

Rabbi's Message

February 2010

Dear Friends,

A famous Talmudic aphorism says:

"v'j nac olcrn rst xbfban"
Mishe-nichnas Adar, marbim b'simcha
When Adar enters, our joy increases (Ta'anit 29a)

On February 14, we will start this new month. Our sages teach us that no matter how much sadness and unhappiness we experience, we need to laugh and enjoy the celebration of Purim.

In addition, it is important to understand that the Book of Esther is the only book in the Bible which does not mention God's name. One of our sages, Rabbi Hai Gaon, explained this omission by saying that Mordecai knew that the Persians would copy it and he did not want His name used for idolatrous purposes.

Paradoxically, the Additions to the Book of Esther in the Apocrypha, which was not considered divinely inspired, included a prayer by Esther in which God's name is found.

Moreover, in contrast to all the other biblical books, The Land of Israel is not mentioned in the Book of Esther. The only reference to the relationship of the Jews of Persia with their ancient homeland is when Mordecai is described as one who had been carried away from Jerusalem with the captives. . . (Esther 2.6).

Another interesting lesson from Purim is that the Book of Esther is the only book of the *Tanach*, the Hebrew Bible, which contains the following words:

Tebet, the tenth Hebrew month (2.16).

Kasher, meaning "fit" (8.5).

Patshegen, a Persian word meaning "copy of the writing" (3:14; 4:8; 8:13).

Pur, a Persian word meaning "lot" (3.7; 9.24).

Karpas, a Persian word meaning "cotton" (1.6).

Ahashteranim, a Persian word meaning "the king's service" (8.10; 8.14).

The last pearl is for those who love Hebrew. I suggest you read carefully verse 13 of chapter 3 of the Book of Esther and let me know what you find.

On February 28 at 10:00 a.m., we will celebrate Purim. This is the time to put on all our costumes. Let's come to the service to have fun!!!

B'vracha,

Rabbi Claudio J. Kogan

Torah Tots

Torah Tots meets on **Sunday, February 7th**, 11 to noon. Come join us for an interactive parent-grandparent-child oriented session. This month the theme is Tzedakah. Open to congregants and interested community members of pre-school aged children. There will be a craft and snack. Meet the Rabbi, our school principal, Ms. Geringer, our librarian, Linda DeRusha, and our cantorial soloist and music teacher, Rick Calvert. RSVP to Sandy in the temple office.

SHABBAT SERVICES

February 5 (7:00 pm)

Family Shabbat Service

February 12 (7:30 pm)

Erev Shabbat Service

February 19 (7:30 pm)

Erev Shabbat Service

February 26 (7:30 pm)

Erev Shabbat Service

Sydney Perry is guest leader for Rosh Chodesh Adar

Our Rosh Chodesh Adar celebration takes place on Tuesday, February 16 at 7:30 p.m. at TBT. With two strong women (Esther and Vashti) front and center in Adar's celebration of Purim, it's a natural connection to discuss women in community leadership, which will be the topic led by Sydney Perry, Executive Director of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven.

Rosh Chodesh is a biblical holiday that sanctifies the appearance of the first sliver of moon each month, symbolizing renewal and the cycle of life. Since the Middle Ages, it has been set apart as a holiday particularly important to women, for a variety of historical and religious reasons. Rosh Chodesh offers a varied forum for prayer, study and discussion of issues of particular concern to women. There is no fee to participate.

Rosh Chodesh is a participatory experience in which all have the opportunity to lead. Please contact Cantor Goldberg by e-mail at: cantor@templebethtikvahct.org, or call her at the synagogue, 203-245-7028, ext. 209 for further information. All services begin at 7:30 at TBT unless otherwise noted.

