



# Temple House of Israel Bulletin

A Member Congregation of the Union for Reform Judaism  
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[www.thoi.org](http://www.thoi.org)

Our mission is to perpetuate Jewish life and identity through a welcoming community of spirituality, learning, service, joy and worship.

KISLEV → TEVET / December 2010

## A Message From Robert Pendleton

*I can't tell you how happy I am to receive all the donations and cards from everyone. I appreciate everything that everyone did for me and just can't believe you did so much for me. If you hadn't been so nice and I hadn't enjoyed working at the temple, I wouldn't have stayed. And if it wasn't for my health, I'd still be with you.*

*Everyone at my church is still talking about how nice the temple members were to me. I didn't get to thank each person individually, but please take this thank you to all of you.*

*I was able to present the donations to the church on the following Sunday when we celebrated our 135<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Pastor Turner and everyone who came to the temple on Friday night and everyone in our church thanks you, too.*

*Robert*

## President's Message

Dear Congregants and Friends,

You can complete your holiday shopping, contribute to our *Temple Roof Fund* and celebrate Chanukah all in one evening! Bring your menorahs and a dish to share for the potluck dinner (details follow) and celebrate with us on December 3<sup>rd</sup> beginning at 6:00 pm with the silent auction. We will have more than 35 outstanding items on display and bidding with continue until 7:15. While *Lyrissa* entertains us with Chanukah songs, Ken and Elizabeth Schwartz will tally the winning bids and announce the winner prior to Shabbat and Chanukah services which will begin at 8:00.

On Christmas Eve we will again prepare and serve dinner for the residents at the Valley Mission. Last year this event brought out many members and friends and we hope you'll volunteer again. If you can donate food, prepare food, write a check, serve the meal and join the Valley Mission for dinner at 5:00 pm that evening, please contact me at [president@thoi.org](mailto:president@thoi.org) or 885-1481. Full details will be worked out shortly.

My wish for you during this holiday season: Peace of mind, prosperity throughout the year, happiness that multiplies health for you and yours, energy to chase your dreams.

B'Shalom, *BeH*

## Silent Auction & Chanukah Celebration

Please join in the fun as we hold our first **Silent Auction** to benefit the *Temple Roof Fund*. Many generous members have donated wonderful goods and services and you'll have the opportunity to bid on more than 30 items ( listed on page 6).

The festivities take place on Friday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> with the auction beginning at 6:00 o'clock. The potluck dinner will be served at 6:30.

The auction will close at 7:15 when *Lyrissa* will perform a concert of Chanukah songs. Auction winners will be announced following the concert and services will begin at 8:00. In between, please remember to bring your menorahs so we can light candles for the 3<sup>rd</sup> night of Chanukah.

If you last name begins with A-F please bring latkes

	<p style="text-align: right;">G-S      please bring a main dish T- Z      please bring a side dish or salad</p> <p>Since many of us will want sour cream on our latkes, this will be a dairy/ vegetarian meal. No meat dishes, please. Dessert will be served as the oneg with hosts Shirley, Asher and Laura Jean Brand.</p>
<p><b>From the Rabbi's Desk</b></p>	<p>My dear fellow Valley Jews and Friends, Shalom. A very happy Chanukah to you!</p> <p>The secular year is drawing to its' close. Our Jewish community has been busy and on the go, our days filled with events, activities, programs, holidays and celebrations, life cycle events, classes and courses, and the doing of mitzvoth. We have engaged in school and work, interfaith activities, sports, arts, and many other things. Now, we have a short respite arising from the secular realm that allows us a little time to step back and survey what we have been doing, where we are, and where we are going.</p> <p>Some people make or renew their resolutions for the year; others catch their breath before diving back in again. Either way, this is a space in time for each of us to review our course, and make the corrections we feel are necessary; an opportunity to refocus on our targets and to come even closer to hitting the mark.</p> <p><b>Calendar</b> KISLEV → TEVET (DECEMBER) Kislev (a thirty day month), began November 8<sup>th</sup>, and will run until December 7<sup>th</sup>. Rosh Chides for Tevet is December 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. Tevet (a twenty-nine day month) will run until January 5<sup>th</sup>, with Rosh Chides for Shevat on January 6<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p><b>Holidays and Special Services</b> This year, Chanukah begins the evening of Wednesday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at sundown (Kislev 25), and runs for eight days, until sundown on Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. We will have a Chanukah celebration &amp; observance at each congregation. The Chanukah service on December 3<sup>rd</sup> at THOI is a Joint service for both congregations; members of Beth El are invited to attend, and there will be no lay-led service at Beth El that evening</p> <p>On December 5<sup>th</sup>, there will be a Chanukah performance (sing along!) by the religious school students, followed by a dinner (see elsewhere in the Bridge for information).</p> <p>Later in December, on the 17<sup>th</sup>, is the day to observe Ta'anit Asarah BeTevet (the fast of the 10<sup>th</sup> of Tevet) commemorating the siege of Jerusalem in 586 B.C.E., leading up to the taking and destruction of the Holy Temple by the Babylonians later that year. This is a sunup to sundown fast.</p> <p>As determined by the Calendar Committee, Rabbi-led Shabbat Services this month are: Friday, Dec. 3, 7:30 pm THOI &amp; Saturday Dec.11, 10 am THOI</p> <p><b>Torah Parashiot</b> <span style="float: right;">The</span> Torah parashiot (Torah portions) read for the month of November include the following: Miketz, Vayigash, Vayechi, and Shemot, drawn from Bereshit (Gen.) 41:1-50:26, and Shemot (Ex.) 1:1-6:1. Haftarot (Haftarah readings selected from the prophets) to be read include segments from Zechariah 2-4; Ezekiel 37; 1 Kings 2; and Isaiah 27-29.</p> <p><b>Rabbi's Educational Initiatives and Activities</b> The month of December includes a number of educational offerings. Please consider</p>

