



**President Paul Eisenberg**

It is the season of light, it is the season of darkness. December is a—if not *the*—season of lights for most Americans: many stores and many cities put up their Christmas lights already by Thanksgiving; and we Jews will celebrate with our lighted candles the eight days and nights of Hanukah.

But December is also a season of darkness. I'm referring, not principally to the fact that the days are growing shorter as we approach the winter solstice, but, more particularly, to how the long cold nights affect people without a home to spend them in. Recently some from Beth Shalom have joined with volunteers from three other Bloomington faith communities to provide staffing for the emergency shelter for the homeless that began last month and will continue through March.

But it is one thing to write, somewhat abstractly, about "the homeless" in Bloomington; it is quite another thing to meet persons in this predicament face-to-face, one fellow human being at a time. The guests we met were individuals of various ages and conditions, some seemingly brought down by addictions, others by mental illness, others by hard economic times --a few paychecks short of a roof over their heads. All were grateful for a warm, safe place to rest and a friendly smile and respectful concern. For them, December and winter are not only dark; these months constitute a continuing emergency.

But people with homes and candles can also be in darkness, as emerges in a Chasidic story which I heard recently: a rabbi asks his disciples when one can tell whether daylight has come. One answered, "when one can see that the animal in the distance is a sheep, not a goat." "No," said the rabbi. Another suggested, "when one can see that the leaves on a nearby tree are those of an oak and not of an ash." Again, the rabbi said "no." Then he proceeded to answer his own question: "light has come when one can see the real humanity of other persons, both near and far; otherwise, one is still in darkness."

*Happy Hanukah!*  
*First Candle is Friday evening, December 11, 2009.*



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## Shabbat

*Shabbat services begin at 7:30 on Friday evenings and at 9:30 on Saturday mornings, unless listed otherwise. Evening services are liberal; morning services, traditional. Shabbat ends on Saturday evening, one hour later than the listed time for lighting candles on Friday evening.*

<u>December 4 &amp; 5</u>	<u>December 11 &amp; 12</u>	<u>December 18 &amp; 19</u>	<u>December 25 &amp; 26</u>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Vayishlach</b></p> <p><b>Candles: 5:05 pm</b>  <b>Service 7:30 pm</b>  <b>Service Leader:</b> <i>Rabbi Ballaban with Carolyn Lipson-Walker</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Oneg:</b> New member, Victoria Berdon</p> <p><b>Saturday service 9:30 am</b>  <b>Tot Shabbat 11:30 - noon</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Vayeshev</b></p> <p><b>Candles: 5:05 pm</b>  <b>Service 7:30 pm</b>  <b>Service Leader:</b> <i>Third Grade RS students, with Carolyn Lipson-Walker</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Oneg:</b> Parents of Third Grade RS students</p> <p><b>Saturday service 9:30 am</b></p> <p><b>Torah Study, following services and a pitch-in vegetarian lunch!</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Miketz</b></p> <p><b>Candles: 5:07 pm</b>  <b>Service 7:30 pm</b>  <b>Service Leaders:</b> <i>Rabbi Ballaban</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Oneg:</b> Maryann and Jerry Kopelov, in honor of their anniversary.</p> <p><b>Saturday service 9:30 am -</b></p> <p><b>Renewal service 9:45 am, Julie Bloom coordinating</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Vayigash</b></p> <p><b>Candles: 5:10 pm</b>  <b>Service Leader:</b> <i>Rabbi Ballaban</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Oneg: TBD</b></p> <p><b>Saturday service 9:30 am</b></p> <p><b>Torah Study, following services and a pitch-in vegetarian lunch!</b></p>

### **Beth Shalom Sunday Night Forum and Hanukah Celebration (on Saturday evening, December 12, 2009)**

“Don’t Tell Me Walking to Synagogue Will Save the Planet!”  
Climate Change and You

Join us for a film screening, discussion, and community Hanukah celebration that honors our covenant to care for God’s creation



