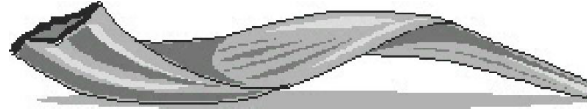


<http://tbede.org>

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



Tekiah

Heshvan/Kislev 5769
November 2008

Dear Friends,

During the festival of Sukkot, I was asked several times why we say the blessing for the lulav and etrog with the pitgam on the bottom, and then we turn the etrog so the pitgam is on top for the shaking of the lulav. Let me begin with the halachik (Jewish law) answer. We are supposed to say the blessing before we do the mitzvah. Once the etrog has the pitgam on top, we have begun fulfilling the mitzvah. To make sure we do not fulfill the mitzvah before we complete the blessing, we leave the pitgam on bottom until we are ready to shake the lulav.

The above is the halacha (law) answer, but we may also look at some midrash (explanations and interpretations) answers. As a Reconstructionist Jew, I want each act that I perform to effect how I live. I want the mitzvot to speak to me; therefore, I have listed a few commentaries on what the turning of the etrog over may represent or suggest to us.

According to the Jewish calendar, Sukkot is the beginning of the fall. Turning the etrog over tells us to be grateful for the changing of the seasons. Occurring right after Yom Kippur, it also reminds us that we have begun a new year and have turned (done teshuvah or repentance), and that we should continue to pursue that new direction.

To be kosher, an etrog must have a pitgam. When we say the blessing with the pitgam on bottom, the etrog is in the position it grows, so we are blessing God for giving us the plants with which to praise God. When we turn it over and see the pitgam, we are reminded to attempt to make our prayers as perfect as we can. Although we will not succeed in praying with a whole heart, we should continue to try to attain that level of kavanah (attention and intention).

Another interpretation reminds us that we are partners with God in the work of creation. We bless God with the etrog in the direction that it grows to thank God for creating this world. We turn it over because it is up to us to use what God has given us to complete the work of creation and to do tikun olam, repairing the world.

Having the pitgam face two directions is a symbol of the need for balance in our lives, as the following quotes indicate. "If I am not for myself, who will be for me; if I am only for myself, what am I?" "We are not required to complete the task, neither are we free to refrain from starting it." "To everything there is a season and a time for every experience under heaven: A time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to seek and a time to lose;

I hope the answers written here have been of help. Often, when one person has a question, other people would like to hear the question and answer, so if you have something about which you are wondering, please email me.

Shalom uv'racha,

Rabbi David Baruch Kaplan

From Our Sisterhood President:

The fundamental purposes of Sisterhood of TBE are as follows:

A. To promote and support advancement of Jewish religious, social, and cultural life in the home, synagogue, and school.

B. To participate in civic and philanthropic activities as may be approved by the Sisterhood Board.

C. To raise money and to help support the Temple in its functions.

All adult women members of Temple Beth El are considered members of Sisterhood. There is no separate joining fee. Sisterhood relies on the members (who are all volunteers) to support various endeavors.

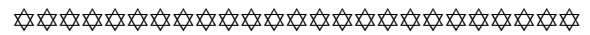
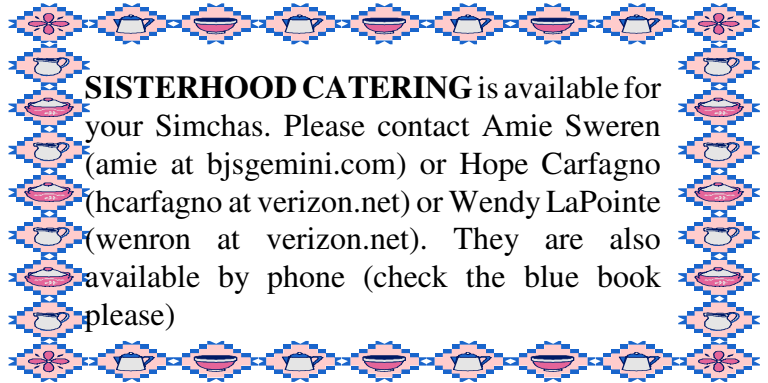
If you are available on a Friday evening or a Saturday morning an easy way to become involved is to sign-up to serve an oneg or kiddush. OR if you have time during week-day hours maybe you want to help out by baking/cooking in the kitchen. You need not be a "chef". If kitchen work is not your preference, extra hands are always needed for the Hanukkah Bazaar and the Purim Carnival to help with games and/or children's crafts and and those all important jobs of general "set-up" and "clean-up".

