



The MESSAGE

HOUSTON, TEXAS FEBRUARY 1, 2009 7 SHEVAT 5769 VOL. XLIV, No. 12



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6

Candlelighting Time 5:45pm
5:45pm J.B. Greenfield Chapel
6:00pm Friday Night Alive!
with Scholar-in-Residence:
Ron Wolfson

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7

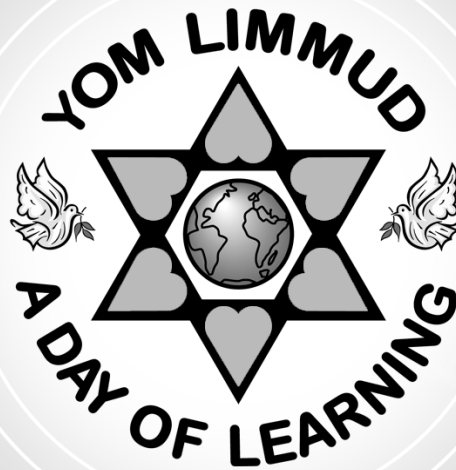
Parashat Beshalach
8:30am J.B. Greenfield Chapel
9:30am Shir Chadash
(Combined Sanctuary &
Museum Minyan Service)
with Scholar-in-Residence:
Ron Wolfson
9:30am Jr. Congregation
9:30am Mini Minyan - Stein East
9:30am Tot Shabbat - Stein West
11:30am Weekly Torah Study
5:15pm J.B. Greenfield Chapel

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Candlelighting Time 5:51pm
5:45pm J.B. Greenfield Chapel
6:00pm Shabbat Renewal
with the Kantor
& Maislin Families
6:15pm Shabbat Yachad

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Parashat Yitro
8:30am J.B. Greenfield Chapel
9:15am Museum Minyan
9:30am Sanctuary Service
B'nai Mitzvah: Sean Kantor
& Jonathan Maislin
9:30am Jr. Congregation
11:30am Weekly Torah Study
5:30pm J.B. Greenfield Chapel



Bureau of Jewish Education's
Yom Limmud 2009
A Day of Learning for All Ages

Sunday, February 15, 2009
at Congregation Beth Yeshurun

Our own Beth Yeshurun Rabbis will be presenting the following classes:

Ten Reasons I'm STILL Jewish

with Rabbi David Rosen, 9:30-10:20 a.m.

Two Roads to God: The Moses Road and the Jesus Road

with Rabbi Jack Segal, 9:30-10:20 a.m.

If God is Great, Why Do the Righteous Suffer?

with Rabbi Steven Morgen, 10:30-11:20 a.m.

Do We Believe In An Afterlife?

with Rabbi Brian Strauss, 10:30-11:20 a.m.

Erotic and Sexual Themes in Jewish Mysticism

with Rabbi Daniel Horwitz, 1:00-2:20 p.m.

For more information call Barbara Loeser, Yom Limmud Coordinator, at (713) 729-7000 or go to the Federation website WWW.HOUSTONJEWISH.ORG/YOMLIMMUD.ASP. Registration is available either online or at the door on Sunday, Feb. 15. We are in need of many volunteers - register at WWW.HOUSTONJEWISH.ORG/YOMLIMMUD.ASP.

WITH RABBI STRAUSS

Am Yisrael Chai - The people of Israel will live

On January 7, over two thousand pro-Israel supporters came to Beth Yeshurun to pledge their solidarity and support for the State of Israel. It was truly a night of inspiration as young and old came together to sing and pray for the one Jewish country in the world. I will never forget the positive sense of community that was created as Jews from all denominations came together.



We were blessed to listen to our senior rabbi David Rosen who in his usual eloquent fashion reminded us why Israel was rightfully defending itself against Hamas rockets. Hazzan David Propis beautifully sang a Prayer for the State of Israel and Shir LaShalom: A Song for Peace.

