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# BETH EL BULLETIN

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<http://uahc.org/ma/betc>

October 2003

## FROM OUR RABBI

I am proud that seven Beth El students attend The Rashi School—the Boston area, Reform Jewish day school. I feel so blessed that those seven include my children. It would be hard to overestimate the impact of Rashi on our family's life and on our children's Jewish identities.

Like most children, school is at the center of our children's lives from September-June. And because their school is a Reform Jewish day school, their class work, their school friendships, their school activities and the values they are learning every day are rooted in the Reform Jewish worldview that Amy and I cherish.

As educators, we are grateful that our children learn science, math, social studies and language arts from gifted, enthusiastic and dedicated teachers who have been wonderfully responsive to our children and us. But as committed Jewish parents, we are thrilled that our children also have excellent role models, who nurture their knowledge and love for Hebrew, for Jewish studies, religious living and the importance of acting on our commitment to *tikkun olam*. And the fact that the threads of secular and Jewish learning are creatively interwoven, the fact that so many of these teachers are passionate about both Judaism and all kinds of learning, the fact that the school's leadership spends a lot of time thinking about how Rashi can best embody its core Jewish values—all this reinforces the message that Judaism isn't "extra," it's at the center of the way our family learns, lives and looks at the world.

The community we have found at Rashi is the kind of community I hope people discover when they come to Beth El. Almost everyone we've met has been warm, approachable, enthusiastic and committed. They are concerned that our children grow into literate, confident, liberal Jews and compassionate, responsible human beings. They share our sense that Rashi should not be an oasis apart from the real world but a launching pad from which to go out into the world and make a difference. In a few short years, we have come to cherish many teachers, administrators and other Rashi parents as wonderful partners and dear friends.

You can find out more about Rashi by going to [www.rashi.org](http://www.rashi.org) (though, at last check, some of the information was a little dated). Better yet, plan to attend one of the upcoming open houses at Rashi on Wednesday, October 8, Tuesday, November 4<sup>th</sup> or Thursday, November 20<sup>th</sup> (others follow later in the year) and see for yourself. For more information, you can call Ann Puchkoff in the Admissions office at 617-969-4444 (x226) or e-mail Ann at [apuchkoff@rashi.org](mailto:apuchkoff@rashi.org). You also can feel free to ask me or Amy about Rashi (or ask me to connect you with one of the other Beth El families who have children at Rashi). Best of all, ask my children. They think it's a great place (and so do we).

-Rabbi Jonathan Kraus

## Worship Schedule

### Special Services

Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>-Monday, October 6<sup>th</sup>

*Kol Nidre* Service..... 7:00 PM  
*Yom Kippur* Morning Service..... 9:00 AM  
Junior Congregation Svc. (downstairs). 10:30 AM  
*Yizkor* Memorial Service ..... 11:30 AM  
Children's Service..... 3:00 PM  
Afternoon & *Neilah* Service ..... 4:00 PM

### Shabbat Services

Friday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>-Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup>

Shabbat Shuvah Evening Service ..... 8:00 PM  
Shabbat Shuvah Morning Service..... 10:00 AM  
Tot Shabbat (downstairs)..... 10:15 AM  
*Parashat "Ha'azinu"* (Deut. 32:1-52)

Friday, October 10<sup>th</sup>-Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup>

*Erev Sukkot* Shabbat Service..... 7:00 PM\*  
Sukkot Family Service..... 9:00 AM  
Sukkot Festival & *Kitah Hey* Class Svc. 10:00 AM  
(all services in Sukkah, weather permitting)

Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup>-Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>

Consecration Service..... 6:00 PM  
*Simchat Torah* Service ..... 7:00 PM\*  
*Shemini Atzeret/Yizkor* Service..... 9:00 AM\*

Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup>-Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup>

Shabbat Evening Service..... 8:00 PM  
Shabbat Morning Service..... 10:00 AM  
**Bat Mitzvah of Gabi**  
*Parashat "B'reisheet"* (Genesis 1:1-6:8)

Friday, October 31<sup>st</sup>-Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup>

Shabbat Evening Service..... 8:00 PM  
Shabbat Morning Service ..... 10:00 AM  
**Bar Mitzvah of Noah**  
*Parashat "Noach"* (Genesis 6:9-11:32)

(\*Please Note the Early Start Time for This Service)



American Sign Language Interpreted

# Leadership

## CANTOR'S CORNER

Sukkot begins this year on Friday night October 10th. When I think of Sukkot, many things come to mind: the giving of first fruits, the smell of the corn stalks in the Sukkah, the stars as they peek through the top of a Sukkah, the sound of the wind as it whistles through the Sukkah structure, and the power of the Etrog and Lulav.

