

TEMPLE BETH-EL



BULLETIN

November 2016 30 Tishri - 30 Cheshvan 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.

They are Old & Tired

Temple Beth-El has been fortunate to have funds to help us with projects that we might otherwise have a hard time funding. The Robert and Joel Garten Youth and Scholarship Fund has for many years provided funding for camperships for our religious school students. Attending Olin Sang Ruby has given our young people a unique opportunity to spend time and bond with other Jewish kids in an environment many would miss without such help from The Garten Fund.

Another such fund is The Michael Dermer Religious School Fund. This fund was established to raise money for religious school activities. Enrichment programs, scholarships and youth activities all benefit from this fund. These funds are kept healthy with your contributions for such wishes as birthday greetings or condolence notes. Your generous contributions have kept these funds working for many years.

The religious school needs an upgrade to the computer lab. Our current computers are old and tired. As we are all aware, the minute we downloaded Windows 10, those of us with older machines saw their machines slow down and start to balk at the things we want them to do.

Continue please on page 3

Chaverim,

For my first bulletin article after the High Holy Days, I usually summarize my High Holy Day sermons. What is unusual this year is that it is the November article that has this information when it is almost always October! I know that a number of you were present to hear most, if not all, of the sermons, but since not everyone

was at every service, I summarize them here. I also like to refresh everyone on the main ideas so that we can all begin to take the messages into the new year.

Erev Rosh Hashanah – Strategic Planning for Temple and for Our Lives

In this sermon, I encouraged everyone to look at their lives and imagine what we might do differently if we knew our time on earth was limited. What would we dream for ourselves? And I suggested that we should ask ourselves, “What are we waiting for?” when deciding to move forward. I then spoke about how we are asking some of those same questions for our Temple this year as we engage in our Strategic Planning Process. I encouraged everyone to participate in the first step of the process by attending one of the “coffee talks.” And I emphasized the need, both in our lives and in the life of the congregation, to be bold and be brave when moving forward into the future.

Rosh Hashanah Morning – Environment Revisited

This sermon focused on concern for our environment and what might be some new areas of focus for us since I preached about this subject 10 years ago. The sermon suggested that we renew our focus on little steps that we can take to make a difference. There was also a focus in the sermon on water conservation and better utilization of water.

Kol Nidre – Sabbath of the Soul

This sermon focused on how our constant need for



From Rabbi Binah Wing

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speed is shortening our attention spans and generally causing greater stress in our lives than ever before. I then spoke about the need for our bodies and souls to just slow down. I introduced the concept of Slow TV and even encouraged people to yawn during services to indicate that they're finally stopping and resting and just being present for a few moments. I suggested that we need a sabbath for our souls and encouraged everyone to take those moments in our lives.

Yom Kippur Morning – Racism

As I said in the sermon, this was a difficult sermon topic to take on. I'm not an expert, and I was very wary of what people's reactions would be. And yet, I felt that I just couldn't be silent on it any longer. I am deeply troubled by what is happening to our brothers and sisters of color. I spoke of how racism and civil rights for people of color used to be a banner that the Jewish people held high. We marched alongside of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. But somewhere along the line, we came to believe that this wasn't our issue anymore. We became detached from these concerns. Now, we are faced with increased antisemitism and we must be reminded that racism and antisemitism, are part of the same disease. We need to re-engage in this issue not only because it is the right thing to do – to promote equality for all – but because it is our issue, too. I was blessed and grateful to have my friend and colleague, Reverend Ken Board, Senior Pastor at Pilgrim Baptist Church, in attendance at this sermon. He spoke movingly with me after the service about what it meant to him that I chose to speak about this issue. We hope to work more together to continue the conversation.

I hope that you all have a wonderful November and a special Thanksgiving time with your families.

Rabbi Wing

Come Join Us!
Partners for Faith Annual
Thanksgiving Service
Tuesday, November
22nd 7:00 pm
At Lutheran Church of
the Good Shepard
1829 N Rockton Ave



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



The Temple Board met on October 19th. Brina led the D'Var Torah based on Deuteronomy 52 sections 1-52. This portion reflects on Moses's last message to the people of Israel before he led them out of Egypt. Moses reminds the people that they carry with them all of the history and blessings that have been bestowed upon them for the last 40 years and since the time of Sarah and Abraham. Moses was hoping that, once he went up the mountain, all that he had fought for and taught to the Jewish people would not have been in vain. Brina said that in some ways we are all teachers and have lessons we can teach to others.

