



Beth Israel – The West Temple

BULLETIN

December 2001 ☆ Kislev/Tevet 5762

Chanukah and More...



***Come light your Menorah
With your
Beth Israel –
The West Temple Family!***

Friday, Dec. 14, 2001

6:00 p.m. – Chicken & Latkes Dinner

**7:30 p.m. – Shared Shabbat Family Service
with Rabbi Lettofsky**



**Price: \$4.00/person –
\$15 max /family**

**See bulletin insert for reservation form...
Space is limited – RSVP today!**

Inside this month's Beth Israel – the West Temple Bulletin:

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KEEPING BETH ISRAEL...

BEAUTIFUL

Thanks to the generosity of Michael and Carol Montlack, the landscaping at the front of our building is being updated, redesigned, and renewed. Many shrubs and plants will be replaced, and the lines of the beds will be softened to create a more welcoming, attractive appearance. The area in front of the entrance porch is well shaded -- an ideal spot for a bench. The majority of the project will be completed this month. In the spring, Carol and Shellie Sedlak plan to plant additional flowering perennials. Your participation -- and your feedback on the new look -- are most welcome.

INVOLVED

Thanks to Dale and Karen Levy for initiating an important social action project at Beth Israel. They seized the opportunity to communicate directly to our legislators about the urgent need for continued support of the State of Israel. Dale wrote letters to each of his representatives -- then took the extra step of duplicating them as form letters that any member of the congregation can use. Dale set up a table on Sunday mornings, inviting every adult to sign the letters, which he then mailed. Dale and Karen's initiative is inspiring. Let's keep the spark of social action alive and well at Beth Israel!

SECURE

Thanks to the Cleveland Police Department, 1ST District, headed by Commander Charles McNeeley. As you're aware, all safety services have been operating under high alert, with tremendous demand for additional personnel. Despite that added stress, the Cleveland Police continue to provide additional personnel to meet our needs. Enid Lader and Rhoda Rosen are working with the local police and fire departments to **update evacuation plans** and communicate them to all members. Staff and teachers will be trained to respond to a variety of emergency

situations and evacuation drills will be planned for Religious and Hebrew School. Special security plans will be put in place for services and events that bring a crowd to our building. Detailed information will be provided at the Semi-Annual General Congregational Meeting in January, described below.

INFORMED

Reading the *Bulletin* and all temple mailings is an important way for each of us to keep up-to-date, but communication has to be a two-way street! That's why we plan two General Congregational Meetings each year -- one in January and another in June. **The date and time for this year's Semi-Annual General Congregational Meeting has been changed.** Please plan to meet on **SUNDAY, JANUARY 13, 11 A.M. - 1 P.M.** Brunch will be served. Special programming is planned for all children and students so that parents will be able to attend this important meeting. Building security, a Long-Range Planning update, discussion of temple finances, fund-raising, and social action plans will be discussed. Make it a priority to attend and to participate fully as a member of Beth Israel. We'll talk about ...

CELEBRATING

Is it too soon to start thinking about Beth Israel's 50th Anniversary celebration? It's only two years away, and we'll need all that time to plan a meaningful, fun, festive yearlong event. Your ideas, energy, and involvement are the key ingredients. **The 50th Anniversary Planning Committee needs you.** We need representation from all of our members -- children, adults, new members and old hands, men and women. Start thinking about your role, encourage friends to work with you, and we'll discuss it at the Congregational Meeting in January.

Shalom,
Maryellen Cudney and Barbara Schwartz
Co-Presidents, Board of Trustees

A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

Save on Your Income Taxes

We've all heard about the tax cuts that were passed with such fanfare earlier this year. What many people don't consider is that lower tax rates mean less money saved from any tax deduction.

Instead of waiting until January to pay your next dues installment to Beth Israel, consider making that payment in December. Taxpayers who itemize deductions will see the benefit on their 2001 tax return this Spring. If you wait until January to pay your dues, the deduction won't benefit you for another 16 months (April 15, 2003).

For most taxpayers, a dollar of deduction this year will save more than a dollar of deduction next year. As you pay your January dues, please remember that additional donations will further help our Temple community.

Ken Robinson
Beth Israel-the West Temple Treasurer

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Mah Jongg: The Tiles that Bind

Join the women of the congregation in a **Circle of Friends**, Wednesday, Dec. 19th, 7:30 p.m. at the home of Lynn Atzenhoffer, 3395 Spruce Court, Avon. We will view the new film "Mah Jongg...", a light-hearted look at both the game and the people that play it. After viewing the video, we'll take out the maj set and offer lessons for first-timers, and tips from the pro's. RSVP to Lynn at 440-937-5588.

BULLETIN

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Web Site: uahc.org/oh/oh020

Rabbi: Alan B. Lettovsky

Co-Presidents: Maryellen KohnCudney & Barbara Schwartz
Dir. of Congregational and Family Education: Enid C. Lader

Religious School Administrator: Rhoda Rosen

Co-Editors: Linda Kramer & Lynda Kane

Production Coordinator: Pat Outlaw

Production Assistants: Doris Rieff & Bob Roth

Deadline for January issue: December 11, 2001

EDUCATION NOTES

Chanukah - the 25th of Kislev

"...By the twenty-fifth of every lunar month, the moon has gone into exile. The nights are dark, and getting darker. And late in Kislev, we are close to the moment of the winter solstice - when the sun is also in exile... It is the darkest moment of the year... At this moment we celebrate Chanukah - by lighting candles for eight nights. Night after night the candle-light increases. And, night after night, we make our way into, through, and out of the darkness of the sun and moon. We experience and feel the turn toward light from the moment of darkness, the turn toward salvation from the moment of despair..." (Arthur Waskow, *Seasons of Our Joy*).

