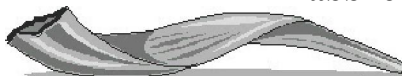


<http://tbede.org>

Temple email: tbe at tbede.org
Rabbi email: Rabbi at tbede.org



Tekiah

Tevet/Shevat 5769
January 2009

Dear Friends,

In the middle of this month, we start reading the Book of Exodus. The book begins with the words, "These are the names of the sons of Israel, who came to Egypt, with Jacob, every man with his household." (Ex 1:1) We entered Egypt as individuals. A few chapters later we read, "The people of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth." (Ex 11:37) The experience of slavery in, and the exodus from, ancient Egypt creates a people from a group of individuals.

I do not think that Jacob's family would have willingly gone into a situation which they knew was going to lead to slavery. As circumstances changed, what began as a wonderful event (Joseph's family coming to Egypt) turned into something terrible (slavery). Neither Jacob nor Joseph would have opted to expose their family to a situation in which their descendants would be slaves. This occurrence was necessary as a part of the growth of the Jewish people.

Let me share a secret with you. After Shabbat, the most important Jewish holiday is Pesach, not Yom Kippur. How can I say that? If one takes away Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, the Jewish people would have to find another day to make their pilgrimage to the synagogue, but Judaism would survive. If one takes away Passover, the foundation of Judaism crumbles. Even the Ten Commandments begin with this thought, "I am the Eternal your God, who has brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery." (Ex 20:2)

The second most important Jewish holiday comes out of the Jewish people having first suffered. From adversity we grew as a Jewish people. As individuals, we also grow from adversity. We mature and develop, not from things always going our way, but from being challenged. We would not necessarily choose to have these challenges, but when they come upon us, we can view them as possibilities to become more fully the people we are capable of becoming.

We can use the example of the human body. When one exercises or works out, the body is challenged; muscle cells are torn down, and in repairing itself, the body becomes stronger than it was before. Thus, from physical adversity, the body benefits. The process of the body improving is often painful. The process of a human being maturing emotionally and spiritually is also often painful. But if one can keep one's focus on the possibility for growth, one can see that even the hard times may be beneficial.

May we all be able to use the times of adversity to become more fully the people we are capable of becoming. May we be granted the wisdom, courage, and strength for such growth.

Shalom uv'racha,
Rabbi David B Kaplan

From Our Men's Club President:

I thank Dee for the opportunity to write this letter for the January Shofar. As President of the Temple Beth El Men's Club, I have the privilege of working with many fine people on a wide array of projects. Our goal in the Men's Club is to provide interesting events for the Temple membership, provide assistance wherever we can, and raise money for TBE.

Our signature event is Sunday Breakfast, held generally the first Sunday of the month. We prepare a selection of hot items-eggs, potato casseroles, along with bagels, pastries, and fixings, with hot coffee and orange juice. A 50/50 game leaves a lucky winner with a nice financial return. Best of all, we invite a general interest speaker, and these talks have been extremely engaging, ranging recently from Sports columnist Ray Didinger, through USA Today photographer Eileen Blass, WW2 veteran and Silver Star holder John May, and Rabbi Howard Gorin, sponsor of a Jewish congregation in Nigeria. We've held the line with a \$6 admission price, 50/50 tickets \$3 each or \$5 for 3 tickets.

Our other major activity is running concession stands during Wilmington Blue Rocks games, and for this we need a steady stream of volunteers. Working a Blue Rocks game provides a great opportunity to meet other members of TBE. The Blue Rocks furnish a free meal, and for each game we earn \$50-\$150 for TBE. The big event is Fireworks Night, 25 volunteers work a large stand that night, and earn \$1000- \$1500 for TBE. We are setting up 18 Blue Rocks games for next year, keep an eye on the Shofar and website for dates.

Each Fall, Joe Sontowski organizes us to help with the Scott Mackler Run, a major fundraiser for ALS research. The Mackler family deals with this crippling disease in an inspiring way, developing tools that enable ALS patients to communicate. Over the last nine years, the Mackler Run has raised over \$1 million for ALS research. You can help in many ways on race week, cooking, working the course on race day, even lacing up those running shoes and joining the runners!

