

Ahavath Torah Congregation

1179 Central Street

Stoughton, MA

ation

Jonathan H. Hausman, Rabbi

Michelle Glickman, President

February Schedule

Shabbat Beshallach	
Friday February 6	
Candle lighting4:47 PM	1
Young Family Service6:30 PM	1
Kabbalat Shabbat7:30 PM	1
Saturday February 7	
Tefillah9:30 AN	1
Monday, February 9	
Tu B'Shevat	
Tu B'Shevat Seder7:30 PM	1
Shabbat Yitro	
Friday February 13	
Candle lighting4:56 PM	
Kabbalat Shabbat7:30 PM	1
Saturday February 14	
Tefillah9:30 AN	1
Shabbat Mishpatim	
Friday February 20	
Candle lighting5:05 PM	1
Kabbalat Shabbat7:30 PM	
Saturday February 21	
Tefillah9:30 AN	1

Shabbat refullian	
Friday February 27	
Candle lighting	5:14 PM
Kabbalat Shabbat	7:30 PM
Saturday February 28	

Shabbat Zachor/Tetzaveh

Friday March 6	
Candle lighting	5:22 PM
Kabbalat Shabbat	
Saturday March 7	
Tefillah	9:30 AM

All congregants are invited and encouraged to attend all services (including Bar/Bat Mitzvahs)

A Call to Minyan - We Need You!

Please do not forget the continuing need of our Minyan.

The camaraderie and spiritual fulfillment which develops when building a Kahal Kodesh, a Holy Community, is just as important as the comfort we provide to mourners in daily worship.

The opportunity to meditate, reflect, and remember is essential to our spiritual growth.

To connect with the Almighty is a powerful experience!

Minyanim are held Sunday at 9 AM, Monday through Thursday at 7:30 PM.

Shabbat Services begin at 7:30 PM on Friday and 9:30 AM on Saturday.

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Ahavath Torah Congregation

Affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

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Vice-President Lillian Goldberg

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Contact any of the above through the ATC office - 781-344-8733

Please! No Calls or E-mails to Temple Officers on Shabbat or Holidays

President's Message

Te are certainly experiencing a typical New England winter. We have seen our share of snow this year and we are only half way through the season. Thankfully our House Committee has made sure the driveway, the stairs and doorways are being cleared.

Despite the cold weather we have been keeping busy at ATC. The reconstruction of the Hebrew school wing has begun and should be complete by the time you are reading this. We have had some plaster and lighting work done in the front foyer. Soon we will be doing some painting upstairs. Thanks to a few generous donations we are in the process of purchasing a new freezer for our kitchen. Each month we are making great strides in beautifying our building.

We are now beginning the annual process of planning our budget for the next fiscal year. All of our committee chairs have received this year's budget and are challenged with assessing all of their needs so we can try to make the 2009-2010 budgets as accurate as possible.

During the month of January we have had many successful programs. Hopefully you were able to enjoy and/or participate in some of them. We had the first Sisterhood Movie Minyan, USY and Sisterhood Shabbat Services, Bet, Zayin and Hay class Brotherhood's Scotch and Cigar night and School's Artistin-Residence Program. February is one of our quieter months with School vacation. We have two special services scheduled - a Young Family Service, on February 6th, and the Vav class service, on February 28th. Some of our congregants are planning their trip to Israel with Rabbi J. (Feb. 11th to 23rd). To all of those that are going to Israel, please have a safe trip. Remember to bring back lots of photos and stories to share with us.

Our Membership Directory is finally complete. If you are at the shul, please see Ina and she will give you your copy right away. Please remember the names, addresses and telephone numbers in the directory are provided for the exclusive use of the members of our congregation. Any solicitation or other use of this information is prohibited.

Sincerely,

Michelle Glickman

President

president@atorah.org

Bulletin Contributions

The deadline for contributions to the March Bulletin is Friday, February 13. Please submit your articles via email (preferably in Word format) to bulletin@atorah.org.

February 2009 7 Shevat - 4 Adar 5769



Fax:781-344-4315 • Email: Office @atorah.org • Web site: www.atorah.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
7 Shevat 1 9:00 AM	8 Shevat 2 6:30 PM	9 Shevat 3	10 Shevat 4	11 Shevat 5	12 Shevat 6 6 :30 PM	13 Shevat 7 9:30 AM
Executive Board 10:00 AM Adult Ed	Adult Ed		Youth Comm. Meeting		Young Family Service 7:30 PM	Tefillah 8:00 PM Sr. USY Tikun
2 & 6 PM Emerald Theatre					Kabbalat Shabbat	Olam Ball (Beth Emunah)
7:00 PM Sisterhood Board Meeting						
14 Shevat 8	15 Shevat 9	16 Shevat 10	17 Shevat 11	18 Shevat 12	19 Shevat 13	20 Shevat 14
9:00 AM School Tu B'Shevat Program	Tu B'Shevat 7:30 PM Tu B'Shevat Seder		7:30 PM Board of Directors Meeting		7:30 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Junior Cong.	9:30 AM Tefillah
					Bulletin Deadline	
21 Shevat 15	22 Shevat 16	23 Shevat 17	24 Shevat 18	25 Shevat 19	26 Shevat 20	27 Shevat 21
				Kadima Camp at Museum of Science	7:30 PM Kabbalat Shabbat	9:30 AM Tefillah
					ÐΩ	
No Classes		No CI	asses		##	
28 Shevat 22	29 Shevat 23	30 Shevat 24	1 Adar 25	2 Adar 26	3 Adar 27	4 Adar 28
	6:30 PM Adult Ed	6:30 PM Special Ed Class 7:30 PM	7:30 PM School Comm. Meeting		7:30 PM Kabbalat Shabbat	9:30 AM Vav Class Service
No Classes		Ritual Comm. Meeting			弧	



Candle Lighting Times

February 6	4:47 PM
February 13	4:56 PM
February 20	5:05 PM
February 27	5:14 PM



From the Rabbi's Desk...

