



The MESSAGE

HOUSTON, TEXAS JANUARY 20, 2008 13 SHEVAT 5768 VOL. XLIII, No. 10



FRIDAY, JANUARY 25

Candlelighting Time 5:35pm
5:30pm J.B. Greenfield Chapel
6:00pm Shabbat Renewal
with the Varon Family
6:15pm Shabbat Yachad

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26

Parashat Yitro
8:30am J.B. Greenfield Chapel
9:00am Museum Minyan
9:30am Sanctuary Service
Bat Mitzvah: Michelle Varon
9:30am Jr. Congregation
9:30am Mini Minyan
9:30am Tot Shabbat
11:30am Weekly Torah Study
5:30pm J.B. Greenfield Chapel

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1

Candlelighting Time 5:41pm
5:30pm J.B. Greenfield Chapel
6:00pm Friday Night Alive!

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2

Parashat Mishpatim
8:30am J.B. Greenfield Chapel
9:00am Museum Minyan
9:30am Sanctuary Service
9:30am Jr. Congregation
11:30am Weekly Torah Study
5:30pm J.B. Greenfield Chapel

By the Stength of Our Mothers Jewish Women Who've Led the Way

Beth Yeshurun is proud to host

DR. RENEE LEVINE MELAMMED

THE JCC BUNNY & LEO HORVITZ

SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE

Friday & Saturday

Feb. 1 & 2



Friday after Friday Night Alive!

Young Adults Dinner, Drinks & Discussion - \$12 per person

**East Meets West: A New York Feminist and
the Orthodox Yemenite World**

Saturday at 11:15 a.m. (following all services)

Defying the Inquisition: The Crypto-Jewish Women of Spain

Saturday at 4:30 p.m. (at Shalosheudos)

**What's a Nice Jewish Woman Like You Doing as the Head of
a Yeshiva in 17th Century Mosul?**

See page three for details and RSVP information.

For more information, please contact Tammy Friedman at TFRIEDMAN@BETHYESHURUN.ORG
or (713) 666-1881, ext. 312, or visit our website at WWW.BETHYESHURUN.ORG



WITH RABBI STRAUSS

Make a JEWISH Camp Decision

Soon many parents will be deciding where to send their children to camp this summer. Studies show that getting our youth involved in a positive Jewish summer camp experience can have a major impact on their later Jewish involvement and identification. By giving them a Jewish camp experience, we as parents have the opportunity to fulfill an important goal – to fill our children with the beauty and the *ruah* (spirit) of Judaism.



In our day and age, Jewish camps also fulfill our desire as parents to give our children an enjoyable outdoor experience. Jewish camps today have

large sports fields, ropes courses, aquatics centers, horseback riding, waterslides, lakes, and pools. There is nothing that a large, popular non-Jewish camp has that a Jewish camp does not. Simply put, by going to a Jewish camp, your child will not miss out. Rather, they will not only have the time of their life, they will also enjoy living and breathing Judaism 24 hours a day. Because outside of our Jewish schools and going to Israel, no place else in the Jewish world today can provide our children such a powerful Jewish experience.

There is nothing like Shabbat at camp. The normal activities of the week are completely replaced with the restfulness and spirit of Shabbat. Our kids leave appreciating the value of Jewish observance.

Campers also become close with older positive Jewish role models including their counselors, teachers, and rabbis.

Finally, Jewish camps offer the opportunity to teach our children the beauty of mitzvot like Tikkun Olam (Social Action), *Hahnasat Orhim* (Hospitality), and *Gemillut Hasidim* (Kind acts towards others).

I was fortunate to have parents who made sure that I always had a Jewish camp experience during my summers. This is one of the ways my parents instilled in me a love for Judaism. You can do the same for your children. And by doing so we continue the legacy of passing on Judaism from one generation to the next!

Fortunately, there are many worthy Jewish camps today to help us fulfill this worthy goal. I would like to tell you more about three of them.

For over 50 years our regional Camp Young Judaea has been offering overnight camping experiences for Jewish youth in Texas.

Located in the scenic Texas hill country on 240 acres of rugged natural terrain, the camp's facilities include a lake, swimming pool, waterslides, mushroom waterfall, kosher

certified kitchen, and air-conditioned dining hall complex. The camp offers a wide range of activities, including athletics, Hebrew, drama, arts and crafts, Israeli Scouting (Tsofiut), swimming and water sports, a ropes course, singing, and many electives. Boys and girls from ages 7 through 14 can attend 10-day, 12-day or 3½-week summer programs. CYJ-TX is pluralistic and is sponsored by Hadassah.

