

KESHER

Our Seventy-Fourth
Year!

FROM RABBI SAM

Another New Year?

We learn in the Mishna – Rosh Hashanna, Chapter 1, Mishna 1 – that there are 4 separate dates each year that are to be considered as a New Year observance. This statement often sounds strange to us today as we have come to think of a New Year as happening once in the secular calendar and once in the High Holy Days. We may recognize that there are different ways of counting the years, however, in the secular world depending on what we are counting. There is a New Year for schools (at the end of August into the beginning of September), for tax payments (April 15), fiscal years for businesses, etc.

So, also for the Rabbis, there were different “New Years” for different aspects of Jewish life and practice. There were cycles of the festivals (beginning on Nisan 1 in the spring), for tithing cattle (Elul 1 at the end of the summer), for the numbering of years (Tishri 1 in the fall), and for the ages of trees (Shevat 15 in the middle of the winter). The tree New Year falls on the fifteenth (in Hebrew Tet-Vav, pronounced “Tu”) of the winter month of Shevat – this year February 8. In Israel the rainy season has moistened the soil, the weather is warming, and it is tree planting time. The earliest blooming trees – the almond – are showing their first delicate pink buds. The New Year was required for ritual purposes as well.

There are specific rules concerning at what age of a tree the fruit may be used and what sacrifices of fruit were to be offered. The age of a tree was determined, ritually, to be based on this 15th of Shevat. Thus a tree planted on the 14th was a year old the next day and one planted on the 16th waited a full year to be a year older.

For over a thousand years, the observance of the 15th of Shevat (Tu Bishevat) was a minor festival in the holiday cycle. It was marked with the eating of a new fruit (preferably from Israel) for the year (allowing for the Shehecheyanu to be recited) and special prayers. In more recent times, the Jewish National Fund used this festival as a time to especially emphasize the opportunity to purchase tree certificates as a way of supporting JNF efforts to improve the land of Israel. Many liberal community seders have been created to tell the story of trees, reconnect to Israel, and strengthen our commitment to our environment.

This year the holiday falls on a Tuesday night and Wednesday. We will be holding a family program during the Religious School hours (4:00 – 6:00) on Thursday February 9 for all members of the congregation. At that time we will eat some special fruits, hear some Rabbinic stories on trees, and learn of modern forms of observance in Israel.

We will also have a planting project to reconnect to our agricultural roots in a small way. Planting pots will be provided for each Religious School student. All are welcome to celebrate the gifts of trees in our world.

Temple Israel Board of Trustees—2011-2012

Carole Krassner, President

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Cathi Cherry-Liston (Sisterhood)

TEMPLE OFFICE HOURS:

Monday—Wednesday, Friday

9:00 am– 1:30 pm

Thursday

1:00 pm– 6:00 pm

KESHER

Kesher, Connection,
is the newsletter
of Temple Israel
Dover, NH.

Ideas for submissions and letters to the editor are welcomed from members of the Temple Israel family and from others who wish to communicate with the congregation.

All communication with the Editor should be by e-mail. Publication is limited by editorial and space considerations.

The deadline for submission is the twentieth (20th) of the month for the following month's issue of *Kesher*.

mail to:

Tammy Fascetta
TempleOffice
@dovertemple.org

or

Rabbi Sam Seicol
rabbisam@dovertemple.org

An open letter to the Temple Israel Community

Great News!

The future of Temple Israel of Dover continues to shine bright and we will continue to function as a vibrant and thriving Jewish community. As you may know, our challenging financial future has been at the fore front of many discussions over the past few years. Although we are not completely out of the woods yet; I can tell you that things are looking better. The board has worked diligently over the past months to streamline our budget. We have taken on a part-time rabbi to help reduce our professional expenses. With the help of Stuart Scharff, Steve Giguere and Sam Kirshman; Centrix Bank has reduced our interest and lowered our mortgage payment. We sold off a portion our land and used the profits to reduce the principal on our mortgage. With the sale we also negotiated with the contractor, John O'Neil, to have him convert our heating system from propane to natural gas. We expect this will reduce our heating costs by 30%. He is also committed to bring the necessary cable connections up to our building at no cost to Temple so eventually (hopefully soon) we will be have high speed internet and cable television options.

