



Monthly Bulletin

December 2018/5779

SAVE THE DATE: Social Action Shabbat Friday, January 18

FROM THE RABBI

Happy Hanukkah. This is a time when we celebrate miracles – a small band of rebels defeated a great army, and oil lasted for eight days. While the Torah includes accounts of plagues, parting seas, and manna from heaven, the Hanukkah story is much later. It is found in the book of Maccabees, and is a very different kind of miracle.

The Sefat Emet, a Hassidic commentator who lived during the 19th century, wrote, "...when God performed a miracle for our ancestors, they would be sustained by it for some period of time. When the light of that miracle vanished, God would have to perform another for them." He is referring to those gigantic miracles in the Torah.

He continues, "Since God hasn't done any further big miracles, it therefore stands to reason that we're still being sustained by the light of the Hanukkah miracle." In other words, if we needed another major miracle, God would give us one; since God hasn't given us one, we must not need it. We might beg to differ as we look at history and the world today. But Hassidic texts have layers of meaning – don't just take what he is saying literally.

The Sefat Emet goes on to say that the Hanukkah miracle has the power to sustain us

until the messianic age, when the work of healing the world will be complete. Why is that particular miracle the one to keep us going?

It's a human-sized miracle. It's something we can replicate, lighting our little, bright flames against the literal and metaphorical darkness, increasing light day by day. The parting of the sea and the plagues were all God. But the hope it took to rekindle the menorah was a human leap of faith.

That is why it's the miracle that's going to keep us alight and alive: it's the miracle we created. This is the kind of miracle we need to hold on to if we are going to continue acting to bring light into darkness in our own time. Many of us are overwhelmed, or fearful about the rampant hate and violence. But when we light the Hanukkah candles, let us remember all of the people who filled our sanctuary following the murders in Pittsburgh – our neighbors, our political leaders, our police chief, multiple faith communities and clergy. And let us commit to having faith in love and justice, and taking action to bring about a better world.

Let us hope. There indeed is something miraculous about being human, and all we can accomplish together.

Comedy Night!

Save the Date:

Saturday January 26, 8 PM

Sisterhood's biggest fundraiser of the year: Comedy Night will **be Saturday January 26**

Plan NOW to join us with your friends for a hilarious night of laughter and fun!

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The horrific murder of 12 innocent congregants at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh sent shockwaves through the Jewish community. Across the country, synagogues are reexamining their security procedures to prevent anything like this from happening. The Anti-Defamation League has published guidelines for synagogue security and the CJP is conducting a training session for temple leadership. But determining what actions to take has wider implications.

While everyone agrees that we need to take reasonable precautions to protect our congregations, there are differing opinions on what is reasonable. Should we hire an armed security to stand guard any time the building is occupied (which is common practice at synagogues in Europe)? Should we keep our doors locked at all times or should we keep our doors open to welcome people to our spiritual home? We need to balance what we need vs. what we can afford and what kind of message it sends.

Over the past year we have instituted several things to make TBA safer. Not all of them have been announced publicly but at this time Deb, Rabbi Adler and I feel we should make everyone aware of the measures we've put in place.

- We installed a camera system at all entrances with video recording up to two weeks. The cameras can be monitored from the front desk PC and Deb and Rabbi Adler can view the cameras on their phones.

- We installed panic buttons on the sanctuary and chapel lecterns. Activating the button alerts our alarm company to immediately contact Beverly Police. Two additional wearable buttons are available for use by greeters, teachers, or office staff

- The front doors will remain locked during Religious School hours and office hours. Visitors must ring the bell during these times
- A board member or designated "greeter" is stationed at the front door to greet everyone who comes in during temple events and services.
- All classroom doors have newly-installed interior locks and the two doors leading to the pre-school/library lock from the inside
- Teachers and some Board members have undergone A.L.I.C.E. training provided by Beverly Police. Follow-up training will be scheduled.
- We have a private security firm available if and when we need them.
- We notify the Beverly Police Department when we are having events to ensure extra patrols
- Lastly, we have formed a security committee to make recommendations to further improve our security.

Police Chief John Le Lacheur and Mayor Mike Cahill have been extremely supportive and have reached out on several occasions showing their commitment to the safety of our community.

We have a responsibility to ensure the safety of our membership and our visitors. Personally, I am outraged that we must think about the unthinkable. My heart doesn't want to give in to the terrorists, but my head knows we must protect our home. If you have questions or concerns regarding Temple security, please let Deb or me know and we'll do our best to address your concerns.