Rosh Chodesh dates, 5770

Tuesday, February 16 (Adar, actual date Feb. 15)
Sunday, March 14, 6 p.m. (Nisan – actual date March 16)
Wednesday, April 14 (Iyar)
Thursday, May 13 (Sivan, actual date May 14)
Sunday, June 13 (Tammuz)



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TBT Professional Staff

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Cantor Dorothy Goldberg
Rick Calvert, Cantorial Soloist
educational staff
Marcia Geringer, Religious School Principal
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Linda DeRusha, Librarian
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Sandy Walsh, Temple Secretary
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Notice

TO: All Congregants
FROM: Sue Groll
Chair of Nominating Committee

SUBJECT: NOMINATIONS FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DATE: February 2010

According to our bylaws, the Nominating Committee begins meeting no later than March 1 in order to develop a slate of officers for presentation and consideration at the Annual Congregational Meeting. The list of vacant positions for the fiscal year 2010-2011 is as follows:

Office

Executive Board

President
First Vice-President
Second Vice-President
Financial Vice-President
Treasurer
Secretary

Directors to be Elected

Co-Director of Religious Activities
Co-Director of Education
Director of Facilities
Director of Youth Activities
Director-at-Large

TBT Annual Fund Update

The 5770 Annual Fund is well under way. The Development Committee thanks the many TBT members who have already contributed. This group of generous supporters, 80 of our 320 temple households, represents 25% of the congregation. Please join your friends and fellow congregants in supporting the ongoing operations of our synagogue by making your donation today. Help us to reach our goal of 100% participation in annual giving. Remember that the 5770 annual fund drive wraps up in June 2010.

Thank you for your generous support!
Suzanne Frisch, Chair, TBT Development Committee
email: development@templebethtikvahct.org

THE JEWISH EXPERIENCE ON FILM

Our Revised Schedule For February 2010

We are very happy to report that the copyright issues which led to the cancellation of The Jewish Experience On Film in January have been resolved! TBT's film series can now proceed with a new selection of great films for three Wednesday nights in February. Film series regulars and new comers, please plan on joining us for fascinating films and wonderful discussions!

Ken & Martha Gamerman

Wednesday, February 3 - 7:00 p.m.

THE SYRIAN BRIDE

This provocative film by Israeli director Eran Riklis is set at a bleak checkpoint in the Syrian Golan Heights annexed by Israel. A young Druze bride must cross the border to marry her Syrian groom, but neither the Israeli border guards nor the Syrians will let her pass. The two families become embroiled in a bureaucratic nightmare that is resolved only when the bride takes matters into her own hands. This film exposes the fissures within the separate Syrian and Israeli worlds and examines the near-impenetrable barriers between Israel and its neighbors. *In English, Arabic and Hebrew, with English subtitles.* 94 Minutes

Wednesday, February 10 - 7:00 p.m.

HOMICIDE

Written and Directed by David Mamet with Joe Mantegna & William H. Macy

Mamet transforms the basic police drama into one man's personal journey of self-discovery. Joe Mantegna is at his best as a Jewish Chicago detective whose accidental connection to the murder of an old Jewish woman leads him to question his identity, religion and beliefs. Mamet creates a bizarre, dream-like world and builds a compelling mystery with powerful religious, political and ideological issues. 102 Minutes

Wednesday, February 24 – 7:00 p.m.

PRAYING WITH LIOR

Shot over a three-year period in a close-knit Jewish Reconstructionist community in Philadelphia, this acclaimed documentary celebrates the life of a rabbi's son with Down syndrome. Lior, a sweet natured, highly functioning young man, has great personal faith and an obsessive love of prayer. His family refuses to accept any limitations on what Lior can achieve, and their embracing community provides a remarkable level of inclusion. This inspiring portrait has been cheered at film festivals around the world. 88 Minutes

***Feel free to bring something sweet or salty to share.
Coffee and beverages will be provided.***

Wednesday evening Adult Ed Class to start March 3rd

Introduction to Judaism (7:30-9:00 pm)

Class Dates: 3/3, 3/17, 3/24, 4/7, 4/21, 4/28, 5/5, 5/26

Instructor: Rabbi Kogan

After studying the basic concepts in Judaism, we will explore the fundamental Jewish thoughts and practice. This class is for everyone who would like to know more about Judaism. Topics include Jewish holidays and life cycle events, theology and prayer, Israel, history and Hebrew. Bring your friends and let's explore together our history and our traditions. We will explore in eight sessions important and relevant topics. Each class will be independent from the other.

