Temple Beth El Bulletin

Volume 35, Number 9
September, 2011
ELUL/TISHREI 5771/5772

September Schedule of Services

- *Friday, September 2* — *7:30 pm*
  SHOFTIM
  Rabbi Daniel Mehlman
- *Saturday, September 3* — *10:00 am*
  Torah Study
- *Friday, September 9* — *7:30 pm*
  KI TETZE
  Chaplain Jared Sharon
- *Saturday, September 10* — *10:00 am*
  Torah Study
- *Friday, September 16* — *7:30 pm*
  KI TAVO
  Student Rabbi Todd Silverman
- *Saturday, September 17* — *10:00 am*
  Torah Study
- *Friday, September 23* — *7:30 pm*
  SELIHOT
  Chaplain Jared Sharon
- *Saturday, September 24* — *10:00 am*
  Torah Study
- *Wednesday, September 28* — *7:00 pm*
  Erev Rosh Hashanah
- *Thursday, September 29* — *10:00 am*
  Rosh Hashanah Day 1
- *Friday, September 30* — *10:00 am*
  Rosh Hashanah Day 2
- *Friday, September 30* — *7:30pm*
  HAAZINU —Shabbat Shuvah
  Rabbi Daniel Mehlman

Other Temple Activities

- *Board of Directors* — *7:00 pm*
  Wednesday, September 7
- *Brotherhood* — *8:30 am*
  Sunday, September 11
- *Theater Party & lunch* — *1:00 pm*
  Sunday, September 18
- *Sisterhood Mitzvah Day* — *11:00 am*
  Monday, September 19
- *Movie Nite* — *7:30 pm*
  Saturday, September 24

President's Column—Juan Hovey

I knew a woman some years back who, having married a Jew, decided to convert. I don't know what process she went through to prepare herself, but whatever it was, the kind of Judaism she embraced didn't stick. It made her not a Jew but rather an enthusiast for things Jewish; she danced the Hora, sang Hatikvah and Hava Nagilah at the top of her lungs, baked challah, bought an elegant kiddush cup, and then, having exhausted Judaism of its charming eccentricities, she moved on to another enthusiasm—Unitarianism, as I recall.

How different things are these days at Temple Beth El!

What we see as the members of Congregacion Beth Shalom prepare to convert is an enthusiasm of a wholly different order. They stay at temple after services talking and singing late into the night. They kiss the mezuzot on our doors every time they go in or out—and if you want to know exactly how and where to place a mezuzah on your own doors, Raul Medina will tell you that you must divide the height of the doorpost in three and hang the mezuzah just so, so that it touches the line separating the upper from the middle third, and that you must slant it either inward or outward, depending on whether you are Sephardic or Ashkenazi.

Raul is not an enthusiast, however. He is irrepressible, and he and Edgar de la Pena and the other members of Congregacion Beth Shalom are preparing for conversion because they seek to regain something lost to them long ago, something very old: the chance to live as Jews in a Jewish community. Edgar speaks of a great-grandfather who was tall and fair-skinned and blue-eyed. He remembers going with his family one Friday night to the home of an aunt who pulled the curtains, lit candles, said prayers, and kept the family inside the house until sundown the next day—inside the house and, as Edgar thought at the time, idle. Raul says he looks in the mirror and sees not the features of a Mexican but those of a Semitic man: dark eyes, round face. Raul quotes Maimonides not because he's a showoff but because Maimonides is in his blood.

He and Edgar and the others remain at temple long after Friday night services end singing song after song because singing is an ingredient in the cement that binds them to one another as Jews. Last Sunday, we held a picnic and an open house to promote the re-opening of TBE's religious school, after which several members of the Beth Shalom contingent hauled Elise into the entryway to our sanctuary to buy Judaica, making sure that the parchments inside the mezuzot they chose were kosher. As I stood nearby watching, the son of Edgar's cousin Cesar and his wife Esmeralda—Israel, a child about three years old who with his black curly hair and fine dark eyes looks the perfect sabra boy—took a mezuzah in his hand and with a smile playing at his mouth gazed at his mother until she bought it for him.

Continued on the following page.

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Hovey...

What's happening at Temple Beth El is profound. Edgar and Raul and the others want to live as Jews, and they intend to ensure that their children carry the Torah into the future. Like the anusim of whom I heard stories growing up in Santa Fe—like thousands of secret Jews elsewhere in the American Southwest and in Mexico and Latin America—they're converting because they want to make things official. But I don't think of them as converts. They're Jews.