5:10 to 7:10 P.M. Havdala, screening of “The Age of Stupid,” and discussion  
 7:10 to 8:10 P.M. Hanukah Candle-lighting, dinner, with more dialogue

Children’s program for ages 3-10 and dinner (latkes and more; 6:00 PM)



### **Open Book Club**

*Tuesday, December 15 at 12:30 pm*

**Location: Home of Maryann Kopelov,  
882 S. Mary Beth Dr., Bloomington IN**

**“Murder on a Kibbutz”  
by Batya Gur**

**Discussion Leader:  
Maryann Kopelov**

The proposed changes to teacher accreditation by the Indiana Department of Education have caused a huge uproar in university schools of education, amongst teachers and for many families. One of the most controversial proposals is to increase content knowledge for elementary education teachers at the expense of teaching internships, mentoring programs and courses in pedagogy and child development. The criticism, I suppose, is that our teachers are not educated enough in their content fields to convey the curricula successfully to our children.

For early childhood educators (0-8 years old), it is all about studying child development and understanding the multifaceted aspects of the learning spectrum. Indeed, our curricula can only be implemented successfully because we plan meticulously for age appropriate activities with the knowledge of how children think. Without this understanding, we would be setting up stumbling blocks, deflating self esteem, and failing miserably to engage. Children do not become mini-adults at age 8 or 14 or even 18. By removing courses in child development, pedagogy and cognition, we reduce the idea of education to the absorption of facts with no critical analysis or reflection. In fact, would it not be beneficial to those teaching in higher education to study educational philosophy, methodology and the psychology of learning? Expertise in a particular field is remarkable in its own right, but knowing how to inspire the pursuit of knowledge in others is more complex and requires different skills (albeit there is selection in universities and students should already have the aptitude and passion to pursue learning).

We are fortunate in Monroe County to have dedicated and skilled educators in our schools. When our children have good experiences, we often take things for granted. It is when our children have problems with some part of their school experience that we take a closer look. Rarely, if ever, have I heard a parent complain about a teacher because he was deficient in content knowledge. I have heard many gripes about the structure of the class, the assignments, behavior management, recess and lunch arrangements, communication, methodology, equipment etc. These are, of course, issues that are addressed in schools of education. These are also all tested by student teachers when they enter a class as an intern. Every year, we have Indiana University education majors do an 8-week teacher training in one of our classrooms. They begin by observing the routine of the classroom, the teacher's rapport with the students and the educational level of the children. They then have the opportunity to try out their own methods, test their understanding of how different children grasp material and reflect and discuss the objectives of the lesson with the teachers. These are invaluable experiences and I believe help that student to become a better and more skilled educator.

One of the first questions that parents often ask me when visiting Gan Shalom is whether our teachers have degrees in education. They want to know that their children's emotional, physical, social and intellectual needs will be met in the classroom. By reducing teacher education only to content knowledge, we basically then rely on the individual's intuition to reach all children and to create incredible learning experiences. Somehow, intuition has never quite seemed enough to me.



## Latke Lunch



Sunday, Dec 13<sup>th</sup> 12:15-2pm

Latkes, jelly doughnuts, chocolate gelt,  
songs, candle lighting, games, crafts! \$10/family



## The Gathering



Celebrate Hanukkah with the annual Gathering luncheon at Meadowood at 12 noon on Thursday, December 17. Join us for latkes, music and a fun Gathering. The price for the lunch will be \$12 if you did not buy a season pass and \$15 for non-members of Beth Shalom.

We will be entertained by some of the junior virtuosi violinists from IU's pre-college violin program and Lou Newman on piano playing Hanukkah songs. Nancy Brand is making her scrumptious latkes and Meadowood is making lunch.

We look forward to celebrating Hanukkah with you!



## *Tikkun Olam (fixing the world): by Christie Popp*



### Tikkun Olam/Social Justice Committee Update

If there is one thing you should know about me, it is that I am always cold. I love heat, sunshine, and warmth. I am even cold during the High Holiday Services (I know, hard to believe). So, with great discomfort, I live through the freezing days of winter. As the days get shorter, the darkness gets longer, and the air gets colder, all I want to do is crank up the heat, wrap up in an electric blanket, and turn on all of the appliances that make my house warm (I tend to bake a lot when it gets chilly, and not because I like baked goods).

