



Congregation Kehilat Shalom News

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Newsletter of the Congregation Kehilat Shalom of Belle Mead, NJ **January 2007** Tevet - Shevat 5767

**Congregation
Kehilat Shalom**

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OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP THE HOMELESS

Members of Congregation Kehilat Shalom have been working with Temple Beth El and the Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) to help provide temporary shelter for homeless families. The IHN includes a set of religious organizations—of several faiths—who provide shelter and food to families who need this assistance. Every three months or so, Beth El hosts the families for a week at their Temple just south of Somerville. When they do, they draw on volunteers both from their Congregation and from the broader community, including regular volunteers from Kehilat Shalom. The focus is on assisting *families*--typically, on a given evening, there are 3 or 4 families consisting of a total of about 3 or 4 adults and maybe 6 to 8 kids.

During the day, the kids from the client families attend school, and the adults either go to work if they have jobs or stay at a central facility run by IHN. At suppertime each day, they return by van to the host congregation, where they stay until breakfast time. When Beth El is the hosting congregation, there are four general types of work that volunteers in different shifts perform:

- providing a hot dinner for the families
- providing general oversight during the dinner (this and the next includes talking to the adults and playing with the kids)
- providing general oversight during the evening
- sleeping over at the Temple to be there to deal with any issues which arise and to help the families get off the next morning

Usually, there are four different two-person shifts of volunteers each night, with each shift doing one of these things.

Members of Beth El who have extensive experience participating in this work are on-call for consultation at any time, should any questions arise.

IHN's work nationally is described on the web site of "Family Promise", the national umbrella organization for local Interfaith Hospitality Networks. See:
www.familypromise.org

Additional volunteers are always needed. If you would like to talk to someone about volunteering, call Beth Garber at 732 968 5836, who is one of the coordinators at Beth El. If you would like to talk to someone at Kehilat Shalom for details about how it all works, contacts include: Ellen Elgort 908 874 8535, or Jim Ohls, 609 466 1066. Another contact at Kehilat Shalom is Richard Rosenberg (908 253 7049), who has been working with the related Somerset County Interfaith Advocacy Program.

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The engagement of Rachel Wolkofsky & Ethan Pollack
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Thanks to Natalie London

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**Thanks for Jadmin's Bat Mitzvah

by Michael Jacowsky and Donna Mostel

**Thanks to Rabbi Tayvah

by Michael and Myra D'Andrea

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Committee Happenings

From Rabbi Tayvah

The ~~American~~ Kehilat Shalom Crisis

230 years to the date later

December 23, 2006

with vast apologies to Thomas Paine

These are the times that try shul's souls. The summer supporter and the sunshine member will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their congregation; but one that stands by it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. We have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the reconciliation. What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly: 'Tis dearness only that gives every thing its value.

'Tis surprising to see how rapidly a panic will sometimes run through a congregation. All groups have been subject to them. Yet panics, in some cases, have their uses; they produce as much good as hurt. Their duration is always short; the mind soon grows through them, and acquires a firmer habit than before.

I thank God, that I fear not. I see no real cause for fear. I know our situation well, and can see a way out of it. By perseverance and fortitude we have the prospect of a glorious issue; by cowardice and submission, the sad choice of a variety of evils — a depopulated congregation — our community turned from mutual support to rampant recrimination — sacred service to others overlooked — less attention given to educating our young and ourselves. Look on this picture and weep over it! and if there yet remains one thoughtless who believes it not, let him/her suffer it unlamented.

CALL FOR BOARD NOMINATIONS

The Board Nominations Committee will soon begin the process of nominating members of the Congregation for several Board of Trustees positions that are coming open in June. The nominations process leads up to the election of new officers and trustees at the annual Congregation meeting in May.

This year, terms are expiring for a substantial number of Board positions, including:

president, first vice president, second vice president, recording secretary, treasurer, and two trustee positions.

