

Newsletter

December 2009 / Kislev-Tevet 5770

December Calendar

Date	Event
Dec 5	9:30-12:00 Study Breakfast with Rabbi Audrey, followed by abbreviated service (Lutheran Church)
Dec 6	9:00am - 9:00pm The Jewish Movie Marathon at member home; call for location
11-19	Hanukah
12	9:45 AM-12, Shabbat service; (Lutheran Church)
25	6:30 pm, Kabbalat Shabbat (member home - call for location)

Setup & Kiddush Schedule

Date	Setup/Cleanup	Kiddush
Dec 6	Hurwitz	Joffe/Jaffe Badler (breakfast)
12	Lazarus	David/Yanowitz
19	Forman	Badler/Hurwitz
Dec 26	No Service	(Friday night service)
Jan 2	No Service	
9	Feldstein	Bridger/Bronsen
16	Gabovitch	Fendrick/Kruskal

Breakfast, Study Session, and Service

December 5, Child Care Will be Available

At our study session on Shabbat morning December 5, Rabbi Audrey, in preparation for Hanukah, will explore the history of the Festival of Lights and the significance of light in Jewish tradition. We will offer babysitting and Hanukah-related children's activities.

This is a good time to invite any young families you know.

The schedule is as follows:

- 9:30-10:00 Breakfast
- 10:00-11:00 Study session with Rabbi Audrey
- 11:00-12:15 Shabbat morning service
- 12:15 Kiddush

Hanukah Hop

The Program Committee is sponsoring a series of Hanukah candle-lighting/suppers in member homes on several nights of the holiday, Friday evening December 11 through Friday evening December 18. If you would like to host one of these, contact Ruth Seidman at rkseidman@comcast.net or 617-734-7820. The list, including locations, will then be publicized to the entire havurah, and members can choose an evening, and contact the host to say they would like to attend. We will cover as many nights as we have volunteers.

The "Hop" will be a chance for members and any guests they'd like to invite to share in candle-lighting and an informal supper. It will be up to the host to decide on whether to make it a potluck event, a hosted event, or just a sending-out-for-pizza event.

Hanukah Sameach!

The Jewish Movie Marathon

December 6

The Social Action Committee has been working on fund raisers to help with their annual budget. One of our members will be hosting a Jewish Movie Marathon at his home on December 6, from 9 to 9, a 12 hour extravaganza. There will be about 6 films with at least a half hour in between for coming and going, and of course noshing. He will provide beverage and snacks. Anyone who wants to supplement should feel free to do so. He has seating for about 15 people per film. If you are interested call (617)-965-2775 for more information. Donations of any size are appreciated.

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Officers

President: Rosalind Bronsen
Vice-President: Joyce Lazarus
Vice-President: Madelyn Morris
Secretary: Steve Adler-Golden
Treasurers: Ellen Fisher and Ross Feldberg

Committee Chairs

Adult Education: Joyce Hollman
Gemilut Hasadim: Richard & Joan Yospin
High Holidays: Ruth Badler & Joan Belson
House & Operations: Martha Jaffe
Membership: Judith & Warren Hurwitz,
Aaron Seidman
Music (Klezmer & Chorale): Richard Yospin
Newsletter: Dena & Todd Rakoff
Planning & Finance: Chuck Rich
Program: Ruth Seidman
Ritual: David Goodson
Social Action: Peter Barrer
Technology: Reuben Fisher

Shir Hadash

*The Reconstructionist Havurah of
Greater Boston*

P.O. Box 610431

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(617)-965-2775

<http://www.jrf.org/shirhadash/>

Torah/Haftarah portions for the month

Dec 5	Vayishlach	Gen 32:4-36:43	Obadiah	1:1-11
Dec 12	Vayeshev Shabbat Hannukah 1	Gen 33:1-40:23 Num 7:1-17	Zechariah	2:14-4:7
Dec 19	Miketz Shabbat Hannukah 2	Gen 41:1-44:17 Num 7:54-8:4	I Kings	7:40-50
Dec 26	Vayigash	Gen 44:18-47:27	Ezekiel	37:15-28

Kabbalat Shabbat December 25

Members and guests are welcome to join in at the Friday evening potluck dinner and service at a member home (call (617)-965-2775 for location), starting at 6pm. Shabbat candle-lighting will be followed by the meal, the service, and then dessert.

