



The MESSAGE

HOUSTON, TEXAS DECEMBER 23, 2007 14 TEVET 5768 VOL. XLIII, No. 8



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28

Candlelighting Time 5:12pm
5:15pm J.B. Greenfield Chapel
6:00pm Shabbat Renewal

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29

Parashat Shemot
8:30am J.B. Greenfield Chapel
9:30am Combined Museum
Minyan/Sanctuary Service
11:30am Weekly Torah Study
5:00pm J.B. Greenfield Chapel

FRIDAY, JANUARY 4

Candlelighting Time 5:17pm
5:15pm J.B. Greenfield Chapel
6:00pm Friday Night Alive!

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5

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

Beth Yeshurun Sisterhood
cordially invites you to
**Sisterhood Shabbat
Service & Dinner**

featuring Rubinfeld Scholar

Dr. Arnold Eisen

Chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary

Friday, January 18, 2008

beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Children's activities will be provided after dinner.

RSVP by Friday, January 11th

by submitting your check to:

BY Sisterhood Shabbat

c/o Andrea Stein

4525 Braeburn

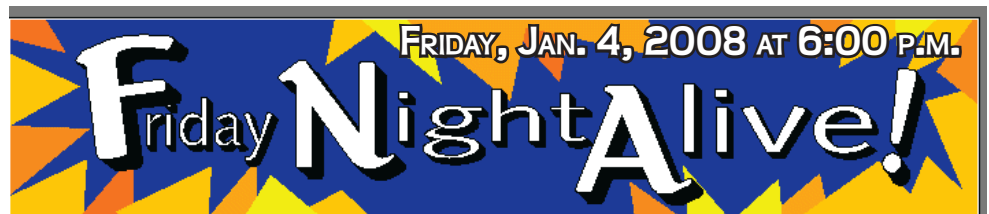
Bellaire, TX 77401

\$20.00 for adults

\$10.00 for children

age 10 and under

(Please indicate how
many will attend.)



WITH RABBI MORGEN

What Do You Value Most?

A couple of years ago someone gave us a Hanukkah gift. It was a box of 28 cards, each of which had a question written on it. The questions were designed to stimulate “inspiring discussions with your children, family and friends.”



This past Hanukkah we opened the box at our Shabbat dinner table, picked the first card off the top, and went around the room asking our family and guests: What three values does your family cherish most?

The answers were very thoughtful: education, family, honesty and integrity, and kindness and friendliness.

These are all truly noble and worthy values, and ones I hope we all share. I would like to add one more that I hope is also among **your** top five: Jewish faith and observance. Now, I am not saying men should start growing out their “*payses*” (side curls) and married women should start covering their heads. But I remember when I was growing up in a Reform synagogue in Tucson that we always used to say “Judaism is not just a religion, but a way of life.” If it really is to be a “way of life” that means that Jewish faith, values and observance should be one of our top priorities when we think about what we plan to do each day, week, month and year.

Fortunately, *Jewish* values do not conflict with “family” values, or being honest, kind and good people. Just the opposite, Jewish values and observances are nearly always expressions of these very same ideals. But there is more to Jewish faith and observance than *just* being good, kind, honest and fair. Judaism requires us to see ourselves as being obligated both to God and to the Jewish people.

So here is where the “rubber meets the road” as they say. Is being Jewish important enough to you that you will come to Beth Yeshurun to pray on Shabbat? Maybe you can’t come every Friday night and every Saturday morning, but can you come once a week? Twice a month?

There are many important philanthropic institutions to support: hospitals, museums, universities, environmental protection organizations and research institutes. But there are also numerous Jewish community organizations that need our support as well: our synagogue, the Federation, ADL, AJC, the campus Hillel organization, Jewish Family Services, Israeli causes and others. If we Jews do not support these organizations – which are essential for the future of our people – who will?

We live in the “Information Age” – a period in which we are constantly bombarded with all kinds of information we need to keep up with, whether it is for our health, our professions, our family life or our leisure activities. Do we care enough about our own Jewish faith and observance that we will be sure to set aside some time each week to learn something Jewish? Perhaps take a class (Wednesday night or Sunday mornings for instance here at Beth Yeshurun)? Perhaps read a Jewish book or periodical? Perhaps surf the internet for information about a topic of Jewish interest?

And if we have children or grandchildren, do we care enough about their Jewish education to send them to religious school and/or day school? Do we make sure we place as much emphasis on their Jewish education as we do about their secular education, or their sports activities, or their other extra-curricular activities? Or does their Jewish education “take a back seat” to everything else, and sit at the bottom of our children’s priority list? Do we bring our children to Beth Yeshurun on Shabbat – for Junior Congregation, Shabbat Yachad, Tot Shabbat or one of the other family-friendly services here – even though they may already be going to a Jewish Day School or religious school because we want them to learn that being Jewish also means they should come to shul to pray? Perhaps they cannot come every week because of other commitments, but can we bring them twice a month?