I think it is a natural tendency for us to retreat to our warm and brightly lighted homes during these dark, cold, winter days. But perhaps we should take this time to reflect on our how much energy our furnaces, lamps, and ovens are consuming. During this time of year, our energy usage shoots up, as we seek to warm ourselves and to stave off the seasonal depression darkness brings.

Look, like it or not, climate change is happening. Yet, unlike many actions we take to improve the lives of others, small personal actions can effect the greatest change. One can donate a canned good or volunteer at the soup kitchen, but that won't end hunger or poverty. Even if every single one of us donated a canned good, we could not end hunger because the root causes run so deep. By contrast, the cumulative effect of small reductions in energy usage can make a huge difference. And it's easy! One can drastically reduce her carbon footprint through minor life adjustments: riding a bike or walking, eating less meat, turning down the heat, and using more efficient appliances.

This Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights, I want to challenge you to do something different. How about turning off the lights? Or turning down the thermostat? Or replacing your bulbs with those that use less electricity? Reducing energy usage does not require adopting an ascetic lifestyle. Small changes really can make a difference.

Remember to sign up for Beth Shalom's Social Justice list-serv to keep informed of volunteer opportunities and updates around the community! Send an e-mail to [bethshalom\\_socialjustice-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:bethshalom_socialjustice-subscribe@yahoo.com), to receive the bi-monthly e-mail.

**The Shalom Center Christmas Brunch will be upon us sooner than we know! We will need volunteers to help prepare food and to help staff the brunch.**

**Follow Congregation Beth Shalom member (and award-winning poet) Sue Swartz as she blogs her way through the weekly Torah portion, offers poetic commentary, and muses on life with a Hebrew tattoo.**

**Visit <http://swartzsue.wordpress.com/> for a taste of her Awkward Offerings!**

## Energy Update

*When God created Adam, God led him around all the trees in the garden of Eden. God said to him, "See how beautiful and praiseworthy all of My works are? Everything I have created has been created for Your sake. Think of this, and do not corrupt or destroy my world; for if you corrupt it, there will be no one to set it right after you. (Ecclesiastes Rabbah 7:13)*

### The Rabbi, a Majority of the Board, and You

A majority of Beth Shalom board members and the Rabbi have signed the following Beth Shalom energy pledge. Please join them and the rest of the community by emailing the office at [office@bethshalom-bjc.org](mailto:office@bethshalom-bjc.org) or signing this form and leaving it in the envelope on the office door. Here's the pledge:

The Eternal placed the human being in the Garden of Eden to tend it and to till it.

As a member of Bloomington's Jewish community, I pledge to do everything I can to "green" (reduce) my energy usage within the next year, and thus make a difference in the health of the planet.

I will aim to achieve a responsible goal for household energy usage. For an American household of three, this is equivalent to 27,500 pounds annually of carbon dioxide emissions. If my household is not yet achieving this goal, I will aim to reduce my / our energy usage by 20% (or at least 10%) this year. \*

I understand that I don't have to do this alone. Congregation Beth Shalom's Green Team as well as Earth Care Bloomington will do all they can to support my efforts to reduce energy consumption.

By taking action to "green" my household, I pledge to join with many others in our kehillah kedosha / holy community and set an example for Bloomington and all of Indiana. Only by acting together - and with congregations of every religious denomination - will we meet our obligation to care for all of creation.

\_\_\_\_\_

Member / Household Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\* The Beth Shalom Energy Pledge planning group will provide a simple tool to calculate our household "carbon footprint". We applaud Beth Shalom households whose carbon footprint already is less than 27,000 lbs. and urge them to continue setting the bar (lower!) for the rest of us.