Many BY families choose to send their children to this extraordinary camp because of its long history of instilling in our youth a strong devotion to Israel and a lifetime commitment to Judaism in a natural central-Texas setting.

Camp Young Judaea-Texas is pleased to announce a new incentive program for summer 2008 sessions: The first 100 qualified applicants will receive a \$1,000 scholarship. To qualify, youths must be enrolling in a 3½-week session for the first time. Campers who have previously attended shorter overnight camp sessions are still eligible. This camper incentive is NOT based on need and is awarded per qualified child on a first-come, first-served basis. The grant will be distributed to eligible families upon receipt of the completed grant application. Registration for summer 2008 is currently ongoing. Incentives will be awarded to the first 100 qualified applicants only.

The CYJ incentive program is made possible by a three year grant from the Foundation for Jewish Camping and National Young Judaea. By making a 3½-week sleep away camp more affordable, it offers parents a strong incentive to choose the total immersion experience of a Jewish overnight camp. For further information and to enroll online, visit www.cyjtxas.org, or call (713) 723-8354.

Finally, as Conservative Jews, we also have the opportunity to send our kids to Ramah Darom, which is situated in the North Georgia Mountains, just two hours north of Atlanta. Ramah Darom offers an outstanding overnight camp in a dynamic Conservative Jewish environment. Camp Ramah integrates experiential Jewish living and learning with an atmosphere of friendship and fun. In addition to top-notch sports and arts programs, campers find a caring approach to social, intellectual, and religious growth. For more information, see www.ramahdarom.org.

In addition, the National Ramah Movement is currently in the process of building a new camp in Colorado which will be called Ramah in the Rockies. This camp will serve our region and is scheduled to be completed in 2010. For more information on this exciting venture, see www.ramahrockies.org.

This is just a sample of the extraordinary Jewish summer camps available to us. As one of your rabbis, I strongly encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities for the sake of our Jewish future.

By the Strength of Our Mothers

Jewish Women Who've Led the Way

Beth Yeshurun is proud to host

DR. RENEE

LEVINE MELAMMED

THE JCC BUNNY & LEO HORVITZ SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE

Friday & Saturday - Feb. 1 & 2

Friday after Friday Night Alive!

Young Adults Dinner, Drinks & Discussion - \$12 per person
For Singles and Couples without Children

East Meets West: A New York Feminist and the Orthodox Yemenite World

Send your check (payable to Congregation Beth Yeshurun) to Beth Yeshurun
Please note in memo section: Young Adults Shabbat Dinner.
Your check is your reservation. Payment cannot be accepted at the door.

11:15 a.m. (following all services)

Defying the Inquisition: The Crypto-Jewish Women of Spain

followed by a question & answer period

4:30 p.m. (at Shalosheudos)

What's a Nice Jewish Woman Like You Doing as the Head of a Yeshiva in 17th Century Mosul?

followed by a question & answer period



Dr. Renee Melammed

is an outstanding and entertaining **Scholar of Jewish History** specializing in **Women's Jewish History, Spanish and Ladino Jewry, and the Spanish Inquisition and Conversos** (also known as Marranos or Crypto-Jews).

Dr. Melammed heads the Women's Gender Studies M.A. program at the Schechter Institute in Jerusalem. She has published numerous articles, is editor of the gender and women's studies journal "Nashim." Her first book, "Heretics and Daughters of Israel: The Crypto-Jewish Women of Castile" (Oxford University Press, 1999) received two National Jewish Book Awards.

RECENT SIMCHA TREE ADDITIONS

Listed below are the Simcha Tree leaves given during the time the Simcha Tree was being re-created as the tree which now appears outside of the East Stein Hall doors (since 2003). We wish to congratulate all of the recipients of the leaves and acknowledge the generosity of the donors. Mazal Tov! If we have mistakenly omitted a Simcha Tree Leaf, we sincerely apologize. Please contact Sharon Wilton at SWILTON@BETHYESHURUN.ORG or (713) 666-1881, ext. 373, with the information.

