

KESHER

FROM RABBI SAM

Telling Our Stories – From Torah to Midrash

This month the weekly Torah readings move from Genesis into Exodus (in Hebrew from Bereishit into Shemot). We begin the month with the final section of Genesis – the final chapters of the Patriarchal stories. These final chapters of Joseph's life culminate in his father Jacob and family of 66 moving down into Egypt – bringing the total of the family in Egypt to 70. The next two Torah portions chronicle a time when the Pharaoh of Egypt is one who no longer remembers Joseph and the reason for all these foreigners living in his border country. The story gives us only a few insights into the early years of Moses and the descendents of Jacob's 12 sons.

The time frame of the book of Genesis is some 2000 years with the bulk of the stories focusing on a period of less than 200 years (the middle and late age of Abraham through the death of Joseph).

There is then a gap of unrecorded history of several hundred years before the opening words of Exodus. What happened to the offspring of Jacob's sons? How did they grow from a family of 70 to a people of perhaps some ten thousand? What connection did they maintain with the traditions and legacy of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob? And how did

they go from being temporary sojourners during a time of famine into a settled community and then slaves to this new Pharaoh? Since none of these questions is directly answered in the Torah, the Rabbis were given a wide range of opportunities to create Midrashim. Even the early life of Moses is given minimal account in the Torah and is, thus, fuel for Midrashic expansion. The Rabbis have taught that when the Torah does not specifically state and it does not definitively preclude information, we may learn from the silence. The process for this learning is called Midrash.

The Torah teaches us how to live with a deeper spiritual view of the world. The questions we bring to the Torah are: What does the Torah tell us in the words and stories it contains? What does the Torah tell us in the words and stories it only implies? Both of these questions are equally crucial to understanding the lessons and teachings of Judaism. Midrash is one of the most traditional ways of searching for the answers to these questions.

The Torah is alive for us today as we listen to and learn from all teachings. Through divrei Torah (teachings shared as a part of formal worship services), adult education sessions and classes, and informal learning, Temple Israel offers a variety of ways to make Torah live and challenge us in our lives.

Join us and be an active part of a growing, learning community.

Temple Israel Board of Trustees—2011-2012

Carole Krassner, President
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 Alvin Mars, Peter Pastor, Stan Robbins, Jeffrey Segil, Marc Weinstein
 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

Sisterhood News

Thank you to all who support us. We now have 18 renewed members and 14 life members. New members are always welcome at any time. Contact **Sue Shepcaro at 603-964-7959 or Leslie Kirshman at 603-580-1871** Sisterhood also thanks you for shopping at our Chanukah gift store. Your support and purchases simply help Sisterhood support Temple Israel in many varied ways.

Important Dates

Friday January 20 at 7:30 PM - Come meet Ore Ayah Dagan
 Ore will speak of her life in Israel, her time in the army and much more.

Tuesday, January 24th at 7:00 PM - Ore Ayah Dagan returns
 She will share a documentary film, made about her grandmother and her grandmother's teammates, who competed on an Olympic swim team in the 1930's.

Thursday February 2 at 4:00 PM- In the kitchen with Juliette Diengott
 This is a tentative date and is planned to be held during Religious School. Learn to make challah and other yummy Jewish pastries.

Please R.S.V.P. Leslie Kirshman for information at 603-580-1871

Brotherhood News

The Brotherhood had a planning meeting prior to Latke and Sufganiyot making and eating. We are looking forward to an exciting year of social times and active fun-raising. Please save these dates:

1/15 9:00 AM	Brotherhood monthly morning get together for L&B
1/25 5:30 PM	Monarchs Game following dinner in Manchester
2/19 9:00 AM	Brotherhood monthly morning get together for L&B
3/18 9:00 AM	Brotherhood monthly morning get together for L&B
4/22 9:00 AM	Brotherhood monthly morning get together for L&B

Other events still being planned include these and much more:

April trip to NY to see the Dead Sea Scrolls and for Jewish shopping
 May Klezmer concert at the Temple
 Summer outing to Hackmatack Theater

THANK YOU TO
OUR ONEG HOSTS

January 6

6th and 7th grade Religious School families

January 13

Jodi and Stuart Scharff
Phil Ginsburg and Carolyn Anderson

January 20

Martin and Carole Jaffe
Ethlyne Golub

January 27

Patty and Andy Diengott
Stacey and Jeff Segil

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

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

Alan Nasberg
In memory of his father

Capital Campaign

Herman Forbes Charitable Trust
Abraham Burtman Charity Trust

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Cathi Cherry-Liston
In memory of the father of
Stephen MacDonald



Mazal Tov

to our members celebrating
happy occasions in January!

Birthdays

Brendan Miller (2), Cathi Cherry-Liston (3),
Noah Williams (3), Gregg Miller (5),
Maschia Kaplan (12), Julie Serrano (13),
Bertha Litvack (13),
Jeremy Ira Jackson (17),
Jacob Horowitz (18), Lois Poster (20),
Roberta Goldsmith (21),
Zachary Venne (21), Todd Titus (24),
Stacey Samuels (29), Jacob Kaplan (30),
Glicka Kaplan (31)



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.