To register for the class, please contact Sandy in the Temple office (203-245-7028) or tbsandy@sbcglobal.net.



Purim Carnival!

Come to the annual Purim Carnival on Sunday, February 28th from 12:00 to 2:00 right after Religious School! Sponsored by our Temple Youth Group, SALTY, this event is fun for all students! Shave a balloon, bowl, throw sponges at a SALTY member, get your nails done, have your face painted, and enjoy many more activities! Win prizes! A slice of pizza and a drink are included with the \$5 admission price. Come celebrate with us!

Nursery School

The nursery school has a giant mural on display for the month of February at the Scranton Library children's room. Seven classes collaborated to create a beautiful winter wonderland scene for all to enjoy. Please take a moment to stop by and see the work that was done by each of our little students. It will brighten your day, we are sure!

We are continuing to accept enrollment applications for the 2010-2011 school year. We would love to have any interested family come and take a look at our program. Please contact the school at 203-245-8039 to make an appointment for a personal tour.

Social Justice

Madison Cares/Habitat

The following Sunday dates have been scheduled for TBT volunteers to participate in:

February 21, March 21, April 18, May 16 and June 27. The Youth Group has signed on for the March 21 build. For more information, contact Roger Winer at rogerwiner@roche.com or Linda Brody at lindabrody@comcast.net.

Haiti

A donation from the Laurence B Sommer and Elaine J Sommer Fund has been made to the URJ Haitian Relief Fund. Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims of this tragedy.

Food Baskets

Please remember to bring non perishable items to the food baskets in the lobby. The economy has pushed local food banks beyond their capacity and there is an urgent need for donations. We will distribute the food to various area food banks.

Please consider joining the Social Justice Committee. You can give as much or as little of your time as you want to. Our next meeting is Tuesday, February 9th, at 7:15 PM. For more information contact Ellen Goldfarb at erg1021a@aol.com or Kate Lee at falkon181@aol.com.

News from the Besso Library

Many thanks to those of you who have so generously donated "gently used" children's books your not-so-little ones have outgrown! We received a number of donations of titles we did not previously have in the Besso library, thereby expanding the juvenile holiday collection. We also were blessed to receive additional copies of some of our most popular holiday books, which will allow more of our young "patronettes" to enjoy their favorites at home. Thanks again, and keep 'em coming!

For February's "Tidbits" I've chosen the topic of antisemitism. Did you know...

We have a selection of adult books, as well as several videos, on antisemitism. Our collection approaches the topic from various disciplines and points of view: historical (The burning bush: anti-Semitism and world history; **662 LIT**); contemporary (The new anti-Semitism; **662 FOR**); political (The Jew accused: three anti-Semitic affairs (Dreyfus, Beilis, Frank), 1894-1915; **662.9 LIN**) religious (Christian anti-Semitism; **662 NIC**); literary (Members of the tribe; **FIC KLU**); economic (Economic origins of anti-Semitism: Poland and its Jews in the early modern period; **662.7 LEV**); philosophical (Revolutionary antisemitism in Germany from Kant to Wagner; **662.614 ROS**); ethnic

(Semites and anti-Semites: an inquiry into conflict and prejudice; **662 LEW**); and psychological (Anti-Semitism: a disease of the mind: a psychiatrist explores the psychodynamics of a symbol sickness; **662 RUB**). As always, we welcome suggestions for new titles.

