



# Sha'arei Shalom

## Monthly Newsletter

September 2015

### Contact Us

[www.shaareishalom.org](http://www.shaareishalom.org)

508-231-4700

P.O. Box 454

Ashland, MA 01721

email: [info@shaareishalom.org](mailto:info@shaareishalom.org)



Click here to [Join our Mailing List!](#)

### In This Issue

- Rabbi's Letter
- President's Corner
- 2015-16 Service and Holiday Calendar
- High Holiday Information
- Upcoming Services
- Member News
- Religious School Update
- Monica Weinstein Book Group
- Elissa Naiman Evergreen Group
- Member Notices
- Metrowest Jewish Community Events

### Upcoming Events

- ROSH HASHANAH & YOM KIPPUR SERVICES  
See full schedule on page 4
- SHABBAT SERVICE/SIMCHAT TORAH  
CELEBRATION October 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 7:30 p.m.
- SUKKOT CELEBRATION  
Ashland Middle School  
October 4<sup>th</sup> @ 11:00 a.m.

**All Congregation Services take place at the Ashland Community Center, 162 West Union Street (unless otherwise noted).**

- RELIGIOUS SCHOOL BEGINS—Sunday September 20<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00 a.m., Ashland Middle School

**We are still enrolling for the 2015-16 Religious School year.**

**[Click here for 2015-2016 Religious School Registration Form](#)**

**Please contact Lisa Clay at [lcc1129@yahoo.com](mailto:lcc1129@yahoo.com) for more information**

## Rabbi's Letter

by Margie Klein

Dear Friends,

As we prepare for the High Holidays, I want to share with you a thought-provoking teaching from the Talmud I learned from my friend and teacher Rabbi Mishael Zion.

In the school of Rabbi Ishmael it was taught: It can be likened to a shopkeeper selling [foul smelling] kerosene oil and [wonderfully aromatic] persimmon oil. If a purchaser comes to measure kerosene, the shopkeeper says to him: Measure it out for yourself; but to one who came to measure out persimmon oil, he says: Hang on, wait, until I can measure together with you, so that both you and I may become perfumed. (Talmud Bavli Yoma 39a)

In this unusual (and challenging) image, God is a shopkeeper who is the source of both the good and the foul-smelling events and actions of the world.

What are we to make of this? Why would the Talmud compare God to a shopkeeper selling toxic substances? Wouldn't we rather God as manager of a natural foods store or farmers' market?

I believe the Talmud is responding to an age-old question: What is the source of evil in the world? If God is only good, the Rabbis thought, that opens the possibility that evil in the world represents the absence of God, or even the presence of another evil force like the Devil in Christianity. Yet, as monotheists who insist that there is only one all-powerful force in the universe, the Rabbis wanted to find a way to understand that everything comes from God.

Yet, if everything comes from God, then God must be responsible for the good and the bad within us, the *yetzer hatov* - the inclination for good, and the *yetzer harah*, our own evil inclination that makes us do bad things. So, the Rabbis wonder, and we might, too, if God is responsible for our positive *and* hurtful sides, why bother doing *tshuvah* and repenting?

So, the Rabbi's answer, we can't simplify God, or understand why God would let terrible things happen. But we can imagine that God prefers that we choose to do good.

Thus, in the Rabbi's imagination, God peddles toxic and dangerous items as well as beautiful, fragrant substances, but only wants to *share the experience* of smelling what is sweet. As my friend Rabbi Zion puts it, "She enables those who come to defile (and they are proud to say that they bought their wares in Her shop). But it is those who seek to purify that She invites into a relationship."

This summer, people caused so much pain in the name of God – figuratively, kerosene was spilled everywhere and left to burn, and the perpetrators advertised that they had bought their weapons from God's own shop. Though I deeply disagree with fundamentalists' use of violence, I recognize that calls for holy fighting are present throughout the Bible and our tradition. While I cannot claim that the Bible only teaches sweetness, I do believe that God rejoices when we pick the path of kindness and righteousness over that of violence.

So, this month, let us resist that which is hurtful, and choose that which is sweet like persimmon oil. Let us pray that, as we enter the pre-Rosh Hashanah month of Elul, we can take time to explore what smells beautiful to our souls, and prepare to anoint ourselves with sweet thoughts and actions for the coming year.