Other events throughout the year include Movies and Chinese Dinner on Dec 25,

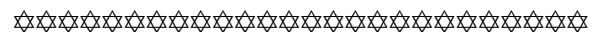
A Dinner Theatre outing, this year on January 18th (A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, Candlelight Dinner Theatre), an Asian Dinner (held jointly with Sisterhood) in February, and a Quiz or Comedy Night in April. For sports enthusiasts we are planning a March Madness 'Office Pool', a Fantasy Baseball League at TBE, and perhaps an outing to see the (World Champion!) Phillies this summer.

The Men's Club also provides "The Jewish Book of Why" at all Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, ushering at High Holiday Services, bartending services for Social Hall events, and help as needed around TBE.

This is all made possible by great support from the Men's Club Board- Joe Sontowski (Treasurer), Scott Sweren (Ritual), Joe Despina, Izak Bahar, Mike Cook (Programming), Marc Sheffler, Ashley Pezzner (Fundraising), and the Breakfast Team- Marty Schwartz, Dave and Ellen Schonbach, Wayne Geller, Howard Friedman, Chris Shelton, Joe Gianatti, Dan Halbert, and Jim Baker.

If you'd like to join in any of our activities, please contact me at felderfamily at comcast.net.

Warmest regards,
Tom Felder



DISCOVERY GROUP
January 11 at 10:30 a.m.
February 8 at 10:30 a.m.



NEWS & SCHMOOZE
(for 11th & 12th graders)
January 11th at noon



FAMILY SERVICE
Dalet - January 16th - 7:30 p.m.
Gimmel A Serv. - January 23rd - 7:30 p.m.
Gimmel A & B Dinner - January 23rd

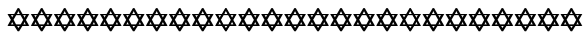
BOARD SHABBAT
Friday, January 9th
8:00 p.m.

Please come and show your support and honor our board of directors that work so hard for our community.



BAD WEATHER
CLOSINGS

Of course, we are all hoping that the dreaded winter word - SNOW - doesn't appear, but it may! We generally follow the Delaware public schools' decision. If there is no public school, there is no religious school, or if the schools let out early, there will be no religious school. **Check out our website at tbede.org.** You can also call the office to check, if we are not in the office we will have it on our answering machine or listen to the announcements on the radio - WILM, WDEL, WJBR. We will make a decision on school closings at 8:30 a.m. on Sundays and 3:30 on Tuesdays.



BEGINNING HEBREW CLASS

Rabbi Kaplan will teach a beginning Hebrew class on Thursday evenings from 7-8 pm beginning January 8 (for 6-8 weeks)

Please contact Rabbi Kaplan or the Temple office if you are interested.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Jan. 6 - Schmoozie Tuesday - 4:45pm
- Jan. 9 - Board Shabbat - 8pm
- Jan. 11 - Men's Club Breakfast
- Jan. 13 - Gimmel parent Meeting - 5:30pm
- Jan. 30 - Hadassah Shabbat - 8pm
- Feb. 6 - Federation Shabbat at Beth Emeth
- Feb. 8 - Sis/men's Club Breakfast
- Feb. 11 - Sis/Men's Club Dinner
- Mar. 1 - Basketfest



THANK YOU!

Thank you for your generous outpouring of donations of clothing, books, housewares, toys and cash to our Needy Families. A special thank you to Ann & Mike Herman, Alice Hirsch, Helene Tanny, Ruth Wolfe, Trayce Bahar, Sarah & Mark Glassner for their help in sorting and organizing our donations. An extra special thank you to TBE Sisterhood for their generous donation to our need family drive. Your donations will enable our families to have a wonderful holiday.

Sydell & Sy Glassner



HOTTEST TICKET
IN TOWN!

TBE'S
MONTE CARLO

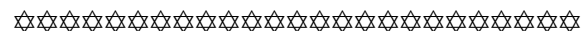
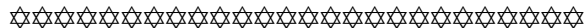
Saturday, May 2nd
7:30 - 11:30 p.m.

