



BETH ABRAHAM SYNAGOGUE

Bulletin

Dayton's Voice of Conservative Judaism

VOLUME 6 NUMBER 4

JANUARY 2010

Upcoming Events

- January 16: MLK, Jr. Observance Shabbat
- January 17: Yiddish Club: 1:30 pm
- January 24: Sisterhood Book Club
- January 29: Tu B' Shevat Shabbat with a Beat
- January 31: Film Series

TEVET-SHEVAT 5770

Shabbat With A Beat

By: Cantor Andrea Raizen

Some of you may be wondering what has happened to "Shabbat with a Beat." Let me assure you that it has not been permanently removed from the schedule. Rather, it has been in hibernation for awhile along with the trees and plants during the winter months. But just as *Tu b'Shevat*, the holiday for the trees will be observed at the end of this month, celebrating the beginning flow of sap in the trees and the coming of spring, so too, our special Shabbat musical service, dinner and programs are preparing to blossom again. This month's "Shabbat with a Beat" is scheduled for Friday, January 29 which coincides with both *Tu*

b'Shevat and *Shabbat Shira*, the Sabbath of Song. This particular Shabbat gets its name from the weekly Torah portion, *Beshallah*, in which we read *Shirat haYam*, the song the Israelites sang upon crossing the Red Sea as they escaped from Egypt. The haftarah for this Shabbat is the Song of Deborah, celebrating the military triumph of the Israelites over Sisera and his army. Amid all these references to songs, it has become the tradition in many communities to celebrate this Shabbat with special concerts and extra singing during the service. As a special treat on this *Shabbat Shira*, our Friday night service will introduce an instrumental ensemble, featuring

our own congregants who have volunteered and spent time rehearsing in preparation for this special evening. The group includes, Miriam & Ben Blake, Ben Green, Brian O'Koon and Pamela Schwartz. Following the service and a catered Shabbat dinner, Rabbi Barsky will lead us in a *Tu b'Shevat* Seder, where we will sample the various fruits of Israel.

Please plan to join us for the return of "Shabbat with a Beat" on Friday, January 29 at 6:15pm and come support the band. Make your reservations online at the website or by calling the office by Wednesday, January 6. Dinner is \$15 for adults and \$7.50 for children under 13.

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WILLIE F. WALKER TO SPEAK AT SHABBAT SERVICES

IN HONOR OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

By: Bonnie Beaman Rice

Beth Abraham Synagogue is pleased to welcome Willie F. Walker as our guest speaker during Shabbat services on January 16, 2010 in commemoration of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. Mr. Walker's visit is sponsored by your Social Action committee.

Mr. Walker is well known for his 30+ years of commitment to working to improve community relations; advocating employment opportunities for minorities, women, youth and people with disabilities; and administering a Post-Release program for ex-offenders to assist them in a positive transition back into the community.

He has served as an advisor and/or board/committee member

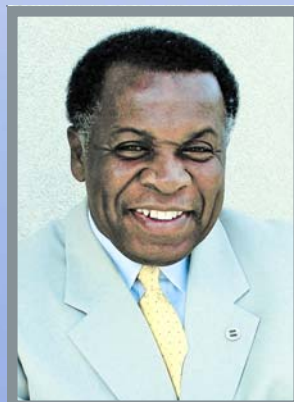
for a variety of businesses and agencies, including National City Bank, the Dayton Diversity Task Force, Wright-Patterson Air force Base minority Community Outreach Committee, and the Local Arts Council.

For all of his hard and

innovative work, Mr. Walker has received numerous honors and awards, including the Ohio Governor's Award and the NAACP Community Service Award. He has also been recognized as being among the top 10 African American males in the Miami Valley.

Mr. Walker currently serves as a Consultant with Central State University in its Division of Institutional Advancement. He is, perhaps, most widely known as the President and Chief Executive Officer of The Dayton Urban League, a position in which he honorably served for 23 years.

You won't want to miss this dynamic speaker on January 16th. Please plan to attend this very informative and interesting Shabbat service.

