

THE STAR

December 2010

Volume 33, Number 5



Congregation Beth Elohim

Lewis Mintz, Rabbi

Cantor Sarra Spierer

Leann Shamash, Director of Education

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Community Chanukah Celebration

Fun-filled holiday program for all

Sunday December 5th 4:00-7:00pm

Congregation Beth Elohim

133 Prospect Street, Acton

Arts and Crafts

Latke Contest – bring your special latkes for tasting & prizes!

Community Menorah Lighting (4:45)

Please bring your family menorah and candles

Potluck Dinner

Last name A-K please bring a dairy appetizer or salad

Last name L-Z please bring a dairy main dish

Dessert and beverages will be provided

Musical Performance by the Congregation Beth Elohim Klezmer Band

This event is *free and open to the public* so please invite your friends and family to share in this festive celebration!

Please RSVP by December 3rd to Laura Kelmar at danielkelmar@msn.com or (978) 266-2946 and let us know what you're bringing and if you could volunteer for a short time during the evening. Questions? Call the synagogue office at (978) 263-3061.

**Please bring donations for the Social Action Committee's
Food Drive for the Acton and Stow Food Pantries**

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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: bob@BeckerSweetMusic.US (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	3	7:00 PM	Family Chanukah Shabbat Evening Service #
Saturday,	December	4	10:00 AM	Shabbat Service #—Maxine Markowitz Bat Mitzvah
Friday,	December	10	8:00 PM	Shabbat Evening Service—Heh Class Participation
Saturday,	December	11	10:00 AM	Shabbat Torah Study; Junior. Congregation (Lower Level)
Friday,	December	17	6:00 PM	Tot Shabbat #
Friday,	December	17	8:00 PM	Shabbat Evening Service #
Saturday,	December	18	10:00 AM	Shabbat Torah Study; Junior Congregation and K'tonton Shabbat (Lower Level)
Sunday,	December	19	8:30 AM	Shacharit Minyan
Friday,	December	24	8:00 PM	Shabbat Evening Service
Friday,	December	31	6:30 PM	Early Shabbat Evening Service

- Denotes services conducted by both Rabbi and Cantor.

Not So Random Thoughts**Rabbi Lewis Mintz****978-263-3061**

There is a story I heard a number of years ago; a kind of fable.

Taking some license, I'll tell it to you now.

It is told that there once was a king who (like Antiochus in the time of the Maccabees) wished to rid himself of his Jewish subjects. It wasn't that he wanted to kill them all. They were acceptable as people; he just couldn't stand them as Jews. So, he issued decrees forbidding them to teach or to practice their religion. He instructed his officials to oppress them and to make life terrible for the Jews in whatever way they could. He knew that it would take some time for them to die out as Jews; but he was impatient and he wanted to know how well his "program for the extinction of Judaism" was going. He gathered his wisest advisors and asked them: "How can we tell if we are succeeding?" They discussed and debated and offered different suggestions, but none seemed to satisfy the king. Then, one aged sage came forward and offered the best answer. He said, "Your majesty, call together your most capable spies and instruct them to hide beneath the windows of the Jew's synagogues. If we are succeeding, they will not hear the voices of children coming from inside. If they **do** hear the voices of children, then you will know that you have failed!

We are so fortunate that at CBE there are, on an ongoing basis, so many different opportunities to experience and celebrate Jewish life and learning; opportunities for adults, for families, and for

(continued on the next page)

President's Message**Linda Minkoff****minkoff1s@aol.com**

This is the time of year when the atmosphere is permeated with all things Christmas. In fact, one local radio station started playing non-stop Christmas music in the week before Thanksgiving! It has been twenty years since my home had a Christmas tree; however, I still enjoy certain aspects of the holiday, as long as it's someplace else. I now experience Christmas in the same way that I hope someday to enjoy grandchildren—by having all the fun I want to, and then going home!

When I first began attending CBE's Interfaith Families Group, I was a new convert and a new mother. The first meeting was a program offered by the rabbi entitled "December Dilemma." The attendees, primarily interfaith families who had chosen to raise their children Jewish and a few converts, like myself, were given an opportunity to explore how we might explain this decidedly non-Jewish holiday to our kids and our family and friends who might have trouble coming to terms with the choice we had made—a choice that, for most of us, no longer included Christmas. That program also helped me realize that much of what I had always enjoyed about the Christmas holidays—the feeling of good will that raised the spirits of even the dour-est of humbugs—was as much present in our own holidays and festivals, Rosh Hashana, Purim, Passover and, of course, Chanukah.

Mine is a Jewish household and my children light candles and get their *gelt* at Chanukah, not

(continued on page 5)

Not So Random Thoughts (continued)

children which would provide those spies with very disappointing news to deliver to their king. About a month ago, on a Friday in early November, our sanctuary was nearly full with children and adults joyfully celebrating the Sabbath, as we inaugurated our newly reformatted series of "First Friday" Family Services. This service, which had been preceded by a Shabbat dinner welcoming our new member families, was truly a joy to experience. The congregational singing, led by Cantor Sarra and supported by very talented musicians, was lively and sustained. I loved the expressions of pride on the faces of the children who came up to the bima to lead prayers they had prepared. (The pride on their parents' faces was a pleasure to see also!) In addition to my Torah story about the angels on the ladder in Jacob's dream, children with November birthdays came up for a special Misheberach and Shehecheyanu blessings. During the service and at the Oneg after, seeing so many families sharing the joy of Shabbat, filled me with pleasure and pride.

