10
Jay Sklar 6/10
Carol Gordon 6/12
Yelena Slobard 6/13
Lauren Bear 6/14
Jacob Pekarsky 6/17
Nathaniel Huss 6/18
Pat Wiener 6/20
Eric Lamont 6/21
James Slobard 6/23
Gerry Schaidler 6/25
Melissa Tatman 6/27
Marc Zussman 6/27
Rebecca Rettig 6/30

Wendy & Fred Young

6/6/81

Karen & Marc Zussman

6/6/93

Leda & Jordan Nevler

6/12/66

Julie & Greg Sparks

6/12/82

John & Katherine

Rosenbloom 6/14/15

Louise & Jason Gesmer

6/15/54

Lisa & Robert Levy

6/17/95

Barb & Steven Lirtzman

6/23/85

Ellen & Fred Dietz

6/27/71

Colleen and Howard

Morris 6/28/08

Lisa & Mitchell Kopnick

6/29/96

Natalie & Harvey Share

6/29/53

Children

Maddox Towne 6/26/04

Anniversaries

Sara & David Deutsch 6/3/89
Pat & Bud Wiener 6/4/60



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 June 2

David Dietz
Jerold Dermer
Fajga Kleinberg
Tillie Davidson
Shauna Adelman
Leo Blumenthal
Morton Steinback
Celia Behr
Judy Gail Behr

Read June 9

Louis Hoffman
Joseph Behr
Marilyn Toback
Jackie Halickman
Arthur Kadison
Augusta Kaufer
Harry Beiman
Ethel Mendeloff
William Friedberg
James Linsky
James H. Weissenberg
Ida Freifeld

Read June 16

Walter Swanson
Philip Edelheit
Harry Kastenbaum
Henry S. Rosenberg
David W. Goldman
Eli Pavey

Read June 23

Bertha Gross
Lester Miller
Rose Wish
Kathryn J. Druker
Joseph Tobias
Isidore Selig Kharasch
Sylvia Blustein
Ruth S. Taitelman
Mary Desnick
Arthur L. Goldberg

Read June 30

Nathan Goldsand
Leon Rosenblatt
Morris Soriano
Esther Toback



YAHRZEITs cont.

Yankel Levin
Jacob Block
Morris Rosenson
Fruma Backman

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

Congratulations to Mary Shore on receiving the RSO award
In memory of Phyllis Bierman
-Jay and Susan Kamin

Dermer Fund

In memory of Jerry Dermer
-Brenda Dermer and family

Landscaping Fund

In memory of Phyllis Bierman
-Judy and Chuck Picus

In honor of Maddox Towne's Bar Mitzvah

In honor of Joe Gesmer's Bar Mitzvah

-Andrea, Adam and Regan Baird

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In honor of Maddox Towne's Bar Mitzvah
-Nanci and Marc Soriano

In memory of Phyllis Bierman
-David and Sara Deutsch

In honor of Lisa and Larry Pearlman

-The Towne Family

Sheldon Liebovich Fund

In memory of Shirley Liebovich
-Rosie and Chuck Hyman

Mazel tov to Barb and Steven Lirtzman on Michelle's engagement
-Jay and Susan Kamin

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.

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.

Hannah & Herbert Saal Fund provides funds for the betterment of Temple Beth-El.

Landscaping Fund provides funding for enhancements to our grounds.

The Michael Dermer Religious School Fund was established for the purpose of raising money to support religious school activities. This fund is used to provide enrichment programs, scholarships and youth activities.

June 2017 marks the 50th anniversary of the unification of Jerusalem - The 6 Day War
To mark this occasion, the Jewish Federation of Greater Rockford,
Temple Beth-El Adult Education Committee, and Congregation Ohave Sholom present:

A Morning with Elie Rekhess

With all the propaganda surrounding Israel, it is important that the Jewish community know the facts. Elie brings a unique perspective of being both a Zionist and an expert on the Arab minority living in Israel. It is an honor to have Elie Rekhess speak in Rockford.

Elie Rekhess

The Legitimacy of the State of Israel: Historical Perspectives

Sunday, June 4, 2017

10:00 Breakfast / 10:30 Presentation



Professor Rekhess (Ph.D Tel-Aviv University) is one of Israel's leading experts on the Arab minority in Israel, Jewish-Arab relations, Palestinian politics, and Islamic resurgence in Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza. Until his retirement in 2011, he served as a Senior Research Fellow in the Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and

African Studies, Tel Aviv University, and headed the Program on Jewish-Arab Cooperation in Israel sponsored by the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (1995-2010).

