In Memoriam — Helen C. Jacobson

According to Rabbi David Jacobson, of blessed memory, his decision to marry Helen Gugenheim was “the wisest decision I ever made.” Helen Gugenheim Jacobson was a treasured jewel of the San Antonio Jewish community, shared with the wider community, with American Reform Judaism and with the world. Our beloved Helen contributed her entire life, over 104 years, in service to others.

Together, they were an incredible team, seldom seen apart. They enjoyed greeting congregants at the Temple as well as visiting them in their homes. Each Saturday after Shabbat Services, they gathered the beautiful flowers that graced the pulpit and personally delivered them to congregants in the hospital or nursing home. Side-by-side with Rabbi Jacobson and on her own, Helen helped to establish programs and organizations that made San Antonio a better place to live, particularly for the less fortunate in our midst.

There is a story about this “team” that Helen told with relish. It was moving day for one Temple family, as they relocated from one San Antonio area to another. The mother and father of the family decided to rest, after a frustrating and exhausting day. They warned their children, “Do not wake us under ANY circumstances, unless the house is on fire!” Twenty minutes later there was a knock on the bedroom door, and their little boy timidly entered. Of course, the parents were not pleased with the interruption, and admonished their son, “We told you not to wake us under ANY circumstances!” The little boy replied, “But, Mommy and Daddy — God and his wife are at the door!” Of course, it was Rabbi David Jacobson and Helen, paying a visit to welcome the family to their new home!

Helen was born on April 24, 1908, and grew up in San Antonio and at Temple Beth-El. She was one of four children born to Rosetta and Jac Gugenheim. Her siblings were Joe, Jac, Jr., and Irma. The Gugenheims lived comfortably in a lovely home on West Woodlawn, not far from Fredericksburg Road, and later moved to East Wildwood Drive in Olmos Park.

In 1922, Helen was confirmed at Temple Beth-El when it was located in downtown San Antonio, across the street from the St. Anthony Hotel, and her confirmation photo still hangs in our Temple building on Belknap Place, in the hallway outside the Bendiner Library. Her classmates were Rose August, Dorothy Brenner, Bernard M. Brooks, Mildred Goodman, Fanny Halff, Mark Earl Leopold, Evelyn Lippman, Frances Oppenheimer, Max Oppenheimer, Beede Rosenman, and Adrien Zadek. Rabbi Sidney Tedesche officiated.

Helen’s father, Jac, was a business partner of Nat Goldsmith, father of Temple member Richard Goldsmith. Their business, aptly named Gugenheim Goldsmith, began as a fruit and produce business, and later became distributors of Birdseye frozen foods, and also a variety of beers. A by-product of distributing frozen foods was selling ice to the ice houses in town, a much-desired commodity before World War II. Gugenheim Goldstein was operated on South Alamo Street, where the Blue Star Art complex currently is located.

In 1933, after receiving her Bachelor of Arts degree from Hollins College in Virginia and while attending graduate school at Columbia University and New York University, Helen went to work for the National Broadcasting Company (NBC) in New York City and was the first woman to work on a network news staff. She was first an assistant news editor and then a member of NBC’s news and special events staff. She and her boss, Abe Schecter, one of the country’s top public relations consultants, wrote the book and set many of the basic patterns for broadcast journalism. Helen recalled in a newspaper article in the San Antonio Light, in September 1978, “In those days, it was a tough world for women to break into. I literally had to fight for the job.” She wrote copy for many of the big names of that golden age of radio, including Lowell Thomas, Graham McNamee, Mary Margaret McBride, and Ben Grauer. Helen further stated, “Back then, the news

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“How can Judaism help my wife as she confronts cancer?”

This question was posed to me by a member of my congregation in New York. His wife had battled cancer for over ten years and was now near death. I felt the sadness in the words of this dear man and heard his anger. His pain expressed the challenge: “I believe religion is supposed to provide comfort, where is God, what answers can our heritage provide?”

The Response of the Moment. One of the most difficult things for all of us is to be present when a beloved person is in pain. When asked, “What can faith do?” We commonly try to offer an answer. At this time, more often than not, answers cannot bring comfort. A proverb from, Sayings of Our Ancestors, says “Do not tell a person to make peace, when they are in rage; do not tell a person to praise God, at the moment a loved one has died.” The last year I was in New York, a friend passed away. While I was at the Shiva house a fellow mourner approached me. The man was a Holocaust survivor and had a degenerative bone disease. He said, “How can this be just, I am a survivor and am ill, why am I alive while Ed is dead?” I paused and began to give an answer… and then caught myself; I hugged this man and said, “I miss Ed too.” At times when words fail, compassionate presence offers comfort and affirms the Divine.

Healing, Wellness, and Judaism. The question remains: “What does Judaism offer when we are ill?” Our heritage provides laws which affirm the value of community and the gift of faith. The Jewish spiritual tradition and contemporary psychology offer models which integrate body, mind, and spirit; what we call the, “Soul” in Judaism. These paradigms offer insights for healing and balance in life.

Steven Covey in the book, Seven Habits of Highly Effective People, says the last habit is to “Sharpen the Saw.” He says dynamic individuals take time for personal renewal. Covey continues the four realms of revitalization are: “Body, mind, intellect, and spirit.”

The image at the left is a model based on the Jewish spiritual tradition from Rabbi David Zeller (of blessed memory), of the Yakar Institute, in Jerusalem; the psychic areas of Steven Covey are called levels of the soul.

Rabbi Zeller says we must maintain each part of our being, i.e., the body needs nutrition, needs exercise, and rest; the emotional soul requires affirmation and relationship with others. By extension, I believe the levels of the soul are interdependent. For example, if a person experiences emotional stress this may be manifest in the body as anorexia, bulimia, or obesity; or the symptoms could become expressed in the intellectual soul as rationalization or over intellectualization.

A paradigm for wellness and healing based on Judaism suggests that nourishment for one level of the spirit can bring strength to another realm which is ill or weak. Jewish wisdom offers practices and laws which guide us for caring for each aspect of the soul.

The Body. Judaism affirms the importance of medicine for healing the body. The Talmud says, “If you’re in pain, go to a physician (BK 46b).” Later in Code of Jewish Law, by Joseph Caro, it says, “The Torah grants physicians permission to heal. Healing is, in fact, a religious duty that falls under the rules of saving a life (YD 336:1). Beyond the practice of the physician, human touch is also a vital part of the healing process. When the AIDS epidemic first began and people did not know how the disease was transmitted they were afraid to touch patients who were ill. One of the tragedies of this time period was the physical isolation; there was relief when the causes of the virus were determined and people with AIDS could again safely be nurtured with the gift of touch.

The Emotions. One of the existential experiences of illness is loneliness and isolation. In 1993, I worked for a year as a hospital chaplain. One day I was on rounds with the Chief Physician of the Psychiatric Liaison Team and several residents. We visited a woman who stopped speaking. The doctor placed his fingers in the woman’s hand and said, “Please squeeze once for, ‘Yes,’ and twice for, ‘No.’” The doctor asked — continued page 14
Shabbat Services

Friday, November 2
6:15 P.M. in the Barshop Auditorium
Rabbi Crystal will officiate with volunteer songleader, Michael Malinas.

