



מרבֵּה תורה • מרבֵּה חיים
TEMPLE BETH HILLEL
 TORAH • LIFE • COMMUNITY

TEMPLE BETH HILLEL , RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA
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A Message from Rabbi Dean

Measure Your Life in Love

The world is built upon love – Psalm 89:3

My family and I are obsessed with the Winter Olympics. We have been watching it every night for the past week. The Olympics has thrills, amazing athletic performance, human drama, tragedy and joy. This year the story of Canadian ice skater Joannie Rochette has been particularly poignant. On

Sunday, February 21, two days before she was to begin competing her mother, Therese, died of a sudden heart attack. Despite this stunning loss Joannie Rochette continued to practice, competed, and ultimately won the bronze medal for women's figure skating. After she completed her long program on Thursday evening she looked up and mouthed the words, "thank you." I assume, to her mother.

I began to think about the power of love. Most of these amazing athletes succeed because of their parents love and support. Mom or Dad gets them up and to the skating rink, or the gym, or the practice field, at 5:30 in the morning and after practice makes sure they get to school. They invest untold hours and who knows how much money supporting their child's passion. Only a small number of these parents ever see their children attain Olympic success. But all parents do it nonetheless, with joy and love thinking only about their children's hopes and desires.

Rabbi: continued on page 2

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by

*Temple Beth Hillel
 P.O.Box 20919, El Sobrante,
 California 94820*



Rabbi: continued from page 1

So it is for all of us, making a marriage work, raising children, taking care of parents in their old age, supporting your friends through tough times. None of these tasks are easy; but all can be deeply satisfying because all are acts of love. This too is what our congregation is about. We join Temple Beth Hillel for many reasons: to provide our children with a Jewish education, to pursue our own Jewish religious practice or spiritual growth, to be part of a Jewish community. But the ties that hold us together are the emotional bonds we forge over time, carpooling our kids, studying together, praying together, preparing a meal for a sick friend, or celebrating a b'nai mitzvah or a wedding together. At its core Temple Beth Hillel is a community of love: love of the Jewish people, love for our shared history and love for our fellow congregants – even the one's who drive us crazy.

Love is not a word that is discussed much in connection with Judaism. We tend to think of it as Christian concept and so shy away from it. But love is embedded deeply into our tradition. “*Ahavat Israel*,” the love of one Jew for another is a primary Jewish value. In the morning and the evening service immediately following the *Shema* we recite the *v'ahavta* prayer that begins, “You will love God with all your heart, all your soul and all your might.” In the morning service we recite the *ahavah rabbah* prayer that begins, “You have loved us with a great love.” In *Pirkei Avot*, it is written that the world is founded on three human actions: study, prayer and acts of loving-kindness. Psalm 89:3 reinforces this idea when it says, “For I say, the world is built upon love...”

What does this mean in practical terms? Here is one idea. We give of our time, our money, and our energy to make this small and special community thrive because we love it and we love each other. When we get upset, or frustrated, or angry with each other, when the politics seem too petty, or we feel we get nothing done, when we think we can find nothing of value in the tradition or don't know why we continue to belong, remember this basic truth: we need one another. Life is meant to be lived in community and we are community of love.

After she skated Rochette said, “I felt so much love.... It really helped me get on the ice and skate for myself, my country and my mother.” There are times when we all need help getting on the ice. We need each other. We need to help each other, in good times and in bad. That is why we are here.

Rabbi Dean Kertesz

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from Our President

I'm going to talk about money. So before I lose you because it is an uncomfortable subject, or because you don't have any, I will share a secret with you. It is my secret so I can share it. First though, if you are thinking of leaving Temple Beth Hillel because of financial issues, don't. We have many of our members on reduced dues schedules. We have just one person to talk to, Josh Genser, our Treasurer. You are a part of our community, we don't know now how big the loss from your leaving will be but, be assured that we will all feel it. There may be skills you have you could use to offset your reduced financial contribution which could help you feel more connected to TBH.

Now the secret, I too have been on reduced dues. After the fire at my business, we didn't know what was going to happen financially, so we asked for reduced dues... a very easy process. Since then I'll also admit there are years I haven't been caught up with my pledge up by the end of the fiscal year. I don't think we are unique in the drain on our finances by children, schools, medical expenses, etc. We still wonder when taxes are due where we're going to find the cash...