The Middle East Legacy of George W. Bush

On the eve of the inauguration of Barack Obama, hundreds of antiwar protestors gathered at the National Mall in Washington on Monday, January 19th and threw shoes at an image of President Bush, a final insult to the 43rd President of the United States.

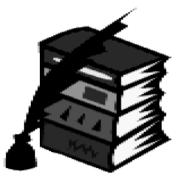
After eight years in office, Bush left office with the lowest recorded approval rate ever recorded for a President (20 percent), brought low by a war in Iraq he sold to the nation on the strength of "proof" that Saddam Hussein was involved with the 9/11 attacks and possessed weapons of mass destruction.

Yet, there are many in Israel and her supporters here who not only credit the outgoing president for his steadfast loyalty but who argue that it was Bush who helped turn the second *intifada* around by allowing then-Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to invade the West Bank and begin to weed out the terrorist leaders. Similarly, it was the White House that played a key role in recent weeks in allowing Israel to carry out its military campaign in Gaza while the United Nations and most of the world pressed for an immediate cease-fire.

In the spirit of *hakarat hatov*, acknowledging the good that one has done, we should recognize President Bush for his sincere support of Israel during difficult times. Ironically, though, it was his passivity rather than his actions that seemed to benefit Israel most. His most active engagement in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the Annapolis conference 14 months ago, was a failure.

But for all of his good intentions, whether Bush's tenure benefited Israel in the long run is open for debate. Some argue that Israel must not be left to its own peace-making schedule and agenda. Rather, some believe Israel must be pushed and prodded to the negotiating table. These people insist that the White House did a disservice to the Jewish state. Clearly, it is in a more precarious position than it was eight years ago, having endured a brutal *intifada* from Palestinians on the West Bank and rocket attacks and more from Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in Gaza. Furthermore, both terror groups are far stronger today. Hamas rules Gaza with an eye toward taking over the West Bank, and Hezbollah stands to gain further control of the government in Beirut in elections this year.

It was the Bush administration that insisted on elections in the West Bank that brought Hamas into power. Some claim that it was the war in Iraq that galvanized anti-Western Islamic militants throughout the region and that greatly



enhanced the power of Iran, which poses an existential threat to Israel as it continues to develop a nuclear bomb.

George W. Bush came into office convinced that President Clinton's hands-on approach to Middle East peace was a mistake. Barack Obama assumed office equally persuaded that the Bush hands-off approach was in error. We will soon see Obama's method of handling the Middle East conundrum.

Before Bush becomes a footnote in the long history of strife in the region, it would be instructive to revisit the Rose Garden speech he delivered on June 24, 2002, outlining a reasoned Middle East policy based on the Palestinian people, then ruled by Yasir Arafat, rejecting terror and embracing democracy, paving the way for a state supported by the US. That promise still holds, a policy endorsed by Israel. While Arafat is gone, his successor is compromised and terror still rules, with peace an even more distant dream.

"The current situation offers no prospect that life will improve," Bush said six and a half years ago. "Israeli citizens will continue to be victimized by terrorists, and so Israel will continue to defend herself ... and the Palestinian people will grow more and more miserable."

All too true today, as Bush's hope for two states living in harmony still hinges on the commitment to first end the terror and for the Palestinians to "build a practicing democracy." Instead they have continued or allowed the terror, and chosen Hamas, with the results tragically obvious.

President Obama should take note, focusing his diplomatic initiative on helping to make that still-worthy vision a reality. He has our prayers, and those of all who seek peace and an end to bloodshed in the Middle East.

Rabbi J



Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Simma Kuznitz, in memory of beloved father, Ralph Kabler

Rhonda and Barry Novoson and family, in memory of beloved father and grandfather, Albert Dulman

Janis and Mark Nankin

Arthur Arkanase

Susan and Alan Abrams

Susan and David Bernstein, with wishes for continued good health to Bob Cohn

Alan Rostoff, with thanks

Rochelle and Alan Sherman

The Bornstein family, in memory of beloved niece and cousin, Elyse Andrews Enman

Jane and Bob Powell, with thanks

Marla and Matt Potter, in memory of our beloved fathers, Ivan L. Potter and Ira L. Corell

Roz and Arnold Goralnick, in memory of Tedd Cohen, Ina Winer's father

Anne and Mark Leppo, in memory of Bob Lazarus

Anne and Mark Leppo, in memory of Irving L. Nisson

Anne and Mark Leppo, in memory of Leonard Leppo

Margie and Warren Freshman, in memory of Tedd Cohen, Ina Winer's father

Simma Kuznitz, in memory of beloved sister, Faye Kabler

Simma Kuznitz, in memory of beloved brother, Nelson Kabler

Sheryl and Peter Asnes

Jordan and Lauren Asnes

Margie Asnes

Mikol HaLev

Harvey Cohen	Madeleine Lewis	Faye and Mark Kushinsky
Barbara Tenenbaum	Paula and David Gaffin	Michelle and Gary Nankin
Steve and Gerry Kramer	Dr. Jeffrey Sacks	Hinda and Ron Gorin
Karl and Marcia Flanzer	The Hausman Family	Toby and Paul Barbell
Allan Daniels	Amy Snetsky and Jon Bloom	Vicki and Jerrold Lemkin
Marina Korenblyum	Dottie and Joe Spivack	

"Mikol Halev/From the Heart," a program to help IDF soldiers, was a marvelous opportunity to show solidarity with the State of Israel at this particular time. Boxes were available at each Israeli supermarket along with a specified list of items to send to the soldiers. Mostly foods that were not available by way of army rations - cookies, candies, chips, cakes, nuts. All items from this list were available for purchase at a 50% discount, AND the market sent the boxes to the soldiers at the front by the pallet load. Harris Yoffa says that literally a customer walked into the market, filled the box, paid and left it for shipment.

Unfortunately this program has concluded, but there are many other ways to show our support for Israel.

Questions may be directed to either Rabbi J or Harris at 508-638-5696 (yes, a Brockton number ...no additional charge to call Israel!)