Other speakers that evening included the Honorable Anne Clutterbuck (Houston City Council), the Honorable Asher Yarden (Consul General of Israel), the Honorable Ana Hernandez (State Representative), Pastor Martin Nicholas (Sugar Land First United Methodist Church) and Darryl Blackburn (a student at the University of Oklahoma and an alumnus of the Mickey Leland Kibbutz Program).

As the current president of the Houston Rabbinical Association, I was given the opportunity to speak. I would like to share with you my words that were based on the idea that despite what our enemies are again attempting to accomplish, **“Am Yisrael Chai” – The people of Israel will live.**

1. By 1945, we had lost over six million of our fellow Jews. Many said that the Jewish people were done. But out of the ashes of the Holocaust, came hope. Because a great miracle happened. Out of a great struggle against those who wished to destroy her, a Jewish state was born in our historic homeland. A small country but it gave us hope, that our people could again shape our own future.

Liyot am chofshi be-artzeinu – We could be a free nation in our land, in the land of Zion and Jerusalem. And we as Jews proudly declared –

“Am Yisrael Chai” – The people of Israel will live.

2. In 1967, Arab nations planned to attack that small country, to destroy that hope, to destroy the people of Israel.

But *Nes Gadol Hayah Sham* –

A great modern miracle happened again, there, in our land.

In only six days, they defeated those who wished to destroy the dream. And in the process, we could pray again at that Wall where we had worshipped God so long ago. And after that war, Israel only asked for peace. But there was no response from the other side.

But we responded, Jews and our friends around the world responded. As we said:

“Am Yisrael Chai” – The people of Israel will live.

3. In 1973, they again attacked that small country, to destroy that hope, to destroy the people of Israel.

But Israel was able to quickly counter that surprise attack launched on the holiest day of the Jewish calendar.

And again, we said:

“Am Yisrael Chai” – The people of Israel will live.

4. In 1993, for just a promise of peace, Israel actually gave land

to those who had always wished to destroy her.

No other country in the history of the world had ever done that. But Israel wanted peace so badly, they were willing to take a chance that her enemies finally wanted peace as well.

But sadly, their leaders did not respond with peace, but with terrorism in the form of homicide bombings on buses and in cafés.

Yet, remarkably, Israel’s economy grew, its great contributions to the world in science, medicine and technology increased, more and more Jews moved to Israel, and we as Houstonians visited despite the challenges, because we again said:

“Am Yisrael Chai” – The people of Israel will live.

5. Finally, in 2005, in another effort to achieve peace, Israel again withdrew from land, this time in Gaza.

Israel did it with the hope of finally establishing two states, living side by side in peace. We prayed for Palestinians as well, that they would finally be blessed with leaders who loved their people more than they hated ours. That they would use their money for hospitals and schools not for more guns and bullets. But again, they were not blessed.

Hamas became their leaders who answered our withdrawal not with peace, but with mortars and rockets - thousands of them launched into innocent Israeli towns. Over 6,000 rockets in the last 3 years! Rockets which have intentionally targeted homes, schools, and synagogues.

Rockets that clearly said, “We have no territorial dispute with you, it’s not about 1967 borders, rather the rockets said, we simply do not recognize your right to exist.”

But we say to them tonight what we have been saying again and again, and we will always say, because it will always be true, as loud as we can –

“Am Yisrael Chai” – The people of Israel will live.

So today, my friends, Israel is doing what it did not want to do, but has to do. What any country on earth would do. To defend themselves against those who wish to destroy her.

And let’s be clear tonight, it’s because of Iran who sponsors Hamas, who would rather have their own people die than ours live, that innocents on both sides are hurting.

Because our enemy is not the Palestinian people. I pray, and I think we all do, that innocents in Gaza will be ok. The enemies are fundamentalists, who refuse to recognize that a Jewish state will forever be a part of this world. And with rockets and more terrorism, Hamas and their ilk cannot be allowed to change that.

