**Dance the Night Away at Simhat Torah!**

**Monday, October 1**

Paul & Esta Farkas

Let’s keep our Israeli Folk Dance revival rocking at this year’s Simhat Torah celebration on Monday evening, October 1!

Back by popular demand is Rebecca Schnaper, who along with her husband Max’s help, will show us dances that we can really have fun with! No matter how klutzy we might be, there we go! Your clapping and smiling, as well as dancing, all help fuel the revival! Amy Rose and her Klezamir band will also be back!

If you can join us at 5:30 pm (or at around 6:00, should you be late), please make reservations for a wonderful buffet dinner by Meital, and leave the dishes to us. With the help of our sponsors, we have a great menu planned (see below).

Or you may of course Just Show Up after dinner! The evening service starts at about 6:30, and by about 6:40 pm the joyous parades of dancers and Torahs begin! Just celebrate—watch, clap, or dance! Afterwards, we finish reading the very last lines of the Torah, leaving our people poised to enter the Promised Land. By around 8:00 pm, we should be continuing the celebration over desserts … and yes, even if you couldn’t join us for dinner, there are still desserts!

Help us show our appreciation for our Temple teens who are connecting with us through many avenues. If you notice that someone may be missing from this list, please let us know:

Hannah Adler, Glenn Baevsky, Jenna Barr, Charlie Blumberg, Sam Blumberg, Joshua Brody, Marissa Burstein, Leo Chiz,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

**TBE Co-Sponsors Author Abigail Pogrebin at the JCC**

**Tuesday, October 16, 7:00 pm**

Abigail Pogrebin is the author of *My Jewish Year: 18 Holidays, One Wondering Jew* – a much-expanded chronicle of her popular column for the Forward, for which she spent 12 months researching and observing every holiday in the Jewish calendar. Her riveting account of this experience serves as a lively introduction to Judaism’s holidays and fast days and opens a window on how Judaism is actually lived in 21st century America. Whether you’re seeking an accessible, digestible roadmap for Jewish life or a fresh take on what you’ve been practicing for a lifetime, Pogrebin’s journey will leave you educated, charmed, and inspired.

Pogrebin is also the author of *Stars of David: Prominent Jews Talk about Being Jewish, and One and the Same*, which delved into every aspect of growing up as a twin (she’s an identical). She was formerly a broadcast producer for Fred Friendly, Charlie Rose and Bill Moyers at PBS, then for Ed Bradley and Mike Wallace at 60 Minutes. Pogrebin has been published in many magazines and newspapers including *Newsweek, New York Magazine, The Forward, Tablet,* and *The Daily Beast*. She has moderated conversations at The JCC in Manhattan, 92Y, The Skirball Center, and Shalom Hartman Institute. Pogrebin lives in Manhattan and is currently the president of Central Synagogue.

This program is free of charge, and is co-sponsored by Temple Beth El, the Springfield Alliance for Jewish Education, and Literatour, the JCC’s community-wide celebration of Jewish books.
Off the Bimah

Rabbi Amy Wall Katz

In his book Re-Thinking Synagogues, Rabbi Lawrence Hoffman defines religion like this: "Religion is a moving theological target. Religious Jews are those who keep trying to hit it somewhere rather than give up Jewish archery altogether. Synagogues should hand out bows and arrows."

I love this image because it is a powerful metaphor with which to measure our spiritual lives. Implicit in the metaphor is that moving targets are difficult to hit, but as long as we are striving to hit the target, we are doing okay and can feel good about calling ourselves "religious Jews." We do not expect perfection; if we do, then we are surely setting ourselves up for disappointment. Just as a failure to hit the bull's-eye every time doesn't mean we should give up archery, missing the mark in our spiritual lives doesn't mean we should give up on living Jewishly.

It may seem odd to describe our spiritual intentions with the image of a weapon. However, the notion that our best efforts to live with integrity are like aiming arrows at a target is embedded in the language of our prayers. We hear it over and over again in the Yom Kippur liturgy. Specifically, in the confessional which is recited 10 times during a 24-hour period we say "Al ker shel ha-bimah." The phrase is translated "We have sinned." It is noteworthy that the English word "sin," and the Hebrew word "het" evoke very different meanings. While the English word "sin" most likely comes from the Latin word "sedeco," meaning "guilty or criminal," the Hebrew word "het" comes from archery, and refers to "missing the mark." In life, most of us do not always hit the bull's eye. We miss the mark. On the High Holy Days, we acknowledge that we have missed the mark - we have fallen short.

