

THE SCRIBE

Temple B'nai Israel

From the desk of Rabbi Mann: Judaism as Journey

It has come to my attention that several people voiced their criticisms of some aspects of the Religious School's Model Seder. I would like to give you some background and rationale for how the Seder was conducted.

First, a bit of history: Since scheduling the Model Seder often conflicted with the Sisterhood's cooking the Kosher for Passover Community Seder, several years ago I

decided to by-pass using the kitchen entirely. We utilized "unconventional" items to replace the "Traditional" fare of a regular Seder. The "message" of the Seder is to convey the concepts of Passover through the use of symbolic foods: Four Cups of wine, Matzah, Maror, Charoset, Karpas, dipping a few drops from the wine during the recitation of the Ten Plagues etc.

Similarly, during the chil-

dren's Model Seder, we introduced new symbols for the above-mentioned ones – and we asked the children to figure out what they symbolized. "Red Hots" symbolized the blood (or "bitter herbs"), marshmallows symbolized the hail, gummy worms symbolized the frogs, and the chocolate egg represented the hard-boiled egg. The point was to engage the children and point out that "customs" and "symbols" change throughout

(Continued on page 3)

At A Glance...

<i>Walk with Israel</i>	May 3
<i>Gerda Klein at East Aurora High School, 7 pm</i>	May 4
<i>Family Service/Graduation</i>	May 5
<i>MOTHER'S DAY Bylaws talk, 11 am</i>	May 10
<i>Shabbat Chavurah</i>	May 15
<i>Adult Education: Dr. Raviv</i>	May 17
<i>Hebrew H.S. Holocaust Museum trip</i>	May 24
<i>MEMORIAL DAY</i>	May 25
<i>Congregational Meeting</i>	May 27
<i>SHAVUOT (May 29-30)</i>	May 29
<i>Mulching Day—Come help!</i>	May 31

2009 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Mark your calendars to attend our ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING on **Wednesday, May 27, 2009 at 7:00 pm**. Learn what has been going on at our Temple and elect new directors and officers.

BYLAWS CHANGES WILL BE VOTED ON

The office has a copy of the proposed changes to the Bylaws that will be voted on at the Congregational Meeting in May. If you would like to review these changes (Board recommendations will be available by May 11, 2009), please contact the office to pick up your copy or have them emailed to you.

SCRIBE via EMAIL

Members that have an email address on file with Temple B'nai Israel will receive the Scribe via the computer. If you have any problems, please contact the office.

Deadlines:

- *Scrip orders are due May 10*
- *Kosher meat order due May 31 (pick-up June 7)*

Service Schedule:

- *Friday evenings*
8 pm on May 1, 15, 22, 29
7 pm on May 8 for Family Service/Graduation Night
- *Saturday mornings*
9 am in May
Renewal Service May 16
Cindy Michelassi 10:30 am

Todah Rabbah, Thank you.
We gratefully acknowledge the following donations.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Joseph & Betty Davis
- in memory of Evelyn Davis

BUILDING

Carl Lee
- in memory of Louis Lee

GENERAL

Anonymous
Else, Harvey & Mark Bruch
- in memory of Sharon Douherty
- get well to David Nemenoff

KIDDUSH

Marvin Miller
- in memory of Dr. Beatrice Miller

IN MEMORY OF

ZANDER BOWMAN

Dr. Julius Newman *Tribute Fund*
Barbara Peskind

ZALMON GOLDSMITH

Husband of Anne Goldsmith
Father of Bruce Goldsmith

Ed & Maddy Bart
Rick & Terry Luther
Marvin Miller *Kiddush Fund*
Barbara Peskind
Steve & Marcia Rayman
Bella Zidell

RABBI DISCRETIONARY

David & Susan Leader *Sale of Chometz*
Marvin Miller *Sale of Chometz*
Ron Ramer *Ma'ot Chittim*
Steve & Marcia Rayman
Mike & Faith Young *Sale of Chometz*

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆



Thanks to everyone who donated, set up, tore down and worked the Rummage Sale. Please forgive me if I forgot anyone:

Margot Anderson	Candy Goldstein	Rabbi
Bob Arundale	Lana Ilic	Sarene Rosen
David Berg	Judy Jacobson	Patricia Rosenmann
Amy Brozak	Esther Javitz	Judith Russell
Anita Cohen	Mindy Kaplan	Mike Young
David Davis	Edith Katz	
Elisa Davis	Sonya Luksa	

Sisterhood made \$800 at this sale.

Sandy Wolf

ONEG SPONSORS

FRIDAY, MAY 1

Steve & Holly Price *in honor of their wedding anniversary*

FRIDAY, MAY 8

Graduation Night

FRIDAY, MAY 15

Steve & Sandy Greenblatt *in honor of granddaughter Jocelyn's 4th birthday*

FRIDAY, MAY 22

Adam & Eve Feinberg *in honor of Garrett's High School Graduation*

FRIDAY, MAY 29

Teacher Appreciation Night

Contact Ruth Edelman or the office at (630) 892-2450 to sponsor you're an Oneg for your special occasion.