Jim reported that one strategic planning session was held. He felt it was well-attended and went well. There are three more sessions planned.

Rabbi officiated at Noa Levy's Bat Mitzvah and Allison Sage's wedding. She is in charge of the fifth and sixth grade retreat this year. She led the High Holiday services and officiated at two shiva minyans. This is the five year anniversary of Torah on Tap. She is looking for ideas to continue this.

Sharon reported that nothing unusual happened this month and the Temple finances are in good shape. Brina reported that the Finance committee is working on the five year plan and will be meeting with Scott Lowry at the next meeting. At this time we have 88 members. Rob reported that the Foundation was up .7% for the month of September and is doing well for the year.

Andrea reported that the High Holy Day services went well and the Rosh Hashanah dinner and break the fast were enjoyed by those who attended. Religious school students participated in Sukkot services during Sunday school and will participate in Simchat Torah services at Sunday school next week.

Jordan had put up the Sukkah. He is still working on fixing the driveway by the kitchen door.

Lauren said that there are six new students in the religious school, and they will be welcomed at Simchat Torah services. Prayer books will be given to the upcoming B'nei Mitzvah students at the service, as well. GRTY teens led the Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur children services. They have already picked apples to bake their delicious pies. GRTY's service project for this year is the RockRiver Refugee Program. They will be collecting personal hygiene items, hats and gloves. More information will be coming after they meet with the program director, Amy Heilman. Karen received a thank-you note for our plastic bag donations from Richard Sutton and the MATS team. There will be a barrel to continue to collect plastic bags. The High Holy Day food drive will continue until the end of October. Karen has finished the membership brochure and has given out a couple.

The Art Auction plans are moving along and Mary has booked the music. Flyers have been put up in businesses,



On behalf of the Temple Board of Directors, I want to thank the entire congregation for making the High Holy Day Season a great success. From Rabbi Wing's inspirational sermons to

the beautiful sounds of the Temple choir, from the many people who participated in services and to the people who volunteered their time to prepare the Rosh Hashanah dinner and the Break the Fast, your dedication is greatly appreciated by your Temple Beth-El family.

Even though the High Holy Day Season has come to a close, things are still very busy at Temple Beth-El. You should have received an invitation to the Temple Art Auction, which will take place on November 5, 2016, at Anderson Garden. Mary Roufa and her committee have been working very hard for many months to make this a successful fundraising event. Please plan to attend and help to make it a fun and profitable evening. The Adult Education Committee, too, has been busy preparing for upcoming programs, including the Sunday November 13 performance by the A Capella singing group Jew-Wop.

There will be another Strategic Planning session on Saturday evening November 12, 2016 at 7:00 P.M. at the home of Mary Roufa.

There will be another Strategic Planning session on Saturday evening November 12, 2016 at 7:00 P.M. at the home of Mary Roufa. If you have not yet participated in a Strategic Planning session, please plan to attend the November 12, 2016 event. Your input in this process is vital to our future. You can register for this session either via the Sign-Up Genius website or by contacting Joyce at the Temple office.

Finally, Saturday, November 19, 2016 will be a special day for the Gesmer family, as our son Joseph will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah. Mary and I hope that you can attend this very special event in Joseph's life.

Continued from Page 1

Our computers are very old and have operating systems no longer supported. We have an opportunity to get six refurbished machines that have the newer operating systems, faster processors and the ability to be fast enough on the internet to keep our students both engaged and up to date with the latest software. However, spending the \$1,400 from the Dermer Fund will go a long way to deplete its fund balance. We are asking, as you think about making your donations to our funds, you direct a few dollars towards the Dermer Fund or Garten Fund so that we can rebuild them. These funds are very important to the Temple, and your generosity keeps them going. While all our funds do great things, maybe keep the Dermer or Garten Fund in mind for a while. Thanks.