6:30 P.M. in the Wulfe Sanctuary
Rabbi Koppel will officiate with volunteer Cantorial Soloist, Janie Kolman.
Metersky Bar Mitzvah.
Candles: Sam Metersky, Sara Metersky, and Joey Roberts

Saturday, November 3
10:30 A.M. in the Wulfe Sanctuary
Rabbi Crystal and Block and Cantor Berlin will officiate.
Bar Mitzvah of Samuel Grey Metersky.
Torah Portion: Yirmeyah

Friday, November 9
Band Shabbat
6:15 P.M. in the Barshop Auditorium
Rabbi Crystal and Cantor Berlin will officiate with accompaniment by the Temple Beth-El Band.

6:30 P.M. in the Oppenheimer Chapel
Rabbi Koppel will officiate with volunteer Cantorial Soloist, Dr. Susan Wynne. Zohar Forte, Temple Beth-El's Shlichah, will speak.
Candles: Nancy Siegal

Saturday, November 10
10:30 A.M. in the Oppenheimer Chapel
Rabbi Koppel and Cantor Berlin will officiate.
Torah Portion: Hayyei Sarah

Friday, November 16
6:15 P.M. in the Barshop Auditorium
Rabbi Koppel will officiate with Shlihei Tzibbur (worship leader) Roman Vasquez, and Elaine Kovner on guitar.

6:30 P.M. in the Wulfe Sanctuary
Rabbi Crystal will officiate with volunteer Cantorial Soloist, Lynne Balbert. Schur Bat Mitzvah.

6:30 P.M. in the Oppenheimer Chapel
TOT Shabbat
Cantor Berlin will officiate.

Sunday, November 17
10:30 A.M. in the Wulfe Sanctuary
Rabbi Crystal and Cantor Berlin will officiate.
Bar Mitzvah of Brittany Leeanne Schur.
Torah Portion: Tol’dot

Friday, November 23
6:30 P.M. in the Wulfe Sanctuary
Rabbi Crystal will officiate with volunteer Cantorial Soloist, Greg Gonzalez, and the Brotherhood Choir. Robbie Greenblum, Chief of Staff of the San Antonio Mayor’s office, will speak on, “Election Recap and Where Do We Go from Here?”
NOTE: There is only one service this evening.

Saturday, November 24
10:30 A.M. in the Oppenheimer Chapel
Rabbi Crystal and Cantor Berlin will officiate.
Torah Portion: Vayetzei

Friday, November 30
6:30 P.M. in the Wulfe Sanctuary
Brotherhood Shabbat
Rabbi Crystal will officiate with volunteer Cantorial Soloist, Dr. Susan Wynne.
Torah Portion: Vayishlach

B’nai Mitzvah
We Congratulate Those Who Will Be Called to the Torah in November

November 2-3
Samuel Grey Metersky, son of Sara and John Metersky, and grandson of Joey and Steven Roberts, Ronny Metersky, Betty Sue and Michael Wharton, and Dody and Max Cole.

November 16-17
Brittany Leeanne Schur, daughter of Elizabeth and Larry Schur, and granddaughter of Lee and the late Robert Schur and Jerry and the late Bettie Lu Rice.

HOT Shabbat
(Hands On Torah)
Enjoy activities on Fridays in November. All school-aged children through Grade 4 who attend evening services may leave the worship service, as the Torah service begins, for a kid-friendly program of storytelling and hands-on projects, and rejoin their parents for the Kiddush at the end of the worship service.

TOT Shabbat!
Friday, November 16
6:30 P.M.
in the Oppenheimer Chapel
with Cantor Berlin
Featuring November Birthday Blessings! All children with birthdays in November will be blessed and receive a special birthday treat! There will be a special “TOT Oneg” following the service in the Joske Foyer.

Kiddush Hosts
The congregation unites for one Kiddush in the Barshop Auditorium after both Shabbat Eve Services.

November 2: Sara and John Metersky
November 3: Temple Beth-El Sisterhood
November 9: Elizabeth and Larry Schur
November 16: Temple Beth-El Sisterhood
November 23: Temple Beth-El Sisterhood
November 30: Temple Beth-El Sisterhood

Bulletin Deadline
The deadline for the November Temple Bulletin will be Monday, November 12, at 12:00 Noon.
All articles and photos must be submitted by that time. Articles must not exceed 250 words. They may also be submitted on a CD or by e-mail to Geri@beth-elsa.org.

Temple Beth-El Bulletin (USPS 016328) is published the first of every month, except July, by Temple Beth-El, 211 Belknap Place, San Antonio, Texas 78212-5896. Application to Mail at Periodicals postage rates is paid at San Antonio, Texas. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Temple Beth-El, 211 Belknap Place, San Antonio, Texas 78212-5896.
Robbie Greenblum to Speak November 30

Temple Beth-El is proud to welcome Robbie Greenblum, San Antonio Mayor’s Chief of Staff, to speak at Brotherhood Shabbat on Friday, November 30, at 6:30 p.m., in the Wulfe Sanctuary. His topic that evening will be, “Election Recap and Where Do We Go From Here?”

Robbie Greenblum joined the Office of Mayor Julián Castro as chief of staff in June 2009. He is the mayor’s top adviser as well as the chief liaison for the mayor’s office with city staff and the community.

Mr. Greenblum entered the ranks of municipal government following a successful 18-year legal career during which he handled immigration issues, including federal class-action impact litigation and political asylum cases, as well as domestic and international business matters. A bilingual native of Laredo, Mr. Greenblum successfully developed a family and business immigration practice at Matthews and Branscomb – San Antonio’s oldest (and now largest) law firm – where he achieved shareholder status in his second year at the firm. After leaving the firm, Mr. Greenblum continued to advise U.S. businesses, including some publicly traded companies, foreign investors and families on immigration matters.

Prior to that, Mr. Greenblum was staff attorney with the Refugee Assistance Council in Laredo and the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights. His work at the civil rights’ committee included significant involvement in the class-action “Bowie High School” lawsuit that ended the U.S. Border Patrol’s practice of conducting sweeps at a high school campus in El Paso, Texas.

Mr. Greenblum is married to Tova Rubin and they have four children.

Got Latkes? JFS Does!

Jewish Family Service invites all to help honor outstanding community leaders and Temple members, Judy Lackritz and Saul Levenshus at the JFS Annual Latke Party. Lala Gossen and (in memoriam) Steven Gossen will also be honored. The event will be held on Sunday, December 2, at 4:00 p.m. at the home of Alice and Ron Perloff, 221 Lismore, 78258.

The cost per person is $36 and will help JFS to continue their work in the San Antonio community. Attendees will enjoy mouth watering delights, schmooze with familiar faces, make new friends and of course, delicious homemade latkes prepared by guest chef, Mitch Michelson.

All honorees are well-known for sharing their time and talent in the Jewish and wider communities and all have a special place in their hearts for JFS.

To make your reservations, send your check for $36 per person, payable to Jewish Family Service, to “JFS Latke Party”, 12500 NW Military Hwy, Suite 250, San Antonio, TX 78231. If you cannot attend the event, you may still make a contribution to JFS to honor Lala and Steven, Saul, and Judy. You may also call JFS with your credit card information at 210-302-6808, or you may make your online payment at www.jfs-sa.org.

WANTED: College Student Info!

Temple clergy like to keep in touch with our college students. For that purpose, please send the following information to Geri Gregory at the Temple Beth-El, 211 Belknap Place, San Antonio, Texas 78212, or to dollie@beth-elsa.org: student’s name; name of college or university; cell phone #; cell phone carrier (for text messaging); email address; and snail mail address.