As we celebrate Chanukah we are reminded of the Maccabean struggle against the Greeks for personal and religious freedom. It came at a very dark time in Jewish history. This struggle and ultimate victory serve as a model for us today. It is incumbent upon us to speak out against injustice, to shine the light of tolerance, and to help those experiencing moments of darkness move toward the light.

May your Chanukah be filled with light and happiness.

Enid C. Lader, Director
Congregational & Family Education
Community Funded Position

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SCAN Food Pantry Needs Donations

Help the Southwest Community Access Network Food Pantry in Berea this holiday season. The food bank is accepting both cash donations and free turkey coupons (from Giant Eagle or TOPS) to help provide needy families a holiday meal. Contributions can be sent to Quality Communities Partnership, 18697 Bagley Road, Middleburg Heights 44130. Contact Lona Gruber at (440) 826-1127 for more information.

EDUCATION NOTES cont.

Dec. 2nd – Parent Talk – 10:00 a.m. in Vicky's Café. Join Rabbi Lettowsky and Dr. Mary Kay Greenberg, pediatrician, in the first of our series on Jewish Parenting. Each family in the school will receive a copy of The Blessing of a Skinned Knee: Using Jewish Teachings to Raise Self-Reliant Children by Wendy Mogel, Ph.D. This book will be our guide over the next three months as we discuss various aspects of raising children. You won't want to miss this first session – so you can receive your book (paid for with your registration fees).

Dec. 2nd – What's Cooking for Chanukah? - 11:00 a.m. in Ratner Hall – Join Nancy Eilberg and friends as they share – and cook – their favorite Chanukah recipes.

Dec. 9th – Tzedakah Assembly for Kinder-Class through 6/7 Graders – 11:30 a.m. – Ratner Hall – Each class has chosen a special “Tzedakah Project” in honor of Chanukah. Dec. 9th is the day to bring in food, socks & mittens, books, and toys for those in need.

Dec. 15th – Tot Shabbat – 10:30 a.m. – It's time for dancing dreidels, Chanukah cookies, Shabbat songs and stories for our youngest toddlers through Kinder-Class. RSVP to the temple office (216.941.8882).

Dec. 16th – “Fiddler on the Roof, Jr.” at the Mayfield JCC's Halle Theater for 2/3 through 6/7 graders – Students and parents will meet at the temple at 9:00 a.m. to caravan over to the Mayfield JCC for this special production.

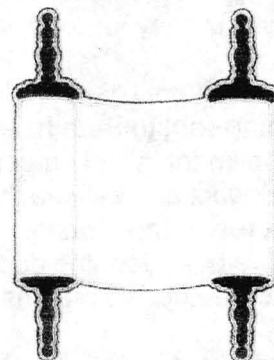
Dec. 2nd, 9th, 16th – High School Mitzvah Days – Our High School students will be involved in various community mitzvah projects – soup kitchens, helping with Fall Clean-up, and visiting with hospital patients and families.

Dec. 23rd, 25th, 30th and Jan 1st – Winter Break
No Classes

Religious School Resumes
Sunday, January 6, 2002

SHABBAT MORNING TORAH STUDY

continues as we explore the nature of wrestling with God, dreams, family ties, and blessings. We meet at 10:00 a.m. Saturday mornings in the temple library. Come and join in the discussion – no experience necessary!



December 1 – *VaYishlach*

Gen. 32:4-36:43 – Jacob wrestles with a mysterious assailant before meeting his brother Esau. He prevails, but is injured, and his name is changed from Jacob to Israel – *Yisrael* (he who wrestles with God).

December 8 – *VaYeshev*

Gen. 37:1 – 40:23 – With this parashah, we begin the story of Joseph. He is shown favoritism by his father... and dreams of sheaves of wheat and the sun, moon, and stars bowing to him. And from there, it's the pits.

December 15 – *Miketz*

Gen. 41:1-44:17 – Pharaoh's dream defies interpretation until Joseph's ability to interpret dreams is remembered. Joseph rises to power in Egypt and, as the famine spreads, ultimately is forced to confront his brothers...

December 22 – *VaYigash*

Gen. 44:18-47:27 – Joseph can no longer conceal his identity from his brothers and his family is reunited in Egypt.

December 29 – *VaYechi*

Gen. 47:28-50:26 – Jacob is dying and as his sons and grandsons are gathered by his side, he offers final blessings for each. Joseph lives 100 years and is buried in Egypt. And thus ends the book of Genesis.

Hazak, Hazak, V'Nit-hazek!

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Weeks before September 11, in thinking about these High Holy Days, I saw an article about what sounded like an intriguing book. A successful journalist, by the name of Barbara Ehrenreich spent several months living and working, and trying to make it, on minimum wage jobs in Florida, Maine, and Minnesota. Her project was occasioned by our country's "welfare to work" program – she was interested in testing the premise that people leaving welfare and getting the jobs that they could find would be able to make ends meet.

