

Congregation B'nai Israel

A newsletter for the members and friends of Congregation B'nai Israel

May/Summer 2008

This issue is sponsored by Audrey Gorwitz – Thank You!

The Forgotten Holiday

Gary Wolfman, Religious Director

Each year, right after school gets out, a major Jewish Holiday arrives and very few take notice. It's like our Jewish year starts and ends in direct connection to the school year. It is time we take more notice of the holiday of Shavuot, the giving of the Torah.

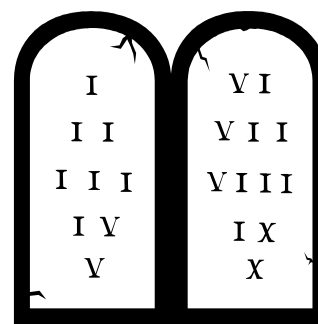
The giving of the Torah starts with the creation of the two tablets containing the Ten Commandments. These priceless tablets are the foundation on which the Jewish people became a people. It is the commandments that shaped who we are and how we can lead a holy life. They are the foundation on which we live.

In educational settings, they talk about the big building blocks. These are the main learning concepts that must be taught and learned. In Judaism, we can easily see that our large learning blocks are the Ten Commandments. I saw a demonstration where the presenter took out a large glass container. First he filled it with sand, and then he put in small stones which barely fit. Then he took out three large rocks and tried to put them in the glass container, but they wouldn't fit because of the sand and small rocks. This is like many of our lives. We fill our lives with the everyday needs (sand), then we fill our lives with diversions and errands and bus service (the small stones), and finally we find we have little or no room for the most important parts of our lives (the large rocks). We get our priorities messed up and forget about the foundation of our lives that help us lead a more holy and productive life.

What if we reversed the process of the glass container? Let us first put in the three large rocks in the jar. Then we fill in all the small stones, and finally fill in with the sand. Everything would fit into

the glass jar and our lives would be based on what is most important and not the reverse.

Shavuot helps to remind us of what is truly important in our lives. The holiday gives us guidance and hope by reminding us to base our actions and thoughts on the foundation God has given us through the Torah. Let us not forget Shavuot, but embrace it with love and care.



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Thank you!

Julie Kurutz, President

Ok. I have been president for 6 years, and they have been really fantastic years. It has been my pleasure to be the team leader of a great team. This is my last opportunity to tell you what I think, and I've never held back before....so here goes....Congregation B'nai Israel. What a warm, wonderful place. I love it here. I feel a part of things here. If you would have told me as a child, that someday I would be involved at temple as an adult, much less be very involved. I would have laughed out loud.(for some reason I remember the halls of Congregation Emanu El in Milwaukee during Sunday school much better than the actual classrooms...hmmm) I didn't think I could feel so connected. I didn't think I would find friends that are family now, I never thought I would need and appreciate Judaism as much as I now do. Our congregation is solid.

My most important job, in my mind, has been to say thank you.

Nothing would happen without Gary, and we are so lucky to have someone as talented and wonderful as he is. He is our Rabbi, Cantor, Religious Director and friend. He has a calm spirit and is a good listener. He makes our services very special, spiritual, and when appropriate, very dryly funny. Thank you Gary!

We have an excellent vice president, Rebecca, who has whipped our building into shape, dealt with so many issues, set up organized systems, and carries a big white ringbinder with everything we all need to know at any second. She has helped make my job easier, and has consistently been "employee of the month" for a year. Rebecca, thank you so much.

To the rest of the board, thanks to all of you for putting up with my very official and strict meeting procedures, as well as pretending to think my humor is funny. I appreciate the dedication you all have to our B'nai Israel family. We have accomplished much, and still have a lot to do, but we will cheerfully do it together. (Even sometimes meeting in Neenah on a Monday night) I'm glad I will still be a board member, so you are stuck with me. I will just talk less now (yea, right) I will try... Thank you to our teachers, who are so dedicated to imprinting Judaism on and with our children. They teach, they teach by example, they make class fun, and they care very much about all of our kids.