In addition, Sisterhood uses the “snail mail” address to send Hanukkah care packages. Please submit your information no later than November 16.
Movies, Meditation, Mysticism and God: Developing a Personal Vision of Jewish Faith

Rabbi Darryl Crystal
November 7, 14, 28; December 5
7:00–8:30 P.M. in the Block Conference Center

Movies, Meditation, Mysticism and God will introduce participants to the variety of ways in which the Jewish people have expressed their faith in God from the time of the Torah until the modern era and will enable the learners to articulate their beliefs about God. Each class includes clips from contemporary films, study of classical Jewish texts, writing exercises and discussions.

RSVP to Sara Planto at 733-9135, ext. 108, or by email at sara@beth-elsa.org.

Sacred Treasure: The Cairo Genizah
Sunday, December 16

Indiana Jones meets The Da Vinci Code in an old Egyptian Synagogue! In late 1896, Rabbi Solomon Schechter of Cambridge University stepped into the Genizah at the Ben Ezra Synagogue in Cairo Egypt, where he discovered a massive pile containing hundreds-of-thousands of ancient and medieval Jewish manuscripts – the largest discovery of its kind ever made. Mark Glickman’s recent book, Sacred Treasure: The Cairo Genizah is the first widely accessible account of this amazing discovery and its priceless contents. His multimedia presentation will share some highlights of the Genizah story – how it was discovered, what it contained, and some fascinating new tools now used to preserve and study Genizah manuscripts.

He will also share the story of how, in early 2010, he and his teenage son became two of the first visitors to the Cairo Genizah chamber in almost a century.

Choose one of two presentations:
9:00 – 10:30 A.M.
12:00 – 2:00 P.M. Lunch and Learn
(There will be a cost for lunch or you may bring your own)

Watch your email and the December bulletin for more detailed information. This program is funded through the Jean and Jesse Wulfé Religious Enhancement Fund.

My Israel: A Personal Perspective

Tuesday, November 27
7:00-8:30 P.M.
Sunday, December 9
10:30 A.M. – 12:00 Noon
in the Barshop Auditorium

See Israel through the eyes of Zohar Forte, our Shlichah. She will share her experience of growing up in Israel and serving in the IDF, and discuss what she sees as Israel’s most significant challenges and opportunities.

RSVP to Sara at (210) 733-9135, ext. 108 or by email at sara@beth-elsa.org.

Please Keep Us Informed

We rely on our Temple members, their friends and family to let us know when someone is hospitalized or suffering any illness or bereavement, or would just enjoy a call or visit from the clergy or a member of the congregation. The clergy would also like to hear good news, such as celebrating a birth or other simcha. Since the privacy laws have changed, local hospitals no longer release information when we ask for a list of Jewish patients. In order to better serve the congregation, please share this information with our clergy by calling Iris Berman-Smith at 733-9135, ext. 106. The patient or immediate family is often not able to make this call, so please let us hear from you.

Conversational Hebrew with Zohar
in the Block Conference Center

Wednesdays 6:00 – 7:00 P.M.
November 14, 21 and 28
December 5

Wednesdays 7:00 – 8:00 P.M.
December 12, 19
January 9, 16, 23, 30
February 6, 13

Learn modern conversational Hebrew in 12 sessions. This course will give you a taste of Israel as you learn practical, everyday Hebrew in order to get along in Israel and converse with Hebrew speakers. Emphasis is on conversation and basic grammar. Knowledge of the alphabet and the basic ability to read Hebrew are required.

RSVP to Sara at (210) 733-9135, ext. 108 or by email at sara@beth-elsa.org.

WANTED: Volunteer for Meals on Wheels Delivery

Requires a maximum of an hour and half of your time, a car, and the rewards are HUGE! You should see the smiles on the faces of those who receive their meals! Please call Lisa Martinez at 733-9135, ext. 126, and she can tell you all about it.
NFTY North American Convention is coming February 15 to 19, 2013

— Rabbi Elisa Koppel

Imagine 5 days with hundreds of Reform Jewish teens, coming together to laugh, learn, pray and sing together, at NFTY’s largest gathering. This event is like no other and is an experience not to be missed.

Convention 2013 is in Los Angeles, CA, housed at the Hilton LAX. I will be there with the kids, as I participate in the parallel Youth Engagement Conference; for participants, I will let you know when I am flying, so that we can travel together.

The event costs $895 for early bird registration (before December 17) and $975 after that (registration is open until January 3). That price includes everything except for spending money and air fare (NFTY is arranging for discounted rates with various airlines).

I know that this is a significant amount of money. There are scholarships available—through NFTY and also through the Temple. The application deadline for scholarships from NFTY has been extended to November 8. The application is online convention.nfty.org/register/scholarship-information.

I still remember going to NFTY Convention when I was in high school, and in college as an RA (and even later as a participant in the Youth Workers Conference and as a URJ Staff member). This conference has a lasting impact, and there is truly nothing in the world like a song session with more than 1,000 people! I am more than happy to talk to you in person about why I feel that this event is so important.

More details about convention can be found at convention.nfty.org.

Please be in touch with Rabbi Koppel if you are at all interested in attending — EKoppel@beth-elsa.org or 733-9135, ext. 102. We are committed to doing everything we can to make it happen.

In the Temple Family

We congratulate those celebrating life’s joyous occasions...

Rachael and David Rubenstein, on the birth of their son, Samuel Dudley Rubenstein.

Jeremy Mandel, on his marriage to Lauren Levin, in Houston. Congratulations also to Jeremy’s parents, Debbi and Ben Mandel.

Amy Levine, on her marriage to Michael Reagin. Congratulations also to Amy’s parents, Natalie and M.H. Levine.

Danna Schneider and Chris Cauthern, on the birth of their son, Isaac.

Jacques Braha, on his forthcoming marriage to Michele Haussmann.

Karen and David Palans, on the engagement of their son, Brian, to Jessica Brandvein. Congratulations also to Brian’s grandparents, Judy and Seymour Palans.

Stephanie and Larry Rickel, on the birth of their grandson, Max Anders Rickel, born to Natalie and Josh Rickel, in Austin, Texas. Congratulations also to Max’s great-grandparents, Sylvia and Dr. Hugh Wolff.

We congratulate those who have achieved something extra-special...

Lynn Stahl, who received the Lion of Judah Award at the National Lion of Judah Conference in New York City.

Jean Friedberg, who was selected to be the Assistant Director of the San Antonio Songsters Choir (along with Choir Director Richard Flint).

Ruth Jean and Arthur Gurwitz, who were honored at the San Antonio International Piano Competition for their decades of dedication and service.

We congratulate those celebrating milestone birthdays in November...

Bonny Akers, Mark Alvarado, Larry Auster, Eleanor Bergmann, Sally Cooper, Ray Elias, Mark Greenberg, Florence Halpern, Dr. Ralph Kustoff, April Labens, Marjorie Lande, David Lefton, Ruth Malinas, Dr. Michael Merren, Stu Schlossberg, Dr. Catherine Spezia, Frances Sterling, Helen Stool, Dr. Tracy Tommack, and Daniel Weiner.

We congratulate those celebrating milestone anniversaries in November...