Here is a different interpretation of the Lulav and Etrog that you may not have heard before! I hope to see you in the Sukkah. But, even if you don't have a desire to attend services in the Sukkah, take a moment in time during the holiday to go and sit in one of our two Sukkahs: see the fruits, smell the corn stalks, feel the wind, see the sun or moon, say the blessings over the Lulav and Etrog. .and enjoy.

## RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHERS

The Kabbalists say that the four species of the Lulav represent four different types of Jews:

- ✧ The Etrog has a good taste and a good fragrance. It represents a person with both wisdom (Torah learning) and good deeds.
- ✧ The Hadas (myrtle) has a good fragrance, but is inedible. It represents a person who has good deeds, but lacks wisdom.
- ✧ The Lulav (date palm) is edible, but has no smell. This represents the person with wisdom, but without good deeds.
- ✧ The Aravah (willow) has neither taste nor smell. It represents a person with neither good deeds nor Torah learning.

On Sukkot, we gather these four species, bind them, and wave them all together. The Lulav is only kosher if all four species are taken together. If one of the species is missing, the entire Lulav is invalid.

There may be people we don't like, but we still have to deal with. We cannot simply say that certain people are not part of our world, or that they do not belong to us. On the contrary, humanity is one indivisible unit. This recognition is basic to happiness because when we realize that we are all interconnected, we can be more patient and tolerant of others.

Note that when the Lulav is held, the Etrog is held next to the willow. The one with the "most" should position himself to be near the one with the "least," in order to favorably influence him.

Wishing you all a Sukkot of exploration and contemplation!

Cantor Geoff Fine

## FROM THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

I don't know too much about Sarah McLachlan except that I've always been in love with her music. One time I had the opportunity to see her in concert at the Liliith Fair in D.C. and I remember thinking that she was such an amazing, ethereal performer that she resembled an angel (of course one of her pop hits at that time was "Angel"—perhaps I was making a not-so-deep subconscious association). I don't necessarily mean that she appeared to me as an angel in the literal sense. However, interestingly enough, angels *are* traditionally messengers and just a couple of days ago, Sarah sent me a little message in my car, through the radio.

Now I don't think Sarah's Jewish, but she's written a great song for Yom Kippur, and in very Sarah-esque style, the music is stunningly beautiful. Have a listen if you have the chance. The song's called "*Fallen*". In the meantime, I'd like to share some of the lyrics and why I found it captivating and relevant enough to include:

*Truth be told I've tried my best  
But somewhere along the way  
I got caught up in all there was to offer  
And the cost was so much more than I could bear  
Though I've tried, I've fallen..  
I have sunk so low..I have messed up.  
Better I should know...  
We all begin with good intent. Love was raw and young.  
We believed that we could change ourselves. The past  
could be undone.  
But we carry on our back the burden time always  
reveals.  
The lonely light of morning. The wound that would not  
heal.  
It's the bitter taste of losing everything  
That I've held so dear.  
Heaven bent to take my hand, nowhere left to turn  
I'm lost to those I thought were friends, to everyone I  
know.  
Oh they turned their heads embarrassed  
Pretend that they don't see  
But it's one missed step  
One slip before you know it  
And there doesn't seem a way to be redeemed.*

**(Continued on next page.)**

**DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, Continued from  
previous page**

Sarah, by her own admission, has missed the mark and this, of course, is what Yom Kippur is about—admitting the ways in which we've missed the mark and engaging in/seeking the many R's: reconciliation, repentance, renewal, and return (to God). But Sarah is also passionate about this admission and distraught about her transgression. What I love best, though, is that as she is at her "lowest" level—what she sees as having committed the basest of sins—"heaven bent to take (her) hand". Who knows what offense Sarah has committed (though I'm sure there's much speculation on the internet). It doesn't so much matter, though.

