

HAKOL

"THE VOICE" The Newsletter



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December, 2016 January & February, 2017 Kislev, Tevet, Shevat & Adar, 5777

Shabbat Services, Saturday at 9:15 AM Rabbi Van Lanckton, Cantor Seth Grossman, President Dr. Peter Kurzberg, Bulletin Editor Judy Karll



# HAPPY, HEALTHY NEW YEAR & A BRIGHT CHANUKAH

## December, 2016 – Kislev-Tevet, 5777 \*Candle lighting

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Kislev 1 ROSH CHODESH KISLEV	<b>2</b> *3:55 PM	3 Parashat Toldot
4 SISTERHOOD CHANUKAH BRUNCH 11 AM The Granite Grill	5	6	7	8	<b>9</b> *3:55 PM	10 Parashat Vayeitzei Rabbi Van Lanckton
11 VINTAGE FASHION SHOW & Afternoon Tea Temple Beth AM 3-5 pm A Combined Hadassah and	12	13	14 TBS BOARD MEETING	15	16 *3:56 PM	17 Parashat Vayishlach
Sisterhood Event 18	19	20	21	22	23 *3:59PM	24 Parashat Vayeishev CHANUKAH KIDDUSH 1 <sup>st</sup> Light After Shabbat Shabbat Ends 5:04 PM
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
2 <sup>nd</sup> Light	3 <sup>rd</sup> Light	4 <sup>th</sup> Light	5 <sup>th</sup> Light	6 <sup>th</sup> Light	7 <sup>th</sup> Light	Parashat Mikeitz 8 <sup>th</sup> Light
CHRISTMAS	BOXING DAY		* *		Chanukah Light then Shabbat *4:04 PM	Shabbat Ends 5:09 PM NEW YEAR'S EVE

January, 2017- Tevet & Shevat, 5777

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3 Tevet 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
NEW YEAR'S					*4.10 DN4	Parashat
DAY					*4:10 PM	Vayigash
oth Davie of						George Fainer
8 <sup>th</sup> Day of Chanukah						Bar Mitzvah <i>Rabbi Van</i>
Спапикап						Lanckton
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
ہ Fast Day	9	10	11	12	15	Parashat
Romans siege						Vayeichi
on Jerusalem						vayeichi
					*4:18 PM	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	MARTIN					Parshat
	LUTHER		TBS			Shemot
	KING, JR		BOARD			
	DAY		MEETING		4:26 PM	Rabbi Van
						Lanckton
22	23	24	25	26	27	1 SHEVAT 28
						Parshat Va'Eira
						Rosh Chodesh
					4:35 PM	Shevat
29	30	31			4:35 PIVI	
29	30	51				

#### \*Shabbat candle lighting

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			5 Shevat 1	2	3	4 Parashat Bo
					*4:44 PM	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 Parashat Beshalach
					*4:53 PM	Rabbi Van Lanckton
12	13	14 Valentine's Day	15 TBS BOARD MEETING	16	17 *5:02 PM	18 Parashat Yitro
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 Parashat
					*5:00 PM	Mishpatim
26	27	28				

#### **DONATION PAGE**

DONOR NAME	Card to:		
Street	Street		
City	City		
State Zip	State Zip		
INSCRIBED BOOK PLATES:	() High Holiday Mahzor \$20.00		
ENGRAVED PLAQUES:	() Tree of Life \$ 72.00   () Yahrzeit \$200.00   () Memorial Plaque \$200.00		
Wording for High Holiday Mahzor Book Plate:			
In Memory of	By		
In Honor of	By		
Other			
Wording for Tree of Life Leaf:			
In Honor ofBy			
Other			
Wording for Yahrzeit Plaques:			
Name of Deceased			
Hebrew Name	Ben (son of)		
	Bat (daughter of)		
Date of Death	Time of day		
Memorial Plaque (non-Jewish)			
Name of Deceased			
Date of Birth	Date of Death		
Rabbi Greenberg Scholarship:	Donation amount \$		
Hebrew School:	Donation amount \$		
Kiddush:	Donation \$75 – basic Kiddush		
Table Cloth:     Check payable to:   Temple B'nai Shalom Mail to: M	\$12 per name larylou Fishman, 11 Woodward Ave, Quincy, MA 02169		



Message from Rabbi Van Lanckton

### THE WORK THAT SUMMONS US

My dear friends,

Oh, my. November 8 brought a stunning surprise to many of us. The outcome of the presidential election had not been predicted by any of the sources on which I and many others

rely.

