



Congregation Beth Elohim

Lewis Mintz, Rabbi

Cantor Sarra Spierer

Leann Shamash, Director of Education

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CBE Sisterhood Presents:
AN EVENING OF
MUSIC, DINNER AND FUN
January 23, 2010 from 7:00-11:00 PM
ENTERTAINMENT BY
Yoko Miwa Trio www.yokomiwa.com and
Fernando Holz Band www.fernandoholz.com

Dinner entrées include salad, dessert, coffee/tea
\$35/pp for pasta entrées, \$40/pp for salmon entrée
Cover charge and tip included with dinner.
Alcohol and soda not included.

- ❖ **Limited seating, so book now!**
- ❖ **Deadline: Jan. 17th**

Make check out to: CBE Sisterhood
Mail to: Arlene Weiss 25 Stoneymeade Way, Acton
Questions: contact Doris Goldstein
devorahdoragoldstein@gmail.com

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The deadline posted in the previous month's issue, is generally the 15th of the previous month, slightly earlier in case of holidays.

Material for inclusion in *The Star* may be submitted:

- by disk with hardcopy printout;
- via email: rbecker@owl.com (receipt acknowledged);
- as camera ready or handwritten copy; or
- by FAX: call Congregation Beth Elohim or the editor.

Receipt of material can be verified by calling the editor after the deadline.
Editor: Bob Becker 978-263-8097.

Schedule of Services

Friday,	December	4	8:00	PM	Shabbat Evening Service
Saturday,	December	5	10:00	AM	Shabbat Service #—Marissa Chiauzzi Bat Mitzvah
Saturday,	December	5	10:00	AM	Junior Congregation
Friday,	December	11	6:30	PM	Chanukkah Service for Young Children; Tot Shabbat #
Saturday,	December	12	10:00	AM	Shabbat Torah Study
Sunday,	December	13	8:30	AM	Shacharit Minyan
Friday,	December	18	7:30	PM	Shabbat Evening Service—Chanukkah #
Saturday,	December	19	10:00	AM	Shabbat Torah Study
Saturday,	December	19	10:00	AM	Junior Congregation
Saturday,	December	19	10:00	AM	K'tonton Shabbat
Friday,	December	25	8:00	PM	Shabbat Evening Service—Lay Led

- Denotes services conducted by both Rabbi and Cantor.

President's Message

Linda Minkoff

minkoff1s@aol.com

Just a brief note this month to comment on some of the wonderful happenings at CBE this past month, and a reminder about the activities to come.

Our second annual "Comedy Cabaret" was a knee-slapping, belly-laughing, musical and rapping success! Thanks go to our brilliant FUNdraising "Comedy Cabaret" Duo, Miriam Zyskind and Ellen Valade, who took the lead on this event, along with their FUNdraising partners, David Barrat and Roz Malin. Yours truly was the Bartender once again—a job I love because it's the one way I can be sure to say hello to everyone! I want to thank my wonderful bartending team: Sue Wachter, Barry and Jo-Anne Nyer and Matt Liebman, who have awakened their hidden talents as mixologists. Special thanks also to our teenage servers, Sarah Liebman, Sarah Bloomstone and Ariella Honig, who have mastered the art of balancing full trays while weaving through a packed crowd; and to Marty Krasnick for doing his usual fine job managing lights, sound and temperature! Be sure to look for Ellen Valade's article on page 8 for acknowledgements of all the wonderful CBE volunteers who worked so hard and long to make this evening a success. At this writing it's still too soon to tell how successful the evening was financially, but as true success is measure not in dollars but in laughter, camaraderie and enjoyment, this evening was nothing less than triumphant!

Earlier in the month Sisterhood sponsored a lovely evening with Cantor Sarra who told us about her rise to fame as CBE's Cantor while we feasted on a variety of wonderful chocolate delicacies. I'm sure most of us in attendance did not realize that to be

trained and ordained as a cantor involves five years of graduate study! Sarra also announced the new Rosh Chodesh group she is starting at CBE. This promises to be a wonderful new opportunity for women to experience their spirituality together. Look for that announcement on page 7.

This month promises to be every bit as exciting as the last, with our Sisterhood Hanukkah Fair on the 3rd and our Community Hanukkah Celebration on the 13th. I hope to see many of you at these events! ☆

The Case For Israel

An Award Winning Film Demonstrating The Right for Israel to Exist

Sunday Evening, December 6 at 7:00 PM at
Congregation Beth El of the Sudbury River Valley,
105 Hudson Road, Sudbury, 978 443-9622.

Free public screening, donations to
CAMERA accepted

Harvard Law School Professor Alan Dershowitz presents a vigorous case for Israel—for its basic right to exist, to protect its citizens from terror, and to defend its borders from hostile enemies. Leading political, judicial, and academic leaders from Israel and the West comment on the critical challenges facing Israel and the West.

A discussion will follow the viewing of the film. Please attend.

For additional information please go to
www.thecaseforisrael.com.

Sisterhood News

Karen Collins

978-264-4042 / k.f.collins@comcast.net

Hellos from Sisterhood! We have had a lot going on with Sisterhood and can't wait to share everything with you.

