

Congregation Sons of Israel NEWSLETTER

Established 1909
Park and Spring Streets
P.O. Box 702
Peabody, Massachusetts 01960
(978) 532-1624



FRIDAY NIGHT SABBATH SERVICE

February 2, 2007 @7:30 P.M.

*Bernie Horowitz will conduct the service and
deliver a D'var Torah.*

The Oneg will be sponsored by:

**Harvey and Paula Chandler
In honor of their 58th
Wedding Anniversary!**



SATURDAY MINYANS-----Start at 8:00 A.M.
SUNDAY MINYANS-----Start at 8:30 A.M.

Time to Kindle Sabbath Candles for February 2007

February 2th -----4:41 p.m.
February 9th -----4:50 p.m.
February 16th -----4:59 p.m.
February 23rd -----5:08 p.m.

CONGREGATION SONS OF ISRAEL FEBRUARY 2007 HAPPENINGS!

Everyone is Invited to Help Celebrate these Rituals & Social Events!!

Saturday-February 3, 2007----

**Kiddush sponsored by:
Avrom Herbster and Paul Ordman
In memory of their parents
M. Irving and Mae Herbster**



Saturday-February 10, 2007----

**Kiddush Sponsored by:
Stephen and Leslie Greenberg
In honor of son
Jason's birthday!**



Saturday-February 17, 2007----

**Kiddush Sponsored by:
Philip Mindis
In honor of his birthday!**

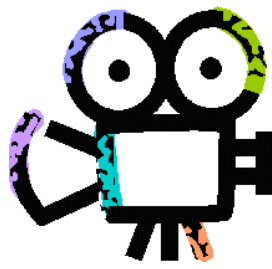


Saturday-February 24, 2007----

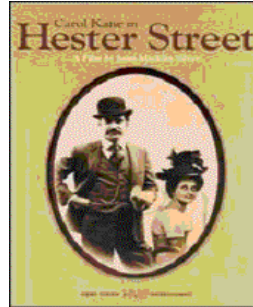
**Kiddush Sponsored by:
Irving Bacherman and Rosalyn Abrams
In memory of wife and mother,
Eileen Sylvia Bacherman**



What a Wonderful Way to let us Share in your Joy and do a Good Deed at the same time! Celebrate your Simchas, Mitzvahs and Blessings with an Oneg on Friday night or a Kiddush on Saturday or Sunday morning at our Shul! Your dedicated Social Committee will do all the work in preparing and serving. For more information call Harvey Chandler at 781-598-8855. I look forward to hearing from you soon!



THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE PRESENTS SUNDAY MOVIE DAY!!



Hester Street tells the story of Jewish immigrants who come to the Lower East side of New York City in 1896 from Europe. When Yekl first comes to the U.S., he quickly assimilates into American culture, gets a girlfriend and becomes *Jake*. His wife, Gitl, who arrives later with their son, Yossele, cannot assimilate and tension arises in the marriage. When Yossele becomes Joey and Gitl falls in love with another immigrant (who also does not assimilate) she not only leaves the marriage but outsmarts Jake as well.



Sunday, February 11th at 3:00 pm.
(Snowdate-Feb. 18th)
M. Irving Herbster Social Hall
\$5.00 per person
Light supper served after the movie



Tu B'Shevat

The 15th day of the month of Shevat marks the beginning of the "new year" for trees. Tu B'Shevat is the new year for the purpose of calculating the age of trees for tithing. The Torah states that fruit from trees which were grown in the land of Israel may not be eaten during the first three years; the fourth year's fruit is for G-d, and after that, the fruit can be eaten. Each tree is considered to have aged one year as of Tu B'Shevat, no matter when in the year it was planted.

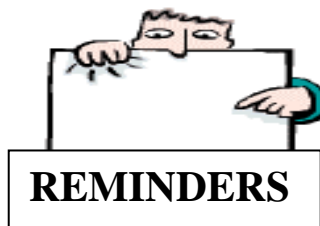
But, besides the Biblical significance of the holiday, in modern days, it has become a festival to appreciate our "ecology." The wonders of nature are around us. The trees bloom in the Spring, flower in the Summer, and put on a show in the Fall. Now, they appear as lifeless sentinels with twisted branches, resting for the Winter. Tu B'Shevat reminds us of this cycle, and that it won't be that long until the Spring blossoms, once again, reappear.