So if you pledge tonight to make a difference - to get involved in our community organizations, to give of your resources, to call your elected officials, to write to the newspapers, to call the radio shows, to tell your neighbors that Israel only seeks peace for the one Jewish nation on earth, then say it loudly with me again.

Say it because we have always said it and we always will, and we must make sure that those who come after us, our children and grandchildren, can say it also. Because it is the hope, a righteous and pure hope, the hope of our people who have said for two thousand years -

Liyot am chofshi be-artzeinu –

Let us be a free nation in our land, in the land of Zion and Jerusalem –

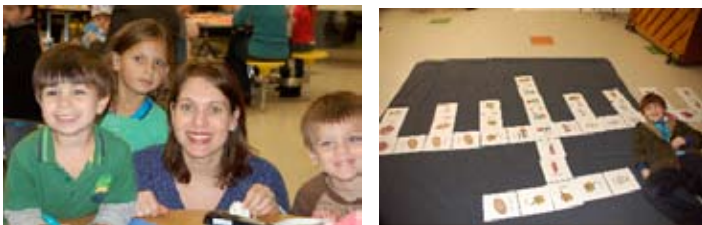
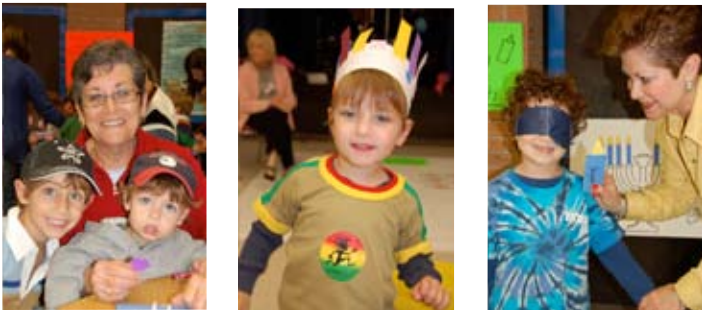
“Am Yisrael Chai” – The people of Israel will live.

WITH OUR KIDS

B'NAI MITZVAH

■ Pre-school Judaica Family Hanukkah

Our youngest BYers welcomed Hanukkah at our Pre-school Judaica Family Fun Night sponsored by our Family Life Department on Dec. 5. Everyone was in a festive mood as we made crafts and played games at stations led by our Pre-school teachers. After cookies and Hanukkah songs with Mrs. Albert, all were ready for the fabulous eight nights to begin! Thanks to Bianca Wigder, Rysse Goldfarb and Blythe Grossman for coordinating our special event. Below are some of the happy faces that appeared at the celebration.



■ Textbooks in the U.S.



Dr. Sandra Alfonsi

Facts, Fiction, Innuendo or Bias? Textbooks in the United States with Dr. Sandra Alfonsi.

As we continue to see anti-Israel boycotts, academic bias against Israel and the Jewish people and a continuing campaign to undermine the legitimacy of the State of Israel as the homeland for the Jewish people, we cannot overlook what our own children are being taught in school. What information is being omitted or added in our state adopted textbooks? How

can we prepare teachers to identify bias or innuendo? How can we as concerned Texans make a difference?

Come and hear Dr. Alfonsi as she speaks on this very important and timely theme as a scholar-in-residence at this year's Yom Limud, Sunday, Feb. 15, at Beth Yeshurun.



SEAN KANTOR
FEBRUARY 13-14

Sean Perry Kantor is the son of Linda and Curtis Kantor and the brother of Brooke Kantor. Proud grandparents are Tobbye and Mort Joachim and Deanna and the late Louis Kantor. Sean is a seventh grade honor student in the gifted and talented program at Lanier Middle School.

Sean plays guitar and enjoys music. He also enjoys sports, especially baseball which led him to decide on his Mitzvah Project. Sean has collected a large assortment of sports equipment which will be donated to the Depelchin Children's Center. Sean has also been collecting books for the children at Ben Taub Hospital which will be distributed by Hadassah. Sean will proudly donate a portion of his monetary Bar Mitzvah gifts to the Tikva Children's Home in memory of his cousin, Jonathan Finkelman.