Please bring enough (dairy/pareve) for 8 people:

A – J Side Dish

K - P Dessert

Q – Z Main Dish

Volunteer Opportunity December 25

Charlotte Swartz is inviting others to join her on December 25 to deliver meals in a special program organized by Little Brothers - Friends of the Elderly. Contact Charlotte or the organization's director of volunteers, David Tucker 617-524-8882 or send an email to volunteer.bos@littlebrothers.org.

Jewish Movie Marathon (continued)

The films, in order of presentation:

Gentleman's Agreement

One of the best films to directly tackle racial prejudice, this adaptation of Laura Z. Hobson's bestseller stars Gregory Peck as a journalist assigned to write a series of articles on anti-Semitism. He decides to pose as a Jew and soon discovers what it is to be a victim of religious intolerance.

Ushpizin

Marks the first film made by members of the Israeli ultra-Orthodox community in collaboration with secular filmmakers and provides a touching and unique look at the daily lives of ultra-Orthodox Jews as they question and explore their faith. Breaking the barriers between cultures, the film holds a universal and human appeal that transcends any religion or belief.

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Some Highlights of the Year Ahead with Rabbi Audrey:

Shabbat morning study sessions on: Prophets, Parashat Hashavua (weekly Torah portion), and Psalms

- A 3-session course on Modern and Contemporary Jewish Thought about Israel
- A "Learner's Service," with in-depth explanation of the structure and content of the Shabbat morning service
- A trip to the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York City to commemorate Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Memorial Day)
- Involvement in the new Boston Jewish Music Festival in March 2010
- Musical and ruach (spirit)-filled Kabbalat Shabbat (Friday evening) services

Jewish Movie Marathon (continued)

Live and Become

At a 1984 Sudanese refugee camp sheltering Ethiopians displaced by civil war and famine, Israeli secret service has begun "Operation Moses," airlifting thousands of Falashas, or Ethiopian Jews, to Israel. A non-Jewish Ethiopian woman (Meki Shibru Sivan) spots a way for her 9-year-old son (Moshe Agazai) to survive and sends him to join the Falashas, telling him to "go, live and become," although the mother never explains what exactly he's to become. Hana (Mimi Abonesh Kebebe), a Falasha woman whose own son Solomon has just died, lets the child assume Solomon's identity, and warns him he must never let on he's not Jewish.

Leon the Pig Farmer

Leon (Mark Frankel), a young Jewish Londoner, quits his job at an uncouth real estate firm and begins to work part-time for his mother's catering company. On a delivery to a local sperm bank, he discovers that he is the product of a botched artificial insemination and his father's sperm was confused with that of a northern pig farmer. His family is disconsolate over the news, so Leon decides to go up to Yorkshire to meet his biological dad. The farmer and his wife are thrilled to learn that they have a son; they quickly make an effort to integrate his Jewish culture with their own, learning certain key Yiddish expressions and how to cook kosher food. Even so, Leon does not take easily to farm life. When he mistakenly injects sheep semen into a pig, however, Leon creates a stir by creating what might be the first ever kosher pig. He escapes with the animal to London, where both of his families meet and exchange "cultural dialogue."

Praying With Lior

An engrossing, wrenching and tender documentary film, PRAYING WITH LIOR introduces Lior Liebling, also called "the little rebbe." Lior has Down syndrome, and has spent his entire life praying with utter abandon. Is he a "spiritual genius" as many around him say? Or simply the vessel that contains everyone's unfulfilled wishes and expectations? Lior - whose name means "my light" - lost his mother at age six, and her words and spirit hover over the film. While everyone agrees Lior is closer to God, he's also a burden, a best friend, an inspiration, and an embarrassment, depending on which family member is speaking. As Lior approaches Bar Mitzvah, the Jewish coming-of-age ceremony different characters provides a window into life spent "praying with Lior." The movie poses difficult questions such as what is "disability" and who really talks to God? Told with intimacy and humor,

The Passion of The Jew

Kyle finally sees The Passion of the Christ, and is horrified by it. Cartman on the other hand, is organizing Passion fans to get others involved in the film so they can perform a cleansing. Meanwhile, Stan and Kenny see it, and believe that Mel Gibson should give them their money back. So, they set off to find him in Malibu.

Irreverent skewering of Mel Gibson's Passion of The Christ which many Jewish Clergy thought to be blatantly anti-Semitic.