

Temple Beth El^{Electronic} News

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Tishri-Cheshvan 5769

October 2008

[Welcome to Our New Member!!](#)

The Beth El community welcomes new member:

Esther Lieberman

Thank you to:

- Ellie Landau, Sheila Rudin, and Rina Sirk for our very successful New Year's Bulletin. We made a profit of \$2,591.
- Phyllis & Alan Garfield, Bei Rutten, Sheila Rudin, and Rebecca Gottlieb for hosting at the temple during the Historic Places of Worship event, which took place over Labor Day Weekend. We had 60+ visitors.
- Rina and Randy Sirk for the flowers for Rosh Hashanah.
- Fern Reinstein for hosting the Rosh Hashanah luncheon.
- Karin Pritikin for preparing and leading the second day Rosh Hashanah service.
- Ruthie Silverberg and Fern & Jesse Reinstein for the Yom Kippur flowers.
- Larry Goldberg and Rebecca Gottlieb for their Kol Nidre musical interpretations.
- Rebecca Gottlieb for hosting the Yom Kippur break-the-fast dinner.
- Everyone who donated to our High Holiday Food Drive. We collected 25 bags of groceries and plus cash donations. Special thanks to Eliot Garfield (along with Alan and Phyllis) for transporting the groceries to the food pantry. Check out the temple website for photos. We also received a very grateful thank you letter from Sister Lynn Wagner, Manager of the Dubuque Food Pantry.
- Rebecca Gottlieb for organizing Beth El's participation in the Crop Walk, and to the Garfields and Rudins (including Rachel Rudin) for representing our temple community in the walk on October 5. We raised over \$100 to fight hunger, and 25% of the money will stay in the local area.
- Jacquie and Wayne Dyrke for rearranging Jacquie's Uncle's gorgeous paintings so that the new Memorial Board would have a place of honor on our walls.
- Sheila Rudin for speaking to multiple area schools: a religion class at Beckman High School, an adult class at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, a literature class at NICC, and 5 World History classes at Hempstead High School. (Emily Goldberg, a student at Hempstead, said that Sheila did an excellent job!)

Donations

From our Treasurer:

Temple Beth El has received generous donations earmarked for flood relief-- Iowa Jewish Federation allocated \$2,000. Jewish Federation of Chicago donated \$6,000. United Jewish Communities, Inc. sent \$4,000. Members of Rabbi Sherman's congregation (Stephanie's father-in-law) in Tulsa, Oklahoma, generously responded and sent \$3,125. We have received a total of \$15,125.00 from complete strangers.

We have also received some non-member donations at this High Holy Day season from Aaron & Norma Liepe, David Landau, Rachel Rudin, Lawrence & Nancy Burrows, and Naomi & Theodore Harrison. There are also a few Temple members who generously donated much more than their membership dues.

Thank you to everyone!

Mitzvah Minutes

- Ruthie Silverberg writes, "I have 2 new granddaughters: Charlie and Jacey had Jordyn Lindsay on August 3, and her big sister is enjoying the baby. Lori and Maurice had a little girl on September 19, and I am on my way to Florida to see her. Isabella Jeri is her name, and she was just 4lbs 6oz. and 18 inches tall, but she is doing great. Have already been to Atlanta to see Jordyn and Elana. I am the proud Nana of 7 grandchildren. Wow!!
- Temple members Susan Farber and Bernie Saks were recently married! Mazel Tov to you and your family!
- Reminder from Jacquie Dyrke: If you have not done so already, PLEASE let Jacquie know if you are coming to her Bat Mitzvah service. It's almost here, so if you have not yet RSVP'd, please do so ASAP. Email Jacquie at dyrkestudio@gmail.com.

DACU (Dubuque Area Congregations United)

The DACU Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Service will take place on Wednesday, November 26, at 7:00 PM at Resurrection Catholic Church. The speaker will be Rev. Rick Mihm, Director of the Dubuque Rescue Mission. Music will be provided by Dr. Charles Barland of the University of Dubuque and an old-fashioned "sing-along" of favorite Thanksgiving hymns. Everyone is warmly encouraged to attend.

The October DACU delegates meeting is set for Tuesday, October 28, at 7:00 PM at St. Patrick's Catholic Church. The program is "The High Cost of Being Poor" and will be presented by Tom Stovall of Operation New View and Jim Ott of Breaking Barriers. Everyone, not just DACU delegates, is invited.