The book is called Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America. By the (Not), you already can guess what the results were. I am not recommending the book, though I did find many of the anecdotes quite enlightening. Barbara did all of this on her own – no children and therefore no need for child-care – and no serious illness. She is convinced that if she had had to contend with either of those, she never would have made ends meet. She rented a room, or an apartment – purchased a used car – and had to work at least a job and a half – sometimes two jobs. She worked as a cleaning person, as a waitress, and as a clerk in Wal-Mart. Her observations on her co-workers were perhaps the most interesting parts of her book: many were quite bright and quite exceptional. But they were certainly not fortunate – and were barely hanging on.

All of this in our contemporary society where we are told by Key Bank: Achieve Anything! – the University of Akron advertises that they will provide us with "the competitive advantage". We are living in a society in which the richest are getting richer and the poorest are getting poorer – and there are many more of the latter.

With the global economy, we all, the fortunate ones, are benefiting from cheap labor all over the world. I like to brag about

the international clothing I wear – made in Ukraine, Philippines, Bangladesh. We wear sneakers, use cameras and computers that are assembled by people we don't know – many of whom, I shudder to say, are living in the so-called "developing" countries from hand to mouth. If we would see these people and the conditions in which their families live – I am certain that we would gladly pay them more for the things they make – but we don't see them, and we never will meet them. The thought that in the so-called "new" world economy, everyone [even just every American] will be better off, is just not true. We interact every day with people here in this country who do not have medical insurance, do not have decent housing, and whose children go to schools we would never send our children to. They clean our homes and offices, serve us fast food, and who knows what else? They don't live in our neighborhoods – and as far as we are concerned most of the time, they don't really have a name – they only serve a function for us.

In today's New York Times, professor Stephen Jay Gould, a professor of zoology at Harvard, wrote that "the patterns of human history mix decency and depravity in equal measure", and therefore, "we often assume that there are as many decent people as there are depraved. But, as he writes, that is definitely not so! "Good and kind people outnumber all others by thousands to one." Evil acts are rare, though as we witnessed on September 11, they can cause enormous destruction. As I like to say, it takes years and years to build something – but it can be destroyed in an instant. Gould terms it "the Great Assymetry": every spectacular incident of evil will be balanced by thousands and tens of thousands of acts of kindness, too often unnoted and invisible. We have a duty, he writes - almost a holy responsibility - to

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record and honor these innumerable little kindnesses, so that the few depraved people might finally understand why their vision of inspired fear cannot prevail over ordinary decency.

I mentioned on Rosh Hashanah the parallel to the Holocaust – a time of incomprehensible and unimaginable human depravity – and yet also, a time of unbelievable courage and acts of heroism.

Local fire-fighters have raised over \$1 million – all kinds of people have been so generous. Lines to give blood. Donations of clothing and food. Flying the American flag – expressions of support and unity. We human beings are capable of re-ordering our priorities and being very generous at times of crisis. None of us is being asked to risk our lives – though, our reservists and National Guard, are being called up, and there no doubt will be more casualties in this war.

On this, the holiest day of the Jewish year, we must affirm that all humans are created in God's image, and most all of those humans are decent people. But God has created us with free will, and we all have in our power to choose life or choose death, blessing or curse. Scientific progress and technology have brought us great benefits, but they have also allowed a relatively few evil people to cause tremendous damage and suffering. We cannot lose hope and ignore the tremendous outpouring of love and caring that this tragedy has promoted.

But the major challenge to us is to maintain our priorities, even when there is no tragedy on the television screens and in the newspaper headlines. Rabbi Roland Gittelson, a Cleveland native, who was a prominent Reform Rabbi in Boston for many years, was a Marine chaplain during the Second World War. He took part in the invasion of Iwo Jima and spoke at the dedication of the Marine cemetery there

after the battle. He said that he hoped that in the America to which the soldiers would be returning, blacks and whites, Jews and Christians would be as close and as mutually dependent in peacetime as they had been in combat. How far we were from that goal in the '50's and even now! So many stories of Jews and Christians and Muslims and Buddhists coming to another's aid at the World Trade Center!

But will it continue? Will we continue to reach out when time has passed? That is the genius of our Jewish tradition with its system of mitzvot [commandments] – it recognizes that as human beings we all are free to make choices and to set our priorities. On this day, devoted solely to introspection, we need to look at our lives and at our responsibilities in this, God's world.

The Talmud [in Sotah (14a)] asks a profound question, how do we understand the verse "Follow the Lord your God?" (Deut. 13:5). How do we bring the power of God back to His world? The answer will not be easy, or facile, nor will it respond to our modern inclination for a quick fix.

The Talmud answers that just as God clothed the naked, we should clothe the naked. When did God clothe the naked? When He made clothes for Adam and Eve. Perhaps one Jewish response would be giving clothes, or at least winter coats to those in need.

Just as God fed the hungry, we should feed the hungry. When did God feed the hungry? When he sent manna to the Israelites during the forty years of their journey in the wilderness. Can't we do more than we are doing in collecting food? Shouldn't our Temple organize groups to work at hunger centers or homeless shelters?

A reader once wrote to Ann Landers suggesting a cure for teenage moodiness

*******SPECIAL KOL NIDRE 5762 SERMON REPRINT*******

and anger at the world: Get them involved in some form of community service. Teens who help others are 50% less likely to join gangs, use drugs or become pregnant. Their high-school grades are better, and dropout rates are lower. One suspects that a lot of the self-destructive, anti-social behavior of young people, who can be so beautifully idealistic, arises to fill the vacuum of their feeling that they have nothing important to do. Giving them something to do, making them feel important in

somebody's life makes them feel better about themselves.