which are of interest and fit your schedule, and join me.

### ISRAEL TRIP

Following the meetings to assess interest, and to plan and provide information about the proposed **Congregational Israel Trip**, it has become clear that the dates selected in the spring are not possible for many who might otherwise participate, and there are an insufficient number who could participate. Consequently, we will be re-scheduling the trip for sometime in the summer, probably in August, perhaps during the time span of **July 24 to August 21**. If you would be interested in going on a Congregational trip to Israel in the summer, **please be in touch with me as soon as possible** so I can ascertain the number of persons who would want to join the group. If we don't have a group of 15 or more by March 30<sup>th</sup>, the trip will not take place.

### EDUCATION

- **The Book Discussion** group will next meet on December 12<sup>th</sup>, Sunday, at 6 pm at THOI. We will continue our reading and discussion of Partnering with God by Jeffrey Salkin.
- **Tanakh & Talmud Discussions:** The next meeting in this monthly series of conversations will be held on December 19<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm at Beth El. We will continue with the topic of Women in the Tanakh as our opening.
- **Adult Education:** The next showing of the video lectures by Professor AJ Levine is scheduled to take place at Beth El on December 19<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 pm.
- **Torah Bites:** The next Torah Bites will take place on Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at noon at THOI. Join us for an impromptu discussion of Text.

### TZEDAKAH

Beth El Congregation, with the Sisterhood, Men's Club, and Shorty, will be preparing meals, serving, and supporting Harts during two weeks this year. The first will be the week of December 20<sup>th</sup>; the second will be the week of January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

THOI will be cooking and serving dinner to the residents and visitors at the Valley Mission on December 24<sup>th</sup>, freeing some of the staff to be home with their families.

### Pastoral Care

If you feel a conversation or meeting with the rabbi on any topic would be of benefit to you, please be in touch to make an appointment. You can call or email Rabbi Joe as listed elsewhere in this newsletter. Also, if you are ill, or know someone who may be, and might like a visit or call, please let Rabbi Joe know so he can be in touch, or see you when he is in town.

### Service Participation

Please know that we seek congregant and guest participation in services throughout the year. If you are interested in leading a lay service, or in taking a role in a service, please be in touch with (at THOI) Leah Farmer, Ellen Werther, Beth Young, or the rabbi. If you are interested in singing to beautify our services, please be in touch with Sarah Grove-Humphries at THOI.

### Ritual Matters

*Celebrations:* If you are interested in studying for and celebrating an adult B'nai Mitzvah, or in learning to leyn (read/chant) Torah and/or Haftarah, or to lead services, or serve as a gabbai, please be in touch with the rabbi.

*Jewish Study:* If you are interested in or wish to consider conversion, or you just want to learn more about Judaism (whether you are Jewish or not), please be in touch with the rabbi.

*Caring Committee:* This group has been doing wonderful things in helping and supporting those in our community who may have some needs for assistance or support. If you can volunteer at THOI, please speak with Rosalie Waterman, Lou Boden, or Beth Young. As always, if you know of someone who is ill, or who might wish to be contacted, please also let Rabbi Joe know about that.

*Chevrah Kadishah:* This group functions to prepare and dress a body for burial in accordance with the Halachic (Jewish legal) requirements, showing care and concern for the deceased. Members are not publicly acknowledged nor is it made public who has been involved in this mitzvah. Thank G-d, we have not had too many opportunities to respond, but we do need to be ready when the need arises. If you have any interest in participating in performing this mitzvah, please speak with Rabbi Joe.