Donations received after January 14th will be acknowledged in the March issue.



Rabbi Henry Gerson Religious School News

From the Ed Director

Seeds of Hope: Birthday of the Trees!

Who's having a birthday? When you think of a new year, what do you picture? Your birthday, a candles, a cake? Or maybe Rosh Hashanah with apples, honey and the sound of the shofar? Tu B'Shevat, the 15th day of the Hebrew month of Shevat, is another new year, The New year of Trees. In Hebrew, it is called Rosh Hashanah L'Ilanot. Like other new years, Tu B'Shevat has a rich tradition of celebration. Tu B'Shevat falls in late January or early February. In many parts of the world, the ground is snow covered, and birds (and snow-birds) have flown off to warmer parts. In Israel, however, where the holiday began more than 2,000 years ago, the winter rains have tapered off and the sap that brings food to the limbs of the tree starts to rise. Buds appear and the land of Israel takes on a springtime glow. As nature comes to life, it feels like a New Year!

The Kabbalists, a group of Jewish mystics living in Tzfat (in the northern Galil of Israel), in the 16th century, created a Seder (yes, a sit down Seder) for Tu B'Shevat. They gathered in the evening around a beautiful table decorated with sweet-smelling flowers and lovely candles. Long into the night, they sang and talked and ate!

Why Today Do We Have a New Year Just for Trees?

Why Do We Celebrate Trees?

What is the Symbol of Trees for Jews?

Certain *mitzvot* in the Torah show how we Jews are commanded to be very mindful of and sensitive to G-d's creation ...trees. In the Talmud, we learn that when a new baby was born, parents planted a cedar tree for a boy and a cypress for a girl. The children cared for their trees, and when they grew up and were ready to be married, branches from the two trees were used to make the pillars of the *Chuppah*, the marriage canopy. This custom is still practiced by many in Israel today. By planting trees, people showed that they believed in a future for their children, who would grow up enjoying the fruit, the shade, the breeze and the beauty provided by trees. In 1901, the Jewish National Fund was created to raise money to buy back and to cultivate the land of Israel. We all have contributed to help to redeem and reclaim our Land of

Israel. Since that time, the blue and white tzedakah boxes, that we are all familiar with, have been distributed in Jewish homes all over the world so that families might contribute to this effort.

The JNF has planted more than 140 million trees throughout Israel. Forests and parks have been established to remember world heroes such as Theodore Herzl (the 6th grade is studying about him), John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King Jr. and in memory of the children of the Holocaust.

And what about the symbolism of trees in Judaism? *The torah is the tree of life!*

It nourishes our souls and enlightens our minds.

We celebrate trees which nourish our bodies with fruit and our spirits with beauty.

We celebrate the flowering of Israel's land and people.

We celebrate trees which convey a sense of long life.

The menorah, the symbol of Jewish life, was patterned after the olive tree which lives for five hundred or even two thousand years.

"It is a tree of life to them who hold fast to it and all of its supporters are happy."

A *tzadik*, a righteous person, is often compared to the *erez* or cedar tree. The cedar grows straight and so does a righteous person. The cedar's shade extends a great distance, just as a righteous person's good deeds help many others.

"The righteous shall flourish like a date palm; he or she shall grow tall as a cedar in Lebanon."

Trees were so important that Rabbi Yochanan Ben Zakkai taught: If you should be standing with a sapling in your hand when the Messiah arrives, first finish planting the tree, then go and greet the Messiah.

The Torah tells us (Leviticus) that when you make war against a city, you must not destroy its trees because the trees of the field are your life.



From the Ed Director (continued)

Fruits with many small seeds represent the small and important actions that we can take every day to instill goodness and hope.

Notice that there is no relationship between the size of the seed and the size of the tree into which it grows. We learn from this that we can't anticipate how much our small actions can mean to another person.

Many Jewish children are given Hebrew names of trees and flowers that bloom in Israel; Tamar (palm), Oren (pine), Elan or Elana (tree), Shoshana (lily), Alon (oak), Vered (rose), and Dafna (laurel) are a few examples.

In our classes at ATC, we shall be celebrating, Tu B'Shevat, the birthday of the trees with varying customs and ceremonies.

We need your help! Do you know any families who may need sensitive support or would you like to learn to give support to families who have children with special needs? I'd like to make you all aware of a new program from the the Bureau of Jewish Education of Boston, called "Parent 2 Parent". This is a unique pilot program designed to provide support and assistance to Jewish parents who have children with special needs. This program will create a community of families who will share their experiences about having a child with special needs. This is where you come into the picture! Take a moment to think about the families you know. Could anyone take advantage of coaching and heartfelt friendship from a Parent Mentor? The Bureau is looking for parents who are Jewish or want to connect with the Jewish community to become Parent Partners. During a winter session (January-March), Parent Partners will be matched with trained Parent Mentors. Mentors will serve as a source of information and practical wisdom to families about their child's diagnosis, help them to navigate the special needs system effectively and advocate for the needs of their child. Using guest speakers and structured sessions, mentors and partners will learn new communication and advocacy tools, exchange ideas on parenting and special needs programs to create a mutually beneficial relationship.

For all your grocery shopping



use ATC scrip ...



It's a Mitzvah!

The Parent 2 Parent program will create a broader Jewish community of families that embraces the Jewish concepts of acceptance, sanctification and gratitude which celebrates all parents and children for their individuality and for the special gifts which they bring to this world.

To receive more information and/or to register as a Parent partner or to volunteer to become a Parent Mentor, please feel free to contact Sherry Grossman at the BJE at 617-965-7350 x229 or email sgrossman@bje.org.

There will be a training program in the winter as well as in the spring.

Happy Tu B'Shevat,

Morah Ruti

Ruth Greenfield Director of Education

Think Spring!! Think Passover!!

The ATC Religious School
Passover Chocolate & Candy Sale
Is Here!!!!!

Barton's Chocolate and Kosher for Passover Chocolate by Barricini!!