SCHMOOZIE TUESDAY: On one Tuesday a month during religious school hours, instead of dashing out to do errands, sit enjoy a cup of coffee & socialize with other parents.

Fundraising: Each year Sisterhood makes a commitment to the Temple to raise money. This year Sisterhood pledged \$25,000. Money raised is turned over to the Temple Board to support the operating expenses of the Temple. Please support the upcoming Thanksgiving Pies and CASH FOR GOLD. Sisterhood has arranged for Amber Waves Bakery (which is the same Bakery which provides the Temple Challahs) to bake pies for Thanksgiving. These pies are delicious!

Please see the order form in this Shofar. The CASH FOR GOLD scheduled for Wednesday evening, November 12 is a "new" fundraiser. The evening will include refreshments and time to socialize. (no entrance fee). See the flyer in this Shofar.

For a fun evening please attend the **MYSTERY AUCTION/COOKIE EXCHANGE**. This "ladies night out" event is scheduled for Wed. evening, Dec. 10. Details are in this shofar. As always, my phone number is 302-239-0416 and my e-mail is sandynovick@yahoo.com (there is no answering machine).

SISTERHOOD CATERING is available for your Simchas. Please contact Amie Sweren (amie at bjsgegmini.com) or Hope Carfagno (hcarfagno at verizon.net) or Wendy LaPointe (wenron at verizon.net). They are also available by phone (check the blue book please)



DISCOVERY GROUP
November 9 at 10:30 a.m.
December 7 at 10:30 a.m.



NEWS & SCHMOOZE
(for 11th & 12th graders)
November 9 at noon



FAMILY SERVICE
Confirmation A - December 5th
Confirmation B - December 19th



To our new members

Scott Dight & Nanci Hersh, Griffin & Nathan
Francine Franco
Tom Gildea & Nancy Weinstein, Daniel
& Emily
Andrew & Heather Meyers, Nathan & Leila
Gary & Joy Migdol, Ben, Rebecca & Ally
Scott & Denise Schwartz & Jacob
Michael & Amy Shay, Eva & Molly
Rob & Holly Titus & Rachel
David & Melissa Weyl, Samantha, Jessica &
Danielle
Eric & Stacey Younger, Emily & Benjamin

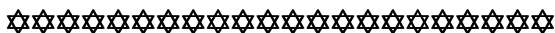
Welcome Back To...

Mark & Marian Lieberman
Stephen & Jessica Seitzman, Matthew &
Drew



**SUKKOT /
THANKSGIVING
FOOD DRIVE**

Please bring in your non-perishable cans or boxes to the Temple as we do the mitzvah of helping those less fortunate. Put them in the containers in the lobby. Passover items are not appropriate.



**Job Opening at TBE:
Custodian - part-time**

We are still looking for a new custodian to assist us with general cleaning and light maintenance in our building.

We are currently using a cleaning service and we would love to hire someone with a personal reference from our TBE family.

Please contact D. Aaronson in the TBE office (302-366-8330) if you know of anyone who may be interested.

*2008-09
President's
Circle*

A special thank you to the following who have joined our President's Circle this year. Their names appear on the plaque in our lobby, and their generosity helps Temple Beth El better serve the community's needs. Won't you consider adding your name?

Steven & Gillian Daniels
Calvin & Carol Freedman
Jeff & Alice Hirsch
Josh & Harriet Kalin
Scott Mackler & Lynn Snyder-Mackler
Norm & Paula Pernick
Ashley & Jodi Pezzner
Bob & Suzanne Prybutok
Steve & Helene Tanny
Milt & Mary Wolf



**INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING
SERVICE**

**Tuesday, November 25
7:30 p.m.**

at

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Share the Thanksgiving spirit with congregants from churches in the Newark area. Rabbi Kaplan will be a participant. The service lasts about one hour. It is a wonderful way to start the Thanksgiving holiday. Our choir will be participating along with the church choirs.



From Our Principal...