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

some past attendees have received complimentary invitations and invitations to Temple members have been sent. The Rummage sale will be April 6th, 7th and 9th in 2017. Discussion is underway for this fundraiser. Jay Sklar reported that Joyce's computer is running slow. They tried to work on cleaning it and then contacted PCTeck2u to come and look at it. It is already over 5 years old and only has 4g of ram. With the installation of Windows 10 and our new security system, we may need to look at upgrade costs. The Campaign kick-off dinner will be on November 20th at Mauh-Nah-Tee-See Country Club at 5:00. Jay and Louise Gesmer and Fere and JJ Javaherian will be honored. The Federation board had some safety concerns that Ellen Dietz brought up to the board. The board discussed these and will address them at some point.

Letters to the Editor...

Thank you to the entire Jewish community for all the heartfelt condolences, texts, cards, love and kind words expressed during the recent passing of my mother. Greg and I are so grateful to Rabbi Wing for offering her love and support by giving us the opportunity to say Kaddish, together with the Jewish community. The almost no-notice Shiva minyan all came on the eve of Erev Yom Kippur. I am so grateful to all the Jewish community for your love and support and the healing you brought to my heart.

With love and many thanks,
Greg and Julie Sparks

SCHOOL DAZE

200 Words or Less...
By Goldie & Adrian



If you missed our beautiful celebrations of Sukkot and Simcha Torah, we are sorry you did! Our sukkah looked ma-a-velous! Thanks to art specialist Sandy Simon and our students as well as all the sukkah builders and decorators, Jordan Towne, Alma and David Quimby, Andrea Baird and Karen Zussman.

It's been quite awhile since we had a consecration ceremony at Temple Beth-El. Welcome new students Adam Ahles, Ethan and Sam Anton, Max Morris and Dana Wing, yeah!! Special nods to upcoming B'nai mitzvah students Joe Gesmer, Ella Holmstrom and Madeline Towne. Thanks to Religious functions chair Andrea Levey who made sure we had delicious food for lunch after both services. Coming weeks bring special art projects, new music and long awaited cooking session number one! Our students will also have opportunities to attend exciting and fun adult education sessions (as long as they behave as adults!).



During the coming month you will receive your 2016-17 book/resource

bill. Please send in your payment as soon as possible. We appreciate your prompt attention. Thanks!

There will be no class sessions on November 23 and 27, due to the Thanksgiving holiday. We look forward to celebrating the Bar Mitzvah of Joe Gesmer on Saturday, November 19th!

Till next time, Shalom.

Jewop



**Sunday, November 13,
2016**

**Temple Beth-El, 1203
Comanche Dr. 61107**

**10:00 Breakfast / 10:30
Program**

Jewop is UW-Madison's premiere and ONLY Jewish A Cappella group! By embracing a plethora of cultural perspectives, Jewop is able to encompass all aspects of Judaism in fun and entertaining ways! Jewop performs traditional Jewish repertoire, pop music that has been written by Jewish artists (such as Adam Lavigne or P!nk), and parodies of songs that include Jewish cultural references. Ultimately, our goal is to gather people, Jewish and not, to preserve and celebrate all types of Jewish music and have fun while doing it!

There is no cost to attend and everyone is welcome.

**Sponsored by:
The Adult Education Committee
Please RSVP to Temple at 815-398-5020**

November Oneg Committee

November 4 Faye Marcus Kathy and Art Rettig	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.
November 11 Sharon and Warren Goldsand Alma and David Quimby	
November 18 Jospeh Gesmer Bar Mitzvah	
November 25 No oneg	

November Birthdays & Anniversaries

Adults
 Jeffrey Behr 11/2
 Andrea Baird 11/5
 Ginny Weiss 11/5
 Ben Salley 11/8
 Meagan Sklar 11/10
 Andrea Busch 11/11
 Brian Shore 11/12
 John Hartman 11/16
 Cheryl Schoeller 11/16
 Harvey Melamed 11/17
 Ellen Deutsch 11/19
 Emily Shore 11/21
 Rabbi Wing 11/22
 Lisa Anderson-Levy 11/25
 Barbara Simon 11/27
 Marian Peters 11/28
 Andrew Hartman 11/28