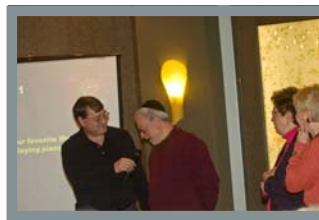
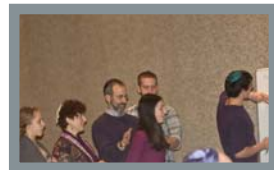




Hanukkah 2009

By: Claudia Feuer

Mishpach Mishegas was the talk of the synagogue after the wonderful Hanukkah event coordinated by many congregants. Cantor Raizen and Steve Fraim developed the "Family Feud" game, which not only educated us but caused uproarious laughter to echo throughout the Rabinowitz Social Hall. David Fuchsman coordinated the luscious meal that included wonderful latkes. Marlene Pinsky outdid herself gathering some wonderful raffle prizes. Of course nothing was funnier then when Rabbi Barsky won a gift certificate to Whispers Lingerie!



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Women of Valor

By: Lynda A Cohen

Beth Abraham Synagogue has established this Women of Valor Award to recognize women who have exceeded all expectations in their commitment and dedication to the Jewish and general community. 2010 Honorees include: **Elaine Bettman, Debbie Feldman, Marni Fligel, Renate Frydman, Susan Katz, Julie Liss-Katz and Meredith Moss Levinson.**

The Women of Valor committee is comprised of sisterhood members and friends.

This committee is busy arranging for a luncheon for 300 guests to honor the seven Women of Valor. The committee is designing beautiful gifts for our worthy recipients, soliciting sponsors for the event, developing publicity strategies to involve the entire Dayton community and planning for gracious hospitality when our guests arrive at Beth Abraham on Wednesday April 14 at 11:30 am.

The committee members are:

Helen Abramovitz, Beth Adelman, Elaine Arnovitz, Jody Blazar, Dena Briskin, Melinda Doner, Marsha R. Froelich, Angela Frydman, Meryl Hattenbach, Helen Jacobson, Janice Krochmal, Linda Levine, Beverly A. Louis, Joan Marcus, Carole Marger, Bernadette D. O'Koon, Marlene Pinsky, Carole A. Rabinowitz, Cantor Andrea Raizen, Phyllis Rosen, Roberta Zawatsky, Leslie Cohen Zukowsky and Cindy Zwerner.

If you would like to lend your hands and/or your talents in planning this glorious, first of its kind event at Beth Abraham, call Lynda Cohen at 836-4417 or email bubby9@woh.rr.com.

SOCIAL ACTION NEWS

Bonnie Beaman Rice and Helen Abramovitz

HERE'S WHAT'S COOKIN'

On December 6, your Social Action Committee sponsored Hannu-COOK. Our volunteers met at Beth Abraham and prepared a meal for 200 St. Vincent's residents. The meal was delivered on December 7th by Helen Abramovitz and Ted Cooper. Thanks to the following cooks for volunteering their time to nourish the hearts and stomachs of those in need in our community: Helen Abramovitz, Claudia Birch, Bea Burke, Ted Cooper, Bonnie Deutsch, Penney Fraim, Linda Horenstein, Lynn Mantell, Bonnie Rice, Phyllis Rosen, Janine Thomas and Minnette Weiss.

Last call Calendar Collection: Bring your new 2010 calendars to the synagogue and your social action committee will see to it that they are distributed as gifts to the residents at Covenant House.

Junior Social Action Committee: Calling all teenagers. If you would like to be a member of our Junior Social Action committee, please contact Bonnie Rice (409-2880) on or before January 11th.

Hamantaschen Sale: Your social action committee wants to make some dough! Volunteer to help bake Hamantashen to raise funds for future Social Action programs. Call the synagogue office:

- for our scheduled baking dates;
- to volunteer to help bake; and,
- to learn how to place your order.

JOIN IN THE FUN, ANYONE MAY COME:

The next meeting of your Social Action Committee is scheduled for:

Tuesday, January 12 at 6 PM

RSVP to the synagogue office (293-9520) if you plan to attend.

Braced for Anything

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Rabbi Bernard Barsky

Birthdays come and go, of course, and no one used to consider sixty-four a milestone until that Beatle's song raised a couple of thorny questions, "Will you still need me? Will you still feed me?"



The line about "feeding me" has always conjured up in my mind an image of oatmeal porridge and toothlessness.

