

From the Presidents' Desk

January 2009

With this edition we begin our effort to "go a little green" and save money by bringing members "From the Presidents' Desk" and the "Voice," our monthly and quarterly newsletters, electronically. We are in the process of contacting all members to determine whether they would like to receive the monthly newsletters by email or continue to receive them by regular mail. Some of you are receiving electronic notification of the January newsletter because you have indicated your willingness. If you haven't already been contacted, you will be soon. If you haven't responded, please send an email to Patricia at besynagogue@snet.net, confirming your email address, or call her at (860) 482-8263. We are sending emails blind, so they will not be shared with outsiders..

If you choose to receive the newsletters electronically, you will receive an email with a link to our web site (www.betheltrct.com) each month, notifying you that the latest issue is ready. You would then click on the link to access our web site and the newsletter. If you choose, you could then print a copy for yourself or you could read the newsletter on line. Our newsletters, by the way, are already available on our web site thanks to Roland Perreault.

Producing the newsletter in hard copy is work intensive, using many hours of paid staff and volunteer time. It also is costly to purchase paper, ink and stamps. Not everyone will choose to receive the newsletters electronically, but everyone to do so will be a help. We hope, however, that you don't fair to read the newsletters.

If you prefer to receive newsletters by regular mail, we will be happy to continue to send them to you that way.

We wish everyone a healthy and happy New Year.

News in Brief

- The Religious School will host its once-a-year **Friday Family Shabbat service and Oneg Shabbat** on Friday, Jan. 9, starting at 7 p.m. The Religious School usually offers its monthly Family Shabbat on the first Saturday of the month. The Friday Shabbat service is shorter than the Saturday one, generally includes guitar music and lots of fun. It is such a joy to see our youngsters participate in the service. Do yourself a favor and attend.
- **The Library Committee** is beginning to re-stock Beth El Synagogue's book shelves. We have purchased a selection of children's books as a start. You can help by paying for one of these books and inscribing the bookplate to a favorite child, friend or loved one. Prices range from about \$4 to \$20 each. Check out the display in our library. The committee will do this kind of fund raising from time to time in order to update the collection.
- Kudos to our members, **Susan Levine, Ed Arum and Alan Matisoff** and their families and friends, for about 25 years of service to the Torrington Community Kitchen. The Levines, Arums and Matisoffs and friends have volunteered each Christmas and Easter over the years to serve dinner to soup kitchen clients, relieving staff and church volunteers from these duties. They were all featured recently in an article in the Register Citizen and in previous years in both the R-C and the Republican-American. We also have generous Beth El people who represent us by serving lunch **at the soup kitchen on the fourth Sunday of even months**. It's a mitzvah for all and **we are always looking for more volunteers**.



Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

Giovanni Micanovic	January 1
Joan Libby	January 5
Cydonia Boonshaft	January 5
Roland Perreault	January 9
Alec Lotstein	January 9
Arielle Brandt	January 11
Matthew Perreault	January 15
Richard Heimler	January 18
Ellen Seeran	January 20
Meryl Jo Margulies	January 21
Elly Overton	January 23
Mitch Soss	January 24
Alexandra Regenbogen	January 24
Leslie Handelman	January 24
Heidi Madow	January 30
Michael Goring	January 30
Leslie Goldman	January 30

Anniversaries

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Lowe	January 14	31st
Donald Glickman & Sondra Reiff	January 14	14th
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Silver	January 22	20th
Mr. and Mrs. George Pelletier	January 29	31st
Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Peyser	January 30	54th

If you'd like to honor someone, send congratulations or thank someone, try a Beth El Bloom for a donation of \$18 in the newsletter or ***The Voice***. Give us the information and we'll do the work.

Condolences to:

The Freund family on the loss of Eugene Freund, patriarch of the family and longtime synagogue member, in early December.

Get Well, Stay Well:

Barbara and Ken Weil, parents of Nancy Gottfried.
Alan Cohn's mother in Florida.
Joe Ginsburg



Thank you to:

Roland Perreault, who has created a web site that gets better looking every time we go to it. Check it out at www.betheltrrct.com.

Carol Silver, who continues to provide wonderful posters for our lobby.

Vicki Lynch, Bea Guralnick and Joyce Peck for the great lunch and to **Corinne Johnson** for accompanying greenery displays, celebrating the dedication of new Torah mantles, inscribed breastplate and Bimah table covers.



Rabbi Richard Eisenberg for making the December dedication service a special event and the **Religious School students** who participated in the monthly family Shabbat.

Heidi and Mike Madow who put on an amazing spread for the Hanukkah dinner fund-raiser for the Religious School.

Litchfield County Chapter of Hadassah on its service projects, Fair Trade Day in November and Mitzvah Day in December.

Yahrzeits

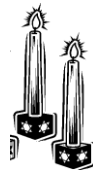
Light the memorial candle the night before. *These names have been inscribed on the memorial tablets.

Nathan Gaull *	January 1
Benjamin Glickman	January 1
Joseph Pomerantz *	January 2
Yetta Handelman	January 3
Rose Esther Bender	January 4
Morris Dressler	January 4
Michael Harris	January 4
Betty Broverman	January 6
Carl Kaplan *	January 7
Mina Malkoff	January 7
Anna Rubens *	January 7
Irving Jacobskind	January 8
Joe Kasten	January 9
Harry Edelson	January 10
Joseph Pincus *	January 10
Frieda Manowitz	January 11
Joseph Silverman *	January 11
Abram Bernstein *	January 15
Esther Franklin	January 15
Joseph Haupt	January 16
Jacob Flower *	January 17
Wendy Marine*	January 17
Mildred Paletsky	January 18
Harry Meyerson	January 19
Anna Bloom	January 20
Abraham Broverman	January 20
Dorothy Cohen	January 20
Hedy Freund	January 20
Esther Yavitz*	January 20
Rose Chaet	January 22
Joseph Auerbach	January 23
Stanley Dressler	January 23
Solomon Reisman	January 23
Sylvia Nitkin	January 24
Barry Gerson	January 26
Bertha Bazil*	January 28
Shirley Manowitz	January 28

Candle Lighting Times for Torrington, CT

January 2	4:15	January 16	4:29
January 9	4:12	January 23	4:38
January 30	4:46		

Friday Night Family Shabbat Service, January 9, 2009, 7:00 p.m.
Conducted by Rabbi Eisenberg, Oneg Shabbat will be hosted by parents of the Religious School. Please join us.



Saturday Shabbat services are held each week at 9:30 a.m. Every person counts.