5 Years: Ann and Andrew Himoff; Ibis and Philip Planto

10 Years: Jody and Jack Fries; Michelle Koidin Jaffee and Dr. Michael Jaffee

15 Years: Jen and Stan Lowenstein; Debbie and Marty Roos

25 Years: Patsy and Don Martin

30 Years: Debbi and Ben Mandel

35 Years: Stephanie and Larry Rickel

45 Years: Toni and Richard Goldsmith; Ann Marie and Dr. Abel Hipolito

50 Years: Luann and Dr. Larry Cohen; Audrey and Ron Sloter

69 Years: Elinor and Gerald Mazur

Don’t miss our upcoming Youth Group events:

HAVERIM (Grades 4 & 5)

Sunday, December 9
Chanukah Party

OLIM & GESHER (Grades 6 & 7) (Grade 8)

Sunday, November 11
Pins for Pennies — Bowling
Sunday, December 16
Chanukah Party

SAFTY (Grades 9-12)

Saturday, November 10, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.,
Laser Quest Extravaganza
Laser Quest (606 Embassy Oaks)
Join your Temple friends for a night of food, friends, fun, and (oh, yeah) laser tag. $20 includes dinner and 3 games of laser tag.

Or check out details on FB @ http://on.fb.me/SigfDs

SAFTY hang out at the recent SAFTY Sunday Schmooze
In Memoriam — Helen G. Jacobson

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service wouldn’t sell to us. We had to get out and get our own news.”

In 1938, Helen came home to San Antonio for a short visit and met the new Rabbi of Temple Beth-El, David Jacobson, at a dinner party at the Goldsmith residence. They spent a very short time together before Helen returned to New York. Rabbi Jacobson sent her a telegram telling her they were wasting time apart – could she come back to San Antonio? She did, and they were married a few weeks later.

Helen was not just a good rabbi’s wife, partner, or rebbezin, she was her own woman – a woman who took volunteerism and making the world a better place, tikkun olam, to extraordinary new heights. She was a woman ahead of her time; a woman who got things done; a woman to reckon with; and a woman with a huge capacity for compassion.

In a newspaper article honoring Helen as “Volunteer of the Year,” she described her life, “Busy or not, my main job is Dr. Jacobson, Temple Beth-El, and my two daughters, Elizabeth and Dorothy.”

Helen started her career in volunteerism as public relations chair for the Girl Scouts. This task came naturally to her, given her background in broadcast journalism. From this public relations position, her volunteer work was unlimited. She has been active in health, welfare, and education activities her entire life, and was described in an Express-News editorial in October, 1978. “Concern for others is for Helen Jacobson a creed, a way of life. Caring is followed by a total commitment, a total involvement. Many lives have been enriched culturally, medically, and spiritually because of her concern. A list of volunteer projects she has worked on is formidable.”

Some of the organizations on which Helen has had an impact include UNICEF, United Negro College Fund, National Jewish Hospital and Research Center, National Conference of Christians and Jews, National Assembly for Social Policy and Development, National Council on Crime and Delinquency, Texas Social Welfare Association, South Texas Coalition for Juvenile Justice, Texas-Oklahoma Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, Sunshine Cottage School for Deaf Children, the Cancer Therapy and Research Center, the San Antonio Public Library, the Bexar County Council of Girl Scouts, Goodwill Industries, League of Women Voters, Community Guidance Center, Community Welfare Council, AVANCE, San Antonio Urban Coalition, San Antonio Museum Association, Bexar County Hospital District, San Antonio Independent School District, Youth Alternatives of San Antonio, Ecumenical Center for Religion and Health, Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio, Martin Luther King City/County Memorial Commission, National Council of Jewish Women and Temple Beth-El Sisterhood.

Helen’s daughter, Dottie, summarized during the service at Temple for Helen’s 100th birthday:

“My mother would have loved to be here for this beautiful celebration of her upcoming centennial birthday. You all know how central Temple Beth-El has been in her life! Her roots go back to the very
floor under your feet. The grates here were vents for cold air from the ice blocks below that her father gave to the Temple to cool the sanctuary during the High Holidays.

“My mother began the civic leadership that became her life’s work. Indeed, she has been quoted as saying that a volunteer should devote as much commitment and passion to a project as one would to one’s career. She didn’t start out with any grand plan. She was asked to be on the Girl Scouts Board. Board work was new to her and she was fortunate to begin with a group of women who had much experience as volunteers and the willingness to teach her. My sister’s and my grandparents and great aunt were willing and loving sitters along with wise and dependable Armenta Reethy Daniels, our live in housekeeper, allowing my mother to make simultaneous, serious civic commitments. At the same time as her Board position with the Girl Scouts, Monte Harris, her mentor at the Express-News where she had worked summers while in college, urged her to go on the Board of the San Antonio Library.

“Her special interest was expanding out through the city by means of branch libraries, one of which was the Landa Library, bequeathed in 1946 at the suggestion of both my parents. On the grounds of the Landa Library was a little house, empty at the time, except for some cans of yellow paint. When my mother learned that the local school for deaf children needed a place to hold classes, she asked the Board if the school could use this outbuilding. That little building, repainted with the yellow paint, became known as Sunshine Cottage. And, not surprisingly, my mother served on that Board, too, raising money to build the school that has been the Sunshine Cottage campus since 1952.

“My mother’s tenure on the San Antonio Library Board provided an unexpected growth spurt. I was too young to understand the threat to freedom posed by Sen. Joe McCarthy. But I was old enough to understand that there were people who wanted to take books off the shelves that they didn’t like and burn them. Until then, nothing my mother did sparked the least amount of controversy. She was at every service held at Temple Beth-El, she made hospital calls, condolence calls, went to brits and baby namings, went to parties given by congregants and fellow board members of her boards and those of my father’s increasing community involvement. She never gossiped—talking about people behind their backs was just not part of my mother’s nature—and she wore the same simple black dress and hat and white gloves to services for years. I asked her recently if she had any hesitation about taking a very public stand against censorship. She didn’t. It was the first time that she stepped out from the shadow of my father’s position. To be mindful of their public presence had been a conscious and willing decision she had made in marrying him. Soon after the book-burning business, my father urged a few other local religious leaders to use their combined influence to convince restaurants, hotels, and movie theaters to integrate. At the same time, my mother urged the Public Library Board to open the libraries to blacks, hard as it is to imagine that public libraries were as segregated as public drinking fountains. My parents stood together and weathered the criticisms. Both my parents learned that they had great inner power to bring about positive change through these controversies. No books were burned and San Antonio integrated even before Martin Luther King gave his “I have a dream” speech in Washington.

“Her service at Sunshine Cottage and with the Girl Scouts led her to the Board of the Community Guidance Center, where, again, she raised the money for a new building. This woman who had often said to my sister and me on the drive home from school that she was “nervous” and we needed to be quiet,
which always meant to us that she had to
give a speech somewhere in the next 24
hours, had become an ace fundraiser. Her
activity in the area of children’s needs
led to her being asked to join the state
board of Crime and Delinquency, then
cought the attention of the local UNICEF
chapter and she was recruited to serve on
that board, then the state board and then
the international UNICEF Board. In her
characteristically positive way, my mother
conquered the breast cancer she had in
1960 and used that experience to encourage
others through her work for the Cancer
Therapy and Treatment Center. The state
and nationwide positions both she and my
father took on conveniently were offered
at about the same time as the nest emptied,
with both daughters in college. UNICEF
was particularly helpful in that the
board meetings were held in Manhattan.
From there, my mother routed herself
through Chicago in order to visit me at
Northwestern and later, when I was in grad
school in New York. You can study her list
of organizations and see that her statewide
and national board involvement increased
from the mid 1960’s on. Another lesson —
how to balance public and private life.”