Bulletin Briefs

✍ *Brotherhood*

The Brotherhood has revived its seminar format after a lapse of seven years. The 22nd seminar will take place Sunday, September 11th. Breakfast by our in-house master chefs will be ready promptly at 8:30 a.m.

All male members of the Temple and all Jewish men on the Central Coast are invited to attend.

—Alan Kushnick, President

✍ *Mitzvah Day*

Sisterhood will not have a dinner meeting in September. Instead, we will have our annual Mitzvah Day where we clean and polish the temple until it gleams in preparation for the High Holidays. This is a Mitzvah Day for all temple members and friends, not just the Sisterhood. So plan to join us on Monday, September 19th at 11:00 a.m. A potluck lunch will provide sustenance for the workers. See you there.

—Marsha Epstein
929-6301

✍ *Religious School Opens*

After several years without a religious school, we are thrilled to announce that Temple Beth El will once again provide a Jewish education to our children. Registration is now open. Classes start on Saturday, September 10th at 2:00pm. The registration form may be found in this bulletin.

For more information contact Suzanne Levy, 934-0477, or Lori Meltzer-Sutton, 934-4508.

✍ *Building & Grounds*

Kitchen items needed:

1) Grape juice
2) Small paper plates
3) Napkins

—Kenneth L. Wolf

✍ *Purchase Trees for Israel*

Do you have an event to honor or someone to remember? Honor or remember them by purchasing a Tree in Israel through the Jewish National Fund. Trees are $18. A beautiful certificate will be sent out to the recipient of this thoughtful gift.

Contact Suzanne Levy, 934-0477, ***slevy93455@gmail.com***

✍ *Buy Scrip*

Temple Beth El sells scrip as a fund-raiser. Mike Sachs is handling the orders and will be very happy to assist you. The temple gets a percentage of every dollar spent — the amount varies depending on the merchant. But if you know that you will be making a large purchase or consistently shop at a certain store, scrip is an easy and convenient way to support the temple and buy what you need. There are literally hundreds of companies to choose from.

Give Mike a call (928-2442) — he's anxious to hear from you.

A Devar Torah for Rosh HaShanah
By Rabbi Shimon Paskow
HEARKEN TO THE VOICE OF THE SHOFAR

The two words "Rosh HaShanah" are not found in the Torah. Instead, the Torah states in Leviticus 23:23-25:

"And the Lord spoke to Moses saying, speak to B'nai Yisrael that on the first day of the seventh month they (you) shall have 'Shabbaton zichron truah mikra kodesh,' a Sabbath of remembering to sound (the horn) as a holy convocation. Do not work but bring an offering to God."

Again, in Numbers 29:1, the Torah repeats this command in reverse order:

"On the first day of the seventh month you shall have a holy convocation. Do not work, 'Yom truah yihyeh lachem,' a day of sounding (the horn) shall you have..." and a detailed description of offerings for God follows.

One of the reasons for this ritual is that Rosh HaShanah marks the first day of creation, the day on which God created the world and ruled over it, and this indeed, is the custom of kings at their coronation—trumpets and horns are sounded to announce their arrival and the beginning of their reign. As it is noted in Psalm 98:6 *"with trumpets and sound of the horn (shofar), make a joyful noise before the Lord, the King."*

We understand truah to mean a sound of the horn. On Rosh HaShanah morning we announce the sounds of the shofar as follows:

Tekiah,	shevarim,	truah,	tekiah
____	— — —	– – – – – – – – – –	___

Tekiah is an extended note; shevarim is 3 middle size notes, and truah is nine short blasts. And of course, tekiah gedolah is a long blast! _____

The blessing said or chanted before sounding the shofar is:

Praised are you O Lord our God, ruler of the world, who sanctifies us with
His commandments and commands us to hear the voice of the shofar.
(In Hebrew: lishmoa kol shofar.)

Since the Torah calls Rosh HaShanah *yom teruah,* a day of teruah, and that is one of the notes, we can ask why is the preceding blessing *lishmoa kol shofar,* to hear the voice of the shofar? Wouldn't it make more sense to use the words *lishmoa kol truah*? Furthermore, one can also argue that the blessing should be worded *lishmoa kol keren,* to hear the voice of the horn. After all, on the second day of Rosh HaShanah the Torah reading Gen. 22:1-24 relates the dramatic, intriguing story of the Akedah—the binding of Isaac, how God told Abraham to sacrifice his son and as Abraham was about to fulfill this command and slaughter his son, an angel of God called out to him and told him not to harm his son. It was only a test of faith and Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught in the thicket by his horns. So Abraham sacrificed the ram instead of his son. This is a powerful story with a significant message in Jewish religious thought. This is also why we blow a ram's horn on Rosh HaShanah and at the end of Yom Kippur.