And, just to give that king in the fable even more *tzorres*, two weeks later, nearly 45 parents and children came together for our Tot Shabbat, which now begins at an earlier time, 6:00 PM. We are gratified by the positive response of our community to these innovations. Please note that our next "First Friday" coincides with the third night of Chanukah! I'm so pleased that our talented musicians, Bob Grapple and Josh Stein, will once again join us. I look forward to many of you being a part of our Shabbat Chanukah Family Service on December 3rd! ☆

Sisterhood News

Karen Collins

kfcollins363@gmail.com

Hello and Happy Chanukah from Sisterhood! We hope that everyone enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving and are currently enjoying this festival of lights. As usual, there is a lot going on with Sisterhood these days. We would like to thank everyone who came to the Holiday Shopping Boutique! It was an incredible event packed with great gift items, and we appreciate everyone's support in making this event possible. To begin, Terri Margolis and Tina Bloom—you two are goddesses of planning, executing and organization! Thank you so much for once again making this event a complete success. We cannot thank you enough for all of your hard work and time you committed to this event. You are the best!

We would also like to thank all of the vendors who came and set up shop and brought your beautiful items to our temple. We also couldn't have done this event without the enthusiastic help and support of Sisterhood members who rallied to provide appetizers & desserts, and also to everyone who helped set-up and clean-up after the event.

We also had an overwhelming turn-out for the *latke* making demonstration held at CBE by Barbara Michaelson of ABCatering! Everyone was treated to secrets directly from the chef as well as to delicious plates of steaming hot *latkes*! We hope to continue to offer cooking classes, so keep on the lookout for our next culinary adventure. Barbara—thanks so much for sharing your expertise and your time with us. Not only are you an excellent chef, but you're a wonderful teacher. Sue Seger—thank you so much for helping make this event possible!

Future Events

Zumba with the girls on Sunday, December 12 at 11:15. The class costs \$10. Contact Lauren Pollak at lpollak@partners.org

Don't miss this opportunity to give back to our community. Sisterhood is running the annual Holiday Community Supper on December 22nd, and we need your help. Turkeys, cooks, bakers, cleaner-uppers...you name it, we probably need it. Contact Karen Collins today to sign up: kfcollins363@gmail.com.

Learn and Play Mah Jongg on January 19th. Join our other sisters in this fun event and participate in social action at the same time. We will be collecting children's books and PJs for Pajama Program. ☆

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.

President's Message (continued)

Christmas, but I still receive Christmas cards each year, including from my Jewish father-in-law's non-Jewish girlfriend! And so the December Dilemma continues for me, and I imagine it will for many years to come. This year, the December Dilemma program is being offered at a JCC Workshop on December 9th, 12–1 PM, at CBE. There is also a special Chanukah Havdalah at the Acton Discovery Museum on December 4th at 5:30 PM, and don't miss the CBE Community Chanukah celebration on December 5th, 4–7 PM. Bring your family Chanukia (Chanukah *menorah*) and light up the sky with your fellow congregants! True, we may never be able to "compete" with a solid month of cookies, carols and mistletoe, but who needs to? Give me a *latke* any day! ☆

Israel—The *Kvell* Factor**Doris Goldstein****devorahdoragoldstein@gmail.com**

I, along with Barbara Rennert and Marne Geller, was fortunate to have had the opportunity to go on the Follow Me to Israel trip. These are some of my reflections.

There is something very special about traveling in a foreign country. It can be adventurous, exciting, awesome, fascinating, informative, culturally interesting and fun, relaxing as well as exhausting, and a gastronomic delight. To me, a trip to Israel has all of these qualities. But it also has something more, something special. It has the *kvell* factor. What is it? It is an indescribable feeling that comes from deep within. It can be a combination of pride mixed with love, or wonder mixed with awe, or admiration mixed with sincere respect. Israel has this added dimension, because Israel is the place where one feels a special sense of belonging, a sense of acceptance. When one goes to Israel, one is going to the land of our ancestors, the land that is our Jewish homeland, the land that belongs to us even though we live in the US. We pray for Israel in our prayers. It is the place that we yearn for peace and prosperity. It is the place we read and study about. For some, as is the case for my European family, Israel is the place where people found refuge. Though I have been to Israel before, this "Follow Me to Israel" trip, made me even more cognizant that Israel is the place where I continuously experience that special something—the *kvell* factor.

From the moment our El Al airplane landed at

Ben Gurion airport, the *kvell* factor was activated. I sensed a uniquely special feeling landing in Israel, enhanced after a spontaneous burst of applause erupted from the passengers. As soon as we walked into the airport and I saw the Hebrew, particularly the welcoming sign of *B'ruchim Habahim*, I felt a little flip-flop in my stomach. Seeing Hebrew as a regular part of the surroundings is unique. My first impression, riding from Tel Aviv to our hotel in Jerusalem, was being astonished with the greenery and the colorful flowers dotting the landscape as well as the infrastructure of modern highways, knowing that beginning with the early pioneers, Israelis have worked hard building roads and planting millions of trees to change a landscape of arid land.