Thank you to all the parents who help with Sunday school events. Thank you to everyone who helps with or enjoys our events. The list of individual "thank you's" would be too long so many, many, many thanks to all of you. I'd be remiss if I didn't say thank you to my family. Paul, thank you for supporting me in this, and everything, as always. You were an excellent sideline "first man".

Alex and Sam, my beloved offspring. I am so very proud of both of you always, and for starting Sunday school at ages 6 and 4 in 1997, and still being part of things as classroom aides 11 years later. Thanks to you for your patience and understanding. For carrying boxes of table decorations and assorted items to each event.

I know how much you loved it when we were the first to arrive at temple and the last to leave (not!) I know I make you roll your eyes sometimes when I make announcements, but I also know that Judaism is important to you, and it has been a joy to watch you at temple. First as kids, and now as teens helping younger kids learn and grow. I love you both and am so lucky to be your mom. And to my successor, I wish you many happy years. Make wonderful things happen.



Top 10 Reasons to be president of Congregation B'nai Israel..... and love it.

- #10. No tedious training program, in fact, tag....you're it!
- #9. A fabulous "1" day workweek.
- #8. You get to sit on the bimah during the High Holidays and try not to make faces at your friends and family while pretending you are reading every word.
- #7. Too much food at every event...."eat dahlink"
- #6. No pesky company car or special designated parking spot. It's all up to you...
- #5 It makes your mother really, really proud.
- #4 A bevy of medical attention at every event
- #3 Many opportunities to embarrass your children
- #2 No messy paychecks to deal with.
- And the #1 reason: The retirement plan is heavenly!

B'NAI ISRAEL ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, May 4, 2008

9:00 a.m.

Breakfast will be served

There are some very important issues on this year's agenda and we ask that you please try to attend.

Other agenda items:

Budget and Finance
State of the Building
Committee sign-up
Oneg and Soup sign-up

ANNUAL B'NAI ISRAEL COMMUNITY PICNIC

SUNDAY—MAY 18, 2008

11:30 A.M.—2:30 P.M.

LOCATION

RAINBOW PARK—OSHKOSH

From the Temple, go northwest on Algoma Blvd To Congress Ave. (Wi.21). Turn left on Congress and pass Fratello's restaurant. After you cross the bridge, turn right onto Rainbow Drive to the park.

WE'LL PROVIDE

Kosher hot dogs, hamburgers, grill, condiments, paper products, drinks and ice

PLEASE BRING

A side dish or dessert to pass and please label. Also Outdoor sport equipment--bats, balls, gloves, Frisbees, games

COST

Adults-\$4.00—Children-\$2.00—Under 3 free.

QUESTIONS

Call Charlie and Francoise Kagen: 920-788-9199



Check out our synagogue website:

Did you accidentally throw away the last Newsletter?
Need to contact someone from the congregation?
Want to give a prospective member an introduction to our synagogue?

Login to the Internet and check out our lovely synagogue website at:

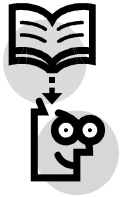
<http://www.bnaiisraeloshkosh.com/index.html>.

If you want to post something or have any comments/suggestions, please contact Sam Coe at: samcoe123@gmail.com.

Book Review

From Michelle Missner

The Mascot: unraveling the mystery of my Jewish father's Nazi boyhood by Mark Kurzem, Viking Press, c2007 417 p.



After going through several months in which I could not find a book that I found engaging, I found *The Mascot* riveting. Mark Kurzem tells the amazing story of his father's survival in Russia when he was 5 years old after his mother and two siblings were executed by the Latvian SS. Alex Kurzem, who left Europe to live in Australia after World War II, shows up unannounced at his son's flat in Oxford, England, where he is a graduate student. It is clear that something is bothering his father, who has told his mother that he is visiting an old friend in Australia, but his father is reluctant to tell him immediately. The story that slowly unravels is quite amazing, and not believed by many in Holocaust studies. However, photos and a film indeed corroborate Alex Kurzem's story that he was a mascot for an elite Latvian SS group.