We ask for forgiveness.
We realign our sights.
We ask for forgiveness.
We ask for forgiveness.

As the 5779 draws near, may each of us ask for forgiveness.
We love each other.
We love each other.
We love each other.
We love each other.

We are delighted to welcome Rabbi Tamar Kolberg to Temple Beth El on September 15. She will offer the D'var Torah at Shabbat morning services that day. Rabbi Kolberg was born in Israel to American parents who made aliyah in 1951. Growing up, she was an active member of a Reform congregation, engaged in Jewish learning and Jewish communal life. At that time, becoming a rabbi in Israel wasn't an option for women. She completed an M.A. degree in Jewish philosophy from Tel Aviv University as well as a teacher's certification course in the fields of Talmud and Jewish thought. A few years later, she returned to the United States to study at Hebrew Union College and was ordained by JTS in 1997, she was the second female Israeli rabbi to be ordained by JTS. In 2002, she became the rabbi of the Ra'anan Reform congregation in Israel, the first female rabbi in Israel to be ordained by JTS. In 2002, she became the rabbi of the Ra'anan Reform congregation and director of the Samieli Center for Reform Judaism. In this position, she worked with secular Israeli Jews, schoolchildren, and people of all backgrounds to engage them in new ways of understanding our tradition. Rabbi Kolberg currently works as a spiritual caregiver in a geriatric hospital in her home city of Jerusalem. Rabbi Kolberg was born in Jerusalem, and delivered to our members when the need arises. Please email all articles or photos to communications@tbespringfield.org.

The deadline for the November/December issue is Friday, September 21. Please email all articles or photos to communications@tbespringfield.org.

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Sukkah Raising and Chili Cook-off
Sunday, September 23, 3:00 pm
Five days after Yom Kippur, on Monday, September 24, we will celebrate the holiday of Sukkot. On our Sukkot, Sunday, September 23 at 3:00 pm, we will prepare our congregations sukkah on our patio.

Come and help decorate the sukkah. Stay on to say the brachot and perform the mitzvah of eating dinner in the sukkah. This year we will repeat our fun-filled Chili Cook-off, and dinner will be served at 5:30 pm. If you are interested in participating in the Chili Cook-off, please contact Caryn Resnick at cresnick@tbespringfield.org.

Come and learn how to shake the lulav be visited by susipem (mystery guests), and vote for the best chill recipe. Cantor Barber will lead a musical program for children ages 5 and under at 5:00 pm.

The dinner menu includes: chilli, green salad, crusty bread, beverages and dessert; pasta for those who don't eat chilli.

The cost is $10 per adult; $6 children 10-years-old and younger; no charge for children 3 and under.

This program is for people of all ages. Don't miss out on this holiday fun! R.S.V.P. to Marie at sklc@tbespringfield.org or 413-737-0170 by September 10.

Welcome Back
We are pleased that Max Schnaper will be continuing as our USY advisor this year. Rebecca Schnaper will be continuing as our Kadima advisor. Marie Sampson will continue as her co-advisor.

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Cuppa Joe will continue on Sunday mornings just following minyan. Have you ever wondered how Jewish liturgy developed? Or what concerned the rabbis of the first century? In this class, we will study the Talmud! In this class, we will encounter some Talmudic discussions of the questions. You do not need to know Hebrew, nor do you need to be familiar with the Mishnah. You just need to enjoy a good discussion and breakfast food! Drop in any Sunday morning; there is a seat for everyone at the table!

**New Melton Foundations of Jewish Learning Class Offered**

The Melton Foundations of Jewish Family Living is a curriculum for parents of school-age children that provides a thought-provoking encounter with the core values of Judaism. Developed by the renowned Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning, a project of The Hebrew University, the curriculum brings to life the master stories from our tradition and the profound messages they convey. This rich learning experience for adults will provide an opportunity for you to bring the Jewish conversation home to share with your young child. At a time in your family’s life when your child is experiencing his or her own Jewish education, this class provides you with the learning, the language, and the confidence to be a teacher to your own children.

