



Temple Beth Israel

A vibrant Jewish community.

3601 W Dempster St Skokie, IL 60076 | p 847.675.0951 | f 847.675.0960 | www.tbiskokie.org

Shabbat Services

SHABBAT / CHANUKAH Friday Evening,
December 3 at 7:30 P.M.*

6:00 P.M. Congregational Shabbat / Chanukah Dinner

SHABBAT / CHANUKAH Saturday Morning,
December 4 at 10:30 A.M.

Torah Portion "Miketz"

SHABBAT Friday Evening, December 10, at 8:15 P.M.

6:00 P.M. – Shalom Shabbat

SHABBAT Saturday Morning, December 11 at 10:30 A.M.

Torah Portion "Vayigash"

SHABBAT Friday Evening, December 17*

5:30 P.M. – Likrat Shabbat

6:15 P.M. – Kabbalat Shabbat

SHABBAT Saturday Morning, December 18 at 10:30 A.M.

Torah Portion "Vayechi"

SHABBAT Friday Evening, December 24 at 8:15 P.M.

Torah Portion "Shemot"

SHABBAT Saturday Morning, December 25 at 10:30 A.M.

SHABBAT Friday Evening, December 31*

5:30 P.M. – Likrat Shabbat

6:15 P.M. – Kabbalat Shabbat

SHABBAT Saturday Morning, January 1 at 10:30 A.M.

Torah Portion "Vaera"

SHABBAT Friday Evening, January 7*

5:30 P.M. – Likrat Shabbat

6:15 P.M. – Kabbalat Shabbat

SHABBAT Saturday Morning, January 8 at 10:30 A.M.

Torah Portion "Bo"

SHABBAT Friday Evening, January 14 at 8:15 P.M.

6:00 P.M. Shalom Shabbat

SHABBAT Saturday Morning, January 15 at 10:30 A.M.

T'Fillot Nashim

Torah Portion "Beshalach"

Shabbat Shira

SHABBAT Friday Evening, January 21*

5:30 P.M. – Likrat Shabbat

6:15 P.M. – Kabbalat Shabbat

SHABBAT Saturday Morning, January 22 at 10:30 A.M.

Torah Portion "Yitro"

SHABBAT Friday Evening, January 28 at 8:15 P.M.

Torah Portion "Mishpatim"

SHABBAT Saturday Morning, January 29 at 10:30 A.M.

9:00 A.M. – Mishpacha Minyan

*Please note time



Rabbi's Column

A year ago I used this space to speak to you about *Mussar* and *Middot*. *Mussar* is a term taken from the first chapter of the biblical Book of Proverbs and refers to a disciplined effort to further ethical and spiritual development. *Mussar* is a Jewish practice for self-improvement which

focuses on living a more conscientious life and heightening awareness of the world and one's responsibilities in it. *Middot* are soul traits that describe not so much "what to do" as "how to act" and "how to live." *Middot* include notions like generosity, patience, tolerance, compassion, humility, trust and many more.

The fundamental underlying message of the *Mussar* movement and of the Jewish notion of *Middot* is that our character ("the way we are" or "our nature") is not etched in stone but rather is something about which we have choices. Our tradition suggests that once we realize and understand that we have choices about how we behave, how we react to our environment and the people around us, then we will do the systematic (and sometimes hard) work of changing for the better. Judaism imagines that we can identify and tap into that which is best in our character and use that to become more holy and more whole.

Last January a small group of TBI members began to explore the Jewish teachings of *Mussar* and *Middot* at our congregational retreat. Now our Adult Education committee is happy to make these compelling ideas more readily available to our entire congregation. On Sunday, December 12, 2010 from 10:30 a.m. to noon Rabbi Rutl Gelfarb will present *Jewish Soulwork: A Session in Mussar*. This will be an introductory session and we are hopeful that, as a result of this exposure to these compelling ideas, some members of our congregation will be inspired to work more consistently and systematically on this ethical and spiritual development. We hope to create small *mussar* groups of members that will work together (in person or online) and support each other as they apply these contemplative practices developed from within the Jewish tradition to bring about inner change.