JONATHAN MAISLIN
FEBRUARY 13-14

Jonathan Eric Maislin is the son of Michelle and Steve Maislin and the brother of Robert, Jeremy and Allison. His extremely proud grandparents are Pearl and Sig Altman of Houston and Audrey and Raymond Maislin of Austin. Jonathan is a seventh grade student at Johnston Middle School where he is in the Gifted

and Talented program and is a member of the Boys Choir and Graphic Art Magnets. Jonathan is a gymnast on the men's team of the Houston Gymnastics Club, and is participating in HISD's off-campus P.E. program.

Jonathan has also been a member of the Houston Gem and Mineral Society for the past five years and has received numerous awards for the gems he has cut, shaped and polished. He decided to turn this interest into his Mitzvah project and became the youngest volunteer at the Museum of Natural Science. Jonathan donated his time on Sunday afternoons to work with kids to show them how to shape and work with rocks. Jonathan will be donating a portion of his monetary gifts. Half will be donated to the Anti-Defamation League's *No Place for Hate* school program in Austin in honor of his grandparents, Audrey and Ray Maislin. The second half will be split evenly to Hadassah Heart Research in honor of his grandmother, Pearl Altman and the balance in honor of his grandfather, Sig Altman for the Houston Gem and Mineral Society.

Brotherhood's Special Minyan and Breakfast has been rescheduled for Sunday, Feb. 22 at 9:00 a.m. Please check our website at BETHYESHURUN.ORG for details.



FAMILY ALBUM

■Marriage

The marriage of **Jessica Finer**, daughter of Nancy and Michael Finer of Miami and **Scott Miller**, son of Susan and Juan Bracho and Karla and Bruce Miller of Houston took place in Miami, FL, on Jan. 10, 2009. The bride and groom were lovingly surrounded by family and friends sharing their beautiful simcha. Jessica and Scott will continue to reside in Austin.

■Birth

Shoshana and Jeff Dinerstein are thrilled to announce the birth of their daughter, **Leah Esther Dinerstein**. Leah was born on Nov. 9, 2008. She weighed eight pounds, nine ounces and was 19 7/8 inches long. Leah's very proud grandparents are Harriet and Michael Katzeff and Joan and Dr. Steve Dinerstein. She is so fortunate to have her great-grandparents Joyce and Joe Chesnick. Leah's great-grandparents of blessed memory are Esther and Louis Rothkop and Frances and Dr. Jacob Katzeff and Ruth Katzeff, and Leba and Bill Dinerstein. Leah Esther's Hebrew name is Leba Esther in loving memory of her paternal great-grandmother, Leba Dinerstein, and her maternal great-grandmother, Esther Geller Rothkop.

■Anniversaries

- | | | |
|-----|----|-----------------------------|
| 2/1 | 6 | Chris and Jaffray Getz |
| 2/2 | 18 | Andrew and Ellen Taer |
| 2/4 | 20 | David and Shelley Edelstein |
| | 41 | Richard and Henia Leibman |
| | 3 | Rodney and Victoria Merwin |

- | | | |
|------|----|------------------------------------|
| | 8 | Frank and Simone Silberlicht |
| 2/5 | 31 | Richard and Anne Frachtman |
| | 26 | Bennett and Robin Greenspan |
| | 14 | Bruce Kessler and Leah Stolar |
| | 15 | Gary and Jeannie Wermuth |
| 2/6 | 27 | Lev and Irene Bleyzer |
| 2/7 | 46 | Kam and Yergeniya Braslavsky |
| | 49 | Max and Joan Lupuloff |
| | 19 | Ralph and Arwen Wilson |
| 2/9 | 41 | Aaron and Sheryl Karolinski |
| | 18 | Michael and Linda Lang |
| 2/10 | 63 | Yale and Evelyn Schorr |
| 2/11 | 10 | Wolf and Rose Finkelman |
| 2/13 | 13 | Frank Inselbuch and Lenora Noroski |
| 2/14 | 21 | Abraham and Nasrin Maghsoudi |
| | 22 | David and Carol Neider |
| | 56 | Norman and Lila Shulak |

■Condolences

The congregation extends its sincerest condolences to the families of--
 Robert Aronson, Rabbi Louis Firestein, Stanley Golden,
 Harvey Katz, Bernice "Bunny" Margolin, Sarah Leitman
May their memories be for a blessing.

