

THE TEMPLE ISRAEL NEWS

ATHOL, MASSACHUSETTS VOL. 22 TEVET 5765 JANUARY, 2005



RABBI'S THOUGHTS

I was overjoyed to participate in the bar mitzvah of Israel Kositsky last month. Israel and his family came to see me over the summer and we immediately set a date for his bar mitzvah in December. Israel was not sure that he would have enough time to prepare. We thought about postponing the event until the spring, but his birthday did fall during the last week of November. Israel lived in Israel until age six and has forgotten most of his Hebrew; however, when we started learning, it all came back to him! Within a month he had memorized his entire haftarah!

My joy was due not only to the speed in which Israel learned his portion. It was also due to the fact that Israel's parents are from Russia and grew up at a time when studying Hebrew and having a bar mitzvah was forbidden under the totalitarian state. Israel's bar mitzvah was not only an accomplishment of his own; for me it was an accomplishment for the entire Jewish people. Again and again we defeat the tyrant and we rise once more to claim our heritage and our rituals. I know that many Russian ex-patriots feel estranged from Judaism and the Jewish community and it was wonderful to see the Kositsky family so involved in all aspects of Israel's bar mitzvah. I am glad we can provide a home to them at Temple Israel.

I wasn't able to put a group together for an Israel trip this year but we will try again! Frank Kanserstein will be joining Congregation B'nai Israel in Northampton for a trip in late February. We bid him a "Nisiyyah tovah!" Please read about all the great events coming up at the Temple. I look forward to seeing you there.

Shalom,
Jon

CHILDREN'S CLASSES TO BEGIN ON JANUARY 8 !!!



Our new Jewish educator, Lara Temkin-Pisani, has announced that she will be starting class on Saturday, January 8 at 10:30 a.m. She will focus on the older children first for a half hour and will add the younger children at 11:00. From 11:30 to 12:00 the class will work on a short play to present at the end of services! Lara's classes have been very well received in the past. Let's all try for a great turn-out!

Shabbaton Tevet January 7-8, 2005

Friday night, January 7th

6 PM - Pot Luck Vegetarian/Dairy Dinner

7 PM - Kabbalat Shabbat Services

Sermon: Do You Believe in Miracles?

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Saturday morning, January 8th

9:15 AM Meditation
10:00 AM Schacharit Services
10:30 AM **Children's Services**
11:00 AM Torah Service and Discussion

Discussion Topic:

Exodus 6-9: "The Persistence of Evil"

After Egypt is attacked by a hail storm, Pharaoh confesses that "God is righteous and I and my people are wicked." One would think that acknowledgement of sin would lead to repentance, but Pharaoh again returns to his evil ways. Why does evil return? Why does it remain?

12:00 PM Cholent Lunch

Roundtable Discussion:

Evil in our Midst? The Case of the Iowa Slaughterhouse

4:30 Sunset Torah Discussion with Children

5:00 Poetry Study

5:20 Havdalah

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

THIS MONTH'S BOARD MEETING WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY EVENING, JANUARY 26 FROM 6:30-8:30 P.M. AT DR. MYRON MARON'S HOME IN PETERSHAM. PLEASE CALL 978-724-0238 IF YOU NEED DIRECTIONS. SEE YOU THEN!

Next Family Program February 5th

5:00 PM – 6:30 PM Temple Israel



"Shalom Moon!"

Exploring Jewish Bedtime Ritual

Bring your teddies! Come in your pj's! Say goodbye to Shabbat with the Rabbi and design your own pillowcase with fabric paints with family educator Janice Colbert.

Parents and children will learn old and new rituals for bedtime. For young children under 10 and their families! RSVP to Janice by January 22nd (we need to buy materials).



Cost of program is free.

Co-sponsored by the
Harold Grinspoon Foundation

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PLEASE LEND US A HAND!
PLEASE JOIN TEMPLE ISRAEL'S

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN--AN AMBITIOUS
AND IMPORTANT PLAN TO RAISE \$100,000 FOR
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES FOR OUR TEMPLE!

To make a separate Capital Campaign donation for the
building, please send a check to

Temple Israel c/o David Koester
245 Gale Road Warwick, MA 01378.

Thank you, in advance, for your generosity!

AND COMING UP...

February 5 Shabbaton and Family Program
March 5 Shabbaton
March 24 Purim

**There's so much happening these days
at Temple Israel! Please visit with us,
and see what all the excitement is about!
We'd love to see you!**

COMING EVENTS REMINDERS...THIS MONTH

January 7 and 8--Shabbaton

January 26---Board of Directors' Meeting

For more information, please call Temple
Israel in Athol at 978-249-9481. Our new
voice mailboxes are now in operation. You
may also directly contact President Dr. Myron
Maron at 978-724-0238 or Rabbi Jonathan
Perlman at 414-736-1033 (home) or 413-739-
4715 (work) Ask for Rabbi Perlman.