As of 2013, Prof. Rekhess holds the position of Crown Visiting Professor in Israel Studies at Northwestern University. He teaches in the Department of Jewish Studies as well as in the Department of History at Northwestern. He organized the inaugural conference entitled "The Zionist Ideal in Israeli Culture: Dream and Reality" in November of 2013. In October 2015, he organized the international conference at Northwestern University "Between Baghdad and Haifa: A Tribute to Israeli Author Sami Michael." He established the NU Israeli Film Club in partnership with the Chicago Festival of Israeli Cinema in 2015 and hosted the first of a series of screenings in 2016.

He recently authored, edited, and co-edited: Muslim Minorities in non-Muslim Majority Countries: The Test Case of the Islamic Movement in Israel (2013), The Arab Society in Israel: A Compendium (2009), Arab Youth in Israel: Caught between Prospects and Risk (2008). He is currently completing two manuscripts, one on Islamic Fundamentalism in Israel and another on Communism and Arab Nationalism.

Prof. Rekhess has held a variety of central advisory posts, including Senior Consultant on Arab Minority Affairs to the Prime Minister's Office under Itzhak Rabin (1993-1994); Senior Consultant on Arab Affairs to the Histadrut Labor Organization (1994); strategic advisor to Ehud Barak during his election campaign (1999) and as an advisor to Science Minister Matan Vilna'i, Chairman of the Ministerial committee on the Arabs in Israel (1999-2000); Senior Consultant to The Abraham Fund Initiatives for the Enhancement of Jewish-Arab Coexistence (1994-2008); and Member of the Board of "Sikkuy," the Association for the Advancement of Equal Opportunities (1993-2006).

Elie Rekhess married Ankie Spitzer, widow of Andre Spitzer, who died in the Munich massacre in 1972.

Please RSVP by calling 815-398-5020 or email: Rockfordfederation@sbcglobal.net

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

GRTY NEWS

Submitted by:
Adam Gesmer
Co-President

As school came to an end for the year, it also sadly meant that GRTY was also wrapping up for the year.

GRTY started their last month off by helping the temple with the preparations for Food-A-Rama. We helped set up tables, unload meat from the trucks, and set up all 2,100 bags. When the big event was over, many of us helped with the clean up.

A very special thank you to the Levy family (Ben, Noa, Rob and Lisa) for all their help with the Golden Years Prom. Ronit continues to do an incredible job putting it all together!

A couple weeks later, the last event for the year occurred which was our annual potluck/bonfire where

we installed our new executive board and said goodbye to our only senior, Aaron Bar-enbaum, who did a great job as our Media and Technology VP. GRTY is happy to welcome Aron Tatman to the Executive Board as a class representative for next year.

Congratulations to the GRTY 2017-2018 Executive Board

Co-Presidents- Jamie Zussman, Adam Gesmer, Ben Kopnick, Religious and Spiritual VP- Ben Levy
Class Representative- Aron Tatman

After the installation, we enjoyed our annual potluck dinner, played lots of pool, ping pong, basketball and then played an intense group game of Family Feud. We ended our evening at Nanci's with a bonfire and s'mores (of course), and then the high schoolers spent the night at the Gesmer's house for the Lock-In portion. A special thank you to Mary and Jim for hosting!!!!

On Saturday, August 19, we will be kicking off the fall year of GRTY with an amazing Chicago trip to Lincoln Park Zoo, and then we will head off to see the play God of Isaac and have dinner in downtown Evanston!! What a GREAT way to start off the year!



Just a reminder, all students in grades 7-12 are welcome to be a part of GRTY this fall! Reservations are being taken now so be sure to contact Nanci Soriano or Lauren Lamont as soon as possible!!!

Because we have a large bus reserved for

GRTY, we will have extra seats available for our congregants and their families who would like to spend the day in the city and then end up at the show!! We can arrange for additional drop off and pick up points just so we all end up at the theatre in time for the matinee

performance! The bus will then return everyone to the temple after we have all had dinner. What an easy and fun way to get into Chicago and kick off the school year!!!





On behalf of Temple Beth-El
Board of Directors, Rabbi
Wing, and our members, we
would like to wish a warm
welcome to these members
that have joined our
congregation since last fall.

Amy, Tony, Ethan and
Sam Anton

Andrea, Adam and Regan
Baird

Mindy, Matthew, Adeline
and Eloise Kopald

Barb and Steve Lirtzman

Kim and Kent Raphael

Linda Wassner

We are thrilled that you have
joined our Temple family!

did you know...