Stop by the school office, call 781-344-8755 or shop on-line at www.misschocolate.com

School code: 702909

All proceeds to benefit the ATC Religious School Enrichment Fund



Kitot Vav and Zayin

WOW! That is all I can say about the Kitah Zayin Class. They had spent the last two months practicing tefillot for their Saturday Morning service; their voices resonated throughout the sanctuary and their faces shined as they all took their place as a class and as an individual "Shaliach Tzibor." (Prayer Leader).

For the Kitah Zayin class it is back to learning all our other subjects for a while. We are starting to learn about Purim and Pesach. If you have not seen Kitot Vav and Zayin's bulletin board in the school hallway, you should take a look.

We will begin studying in the Haggadah for Pesach and continue learning from The Topical Bible. We will discuss and learn about the current events in Israel. We will discuss what Israel means to us as Jews and we will start singing HaTikvah as we begin each class on Sunday mornings. HaTikvah is the national anthem of Israel and we should keep it in our *livavot* (hearts) always.

We will explore and discuss one of our greatest modern Jewish philosophers, Rabbi Dr. Abraham Joshua Heschel.

I have seen that the Kitah Zayin and Kitah Vav classes pay very close attention to their responsibility of "Social Action" and they are very involved with this through their Bar and Bat Mitzvah projects. They are becoming Jewish leaders of our next generation and they are making us all very proud.

Kitah Vav's class service will take place on February 28th. I hope you will come and join them as they lead the Shabbat morning Service. We've all been impressing on them that practice makes perfect.

Kitah Vav and Zayin will continue learning and participating in the Sunday morning adult Minyan.

As always, thank you for the opportunity of learning with your children.

B'Shalom

Reb Joannie & Moreh Kalil

(Joan Cubell & Kevin Margolius)

For all your grocery shopping



use ATC scrip ...



It's a Mitzvah!

Kitah Bet

Bbrrrrrr...snowy, snowy, snowy, cancellation after cancellation...

What a winter it has been!

Has that stopped the Bet class?

Not at all !!!

We keep on plugging away...

Continuing with our Scavenger Hunt through Israel, climbing the Aleph-Bet ladder, and finally getting in our class service. February will be another short but active month in our classroom with learning all about Tu B'Shevat.

Hopefully you were able to see our beautiful placemats/drawings hanging in the foyer and vimples hanging in the shul. They were beautiful as each was created to represent each student individually. They will now have these to tuck away to use at their Bar/Bat Mitzvot.

B'Shalom,

Morah U'hudit

(Helayne Magier Adelstein)

Religious School Calendar February 2009

2/8 Tu B'Shevat Program

(during regular school hours)

2/13 Junior Congregation 7:30 PM

2/15 - 2/22 No classes - February school vacation

2/28 Vav Class Service 9:30 AM

A Call to Minyan - We Need You!

Please do not forget the continuing need of our Minyan. The camaraderie and spiritual fulfillment which develops when building a Kahal Kodesh, a Holy Community, is just as important as the comfort we provide to mourners in daily worship.

Minyanim are held Sunday at 9 AM, Monday through Thursday at 7:30 PM Shabbat Services begin at 7:30 PM on Friday (unless otherwise indicated) and Saturday mornings at 9:30 AM.



Kitah Dalet

The Dalet Class has had a very busy January. After a nice vacation the students came back to class eager to learn and ready to continue their Jewish studies. Hebrew reading, Torah study, Blessings and Prayers, Hebrew vocabulary, Jewish Holidays, Israel, and Prophets, are the areas that the Dalet students have been concentrating on this year.

The Dalet Class began two new books in January, "Shalom Ivrit Book 2", and "Shalom Ivrit Prayer Companion Book 2", which the students seem to be really enjoying. They are increasing their Hebrew vocabulary, and it is amazing to me how many Hebrew words the students now know. They love making up short sentences in Hebrew and having their fellow classmates translate what they have said! The children are reading short Hebrew stories about family, friends, pets, clothing, food, holidays, etc. Each lesson introduces Hebrew vocabulary related to the story. The students love learning the Hebrew vocabulary and reading and translating the stories. We play various games, using the vocabulary words, which reinforces the learning while also having a lot of fun! In the Prayer Companion we are learning prayer vocabulary, the roots of Hebrew words, and the meaning of the prayers as we learn them. The children are so enthusiastic and full of ruach!

We also began preparing for the Dalet Class Shabbat Service in March. The class is so excited and the students will be leading almost the entire service. The students remember the service so well from last year that they all want to lead many of the prayers together. They just love singing and reciting the prayers and blessings!

The class continued their studies of the Prophets and Jewish History with the stories of Samuel, Saul and David. The students also loved learning more about our Jewish homeland, Eretz Yisrael, through our "Welcome to Israel" textbook. We also started to talk about the celebration of the holiday of Tu B'Shevat, the "New Year of the Trees", by discussing the importance of trees to the earth and the environment. During the month of February, for Tu B'Shevat, we will plant parsley seeds so we can use the parsley at our Passover Seders.

The next few months will be extremely busy for the students, preparing for their service, learning about the holidays of Purim and Pesach, and continuing with the rest of the Dalet curriculum. They are a wonderful group of "talmidim" (students), and it continues to be a pleasure for me teaching and learning with them!

B'Shalom,

Morah Sosah Leah Bernstein

Dalet Class Teacher

RECYCLE YOUR PAPER AT ATC



ATC makes \$\$\$
when you recycle your paper!
What a Mitzvah!

Paper recycling begins with you.

Your magazines, catalogs, newspapers, school and office papers, mail... If it's clean, it's dry and it tears... It's probably recyclable paper. See page 16 for a list acceptable items.

PAPER RECYCLING WORKS!



Kitah Hay

Shalom! I hope you had a great Hanukkah and a nice vacation! It was a pleasure to talk to Kitah Hay parents during parent-teacher conferences. I am pleased with the great progress our children are making.

