



NEWS & NOTES

Congregation Beth David PO Box 125 / East Main Street Amenia, NY 12501 (845) 373-8264
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Building Fund Committee Starts Working

The synagogue's Board met on April 4th, and approved the formation of the new Building Fund Committee. Three Board members will be led by our president, Jon Wechsler, who will chair the Committee. In addition, six non-Board members have also agreed to serve.

The Committee will have its first meeting on Saturday, May 22nd, at 9:15 AM, prior to the 10:00 AM service. The committee will plan fund raising activities, with a

tentative goal to raise \$30,000 to renovate the Community Room which is in need of repair and beautification.

The Community Room was built about fifty-five years ago, and needs considerable upgrades in heating and electricity. The room will probably need to be completely gutted and rebuilt.

May Synagogue Activities

Saturday, April 24	10AM	Saturday Morning Service <i>Oneg Hosted by: George and Claire Githens</i>
Saturday, May 01	10AM	Saturday Morning Service <i>Oneg Hosted by: Bob & Renee Blank</i>
Sunday, May 16	10AM	Mitzvah Day event in Millerton
Saturday, May 22	9:15AM	Building Committee Meeting
Saturday, May 22	10AM	Saturday Morning Service <i>Oneg Hosted by: Mel and Julian Eiger</i>
Monday, May 24		Board Meeting with Rabbi Haddon
Saturday, June 12	10AM	Annual Meeting followed by Saturday Service

Interfaith Service

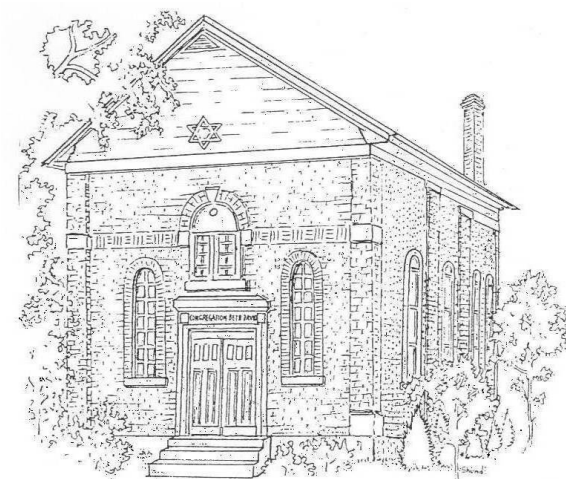


For the second year in a row members of Congregation Beth David joined members of St. Phillips Church in Garrison, NY on a volunteer trip to rebuild New Orleans. This year they worked on the Annunciation Mission in the heart of New Orleans Broadmoor district. Above is a picture of the entire work group in front of the Annunciation Mission altar. Included in the picture are Beth David members Carl Chaiet, Mel Eiger, Larry Ross, and Jonathan Wechsler.

Temple Directory

Spiritual Leader	jonrab@aol.com	(203) 748-4589
Rabbi Jon Haddon		
President-	jfwechsler@optonline.net	(845) 266-8943
Jonathan Wechsler		
Vice-President-	melbubbie@yahoo.com	(845) 868-1166
Mel Eiger		
Treasurer-	Ross119@msn.com	(845) 373-9617
Larry Ross		(home and FAX)
Board Member	Rblank117@comcast.net	(860) 435-2881
Renee Blank		
Board Member	Treescreen_farm@yahoo.com	860-868-7459
George Githens		
Board Member	David114@optonline.net	(860) 672-6423
David Grossman		

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TO:

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Rabbi's Message



Israel's 62nd Birthday

Monday, April 19th, the 5th of the month of Iyar, was the 62nd anniversary of the State of Israel, called Yom Haatsmaut, a day that is precious to our entire

community.

It is no secret that these have been difficult days for Israel and those of us who love and support her. The rhetoric of our Administration, if not its deeds, has been troubling to say the least. Somehow we hope and pray that America's friendship and support of the State of Israel will continue to be unwavering, in spite of negative words. And it is surely deeds that count much more than words. I am encouraged that more than three-quarters of the United States Senate has signed a bipartisan letter to the Obama administration underscoring the importance of the U.S.-Israel relationship and laying out the bedrock support that it enjoys in the United States Congress. The Senate letter, signed by 76 senators, follows immediately on the heels of a similar House letter, which was signed by more than three-quarters of the House of Representatives in less than 72 hours. The House letter was sent to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton with 333 signatures.