Some incumbents may be re-nominated, but it is almost certain that people new to the Board will be nominated for some of these positions.

According to our by-laws, a slate of candidates is to be nominated to fill these positions by the current Board. (In addition, there is a process for making nominations directly.) If there are any potential candidates whom you would like to suggest for consideration by the Board Nomination Committee (including yourself) please let the Committee know by contacting Jim Ohls, the Chairperson of the Committee. (609 466 1066 before 9 p.m. or johls@mathematica-mpr.com)


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Hebrew School Happenings



January

3 Wednesday- School back in session Mock Shabbat
 7 Sunday- *Cooking*
 10 Wednesday- *Cooking*
 14 Sunday- Martin Luther King Jr's Birthday- No School
 17 Wednesday
 21 Sunday *Music- crafts*
 24 Wednesday *Mock Shabbat 5/6*

28 Sunday- *Dance -*
 31 Wednesday *Dance*

I hope everyone enjoyed the end of 2006. Our trip to Greenwood House was a smashing success. Students and residents enjoyed the choir's performance and playing dreidel. Thanks to Judi Turkheimer, students were well prepared to start conversations and feel more comfortable talking to the residents. Judi coached students the Wednesday before the trip and coached the students on the bus ride

to Ewing. The open conversation was a great learning experience and gave students an opportunity to express their fears and concerns.

If you would like to schedule a conference with your child(ren)'s teacher(s), please feel free to send me an email and we will set an appointment.

Grade K-2:
 Danielle Corsan
 Andrew Galkin
 Tess Kowalski
 Kaela Milich
 Allison Rosenthal

Grade 3
 Jacob Fischman
 Ian Murphy
 Paul Nusbaum
 Jeremy Orlando
 Gabriele Rubinstein
 Jacqueline Sokel
 Dorothy Weiss

Grade 4
 Eric Brandwein
 Adam Cige
 Paul Galkin
 Jason Rosenthal
 Jason Weitze

Grade 5 (Sun. & Wed.)
 Corey Cochran

Grade 6 (Sun. & Wed.)
 Rachel Spielholz

Grade 7
 Joshua Himelfarb
 Mia Van Peenen

Yay!



Judi Turkheimer led a break out session to help students prepare for their trip to Greenwood House. Students were encouraged to ask questions about their concerns in meeting older people that they didn't know. They gained new perspective and understanding about being aged. Judi also led sessions on the bus on the way to the assisted living facility and debriefing on the way home. This additional preparation made the trip more fun and educational for all involved.

Our Wednesday afternoon special programs have become elective, per an education committee decision. Students will now have the opportunity to join an open conversation about Jewish concepts or practice Hebrew reading or speaking during dance, cooking, or crafts.



Lisa Roe came in twice to help the fifth and sixth graders make their Shabbat Crafts. Fifth Graders painted Shabbat candle holders and sixth graders created Havdalah candles using gel wax and more than one wick. Havdalah blessings are found on page 521 of our prayerbook. The students all know the melodies. Send me an email if you would like help putting together a Havdalah ritual in your home.

The sixth grade students have been summarizing the portions that will be read during the weekend of their B'nai Mitzvah celebrations. They have also completed a post card signing campaign to support efforts to end the atrocities in Darfur and helped hang the banner on the front of the building.

I would like to thank our community for making me feel appreciated and loved. Everyday that I come to work another child or parent says something or does something that makes me feel like I am contributing to the community. From the parent who tells me that volunteering is a lot more fun than they thought it would be to the student that wants to tell me "one more thing." I love my job and this community because I learn something new every time I come to work. The perks of this job are never ending. *Dori Daus, Principal*

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B'nai Mitzvah (training, service questions)	Rabbi Tayvah- 908-359-0420 ext. 2 rabbi@jccbm.org
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Youth Education <i>1st Wed.</i>	Lisa Kent- 908-578-2972 lisa@illuminationsgroup.com Debbie Grauer- 609-466-2206

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