Helen’s son-in-law, Dr. Sam Miller,
reminisced as he presenting her eulogy
to a crowded sanctuary at the recent
memorial service:

“At home, she perfected that balance
over the years. To her daughters she gave
love, self-esteem and independence, and
the freedom of gender equality. Liz, for
example, who loves both Mom and Dad
deeply and equally, replaced her last name
Jacob-son with Helen-child in that spirit.
Dottie and Liz would accompany her often
to her appointments and remember playing,
like they did on the Landa library grounds
while she would be meeting inside.

“As a young woman, she had little
interest in domestic skills, like cooking. In fact, she rented
an apartment once in New York only to discover weeks after
she had moved in that there was no kitchen! Years later, one
evening, during Dad’s retirement, she called Dottie in a panic.
“Dottie, Dad just called. We have an unexpected invitation to
go out to dinner tonight. But I have a chicken in the oven. How
do I stop it from cooking?”

“On the other hand, one of the fondest memories of her
grandchildren, Ethan, Stephanie, and Seth, was that she made
excellent pancakes (wheat germ may have been the secret).
They also remember that she was always willing to get on the
rug in the living room and play a game of “Trouble” during
sleep overs. They remember enjoying Mama the jokester -
always with jokes and stories to tell for most any situation;
and Mama the good piano player; and that she was supportive
and came to see them at their activities, like tennis, soccer,
school; and had keen corrective and editorial abilities which they now find actually is helping in
their later professional lives, to catch minor and major discrepancies; for example, for Seth as an attorney. They also remember that she set good examples for them: She was independent; an avid reader, instilled values of community and public service, was very devoted to Papa and vice versa — both good examples of love and affection lasting over time; and that she never said anything bad about anyone. They remember how super dedicated to San Antonio she was, and that she wanted all of them to move back. She told me fairly recently that of all the cities in which she had lived or had visited, she thought San Antonio is the best. For her great grandchildren, she was silly in love. The very sweet things she said to Seth and Sarah’s baby Elliot this year when she met him met for his San Antonio naming ceremony are preserved on video and in our memories. And she would kiss, kiss, kiss, and hug, hug, hug baby Leo, now 23 months old, as he wriggled and played on her lap...

“During her last years, she also thrived on visits from friends, from you. She appreciated the fresh flowers you brought. She remembered who sent them. That was another trait—she never forgot a name, and she always sought to know and remembered the story of everyone she met…

The life of Helen Gugenheim Jacobson, “sun ray, shining light,” was long, complex, and profound. In the final analysis, its simplicity is what enabled her to do such great things. She knew who she was, liked who she was, and she stayed faithful to her bedrock values of integrity, honesty, and fairness. She believed in the dignity and in the potential of every human being. She saw the best in people, and she was able to inspire it. With these she brought light to the world.

Helen Gugenheim Jacobson’s impact within our Temple walls can be found everywhere: she has comforted the bereaved, she has visited the sick and lonely, she has forged Jewish and secular community bonds, she has enlivened and strengthened our Sisterhood, and she has enhanced countless blessed celebrations. Beyond San Antonio, Helen is known for her international leadership in countless organizations. She was beloved by younger rabbis, their spouses, and their peers throughout the country, as she was revered among her own generation.

Zichronah Livrachah — May her memory be a blessing to us all.

To read Dr. Sam Miller’s full eulogy of Helen Jacobson, go to http://bit.ly/HelenJacobson
We Gratefully Acknowledge the Contributions of Our Members and Friends


RAIBU CRSTAL’S DISCRETIONARY FUND
In memory of Mark Schwartzman by Bill Goodman.
In memory of Michael Tucker, II in appreciation by Michael Tucker.
In memory of Mark Schwartzman in appreciation by Beverly Schwartzman and sons.
In appreciation by Laura Ann and Dan Gore.
In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Benjamin Morton Wolfe and in appreciation by Barbara Konig and Amy and Perry Wolfe, and Steven, Michael, Jared, and Benjamin.

RAIBU BLOCK’S DISCRETIONARY FUND
In memory of Suzy Kalter Gershman and in appreciation by Jennifer McCormick and Aaron Gershman.
In honor of the home blessing and in appreciation by Litzie and Buzz Trustin.
In memory of Stanley Frank, Jr. and in appreciation by Adrien Frank.
A contribution by Bridgette Mayo.
In appreciation by Rob Meier and Madeleine Zachary.
In memory of Jean Barnett by Mary Anne Barnett.
In honor of the naming and blessing of Rebecca Veronica Alwais and in appreciation by Amber Liddell Alwais and Randy Alwais.
In memory of Helen Jacobson by Mark Friedman.

CANTOR BERLIN’S DISCRETIONARY FUND
In memory of Suzy Kalter Gershman and in appreciation by Jennifer McCormick and Aaron Gershman.
In memory of Mark Schwartzman and in appreciation by Beverly Schwartzman.
In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Benjamin Morton Wolfe and in appreciation by Amy and Perry Wolfe, and Steven, Michael, Jared, and Benjamin.

RAIBU KOPPEL’S DISCRETIONARY FUND
In memory of Stanley Goodman by Bill Goodman.
In appreciation by Laura Ann and Dan Gore.

RAIBU STAHIL’S DISCRETIONARY FUND
In memory of Mildred Rubin Teblum Wizel and Elma Wolff by Sondra and Walter Wolff, Jr.
In memory of Bertha Golden Marcus and in appreciation by The Family of Bertha Golden Marcus.
In honor of the wedding of Elisa Levinson and Shonnon Martin and in appreciation by Cheryl and David Levinson.
In memory of Johanna Rabinowitz and in appreciation by Kristi and A. Charles Rabinowitz.
In memory of Brooke Cohen by Lana and Barry Middelman.
In memory of Brooke Cohen, Stanford Weiner, and Fredyde Mae Duchiin by Gloria and Gerald Silber.
In memory of Shirley Alter and Fay Berger by Emily and Rob Kaufman.
For the speedy recovery of Rabbi Samuel Stahl by Chickie and Leo Rose.
In memory of Barbara Hochman by Felice and Ronald Wolff.

JACOBSON GARDEN FUND
In memory of Brooke Cohen by Marge and Dr. Al Miller.
In memory of Helen Jacobson by Emily and Rob Kaufman, Patasy and Don Martin, Harriet and Sam Neuman, and the CPASA Board.

HELEN JACOBSON YOUTH EDUCATION FUND (A SISTERSHOOD FUND)
In memory of Helen Jacobson by Bill Goodman, Renee and Alan Gugenheim, Karen Heintz, Barbara and Stanley Spigel, and Ruthie and Dick Wurzburg.

DAVID AND HELEN JACOBSON SCHOLARSHIP FUND
In memory of Helen Jacobson by Morton and Miriam Greenberg.

FINE ARTS FUND
In honor of the 50th wedding anniversary of Luann and Dr. Larry Cohen by Emily and Rob Kaufman.