Well, soon enough everyone will know. Next week the cunning Dr. Ritter (they say he's the best) will install braces on my teeth, clever contraptions tasked with bringing discipline to the chaotic and disordered growth that's been going on unchecked in my mouth. Frankly I expected more enthusiastic support from my children. "Is this about health or vanity," Leah suspiciously wondered. Braces no doubt will help me preserve my teeth, which is health and vanity combined. But I confess that what gave me the push I needed was a survey reported in Men's Health magazine which said that the first thing most women notice about a man is his teeth. I'm not looking for romance, but I do need some gesture of defiance after turning sixty-four, some way of saying I intend to be around for a long time. I will eat my oatmeal porridge to keep down cholesterol, not because it's the only thing I can chew.

I wasn't thinking about new year's resolutions when I decided to begin 2010 by having my teeth straightened. But I did make a conscious decision that, instead of worrying about approaching decrepitude and a long, anxious and underfinanced retirement, I would regard this moment as the beginning of what could be another quarter century of active, creative and useful life. Why, I could still produce my Summa Theologica of Judaism, win a ballroom competition, learn calculus, master the game of chess as well as Eskimo rolling in a whitewater kayak, and refresh my high school Latin. Why heck, I could still write half a dozen novels, win the Nobel Prize in literature, and then finally earn my law degree.

The Mishna tractate *Pirkei Avot* records the ages of man, decade by decade, as the old rabbis viewed them. Forty is the age of understanding, and fifty is for giving counsel. Those decades I passed in the rabbinical

seminary and then started my work as a new rabbi, so I hope I showed understanding and gave good counsel. Then at sixty, according to the Mishna, comes old age, and at seventy, "fullness" of years. Those seem like non-judgmental categories, and I have no desire to deny my age, so I accept them. And then comes eighty, which actually turns out to be a terrific surprise. Just when we would expect a depletion of vitality, the Mishnah tells us that we can achieve the opposite, the time of *gevurah*, which means "strength" or "power". Psalm 90 says that "three score years and ten our years may number, and four score years with 'gevurot'" – that is, with strength, vigor, or power. And if a psalm says so, that trumps everything, so let it then be power at eighty! But by ninety, the Mishna says, one is bent over, and at a hundred, don't even ask.

So, just as I said - twenty-five years for the ripeness of age, fullness and vigor. Then I'll be ninety-one, and still have great teeth.

I do not mean to sound glib about good health or length of years, because these are such fragile and perishable gifts. You are only healthy until you aren't, and the change from feeling great to being in the hospital or suddenly undergoing some procedure or protocol can happen from one moment to the next. The great delusion of good health is to believe one will live forever. And the easiest thing we do with that delusion is to make plans for the future. As we say in Yiddish, „Der Menstch tracht un Gott lacht,“ which means something like we keep God in stitches with the plans we make. The truth is, I could as well be gone from this good earth as not, before the braces come off in two years.

But that doesn't matter. I am profoundly inspired by those family members and beloved friends who always keep busy with new plans and projects even as they confront terrible illness and pain, perhaps frightened but still unbowed and still with lots yet to do.

There is another rabbinic text, a midrash on Ecclesiastes, which compares the ages of life to various animals, at least after the first year when an infant is like a king, transported in a carriage, admired and fondled by everyone. But from two and three the little man is a pig, playing in filth; at ten he prances like a wild goat. At twenty he is like a horse, neighing and spirited and seeking a wife.

When he marries he works like a donkey to support his wife, and when she bears him children he becomes brazen as a dog to find food for them. But when he grows old, the midrash says, he is like an ape.

What does it mean to be like an ape?

The great Hassidic teacher of the nineteenth century known as the Kotzker Rebbe explained that the nature of an ape is to imitate. "Just as it is the way of an ape to imitate humans, so too when a person become old he imitates himself, and continues to do just as he has always done." In other words, we may become apes of ourselves. Through laziness or complacency we become satisfied with ourselves just as we are, and keep on doing what we have always done. We cease to strive for greater spiritual understanding, cease to learn new things, and simply accept with defeat that the old, stale or troubled relationships we have grown used to can never be improved.

When people reach the middle of their lives they may think that change is impossible. That is why God put Rosh Hashanah in the seventh month of our Jewish calendar – counting biblically from Nissan, in the spring - to teach us that it's never too late to shake things up and make a fresh start. Our mid-winter secular new year, with its tradition of making resolutions, also reminds us that even when we only want to huddle quietly against the cold, there is new work to be done, both inside and out.