In Judaism we appreciate nature in all its forms. For Tu B'Shevat some individuals celebrate a special Seder where different colored wine is served, and the varied fruits of Israel are eaten. It is especially fun to chew a piece of hard "bokser", or carob, one of the plentiful Israeli fruits. It is also customary to plant trees in Israel on this day.

This year, 5767, Tu B'Shevat begins on Friday evening February 2nd. Let us all be thankful for the bounty of plentiful fruits that our Creator has provided.

Avram J. Herbster

Ritual Director

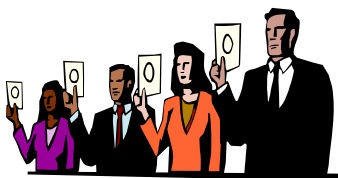


The Shul is sending Get Well cards and Sympathy cards to our Congregants. Please call Rhoda Kellerman at 1-978-535-0102, to inform her of any illness or condolences.

To all our Congregants, when making a donation please write reason, and specify on your check and envelope whether it is designated for the General Fund or Trust Fund! Mail to Congregation Sons of Israel- P.O. Box 702-Peabody, MA 01960

ATTENTION BOARD MEMBERS!

CONGREGATION SONS OF ISRAEL BOARD MEETING
SUNDAY-February 4, 2007 at 10:00 A.M. (AFTER SERVICES)
(Please note change of date!!)
M. IRVING HERBSTER SOCIAL HALL
IT IS IMPORTANT TO THE SHUL THAT YOU ATTEND!!



DEDICATE A PRAYER BOOK

You can dedicate a book for a \$25.00 donation. We will prepare a beautiful inscribed label and insert it into a book in memory or in honor of a loved one or a happy event. Send request and donation to: Congregation Sons of Israel- P.O. Box 702-Peabody, MA 01960, Attention: Leslie Greenberg

SHUL ENTERS CYBERAGE!!



Congregation Sons of Israel website www.peabodyshul.org is available for your enjoyment! Many thanks to our webmaster: Jeremy Zafran. Learn more about your Shul history, committees, view newsletters, pictures, and much more! If you would like to be on the E-mail list, please send your e-mail address to our Shul e-mail address: peabodyshul@yahoo.com



Newsletter Prepared by:
Ritual Information:
Layout, Printing, Graphics
Publicity

Stephen and Leslie Greenberg
Avrom Herbster
Stephen and Leslie Greenberg
Joan Fine



I find that certain traditional Jewish insights about everyday life, not necessarily available in the current psychological or self-help literature, have stuck to me, influencing, I hope, my behavior. The more time goes by, the more impressed I am by their astuteness and scope. The grouping below is rather random and consists of maxims that, for whatever reasons, have impressed me personally in a lasting way. Most of them are from the rabbinical literature, that vast corpus of commentary on the original biblical revelation.

1. ***For domestic peace, it is permissible to erase the name of God.*** For anyone who has ever known domestic strife, this is a strikingly powerful statement. The name of God has tremendous valence in Judaism, and observant Jews refer to God as "Hashem" -- "The Name" -- rather than speak that name. To erase God's name is an unimaginably appalling act. Yet this maxim says there is one thing that is even worse -- domestic strife. Domestic strife removes the foundation of life, severs all connection to harmony and peace -- or, if you will, God. An adage that is all too relevant in an era of family breakdown.

2. ***Do not engage in slander and malicious gossip.*** How many of us do it? What workplace wouldn't be a much better place if people would refrain from it? Some observant Jews apply the principle almost absolutely and strive to avoid saying anything bad about anyone in almost all circumstances.

3. ***No grudges, no revenge.*** According to traditional Judaism, a wise, moral person never holds a grudge and never takes revenge. Again, this seems to be on the mark. If someone you respect offends you, you have an obligation either to try to get over it, ascribing it to imperfection, or, if you can't, to talk it out with that person. If someone keeps offending you, that's someone you probably can't be friends with and should keep your distance from if possible. But nursing grudges is a devious, cowardly thing, never a solution. Similarly with revenge.

4. ***Do not exult in an enemy's demise.*** The civilized countries now face enemies of such savagery that it may be hard to live up to this one. Judaism's concern is to civilize us, not just in the fundamental ways expressed in the Ten Commandments but in more mundane ways as well, and being civilized means striving to be as different from cruel enemies as possible. Exulting in someone's death risks impairing our basic humanity and morality. The same would apply to taking pleasure in, say, the fall of an odious business or political rival.