In Honor of Marilyn Albert on the occasion of her 70th Birthday

Given with love by family & friends

* * * * *

In Honor of Sidney Aron on the occasion of his 75th Birthday

Given by Hertzel & Dorita Aron, Mel & Peggy Fine, Bernie & Bernadean Rosenblatt & Merilee Weiner

* * * * *

In Honor of Jacob Cohen on the occasion of his 80th Birthday

Given by Greg, Gina, Jill & Robin

* * * * *

In Honor of David William Edelstein on the occasion of his 50th Birthday

With love, Marilyn & Alvin Wexler

* * * * *

In Honor of Betty & Milton Freedman on the occasion of their 60th Wedding Anniversary

With love from their children, grandchildren & great-grandchildren

* * * * *

In Honor of Sylvia & Dr. Albert Gordon on the occasion of their 65th Anniversary in Excellence in the Sanctuary

Given by Sylvia & Alfred Freedman & family

* * * * *

In Honor of Rosalie & Max Halpin on the occasion of their 60th Wedding Anniversary

Given by their children, grandchildren & great-grandchildren

* * * * *

In Honor of Celine & David Hecht on the occasion of their 45th Wedding Anniversary

Given by Janet & Jeff Mintz, Ronny & Diana Hecht, Jerry & Arlene Hecht & grandchildren

* * * * *

In Honor of Tobye & Mort Joachim on the occasion of their 50th Anniversary

With love from your children & grandchildren

* * * * *

In Honor of Susan Weiner Klaiman on the occasion of her 50th Birthday

With love from your friends & family

* * * * *

In Honor of Bernard Leff on the occasion of his 80th Birthday

Love, the Leff children & grandchildren

* * * * *



In Honor of Shirley & Joel Mandel on the occasion of their 50th Wedding Anniversary

Given by your many friends who love you

* * * * *

In Honor of Myrna & Irwin "Ted" Powers on the occasion of their 50th Wedding Anniversary

Given by your loving children & grandchildren

* * * * *

In Honor of Shirley & Marvin Rich on the occasion of their 50th Wedding Anniversary

Given by Raye Brown & family, Judith Mayer & family, Sam & Elaine Merwin & family, Hershel & Hilda Rich & family

* * * * *

In Honor of Lester Rosen on the occasion of his 80th Birthday

Given by your loving family & friends

* * * * *

In Honor of Sandy & George Rosen on the occasion of their 50th Wedding Anniversary

Given by Erin, Rachel & Michele Eldridge, Karen & Joshua Rosen, Annette, Kenny, Andrew & Michael Rosen

* * * * *

In Honor of Eudis & Sanford Schwartz on the occasion of their 50th Wedding Anniversary

Given by their dear family & friends

* * * * *

In Honor of Shirley & Bruce Stein for Their Generosity & Love of Life

Given by the Epstein-Schlanger Families

* * * * *

In Honor of Albert & Emily Stein on the occasion of their 10th Wedding Anniversary

Given by dear friends

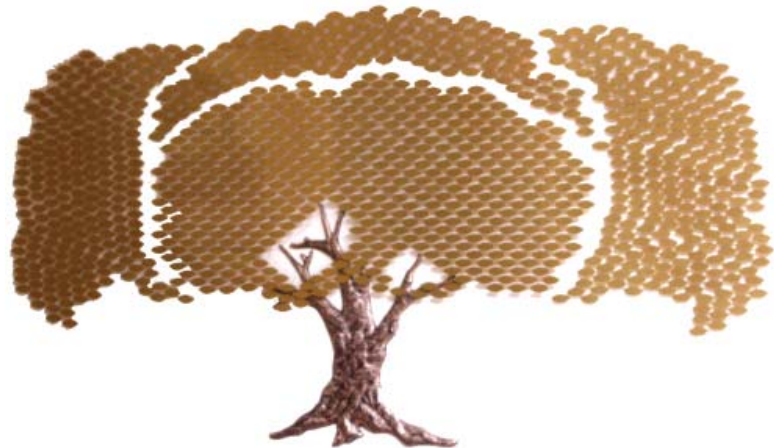
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This new tree was designed by Edwin C. Balis and Associates of Donora, PA, and specially adapted for Congregation Beth Yeshurun. It has 1,000 leaves, about 700 more than the previous tree, to serve us for many years to come. Prices for leaves are \$600. All previously dedicated leaves have been re-engraved and placed on the new tree, maintaining the *kavod* that was awarded to past leaf recipients.

The Simcha Tree is a collection of special events and remembrances. Leaves may be given in honor of any special occasion such as births, Bar and Bat Mitzvahs, weddings, anniversaries, birthdays, graduations...any occasion worthy of the title "Simcha." Those persons honored by a leaf will be acknowledged in *The Message* and receive a special certificate.

