



Sha'arei Shalom

Monthly Newsletter

December 2014

Contact Us

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Upcoming Events

- SHABBAT SERVICE December 19th @ 7:30 p.m.
- COMMUNITY MENORAH LIGHTING
Tuesday December 16th @ 6:15 p.m.
Montenegro Square, Downtown Ashland

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

- Annual Meeting (Members only)—December 7th @ 9:00 a.m. (snow date: 14th)
- Dinner Volunteers for Family Promise –December 7th
- Evergreen – December 17th @ 7:30 p.m.
- “Traditional” Jewish Christmas Eve Dinner—December 24th @ 6:00 p.m.
- Book Group – January 4th @ 10:00 a.m.

Rabbi's Letter

by Margie Klein

Dear Friends,

As I write, Thanksgiving approaches, with its promise of family gatherings, holiday traffic, and delicious desserts. As I shared at our recent Shabbat Circle potluck dinner, I recently learned a new twist on an old Thanksgiving custom.

My colleague Rev. Viola Morris Buchanan shared that in her family, instead of just having people share something for which they are grateful, family members take time to thank *each other* for the ways that other people in the family have shaped their lives for the better. Rev. Viola said that often, these thank-you's evolved into storytelling, where people would retell stories of how their ancestors made sacrifices so that they could have a better life.

I love this idea, and hope to try it out this year. To that end, I would like to take a moment to thank you for being wonderful, and for letting me serve as your rabbi.

Thank you for continuing to inspire me with your warmth and thoughtfulness, and with your encouragement to everyone to bring our full selves to the community. Thank you for being curious and asking questions about Jewish tradition and about life, which makes me feel more curious, and more excited to share what I have learned. Thank you for taking time from your full schedule to join us for services and community events, and for pitching in to make our community stronger. Whether serving on a committee, schlepping books on the High Holidays, or introducing yourself to someone you don't know, your pro-active participation makes this community vibrantly alive.

I look forward to the year ahead with you, and if you try out Rev. Viola's Thanksgiving gratitude ritual, I would love to know how it goes.

Happy Thanksgiving,

Rabbi Margie

If you would like to donate a siddur in honor of/in memory of someone or in celebration of an event, please contact Jane Greenstein at president@shaareishalom.org. The cost is \$36 per Siddur.

President's Corner

by Jane Greenstein

To all members, the **Annual Meeting of the Membership is scheduled for Sunday, December 7th. (Snow Date is Sunday December 14th)** The meeting will be held at the Ashland Middle School from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

The purpose of this meeting, which is required by our by-laws, is to review the past year, discuss important issues for our congregation, and plan for 2015. We will also approve our 2015 budget, elect people to six open board positions, and select officers.

This time together is an important part of our year and I urge all members to attend and participate in the conversation that will happen that morning. All members in good standing have a vote at the Annual Meeting. I speak and write frequently about how important our members are to the vibrancy of Sha'arei Shalom. Together we have created a warm community where individuals of diverse voices and perspectives come together in worship, celebration, and learning. Your participation in this annual meeting is another important way that you can strengthen our community.

For members with children in our religious school, there is a Learner's Service that day at 9:00, with regular Hebrew School classes from 10:00-12:00. If you have a child in 1st or 2nd grade who will be in class at 10:00 but does not need to be at Learner's Service, and you need childcare for them for the hour in order to attend the full annual meeting, please let me know and we will provide supervision for these children. I regret that we will not be able to provide childcare for the full 3 hours for younger children.

We look forward to seeing all our members there!

Upcoming Services

On Tuesday, December 16th at 6:15 p.m., Sha'arei Shalom will sponsor the lighting of the Ashland town menorah in Montenegro Square (across from Stone's Public House in downtown Ashland). This year we inaugurate a beautiful new menorah! This event is open to the entire Ashland community. We encourage members to let their friends know about this event, even if they are members of other synagogues.

Join us for our next Friday night Shabbat service (this one with a Chanukah focus) on December 19th at 7:30 p.m. at the Ashland Community Center. Our 1st and 2nd graders will be participating in the service as well. As always, we also invite you to join us afterward for an oneg Shabbat.

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 or 508-627-0387 for more information. Thank you!