Since the election I have heard the concerns of many (but not all) of my friends; others hoped for just this result. My niece who had expected she was voting for the first woman president, told me she was losing sleep and was deeply worried about our future.

I offer to you what I offered to her: First of all, the future comes at us just one day at a time. We need to give President-elect Donald Trump time to learn his way into his new responsibilities and the opportunity to move beyond some of the claims during the campaign that have aroused fears.

Second, we should consider our response as Jews, as people who care about the vulnerable in our society. I turned for guidance from Rabbi Arthur Green, my teacher and founder of my rabbinical school. He advises that, as religious people, we should feel called upon to examine our own failings, not those of others. We have failed to listen. There are millions – many millions, now we know – of wounded people in our country, and we have failed to know them, to listen to their pain. We now know who they are:

- People out of work, due to improved technology or jobs shipped overseas;
- People who feel they're too old or too tired to retrain, but are unable to retire;
- People caught up in terrible drug plague devastating both urban and rural communities;
- People isolated, lonely, and without support as divorce and breakdown of extended family destroy so much of working-class America.

And there are lots more wounded folks. They come in white, black, and other hues. They come in urban and rural, male and female, straight and gay, Christian, Muslim, atheist – and quite a few of them in our own Jewish community.

But we have been too busy to listen to their pain, or perhaps too smug, or too engaged in our own struggles, or too distracted by our own often shaky financial situations, both personal and institutional.

Rabbi Green urges us to start building more bridges, to broaden the circles of people to whom we listen, and to think of ways to respond. But respond we must. We must not remain dumbstruck or paralyzed. Our commitment to activism needs to be renewed.

It seems that Tikkun Olam will not be a priority of our newly elected government, so we need to step up into the breach and be well-prepare and teamed up with the right allies to do the work.

Some important government policies are likely to change, or at least be proposed for change, including in relation to health care and immigration, among others. My most urgent concern relates to the environment. If he wishes, the new president may be able to reduce the effectiveness of the Environmental Protection Agency and withdraw the United States from the Paris protocols. If you share my view that climate change presents an urgent moral and religious challenge, I hope you will find ways to help protect the gains of the last few years.

But in any case, whatever may be most important to you, I urge you to find your own areas of planning and doing. Rabbi Tarfon said in Pirkei Avot, "The day is short and the work is great." He also said "it is not incumbent upon you to finish the task, but neither are you free to desist from it." Our society's greatness lies only in the work of our government but also in the efforts of groups and individuals seeking to better our world. Now is the time for us to join in those efforts.



Message from the Temple President

Shalom,

We have had a busy and exciting fall with a number of terrific events, beginning with our High Holy Day services. We had a great turnout and it was so nice to see everyone. The High Holy Day services always provide a wonderful opportunity to visit with old friends and come together as a temple family. We received very positive feedback on the services.

Next came the opportunity to celebrate the holiday of Sukkot in our Sukkah, set up by our men's club and decorated by our students in the religious school. The religious school remains vibrant and our students are learning a great deal. Our cantor, Seth Grossman, has taken over Thursday night religious school, with students learning all about the Shabbat services. Solomon Borocov continues with our Sunday morning class. Thank you to both of your for undertaking this role.

Our annual congregational meeting drew a large crowd and was held in conjunction with the Men's Club breakfast. As always, the food was delicious Thank you to the crew that helped in the kitchen. We had a wonderful program with Brian Shactman, morning coanchor on NECN as our speaker. The temple budget for the 2016-2017 year was also unanimously approved.