God calls us now to respond to the evil that has been propagated in the world, falsely in His name. God needs us to respond, meaningfully, to the spiritual challenge of evil. We must fill the world with goodness and an expression of His concern.

-Rabbi Lettovsky



Stay up to date on the situation in the Middle East.

Check out the Middle East Briefing at the Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland's web site (www.jewishcleveland.org) and click on "Middle East briefings." You can subscribe to the email version of the briefing from the web site as well.

Help Prevent Terrorist Attacks on Israel

The terrorist attacks on our country heighten our awareness of the ongoing terrorist activity directed at Israel. Now more than ever Israel needs our support. One way you can support Israel is to write to your representatives in Congress regarding issues affecting Israel.

In the last several months both the House and Senate passed a foreign aid bill which contains a foreign aid package to Israel. In addition, both the House and Senate renewed the Iran-Libya Sanctions Act (ILSA) which has effectively reduced foreign investment in Iran, limiting funds available for this regime to support terrorism and slow its efforts to acquire weapons of mass destruction. It is important that we thank our representatives for supporting this important legislation.

The Middle East Peace Compliance Act of 2001 has been introduced into the House and Senate. This important legislation provides an opportunity to hold Palestinian leaders accountable for the acts of violence against Israel by imposing sanctions on the PLO and PA. It is important that we ask our representatives to support this important legislation.

Letters have been drafted to each of our representatives (Senators Voinovich and DeWine, and Representatives Kucinich, LaTourette, and Brown) regarding each of these issues. If you would like to sign letters to your Senators and Representatives, please contact Dale Levy at 440-808-8710. Letters will also be available in the Temple Office. If you are interested in more ways to support Israel visit the AIPAC web site at www.aipac.org.

*Please join us for the
Jewish Education Center of Cleveland
8th Annual Meeting
with special tribute
dinner to
Harley Gross
and featuring the
Educator Awards.*



*Sunday, January 13, 2002
Executive Caterers at Landerhaven
5:30 PM*

*Reservations are Required. Dietary laws observed.
Call the JECC, 216-371-0446*

**Goldman Union Camp Institute – For
the Time of Your Life**

Entering 3rd through 10th grade children from synagogues across the Midwest are currently being enrolled for the coming summer program at our regional U.A.H.C. camp, The Goldman Union Camp Institute. **DON'T LET YOUR CHILD MISS THIS CHANCE TO JOIN IN THE FUN AND FRIENDSHIP OF G.U.C.I.** A four week session (a two week session is offered for entering 3rd and 4th graders) at GUCI is a unique experience. Campers participate in a full range of sports, arts, and Jewish programs, all offered within the exciting and motivating atmosphere of a Reform Jewish community of young people. There is simply no other experience like it.

Find out more about this wonderful opportunity for your child by picking up a 2002 Goldman Camp Brochure from the temple office, or call the camp directly (317) 873-3361. You can e-mail the camp at GUCIOFFICE@aol.com.



TEMPLE TIDBITS

☆ Mazel Tov: Congratulations to **Ted & Roberta Provder** who are celebrating their 40th anniversary this month.

☆ Condolences: The congregation extends its condolences to **Jay Schertzer** on the death of his Uncle, Harry Schertzer.

☆ Condolences: The congregation also extends its condolences to **Paul Schwin** on the death of his Father, Arthur Schwin.

☆ Condolences: The congregation wishes to extend its condolences to **Bruce Cudney** on the death of his mother, Esther Cudney.

☆ Shalom: Beth Israel—the West Temple extends a warm welcome to our newest members, **Sherry & Thomas Lenhart** and their daughters, **Carolyn and Kelly**.

☆ Mazel Tov: Congratulations to proud parent, **Sylvia Forman**. Her son, **Ira Forman**, who was a student in our Religious School, is the co-editor of Jews in American Politics. Sylvia has donated a copy of the book to our library. Be sure to check it out!

You're invited...

to shop at the Beth Israel Judaica Shop for all your Chanukah needs!



**Remember to light
your first candle
on December 9!**



**The Judaica Shop will be open on Sundays in December (2, 9, 16) from 10-12pm
or call Vicky Abady at 440-237-6539.**

**Items available include: candles, gifts, wrap, cards, books, gelt, paper product,
and of course, dreidels.**



NEWS YOU CAN USE

Yentl Plan to see **Yentl** at the Jewish Community Center in Cleveland Heights featuring our own Rhoda Rosen and directed by our own David Bamberger! The Communal Activities Committee has reserved tickets for the performance on Saturday, January 26, 2002 at 8:30 p.m. The regular ticket price is \$18, but our temple will only have to pay \$16. To obtain your tickets, please make your check payable to Beth Israel - the West Temple and give it to Lynn Atzenhoffer or leave it at the office for her as soon as possible. Reservations for this performance are due by January 5, 2002.

We're Looking For You! If you would like to join our Merry Band of Players, we would like to meet you. The next FELDMAN-ROSEN production, **MY FAIR SADIE**, begins its rehearsals in January. Prior to that first rehearsal, we will have our first meeting and explain what our group is all about and what will take place as we create this exciting original musical. So, if you enjoy performing and are willing to give your time to attend rehearsals, please come to our first meeting on Sunday, January 6 at 12:15. If you are unable to attend, but would like to participate, please call Charlotte (440-234-6799) or Rhoda (440-234-9575).