This is indeed great news, but we must continue to fundraise and increase our membership to strengthen the Temple into the future. We are all in this together – this is our Temple! We need your continued support. Now is a great time to volunteer. Think about bringing in new members. Consider joining a committee.

Next year we will be celebrating our 75th anniversary with many events to carry us through the year. We need your help to make next year and the years to come a success!

There are many people to be thanked, too numerous to mention so:

THANK YOU to everyone.

Please know that each and everyone of you is a valued Temple member. If you have not yet experienced a Friday evening or Saturday morning service or a study session with Rabbi Sam; please join in and enjoy his wonderful words of wisdom!

L'Shalom

Carole Krassner

Temple Israel President

**THANK YOU TO
OUR ONEG HOSTS**

February 3

3rd-5th grade Religious School families

February 10

Michael and Glicka Kaplan
Stephen and Maschia Kaplan

February 17

Phil Ginsburg and Carolyn Anderson
David and DeeDee Goldstein

February 24

Bill and Jill Schoonmaker
Donna and Alan Goldfarb

All are encouraged to honor the memory of loved ones and to offer tribute to friends, relatives and community members through a donation to one or more of the special funds.

We express our grateful appreciation to:

General Fund

Ann Isacoff –
In memory of Sidney Rothstein

Carole Krassner –
In memory of Ruth Talisman
and Matthew Krassner

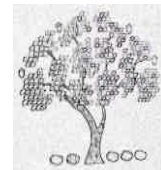
Jonathan & Lauren Harris

Peter Janes Sharfman & Bettina Silber

ONEG SHABBAT HOSTS

If you are unable to host the Oneg Shabbat on the night assigned to you, please find a substitute by trading with another family from the membership directory. If you need to change your assigned date, please notify

Cathi Cherry-Liston 603-312-0152, 603-269-4888
ccherryliston@yahoo.com
or Susan Shepcaro 603-964-7959



Please consider marking special occasions and milestones along the path of life for you or members of your family by purchasing a leaf on the Tree of Life.

The rocks in the Sanctuary can celebrate joyous occasions or honor the memory of a loved one.

**For more information, contact:
Tammy Fascetta in the Temple office.**

Mazal Tov

to our members celebrating happy occasions in February!

Birthdays

Heidi Kotlus (5), Leslie Gould (6),
Jonathan Harris (11), Ruth Saunders (15),
Sonia Ginsburg (21), Rabbi Sam (23),
Wolfe Ramsay (24), Jonathan Flagg (25),
Bruce Samuels (26), Carol Birch (28)

Anniversaries

Lessa Brill & John Wallace (7), Ilese & Craig Stevens (14),
Marc & Lisa Weinstein (16), Colin & Eve Edelstein Williams (21)

Tu B'Shevat Family Program

**Thursday, February 9
4:00 — 6:00**

**Eat fruits of Israel
Planting Project
Study and Stories**

**Visit with the NH Federation Shlichah
Ore Ayah Dagan**



Upcoming B'nei/B'not Mitzvah

April 21	Daniel Fishbein
May 5	Ben McDonald
June 2	Annie Yanofsky

Hospital Visits: Please keep us informed!

Due to national privacy laws, hospitals are not allowed to call congregations to inform them that their members have been admitted as patients.

If you know you are going to be in the hospital please call the Temple office. If you unexpectedly find yourself in the hospital, please tell a nurse that you would like to see the hospital chaplain, who can call the Temple to let us know that you are there.

Rabbi Sam and all the Temple Israel community would like to offer support and comfort to you and your family.

BENEFIT THE TEMPLE & YOURSELF

Advertise in the Keshet, B/W or full color
for the same price.

Monthly and annual rates available.

For more information, please contact Tammy:
templeoffice@dovertemple.org

Bubeh Meiseh (A Quickie)

(From the files of Ann Isacoff at Langdon Place)

I was telling my friend a story: "Rosenstern and Goldberg were having a conversation..." when my friend interrupted.