This tree would not have been possible without Abram (A.C.) Farb and his daughter Sonia Raizes. A.C. and his many friends and family dedicated the original tree in honor of his second Bar Mitzvah in 1976. Sonia worked tirelessly for many years taking care of selling leaves and administering the details of the Tree. The original Simcha Tree was retired in 2003 with the construction of BY2000.

If you would like to purchase a leaf or would like to learn more about the Simcha Tree, please contact Sharon Wilton in our synagogue office at (713) 666-1881, ext. 373 or (SWILTON@BETHYESHURUN.ORG). Wording for engraved inscriptions on leaves should be submitted by the donors.



FAMILY ALBUM

■ Anniversaries

1/20 4 Perry and Dita Sable
 1/21 13 Cory and Lisa Birenbaum
 14 Landon and Joy Blair
 13 Jeff and Debbie Karchmer
 1/22 8 Jason and Staci Beinart
 47 Cyril and Joan Lotzof
 25 Scott and Reina McMillian
 54 Mark and Sofiya Strupinskiy
 1/23 9 Nir and Dori Golan
 37 Barry and Pamela Pearl

1/25 55 Hyman and Blanche Abramson
 19 Jerome and Susan Feldman
 12 Alex and Irina Niemer
 1 Steven and Bonnie Schultz
 1/26 7 Michael and Mila Milo
 6 Anatoliy and Irina Pukhovich
 56 Laurence and Frances Ray
 1/27 45 Michael and Linda Kashar
 1 Elan and Melanie Levy
 56 Donald and Ruth Peaceman
 1/30 33 Michael and Margot Barnard
 53 Irwin and Myrna Powers

1/31 21 Joseph and Sara Varon
 2/1 16 Scott and Janet Asarch
 23 Bernardo and Cecile Kraus
 2/2 17 Andrew and Ellen Taer

■ Condolences

The congregation extends its sincerest condolences to the families of --

Rose Leva, Irvin Skibell,
 Richard Susman

May their memories be for a blessing.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NEWS

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BLUMENFELD-SUVALSKY RELIGIOUS SCHOOL ENRICHMENT FUND

On behalf of Congregation Beth Yeshurun and specifically the Religious School, we wish to thank Rita Blumenfeld and Lisa Suvalsky for their significant contribution to establish the Blumenfeld-Suvalsky Religious School Enrichment Fund. This newly created fund will provide Religious School Enrichment programs for students in the Congregation's supplemental William S. Malev Schools for Religious Studies. The specific type of programs will be determined by the principal of the Religious School. The children in our Religious School will greatly benefit from the annual enrichment programs for several years. This year, our Religious School children will be entertained by the world renowned group *Pharaoh's Daughter*.

Thank you again to Rita Blumenfeld and Lisa Suvalsky for helping make Beth Yeshurun a very special place for our congregants and students and for living by the words of the *Sh'ma, v'shinan tam l'vanecha*, "and you shall teach them to your children."



The MESSAGE

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 Lester Rosen, YES Group Chairlirosen@aol.com

CONGREGATION BETH YESHURUN
PRESENTS
THE 2008 ANNUAL DINNER
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH AT 6:00 P.M.

A NIGHT OF THE STARS!

HONORING OUR STARS

RABBI DAVID ROSEN - HIS SILVER ANNIVERSARY OF 25 YEARS OF
SERVICE TO THE CONSERVATIVE MOVEMENT

JUDY YAMBRA - OUTGOING CONGREGATION BETH YESHURUN PRESIDENT
OUTGOING OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

OUR NEW PRESIDENT

OUR NEW OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

INSTALLATION TO TAKE PLACE AT THE BUSINESS MEETING

STAR ENTERTAINMENT

ENJOY THE TALENTS OF THE FABULOUS, ENTERTAINING DIVA

YVONNE WASHINGTON & HER BAND

AS THEY PERFORM THEIR MIX OF JAZZ, POP, RHYTHM AND BLUES!

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING, DINNER, ENTERTAINMENT

BRIGHTEN OUR SHINING STARS' NIGHT
WITH YOUR SPARKLE!