Many of us have observed that our society seems to have become more mean spirited of late. These days *sin'at chinam* (gratuitous intolerance, bigotry and hatred) seems to be like a virus, infecting every aspect of our society. And what's true on a national and communal level, is true on a very personal level as well. These days it seems like the virus that is infecting our society, the virus of gratuitous intolerance, is infecting our everyday lives as well. So often, we hear our own neighbors and friends ready to ascribe to others the basest of motives. So often, we are ready to believe all the negative things we hear about others, without even checking to determine if they are true. So often, we speak first and listen later, if at all. So often, we are short-tempered and impatient, quick to anger and slow to forgive.

Developing a personal practice of character improvement is one way to change that trend. The assumption of *mussar* practice is that you don't have to be sick to get better and you don't have to be bad to improve. I hope that you will join us on December 12th.

Michael A. Weinberg

IN THE TEMPLE FAMILY

MAZAL TOV TO:

Jennifer Garson and Joel Signer on the birth of their daughter, Sylvie Garson Signer.

ON THE ROAD TO RECOVERY

The following Temple members are recuperating from recent illness, injury or surgery: *Flo Berman, Jan Levin, Milt Herst, and Lisa Wynn*. We wish all our patients a speedy recovery.

CONDOLENCES

We note with sorrow the passing of Elyse Baumann-Krisolofsky, sister of *Janis Fine* and Roselyn Friedman, mother of *Lionel Friedman*. May their memories be a blessing.

CROP HUNGER WALK

Temple Beth Israel helped others one step at a time on Sunday, October 17, 2010 by participating in the Crop Hunger Walk which started and ended at St. John's Lutheran Church in Wilmette. Thanks to Sisterhood TBI, the Temple Board, and other TBI member constituencies, a contribution of \$700 was made to Church World Services. Twenty five percent (25%) of these donations go to local agencies and seventy five percent (75%) go to worldwide efforts to stop hunger. Many thanks to Daniel Shore, our TBI Youth Director, and the companionable TBI members, both young and not-so-young who represented us at the Crop Hunger Walk.

KABBALAT SHABBAT ACTIVITIES FOR DECEMBER

During our pre-Kabbalat Shabbat program from 5:00-5:30, on December 17, our own Dr. Lori Sagarin, TBI Director of Congregational Learning will share her opinions about several books she has read and will recommend items for our reading pleasure.

Stay tuned for our next Kabbalat Shabbat program on December 31. We will have a discussion of Middot as a follow-up to our program with Rabbi Ruthie Gelfarb on Sunday morning, December 12. What better way to usher in the new year than to look inward at our values and character traits?

FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Dan Berman

As I prepare to make a special presentation to Temple Beth Israel on the occasion of Rabbi Mendelsohn's yahrtzeit in February, I want to continue to share some of his sermons. The following was delivered to our congregation on December 11, 1925.

The Message of the Maccabees

The reason why the festival of Chanukah should be observed for eight days has been explained to us by the ancient Rabbis in the following quaint manner. After the Maccabees had driven out the Syrians from Jerusalem they looked about for some sacred oil to be used in lighting the menorah at the Temple. They finally discovered one solitary cruse which contained sufficient oil to burn for only twenty hours. Strangely enough, this tiny cruse of oil lasted for eight days, and in commemoration of this miracle, the Maccabees decreed that the festival of Chanukah should be observed annually for eight days. However, the fact of the matter is that the miracle of Chanukah is much greater than what the Maccabees supposed. The flame kindled by the Maccabees has lasted not for eight days but for more than two thousand years, and it is still ablaze in the hearts of loyal Jews and Jewesses today.