DO A MITZVAH - SIGN UP FOR "JEWRY DUTY!"

If you would be willing to join us for the evening minyan once a month, please send an e-mail to our Chapel Rabbi, Danny Horwitz, at RABBIDANNY@AOL.COM and he will be very pleased to sign you up for "Jewry Duty"!



The MESSAGE

CONGREGATION BETH YESHURUN
 WWW.BETHYESHURUN.ORG

4525 Beechnut Street
 Houston, Texas 77096
 Office (713) 666-1881

themessage@bethyeshurun.org
 Synagogue Fax (713) 666-7767
 School Office (713) 666-1884

HOW TO CONTACT US

Rabbi David Rosen..... drosen@bethyeshurun.org
 Rabbi Steven Morgen..... smorgen@bethyeshurun.org
 Rabbi Brian Strauss..... bstrauss@bethyeshurun.org
 Rabbi Jack Segal..... rabsegal@aol.com
 Hazzan David Propis..... dpropis@bethyeshurun.org
 Cantor Francyne Davis Jacobs, Asst. Cantor, HHS Prin...fdjacobs@bethyeshurun.org
 Stuart Wilson, Synagogue President swilson@bethyeshurun.org

Luis Dorfman, Executive Director ldorfman@bethyeshurun.org
 Rabbi Danny Horwitz, Greenfield Chapel rabbidanny@aol.com
 Tom Elieff, Head of School telieff@bethyeshurun.org
 Mindy Rosenthal, ES Principal.. mrosenthal@bethyeshurun.org
 Gale Friedman, Pre-School Principal gfriedman@bethyeshurun.org
 Devora Urkowitz, Dir. of Judaic Studies,.. durkowitz@bethyeshurun.org
 Monica Woolf, Librarian mwoolf@bethyeshurun.org
 Cecilia Garfinkel, School Business Mgr ...cgarfinkel@bethyeshurun.org
 Lester Sternberg, Controller lsternberg@bethyeshurun.org
 Beth Yeshurun Gift Shop..... giftshop@bethyeshurun.org
 Sharon Wilton, Office Manager..... swilton@bethyeshurun.org
 Julie Bernfeld, Member Services Mgr jbernfeld@bethyeshurun.org
 Eileen Pettigrew, Food Serv Mgr epettigrew@bethyeshurun.org
 Norma Gonzales, Rabbi Rosen's Asst.... ngonzales@bethyeshurun.org
 Gayle Schnurr, Rabbis Morgen/Strauss Sec gschsnurr@bethyeshurun.org
 Hilary Nitsun, Hazzan Propis' Secretary hnitsun@bethyeshurun.org
 Lisa Unsell, Publications Assistant..... lunsell@bethyeshurun.org
 Tammy Friedman, Program Dir tfriedman@bethyeshurun.org
 Bianca Wigder, Family Life Coord bwigder@sbcglobal.net
 Elyse Schultz, Sisterhood President schultzes@earthlink.net
 Paul Katz, Brotherhood President pkatz88@comcast.net
 Lester Rosen, YES Group Chair lrosen@aol.com

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FEBRUARY 6-7 WHAT A WEEKEND!



The
RUBENFELD
Scholar Weekend

RON WOLFSON

Speaking Friday Night and Saturday Morning



With Special Musical Guest

ALLAN NAPLAN

And Introducing...