### We're Cutting Beth Shalom's Utility Bills

Last summer, the Earth Care and Beth Shalom Green Teams produced a report outlining what Beth Shalom can do to cut its energy usage by \$2700 this year. Now, the House Committee is putting these recommendations into action. (Sneak preview: The report does **not** recommend turning the thermostats up or down during services and programs.) Interesting fact: If our energy usage per square foot was the same as our neighbor's, we would have saved \$3300 last year.

#### Energy usage and heat leakage per square foot: ours, our neighbor's, a typical home

	Square footage	Annual elect.	Elect. cost per sq. ft.	Annual gas	Gas cost per sq. ft	Heat conductance ("leakage") to the outside per sq. ft.
Beth Shalom	10,700	\$5910	\$.512	\$4747	\$.444	6.6 Btu per degree day
St. Thomas	17,850	\$4998	\$.280	\$6497	\$.364	
Typical home	2,000					- 5.0 Btu per degree day

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 14th of Kislev	2 15th of Kislev	3 16th of Kislev	4 17th of Kislev 5:05p Candle lighting	5 18th of Kislev <b>Parashat Vayishlach</b> Services: 9:30 am <b>Tot Shabbat</b> 11:30 am - noon
6 19th of Kislev <b>Multi-Cultural Art Fair at BS (Hanukah Bazaar)</b> 11 am - 4 pm  <i>D&amp;D in the Cool Shul!</i> after RS, in the library (see Page 7!)	7 20th of Kislev	8 21st of Kislev	9 22nd of Kislev	10 23rd of Kislev	11 24th of Kislev <b>Hanukah: 1 Candle</b> 5:05p Candle lighting RS 3rd Grade leads service	12 25th of Kislev <b>Parashat Vayeshev</b> <b>Hanukah: 2 Candles</b> Services: 9:30 am <b>Pitch-in lunch &amp; Torah Study, following services</b> <b>Sunday Night Forum &amp; Hanukah Celebration (See Page 2!)</b>
13 26th of Kislev <b>Hanukah: 3 Candles</b>  Latke Lunch & Hanukah Party (see Page 3!)	14 27th of Kislev <b>Hanukah: 4 Candles</b>	15 28th of Kislev <b>Hanukah: 5 Candles</b>  Open Book Club Board Meeting	16 29th of Kislev <b>Hanukah: 6 Candles</b>  No RS Gan Shalom Mom's Night Out	17 30th of Kislev <b>Rosh Chodesh Tevet</b> <b>Hanukah: 7 Candles</b>  Gathering: Hanukah Lunch at <i>Meadowood</i> Last Day GS (winter break)	18 1st of Tevet <b>Rosh Chodesh Tevet</b> <b>Hanukah: 8 Candles</b> 5:07p Candle lighting	19 2nd of Tevet <b>Parashat Miketz</b> <b>Hanukah: 8th Day</b> Services: 9:30 am Renewal Service: 9:45 am
20 3rd of Tevet  No RS	21 4th of Tevet	22 5th of Tevet	23 6th of Tevet	24 7th of Tevet	25 8th of Tevet 5:10p Candle lighting	26 9th of Tevet <b>Parashat Vayigash</b> Services: 9:30 am <b>Pitch-in lunch &amp; Torah Study, following services</b>
27 10th of Tevet  <b>Asara B'Tevet</b>  No RS	28 11th of Tevet	29 12th of Tevet	30 13th of Tevet	31 14th of Tevet		

**SECOND ANNUAL BETH SHALOM  
MULTI-CULTURAL ART FAIR**

When? Sunday, December 6, 2009  
Where? Congregation Beth Shalom  
What time? 11:00 am until 4:00 pm



What is it? It's an art fair with works by Beth Shalom artists and others from the Bloomington community. This is just in time for Hanukah, so come buy your gifts and support artists AND Beth Shalom. Beth Shalom artists will contribute 18% of their sales to the congregation.

Once again, **Fair Trade Bloomington**, supporting indigenous craftspeople from around the world, will display an array of arts and crafts for purchase. Also, we will have fabulous cookies to buy by the pound and stock up for the holidays.