ANNIVERSARIES
 Susan & James Slobard 11/2/86
 Susan & Jay Kamin 11/29/80



Children
 Joseph Gesmer 11/15/03

לדור ודור
 "FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION"

WE CELEBRATE TODAY AS
 TRADITIONS OF THE PAST
 ARE SHARED FOR THE FUTURE

..... PLEASE JOIN US AS

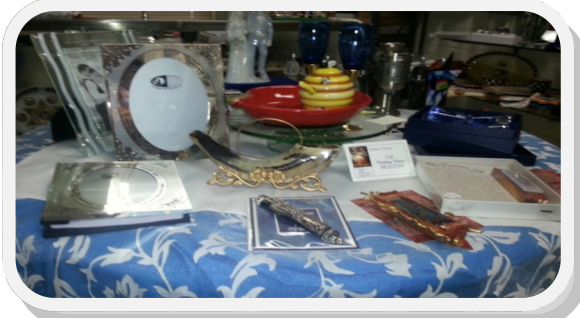
JOSEPH ELLIOTT
 GESMER

IS CALLED TO THE TORAH AS A BAR MITZVAH

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 19 TWO THOUSAND SIXTEEN	10 O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING
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TEMPLE BETH-EL
 1203 COMANCHE DRIVE • ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS
 JAMES AND MARY GESMER

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 Nov 4

Jennie D. Okrent
 Arthur Foss
 Ruth Steiner Price
 Anna Cohen
 Kerry Rudman
 William Share
 David Halle

Read Nov 11

Hyman Nathan
 Ethel Blecher Turcott
 Nina Hexter
 Golda Gutman
 Samonia Franks
 Jean Prince Roufa
 Harry Levy
 Alvin Slobard
 Louis Behr
 Sidney Kaufer

Read Nov 18

Richard Weedman
 Ida Spector Cohen
 Leanora Feder
 Nathan Hellman
 Lothar Molton
 Lena Leff
 Harry Rosen
 Dr. Aaron Taylor
 Zlata Schoenberg
 Samuel Barenbaum
 Ruth Ida Lash

Read Nov 25

Sara Okrent Solomon
 Helen Vision
 Lillian Lorraine Gersten
 Betty Pavey
 Anna Gersten Perlman
 Samuel Wolfson
 Jan Lazarus
 Edward Osran
 Gus Froelich



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 memory of Tony Toback
 -Adrian and Jerry Grubb

Landscaping Fund

In memory of Julie Sparks' mother, Sofia
 In memory of Ed Light
 -Milly Kaplan

In memory of Tony Toback
 In memory of Ruth Einhorn
 In memory of Julie Sparks' mother, Sofia
 Best wishes to Joy and Steve Schneider
 -Fred and Ellen Dietz

In memory of Louis Levy
 In memory of Ida Levy
 In honor of Aron Tatman, Josh Zussman and Joe Gesmer's Bar Mitzvahs
 -Rob and Lisa Levy

In memory of Julie Sparks' mother, Sofia
 -Judy and Chuck Picus

In honor of Gladys Cotler's 100th birthday
 -Iris and Steve Pavey
 In memory of Ruth Einhorn
 In memory of Joyce Ruthe
 In memory of Julie Sparks' mother
 In memory of Jerry Dermer
 In honor of Jay and Louise Gesmer's recognition by the Jewish Federation
 -Nanci and Marc Soriano

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In memory of Tony Toback
 In memory of Ruth Einhorn
 -Sara and David Deutsch

In memory of Tony Toback
 -Art and Kathy Rettig

Sheldon Liebovich Fund

In honor of Temple Beth-El
 In memory of Sheldon Liebovich
 In memory of Ruth Einhorn
 In memory of Tony Toback
 -Rosie and Chuck Hyman

In memory of Sheldon Liebovich
 In memory of Ruth Einhorn
 -Jill and Mike Liebovich

Unrestricted Donations

In memory of Tony Toback
 -James Walden

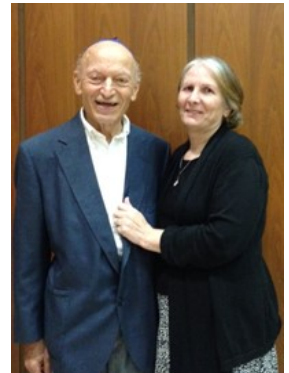
In memory of Howard Hart
 -Michael and Donna Kelner

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.