On a walking tour of the old city of Jerusalem with our guide, Rav Binney, he showed us a newly excavated site where the Jewish people had been in pursuit by an enemy. They were in perilous danger of becoming extinct as a people. Yet, the Jews miraculously survived. This was an inspiring story made even more potent, for adjacent to this site, Rav Binney pointed out a children's playground that had been built even before the site had been excavated. This very dramatically made the playground a living symbol of Jewish continuity. What a moment of compelling *kvelling*! Also, in Jerusalem, I had the opportunity to go to the newly rebuilt Israel Museum, an amazingly beautiful place comprised of several buildings. An outstanding exhibit is an outdoor scale model of the Second Temple and the buildings that existed during that time period. I was awed by the the magnificent Temple. The *kvell* factor was activated even by going to an outdoor craft fair and seeing the wonderful array from talented Jewish artisans. Among the various items were *mezuzahs* of Jerusalem stone, silver jewelry, and embroidered bags of scenes of Jerusalem. I was particularly taken with a table that had sculptures made of olive wood with blessings and biblical quotes carved into them.

When we were in Haifa, Boston's sister city, our group experienced the *mitzvah* of *hachnasat orchim* (hospitality), warmly welcomed by a committee from the Boston-Haifa Connection. Also, Barbara, Marne and I, had the opportunity to spend one on one time for several hours with two fabulous women from the committee who served as our hosts. They gave us a unique tour of parts of Haifa which included a short hike to a beautiful vista known by the locals and a walk along a wide concrete path paralleling the Mediterranean. Our

(continued on the next page)

Israel—The *Kvell* Factor (continued)

evening concluded with a delicious dinner at a lovely seaside eatery. These women made us feel like family. Another Haifa highlight, when that feeling of pride and *kvelling* was overwhelming was when we attended a session at Gordon College and listened to the success stories of three men and one woman of Ethiopian backgrounds who had been given the opportunity for an education. That education was the turning point in developing their interests and potential as well as in preparing them to become fully integrated into Israeli life. They were the first graduates of the Shiluvim project. Hearing their inspiring and heartfelt stories made me feel like a proud parent!

Most impressive on our trip was visiting with various teen groups (Camp Yavnah, NFTY-Crane Lake, Nitzanim and Nitzahon groups of Young Judea) and hearing them talk about what motivated them to go, why they picked a particular program, what their expectations were, and what they felt they were getting out of this experience. Without exception, everyone spoke with enthusiasm and many with *ruach* (spirit), raving about how special

their respective programs are. Hearing how passionate they were and hearing their remarks of life changing transformation made the *kvell* factor climb even higher. I learned that any teen can find a program that best serves his/her needs and interests as I learned that all these kids were happy with their programs and that everyone thought theirs was the best. I learned that going on a teen trip for a teen is unparalleled to any other kind of Israel trip. When teens are with teens, there is a unique group dynamic. With a trip that is at least four weeks long, there is the time for incredible friendships, bonding, and community to develop. There is the time to get “to know” Israel on a deeper level and to connect with one’s heritage. One teen said it so well, “Israel is more than a place to visit. It’s a home, part of me lives here.”

All fifteen people on our trip, representing six different synagogues, came away from this trip truly energized to help our synagogue families learn more about teen experiences in Israel and why it is so powerful. This trip made me realize that a teen trip to Israel is like a life cycle event, a natural progression after Bar and Bat Mitzvah. You can give your child that special gift. Find out about the Passport to Israel Savings program and you may find that you too will be *kvelling*. ☆

The DEFI Wall

The religious school marked a special occasion in the middle of November as our new and glorious DEFI (Drop Everything For Israel) wall was dedicated.

DEFI is our own special program which honors the concept that no matter what we are doing, we drop everything when it comes to Israel.

Last year, led by the creative Linda Friedman, students worked on creating images of Israel on clay tiles which were then fired and glazed at Fire Your Desire in Acton.

The subjects of the tiles varied greatly from maps of Israel, to the letters of the aleph bet, to olives to Jewish stars and wishes for peace. Linda Friedman found the best color patterns in the tiles and Denis Friedman skillfully affixed them to the wall. The mural, which stands approximately 8 feet by 4 feet lends energy, color and an excitement about Israel to the community court.

To celebrate the occasion, the mural was ceremoniously unveiled and students made a toast about the great event!

We hope that all of you will enjoy viewing the DEFI wall when you are next at CBE.

Membership Committee News

Barry & Jo-Anne Nyer

b.nyer@verizon.net

CBE hosted a new member Shabbat dinner for 75 children and adults on Friday, November 5th. This proceeded a Family service led by Rabbi Mintz and Cantor Spierer that drew a crowd of over 150 from the larger community. The Oneg that followed was sponsored by the Naparstek and Paikin families as well as the Brotherhood. A make-your-own ice cream sundae was another highlight of the evening, and not just with the children!

Special thanks go to “Chef” Sal Lopes and his kitchen support: Don Hoban and Linda Minkoff and our “scoopers” of the day; Danya Bloomstone and Honi Kawut Chapnick.

The entire evening was a wonderfully attended fall kick off to our Family services. To continue the excitement, CBE will look to host similar venues with pizza dinners prior to Family services, to be held on the first Friday of the month. Volunteers are welcome to keep the momentum going. Please contact Karen Collins at kfcollins363@gmail.com if you are interested in helping. ☆

Member at Large Report**Beth Schrager****Bschrager@comcast.net**

It is not often you hear from a Member at Large CBE Board member. What, you may wonder does a member at large do on the CBE Board of Directors? Well, I have been asked to create a presence for CBE in the larger community. I am "in charge" of external publicity. I am trying to create a member at large precedent for the job that will sustain itself into the future. I have begun by communicating several times a month with local and regional publications to fill them in on the myriad activities and programming taking place in our building.