Sisterhood held a very successful rummage sale under the direction of Florence Koffman and many helpers. Sisterhood will be holding its annual Chanukah Brunch on December 4<sup>th</sup> at the Granite Grill. We are all looking forward to our family Chanukah Kiddush to be held on Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at the temple. Of course, delicious potato latkes will be served! Mark it on your calendar. Judy Karll is organizing a "Mitzvah of Giving" program in conjunction with the religious school, collecting unwrapped new toys to give children less fortunate during the holidays. The deadline for dropping them off to the temple is Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>.

What continues to be so heartening is see the number of people who work so hard to make these events happen. At the same time we held our weekly Shabbat services with good participation and had individuals helping out in the kitchen so that all could enjoy a Kiddush following the service. Come and join us for a Shabbat service. You will be pleasantly surprised. Services start "around" 9:15ish, but you can come anytime you feel comfortable up to and including the Kiddush. I hope you had an opportunity to participate in some or all of the events that have been, and will be, held. We are fortunate to have members who continuously volunteer their time to help out. Thank you to all who give of their time to make our temple a better place for all. We could use more of you, however! Consider volunteering a few hours in the kitchen for a Shabbat or help with some shopping. Contact Paula Goldman at <u>paulag@beld.net</u> if you can help out or for more information.

Finally, you will be receiving information about our END OF YEAR APPEAL. As much as we do not like having to do such an appeal, it is critical in helping to balance our annual budget. We had a wonderful response last year and hope to do so again this year. Please consider donating at a level that is affordable for you. NO AMOUNT IS TOO SMALL. WE NEED YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT TO REMAIN VIBRANT AND ALIVE.

I wish you and your family good health throughout the holiday season, and hope to see you at an upcoming Shabbat in shul. Happy Chanukah!!!!!

Peter Kurzberg

Dates to calendar

December 1 -18 Chanukah Mítzvah Days Toy Collection Box on Mench's Bench December 4 Sisterhood Chanukah Party December 11 Retro Fashion Show & Tea December 24 Chanukah Kiddush January 7 George Fainer Bar Mitzvah March 26 MITZVAH DAY

## DONATIONS MADE TO TEMPLE B'NAI SHALOM

#### IN MEMORY

NED & CHERYL BERMAN IN MEMORY OF BARBARA, SISTER OF EDWARD & RENE KATERSKY

## YAHRZEIT DONATIONS

Irving & Wayne Adler In Memory of Abraham Bornstein Irving & Wayne Adler In Memory of Joseph Adler Irving Adler in Memory of Fennie Kramer Lynne Baron Ned & Cheryl Berman Michael Caplan Florence Koffman Peter & Karen Kurzberg Ruth Lubot Selma Swartz

## KIDDUSH'S SPONSORS

Michael Caplan in honor of His mother's yahrzeit Paula Goldman in honor of Her mother's yahrzeit Enid Lubarsky in honor of Her father's yahrzeit Anita Young in honor Dan's special birthday

#### <u>Prayer Book</u>

Peter & Karen Kurzberg in honor Of Mya Grossman's Bat Mitzvah

#### DONATIONS MADE IN HONOR

- NED & CHERYL BERMAN IN HONOR OF STEVE KARLL'S SPECIAL BIRTHDAY
- NED & CHERYL BERMAN IN HONOR OF DR. HARRIS & FAITH SCHRANK'S ANNIVERSARY
- HAL & RONA GOODMAN IN HONOR OF STEVE KARLL'S SPECIAL BIRTHDAY

Karen Grossman in honor of Seth Grossman's special birthday Enid Lubarsky in honor of Dan Young's Special Birthday Enid Lubarsky in honor of Kathy Belt's Retirement Enid Lubarsky in honor of Seth Grossman's Special Birthday Sheldon & Sandie Baler-Segal In honor of Steve Karll's Special Birthday

## MENDING BY MERYL

IRVING ADLER <u>TEMPLE CELEBRATES</u> MAZEL TOV TO OUR TEMPLE BAR MITZVAH OF GEORGE FAINER

THERE HAS BEEN AN INCREASE IN THE DONATION FOR YAHRZEIT & MEMORIAL PLAQUES TO \$200, Due to the increase of our cost.



Remember with TBS: a graduation, wedding, anniversary, birthday, Mitzvah, anniversary, Yahrzeit or something special to you.