Chicago Loop Synagogue presents
THE SIXTEENTH ANNUAL SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE WEEKEND

"Learning, Fellowship and Jewish Self-Understanding"

With **DENNIS PRAGER**

Renowned Author, Radio Talk Show Host & Teacher, An Authority on Jewish Life,
One Of America's Five Best Speakers

Friday, May 1—Sunday, May 3

Call (312) 346-7370 for reservations & information.

SHAVUOT



May 29-30

שבועות or חג שבועות

"Festival of Weeks"

One of the *Three Pilgrim Festivals*. Celebrates the giving of the *Ten Commandments* by God to the Children of Israel at Mount Sinai, 49 days (7 weeks) after the *Exodus* from ancient Egypt. Commemorates the fruit harvesting in the Land of Israel. Culmination of the 49 days of Counting of the Omer.

Begins the 6th day of Sivan and ends the 7th (in Israel 6th) day of Sivan

Celebrations include festive meals. All-night Torah study. Recital of *Akdmut* liturgical poem in *Ashkenazic* synagogues. Reading of the Book of Ruth. Eating of dairy foods. Decoration of homes and synagogues with greenery. Related to Passover, which precedes Shavuot.

Judaism as Journey

(Continued from page 1)

our history.

Judaism includes a broad spectrum of beliefs and ways of observance. There are traditional worship services where men and women are seated separately; others in mixed pews; still others accompanied with musical instruments. Some worship services focus on the text as handed down by Tradition; others opt for contemporary readings and discussions aimed at increasing "spirituality" and spontaneity. In a diverse congregation such as ours, there is room for all of the above. The important thing is to be like our ancestors who left Egypt: they traveled on a journey, together as a people, enriching their lives with the spirit of G-d.

For those who would like to communicate your feelings about the Model Seder, I invite you to contact me personally and/or to write to the Board of Education to discuss the matter and reach a consensus before next Passover.

I am reproducing below my message from 2004 for Shavuot. I think it is relevant today as it was then.

Chag Sameach.

Rabbi Mann

Moses asks G-d to explain the kosher laws:

"THOU SHALT NOT SEETHE A KID IN ITS MOTHER'S MILK."

"Does that mean that we should wait six hours between eating meat and drinking milk?"

"THOU SHALT NOT SEETHE A KID IN ITS MOTHER'S MILK."

"Does that mean we should have two sets of dishes?"

"THOU SHALT NOT SEETHE A KID IN ITS MOTHER'S MILK."

"Does that mean we should check the label of everything we buy, and use only those items made with pure vegetable shortening?"

"THOU SHALT NOT SEETHE A KID IN ITS MOTHER'S MILK."

"Does that mean -"

"OKAY, HAVE IT YOUR WAY!!!"

Although Torah is from Heaven (min hashamayim), it is intended for, and interpreted by, human beings. It does not remain in Heaven; it is decided and interpreted on Earth (*lo bashamayim hee*). While Jewish tradition is an indispensable guide to understanding the word of G-d, it is OUR duty to interpret and apply the static letter of Torah to the dynamic and changing circumstances of our daily lives.

This is the challenge of the Festival of Shavuot, the Festival of Revelation. Each and every one of us is challenged to plumb the depths of Torah. On Shavuot we re-commit ourselves to participate in the life-long drama and privilege of Jewish learning.



FROM THE TEMPLE MAILBOX

Dear Temple B'nai Israel Board of Directors,

I was deeply touched (and I know Gail would have been) by the *honor* you have bestowed upon us.

The Temple has been an important part of our life in Aurora.

Sincerely,

Julie Newman

Dear Friends at Temple B'nai Israel,

Your donations to Temple B'nai Israel in memory of Zal is heart-warming.

Bruce, Margot, and Ellen join me in expressing our appreciation of your thoughtfulness and kindness. If I cannot write each of you individually, please forgive me. I am completely overwhelmed.

Thank you.

Love,

Anne (Goldsmith)

HIGH SCHOOL HOLOCAUST MUSEUM

Non-School Day **FIELD TRIP**

Date: May 24, 2009

Our High School students and parents are looking forward to this field trip.

HEBREW HIGH SCHOOL COMPARATIVE RELIGIONS CLASS Holocaust Studies

Our High School Comparative religions course, which ties into our Holocaust Studies, will be exploring Medieval and Renaissance art. Our goal is to see how art plays a role in telling stories within the Jewish landscape.