GENERAL OPERATING FUND
In memory of Libbie Stool by Max Stool.
In memory of Helen Jacobson, David Jarcho, and Harry Feltman and for the speedy recovery of Lois Rosen by Maxine Rose.
In memory of Paul Pearlstone and Harriet Cohen by Seymour and Judy Palans.
Contributions by Laura Castillo, Jessica and Gilbert Casares, Laura Castillo, Cary and Abbey Begun, and Sherri Wiltines and San Antonio State Supported Living Center.
In memory of Stanley Frank by the Vexler Family.
In memory of Bob Karlebach and Elaine “Dixie” Kaufman by Bill Goodman.
In honor of the 90th birthday of Max Stool by Harriet and David Oppenheimer.
In memory of Alvin Golding and Stanford Weiner by Lana and Barry Middelman.
In memory of Pearl Stahl by Rabbi Samuel and Lynn C. Stahl.
In memory of Diane Markuson Bahme by Myra and Dr. Arthur Bahme.
For the speedy recovery of Arlene Starr by Bea Rosenstein.
In memory of Eric Wayne Stein by Kay and Dennis Stein.
In memory of Alex R. Thomas, Jr., Ph.D by Jacqueline Raymond McClellan and Orah and Efraim Abramoff.
In memory of Alvin Golding by Dorothy Jessel, Carolyn Pressner, Sally and Mike Clark, and Linda and Ronnie Turoff and Family.
In memory of Maria Joachim by Bridgette Mayo.
In appreciation of Geri Gregory by Laura Ann and Dan Gore.
In memory of Ethel Meyer by Joyce and Carrol Meyer.
In memory of Harriet “Missy” Berler by Smothers Foundation.
In memory of Johanna Rabinowitz by A. Charles Rabinowitz and Kristi Rabinowitz and Thora Jackson.
In honor of the birthday of Eleanor Bergmann by Lynne Penner.
In memory of Celia Phillips and Fannie Leon by Ruth Chafetz.
In honor of the birthday of Margo Hoenig by Anna Rado.
For the speedy recovery of Bob Polunsky by Carolyn Mazer Devin.
In memory of J.Y. Golden and Bessie Golden by Claire Golden.
In memory of Helen Jacobson by Fanny Brooks, Pat and Tom Frost, Gerald and Sherry Merfisk, and Mrs. Jesse B. Poston.
In honor of Eleanor Bergmann by Matt and Stacy Penner.
In memory of Diana Tiger by Hortie Lyman-Fein.
In memory of Helen Jacobson and Leonora Garfinkel and in honor of Lynn Stahl receiving the National Lion of Judah award by Bernard and Jean Harris.
In honor of the birth of Max Anders Rickel by Leo and Chickie Rose.

RAIBU MARK S. GOODMAN YOUTH DEVELOPMENT FUND
In memory of Janet Goodman by Ilene Goodwoman and Robert Wagoner.
In memory of Alvin Golding, Alex R. Thomas, and Brooke Cohen and in the honor of the birthdays of Luann Cohen, Judy Lackritz, David Ladesnosoa, Michael Hardy, Sally Hardy, and Louise Michelson, the wedding anniversaries of Sherrill and Joe Rubin and Ruth Jean and Arthur Gurwitz, and the marriage of Betty Schwartz and Mel Indyk, by Judge Bonnie Reede and Stu Schlossberg.

INSSCRIBED PRAYERBOOK FUND
In memory of Ann Levine by Harriet and Sam Neuman.

JACK AND ESTELLE KAUFMAN COMMUNITY OUTREACH FUND
In memory of Alvin Golding by Lainie and Tom Kaufman.

LANDSMA FAM L RELIEF FUND
In memory of Harriet “Missy” Berler by Eddie Duchin.

MEMORIAL FUND (TEMPLE IMPROVEMENT FUND)
In memory of Stanford Weiner by Rose Kannin.

FRED AND ERNA MILLER RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND
In memory of Fred Miller and Pearl Rominck by Dorothy and Gerd Miller.

RENEE AND KURT POMPER FUND FOR SENIOR TRANSPORTATION
In memory of Goldie Spitzer and Max Spitzer and in appreciation of Ellie and Dick Drileck by Selma and Phil Mintz.

SELSIGN-MASHER MEMORIAL MUSICAL ARTS FUND
In honor of Roy Kamin’s music composition being played on Rosh Hashana by Elaine Gale.
In memory of Ron White by Marlene Reynolds.

LEONARD AND SHIRLEY STERLING MEMORIAL LIBRARY FUND FOR THE MILTON BENDINER LIBRARY
In honor of the special birthday of Marlene Reynolds by The Friday Mahjong Group.
In memory of Frank Thomas by Marlene Reynolds.
In memory of Bertha Golden Marcus by Nat Jefferson.
In memory of Nathan and Charlotte Nayfach by Carol Kaufmann.
In memory of Jonathan Scott by Ronnie Levy and Emily Sparks.
In memory of Alvin Golding by Glenda Alter.

TEMPLE ENDOWMENT FUND
In memory of Joseph Stolusky and Merle Goldstone by Irving and Hellenan Lauber.
In memory of Evelyn Siegel by Susan and Larry Siegel.
In honor of Lynn Stahl receiving the Lion of Judah award by Sidney and Marion Shenafield.

OSIAS AND BEULAH WOLF “FEED THE HUNGRY” FUND
In memory of Helen Jacobson, Stanford Weiner, Marie Goldman, and Elaine “Dixie” Kaufman, in honor of the special birthday of Gina Fish, and for the speedy recoveries of Rabbi Samuel Stahl and Alice Rosenstein by Harriet and David Wolfe.
In memory of Elaine “Dixie” Kaufman by Geri Gregory.

JEAN AND JESSE WULFE RELIGIOUS ENHANCEMENT FUND
In memory of the Bar Mitzvah of Benjamin Morton Wolfe and in memory of Morton B. Konig, Marjorie Margolin, and Jean and Jesse Wolfe by Barbara Konig.
In memory of Ron White and in honor of the 75th birthday of Sandra Wolfe by Amy and Perry Wolfe, Steven, Michael, Jared, and Benjamin.
Sisterhood News

Looking for the perfect Hanukkah gift for those special people in your life? Want to show them how much you care but still haven’t found exactly what you are looking for? You are in luck, Temple Beth-El Sisterhood is here to help!

Mark your calendars for the Annual Hanukkah Gift Show scheduled for December 1–2, at the Barshop Auditorium.

This year kicking off the two-day extravaganza will be a “Sip and Shop – Adults’ Night Out” on Saturday, December 1, from 7:00-10:00 p.m. Attendees will enjoy adult beverages and hors d'oeuvres while perusing all the gifts and supplies needed for the upcoming holiday season. The gift show will continue on Sunday, December 2, from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Families are welcome to attend and shop from the wide array of merchandise available in all price ranges.

Starting Wednesday, December 5, all merchandise will be available at the Sisterhood Gift Shop. The shop will have extended business hours on December 5-7 to make sure you don’t miss out on your holiday needs. If you would like to make a special order of Hanukkah items, please contact Lori Williamson at 210-862-8314 or by email at tbeshgift@gmail.com.

Proceeds benefit Temple Beth-El Sisterhood. We look forward to seeing you there!

Brotherhood Corner

Happy New Year!

Our annual membership drive is underway and early results show a strong renewal rate. Plus, we are gaining new members as well to Beth-El Brotherhood. It’s not too late to join for this year and help contribute to many of our programs in the coming year.

Special thanks to Machar for helping Brotherhood build the sukkah during Sukkot. We truly appreciate your effort and friendship. We look forward to continuing to partner on important events at Temple Beth-El.