Thank You

A heartfelt thank you to Cantor Sarra for taking the time to share her story with those of us who were fortunate enough to attend the program! We had a wonderful turnout for this event and all of us thoroughly enjoyed getting to know Cantor Sarra a little bit better! It feels so lucky to have had this opportunity. Thank you also to Doris Goldstein and Arlene Weiss for organizing this program, and to everyone who brought treats and drinks.

Thank you also to Susan Pinsky, Judy Budiansky, Susan Lerner and Katie Paikin for putting in the elbow grease to help clean out the front office! I mistakenly wrote last month that the front office project was already finished, and would like to offer my apologies for that. This is a work in progress, and as we all know, miracles do not happen overnight. Sisterhood is dedicated to turning the front office into a workable, comfortable, organized space for the entire congregation – keep posted for our progress!

Sisterhood Holiday Shopping Boutique

Thursday, December 3rd, 6:30-9:30 PM

Mark your calendar so you don't miss this shopping extravaganza! Shop, chat, snack and sip—shopping has never been so much fun or so easy! We hope to see you there!

Acton Community Supper

Wednesday, December 23rd

On December 23rd, CBE's Sisterhood will once again be participating in the Acton Community Supper. The Supper serves a nutritious meal to the needy of Acton and neighboring towns each Wednesday evening at the Acton Congregational Church. We will need many volunteers to help make this evening a success, including people to cook turkeys, grocery shop, cook that morning, set up, serve the meal and clean up. Time commitments vary. If you are interested in helping, please email Rebecca Bregman at Rebecca_bregman@comcast.net or call her at 978-263-1432. Don't miss this opportunity to help others.

Take care, stay healthy and we hope to see you soon! ☆

Minyanaires' News

Moshie Pupick

Beachwood 4-5789

Last month the People of Chelm wanted to know why the leader of the *minyán* was not concerned that there were only nine attendees; and, while the answer given was technically correct, it literally begged the question. For an expanded perspective on the issue you need only consult the great Halakhic reference located here: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minyan> or <http://www.tzemachdavid.org/thepracticaltorah/mikeitz.shtml>.

One should note that as a result of the Conservative movement having voted to permit synagogues to count women as part of a *minyán* if so desired and approved by the local rabbi, there was a simultaneous decision to no longer rely upon the Torah to make the tenth such that there are now very few Conservative congregations that retain this option. As CBE is a non-affiliated congregation we are able to "pick and choose" what traditions we accept. The commonly accepted standard for a *minyán* found at CBE is "Nine and something." It is the all inclusive 'something' that allowed the *minyán* leader to use the Torah as the tenth member. It might only be semantics you say but the real issue isn't whether or not to count the Torah, but Why Do We Have To! Why is this even an issue. You'll have an opportunity to express your opinion and/or hear someone else's on December 13th. There, in the CBE sanctuary, beginning at 8:30 AM with the Shacharit Service you'll have the prospect of being a part of the question. If you aren't there, you don't count. ☆

How to Reach Us

Telephone

The synagogue telephone number is 978-263-3061. Individuals can be reached at these extensions:

Rabbi Mintz	2
Cantor Spierer	7
Judy Budiansky	1
Leann Shamash	3

Web Site

Our congregation web site, www.bethelohim.org, includes the online edition of *The Star* as well as a variety of other information including the bookstore link (Amazon.com) and a form for making a donation.

♪ **Cantor's Composition** ♪

Cantor Sarra Spierer
sarrallegra@yahoo.com

**CBE's New Rosh Chodesh Group:
 What Is It All About?**

In November, a large group gathered for the Sisterhood's "Chocolate and Conversation" event. Among the highlights of the evening (in addition to the warm company of good friends, the presence of some new CBE members, and the chocolate!) was the introduction of a new women's group at Beth Elohim: CBE's Rosh Chodesh group.

If you haven't encountered or been part of one before, you may be wondering: what is a Rosh Chodesh group? This is an opportunity for women in our community to gather together once a month for meaningful discussions, Jewish learning, and celebration. It is an avenue for us to deepen our connection with Jewish traditions while we explore and continually develop our identities as Jewish women. And just as importantly, it is a time for us to connect with one another, to learn about each other, and to form new friendships.

Rosh Chodesh (meaning "head of the month" or "head of the new moon") refers to the first day(s) of each month on the Hebrew calendar. As Jews, we like to celebrate, and indeed, Rosh Chodesh, the beginning of each new month, is marked in the Torah as a joyous occasion and a kind of festival. In biblical and Temple times, it was commemorated with the sound of the shofar, offerings, and special sacrifices of gratitude. Over the millennia, it has come to be a time for feasting, prayer, self-reflection (much like the beginning days of each new year, Rosh Hashanah), song, and celebration for women.

Our Hebrew calendar is primarily lunar; the beginning of each month coincides with the appearance of the sliver of a new moon. In Jewish tradition, as in so many other cultural and religious traditions, the attributes and cycles of the moon are associated closely with women. Various *midrashim* and other Jewish writings explain the special significance of Rosh Chodesh for women. In fact, Rashi, a medieval Jewish scholar, tells us that in his day, women took Rosh Chodesh off from work; it was a mini-vacation. Today, many Jewish women mark this special holiday by celebrating with one another, reflecting on issues relevant to women, and honoring Jewish women past and present.

