



The Scribe

Congregation Beth Am

510 Claremont Avenue, Teaneck, New Jersey 07666

Affiliated with the Union of American Hebrew Congregations

5769

July 2009

Tammuz—Av

RABBI'S MESSAGE

Congratulations to all!

Surely we have every right to enjoy this celebration. With loyalty and commitment, we have nurtured the survival and the vitality of Congregation Beth Am.

The 45th anniversary of Congregation Beth Am is a marker in time. Its arrival provides us with an opportunity to reflect upon how Beth Am has touched our lives.

Of all the accolades we could extend to Beth Am, perhaps the most obvious and the most important is that Beth Am has been a place where each member is significant. Even our name, House of the People, affirms the personal quality the founders of Beth Am sought to infuse within our fledgling congregation. Just as we have helped each other in very personal ways, we have also played an important role in assisting those in need within our community. As a synagogue we have done what synagogues do. We share life cycle events with each other and we observe Shabbat and the Jewish holidays. Many of us have devoted countless hours over the years to enhance our religious and social lives.

I am honored to have been your rabbi during the past eleven years. This role has given me the opportunity to share with you in so many ways the ritual events and intellectual depth of our heritage. If all of the rabbis who served Beth Am over the years could stand before you, they would proudly express with me deep thanks for making their personal and professional lives more meaningful and more spiritually significant.

Rabbi Harvey Rosenfeld



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Beth Am is 45!

We should all be proud that we played some part in its long vibrant continuing life. The enduring values the founders wanted to perpetuate resulted in the creation of Beth Am, the house of the people. These values along with great friendships and good food are the reasons many of us joined. The life of the congregation is bound up in our lives.

I wonder if any of our founders in 1964 when they were renting space at the Hackensack 'Y' had thought Beth Am would be around in 2009. I have experienced over the years that it takes much effort of many dedicated people to run an existing organization. It must have required much, much more energy birthing a new organization. I can only imagine our founders as supercharged highly motivated individuals who gave unstintingly of their time and money. All this was done in an era before personal computers, cell phones and the internet.

As we reflect on our collective past, think about those individuals with extraordinary vision that made a reality of what was previously unimaginable. I am certain our founding members had an unwavering passion for truth, a desire for personal discovery of that which is holy in everyday life and, a strong commitment to participate in repairing the world. They were pioneers seeking to better appreciate our surroundings through a deeper understanding of our religion. Our founding members were certainly ahead of their time!

Our founders looked to the future much like the generation of Joshua in the Sinai. Fortunately, our founders only had to cross the Hackensack River to find their new home. We should also look forward. But only after we have sufficiently reminisced with our friends and appropriately remembered those friends who are no longer with us.

As the current bearers of the Beth Am legacy it falls to us to look forward and determine how we can perpetuate all that Beth Am means to us. For today let us be joyous that we have reached this season. Congratulations to all of us for reaching such a young and enduring age!

Shalom,

Paul Seidelman



CONGREGATION BETH AM'S 45TH ANNIVERSARY

Sunday, June 28, 2009 was a bright and sunny day, very welcome after a month of rain and clouds. Even more welcome was the feeling among the gathered members, guests and families of Congregation Beth Am as we met at The Grille at Glenpointe Hotel to celebrate our 45th Anniversary as a House of the People.

The organizing committee originally expected somewhere between 25 and 30 people to attend, so we were thrilled by the turnout: we had 53 paying guests. Some were prevented from attending at the last minute by other events, but there were 47 people present for the afternoon. The guest list included Founding Members Helen Strickler and Harold Warsawer and original Hebrew School students Jim and Amy (the children of Helen Strickler) and Hillary Eth, who shared fond memories with their seat neighbors.

With Shelley Burnston (yours truly) as M.C., we began with a few words from our Rabbi, Harvey Rosenfeld and our President, Paul Seitelman. Our Cantor, Susan Cohen DeStefano, led us in singing "Hinei Ma Tov" and in the Motzi over the fresh-baked rolls which stood in for a Challah.

During the course of the afternoon, Hillary sold raffle tickets to the guests. The Grand Prize, of \$100, was won by Stephanie Kwait. There were ten additional prizes, of the beautiful red and white mums hand-picked by Lily Steinberg. They were won by Hilary Eth, Helen Strickler, Fran and Frank LaBarbera, Rabbi Harvey and Barbara Rosenfeld, Shelley and Stella Burnston, Herb and Sue Cohn, Paul and Ruth Seitelman, Lily Steinberg, Janet Schneider and Art Ekelchik. Several of the winners donated them back to the Temple, and Lily will plant them as part of her beautiful landscaping project at Beth Am.

After a delicious meal, we surprised Evalyn Brownstein with a piece of cake with a candle in it and a loud round of "Happy Birthday to You." While we won't give away her age, we do wish her many more birthdays to celebrate with us.

I would be very remiss if I left out the lovely Commemorative Booklets and photograph display board created by our office secretary, Nancy Gennaro. The booklets contained memories from our founding days and important anniversaries through the years, and will remain souvenirs for us all in the years to come.

And please, if anyone took pictures of the event, send them by email to Nancy at Nancigenn@aol.com so that Beth Am can have a copy for display.