In short, how much do we *really* value Judaism in our lives? We demonstrate what we value by what we actually *do*. And our children and grandchildren recognize what we value by *watching* what we actually do. The old saying “don’t do as I say, do as I *do*” is a well-worn phrase only because we know that’s almost never the path our children will actually take. In most cases, they will see what we value by what we do, and they will come to value the same things.

So this Hanukkah gift we received a couple of years ago turned out to be a very thoughtful – and thought-provoking – one for us. I can’t wait until next year when we pick the second card out of the deck and find out what exciting question we will talk about over the dinner table!

“ . . . how much do we really value Judaism in our lives?”

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NEWS

Our Religious School has been busy this year not only with book learning, but with experiential learning. To this end, we have striven to give our children the opportunity to gain knowledge first hand by actively participating in activities.



Grades 3-5 went to the Museum of Contemporary Crafts to view an exhibit of Israeli artists and to create a piece of jewelry themselves.

Grades 5-7 were invited to the JCC Bookfair to listen to Jonathan Ross and his one man show on Jewish lifecycles.

Third grade traveled to Seven Acres where the students made Hanukkah cards with the residents followed by a spirited game of bingo. Our students helped brighten their Hanukkah and gained a sense of self worth by helping someone else.

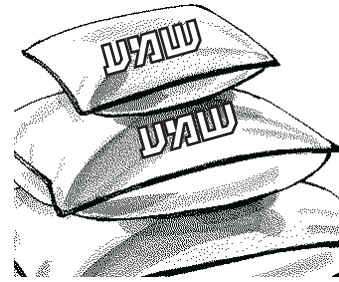


Fourth grade took a trip to the SPCA and learned how we can help animals. This was followed by a lesson on the Jewish concept of Tzaar Baalei Chayim, not hurting animals.



O u r
s i x t h a n d
s e v e n t h

graders took great pride as they creatively decorated pillowcases imprinted with the Shema for patients at MD Anderson. Patients who received them tell us they feel an added protection from



God when they use those pillowcases.

We look forward to more activities in the coming months.

GIFT SHOP NEWS

DECEMBER HOURS

Closed Sun. 12/23 & 12/30

Closed Mon 12/31

Open 12/24, 12/26-12/28

11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Regulars Hours Resume January 2

JANUARY JEWELRY & HANUKKAH SALE

15% off all Jewelry

(evil eye jewelry excluded)

50% off selected Hanukkah Items:

Menorahs, Dreidels

and More

Save the Date!

BUREAU OF JEWISH EDUCATION'S ANNUAL YOM LIMMUD/DAY OF LEARNING

Sunday, February 17, 2008

hosted by Congregation Emanu El

For more information and to register online, go to:

WWW.HOUSTONJEWISH.ORG/YOMLIMMUD.ASP

CELEBRATE YOUR LIBRARY

For any occasion you feel like celebrating wouldn't it be nice if it was enjoyed and remembered long after the special event had passed? Your library can create such a lasting memory for you. For a donation of \$18, a book will be purchased and a bookplate placed inside displaying your name and the name of the recipient. An announcement is mailed to the honored person telling them that you have honored them and the occasion for being honored. They are also the first person allowed to check out the book.

So whether it be a birth, birthday, anniversary, wedding, graduation, Bat/Bar Mitzvah, Hanukkah present or a special thank you to your child's teacher, it is a great gift. In addition we also accept memorial donations in memory of a loved one.

By supporting your school library, you are giving a gift that is enjoyed and appreciated not only by the person it honors, but by everyone who uses the library. Thank you in advance for your continuing support.

For more information, please contact Monica Woolf, Librarian at (713) 666-1884, ext. 348, or mwoolf@bethyeshurun.org

LIBRARY DONATION FORM

I am donating \$ _____ to purchase book(s)
in honor/memory of: _____
(Please make checks payable to Congregation Beth Yeshurun)
Your name: _____
(Please type or print clearly)
Address: _____
City/ Zip: _____
Phone: _____

The Bookplate/Acknowledgment Card will read as follows:

Donated by: _____
In Honor/Memory of: _____
Address: _____
City / Zip: _____

FAMILY ALBUM

Engagement

David Ainsworth Gross, son of Mel and Nancy Gross of Houston to **Priscila Adriana Lyon**, daughter of Pablo and Adriana Lyon of Spring, TX. David is an Associate Trader, Financial Desk with Shell Energy North America and Priscila is with Greenwood-King Realty. A fall wedding is planned.