Our first CBE Rosh Chodesh meeting will be on Tuesday evening, December 22nd at 7:15. Each

month, we will focus on a heroine in Jewish history—a woman who has positively influenced the world with strong words or courageous deeds, and who can be an inspiring example for each of us. In each case, she will also be connected in some way with the themes, holidays, or Torah portions of the new month. At our first meeting, we will learn about two non-Jewish women (who appear in one of the Torah portions of the Hebrew month of Tevet, when we begin reading the Book of Exodus) who saved the Jewish people with their bold actions. (Any guesses who they are?)

This group is open to all of the women in our community, and each session is open to newcomers. Therefore, if you are not able to come to our first meeting, consider joining us in January. This is not a "closed" group in any sense; if you are able to come to some meetings but not others, that's perfectly fine.

I am very excited about the formation of this group, and the interest it has been generating. I am also very happy that Leann Shamash will be joining the group for several sessions, and that she will be contributing her exceptional creativity and *ruach*, spirit, (as, truly, she already has done in the group's planning stages). I know that her wonderful ideas and her presence will contribute to the success of our Rosh Chodesh group in many ways.

As I write this article, the Hebrew month of Kislev has just arrived. On the 25th day of Kislev, we will begin to celebrate Chanukah, our festival of freedom and light. May Kislev be a month of inner renewal, of new discovery, and light for all of us.

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions regarding the Rosh Chodesh group, please contact me anytime (sarrallegra@yahoo.com).

Kol tuv—with good wishes. ✧

The People of Chelm Want To Know...

Bob Ferrara
978-263-8642

The long and rich history of Judaism is so much more accessible to everyone today, even to the storied people of Chelm. Members of our Me'ah and adult education classes have studied this abundant past and wanted to share what we have learned with others who might also enjoy it. So this column was devised and each month there are three questions, usually from different eras. Most are fairly difficult questions, and you should be congratulated for trying to wrestle with any of them. The first two

(continued on the next page)

The People of Chelm Want To Know... (continued)
 were asked in this column several years ago and the last is new. If you don't know an answer, you will find it on page 8. Please share your new knowledge with your neighbors, fellow congregants, and especially the people of Chelm.

1. The Chanukah period is a major cause for rejoicing, and not just for children. Quite beyond the gift giving custom, this festival celebrates the recapture and rededication of the Jerusalem Temple by the Maccabees over two thousand years ago. There is also the inspiring tradition of the candles miraculously burning for eight days. Why then is it a "minor" holiday? Is it because 1) the Maccabee kings were not descendants of King David; 2) this triumph over the tyrant King Antiochus is not mentioned in the Bible; 3) the Jewish rebel victory was short-lived; or 4) the Talmud never discusses this celebration.


2. "Jews read Torah as one reads a love letter, eager to squeeze the last drop of meaning from every word." So does Rabbi Itzhak Greenberg characterize the Jewish people's centuries-old search for meaning in the sacred texts. This deep Jewish involvement with the Books of Moses has been an undertaking of countless rabbis, scholars, and everyday people. One great repository of such commentary is the Talmud, with its intricate dialogues between many generations. (Our rabbi advises that web surfing is good mental preparation for engaging in the study of Talmud). This enterprise did not stop

with the Talmud, but continues to give rise to an enormous body of commentary and interpretation, a wellspring which is flourishing and even increasing in our own time. There is a special word which describes this exploration and analysis of Judaism's most sacred texts. The same word is also applied to the vast literature which has resulted from this quest. What is the word?

3. Every month or two, the Congregation Beth Elohim Brotherhood sponsors a Sunday morning breakfast. The featured speakers at these events are guaranteed to make you think and gain some new perspective. Last October, Boaz Tabib, an Israeli Army war veteran, told his incredible story of survival. His armored personnel carrier was hit by a Syrian missile in the 1982 Lebanese war. His struggle after the war involved fifty surgeries and led to his coming to the US for further care and establishing a new life for himself and his family. When asked if he was interested in going on the lecture circuit for groups like the Disabled American Veterans or the VFW, he said "not really," and then lucidly explained why. Why do you think Boaz just does not want to talk that much about his clearly painful experience? ☆

Hold the Date!

7th Annual
Scholar in Residence Program
 Featuring Rabbi Natan Margalit
 (CBE Me'ah Teacher)



January 29th - 31st

Join us for a "green" Tu B'shvat weekend. Learning about our Jewish Responsibilities to Care for our Environment.

JCC Shalom Friends Class for Parents and Young Children

An eight-week, interactive music, movement and story time program with a Jewish twist for young children and their parents will be offered at the JCC Early Learning Center at CBE beginning December 4th.

Shalom Friends invites children five years of age and younger and their parents to sing and move to music, engage in arts and crafts projects, listen to stories, play with instruments, dance with scarves and learn about Shabbat, Israel and holiday celebrations. Participants receive an original music CD and an accompanying music book that includes the same music they hear in class.

Shalom Friends meets on Fridays, from 9:30-10:30 AM. Cost is \$64/child and \$16 for each additional sibling. The class is open to the entire community. No previous Jewish experience necessary. Shalom Friends is a program presented by the Jewish Community Centers of Greater Boston. For more information and to register, contact Helaine Katz at 978-266-9988 or hkatz@jccgb.org.

Chesed Happenings**Ellen Krueger****978-263-3107**

The winter months are upon us even if the calendar is a few weeks behind. It's dark early. It's cold. It can be a time of stress and yearning for comfort. The Chesed Committee is here to provide a helping hand for our congregants who might need a few meals, a ride, a visit to tide them over in a difficult situation, and of course, bereavement calls. This confidential help is only a telephone call or email away. If it's what you need, send email to George Schaffer at chesed@bethelohim.org or call 978-263-4341 to get the ball rolling.