MOVING? Please notify the temple office promptly so that we can update our records with your new address and phone number. This is particularly important if you have a child in Religious School. We cannot notify you of the cancellation of classes or in case of an emergency unless we have a current phone number.

Home Energy Assistance Program The Ohio Department of Development offers several programs to help low-income Ohio-ans pay their utility bills and improve the energy efficiency of their homes. If a member of your household is age 65 or over and/or is totally and permanently disabled, you may be eligible for an increased benefit. Contact the Cuyahoga County Department of Senior and Adult Services at 216-420-6750 for more information or to find out if you qualify.

THE BOOK CORNER

By Bob Roth

FOR CHILDREN

Peace, Shalom, Salaam by Howard I. Bogot.

This book is an illustrated poem, presented in English, Hebrew, and Arabic, examining the meaning and benefits of peace. (ages 5 & up)

Why On This Night? by Rahel Musleah.

Intended to give children a central part in planning and participating in the Passover Seder, this includes every major part of the haggadah in Hebrew, English, and transliteration. And as if that weren't enough, there are also superb illustrations, songs, games, crafts, recipes, and other ideas for make the Seder truly family-centered. (all ages)

Tikun Olam: Fixing the World by Anne Lobock Fenton.

Tikun Olam, Hebrew for "fixing the world," is the heart-warming story for children of Mr. Mitzvah Fixit, a good-natured handyman who tried to fix his sick friend, Dr. Mender. Mr. Fixit tries many things to fix his sick friend: he uses

his tools to make entertaining gadgets, sings songs and prayers... he even breaks his heart in two, giving Dr. Mender the bigger piece. Despite his best efforts, Mr. Fixit cannot prevent Dr. Mender from dying. (ages 8-14)

Dance, Sing, Remember: A Celebration of Jewish Holidays.

A lighthearted writing style and childlike illustrations give panache to this cheerful holiday collection. (pre-school thru 1st grade)

The Peddler's Gift by Maxine Schur.

A group of Russian-Jewish shtetl boys mock a seemingly hapless peddler. Young Leibush alone learns the astounding truth about their victim...a truth which stays with him for life. (ages 5-9)

First He Made the Sun by Harriet Ziefert.

This simple creation story, with its roots in Genesis as well as in the words of a traditional spiritual, bring to life a caring, joyful creator who makes the world in seven days. (pre-school thru 1st grade)

Cont. on next page

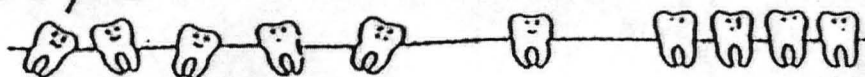
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(440) 871-1173 or 933-9555



The Book Corner cont.

On Purim by Cathy Goldberg Fishman.

One of the best of the books on holidays created by Fishman and Hall (the illustrator). It combines evocative illustrations with a narrative that is sensitive to the paradoxes of a holiday in which God's name is never mentioned. (ages 5-7)

Seven Animals Wag Their Tales by Howard I. & Mary K. Bogot.

The seven animals of the title are the main characters in fables that exemplify the traits of helpfulness, making choices, cooperation, duty, teamwork, courage, and accepting differences. If stories for primary-grade children on explicit themes are needed, this is the book. (ages 5-7)

Fireflies in the Dark, the story of Friedl Dicker-Brandeis and the Children of Terezin by Susan Goldman Rubin.

A Bauhaus-trained Jewish artist from Prague is imprisoned in Terezin. There she teaches children to express themselves and their fears through art. An inspiring story with memorable illustrations by Dicker-Brandeis and her children. (ages 10-14)

Because Nothing Looks Like God by Lawrence & Karen Kushner.

"Where is God?" "What does Good look like?" "How does God make things happen?" Mixing sparks of curiosity and spiritual imagination, this wondrous book lights children's creativity and shows how God is with us everyday, in every way. It is a vibrant invitation to children and their adults to explore together what, where, and how God is in our lives. (ages 4 & up)

PRACTICAL FINANCIAL PLANNING

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Directory Update

Please add the following new member to your Directory:

Sherry & Thomas Lenhart
Children: Carolyn & Kelly
19420 Purnell Avenue
Rocky River 44116
Phone: (440) 333-1696

December Simchas

Student Birthdays

- 1 Victoria Belanger
- 4 Stephany Goodworth
- 7 Jillian Kaufman
- 22 Alex Keller
- 24 Adam Gold
- 26 Tyler Vaccarella
- 28 Lauren Levy
Joel Pendery

Wedding Anniversaries

- 3 Ellen & John Goodworth
- 6 Karen Widder & Kent Cleland
- 10 Marilyn & Don Bogart
Laurie & Arnon Chait
- 12 Lynn & Mark Atzenhoffer
- 13 Carol & Edward Folkman
- 24 Roberta & Ted Provder
- 31 Charlotte & Jim Feldman



WEB WANDERINGS: Torah

uahcweb.org/torahnet

TorahNet by Eric Simon has many links of opportunity for studying Torah on the Internet. There are even links especially for assistance teaching children.

www.ellietorah.com

Ellie's Torah Trope Tutor is a web-site designed and maintained by Ellie Wackerman. Its purpose to provide a place on the web where you can study and learn Torah Trope, how to read it and how to chant it. Includes .wav files for listening.

bible.ort.org

This site, set up as a Bar/Bat Mitzvah tutoring aide, contains the Torah & Haftorah in Hebrew and English with transliteration. There is even a section for Divrei Torah on each parsha.


www.czechtorah.org

Site for an organization of synagogues and religious institutions that have on permanent loan some of the 1564 Czech torahs that were rescued from the former Jewish communities of Czechoslovakia. Each of these communities was entirely wiped out by the Nazis during the Holocaust. These Torahs were taken to Westminster Synagogue in London where they were rehabilitated and then sent to synagogues around the world.