Member News

Ari Kaufman was recently elected President-Elect of the New England Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (NEACRAO) at the organization's annual conference recently held in Newport, RI. He will serve a one-year term as President-Elect with succession to one-year terms as President, and Past President.

Thank You from the Lovitz Family

On behalf of our family, we'd like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to the Sha'arei Shalom community for the support and comfort that was provided after the death of our mother and grandmother, Gloria. We were overwhelmed by the many community members that visited us during the Shiva and supported us during the preparations for the funeral and mourning period. The response of the Sha'arei Shalom members was so evident that our family and friends commented on how lucky we were to belong to such a wonderful community. They were right - and we do feel blessed.

You have our sincere thanks.
Alan, Rachel & Jordan Lovitz

Annual Appeal 2014

In parashat Vayakhel Pikudei at the end of the book of Exodus, Moses speaks to the Israelites and gives them instructions about how to build the Mishkan, the holy tabernacle for the 10 commandments. After gathering the community together, he gives them detailed instructions for how the tabernacle must be built. He then tells them, "Each person must give as their heart moves them." The Torah then relates to us "And people gave and gave, so much that they wound up with more than enough of everything they needed." When it was finished, Moses blessed the tabernacle and then G-d dwelled in it.

In this story, we are taught that the building of a holy space requires a community to come together, with everyone contributing the gifts of their heart—each in their own way. And the Torah teaches that everyone has something to give and that when these gifts are pooled together, we will have more than enough.

While Sha'arei Shalom does not (yet) have a building of our own, we have indeed built a tabernacle in Ashland, a holy place where G-d dwells. Ours is a tabernacle without walls. It is a tabernacle built from the communal efforts of all our community, past and present. Together, we have built a holy place, a Jewish home, where faith and caring dwell. In our home, all are welcome. In our home, we provide joyful experiences and comfort and solace in times of need. In our home, we strive to promote pathways for all to find comfortable, meaningful ways to connect to Jewish tradition and culture.

Yet with a small membership and no endowment, our budget continues to be extremely tight. **We ask you to contribute whatever you can—whether \$18 or \$180 or \$1800—to help us to sustain what we do and to continue to expand our outreach.** Your contribution will help us to provide programming such as:

- Shabbat Kids! where families with young children come together to learn the joy of Shabbat traditions in a musical, interactive, fun setting.
- Rigorous but engaging Religious School classes that our children enjoy, so that they develop a strong and positive Jewish identity.
- The purchase of a new menorah for Downtown Ashland to continue our role in making sure there is a Jewish presence in the town's Holiday Display.

As we learn in the story of Moses and the Israelites building the Mishkan, when everyone gives of themselves, there is an overflowing of blessing, and a sacred space for God to dwell among us.

Thank you for your generous support. (And please let us know if your donation is in memory or in honor of someone so that we can include that in our acknowledgements.) Donations can be sent to us at P.O. Box 454, Ashland, MA 01721.

Please make your Annual Fund donation now. Our community's strength depends on you.

Religious School News

by Lisa Clay

Hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving! We are thankful for your support and the opportunity to work with your children. Hard to believe it is almost Chanukah and end of 2014. We have a good solid 3 weeks of learning in December before the break culminating with our Chanukah party on Sunday, December 21st, at 10:00 am. In preparation for Chanukah, don't forget you can order your menorahmates (see flyer attached). We are accepting orders until December 2nd. They make great gifts too!

Be sure to join us on Friday, December 19th for Shabbat when grades 1 and 2 will be participating. Also don't miss the Chanukah party - we have a fun morning planned for all!

Finally we are looking for 2 school committee members - this is a great way to get involved! Come to a meeting and see! Contact Lisa Clay at lcc1129@yahoo.com if you are interested.

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 of Ashland will next host the families in the Family Promise Program starting on Sunday December 7th. Our congregation traditionally provides the Sunday night meal. If you would like to volunteer to help prepare part of the meal for that evening, please sign up via Signup Genius:

www.SignUpGenius.com/go/20F0449A5A92AAB9-family1

or for more information please contact Lisa Brown, the Sha'arei Shalom Family Promise Coordinator:
lisciacca@hotmail.com.

Traditional Jewish Christmas Eve Dinner

Join Sha'arei Shalom for our second annual Christmas Eve Chinese dinner at Dynasty Restaurant in Hopkinton (77 West Main Street). We will make group reservations for Dynasty's all-you-can-eat buffet. Bring your appetite!

