

Sim Shalom

Kislev-Tevet 5775
December 2014-January 2015

THE NEWSLETTER OF TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL, HARLINGEN TEXAS

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**HAPPY
CHANUKAH!**
PARTY
Sunday, Dec. 21

10 a.m. Religion School Chanukah Party &
Noon Congregational potluck lunch
(Coordinator — Fernando 956-970-4005)

PRIZES!!
Build Your Own Chanukiah — \$50!
Eat sufganiot on a string!
Latke Contest!
Games!!
Fun!!

FROM THE TREASURER

Dear Fellow Congregants:
When Bert Wolf left for San Antonio, I agreed to manage the Temple's treasury. It has been a challenge as I don't live in Harlingen. With Abby's and Alma's help I have been able to get a handle on the work, and am attempting to forecast the year and create a budget.

The Temple's finances are tight, and it is imperative that we continue to serve our community. Members' dues are our only dependable source of income. These can be paid incrementally over the year, or all at once. It is

very important that each member contribute his or her share in a timely fashion.

As we get ready to celebrate Chanukah and close out the secular calendar year, why not plan on reducing your taxes by scheduling payment of dues, making additional donations, and buying gift cards which make great presents while helping the Temple.

Funding the temple is everyone's responsibility.

*Chag Sameach Chanukah,
Anne Weiss*

Calendar

DECEMBER

- 16** Erev Chanukah, first candle
17-24 Chanukah
19-21 *Rabbi in town*
19 **7 p.m.** Shabbat service
 Chanukiah Service
20 **9 a.m.** Shabbat service, with
 Torah discussion and
 breakfast to follow
21 **10 a.m.** Religion School
 Chanukah Party
Noon Congregational potluck
 Chanukah lunch

JANUARY

- 2** **7 p.m.** Shabbat Service
16-18 *Rabbi in town*
16 6:30 p.m. Early services/
 Potluck Dinner
17 **9 a.m.** Shabbat service, with
 Torah discussion and
 breakfast to follow
18 **10 a.m.** Religion School

Oneg Shabbat

Each member household is asked to host one Shabbat oneg during the year. Remember hosting now involves setting up, cleaning up, and providing challah, Kosher wine, grape juice, paper/plastic goods, coffee and drinks. You can bring other treats you like, but the congregation will share the responsibility of bringing snacks and desserts. If you cannot be a host on the date assigned, please call Laurel Steinberg at 550-9530.

ONEG HOSTS

Dec 12: Stan and Nivia Fisch, Sheila Greenfeld
Jan 17: Early services and potluck Shabbat dinner coordinated by Laurel Steinberg and Bill Berg

SPECIAL PROGRAM

I am extending a personal invitation to everyone for an interesting program we will have at Temple Beth-El in Brownsville. The speaker will be Dr. Joel Hoffman. (See Page 4 for more information)

The program is free, and the speaker is very entertaining and enlightening.

My best regards to you,

Larry Holtzman

BLOOD DRIVE SCHEDULED

Temple Beth Israel
 January 11, 2015 Sunday
 11:00 am-3:00 pm

Join the Temple to help those in need in the community! Donating blood is safe, it's simple, and it saves lives. Most donors find it a painless and heart-warming experience.

WHAT TO EXPECT: Donors must be at least 16 years old and weigh at least 110 pounds. All 16-year-olds and some 17-year-olds must have parent or guardian permission to donate. Every blood donation begins with an interview and a brief medical exam. The interviewer will take down the your personal information, including medical history, current health status, medications and travel history. Next, your temperature, blood pressure, pulse and blood hemoglobin level will be checked. Many donors consider this mini-physical an added bonus! If everything checks out after your interview and physical, you are ready to donate. The technician will gather your special kit with your donation materials in it. All materials used during the donation process are sterile and are used only once and then properly disposed. You cannot contract any infectious disease by donating blood.