The Art Institute of Chicago

111 South Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60603-6404
(312) 443-3600

Mrs. Price - 630-631-2759-cell

Date: May 31, 2009

**Time: 8:15AM - Aurora Train Station
1:50PM - Aurora Train Station**

Cost: Metra train weekend pass \$5.00

(Please drop off and pick up your child at the Aurora Metra Train Station -- 233 N Broadway)

Please bring your lunch or money to buy a lunch.

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT—Apachi Day Camp in Naperville has open positions for camp



Early childhood Head Counselor min 2 yr degree, experience with children 3-5 , creative, likes the outdoors, can swim. June 15 - July 27, M- F 8:45am - 4:00pm, competitive salary based on experience. (staff training June 9 - 12)

Art Specialist: Art ed degree, must have experience teaching elem. school. M- W 9:00- 1:00, June 15 - July 24,,salary range 10 - \$15 hr based on exp/Ed

Counselor in Training - volunteer opportunity for boys and girls ages 13 - 15. Must be willing to commit to min of 2 consecutive weeks, min of 3 days a wk including Thursday. Must be able to swim.

Limited number of positions available. Dates June 15 - July 24, Training June 11 , 9:30 - 12 noon.

Please contact Elyse Degen at edegen@napershalom.org for more information.

APACHI DAY CAMP, the summer's best Jewish connection in the Western Suburbs

The 2009 Apachi Day Camp is accepting camper registrations for boys and girls ages 4 to entering 6th grade. Camp dates June 15 – July 24, M- F 9:15am – 3:45pm. Bus service is available from Cong. Etz Chaim for a small additional cost. New travel program for preteens in 5th & 6th gr. Check out our website for detailed information:

www.napershalom.org/camp.

What's Happening in Religious School



April was filled with Pesach preparation, Pesach observance and celebration, Yom Hashoa , and Yom Ha'atzma'ut. We began the month with two model Seders. Grades two through seventh had a Seder which I conducted that included student led blessings, prayers and commentaries as well as a special art project conducted by Dr Mary Gordon. On behalf of the staff, we thank Mary for providing the project. The students had a chance to create a Cup for Elijah and a cup for Miriam. Grades preschool through first grade had a special Seder conducted by their teachers, Andrea Kowalski and Judith Russell which included songs, prayers, and fun activities. I want to thank Anna Kurtzman and Sonya Luksa for their help setting up the two programs.

Our sixth and seventh grade class led the April Family Friday Night service. A special yasher koach goes out to Rob Katz, one of the sixth/grade teachers who helped prepare the students to lead the services.

During April the teachers also attended staff training. The teachers for grades preschool through fifth joined me for a special program on Mentoring which the teachers will bring into use next year. The rabbi led a learning session for the teacher in grades 6-10. At both session, the teachers learned new material and enjoyed the opportunity to study together in a group.

The month ended with the commemoration of the Holocaust and Yom Ha'atzma'ut. The students in the Camp TBI program had a special program presented to them by Holly Price, our own Holocaust educator for Yom Ha Shoa. For Yom Ha'atzma'ut, the students first commemorated the fallen soldiers of Israel and then we had a fun and educational celebration for Israel's 61 birthday.

See everyone at the Western Suburbs WALK FOR ISRAEL on Sunday, May 3!

B' Yididut, **Sue Stine**

I would like to take this opportunity to wish a Mazel Tov to all of graduating seniors. On behalf of the school, I wish them all great success in their futures endeavors. Here is a list of the graduating seniors and where there are attending schools: Sara Allen - Indiana University, Aaron Bossert- Columbia College, Garrett Feinberg - Washington University, St. Louis MO, Leanne Fischer-Xavier University, Ben Leader- IIT, Jason Leader- Lincoln College, Adina Mann- University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign, John Peskind- Bradley University and Nathan Raymond-Arizona State University.

Upcoming Activities & Events

May 3	WALK WITH ISRAEL at Beth Shalom (No regularly schedule classes)
May 8	Hebrew High School Graduation / Family Friday Night Services
May 10	Hebrew school
May 13	Camp TBI / Lag B'Omer Celebration
May 17	Hebrew School / Testing for grades 3-7 / Board of Education Meeting
May 20	Camp TBI / Yom Yerushalyim Celebration
May 24	No School / Hebrew High School Field Trip to the Holocaust Museum
May 31	Hebrew School / Hebrew High School Field Trip to Art Institute of Chicago

HEBREW HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION on MAY 8, 2009

Mazel Tov!