During Kislev we did a wonderful job on our country reports, a meaningful Hanukkah project. Please come downstairs to take a look and learn from our children. You will find beautiful posters about Jews in Italy, Iran, Egypt, China, Japan, Ethiopia, Turkey, India, Iraq and Brazil. Each student did an outstanding job making his/her poster a colorful and meaningful learning experience for all. *Yasher Koach* Kitah Hay!

In History we talked about the Roman Empire and different movements in Judaism.

We studied the Jewish Life Cycle and learned about marriage. The girls were interested in this topic, but the boys did not like it as much.

Everyone worked hard for our class service. It was nice to see you there. We could see your children leading Kabbalat Shabbat service. All my students did well and I thank them. The next generation of Jewish adults is here and I am proud to be a part of it.

Also, thank you to our hardworking tutors, Elan, Evan, Samantha, and Zack for their help. And most of all I would like to thank all parents for your support - *Toddah Rabbah!*

As we are approaching Tu B'Shevat - the New Year of Trees we will talk about the meaning and customs of this interesting holiday. The Hebrew month of Shvat usually falls in February. Next month we will work on improving our reading, translating, and writing skills in Hebrew.

We will talk about the meaning and customs of Purim.

Kol Tuv,

Morah Mazal

Kitah Hay

Refilling your prescriptions?



use ATC scrip ...



It's a Mitzvah!

Kitah Gimel

We took a walking tour through the Old City of Yerushalayim (Jerusalem). Calling the places that we visited by their Hebrew names helped us feel as though we were really there. To get us in the right mood we learned the song Yerushalayim Shel Zahay (Jerusalem of Gold) in both Hebrew and English. It was written and sung by Naomi Shemer z"l after we won the Six Day War, and were able to enter and live in Jerusalem after being separated from it for nineteen years. Imagine walking through the Old City, and a man walks by with a big tray on his shoulder. He is selling pita or bagels that we can nosh on while we are walking. To us the Kotel HaMaaravi (the Western Wall) is a quiet and holy place where many Jews come to pray. Look, here come the children from a Nursery School in the Jewish Quarter with their lunch boxes to eat lunch and say the B'rachot for their food at the Kotel. What could be better! We will tell you about the New City of Jerusalem next time.

Back in Stoughton, we have started practicing the prayers for our Kabbalat Shabbat Service on Friday evening, March 27. We have been learning *Shalom Aleichem*, *L'Chu Niraninah* and *Mizmor l'David* so far. We hope that you will come and *daven* (pray) with us that evening.

We have studied about the holiday of Tu B'Shevat, the holiday for the trees and also about ecology in today's world. In class, getting ready for the Tu B'Shevat Seder, we tried to guess which fruits belonged in the different categories: fruits we eat the inside and outside, fruits with a pit or seed we do not eat and fruits with a skin or shell we do not eat. We learned a lot at our Seder and some of us tasted fruits that we had never eaten before. Besides all this eating, Tu B'Shevat gives us an opportunity to think about the natural resources that we sometimes take for granted. Do we conserve electricity and water whenever we can at home and at school? Have we used the Paper Recycling Bin in the ATC parking lot?

There was much to think about and much to do.

B'Shalom.

Morah Rivka

(G'veret Gaffin)



USY News

The cold weather doesn't slow down our USYers who continue to be quite active both regionally and at the chapter level. Our Junior USY basketball team continues to compete regionally, with home games held at the JCC on 1/11 and 1/25. Our Junior USYers attended the Laser Zone in Randolph where a blast was had by all. Our Senior USY group attended a dance in Support of SATO in Israel that was held at Temple Israel in Natick where all of the proceeds were donated to Tikun Olam. We sponsored a combined Kadima, Jr. and Sr. USY Shabbat service at ATC on January 16th in which our USYers ran the entire service. And finally we braved the New England weather for our annual snow tubing trip to Nashoba Valley. A big thank you goes out to all of our parent volunteers and chaperones who have helped with these events.

Upcoming events for February include: a home USY boys basketball game at the JCC at 3:30 PM on Feb 1st, the Regional Senior USY Tikun Olam Ball on February 7th plus the Senior sleepover, a Regional Kadima overnight camp in at the science museum, February 19-20th, and some planned chapter events for Kadima, Jr. and Sr. USY that include a Kadima bowling event, a Jr. USY interchapter event to attend the laser show at the science museum, and a Sr. USY improv lounge night.

It is not too late for your kids to try out any of our upcoming chapter events even if they have yet to join. All of our chapter events are open to non-members for a small increase in cost. Please contact any member of the youth committee or our advisors for more info. Be on the lookout for information for our planned Regional Jr. and Sr. USY Shabbaton to be sponsored by ATC in April.

Amy Griffing
Co-Chair Youth Committee

Get Well Wishes

Simma Kuznitz Shelley Litwack Steve Goldberg Arnie Lipshires Nate Stogel



Oneg/Kiddush/Seudah Shlisheet Sponsors

The Bet Class families, in honor of their Class Service

The Zayin Class families, in honor of their Class Service

Please consider full or partial sponsorship of an Oneg Shabbat (Friday night after services), a Kiddush (Saturday morning after services) or a Seudah Shlisheet (Saturday afternoon meal between Mincha and Ma'ariv services), or even a Friday Night Dinner in honor of a simcha in your life, in memory of a loved one, or just because you want to. Call the shul office at 781-344-8733 or e-mail to office@atorah.org for details.

Sponsorships received after January 14th will be recognized in the March issue.



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Sisterhood

We had a great time at our first Movie Minyan on January 12th! Thirteen of us enjoyed some popcorn and soda and a few good laughs as we watched "Crossing Delancey." Everyone agreed we should do another, so stay on the lookout...we will choose a date shortly. "My Favorite Year," a wonderful tribute to Mel Brooks' early years as a writer on the Sid Caesar show, will be the next film.

On Friday night, January 23rd, we celebrated Sisterhood Shabbat. Robin Zoll and Dale Appel chaired the evening. Thank you Robin and Dale!