As Jews through the high holiday period, we too can be redeemed, re-welcomed to the fold on this most cathartic, dramatic, and potentially (eventually) serene of days, if we allow ourselves to be swept away by them. The biggest danger in my mind is that the high holidays can be passion/ess for us. I think, in fact, that it's possible to let the high holidays pass over you, like two great waves in the ocean while you stand tall and firm, neck high in water, and simply survive them. If we simply go through the physical motions of the fast, skip work and attend services, and hold our breath, the high holidays will wash by like last year, leaving apple picking season, Sukkot, and friendlier holidays in their wake. Indeed, as intimidating as Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur look when they loom before us, in the blink of an eye we will again be standing on the backside of their waves.

The high holidays are not to be survived. They are to be lived, experienced to their fullest. We should *feel* them. We should even feel a little broken, exhausted by them. Remorse, frustration, sadness, guilt, fear, anticipation but *not* nothing *not* numb. From *feeling*, *engaging* we can experience rebirth. Rejuvenation. Renewal.

Whatever your direction, whatever your emotions, whatever your concerns on these days of awe, may "heaven bend to take your hand" and lead you the most wonderful of places.

By the way, if you hear Sarah's coming to town, let me know!

Candice Wesson

## **Co-President's Column**

### ***The Blessing of Food: Bringing Moderation, Celebration, and Sanctification to Your Table***

"In the beginning, God was hospitable and generous to Adam and Eve. He said, "Welcome to Eden. Since I created you with hearty appetites, I know you'll be getting hungry soon. Please don't hesitate, help yourselves to whatever you like. There's only one thing I don't want you to eat. See that apple tree in the middle of the garden? Stay away from it." God then made the consequences of not listening very, very clear: "If you eat from that tree you shall die." Did this stop Adam and Eve? Of course not. The forbidden apple was just what the first children had to have.

Excerpt from The Blessing of a Skinned Knee, by Wendy Mogel.

It is precious and rare that I find myself with a few minutes of calm "thinking time." So I took some time to revisit Wendy Mogel's book. She is a wonderful child psychologist in Los Angeles. She notes in her introduction that she loves her job. Sometimes very hard days come her way, especially when she has had to tell parents that their child indeed has a learning disability or a diagnosis that will alter their hopes and dreams for their children. Other times, Dr. Mogel has felt

lucky that she is able to tell parents that their active son is just that--a happy, rambunctious, normal kid. Over the years, however, she observed that parents were sometimes quite disappointed with no diagnoses. They wanted a reason for their child to be a normal, average, happy 4 year-old. Just a happy kid was not enough.

This was an attitude that I found fascinating and disturbing. We live in a part of the country where life is fast-paced. We live in a society that pushes our children to excel, not just to be happy, normal kids. We buy into that easily and thoughtlessly, and forget to pause long enough on every day activities, to realize the value of each one. The words in the title of the chapter I quoted: moderation, celebration and sanctification, I think sum up beautifully core Jewish values that I readily dismiss, unless I think of them specifically. For example, I have tried for a few years to attend Friday night services. I attend probably 2 out of 4 services a month. I like the music and the calmness I feel in prayer. If I have gone to too many services in a row, it is harder for me to find a spiritual calm and I get restless. If I have not attended for over two weeks, I feel less connected to a community that is very important to me. There is something missing, and I know I need to go to services again. I like the push and pull of my relationship with Temple. It is never rote; it is never just because. I go when I have a need to connect with God, and I celebrate and sanctify that connection.

It is very easy to continue at a daily rhythm. It is easy to not practice moderation, to fill our plate with food until it is overflowing, to want two desserts, to buy a bigger stereo or a fancier computer. It is easy to forget to sanctify that which is around us. We can take relationships for granted, food for granted, teachers and values for granted. We ought to stop and be grateful. That alone, is a way of sanctification.

As we move forward with planning events for our BETC congregational family, I will try to inject moderation, celebration and sanctification into our programming. We ought to be much more simple-minded and grateful of what we have and what we enjoy. We don't have to have everything, but we ought to appreciate its value. We ought to slow down, do good, and be proud and mindful of our Jewish choices.

Sharon and I wish you an easy fast and a happy, healthy New Year.

Rick Wellisch

The New ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS are in the Temple Office. They are still only \$20. Come in and pick one up! Have inexpensive fun while helping to raise money for the temple.