For we must remember that the struggle of the Maccabees has been carried on by our people in every age and generation. Judaism has from time immemorial maintained that religion is a strictly private and personal affair, and that no one has a right to dictate to any individual in the matters of conscience. "For let all the peoples walk each one in the name of its god, but we will walk in the name of the Lord our God forever and ever!" — this is the traditional attitude of Judaism towards religion. Antiochus Epiphanes, however, refused to accept this principle and he attempted to impose his will upon his Jewish subjects. The Jew, he maintained, must give up his particular God and prostrate himself before Jupiter and Juno, the gods and goddesses of the majority. A similar situation confronts the Jew of today. We are disliked simply because we refuse to accept the religion of the majority and because we persist in styling ourselves a different and distinct people.

Now in the struggle of the modern Jew to maintain his identity, there are very many of us who are smitten with pessimism and despair. How can we, the few, hold out against the many? This is the great question which is constantly being asked by Jews everywhere. But when the story of Chanukah is retold to us year by year, it invariably brings us to renewed strength and courage. The Maccabees, too, constituted a weak and insignificant minority; nevertheless, they did not hesitate to face their Syrian foes, and they fought and conquered simply because they remembered the great doctrine of Judaism which was uttered by the prophet Zechariah and which is read in the Synagogue every Chanukah. "Not by might, nor by power, but by My spirit, saith the Lord of hosts." The Maccabees knew that their real power is to be found not in numbers but in the spirit of God actuating and motivating human endeavor, and that is why they were victorious in their struggle. The Jew of today, too, must learn to understand this principle and then he will have no difficulty in defying his enemies.

However, all of us must be conscious of the fact that the mere realization and affirmation of the Maccabean philosophy will avail us nothing. If we are to be as victorious in our struggles today as they were in ancient times, we must embody in our lives not only their theories but also their practices. Let me then point out to you three Maccabean characteristics which must be followed scrupulously by the Jew of today.

First tenacity. Judas, the oldest brother of the Hasmoneans, conducts his campaigns against the Syrians in such a zealous manner

OOPS!

The following advertisement was inadvertently omitted from the TBI Directory. Please support of our Directory advertisers.



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Continued on page 6

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF CONGREGATIONAL LEARNING

Our godson plays football at Deerfield high school. Now as some of you know, I LOVE football, particularly Badger football with Packer football a close second. I was raised on football and truly enjoy a Shabbat afternoon curled up with a book and a good game. I don't remember ever not knowing the rules of football; they were a part of my early education, and were integrated into my general education. My girlfriend, the mother of our godson, did not have my experience with football and when she goes to watch him play, she doesn't understand what is happening on the field and doesn't understand the commentary provided by the announcer.

It occurred to us (she is also a Jewish educator) that her experience with football is not unlike the experience many of you have with synagogue life. For those who weren't raised Jewish and for many who were, sometimes our rules, our choreography, our way is unfamiliar and alienating. At TBI we endeavor to guide our members through the Jewish calendar, Jewish worship and Jewish history but I know we don't always succeed. I want to invite anyone of you to suggest possible classes, workshops and events that will help you to feel more comfortable within the life of TBI. In the next several months we will begin discussing the programming for the coming year and it is never too early to begin thinking about how to build a robust and meaningful program for our members.

I invite you to become involved in the Adult Education program of our congregation. We work hard to offer a rich and varied program and have many wonderful programs coming up in the next few months. Watch your bulletins and e-blasts for upcoming events. And check out the calendar and flyers that are on our website at www.tbiskokie.org.

It is my commitment to insure that no one feels like the outsider at the football game. I want to build a program that provides gateways into Jewish life for anyone and everyone who is inclined to walk through. I look forward to hearing your suggestions.

B'shalom,

Lori B. Sagarin

LORI'S BOOK GROUP

Lori's Book Group returned for another season in October. We return this year to our Sunday morning, 11:00 a.m. schedule when we'll meet in the Cohn Library. The books this season are:

January 23 – *Drawing in the Dust* by Zoe Klein

February 27 – *Sima's Undergarments for Women* by Ilana Stanger-Ross

April 3 – *Day After Night* by Anita Diamant



FROM THE EDITOR

Reminder: Material for the bulletin is due electronically to BarbaraTBI@aol.com on the 10th of the month prior to publication. The deadline for the February Bulletin is **January 10**. (The TBI Bulletin isn't published in January.) If you do not have access to a computer, please submit paper copy to the Temple office by the 7th of the month prior to publication so that it can be transcribed and sent by the 10th.



THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF METROPOLITAN CHICAGO ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Educational scholarship funds from the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago are available for college and graduate students for the 2011–2012 academic year. Approximately \$500,000 is available for Jewish students who are identified as having promise for significant contributions in their chosen careers, and are in need of financial assistance for full-time academic programs primarily in the helping professions.

ELIGIBILITY:

Academic requirements include:

- Graduate-level enrollment in a "helping profession" program, such as medicine, human services, the rabbinate, or Jewish communal service;
- Or vocational or undergraduate training in helping sectors requiring no post-graduate education for employment, such as education or nursing;
- Or mathematics and engineering, or other sciences;
- Or performing / fine arts;
- Or communications at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign;
- Or law, in the helping sector.

Applicants must be legally domiciled in the greater Chicago metropolitan area, or, in some cases, Cook County or Northwest Indiana. Refugees and asylees are encouraged to apply, as citizenship is not a prerequisite.

Jewish Vocational Service administers the scholarship program and personally interviews all applicants before April 20, 2011 at one of its many offices throughout the Chicago metropolitan area.

To apply, go to www.jvschicago.org and click on *Scholarship Services*. For additional information or questions, contact the JVS Scholarship Secretary at (312) 673-3444 or via email at jvsscholarship@jvschicago.org. The application deadline is February 15, 2011.

SISTERHOOD BOOK CLUB

The next meeting of the TBI Sisterhood Book Club will be on Thursday, December 23, 2010 at 1 P.M. when we will discuss *Compromising Positions* by Susan Isaacs. This is the story of Judith Singer, an intelligent, brash and witty woman who feels stifled in her suburban home.

A murder investigation brings out the talents and sense of humor of this endearing and engaging heroine. The books are available in the Temple office and we ask that you bring the book to the meeting so it can be returned to the library in a timely fashion. Join us at the home of Marilyn Sklair, 7033 N. Kedzie, Chicago for our discussion. Please call Marilyn at 773-743-8402 if you plan to attend



SISTERHOOD NEWS

Happy Chanukah — we hope you are delighting in the warmth of this fun family holiday. We also thank you for supporting our Sisterhood and Religious School at the Artisan and Book Faire in November.

Over the past few months, we have told you about two important Sisterhood events we were anticipating. Now that they have occurred, we'd like to tell you about them.

The Women of Reform Judaism Midwest District Convention was held in Bloomington, MN on October 15–17, 2010. Nearly 130 convention participants received a warm welcome from the host Sisterhoods in Minnesota: Bet Shalom in Minnetonka, Mount Zion in St. Paul, and Temple Israel in Minneapolis. More than 50 volunteers from the entire District put together a convention to be remembered. Dale and I were joined by ten members of Sisterhood TBI: Rochelle Berne, Laura Cooper, Jean Freeman, Marla Goldberg, Roz Heimann, Alyce Heman, June Levin, Sue Schneider, Marilyn Sklair, and Linn Ullenbrauck. We had a wonderful weekend filled with education, enlightenment, empowerment, and excitement. Highlights included:

- As a Social Action project, we made fleece scarves and baby blankets for the homeless.
- Sue Schneider received a special "Giraffe Award" presented to district board members from outgoing president Sherri Feuer.
- We met and learned from WRJ President Lynn Magid Lazar, the president of the international WRJ organization and a role-model dynamic leader.
- Erev Shabbat was a wonderful evening. We absolutely glowed during the Shabbat service which was followed by a delicious Shabbat dinner at Temple Israel. The evening included lots of music and the presentation to OSRUJ's Jerry Kaye of a Torah which was purchased by the fundraising efforts of the Midwest District Sisterhoods.
- Sue Schneider received the honor of Women of Valor by vote from our Sisterhood members.
- Our Sisterhood received two Honorable Mentions for the Rhoda Hauptman Award for our Sisterhood leadership training program

and for a series of computer classes taught by Amber Wood.