5. ***Do not shame people in public.*** Jewish tradition is unequivocal on this one, saying hyperbolically that it's better to die than to do it. Unfortunately, it's done all the time -- not only by the news media, who are the champions, but in everyday life. I've known people who habitually wait for a social gathering to really let someone have it. This is particularly reprehensible because it leaves the attacked person mortified and helpless; if the accusation has some substance, then his failings are suddenly exposed in public, and if they're not, he can only worsen the already-ugly situation by defending himself. Strictly to be avoided.

6. ***Greet everyone cheerfully.*** This simple piece of advice encapsulates an optimal approach to living and dealing with other people. It has to do with putting aside your own inner state -- which can't always be sunny -- and becoming a positive force regardless. It's a recognition that people have moods and inner perplexities that they may or may not show, and the more an individual radiates pleasantness to others, the better it is for everyone. A cheerful greeting puts people at ease, is likely to make them more confident and candid, and improves the whole atmosphere of a place.

7. ***Helping people help themselves is the highest form of charity.*** The Hebrew word for charity, *tzedakah*, essentially means "justice" -- a profound idea in itself, saying that charity is basically a way of rectifying the world, an ontological requirement. Jewish tradition says, though, that while helping someone desperately in need of money is one thing, putting him back on his own two feet -- by encouraging him, helping him find a job, etc. -- is a greater one. Judaism emphasizes this even though there clearly are cases of incapacitated people who can't help themselves. While both kinds of charity are important, making it so someone else no longer needs charity seems to have a special weight.

8. ***Avoid being dependent on others.*** Concomitantly, Judaism advises you even to take lowly work rather be dependent. Clearly, this can't be applied across the board; people, for instance, usually need their parents' help to pay for college. Still, the insight here is that the dependency relationship is too easily corrupting, both for the helper and the helped. The former is in a position of power, the latter in a state of subservience. Indeed, few people can be trusted with the former status; almost inevitably, maybe even unintentionally, they will humiliate the dependent one.

9. ***If you save one life, it is as if you've saved the whole world.*** This one seemingly has limited applicability, since most of us are never in a situation where we save someone's life. The point, instead, seems to be the mysterious profundity of moral acts. I've experienced it often enough; if I correct a lie about Israel, feed a stray cat, or even just give directions in the street, I can get a sense of the whole universe being right for just that moment, of endless resonance. The idea that everything we do is meaningful is very therapeutic, and makes ennui, apathy, and nihilism out of the question.

10. ***Good and bad fortune are often indistinguishable.*** I've lived long enough that this observation is a major factor enabling me to take things more in stride and not react unduly to ups and downs. It happens again and again, especially regarding supposed bad fortune. We benefit from a sense of not quite understanding the world, not knowing how or why it works -- instead leaving something to mystery.

The following are gifts received **December 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006** designated to the Congregation's General Fund or the Trust Fund. These gifts may be given to honor the memory of a loved one or friend, to observe a yahrtzeit, to acknowledge a "simcha", or for any reason. The Shul very much appreciates these donations. They are needed, and they help to sustain the Shul. Send all gifts to Congregation Sons of Israel, Box 702, Peabody, MA 01960, and note the designated fund on the check and envelope

General Fund

In memory of uncle Jack Hirsch
From: Anne Barosin

In memory of mother Anna Bosman
From: Geri Dermer

In memory of mother Mary
Goldberg Madow
In memory of father Dr. S. Bernard
Goldberg
From: Ronald and Sandra Goldberg

In memory of her parents
From: Arlene Rosen

In memory of father Abraham
Raffer
From: Paul and Judith Zaff

In memory of mother Jean Berman
From: Susan Gellman

In memory of mother Eva Dinkin
From: Richard and Susan Dinkin

In memory of parents Benjamin and
Sophie Weisman
From: Sylvia Glassman

In memory of Paul Olans
In memory of Beatrice Horowitz
In memory of Elizabeth Edelstein
Wishing a speedy recovery to Ron
Tanzer
From: Dan Leavitt & Sally Francis

In memory of Elizabeth Edelstein
From: Norman and Rosalyn
Bernstein
From: Saul Brightman
From: Harold and Barbara Blume
From: Eleanore Hozid
From: Linda Kuperstein
From: Marcia Shulman
From: Elliott and Doris Hershoff
From: Mr. & Mrs. Donald Finegold