Come as a family to this class. Caryn Resnick will coordinate children’s learning activities and babysitting during class time! Don’t miss out on this great opportunity! This class is co-sponsored by TBE and the Springfield ICC. Space is limited.

**Dates & Times:**
- Saturdays, October 14 – 28, 10:30 am
- Sundays, October 7, 14, 28, 9:30 am

**Location:** Michael’s Café, JGS Lifecare, 770 Converse Street, Longmeadow

**Instructor:** Rabbi Amy Wallis Katz

**Fee:** $22

Registration: Contact Caryn Resnick at djacobson@JGSLifecare.org or (413) 567-3949 x2210

Greatest Hits from the Talmud

Begin your morning with a taste of Talmud! In this class, we will encounter some of the most fascinating discussions of the ancient sages as recorded on various pages of the Babylonian Talmud. Join us in exploring these different “gems” of the Talmud and attempting to wrestle with their meanings in their time and in our own. This class is for beginners and beyond, seekers, and lovers of Jewish learning!

**Dates:**
- Mondays, September 25 – December 11 (10 weeks)

**Time:** 9:30 - 10:45 am

**Location:** Michael’s Café, JGS Lifecare, 770 Converse Street, Longmeadow

**Instructor:** Rabbi Devvrah Jacobson

**Fee:** $125

**Registration:** Contact Rabbi Jacobson at djacobson@JGSLifecare.org or (413) 567-3949 x2210

New Classes from the Springfield Alliance for Jewish Education

The Springfield Alliance for Jewish Education is a collaborative program emerging from a series of conversations between the area synagogues and agencies.

We all believe that we are stronger together, and SAJE will help us build a stronger, more vibrant adult education program that celebrates the different ways you can learn Jewishly in the lower valley. Through community lectures, adult education classes, and a community-wide celebration of Jewish culture and arts, SAJE will bring people together to explore, grow, and learn Jewishly.

The upcoming classes are:

- **Isaiah and Ai** - At the world evolves, Jewish tradition has to negotiate and navigate new challenges that push the bounds of halakah. How are modern inventions like artificial intelligence, space travel, electricity, or modern genetically modified foods seen through Jewish tradition? Can you really eat a cheeseburger if the beef is grown in a lab? When do you light Shabbat candles? Where can you do the Kaddish Yatom on the International Space Station?
- **Justice, Justice Shall You Pursue: The Support for Causes of Justice in Jewish Tradition** - The words we speak and the actions we take have significant impact on our world. Whether it is here on earth or beyond, the words we use, the manner in which we use them, and the actions we take can lead to profound changes.
- **Justice, Shall You Pursue: The Support for Causes of Justice in Jewish Tradition - In Proverbs 21:3, it states, “To do what is right and just is more desired by God than sacrifice.” Commentary on this passage highlights the ways in which justice is central to the Jewish way of life. In this class we study Jewish texts on justice to understand the central nature of justice and we will discuss how these texts can inspire us to work for justice in our contemporary world. Taught by Rabbi Jeremy Master, Sinai Temple.**

**Fascinating Facts: Myths and Mysteries of Judaism** - This course will explore some of the myths and mysteries of Judaism.

The course will also enrich your understanding and clarify many of the traditions we hold dear. Taught by Rabbi Yakov Wolf, Director of Adult Education, Lubavitcher Yeshiva Academy.

**Work/Life Balance: Discovering Agnosts Answers in Timeless Jewish Texts** - A recent survey asked workers from around the United States how important it would be for them to find a proper work/life balance. The results were astounding. A full 96 percent of survey respondents (full-time, U.S. workers) believed it would be equally or more important to find a better work/life balance in 2009 compared to 2008.

According to an Australian Survey from 2010, a quarter of women and one-fifth of men working full-time are unhappy with their work/life balance. The percentage of employees who claimed that work often or always interferes with activities outside of work had increased from 19.8 percent in 2007 to 24.2 percent in 2010. The survey also indicated that women are battling to work longer hours and meet their personal priorities, with 60.8 percent saying they often or always feel rushed or pressed for time compared to 47.2 percent of male respondents.

Mothers, in particular, are struggling to do everything they want to do. For percent reported that they were almost always pressed for time, compared to 58 percent of fathers.