We also want to assure our interfaith families that as members of our community, they have access to all the support and services of CBE regardless of the faith of the member or the faith of loved ones.

The Chesed Committee needs help in another area. If you know of news the CBE Community should know, please call the office or send an email to chesed@bethelohim.org. We want to help the Beth Elohim community be aware of what's going on in the lives of fellow congregants via this article. That way members can send a note of congratulations, encouragement, or sympathy to those in the community who would appreciate it. Please pass your news along. If we don't know about it, we can't share it.

- Condolences to Dafna Erickson and family on the death of her grandmother, Zelda Shpilner, in Israel.
- Condolences to Geoff Doherty and family on the death of his mother Francis Winn Doherty.
- Condolences to Michael Slurzberg on the death of his mother Lee Slurzberg.
- Mazal tov Leann & Benny Shamash on the marriage of their son Eytan to Krissy Wolff. ✧

Social Action Committee News**Eddie Rubin****erubin@alum.mit.edu**

On November 1st, three of our families (Coll, Maiman, Perkins) visited the Cor Unum Meal Center in Lawrence to help serve dinner. There was a large group of 10th graders, part of a church confirmation requirement, so was quite busy but very rewarding for those in attendance. Cor Unum is a not-for-profit meal center that provides free, nutritious meals twice a day, seven days a week, in a safe environment to anyone who is in need of food. On No-

vember 8th, we had most of our regular crew (Deborah Berger and son, Orna Shohet and son, Steve Ellis, and Maida Fund) at HGRM. This is a very important relationship for us and we would love some additional members. The training will take about 10 minutes.

As part of the Chanukah Celebration on December 13th we will be collecting food donations for the local pantries. Please don't forget your bag of food. The items in greatest demand are canned fish (tuna, salmon, sardines), hot cereal, hearty soups, cake mixes, canned vegetables, beans (dried and canned), cooking oil, toilet paper, and diapers. On Sunday, December 13th, we will be working at HGRM from 1-4 PM. We can use a few more adults and teenagers so if you can make it please contact Ellen Maiman at ellenmaiman@yahoo.com. It's a great way to spend time with your child and get them community service hours. Once again we will be helping serve dinner at Cor Unum on Christmas Day. Those families that attended last year had a wonderful experience but we can always use more help. If you or your family will be around that day and can give up a few hours you will make some people very happy. Little kids can join as well. If you can make it or have any questions please contact Karen Coll at karencoll@verizon.net. ✧

CBE's New Women's Rosh Chodesh Group

Our very first meeting will be on Tuesday evening, December 22nd, 7:15-8:30 PM.

- Explore who we are as modern Jewish women.
- Learn about two little-known women who saved the Jewish people.
- Connect with women in our community.
- Celebrate the new month, Tevet, with song and a blessing.
- Share a delicious nosh!

Come and meet new friends, reunite with old friends, sing, eat, and learn. (What could be better than that?)

The following meeting will be on Thursday evening, January 14th, when we will celebrate the new month of Sh'vat and learn about Miriam, a great leader and heroine of the Jewish people. If you are not able to make our December meeting, join us in January!

Answers For the People of Chelm and Any Other Curious Souls

1. The best answer as to why Chanukah is not a major holiday is that it is not mentioned in the Hebrew Bible. With the sole exception of Purim, only the holidays mentioned in the Bible like Pesach and Shavuot require cessation from ordinary activities. The Books of the Maccabees describe the retaking of the Temple in 165 BCE, more than 300 years after the last of the Davidic line was king in Jerusalem. The Books of the Maccabees are not part of the Hebrew Bible, although these books are included in the Catholic Bible. Judah Maccabee and his family were not descendants of King David or of his tribe of Judah, but the Hasmonean dynasty that the Maccabees founded did rule successfully for over a hundred years. The Romans ultimately turned over kingship to the Herodians. The Talmud actually has quite a bit to say about Chanukah, including even down to a discussion of the order in which the candles should be lit.

2. The attempt to explain and unravel the meaning of Biblical passages is called Midrash. Midrash also refers to a specific explanation or rabbinic commentary on a Biblical story, usually emphasizing a lesson or point of law. Finally, the word Midrash is applied to the entire collection of literature to which this interpretive activity gave rise. The rabbis of old, assuming that no word of

the Biblical text was superfluous, generated a vast midrashic literature, including most of the Talmud. However, the work is never done and Midrash continues to be created, as we interpret the Scriptures in the light of modern experiences. The word itself derives from a Hebrew root meaning "to inquire, study, investigate." A synagogue is to serve as a "Beit Midrash", a house of study, as well as a house of prayer (Beit Tefila) and a house of assembly (Beit Knesset).

3. Boaz Tabib is one of those everyday heroes who restore our faith in people. Despite the scarring of his body as a result of war, his thinking is clear as a bell. When asked why he did not make the rounds of the lecture circuit with his remarkable story, he says that is not what he wants to do now. Boaz explained that people, having different personalities, process events differently. He was at a point where he preferred to focus on his family. He remains centered on life, and is now most involved in raising a lovely family. This is a healthy, life-affirming Jewish response. Others in the audience recalled the traumatic experience of parents and relatives who lived through the Holocaust. Afterwards some Holocaust survivors remained captured by the events, and can think and talk of little else. Other survivors, however, find a middle ground, somehow gain the strength to move on and establish new lives, just as Boaz had done.