**Closing Message** We

often describe G-d as the source of light. Chanukah is our festival of light. It is the time we kindle lights to dispel darkness, and to remind us of the presence of G-d., The very act of lighting candles or oil lamps as part of our rituals is a sign of our bringing G-d closer, and making G-d more manifest in the world through our actions and efforts. As you ‘bensch licht’ (recite the blessings over kindling the lights), may the warmth and light that you kindle fill, enlighten, and sustain all around you, and may that light also kindle other lights in our world. May this holiday of re-dedication see each of us renewing our dedication to be the highest self we can be.

Ken Yehi Ratzon – may it be so.  
*Rabbi Joe Blair*

**Kids**

**Religious School**  
 Happy Hanukkah 5771!

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday. I am thankful for our community of caring teachers and students who give me such nachas (joy) and make it a pleasure to be a part of the Beth El/THOI Religious School. I am also thankful for the many parents and friends who help with our events.

Our students have been educated about Judaism and Hebrew liturgy through many fun learning activities over the past month. Together we have learned folk dances and songs, chanted prayers, and discussed what it means to be a part of Am Yisrael. We have come back to the idea of g’milut chasadim several times over the past month. Our students trick-o-treated for unicef. This engaged them to think not only of the candy they would get for themselves, but about helping others at the same time.

On November 21<sup>st</sup>, we came together for a family education day to learn more about g’milut chasadim. Our parents joined their children to discuss the meanings of mitzvah (commandment), tzedakah (law of giving 10%), and g’milut chasadim (acts of loving kindness). Through story and discussion we learned what g’milut chasadim means to each of us in our families and we celebrated the concepts through many fun hands-on activities including sand art, creating tzedakah containers, making magnets, and making mitzvah placemats.

The religious school students have been learning some songs to share at the Beth El Chanukah dinner on Sunday, December 5th under the direction of Mickey Glago. We look forward to seeing you there. Also, please join us for Havdalah and a potluck dinner on Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 – 7:30.

*L’shalom, Dara*

	<p><b>S.H.O.R.T.Y.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SHORTY will hold a bake sale on December 5th. You can buy baked goods at the bagel bar during the latter part of religious school, or during the Chanukah dinner at Beth El that evening. The funds raised will help support SHORTY 's activities.</li> <li>• SHORTY is holding a <b>Parents' Night Out</b> on December 11<sup>th</sup>, Saturday, from 5:30 to 11. Look for information and details on child care, food, and cost to be in your email and mail box soon.</li> <li>• SHORTY will next meet on December 19<sup>th</sup> at 2-8 pm to cook for the shelter and mission, hold a regular meeting, and plan the <i>SHORTY Services and Ski Weekend</i> in January.</li> </ul> <p><b>Kinderlachen</b> The next Kinderlachen meeting of this year will be on December 18<sup>th</sup> at 10 am at THOI (as long as we have three or more attending). This is the Jewish-themed pre-school play group, open to anyone in the community who wishes to participate. Come to meet and play with others, get a little messy, do some arts and crafts projects, enjoy a story, have a great snack, and have fun (and maybe even learn a little!). Please RSVP to Rabbi Joe if you plan to attend, so we know how many to expect.</p> <p><b>Religious School Havdalah</b> On Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 5-7 pm we will have Havdalah and a Potluck meal for all involved with the Religious school. Other Congregants are welcome. There will be no Religious school on Sunday.</p>
<p><b>Prayer Book Dedications</b></p>	<p>Our prayer books can now be dedicated to someone you love! Marsha Pillet has designed a beautiful book plate for Temple House of Israel which is now available for those who would like make a donation in memory of a loved one or to honor a loved one. The label will be calligraphed with the appropriate names by Ruth Chodrow. A donation of \$18 will put a label in one of our prayer books and an appropriate note will be sent to acknowledge the donation. Please contact our temple treasurer, Ellen Boden, if you are interested</p>
<p><b>Women's Group</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please check our own Judaica shop for Hanukah items and candles. There are plenty of candle choices, gelt, wrapping paper and goodies out thanks to Beth and Rosalie who restocked the shop in time for Hanukah and our congregation candle lighting this Friday night. We're ready for last minute candle purchases!</li> <li>• After feasting on Hanukkah pot luck goodies Friday Dec. 3, <i>Lyrissa</i> will be singing and there should be plenty of time to bid on your favorite silent auction choices. Bid early and often...</li> <li>• Placing fresh flowers on the Bima to mark an occasion near to your heart helps us all share the memory or celebration. We needn't wait for the High Holidays to bring such beauty into the sanctuary. If you're interested, Rosalie or Beth can help make the arrangements.</li> </ul>