*Numerous companies, organizations and think tanks have been established throughout the world to address the work/life balance issues that affect businesses in terms of productivity and the overall satisfaction and loyalty of their employees. It is become evident to many employers that left unaddressed, work/life balance issues often lead to burn-out and a much higher employee turnover rate. Searching for ways to find balance in our lives is a recurring theme in modern living. Taught by Rabbi Amy Wallis Katz, Temple Beth EI.*

**Dates:**
- Sundays, October 23 – November 13 (4 weeks)

**Time:** Two class options from 7:00 – 8:00 pm; Two class options from 8:15 – 9:15 pm

**Location:** Springfield ICC

The cost is $36 person for each class per 4-week session. If you wish to take 2 classes per evening, the cost is $72 per person. For more information and to register, please contact Rabbi James Greene at the Springfield ICC, (413) 733-4149 or jgreene@springfieldcc.org.

**The words we speak**

There is a story of a Jew who came to his rabbi to relieve him of his troubled conscience. He had circumscribed slander about his fellow man, only to discover that it was false. The rabbi said, “If you want to make peace with your conscience, you must fill a bag with feathers. Then go to every door in the village and drop in front of each one of them the feathers.” The after the Jew did as he was told, he returned to the rabbi and announced that he had done penance. “Not yet,” said the rabbi, “now take your bag, and gather up every feather that you have dropped.” Again, he did as he was ordered. This time he returned and complained that the wind had blown them all away. “Yes, my good man,” said the rabbi, “so it is with gossip: Words are easily dropped, but no matter how hard you try, you can never get them back again.”

*— Traditional Jewish Folklore*
Thanks to the Harold Grinspoon Foundation
Cantor Elise Barber thanks the Harold Grinspoon Foundation for grants that assisted her in attending both the Cantors Assembly convention and The Havurah Institute. Due to their generosity, Cantor Elise is able to bring home to Beth El new melodies, new ways of viewing our tradition, and different methods of teaching. Thank you!

Grinspoon Foundation

Help Feed the Hungry in Our Community
Rabbi Katz invites our members to join her to serve lunch at the Louvres and Fishes Community Kitchen, located at Christ Church Cathedral, 35 Chestnut Street in Springfield on Wednesday, September 5 and October 3 at 11:45 am. There’s no need to prepare any food ahead of time – just show up with a gallon of whole milk, and help serve the hungry in our community.

We will also prepare and serve dinner to approximately 50 hungry adults on the fourth Sunday of the month at Shiloh Seventh Day Adventist Church, 797 State Street, Springfield on Sunday, October 28 at 4:45 pm. Please contact our Social Action Chair, Suzy Rosenberg, at pawsgirl@comcast.net to sign up so you can coordinate who will bring different items. Food can be cooked at home or purchased.

Balaboosta Recipe Exchange
Rabbi James Greene
This is a recipe my grandmother (c7) used to make for special occasions. She said it reminded her of her mother, and every time we make it now our girls remember their great-grandmother. It remains a family favorite, and is often something we make for our guests. It is great for any occasion, and is something that is often made at Shabbat dinner.

Cranberry Chicken
1 bottle catalina dressing
1 packet Lipton onion soup mix
3 cups of whole cranberries
3 cups of whole new potatoes

To make the sauce, mix the bottle of catalina dressing, onion soup mix, and cranberries. Dip cut-up chicken pieces in the sauce, and then place in a pan to bake. Add whole new potatoes to the pan. Add the remaining sauce over the top of the chicken and potatoes. Bake at 375 degrees for 50-60 minutes.

If you have a recipe that is beloved by you or your family, we invite you to share it in the next issue. Please email your recipes, along with a sentence or two explaining why it’s a favorite, what memories it evokes, etc., to Debbie Peskin at communications@thespringfield.org.

TBE Celebrates Birthdays
Temple Beth El recognizes members’ birthdays on the second Shabbat of the month. During our Rabbilat Sukkot Friday night service and again at our Shabbat morning service the next day, we will serenade you, enjoy special birthday treats during the appetizer buffet and Kiddush lunch, and make a fuss over your reaching another birthday! Our upcoming birthday celebration will take place on Friday, October 12.

Watch your thoughts for they become words. Watch your words for they become actions. Watch your actions for they become habits. Watch your habits for they become your destiny. What we think, we become. My father always said that—and I think I am fine.