Tuesday evening, February 10, sisterhood welcomes Laurie Miller, author of the new book, "My Body, Their Baby." Laurie's true-life tale of her surrogate pregnancy to help out her childhood friend (and coping with her beloved brother's AIDS diagnosis) is candid and heart-wrenching. Mike Pazyra's publishing company, The Reginald vanFenwick Press, published Laurie's book, and Cindy and Mike are graciously donating a portion of each book purchase for this event back to sisterhood. Laurie and I encourage you to read the book before she joins us in order to facilitate the best possible discussion. You can order the book online by visiting www.vanfenwickpress.com.



March 23rd will be our Torah Fund wine and cheese event. Rabbi Avigayl Young will join us and speak about the Jewish Theological Seminary, shedding some light on how the Torah Fund money we raise affects the lives and educations of those at the seminary.

If you need any cards for any life occasion, please contact Anne Leppo and she will help you out.

If you are interested in helping plan the June 21st "Take 7 Steps" 7k walk in support of our Darkness To Light child sexual abuse prevention efforts, please contact me. We are getting things in order

and will need more help as the walk nears. Hopefully, we will raise local awareness of CSA and, perhaps, raise a few dollars, as well, to help support our prevention workshops.

We've had quite a busy year, so far, and there is more to come.

Don't forget to frequent Sisterhood's Judaica Shop. Sandy, Lynne and Jan can help you with all your gift-giving needs.

More to come in the next bulletin. Please join us at any and all events!

Susan Komisar Hausman

StewardsUpNorth@aol.com

ATC-TBA Joint Israel Mission February 11-23, 2009

Please remember that Rabbi J will be in Israel as part of the ATC-Temple Beth Am Joint Mission to Israel. Please help ensure minyanim and ritual continuity in the Rabbi's absence. Torah readers, Haftarot, daven leaders needed. If interested, contact Rabbi J.

Refilling your prescriptions?



It's a Mitzvah!

Sherut L'Tefillah

Interested in improving your davenen skills? Would you like to learn how to lead weekday or Shabbat services in sections or in its entirety? Rabbi J and Arthur Arkanase are interested in helping. All you need is an ability to carry a tune, an ability to read Hebrew and desire. Any age welcome. Contact Rabbi J for further information.

Buying gifts online?

www.atorah.org/shopping

It's a Mitzvah!



Youth Fund

To Marcia and Paul Schneider, in honor of Lee's and Elyssa's marriage. Mazel Tov!
Jacquie and Alan Olans

To the Wittner Family, in memory of beloved mother and grandmother, Celia Wittner.

Jacquie Becker-Olans

To the Wittner Family, in memory of beloved mother and grandmother, Celia Wittner.
Stoughton USY

If you have a simcha, remembrance or any other occasion, please consider a donation to the Youth Fund. Your generosity has allowed several young members of our shul to attend international and regional USY events. We thank you in advance for your support.

Donations received after January 14th will be acknowledged in the March issue.

Torah Fund Cards

Want to honor someone in a very special way, or send him/her good wishes or condolences? A Torah Fund card is just the right thing, as it states that a donation has been made to the Jewish Theological Seminary (the source of our Conservative rabbis, cantors, and educators) in their name. It's a wonderful mitzvah for the sender, and an honor for the recipient!

A donation of \$4.00 per card goes directly to the Seminary to help build and maintain the beautiful sanctuaries, chapels, dormitories, affiliated camps and scholarships, etc.

You can have a card sent by calling the Sisterhood Torah Fund Chair, Anne Leppo at 781-341-3946, or the cards may be purchased at all Sisterhood events.



Megillah Reading & Purim Party

monday, March 9, 2009 6:45 PM

Fabulous Food, Fun, and Festivities!

Costumes optional (but strongly encouraged!!)

Admission - A non-perishable food item for the Food Pantry or a donation to Rabbi J's Discretionary Fund

Please RSVP to 781-344-8733 or office@atorah.org



Tikun Olam/Social Action Corner

Annual ATC Toy & Gift Collection

First of all, thanks again to Brian Crosby, Shayna Gitter, David Mallock and Evan Shultze for their efforts in creating a beautiful new Hanukkiyah, and also thanks to the Gitter family for making and preparing the candles for each individual child we sponsored.

Thanks to all those from our synagogue who very generously donated toys, clothes, gift cards and other gifts. We were able to give 3-4 gifts to each of the 17 children from Stoughton whose names were supplied by the Stoughton Youth Commission. We also donated about \$350 worth of gift cards to make food baskets to help Stoughton families celebrate Christmas. In addition, this year we were part of Canton's Secret Santa program. We adopted one family that had 4 children. A wish list for each child was supplied by their mother. We were able to provide coats, gloves, hats, sneakers/boots, toys and/or gift cards for each of these 4 kids in this family. Thanks to Janet Weinstein, Beth Ross and Stacy Andler who helped with the project.

Beth H. Ross

Fax: 617-451-5462

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Mansfield

Join the ATC E-mail List

To be added or deleted from this list, send an email to:

ATCNews-join@ATorah.org

If you would like to send email to the congregation, send text as you would like the congregation to see it to:

ATCNews@ATorah.org

Please note that you must send your text from a *subscribed* email address.

2009 Family Table Distribution Schedule

February 8, 2009 May 3, 2009 March 8, 2009 June 7, 2009 April 5, 2009 July 12, 2009

No August distribution

Don't Forget Your Pasta and Raisins!!!

Our congregation has made a commitment to Jewish Family Table to provide 35 packages of raisins and 35 boxes of pasta each month.



Please help out!



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www.sharonmemorial.com



6th Annual Connie Spear Birnbaum Memorial Lecture

Rabbi Joseph Telushkin to Speak



We are greatly honored that Rabbi Joseph Telushkin, best-selling author and nationally acclaimed speaker, will deliver the 6th annual Connie Spear Birnbaum Memorial Lecture. Rabbi Telushkin's talk, entitled "Love Your Neighbor as Yourself: A Code of Jewish Ethics," will take place on Sunday, March 22 at 7:30 pm at Temple Aliyah of Needham.