CONDOLENCES TO:

Julie and Greg Sparks
 on the passing
 of Julie's mother, Sofia
 &
 The family of Ed Light
 On his passing.



You are Cordially Invited to a Very Special Evening

Jewish Federation 2016-2017 Annual Campaign Kick-Off Dinner

Sunday, November 20, 2016 at 5:30 pm

A Very Special Location

Mauh Nah Tee See Country Club, 5151 Guilford Rd, Rockford 61107

Two Very Special Honoree Couples

Jay and Louise Gesmer and JJ and Fere Javaherian

A Very Special Speaker

Aviv Ezra, Israeli Consul General to the Midwest

Aviv Ezra currently serves as the Consul General of Israel to the Midwest based in Chicago. He is the official representative of the state of Israel in Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin. Prior to his appointment as Consul General, Mr. Ezra quarterbacked the relationship of Israel with the United States Congress for a period of 8 years. For the past 3 years, he has served as the Director for Congressional Affairs at the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Jerusalem. This was preceded by a 5 year period of service as the Counselor for Congressional Affairs at the Embassy of Israel in Washington. Mr. Ezra joined Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1999. Upon completion of the Cadet Course, he served at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Middle Eastern Economic Division in Israel. From 2000 to 2002, he served as the Economic and Commercial Attaché to Cairo, Egypt. He also served as the Deputy Consul General, for the Southeastern region of the U.S., as the Consulate General of Israel in Atlanta, Georgia, from 2002-2006. Mr. Ezra was born in Israel in 1972. During his service in the Israel Defense Forces he achieved the rank of Captain. Following his military service, he received a B.A. in Economics and Political Science from Hebrew University in Jerusalem. After graduating, Mr. Ezra worked for two years in the private sector as COO of a publishing company. Mr. Ezra is married to Einat and has three children.

\$50 per person

Cocktail Attire

Your Check payable to the Jewish Federation is Your Reservation.
4848 Turner Street, Rockford, IL 61107.

The evening includes gourmet appetizers, dinner, wine, dessert and a dynamic speaker

Cash bar available / Kindly RSVP by November 11

Memorial and Tribute Donation Form																	
<p>From: Name: _____ Address: _____ City: _____ State _____ Zip: _____</p>	<p>To: Send the acknowledging card : <input type="checkbox"/> Same as from, or: Name: _____ Address: _____ City: _____ State _____ Zip: _____</p>																
<p>For: (check one and fill in names as appropriate)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> In Memory of: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Speedy Recovery to: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Congratulations to: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> In Honor of: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">Donation:</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Fund:</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Triple chai (\$54)</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Garten <input type="checkbox"/> Powell <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Double chai (\$36)</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Lazarus <input type="checkbox"/> Dermer <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Chai (\$18) <input type="checkbox"/> \$10</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Woodruff <input type="checkbox"/> Rabbi's Discretionary</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> \$4 (Min.)</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Pap <input type="checkbox"/> Kupperman <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Landscaping <input type="checkbox"/> Gifts & Flowers</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Sachs <input type="checkbox"/> Liebovich Fund</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Donation:	Fund:	<input type="checkbox"/> Triple chai (\$54)	<input type="checkbox"/> Garten <input type="checkbox"/> Powell <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Double chai (\$36)	<input type="checkbox"/> Lazarus <input type="checkbox"/> Dermer <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Chai (\$18) <input type="checkbox"/> \$10	<input type="checkbox"/> Woodruff <input type="checkbox"/> Rabbi's Discretionary	<input type="checkbox"/> \$4 (Min.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Pap <input type="checkbox"/> Kupperman <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscaping <input type="checkbox"/> Gifts & Flowers		<input type="checkbox"/> Sachs <input type="checkbox"/> Liebovich Fund		<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
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ART AUCTION

Sponsored by

Temple Beth El

Please join us on

Saturday Evening, November 5, 2016

at

Fresco's @ Anderson Gardens

*318 Spring Creek Rd
Rockford, Illinois*

Preview: 6:30 p.m.

Auction: 7:30 p.m.