## FROM THE FAMILY EDUCATOR

Once again, the Family Education Team is starting the year off with a real bang, with our second annual **Pizza in the Hut** Sukkot celebration. We hope you will join us on Wednesday evening, **October 15<sup>th</sup>** (raindate: Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup>) for an evening of celebration, community- building, fun, and food! (See flyer for details.)

Also in October will be **4<sup>th</sup> grade** and **2<sup>nd</sup> grade** Family Education **Gesher** programs—on **October 26<sup>th</sup>** at 9:00 and 11:15 AM, respectively. (\*Please note the change in timing from the original school calendar--grades 2 and 4 have swapped sessions!\*)

In other Family Education news, I am excited to let you know that Beth El Temple Center applied for and has received a **Family Education Expansion Grant** from Combined Jewish Philanthropies in conjunction with the Commission on Jewish Continuity and the Bureau of Jewish Education! What does this mean? Among other things,

- ✧ Expanded hours for the Family Educator—including **office hours on Mondays, from 10:00 AM 1:00 PM**, so I can be easily reached for questions and conversations. My office is upstairs, next to Cantor Fine's office. Please feel free to stop by or call.
- ✧ Individual **Gesher** programs for grades 1-7 (Gesher programs are grade-based Family Education programs which are scheduled during Sunday school hours. Generally speaking, these 2 hour programs consist of an hour of adult education and discussion based on a subject or text that the kids in that particular grade are exploring, and an hour of programming for the parents and children together that is also connected to the kids' curriculum.)
- ✧ More **community programs** are in the works, such as Pizza in the Hut in October, the Chanukah party in December, Havdalah/Movie Night in January, the Purim Carnival in March, and a Book program in April.
- ✧ Look for monthly Family Education communication in the **temple bulletin**, and keep your eyes peeled for our Family Education **bulletin boards**.
- ✧ Additionally, the Family Education Team would like to work to create **resources** that could be available for families to access whenever they need (web sites, recipes, tips, book reviews, etc).

We would love to have you join us at our **Family Education Team meetings**. Let us know what you'd like to see happening with Family Education at BETC. Our next meeting is scheduled for **November 17<sup>th</sup>** (location to be determined later. Please call me for more information). Encouraging bridge-building (between parents and children, between teachers and families, between temple members and other temple members) is what the Family Education Team is interested in doing. It is our belief that these bridges will ultimately lead to enhanced Jewish learning and living for our whole community.

I am looking forward (God willing!) to another productive, exciting year of learning and growth at Beth El Temple Center!

With best wishes for a happy, healthy New Year,  
Rachel L. I. Davenport, Family Educator

Get your day off to a great start and help make the minyan! Join us for a morning service on Monday and Thursday mornings at 7:00 am.

### BETH EL FRENCH CONVERSATION/DISCUSSION GROUP

Will meet Tuesday, October 28 at 7:30 p.m.  
The group meets once a month in members' homes. New members welcome.

The Temple **Brotherhood Book Discussion group** is meeting in late October (date to be announced) to continue its reading of Ilan Stavans' *The Oxford Book of Jewish Stories*: Abromovitch, The Calf, p. 30; Peretz, If Not Higher, p. 44; Stevo, The Mother, p. 54; Yazrevska, America and I, p. 68; Lewisohn, Holy Land, p. 78; Kafka, Before the Law, p. 80.

# Temple News

Your help is needed for the annual High Holiday Put-Away-The-Chairs and Build-the-Sukkot event. We will begin on Tuesday, October 7, at 3 PM. Work will go on until two sukkot are completed, so come when you can and stay as long as you can. Screw guns, six-foot ladders and holiday spirit are useful. Pizza and soft drinks will be provided.

## Attention Families of our College Students

The BETC Sisterhood sends holiday gifts to our members' college students. We need the students' names/addresses (including email).

## THE FIFTH ANNUAL BETC BLOOD DRIVE WILL BE HELD WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2004 FROM 3 TO 8 PM SAVE THE DATE NOW

Plan to perform an act of both *pikuach nefesh* and *gemilut chasidim* and roll up your sleeves this January. Let's do it again!!!

If you cannot donate blood (and even if you can!), please consider helping out. We need volunteers not only at the drive itself but in advance, signing people up

You are eligible to give blood every 56 days. If you can donate before January, call the Red Cross at 1-800-GIVE-LIFE to find a drive or to make an appointment for earlier Belmont Drives. You can also donate at many of the local hospitals. There is a continuous blood shortage nationwide; so **please** give!