No one knows that better than we at Beth Abraham, who miraculously found the courage to take this old congregation and make it new again. And now, in the spirit of renewed youth, we are even exploring a marriage with Beth Jacob! But it's harder to work the same miracle on ourselves, to be sixty or seventy or eighty years old and find the courage and strength to change, to reinvent oneself, to learn something new, to retool a difficult relationship.

The Torah gave us *tzitzit*, the fringes on the corners of our *tallit*, to serve as mitzvah reminders. Look at them and remember our duty. For the next two years I will also look feelingly with my tongue, and recall with the touch of those metal braces that I too can be made new, made straight, become a better friend, reach deeper into the spirit, start brand new with God.

New decade! Let me at you!

Treasurer's Report

Lee Schear



These columns are designed to support our heavy thoughts...

I appreciate that the congregation allows its treasurer to pontificate each month and that there's a high pain threshold for my financial sermons (well, and anything else that comes to mind), despite no particular bona fides on my part. We began this Treasurer's Column - and re-



designed this bulletin - simply to get others to participate and to enjoy a spirited exchange within the congregation. Since nature abhors a vacuum, I stepped in - over and over again - to suggest and to cajole and to opine and to solicit. The large amount of words used here to make such small points might really be the most impressive part of the exercise.

I am certainly a better finance guy than a word guy. With my poor linguistic mechanics, I am chastened by the thought that ultimately my attempted message is determined by how successfully I arrange the words and how they affect you once you read them. Sometimes we are all in sync, the planets align, and I can come off as being witty or insightful - or at least something less than labored. Other times? Well, I do get a lot of e-mail!

I still marvel at the fact that the choreography of words, the cadence, and the craft either brings out the worst or the best in my fan base. (OK, and I have said this before - "fan base" is plural for me). As one of the first novelists said better than anyone else, "Man was given the power of speech to enable him to conceal his thoughts." That was Stendhal. His words have lasted two centuries so far.

We all have great ideas and then those ideas start to fall apart when we have to find ways to express them. Mental limitations, skill sets and filters kick in and then the idea that rang with such startling clarity comes out with a harsh and sodden effect. Clumsy. Even callous and harsh at times. The mystics call the idea itself, that spark, "*chokhmah*"; and the reduction of that flash of inspiration to a level that can be communicated is "*binah*." The best of *chokhmah* traditionally gets lost as it is

"reduced" to *binah*

That thought process developed for me this month for a couple of reasons. First, we continue to try to repair the operating profits of the synagogue and we need some new sparks. Some financial *chokhmah*. Some wisdom. And, secondly, I really want to encourage - once again - others to use this space, our Beth Abraham Bulletin, to participate in the synagogue process. To further encourage that, I plan to cede this Treasurer Column space two of three months and only post a column quarterly. That should pick up your spirits!

Back to the wisdom and our financial progress.

This Beth Abraham congregation was started and built from nothingness and the real substance has been our willingness to band together and become secure against the void. To find a common source and celebrate it together. To tie our will to live on as Beth Abraham with the concept of congregational wisdom and inspiration - a collective *chokhmah*, if you will. The "*mah*" part of "*chokhmah*" is a Hebrew term for "nothingness" - the non-existent. It is also the expression of questioning - in kabbala, *mah* is reduced to "what"? *Mah* becomes the fundamental question confronting the void and then "*Mi*" (who) is the question that follows after you answer the what.

We don't question "*who*" we are anymore at Beth Abraham. We defined that by making our moves and establishing ourselves for generations to come. But the question of "what" is always amongst us. What do we stand for? What are we willing to do? What does it take to succeed on a grand-enough scale?

That will be asked of us financially as we determine *what* it is that we are establishing. And we determine how much we are willing to struggle to get there. We are designed to struggle, demanded to struggle. The sculptor of Mt. Rushmore (Gutzon Borglum) said, "Life is a kind of campaign. People have no idea what strength comes to one's soul and spirit through a good fight." I say that is true even if your fight is with yourself.

As treasurer for the past seven years, I have watched us struggle - and prevail.