Weeding the collection of duplicate titles and damaged books continues. There is generally a selection of such items in the library, and we welcome your perusal. Feel free to take any withdrawn books, either for your personal use or for any organizations you think may be able to use them. Books are kept in a box in the library and are clearly marked as Withdrawn. Help yourself.

Recent Bar Mitzvah

Sam Cohen, the son of Burt and Annie Cohen of Guilford, knows how he is going to feel after his Bar Mitzvah is finished – relieved. Right now, as he anticipates the event, he admits to feeling nervous. Learning the Torah portion was a challenge, he says, as well as some of the prayers that he will lead at the ceremony. "Most of the prayers I knew, but there were some I had to study," he says.

For his Bar Mitzvah project, Sam and his mother baked Hanukkah cookies in the shape of dreidels that they sold at the synagogue. The project earned \$175 which Sam plans to donate to Aleh, a charity in Israel for severely disabled children. Sam says he and his mother reviewed different charities on the Internet and discovered Aleh and its work.

Sam, a 7th grader at Adams Middle School, likes to play summer football and spend time with his friends. This fall, he says, some of the time he would have spent with them has been spent doing something else. "I've been studying my Bar Mitzvah stuff," Sam says.



BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO:

Chad Bernal, Alexander Fields, Juliet Friedman, Tess Friedman, Robert Gillis, Jared Goldman, Elijah Houlton, Zachary Houlton, James Hyman, Julia Hyman, Marissa Irwin, William Irwin, Samuel Kaplan, Danica Lustberg, Max Mamis, Zoe Mills, Elana Morris, Jeffrey Philips, Thomas Philips, Clara Pinchbeck, Simon Pinchbeck, Addison Reed, Daniel Rimm, Aaron Rosenberg, Lindsay Rosenberg, Elana Rothberg, Noah Spigelman, Olivia Zimmerman

Thank You

A gift of a painting by Sally Spiegel of the Yiddish author, Sholem Aleichem ("the Jewish Mark Twain") is now in the library. It is in memory of Herman D.J. Spiegel.

Schedule of Services

Friday, February 5

7:00 p.m. Family Shabbat Service
Torah portion: Yitro (Exodus 18:1 – 20:23)
TAMC, rev. ed., p.471.; TAMC, 1st ed., p. 508;
Hertz, p. 288

Saturday, February 6

9:00 a.m. Torah Study
10:00 a.m. Shabbat Morning Minyan



Friday, February 12

7:30 p.m. Erev Shabbat Service
Torah portion: Mishpatim (Exodus 21:1 – 24:18)
TAMC, rev. ed., p.513; TAMC, 1st ed., p. 566;
Hertz, p. 306

Saturday, February 13

9:00 a.m. Torah Study
10:00 a.m. Shabbat Morning Minyan

Friday, February 19

7:30 p.m. Erev Shabbat Service
Torah portion: Terumah (Exodus 25:1 – 27:19)
TAMC, rev. ed., p.545; TAMC, 1st ed., p. 604;
Hertz, p. 326

Saturday, February 20

9:00 a.m. Torah Study
10:00 a.m. Shabbat Morning Minyan

Friday, February 26

7:30 p.m. Erev Shabbat Service
Torah portion: Tetzaveh (Exodus 27:20 - 30:10)
TAMC, rev. ed., p.563; TAMC, 1st ed., p. 618;
Hertz, p. 339

Saturday, February 27

9:00 a.m. Torah Study
10:00 a.m. Bat Mitzvah of Rose Etzel, daughter of Jan Walzer and David Etzel

Sunday, February 28

10:00 a.m. Purim Service

The *Chumash* (Torah Commentary) contains the Hebrew text of the Torah (the first section of the Bible) with vocalization and punctuation. The *Chumashim* we use at TBT also contain English translations and commentaries. In addition, they carry the text of each Haftarah, a portion from the Prophets (the second section of the Bible). The three *Chumashim* referred to above are:

TAMC, rev. ed. = The Torah: A Modern Commentary, revised edition (2005)

TAMC, 1st ed. = The Torah: A Modern Commentary, 1st edition (W. Gunther Plaut, ed.) (1981)

Hertz = The Pentateuch and Haftorahs (J.H. Hertz, ed.) (1937)

Oneg Shabbat

We wish to thank the following members for sponsoring an Oneg Shabbat during January:

- Jan. 8 in honor of Abigail and Sophie Alpert, Briana Robinson Hambor and Abigail Sherer by their parents — Gayle and Jay Alpert, Eve Robinson and John Hambor, and Ann and Eli Sherer
- Jan. 15 Judy Merriam and Wendy Gross
- Jan. 22 Annie and Burt Cohen in honor of Sam becoming a Bar Mitzvah; and by Members of the Social Justice Committee in honor of Social Justice Shabbat
- Jan. 29 the Baker family in honor of the Religious Activities Committee

Congratulations

to Edith and Paul Baron who both celebrated their 89th birthdays in January 2010. They have been married for 63 years.

In Memoriam

Dore Singer, wife of David Singer
Martha Levitz Lurie, grandmother of Barbara Chupp
Rena Mills, mother of Ira Mills and grandmother of Zoe and Hannah Mills

CONTRIBUTIONS

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

by Marsha Weinstein and Lisa Goldberg with appreciation of Rabbi Kogan's warmth and support during their father's illness and at the time of his passing

by Bobbe Grossman in memory of her dear husband, Dick Grossman

by Maureen and Len Fried in memory of Len's father, Arnold Fried
by Carole Beckwith in memory of Helen Nathan

by David and Christine Sokoloff in honor of Rachel Sokoloff's Bat Mitzvah

by Jimmy Shure in memory of Martha Lurie, grandmother of Barbara Chupp

by Myrna Winer in appreciation of Rabbi Kogan's help preparing Rachel Winer for her Bat Mitzvah

CONTRIBUTIONS

by Sally Cohen in memory of Mike Cohen
 by Carole Beckwith in memory of Morris Nathan
 by Bobbe Grossman in memory of her dear mother, Ida Davis
 by Howard and Patricia Berke in memory of Howard's mother, Shirley Berkowitz
 by David Singer in memory of Dore Singer
 by Milton and Sondra Bernblum in memory of Muriel Nalib
 by Ellen Frank and Howard Distelman in appreciation of Rabbi Kogan's guidance in helping Alex to become a Bar Mitzvah

CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

by Seymour Cohen in memory of Ruth Barsky
 by David, Lisa, Brian and Barbara Harding in memory of Frances Nagler, mother of JoAnne Hochberg
 by David, Lisa, Brian and Barbara Harding in memory of Virginia MacDougald, mother of Joseph MacDougald
 by David, Lisa, Brian and Barbara Harding in memory of Phyllis Parker, mother of Jo-Ann Fleischman
 by David, Lisa, Brian and Barbara Harding in memory of Marjorie Ruth Ruderfer, mother of Laurie Ruderfer
 by Barbara and Harvey Levy in honor of Irv Drabkin's special birthday
 by the RafLOWITZ/Rader family in memory of Sam RafLOWITZ, loving husband, father and PopPop
 by David Singer for Cantor Goldberg's beautiful service for Dore Singer
 by Marsha Weinstein and Lisa Goldberg in memory of their father, Beryl Weinstein, and in appreciation for Cantor Goldberg's support for their family
 by Myrna Winer in appreciation for Cantor Goldberg's help in preparing Rachel Winer for her Bat Mitzvah
 by Ellen Frank and Howard Distelman in appreciation of Cantor Goldberg's support and guidance of Alex as he prepared for his Bar Mitzvah
 by Frohman Davis in memory of his beloved wife, Lorraine
 by Frohman Davis in memory of his mother, Edith Davis
 by Barbara and Harvey Levy in memory of Barbara's beloved father, Nathan Barrin