SAVE THE DATE!
Tickets available January 09'

ABOUT BASKETFEST...

Notes on Basketfest: This is just an FYI for our new members and those who have never attended. Basketfest is an adults only fundraising event sponsored by TBE Sisterhood. This is our 9th year for this very successful event and we continue to raise more money for TBE each year through the generous donations of themed "baskets" from congregants, our Religious School classes and local businesses. They are not always baskets in the traditional sense but often some sort of receptacle filled with items that follow a theme or gift certificates for goods and services. These "baskets" are then bid on with purchased tickets and the winning tickets are then drawn for all of the baskets. Refreshments are served, the atmosphere is festive, door prizes are given away and a good time is had by all. Many of these "baskets" will be on display in our foyer from now until the event. If you would like to contribute a "basket" but need some guidance, please call Terry Prager at 610-255-0238 or D. Aaronson at the Temple office.

**Basketfest this year will be held on
Sunday, March 1st.**



**2008-09 BLUEBOOKS
ARE AVAILABLE IN THE
TEMPLE OFFICE**

KITCHEN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Thanks to everyone who has volunteered their time to prepare our wonderful Onegs and Kiddushes this Fall. We would like to extend a special thanks to those of you who gave your time and energy to prepare the special Onegs for the Confirmation A and B class services, and all our special services. As you can see below, we have a lot going on at Temple Beth El and it takes everyone's help to make it happen.

Volunteers Needed in January:

Friday, January 9 – 2 workers needed for Board Shabbat

Saturday, January 10 – 1 worker needed

Friday, January 16 – 2-3 workers needed for Dalet Class service - **Gimmel parents are asked to help with this Oneg**

Friday, January 23 – 2-3 workers needed for Gimmel A Class Service – **especially Bet or Gimmel B class parents**

Dates coming up in February:

Friday, February 6 - 2-3 workers for Gimmel B Class Service - **Especially if you are a parent of a Bet or Gimmel A student**

Saturday, February 7 - 1 worker

Friday, February 13 - 2 workers

Saturday, February 14 - 1 worker

Friday, February 20 - K – 2 Family Service – **Confirmation parents are asked to help with this Oneg**

Saturday, February 21 - 4 workers for Hai Class Service - **Especially for Dalet class parents**

Friday, February 27 - 4 workers for Bet Class Service – **Aleph parents are asked to help with this Oneg**

Saturday, February 28 - 3 workers – Service to be led by Confirmation Class

Please contact me to volunteer or if you have any questions.

**Renee: felderfamily at comcast.net,
(610)347-0518**

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NEWS

From Our Principal:

We had a fun and busy December to end 2008. The Chanukah Assembly and Bazaar were a lot of fun and I hope everyone had a great time and lots of latkes! We're starting to get adjusted to the new Religious School schedule, but finding it difficult to fit everything in for the older students, so everyone has been quite busy. I hope that all of the Aleph – Hai parents had a chance to read through your student's report card and send their envelope back in (signed) so that we can reuse it.

Enjoy the Winter Break from Dec. 23rd – Jan. 4th! We have much to look forward to in January. The Dalet class dinner and service will be on Jan. 16th, the Gimmel dinner for both classes and service for Section A will be on Jan. 23rd and a special Hadassah Shabbat Service will be on Jan. 30th. I hope to see many students from **ALL** of our classes at these services to show support for each other and enjoy spending Shabbat together. Please put these services on your calendar NOW and you will be much more likely to attend.

I wish everyone a very happy Chanukah and a peaceful new year.



BARTON'S PASSOVER CANDY SALE

We will once again be selling Barton's Passover Candy this year. Watch the February Shofar for more information.

SCHOOL CLOSINGS

We **generally** follow the Delaware public schools' decision. If there is no school or widespread early dismissals, there is no Religious School. However, please do check the TBE web site "www.tbde.org" or listen to the announcements on the radio – WILM, WDEL, WJBR.