## Torah Study for Oct. 18, 2003 Vezot ha-Berachah (Deut. 33:1 - 34:12)

*This year, we are celebrating the tenth consecutive year in which members of Beth El have gathered every Shabbat for Torah study. In honor of our wonderful milestone, we've asked a member of the Torah study group to offer a short d'var Torah on one of the month's Torah portions. It's our hope that this project will enable the entire congregation to share some of the joy, inspiration and fellowship in which we delight every Shabbat morning (in the library at 9:00 A.M.). This month's commentary is offered by Virginia Jordan.*

On Simchat Torah we complete the annual cycle of reading the Torah. The final Torah portion is called Vezot ha-Berachah, after the opening words, "This is the blessing ... ", with which Moses blesses the tribes of Israel.

Moses is preparing for death. He has spent forty years of his life trying to forge the Israelites into a strong nation. Moses the leader wants to keep the Israelites together after his death, as he did for forty years in the desert. It doesn't look good. They are still in exile, still quarrelsome, and have not yet conquered Canaan. In the preceding portions, namely the Last Oration (Nitzavim, Deut. 29:9) and Song of Moses (Ha'azinu, Deut. 32:1), Moses speaks to the people at length, about the importance of the Teaching (Torah), God's plan for His people, the succession of Joshua, and the survival of the people of Israel. Up to the end, he is still instructing, commanding, and hectoring the Israelites to behave themselves, to fear the Lord and follow God's

commandments. "Well I know how defiant and stiffnecked you are" (Deut 31:27).

Vezot ha-berakah is the end. Moses changes from exhortation to a defense of the people, as close to affection as he ever musters. He recalls the Lord's presence at Sinai, Paran, and Seir, which scholars interpret as three merits of Israel: (1) when the Lord revealed Himself at Sinai, they acknowledged His Sovereignty; (2) when He showed His Presence, Shechinah, at Paran, God's abode was among the Israelites; and (3) they accepted the Torah at Seir. "Lover, indeed, of the people" (Deut. 33:2-3).

And then, as Jacob blessed his sons before his death, Moses blesses each of the tribes of Israel by name: Reuben, Judah, Levi, Benjamin, Joseph (both Ephraim and Manasseh), Zebulun, Issachar, Gad, Dan, Naphtali, and Asher. Using the more traditional formulas of last words, Moses speaks in an "I-Thou" moment directly to the people. He recognizes each tribe, names them, acknowledges each one's characteristics, "Levi ... kept Your covenant ", "Gad .poised like a lion", and he prays variously for each tribe for safety, prosperity, territory or divine favor.

The moral might be, that to persuade and teach people, it's not enough to scold them, lecture them, threaten them, and lay down commandments. Rather, people need to be recognized, named, individually identified, and blessed with hope for the future, before they will live in peace together. These are words we might keep in mind in the current troubles of the Middle East. And in the end, Moses implies that Israel's salvation may not be by might of arms but by Divine aid, "A people delivered by the Lord, Your protecting Shield." (Deut. 33:29). The chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary, Ismar Schorsch, has written, "As history would show, to conquer is easier than to govern. The prophets are a constant reminder of how rarely the political and religious institutions of ancient Israel realized the vision that gave them birth."

### References

The Torah, A Modern Commentary, edited by W. Gunther Plaut, Union of American Hebrew Congregations  
The Soncino Books of the Bible, Soncino Press  
Shemini Atzeret Parashah Translation, by Ismar Schorsch, chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary.

# Temple Activities

We would like to thank those who helped us to make calls and process the tickets for the High Holidays. Firstly thanks go to **Jayne Grudberg Mocera** for doing the bulk of the work. Also to **Arlene Feinberg, Minna Levine, Jeff Lucas, Sharon Rich, Bob Rifkin, Harriet Torgerson, and John Weiss**. Also thank you to the entire Board of Trustees for the time taken away from services to greet and check for tickets. The dedication you all have given is very much appreciated.

Sharon Feinberg and Rick Wellisch

## Not destroying needlessly – A focus on the environment

This year at Beth El Temple Center, the Social Action Committee is joining together with other temple groups to take action on environmental issues – with a focus on reducing the emissions that contribute to global warming.