New Temple Dedication in Appleton

Members of the Moses Montefiore Congregation will host a synagogue dedication and open house to celebrate their new spiritual home on Sunday, May 4, 2008. A procession of the Torahs will begin at 12:30 pm and proceed to the new location at 1620 N. Meade Street. At 1:00 pm a dedication program will be held. The ceremony will be followed by an open house and a reception with refreshments at 1:45 pm. The general public is invited to attend. Contact Jerry Zabronsky, President, Moses Montefiore Congregation, at 920-858-5506 or jzabronsky@aol.com for further information.

Sponsor an edition of the Newsletter!

For \$50-\$100, you could be a sponsor for the Congregation Newsletter! Because of our swelling membership (and Newsletter pages), donations are being sought to help with the printing and mailing of this Newsletter. Please send a check to Steve Freschl at 2134 Sunrise Drive, Appleton, WI 54914

Thank you to Audrey Gorwitz for sponsoring our May-Summer Newsletter!

CONGREGATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

OFFICERS:

President	Julie Kurutz	(920) 989-2201 Julie_Kurutz@vfc.com
Vice President	Rebecca Welch	(920) 303-9214 rpwotr@aol.com
Treasurer	Marty Finkler	(920) 735-0714 mdfinkler@netscape.net
Secretary	Avi Stern	(920) 727-9797 lstern@new.rr.com

BOARD MEMBERS:

Steve Freschl	Jeff Lipschutz
Myra Krhin	Lorrene Schreiber
Barbara Kuhn	Ellyn Lahr
Sherry Taylor	Marc Blum

BUILDING FUND AND RENOVATION

From Lorrene Schreiber

The bathroom repair is set to begin on May 21st. **The social hall will not be usable this summer. Please let Lorrene Schreiber know if you are planning an event at the Temple during the summer.**



Thank You!

Thanks to all the parents who managed to price and sort hundreds of items for the Youth Group and their highly successful rummage sale. And they did this while serving the mock Seder at the same time!

A huge todah rabah goes out to Lowell Louis who, on a Sunday afternoon, hung in there until the last sale was made after 4 PM. And the next week he cleaned up all the remains and donated them.

Thank You to all the parents and to Mr. Louis!

What's Nu?

Condolences to ...

Jerry Podair and **Caren Benzer** and family on the passing of Jerry's father.



Mazel Tov to ...

Michelle Missner. Two of her paintings, "Santa Fe light" and "Waterfall," were juried into the Secura Annual Art Exhibit, Appleton, April 26-28, 2008. "Waterfall" won an honorable mention.

The congregation gratefully acknowledges the following contributions...

To the B'nai Israel Building Fund in memory of Dr. Robert Lipschutz from John Anderson

To the B'nai Israel Building Fund in memory of Dr. Robert Lipschutz from Angie & Jeff Lipschutz.

To the B'nai Israel Building Fund in memory of Dr. Robert Lipschutz from Beth & Dale Tompkins.

To the B'nai Israel Building Fund, Dr. Marc & Kathleen Blum & family in memory of Jerry Podair's father.

To the B'nai Israel Building Fund, from Audrey Gorwitz.

To the B'nai Israel Building Fund, from Barb Kuhn

To the B'nai Israel Building Fund, from Liz & Avi Stern

To the B'nai Israel Building Fund, from Dorothy and Uri Vaisman with the following note: "Uri and I would like to give another contribution towards the building fund. That's the least we can do for such a wonderful place for our grandchildren to go."



To the B'nai Israel Building Fund, from Michele & Marshall Missner

To the fire truck fund, from Barb Kuhn.

To the fire truck fund, from all of the religious school classes at B'nai Israel.

Total Contributions to the Building Fund as of April 12, 2008: \$3,423.71.

Next Newsletter

Liz and Avi Stern, Editors

Please submit your article(s) for the **Sept./Oct. 2008** newsletter to us by **August 24th**. Be sure to include information about events taking place during (or close to) September, October and November.

PLEASE send us any information you would like the congregation to know. Avi and I try to know what's going on, but we don't hear about everything.