COUVERT: \$36 PER PERSON, BUSINESS ATTIRE

PLEASE RSVP BY SUBMITTING YOUR PAYMENT OF \$36 PER PERSON ALONG WITH YOUR SEATING PREFERENCE, BY FEBRUARY 8TH BY MAIL TO
CONGREGATION BETH YESHURUN
4525 BEECHNUT ST.
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77096-1801



■Special Needs classes at Yom Limmud

An exciting and welcome addition to **Yom Limmud, Sunday, Feb. 17**, will be a *Special Needs Supervised Class* for children whose needs require special assistance, while their parents/caregivers attend study sessions, presentations and workshops. Sponsored by the *Jewish Family Service Alexander Institute*,* the SNS Class will have a certified special education teacher for each session with additional volunteers to help interact with the children. Activity materials and snacks will be provided.

Children may attend a morning session from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and/or an afternoon session from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Children attending the morning session must be picked up by 12:00 noon for lunch with their families. The cost for the *Special Needs Supervised Class* is \$5 per child per session.

Pre-registration is required and due by Jan. 28, 2008. No drop-ins will be accepted. Registration forms must be completed and returned so that teachers may adequately prepare for those children who will attend. Parents/caregivers must be registered for Yom Limmud and remain on the premises while their children are in this class. For additional information and forms, contact Diane Brezner at (713) 729-7000, ext. 334, or DBREZNER@HOUSTONJEWISH.ORG.

* *The Jewish Family Service Alexander Institute for Jewish Families with Special Needs* seeks to enrich and empower families and caregivers through professional services, education, advocacy, opportunities, referrals and information of the highest quality within a Jewish framework.

AMIT Tu B'Shvat Fundraiser

In honor of Tu B'Shvat (Jan. 22), AMIT is selling Tu B'Shvat gift packages of dried fruits & nuts native to Israel, with proceeds to go to the AMIT Sderot Emergency Campaign. Sderot is still under constant Qassam rocket attack, and AMIT (with over 2,000 children in AMIT schools in Sderot) has expended enormous amounts of money to reinforce and equip the shelters in the schools. AMIT also provides extra tutoring, psychological counseling and other activities for the students there. Due to the extra services which AMIT has provided, despite the relentless rocket attacks, 90 percent of the city's high school seniors – all of whom study at AMIT's two high schools – passed their bagrut exams. AMIT would appreciate your support for this project.

Order forms are available in the lobby of the shul or call Marisa Brown at (713) 728-3449 to place your order.

JEWISH YOUNG ADULTS OPPORTUNITY

GesherCity, a non-profit entrepreneurial venture connecting young adults, primarily in their early 20's and 30's, to the Jewish community invites all young adults ages 21-35 to celebrate its launch in Houston! The event will be held Sunday, Jan. 20, from 8:30 p.m.-1:00 a.m. at Whiskey Creek (2905 Travis St.). Admission is free if a profile is created on WWW.GESHERCITY.ORG by noon of Jan. 20, 2008 or \$10 without a profile. There will be a cash bar all evening.

GesherCity provides many benefits, including these:

* **Continuity:** Young adults are at a critical stage when many major life decisions are made. Engaging them at this decisive time of life is an investment in the Jewish present and the Jewish future.

* **Responsive to Young Adult Needs and Wants:** GesherCity's self-selected clusters provide an easy, comfortable way for young adults to meet each other to build friendships and to network. Our web portal is a one-stop-shop young adults can turn to for all information about their community and to learn about a new one.

* **Strengthen Existing Programs:** GesherCity benefits existing Jewish organizations by increasing young adult involvement, organizing collaborative events, and publicizing other organizations. We do not compete with any organization or program.

* **Leadership Development:** By enabling young adults to do things they want to do, at whatever level they wish to get involved, and equipping them with leadership skills, GesherCity builds leaders that benefit the whole community.

* **Investment in Donor Acquisition:** With a proven ability to bridge uninvolved young adults to the Jewish community, and increase the participation of those already involved, GesherCity is the best way to make a fresh, positive impression on young adults and in turn augment their financial contributions.

* **Publicity:** GesherCity is a signature program that will attract publicity and good will. As a result, GesherCity draws the attention of major contributors with a desire to support young adult programs.

WEEKDAY SERVICES IN THE J.B. GREENFIELD CHAPEL

Jan 20-25: Sun 8am, Mon-Fri 7am, Sun-Thu 5:30pm
Jan 27-Feb 1: Sun 8am, Mon-Fri 7am, Sun-Thu 5:45pm

Next Message Deadline:

Jan 22 for the Feb 17 issue
Feb 5 for the Mar 2 issue
Feb 19 for the Mar 16 issue

The Message is printed by Simon Printing