So it would make good sense and be more accurate to word the blessing, *lishmoa kol keren,* to hear the sound of the ram's horn, the crying, groaning, alarming sound of the ram's horn.

Perhaps we can better understand the important message to be conveyed with a fuller understanding of the word shofar. "*Leshaper*" in Hebrew means to improve, to adorn, to beautify, to make good, to be pleasing. "*Imrei shefer*" means "words of beauty". In Gen. 9:21, our patriarch Jacob describes his son Naftali as "*one who gives forth Imrei shefer*, "*goodly words*."

The first chapter in the Book of Exodus has an excellent illustration of this thought. We are told that Jacob and his sons went to Egypt and that the Israelites flourished and multiplied. However, a new king arose in Egypt who feared the Israelites and so he oppressed and persecuted them. Ex. 1:15 tells *"And the king of Egypt told the Hebrew midwives, one by the name of Shifrah and the other Puah, that all male babies that are born are to be killed. But the midwives feared God and disobeyed Pharaoh and let the babies live."*

Rashi, our admired Bible and Talmud commentator, quotes the Midrash Rabbah Ex. 1:17 and tells us "that Puah is a word related to crying; and Puah was Miriam, the sister of Moses. She is called Puah because she got the children to cry and breathe and their lungs working when born and then pacified them. Shifrah was Yocheved, the mother of Moses, but called Shifrah because she made the children beautiful." Rashi quotes Talmud B. Sotah 11b and uses the word *meshaperet*, meaning straightened their limbs and beautified them.

This is probably the origin of the popular Jewish family names Shapiro/Shapira and Shifrin. Shifrah is still used as a girl's name today. "*Shapir*" is an expression often used in the Talmud, meaning pleasant or well-spoken. In modern Hebrew, *l'hishtaper* means to improve oneself.

Based on the Mishnah B.Rosh HaShanah 3:7 the poskim, decisors of Jewish Law, rule that the ikkar, the essential mitzvah of the shofar on Rosh HaShanah is the hearing of the shofar and not the blowing! So I would like to suggest that the mitzvah is to hear the shofar, that is to hear the

Continued on the following page.

High Holy Days 5772

Schedule of Services

Student Rabbi Todd Silverman
Cantor Shira Fox

Erev Rosh Hashanah	Wed.	Sept. 28	7:00 pm
Rosh Hashanah I	Thurs.	Sept. 29	10:00 am
Children's Service			10:30 am
Tashlich			4:00 pm
Carpool from TBE			3:30 pm
Rosh Hashanah II	Fri.	Sept. 30	10:00 am
Kever Avot Santa Maria Cemetery	Sun.	Oct. 2	1:00pm
Kol Nidre	Fri.	Oct. 7	7:00 pm
Yom Kippur	Sat.	Oct. 8	10:00 am
Children's Service			10:30 am
Afternoon Service			2:45 pm
Yizkor		5:00 pm	
Ne'ileh		5:30 pm	
Havdalah			6:30 pm

Break-the-Fast to Follow

Non-Members: Suggested donation $200 single, $400 family
Military and Students welcome as our guests

Rosh HaShanah...

message of the sounds of the horn.

As we begin another year let us do what Shifrah in the Bible did, make life beautiful, make it good.

Happy is the people that know (the meaning of) the sound of teruah;

In the light of Your spirit, O Lord, shall they walk.

Rabbi Shimon Paskow has served as visiting rabbi at Temple Beth El for more than ten years. He is a retired chaplain, (Colonel), US Army.

Temple Beth El Theater Day Off Broadway

An exciting day is planned for Sunday, September 18th when we will attend opening weekend of Noel Coward's "Blithe Spirit" at the Santa Maria Civic Theater.

The fun will begin at 1:00 pm when we will eat a "light lunch" and drink wine, followed by a 2:00 pm curtain.

Desserts will be provided during intermission.

This is our first major fundraiser of the new year, so let's all support it!