Friday Night
Feb. 6 at 6:00 p.m.
**Friday
Night Alive!**

WITH OUR SPECIAL GUEST
ALLAN NAPLAN

SERVICE FOLLOWED BY
SHABBAT DINNER

RON WOLFSON WILL SPEAK AT
DINNER ON:

**"GOD'S TO-DO LIST:
103 WAYS TO BE AN ANGEL
AND DO GOD'S WORK"**
DINNER: ADULTS \$18, KIDS 12-UNDER \$10
(CHILDREN WILL ENJOY A MAGICIAN WHEN
RON WOLFSON SPEAKS)

YOUR CHECK IS YOUR RESERVATION.
SEND PAYMENTS TO BETH YESHURUN,
ATTN: SHABBAT DINNER, 4525 BEECHNUT,
HOUSTON, TX 77096.

Saturday Morning
Feb. 7 at 9:30 a.m.

Shir Chadash

WE URGE YOU TO ARRIVE ON TIME TO EXPERIENCE THE FULL IMPACT OF THIS VERY SPECIAL AND UPLIFTING NEW WAY TO CELEBRATE SHABBAT! AND GET READY FOR SOMETHING WONDERFULLY NEW!

RON WOLFSON WILL SPEAK AT THE END OF ALL SERVICES:

**"BUILDING GOOD TENTS:
ENVISIONING THE SYNAGOGUE
OF THE FUTURE"**

■ Last chance to see Mezuzah display

Have you seen the Mezuzah display in Congregation Beth Yeshurun's Mollie and Louis Kaplan Museum of Judaica? It showcases mezuzot from different periods in our history and in different styles. This portion of the museum is in one of our changeable display cases. This case will soon contain a special exhibit for Purim. Please stop by and take a look at this collection of mezuzot along with the rest of our amazing collection!



PURIM CARNIVAL MARCH 8

Purim Carnival Sponsorship Form

BETH YESHURUN PURIM CARNIVAL

- \$1,000 SPONSORSHIP & 3 FAMILY PASSES*
- \$500 SPONSORSHIP & 1 FAMILY PASS*
- \$350 \$250 LEVEL SPONSORSHIP & 1 FAMILY PASS
- \$250 SPONSORSHIP LEVEL ONLY
- \$180 FAMILY PASS PACKAGE*

CARNIVAL TICKET PRICES:

Presale: \$20/60 tickets, \$40/130 tickets, Family Pass \$180

Available for pick up at BYDS

Day of Carnival: \$30/60 tickets, \$65/130 tickets, Family Pass \$200

*FAMILY PASSES - Includes unlimited attractions, one meal voucher and snacks for each person in the immediate family living in one household.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Train #1 \$1,000 | Train #2 \$1,000 |
| Rock Climbing Wall \$1,000 | Mechanical Bull \$1,000* |
| Race Car Slide \$500 | Carnival Security \$500 |
| Merry-go-Round \$500 | Bungee Trampoline \$500* |
| 3 Moonwalks \$500 each | Ferris Wheel \$500 |
| 3-in-1 Sports Challenge \$500* | Pony Rides \$500* |
| Inside Games \$250 each | Cupcake Walk \$250 |
| Face Painting Booth \$250 | Sandy Candy Booth \$250 |
| Sweet Shoppe \$250 | Tattoo Booth \$250 |
| Popcorn \$250 | *New this year!!! |

Individual Sponsors

Name _____
 Phone# _____
 E-mail _____
 Ride or Activity Sponsored _____
 Full Name(s) listed on pass(es): _____

 Amount _____

Corporate Sponsors

Please list the information as you would like it to appear in our carnival program and press releases.