Oh...I went to Surprise Lake Camp!

CONTACT US FOR INFORMATION ABOUT OUR
100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION IN 2002.

212-924-3131
SLCAMP@AOL.COM
WWW.SURPRISELAKE.ORG

An agency of
UJA-Federation 



Surprise Lake Camp is a non-profit overnight camp that will be celebrating it's 100th Anniversary this summer. The camp gave away over \$600,000 in scholarships last summer. Contact them for more information.

Yahrzeiten

Names included on the Memorial Board in the sanctuary are noted with an asterisk ().*

- December 7-8 23 Kislev
12/3 Lisa Susan Reminick (Pat Outlaw)
12/4 Tom Lewalk (Miriam Lewalk)
12/5 *Fred Pyritz
- December 14-15 30 Kislev
12/13 Lillian Feigenbaum (Richard Feigenbaum)
 Anna Fodor (Louis Fodor)
- December 21-22 7 Tevet
12/17 *Irving Gilbert
12/18 Sam Lewis (Phyllis Sapell)
12/19 *Alfred Gluck (Rose Gluck)
12/20 Bracha Alterovitz (Samuel Alterovitz)
 Ralph Blecker (Rhoda Rosen)
 Alan Kirschberg (Ann Holland)
12/21 Janet Slatkin (Myrna Pendery)
12/22 *Samuel Romain
- December 28-29 14 Tevet
12/23 *Abraham Bruckman (Martha Bruckman)
 Anna Goldberg (Beryl & Mike Palnik)
 Selma Bogatsky (Don Bogart)
12/24 Louis Beral (Carola Bamberger)
12/25 Bessie Schochet (Ruth Schochet)
 Doris Selkowitz (Paula Jacobson)
 Goldie Slone (Maxine Slone)
12/27 *Irving Priesand (Rose Priesand)
12/28 Ronald Berman (Michelle Grossman)

GOOD NEWS IS HERE!!!!

In January, Barton's Passover Sale will start.



Watch for some "NEW" Products.

Any question can be directed to
Brooke Jacobs at 440-930-9031.

Contributions

December 2001

**We Gratefully Acknowledge the
Following Contributions**

GENERAL FUND

In Memory Of

Harry Schwartz
Ted & Roberta Provder
Jessie & Dan Samuelson
Marilyn & Lowell Grossman

LENORE SINGER MUSIC FUND

In Memory Of

Isaac Singer
Leonard Singer
Gertrude Nitzberg
Silver Nitzberg
Lisa Susan Reminick
Pat Outlaw

LIBRARY FUND

In Memory Of

Max Eisenstot
Valerie Tate

The Library gratefully acknowledges a
donation to our collection from Tina Keller.

RABBINIC DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Honor Of

A New Beginning
Dee Lazarus

MILLER ART FUND

In Memory Of

Paul Knapp
Donald & Mary Hall

TREE OF LIFE FUND

In Memory Of

Nellie Palnik
Beryl & Michael Palnik

DECEMBER 2001

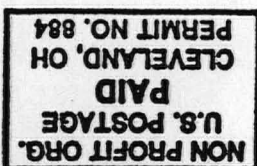
KISLEV – TEVET 5762

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					Nov. 30 15 Kislev Erev Shabbat Service 8:00 p.m.	1 16 Kislev <i>VaYishlach</i> Torah Study 10:00 a.m. Torah Service 10:45 a.m.
2 17 Kislev Parent Talk 10 a.m. What's Cooking for Chanukah? 11 a.m.	3 18 Kislev	4 19 Kislev	5 20 Kislev	6 21 Kislev	7 22 Kislev Erev Shabbat Service 8:00 p.m.	8 23 Kislev <i>VaYeshev</i> Torah Study 10:00 a.m. Torah Service 10:45 a.m.
9 24 Kislev First Candle of Chanukah Religious School Chanukah Tzedakah Assembly	10 25 Kislev Second Candle of Chanukah	11 26 Kislev Third Candle of Chanukah Bulletin Deadline	12 27 Kislev Fourth Candle of Chanukah Board Meeting 7:30 p.m.	13 28 Kislev Fifth Candle of Chanukah	14 29 Kislev Sixth Candle of Chanukah Chanukah Shared Shabbat Dinner 6:00 p.m. Service 7:30 p.m.	15 30 Kislev <i>Miketz</i> Torah Study 10:00 a.m. TOT Shabbat 10:30 a.m. Torah Service 10:45 a.m. Seventh Candle of Chanukah
16 1 Tevet Eighth Candle of Chanukah Grades 2-7 Field Trip	17 2 Tevet	18 3 Tevet	19 4 Tevet Circle of Friends 7:30 p.m.	20 5 Tevet	21 6 Tevet Erev Shabbat Service 8:00 p.m.	22 7 Tevet <i>VaYigash</i> Torah Study 10:00 a.m. Torah Service 10:45 a.m.
23 8 Tevet No Religious School	24 9 Tevet	25 10 Tevet No Hebrew School	26 11 Tevet	27 12 Tevet	28 13 Tevet Erev Shabbat Service 8:00 p.m.	29 14 Tevet <i>VaYechi</i> Torah Study 10:00 a.m. Torah Service 10:45 a.m.
30 15 Tevet No Religious School	31 16 Tevet					