Tickets: $20

For tickets and information contact Diane Borad-Mirken: 929-6071

Donations

Library Book Shelves

Dan Davis & Hinda Beaman
Tom Geiger
Anita Friedman & Frank Young
Herman Stubblefield
Juan Hovey & Elise Cassel
Seymour & Boots Hersh
Andi & Jeff Portney
Stephen & Marjorie Schwartz
Phyllis Green
Arnold & Rita Stone
Arthur & Karen Lunsk
Joseph Friedman

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Lyn Meltzer

In Memory of Jack Meltzer
Niki Eschen

In Honor of the Wedding of
Benjamin Epstein & Alexandra Weinstein
The Portney Family
Juan Hovey & Elise Cassel

In Memory of Al Minzenberg
Jean Minzenberg

In Honor of Mike Kaver's 90th Birthday
Myra Wapner
Seymour & Boots Hersh
Howard & Marilyn Landers
Susan Naiman
Cynthia Guggia

In Memory of Elyce Kaplan
Myra Wapner
Seymour & Boots Hersh
Marsha & Gary Epstein

In Memory of Marvin Kodner
Myra Wapner

Tree for Israel

In Honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Madeline Callis
from the Levy family

TBE Movie Nite

Mark your Calendars!

Our 50th Movie Nite

Saturday, September 24th 7:30 pm

"100 Voices"

This film, entitled "100 Voices - A Journey Home," is a deeply affecting tribute to the interwoven history of Jewish and Polish cultures. It is the perfect film to watch during the High Holidays season.

The film chronicles a musical voyage to the birthplace of songful prayer known as chazzanut. In June 2009, an assembly of the world's finest cantors came together for a series of exhilarating concerts backed by the Polish National Opera Chorus and a 100-piece orchestra.

On a historic mission of reconciliation, the largest group of cantors to return to Poland since WWII travels from Warsaw to Krakow, culminating in an emotional memorial at the gates of Auschwitz. Included are archival clips of superstar cantors of yesteryear and conversations with modern luminaries. The film celebrates the resilience of Jewish tradition and the ability of music to heal hearts.

Recommended Donation: $5
Includes all the coffee, popcorn & goodies you can eat!

*Thanks to the generosity of the Jewish Federation of Greater Santa Barbara which provided the grant for our projection system.

September Anniversaries

6 Jeff & Andi Portney

September Birthdays

1 Shirley Schiff
10 Juan Hovey
15 Shari Schwartz
17 Barbara Sachs
21 Shep Bereskin
22 Ruth Coriat

Temple Beth El

Santa Maria

September 10, 2011-June 9, 2012

5772

Religious School Enrollment Form

First Child's Name ______________________________ Hebrew Name _____________

Age ________________ Grade (Fall 2011) ____________________

Second Child's Name ______________________________ Hebrew Name _____________

Age ________________ Grade (Fall 2011) ____________________

Third Child's Name ______________________________ Hebrew Name _____________

Age ________________ Grade (Fall 2011) ____________________

Mother's Name _________________________ Father's Name __________________________

Phone ________________________________ Email ________________________________

Child's Address ____

Emergency Contact ____

Special Interests/Considerations (allergies, etc) ________________________________

____

- -

Annual Tuition	Members	Non-Members
1st child in family	$300	$450
Other children in family	$225	$375