"HOLD IT! Always with the Jewish jokes...Give it a rest. Why do they always have to be about Jews? Just change the names to another ethnic group for once!"

So I started again, "Hashimoto and Suzuki were talking one day at their nephew's Bar Mitzvah..."

February 2012

Happening at Temple Israel of Dover

- 02 4:00 Religious School Classes
- 03 5:30 Tot Shabbat Program
- 6:00 Pot-luck Family style Dinner 7:00 Shabbat Service
- 04 10:30 Shabbat Morning Service
- 2:30 Understanding Judaism (at the Bagelry in Durham)
- 07 sunset – 08 sunset Tu B'Shevat
- 09 4:00 Tu B'Shevat Family Program
- 10 6:00 Hebrew class & pot-luck dinner
- 7:30 Shabbat Service
- 11 10:30 Shabbat Morning Study – Tu B'Shevat
- 2:30 Understanding Judaism (at the Bagelry in Durham)
- 16 4:00 Religious School Classes
- 17 6:00 Hebrew class & pot-luck dinner
- 7:30 Shabbat Service
- 18 10:30 Shabbat Morning Study – Ex 18-24
- 2:30 Understanding Judaism (at the Bagelry in Durham)
- 19 9:00 Brotherhood get together for B & L
- 23 4:00 Religious School Classes
- 24 6:00 Hebrew class & pot-luck dinner
- 7:30 Shabbat Service
- 25 10:30 Shabbat Morning Study – Ex 25-27
- 2:30 Understanding Judaism (at the Bagelry in Durham)
- 7:00 Havdalah and Family Game Night



Looking for something to do this Summer?
Want to go out and meet new people and make friends?
Feel like having a great time?
Want to do some schmoozing?

Introducing Mazel Co-ed Sports

We are now accepting players ages 21-39 for this years Summer Co-ed Softball League in Central and Southern NH including Northern MA, and beyond!

How do I get to be a part of this seasons Softball League?

Send Us an email: goodtimes@MazelSports.org.
Please include your name, age, city/town, experience.
Or add us on Facebook: Mazel Sports

Be a part of the action @ www.MazelSports.org

Let us entertain you.

SAVE THE DATE

Playing in theaters statewide:

Manchester Merrimack Concord Keene Hanover

Presented by the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire
www.jewishnh.org



Did you know that the Dover Chapter of Hadassah has cards and certificates available for purchase?

Proceeds from the sales of these lovely cards and attractive certificates support Hadassah's many projects and programs in Israel and throughout the world, and the price is right for each certificate and card.

Here is a sample of one of the many cards available:



If you would like to order a greeting card — Bar or Bat Mitzvah, Congratulations or Mazel Tov, Birthday, Get Well, Sympathy, Thank You, Wedding or Holiday (New Year or Rosh Hashanah), or even note cards — let me know.

Certificates can also be purchased to honor or remember a loved one or commemorate a special Simcha, mark a Milestone, or make a Memorial Tribute.

For more information or to order a card or certificate please contact Donna M. Goldfarb (603) 749-3293. It is best to call to talk about how you would like your card prepared, as well as to provide the appropriate addresses. In most cases, cards will be sent out the day they are ordered.

Sisterhood News

In January we sponsored a two part series with the Israeli Shlichah (from the Jewish Federation of NH) Ore Ayah Dagan. She spoke of her life growing up in a small new town in Israel and the experiences of her grandmother being a member of an Olympic swim team in Europe in the 1930's during the rise of the Nazi regime.

Look for more exciting programs, including a Challah making session with our own Jay Diengott.

For questions, more information, or to join:
call Leslie at 580-1871.

Brotherhood News

W e
e n -
j o y

getting together monthly over a coffee and bagel breakfast. We are also excited about our events for the coming year.

- February 5 Super Bowl Party
- February 19 9AM — Breakfast
- February 25 7 PM — Game Night
Fun for the whole family
- March 18 9AM — Breakfast
- April 1 Trip to New York More
information to follow
- April 22 9AM — Breakfast

Temple Israel in the Community

Dover Friendly Kitchen

MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

PLEASE JOIN THE CONGREGATIONAL & COMMUNITY!!!