I hope everyone enjoyed our fun-filled holiday services! The Family Services for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur were led by our new Rabbinic Intern, Samantha Safran Bodner. Parents and kids alike had fun reenacting the stories of *Creation* and *Jonah and the Whale*. Thank you to all those who helped with both the Family and Children's Services and special thanks to our Shofar blowers, Justin Grier and Sam Rambo!

Sukkot was also a lot of fun as we celebrated in style in our new sukkah, thanks to all those who helped to design, build and decorate it! The weather cooperated well and I'm sure we will miss those beautiful days having snack and playing in the sukkah.

Mazel tov to all of our Aleph students who were consecrated on Simchat Torah! They sang beautifully and beamed as they entered this new phase of their Jewish education. I know their parents join me in being very proud of this dedicated class.

--Adina Mattes



REPORT CARDS...

Report cards for Aleph - Hai students will be coming home mid - November. Please sign the envelope and return it as soon as possible. Feel free to add any comments or questions at that time.



SHABBAT SERVICE ATTENDANCE

Shabbat Service charts have been posted in all Aleph - Hai classrooms. Make sure you become a member of **Shabbat Club** by attending the appropriate number of services for your class.



Wanted ... snack shoppers!

If you have a little extra room in your cart or time in your busy day, we need people who can shop for Religious School snacks once or twice a month. If available, please contact Adina Mattes via e-mail (adina.mattesattbede.org) or stop in during Religious School.



News from Mrs. Romao's Dalet and Hai Classes:

On Sunday, October 12, Lisa Driban, Mitzvah Basket Coordinator from Jewish Family Services, came to speak to us about the JFS as well as the Mitzvah Basket Program. Students donated items to create two baskets. One will be donated to an animal shelter and one will be donated to a food bank. Special thanks to Ms. Driban for taking time out of her Sunday morning to share information with us. Extra special thanks to the Dalet and Hai class students and families who donated all of the special items that went into the baskets!!



(Religious School Cont'd)

(Religious School Cont'd)

News from Mrs. Romao's Hai Class:

**4th Annual Hai Class Talent Show
Sunday December 21, 2008 – 10:30-
11:30am during religious school**

Show off your talent and help others at the same time!

For this year's Hai Class Mitzvah Project we will donate money to two charities close to our hearts: The Celiac Disease Foundation and the World Wildlife Foundation.

Do you sing, dance, play an instrument, perform, do magic? We'd love to see anything you would like to do. Anyone can enter the talent show – students or adults. To enter – fill out an entry form with \$1.00 per person who will be performing. Entries must be received no later than December 2, 2008. (If one person will perform- enclose \$1.00, if two people will be performing enclose \$2.00, if ten people will be performing enclose \$10.00, etc).

Family and friends are encouraged to come watch the talent show. Admission donation is \$2.00 per person. ALL MONEY COLLECTED WILL GO DIRECTLY TO THE CHARITIES.

Please support the Hai Class and perform the mitzvah of Tikkun Olam.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

**Chanukah Assembly and Bazaar
December 14th**

**Talent Show
December 21st**

**Gimmel Parent Meeting
January 13th 5:30 p.m.**

Check our TBE website for all of our TBE happenings!
tbede.org
Send any info that you would like to add to the website to
daaronson@tbede.org



**Join Marla Friedman for
Yoga**

**during Hebrew School on
Tuesday afternoons:**

**Stretch, Relax, and Renew
Tuesdays, 5:00-6:15 pm**

Beginning November 18-December 16*

**We meet at Valerie Green's home in
Cotswold Hills**

Call Marla for directions

* NO CLASS ON Nov. 25 due to
Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Four sessions for \$28** – make checks payable to Marla Friedman and send to:
603 Parkridge Drive, Hockessin, DE 19707.

**The Temple will receive part of the proceeds. Please bring a mat and join us for 1 1/4 hours 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.



**MILLCROFT RETIREMENT HOME IS
LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO
MAN THEIR FRONT DESK ON
CHRISTMAS DAY...**

1 1/2 hour shifts from 9:00 am to 6:30 pm

If you can help please contact Mary Denny at 366-0160.





“PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE”

Our annual Needy Family Drive is under way as we reach out to the community to help make the holidays special for those who are less fortunate. Chairpeople, Sy & Sydell Glassner, have already begun sorting and organizing. Following is a list of the sizes and needs of our adopted families.