Community Room Update

Next time you are in the Community Room, take a look at Carl Chaiet's mock up of a renovated Community Room. The large model is on the center table, showing the proposed lower four feet of wainscoting all around, the new windows and doors, and a color combo.

The Senate letter comes as General David Petraeus, commander of the U.S. Central Command, told a Washington, D.C., audience that Israel "is, has been and will be an important strategic ally of the United States." I am proud that our Congress has acted so responsibly on this issue.

On Saturday, April 24th, we celebrated Yom Haatsmaut with some joyous Israeli songs, a sermon assessing the current state of affairs, some Israeli food at our oneg Shabbat and the joy of once again sharing and celebrating as a community. We Jews are the "am hatikva", the people of hope. Let us continue to pray, support and standup for our beloved Israel any way we can.

During the month of May we will meet on Saturday, May 1st and Saturday, May 22nd. Although May 22nd is a few days after the holiday of Shavuot, we will celebrate Shavuot in our own way, with a sermon relating to Shavuot and a brief reading from the Megillat Ruth, which is traditionally chanted on Shavuot. On both shabbatot, we will also continue with our discussion of "A Code of Jewish Ethics" by Joseph Telushkin, Chapters 7-8; 9-10. I look forward to sharing the joy of Shabbat worship and study with all of you.

Oneg Donations

Please contact a Board member if you wish to donate a post service Oneg to us. Much thanks to George & Claire Githens for their Oneg efforts on April 24th, to Bob & Renee Blank for helping out on May 1st, and for Mel & Julian Eiger on May 22nd.



Highlights of April Board Meeting

Some of the items covered by the Board include:

- A slight redesign of the entrance foyer leading into the synagogue, including a new bookcase to be made by Carl Chaiet, leading to a focus on prayer books and other service items on the left as you come in, and the main coat rack will be to the right. Estimates will be asked for new lighting in the area, and for a redesigned entry way sill;
- A review of the recent Passover Seder led to the creation of a "Passover 2011" folder with key summary handouts in it to guide us next year. The seder was a success, well attended, well catered. The Board expects to charge attendees next year slightly more;
- Publicity was a topic of discussion; and

The heart of the meeting was a long discussion of:

1. The need to renovate the Community Room;
2. If we renovate the Community Room, how would we do this? (We referred to our February Board meeting on this topic);
3. Raising funds to carry out the above;
4. The present state of the synagogue's finances to carry out the above as well as maintain our current programs;
5. David Grossman discussed his recent efforts to contact local foundations about possible financial support for the above;

Annual Synagogue Board Elections in June

Beth David's Annual Meeting is on Saturday, June 12th, and one important item at this time is the election of the Board for the synagogue. The Board meets around 6-7 times a year, on no specific schedule, usually around every two months or so. Board members are expected to take part in a number of services, and be on a committee. If you are interested in helping out, please contact either our Treasurer for many years, Larry Ross, or the Membership Chair, Renee Blank (see contact info on the back of the "News.")

6. Jon Wechsler had prepared a memo for the meeting on: background to the renovation; our present financial situation; repair and renewal expenses; and a timetable.
7. Larry Ross gave a detailed financial report as of April 1st;
8. Jon Wechsler was appointed to set up a Committee composed of both Board members and non-Board members to carry out the above. Board members on the Committee will be Renee Blank, David Grossman and Jon Wechsler;
9. Jon Wechsler will contact non Board members about being part of this group. Billy Saster attended the meeting and volunteered to join the Committee;
10. Billy Saster suggested that we include in the renovation package carpeting for the area from the synagogue through the kitchen down the inclined plane to the Community Room.
11. Other items covered include updating our Yartziet lists, changing the membership form, a letter from the Town of Amenia re: Synagogue assessment and a tentative May meeting with rabbi Haddon.

From the Treasurer

Recent donations include:

- Abby & Michael Auerbach - In loving memory of my father Stan Margolin
- Jewish Communal Fund - General donation
- Anonymous - General donation

A thank you to Norman Eisner and Zelda Aronstein for making a recommendation to the Jewish Communal Fund for a grant to Beth David.