And as the BAU treasurer today, I am prepared to face new and daunting struggles as we continue to move. We have proven our "will to live on" and we are prepared to confront our issues:

- 1) We are in the midst of a bold "NOW campaign" to raise a million dollars to offset the economic realities of the past few years.
- 2) We are in the midst of a sweeping and even bolder "Legacy Campaign" to raise \$10,000,000 to prepare for future generations of Beth Abrahamers.
- 3) We are in the midst of new financial scrutiny to determine the best revenue and expense structures.
- 4) And we are prepared to study the possibilities of a merger with Beth Jacob to provide the community with the most responsible congregational entity to best position the Dayton Jewish community for the future.

With that onslaught of programs, I will slow down my onslaught of words. The column this month started by questioning how all these words actually help. If they have helped move us forward, helped answer the question of "Why?" and started us to inspect the tougher question of "Who?", then the words are paying off to that extent. And I hope that is enough over time...

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"So, I was thinking..."

David Fuchsman, Beth Abraham President

I am very disappointed in you my Beth Abraham family. How in the world did you let me gain back the 80 pounds I lost last year??? If Fran Weil, of blessed memory,



were still with us, she never would have allowed this to happen. She never would have allowed me to return to the buffet line to get a second bagel and cream cheese. And she certainly would not have allowed me to eat dessert at the

table, and then take a few more chocolate chip cookies on my way out the door.

Despite the fact that my weight gain is everyone's fault but my own, as New Year's Eve approaches, I have made a resolution to eat healthier, to eat smaller portions and to get back on the treadmill. In fact, as I write this column, three weeks before New Year's Eve, I have already begun to act on my resolutions (except for the Channukah party event for which I blame Greg File for switching to Trader Joe's potato latke mix. Again, not my fault).

So I was thinking, what New Year's Resolutions would I like to see my fellow congregants make going into 2010. With your indulgence, here are a few suggestions.

Since becoming President, I have

attended more Shabbat services in the past seven months than I attended the previous few years. I am not proud of that fact. I could blame it on the children's schedules (again, not my fault), but the truth is I simply did not make the commitment. And now that I attend regularly, I am upset at myself for missing out in the past, on such an enjoyable and meaningful way to spend Saturday mornings. There is warmth and a sense of peace I enjoy from praying, singing, learning and eating with those who lead and attend services. If you currently do not come to services, may I suggest a resolution to attend at least one Shabbat service a month?

Through the efforts of a number of dedicated individuals, we have held some of the most exciting programming that any synagogue can and does offer. This year we enjoyed a weekend scholar-in-residence program with a nationally known movie expert. We hosted the Chief Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court. Along with Federation, we hosted the internationally acclaimed Vogler String Quartet from Germany. We began a Beth Abraham film series that continues into the Spring. We learned about genetic issues that affect Jews disproportionately. If you did not attend these programs, please resolve to take advantage of similar opportunities in the year ahead.

Did you attend any of the fun-filled Shabbats With a Beat, Shabbats Under the Stars or any of the other unique ritual

and educational programming that has been available every month? If not, please resolve to do so. We would love to see you, and I honestly believe you will leave the programs feeling richer for having done so.

There is so much going on at Beth Abraham Synagogue, and all of it takes people, and all of it takes money. Have you given of your time to work on any of the many committees at Beth Abraham, including the various program committees, the membership committee, the social action committee, religious school committee or the cemetery committee, to name a few? If you are already giving of your time, thank you, and please continue to do so. If not, resolve to call the office and let us know that you would like to give us some of your time to work on the committee of your choosing.

And have you given financial resources, beyond your dues, to help us continue to provide all the many services and programs we enjoy? Did you give to the Yom Kippur Appeal? Have you paid your campaign pledge in a timely manner? If you have, thank you so very much. If you have not, please resolve to give more, financially, in the year ahead to your Beth Abraham home.

Finally, let me suggest one more resolution. Should you see me heading a second time in the direction of the buffet table, resolve to say to me, "NO, DAVID!!!"

Men's Club News

By: Ira Levine

The Beth Abraham Men's Club brunch schedule for early 2010 is as follows:

On January 17, Jack Ling, PhD Executive Director of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion at the University of Dayton will talk on Jews in Europe and Asia and how they were stereotyped.

At the brunch on January 31, Dr. Michael Fishbein, President of Antioch University McGregor in Yellow Springs, will speak on the social psychology of terrorism.