Did you know why do some people close their eyes or cover their eyes during the Shema?

The Shema prayer, which says, “Hear O Israel, Adonai is our God, Adonai is one” is one of the most important Jewish prayers that we recite.

It is often the first prayer we learn and is supposed to be the last one to leave our lips at the end of our lives. Some religious Jews say this prayer before going to sleep and upon waking in the morning. Because of its importance, our sages determined that this prayer, in particular, demands a deeper level of *kavannah*, or intention.

According to some interpretations in Jewish law, if the prayer is said without the proper concentration, one needs to say it again. Closing one’s eyes or even covering them helps facilitate this deeper level of concentration. Doing this can also raise one’s spiritual experience of the prayer as one hears their own voice and those of others around them.

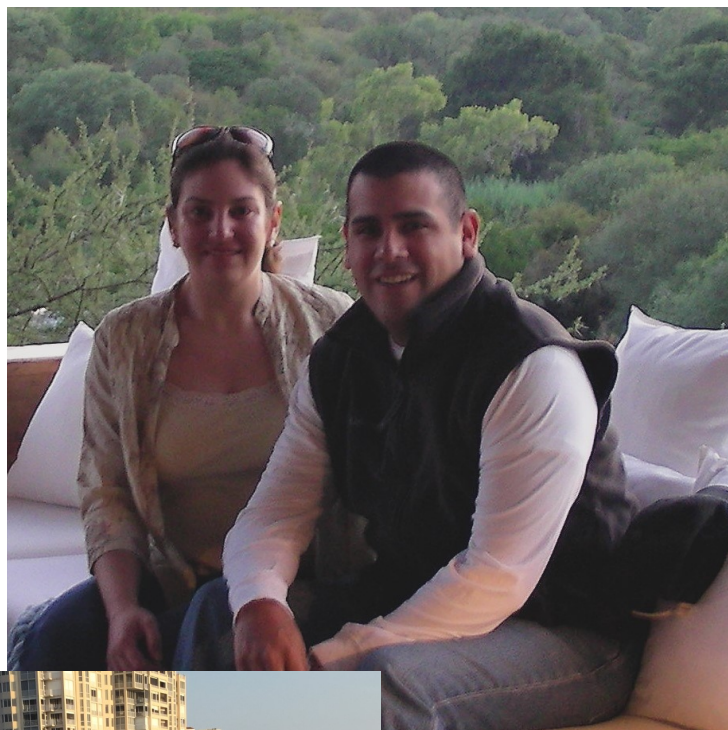
When saying the Shema we are reminded of the shared belief all Jews have in the oneness of God. At a time when there are so many differences among us, we can treasure this unity of mission and purpose as a Jewish people.



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

Dear TBE Friends:

Our next "Minute with a Member" features Amy Anton and family. We hope you will enjoy getting to know them a bit more! We are thrilled that the Antons have joined Temple Beth-El!



Tell a little about yourself and family:

My husband and I moved to the Rockford area 10 years ago. My husband Oscar Anton, who goes by Tony, is from Altoona, Pennsylvania. I am from Rock Island IL. We have two sons: Ethan 7yrs and Sam 5yrs.

What do you do for fun?

We love to travel. My husband plans our great trips often including sporting events, concerts, theater or art exhibits. Much of our fun includes playing whatever creative game/activity our children have dreamed up. I also enjoy tennis, skiing and many other interests.



we attend, I think is our favorite. Having experienced the amazing Food A Rama this week, it is now my new favorite.

Favorite Judaic holiday or food:

My favorite Jewish holiday is Passover. I love gathering with the family for the Seder. I love matzo ball soup.

Your motto in life:

My motto in life is to live every day to it's fullest.

Your favorite Temple activities:

This is our first year as members of the temple. The boys love Mrs. Gordon's Sunday school class, the holiday celebrations and bowling Shabbat. I have to say every event

Where's your favorite place to go in the area?

Our favorite place to go is the Discovery Center or any park. We love to spend the day exploring, learning and playing.

TEMPLE BETH-EL SOCIAL ACTION ON THE GO:

Help us as we help the Rock River Pantry ...

JUNE 5th-JUNE 19th

PEANUT BUTTER AND JELLY COLLECTION!!!

(PLASTIC BOTTLES ONLY, PLEASE - NO GLASS)

The Rock River Valley Pantry is collecting **20,000 JARS OF PEANUT BUTTER** to help families throughout the summer. Why so many jars? During the school year, all students in the Rockford Public School District are eligible for free lunch. However, as schools go on summer break, parents will turn to the Rock River Pantry so their kids won't have to go without.