- We witnessed, voted on, and kvelled about the installation of four of our Sisterhood members: Marla Goldberg as President of the District; Laura Cooper as Treasurer; Sue Schneider as Chair of the Speakers Bureau; and Linn Ullenbrauck as Data Management/Directory.
- We celebrated at the Reception in honor of Marla, hosted by us, chaired by June Levin, with lovely chocolates made by Sisterhood members with Linn Ullenbrauck's inception and instruction.
- A one-woman comedy act about a teenage girl at a Jewish summer camp kept us laughing out loud throughout.

Both Dale and I had met many of the women at this convention at other Midwest District events such as Kallah and leadership training. It was great seeing familiar faces in addition to having the opportunity to meet many new ones.

The weekend after we returned, on October 24th, we enjoyed our Sisterhood Membership Luncheon, successfully co-chaired by Harriet Arons and Sharrel Titlebaum along with many volunteers and TBI staff. More than 110 members dined on delicious Greek-style salads, chicken, baklava, and cake. What more could we ask for? How about a delightful musical interlude by Lindsey Poling, a mezzo-soprano who has sung at Carnegie Hall and on WFMT? She was one of the professional singers for all of our High Holy Day services. It was quite a treat.

Up and coming: Please mark your calendars on January 15 at 10:30 for one of our favorite annual Sisterhood activities: T'fillot Nashim. This Shabbat service is lead by our Sisterhood members and is for everyone to enjoy worshipping together. A delicious Kiddush luncheon follows the service.

If you would like to join our fun and welcoming Sisterhood, please contact just about any one of the women you see at TBI, at the Sisterhood Gift Shop or, in particular, Dale or me. We'd love to have you enjoy what we do.

Orri Fishman and Dale Cone
Co-presidents, Sisterhood TBI

SISTERHOOD SIMCHAS

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Nancy and Joel Goodman	12/1/1974
Dale and Joe Cone	12/5/1993
Julie and Rick Einstein	12/5/1999
Carole and Robert Arenson	12/7/1958
Lillian and Alan Gerstner	12/12/1976
Susie and Michael Lorge	12/19/1976
Diane and Ed Mehlman	12/20/1970
Margrit and Henry Baerman	12/22/1945
Linda and Zachary Fainman	12/24/1972
Ruby and Leo Kruss	12/25/1941
Bonnie and Philip Gorelick	12/27/1975

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Ina and Walter Hill	1/5/1957
Linda and Barry Lewison	1/26/1969
Natalie and Saul Kaufman	1/29/1961

UPCOMING SISTERHOOD EVENTS

December 1, 2010	Open Meeting – Speaker from the Lyric Opera
December 12, 2010	Board Meeting
January 9, 2011	Board Meeting
January 15, 2011	T'fillot Nashim Shabbat Service

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Jacqueline David	12/1	Martha Garber	12/20
Evelyn Hyman	12/4	Rita Pomerance	12/21
Barbara Levin	12/5	Estelle London	12/22
Frances Rovner	12/5	Sally Sylvan	12/22
Debbie Talsky	12/6	Linda Benjamin	12/23
Vera Rubin	12/6	Beth Sair	12/24
Jennifer Garson	12/7	Janet Jablon	12/27
Lina Wenger	12/7	Betsy Rotberg	12/28
Terry Berman	12/8	Helene Rowe	12/28
Ruth Simon	12/9	Eleanor Rosen	12/29
Meryl Smith	12/11	Marcia Satyr	12/29
Beatrice Getz	12/13	Susan Zoline	12/29