Some Temple members have asked about cash donations. They are always welcome and needed to buy mattresses.

Donations are due no later than November 26th, but it would be very helpful if donations were brought in earlier. Please mark your bags/boxes with type of clothes (boys shirts 8-10, girls 6-10, women’s 12-14) and size if possible.

Dalet and Hai students can sign up to earn mitzvah credit to help sort shoes and food on Sunday, December 7th.

We **need** children’s clothing, all sizes, men’s & children’s outerware, TOYS - books - household goods, furniture & linens. Please no stuffed animals except for Disney & Sesame Street.



Family A

Boy - 14 yrs. - size XL -36 pants, shoes 12

Girl -4 yrs. - size 6T, 5T pants, shoes 12

Family Needs: 1 bed

Family B

Boy - 4 yrs. - size 5T, shoes 10 ½

Family D

Boy - 15 yrs. - size XL

Boy - 12 yrs - size Large

Girl - 4 yrs. - size 6T

Girl - 6 yrs. - size 8

Family Needs: All household items, furniture, linens, blankets, pots & pans, etc.

Family E

Girl - 10 yrs. - size 12, shoes 2

Girl - 7 yrs - size 12, shoes 1

Girl - 4 yrs. - size 5, shoes 9

Family Needs: All household items, furniture, linens, blankets, pots & pans, etc.

Family F

Boy - 3 yrs. - size 4T

Boy - 1 yr. - size 2T

Family Needs: All household items, furniture, linens, blankets, pots & pans, etc.

Family G

Girl - 8 yrs. - size 14

Boy - 4 yrs. - size 6

Family Needs: All household items, furniture, linens, blankets, pots & pans, etc.

Family H

Girl -5 yrs. - size 7

Boy - 3 yrs. - size 4T

Girl - 16 yrs. - size Med.

Family Needs: 2 beds

Family Needs: All household items, furniture, linens, blankets, pots & pans, etc.

Family I

Boy - 5 yrs. - size 12/14, shoes 13

Girl - 3 yrs. - size 3T, shoes 6

Family Needs: All household items, furniture, linens, blankets, pots & pans, etc.

Family J

Girl -4 yrs. - size 7/8, shoes 13

Boy - 3 yrs. - size 4T, shoes 8

Family Needs: Home furniture.

Family Needs: All household items, furniture, linens, blankets, pots & pans, etc.

Family K

Girl - 8 yrs. - size Large

Girl - 3 yrs. - size 4T

Twin Girl & Boy - size 4 months

Family Needs: All household items, furniture, linens, blankets, pots & pans, etc.

Family L

Boy - 6 yrs. - size 7/8, shoes 1

Boy - 5 yrs. - size 6, shoes 12

Girl - 8 months - size 18 mos., shoes 18 mos.

Family Needs: All household items, furniture, linens, blankets, pots & pans, etc.

Family 1

Boy - 3 yrs. - size 4T, shoes 11

Boy - 7 yrs. - size 7 slim, shoes 13

Girl -24 months - size 2T, shoes 6

Family Needs: kitchen items, curtains 64x80, living room furniture, bathroom set

Family 2

Girl - 10 yrs. - size 14, shoes 4

Girl - 8 yrs - size, shoes 2

Girl - 5 yrs. - size, shoes 11

Girl - 3 yrs. - size, shoes 10

Family 3

Boy - 5 yrs. - size 6T, shoes 12

Girl - 3 yrs. - size 4T, shoes 8

Family Needs: kitchen items, dining table, sofa, tv stand, sheets for twin beds (boy & girl), curtain for sliding door.

Wish List: 2 wheel scooter, bike, games, 3 wheel scooter, baby doll.

Family 4

Boy - 5 yrs. - size 6T, shoes 1

Girl - 4 yrs. - size, shoes

Wish List: Toys

Family 5

Boy - 3 yrs. - size 4T, shoes 10

Boy - 4 yrs. - size 5T, shoes 12

Girl -10 yrs. - size 12, shoes 1

Girl -12 yrs. - size 14, shoes 4

Family Needs: 3 comforters for twin beds

Wish List: Toys

Family 6

Boy - 5 yrs - size 6T, shoes 11

Girl - 2 yrs. - size 3, shoes 6 ½

Girl - 18 months - size 2T, shoes 5

Family Needs - livingroom furniture, tv set

Wish List: Toys

Family 7

Boy - 6 yrs. - size 8, shoes 12

Girl - 5 yrs. - size6, shoes 8

Family Needs: Queen size comforter, 2 twin comforters.