I am writing to ask for your input about what you think should be communicated about Congregation Beth Elohim to the greater community. I get most of the information about what to publicize from other board members. But occasionally there are events and happenings taking place not necessarily organized by Board members. I'd like to hear from you if you have an activity that needs to be announced in the greater 'external to CBE' community. There is much programming that takes place, it is a pity not to show off and share it. Like what you may ask? There is so much activity, kibitzing, schmoozing and noshing going on the building that I barely know where to begin.

To start with, I am shouting from the rooftops about our ground breaking school program that combines our High School programs (did you see the announcement in *The Beacon*?) with our neighbor Kerem Shalom in Concord. The innovative new High School program, open to students in grades eight and above is open to all unaffiliated Jewish students in the area. The program works on a module system and students commit to a six week session. The program takes place on Monday evenings from 6:30-8:30. Sounds like fun, doesn't it? It's most definitely not your mother's Hebrew School experience.

I also publicized Congregation Beth Elohim's Adult Education recent Celebration of Jewish Book

Scholar-in-Residence

The Adult Education Committee, with support from the Al Valade Fund, presents our annual Scholar-in-Residence program. Mark January 28-30 on your calendars now for this year's program featuring Peter Abe-low, our trusty Israel tour guide.

Month with the lecture "The Kibbutz at 100: A Century of Crises and Reinvention" with Professor Shulamit Reinharz on November 14th. Professor Reinharz began by explaining how the first kibbutz was conceived and founded by a woman, Manya Wilbushewitz Shohat. She described how kibbutzim developed, the crises they underwent, and the unusual measures they are taking today. Professor Reinharz drew on her book, *100 Years of Kibbutz Life: A Century of Crises and Reinvention*, which is being published by Transaction Books due out in spring, and which she coedited with an Israeli colleague, Professor Michal Palgi.

What else have I put into publications local and regional?

Coming up and continuing on an ongoing basis are Monthly Tot Shabbat and Family Services. Shabbat is welcomed with friends and the community at Congregation Beth Elohim's Tot Shabbat services on the third Friday of each month, at 6:00 PM with music, imagination, prayers, and movement. All preschoolers (and their younger siblings) and families are invited to sing, dance, pray, and learn with Cantor Sarra in the sanctuary. During "Torah Time," participants will hear a story and march with our own Torah scrolls.

Also ongoing Family Shabbat services take place every month, led by Rabbi Mintz and Cantor Spierer, on the first Friday of each month, from 7:00-8:00 PM, followed by a special Oneg Shabbat (a time for a nosh and visiting with old and new friends).

Why am I telling you all this? Because I want to know if you have programs, activities or other Congregation Beth Elohim events that you think should be shared or publicized in local and regional publication. Please contact me if you have a suggestion or an event that needs publicity outside of Congregation Beth Elohim. Thanks for your participation in making CBE the wonderful community we are and see you soon at one of these great events. ☆

Minyanaires' News**Allan Krueger****978-263-3107 / ajkaltmail@yahoo.com**

Have need for a gun fighter? Wire Paladin San Francisco.

Have need to say kaddish? Email chesed@bethelohim.org.

Join the Minyanaires on Sunday December 19th at 8:30 AM in the CBE Sanctuary for Shacharit. Or if you don't/can't travel, we'll come to you. ☆

Chesed Happenings

Ellen Krueger

978-263-3107

Chanukah time is here. *Latkes; dreidel;* family time; busy time. While a lot of fun, it's sometimes overwhelming getting everything done that you want to. And it's often a time when there's a need for a bit of help to get done what needs to be done when there isn't enough time or people on hand to do them. That's what the Chesed Committee does for the Congregation Beth Elohim community. Chesed is there to make arrangements 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, call George Schaffer at 978-263-4341, or email to chesed@bethelohim.org to get the ball rolling. Please call if you get no response to your email in a day or so.

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 Tom Wachtell and family on the death of his sister-in-law Marcia Wachtell.
- *Mazal tov* Jeff and Sandy Haber on the engagement of their son Jaime to Meryl MacCormack
- *Mazal tov* to David and Pam Barrat on the marriage of their daughter Ashley Barrat to Jason Alcantara.
- *Mazal tov* to Caren Hoffman and family on being honored as a Health Hero by the websited WebMD.com for her work raising funds to fight cancer, as well as working with children with the disease.
- *Mazal tov* to Paul, Peter and Matthew Epstein on the marriage of their daughter and sister, Laura to Chris Zanella.
- *Mazal tov* to Jessie and Ken Klein on the marriage of their daughter Eileen to Dave Feldman. ☆

Family Shabbat Service

Are you looking for a fun way to celebrate Shabbat as a family?

Come to Congregation Beth Elohim's new Family Shabbat Service on Friday, December 3rd at 7:00 PM to celebrate Shabbat and Chanukah with song, prayer, lights, and instruments!

Geared especially toward children in grades one through six, yet designed to be welcoming for all adults and children, our new Family Shabbat services feature increased opportunities for participation, uplifting and lively new melodies mixed in with our familiar tunes, and instrumental accompaniment. Each month, children—and even families together—have the opportunity to lead a prayer, blessing or song in the service. This is a fun way for children (and parents!) to learn and to feel the special sense of joy and pride that comes with leading a community in prayer. Please let Rabbi Mintz or Cantor Spierer know if you or your child would like to help lead.

Family Shabbat services, with Rabbi Mintz and Cantor Spierer, take place on the first Friday of each month, from 7:00-8:00 PM., followed by a special Oneg Shabbat—a time for a nosh and visiting with old and new friends. Join us!

