Hannukah Music Program presents Honorable Menschen

Returning for an “encore” performance at Congregation Beth David’s annual Hannukah Music Program is Honorable Menschen, Boston’s premier Jewish acapella group, featuring music for all ages.

The program was scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 18 at 12:30 p.m. at the Narragansett Community Center, 53 Mumford Road, Narragansett. As we go to press with this newsletter, it is uncertain whether it will reach homes before the event.

Honorable Menschen delighted the audience last year, with its unique blend of Jewish, Israeli, and world music. The group, founded in 1997, consists of graduate students and young professionals from the Boston area.

A light lunch, including latkes, will be served before the program. To register, contact Sally Chorney at 401-789-6044 or smchorney1@verizon.net.

One-room school faces challenges, seizes opportunities

By Rabbi Sol Goodman

As we approach the end of this calendar year, I would like to share with you how well our religious school students are doing. Attendance has been steady, which is always a good sign. Our students arrive happy and eager to engage in the discussions and activities of each day.

While our time is limited, our teacher, Stephanie Malinow, and our three student aides have succeeded in filling every minute with substance and fun learning activities. We are blessed to have them with us. As you know, Miss Stephanie will be leaving us at the end of December. She will be missed, but she leaves us with a vision of just how much can be accomplished with passion and dedication. Stephanie has provided a robust platform upon which to build in the coming months and the coming year. Her presence has been a wonderful present and inspiration for all of us.

A one-room school with multiple ages presents unique challenges and opportunities. We are building a curriculum which provides our students successive and progressive learning opportunities without feeling that they have been over the same material in the same class year after year. To that end, we have decided to link our learning to “big ideas” and “big questions” (Continued ... page 3)
Exploring our customs and rituals

FROM RABBI ADLER …

Throughout our history, many customs and rituals have enhanced the Temple services we experience today. The reasons behind these sacred procedures are either known or surmised. For example, you may have noticed that there is a difference between the morning Amidah prayer for peace – “Sim Shalom …” and the evening prayer for peace ‘Shalom Rav…”. You may also have observed that when the cantor repeats the Amidah, the congregation recites a different version of the ‘Modim Anachnu Lach” prayer. These and other variations were established when the order and contents of the Siddur were being finalized and it was found that in some cases, different communities had used variations of the same prayer. Thus, the understanding goes, in order not to insult or exclude common, local practices, there was great effort to incorporate these variations and include them. For example, one version of a particular prayer might be said in the morning, and its counterpart might be included in the evening prayers. There are, of course, other variations in the Siddur that reflect the different branches of Judaism, Ashkenazic vs. Sepharadic, more Hebrew vs. less Hebrew, and the like.

One particularly interesting question is: after the congregation finishes reciting the “silent” Amidah, why does the prayer leader repeat it? The answer may be shrouded in mystery, but here is what we know.

The idea of repeating the Amida was generated over 2500 ago. Since the mass publishing of Siddurim was still over 2000 years later, it was felt that the majority of those attending services would hear what they hear, but otherwise would not be too familiar with all the words. Since the Amida was, and is, considered an important prayer, it was repeated by the leader to benefit those who could not do it on their own. Everyone who heard the prayers chanted by the leader, and responded with Amen at the appropriate times, would get heavenly ‘credit’ as if actually recited by the individual. Over the centuries, the notion of reciting the Amidah aloud, with the congregation responding with several Amens, was thought to be an experience bonding congregants spiritually with other congregants, and with the heavens above.

Today, even though every service goer has a Siddur, it would be embarrassing for someone to ask each worshipper whether they are comfortable saying the Amida on their own, since if everyone was comfortable with it, the repetition would not be required. However, this is not an appropriate option, so we just repeat the Amidah and play it safe.

A variation on this theme occurs when it is the custom of the congregation for the leader to offer a ‘Heicha Kedusha’. This means the leader chants the opening verses of the Amida, then the Kedusha, after which both the leader and congregation recite the rest of the Amida in silence. The word ‘Heicha’ means loud, implying that the beginning of the Amida is said aloud, and then switched to silent mode. In some congregations, especially during the High Holy Days, when the silent Amidah could take a few minutes, the congregation does not recite the Amidah silently first; rather, the cantor begins with the repetition.