And then, as we come to purify ourselves through the self-reflection, prayer, and the haunting melodies of the High Holidays, let us quiet the noise of the world and listen, hopeful that the divine shopkeeper will join us in the sweetness of the moment.

Blessings for a beautiful month,

Rabbi Margie

**President's Corner**  
by Jane Greenstein

We are happy to share with you the calendar of services and holiday celebrations for the upcoming 12 months. We look forward to a wonderful year of connection, celebration, learning, and prayer and we hope that you will join us for many of our community events. Members and non-members alike are welcome at any of our services or holiday celebrations.

		<b>Sha'arei Shalom</b>	<b>2015-2016 Shabbat and Holiday Celebration Calendar</b>
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>			
Sun.	13	Erev Rosh Hashanah at 7:00 p.m. (Federated Church)	
Mon.	14	Rosh Hashanah Day 1 at 9:30 a.m. (Federated Church)	
Tue.	15	Rosh Hashanah Day 2 at 9:30 a.m. (Federated Church)	
Tue.	22	Kol Nidre at 6:30 p.m. (Federated Church)	
Wed.	23	Yom Kippur Morning Service at 9:30 a.m. and Neilah at 6:30 p.m. (Federated Church)	
<b>OCTOBER</b>			
Fri.	2	Friday Night Service – Simchat Torah and Siddur Consecration	
Fri.	17	Shabbat Kids (6:45 p.m.) Friday night service— <i>Sam Freedman</i>	
<b>NOVEMBER</b>			
Fri.	6	Shabbat Circle—20 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration (6:30 p.m.)	
Fri.	20	Friday Night Service—7 <sup>th</sup> graders lead	
<b>DECEMBER</b>			
Tue.	8	Town Menorah lighting (6:15 p.m. at Montenegro Square in downtown Ashland)	
Fri.	11	Chanukah Shabbat in the Round – Community song celebration	
Sun.	13	Chanukah Party (10:00 a.m. - noon; Ashland Middle School)	
<b>JANUARY</b>			
Fri.	8	Friday Night Service	
Fri.	22	Shabbat Kids (6:45 p.m.) Tu B'shvat Seder	
<b>FEBRUARY</b>			
Fri.	26	Shabbat Live	
<b>MARCH</b>			
Fri.	11	Shabbat Circle—Grade K-2 participation (6:30 p.m.)	
Fri.	18	Friday Night Service – Purim and Grade 3-6 participation	
Sun.	20	Purim carnival (10:00 a.m. - noon; Ashland Middle School)	
<b>APRIL</b>			
Fri.	1	Friday night service— <i>Sarah Levenson</i>	
Fri.	15	Friday night service— <i>Josie Kaufman</i>	
<b>MAY</b>			
Fri.	6	Shabbat Kids (6:45 p.m.) Friday night service— <i>Emilie Clay</i>	
Fri.	20	Friday night service— <i>Eva Parson</i>	
<b>JUNE</b>			
Fri.	3	Friday night service— <i>Ben Weinstein</i>	
Fri.	17	Friday night service— <i>Grayson Dolin</i>	
<b>JULY and AUGUST</b>			
July	22	Friday Night Service	
August	19	Friday Night Service	
Unless otherwise noted, all Friday night services/events take place at the Ashland Community Center and begin at 7:30			

## High Holidays Services

5776 is drawing near and we are looking forward to having you join us for the High Holidays. Our rabbi, Margie Klein Ronkin, is expecting the birth of her baby in early October, so she will be unable to lead our services this year. We are thrilled to have Rabbi Jeffrey Foust as our spiritual leader for the High Holidays this year. Rabbi Foust has extensive experience, having been the rabbi for Temple Beth Israel in Waltham for 12 years as well as having led High Holiday services for Northeastern Hillel. With Rabbi Foust on board, we are confident that members and non-members alike will feel continuity in the form and spirit of our services during this time. We will continue to conduct services that are egalitarian and traditional, in both English and Hebrew with prayer books that have English transliterations to help everyone follow and join in the services. While being respectful of tradition, we also strive to develop new ways to make the holidays more meaningful and relevant for today's modern Jews.