### A real and dangerous threat...

Scientists now agree, with virtual unanimity, that global warming is a real and dangerous threat to our future and that of our children. The rate of warming has quadrupled since the mid-1970s\* and, if it continues unchecked, is likely to have major impacts within our lifetimes. Globally, consequences include widespread famine, disease, and death from increasingly extreme weather conditions (floods, droughts, storms). Locally, if current trends continue, the New England climate could completely change by the end of the century, leading to loss of coastlines, death of species, and economic devastation to important industries.

### We can make a difference...

There is widespread agreement, also, on the cause of global warming: emissions of CO2 and other greenhouse gases from cars, power plants, and other man-made technologies. Fortunately, there are many actions individuals and governments can take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and to slow the rate of global warming. These actions also have many other benefits: reducing toxic air pollution, reducing our nation's dependence on oil, and often saving money!

***As a Jewish community, we believe that we have an important moral obligation to take stock of how we (as a congregation and as individuals) can reduce our own greenhouse emissions, and how we can influence local and national leaders to take action.***

### Our progress so far...

Although the year is just beginning, Beth El Temple Center has already made some important progress...

1) Thanks to efforts by Mike Wolfson and Jonathan Jacoby, the House Committee will be working with Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light to perform a thorough energy and water conservation audit. MIP&L is a non-profit dedicated to helping houses of worship save energy and reduce emissions. With MIP&L's guidance, BETC will make energy-efficiency and emissions reduction an important part of our

upcoming renovations to the temple's heating and cooling system, and will put together a long-term plan for improving the energy efficiency and water conservation throughout our synagogue building.

2) As a congregation, we have received a \$350 grant from the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life to support synagogue climate change work.

3) Jonathan Jacoby and Jessica Adler participated in the Race to Stop Global Warming in Newton on September 14<sup>th</sup>, and raised over \$600 in pledges. This money will go to support our work (above) with Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light.

### Coming soon...

This is just the beginning! We have lots of additional plans in the works. Check future bulletins for information on upcoming events. Our plans include: a Table Talk (or other event), regular bulletin updates, a letter-signing event (urging local political leaders to take action), discussions on how environmental issues relate to Torah and Jewish values, Mitzvah Day activities, and more. We are open to suggestions! If you have an idea for an event, or would like to help out, let us know!

\* Source: New England Climate Coalition ([www.newenglandclimate.org](http://www.newenglandclimate.org))

**October CPR Class: call for more info.**

## Ikebana Class

Sunday October 19 at 2 PM  
\$10 per person

All Are Welcome  
Bring your friends  
Refreshments will be served  
Arrangements will be raffled off at the end of class

Sponsored by Sisterhood

## Sisterhood News

The Sisterhood year is off and running. Thanks to **Elaine Alligood** and her team for our lovely membership dinner. We were also fortunate to hear Janet Reibstein speak about her new book on her family's experiences with breast cancer. Thanks to **Andrea Gwosdow** and **Susan Polit** for helping organize and to Hadassah for co-sponsoring.

October promises to be a busy month as well. On the 19<sup>th</sup>, please join us for an **Ikebana** class. Thanks to **Andrea Gwosdow** and **Alice Salamon** for their work to make this happen.

Also in October, we will have our first "**girls night out.**" Join us on **October 21** from 7:30 on at Copacafe 1727 Mass Ave. in Lexington center. Hang out, have coffee, a drink or a light nosh and above all have fun. Hope to see you there.

Don't forget that the Rummage sale is in November so start cleaning those closets!

Abby Fisher

## Outreach Committee

**Wait! Stop!** Don't say to yourself "Outreach, I don't need to read about that committee because I am not part of an interfaith family." Do you have a Jewish sibling, child or friend who has dated or married someone of another faith? Do you have a non-Jewish sibling, child, or friend who is interested in Judaism? Do you have a Jewish sibling, child or friend who is gay or lesbian? Do you have a Jewish sibling, child, or friend who is a single parent or who has dated or married someone of a race different than her own? If you answered "Yes" to any of the above questions, the Outreach Committee at BETC is for you and is here to support you.

The diversity of BETC is surprising to many. The Outreach Committee is committed to helping BETC fulfill its mission through our support and nurturing of this diversity. We want you to join us for discussions and programs around the diversity of our Jewish community and the Jewish community at large.