FUNdraining News

Ellen Valade

ellenvalade@yahoo.com / 978-263-5076

The "Comedy Cabaret" fall fund raiser at CBE on November 14th was a huge success!

The three acts were superb. Our own Len Solomon, aka "The Mad Minstrel," and our two returning "Best of Boston" stars, Myq Kaplan and Zack Sherwin aka "MC Mr Napkins," all rocked the house.

But the unsung heroes and heroines need to be noted as well, starting with Don Hoban who constructed the wonderful stage and Marty Krasnick who produced the perfect sound and lighting. Thanks guys! You do us proud. We thank our gracious Midrasha servers and helpers Sarah Bloomstone, Ariella Honig and Sarah Liebman for donating their efforts as well.

And we thank all the other talented, committed CBE cooks, bakers, bartenders, ticket takers, raffle sellers and helpers too: Bob Becker, Jeff & Marlene

Bergart, Danya & Ben Bloomstone, Linda Borghe-sani, Maida & Glenn Fund, Susan Hass, Debbie Heller, Bob Hirsch "The Grapevine," Marcy Hoban, Ben Hoban, Laura Kelmar, Ellen Krueger, Faith Jarger, Matt Liebman, Lori Lotterman, Roz Malin, Julie McCall, Barbara Michaelson, Amy Michelson, Linda Minkoff, Debbie Murphy, Debbie Namias, Chips Naparstek, Jo-Anne & Barry Nyer, Katie Paikin, Carolee & George Schaffer, Beth Schragger, Sue Seger, Orna Shohet, Lauren Solomon, Sue Wachter, Randi Wallen, John Zyskind, and, of course, Judy Budiansky, Clark, and the CBE Board who always, by doing their jobs, make things happen!

If you want to get in on the fun of these events and/or help make them happen, **save the date** for our next FUNdraiser, our gala "Welcome Spring Auction," February 6, 2010. Start thinking about what you want to contribute and what you want to buy! Feel free to contact Amy Jackson, TheJacksonFive@charter.net 978-456-8399. ✪

From the Librarian's Desk**Martin Segal****library@bethelohim.org**

Every writing I have informed you of the thanks and appreciation I have for the many CBE technicians who have helped to make all this possible. Gary Budiansky has taken over getting the "new" computer to run properly with all the resources that I need. He has worked many hours and answered countless e-mails.



Probably by the time you read this, the Library Catalogue will be available on the new Beth Elohim web-site, both at your homes and the computer on the Librarian's desk. It will have taken the very hard work, and lots of time, donated by some very special people: Matt Kontoff, Michele Barabash, and Bob Becker. Stay tuned for the latest information.

Inventory of the Library is underway guided by Sandy Haber, who also has both extensive knowledge of the process but also patience with me as well as with the system. We have almost completed the whole right side of the Library, i.e. the Adult nonfiction section which I think has needed the most attention. We have found literally about 200 books which were either never in the catalogue or were misclassified, and when all the fine tuning is done, Sandy and I will be very proud to have been part of this process. I feel that the remainder of the Library will take less time, except for the Children's section, for which we could still use more help.

Thanks go also to the many anonymous donors of books and to Jeff Bergart for their contributions.

No Library article would be complete without another plea for everyone to look throughout their households for books that belong to CBE and to return them quickly. I am still looking for a person named Susan Cohen, who took out children's books in the fall of 2008, and hope someone can help me.

Your contribution of books are always welcome: some will go into the collection, and some will go out for sale. The sale books change frequently, and as of now there is a great new selection from which to choose. Your donations in any amount are a great help to us, and I ask you to remember that books

that are moderately new and in good condition should go for more than the usual \$1.00.

A personal note, I recently saw the film *Lemon Tree* starring the great Hiam Abbass and I recommend it to you all, and perhaps someone would like to make a copy for the CBE Library. I am not allowed to editorialize in this column but I just want to point out that a film about the difficulties of living on the border of Israel and the occupied territories is of course fraught with problems, and yet in this film, no one is physically injured, and questions of moral ethics are displayed in a fine and thoughtful manner. ✧

Celebrate Shabbat and Chanukah at CBE

Join Us for the First Night of Chanukah!

Friday, December 11th at 6:30 PM.

All tots and their families are invited to join Cantor Sarra Spierer for singing, praying, dancing, and Chanukah songs and tales at the Tot Shabbat service downstairs in the Mifgash.

All of our older children (K-4) and their families will join Rabbi Lewis Mintz for music, Shabbat prayers, interesting teachings, and of course, a great Chanukah story.

After services, we will all come together for blessings, sweets, and conversation at our Oneg Shabbat.

Friday, December 18th at 7:30 PM

A Special Service for the Entire Community

On the eighth night of Chanukah, come and listen to the voices of the CBE Choir as they join Rabbi Mintz and Cantor Spierer for a lively evening of Chanukah music, teachings, and Shabbat prayer.