Miscellaneous

- Since we have had a few membership changes recently, a revised Temple Membership Roster is included with this newsletter.
- An apology to Jacquie Dyrke—her name was inadvertently left off the list of Board Members. Jacquie is definitely a board member (a member-at-large).

From Rabbi Stephanie:

The literal translation of the word *rabbi* is "my teacher," and I think each of us called to the profession cherishes the memory of the first time someone called us rabbi and meant it in that precise sense—*my teacher, my rabbi*.

This summer *my rabbi* passed away. Rabbi Jerome W. Grollman served United Hebrew Congregation in St. Louis, MO, for the entire 60 years of his rabbinate. As my family's affiliation with United Hebrew goes back at least four generations, you can imagine how deeply we felt a

connection. In loving memory of Rabbi Grollman, the congregation published a tribute bulletin containing excerpts from his teachings over those 60 years. What a gift, especially to those of us who knew and respected Rabbi Grollman—whose lives had even been deeply impacted by him—yet, for the happenstance of having been too young to know any better, can only now appreciate what a luminary he was.

I'm sure I will find ways to impart *my* rabbi's teachings throughout the year, but allow me to share just one with you now. It comes from a sermon he delivered Rosh Hashanah Morning, 1960:

Contrary to what you may have heard, the word "Orthodox" is not an expression of profanity in Reform Judaism. It's not a dirty word. It doesn't send shivers running up and down our spine and we don't arbitrarily discard a ceremonial ritual simply because it is "Orthodox." If that were the case, my friends, you and I would not be worshipping here together this morning. Because Rosh Hashanah is about as "Orthodox" as anything you find in Judaism. No, whether or not we retain or discard a ritual in Reform Judaism is determined not by its Orthodox association... but by one criterion and one criterion alone. And I hope you will always remember it. Namely, does the ritual have any significance for us today or has it lost its meaning completely?

This is the basis upon which we should make our judgments and it is on this basis that I would be happy to discuss our Temple program with anybody. Call me up sometime, or take me to lunch or maybe I'll take you to lunch. Convince me that no true religious purpose is served through daily worship, the study of Hebrew, or Bar Mitzvah—that these practices are devoid of all spiritual significance, that they are contrary to the genuine principles of Reform Judaism. Convince me of all that and I will be the first to join you in seeking their abandonment. But merely to condemn them, to label them Orthodox or Conservative does not necessarily make them *trefe*.

Having shared Rabbi Grollman's message with you, let me share his invitation, as well. As we look forward to a new year of Shabbat visits... call me up sometime, take me to lunch or maybe I'll take you to lunch. Let's talk about ritual and observance and the Temple program. Convince me that a practice is devoid of all spiritual significance—or, better yet, introduce me to a new (or new-to-you) practice that has brought spiritual significance to your life. *My* rabbi understood that Reform Judaism is as rich and vibrant as we allow it to be—and *your* rabbi is nothing if not his student.

L'shalom,
Rabbi Stephanie M. Alexander

Upcoming Activities

- **Saturday, November 1st, 1:00 pm @ temple – Celebration of Jacquie Dyrke's Bat Mitzvah**
- **Saturday, November 1st, 7:00 pm @ Temple Judah, Cedar Rapids – Doug Cotler Concert**
Sponsored by the Lillian and Ted Feder Music Fund, an evening of wonderful Jewish music will be performed by Grammy award-winning composer and accomplished singer, songwriter and musician, Doug Cotler.

"Doug Cotler took the audience on a magic carpet ride through the magical realm of Jewish music. We could not have asked for a more entertaining evening." Adrian Durler, Director of Education, Beth El Hebrew Congregation, Alexandria, Virginia

"Keep making Jewish music of this excellent caliber. You are taking us to new places in

our Jewish identity.” Rabbi Larry Milder, Congregation Beth El, Bangor, Maine

“Celebrate Jewish culture and Jewish-American music with Doug Cotler. A beautiful voice, entertaining live performances peppered with Jewish humor and warmth.”

There will be a light dinner at the temple at 6:00 pm (Adults: \$7.50; children 2 – 10 \$5.00). The concert itself is free and will begin at 7:00 pm. RSVPs are required, so **please email me if you are planning to attend (stephalex75@msn.com) by October 27th** and she will pass along your RSVP to the temple. Hope to see you for this wonderful evening!

On the Horizon...

- **Saturday, December 6th, 12:00 pm @ temple – The Great Kugel Cook-off!**
That’s right, a kugel cook-off! Think you have a fantastic kugel recipe? When you serve it are guests always asking for more? Or perhaps there’s a kugel recipe you’ve always wanted to try. A noodle kugel? Potato kugel? Matzah kugel? Well, here’s your chance.