If you are on our mailing list, you should have received a separate email last week with our full High Holiday information packet. This information is also available on our website.

[Click Here for Our High Holiday Information Packet](#)

Below is our service schedule.

Once again, while we hold our regular Shabbat services at the Ashland Community Center, due to space considerations **our High Holidays services will continue to be held at the Federated Church (118 Main Street) in Ashland.** All non-Jewish symbols are either removed or covered.

### Schedule of Services for Rosh Hashanah

Erev Rosh Hashanah	Sunday	9/13	7:00 pm	Federated Church of Ashland
Rosh Hashanah Day 1	Monday	9/14	9:30 am	Federated Church of Ashland
Rosh Hashanah Day 2	Tuesday	9/15	9:30 am	Federated Church of Ashland

### Schedule of Services for Yom Kippur

Kol Nidre	Tuesday	9/22	6:30 pm	Federated Church of Ashland
Morning Service	Wednesday	9/23	9:30 am	Federated Church of Ashland
Neilah Service	Wednesday	9/23	6:30 pm	Federated Church of Ashland

There will be a Children's Service oriented to children ages 5-9 during the Torah Service on Rosh Hashanah Day 1 and Yom Kippur. Approximate time: 10:45-11:30.

PLEASE NOTE THAT DUE TO LACK OF INTEREST IN THE PAST FEW YEARS, WE WILL NO LONGER PROVIDE BABYSITTING. THE NURSERY ROOM WILL CONTINUE TO BE AVAILABLE TO THOSE WHO WANT TO USE IT TO TAKE A BREAK WITH THEIR CHILD/CHILDREN.

## Upcoming Services

Due to a late Labor Day holiday and when the High Holidays fall, we will not hold a Friday night Shabbat service this month. **Our next Friday night service will be on October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30 p.m at the Ashland Community Center.** In addition to ushering in Shabbat we will also have our congregation's **Simchat Torah celebration.** This evening, we will also have our **siddur consecration for our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and new 4<sup>th</sup> grade religious school students.** As always, we also invite you to join us after services for a community oneg.

**Our community will celebrate Sukkot together on Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Ashland Middle School.** While our celebration takes place during Hebrew School, all are welcome to share our community sukkah.

**We are currently in need of oneg sponsors.** Please consider volunteering to host an oneg this year...it's easy, fun and rewarding to provide refreshments for congregants, friends and family after the Friday evening service so we can enjoy the warmth and joy of the Sabbath together. Hosting an oneg is a mitzvah, and your gift of time and effort is greatly appreciated! Please contact Jamie Sack at [sack.jamie@yahoo.com](mailto:sack.jamie@yahoo.com) or 508-627-0387 for more information. Thank you!

## Member News

A hearty Mazel Tov to Jamie Sack and her fiancé Ken Levine on their recent engagement! Wishing them many years of joy ahead.

We send healing prayers to Leslie Jaffe who is recovering from knee surgery.

## Religious School Update

by Lisa Clay

Hope everyone had a wonderful summer and a successful back to school! We are looking forward to starting off the 2015-16 school year on September 20<sup>th</sup>. If you have not sent in your registration forms, please do so ASAP.

Here is the schedule for the first day:

- 10:00 am: All Students Grades K-7 and Parents meet in Activity Room
- Students/Parents will pick up and pay for books.
- We will all start off together to kick off the year. Then the teachers and students will go to class and parents will stay for Parent Meeting.
- 6th grade parents will gather to discuss Keshet 13 after parent meeting.

[Click here for 2015-2016 Religious School Registration Form](#)

[Click here for 2015-16 Religious School Calendar](#)

Also remember to share this information with anyone you know who might be interested in our school. Feel free to send anyone my way who wants to learn more about our wonderful program.

Looking forward to seeing you all on the 20<sup>th</sup>!

## Dinner Volunteers Needed for Family Promise MetroWest

by Lisa Brown

Family Promise is an interfaith organization that provides safe shelter and assistance with finding permanent housing and other support for homeless families in the MetroWest Boston area. Local congregations host families for a week at a time, temporarily transitioning their building into a home for several families. The Federated Church in Ashland acts as a host four times each year and Sha'arei Shalom is proud to sponsor the Sunday night meal for each of the four weeks.