Anniversaries

- | | | |
|-------|----|-------------------------------|
| 12/23 | 17 | Isaac and Dana Aboulafia |
| | 34 | David and Debbie Bergeron |
| | 51 | Louis and Esther Farber |
| | 6 | Saul and Gayle Gower |
| | 23 | Albert and Eugenia Greenfield |
| | 19 | Paul and Leah Katz |
| | 29 | Dean and Patricia Solomon |
| | 35 | Jerald and Denise Turboff |
| 12/24 | 35 | William and Davida Avery |
| | 12 | Michael and Karen Buxbaum |
| | 40 | Al and Estrella Garson |
| | 24 | Sanford and Sam Gotsdiner |
| | 32 | Michael and Gila Kaufman |
| | 29 | Joe and Laura Rice |
| | 40 | Tommy and Prissy Roosth |
| | 13 | Roger and Linden Sofer |
| | 38 | Howard and Jan Stomel |
| 12/25 | 47 | David and Beverly Sufian |
| | 46 | Sheldon and Myrna Zwickel |
| 12/26 | 53 | Sigmund and Pearl Altman |
| | 36 | Sidney and Marsha Gerber |
| | 4 | Joe and Jennifer Goetz |
| | 37 | Leon and Rebecca Halfon |
| | 43 | Donald and Margaret Plotkin |
| | 3 | Cary and Tanya Radoff |

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|-------|----|-------------------------------|
| | 53 | George and Sandra Rosen |
| | 36 | Gary and Maureen Tucker |
| | 40 | Robert and Sylvia Wagman |
| 12/27 | 23 | Meir and Maria Ben-Ezra |
| | 46 | Abraham and Frances Friedman |
| | 15 | Michael and Alissa Leightman |
| | 27 | Alan and Hope Malowitz |
| | 54 | Joe and Evelyn Sandler |
| | 57 | David and Sarah Schwartz, Jr. |
| 12/28 | 49 | Seymour and Betty Aronowitz |
| | 53 | Efim and Manya Gelman |
| | 16 | Eric and Lisa Hardee |
| | 38 | Steve and Diane Kaminsky |
| | 35 | Arnold and Olivia Ostrin |
| | 38 | Steve and Frances Perel |
| | 38 | Louis and Carol Ringold |
| | 27 | Alan and Suzanne Zepain |
| 12/29 | 28 | Kenneth and Judy Arfa |
| | 22 | Richard and Rae Friedman |
| | 33 | Jeffrey and Lesley Katz |
| | 16 | Andrew and Karen Middleman |
| | 33 | Eric and Lesley Solomon |
| | 34 | Glenn and Dolly Stange |
| | 11 | Albert and Emily Stein |
| | 44 | Jerry and Lynn Yellen |
| 12/30 | 56 | Jack and Shirley Alter |
| | 51 | Lyusyen and Rema Berkovich |
| | 45 | Irl and Marsha Bernstein |
| | 56 | Robert and Tiby Bernstein |
| | 34 | Daniel and Sharon Brener |
| | 12 | Daniel and Janet Kleban |
| | 35 | Steven and Sharon Lehrer |
| | 1 | Neville and Allison Leibman |
| | 36 | Chris and Sandra Rich |
| | 35 | Steve and Adriana Rosenbaum |
| | 45 | Irving and Hava Rothman |
| | 28 | Allen and Wendy Shapiro |
| 12/31 | 4 | Marc and Syndy Gold |
| | 40 | Marvin and Sharon Katz |
| 1/1 | 16 | Bruce and Linda Ruzinsky |

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|-----|----|--------------------------------|
| | 52 | Don and Elaine Schindel |
| | 58 | Scott and Leslie Stange |
| | 7 | Bernard and Ruth Szeinbach |
| | 14 | Albert and Kathleen Wiesenthal |
| 1/2 | 9 | Rabbi Brian and Lisa Strauss |
| | 20 | Vincent and Jackie Wedelich |
| 1/3 | 27 | Joseph and Deborah Freilich |
| | 54 | Myron and Helen Levy |
| | 27 | Sergio and Claudia Soroka |
| 1/4 | 5 | Michael and Danielle Carlson |
| | 20 | Joel and Susan Hoffman |
| | 27 | Jay and Linda Rosen |
| | 32 | Sion and Robyn Saghian |
| 1/5 | 33 | Steven and Sharon Cohen |
| | 6 | Daniel and Amy Ferber |
| | 28 | Nestor and Dory Yudelevich |

Mazal Tov

To **Diane Lee**, on being selected as a genNext Winner by the Jewish Herald-Voice for her work as Chief Operating Officer of the CLL Global Research Foundation at MD Anderson. Diane is the daughter of members Karen and Jack Lee.