Everyone is welcome to submit articles. Send yours via e-mail to lstern@new.rr.com or through the USPS to:

Avi and Liz Stern
764 Kensington Rd.
Neenah, WI, 54956.
(920) 727-9797 ★

May 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 <u>Yom HaShoah</u> Soup 6:30 pm Shabbat Service 7:30 p.m.	3
4 Religious School 9:00 a.m. Annual Mtg	5	6	7 Israeli Memorial Day <u>Yom</u> <u>HaZikaron</u>	8 Israeli Independence Day <u>Yom</u> <u>HaAtzma'ut</u>	9	10
11 Religious School 9:00 a.m. Adult Ed. 10 a.m. Bagel Pick up	12	13	14	15	16 Shabbat Service 7:30 p.m. Recognition Service	17
18 Religious School 9:00 a.m. Picnic at 11:30 a.m.	19	20	21 Brotherhood Mtg Huhot in Appleton 6:30 p.m.	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Summer Dates (June, July and August):

June 7 – Corrine Kagen's Bat Mitzvah
 June 9 – Shavuot (begins the evening before)
 August 9 – Jack Lines' Bar Mitzvah
 August 10 – Tish'a B'Av



Y A H R Z E I T S

This Yahrzeit list is a work in progress. It currently reflects all the information I have received from members and some from the synagogue Yahrzeit plaques. Please forgive any errors or deletions – just let me know and it will be corrected. You can contact me (Liz Stern) at: 920-727-9797 or lstern@new.rr.com. I would be glad to hear from you!

May 2008

Date	Loved One	Member	Relationship
5/1	Goldie Browender	Member	Member
5/2	Julius Markovits	Agnes Ganch	Father
5/2	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
5/12	David Ganch	Agnes Ganch	Son
5/13	Ada Kronfeld	Marilyn Pheil	Mother
5/13	Irving Palow	Ann Dreyfus	Father
5/19	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 2008

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
6/26	Dave Zimmerman	Dr. Marc Blum	Great Uncle
6/24	Sidney Brill	Member	Member
6/26	Samuel Browender	Member	Member

Y A H R Z E I T S

July 2008

Date	Loved One	Member	Relationship
7/1	Frieda Fredin	Sharon Fry	Mother
7/5	James Levine	Member	Member
7/5	Abraham Stern	Avi Stern	Grandfather
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
7/10	Simma Susan Wagman	Avi Stern	Aunt
7/18	Dr. Harold Blum	Dr. Marc Blum	Father
7/12	Malvin Rosenstein	Member	Member
7/14	Ethel Gould Leibenson	Member	Member
7/19	Rebecca Segal	Member	Member
7/21	Ethel Gould Leibenson	Member	Member
7/21	Anna Tvert	Member	Member
7/26	Lyman E. Levistein	Member	Member
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 2008

Date	Loved One	Member	Relationship
8/1	Carole Hirsch	Sharman Kitzis	Mother
8/3	Michael Nemschoff	Member	Member
8/4	Ruth Tvert	Member	Member
8/4	Simon Gorwitz	Audrey Gorwitz	Husband
8/5	Jacob Levinsohn	Member	Member
8/5	Louis Lowe	Member	Member
8/6	Abert B. Bensaman	Member	Member
8/8	Frances Homsky	Member	Member
8/8	Rachel Marovitz	Member	Member
8/8	Sophia Richman	Member	Member
8/9	Joseph Gazerwitz	Member	Member
8/10	Samuel Wasserman	Member	Member
8/11	Henry Pheil	Moshe Pheil	Father
8/13	Marion Dubester	Peter Dubester	Mother
8/13	Morey Misles	Member	Member
8/19	Leone Ruth Louis	Lowell Louis	Mother
8/21	Renee Louis Meyer	Lowell Louis	Sister
8/22	Etta Glassheim	Jeffrey Glassheim	Grandmother
8/23	Simon Horwitz	Member	Member
8/26	Nathan Harris	Member	Member
8/26	Alice Round	Claire Round	Daughter
8/28	Betsy Wasserman	Jeffrey Glassheim	Aunt
8/27	Sylvia L. Robineau	Member	Member
8/28	Louis Busch	Member	Member
8/28	Annette Hirschberg	Member	Member
8/29	Rebecca Balkansky	Member	Member
8/29	Julius Stern	Member	Member
8/30	Esther Missner	Member	Member

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