\$75 for a basic Kiddush or embellished for an additional fee. To sponsor a Shabbat Kiddush contact either: Janice @ 508-230-5074 jan@janfine.com OR Marylou @ 617-921-0368 maryloufishman@comcast.net

## SPONSOR KIDDUSH

TEMPLE B'NAI SHALOM SISTERHOOD CHANUKAH BRUNCH Sunday December 4 11 AM At The Granite Grill 703 Granite St - Braintree

## Join us for a delicious BRUNCH

**YANKEE SWAP -** \$10 Gift please bring a gift you'd want to receive.

**The MARGE CRISPIN CENTER** of Braintree was chosen as the new outreach Charity. They provide services for Adult Day Care, Food Pantry & Holiday Donations to those less fortunate.

Their Wish List is: Non-perishable Holiday Food Baskets: suggestions include canned goods, cake, brownie or cookie mixes, canned frostings, olives, condiments, gravy, boxed stuffing or mashed potatoes & of course supermarket gift cards. All items must be new, unopened & not expired.

RSVP: No later than November 28th

Donation: \$20

Check payable to: Sisterhood TBS

Mail to: Cheryl Berman, 117 Wildwood Ave, Braintree, MA 02184

## TEMPLE CHANUKAH KIDDUSH SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

JOIN US FOR LATKES & ALL THE GOOD FLAVORS SPECIAL FOR CHANUKAH.



The Mensch on the Bench Returns

## **This Chanukah practice**

## The Mitzvah of Giving

We are suggesting to our Children and their Parents to give back to Children less fortunate in the community.

### Bring NEW CHILDREN'S TOYS

unwrapped to Temple B'nai Shalom **and** we will bring it to **The Marge Crispin Center** to be given to a needy local child to celebrate the holiday – with a gift as other children.

Bring: SOCKS, SHAMPOO, CONDITIONER OR SOAP appropriate for children and we will bring them to The Children's Clothes Closet – to re-gift a deserving child,

If you are unable to shop – leave a little gelt for the Mensch & he'll shop for you.

ALL ITEMS MUST BE AT THE TEMPLE by SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>, at noon thank you. ALWAYS BRING NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS TO BE RE-DONATED TO THE MARGE CRISPIN FOOD PANTRY WHENEVER YOU

COME TO THE TEMPLE.

SUBURBAN SOUTH HADASSAH & TEMPLE B'NAI SHALOM SISTERHOOD & TEMPLE BETH AM SISTERHOOD

TOGETHER

**INVITE YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS** 

**ON DECEMBER 11** 

**FROM 3 -5 PM** 

AT

**TEMPLE BETH AM** 

NORTH MAIN ST

## RANDOLPH

ТО

## A

## VINTAGE FASHION SHOW

## &

## **AFTERNOON TEA**

This is a unique opportunity for our 3 organizations to socialize and enjoy a fun afternoon of yummy food and creative trip down memory LANE. MAKE YOUR RESERVATION TODAY

\$25 Per Person RSVP KAREN KURZBERG 42 HOLLINGSWORTH BRAINTREE, MA 02184 KKURZB@BELD.NET

## TEMPLE SHA'ARAY SHALOM

#### <u>HINGHAM</u>

SAVE THE DATE: DECEMBER 8

WILL HAVE A SPEAKER FROM TEMPLE ISRAEL IN BOSTON TO DISCUSS WAYS LOCAL TEMPLES CAN HELP A GROUP OF SYRIAN REFUGEES COMING TO BOSTON.

More information to follow

JUDY KARLL, SOCIAL ACTION REP.

## MEMBERSHIP NOTICES

As a Member of the Temple. YOU CAN BE NOTIFIED OF A FAMILY MEMBER'S YAHRZEIT & THE REMEMBRANCE WILL ALSO BE MENTIONED AT THE SHABBAT SERVICE HEBREW THE PRIOR TO ANNIVERSARY. PLEASE SEND THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION: NAME OF DECEASED. DATE OF PASSING AS WELL AS THE TIME IF KNOWN TO: MERYL **SMITH** meryljoys@aol.com

MESSAGE FROM THE TEMPLE'S FINANCIAL SECRETARY: IF YOU HAVE NOT YET BEGUN TO PAY YOUR TEMPLE DUES FOR THE YEAR OR HAVE ANY ISSUES OR QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT ME CONTACT ME DIRECTLY.