To **Rabbi Danny Horwitz** and **Rabbi David Rosen** on receiving honorary Doctor of Divinity degrees from the Jewish Theological Seminary.

Condolences

The congregation extends its sincerest condolences to the families of --
Bill Beckman, Harry Garfinkel, Frances Gordon, Irene Levey, Ryan Plotkin
May their memories be for a blessing.



The MESSAGE

CONGREGATION BETH YESHURUN
 WWW.BETHYESHURUN.ORG

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 Office (713) 666-1881

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HOW TO CONTACT US

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|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
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- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
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| Ann Rogers, Sisterhood President..... | arog925@yahoo.com |
| Paul Katz, Brotherhood President..... | pkatz88@comcast.net |
| Lester Rosen, YES Group Chair..... | lirosen@aol.com |

AROUND THE SYNAGOGUE

■ BYDS Thanksgiving Day Celebration

On Thanksgiving Day, Beth Yeshurun Day School students performed songs and dances for their family members and friends. Below are a few of the many smiles to be seen.



■ Bet Midrash

Our Bet Midrash classes have begun at Beth Yeshurun. Students meet at the synagogue every Wednesday night from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. for interactive study with Rabbi Steve Morgen and Rabbi Danny Horwitz. It's not too late to join. Stop in and see what it's all about!



■ Were those doors here before?

In an effort to lower the sound level in the Levin Hall of Remembrance and promote a more meditative atmosphere, the synagogue recently installed glass doors at the west end of the hallway outside of the J.B. Greenfield Chapel. The doors swing open in both directions to help ease passing through them.



PRE-PLANNING IS FOR EVERYONE

The death of someone you care for, together with wanting to make the right decision - especially when you have a limited amount of time to attend to all the details - leaves many families feeling overwhelmed. Often, these decisions must be made when a family is grieving and is the least prepared. Many people have done everything they can to protect their family's future but they haven't taken care of their own funeral arrangements, leaving one of the most difficult tasks to their loved ones to figure out at a time of sadness and loss. That's why it is important to give serious thought to your personal wishes. The Beth Yeshurun Cemetery Association recommends pre-purchasing cemetery property. Pre-purchasing will give you the opportunity to discuss your wishes with your spouse and your entire family, and will allow you to include them in your plans.

Pre-purchasing cemetery lots is also cost effective. The current price of a cemetery lot for a Beth Yeshurun congregant at time of need is \$3,000.00, which must be paid in full. This can represent a hardship for the deceased's family. The pre-need purchase price is \$2,500.00 with a 20% down payment and a 24-month monthly payout with no interest.

If you would like to schedule an appointment to purchase cemetery property, please contact Arthur Miller at (713) 666-1881 or (713) 771-7962.

SYNAGOGUE OFFICE CLOSURES

The synagogue office will be closed on the following days:

TUESDAY, DEC. 25, 2007

TUESDAY, JAN. 1, 2008

MONDAY, JAN. 21, 2008



A seasoned vibraphonist whose long list of credits includes stints with Billie Holiday and Benny Goodman. Sheppard never needs much of an excuse to play, and his well-honed enthusiasm is a hoot in any setting.

BETH **YES** HURUN
Youthful Energetic Sociable

**REGISTRATION
DEADLINE:
WEDNESDAY
JANUARY 9, 2008**

***Come and learn with the Rabbi
before the lunch and program.
A study session will be held
from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.
in Zubowski B***

HARRY SHEPPARD JAZZ VIBROPHONIST

"LIVE, LAUGH, LOVE AND MAKE MUSIC!"

WEDNESDAY,
JANUARY 16, 2008
DOORS OPEN AT 11:45 AM

PROGRAM & DELICIOUS LUNCH
\$7 PREPAID (\$9 AT THE DOOR)
YOUR CHECK IS YOUR RESERVATION
[PLEASE WRITE "YES" ON YOUR CHECK]

QUESTIONS? CONTACT PROGRAM DIRECTOR,
TAMMY FRIEDMAN AT (713) 666-1881 EXT. 312

WEEKDAY SERVICES IN THE J.B. GREENFIELD CHAPEL
Dec 23-28: Sun 8am, Mon,Wed-Fri 7am, Tue 8am (Holiday),
Sun-Thu 5:15pm
Dec 30-Jan 4: Sun 8am, Mon,Wed-Fri 7am, Tue 8am (Holiday),
Sun-Thu 5:15pm

Next Message Deadline: Dec 25 for the Jan 20 issue
Jan 8 for the Feb 3 issue
Jan 22 for the Feb 17 issue

The Message is printed by Simon Printing