

Change

Gary Wolfman, Religious Director

When I was in elementary school, the teacher made us write and research an occupation we would like to be part of when we were adults. My eleven year old mind decided I would be an economist even though I had no idea what that was. When I was graduating from high school I decided I would major in math, but then I was offered a music scholarship so I put the math major on hold. Then when I was graduating from college I thought I would eventually be a college choral conductor. That was until I got a call from Appleton asking me if I would consider taking an orchestra teaching position. After a few years, I thought I would go to Seminary and become a cantor. I received materials back about a Hassan (cantor) major and decided that maybe that wasn't quite the right direction. A few years later, I decided to go to graduate school in music education at Northwestern, until I was offered a TA position at UW-Madison where I could pursue music education and orchestral conducting. After graduating from Madison, I was asked if I might interview to be a religious leader and teacher in Oshkosh and I was given the position as conductor of the Fox Valley Youth Symphony.

What I learned from this is that the only constant in a life is change!

My life journey is again changing. I am retiring from public school teaching after 37 years of wonderful teaching. My wife, Laura, was appointed this year to a tenure track position as Assistant Professor of Music Education at the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities. So I will be re-locating to the Twin Cities this August. I did not anticipate these changes a few years ago, but life has a way of surprising us even if we had planned differently.

For this next year, the Temple Board has agreed to have me come back for all major holidays, and to be spend two weekends a month serving our congregation. In this arrangement I will be leading

all services and still over-seeing the religious education of our congregation. This is a similar arrangement that many small congregations employ to serve their members. The Temple Board and I will evaluate if this arrangement is meeting the needs of the congregation and myself and will plan for the future together.

I want to thank the Board and the congregation for their support during this time of change.

A Small Democracy That Still Shines

Avi Stern, President

“No one pretends that democracy is perfect or all-wise,” Winston Churchill told the British House of Commons on Nov. 11, 1947. “Indeed, it has been said that democracy is the worst form of government except for all those other forms that have been tried from time to time.”

I recall this quote as – in my current state of mind – I'm not very high on the state of democracy in either Wisconsin, specifically, or America, in general. I will sidestep bitter partisanship by merely acknowledging that I hold both ends of the political spectrum with an equal amount of disgust. I'm not playing favorites here – there's enough to turn my stomach emanating from both the Right and the Left.

There is one place, however, where I feel democracy continues to live up to its highest ideals and that's within the confines of our synagogue. I find it ironic that in a country that's supposed to respect the separation of church and state, the purist form of democracy I've discovered originates within our house of worship.

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(Stern, A Small Democracy That Still Shines)

A big part of that success stems from our congregation’s diminutive size: with fewer than 80 dues-paying families, it’s much easier for all of our voices to be heard. There isn’t as much “static” drowning out the direct line of communication that needs to take place between our congregants and their elected board members.

In addition, our board consists of unpaid volunteers. No one is getting rich in this service capacity (...in point of fact, a few are probably getting a bit poorer as a result of their ongoing, quiet generosity to B’nai Israel causes).

I state all this because there is one time of year when we can come together and A) celebrate what we have accomplished and B) really take part in a *functional* democracy. This year, that date is **Sunday, May 15th**.

That’s when the Congregation B’nai Israel Board of Trustees will host our Annual Meeting. At 9:00 a.m., we will host a breakfast for our members, and at 9:30 a.m., we will get down to the nuts-and-bolts business of holding ourselves accountable to you. Among other things, we will recap the financial status of our synagogue, recap some of the highlights of the year, discuss some of the challenges on the horizon and vote on this year’s slate of trustees whose 3-year terms require renewal.

The Annual Meeting is just one part of a big day: Our children will celebrate the end of their current Religious School year – culminating at 11:00 a.m., when we will take part in the Recognition Service for our outstanding Sunday School teachers and aides. (Outside of the High Holidays, if you can attend only one service a year, I’d encourage your attendance for this one. Gary Wolfman, Lowell Louis, Ellyn Lahr, Dr. Ben Frank and Liz Stern have worked hard to pass on their love for Judaism to our congregation’s youngest members. We entrust the future generations of B’nai Israel to them, and we should spend a small part of one morning to commend them and their aides for that dedication.)

If you’re like me – if you’ve had it up to here with the yahoos in Madison and Washington – I encourage you to join us on May 15th. No, we won’t change the world, but – working collaboratively – we can improve our little corner of it.

And, considering today’s political climate, that’s victory enough.

A Few Odds & Ends

Doing a mitzvah

I want to thank all the students and families of our Sunday School program for their recent Mitzvah Donation Drive on behalf of Goodwill Industries of North Central Wisconsin.

Their efforts resulted in several hundred pounds of clothing and wares that will help generate proceeds to fund Goodwill’s 25 programs and services throughout our region (impacting 49,861 people alone in 2010).

In the last two years – between two such student-led drives as well as an extraordinary donation of dish ware – Congregation B’nai Israel has donated more than 1,000 pounds of merchandise to the area’s Goodwill operation.