JAN FINE AT JAN@JANFINE.COM

#### Do you or anyone in your family shop

## <u>on</u>

### AMAZON.COM

Thanks to congregants who shop on <u>AMAZON.COM</u>, Temple B'nai Shalom receives a check for a percentage of their sales each month from Amazon.

Next time you have something to order:

Go to The Temple's Website: www.tbsbraintree.com

Click on: GIVING

Click on: SHOPPING OPPORTUNITES

Shop



Thank you to all the members and friends who helped move furniture so the rest of the Village could unload all the bags, boxes, etc. in only a few hours – after which the helpers went out for diner. Sunday morning we were ready to open at 10 AM to customers who came over the next few days. Then clean back up and clean up.

The end result was the best ever sales yet! A special thanks to Karen Kurzberg who added wonderful zipper pocketbooks to add to the total sale! Thank you, Mrs. Rummage aka Florence Koffman



This year's MASSPASS Books are available for \$25 per book.

On a first to order basis, you will receive a free Temple B'nai Shalom Cookbook with each Masspass book!

This has been a very successful fundraiser for the temple in the past several years. So, please support us again this year!

Contact: Audrey Mallock <u>audrabm@gmail.com</u> or Marylou Fishman <u>maryloufishman@comcast.net</u>

#### **TEMPLE B'NAI SHALOM BOARD**

#### EMAIL CONTACT INFORMATION FEEL FREE TO CONTACT:

President DR. PETER KURZBERG PKURZB@BELD.NET 1<sup>s™</sup> VP STEPHEN KARLL, ESQ STEPHEN.KARLL@VERIZON.NET 2ND VP MICHAEL CAPLAN GARDENLOVER5@VERIZON.NET FINANCIAL SECRETARY: JANICE FINE JAN@JANFINE.COM PAULA GOLDMAN TREASURER: PAULAG@BELD.NET **RECORDING SECRETARY:** MERYL SMITH Meryljoys@aol.com CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: ELIZABETH BLOOM BOBLIZ@BELD.NET PAST PRESIDENT: MARYLOU FISHMAN MARYLOUFISHMAN@COMCAST.NET DIRECTORS FOR ONE YEAR: CHERYL BERMAN CBERMANATOR@YAHOO.COM GAIL LERNER GBLERNER@BELD.NET PAUL RUBIN PARSBR@VERIZON.NET RICHARD SALLOWAY **RBSALLOWAY@AOL.COM DIRECTORS FOR TWO YEARS:** SANDIE BALER-SEGAL SANDIEBS@VERIZON.NET AUDREY MALLOCK AUDRABM@GMAIL.COM JOSEPHINE SALLOWAY JSALLOWAY@AOL.COM HELAINE SILVA HRSILVA@BELD.NET **Representatives:** FLORENCE KOFFMAN Sisterhood: FLORENCE.KOFFMAN@GMAIL.COM MEN'S CLUB: BARRY BELT BAZ@BELTMAIL.NET HEBREW SCHOOL: SOLOMON BOROCOV Sol007@yahoo.com **Religious Committee:** JUDY KARLL SJKARLL@YAHOO.COM



## HOLOCAUST STAMP COLLECTION UPDATE MERYL SMITH, CHAIR

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! WITH YOUR HELP WE HAVE COLLECTED OVER 23.535 STAMPS FOR THE HOLOCAUST STAMP PROJECT AT THE Foxborough Charter School. Тне CHILDREN ARE TRYING TO COLLECT 11 MILLION STAMPS TO REPRESENT THE NUMBER OF VICTIMS MURDERED BY THE NAZIS DURING WORLD WORK II. THEY ARE CREATING BEAUTIFUL ARTWORK (AS SEEN ABOVE) WITH THE STAMPS SO PEOPLE WILL NEVER FORGET HITLER'S HORRIFIC MASSACRE OF INNOCENT MEN. WOMEN AND CHILDREN. FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO WOULD LIKE TO HELP. PLEASE SAVE USED POSTAGE STAMPS, YOU KNOW THE ONES WE SO QUICKLY THROW ALWAYS WITHOUT GIVING IT A THOUGHT. SIMPLY CUT OR RIP THEM OFF THE CORNER OF THE ENVELOPE AND DROP THEM OFF IN THE COLLECTION BOX IN THE TEMPLE FOYER OR IN THE MAIL 154 SLOT AT GRANGER STREET. QUINCY. ONCE AGAIN THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO ARE HELPING TO EDUCATE THE NEXT GENERATION, SO THIS WILL NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN.