September Yahrzeits

9/1/11	Walter Brambir	7	Elul	Father of Paul and Jeff Brambir
9/1/11	Rose Levy	20	Elul	Mother of Stanley Levy
9/2/11	Benjamin Bakst	19	Elul	Cousin of Gary Epstein
9/3/11	Abraham Hersh Lubin*			Father of Jerry Lubin
9/3/11	Bernard Margolis	22	Elul	Father of Susan Margolis
9/4/11	Betty Fetzer			Friend of Gary & Marsha Epstein
9/5/11	Joseph Spivack			Grandfather of Niki Eschen
9/6/11	Anna Stahl*			Mother of Sid Stahl
9/6/11	William Herskovitz	7	Elul	Father of Seymour Hersh
9/8/11	Saul Tunick*	9	Elul	Son of Marcia and Art Tunick
9/10/11	Raye Linden*			Wife of Sidney Linden
9/11/11	Josephine Gollub	12	Elul	Aunt of Myra Wapner
9/18/11	Charles Anolik	18	Elul	
9/18/11	Dr. Daniel Du Coffe	25	Elul	Friend of Dr. Alexander Zuckerbraun
9/18/11	Louise Nemerson*	18	Elul	Daughter of Annette and Arthur Silverfarb
9/18/11	Adelyn (Addy) Raich	19	Elul	Wife of Rabbi Abraham Raich
9/19/11	Charlie Drucker			Stepfather of Diane Borad-Mirken
9/19/11	Ellis Kram			Father of Marilyn Friedman
9/20/11	Norman Rosen	21	Elul	Cousin of Boots Hersh
9/25/11	Bessie Lieberman			Grandmother of Brent Lieberman
9/25/11	Hy Spivack*	21	Elul	Father of Niki Eschen
9/25/11	Marcella Steinberg	5	Tishri	Grndmthr of Josh, Brett, Hayden, Michael, Andy, Nicollette & Preston
9/25/11	Marcella Steinberg	5	Tishri	Wife of Alvin Steinberg, Mother of Mindy Downum
9/25/11	Daniel Eli Stone	26	Elul	Grandson of Rita and Arnold Stone
9/26/11	Muriel Levy			Mother of Ron Levy
9/26/11	Kurt Sondermann	18	Tishri	Great-cousin of Ken Wolf
9/27/11	Lily Rose Wilkins			Granddaughter of Henry and Shirley Schiff
9/28/11	Martin Friedman	20	Tishri	Father of Anita Friedman
9/29/11	Shadi OLevi Nourani*	1	Tishri	Mother of Dan Nourani*

Months of Mourning

12/7/10	Florence Wall	Wife of Leo Wall
12/8/10	Lilyan Krinsky	Wife of Joe Krinsky
12/19/10	Lois Haffey	Wife of Frank Haffey, Mother of Ann
3/22/11	Dr. Sandy Zuckerbraun	Husband of Ruth Zuckerbraun
4/1/11	Barbara Lewis	Mother of Manuel Lewis and Mother-in-law of Jennifer Cohen
4/2/11	Mollie Ponedel	Friend of Gary & Marsha Epstein
5/10/11	Bernice Becker	Aunt of Marsha Epstein
7/5/11	Roy O'Neal	Friend of Tom Geiger
8/18/11	Elyce Kaplan	Daughter of Mike & Anne Kaver

All those who gave their lives in defense of our country and of Israel.

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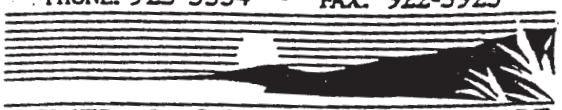

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September 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 • SHOFTIM Services 7:30pm Rabbi Daniel Mehlman	3
4	5	6	7 • Board of Directors Meeting 7:00pm	8	9 • KI TETZE Services 7:30pm Chaplain Jared Sharon	10 • Torah Study 10:00am
11 • Brotherhood 8:30am	12	13	14	15	16 • KI TAVO Services 7:30pm Student Rabbi Todd Silverman	17 • Torah Study 10:00am
18 • TBE Fundraiser Theater Party 1:00pm	19 • Sisterhood Mitzvah Day and potluck lunch 11:00am-?	20	21	22	23 • SELIHOT Services 7:30pm Chaplain Jared Sharon	24 • Torah Study 10:00am • Movie Nite 7:30pm
25	26	27	28 • Erev Rosh Hashanah Services 7:00pm Student Rabbi Todd Silverman	29 • Rosh Hashanah Day 1 Services 10:00am Student Rabbi Todd Silverman	30 • Rosh Hashanah Day 2 Services 10:00am • HAAZINU Services 7:30pm Rabbi Mehlman	

Temple Beth El
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It is the Jewish tradition to make charitable contributions in times of joy or sorrow.

Your Donation is greatly appreciated

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_____ Torah Scroll Repair Fund _____ Religious School Fund _____ Steve Lieberman Computer Fund
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_____ Rabbi's Salary Fund _____ Jack Meltzer Library Book Fund _____ Alfred J. Perlman Temple Endowment Fund

Please Inform _____
Addresss _____

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_____ Baby Naming _____ Marriage _____ Anniversary _____ Bar/Bat Mitzvah
_____ In Loving Memory of _____ _____ Other _____

Donor's Name _____
Address _____ City _____State_____Zip_____
Phone_____ Amount Enclosed $_____

Please make checks payable to Temple Beth El. All contributions are tax deductible. Appropriate notification will be sent promptly to the person indicated and will be published in the Bulletin. Thank you!

Send to: Temple Beth El P.O. Box 5217 Santa Maria, CA 93456 _____