Temple Members serve dinner at the Dover Friendly Kitchen on the first Tuesday of each month at St. Thomas Church Parish Hall on Locust Street. Temple Israel's effort needs people to help cook, serve and clean. We are there from 3:45 until around 6:15. Volunteers do not need to come for the whole time. For more information or to let me know if you plan to attend, please contact me. We welcome everyone's help! Thank you!

Andra Welch, Coordinator

abbwelch@yahoo.com or 534-4142

The Dover SHARE Fund

directly assists local residents
with needs that cannot be met through other
helping agencies,
providing them with shelter and support for
utilities and medical care.
Your support is appreciated!

Temple Israel Mitzvah Project

Please bring food items that can be donated to the Dover Food Pantry at any time. We would like to continue our generosity to people in need throughout the year. Your help in this act of tzedakah (righteous giving) and g'milut chasadim (acts of loving kindness) is appreciated!!!

Temple Israel of Dover has entered the world of...FACEBOOK!

Please join our group, "Friends of Temple Israel of Dover NH,"
established by Marc Hiller.

This gives us one more way to learn about Temple events in cyberspace
(along with our "real space" gatherings)!

Currently, this group can only be viewed by facebook members.

Temple Israel of Dover

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dovertemple.org

www.dovertemple.org



Temple Israel, a growing Reform Jewish congregation, welcomes all who wish to participate in Jewish worship, study, and fellowship. Our mission is to serve as a center for Jewish tradition, Shabbat and holiday worship and celebration, life-cycle observances, opportunities for Jewish education for all ages, connection to Israel, and involvement in the wider Jewish world and for all who are in need.

Temple Israel is a proud member of the URJ (Union for Reform Judaism) We join with more than 800 congregations in the Reform synagogue movement.

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Sam Seicol
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Administrative Assistant:
Tammy Fascetta
TempleOffice@
dovertemple.org

News from the School

Regular classes are held Thursday afternoons.
Special family programs are planned around holiday times.
Saturday morning study programs offer additional education for all students and adults.

- 02 4:00 Regular Classes**
- 03 5:30 Early Service in honor of grades 3-5**
- 09 4:00 Tu B'Shevat Family Program**
- 16 4:00 Regular Classes**
- 23 4:00 Regular Classes**

MONTH Yahrzeits

Week of February 4:

Steven Goodstein (30), Marjorie Alberts (31), Irving Pastor (1), Chayim Meyrowitz (1), Marian Frankel (2), Jason Smith (3), Rebecca Thorner (3), Mildred Katz (4), Hyman Miller (4)

Week of February 11:

Isadore Stack (6), Alfred Anderson (6), Harry Goodstein (7), Gertrude Baer (8), Issac C. Kates (8), Jacob A. Rosenberg (9), Jane Wise (9), Max Becker (10), Gertrude Berenson (11), Daniel Berman (11), Marian Ruth Frankel (11), Michelle Robbins (11)

Week of February 18:

Thomas Weinbaum (12), Frances Davis (13), Elizabeth Schoonmaker (13), Jacob N. Paisner (16), Abraham Levine (18), Laura Ossoff (18), Lewis J. Fisher (18)

Week of February 25:

Ida Siegel (19), Jack Cook (19), Libby Rothstein (19), Milton H. Cooper (20), Irving Thorner (20), Ellen Silverman (20), Betty Karnefsky (21), Jacob Potter (22), Robert Davis Jr (22), Anne Gray (22)

Week of March 3: June Singer (4), Norman Brill (28), Phyllis Klaye (28), Louis H. Silverman (28), Bruce Krassner (29), Rachel Leah (1), Peter L. Hooz (1)

***NOTE:** Yahrzeits are recorded according to the Hebrew date, so the English date will vary from year to year. Kaddish in the Synagogue may be recited on the Shabbat following the date of remembrance. It is traditional to make a donation in memory of the Yahrzeit of a loved one. To make a donation, please contact the Temple Office.*

Memorial Wall



Members may add names of loved ones or reserve spaces on the new memorial wall with a minimum contribution of \$300.

Please contact the Temple Office for more information.