RELIGIOUS SCHOOL SNACK CARDS \$12.00



DATES TO REMEMBER

Winter Break – Dec. 23rd – Jan. 4th
(R.S. returns on Jan. 6th)

We do have RS on Jan. 18th

Discovery Group – Jan. 11th

News & Schmooze – Jan. 11th

NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL – Feb. 1st and Feb. 15th



EARLY DISMISSAL

If it is necessary for a student to be dismissed early he/she is required to bring a note from his/her parent
You must pick your child up from the office only.

NOW YOGA IS ON THURSDAYS!
Join Marla Friedman for Yoga
on Thursday afternoons:
Yoga: Stretch, Relax, and Renew
Thursdays, 5:15-6:15 pm
January 8-29



We meet at Valerie Green's home in
Cotswold Hills

Call Marla for directions

Four sessions for \$24* (\$8 per single class)

TBE will receive part of the proceeds.

Please bring a mat and join us for 1 hour of stretching and breathing exercises ending with a relaxation period to renew and rejuvenate ourselves. Marla Friedman has taught classes at the YWCA and YMCA of Delaware, Ladies Workout Express and at TBE, and enjoys sharing her 15+ years of teaching experience. Both beginners and more experienced students will feel comfortable in this class. Refrain from eating one hour before class begins.

SISTERHOOD & MEN'S CLUB

VIETNAMESE BANQUET

Wednesday, February 11th

**Saigon Vietnam Restaurant
in Newark**

Look for details in future e-mails & on the TBE Website.



SISTERHOOD

JOIN US FOR SCHMOOZIE TUESDAY

January 6th - 4:45

Coffee, Chatting & Snacks.



MEN'S CLUB BREAKFAST

Sunday, January 11th

The lovely Hadas Amster, this year's Schilcha from Israel, will join us, and share an Israeli's view of a year spent in the Wilmington area. Doors open at 9:15AM.



CANDLELIGHT DINNER THEATRE

in Arden, DE.

"A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum"

On Sunday afternoon January 18, 2009

We are pleased to offer a return to the Candlelight Dinner Theatre in Arden, DE. "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" is a hilarious, bawdy chapter in the life of Pseudolus, the crafty slave scheming his way to freedom, with the assistance of the bordello next door. This became a trademark role for Zero Mostel, and I'm sure the talented artisans at Candlelight will bring this Sondheim masterpiece to life. Lunch starts at 1PM, the show starts at 3PM, tickets are \$49, you can make your reservations at the Temple office.

5769
2009

January

tivet
shevat

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

DECEMBER
S M T W T F S
1 2 3 4 5 6
7 8 9 10 11 12 13
14 15 16 17 18 19 20
21 22 23 24 25 26 27
28 29 30 31

FEBRUARY
S M T W T F S
1 2 3 4 5 6 7
8 9 10 11 12 13 14
15 16 17 18 19 20 21
22 23 24 25 26 27 28

NEW YEAR'S DAY

CL: 4:29



Vayigash

4
NO
RELIGIOUS
SCHOOL

5
9 tevet

6
10 tevet
Shmoozie Tuesday
FAST DAY

7
11 tevet
TBE
Board Meeting

8
12 tevet

9
13 tevet
8:00 p.m.
Board Shabbat
Klezmer
CL: 4:36

10
14 tevet
Vayechi

11
15 tevet
Men's Club Breakfast
Discovery Group
News & Schmooze

12
16 tevet

13
17 tevet
Gimmel Parent
Meeting 5:30 pm

14
18 tevet

15
19 tevet

16
20 tevet
7:30 p.m.
Dalet Family Service
& Dinner
CL: 4:43

17
21 tevet
Shemot

18
22 tevet
Choir 12 noon

19
23 tevet
Office Closed

MARTIN LUTHER
KING'S BIRTHDAY
CELEBRATED

20
24 tevet

21
25 tevet

22
26 tevet

23
27 tevet
7:30 p.m.
Gimmel A Fam. Serv.
Gimmel A & Bdinner
CL: 4:51

24
28 tevet
Va'era

25
29 tevet
Choir 12 noon

26
1 shevat
ROSH CHODESH

27
2 shevat

28
3 shevat

29
4 shevat

30
5 shevat
8:00 p.m.
Hadassah Shabbat
Choir
CL: 5:00

31
6 shevat
Bo