— MARGARET THATCHER

The Peacemaker: Film & Interview
Temple Beth El is pleased to co-sponsor a film and discussion on Tuesday, October 9 at 6:30 pm at Mills Theatre, Carr Hall at Bay Path University.

A New York Times Critics’ Pick and multi-award winning film, The Peacemaker is an intimate portrait of Padrraig O’Malley, an international peacemaker who helps make peace for others but struggles to find it for himself. The film takes us from Padrraig’s isolated life in Cambridge, Massachusetts to some of the most dangerous crisis zones on Earth—from Northern Ireland to Kosovo, Nigeria to Iraq—as he works a peacemaking model based on his recovery from addiction. We meet Padrraig in the third act of his life in a race against time to find some kind of salvation for both the world and himself.

High Holy Day Schedule 5779
Please refer to your High Holy Day Tikah for more details about upcoming programs and services during this busy time of the year.

Shabbat, September 29
Hag HaShabbat
Morning Service ......................... 9:30 am
Minah .................................. 6:00 pm
Havdalah ................................. 7:15 pm

Sunday, September 30
Hosannah Rahab ....................... 8:30 am
Erev Shemini Atzam (Yizkor) ........ 6:00 pm
Candle Lighting .......................... 6:16 pm

Monday, October 1
Shemini Atzam (Yizkor) .............. 9:30 am
Erev Shemini Atzam ................. 6:30 pm
Candle Lighting .......................... 7:16 pm

Tuesday, October 2
Shemini Atzam .......................... 9:30 am
Minah .................................. 6:00 pm

Following the film there were be an interview with the film’s director and producer, James Demo, by Joshua Weiss, Ph.D., who is on the faculty of Bay Path University. James Demo is an independent filmmaker who writes, directs, and produces documentary and narrative films. Released in 2016, The Peacemaker has won numerous awards at film festivals across the country. This event is co-sponsored by Bay Path University’s MS in Leadership & Negotiation, The World Affairs Council of Western Mass, The Springfield Public Forum and Temple Beth El. As space is limited, pre-registration is strongly recommended. Visit www.eventbrite.com or call (413) 565-1066.

A human being, of all the creatures of the earth, can change his/her own pattern. A person alone is the architect of his/her destiny. The greatest discovery in our generation is that human beings, by changing the inner attitudes of their minds, can change the outer aspects of their lives.

— WILLIAM JAMES

TBE Membership Directory Available
Temple Beth El’s Membership Directory is available to all members. This helpful tool includes names of members and children ages 22 and younger, along with their contact information, for those who have given us permission to include it. The Membership Directory helps our members communicate with each other, and helps in our efforts to build community.

The Membership Directory is available as a PDF via email. It is updated on an ongoing basis. If you have any changes to your address, phone, or email, please contact Debbie Peskin in the TBE office at 733-4149 or communications@thespringfield.org. If you do not have email, please stop by the office and request a hard copy.

TBE Memberships are available to people who have had their membership lapses for more than a year. Please refer to your TBE Membership Directory for more information.

High Holy Day Schedule Available
Second Day of Rosh HaShanah ...........................9:30 am
Second Evening of Sukkot ......................... 6:00 pm
Candle Lighting .............................. 6:28 pm

Yizkor ........................... approximately 12:30 pm
Minah .................................. 6:00 pm
Sounding the Shofar ..........................7:37 pm

First Day of Sukkot ...........................9:30 am
Second Evening of Sukkot ......................... 6:00 pm
Candle Lighting .............................. 7:28 pm

First Day of Rosh HaShanah .........................6:30 am
Shofar service .......................... approximately 10:20 am
O’r Asham ................................. approximately 11:00 am
Tashinah/Mirah ......................... 5:00 am at Forest Park
No service at Temple Beth El
Candle Lighting .............................. 7:52 pm

Erev Rosh HaShanah .........................6:00 pm
Candle Lighting .............................. 6:52 pm

D’var Torah .............................. approximately 11:00 am
Shofar service .......................... approximately 10:20 am
O’r Asham ................................. approximately 11:00 am
Tashinah/Mirah ......................... 5:00 am at Forest Park
No service at Temple Beth El
Candle Lighting .............................. 7:52 pm

Candle Lighting ......................... 6:52 pm
Minah .................................. 6:00 pm
Sounding the Shofar ..........................7:37 pm