Shabbat Honors Schedule for December 2001

Date	Service Leader	Ushers	Candles	Hagbah	Aliyah	Galilah	Oneg/ Kiddush Hosts
Fri. Nov. 30	Enid Lader	Justin Morse Rachel Pankiw	Braanda Schwartz				Sean & Ona Griswold Jeff & Michelle Grossman
Sat. Dec. 1	Rabbi Lettofsky	Eddie Rand Joseph Spiro		Michael Palnik	Mark Spiro	Beryl Palnik	Michael & Tamara Rand
Fri. Dec. 7	Shosh Ault	Sarah Levinson Doug Eilberg	Pat Outlaw				Lona Gruber Leslie Guria
Sat. Dec. 8	(TBA)	Aaron Schecter Mallory Kaufman		Sean Griswold	Barbara Schecter	Robin Kaufman	The Kaufman Family
Fri. Dec. 14	Rabbi Lettofsky	Andrew Brehm Alyssa Moss	Natalie Davis				Rick & Brooke Jacobs Saragene Davis
Sat. Dec. 15	Shosh Ault	Justin Morse Rachel Pankiw		Louis Fodor	Richard Feigenbaum	Jan Morse	The Morse Family
Fri. Dec. 21	Enid Lader	Eddie Rand Joseph Spiro	Myrna Pendery				Nathan Jacobson Jeff & Paula Janofsky
Sat. Dec. 22	Enid Lader	Sarah Levinson Andrew Brehm		Arnon Chait	Rhoda Rosen	Phyllis Sapell	The Brehm Family
Fri. Dec. 28	Shosh Ault	Rachel Pankiw Mallory Kaufman	Paula Jacobson				Paula Jacobson Lynda & Miles Kane
Sat. Dec. 29	Enid Lader	Doug Eilberg Alyssa Moss		Michael Palnik	Carola Bamberger	Michelle Grossman	The Moss Family

HEBREW UNION COLLEGE-JIR
CLIFTON AVENUE
CINCINNATI OH 45220



Affiliated with the Union of American Hebrew Congregations

BETH ISRAEL - THE WEST TEMPLE
14308 TRISKETT ROAD
CLEVELAND OH 44111



DECEMBER SERVICE SCHEDULE

Fri., Nov. 30 (Enid Lader)
Erev Shabbat Service 8:00 p.m.

Sat., Dec. 1 (Rabbi Alan Lettovsky)
Torah Study 10:00 a.m.
Torah Service 10:45 a.m.

Fri., Dec. 7 (Shosh Ault)
Erev Shabbat Service 8:00 p.m.

Sat., Dec. 8 (Service Leader TBA)
Torah Study 10:00 a.m.
Torah Service 10:45 a.m.

Fri., Dec. 14 (Rabbi Lettovsky)
Chanukah Shared Shabbat Family Service
7:30 p.m.

Sat., Dec. 15 (Shosh Ault)
Torah Study 10:00 a.m.
TOT Shabbat 10:30 a.m.
Torah Service 10:45 a.m.

Fri., Dec. 21 (Enid Lader)
Erev Shabbat Service 8:00 p.m.

Sat., Dec. 22 (Enid Lader)
Torah Study 10:00 a.m.
Torah Service 10:45 a.m.

Fri., Dec. 28 (Shosh Ault)
Erev Shabbat Service 8:00 p.m.

Sat., Dec. 29 (Enid Lader)
Torah Study 10:00 a.m.
Torah Service 10:45 a.m.



*Come light your Menorah with your
Beth Israel—The West Temple Family*

Dinner & Shabbat Services



December 14, 2001

*Dinner will begin at 6:00 p.m. followed by
Shared Shabbat Family Service at 7:30 p.m.*

Chicken & Potato Lakes will be served

Please bring a non dairy dish to pass and your Menorah

Price: \$4.00 per person Maximum \$15.00 per family

To help us better prepare for the dinner, please send your reservations to
Lynn Atzenhoffer, 3395 Spruce Court, Avon OH 44011 along with your
check payable to Beth Israel—The West Temple.

Name _____

Adult # _____

Children # _____

\$ _____
Total Submitted

Item you wish to pass _____ for 10 people.

If you have any questions please call Lynn at 440-937-5588

Hanukkah

Al ha-Nisim - For the Miracles

During Hanukkah the following reading is added to the Amidah which is a central prayer of our worship service. This addition is a brief history and explanation of the holiday of Hanukkah.

"We give thanks for the redeeming wonders and the mighty deeds by which at this season our people was saved in days of old.

"In the days of the Hasmoneans, a tyrant arose against our ancestors, determined to make them forget Your Torah, and to turn them away from obedience to Your will. But You were at their side in time of trouble. You gave them strength to struggle and to triumph, that they might serve You in freedom.