Sha'arei Shalom will host the Sunday meal for Family Promise on Sunday September 13<sup>th</sup>. This is fortunately or unfortunately erev Rosh Hashanah. Consider preparing an item as part of your New Year preparation! You can either drop off your item around 5PM at the Federated Church that evening, or email the Sha'arei Shalom coordinator for the program, Lisa Brown at [lisciacca@hotmail.com](mailto:lisciacca@hotmail.com).

Please sign up using the following link: [www.SignUpGenius.com/go/20F0449A5A92AAB9-family3](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/20F0449A5A92AAB9-family3).

You may contact Lisa Brown with any questions, [lisciacca@hotmail.com](mailto:lisciacca@hotmail.com) or 508-735-3347.

## **Monica Weinstein Women's Book Group**

**by Leslie Jaffe**

Book group met over the summer, but many regular participants were unable to attend. We will meet on Sunday September 27<sup>th</sup> at 10 am at Bodacious Bagels to reconnect and discuss the summer's three books:

- Boys in the Boat by Daniel Brown
- Mary Mrs. A Lincoln by Janis Cooke Newman
- Inside the O'briens by Lisa Genova

Everyone is welcome (whether you read any or all of these books or none)!

For further information, please call Leslie Jaffe at 508-881-1079 or email her at [jlajfamily@verizon.net](mailto:jlajfamily@verizon.net).

## **Elissa Naiman Evergreen Group**

**by Sheila Watnick**

At the August 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Elissa Naiman Evergreen Group at the home of Sheila Watnick, members celebrated the August birthday of Barbara Kleinberg. They also caught up on families and summer activities.

The next meeting will be on **Wednesday, September 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.** at the home of Barbara Kleinberg. Female temple members 60 and over are welcome. Please contact [evergreen@shaareishalom.org](mailto:evergreen@shaareishalom.org).

## **Babysitting!**

Josie Kaufman is available for babysitting. She is 12 years old and has taken the Red Cross babysitting course. She can babysit on weekends. Contact Josie with any questions at 508-881-6930

### **WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUNG FAMILIES**

PJ LIBRARY IS A JEWISH FAMILY ENGAGEMENT program implemented on a local level throughout North America. We mail free, high-quality [Jewish children's literature and music](#) to families across the continent on a monthly basis.

PJ Library is a program of the [Harold Grinspoon Foundation](#), made possible through partnerships with philanthropists and local Jewish organizations. Today, families in hundreds of communities across the United States and Canada are able to explore the timeless core values of Judaism through books and music.

All families raising Jewish children from age six months of age through five, six, seven or eight years (depending on the community) are [welcome to enroll](#).

<http://pjlibrary.org/>

## DO YOU LOVE TO SING? CHECK OUT SHIR JOY!

Whether you sing professionally or have only sung in your shower, this is your chance to join with other adults who love to sing Jewish music. Shir Joy is a Jewish choir that started up in the fall of 2011. We practice on Sunday evenings from 7-9 pm right at Congregation B'nai Shalom in Westborough. In our first year we had over 35 members from 14 central MA towns & cities. Rehearsals this coming year will begin on October 14 following the High Holidays. Choir participants are not required to be Jewish nor do members need to be affiliated with a Jewish organization to join. We hold several concerts over the year in the Central MA area.

Shir Joy will be directed again this coming year by Jonathan Rappaport, an experience choral conductor with over forty years of experience. Dues of \$75 per year. love of Jewish music, and ability to keep in tune with your neighboring singers are required. Although we do make beautiful music together, we also build strong community bonds. We welcome new members. If you are interested in participating or want additional information, check out our website [www.shirjoychorus.com](http://www.shirjoychorus.com), or email [ShirJoyMA@gmail.com](mailto:ShirJoyMA@gmail.com). Shir Joy is partially funded from a generous grant from Jewish Federation of Central Massachusetts.



~~~~~

## ZAMIR CHORALE OF BOSTON TO HOLD AUDITIONS

~~~~~

The Zamir Chorale of Boston, "America's foremost Jewish choral ensemble,"

(*American Record Guide*) will hold auditions for all voice parts on **Sunday, September 20, from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. at Hebrew College, 160 Herrick Road, Newton Centre.** Auditions are *by appointment only* and must be scheduled in advance by emailing [manager@zamir.org](mailto:manager@zamir.org).