Our annual Sukkot Dinner Brotherhood feast went especially well, so well in fact we had much more fire left over to cook another feast. Looking around that evening, we saw many folks enjoying themselves and having seconds. We will cook again, so stay tuned...

Founders Day

The weather was mild and partly sunny for the 9th annual San Antonio Founders’ Day event held on the Alamo grounds, October 20. The TBE Brotherhood had an interesting and informative exhibit to tell visitors about the substantial influence south Texas Jews have had on the development of the region. Visitors particularly enjoyed seeing examples of Jewish ritual objects as well as learning how to spin a dreidel and receiving gelt for their efforts.

Many thanks to co-chairs Mel Cohen and Steve Gross as well as to Lori and Tim Williamson, M.H. Levine, Art Perez, Daniel Laser, Paul Davis and Ann and Hank Lipsitt.

Mark Your Calendars

Some important events are coming up very soon that need strong attendance.

Friday night, November 30, will be the annual “Brotherhood Shabbat.” It comes early this year, and the first weekend after Thanksgiving. We will have a special speaker, Robbie Greenblum, Chief of Staff for Mayor Julian Castro. The topic will be: “Election recap and where do we go from here.”

A dinner will follow services, please stay tuned to announcements. Brotherhood Choir will be at services. A special thanks to the time they dedicate preparing for this wonderful evening.

Second event is “Spurs Outing” on Sunday, December 23, 6:00 p.m. game time. Spurs vs Dallas Mavericks. $35.00 per ticket. Advance purchase of tickets is required. Reach Maury Goldstein, mgoldst924@aol.com, to register or with question. We have reserved a large section of seats. Families are encouraged to attend.

Lastly, Beth-El Brotherhood is on Facebook. It is an invitation only and closed group on Facebook, created a short while ago. We have 30+ members to date. We need more members in the group. It was set up “closed” to keep Brotherhood matters and announcements separate from your other friends. It has become a very good social tool. Facebook users should ‘friend request’ to Andy Kabbe, then a group invitation will be sent back to you.
2012/5773 High Holy Day “Thank Yous”

Recognition is due to Sylvan S. Lang, Jr. who headed the High Holy Day Honors Committee, consisting of Leslie Selig Byrd, Gerald Z. Dubinski, Sr., M. Bernard “Buddy” Gardner, Jr., Jerry Kelfer, Richard A. Planto, Lee J. Rosenberg, Michael J. C. “Mickey” Roth, Steve Rubin, Carl E. Wulfe, and Richard A. Zucker. They selected the following people to participate on the bimah:

Marion Ayers
Dr. Richard Benedikt
Rabbi Alan Berlin
Daniel Berlin
Iris Berman-Smith
Trent Boarnet
Leslie Selig Byrd
Rick Byrd
Dr. Larry Cohen
Dr. Mel Cohen
Nicole Cohen
Sara Crowe
Arlene Dryer
Gerald Z. Dubinski, Sr.
Mark Eichelbaum
Matt Epstein
Roger Eth
Dr. Marvin Forland
Zohar Forte
Hannah Ghotbi
Geri Gregory
Bernard P. Harris
Mark Ingram
Andy Kabbe
Anne Kanter
Beth Keough
Gayle Kipp
Dan Klein
Robin Kressbach
Sylvan S. Lang, Jr.
Jeremy Mandel
Hannah Margolis
Dan Markson
Jacob Miller
Sharon Miller
Mitch Michelson
Dr. Debra Morrow
Bruce Munch
Richard Planto
Bailey Roos
Debbie Roos
Lee J. Rosenberg
Michael J.C. “Mickey” Roth
David Rubenstein
Rachael Rubenstein
Dr. Jay Rubin
Robert Rubin
Steve Rubin
Lynn Stahl
Joshua Sutin
Miranda Sutin
Michael Swanson
Shirley Swanson
Roman Vasquez
Christina Weinfeld
Carl Wulfe
Dr. Madeleine Reichert
Zachary
Dick Zucker

When we attend services at the High Holy Days, we are inspired by the beautiful music we hear. Not many of us realize, however, the tremendous amount of effort required to produce it. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteer and professional musicians who helped to set the tone for our High Holy Day season, and who worked so capably, together with Cantor Julie Berlin, our Organist, Bob Brewer, and our Music Director, Jean White:

Idelle Abramson
Chris Brown
William Burns
Lisa Callan
Dr. Mel Cohen
Bobbie Feldstone
Lisa Goldstein
Maury Goldstein
Arkadiy Grinman
Michael Hardy
Kathi Kardon
Dan Klein
Elaine Kovner
Marsha Krassner
Daniel Laser
Linda Levy
Dr. Hank Lipsitt
Michael Malinas
Sharon Miller
Emily Sparks
Roldan Trevino
Lori Williamson

We are most grateful to our Ba’alei Tekiah, who moved us all with their stirring calls of the Shofar: Daniel Berlin, Dan Klein, and Dr. Jay Rubin.

We thank the SAFTY members that helped with the Yom Kippur Food Drive.

We appreciate the professional and efficient manner that Mitch Michelson and Rabbi Alan Berlin used in handling security arrangements, and Iris Berman-Smith, Lisa Goldstein, Geri Gregory, Lisa Martinez, Sara Planto, Michael Ringel, Edith Vanderventer, and Dollie Closna, for making sure our guests were welcomed warmly and appropriately.

We thank our inspiring and eloquent Yom Kippur Symposium speakers: Russell Davis, Arlene Dryer, Brent Johnson, and Dr. Debra Morrow. Their personal stories uplifted us all.

We are also grateful to our Facilities Manager, Mike Kung, full-time custodians, Sonny Coronado, Jr., Tomas Montano, and Tony Bethea for all behind the scenes efforts in making everything run smoothly.

A special thanks to Iris Lieberman, Hannah Margolis, and Maxine Rose for helping with the membership card mailing; and to Sisterhood members Brittany Power (chair), with Debbie Coben, Ellie Drileck, Olga Kauffman, Marsha Krassner, Barbara Moss, and Amy Wulfe, who prepared and organized our Break-the-Fast.

We thank Beth Keough for all her hard work in coordinating the ushers for the High Holy Days, Selichot, Sukkot, and Atzeret-Simchat Torah. We thank all our ushers and will list the names in our December bulletin.

Note: We hope we included all the names of those who should be thanked. If we missed somebody, please notify Geri Gregory at 733-9135, ext. 120, or geri@beth-elsa.org.

Potluck Dinner, Havdalah, and Movie with Rabbi Elisa Koppel
Saturday, November 3, 7:00 P.M.
in the Barshop Auditorium

Schmooze with Rabbi Koppel in a social, informal setting! Bring a potluck item to share, we’ll celebrate Havdalah together, and then we will watch one of Rabbi Koppel’s favorite movies, Social Network, and discuss it with her afterwards!

NO COST! RSVP by calling the Reservations Hotline at 733-9135, ext. 208.
THE RABBI SPEAKS

“Heal Her and She Shall Be Healed:”
Sickness, Wellness and Judaism

— continued from page 2

a series of questions. When he finished the examination the woman would not let go of his hand. A resident asked, “Why won’t she let go of your hand?” The physician said, “It is a neurological reaction.” The other chaplain on the team was standing next to me and said, “She wants someone’s hand to hold!”