#### **TEMPLE HANNAH MORRIS LIBRARY**

#### On the first floor of the Temple



## SUPPORT THE TEMPLE BUY SCRIP

As an ongoing fund raiser, The Temple sells Stop & Shop and Roche Bros. gift cards in \$25, \$50 and \$100 denominations.

Sellers include: Nancy Resnick, Florence Koffman and Janice Fine. Arrangements can be made for home delivery by contacting one of the sellers or Marylou @ 617-921-0368.

## TBS CHAIR YOGA CLASS



## Chair Yoga Classes Offered

Join the Chair Yoga Class At the Temple on Thursdays at 10 AM for one hour.

The instructor is Joyce Jordan. Joyce is a certified yoga teacher as well as a certified nutritional & wellness consultant.

Classes are for men and women. The cost is \$10 per week, paid monthly at the beginning of each month. Although the class has been ongoing, there is no problem joining at any time. Come and observe a week to see if it's for you.

If you have any questions contact: Marylou at maryloufishman@comcast.net or call 617-921-0368





## A FEW FACTS

#### <u>ABOUT</u>

#### <u>CHANUKAH</u>

- It celebrates the victory of the Maccabees or Israelites over the Greek-Syrian ruler Antiochus about 2,220 years ago.
- A Menorah is a special 9 branched candelabrum, none in Israel as a "Hanukiah."
- Each night of Chanukah the candle is placed in the Menorah from right to left, and then lit from left to right.
- A dreidel, or sivion is a 4-sided top that has a Hebrew letter on each side
- It is appropriate to eat lakes (potato pancakes) and sufangiot (jelly donuts) or other foods which are fried in oil, to celebrate and commemorate the miracle of the Festival of Lights. Around 17.5 million doughnuts are eaten in Israel during Chanukah.
- In Yemen, children went from house to house, tins in hand, to collect wicks for the Chanukah Menorah.
- In Germany, the 8<sup>th</sup> and last night of Chanukah used to be very special. All the leftover wicks and oil were lit in giant bonfires. People sang songs and danced

around the fire, often until the small hours of the night.

- Traditionally, Chanukah is a time when children are encouraged and rewarded for their Torah studies. Consequently, it became fashionable to give the children money and presents during the holiday.
- Except in times of religious persecution, the menorah was placed outside the front door, or as is the custom today, placed in the window of every Jewish home.
- The word CHANUKAH means dedication.
- Small Chocolate coins wrapped in gold foil are modern incarnations of the traditional gift known as Chanukah Gelt. *Gelt* is the Yiddish term for *Money*.
- The menorah in the Holy Temple was gold. The Maccabees lit one made out of wood. Your menorah can be made out of any material any size. There is a duplicate of the solid gold menorah outside Aish HaTorah in Jerusalem that cost 3 million dollars.
- The origin of the game of dreidel was not based on fun. During the time when Antiochus ruled the Jewish people, it was forbidden for them to study Torah. This did not deter the Jews from studying their sacred text, on the contrary. Jews did study and teach their children Torah, but they kept with them the spinning tops known as dreidals. If a soldier came by, they would hide their study books and pull out the top to play, thus fooling the soldiers.

The first night and candle lighting of Chanukah this year is Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup> . The candles should be lite after Shabbat. When lighting the Chanukah candles on a Friday night, do so before Shabbat candles.