The Birnbaum Lecture brings together all components of the Jewish community for an evening of learning and unity. The lecture is named in memory of Connie Spear Birnbaum, who worked at the Synagogue Council of Massachusetts for many years towards an ideal of uniting the entire Jewish people - K'lal Yisrael.

Real Estate Referrals

Refer someone who buys or sells a home through Cheryl Tobias of Century21 Access Properties and Cheryl will donate \$500.00 to Ahavath Torah Congregation upon the property closing. Contact Cheryl @ 781-727-9119. Century21 Access Properties is owned by ATC members, Cheryl & Rick Tobias, and is located at 715 Washington Street in Canton.

Bereavement Support Group

Old Colony Hospice offers a Bereavement Support Group to afford those who've experienced loss, support during the grieving process. Drop-in groups and established groups are available free of charge on Tuesdays and Thursdays. For further information, contact Noreen Dionne, Bereavement Program Assistant, directly at Old Colony Hospice, at 781-341-4146 x210, to confirm your space.

Old Colony Hospice offers many different services to the community and is a leader in palliative care. For further information, please contact the office at 781-341-4145.

Bikkur Cholim/Visiting the Sick

Please call the office or have someone call on your behalf if you are ill, or know of a congregant who is ill, and would like a visit by Rabbi J. The only way Rabbi J will know if you are hospitalized or ill is if he is notified.

Please rest assured that Rabbi J does his best to protect a person's privacy.

Ahavath Torah Congregation Charitable Funds

There are several funds at our shul to which you may direct a donation to mark any number of events, milestones, remembrances or to express thanks. Please consider participating as your contributions help to maintain the high quality of programming at ATC.

> Beverly Manburg Memorial Library Fund Jacob and Bessie Lipsky Fund Kiddush Fund Linda Sheff Memorial Fund (please contact the Religious School) Prayer Book Fund Pulpit Fund Rabbi's Discretionary Fund (please contact Rabbi J) Religious School Enrichment Fund (please contact the Religious School) Torah Repair Fund Tree of Life (please contact Ann-Carol Lipshires) Yahrzeit Fund Yahrzeit Memorial Plaques Youth Fund

Unless otherwise noted, please contact Ina at the shul office to make a donation to the above funds.

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Junior USY Basketball

The Junior USY Basketball team continues to jump higher, shoot better and improve their record to 4 Wins, 3 Losses in the league. Only a few games remain in the regular season, and this tough Stoughton team is hoping to keep up their determined momentum right into the playoffs. Come see their final home game at the JCC on Sunday 2/1 at 3:30 PM vs. Peabody. Watch for playoff details in the March edition of the bulletin ... and when you see Lee Elmowitz, Bill Boykin and Lisa Aliquo, be sure to thank them for their terrific efforts in coaching and managing the team!

Linda Sheff Memorial Fund

To Ina Winer and family, in memory of beloved father and grandfather, Tedd Cohen, from Hilda & David Egel

Donations received after January 14th will be acknowledged in the March issue.

Weight Watchers

Weight Watchers now meets once a week at Ahavath Torah Congregation. Meetings take place on Tuesdays and begin at 6 PM. Doors open at 5:30 PM. Weight Watchers no longer meets on Wednesday mornings.



Mazel Tov

Howard and Fortunee Shaevitz, on the birth of their granddaughter, Lauren Mia



ATC School Enrichment Fund

Paul Greenfield, in support of the Zayin class service

Steve Niers, in support of the Zayin class service

Michelle Sigel, in support of the Religious School

Michelle Glickman, in support of the Religious School

The Enrichment Fund is used to help sponsor school activities such as Onegs after class services and purchasing the siddurim for the Bet class. This can be a great way for people to recognize events or to memorialize the loss of someone special while at the same time assisting the religious school. People can leave checks (payable to the ATC Enrichment Fund) with information regarding the donation in either the school office or in the main office with Ina. I will check the office and complete acknowledgement cards and send out confirmation letters. I can also be reached at home at 781-341-0239 or at my email address of mcpotter@verizon.net.

Marla Potter

Donations received after January 14th will be acknowledged in the March issue.

Acceptable Items for the Recycling Bin

Newspapers **Brochures** Construction Paper Colored paper Painted paper Office papers Receipts Notebooks (even spiral-**Index Cards** bound) Home papers (mail) **Booklets** Stapled paper Fax paper Magazines Calendars

Paper with clips or binders Greeting Cards

Catalogs Blue prints / design paper Paperback books Ticket stubs

Glossy Paper Paper Bags (white)
Posters and poster boards Phonebooks
Envelopes Shredded Paper

Post-It Notes (Please leave in a bag and Manila folders poke some air holes in it)

Non-Acceptable Items for the Recycling Bin

Cardboard/hanging folders Trash

Metals Cereal or food boxes

Corrugated Cardboard Plastics

Napkins/Paper Towels Treated paper cups



Boston Community Choir Concert Rescheduled

Ahavath Torah Congregation, in conjunction with the Stoughton Chapter of No Place for Hate, presents the Boston Community Choir on Sunday, March 15, 2009 at 4 PM. This concert will take place at Ahavath Torah Congregation, 1179 Central Street, Stoughton. All attendees are asked to bring one can or box of non-perishable food item for distribution to local food pantries.

The Boston Community Choir is an all-volunteer group comprised of singers from many church, community, and university choirs throughout the Greater Boston area. The choir is highly acclaimed and has performed with well-known international recording artists, such as Patti LaBelle, the Boston Pops and has been a staple at Symphony Hall's Gospel Night. Choir members and audiences are often left in a state of total and exhausted joy due to the exuberance of its approach to holiness and music and the BCC's appeal to a broader-than-traditional audience. The Boston Community Choir is well-known throughout the Boston area for its inspired and uplifting performances.

Don't miss this inspiring concert on Sunday, March 15. There is no charge for this program, and the public is welcome.