Thank you

Ken Hartman
President, Temple B'nai Abraham

Adult Education

WHAT PAGE ARE WE ON? DECONSTRUCTING SHABBAT - Thursdays at 10 AM

How did we evolve from sacrificing animals to the (much more sanitary) services we conduct today? Ever wonder about when and where and why we bow, bend, stand, or sit? Who wrote the prayers, and who assembled our prayer book? Even for minyan regulars, it can be a mystery. Join Cantor Bruce Siegel and examine the history, structure, meaning, and melodies of our Kabbalat Shabbat and Shabbat morning services.

NEEDED!!!

SOCKS, HATS, MITTENS, and SCARVES

PLEASE HAVE YOUR DONATIONS AT THE TEMPLE BY **December 21**
We will be distributing them on December 24

We will be collecting **hats, scarves, gloves, socks, mittens**, etc.
for the next
Monday Night Supper on December 24th.



There will be a box labelled, "Monday Night Supper" in the lobby. Please help us keep our guests warm during the cold harsh winter and donate socks, hats, mittens and scarves.



The Monday Night Supper is something TBA has been involved in for years. We set-up, prepare, and serve dinner to people who may otherwise not have a hot meal. On the third Monday of every month members of Temple B'nai Abraham serve dinner at the Monday Night Dinner at the First Baptist Church.

If you can come help out, it would be appreciated.

We are at the church from 4:30-7:00pm.

We always need help with setting the tables, preparing the food, serving the food and clean-up.

ALL ARE WELCOME (school-aged children and adults.)

Please let Allison Wolper know if you can help out or would like more information
(978) 587-2112 or clarkie95@verizon.net!

SAVE THE DATES:

Social Action Shabbat and Tu b'Shvat

January 17 and 18

Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend



Thursday January 17 at 5:30 we will cook a sustainable, locally sourced delicious meal that will include symbols of Tu B'Shvat with Leora Mallach of Gannei Beantown - a fabulous educator from an organization that helps Jewish communities create gardens and build sustainable and ethical food practices.

Friday, January 18 we will join together for this meal at 5:30 followed by a service at 6:30

Pre-registration for cooking and for the meal required

Family-friendly

Contact Erin at 978-927-3211, or email: office@tbabeverly.org

Sisterhood

I am writing this around Thanksgiving and am extremely thankful for the wonderful team that is sisterhood. We have had a busy, successful fall, but none of it would have happened without all the people who step up to lead or lend a hand bringing our ideas and visions into fully fledged events.

For our first event, **Come and Hear the Music Play**, I am indebted to the committee – Jane Cohen, Bonnie Kaplan Goldsmith, Deb Greenstein, Donna Pierce and Judi and Steve Swartz. They took our traditional Donor Brunch event and converted it to a Musical Brunch while retaining the donor theme. Over 80 people attended and the feedback from all was very positive. You can be sure that we will plan a similar event in next year's calendar!

Our second event was our first ever **Sisterhood Paid-up Supper** – a way to thank our membership for their support. About 40 people attended this event including 6 of our newest members. Special thanks to my co-chair, Phyllis Freeman for taking an idea and making it a program, to Paula Ivey for her advice and full day of help in the Kitchen, to Donna Pierce for her help setting up the room and food layout and to bakers Sarazita Freedland and Jayne Gordon. A shout out goes to Sarah Gurule of Make It Yours! Boutique in Middleton who showed us ways to mix and match and gave us some great fashion tips.

Our most recent event was our **Pre-Hanukah Pottery Painting** event at Clay Dreaming Pottery in Beverly. About a dozen women sat around the craft table painting Judaica or other items while visiting with old friends and meeting new friends. A lovely way to spend an afternoon. Thanks go to Nicole Levy for organizing this event again this year.

Our next event will be the annual Hanukah event – **Ladies, Latkes and Libations** – on **Thursday, December 6th**. Let a little light shine during a casual yet elegant gathering of friends, food and fun. Always a winner, this event is chaired by Bonnie Kaplan Goldsmith and will be held again this year at the home of Dina and Eli Davidyan.

Far too many to name, but I want to thank all the people who do a little bit here or there – a bit of shopping, a bit of chopping, creative decorating, setting-up, cleaning-up, getting out a mailing and so on. When we ask for help you step up time and again. We couldn't do it without you!

Thank you all,
Judy Matfess,
TBA Sisterhood President

Sisterhood Book Club

Book Club will meet in January to read ***The Rent Collector* by Camron Wright** – specific date and location to be announced. All are welcome to join the discussion. If you are not already receiving Book Club emails please send a message to Judy.Matfess@verizon.net and she will add you to the list.