Increasingly, for-profit thrift stores are entering the area (often extracting potentially valuable resources from the community without reinvesting in any substantial way in return). I encourage those of you considering Spring Cleaning to do your due diligence and give used items to local non-profits (including Goodwill, the Community Clothes Closet, St. Vincent’s De Paul and Bethesda – all fine choices with a shared, strong community focus).

Congregation Board of Trustees		
<u>Officers:</u>		
President	Avi Stern	(920) 727-9797 lstern@new.rr.com
Vice President	Ed Klug	(920) 733-0268 eklug@new.rr.com
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Secretary	Barbara Kuhn	(920) 235-3753 barbara.ivria@sbcglobal.net
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Margaret Bernstein		Myra Krhin
Steve Freschl		Julie Kurutz
Dawn Fritzell		Ellyn Lahr
Jason Hirschberg		Lorrene Schreiber
Jeff Kent		

Classroom Corner

Ellyn Lahr

It's hard to believe that another Religious School year has passed! The end of this school year is a particularly bittersweet one for me. Just 9 short years ago, my family was beginning our school journey at B'nai Israel. When we arrived, most of the students were in the Bar and Bat Mitzvah class! Now as my youngest child finishes her last year as a "student", most of our children are in the youngest grade! How exciting to see so many young faces just starting down the road in their study of Judaism!

Congratulations to our graduating Senior aides – Whitney Schreiber, Elyssa Glassheim and Morgan Krhin! We will miss you and we thank you for caring for and inspiring the younger students.

Many thanks to the teachers who led our students this year – Gary Wolfman, Lowell Louis, Ben Frank and Liz Stern – for getting up with us on Sundays and teaching our children with love and enthusiasm.

Of course, we could not have a Religious School without the dedicated parents who transport our students early on Sunday mornings! Thank you also to those families that arranged our School special holiday events – Dawn Fritzell for our Chanukah program, Jason and Susan Hirschberg for our Purim Carnival and making hamantaschen, Jeff and Julie Kent for our Model Seder, and to all of those that lent a hand to bake, set up, clean up and help us celebrate.

We look forward to next year: to new beginnings, to new and enduring friendships, to life-long learning, and to the sense of community we share with our B'nai Israel family!

Community Notes

Please Note! Schedule Change

Henry Golde had to postpone his speaking engagement at the synagogue on Friday, May 6th; his visit will be rescheduled for the fall instead. There will still be a Shabbat service at 7:00 p.m. on May 6th. Audrey Gorwitz and Helen Sue Ginsberg will host the oneg.

Upcoming Events

May 1	9:00 a.m.	Religious Ed
May 6	7:00 p.m.	Shabbat Service
May 8	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Religious Ed Adult Ed
May 15	9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Religious Ed/ Breakfast and Annual Meeting Recognition Service
June 7	7:00 p.m.	Shavuot Service
August 6	4:30 p.m.	Katie Lahr Bat Mitzvah



Contributions

The congregation gratefully acknowledges the following contributions:

From Gregg & Shelly Bott for a baby naming

From Kermit Bott for a baby naming From Dr. Marc & Kathy Blum to the Holocaust Memorial Garden in memory of Jean Gorwitz

From Helen Sue Ginsberg in memory of Jean Gorwitz

From Barbara Kuhn in memory of Jean Gorwitz

From Barbara Kuhn Barbara Kuhn in honor of Rachel Fritzell's Bat Mitzvah

Newsletter

The deadline for submissions to the **September/October 2011** newsletter is **August 24, 2011**. All members are welcome to submit articles and news to:

Vince Salvia

vinces@cadreservices.com

Yahrzeits

This Yahrzeit list reflects all the information we have received from members and some from the synagogue Yahrzeit plaques. Please forgive any errors or deletions – just let us know and it will be corrected. Yahrzeits can be sent to Liz Stern at (920) 727-9797 or lstern@new.rr.com.

New members: Please send us your Yahrzeit information and we will add your loved ones to this database.

May 2011			
Date	Loved One	Member	Relationship
5/1	Goldie Browender	Member	Member
5/1	Julius Markovits	Agnes Ganch	Father
5/1	Elisabeth Markovits	Agnes Ganch	Sister
5/3	Stanford Emerman	Member	Member
5/4	Morris Yablon	Stuart Yablon	Father
5/5	Blossom Misles	Myra Misles-Krhin	Mother
5/5	Sarah F. Zimmerman	Dr. Marc Blum	Grandmother
5/5	Hyman P. Ceaser	Member	Member
5/5	Sonia Rochlin	Member	Member
5/8	Lillian Callin Block	Member	Member
5/8	Paula Isle Hirsh	Member	Member
5/8	Lillian Callin Block	Member	Member
5/8	Paula Isle Hirsh	Member	Member
5/8	Martha Hirsh	Member	Member
5/8	Max Hirsh	Member	Member
5/8	Hans Hirsh	Member	Member
5/9	Sarah Zimmerman Emanuel	Dr. Marc Blum	Great Aunt
5/11	David Ganch	Agnes Ganch	Son
5/12	Ada Kronfeld	Marilyn Pheil	Mother
5/13	Irving Palow	Ann Dreyfus	Father
5/18	Sol Goldstein	Sherry Taylor	Father
5/19	Anne Blum	Dr. Marc Blum	Grandmother
5/19	Myers Lewis	Member	Member
5/19	Julius Wolf	Member	Member
5/22	S. Tom Ginsberg	Helen Sue Ginsberg	Husband
5/26	Rose Tvert Gordon	Member	Member
5/30	Charles Ross	Member	Member
5/31	Nathan Levin	Member	Member