[Click here to view the Evite and RSVP](#)

Please reply by Sunday December 14th.

Questions? Contact Jen Gordon at jen@ethangordon.com

Monica Weinstein Women's Book Group

by Leslie Jaffe

At our meeting on November 16th, we discussed "The Three Weissmans of Westport" by Cathleen Schine. Our next get-together, a belated Hanukah potluck brunch and book swap, will take place on Sunday, January 4th at 10 am at the home of Jane Greenstein. Everyone attending is asked to bring a new, gift-wrapped book, as well as a dish to share. We will also be discussing "Caleb's Crossing" by Geraldine Brooks, and copies of February's book, "My Beloved World" by Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, will be available. Please RSVP to Leslie Jaffe, jlajfamily@verizon.net, if you would like to attend.

Happy reading!

Evergreen

by Sheila Watnick

At the November 19th meeting of Evergreen at the home of Sheila Watnick, members celebrated Diana Cohen's October birthday. They also shared positive news of a week's solo getaway to Loon Mountain, a son's upcoming theatre production (sound director) of "Evita" at the Emerson Umbrella in Concord and a grandnephew due December 3rd.

The next meeting will be a Chanukah party on **Wednesday, December 17th, at 7:30 p.m.** at the home of Shirley Marks. Female temple members 60 and over are welcome. Contact evergreen@shaareishalom.org.

Dear Sha'arei Shalom community,

My name is Eli Prybyla. On December 23, 2014, I will travel to Israel to become a Bar Mitzvah. I am so fortunate to be able to have this opportunity and realize that not everyone in our world is as lucky.

As part of my Mitzvah project I am collecting items to support the homeless families that are living right here in our own local communities. We all take for granted that we have a roof over our heads and a bed that is our own. So many adults and children don't have this and I'm sure life can be very scary for them. The reason I am collecting items for homeless families is so that we can help them to become independent so they too can have a home and a bed of their own.

I am working with the Family Services Coalition that is a volunteer organization helping homeless families in Framingham and Natick. I have attached more information about the organization so you can see all the great things they do for these families.

I am collecting the following items: (or if it is easier you can make a cash donation and I will do the shopping for you)

Shampoo

Conditioner

Deodorant

Bar Soap

Body Lotion

Toothpaste

Floss

All Purpose Cleaner (32oz)

Dishwashing Soap (30oz)

Sponges

Paper Towels

Laundry Detergent

Chlorox wipes (35-50count)

You can bring your donations to Friday night services on December 19th or items can be dropped off at my house at 14 Belknap Circle, Ashland or email me at emprybyla@gmail.com and I will be happy to pick it up at your house.

Thank you so much in advance for helping the homeless families in Framingham and Natick and supporting my Mitzvah project.

Josie Kaufman is available for babysitting. She is 11 years old and has taken the Red Cross babysitting course. She can babysit on weekends. Contact Josie with any questions at 508-881-6930

We are compiling a list of Bar/Bat Mitzvah information consisting of:

**Venues
Caterers
DJ's**

**Please email Lisa Freedman, LNFKitty2@aol.com with some you've experienced.
It would be nice for Sha'arei Shalom families to have a resource of this kind.**

THANK YOU.

American Red Cross Babysitter Training Class

To provide youth who are planning to babysit with the knowledge and skills necessary to safely and responsibly give care for children and infants. This training will help participants to develop leadership skills; learn how to develop a babysitting business, keep themselves and others safe and help children behave; and learn about basic child care and basic first aid. The recommended age for this course is 11-15 years old.

Please contact Michelle Levenson for more information (617-529-0429, mlevenson@verizon.net)

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/>

Celebrates Chanukah with Boston Children's Museum



Sunday, December 14 (11am-3pm)

Boston Children's Museum

308 Congress Street, Boston

Regular Museum admission rates apply.