You are cordially invited to join us Sunday, February 8, 2009 From 4 to 6 PM in the ATC Social Hall as Sisterhood helps launch

"Kisses From Dolce: A Book for Children about Trusting and Telling"

Written and Illustrated by Susan Komisar Hausman

A percentage of the sale of each book will be donated to ATC Sisterhood's Darkness To Light Workshop Fund Come have some wine and cheese and help us launch this new entry in the world of keeping kids safe!

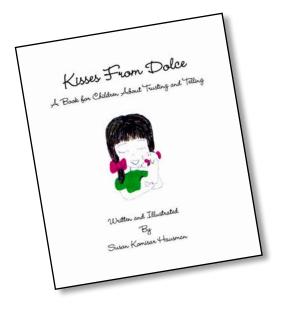




photo by Joshua Lavine © 2008



ATC Sisterhood Judaica Shop

If you haven't stopped by the Judaica Shop lately, you are really missing something.

Remember too, that there are always birthdays, anniversaries, Bar & Bat Mitzvot and weddings. Giving a beautiful gift from the



Judaica Shop helps raise money for the synagogue, so shop with us first. Please give the Judaica shop a chance to meet all of your Bar/Bat Mitzvah, ritual, and gift needs. Remember, Bar/Bat Mitzvah families receive a 10% discount on purchases over \$100.

The Sisterhood Judaica Shop is one of Sisterhood's main fundraising projects, thanks to congregants and friends who support this endeavor. The shop is open on Sundays from 9:30 - noon, when religious school is in session.

Call Sandy (781-341-2916), Jan (508-238-6842) or Lynne (617-694-7917) for more information, or just stop by and see what surprises await at the ATC Sisterhood Judaica Shop!

Condolences

Ira Korch, on the loss of his beloved mother, Frances Korch

Kathi & Carly Lazarus, on the loss of their beloved husband and father, Bob Lazarus

A Call to Minyan – We Need You!

Please do not forget the continuing need of our Minyan. The camaraderie and spiritual fulfillment which develops when building a Kahal Kodesh, a Holy Community, is just as important as the comfort we provide to mourners in daily worship.

Minyanim are held Sunday at 9 AM, Monday through Thursday at 7:30 PM Shabbat Services begin at 7:30 PM on Friday (unless otherwise indicated) and Saturday mornings at 9:30 AM.

Please Help a Fellow Congregant Through Rabbi J's Job Bank!

One kind of mitzvah is giving a person something to eat. Helping a person to find a job so that he can provide his own food is even a greater mitzvah.

Many ATC members are looking for jobs. We want to help. Through Rabbi J's Job Bank, 'jobs wanted' and 'positions available' are freely posted to a large number of people and allows us to post them through the ATC office and other publications.

If you are interested in participating, please submit no more than a five-sentence description (longer descriptions will be edited) of your skills or the job for which you are looking, or of a position which you may have available, by way of e-mail to RabbiJ@atorah.org.

If you know of any job possibilities that fit one or more of the resumes at any time, please call Rabbi J. He will relay your phone number to the appropriate party so they can follow up directly.

You Can Support Israel Easily...

Merely by changing spending habits, Jewish families living abroad can inject some 7 billion shekels a year into the Israeli economy - for a net gain of 20,000 new jobs. How? By making sure to spend as little as \$50 each month on Israeli products.

The Jewish Agency, the World Zionist Organization, and the White and Blue Mission of the Israeli Manufacturers Association have begun a joint campaign to promote the purchase of Israeli goods abroad.

Arutz-7's Hagit Rotenberg reports that the \$50-a-month shift could lead to a 3% increase in Israel's industrial sales. Purposeful spending of this nature, it is thought, could also lead to greater solidarity and identification with the Jewish state.

Israeli-made products can be found on these web sites:

http://www.jr.co.il/hotsites/sh-il.htm

http://www.jewishuniverse.org/

http://store.yahoo.com/israelnationalnews/

http://www.shopinisrael.com/

http://www.israelshop1.com/



February Yahrzeit Calendar

February 1

Irving Bromberg
Herbert L. Weinstein

February 2

Harry Paskind Richard Robinson

February 5

Helen Jacobs Marion Speyer

February 6

Fannie Goldstein Hyman Kominsky Julius Olstein

February 7

Solomon W. Kramer Stan Myerow Lillian Shefshick Gloria Stroll David Swerdlick Matilda Wolf

February 8

Samuel W. Barbell Jerome Sallerson

February 9

Eugene Gianelly Yushuo Niyazova Edith Popper Ruth Tapper Abraham Wacks February 10

Nathan Flanzer Helen Kahn Harriet Spivack Kay Mary "Mamie" B.

Manevitch Shultz

February 11

Sidney D. Nadler Muriel Yoffa

February 12

Morris Andelman Jeff Carlton Sima Ilyayeva Max Segal

February 13

Sonia Carson Jene Grossman Iakov Krivelev Rose Sadow Harry Suskin

February 14

Mildred D. Ginsberg Rose Kaufman Richard Krozy Samuel Rosenthal

February 15

Abraham David Cline Isadore Crane Rose Lofchie February 16

Aaron Harpel Helen Kaplan Elizabeth Kitsis Martha Mindlin Sarah Rubin Anne Ryman

February 17
Joseph Baker

February 18
Mae Aronson
Samuel R. Blumenthal
Esther Feldman

February 19

Rabbi Henry Gerson

February 20

Charles Chapman

February 21

Ruth Savage

February 22

Freda Erdunast Sadie Raffel

February 23

Hyman Kaminsky Abraham Kramer February 24
Marion Cereel
Gertrude Goodman
Al L. Kaufman

Pearl C. Weinstein Golda Wish

Arthur Lifsitz

February 25

Edward A. Sandler Esther R. Sussman

February 27

Evelyn Figure Gertrude Kramer Maurice S. Saval Linda Sylvia

February 28

Dianne Greenfield Helen Heller Bessie Hesed



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