June 2011			
Date	Loved One	Member	Relationship
6/1	Fannie B. Borsuk	Member	Member
6/1	Gerhard Hirsch	Member	Member
6/1	Hillel Plotkin	Member	Member
6/2	Bess Levinsohn	Member	Member
6/2	Chaim B. Zimmerman	Dr. Marc Blum	Great Uncle
6/3	Isadore Gordon	Member	Member
6/4	Mollie Levin Rosenfeld	Member	Member
6/4	Vera Tipler	Carol Shapiro	Mother
6/5	Lucie B. Boschwitz	Member	Member
6/7	Siegfried Israel	Member	Member
6/7	Dorothy M. Kates	Member	Member
6/8	Phillip Horwitz	Member	Member
6/10	B. Nathan Nelson	Member	Member
6/11	Susan Gaye Miller	Member	Member
6/14	Bessie Margel	Member	Member
6/14	William Schreiber	Brian Schreiber	Father
6/14	David Shapiro	Ilan Shapiro	Father
6/16	Jennie Gorwitz Simon	Member	Member
6/19	Samuel Sigman	Bob Sigman	Father
6/21	Lillian Edenbaum	Brian Schreiber	Grandmother
6/23	Roslyn Lint	Vince Salvia	Grandmother
6/24	Sidney Brill	Member	Member
6/26	Dave Zimmerman	Dr. Marc Blum	Great Uncle
6/26	Samuel Browender	Member	Member

July 2011			
Date	Loved One	Member	Relationship
7/1	Frieda Fredin	Sharon Fry	Mother
7/4	Abraham Stern	Avi Stern	Grandfather
7/5	James Levine	Member	Member
7/6	Carla Michele Blum	Dr. Marc Blum	Sister
7/6	Morris Gorwitz	Member	Member
7/7	Charles Stein	Char Sigman	Father
7/7	Joanne Urette	Debra Dubester	Mother
7/7	Rose Miller	Member	Member
7/7	Joanne Urette	Member	Member
7/8	Max Bronn	Member	Member
7/9	Simma Susan Wagman	Avi Stern	Aunt
7/12	Malvin Rosenstein	Member	Member
7/14	Ethel Gould Leibenson	Member	Member
7/15	Joel Salvia	Vince & Sarah Salvia	Son
7/18	Dr. Harold Blum	Dr. Marc Blum	Father
7/19	Rebecca Segal	Member	Member
7/21	Ethel Gould Leibenson	Member	Member
7/21	Anna Tvert	Member	Member
7/25	Edward Rudoy	Member	Member
7/26	Lyman E. Levistein	Richman and Louis Family	Friend
7/27	Sarah Passen	Sidney Hirschberg	Mother-in-law
7/27	Harry Palmer	Member	Member
7/27	Bessie Rudoy	Member	Member
7/28	William Lipkind	Member	Member
7/30	Leibel Homsky	Member	Member

August 2011			
Date	Loved One	Member	Relationship
8/1	Carole Hirsch	Sharman Kitzis	Mother
8/3	Michael Nemschoff	Member	Mother
8/4	Ruth Tvert	Member	Mother
8/4	Simon Gorwitz	Audrey Gorwitz	Mother
8/5	Jacob Levinsohn	Member	Mother
8/5	Louis Lowe	Member	Mother
8/6	Abert B. Bensaman	Member	Mother
8/8	Frances Homsky	Member	Mother
8/8	Rachel Marovitz	Member	Mother
8/8	Sophia Richman	Sidney M. Richman	Mother
8/9	Joseph Gazerwitz	Member	Mother
8/10	Samuel Wasserman	Member	Mother
8/11	Henry Pheil	Moshe Pheil	Mother
8/13	Marion Dubester	Peter Dubester	Mother
8/13	Morey Misles	Member	Mother
8/19	Leone Ruth Louis	Lowell Louis	Mother
8/20	Renee Louis Meyer	Lowell Louis	Mother
8/21	Etta Glassheim	Jeffrey Glassheim	Mother
8/23	Simon Horwitz	Member	Mother
8/25	Betsy Wasserman	Jeffrey Glassheim	Mother
8/26	Nathan Harris	Member	Mother
8/26	Alice Round	Claire Round	Mother
8/27	Sylvia L. Robineau	Member	Mother
8/28	Louis Busch	Member	Mother
8/28	Annette Hirschberg	Member	Mother
8/29	Rebecca Balkansky	Member	Mother
8/29	Julius Stern	Member	Mother
8/30	Esther Missner	Member	Mother

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