On February 7, Marshall Weiss, Editor of the *Dayton Jewish Observer*, will speak about "Remembering My Favorite Stories."

The Men's Club will be mailing out our annual raffle tickets. For a twist this year, all the prizes are for supermarket gift cards. In addition, the Men's Club is donating a portion of the receipts to the Social Action Committee to help finance its wonderful projects. Please watch your mail.

Did someone say Purim?

By: Chaya Vidal

Yes, it's coming: Saturday night, February 27. Aren't we all in the mood for fun? A brand new Purim Shpiel will aim to please.

The Cast Call will be Sunday, January 3 at 1:00 p.m. in the Rabinowitz Family Social Hall. In keeping with our tradition, the title is kept a secret until that time. But here are four clues: it's a musical; it opened on Broadway in 1947; it became a classic film musical when it was released in 1954; and the movie version starred some of the most well known actors/singers/dancers.

Our renowned *shmatte maven*, Marlene Pinsky, has already started making costumes and the musicians are ready. Stay tuned for the title and come join us on Sunday, Jan. 3 at 1:00 p.m. for the Cast Call.



Library News-Off the Shelf

Allan Spetter

A new addition to the synagogue library is a collection of essays, Jews in American Politics, which tells you everything you might want to know about the role of Jews at the federal, state and local level over a period of more than a century. Currently there are two Jewish justices on the Supreme Court of the United States, 14 Jewish members of the Senate and 31 Jewish members of the House of Representatives. This book explains how Jewish Americans have been able to participate fully in the most open society in history.

It has not been easy for Jews, even in the United States. Jews had to overcome a quota system existing in the 1920s and 1930s at the nation's best universities. At the Columbia University Medical School, where Jews had been almost half of all students around 1900, a quota drove the number down to less than seven per cent by 1940. At Cornell, between 1920 and 1940 the number of medical students declined from 40 per cent to four per cent. At Harvard, the number of medical students dropped from 30 per cent to four per cent.

Jews may have been marginalized in American politics by their own choice. Many of the two million Jews who came to the United States from Eastern Europe beginning in the 1880s brought their radical politics with them. In the presidential election of 1920, while 43 per cent of Jews voted Republican, 38 per cent voted for the Socialist Party candidate, Eugene V. Debs. The Yiddish language radio station in New York had the call letters WEVD, in recognition of Debs.

Many Jews turned to communism in the decades before World War II. The Communist Party published nine newspapers in the 1920s, and the Yiddish language newspaper, the *Freiheit*, had the largest circulation of all. Jews may have been drawn to communism by the personal magnetism of Leon Trotsky, born Lev Davidovich Bronstein. Nevertheless, Jews did not remain communists: "The Jewish working class did not free itself. Instead it taught its own children to free themselves from the working class."

Most Jews remained Republicans, especially after President Theodore Roosevelt appointed Oscar Straus, whose family owned Macy's, as Secretary of Commerce and Labor in

1906, the first Jewish member of a president's cabinet. Along with most Americans in the depths of the Great Depression, Jews turned to Franklin Roosevelt in the presidential election of 1932, 82 per cent voting for the Democratic candidate. Jews have remained overwhelmingly supporters of the Democratic Party to this day.

Many Jews joined the Roosevelt administration. Two lesser known individuals may have made contributions that changed the nation forever. Benjamin Cohen, with law degrees from both the University of Chicago and Harvard, played a major role in writing the legislation for the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Fair Labor Standards Act. Wilbur Cohen, who eventually served as Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare in the 1960s, played a key role in creating both Social Security and Medicare.

President Wilson made the first and most important appointment of a Jew to the Supreme Court when he chose Louis Brandeis, the leading Zionist in the nation, in 1916. Born in 1856, the brilliant Brandeis graduated from Harvard Law School in 1877. Often described as having the look and voice of a Biblical patriarch, many consider Brandeis the greatest Supreme Court justice in the nation's history. He vigorously defended freedom of speech and the right to privacy until his retirement in 1939.

President Hoover added a second Jewish justice to the Supreme Court in 1932, appointing Benjamin Cardozo, Chief Judge of the New York State Court of Appeals. Cardozo died in 1938, and Roosevelt appointed yet another Jewish justice, Felix Frankfurter, to replace Cardozo. Frankfurter, born in Austria, a distinguished professor at Harvard Law School, had identified with radical causes, but he became a conservative and the most outspoken advocate of judicial restraint until his retirement in 1962.