Wish List: Toys

Family 8

Boy - 15 yrs. - size XXXL, pants 34-36, shoes 12

Boy - 12 yrs. - size XXL, shoes 10 ½

Girl -10 yrs. - size 14, shoes 3 ½

Boy - 4 yrs. - size 7, shoes

Family Needs: silverware, blankets, sheets, twin bed, mattresses, toaster, blender, dressers, kitchen set, microwave

Wish List: radio, CD player, books, MP3 player, wrestling action figures, games, Bratz, V-smile games, bike, trucks & cars

Family 9

Boy - 4 yrs. - size 6, shoes 12

Boy - 2 yrs. - size 3T, shoes 8

Family Needs: blankets, sheets

Family 10

Girl - 8 yrs. - size 8, shoes 2-3

Girl - 5 yrs. - size 7, shoes 12

Boy - 2 yrs. - size 4T, shoes 10

Family Needs: blankets, sheets, silverware

Wish List: CD player, dolls, camera, games, puzzles, doll house

Family 11

Boy - 8 yrs. - size 10-12

Girl - 7 yrs. - size 7

Boy - 5 yrs. - size 7

Girl -4 yrs. - size 5

Girl - 4 yrs. - size5

Wish List: age appropriate toys, Barbie doll.

Family 12

Girl - 4 yrs. - size 5, shoes 9

Girl - 2 yrs - size 2T, shoes 6

Family Needs: sofa, end tables, beds (full or twin), linens, blankets, curtains, pots & pans, silverware, tv & stand.

Wish List:Bikes, games, scooter, doll & stroller, kitchen set, puzzles, riding toy.

Family 13

Boy - 4 yrs. - size 5T, shoes 7 1/2
Girl - 8 months. - size 12 mos.
Girl -6 yrs. - size 5T, shoes 12
Boy - 14 yrs. - size med., shoes 10
Girl - 10 yrs. - size 10, shoes 5 1/2
Family Needs: blankets, sheets (full & king), silverware, dishes, pots & pans.
Wish List: Bike, scooter, educational toys, doll, stroller, doll house

Family 14

Girl - 4 yrs. - size 5T, shoes 11
Boy - 2 yrs. - size 2T - 3T
Family Needs: all household items, silverware, dishes, pots & pans.

Family 15

Girl - 4 yrs. - size 5, shoes 10
Girl -3 yrs. - size 2T, shoes 7 1/2
Girl - 14 months - size 12 mos.
Family Needs: twin beds, linens, full size linens, toaster, pots & pans, dishes, glasses, children's drinking cups.

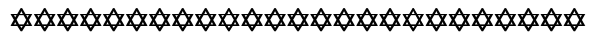
Family 16

Girl - 8 yrs. - size 8, shoes 2
Girl -5 yrs. - size 5T, shoes 11
Boy - 4 yrs. - size 5T., shoes 10
Girl - 2 yrs. - size 2T, shoes 9 1/2
Boy -10 months - size 18 mos, shoes 3
Family Needs: blankets, sheets (twin & king), towels, dishes, TV stand.
Wish List: puzzles, games, CD player, camera, soccer game items, keyboard.



BBYO CALENDAR

Fri. Nov. 14-16 – Kick Off Convention in Wilmington
Sun. Nov. 23 - Ice-skating 1:00 3:00
Sat. Dec. 6 - Teen Connection/BBYO Havdallah
Sun. Dec. 7 - Babysitting @TBE
Sun. Dec. 14 - Leadership Training 1:00



A LIGHT OF HOPE



Please visit our table in the Lobby of the temple during religious school on the Sunday's listed below in support of the family of Garrett Cohen.

We will be selling Chanukah lights in the form of mini tea lights that can be purchased in honor of, or in remembrance of, a special family member, or just to do a mitzvah as the holiday season approaches.

Add the name of a special someone or your own name to our "tree of life" and give a light of hope to a special family this year.