You will relax in a comfortable chair while the technician collects your blood donation into a special container. The procedures are all different and take varying amounts of time (whole blood donations take about 10 minutes; some pheresis donations last almost 2 hours).

After your donation is complete and we outfit you with your hero's badge of honor (gauze and a colorful bandage), you will rest and enjoy refreshments. We recommend that you spend at least 15 minutes in our refreshment area to have a snack and drink plenty of fluids. Then you can resume your normal routine.

Incorporating the blood drives in your religious education classes is a great way to instill positive values and the power of community service. In the RGV we need to collect 175 units of blood daily to provide an adequate supply for the patients in the hospitals we serve. Donating blood is a voluntary service that is made possible only through organizations, religious and educational institutions partnering with United Blood Services with blood drive sponsorship programs. — Candy Sorayah Iannelli, Donor Recruitment Representative

Thank You

DONATIONS

YIZKOR FUND

William Berg & Laurel Steinberg

GENERAL FUND

Dr. J. F. Teer *in honor of Rabbi Frank and Laurie Joseph*

SCRIP CARDS AVAILABLE:

GREAT HOLIDAY GIFT IDEA!

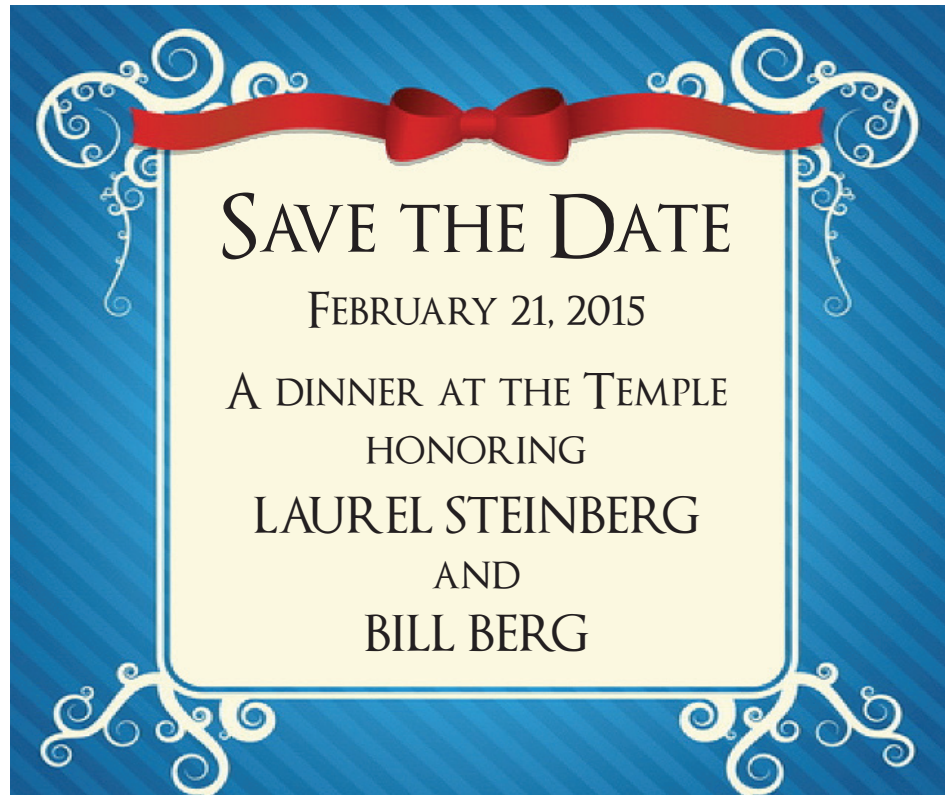
**\$100 HEB,
\$100 WALMART,
\$25 CINEMARK**

These cash cards are like money at the store — but a portion of your purchase will go to our temple. See Alma Russek or call her at 970-7722.

■ RATES FOR MEMORIAL

PLAQUES: Our rate for a memorial plaque on our memorial wall is \$350. Or you can buy two for \$600. Please contact any board member to purchase a memorial plaque.