Candidates should have excellent vocal quality, the ability to sight-read music, and previous choral experience. In addition to the audition, candidates are required to attend open rehearsals from **7:15 to 10:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 8, at Hebrew College, and Thursday, September 17, at Hebrew SeniorLife, 1200 Centre St., Roslindale.** Rehearsals throughout the year are generally held on Tuesdays at Hebrew College, from 7:15 to 10:00 p.m., from September through early June.

For more information about Zamir and audition requirements, visit [www.zamir.org](http://www.zamir.org)

**добро пожаловать!**

## **Engaging Metrowest Russian Jewish Families in Jewish Community Life**

A grant from the Genesis Fund is enabling us to reach out to Russian Jewish families throughout Metrowest. By developing collaborative relationships, we are identifying and connecting with members of this large and vibrant community through engaging programming and activities.

As part of this program, JFN is also doing special "**Privet Malish**" visits -- **Welcome Baby!** visits with gift baskets and resources tailored for Russian Jewish families.

If you are interested in learning more about our programs or "Privet Malish," or if you know someone who is, please contact our Russian community connector, [Luba Olshan](#), for more information.

**SAVE THE DATE\* SAVE THE DATE \* SAVE THE DATE**

**Please join me and save the date! 10/13/15- 6pm at Temple Israel - Fashion Journalist Tina Sutton will be our Guest Speaker/You do not have to be a Hadassah Member/Bring a Friend, Stephanie Marks Plotkin**

### **Framingham/Natick Hadassah Annual Membership Dinner**

Tuesday, October 13, 2015 6:00 p.m. Temple Israel, Natick

**Tina Sutton, fashion journalist for the Boston Globe, will talk about her book, "The Making of Markova." This is an amazing story about the legendary prima ballerina Alicia Markova. Be sure to mark the date as this will be a wonderful evening to see old friends, meet new friends and hear a beautiful story. Watch the mail for your invitation**

**SAVE THE DATE\* SAVE THE DATE \* SAVE THE DATE**

**BJMF IS EXCITED TO PRESENT EHUD BANAI,  
ONE OF ISRAEL'S MOST IMPORTANT SONGWRITERS.**



**[Tickets Go On Sale TOMORROW \(9/1\).](#)  
[Click here or call 800.838.3006](#)**

The Boston Jewish Music Festival, in partnership with Culture Track and Temple Shalom of Newton, are bringing the legendary Israeli singer/songwriter, **Ehud Banai**, for his first performance in Boston in almost a decade. Ehud will be performing in an intimate, 'unplugged' style concert with percussionist and multi-instrumentalist Eran Porat on **Thursday, October 15, 8 pm, at Temple Shalom in West Newton**. Reserved seat tickets (\$35-75) go on sale September 1 at 9 am.

A multiple award-winning artist, Ehud Banai's music reflects his unique sensitivity to the play between Israel, Jews, and the modern world.

This show will sell out so get your tickets early.

We wish you a Shanah Tovah for a year of great music and even greater joy.

**CULTURE  
TRACK**

**BOSTON  
JEWISH MUSIC  
FESTIVAL**



## Bus Tour of Jewish Boston Explores Synagogue Communities

Join us on **Sunday, October 18 from 12:00-6:00 pm** as we come together to explore the relationship between synagogue communities and their sacred sites.

What happens when demographic change requires a congregation to move to alternative space or a new community? How does a shul decide to remain in the same facility, and the same community, for generations? What kinds of renovations and infusion of capital are needed to bring this about?

SCM's "Bus Tour name" will take us from suburban congregations in Newton and Brookline through the urban neighborhoods of Roxbury and Dorchester, to the Vilna Shul in the West End, ending up at the Walnut Street Shul in Chelsea (not yet confirmed).

Along the way we will meet people and visit former and present synagogues that tell the larger story of Boston's Jewish history--a story in which each of us are participants and shapers.

We will begin and end at Congregation Mishkan Tefila in Chestnut Hill (rain or shine).