President Kennedy chose Arthur Goldberg, then Secretary of Labor, to take what had come to be recognized as the "Jewish" seat on the Supreme Court. President Johnson asked Goldberg to step down in 1965 to serve as Ambassador to the United Nations. Johnson chose a close friend, Abe Fortas, for the "Jewish" seat. Fortas, who led the way in revolutionizing

juvenile justice, maintained an incorrect close relationship with Johnson and became involved in several financial irregularities. He resigned in 1969.

No Jew would be appointed to the Supreme Court for almost 25 years. Then President Clinton made up for lost time by appointing Ruth Bader Ginsburg in 1993, only the second woman ever to serve on the Supreme Court, and Stephen Breyer in 1994. Perhaps more indicative of how far American Jews have come, however, are these facts: both members of the Senate from California are Jewish women, Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein, and Bernie Sanders, a socialist, is a senator from Vermont.

Surprise!

TO ALL OF OUR MINYANAIRE

you have been named
by the Mitzvah Squad
as our

Mitzvah heroes and heroines

Having collected money for tzedakah, you generously offered it to the Social Action Committee as a way to cover the cost of food for our Hannu-COOK project. On behalf of the 200 people that were fed, we thank you for your support and for partnering with us in performing this mitzvah. We are truly touched by, and appreciative of, this act of *chesed*. You are the heart of our Beth Abraham family, for so many reasons. Thank you so much.

Mazel Tov to you, this month's Mitzvah Heroes and Heroines!

If anyone knows of others within our Beth Abraham community who quietly and routinely perform mitzvot, please contact our Mitzvah Squad by calling Bonnie Beaman Rice (409-2880) or Helen Abramovitz (223-2891), your Social Action Co-Chairs.

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Welcome New Members!

By: Meryl Hattenbach

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Beth Abraham held a special Shabbat service in December to welcome our newest congregants. After meeting them, you probably want to learn more about all of them.

Joseph and Elaine Bettman

The Bettmans' story began in Cincinnati where Joe and Elaine attended the same high school and were once next door neighbors! As destiny would have it, they married and trekked north to Dayton. This was 54 years ago. Ever heard of Bettman's Pharmacy? That's Joe and Elaine's business which they started shortly after arriving in Dayton. They also have five children and twelve grandchildren! Oh, and a son-in-law named David. Does anyone remember the Beth Abraham quartet which used to sing at services many years ago? Joe was a part of that too. The Bettmans joined Beth Abraham to be with their friends and family and to support our exciting new venture.

David and Miriam Blake

The Blakes moved to Dayton just last July from Phoenix via the D.C. area. David, who is a physician and a Major in the USAF, has recently been deployed to Iraq for a six-month tour. Miriam is an engineer and works from home as a Facility Planner for the Navy. They have two children, Ben and Alex, who attend Centerville schools. Living the transient military life, they plan to be part of the Beth Abraham scene thru the summer of 2011.

Lisa Braverman and Lori Braverman

Lisa and Lori currently reside in Columbus but were raised in Dayton at Beth Abraham. They return to Dayton whenever possible to spend the holidays with their mom (Charlotte) and they consider Beth Abraham to be their home.

Michael Fishbein and Mary Ann Oppenheimer

Michael and Mary Ann moved to Dayton from Nashua, NH and before then, lived in New York City. Michael's job as the new president of Antioch University McGregor brought them to Dayton. It didn't take long for the Jewish community to discover Mary Ann's talents. She was recently hired as the new Foundation Director for the Jewish Federation of Greater Dayton. Michael and Mary Ann have two married children and three grandchildren. They were looking for a Conservative congregation and found Beth Abraham! Michael and Mary Ann feel gratified and welcome here.

Andrea Klein

It's the typical story... Andrea moved to Dayton from San Francisco for both business and love. She is a banking specialist whose work takes her around the world. When Andrea's not travelling, she makes her home at Country Club of the North. She looked for a Conservative synagogue to replicate her Jewish upbringing. Andrea has commented on how welcoming the Beth Abraham congregation has been to her.