Other Upcoming Events

KNIT CLUB



Wednesday December 19 from 6:30 – 8:30

At the home of
Linda Goodspeed
5 Marjorie Way, Beverly
RSVP: 617-366-9029



Bring your craft or knitting needles or just yourself

The Congregation Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Donations

GENERAL FUND

Naomi Shiloh to the Edelstein Family in honor of Olivia's Bat Mitzvah
Bonnie & Arnie Goldsmith to Margie Sheris, deepest sympathy on the loss of your mother
Jimmy & Wendy Cohen to Andrew Brown in memory of your mother
Bob & Joan Livingston to Joel Shelkrot in honor of his special birthday
Cindy Lann to Andrew Brown in memory of your mother
Ann & Michael Strem to Joel Schekrot in honor of his special birthday

ONEG AND KIDDUSH FUND

Mike Katzenstein in memory of his father
The Golding Family in honor of Jonathan's Bar Mitzvah
The Gross Family on honor of Eli's Bar Mitzvah
The Miller Family in honor of Ethan's Bar Mitzvah
The Edelstein Family in honor of Olivia's Bat Mitzvah
The Campbell & Neilson Family in honor of their daughter and granddaughter's Baby Naming

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Susan Wolper to Rabbi Adler in memory of Jerry and in honor of his unveiling
Susan Wolper to Allison Wopler in honor of the awesome job you did at Dad's unveiling

SAM & EVE WEINBERG FUND

Paul Weinberg to Meredith Steyer, wishing you a speedy & complete recovery

Paul Weinberg to the Schlein Family in memory of Janet Schlein

YAHARZEIT FUND

Albert Eisen in memory of his father, David Eisen
Deborah Willwerth in memory of her father, Eric Ericson
Jackie Newman in memory of her mother, Edna Miller
Barron Family in memory of Norman Barron
Cindy Lann in memory of her grandmother, Annie Lan
RosaLee Goldstein in memory of her mother, Sadye Weinberg
Jacob Kriteiman in memory of his father, Louis Kriteiman
Jacob Kriteiman in memory of his mother, Ruth Kriteiman
Joan Joseph in memory of her great-grandmother, Tamara Gordon and grandmother Rachel Gordon
Helen Goldberg in memory of her husband, Melvin Goldberg
Rhoda Kantor in memory of her mother, Dorothy Paul
Owen Grush in memory of his uncle, Owen Grush
Gail Kurman in memory of her father, John Woodhouse
Beth Weiner in memory of her father, Melvin Goldberg
George Heller in memory of his sister, Lois Goff

Please excuse any omissions or errors

Thank you for your donations



Temple B'nai Abraham
200 East Lothrop Street
Beverly MA 01915

Phone: 978-927-3211

E-mail: info@tbabeverly.org

Web: www.tbabeverly.org

Professional Staff:

Alison Adler	Rabbi
Deborah Schutzman	Executive Director/ Education Director
Erin Lipkowitz	Admin. Assistant

Officers

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Alan Pierce	Recording Secretary
Jane Cohen	Bulletin Editor

Monday Night Supper

Adult and youth volunteers from Temple B'nai Abraham regularly prepare and serve dinner at First Baptist Church on Cabot Street, Beverly.



Please join us on the third Monday of the month.

Our next Monday Night supper date is:

Monday, December 24

We need help in the church kitchen and in the dining room anytime from 4:30 - 6:30 PM

Pardon our appearance on our website while it is being redesigned. Visit our Facebook page or watch for our weekly email with information updates.

Service Hours at Temple B'nai Abraham:

Weekdays: Mondays and Thursdays 6:55 AM

Shabbat: Friday 7:00 PM and

Saturdays 9:00 AM

Sunday: 9 AM

Temple Office Hours:

Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays

9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Upcoming Events at TBA

Deconstructing Shabbat with Cantor Bruce Seigel

Thursday at, 10:00 AM

Beverly Community Menorah Lighting

Monday December 3 6 PM Beverly commons

Ladies Latkes and Libations

Thursday, December 6

Knit Club

Tuesday, December 19, 6 :30-8:30

Mittens, Hats, Scarves to TBA BY THIS DATE!

Friday, December 21

Shabbat Alive – Idan Irelander

January 11, 6:30 PM

Social Action Tu B'Shvat Cooking

Thursday, January 17, 5 :30

Social Action Shabbat Dinner and Service

Friday, January 18, 5 :30

Neighborhood Shabbat

Friday, January 25, 2019., 8 PM

Comedy Night

Saturday, January 26, 2019., 8 PM

If you or someone you know has been sick, in the hospital, or needs some comfort, please contact Rabbi Adler: 978-927-3211 or rabbi.adler@tbabeverly.org