What has remained constant through the centuries is that the service is a dynamic entity that changes occasionally. One of these is the continuing encouragement of lay members to help lead parts of the service. You have that same opportunity on Saturday, April 1, 2017, as we once again celebrate Bracha LeZichronam, an annual program that has been part of our congregation for many years. The name means, “A Blessing in their Memory.” The notion is that when we do a Mitzvah in the name of a loved one, they get the credit, and we honor their memory!

Here is how it works. You let me know which part of the service you would like to learn – prayer, Torah, Haftarah - and I set you up with music and hard copy. You decide in whose memory you are doing this, and your name and your loved one’s name will go on a plaque permanently displayed in our sanctuary. If you would like to participate but are not sure what you would like to prepare, contact me and we can chat about it. You can this join so many others who have honored the memory of their loved ones.

I look forward to your email, text, phone call, and even a face-to-face discussion. In the meantime, a most joyous and fun-filled Chanukah to each and every one.
CBD Chavurot

Interested in joining a chavurah (חובית)? We’re considering one or more chavurot at Congregation Beth David. Chavurot exist in many synagogues, bringing together small groups of like-minded Jews who share many lifecycle experiences, from Shabbat or holiday prayer services to educational opportunities, socializing and community services.

One chavurah may enjoy Shabbat dinner together or meet at the synagogue for Torah study. Another may go camping, hold adult-only Shabbat dinners, or develop family activities. The choices are all up to the members.

Watch for more information, as CBD looks to facilitate the development of a chavurah program.

SAVE THE DATE

Progressive Dinner
Saturday, January 21, 2017

Save the date for our first progressive dinner. We will start out at CBD with hors d’oeuvres and then head out to “host homes” for dinner and desserts.

Further details to follow on Constant Contact.

Play Ball!!!

CBD member Beryl Chapman, RN, Perioperative Services, one of BIDMC’s longest tenured nurses and nine-year co-president of the Beth Israel Hospital School of Nursing Alumnae Association, tossed out the first pitch at the Red Sox game on Sept. 13. Members of BIDMC’s Fenway First Aid team joined her in recognition of their excellence in providing fast medical response at Fenway throughout the season.

School ... from page 1

which will drive each successive year’s activities. This holistic approach will include study of the weekly Torah portion, Jewish history, a prayer curriculum that will enable students to progress at their own level and pace, with the ultimate goal of being prepared for their Bar/Bat Mitzvah studies, and of course, ethics, values and Tikkun Olam. Our hope is also to introduce our students to selected primary Jewish sources and texts, with the goal of improving their Jewish literacy.

We are studying Hebrew in multiple ways, through games, movement, texts, and of course prayers. The children’s participation on November 18 was outstanding. Their commands of the service and their “pulpit presence” have earned them rave reviews. We are sure they will keep making us proud.

Please continue to support your children as they make their weekly trek to religious School. Remember that you are always welcome to stay, observe, or join in the learning.

Also, as we approach the coming holidays, please know that our religious school is a safe and non-judgmental space for them to ask their questions or share their concerns, and a valuable resource for you as well. Please do not hesitate to communicate with us.
Donations, March - November 2016

**General Fund**

*In Memory of Edward Adler, Father of Rabbi Ethan Adler*
Shelley and Larry Parness
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Nancy Chorney
Arlene and Neil Rogol
Adele Curhan
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Gladys Jacober
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Cindy and Josh Teverow
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Arlene and Neil Rogol
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Liz Karp and Peter Stonberg
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Howard Poulten

*In Memory of Joseph Gorden*
Bev Schneider

*In Memory of Mother, Rene Babat*
Robert Babat

*In Honor of the Naming of Leah Vivian, Granddaughter of Harris and Sally Chorney*
Arlene and Neil Rogol