A Life in Her Day

Saturday Night January 22

Have you ever seen a Jewish woman who doesn't talk?

Well, we have a unique show for you: Hilary Chaplain in an outrageously funny mix of physical comedy and serious theater about a Jewish woman in her publicly shared private world.

Have you ever seen a Jewish event without food?

Don't worry, we are not going to make history, there will be food. Oy, will there be food.

Another fantastic event brought to you by CBE's Fund Raising Committee.

Adult Education News**Waky****978-263-1495**

We're just coming off two amazing programs, A Taste of Meditation and an evening with Shulamit Reinharz. Though typically billed for teens in our school, our Midrasha Seminar on meditation, with Seth Castleman and our own Cantor Sarra, filled the room with adults along with the younger crowd on their usual Monday night. Folks came in curious and left oh so relaxed! Cantor Sarra also conducted a three part class this month for those more interested in the theory and practice of various meditation techniques. Clearly we are all in varying degrees of lives which are fast, furious and stressful, and we are so lucky to have experts who can teach us this important way to connect with our more spiritual side.

Shulamit was funny, charismatic and informative as she spoke about the history of the kibbutz movement, arriving at their 100th anniversary. Her book, *One Hundred Years of Kibbutz Life: A Century of Crises and Reinvention*, will be coming out in the spring and she presented a taste of it to our audience. Though many of us consider Degania the first official kibbutz, founded in 1910, Shula shared that

Community Chanukah Celebration

Please join us for a very special event, our annual Community Chanukah Celebration, scheduled for Sunday, December 5th from 4:00-7:00 PM. There will be arts and crafts for the kids, holiday music with the CBE Klezmer band, a *latke* contest, *menorah* lighting, a pot-luck dinner, and wonderful desserts. This event is free and open to members and non-members alike.

Please bring a *menorah* with candles and a dairy or parve potluck dish. (Last names A-K: bring a dairy appetizer or salad; L-Z: bring dairy main dishes.) CBE will provide the drinks and desserts. Please bring a plate or two of your favorite *latkes* for sampling and voting in the contest.

Our Social Action Committee is collecting items for the Stow and Acton Food Pantries. Please bring an item to donate to these worthy organizations.

RSVP and let us know what you're bringing by emailing Laura Kelmar at 978-266-2946 or danielkelmar@msn.com. Questions? Please call the synagogue office at 978-263-3061.

Manya Wilbuszewicz (rhymes with Manishewitz) likely created a prototype some years earlier. (Go ahead, look her up in Wikipedia!) She explained that though the kibbutz movement is surely changing—gone are the common dining halls and the children's living quarters, the lifestyle is alive and well. Moving from very socialized to more privatized, from agrifocus to manufacturing, from solely rural to sometimes urban, only things that change can live. What an amazing evening, and look for her book publication in the coming months (see www.transactionpub.com). I want to be sure and thank Sal Lopes, Deena Ferrara and Judy Budiansky for all their help putting on this program!

Our adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah group is up and running; we have nine folks who have decided to take some time and learn with our Rabbi with the aim of being called to the *bima* as learned Jewish adults, taking their part to celebrate reading from Torah in culmination of their studies. Other very healthy programs which are ongoing: weekday Bible study; Shabbat Torah Study; conversational Hebrew; and Rosh Chodesh—so many people are treating themselves to study.

Some very special courses and events are coming up. Please see the flyer attached for our very popular CBE film series, which begins this December. The Rabbi will be teaching two classes, notices of their dates are boxed in this issue. He is always an amazing scholar, and there is never a time when being with him is not educational, especially as he focuses on a particular subject; I'm looking forward to attending. And finally, we have a wonderful Scholar-in-Residence weekend planned at the end of January with Peter Abelow. Some of you may remember him as the tour guide of both our congregational trips in Israel. He is a wonder of knowledge about our homeland, and will enrich us through a variety of programs that weekend, at services, at Torah Study, for breakfast with Brotherhood and Sisterhood, and in our school program. Be sure and mark the dates so you can be a part of it all.

As I always say, treat yourself to some learning; it will enrich you and fill you up and make you proud!

"Do not say 'when I have time, I shall study,' for you may never have time." (Pirke Avot) ☆

**Come to Shabbat Torah Study
on December 11 and 18.**

Youth Lounge Spruce Up**Katie Paikin and Linda Friedman****paikin@aol.com**

It came to our attention that the Youth Lounge was in need of some attention. In order for the room to be used for meetings, classes and lounging it needed to be cleaned up, rearranged and spruced up. Check it out when you get a chance. It's a work in progress but looking much more inviting already.

Special thanks to our helpers; Marty Krasnick, George Schaffer and Denis Friedman. Extra special thanks to Sisterhood for the generous donation that allowed us to purchase some new items for the lounge! ☆

Social Action Committee News**Eddie Rubin****eddie.rubin@gmail.com**

On Sunday, October 31st, five of us (Don Harris, Craig and Ellen Maiman, and Eddie Rubin and his son Sam) helped out at a Habitat for Humanity home in Hudson. Though originally we were supposed to do some inside painting we were happy to find out that they needed help building a fence. After our Shehecheyanu prayer to help kick things off we spent the morning preparing the wood and the afternoon constructing the fence. It was a great way to spend the day and if I say so myself the fence looked pretty good.