#### CELEBRATE AT TEMPLE

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24** 

FOLLOWING SHABBAT SERVICE

#### AT THE CHANUKAH KIDDUSH

#### **ISRAELI BONDS**

#### **Dresented at TBS by Stacey Bloom in behalf of**

#### The Annual Israeli Bond Drive

In Deuteronomy it is written that "the Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you or forsake you. Do not be afraid. Do not be discouraged." It is hard not to be discouraged these days. Last year when I gave this speech, I talked about the dangerous times in which we live. It is hard to believe that in the last year times seem that much more dangerous. During this last year we have seen carnage again in the streets of Paris and Nice, stabbing attacks in the streets of Tel Aviv and Jerusalem and terror on our own shores in San Bernardino and Orlando. Just when you think that there cannot be another terrible event, another one occurs to jar our collective conscience.

It is hard not to be afraid. The world seems more hostile – not just internationally, but also on our own shores. Our fears have made so many of us want to turn away and to resort to fear and distrust of people we see as the stranger and seek to isolate ourselves in an attempt to keep our fears – whether real or imaginary – at bay. But the truth is that turning away not only does not make us safer but it also does not honor who we are as Jews. There is no better example of a country that faces hostility and danger and has not turned inward but who has continued to embrace the world than Israel.

Israel is 68 years old. It's founding and its survival is nothing less than miraculous. Those first Jews who returned to what was then part of the British Mandate found it barren and inhospitable. Those Jews who arrived in Israel and those who came after had every reason to be afraid. They fled pogroms and systematic discrimination and persecution-in Europe and in other Arab lands. They came after surviving the Holocaust. They were fleeing dark times and did not know what lay ahead for them in the tiny dusty spot of land in the Middle East. And yet these people – these refugees – embraced the unknown and persevered. They embraced hope and dared to build and plan and live the Zionist dream and build a new state.

And what state they built. Today Israel is a vibrant, thriving country. It is a country that has produced more Nobel laureates per capita than any other country. Israelis are responsible for a part of more than one out of every four of the medicines, treatments and technologies in use today. It is a nation committed to pluralism, tolerance and democracy and uses the creativity and ingenuity of its people to make the world a cleaner, safer and better place for everyone.

While we so often say that we stand with Israel, the truth is that as much as we stand with Israel, Israel stands with us. Israel stands with us as a reminder that we cannot be afraid. Israel stands with us as reminder that in a sea of hostility, Israel does not cower, but is strong and resolute in its commitment to Jews everywhere and that wherever Jews need assistance - Paris or Brussels, Ankara or Kiev - Israel is there to help.... Israel stands with us as a reminder that because of its existence there will never be another St Louis where Jews fleeing oppression have nowhere to go. Israel stands with us as a reminder that even in dark times, we must not turn away from the world – as it has not – helping Syrian refugees; earthquake victims in Italy or Japan or Ecuador, Israel stands with us as a reminder that in a world that is often inhumane, our humanity must always guide our actions. Israel stands with us as a reminder that we must have hope in the future and for peace.

But hope doesn't protect against missiles and hope doesn't build iron dome batteries and it doesn't buy planes. Hope alone does not bring peace. Since David Ben Gurion declared the State in 1948 Israel has known no peace. Its neighbors almost uniformly seek its destruction and Israelis are on the front line of terrorism each and every day. Israel is forced to spend almost 6% of its GDP on defense to keep itself safe in comparison to the 2.5% of GDP that the United States spends. It remains and must remain in a constant state of readiness. Since I last stood here last September 35 rockets have been fired at Israel - one landing on a preschool. Does anyone remember hearing about that on the news? I don't - it's become so normalized it doesn't even get reported here in the states. These figures don't sound that bad when compared to the 15,000 fired at Israel since 2001 or the two month period in 2014 when over 1,000 were fired at Israel. Israeli's have 15 seconds to seek shelter once the siren goes off. 15 seconds - about as long as it will read this paragraph ... 15 seconds to get preschoolers into a shelter ... can you image wrangling children into a shelter in 15 seconds? Can you image sending your child off to school each day and hope the teacher gets the kids into the shelter? And yet every day millions of Israeli parents do just that.