Name of Company _____
 Address _____
 Items donated if donation is not monetary _____

 Donation Amount or Value _____
 Company Contact _____
 Telephone Number and e-mail _____

Will you be using the Family Pass(es) that your donation qualifies for? Yes or No (please circle one) If yes,

Full Name(s) to be listed on pass(es): _____

Please return with your payment to:
 CONGREGATION BETH YESHURUN
 ATTN: PURIM CARNIVAL
 4525 BEECHNUT HOUSTON, TEXAS 77096

The Purim Carnival is coming!
 Sunday, March 8th
 10:30 am - 2 pm



CAKE WALK
 CAROUSEL
 CORN-ON-THE-COB
 FERRIS WHEEL
 KOSHER HOT DOGS
 HUGE SLIDE

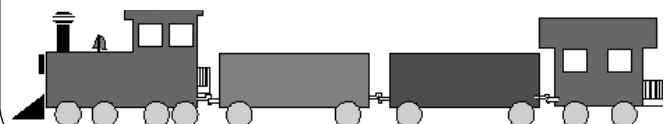
MOONWALKS
 ROCK WALL
 KOSHER SAUSAGE
 SWEET SHOPPE
 TATTOO BOOTH
 TRAINS

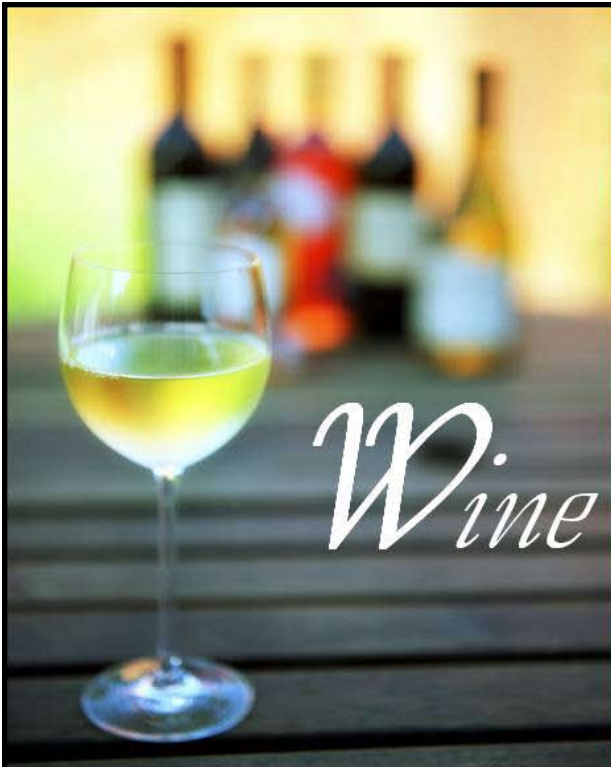
New this year!!
 Pony Rides
 3-in-1 Sports Challenge
 Mechanical Bull
 Bungee Trampoline

Something for Everyone!



The Purim Carnival helps provide funds for our Family Life Department, which develops and sponsors programs, classes, and events for congregants of all ages. Many of the programs include education and Tikkun olam (social action) in a social environment. Your sponsorship will also help us award need-based scholarships to families who otherwise might not be able to participate in some of these worthwhile events. For more information about the carnival, please contact Family Life Coordinator, Bianca Wigder, Carnival Chairs, Dana Liss-Hakimi or Amy Zadok, Rabbi Brian Strauss, or Program Director, Tammy Friedman.





Wine Tasting Event For Young Adults

YOUNG ADULTS WINE TASTING

FEBRUARY 26, 2009 at 7:30 PM

Cork Wine Bar (Across from House of Blues)
Houston Pavilions 1201 San Jacinto, Suite 158 Houston, 77598

\$15 paid to Beth Yeshurun Your check is your reservation

Mail to: Congregation Beth Yeshurun

Attn: Tammy Friedman - 4525 Beechnut - Houston, TX 77096

Reservation Deadline is February 20th

Questions? Contact Rabbi Strauss (713) 666-1881

Volunteer for Meals-on-Wheels



The Social Action Committee needs your help to deliver meals for the Meals-on-Wheels program. We are looking for volunteers to

establish a Beth Yeshurun route. Drivers pick up meals at the JCC at 10:30 a.m. and the route takes an hour to complete. You can volunteer to drive once a month or more.

If you are willing to help, please contact Vicky or Michael Richker at (713) 729-0535 or VICKY.RICKER@GMAIL.COM.