On Sunday, November 7th, five volunteers from CBE were on hand to help at the Cor Unum Meal Center in Lawrence. Kerstin and Rob Mendelsohn, along with their two daughters Rebeka and Amelie, in addition to Shane Perkins enjoyed serving hot meals to the public. This is a perfect opportunity for young members of the community to experience such a rewarding activity. It is a hands-on interactive charitable event that is sure to be a great learning experience.

On November 14th, our HGRM crew consisted of Susan Cohn-Child and her son Alex, Yuval Shohet and his son Gil, Aaron Todisco, and Maida Fund. 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 5th we will be collecting food donations for the local pantries. Please don't forget your bag of food. The items in greatest demand are hot cereal, hearty soups, cake mixes, rice and spaghetti sauce, beans (dried and canned), cooking oil, toilet paper, and diapers.

On Sunday, December 12th, 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 Maida Fund at maida.fund@hp.com. It's a great way to spend time with your child and get them community service hours.

The Acton Food Pantry could use some helpers (need to be 18 or older) on Wednesday, December 15th, to assist with their Holiday distribution. It runs from 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM and are hoping we can send two groups to split that time. If you can make either the early (9:30 AM - noon) or the late (noon - 2:30 PM) shift or both send an email to Eddie Rubin at eddie.rubin@gmail.com.

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 Shane Perkins at shanep44@hotmail.com. ☆

Brotherhood News**Sal Lopes****978-263-4178**

The Bagel Drive was a success! Thank you Peter Lovitz for leading this very important fund raiser. Additional Thanks go to David Caplan, Jeff Bergart, Andrew Gruskay, Don Hoban, Marcy Hoban, Steve Michelson, Gary Kushner, Fred Goldstein, Steve Sussman, Steve Heller, Oleg Volinsky, Matt Liebman, Mark Marlow, Dave Fox, Ron Honig, Alan Feibelman, Bob Ferrara, Deena Ferrara, Bob Becker, Rodolfo Archbold, Herman Kabakoff, and Mike Slurzberg. A Job well done, Guys!

The Brotherhood Breakfast on November 21st featured two speakers: Peter Stringham and Channing Wagg on Youth Violence Prevention and Ending Homelessness. They represent Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries of the Boston area, which is the oldest interfaith congregational social action network in Eastern Massachusetts founded by Jews and Christians in 1966.

The Next Brotherhood Breakfast is Sunday, December 19th at 9:00 AM, featuring Jack Levin, Northeastern University professor, who will talk about why we hate and hate crimes. He is a national figure and we are very fortunate to get him. All are welcomed! ☆

Fund Raising Committee News**Miriam Zyskind****Mzyskind2@gmail.com**

Dinner Dessert was a wonderful event. It was a very successful combination of fund raiser and social gathering. We began the evening by gathering in groups of 6-10 at the homes of congregants who volunteered to prepare and host dinners for their guests. The guests were assigned to the hosts by lottery so it was a great opportunity to spend quality time with friends old and new. Everybody had great time all while helping raise money for CBE. After dinner we all (guests and hosts) gathered together at the Hirsch's beautiful home for lively conversation and delicious desserts. The evening ended on a high note with an exciting performance by the outstanding a capella group *Working for Scale*.

In all, about 100 congregants participated to make Dinner Dessert a success. Twenty congregants volunteered to open their homes and hosted over 70 guests who not only had a great time, but also made a donation to CBE.

I would like to thank the hosts who so generously opened their homes and prepared a delicious dinner for their guests: Barbara & Carl Bender, Marlene & Jeff Bergart, Peggy Flaherty & Alan Berko, Barbara Green & Chris Whitbeck, Linda & Denis Friedman, Honi & Sandy Chapnick, Marcy & Don Hoban, Debbie & Jeffrey Wesson, John & Miriam Zyskind. Jo-Ellen & Marty Hirsch were the gracious hosts of the Dessert. Thank you all.

Special thanks to Wendy & Jon Linden and their *Working for Scale* a capella group for their stellar performance.

Many thanks are due to; Barbara Green, Sue Wachter, Ellen Valade, Julie McCall, Sue Seger and Linda Minkoff for all their hard work to make this evening such a success.

Everybody had great time and many people want to do it again next year. We can if we have

Fascinating Characters in the Bible

The Adult Education Committee presents a six class course taught by Rabbi Mintz entitled "Fascinating Characters in the Bible." The classes will meet on Wednesday evenings: January 5, 12, 19, 26, February 2, and 9.

The fee for congregants is \$40 and \$60 for non-congregants. Contact the CBE office at cbeacton@bethelohim.org or 978-263-3061 by December 22 to reserve your spot.

enough volunteers to host dinner at their home. If you are considering it, please let me know. I promise you, it is a very rewarding *mitzvah*, and it's fun.

The Fund Raising committee is hard at work on our next event: *A Life in Her Day*, a unique and hilarious one woman show by Hilary Chaplain. So save Saturday night January 22, 2011. Details will be provided soon. ✨

Women's Rosh Chodesh Group**Celebrating Chanukah****Tuesday, December 7th at 8:00**

Around the time of Rosh Chodesh, the beginning of each new month on the Hebrew calendar, the women of our community come together for an evening of meaningful discussions, sharing, learning, and celebration CBE's Rosh Chodesh group, now in its second year, offers a place for each of us to explore our identity as Jewish women, to learn about each other, and to connect with Jewish traditions, history, and wisdom.