The next Tot Shabbat and Family services will take place on Friday evening, January 1st, at 6:30. For those of you who will be here during vacation, join us and enjoy the first Shabbat of 2010! Also, please note the 6:30 PM start time for these upcoming services. We are trying to respond to the needs of our families with an earlier start time. We always welcome your feedback—please tell us in person or send an email to cantorsarra@bethelohim.org to let us know how this change in time works for your family.

**Call 508-872-4808 for the
Metrowest Jewish Reporter.**

Adult Education News

Waky

978-263-1495

OK, so this is supposed to be about Adult Education. We've had many very successful programs this year. Israeli Dance is thriving; the Hebrew Marathon is going into extra innings. We've got a special group of adults who will be reading from Torah for the first time in March; nearly 20 others in their final quarter of their 100 hours of adult study in Me'ah. Other programs not so successful, in interest or attendance. We put stuff out there, and hope people can find time in their crazy lives to come. They aren't all for everyone. We keep plugging along. Please, please, let us know if there are things that might be on your mind and can be winners. We want to offer you stimulation and a way to engage in your Jewish community.

Coming up, we have a wonderful film festival that will begin mid December—see the attached flyer for descriptions. Thanks to Barbara Bender for finding us terrific movies that are accessible right here in Acton.

We are very excited about our upcoming Scholar-in-Residence program. Rabbi Natan Margalit, who recently taught Rabbinics to our Me'ah class, will be coming to share some eco-discussions on the weekend of Tu B'Shvat at the end of January. We hope some of the weekend's programming will appeal to you.

I know we're crazy busy. Tell us what you are willing to squeeze into your schedules. What would be a treat for you? For us, it's all about the grown-ups. What will get you out of the house? How can we make it for **you**?

Hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving, filled with yummy food, good football games, and a terrific time to spend with those you love.

Family Education News

Jill Shaya

978-263-1766

As I write this, it is almost 55 degrees outside on a beautiful mid-November day. In less than a month, we will be celebrating Chanukah, likely amidst much colder days, maybe even with a cover of snow surrounding us. It will be hard to believe that these Spring-like days were so recent, and some of us will be longing for Spring already!

So, about this special winter holiday of ours... Is it Chanukah? Or is it Hanukkah? Why was Judah known as "Judah the Maccabee?" Why exactly do

we celebrate Chanukah for eight days? Do you light your *menorah* candles from right to left or from left to right? Why is there an extra candle that is used to light the other *menorah* candles? (Do you wonder why I am even asking you these questions?)

Were you and your family able to answer all these questions with great confidence? To find the answers to these questions and even more information about this lovely festival of lights, look for a new addition to the Family Education web page on our new CBE website. Every month going forward, we hope to post an informative piece about a topic of interest to our CBE families. Our Family Education Presents topics range from upcoming holidays to Summer Camps and many others that we hope you will enjoy seeing. Thanks to Michelle Siegert and Waky, who wrote these pieces several years ago, we are bringing them back to be much more widely shared. We are updating each prior to posting, and hope that you enjoy them for their 'fun facts' as well as for the resource information that we hope to share with you.

Wishing each of your families a wonderful Thanksgiving from the Shaya family! ☆

The Friday Evening Service Marathon

A Walk Through the Shabbat Service with Cantor Sarra

- Would you like to deepen your understanding of what the prayers are all about?
- Would you like to feel more comfortable participating in the service?

Come and enhance your connection with and enjoyment of the Shabbat service by taking a walk through the Friday evening prayers on Monday evening, December 14th at 7:30. For an hour and a half, immerse yourself in "the what and the why" of the service.

Cantor Sarra will guide us through the service from "Shalom Aleichem" to "Adon Olam." We'll explore the meanings of the prayers, the "choreography" of the service, and where our prayers come from. Bring your questions with you!

RSVPs are appreciated. Just send a quick email to cantorsarra@bethelohim.org, and if you forget to RSVP, come anyway!

Donations

The congregation thanks our members, their relatives and friends,
and the larger community for donations recently received...

To the General Fund from:

Ken & Jessie Klein, in memory of Hyman
Klein and Nathan Weistrop

Barbara & Ray Yacouby, in memory of
Rose Gould, Marvin Gould's mother

Barbara & Ray Yacouby, in honor of Laura
Epstein's engagement

Barbara & Ray Yacouby, in honor of Layla
Cady's wedding

Barbara & Ray Yacouby, in memory of Bob
Esecson's father, Bernard Esecson

Carol Sarshik

Barbara Choquette, in appreciation of CBE
and the Spierer Family

Gennady & Mina Levitsky, in memory of
Raya Zandel & Roman Levitsky

Linda Friedman, with gratitude to Greg
Wallack for his musical accompaniment
for the school's DEFI program

Lauren Krueger & Matthew Brozik, with
thanks to the congregation for loaning
them our rabbi for their wedding

The Bachrach Family, in memory of
Virginia Bachrach

Laura & Dan Kelmar, with thanks to
Cantor Spierer for all of her help in
preparing Beka and Sharon for Sharon's
Bat Mitzvah, and special thanks to Judy
Budiansky and Sue Wachter for all their
support

Brotherhood News

Don Hoban

978-635-9928

dmhbhomerun@aol.com

brotherhood@bethelohim.org

December will have two programs that the Brotherhood will be involved in. First there will be a Brotherhood Breakfast on December 13 at 9 AM in the Social Hall.