Whether it's creamy or crunchy, large or small, please consider donating this protein-rich staple to help this vulnerable population.

MONETARY DONATIONS are welcome (made out to Temple Beth-El)!! The pantry can then purchase at wholesale prices (A \$20.00 donation=a case of 12 8 oz. jars)





Nanci and Marc Soriano have bought out all 70 seats for the Saturday, August 19 matinee performance (3:00-5:00 pm), and they are inviting the entire Jewish community to be their guests to see this production which tells the story of Isaac Adams, a second generation American Jew, who learns of plans for a neo Nazi group to stage a demonstration in Skokie, Illinois; he wonders what, if anything, his involvement should be. Determined to find the truth, Isaac ultimately comes to terms with his heritage, his mother, and himself. This show is directed by Dennis Zacek who directed the original

at Victory Gardens in 1985.

James Sherman was a company member of The Second City theatre, and his play has a revue-style format with actors playing multiple roles. Appropriate for all ages, THE GOD OF ISAAC has been described as "a charming, humorous, and thought-provoking exploration of the best way to reconnect with your roots." After the show, playwright, Jim Sherman, will provide a post show discussion

When Jim Sherman wrote the play 30 years ago, he never imagined that, in 2017, the topics of anti-Semitism and Jewish identity still would carry so much power in today's political climate.

The Piven Theater is in downtown Evanston at the edge of the Northwestern camps. There are a myriad of wonderful restaurant choices available nearby. If there is enough interest, there is the possibility of getting a bus (or of course, you can drive your own car) and for that reason, we need to hear from you by June 15. Additionally, if there is enough interest, the bus can remain in downtown Evanston so congregants can enjoy a dinner before returning everyone to temple.

The youth group and the chaperoning parents/families will be on their own bus and making their own dinner reservations since their day will include an earlier trip to Lincoln Park Zoo and then on to the theatre and dinner.

Remember, we need your RSVP by June 15 so we know if we are additionally arranging transportation and/or a dinner reservation.

Thank you for responding.

Please respond and place an X in all answers that apply to

Name(s) _____

___ Yes, I would love to attend the theatre production

___ I would like to be a part of a dinner.

___ I would like to be a part of the bus.

___ I am interested in the bus and dinner package.

___ I will take my own transportation.

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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.

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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

July 2017

Fri. 28th S'more Shabbat

August 2017

Fri. 18th Pet Shabbat

Sat. 27 God of Isaac play

Sat. 26th Social gathering

Sun. 27th Ethnic Festival and Parade

September 2017

Wed. 20th Erev Rosh Hashanah

Thur. 21st Rosh Hashanah

Fri. 29th Kol Nidre

Sat. 30th Yom Kippur

October 2017

Sun. 15th Adult Ed: Chef Laura Frankel

Sat. 21st Ella Holmstrom Bat Mitzvah

Sun. 29th Adult Ed: Ben Hecht Play

November 2017

Sun. 5th Federation Kick Off

Sat. 11th Art Auction

December 2017

January 2018

February 2018

March 2018

April 2018

May 2018

June 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 2016-2017 Calendar

****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

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.

Membership

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

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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
New Web Site Address...

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

Check it out!

The Yiddish Corner

MECHULEH (me khool eh)

over, destroyed

The building is *mechuleh*. The storm just devastated all of our work.

On the Lighter Side...

Man and Wife

An Israeli mayor in a small town is walking past a construction site with his wife. One of the construction workers stops and calls out to the woman.

"What's new, Sara?"

"Why, it's nice to see you again Avi," the woman replies. She turns to introduce her husband to the construction worker, and they speak for several minutes.

After the mayor and his wife continue on, he turns to his wife to ask how she knows him.

"Oh," she said. "We went together in high school. I even thought about marrying him."

The husband began to laugh. "You don't realize how lucky you are. If I hadn't come along, today you would be the wife of a construction worker!"

The wife replied without hesitation, "Not really. If I had married him, he'd now be a mayor!"



June 2017 Religious Services

June 2
Family Shabbat Service 7:30 pm

June 9
Erev Shabbat Service 7:30 pm

June 16
Erev Shabbat Service 7:30 pm

June 23
City Market Shabbat 6:00 pm

June 30
Erev Shabbat Service 7:30 pm

Temple Beth-El Leadership

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V.P. Building & Grounds	Jordan Towne
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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.