Irvin and Gayle Moskowitz

Irvin works in business leasing cars, trucks, and other equipment with Burhill Leasing. Gayle works in the Northridge Schools in special education. They have two daughters, Marissa, who lives in Chicago, and Katie, who resides in New York City. Irvin is a Dayton native and Gayle, a Canton native, has lived in Dayton for 33 years. They met at Ohio State. After Irvin took Cantor Raizen's torah reading class and thoroughly enjoyed it, the Moskowitz's decided they wanted to support Beth Abraham by joining as secondary members.

Samuel and Cindy Smith

Careers are what brought the Smiths to Dayton. They are both physicians specializing in family practice for Premier Health Partners. They have four children, ranging from ten to sixteen. Their children Jacob, Andrew, Lauren and Jordan attend Centerville schools. Samuel and Cindy are enjoying being a part of Beth Abraham life.

Marshall and Donna Weiss

You may know Marshall as editor and publisher over the past 14 years of the award-winning regional newspaper, *The Dayton Jewish Observer*. Donna is a certified teacher and worked ten years with the Dayton City Schools, in addition to two years at Hillel Academy and another two years with the Cincinnati Public Schools. Marshall and Donna have two children, Levi (14) and Adina (7), who attend Miami Valley School. The Weiss's feel very comfortable at Beth Abraham and are happy to be here!

Jewish Federation Foundation Scholarship & Grant Opportunities

We are grateful to the generous members of the Dayton community who have established endowment funds that provide support for us to recognize and reward deserving community members and projects.

Jewish Federation Foundation College Scholarships

Scholarship applications are now available, through the Heuman Scholarship Fund, to support Jewish undergraduate and graduate students during the 2010 / 2011 academic year. Applicants must demonstrate both academic achievement and financial need.

Jewish Federation Foundation Travel to Israel Scholarships Available

Up to \$1,500 in scholarship funds are available to Dayton area Jewish youth, high school through 21, who demonstrate financial need and plan to travel to Israel during the summer of 2010. The Foundation's Wolfe Marcus Israel Fund offers this special opportunity for young people to strengthen their knowledge of and commitment to the Jewish people and the land of Israel.

Foundation Grants

The Federation Foundation is pleased to announce a Request for Proposals (RFP) for small grants (up to \$1,500) to support qualified charities and not-for-profit programs for Jewish children and youth in Dayton and in Israel. Funding is made possible through the Joan and Peter Wells Family, Children and Youth Fund.

All scholarship applications and RFPs must be received at the Jewish Federation by noon on Friday, March 5, 2010. Awards will be announced in May. Contact the Federation's Jodi Phares at 610-1555, extension 113 or jphares@jfgd.net for more information and applications.

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Cantor Emeritus	Jerome B. Kopmar

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Times for Shabbat and Yom Tov Candle Lighting & Services

Friday, January 1

Evening Service 5:30 p.m.
Candle Lighting 5:05 p.m.

Friday, January 15

Kabbalat Shabbat 5:30 p.m.
Candle Lighting 5:18 p.m.

Friday, January 29

Kabbalat Shabbat 5:30 p.m.
Candle Lighting 5:34 p.m.

Saturday, January 2

Morning Service 9:00 a.m.
Havdalah 6:09 p.m.

Saturday, January 16

Shacharit 9:00 a.m.
Havdalah 6:22 p.m.

Saturday, January 30

Shacharit 9:00 a.m.
Havdalah 6:38 p.m.

Friday, January 8

Evening Service 5:30 p.m.
Candle Lighting 5:11 p.m.

Friday, January 22

Kabbalat Shabbat 5:30 p.m.
Candle Lighting 5:26 p.m.

Friday, February 5

Evening Service 5:30 p.m.
Candle Lighting 5:43 p.m.

Saturday, January 9

Morning Service 9:00 a.m.
Havdalah 6:15 p.m.

Saturday, January 23

Shacharit 9:00 a.m.
Havdalah 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 6

Morning Service 9:00 a.m.
Havdalah 6:47 p.m.

FREE RIDES TO SHABBAT SERVICES AND EVENTS

If you need transportation to any Beth Abraham Shabbat service or Shabbat event, please call the office (293-9520) at least a few days before the service or event and the synagogue will help you find a ride. If you would like to volunteer to be a driver either on a regular basis or for a particular event, please contact the office at 293-9520. This is a project of the Beth Abraham Social Action Committee.