Enjoy all museum exhibits plus fun Chanukah activities:

- * Latkes For Everyone - a Chanukah Puppet Show by Caravan Puppets
 - * Cantor Gaston's Chanukah Fiesta Band
 - * Chanukah Science Miracles
- * Chanukah-themed arts and crafts activities
 - * And more

[Register and be entered into a PJ Chanukah drawing.](#)

Prizes include a Shabbat dinner for 12 from [Catering by Andrew](#), \$100 gift certificate to [Israel Book Shop](#), \$100 Gift certificate to [ADAR Design Needham](#), Season Tickets to [JCC Magic Ark Performing Art Series](#) and more.

For more information, contact pjlibrary@jccgb.org or 617-558-6587.



Flip Over Chanukah with PJ Library

Back by popular demand! Create your own miracles with PJ Library® at a Chanukah celebration at the Cole Center (179 Boden Lane) in Natick on Sunday, December 7 from 10–11:30am. Kids will flip, jump and tumble through holiday-themed gym activities. Chanukah songs, crafts and snacks are included. Limited space, please register early! Geared for families with children ages 2-6 years. Cost is \$15/family; walk-ins are an additional \$5. Register at bostonjcc.org/MWchanukah. For more information, contact metrowest@jccgb.org or 508-879-3300. All JCC arts and humanities offerings are programs of the Ryna Greenbaum JCC Center for the Arts.

Welcoming a New Baby into Your Home

Learn how to welcome your baby into a Jewish home on Wednesday, December 17 from 10-11am at Temple Shir Tikva (141 Boston Post Road) in Wayland. Jewish rituals and life cycle events will be discussed. Facilitated by Rabbi Firestone of Congregation Or Atid, Wayland and Cantor Schachner of Temple Shir Tikva, Wayland. Geared for new parents or those anticipating parenthood. No charge. Program in partnership with [Temple Shir Tikva](http://TempleShirTikva.org) and [Congregation Or Atid](http://CongregationOrAtid.org) in Wayland. Register at bostonjcc.org/metrowest. For more information, contact metrowest@jccgb.org or 508-879-3300. To learn about all of the JCC Early Parenting programs, visit bostonjcc.org/earlyparenting or contact earlyparenting@jccgb.org or 617-558-6485. All JCC arts and humanities offerings are programs of the Ryna Greenbaum JCC Center for the Arts.

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, or email ShirJoyMA@gmail.com. Shir Joy is partially funded from a generous grant from Jewish Federation of Central Massachusetts.



FRAMINGHAM'S TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM
PRESENTS A NEW PROGRAM FROM NEW
YORK'S 92ND STREET Y

World Religions: Spotlight on Judaism
A Conversation With Jack Miles, Susannah Heschel
& David Biale



Sunday, December 7, 2014 at 3:00 PM

Temple Beth Shalom, 50 Pamela Road, Framingham, MA 01701
Admission \$5, Refreshments Available

Can religion be defined? How do we write, study and think about religions? In this pre-recorded program, award-winning scholars Jack Miles, Susannah Heschel, and David Biale go in depth on the study of religions in the context of how the first edition of *The Norton Anthology of World Religions* was created. With particular focus on Jewish thought and texts, the panel discusses issues related to the history, intersection and ongoing traditions of world religions.

Jack Miles is the general editor of *The Norton Anthology of World Religions*. Susannah Heschel is the Eli Black Professor of Jewish Studies at Dartmouth. Her numerous publications include

Abraham Geiger and the Jewish Jesus, which won a National Jewish Book Award. David Biale is Emanuel Ringelblum Distinguished Professor of Jewish Studies at Dartmouth. His most recent book is *Not in the Heavens: The Tradition of Jewish Secular Thought*.

Now, you can enjoy lectures, interviews, panels and readings featuring newsmakers, political figures, opinion-shapers and authors right here at Temple Beth Sholom, the MetroWest home of *Live from NY's 92nd Street Y™*. Join some of the world's most fascinating people for compelling and thought-provoking discussions on the issues and events that affect our lives. While some programs we present are pre-recorded, others are broadcast live with opportunities for questions and answers as if you were in the New York audience.

**Save the date for our next program: January 11, 3:00 PM *State of World Jewry*.
With Alan Dershowitz. (pre-recorded)**

Our Supporting partners:



Temple Emanuel of Marlborough

**RSVP to Fern 508 877-2540 X205
Temple Beth Sholom
50 Pamela Road Framingham, MA 01701**

JFS of Metrowest
475 Franklin Street, Suite 101

Framingham, MA

www.jfsmw.org