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Bernice Faintuch	1/1	Linda Lewison	1/17
Leah Beth Ostrar	1/2	Harriet Arons	1/21
Kathy Kirn	1/3	Rozanne Epstein	1/21
Rochelle Berne	1/6	Cindy Goldstein	1/21
Cheryl Manilow	1/6	Judith Hultzen	1/21
Paula Hyman	1/7	Amber Wood	1/21
Ruth Roth	1/8	Alice Solovy	1/24
Peggy Fiala	1/10	Gale Nudelman	1/25
Sylvia Arnold	1/14	Bena Bloom	1/28
Lorri Fishman	1/16	Pearl Kreiman	1/31
Marilyn Sklair	1/16		

Want to help celebrate these simchas? Do so with Uniongrams! At \$2.00 each, they're quite a bargain and they benefit the Temple Beth Israel Sisterhood! Contact Ione Novak at 847-676-1474 or jeralex1@aol.com for more information.

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A minimum contribution of \$12.00 (unless otherwise noted) for donation to be acknowledged with a card and published in the bulletin.

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Temple Beth Israel Library

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HELP US GET IT RIGHT!

Please help us recognize your up-coming simcha *correctly* in the *Bulletin*. If you are planning a bar or bat mitzvah, aufruf, baby naming or other life cycle event, please make sure we know *exactly* how you want your names to be listed. Without prior notification, the *Bulletin* will list names as they appear in our official TBI records. Please contact Barbara Seaver via email at BarbaraTBI@aol.com with your information.

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*of Blessed Memory

Change Service Requested

DATED MATERIAL – PLEASE RUSH

Recent Sisterhood Honors



Dale Cone and Lorri Fishman read a letter from Rabbi Weinberg to Marla Goldberg congratulating her on her installation as President of the Women of Reform Judaism Midwest District.

Roz Heimann and Marilyn Sklair each received her silver lifeline pin at the YES Fund luncheon. A contribution for a lifeline ensures the future of reform Judaism.

Sue Schneider shows off the certificate she received for the honor of Women of Valor by vote from our Sisterhood members.

FROM THE PRESIDENT – *continued from page 2*

that he was dubbed Maccabee, which means hammer. His enemies discovered that his blows upon them came with the force and tenacity of a sledge hammer. Of course, the Maccabees suffered defeats; of course, they suffered disappointments – but these little things failed to discourage them. “To do or die” was the motto of the Maccabees until their victory was complete. We, the Jews of today, too, must acquire this hammer like tenacity. The great trouble with the Jew of today is that he is too often weak-kneed and that he is too often ready to give up the struggle. We, too, shall never be victorious unless our enemies will be able to see in us the hammer-like zeal and courage of the Maccabees.

Second, rededication. After the Maccabees had driven out their enemies, they immediately set out for the task of rededicating the Temple. They removed all the idols which had been placed there by Antiochus Epiphanes, and they cleansed it and renovated it until it stood out again as the great central abode of the God of Israel. We, the Jews of today, too, must set out for the task of rededicating our present Temple, which is the Synagogue. Like the Maccabees of old, we must remove the idols which are to be found not in the Synagogue, but in the hearts and minds of our people. We have today charity Jews, gefilte fish Jews, and card playing Jews — but

not Synagogue Jews. Just like the Temple of old, the Synagogue today is the heart of the Jewish people. An individual who has a weak heart cannot live very long, and in like manner the Jew of today cannot maintain his Jewish existence very long if he will continue to assume a cold and indifferent attitude towards the Synagogue.

Thirdly, light. After the Temple had been cleansed and renovated, the Maccabees decreed that their people should kindle lights in their homes for eight days, increasing them daily by one. This victory in behalf of Judaism, the Maccabees argued, is bound to be short lived if the people will not possess light – the light of their Torah, the light of their history, and the light of their mission. This example of the Maccabees must be followed by the Jew of today. Light and more light alone will maintain the Jew as a Jew. And the place where this light is to be kindled is in the home. So many of us are relying completely upon the Synagogue for our Jewish knowledge. The Synagogue is the great dynamo which generates the light of Judaism, but the place where it is to be used and enjoyed is the home. Let us then bear in mind that what the Jew of today needs is the Maccabean characteristics of tenacity, rededication and light which alone will enable us, the few, to emerge victoriously from our struggles against the many.