This month, we'll focus in on the holiday of Chanukah. With music, stories, and poetry, we'll hear about how Chanukah is celebrated in Jewish communities around the world, and about some of the unique ways that women mark the Festival of Lights. We will also share memories, and think about how we can enrich the ways we celebrate our holiday this year.

To help us with our celebration please bring a small amount of a festive Chanukah food and we'll combine our learning with some treats!

This group is open to all of the women in our community, and each session is open to newcomers. In other words, if you are not able to come to this meeting, consider joining us the next month!

Please send email to Cantor Sarra at cantorsarra@bethelohim.org or Leann Shamash at lshamash1@verizon.net to be on the email list to receive updates, reminders, and teachings.

Tot Shabbat Services

Share Shabbat with friends and community at Congregation Beth Elohim’s monthly Tot Shabbat services. On the third Friday of each month, we’ll welcome in Shabbat with music, imagination, prayers, and movement.

All preschoolers (and their younger siblings) and families are invited to sing, dance, pray, and learn with Cantor Sarra in the sanctuary. During “Torah Time,” we’ll hear a story and march with our own Torah scrolls.

Children with a birthday during the month will receive a special birthday blessing. After services, we will all come together for Oneg Shabbat, a sweet nosh and conversation in the Social Hall.

This is a wonderful way to meet new friends in the community!

Our next Tot Shabbat will take place on December 17th at 6:00 PM. All are welcome. We look forward to seeing you!

From the Librarian’s Desk

Martin Segal

library@bethelohim.org

The CBE Library is open all the time, to meet all your available times, but there is no one in attendance. Therefore, the Chanukah presents you could give me are the following:



- if you have to take materials out of the lobby or the sanctuary and put them into the library, please remember to put them back after your event;
- adults may reshelve books they have been browsing if they are sure they know where they go;
- children, however, should not reshelve the books they have been browsing, but put them into the yellow box next to the back computer and children’s books; and
- please remember to turn off the computers when you are finished with them.

Yiddish and Contemporary Israeli Music

WERS, 88.9 FM, broadcasts Chagigah, Sunday mornings 8:00–11:00 AM.

Thank you very much for doing these little tasks for me. Weekends this autumn have seen more than the usual displacements. I wish all of you a Happy Chanukah as well.

We thank gifts to the Library from Anonymous, Jeff B., and Linda M.

Please come and browse around. The books on display change from time to time. The magazines are updated, and the bulletin board contains news of current events, either from *The Boston Globe* or the CJP which tells of many interesting events happening throughout northeastern Massachusetts.

People who have books that we can put out for sale are welcome: leave them near the librarian’s desk.

I need some volunteer help: someone who could come in once a week during religious school term to straighten up the Children’s’ books and reshelve those in the yellow box would be very helpful.

Also needed is someone who would like to process new books and start a project of relabeling books which are already on the shelves but the labels have become unreadable.

Thanks again for your help and address your concerns to the e-mail address above. ☆

JCC Early Learning Center

Mid-Year Toddler & Preschool Openings

The JCC Early Learning Center Acton is now enrolling for our mid-year program for children turning 15 months (toddler) or 2.9 years to 4 years (preschool) as of January 1, 2011. Our NAEYC accredited program based on the Reggio philosophy and inspired by Jewish values offers families with young children a safe and caring environment that is child-directed and dedicated to nurturing the development of curious and caring, self-reliant and self-confident young children.

Located at the synagogue, the Center’s program is culturally diverse, open to children ages 15 months through 5 years. part day and full day, part week and full week schedules available. Visit www.jccearlylearning.org for more information at or contact Ronit Ben-Shir at rbenshir@jccgb.org or 978-266-9988 to schedule a tour or register for our school year or full year program.

Donations

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

To the General Fund from:

The 2010 Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class to thank Paul Friedman for the beautiful photos he took of their Shabbat Service

Lindsay A. Richmond, in loving memory of Audrey Richmond

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

Susan Allen, in appreciation of worshipping at CBE during Rosh Hashanah

Debbie Namias, in honor of the Beth Elohim Community

To the Choir Fund from:

The 2010 Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class, in honor of the beauty that the choir lent to their Shabbat service

Karen & Brad Capland, in honor of Melissa Capland's Bat Mitzvah, with thanks for their participation in the service

To the Jack & Roda Katz Fund from:

Bob & Helaine Katz, in loving memory of Marion Katz, beloved mother of Lisa and grandmother of Amanda

To the General Fund for the High Holyday Appeal from:

Susan & Stuart Wachter

Faber Daeufer & Rosenberg PC

Wendy & Jonathan Linden

Susan & Robert Seger

Leonard & Lauren Solomon

To the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund from:

Chips & David Naparstek, in appreciation of Rabbi Lewis' tour of Jewish NYC

Miriam & John Zyskind, to thank Rabbi Mintz for the Adult NYC trip

Barbara Choquette, in appreciation of CBE's hospitality

Jessie & Ken Klein, in honor of their daughter Eileen's marriage to Dave Feldman

To the Cantorial Fund from:

The 2010 Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class, to thank Cantor Sarra for her assistance as they prepared for their Shabbat Service and for her part in making it such a lovely service

Create Your Own Silk Tallit

Are you interested in creating a beautiful silk painted tallit? You can create amazing tallitot. We're planning a workshop. Please check the artist's web site for more information at: <http://joyofsilk.com/default.aspx>.

If interested, please contact Leann at 978-263-3061 or lshamash1@verizon.net.

CBE Jewish Film Festival

Our annual mid-winter celebration of the movies takes place on Tuesdays evenings at 7:30 PM. Films will be screened on December 14, January 11 & 25, February 1 & 15, and March 8.