What will be at the art fair? Jewelry, pottery, quilted gifts, paintings, photographs, fabric arts, Dove chocolates, wood carvings, ideas and sources for energy-saving products, and lots more.

If you are a craftsperson or artist, and would like to display and sell your work at the fair, please contact **Julie Bloom** at [jgb1948@gmail.com](mailto:jgb1948@gmail.com) or call 339-9146.



## December Birthdays

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>
Joann Alperstein-		Miccah Hoffman	17
Abdo	1	Gale Nichols	17
Paula Gordon	1	Ariadne Joy Lieber	18
Manuel Kleiner	1	Isaiah Carter	20
Asher Moshe Cohen	2	Gordon Mufson	20
Jeff Kloosterman	2	Becky Rose	20
DeJohn Rose	3	Marlena Wagschal	20
Robert Schneider	3	Cynthia Kay	22
Brian Igo	4	Adam Steigerwald	22
Barbara Joseph	4	Rosey Krakovitz	23
Gregory Mitchell	4	Deborah J. Garretson	24
Adam Zlotnick	5	Deborah Myerson	24
Aliza Cord	6	Bradley Robins	27
Lucia Stevick Brown	8	Mitch Novit	28
Martha Jacobs	8	Ellen Quardokus	28
Shaina Pardue	8	Harriet Fierman	29
Ravit Sarraf	8	Guy Goldman	29
Tom Bowers	10	Jeffrey Hart	29
Samuel Mallor	10	Dara Hill	29
Milton Taylor	10	Goldie Lynn Hoffman	30
Margaret Weiser	11	Debbi Kent	30
Rebecca Rovit	13	Alexandra Harlig	31
Pnina Shachaf	13	Tamar Shachaf	31
Tamar Moss	14	Joshua Sirota	31
Mimi Dollinger	17		



## December Anniversaries

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>
Barbara Joseph & Mark Adair	2
Mark & Angela Greenfield	12
Rebecca & Judah Cohen	19
Jerome & Maryann Kopelov	19
Andy & Jane Mallor	20
Harry & Carolyn Geduld	24
Mary & Dan Friedman	25
Dan Berg & Marija Krupoves	26
Amy & Jason Jackson	27
Gil Clark & Enid Zimmerman	28

### *December Oneg Dates*

**We have oneg hosts for most of December. We are still in need of an oneg host for December 25!**

***Thank you to our November hosts: Audrey & Ken Heller, Marissa & Max Exter, and parents of the Religious School second graders.***

**If you have difficulty contacting Martha, please contact the Beth Shalom office!**

### **D & D at the Cool Shul!**

Abigail and Josh Wolf ( parents of three children, including Religious School Fifth Grader, Jonah Wolf) have generously agreed to host a Dungeons and Dragons ("D and D") group from twelve to three pm, two Sundays a month in the Beth Shalom library!

Dungeons and Dragons is a roll playing game. Players roll a many sided dice which guides their exploration through magical adventures. The first game will begin on Sunday, December 6th and will be a Jewish Adventure. Jonah Wolf is preparing the adventure. His idea: the kids will be role-playing Maccabees who will be doing some time traveling. The goal of the game will be to save the temple before it is destroyed using any and all magical abilities found in any Jewish folktales, texts or writings throughout history. They will be battling foes of the Jewish people from all times and places who unfortunately also who have access to the time machine. It could be Judah and the golem vs. the cossack and the inquisitors for all we know!

Jonah's friends Zachary Harrison and Mia McDermott have already confirmed attendance. Many other friends have expressed sincere interest! Abby and Josh have generously agreed to supervise. Interested fourth graders through adults who want to play are welcomed to attend!



### **Beth Shalom Gardening Group**

Our group was formed in order to upgrade the grounds of the temple and, in particular, the planting beds. We hope that, by beautifying the grounds of Beth Shalom, we can make the building more attractive to our members, potential congregants, and our church neighbors.

If you are interested in being part of this group, please call or e-mail me. We continue to work into the fall while the weather is still nice.