We have fun and interesting events planned for this year. We will kick the year off with a Family Gathering (adults and kids) based on a book entitled Jalapeno Bagels. This children's book takes a humorous look at the surprising and tasty cooking of a family with mixed religious and cultural heritage. As families we will read, talk, and eat our own yummy snack. Please join us on Sunday, October 26 at 1:15. (We are awaiting date confirmation.)

The beautiful flowers for Simchat Torah are donated by the Keller family in loving memory of Dr. Maurice J. Savitz, Jessie Harris Savitz, and Joseph P. Keller.

## LIBRARY NEWS

*Make books your companions.  
Let your shelves be your treasure grounds*  
(Ibn Tibbon)

Thanks to all library patrons for remembering to return our treasures of outstanding library books, DVD's, CD's, etc. Keep up the good work!!

**BOOK DONATIONS.** We love to receive donations of books, CD's, DVD's, VHS tapes, etc. and the question often arises of what we need. All items donated should have Jewish content, i.e. themes, characters, time or place are Jewish. They also should be presented accurately, and with sensitivity to Jewish concerns. Ideally, books will be hardback and not textbooks. Preference will be given to more recently published works.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP STAFF THE LIBRARY.

If you spend time shuttling back and forth to the synagogue as a chauffeur, consider spending some of that quality time helping out in the library, or just reading a book for recreation or education. We're much more fun than traffic!! Volunteers are needed during the hours of Hebrew School and Sunday School.

### HOME-BASED WORK FOR "COMPUTER LITERATE"

**VOLUNTEERS:** A major project will be launched shortly to totally computerize the library collection. A relatively simple process can be employed to download cataloguing information from a Library of Congress web site, to subsequently be incorporated into our library database program. Students of all ages can help out. Please let me know if you are interested.

**INTERNET LINKS:** We will begin posting some favorite Internet links of useful web sites which support the BETC Mission. Please share information on your favorite sites.

Thanks for supporting the Carl Kales Memorial Library at Beth El Temple Center!

Robin Zeitz, Library Chair

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

After 52 wonderful years as residents of Belmont and as members of the Beth El Temple Center we are relocating to Boca Raton, Florida. We take with us the rich history and cherished memories of our Beth El community and spiritual life. We thank you for your part in sharing and creating this environment over these many years. We wish you as full and rich a Beth El experience as ours has been.

Shirley & Al Glickman

# Youth

## PRESCHOOL

The preschoolers are back! When you are at the Temple, stop for a minute and listen. Surely your heart will be warmed by the children's happy laughter and enthusiastic voices.

Our fall curriculum is always dictated by the Jewish New Year. The teachers are fortunate to be able to celebrate with the young group as we have a party with cake and candles to celebrate "the birthday of the world." Suggestions for gifts are very unique --- such as keeping your yard clean --- whereas adults would offer thoughts like a year of contentment and good health. We will eat round challah and dip our apples into honey. We'll talk about following the sound of the shofar to come and learn how to be better people by for instance helping our families and being kind to our pets.

Soon after we will decorate the sukkah and perhaps have snack in it or sing songs inside of it. We'll shake the lulav and smell the etrog and cut open new and familiar fruits to investigate their insides before tasting them. Comparisons of numbers of seeds, the texture, and the necessity to peel or cook is of great discussion.

The group will also listen to holiday stories and sing holiday songs to complete our learning of these special days. Trust me! The preschoolers will have a wonderful time as they go through this experience.

Rolene Karp, Director

Sisterhood is holding the **Sukkot Cradleroll** on Sunday, October 12. There will be two sessions -- at 9:30 and 11:30. We will be doing three crafts: weaving and decorating placemats, making butterflies and coloring. Each session will last one hour and will include a visit from the Rabbi or Cantor with holiday stories, music and a snack. Cradleroll is aimed at 3-5 year olds. There is a small fee of \$15 for all five Cradlerolls or \$5 for one. Call the temple office for registration information.

Welcome back to what promises to be a fantastic year in BEFTY! I sincerely hope that everybody is settling into and enjoying school, and that all had a pleasant high holiday experience. Please be on the lookout for the membership packets that went out in late September. The cost of joining BEFTY is a mere \$36, and it ensures that you will be kept up to speed on all the fabulous social opportunities that exist for Jewish youth in New England! If you have any questions, please contact me or any member of the BEFTY board...

