

Newsletter

March 2010 / Adar-Nisan 5770

March Calendar

Date	Event
Mar 6	9:45 Shabbat Parah, Rev. Stendahl guest speaker (Lutheran Church)
13	9:45 Shabbat HaHodesh with Rabbi Audrey (Lutheran Church)
20	9:45, Shabbat Vayikra (Lutheran Church)
26	7:45pm Joint Reconstructionist service (Hillel B'nai Torah, West Roxbury)
27	No morning service
29	Passover: First Seder

Setup & Kiddush Schedule

Date	Setup/Cleanup	Kiddush
Mar 6	Nemser/Walitt/Font	Salter/E Schwartz
13	TBD	TBD
20	Spencer/Perkins	Yospin
27	No Service	(Friday night service)

From the Rabbi

Jewish Thought: Israel

In March, I will be offering the first two sessions of a three-session evening course on "Modern and Contemporary Jewish Thought: Israel." We will discuss the writings of thinkers such as Martin Buber, Rav Kook, David Hartman, Amos Oz, and Ari Elon about the many blessings and challenges of the Jewish state. This course will not focus on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, but will address theological, philosophical, and cultural issues and perspectives surrounding the creation and existence of Israel.

The class will meet on the following dates:

- WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 7:30-9:00 pm (call 617-965-6862 for location)
- WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 7:30-9:00 pm (call 617-965-6862 for location)
- WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 7:30-9:00 pm (call 617-965-6862 for location)

If you haven't already done so, please let me know by email (rabbiamb@gmail.com) if you are planning to attend, and which sessions you are planning to attend.

Looking forward to learning with you!

Rabbi Audrey

JOINT RECONSTRUCTIONIST Kabbalat Shabbat Service and Study

On Friday March 26, 7:45pm, the three Boston-area Reconstructionist congregations, Shir Hadash, Dorshei Tsedek, and Hillel B'nai Torah, will join together for a spirited Kabbalat Shabbat service and an opportunity to study together with Rabbi Audrey Marcus-Berkman, Rabbi Toba Spitzer, and Rabbi Barbara Penzner.

The service will be held at Hillel B'nai Torah, 120 Corey Street, West Roxbury.

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: Roz Feldberg
Technology: Reuben Fisher

Shir Hadash

The Reconstructionist Havurah of Greater Boston
P.O. Box 610431
Newton, MA 02461
(617) 965-6862
<http://www.jrf.org/shirhadash/>

Torah/Haftarah portions for the month0

Feb 6	Ki Tissa/Parah	Ex 30:11- 34:35; Num 19:1- 22	Ezekiel	36:16- 38.
13	Vayakhel- Pekudey/HaHodesh	Ex 35:1- 40:38; 12:1- 20	Ezekiel	45:16- 46:18
20	Vayikra	Lev 1:1- 5:26	Isaiah	43:21- 44:23
27	Tzav/Shabbat HaGadol	Lev 6:1- 8:36	Malachi	3:4- 24

Tzedakah Night Results

After a lively and informative discussion, Shir Hadash members settled on the following allocation of \$1,425 of monies from the budget and other fundraising. If other funds are raised in the next couple of months, the monies will be distributed proportionally to the listed organizations:

- *Center for Refugee Health and Human Rights
\$125
www.bcrhhr.org
- *Center for Jewish and Arab Economic Development
\$125
www.cjaed.org.il
- Creccom
\$175
www.nrcm.org.mw/creccom/
- Full Life Gospel Center Food Pantry
\$200
- Grow Clinic
\$225
bmc.org/pediatrics-growclinic.htm
- Hillel
\$125
www.hillel.org.il
- Mathari Fund, Nairobi, Kenya
\$125
www.mathari.org
- Mali Project - Empowered Woman
\$175
www.projectmuso.org
- Yad Chessed
\$150
www.yadchedded.org/

Social Action's BOOK PROJECT

Several years ago, the Social Action Committee began to support a project of mine: collecting books for Reader To Reader. This wonderful organization with only two paid employees and lots of volunteers collects books and donates them, as you will read below. I have taken most of the description from Reader To Reader's Web site.

Based on the campus of Amherst College, Reader To Reader, Inc. is a registered public charity dedicated to bringing free books to needy school libraries and public libraries across the U.S. It serves the poorest communities, including inner-city schools, Native American reservations, and poor rural towns. Reader To Reader has shipped almost 3 million books to schools

(Continued on page 3>

Contributions to Shir Hadash

- Rosalind Bronsen, in honor of:
 - Yahrzeits for my father, Mark Mael who died January 19, 2003 and
 - for my brother, Ted Mael who died January 7, 2004
- Henry & Madelyn Morris, in honor of in honor of Jane Getter's father
- Ross and Ros Feldberg, for the Havurah Tzedakah fund.

Save the Date

RETREAT

June 18-20

The 2010 annual retreat will be the weekend of June 18-20. As in previous years, it will be at the Craigville Conference Center on Cape Cod. Be sure to mark the dates in your calendar. Details will follow.

As usual, I welcome all ideas and offers of help.

Thanks,

Charlotte Swartz
781-488-3615 or
charlotte7@verizon.net

BOOK PROJECT (continued from page 2)

books to rebuild school libraries devastated by Hurricane Katrina; and more than 400 under-resourced schools across the U.S. receive books from the organization throughout the school year. Another Reader To Reader program brings books and computers to rural Costa Rica. The Books for Shelters Program provides books for 26 homeless shelters, survival centers and outreach programs in Massachusetts.

Several years ago Reader To Reader began a project that I think is fabulous, the Navaho Mentoring Project, which links Navajo high school students with Amherst College student reading mentors to read books and discuss them online in a specially designed forum. In addition, the reading mentors travel to the Navajo reservation in order to work one to one with the students and to learn firsthand about Navajo life and culture. The Navajo students then spend a week at Amherst College learning about the college experience and about a wide variety of career options directly from scientists, doctors, lawyers, writers and artists. The goal of the trip is to motivate them to attend college; to give them an understanding of the college application process; and to help them see that academic achievement in high school is the key to success in college. The program now includes providing computers for computer labs built on the Navajo Reservation.

"This is the first program that ever got our students to read. It has been absolutely amazing." —Carla Clauschee, librarian Navajo Pine High School Navajo, New Mexico

We can all take part in this Social Action Committee project by gathering books for Reader to Reader. Our community's emphasis on books and education makes this an especially appropriate project. Keith and I generally drive to Amherst several times a year, usually in May and October. So now is the time to take a look at your collection of books to see whether you want to edit it. All types of books are accepted except textbooks, although if a book has basic information on a subject, information that will not become outdated, it's probably fine to donate it. If there are any books you want to pass on, please gather them and contact us to let us know how many boxes and bags of books you have gathered. In May we will accept books for the trip to Amherst; the deadline is May 28. Periodically during the year I will let you know when our next trip is approaching so you will have time to gather books.

We can all take part in this Social Action Committee project by gathering books for Reader to Reader. Our community's emphasis on books and education makes this an especially appropriate project. Keith and I generally drive to Amherst several times a year, usually in May and October. So now is the time to take a look at your collection of books to see whether you want to edit it. All types of books are accepted except textbooks, although if a book has basic information on a subject, information that will not become outdated, it's probably fine to donate it. If there are any books you want to pass on, please gather them and contact us to let us know how many boxes and bags of books you have gathered. In May we will accept books for the trip to Amherst; the deadline is May 28. Periodically during the year I will let you know when our next trip is approaching so you will have time to gather books.

Thanks for your help with this very worthwhile project.
Susan Tornheim