Donations	Donations From August through October 2010	
	Brand, Shirley	Contributions to The Ark
Brusoe, Gail	Yizkor - Benjamin & Harriet Schwartz	
Davidson, Stuart and Ann Cohen	Yizkor-Sonya Davidson, Abraham Cohen, Herman Davidson	
Degen, Doug and Martha	Yizkor -Ralph & Mildred Degen,George Degen, Hannah & Morris Degen, Jake & Annie Klotz, Morris & Dora Klotz	
Farmer, Leah	Yizkor- Jacob, Mabel,Bernard, Joseph,David Kaplan	
Goldenberg, Alan and Vicki	IMO Shirley Goldenberg,Samuel Goldenberg,Howard Michael Goldenberg, Harold Shapiro, BernardBresky, Stephan Shapiro, Gussie Scherer, Israel Scherer, Helen Scherer, Al Scherer, Gertrude Scherer, Pauline Shapiro, Morris Shapiro, Michelle Raybin Campbell	
Goldsmith/Kaufman, Art and Jan	Yizkor-Ada Kaufman,Arthur Kaufman,Gloria Goldsmith,Charles Volpe,David Goldsmith	
Grove-Humphries, Sarah &Byron	Yizkor-Pauline Kessler,Mildred Humphries,Gordon Humphries, ErnestKessler,Beryl Gutnick, Raphael Brand.	
Pereles, Tom and Susan	Endowment Matching Funds - In appreciation of Beth Young	
Peretz Comes, Rachel	Yizkor- Shirley Peretz, A.David Pereta, Bertram Peretz	
Pinsky, Michelle	Contributions to Building Fund	
Schwartz, Ken and Elizabeth	Yizkor- Benjamin Schwartz, Harriet Schwartz	
Solod, Lisa	Yizkor- Jay Lawrence Solod	
Little, Danielle & Kevin	Contributions to Building Fund	
Osborne, Jim & Linda Blazer	IMO Viola Pierantozz, Hyman Blazer, Charles Blazer, Harmon Blazer	
<b>Oneg Reminder</b>	December 3	Shirley Brand 540- 949-0529 Laura Jean and Asher Brand 540 -942-3656
	December 11	Dianne Mason 540-451-1455 & Gail Brusoe 540-885-5265

## *Silent Auction Inventory As Of November 18th*

- Auction begins at 6:00 PM
- Fare Thee Well acrylic painting by Ken Schwartz
- Hand-crafted vest by Elizabeth Schwartz
- 1 hour of computer consultant
- Lyrissa CD
- 12 crystal goblets
- Necklace and earrings set (blue cats eye)
- Brazil Coffee Set  
*Bid High and Bid Often !*
- 2 tickets to the American Shakespeare Theater
- 3 hand-painted silk scarves by Beryl Gutnik
- B1 hour of interior design consultation
- "Gracious Concord" 16 x 24 serigraph
- "Lilac Inn" acrylic painting
- Challah (1 large loaf or 2 smaller loaves)

- Autographed copy of Paul Klein's latest book as well as his 1<sup>st</sup> novel
- Necklace and earrings set (yellow and lava stone)
- Beaded bracelet (lavender)
- Framed "Bread" Photograph by Ellen Boden
- Earrings (pearl on copper)
- Pin pillow (with many decorative pins)

### *Bid High and Bid Often !*

- In-house concert featuring Native American Flute
- Earrings (blue balls)
- Ceramic pitcher and cup
- Two Sets of 2 kitchen towels with crocheted top
- Original artwork
- May we be Blessed" card/ gift
- Framed "Alaska" Photograph by Ellen Boden
- Veterinary house call including vaccinations

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday 1	Thursday 2	Friday 3	Saturday 4
			First Night of Chanukah		Silent Auction & Chanukah Supper & Services 6:00 pm	
5 Religious School Chanukah Performance @ BE SHORTY Bake Sale	6	7	8	9	10  Torah Bites Noon	11 Shabbat Services 10:00 AM SHORTY Parents Night Out @ BE 5:30 PM
12  Book Discussion 6:00 PM	13	14	15	16	17  Torah Bites Noon	18 Kinderlachen 10 :00 AM Religious School Havdalah @ BE 5-7:00 PM
19  Tanh Women @ Beth El 2:00 PM  SHORTY Cooks For Shelter	20	21	22	23	24  Valley Mission Dinner 5:00 PM	25
26  NFTY Winter Thru Dec. 29th	27	28	29	30	31  Happy New Year !	

# December 2010

All events posted here are at THOI unless noted different