Admission: \$18.00 per person

Cheesecake Bar, Coffee, Tea, Cash Bar

For more information call: Mary Roufa (815) 543-6520

Major Credit Cards Accepted

Featuring Art in All Media & Price Ranges

ART EXHIBITION & AUCTION

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City, State & Zip: _____

I cannot attend, but would like to make a donation to "Temple Beth El" in the amount of \$ _____

CHECK ANY SPECIFIC REQUESTS:

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contemporary | <input type="checkbox"/> Sports | <input type="checkbox"/> South Western | <input type="checkbox"/> Impressionism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife | <input type="checkbox"/> African-American | <input type="checkbox"/> Americana | <input type="checkbox"/> Seascapes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Judaic | <input type="checkbox"/> Primitive | <input type="checkbox"/> Children | <input type="checkbox"/> Christian |

Special Requests: _____

Please complete tearstrip, make check payable to "Temple Beth El" and return, to
1203 Comanche Drive • Rockford, Illinois 61107





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

*Dear TBE Friends:
This "Minute with a Member" will feature Ellen Salley. Please take a few moments to learn a bit more about her. Below are answers to a few questions. We hope you will enjoy getting to know her a little better!*

Tell a little about yourself and family:

I am from Milwaukee, hence a huge Packers fan! I have 2 sons: Benjamin 29, once a Cowboys fan and now a Bear's fan, and, Aaron 27, a Vikings fan..Don't know how that happened!

What do you do for fun?

I love playing sports, mostly baseball; although, now I watch more than play them!

Something people would be surprised to learn about you/us:

I watched my parents get married. My mom was Catholic, and, in order for me to be a Bat Mitzvah, my Rabbi made my mother re-convert by having all three of us go through the Mikvah. Then he remarried my parents at the Temple.

A memorable moment at TBE:

My sons' bris and bar mitzvahs.

Favorite Judaic holiday or food:

Passover- I love gefilte fish. We used to do the Seder at my father's Uncle's house and my cousins would play the song "The Cat Came Back" on their guitars. We would always get to find the Afikomen.

What is the biggest challenge you have ever faced?

My divorce. It came as quite a shock.

What is the best advice you have ever received?

My dad always said "positive mental attitude," although sometimes I don't use his advice!

Favorite movies, books or music:

"Pretty Woman," "How to lose a Guy in 10 Days," "Two Weeks Notice" and any romantic movie with Tom Cruise.



If you could witness any event past, present or future, what would it be?

I would love to see a rocket launch at NASA.

If you won the lottery, what is the first thing you would do?

Pay off my house and then redecorate it.

If you could meet anyone, living or dead, who would you want to meet?

Carol Burnett and Jerry Lewis. I love to laugh, and these were some of my favorite comedians.

What was the last book that you couldn't put down?

I love reading the Janet Evanovich series- I can't wait for book 23.

What was your first job?

I worked at a small drugstore called Pill and Puff. We had to push buttons on the cash register, add on a tax form from a chart and count back change!

What was your favorite job?

Teaching. Even though most kids don't like math, it was always an accomplishment to see some students understand a new concept. I really liked fourth grade too. They still really liked school and their teachers!

GRTY NEWS

Submitted by:
GRTY Board member
Zach Hergert

GRTY had our annual Apple Picking at Curran's Apple Orchard on Sunday, October 16 to prepare us for our much anticipated and super fun (and messy) Apple Pie Making on Sunday, October 23rd. At Curran's, we had a perfect fall

afternoon where we picked the apples to use for our apple pie making. While out in the orchard, Ben Kopnick, our Religious and Spiritual VP, did an amazing job leading us in prayer and thoughtful gratitude. He reminded all of us that we need to be grateful everyday for all that we have! What a great way for us to begin the New Year!!! When we were done picking apples, we were treated to a cup of apple cider or an apple slushy and delicious donuts!! The following Sunday, we put these apples to good use when we created an incredible team of both parents and teens to make our well known and delicious apple pies. A special thank you goes out to all the helpers who worked so hard to help us make this activity as successful and enjoyable as possible: Mitch and Lisa Kopnick, Rob Levy, Mary Gesmer, Karen Zussman, Amy, Jordan and Eloise Towne and Ashley Soriano. After peeling, coring and slicing for hours, we notably set the GRTY record for the number of



pies made (54). Thanks to the members of our community for helping us to reach this new record!! Both events were a blast, and we had enjoyable and productive afternoons as always. Of course, we continue to look forward to the upcoming events!!