■ HONOR A LOVED ONE OR A SPECIAL OCCASION with an engraved plaque on a Pew. The cost is \$1250. See any board member to make arrangements.



Celebrations

BIRTHDAYS

12/4 Ivan Shirazi
12/7 Liliana Cohen
12/10 Jan Cassidy
12/10 Lori Suissa
12/17 David Goldstein
12/20 Jose Cohen
12/21 Jacquelyn Goldstein
12/21 David Martin Jacobson
1/9 Rosalie Berg
1/13 Gabriel Hernandez
1/18 Nivia Fisch
1/18 Zendaya Newman
1/23 Zachary Wolf
2/4 Fernando A. Russek
2/7 William C. Stewart
2/10 Laurie Joseph
2/15 Joshua Jacobson
2/18 Brett Wolf
2/20 Bill Berg
3/14 Gerald Sondock
3/16 Meredith Linsky
3/19 Bert Wolf
3/22 Dan Simha
3/31 Gilbert Weisberg

4/5 Alma Russek
4/5 Jamie Wolf
4/6 Dagan Wise-Herring
4/11 Andre Suissa
4/15 Jonathan Berg
4/16 Brittini Elise Greenfeld
4/17 Sophia Simha
4/20 Harry Holzman

ANNIVERSARIES

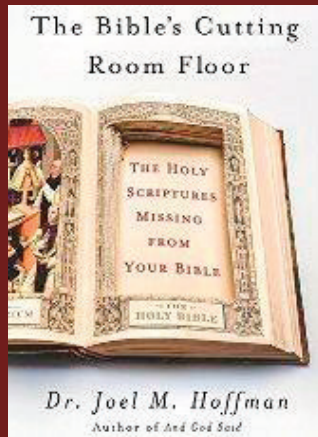
12/16 Fernando & Alma Russek
1/1 Ronald & Dyan Banks
2/6 Christine & Richard Newman
2/7 Jose & Liliana Cohen
3/7 Dr. Stan & Nivia Fisch
3/20 Paul & Sofia Shirazi
5/29 Bill & Monica Stewart
5/30 Bill Berg & Laurel Steinberg
6/20 Lewis & Dena Levine
6/29 Harry & Elizabeth Holzman
6/30 David & Laurie Jacobson

Did we miss you?

Please send birthdays & anniversaries to laurie.b.joseph@gmail.com.

Sunday January 18th
Fantastic Lecture @2:00pm

Reception & Book signing to follow



Jewish Bible Scholar to speak at

Temple Beth-El

24 Coveway Dr. Brownsville, TX 78521

“On the Bible’s Cutting Room Floor”

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Dr. Joel Hoffman



The Bible you usually read is not the complete story. Some holy writings were left out for political or theological reasons, others simply because of the physical restrictions of ancient bookmaking technology. At times, the compilers of the Bible skipped information that they assumed everyone knew. Some passages were even omitted by accident.

During his lecture, “On the Bible’s Cutting Room Floor”, Dr. Joel M. Hoffman will give us many examples of the stories and other texts that didn’t make it into the Bible even though they offer penetrating insight into the Bible and its teachings. His lectures are always filled with “AHA” moments!

**After his lecture,
 learn more from Dr. Joel Hoffman
 with a signed copy of his book**

Meet Joel Hoffman!

And take home his book for only \$26.

Cash, Check, Credit or Debit Card.

Dr. Joel M. Hoffman focuses on translation, Hebrew, and the Bible, and is known for his “fresh insights and interpretations about religious life in the 21st century.” A popular speaker, Dr. Hoffman presents to churches, synagogues, community groups, and university audiences across the world. He holds a Ph.D. in linguistics and has served on the faculties of Brandeis University and Hebrew Union College.



Another Proud Presentation of the
 Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life
 For more Information: www.isjl.org

**This Event is made possible by:
 The Temple Beth-El Education Fund
 RSVP temple.bethel@yahoo.com or
 Call - 956-266-7125**