GENERAL FUND

by David and Jo-Ann Fleischman in memory of Seymour Freedman, brother of Gloria Sack
 by Irina Lekhmus and Peter Rabinovich
 by Jane and Brian Holzman
 by Carol Miller in memory of Elaine and George Pivar

BUILDING FUND

by Sally Spiegel in memory of Gordon Peery

LAURENCE B. & ELAINE J. SOMMER MEMORIAL FUND FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

by Jack and Kim Rakusin in honor of Phyllis Kaufman for her help and dedication to Temple Beth Tikvah
 by Bill, Kate, Susannah, William and Alexa Lee in memory of Marietta F. Lee, beloved mother and grandmother
 by Bill and Kate Lee in honor of the Social Justice Committee's good works
 by Joan and Joel Marcus in loving memory of Joan's mother, Anita Brill

ENDOWMENT FUND

by Wendy Gross in memory of Seymour Freedman, brother of Gloria Sack
 by Jack and Kim Rakusin in honor of Judy Merriam for her help

and dedication to Temple Beth Tikvah
 by Charles and Judith Barr in honor of Irv Drabkin on his 90th birthday
 by Marlene and Jerry Scharr in memory of Seymour Freedman, brother of Gloria Sack
 by Marlene and Jerry Scharr in honor of Alan Starensier's 75th birthday
 by Don and Lois Chudacoff in memory of Seymour Freedman, beloved brother of Gloria Sack
 by Sam and Rena Powell in memory of Dore Singer, wife of David Singer
 by Judy Merriam in memory of Martha Lurie, grandmother of Barbara Chupp
 by Judith and Charles Barr in memory of Leonard Barr, brother of Charles
 by Jane Luyckx in memory of Beryl Weinstein

THE HELEN KATZ GOODKIND BEAUTIFICATION FUND

by Edward and Rose Gleich in memory of Art Beck
 by Myra Josephson in memory of Dore Singer, wife of David Singer
 by Peter Goldenberg in memory of Art Beck
 by Jack and Helen Davis in memory of Dore Singer, wife of David Singer

THE RICHARD C. KAHRIMANIS MUSIC FUND

by Selma Engel in memory of Dore Singer, wife of David Singer

THE PHYLLIS SILIDKER MUSIC ENRICHMENT FUND

by Tina Silidker in memory of her father, Joseph Wasserman
 by Lisa Markowitz in honor of and in loving memory of her most wonderful and special aunt, Phyllis Silidker
 by Tina and Joel Silidker in honor of the memory of Beryl Weinstein

PRAYERBOOK FUND

by Sarah K. Garth in memory of her father, Rabbi Reuben Kaufman
 by Burton E. Boardman in memory of Joseph C. Boardman
 by David Greenblatt in memory of Maye Greenblatt
 by David, Rachel, Alix and Joshua Copel in memory of Joseph W. Copel
 by Jane Luyckx in memory of Dore Singer, wife of David Singer

RABBI HOWARD F. SOMMER FUND FOR CONTINUING JEWISH EDUCATION

by David Singer in appreciation of Rabbi Sommer for a beautiful service for Dore Singer

LIBRARY FUND


by Roslyn Montlick in memory of her dear brother, Harold Pessin
 by Sally Spiegel in memory of Dore Singer, wife of David Singer
 by Regina and Milton Heller in honor of Irv Drabkin's 90th birthday
 by Regina and Milton Heller in memory of Louis Greenberg
 by Regina and Milton Heller in memory of Bennett Greenberg

THE YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP FUND

by Mark and Marian Altman in memory of Mark's beloved mother, Gladys Altman

THE TREE OF LIFE

by Ellen Frank and Howard Distelman in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Alex Distelman, November 7, 2009



**TEMPLE BETH TIKVAH
SHOFAR**

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FEBRUARY 2010

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