

SIM SHALOM

OUR NEWSLETTER

Tevet-Sh'vat 5770

January-February 2010

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HELPING HAITI

On January 18, six members of Temple Beth Israel's social justice committee

came together to discuss how to support the Haitian relief efforts. While we recognize that many people may have already made donations to specific relief efforts, we decided that we want to raise money as a unified Jewish community. To that end, we have elected to support the American Jewish World Service in their efforts to respond to the Haiti emergency.

The link to our donation page is available at the Temple's Web site: http://www.rabbifrankjoseph.org/Temple_Beth_Israel.html. A mailing address is also there for those who prefer to send a check.

We ask that Temple members consider making a donation to this worthwhile cause. As a community we hope to raise at least \$2,000.

We also agreed to organize a fundraising event with the Temple youth, either by holding a car wash, or selling baked goods, or both. If you are interested in helping us with the fundraising event, please let me know.

Thank you for your generosity.

— Meredith Linsky

AJWS note:

Donations to the Haiti Emergency Relief Fund are tax-deductible for 2009 if made by March 1.

Your AWJS donation goes directly to:

- Support search and rescue efforts
- Provide food and shelter for survivors
- Provide emergency health services and education to help reduce the second wave of casualties
- Clear roadways
- Fund humanitarian aid
- Support long-term recovery efforts

CALENDAR

FRI., JAN. 29

Shabbat Service, 6:30 PM
Shabbat Potluck Dinner

SAT., JAN. 30 **NEW!**

Shabbat Service, 10 AM
Havdallah/Basic
Judaism Class, 6:30 PM

SUN., JAN. 31

Religion School, 10 AM

FRI., FEB. 5 **NEW!**

Shabbat Service, 7:30 PM

SUN., FEB. 7

Religion School, 10 AM

SUN., FEB. 14

Religion School, 10 AM

SUN., FEB. 21

Religion School, 10 AM

FRI., FEB. 26

Shabbat Service, 7:30 PM

SAT., FEB. 27 **NEW!**

Shabbat Service, 10 AM
Havdallah/Basic
Judaism Class, 6:30 PM

SUN., FEB. 28

Religion School, 10 AM
PURIM SERVICE

FRI., MAR. 5 **NEW!**

Shabbat Service, 7:30 PM

SUN., MAR. 7

Religion School, 10 AM

MARCH 15-19

Spring Break

FRI., MAR. 26

Shabbat Service, 7:30 PM

SAT., MAR. 27 **NEW!**

Shabbat Service, 10 AM
Havdallah/Basic
Judaism Class, 6:30 PM

SUN., MAR. 28

Religion School, 10 AM

MON., MAR. 29

NEWS AND NOTES

■ SHABBAT POTLUCK DINNER: 6:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 29

Please prepare a delicious dairy or pareve (neither meat nor dairy) dish or dessert. This is a good time to try that new recipe you've been thinking about. And if you don't cook, we will also need paper plates, napkins, cups, forks, juices, sodas, and kosher wine. Call or email Laurel Steinberg, who is coordinating the potluck foods (550-9530 or wberg@fastmail.fm). And remember: bring your own serving dish, and remember to take it (and your leftovers) back home after the dinner.

■ See the Rabbi's column on Page 3 to read about the new format for Havdallah, beginning this weekend. The rabbi will use that time to teach a **Basic Judaism class**.

■ This year's **Relay for Life for the American Cancer Society** will be held in Harlingen on the night of April 30. Once again Adriana Gonzalez is chairing the Stars of David with the help of her mother, Abby Warshowsky. This year, the temple hopes for a really big turnout of participants.

■ **New Services:** The temple will begin holding an additional Friday night service each month, led by Fernando Russek. These services will start in February, and be held on the first Friday of the month, at 7:30 p.m. We will try this new service for at least two months.

■ There is now a new **Ritual Committee** for the Temple, comprised of Janet Wilder, Abby Warshowsky, and Fernando Russek. They will explore ideas for keeping services interesting and meaningful for the congregation, and for attracting more people to services. If any other congregants are interested in participating in this committee, or have ideas about services, please contact any of the members.