I'd like to take a moment to welcome Paulette Black to the position of Youth Commission Chair, and to thank Susan Lichtenstein and Deborah Lapidus for everything that they did for BEFTY while serving as Co-Chairs.

Upcoming events:

October 4: Scavenger Hunt and Dinner in Harvard Square  
October 19: Levi Leap (a regional dance with youth from around the northeast region)

November 9: Celtics game (vs. Sacramento)

November 14-16: Fall Conclavette

We hope to see you at any and all of these events! As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

B'Shalom

Jessica Hellmann

BEFTY Advisor

## RASHI SCHOOL OPEN HOUSES

When school opened on September 2<sup>nd</sup> Rabbi Joe Eiduson, the new Head of the Rashi School, the Boston Area's Reform Jewish Day School, welcomed several children from Beth El Temple Center. This year 331 students in grades kindergarten through eight are enrolled in Rashi. Rashi students and their families participate in a rich academic program that features integrated Jewish and general studies, a focus on Social Justice and Social Action, as well as opportunities for Adult and Family Education. If you would like to learn more about the Rashi School, please plan to attend one of our Open Houses on Wednesday, October 8 or Tuesday, November 4, each from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. at The Rashi School, 15 Walnut Park, Newton, MA. For further information please contact Anne Puchkoff, Admissions Director, at 617-969-4444 ext. 226 or at apuchkoff@rashi.org.

# Community

## Sharon Memorial Park Annual Memorial Services

Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2003  
ONE SERVICE ONLY  
10:00 a.m.

The Administration Building is open all day and the staff will be on hand to greet you and to do everything possible to be of service.

## "Sing to Cure MS: The Boston Cure Project Halloween Concert" on Sunday October 26

from 3-5 PM at the Pleasant Street Congregational Church, 75 Pleasant Street, Arlington. Local classical singers, organized by new Beth El member Marion Leeds Carroll, are joining the fight against MS by offering their talents in a concert to raise funds for the Boston Cure Project, a non-profit focused on finding a cure for this long-recognized but poorly-understood disease. The theme is "MS and Other Scary Things," and we've come up with an afternoon of great ghost stories, from Schubert's "Der Erlkonig" (about a child-snatching elf) to the opening scene from Mozart's "The Magic Flute" (prince attacked by magic snake, rescued by three magical ladies!) Come enjoy your favorite classical Halloween-theme music, and support a worthy cause. (Children and even adults in Halloween costumes are welcome.) For more info, visit [http://www.bostoncure.org/events/eventpages/20031026\\_sing\\_to\\_cure.php](http://www.bostoncure.org/events/eventpages/20031026_sing_to_cure.php).

## FAIR TRADE COFFEE SALES RESUME IN OCTOBER

Monthly sales of Fair Trade Coffee to benefit BETC will resume on October 26, 2003, from 8:30 AM until around 12:30 PM. We sell regular and decaf coffee beans and ground coffee, English Breakfast tea, and cups of brewed coffee. We announce the sales in advance in this bulletin and on signs in the Temple.

What is Fair Trade Coffee? The internationally recognized Fair Trade certification signifies that coffee is purchased directly from cooperatives of small farmers, without the many middlepersons who absorb the profits in the conventional coffee trade. The farmers receive a fair price for the coffee, including a guaranteed minimum when market prices are too low to allow them to make a decent living.

How do these sales work? We purchase Fair Trade coffee and tea in bulk from Equal Exchange, a nonprofit distributor of Fair Trade products. We mark up each package of coffee or tea \$1.50 to \$2.00. Even with this markup, the coffee is cheaper than Fair Trade coffee at almost any other outlet. Last year, we held four of these sales and raised a total of \$412.65. BETC members get a bargain, coffee farmers get a fair price, and BETC itself gets funds. A triple threat!

Now taking advance orders! This year, we will be experimenting with taking advance orders for coffee and tea. Your order MUST be placed by e-mail, and it MUST be pre-paid. Specify the number of packages of coffee or tea that you want, and whether regular or decaf and ground or whole-bean, and send the order by e-mail. You will receive a reply, telling you how much you owe and providing an address for your check. On the day of the next coffee sale, I will leave the coffee for pickup in the coat closet at BETC, with your name on it.