Anniversaries

Bill & Jill Schoonmaker (13)
DeeDee & David Goldstein (31)

MLK Day Community Observance

**January 15 7:00 — 8:30 PM
St. John's United Methodist Church
28 Cataract Avenue**

Music, Readings, and Discussion based on the theme —

**Outside Looking In, Inside Looking Out:
Breaking down the barriers that separate us from one another**



January 2012

Happening at Temple Israel of Dover

- | | | |
|----|-------|--|
| 05 | 4:00 | Religious School Classes |
| 06 | | Early Shabbat Services & Dinner (in honor of grades 6 & 7) |
| | 5:30 | Tot Shabbat Program |
| | 6:00 | Pot-luck Family style Dinner |
| | 7:00 | Shabbat Service |
| 07 | 10:30 | Shabbat Morning Service |
| | 2:30 | Understanding Judaism (in Durham) |
| | | contact rabbisam@dovertemple.org for more info |
| 12 | 4:00 | Religious School Classes |
| 13 | 7:30 | Shabbat Service |
| 14 | 10:30 | Shabbat Morning Study – Ex 1-5 |
| | 2:30 | Understanding Judaism (in Durham) |
| | | contact rabbisam@dovertemple.org for more info |
| 15 | 9:00 | Brotherhood monthly get together for B & L |
| | 7:00 | Dover Community MLK service |
| | | St. John's United Methodist Church |
| 19 | 4:00 | Religious School Classes |
| 20 | 7:30 | Shabbat Service — Guest speaker Ore Ayah Dagan |
| 21 | 10:30 | Shabbat Morning Study – the months |
| | 2:30 | Understanding Judaism (in Durham) |
| | | contact rabbisam@dovertemple.org for more info |
| 24 | 7:00 | Documentary Film with Ore Ayah Dagan |
| 25 | 5:30 | Dinner and Monarchs game with the Brotherhood |
| 26 | 4:00 | Religious School Classes |
| 27 | 7:30 | Shabbat Service |
| 28 | 10:30 | Shabbat Morning Study – Ex 6-13 |
| | 2:30 | Understanding Judaism (in Durham) |
| | | contact rabbisam@dovertemple.org for more info |



These certificates are available from Hadassah for \$5.00 each for the purpose of honoring someone or remembering a loved one or friend who has made an impact on your life. For more information, contact Donna Goldfarb at 603-749-3293 or donnadee82@comcast.net

BENEFIT THE TEMPLE & YOURSELF

Advertise in the Kesher, 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
(from the files of Ann Isacoff at Langdon Place)

It was a Sin

Morris goes to the Rabbi and says: "I committed a sin and I want to know what I can do to repent."

"What was the sin?" the Rabbi asks.

"It happened just once," Morris assures him. "I didn't wash my hands and recite the blessing before eating bread."

"Nu, if it really only happened once," the Rabbi says, "that's not so terrible. Nonetheless, why did you neglect to wash your hands and recite the blessings?"

"I felt awkward Rabbi" says Morris. "You see I was in an un-kosher restaurant."

The Rabbi's eyebrows arch...."And why were you eating in an un-kosher restaurant?"

"I had no choice." Morris says. "All the kosher restaurants were closed."

"And why were all the kosher restaurants closed?" the Rabbi asks

Morris replies, "It was Yom Kippur."

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.

Federation Grants Send Youth to Camp and Israel

Last summer, youth from every region in New Hampshire received over \$30,000 in grants to attend Jewish overnight camp for the first time or journey to Israel. Funds for these programs are provided by the Campaign for Jewish Needs, the Irving and Bernice Singer Israel Experience Fund, and the Foundation for Jewish Camp.

The deadline for applying for a grant for 2012 is February 15

Even if you have not yet decided on a camp or Israel trip provider, an application must be submitted by this deadline. Applications are available at the Federation

website: www.jewishnh.org

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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templeoffice@
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
rabbisam@dovertemple.org
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News from the School

Regular classes are held Thursday afternoons. Special family programs are planned around holiday times. Saturday mornings offer additional education and worship experiences for all students and adults. For a full list of Temple events, please see the calendar on page 5.

05	4:00	Religious School Classes
06	Early Shabbat Dinner & Service (in honor of grades 6 & 7)	
	6:00 Pot-luck Family style Dinner	7:00 Shabbat Service
07	10:30	Shabbat Morning Service (required for grades 6 & 7)
12	4:00	Religious School Classes
19	4:00	Religious School Classes
26	4:00	Religious School Classes

JANUARY YAHRZEITS

Week of January 7: Sayde Harris (1), Charlotte Brody (3), Samuel N Cook (3), Beatrice Book (4), Louis J. Magerer (4), Adolph Jacob (4), Abraham Issokson (4), Bernard Luloff (5), Benjamin Radner (5), Herman Cherim (7)

Week of January 14: Daniel Fisher (8), Isafore Osman (8), Roman A. Rubinstein (8), Warren H. Overstreet (11), Gloria Adelman (12), Eugene Kleinhandl (12), Antoine Walker (12)

Week of January 21: Arnold S. Katz (15), Suzan Irene Horn (15), Matthew Krassner (16), Allen Sibley (17), Hyman Katz (17), Sheila Kaplan (17), Arthur Houseman (18), Philip Singer (18), Louis Stocklan (19), Pauline Cohen (19), Leon Brill (19), Libby Ginsberg (19), Garrett Aviles (20), Beatrice Saltman Dulberg (20), Ruth Talisman (20), Rabbi Sidney Rothstein (21), Rose Silverman Cohen (21)

Week of January 28: Harold J Potter (24), Nathan Allen (26), Morris Kram (26), Mary C. Feltes (27)

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.