Plans are in the works to present a forum on issues related to Muslim and Jewish relations, but the particulars are yet to be framed. The Brotherhood is looking forward to this very informative program. Please join us and don't forget to pay your dues. Non-members: \$5.00.

That evening, December 13, from 4 - 7 PM, the CBE Chanukah celebration will be in full swing, and the Brotherhood has stepped up to help flip latkes in the kitchen; kids of the age 10+ are also being solicited to help out. Hopefully, we won't be snowed out

again this year.

Thank you to the elves whom helped on October 18 to take down and store the *sukkah* for another year: Matt Liebman, Bob Becker, Don Hoban, Steve Heller, Gary Kushner and David Manalan.

The Bagel Drive, held on November 15, was a smashing success—88 orders comprising of 1002 bagels, 65 Lox/cream cheese/coffee pack, and most importantly—smiling faces. The organization spirit and team leader was Peter Lovitz. Packers included Steve Michelson, Gary Kushner, Rick Green, Dan Klein, Art Shane, Steve Heller, Don Hoban, Hannah Hoban and of course our Quality Control Expert Jeff Bergart. Our drivers included Marcy Hoban, Matt Liebman, Bob Becker, Bob Ferrara, Shelly Green, Mike Slurzberg, Dave Fox, Alan Feibelman, Herman Kabakoff and Rodolfo Archbold of which all were routed by Dave Caplan; everyone made it home!

Thank you, and see you in January. ☆

Come to Shabbat Torah Study, 10:00 AM, December 12 and 19.

Donations

The congregation thanks our members, their relatives and friends,
and the larger community for donations recently received...

*To the General Fund for the High Holy Day
Appeal from:*

Francine & Harold Perry

Barry & Joanne Nyer

John & Miriam Zyskind

Alan & Shelley Sherman

Leslie & Bill Schroeder, in honor of their
daughters

Susan Lerner & Aaron Watman

Linda & Denis Friedman, in memory of
their parents, Frances & Max Friedman
and Lillian & Manny Pogoda

To the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund from:

Ellen & Allan Krueger, with deepest
thanks to Rabbi Mintz for bringing such
joy and personal meaning to Lauren and
Matthew's wedding ceremony

Gary Horowitz & Darci Mickus, in
appreciation of all that Rabbi Mintz and
Cantor Spierer did to prepare their
daughter, Kelsey Paige, to become a Bat
Mitzvah

Laura & Dan Kelmar, with thanks to Rabbi
Lewis for all his support for Sharon's Bat
Mitzvah

To the Markowitz Fund from:

Adelle Markowitz and Family, in memory of
of beloved brother, Robert Bell

Adelle Markowitz and Family, in memory of
of Rita Fienberg

Laurie & Richard Halperin, in memory of
Rita Fienberg

To the School Fund from:

Barbara & Ray Yacouby, in honor of
Samantha Stein earning her Masters

Barbara & Ray Yacouby, in honor of Will
Cady graduating from Berklee School of
Music

Judy & Gary Budiansky, in celebration of
Leann & Benny Shamash's son, Eytan's
marriage to Krissy Wolff

To the Amy Naparstek from:

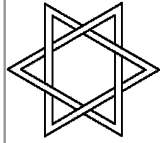
Chips & David Naparstek, in honor of
Doris Goldstein's

Chips & David Naparstek, in honor of
Sharon Kelmar becoming a Bat Mitzvah

Chips & David Naparstek, in memory of
Alice Knight Kemp, Jim Kemp's mother

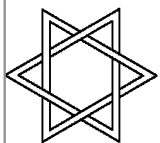
Lost and Found

We are once again cleaning the upstairs coat closet at CBE. There are a number of coats, jackets, sweat-shirts, sweaters, etc. which have been left behind at various times, and are currently in the lost and found boxes sitting in the closet. If you (or your child) are missing a garment, **please** check those boxes as soon as possible. Any clothing still in the closet at the end of December will be donated to one of the local organizations.

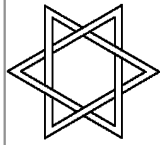


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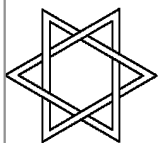