— Laurel Steinberg

TRIP TO ISRAEL

Temple Beth Israel is planning a Congregational Trip to Israel. We will leave on May 20, 2010. The tentative cost is approximately \$3,500 per person/double occupancy, which includes airfare. We will have more accurate price details as the date approaches.

Please see this web site for the itinerary:
<http://www.americaisrael.us/old-new.html>

The company is willing to offer us an extra day at no additional charge.

We have sent a copy of our notice about the trip to Israel to the Brownsville and McAllen congregations. The Brownsville congregation has disseminated it to all of their members. It would be really nice to have a Valley-wide "pilgrimage" to Israel.

Dyan Banks and Janet Wilder are putting the trip together. Please contact Dyan at (956)421-3252 or Janet at (956)423-2910 if you are interested in going with us.



From the Rabbi — NEW Basic Judaism Class

Shalom,

In Pirke Avot 5:25, (The Wisdom of the Fathers), we read: "Study it (the Torah), and study it over and over again, for everything is contained in it. Reflect upon it, and grow old and gray over it, and do not stir from it."

The word Torah embodies ALL the teachings of Judaism throughout all time, from the first word of Genesis, to the latest Rabbinical rulings from all branches of Judaism, from the most traditional to the most liberal. The study of Judaism encompasses religious laws, sacred rituals, centuries old customs, thousands of years of uninterrupted history; a spiritual, physical; and political attachment to the land of Israel; a commitment to social justice and righteousness; a tremendous love of learning; a dedication to the perpetuation of the Hebrew language; and varied cultural expressions in art, music and dance.

In reality it would take countless lifetimes

to study all that comprises Judaism and all it has to teach us. However, in order to convey a basic knowledge of the precepts, I will begin a new one-hour class on Saturday evenings following the Havdallah service. The class will commence this Saturday, Jan. 30., at 6:30 p.m. and continue at every Havdalah service except for Movie Nights.

The format for the presentation will be a lecture from the Bimah followed by any questions on the material covered that evening.

We invite the entire community to join us for these presentations and especially for all who are interested in becoming Jewish.

As always, I look forward to being in Harlingen this coming weekend! Laurie and I wish everyone a wonderful week ahead.

Shalom U'V'Racha
Rabbi Frank Joseph

ONEGS

Checklist:

- ☐ Decaf coffee
- ☐ Cream & sugar
- ☐ Decaf cold drinks or juice and ice
- ☐ Cups for coffee and drinks
- ☐ Plastic ware, napkins, plates
- ☐ Kosher wine
- ☐ Small wine cups
- ☐ Unsliced challah
- ☐ Table cloth (if one is used from the Temple, please launder it and return it to the Temple as soon as possible)
- ☐ Table decoration
- ☐ Desserts for about 40-50 people (choices of cookies, cakes, nuts, fruit, coffee cakes, or flan)



JANUARY
(Shabbat Potluck)
* Laurel Steinberg
coordinating

FEBRUARY
* Janet Wilder
Jamie and Bert Wolf
Lori and David
Suissa

** Oneg coordinator is responsible for organizing the group and its duties (who brings and does what, when and where).*

WANTED: PURIM PARTY FOOD

COORDINATOR for Sunday, Feb. 28.

This is your chance to serve your community just like Mordecai did. No experience necessary. Must be able to dial a phone and tell people what to bring. Very rewarding position; you get to keep all leftovers or share them with King Ahasuerus's subjects. This is your chance to be Queen Esther (aaaahhh) and save the day! Don't be like Haman (boooo) and cast lots for a decision. Decide to be a leader today. Call Veronica Huff @ 499-3808 or email me at thebigh88@hotmail.com. Queen Vashti need not apply (I don't need the attitude!)

DONATIONS

- From Billy Knight, nephew of Dyan Banks, to the Building Fund
- From Abby Warshowsky, in honor of Fernando Russek, to the General Fund (Gabai Fund)