*In Memory of Parents*
Mark Abrahams

*In Memory of Parents*
Mark Abrahams

*In Memory of Parents*
Mark Abrahams

*In Memory of Stephen Schneider, Husband of Beverly Schneider*
Arlene and Neil Rogol
Nancy Chorney
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*In Honor of Rabbi Ethan Adler with Appreciation*
Bob Schoenberg

*In Memory of Mother Ruth Grossman and Father Joseph Myerson*
Ed and Ann Grossman

*In Memory of Anna Lipsey*
Howard Lipsey

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*In Memory of Aunt Fran Katzaneck*
Robin Katzaneck

*In Memory of Brother Herbert Talan*
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Terry and Shep Kaufman

*In Memory of Friend*
Evelyn Nussenfeld
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*In Memory of Mother Hannah Rabinowitz*
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*In Honor of Stanley Roberts on his 70th Birthday*
Hope and Martin Zawatsky

*In Honor of Rabbi Ethan Adler with Appreciation*
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*In Memory of Joan Garfinkel’s Bat Mitzvah*
Debbi and Herbie Katz
Sandra Panzeri

*In Memory of Marion Myer’s Bat Mitzvah*
Shelley Parness

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Robin Katzaneck
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In Memory of Mother Lucille Malise
Joanne Malise

In Honor of Ruth and Leonard Rosenberg’s 70th Wedding Anniversary
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In Honor of the Birth of Joann and Robert Babat’s Grandson, William
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In Honor of Carole Robrish’s Birthday
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In Honor of Husband Leon’s Birthday
Judith Missry

In Memory of Jeff, Karen and Eric Jacober
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In Memory of Sister, Susan Koerner
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In Memory of Grandfather Jacob Katzanek
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In Honor of the Birth of Lilly, Granddaughter of Stephanie and Peter Malinow
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In Memory of Aunt Frances Chorney
Esta Avedesian

In Honor of Grandchildren Benjamin Thomas, Laren Beth and Ryan Hannah Avedesian
Esta and Paul Avedesian

In Memory of Parents Arlene and Neil Rogol

In Honor of Marion Myers’ Bat Mitzvah
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Gladys Jacober
Judith and Allen Kronick

In Honor of Joan Garfinkel’s Bat Mitzvah
Beryl and Elliott Chapman
Nancy Chorney
Gladys Jacober
Judith & Allen Kronick

In Honor of Sheila Shore Miller’s 90th Birthday
Deborah Chorney

In Honor of Hope and Marty Zawatsky on the Birth of Great Grandson, Camden Zawatsky
Gladys Jacober
Nancy Chorney

In Memory of Father Morris Talan
Gladys Jacober

In Memory of Susan Koerner
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In Honor of Engagement of Son Joshua Rogol to Michelle Manket and Daughter Abby Rogol to Adam DiNitto
Arlene and Neil Rogol

In Honor of the Birth of Granddaughters, Casey Jarrett of MD and Emily Jarrett of RI
Ruth and Jeffrey Jarrett

In Memory of Brother Ed Grossman

In Honor of Arlene and Neil Rogol on the Engagement of Son Joshua Rogol to Michelle Manket and Daughter Abby Rogol to Adam DiNitto.
Nancy Chorney
Liz Karp and Peter Stonberg

In Memory of Father Ben Rabinowitz
Esta Rabinowitz

In Honor of Esta’s 70th Birthday and 48th Wedding Anniversary
Esta & Paul Rabinowitz

In Memory of Mother Ruth Robrish
Carole Robrish
Donations, March - November 2016

In Memory of Sister, Carolyn Dedrick
Liz Karp

In Memory of Mother Marion Stonberg
Peter Stonberg

In Memory of Bob Curhan
Anna Shabshelowitz

In Memory of Son, Aharon Klum
Marion Myers

In Memory of Daughter, Ellen
Gladys Jacober

In Memory of Ellen Jacober
Myrna and David Leven
Nancy Chorney

In Memory of Father, Abraham
Carole Robrish

In Memory of Father, Max Barnett
Stan Barnett

In Memory of Dennis Rogan, Son of Betty Rogan
Anita Chorney
Nancy Chorney

In Memory of Shirley Warren
Adele Curhan

In Memory of Father, Norbert
Shelley Parness

Other Donations
Purchase of New High Holiday Books in Memory of Dear Friend, Cindy Surdut
Cindy and Josh Teverow