Garrett is one of our students and was diagnosed 4 years ago with Crohn's Disease. He has since developed a multitude of related illnesses. We are raising funds to help his family cover some of their expenses.

Where: TBE Lobby

**When: 11/9, 11/16, 11/23
12/7, & 12/14**

Cost: \$5/light



MEN'S CLUB



COME JOIN US FOR
MEN'S CLUB BREAKFAST
Sunday, November 9th
9:15 a.m.

With guest speaker John May

Please join us for a delicious breakfast, and an especially interesting presentation this month. We are pleased to have John May, with his daughter Janet, tell us his story of Europe at the end of World War II. Breakfast is \$6, and 50/50 tickets are \$2 per ticket or 3 tickets for \$5.

Here is John's abstract:

John F. May
WW II Soldier and American Hero

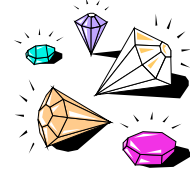
The year was 1942 when young men and women from across the United States were being called into military service to stop Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Army from their relentless and brutal extermination of the people and countries of Europe. John May was one such man called at the age of 21 from his family's dairy farm in Hamilton Square, N.J., to serve under General George Patton's Third Army. He was a member of the 56th Battalion of the 11th Armored Division of the Army Corp of Engineers. Mr. May was a staff sergeant in the Thunderbolt Division of rolling army tanks and combat infantrymen. He was involved in direct combat throughout the European Theater, including the D-Day Invasion at Omaha Beach in Normandy, France, and The Battle of the Bulge in Bastogne, Belgium.

Mr. May was a liberator of several concentration camps. His story about saving a near lifeless Mauthausen Concentration Camp prisoner who was left for dead, and the miraculous reunion with this man 50 years later, will stir you emotionally.

John May is a decorated recipient of the Silver Star, the Purple Heart and the N.J. Distinguished Service Medal. In 1994, he was also chosen to participate in the Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation project, established by director Steven Spielberg, so that generations never forget what so few lived to tell about the Holocaust.



BUSY DAYS FROM SISTERHOOD



Next Meeting...

See Cash for Gold flyer in this Shofar



SHMOOZIE TUESDAY SISTERHOOD PROGRAM

Tuesday, November 11th , 4:30pm

Sisterhood invites everyone, and especially women dropping off kids at Religious School on Tuesday, November 11th, to STAY at TBE, save gas, and enjoy a delicious, snack from 4:30pm until the end of RS school, meeting in the lobby at the TBE sofa. Relax for a change, shmooze, have a snack with us, and enjoy. Decompress from the holidays and share stories. See you on Tuesday, November 11th at 4:30pm.



Save the date...



SISTERHOOD COOKIE EX-CHANGE & MYSTERY AUCTION

at the home of Renee Felder

Wednesday, December 10th

7:30 p.m.



SISTERHOOD HOSPITALITY

It's not too early to start earning donor dollars for the Sisterhood donor dinner in the Spring. If you don't know what this is, give us a call to find out more. Kitchen volunteers are needed in December. If you have never worked in the kitchen before, there are several opportunities to work a Friday night Oneg with other experienced people, and have fun too!

Please call or e-mail Renee Felder if you are interested in working on any of the following dates.

Kitchen Workers Needed:

Saturday, December 13th – 1 worker

Friday, December 26th – 2 workers

Saturday, December 20th – 2 additional
workers for Family Service

Saturday, December 27th – 1 worker

Thank you for your support. Please call if you have any questions or you would like more information.

Renee Felder
felderfamily at comcast.net
(610)347-0518

**CALLING ALL HAI AND
CONFIRMATION CLASS PARENTS...**

Our first class services of the year are coming up in December. The Confirmation Class A service will be on Friday, December 5th and the Confirmation Class B service will be on Friday, December 19th. This year, we are asking parents to help with the Oneg for the class above them, therefore, we are asking Hai parents to help prepare the Oneg for the Confirmation classes.

This is a great chance for the students to see what the Confirmation classes are doing. However, given the two dates for Confirmation classes, we are also asking Confirmation parents to help out with each other's service.

Please mark your calendars with these dates. We will be sending out an email to all class parents as we get closer to these dates. Confirmation parents will have another opportunity to help with the K through 2nd grade class service in February.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

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