Judaism also affirms the importance of human relationships and strengthening the emotional soul as a path to healing. There is a classic tale about Rabbi Akiva, who was one of the greatest sages of his generation. One of his students was ill. Rabbi Akiva visited, swept the floor, and then sprinkled it with water (to minimize dust). He then said, “One who does not visit the sick is like one who sheds blood (BT: Nid 40a).” In a similar spirit, the sage Maimonides said, “One should select as attendants and caretakers those who can cheer up a patient. This is a must in every illness …”

The Soul of the Intellect. Medical advances in the modern era offer two insights into how the intellect can aid in healing. The first is the way patients have become partners with medical professionals to facilitate their healing. Each person can think of a personal story; I had a car accident in 1996 and damaged my knees, the process of physical therapy was significantly more effective the times I conscientiously did my exercises. In the area of holistic healing, the use of meditations and visualization can also aid healing.

The intellect can address the conflict people feel between their belief in the love of God and anger because of the pain they are experiencing. The guilt which may arise from this conflict can be addressed by reading of people who call out to God in sadness and rage in the Torah: “I am weary with calling; my throat is dry; my eyes fail while I wait for God (Psalm 69:4), and Why Adonai, do you reject me? Why do You hide your face from me? (Psalm 88:16).” These and similar texts provide strength by showing that a person can call in anger to the Eternal and at the same time not reject God.

The Spiritual Self. The realm of faith is the area where many feel the greatest challenge and have the least experience. On one hand some people accept the relationship between body, emotions, and intellect, but are uncomfortable with inclusion the spiritual part of the self. On another level, there is a belief that if a person has faith, God will protect them from all harm. Below are practices which strengthen the spiritual self. It is helpful to work with a guide to explore these affirmations of faith.

• The Classical Belief: It’s All for the Good. A tale speaks of Nahum of Gamzu. According to tradition, Nahum suffered many calamities in life. If asked, “How can you keep your faith?” He would affirm God and say, “It’s all for the best.” Classical religious belief sees God’s loving presence in sickness and in health; both are accepted each as a blessing of a loving parent.

• Prayer and Recitation of Psalms. A definition of prayer is, “Renewal of the soul through communion with the Divine.” The words and melodies of a service inspire us to move from the intellectual part of our mind to the creativity side of the soul; here we can experience a feeling of transcendence. On a personal level, at times when I felt especially troubled, prayer lifts my spirit. In the traditional Jewish world, the recitation of Psalms also has this power.

• A Sacred Witness. The visit to a person who is ill can go deeper than emotional support. Rabbi Nancy Flam, one of the founders of the National Jewish Healing Center, said that she has found that the people confronting illness draw strength from a person who can be present with them as they speak of their pain and fears. The care of a witness who affirms God can provide spiritual support.

• Meditation. Meditation is both an ancient and modern practice in Judaism. In Mindfulness Meditation, a person concentrates on their breath or another single focus. This helps the mind relax and allows the person to feel connected to the Oneness of the world.

• Mi Shebeirach: Prayers for Loved Ones Who are Ill. Traditional hopes for healing are expressed by saying a Mi Shebeirach prayer. Two aspects of the prayer are to announce the name of a person who is ill as “Loved one — the child of — the mother’s name.” Also the prayer is offered for the person who is ill and for healing of all people who are sick. In an interfaith setting I was moved by a woman who said, “I feel better knowing that my friends at church are praying for me.” I experience this blessing when I am with friends or congregants who are ill and I take their hand and offer a prayer.

Our hearts reach out when our loved ones are ill. I share these thoughts with you as an affirmation of the wonderful caring Temple Beth-El. May the Eternal send healing of body and healing of spirit to our loved ones and all who are ill.

The Bendiner Library Announces Two New Programs for Children and Adults

Birthday Book Club

The library has initiated a Birthday Book Club for the 2012-2013 religious school year to help you honor your children on their birthdays. For an $18 donation, a child's book will be purchased in your child's honor. When your child's birthday arrives they will be invited to come to the library when we will place a bookplate in the book honoring your child, who will be the first person to check it out and will also receive a birthday/thank-you card from the library. What about summer birthdays? These students will celebrate their "half birthday." For example, a student with a July birthday will receive their birthday book in January. This is a wonderful way to honor your child, encourage them to read and to support the Bendiner Library. If you wish to participate in the Birthday Book Club, please call Marlene Reynolds at 733-9135, ext. 110.

Bendiner Book Club

Beginning in January, 2013, the Bendiner Library will launch its inaugural book club series. The purpose of the series is to celebrate the rich diversity of Jewish-themed books. Each book discussion will be lead by a member who can bring a unique perspective to the book being discussed. The first selection in the series will be A Pigeon and A Boy, a novel by Israeli author Meir Shalev. This novel interweaves two personal stories set against the backdrop of Israel's past before Statehood and the present. Mr. Shalev was awarded Israel's Brenner Prize for A Pigeon and A Boy. Temple Beth-El's very own Shlihah, Zohar Forte, will lead a discussion of this book on January 9, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. in the Block Conference Center. A Pigeon and A Boy is available for check out at the Bendiner Library and copies are available for purchase at the Temple's Sisterhood gift shop. If you plan to attend the book discussion, please email Mark Ingram at wmingram@gmail.com or call 884-2383.
### November 2012 – Heshvan/Kislev 5773

**Temple Beth-El Monthly Planner**

**December Bulletin Deadline:**
November 12, at 12:00 Noon

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**Saturday**

| 26 Heshvan |
| 27 Heshvan |
| 28 Heshvan |
| 29 Heshvan |

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**Gates 3-6 GFC Retreat**

### Sunday

- 8:30 AM Boker Tov Café.
- 9:00 AM Religious School.
- 9:00 AM Adult B’nai Mitzvah classes.
- 9:15 AM Pre-K class.
- 11:00 AM AH-HAH class.
- 9:30 PM Bus from GFC Retreat returns to Temple

**Grades 3-6 GFC Retreat**

- 12:30 PM Olim & Geshet Pins for Pennies

**Veteran’s Day**

- 12:00 Noon December Temple Bulletin deadline.

**Thanksgiving Day**

- 4:00 PM Bus for GFC Retreat leaves from Temple

**Monday**

- 9:00 AM Religious School.
- 9:00 AM Grade 7 Holocaust Museum Tour at the Jewish Community Campus.
- 9:00 AM Adult B’nai Mitzvah classes.
- 12:30 PM Olim & Geshet Pins for Pennies

**NO Religious School.**

**Wednesday**

- NO midweek Hebrew.

**Thursday**

- NO midweek Hebrew.

**Friday**

- NO midweek Hebrew.

**Saturday**

- NO Religious School.

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Mission Statement of Congregation Beth-El

The mission of Congregation Beth-El (also known as “Temple Beth-El”) is to create a welcoming and vibrant house of God that inspires a community of Reform Jews committed to meaningful worship, spiritual growth, tikkun olam, and outreach within and beyond our congregation.

Now Auditioning!

This year, our adult Purim celebration will be a French-themed “Cabaret Shushan!”

Saturday, February 23, at 7:00 P.M.
in the transformed Barshop Auditorium
(Mark your Calendars!)

The Cabaret will feature our own talented Temple members as Cabaret acts! Please call Geri Gregory at 733-9135, ext. 120 or email geri@beth-elsa.org if you have a Cabaret Act to feature! The Purim Audition Committee will come together to enjoy all acts, whether they be musical, magical, acrobatic, dramatic, or otherwise, and the best will be chosen to perform!