David James, Scott Price, & Samuel Raymond

Please join us in celebrating our Hebrew High graduates at Temple B'nai Israel on **Friday, May 8 from 7:00 pm—8:00 pm!**



Upcoming Birthdays & Anniversaries

May 04 Beryl Gershenson
May 04 Mark Melnicoff
May 06 Joshua May
May 07 Connor May
May 10 Spencer Gordon
May 10 Debra Levy
May 11 Andrea Kowalski
May 13 Joseph Davis
May 17 Evan & Christine Rayman
May 18 Anneliese Russell
May 19 Judy Jacobson
May 20 Arthur & Barbara Sheridan
May 21 Benjamin Levy
May 22 David Berg
May 24 Paula Krapf
May 25 Jeff Chase
May 25 Odette Denton
May 25 Peter Raymond
May 26 Ian Kramer
May 26 Holly Price
May 28 Sherman Rosen
May 30 Bob & Sande Arundale
May 31 Leonard Stark
Doug & Carol Large

Simchas & Such

Mazel tov to **Sherm & Sarene Rosen** on the upcoming Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, **Benjamin Moberly**, on May 2, 2009.

Mazel tov to great-grandparents, **Buddy & Roz Whisler**, on the birth of Madison to **Adam & Kasey Morgenstern**.

Mazel tov to our following graduates:

Sara Allen - Indiana University

Aaron Bossert - Columbia College

Garrett Feinberg - Washington University, St. Louis, MO

Leanne Fischler - Xavier University

Ben Leader - IIT

Jason Leader - Lincoln College

Adina Mann - University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign

John Peskind - Bradley University

Nathan Raymond - Arizona State University

Get Well Wishes go out to...

Anne Goldsmith, who is back at home after a recent hospital stay.



RENEWAL SERVICE

SATURDAY, MAY 16 at 10:30 am

Cindy Michelassi will be joining us for services.

Questions? Contact Ron Ramer at 630/906-9190.

TEACHER APPRECIATION NIGHT

We will honor them for their dedication and support of the religious growth of our children. Show your APPRECIATION AND SUPPORT for our wonderful Religious

School Teachers at the Friday night services on **May 29, 2009 at 8 pm.**

Amy Brozak

Joseph Davis

Sabrina Janczak

Eva Katz

Rob Katz

Andrea Kowalski

Eric Krapf

Anna Kurtzman

Adam Levy

Adina Mann

Holly Price

Marcey Raymond

Judith Russell

Yahrzeit

"The memory of the righteous shall be for a blessing."

May (according to the secular calendar)



May 3	Mollie Wolf	May 23	Mary Badner
May 4	Sholom Rubin	May 25	Abraham Bowman
May 9	Esther Katz		Libby Miller
May 10	Joseph Mitchel	May 26	Celia Podolsky
May 11	Evelyn Davis	May 28	Leo M Goldsmith
May 12	Marvin Wolf	May 29	Oscar Davis
May 14	Robert Weiss	May 30	Charlotte Stark
May 15	Michael Wolf Kossoy	May 31	Albert Jacobson
May 16	Anne Faren		Harry Yellin
May 17	Irving Nemenoff		
May 18	Milton Abramowitz		
May 19	Barbara Baratz		
	Eva Weisman		

This yahrzeit was missed in April:

April 11

Mary Patricia Basner

In the ancient words of the traditional Jewish prayer of consolation: "May the L-rd console and sustain you among the other mourners for Zion and Jerusalem." AMEN.

In Memoriam *Dr. Julius Newman*

Our heartfelt condolences go out to the family and friends of **Dr. Julius Newman** who passed away April 23. Dr. Newman was a past-President of Temple B'nai Israel, members of Temple B'nai Israel for over 50 years, and his late wife, Gail Newman, and him were our Choir Directors for many years. Our community is saddened by his loss.

Our deepest sympathies go out to Dr. Lou Camras and his family on the recent passing of his brother, **DR. CARL CAMRAS**, in Omaha, NE.

Subscription Policy for the Scribe

The Scribe is sent to all Temple members free of charge. Nonmembers may receive the Scribe for a \$10 per year subscription fee (either by mail or e-mail). The Scribe is sent free to former Aurora area seniors who have moved away and still wish to receive it.

If you wish to continue to receive the Scribe and do not meet any of these requirements, please mail your request and address, or e-mail address, (with a check for \$10) to:

Temple B'nai Israel
400 North Edgelawn Drive
Aurora, IL 60506-4394

ADVERTISE IN THE SCRIBE!

Promote your business to our Temple!

Contact the office at (630) 892-2450

for more information

EXECUTIVE BOARD of DIRECTORS

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First Vice-President	Gary Raymond
Second Vice-President	Bruce Goldsmith
Third Vice-President	
Recording Secretary	Paula Krapf
Treasurer	Steve Cohen
Financial Secretary	Phillip Jacobson, M.D.
Past President	Susan Leader

Temple Office Hours

Please check the Temple's recorded message for weekly hours.

Rabbi Mann's Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 10 am—Noon

Call the office for Rabbi Mann's hours; or for appointment outside of office hours, call (630) 896-1277.

www.temple-bnai-israel.org

Aurora, Illinois 60506-4394
400 North Edgelawn Dr.

Temple B'nai Israel