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>6 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Religious School 9:00-11:00 AM Brotherhood Board Meeting Family Education: Yav Class 11:15 AM - 12:45 PM Adult Education: Jewish Life Cycles 4:00-6:00 PM Pre Israel-Trip Activity 7:00 PM Congregation Board Meeting</p> <p>19 Kislev</p>	<p>7 6:30-8:30 PM Religious School</p> <p>20 Kislev</p>	<p>8 4:15-6:15 PM Religious School 7:00-8:30 PM Fall 2010 Bar/Bat Mitzvah Parents' Meeting</p> <p>21 Kislev</p>	<p>9 4:15-6:15 PM Religious School</p> <p>22 Kislev</p>	<p>10 23 Kislev</p>	<p>11 Candle Lighting Time— 3:55 EST 6:30 PM Chanukkah Service for Young Children; Tot Shabbat #</p> <p>24 Kislev</p>	<p>12 Vayeishev (Genesis 37-40) 10:00 AM Shabbat Torah Study</p> <p>25 Kislev</p>
<p>13 8:30 AM Shacharit Minyan 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Religious School 9:00-11:00 AM Brotherhood Breakfast 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM Holidays Together 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM School Committee Meeting 1:00-4:00 PM Social Action: HGRM Jr. Youth Group; Chanukah Crafts 4:00-7:00 PM Community Chanukkah Celebration</p> <p>26 Kislev</p>	<p>14 6:30-8:30 PM Religious School 7:30 PM Friday Evening Service Class with Cantor Sarra</p> <p>27 Kislev</p>	<p>15 4:15-6:15 PM Religious School 7:30 PM Adult Education Movie Night: The Year My Parents Went On Vacation</p> <p>28 Kislev</p>	<p>16 4:15-6:15 PM Religious School</p> <p>29 Kislev</p>	<p>17 5:30-7:30 PM JCC Family Chanukkah Celebration</p> <p>30 Kislev</p>	<p>18 Candle Lighting Time— 3:55 EST 7:30 PM Shabbat Evening Service — Chanukkah #</p> <p>1 Tevet</p>	<p>19 Mitzvah (Genesis 41-44:17) 10:00 AM Junior Congregation 10:00 AM K'tonton Shabbat 10:00 AM Shabbat Torah Study</p> <p>2 Tevet</p>
<p>20 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Religious School Family Education: Bet Class—Fire Your Desire 11:45 AM - 1:00 PM Family Education: Making Shabbat Your Own</p> <p>3 Tevet</p>	<p>21 6:30-8:30 PM Religious School</p> <p>4 Tevet</p>	<p>22 4:15-6:15 PM Religious School 7:15-8:30 PM Rosh Chodesh Group</p> <p>5 Tevet</p>	<p>23 4:15-6:15 PM Religious School</p> <p>6 Tevet</p>	<p>24 7 Tevet</p>	<p>25 Candle Lighting Time— 4:00 EST Social Action: Serve dinner at Cor-Unum 8:00 PM Shabbat Evening Service — Lay Led</p> <p>8 Tevet</p>	<p>26 Vayiggash (Genesis 44:18-47:27)</p> <p>9 Tevet</p>
<p>27 10 Tevet</p>	<p>28 11 Tevet</p>	<p>29 12 Tevet</p>	<p>30 13 Tevet</p>	<p>31 14 Tevet</p>		



Congregation Beth Elohim January 2010

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 17 Tevet	4 18 Tevet 6:30-8:30 PM Religious School	5 19 Tevet 4:15-6:15 PM Religious School New Event 7:30 PM Adult Education Movie Night: <i>The Boy in the Striped Pajamas</i>	6 20 Tevet 4:15-6:15 PM Religious School 7:00-10:00 PM Me'ah	7 21 Tevet	8 22 Tevet Candle Lighting Time— 4:12 EST 8:00 PM Shabbat Evening Service	9 23 Tevet <i>Shemot</i> (Exodus 1-6:1) 10:00 AM Shabbat Service # — Zachary Kihne Bar Mitzvah 10:00 AM Junior Congregation Afternoon: Jr. Youth Group: Snow Tubing
10 9:00-11:00 AM Brotherhood Board Meeting 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Religious School Family Education: Aleph Class— Fire Your Desire Family Education: Zayin Class 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM School Committee Meeting 7:00 PM Congregation Board Meeting	11 25 Tevet 6:30-8:30 PM Religious School (Midrashta Seminar)	12 26 Tevet 4:15-6:15 PM Religious School	13 27 Tevet 4:15-6:15 PM Religious School 7:00-10:00 PM Me'ah	14 28 Tevet 7:15-8:30 PM Rosh Chodesh Group	15 29 Tevet Candle Lighting Time— 4:19 EST 8:00 PM Shabbat Evening Service	16 1 Shevat <i>Va'era</i> (Exodus 6:2-9) 10:00 AM Shabbat Service # — Yonah Joffe Bat Mitzvah
17 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Religious School	18 3 Shevat Morning: No Place for Hate Breakfast	19 4 Shevat 4:15-6:15 PM Religious School 7:30 PM Adult Education Movie Night: <i>Waitz With Bashir</i>	20 5 Shevat 4:15-6:15 PM Religious School 7:00-10:00 PM Me'ah	21 6 Shevat 5:30-7:30 PM JCC International Night	22 7 Shevat Candle Lighting Time— 4:28 EST Evening: Share-a-Shabbat 8:00 PM Shabbat Evening Service	23 8 Shevat <i>Bo</i> (Exodus 9-13:16) 10:00 AM Shabbat Service # — Ryan Cheyney Bar Mitzvah
24 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Religious School 9:30-10:45 AM Family Education: Making Shabbat Your Own 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM Holidays Together 4:00-6:00 PM Pre Israel-Trip Activity	25 10 Shevat 6:30-8:30 PM Religious School	26 11 Shevat 4:15-6:15 PM Religious School 7:30 PM Adult Education Movie Night: <i>Live and Become</i>	27 12 Shevat 4:15-6:15 PM Religious School 7:00-10:00 PM Me'ah	28 13 Shevat	29 14 Shevat Candle Lighting Time— 4:37 EST 8:00 PM Tu B'shevat Evening Service #-SIR	30 15 Shevat <i>Beshalach</i> (Exodus 13:17-17) 10:00 AM Shabbat Torah Study—SIR <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Zayin Class Shabbaton</div>
31 9:00-11:00 AM Brotherhood Breakfast—SIR 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Religious School						

Congregation Beth Elohim
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The deadline for
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The Star is December 15

Articles submitted to *The
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