See the flyer on page 16 for film titles and descriptions.

Donations

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

To the Stewart Markowitz Fund from:

Adelle Markowitz, in memory of Norman Steinberg

Adelle Markowitz, in loving memory of Joseph S. Bakerman

To the School Fund from:

The 2010 Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class, to thank Leann for her help in preparing them for their Shabbat service

Leann Shamash, in honor of Marcy Hoban's talent and dedication in running Midrasha's cooking elective

To the Torah Restoration Fund from:

The 2010 Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class, to thank Rabbi Mintz for his teachings, wisdom, guidance, and humor as they prepared to read from the Torah and to participate in their Shabbat service

To the Adult Education Fund from:

The 2010 Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class, to thank Waky for her help in preparing them for their Shabbat service

To the Alex Young Fund from:

Paul, Peter & Matthew Epstein, to celebrate the marriage of Paul's beautiful daughter and Peter and Matthew's awesome sister, Laura Epstein, to Chris Zannella

To the Amy Naparstek Fund from:

Chips & David Naparstek, in honor of the engagement of Jaime Haber & Meryl MacCormack

The Laufer Family, in honor of Jacob's trip to Israel, with hopes that others will have the same opportunity to experience this incredible country

Chips & David Naparstek, in honor of the marriage of Ashley Barrat and Jason Alcantara

1897-1978: From Herzl to Camp David

Come learn what events led up to the modern State of Israel becoming a reality while trying to understand why there is so much heartache in the region. What was the impact of geography and diplomacy on the establishment and security of a Jewish state in the Middle East.

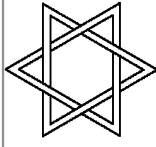
The class will be taught by Rabbi Mintz on two Wednesday evenings, December 15 and 22nd, from 7:45-9:45 PM. This class is free and open to all.

Purim Shpiel Auditions!

If you are interested in being part of the Purim Shpiel this year, auditions will be taking place on Sunday, December 12th, from 1:15-3:15 in the sanctuary.

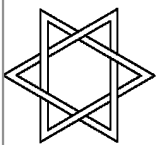
Auditions are only for those people who are interested in acting and singing roles. If you are interested in the chorus only, you need not report for auditions.

If you are interested in being involved with the Shpiel, please contact Leann Shamash at LShamash1@verizon.net.



Congregation Beth Elohim December 2010

— Denotes services conducted by Rabbi and Cantor



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Religious School 9:00-10:30 AM Ikkarim 4:00-7:00 PM Community Chanukah Celebration	6 29 Kislev 6:30-8:30 PM Religious School	7 30 Kislev 4:15-6:15 PM Religious School 6:45-7:45 PM Adult Education: Conversational Hebrew 8:00 PM Women's Rosh Chodesh Group	8 1 Tevet 4:15-6:15 PM Religious School	9 2 Tevet	10 3 Tevet Candle Lighting Time— 3:55 EST Zayin Shabbaton 8:00 PM Shabbat Evening Service—Heh Class Participation	11 4 Tevet Vayigash (Genesis 44:18-47:27) 10:00 AM Junior Congregation 10:00 AM Shabbat Torah Study Evening: JCC Pajama Party
12 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Religious School 9:00-10:30 AM Ikkarim 9:00-11:00 AM Brotherhood Board Meeting 11:15 AM Sisterhood: Zumba Gan Class Field Trip to Fire Your Desire 1:15-3:15 PM Purim Shpiel Auditions 7:00 PM Congregation Board Meeting	13 6 Tevet 6:30-8:30 PM Religious School	14 7 Tevet 4:15-6:15 PM Religious School 6:45-7:45 PM Adult Education: Conversational Hebrew 7:30 PM Adult Education Movie Night: <i>The Rape of Europa</i>	15 8 Tevet 4:15-6:15 PM Religious School 7:45-9:45 PM Adult Education: 1897-1978 — From Herzl to Camp David	16 9 Tevet	17 10 Tevet Candle Lighting Time— 3:55 EST 6:00 PM Tot Shabbat # 7:45-8:00 PM Guided Jewish Meditation 8:00 PM Shabbat Evening Service #	18 11 Tevet Vayeichi (Genesis 47:28-50) 10:00 AM Junior Congregation 10:00 AM K'tonton Shabbat 10:00 AM Shabbat Torah Study
19 8:30 AM Shacharit Minyan 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Religious School 9:00-10:30 AM Ikkarim 9:00-11:00 AM Brotherhood Breakfast 11:15 AM - 12:45 PM Holidays Together 7:30 PM Sisterhood Book Club	20 13 Tevet	21 14 Tevet 4:15-6:15 PM Religious School 6:45-7:45 PM Adult Education: Conversational Hebrew	22 15 Tevet 4:15-6:15 PM Religious School 7:45-9:45 PM Adult Education: 1897-1978 — From Herzl to Camp David	23 16 Tevet	24 17 Tevet Candle Lighting Time— 3:59 EST 8:00 PM Shabbat Evening Service	25 18 Tevet Shemot (Exodus 1-6:1)
26	27 20 Tevet	28 21 Tevet	29 22 Tevet	30 23 Tevet	31 24 Tevet Candle Lighting Time— 4:04 EST 6:30 PM Early Shabbat Evening Service	

Congregation Beth Elohim

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December 2010

The deadline for
the January issue of
The Star is December 15

Articles submitted to *The
Star* must include a contact
name in case of questions.