First Day of Rosh HaShanah .........................6:30 am
Shofar service .......................... approximately 10:20 am
O’r Asham ................................. approximately 11:00 am
Mirah .................................. 6:00 pm

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Thank you!
Firestone or Michelle Anfang. There is also local architect Steve Jablonski, and design Kelley Building Group has been contracted to be completed by next summer (2019). The funds to both projects. The mortgage will be reduced thanks to the leadership of David Ratner, who have helped us reach our goals. The mortgage will be made more secure. happy New Year! we are delighted to thank you for your support, your gift of $1,800 will be permanently recognized with a sanctuary chair. Join your fellow congregants at the Future Sanctuary Project Set to Begin.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY AT SIMHAT TORAH!


We are also appreciating our "slightly older-than-teens" who had a class But Mi’rah last November. Jan Finkelnstein, Ann Labh, Estelle Lakritz, Phyllis Levenson, Debbie Peskin, Mary Tenenbaum, Hendi Thobideau, and Heather Wasiciwski. The menu includes: assorted rolls and better, vegetable salad with balsamic vinaigrette; poached salmon with pineapple teriyaki glazed; roasted vegetable platter; wild rice salad with almonds, orange & dried cranberries, baked ziti with marinara sauce, desserts to follow afterwards.

To make dinner reservations, please contact us at (413) 733-4149; office@thespringfield.org, or thespringfield.org.

Make your dinner reservations early and save money! The cost for those who make their dinner reservations by Monday, September 17 is $14/adult; $6.50 child 5-9 years old; young children free; $35 maximum/family. After this date the cost will be $16/adult, $8.50 child 5-9 years old; young children free; $40 maximum/family. The deadline to make reservations is Friday, September 21. See you there!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 CIVIL RIGHTS TRIP

Tommy Solomon, Sam Starkman, Ayelet Weiss, Kayla Weiss, Talia Weiss and Gabrielle Zeller.

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NOA DITUSA
SEPTEMBER 8 - PARASHAT NASRANIM
Noa Ditusia is the daughter of Rob and Jodi Ditusia and the title sister of Jordan, who is the granddaughter of Phyllis Dindas and Mildred and the late Anthony Ditusia. Noa is in 8th grade at Williams Middle School in Longmeadow, where she is an excellent student, taking part in her school’s cheer, art club, and being featured in the drama club’s 2 plays.

JORDAN BENDER
OCTOBER 29 – PARASHAT VAYERA - MINCHA
Jordan is the son of Jerry and Mark Blumberg and brother of Charlie (15) and Avery (9). He is the grandson of Leslie and Robert Sherwin and brother to Charlie (15) and Avery (9). He is the son of Jenny and Mark Blumberg and the grandson of Orange, Connecticut, and of Cathleen and Robert Blumberg of Manahawkin, Georgia. Charlie is a 7th grader at Williams Middle School in Longmeadow. He enjoys playing all kinds of music and playing sports, especially skiing, tennis, and football. Music is a very important part of Sam’s life. He plays several different kinds of drums and piano. Sam is part of a drumming group called the “Longmeadow Drummers” and they perform African/Caribbean music locally several times a year.

We acknowledge the support of the Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts, in particular its Jewish Family Services, for helping to ensure the safety of our congregation during High Holy Day services.

Mazel tov!
Kim & Jim Starkman on the birth of their fourth son, David Nathaniel. He was born on Fri. Nov. 4th at 1:25 a.m. He joins his big brothers, Sam, Jacob, and Ben in the household.

Margie & Eric Berg on the birth of their third granddaughter, Giana Doris Berg, who arrived on June 30 weighing in at 6 lbs, 7 oz.

Robin Chipkin & Carolyn Robbins Chipkin on the birth of their granddaughter, Gisele Rose Chipkin, born on June 16.

Eric & Melinda Elman on the birth of their third granddaughter, Giana Doris Berg, who arrived on June 30 weighing in at 6 lbs, 7 oz.

Nole & Claude Orofice on the birth of their grandson, Leo Isaac Shapiro, on August 5. The proud grandparents are Deborah and Alex Shapiro of Guilford, CT.