In memory of mother Rose
Bernstein
From: Betty Needleman

General Fund

In memory of Pearl Lischinsky
In memory of Allen Schloss
In memory of Ruby Rosenberg
From: Rhoda Olans

In memory of father, Max Mindis
From: Philip Mindis

In memory of parents Benjamin and
Sophie Weisman
From: Sylvia Glassman

In memory of mother Mary Madow
From: Bernice Dame

Prayer Books

In memory of Paul Olans
From: Sumner and Bea Greenberg

Edward Edelstein Memorial Trust Fund

In honor of Merrill & Avrom
Herbster's 1st anniversary
In honor of Rhoda & Milton
Kellerman's 64th anniversary
In honor of Milton Kellerman's 85th
birthday
In honor of Leslie Greenberg's
birthdday
In honor of Bea Greenberg's
birthdday
A wish for a speedy recovery to
good health for Avrom Herbster
In loving memory of Gilbert
Rosenthal, father of Phyllis Gluck
In loving memory of Paul Olans
In memory of Pearl Lischinsky
From: Phyllis & Sherwin Gluck

Mazel Tov to Milton Kellerman
celebrating his 85th birthday
Mazel Tov to Avrom and Merrill
Herbster on their 1st anniversary
From: Alan Rosenfield and
Marjorie Simon

A wish for good health for Albert
Chabot
From: Harvey and Paula Chandler

Edward Edelstein Memorial Trust Fund

In loving memory of Beatrice
Horowitz
From: Muriel & Philip Mindis

A hope for a speedy recovery to
good health for Helen Caras
From: Paula & Harvey Chandler

In loving memory of Elizabeth
Edelstein
From: Milton & Rhoda Kellerman
From: Adrienne Gornstein

In memory of beloved mother Mary
Sigel
From: Barbara & Ruth Sigel

A wish for a speedy recovery to
good health for Pearl Lischinsky
From: Paula & Harvey Chandler

In memory of Pearl Lischinsky
From: Milton & Rhoda Kellerman
From: Paula & Harvey Chandler
From: Freda Kravetz

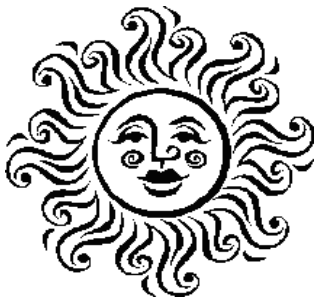
In loving memory of Elizabeth
Edelstein
From: Eliot & Karen Edelstein
From: Esther & Irving Babner

In loving memory of Pearl
Lischinsky
From: Leslie & Steve Greenberg
From: Bea & Sumner Greenberg

Wishing a speedy recovery to good
health for David Rubinow
From: Leslie & Steve Greenberg

Speedy recovery to MaryAnn Sacks
From: Milton & Rhoda Kellerman

**Due to a high volume of donations
some Dec. 06 and all Jan. 07
donations will be included in next
month's newsletter!**



CONGREGATION SONS OF ISRAEL LIFE CYCLE EVENTS

DEEPEST SYMPATHIES

To the family of Sumner Freedman (Father of Howard Freedman)
To the family of Sarah Bernstein (Mother of Adele Bernstein)
To the family of Rhoda Gelin (Mother of Rick and Mark Gelin)

MAZEL TOV

To Stephen and Leslie Greenberg on the birth of their third grandchild, Johnathan Thomas Greenberg. The parents are Scott and Sandra Greenberg.

Please forward your information by the 15th of each month in order to get into the newsletter in a timely manner. Information should be sent to peabodyshul@yahoo.com or call Barbara at 978-536-2018. You may also leave a message on the Synagogue's answering machine at 978-532-1624.



SAVE THE DATE! MARCH

SABBATH SERVICE WILL BE HELD ON MARCH 2, 2007 at 7:30 PM.



SAVE THE DATE! ITALIAN NIGHT JEWISH STYLE-SUNDAY, APRIL 22, 2007 AT 5PM.

OOPS! We inadvertently left Harvey and Diane Elefson off the Social Committee list in the newsletter last month! We would like to thank them for their hard work, enthusiasm and dedication!



President Sumner Greenberg still has 40 strings of bowling from Metro Bowl. For the first 8 people that send a \$25 donation to Sumner Greenberg, he will send you 5 strings of bowling! Make out checks to Congregation Sons of Israel and send them to Sumner Greenberg, 12 Crane Avenue, Peabody, MA 01960.