Fundraiser Donation
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In Support of the CBD Congregation
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Stephanie and Peter Malinow
Gladys Jacober
Lesley and Gary Engelson
Manouch Darvish
Lisa Ahava
Barbara and Martin Etting
Emily Manz and Jason Krumholz
Beverly and Frank Prosnitz
Dara and Steven Liebermensch
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Karla Steele and Marshall Feldman
Susan and Louis Kirschenbaum
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In Honor of Their B’nai Mitzvot
Joan Garfinkel and Marion Myers

In Memory of Father Sanford Chorney
Nancy Chorney
Harris Chorney

In Honor of Cindy and Josh Teverow
Scott Surdut

In Honor of the Birth of Grandson, William Entrup,
Son of Erica and Alex Entrup
Joann & Robert Babat
Lighting the Hannukah Candles

Candles are added to the menorah from right to left, but are kindled from left to right. The newest candle is lit first. On Shabbat, light the Hannukah candles first, then the Shabbat candles. Light the shamash (the helper candle) first, using it to kindle the rest of the candles. As you do, say or sing:

ברוך אתה יְהוָה מלך העולם אשר קדשך
בְּמִשְׁכָּבָהוֹ, וּחֲבוֹא בְּלַחֲדֵיכֶם וְעַל הַמֶּחֶה.

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, asher kid’shanu b’mitzvotav v’tsivanu l’hadlik ner shel Hanukkah.
Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, who hallows us with mitzvot, commanding us to kindle the Hanukkah lights.

ברוך אתה יְהוָה מלך העולם אשר קדשך, ושעתה נסים לъאבותינו.
אֲמִיתָיוֹ נִסָּהּ, וְעָשָּׂה נִסָּה לְאָבוֹתֵינוּ.

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, she-asah nisim laavoteinu v'imoteinu bayamim haahaim baz'man hazeh.
Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, who performed wonderous deeds for our ancestors in days of old at this season.
For first night only:

ברוך אתה יְהוָה מלך העולם אשר קדשך, ושעתה נסים לъאבותינו.
וְגָיִעַ נִסָּה לְאָבוֹתֵינוּ.

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, shehecheyanu v'kiy'manu v'higianu laz'man hazeh.
Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, for giving us life, for sustaining us, and for enabling us to reach this season.

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Donations March - November 2016

In Honor of Their Children and Grandchildren
Mazy and Bob Fricklas

In Memory of Their Father, Albert Gelfenbaum
Vicki and Gary Dorfman

In Memory of Vicki’s Father, Albert Gelfenbaum
Vicki and Gary Dorfman

In Memory of Mother, Ruth Robrish
Carole Robrish

In Memory of Mickey Paley
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In Memory of Gary’s Parents
Milton and Ava Dorfman
Gary and Vicki Dorfman

In Memory of Son, Peter Smith
Susan & Harvey Smith

In Memory of Grandmother, Fannie Dorfman
Vicki, Leah and Gary Dorfman

In Memory of Father Leo Joseph Lincourt
Joan Garfinkel

In Honor of Baby Naming of Great Grandson, Jules Jacober
Gladys Jacober
Planning Ahead

CBD is extremely active, not only with religious services and school programs, but with events that enrich our membership through social, cultural and educational gatherings. To help you plan, here’s a listing of some tentative upcoming events. Watch your Constant Contact for more details.

Progressive dinner – Jan. 21 (article elsewhere in the newsletter)
Movie afternoon – Jan. 28
Wine and Paint event - February 18
Yiddish or Kabbalah program – tentative date, February 26
Chavurah program – see article elsewhere in the newsletter
Shabbat Across America Dinner – March 3
Purim Carnival – March 12
Passover wine tasting – tentative date, March 27
Second Night Seder – April 1
Yom Hashoah – April 23
Spring Fling – May 21