The rules:

Bring your kugel to the temple *already cooked* (the oven will be available for re-heating only); use a disposable cooking tin so all entrants look the same; and bring copies of your recipe to share. Guest “celebrity” judges will do the official judging, but all in attendance will have the chance to sample. Most importantly, **please email me at stephalex75@msn.com by November 21st** to register your potentially prize-winning kugel entry. (“Prize?” you ask. Why, Temple Beth El kugel bragging rights, of course!)



Service and Mitzvah Schedule for 5769

(Updated 10-26-08)

NOTES:

- Rabbi Stephanie has brought a new dimension to our temple by offering a slew of activities on the weekends she is here. The schedule below does NOT include those specific activities. Refer to each newsletter for the specifics of an upcoming weekend.

Friday, October 31...7:00pm Shabbat service	dinner: Landau, oneg: Gottlieb
Saturday, November 1...1:00pm Jacquie Dyrke's Bat Mitzvah No adult study. Doug Cotler concert in Cedar Rapids.	
November 14...7:00pm Lay Shabbat service	oneg: Mikel
Friday, December 5...7:00pm Shabbat service	dinner: Sirk, oneg Silverberg
Saturday, December 6...7:00pm adult study	dinner: TBD, study: TBD
Friday, December 19...6:00pm Hanukkah Service	(dinner hosted by Ruthie Silverberg & Randy Sirk with menorah lighting to follow)
Saturday, December 20...7:00pm adult study	dinner: Gottlieb, study: TBD
Wednesday, December 24...REFLECTIONS IN THE PARK (assuming we are doing this for 2008)	
Friday, January 9, 2009...7:00pm Shabbat service	dinner: Goldberg-Scheinman, oneg: Ruetten
Saturday, January 10...7:00pm adult study	dinner: TBD, study: TBD
Friday, January 30...7:00pm Lay Shabbat service	oneg: Goldberg-Scheinman
Friday, February 13...7:00pm Shabbat service	dinner: Mikel & Pearce, oneg: Garfield
Saturday, February 14...7:00pm adult study	dinner: TBD, study: TBD
Friday, March 6...6:00pm Purim service with dinner to follow	(need a Purim Dinner host)
Saturday, March 7...7:00pm adult study	dinner: TBD, study: TBD
Friday, April 3... Passover and Visitors' Service.	Details for the weekend to follow
Saturday, April 4...7:00pm adult study?	dinner: TBD, study: TBD
Friday, April 24...7:00pm Lay Shabbat service Spring Congregational Meeting—Details to follow	oneg: Aidenbaum
Friday, May 8... 7:00pm Shabbat service	dinner: TBD oneg: Dyrke
Saturday, May 9...7:00pm adult study	dinner: Dyrke, study: TBD
Friday, June 5...7:00pm Shabbat service	dinner: TBD, oneg: Alexander
Saturday, June 6... time TBD	End-of-Year Adult Social hosted by the Alexanders

Temple Judah invites you to attend Dinner, a Havdallah Service and Musical Concert with Doug Cotler on November 1 at 7:00 PM!

Spread the word ...

Temple Judah will host a Havdallah service and a musical concert with Grammy award-winning composer and accomplished singer, songwriter and musician, **Doug Cotler** on November 1, 2008. This concert is sponsored by The Lillian and Ted Feder Music Endowment Fund.

"Doug is: at the forefront of contemporary Jewish American life, bringing people together through music."

"Celebrate Jewish culture and Jewish-American music with Doug Cotler. A beautiful voice, entertaining live performances peppered with Jewish humor and warmth."

The evening begins with a dinner at Temple Judah at 6:00 PM. Adults: \$7.50; Children 2-10 years old: \$5.00. Please RSVP to the Temple Office (319-362-1261; office@templejudah.org)

We invite you to bring your friends and family to this very special concert which starts at 7:00 PM.

Temple Judah
3221 Lindsay Lane SE
Cedar Rapids, IA
Friday, November 1, 2008
7:00 PM

For more information, contact Temple Judah at 319.362.1261.

To learn more about Doug Cotler, click here to visit <http://www.dougcotler.com/>

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Adrian Durlister, Director of Education, Beth El Hebrew Congregation, Alexandria, VA

*Keep making **Jewish music** of this excellent caliber. You are taking us to new places in our Jewish identity.*

Rabbi Larry Milder, Congregation Beth El, Bangor, ME