On Saturday, November 5, many of our teens will be helping set up and run the Temple Art Auction at Anderson Gardens. Then on November 6, we will have the very popular Mr. Tony Tosh come out here to lead our most important Team Building Workshop.

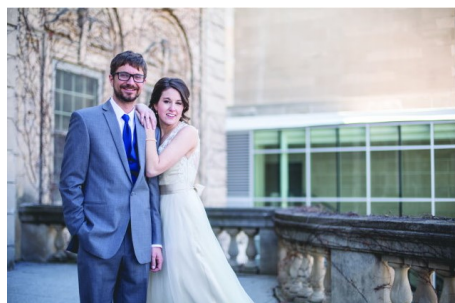
Please remember to pick up your pre-ordered apple pies from the Temple freezer as soon as possible. All pies are labeled with your name. Please pay Joyce in the Temple office. Thank you!



Mindy Joy PHOTOGRAPHY

PORTRAITURE EVENT COMMERCIAL

Providing photographic coverage in Rockford and the surrounding areas.



Mindy Joy Young
Call me: 815.985.4005

Look up info & Pricing
mindyjoyphotography.com

Inquire about dates & reservations
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
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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

December 2016

Sun. 18th Jewish Federation Hanukah Party

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

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

Sat. Nov. 5*Temple Art Auction-Anderson Japanese Gardens (4/shift) Set up 3:30-6:30 pm Work Auction and Take Down- 6:30-10:00pm Parents needed!!

Nov. 6 Team Building with Tony Tosh: 12:30-2:30 pm- Bring lunch

Exec. Board Meeting to follow

Nov. 13 Jewish A Cappella Group (Adult Ed): 10-noon at Temple Guest Speaker (Service Project) & Draw Secret Maccabee Names: noon-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

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.

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
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.

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

Membership

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

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

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

Check it out!

**The
Yiddish
Corner**

FIFER

(FIE fer)

Loud, Aggressive person

I can hear that *fifer* all the way across the room.

On the Lighter Side...

The Value of Children

Rachel and Esther meet for the first time in fifty years since high school.

Rachel begins to tell Esther about her children. "My son is a doctor and he's got four kids. My daughter is married to a lawyer and they have three great kids. So tell me Esther, how about your kids?" Esther replies, "Unfortunately, Morty and I don't have any children and so we have no grandchildren either."

Rachel says, "No children? ... and no grandkids? So tell me, Esther, what do you do for aggravation?"

A Flucky

An elderly Jewish man is bumped by a car while crossing the street. He is seemingly unhurt, but his wife persuades him to go to the doctor, just in case. He returns home, and his wife says -- "*Nu, vos zogt der doktor?*" ["So? What did the doctor say?"]

"*Der doktor zogt az ich hob a flucky.*" ["The doctor says I have a flucky."] "Oy, gevalt! A flucky! Terrible! What do you do for a flucky?" "I don't know -- he didn't say, and I forgot to ask." Well, by this time the wife is in a state of high anxiety.

She tells her neighbors "My husband was hit by a car, and now he has a flucky! I don't know what to do!" Neighbor #1 says, "In the old country, when someone had a flucky, we always applied cold. Cold is the best thing for a flucky.

"Neighbor #2 says, "What are you talking about? Cold is absolutely the worst thing you could do for a flucky! We always applied heat, that's the only thing to do for a flucky." Cold, heat! Oy! Now thoroughly agitated, the wife decides to call the doctor herself.

"Doctor, please tell me, what's wrong with my husband?"

"I told him... nothing's wrong. He got off lucky."



**November 2016
Religious Services**

November 4
Family Shabbat Service 7:30 pm

November 11
Erev Shabbat Service 7:30 pm

November 18
Erev Shabbat Service 7:30 pm

November 19
Joseph Gesmer Bar Mitzvah
10:00 am

November 25
Kabbalat Shabbat Service 6:00 pm

Temple Beth-El Leadership

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