If you would like to make donations of plant materials (purchased or from your home landscapes), please let me know.

We are also accepting donations to the group for the purchase of plant materials, mulch, & growing and irrigation supplies.

**Dan Nichols**

## URJ Learning

"For those interested in spending 10 minutes a day on study, the URJ (Union for Reform Judaism) makes study available via email (can read or can listen to). Each day has a separate theme: Torah, Mishnah Day, Israel Connections, Delving into Liturgy, and Jewish World and Social Action. Select all five days or any combination. The link is: <http://urj.org/learning/torah/ten/>."

### *Todah Rabah to:*

- ☆ Nancy Brand, Lana Ruegamer, Judith Rose, Penney Austin, Karen Franks, Anne Steigerwald, Miccah Hoffman, Adrien Himm, Gale Nichols, Wendy Elliot and Elayne Ostrower, who spent Sunday afternoon (Nov. 8) preparing comfort meals for use by our Mitzvah Mavens or Chevra Kadisha in the coming months.
- ☆ Becky Rose, for all of her efforts in organizing our November 15 fall music fundraiser -- a great time was had by all!
- ☆ Dan Nichols and the Beth Shalom Gardening Group, for new plantings and improvements to the appearance of our grounds.
- ☆ To all of you who so generously lend your help and skills when needed, in so many ways!

## The Beth Shalom Cemetery

The Beth Shalom cemetery committee, comprised of Lenny Newman, Tom Frohman, Judith Jacobs, David Bleecker and chaired by Steve Hoffman, would like to take this opportunity to share with the membership, information about the Beth Shalom cemetery.

During Rabbi Wasserman's tenure various concerns were expressed by congregants about the state of the cemetery grounds. Donations of money, labor and materials were generously given by donors Stacey Berman, Judy Novit, Barbara Hoffman, Miccah Hoffman, Audrey Morgan, Mary Friedman, Shannon Friedman, Jane Mallor, Rosey Krakovitz, Harriet Fierman, Lola Goldberg and Elliot Lewis.

These generous contributions resulted in a new fence, brick posts and, still under construction, an iron and limestone archway.

Consistent with the theme of Hanukkah, we will be rededicating the cemetery with Rabbi Ballaban. Please look for the date in a future bulletin.

Future issues to be discussed include plantings around the outer edge of the cemetery grounds.





**Tzedakah** *Donations received after the 15th of the month will appear in the next month's bulletin.*

**GENERAL FUND**

**PRESIDENT'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

**MARSH MAZON**

**GAN SHALOM PRESCHOOL**

**RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

*[Please consult your printed bulletin for names of donors.]*

***Our Thanks to Our Sponsors of the  
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**Rabbi:** Steven A. Ballaban  
**Rabbi Emerita:** Mira B. Wasserman  
**Pre-School Director:** Didi Kerler  
**Administrator:** Diana Zlotnick

**I WOULD LIKE TO DONATE:**

*A gift in honor/in memory of* \_\_\_\_\_

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This gift goes to the (please circle one):

- ✧ General Fund
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- ✧ Rosenberg Religious School
- ✧ Library
- ✧ Jewish Film Library
- ✧ Chevra Kadisha (Burial society)
- ✧ Gan Shalom Pre-School
- ✧ Emanuel Gold Memorial Fund (Camp scholarship)

**Leaf/Leaves on Tree of Life** - \$180 to commemorate a joyous life cycle event,  
**Prayerbook dedication** - \$36 (Mishkan T'filah, the new Reform prayerbook) please include inscription

**Please note:** While we appreciate a donation of any size, we ask that you consider a minimum of \$15 per "dedication" (in memory of / in honor of...). This helps defray the cost of postage, stationery, and staff time. Please send your check and any inscription to:

Congregation Beth Shalom  
3750 E. Third Street  
Bloomington, IN 47401.

Thank you.

**Sanctuary Chair(s)** - \$150 each,  
**Memorial plaque(s)** - \$360 each,