SALOMON BLUMBERG
OCTOBER 28 – PARASHAT VAYERA - MINCHA
Salomon Blumberg (Sam) is the son of Jerry and Mark Blumberg and brother of Charlie (15) and Avery (9). He is the grandson of Leslie and Robert Sherwin of Orange, Connecticut, and of Cathleen and Robert Blumberg of Manahawkin, Georgia. Charlie is a 7th grader at Williams Middle School in Longmeadow. He enjoys playing all kinds of music and playing sports, especially skiing, tennis, and football. Music is a very important part of Sam’s life. He plays several different kinds of drums and piano. Sam is part of a drumming group called the “Longmeadow Drummers” and they perform African/Caribbean music locally several times a year.

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In memory of Mark & Susan Leeds – PROVERBS 27:2
Sh'ma Koleinu

HABDAN MUNIAK, Rabbinic Intern, Temple B’nai Abraham in Vernon, CT

Every year, when I start to work on my music for the Yamim Nora’im—the Days of Awe—I think about these words:

Sh’ma kaleinu, Adonai, Eloheinu
Hear our voice, Adonai, our God

Chas v’sachmanu alav
Be gracious and compassionate to us

V’rabbi u’vachaminu ivtzan
And receive, with compassion and with your Will

Et limkaleinu
Our prayer.

The words are not specific to the liturgy of the Yamim Nora’im. They appear in our Amida every day, three times a day. But on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur they have added significance. First of all the actual words are extraordinary. “Sh’má” is the word that calls our attention to statements of primary importance. Our creeds, our statement of belief, begins with the word “sh’má.” But here, in this prayer, it is God who is enjoined to “Listen! Pay attention!” And what do we ask God’s attention for? “Koleinu”—our voice. That is, the unified, universal voice that rises from all of Klal Yisrael, the Congregation of Israel, to present one great, unified prayer. If the prayer meant “voices” it would have used the word “koloteinu.” We unite our voices into one great VOICE with which we pray for grace and compassion. And the prayer goes on with text that is only found in the High Holiday version:

Al tashlichu le et zik’nu
Don’t discard us in our old age.

Al ta’az ve’tuvo
Don’t abandon us!

In our youth, in our strength, perhaps our sins sit lightly on our shoulders. But memory has a way of compounding our errors, our stupidities, our transgressions, as we grow older. Each day is more precious, and the thought of losing time, love, or support is more frightening.

On Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur, Jews come out of the proverbial woodwork! Why? What is the power of the communal experience? Not, certainly, brevity. Not comfort—so many of us are in more formal, less comfortable clothes! Fellowship? Perhaps. Certainly it’s convenient being able to see and greet so many of our friends and neighbors in one place. But I can’t believe that friendship or curiosity explains our visceral need to attend services on these three days. Instead I think we come together in order to join our single, small voices into the one great VOICE. We come together because we desperately need to be heard. I don’t know of anyone who feels personally responsible for all of the sins listed in the yadav—the confessional: Adumuim, baguyanim—We have sinned, we have transgressed, but that, too, is written in the plural. We, as a congregation, take responsibility for each other, and we plead on our own behalf and on behalf of the Klal Yisrael—the community.

There is another, more practical implication in the words of this prayer. It implies that we all actually raise our voices. Although the hazzan is the congregation’s representative in prayer, we all need to be singing and prayer, to the limits of our ability to do so. We cannot simply sit in the sanctuary and witness someone else—some hazzan—on behalf of the kahal on behalf of the community.

We need to publicly marvel at Steve Ross’ extraordinary powers of perception in knowing just how early to light the charcoal and just how early to start cooking for a photo-finish at 6:00 pm. Surprises are fun, and we thank Ellen Ratner for her. She somehow thought to leave a beautiful set of new grilling tools right in the kitchen for us!

As always, we relied on Rev. Aminia to supervise all our kitchen endeavors. Ralph Ritchie patiently kept many lists and took care of many details. How did he think of ice? Thank you to the many of you who came early to join David and Sharon Aminia in filling the chapel for evening prayers while the committee members put the final touches on dinner and welcomed early guests.

0Emily Robinson cheerfully helped out to buy charcoal and take pictures! Maxine thought of centerpieces, and Paul found time to buy charcoal and take pictures! Special appreciation goes to the Anfang family for foolishly volunteering for the run to The Crown Market for those heavy boxes, so dutifully carried by Stuart and Michael!