SATURDAY MORNING SHABBAT SERVICE
FOR

ELEMENTARY STUDENTS & THEIR FAMILIES
LED BY

RABBI STEVEN MORGEN & CANTOR DIANE DORF
SATURDAYS 9:30 - 10:30 A.M.

IN THE
MANDEL WEINER AUDITORIUM

Shabbat Yachad

Where Shabbat Begins



Friday Nights 6:15 - 7:00 PM

With Rabbi Strauss

Mandel Weiner School Auditorium

Target Age: 1 - 6 year olds and their families

Join us for upcoming services Feb. 13, 20 & 27

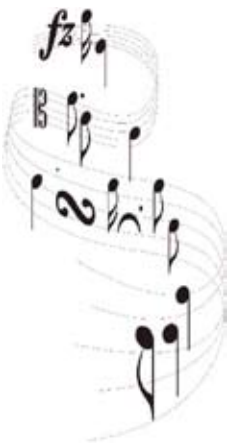
It's a Mitzvah!

Interested in sponsoring a Chapel Minyan weekday breakfast, a Chapel or Museum Minyan Shabbat Kiddush or shalashudos in memory of your loved one? Contact Eileen Pettigrew, Food Service Manager, at EPETTIGREW@BETHYESHURUN.ORG or (713) 666-1881, ext. 368. Sponsorships will be acknowledged in service announcements. Standard breakfasts and kiddushes are \$125 minimum, Shalashudos are \$150. Special meals may be arranged with the Food Service Department and monthly sponsorships are available. All sponsorships must be paid in advance. Dates may be reserved in the order they are received.

Recent sponsored breakfasts & kiddushes have been generously given by:

Arthur Brand in memory of Allen Howard Brand
Robin & Lu Dorfman in memory of Morris Dorfman & Eileen Berger
Rabbi Danny Horwitz & Mrs. Tobi Cooper
Freda Katz in honor of paying off her mortgage
Mimi Levine in memory of Naim Levy
Dr. Sheldon & Linda Rubinfeld in memory of Irving Rubinfeld
Morris Taibel in memory of Daniel Taibel
Mr. & Mrs. Abraham Yheskel in memory of Maatouk Yheskel

AN UNRESTRICTED
ENDOWMENT
CONTRIBUTION
ENSURES
BETH YESHURUN'S
FUTURE



BETH **YES** HURUN
Youthful • Energetic • Seniors

Carolyn Wade

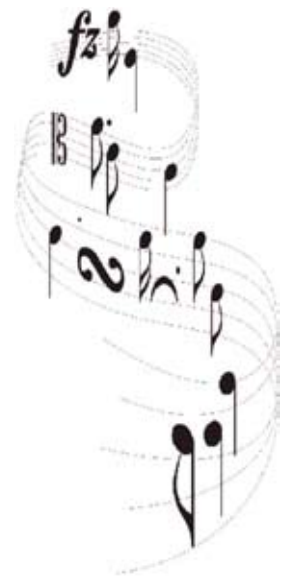
A wonderful songstress

Accompanied by: Our very own Gertie Denn

Wednesday, February 18, 2009

RSVP by Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Come early
for a study session
with the Rabbi.
10:00 AM in Zubowski B



Lunch at 11:30

Program & Lunch for \$7 (\$9 at the Door)

Please write "YES" on your check
and mail to:

Tammy Friedman 4525 Beechnut Houston, TX 77096

Questions? Please call 713-666-1881 ext 312

WEEKDAY SERVICES IN THE J.B. GREENFIELD CHAPEL

Feb 1-6: Sun 8am, Mon-Fri 7am, Sun-Thu 5:45pm

Feb 8-13: Sun 8am, Mon-Fri 7am, Sun-Thu 5:45pm

Upcoming Message Deadlines:

Feb 9 for the Mar 1 issue

Feb 23 for the Mar 15 issue

Mar 16 for the Apr 5 issue