Israel is a country with only .1 percent of the world's population and .0035 of the planetary land mass, and yet it is a country that was the subject of 20 separate U.N. General Assembly resolutions condemning it last year. The only other countries the U.N. singled out for condemnation last year were Iran, Syria and North Korea – and they had only one resolution each. Israel is the only country in the Middle East with free free elections. press. independent judiciary, and the freedom to practice any religion you want. And yet, surrounded by countries that execute gays and protestors and stone women, Israel is singled

out as an international violator of human rights. There are no words for this travesty.

We can never forget that Israel must remain strong; that it must remain prepared; and that it must remain ready to act alone. We can never forget that during the Six Day War - the 50 year anniversary which is coming up this June - Israel stood alone as France and the United States refused to sell it any weapons to defend itself as it was forced to act alone against the armies massed on its borders. Israel's very survival was in doubt during those days in 1967. We can never let Israel's survival to be in doubt again. Strength is not only measured in military might and preparedness. But strength is roads and infrastructure and hospitals and educational programs and agriculture. Strength is offering services and programs and transition services for the more than 20,000 new immigrants Israel has welcomed this year alone - more than 6,000 from France. For 65 years, Israel bonds have helped provide Israel with the investment necessary to keep it strong. Since the first Israel Bond Campaign in 1951, Israel bonds have raised 40 billion dollars to help Israel in the last 65 years. Israel bonds have helped build Israel into a modern, technologically advanced country. By investing in Israel, not just today, but during these last 65 years, we have helped build a country and in doing so have created a living legacy for our children and grandchildren and have connected ourselves to our past and to our future. It is an investment of money and it is a truly an investment of hope.

The last Shimon Peres, who died last week, remarked on the occasion of his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday that "when I was a child Israel was a legend more that an reality. She emerged from a dream and today she has surpassed that dream." He went on to say that "the work of Israel is not yet complete." Investing in Israel bonds can help further that work. Peres watched Israel become a modern nation in a mere 65 years. Imagine that the 65 can hold. Let us invest in Israel and continue to help make those dreams a reality.

While I urge you to invest in Israel by purchasing a bond, we must also invest in Israel beyond today's appeal. Let our investment include creating a connection to Israel for children and grandchildren. We can create that connection by sharing why we feel Israel is important, by visiting Israel and by talking about Israel. Talking about Israel can be difficult in today's world. There are hard questions that inevitably come up and often few answers. But we must have these difficult conversations. There are resources available to assist you in finding answers to your questions, and where you can learn more. Make this investment in Israel and help build the bridge with your children and grandchildren between the Israel of today and the Israel of tomorrow and in doing so insure Israel's survival. It is no less valuable than folding down the tab on your cards.

Hatikvah, the Israeli national anthem is a declaration of the Jewish people's 2,000 year yearning. The lyrics are powerful:

"In the Jewish heart, a Jewish spirit still sings, And the eyes look east, toward Zion, Our hope is not lost, our hope of two thousand years, To be a free nation in our land, In the land of Zion and Jerusalem."

That dream has come true. That despite armies arrayed against it; despite standing on the front lines against terrorism year after year; despite boycott, divestments and sanction campaigns and attempts to delegitimize its right to exist; despite attempts to break its spirt and destroy it again and again, Israel is not cowed and remains resolute as the democratic state of the Jewish people. Israel's very existence and success declares heneni; and that the Jewish people are here to stay and we will not falter, and we will not be broken. During these days of renewal and hope as we reflect on the year behind and look forward to the year ahead, let us to renew our commitment to Israel – both as individuals and as a community. Let us reaffirm our belief that while we stand with Israel, Israel stands with us. Let us reaffirm our hope in this new year, that Israel will find peace; and Let us declare loudly and clearly that are not discouraged, we are not afraid and that just as G-d will not forsake us, we will not forsake Israel.

Am Yisrael Chai.



If you are unable to purchase an Israeli Bond join the Temple's group. Please contact Paula Goldman at <u>paulag@beld.net</u>

The JEWISH NATIONAL FUND'S ANNUAL NEW ENGLAND BREAKFAST Monday, December 5, 2016 Breakfast & Registration 7:30 AM Program 8 – 9 PM Boston Marriott, Newton Guest Speaker, Jonathan Medved A Venture for Social Impact Call 800-542-8733