"Through the power of Your spirit the weak defeated the strong, the few prevailed over the many, and the righteous were triumphant. Then Your children returned to Your house, to purify the sanctuary and kindle the lights. And they dedicated these days to give thanks and praise to Your great name." (*Gates of Prayer*)

A few explanations:

The Hasmoneans were another name for the Maccabees, led by Mattathias and his son Judah. The tyrant was Antiochus Epiphanes IV of Syria. The weak were the Maccabees and their followers whose numbers were much smaller than the mighty Syrian armies sent to battle them. The house the Maccabees returned to was the *Beyt Ha-mikdash* - the Temple in Jerusalem which they cleansed and rededicated for service to God. Hanukkah means dedication.

The Mitzvot and Traditions of Hanukkah

- It is a mitzvah to celebrate Hanukkah for eight days beginning at sundown on the 9th of December.
- It is a mitzvah to celebrate Hanukkah by lighting the menorah at sundown on each of the eight nights.
- It is a tradition to display the Hanukkah menorah — called a hanukiah — in a window facing out to the street, thus publicizing the miracle of Hanukkah.
- It is a tradition to eat foods made with oil to recall the miracle of the oil.



Teach Your Children Well

The Talmud teaches that one who is consistent in observing the kindling of the Hanukkah lights will have children who are Torah scholars (*Shabbat 23b*). This teaching reminds us that parents are the first and best role models for their children. By consistently observing Jewish traditions such as the lighting of Hanukkah candles, celebrating Shabbat, and giving tzedakah we demonstrate to our children our commitment to Judaism. The rabbis of the Talmud knew that children will live what they learn and love what they learn with the involvement and participation of their parents.

This Hanukkah may we kindle the candles and nurture the next generation of Torah scholars.

Holiday Schedule

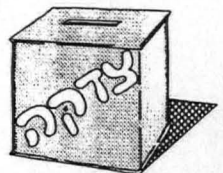
Hanukkah
25 Kislev—2 Tevet

Kindle the first candle
of Hanukkah
at sundown
on December 9th



The last night of
Hanukkah is
December 17th.

Crafts



Hanukkah Gelt or Tzedakah Bank

Many craft stores carry a variety of unpainted ceramic banks. Take a family field trip to choose a *gelt* (a Yiddish word for coins) or a *tzedakah* bank for each child in the family; the adults might like to participate also! Paint with acrylic craft paint which comes in a variety of colors and cleans up with water!

≧ *But the paints are permanent on clothing so push up those sleeves!* ≧ Let dry two hours to overnight and if desired apply clear glossy acrylic for a shiny finish!

Gathering Around the Holiday Table

The Hanukkah Blessings

- Candles are added to the hanukkiah from right to left but are kindled from left to right. The newest candle is lit first.
- Light the Shamash- the helper candle set higher or lower than all the rest of the candles - first using it to kindle the rest of the Hanukkah lights; say or sing:

*Ba-ruch a-ta Adonai, Eh-lo-hei-nu
meh-lech ha-o-lam a-she-
ki-d'sha-nu b'mitz-vo-tav v'tzi-va-nu
l'had-lik ner shel Hanukkah.*

We praise You, Eternal God, Sovereign of the universe: You make us holy with Your Mitzvot, and command us to kindle the Hanukkah lights.

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו
מלך העולם אשר
קדשנו במצותיו וצונו
להדליק נר של חנוכה.

*Ba-ruch a-ta Adonai, Eh-lo-hei-nu
meh-lech ha-o-lam, sheh-a-sa ni-sim
la-a-vo-tei-nu/l'i-mo-tei-nu
ba-ya-mim ha-heim ba-z'man ha-zeh.*

We praise You, Eternal God, Sovereign of the universe: You showed wonders to our fathers/mothers in days of old, at this season.

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו
מלך העולם שעשה נסים
לאבותינו/לאמותינו
ביתים ההם בזמן הזה.

On the first night only we add:

*Ba-ruch a-ta A-do-nai, Eh-lo-hei-nu
meh-lech ha-o-lam, she-heh-cheh-ya-nu,
v'ki-y'ma-nu, v'higi-anu,
la-z'man ha-zeh.*

We praise You, Eternal One, Sovereign God of the universe, for giving us life, for sustaining us, and for enabling us to reach this season.

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו
מלך העולם שהחיינו
וקיימנו והגיענו
לזמן הזה.

On the Shabbat of Hanukkah, kindle the Hanukkah lights first and then the Shabbat candles.

If you celebrate Havdalah at the conclusion of Shabbat, this is observed first and then the Hanukkah candles are kindled.

Dreidel

Begin play by having each of the players ante up into a common pot, using plastic chips, pennies or peanuts in the shell. Each player takes turns spinning the dreidel and wins or loses depending on what letter shows when the spinning stops!

נ Nun - take nothing ה Hey- take half

ג Gimmel - take all ש Shin- put in



Books

Spend an evening of Hanukkah sipping hot cocoa, eating soofganiyot - jelly doughnuts - which are the standard Israeli Hanukkah treat - and reading a pile of Hanukkah books with family and friends!

Check with your local or on-line bookseller, public library and/or your temple library for these and other Hanukkah titles:

The Jar of Fools: Eight Hanukkah Stories from Chelm
by Eric A. Kimmel

Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblins
by Eric A. Kimmel

Latkes and Applesauce: A Hanukkah Story
by Fran Manushkin