And how can we say enough about our “grillers,” who spent hours in sun and smoke for us? They include Steve Ross, Jody Smith, Mike Robinson, Paul Farkas, Neal Lakritz, and Rick Ratner. We need to publicly marvel at Steve Ross’ extraordinary powers of perception in knowing just how early to light the charcoal and just how early to start cooking for a photo-finish at 6:00 pm. Surprises are fun, and we thank Ellen Ratner for her. She somehow thought to leave a beautiful set of new grilling tools right in the kitchen for us!

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0Emily Robinson cheerfully helped out everywhere, both before and after slipping out to buy the forgotten sauerkraut. Eli, Elizabeth and Sophie Smith were also everywhere, and they should get special honors for their interior decorating and for their warm greetings to our guests.

And as for those of you who put Temple Beth El on your summer calendars and made time to join us—we appreciate each and every one of you who came! What kind of a party could we have had without you?

Thanks for a great barbecue!

Ezra Tarkan
What's Happening @ TBE

Programs for Children

SKLC Classes – Mondays, September 17, October 15, 22, 29 and Wednesday, September 12, 26, October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 at 3:00 pm

B’Yahad – Thursday, September 6, 13, 20, 27, October 4, 11, 18, 25 at 6:30 pm

Tot Shabbat – October 6 at 11:00 am

Babysitting – September 1, 8 & October 6, 13 from 10:00 am to end of services

Youth Group Programs

USY Freshman Kidnap & Kadima Fall Fling – Saturday, September 29 at 7:00 pm

Adult Education Programs

Cuppa Joe – Sundays, October 7, 14, 28 at 9:00 am

Katz Family Library Book Club – Wednesday, October 10 at 10:30 am

Foundations of Jewish Living – Saturday, October 13 at 3:30 pm

Author Abigail Pogrebin @ ICC – Tuesday, October 16 at 7:00 pm

Programs for All Ages

Selihot Movie – Saturday, September 1 at 8:00 pm

Break Fast – Wednesday, September 19 at 7:30 pm

Family Sukkah Raising & Chili Cookoff – Sunday, September 23 at 3:00 pm

Simhat Torah Dinner & Service – Monday, October 1 at 6:30 pm

Social Action Programs

Loaves & Fishes – Wednesday, September 5 & October 3 at 11:45 am

Shiloah Seventh Day Adventist Church – Sunday, October 28 at 4:45 pm

Hesed Kitchen – Sunday, September 16 at 3:30 & Thursday, October 4 at 7:00 pm

Meetings

Board of Trustees – Wednesday, September 26 at 7:00 pm

Shabbat Information

September 7 – Kabbalat Shabbat 6:00 pm Candle Lighting 6:55 pm

September 8 – Shabbat Nitzavim Havdalah 7:55 pm

Bar Mitvah Noah DiTusa

September 14 – Kabbalat Shabbat 6:00 pm Candle Lighting 6:42 pm

September 15 – Shabbat Va’yeilkh Havdalah 6:42 pm

September 21 – Kabbalat Shabbat 6:00 pm Candle Lighting 6:30 pm

September 22 – Shabbat Ha’azinu Havdalah 6:30 pm

September 28 – Kabbalat Shabbat 6:00 pm Candle Lighting 6:18 pm

September 29 – Shabbat Ha’azinu Havdalah 6:18 pm

October 5 – Kabbalat Shabbat 6:00 pm Candle Lighting 6:06 pm

October 6 – Shabbat B’reiishit Havdalah 7:06 pm

October 12 – Shabbat Zimrah 6:00 pm Candle Lighting 5:54 pm

October 13 – Shabbat Noah Havdalah 6:54 pm

October 19 – Kabbalat Shabbat 6:00 pm Candle Lighting 5:43 pm

October 20 – Shabbat Lekh L’kha Havdalah 6:43 pm Bar Mitvah Sam Blumberg 5:30 pm

October 26 – Kabbalat Shabbat 6:00 pm Candle Lighting 5:33 pm

October 27 – Shabbat Va’era Havdalah 6:33 pm Congregational Shabbaton & Sisterhood Shabbat

Office Closings

September 3 – Labor Day

September 10 – 1st Day Rosh HaShanah

September 11 – 2nd Day Rosh HaShanah