All in all, it was a lovely afternoon that exceeded our expectations, and everyone left comfortably full and quite happy. Is it too soon to start planning for our 50th?



TRIBUTES

FROM THE BOARD

To Bea Grayzel- Get well soon. We're thinking of you.

To Dan and Charlotte Eth—Wishing you a speedy recovery. We missed you both at the 45th luncheon.

GENERAL

To Tina & David Jacobson—Best wishes on Sada's wedding. From Sara & Hal Halman

To Lottie Albert—Wishing you a speedy recovery. You are in our thoughts. From Fran & Frank LaBarbera

To Diana Bier—In memory of your son, Alan. From Gail Turner

To Linda Solomon—In loving memory of my dear friend, Eva. She will be greatly missed.

From Helen Karlsruher and Family

To Irwin Brownstein—Wishing you good health. Linda & Bernard Chalfin

To Richard Buchbinder—Congratulations on your co-presidency at Temple Emeth. From Stephanie & Robert Kwait

To Wendy Dessanti—Congratulations on your co-presidency at Temple Emeth. From Stephanie & Robert Kwait

To The Kaufman Family—Please accept my deepest sympathy on the passing of your dear wife and mother, Hanni. She will always be remembered. Love Trudy Schloss

To The Family of Alicia Lunay—My deepest sympathy on the loss of dear Alicia. From Trudy Schloss (Friend of the Lindinauer's)

To Frank Garcia- Enjoy your new PEEPERS. From Charlotte & Dan Eth

To Loty Albert—So glad to hear you are doing so well. All my love, Lillie Steinberg

To Olga Lepeley—All my love and best wishes for a speedy recovery. Thinking and praying for you.

Love, Lillie Steinberg

IN MEMORY

In Martha Finkelstein, mother of Ellen Dounn. From Ellen & Barry Dounn

Thank you to the Board, Rabbi Rosenfeld and the friendly concerned people who sent cards, visited and called regarding my "downfall". I'm healing nicely.

Best Regards, Loty Albert

Recently, Hilary Eth ventured into **Zoe's Cupcake Café in Teaneck**. After talking to Miriam Bloom, the director, she offered to give this worthwhile organization some publicity in our scribe. 100% of Zoe's Cupcake Cafe net proceeds support [Zoe's Place, Inc.](#), a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide safe, supervised housing, and support services for Bergen County, NJ pregnant teens, teen moms, and their babies. In addition to funding, the Cafe will offer training and employment opportunities to the young girls of Zoe's Place. If your sweet tooth has you craving a cupcake, stop by this little shop and help support this worthwhile cause.

YARTZEIT

Shabbat Service for July 3

Lewis Schloss	Husband of Trudy Schloss
Sue Singer	Sister of Mildred Distler
Emanuel Kan	Dear friend of Helen Karlsruher
Sidney S. Burnston	Father of Sheldon Burnston

Shabbat Service for July 10

Seymore Goldwasser	Founding member
Miriam Harris	Mother of Leslie Harris
Max Keller	Father of Pearl-Lin Harris
June Slurzberg	Aunt of Leslie Harris
Abraham Slurzberg	Uncle of Leslie Harris
Dorothy Farber	Aunt of Stephanie Kwait
Louis Schwack	Father of Marilyn Shapiro
Rosalie Nussbaum	Sister of Helen Strickler
Dolores Kahn	Sister of Art Ekelchik

Shabbat Service for July 17

Eric Hecht	Father of Loty Albert
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Shabbat Service for July 24

Susan Wolfsfelt	Sister-in-law of Trudy Schloss
Fannie Tag	Mother of Dorothy Danziger

Shabbat Service for July 31

Hans Karlsruher	Husband of Helen Karlsruher
Dr. Aaron Breus	Father of Ruth Seitelman



BETH AM HAPPENINGS

July Anniversaries

- 4 Loty and Gene Albert
- 11 Annette and Anthony DeMarco



July Birthdays

- 5 Josh Winterfield
- 5 Gail Turner
- 8 Ron Wertheimer
- 13 Stephanie Kwait
- 26 Leonard Danziger
- 26 Anthony DeMarco
- 29 Marisa Berger

Area Reform Synagogues to hold joint Tisha B' Av service and commemoration of the third anniversary of Second Lebanon War

Temple Avodat Shalom in River Edge, **Congregation Beth Am** of Teaneck, Temple Beth El of Closter, Temple Beth Or of Washington Township and Temple Sinai of Tenafly, will be joining together in worship and reflection on Tisha B'Av, Wednesday July 29th at 7:30pm at Temple Avodat Shalom 385 Howland Avenue in River Edge.

The traditional reading of the Book of Lamentations, will be preceded by a showing of a documentary film detailing the impact of the Second Lebanon War of the summer of 2006 upon four Israeli families; two Arab families and two Jewish families. **Under Fire: Personal stories from the scorched summer of 2006**

After this 28 minute film which will be introduced by its producer Dr. Avi Naiman, the rabbis and cantors of the participating synagogues along with lay readers will join together to lead the community in the reading of the book of Lamentations.

Everyone is welcome as we remember the perseverance of the Jewish People from the time of the Babylonian destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem in 586 b.c.e. to the rocket attacks upon Israeli civilians during the 2006 war.