Our tour will be led by Ellen Smith (pictured above), historian and curator of Boston Jewish history; and Associate Professor, Dept. of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies and Director, Hornstein Jewish Professional Leadership Program, Brandeis University.

To join us for this exciting tour, advance registration is required (\$45 per person).

To register, click [here](#).



# KEEP THE PROMISE

*Join Family Promise Metrowest for an Evening of Food Tasting  
and Silent & Live Auction to Benefit Families Who Are Homeless*

**November 7, 2015**

**7:00-11:00 PM**

**Temple Shir Tikva, 141 Boston Post Road, Wayland**

**MUSIC** ~ Stacey Peasley and the Grown Ups

**LIVE AUCTIONEER** ~ Chris Zito

## **RESTAURANT VENDORS**

Outback Steakhouse ~ Blue on Highland ~ British Beer Company ~ Bertucci's ~  
Conrad's Restaurant ~ Whole Foods ~ Keefe Technical ~ Skybokx 109 ~  
Nordstorm Café Bistro ~ Papa Razzi Trattoria ~ P.F. Chang's ~  
Treat Cupcake Bar ~ Rice Theory ~ The Melting Pot ~ Pepper's Fine Catering ~  
Gubba Rum ~ Samuel Adams ~ Twist Bakery & Café

## **PLATINUM SPONSOR**

Wells Fargo



## **SILVER SPONSORS**

Brookline Bank ~ Eastern Bank ~ Needham Bank

## **TICKETS**

To purchase tickets please visit [www.familypromisemetrowest.org](http://www.familypromisemetrowest.org)



PARENTING THROUGH A JEWISH LENS is a program that brings expert facilitators together with caring parents to foster greater understanding of their vital role in their children's lives.



## REGISTER NOW

PARENTING THROUGH A JEWISH LENS

CLASSES ARE FORMING FOR 2015-2016 IN THE FOLLOWING MASSACHUSETTS COMMUNITIES:

Beverly	Framingham
Brockton	Jamaica Plain
Brookline	Needham
Burlington	Newton
Cambridge	Waltham
Canton	Wayland
Dedham	West Roxbury

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
AND TO REGISTER:  
[hebrewcollege.edu/parenting](http://hebrewcollege.edu/parenting)

160 Herrick Road  
Newton Centre, MA 02459  
617-559-8734  
[parenting@hebrewcollege.edu](mailto:parenting@hebrewcollege.edu)

*Is there room in a teen's busy schedule  
for Jewish learning?*

**YES!**

## Opening a New Window of Opportunity

Today's on-the-go teens are looking for a flexible, dynamic and creative approach to Jewish education that fits into their busy schedules.

Parents, educators, rabbis and communal leaders want programs that are convenient, affordable, relevant and, above all, engaging.

That's where Prozdor enters the discussion.



## Convenient, high-quality education at your fingertips

[Prozdor of Hebrew College](#) is the largest community Hebrew high school in the country, with more than 550 students participating in a wide range of in-person and online learning programs and travel and fellowship opportunities. We are on the leading edge of envisioning teen Jewish life and learning, and continue to innovate on the front lines.

Our [online courses](#) are fully interactive, asynchronous and dynamic, enabling teachers and students to engage in thoughtful discussion, share readings and media clips, submit assignments and more.

Prozdor's [2015-16 suite of online courses](#) will run for either 12 (half year) or 24 (full year) weeks, and will be taught by Prozdor's renowned and experienced

faculty. Tuition is \$125 for a half year and \$250 for the full year.

Courses are open to individual teens or cohorts of students from camps, youth groups, congregations and more.

Courses include:

- Case Studies in Israeli Law
- The History of Israel and Zionism
- The New Jewish Citizenship
- Who Am I: Teen Leadership
- Hebrew language
- The Intersection of Judaism and Social Justice
- Critical Issues in Tikun Olam
- Introduction to Jewish Philosophy Introduction to Online Writing

College credit may be available for high-level coursework. High school credit may be granted for Hebrew language and other courses upon approval.

After just one class, we think you'll agree this program is the ideal solution to Jewish teen learning and engagement for the 21st century.

Contact us via our online [interest form](#) or at one of the email addresses below for more information or to get started. Based on preliminary interest, we expect the online courses to fill quickly, and we encourage interested students to register soon!