If you remember, the Temple is in the same condition. We passed a negative \$29,000 budget for this year at the Congregational Meeting. Conditions are not better now. The appeal for donations to help with Dues Relief has not been as successful as we had hoped. The budget committee has been meeting to discuss what to do. The usual job of a budget committee is to look at what was spent and decide if that much should be budgeted for the next year. In this case, we have to look for items to significantly cut. However, we are also being given an opportunity to examine our goals as a "Frontier" Reform Congregation. We have to be careful not to be penny wise and pound foolish.

How can we be penny wise and pound foolish? Let me first say everything I'm saying in this part is speculation. So if I talk about Religious School, Membership or Bagel Brunches, it is as an example. Ok, so what are the goals of TBH. If we are to grow in membership (Is that an assumption on my part?) we need a Membership Committee and programs to attract and nurture people who are or wish to be members. So, do we cut or increase the advertising line item? Do we hire program directors or cut staff? Do we reduce or expand our Religious School or Bagel Brunches, do we charge more? How much more? Do we aggressively pursue building rentals or find some other creative ways to increase income. Remember that a traditional business budget is income and expense, with income hopefully more than expenses. As a nonprofit, we should have a reserve, but our budget should balance and reflect our mission. How can we each be more responsible for the success of our community?

Laura Taub, Jane Durango and I went to a URJ Workshop on temple finances in troubled times. It was an interesting afternoon. There were some large Synagogues in attendance who were wondering how to cut more than \$100,000 from their budget. There were suggestions about how reduce the speakers fee budget by sharing speakers with other Temples... speakers fees! There were suggestions about closer oversight over the office staff and expenses. We could focus on the difference in our problems or focus on the similarities, uh, didn't I say something like that earlier... If you've made it this far, I'd suggest going to the URJ web site and checking out some of the thoughtful information available: <http://urj.org/cong/finance/> Vast amounts of information on budgets, dues schedules and Jewish perspectives about finance abound.

President: continued on page 4



OUR COMMUNITY

President: continued from page 3

The Board has to approve a budget well in advance of the Congregational Meeting June 6th. If you would like to comment on the budget, how you can help or the needs you think need to be fulfilled by the funds available, comments addressed to me, dmeyer2@earthlink.net, through April 30th, will be summarized and brought to the Board. We have an opportunity to think creatively about the future of our community. We need more than cash. Bring a friend to Services, bring a friend to movie night or the Seder and talk to someone new at these events; these are also ways to strengthen our community.

In the mean time, I will attempt to bring my own pledge up to date.

Shalom,
Dana R. Meyer

FROM YOUR EDITOR

We will be publishing the annual double issue for the months of May and June 2010 by April 20. This message is to alert all contributors that the deadline for submissions for this issue is April 10. Any information about events scheduled or May June and July should be submitted by this date

Anniversaries

Sam & Rose Genirberg	3/8
James & Judy Freeman	3/13
Miguel Furman & Nori Hudson	3/15
Sidney Irving Feurst & Judith Flum	3/23

Birthdays

Nori Hudson	3/3	
Judy Windrix	3/5	
Rachael Norman	3/8	
John Tinloy	3/14	
Julie Teitelbaum	3/15	14th birthday
Emily Specter	3/18	15th birthday
Danielle Windrix	3/19	17th birthday
Alan Blavins	3/21	
Kevin Norman	3/25	
Roxann Zarchin	3/25	
Judith Flum	3/27	
Stefan Moskowitz	3/28	12th birthday
Jane Breyer	3/29	
Emma Tinloy	3/29	15th birthday
Mia Goldberg	3/30	10th birthday
Steve Seskin	3/31	



OUR COMMUNITY



Temple Beth Hillel
Passover Congregational Seder
Tuesday Evening, March 30, 2010
5:30 p.m.

Please join the Temple Beth Hillel Community for a
Congregational Seder
The Second Night of Passover

801 Park Central, Richmond, CA 94803
(510) 223-2560

In order to plan this event, reservations must be returned to the
Temple Office with payment in full no later than **March 25, 2010.**

Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Adult Temple Members: _____ @\$20 \$ _____
Children (7-12) _____ @\$12 \$ _____
Children (3-6) _____ @ \$6 \$ _____

Nonmember Adults: _____ @ \$30 \$ _____
Children (7-12) _____ @ \$18 \$ _____
Children (3-6) _____ @ \$8 \$ _____

Seating is limited, so reserve early to assure your place.

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Mailing Address: P O Box 20910, El Sobrante, CA 94820-0910

Sacramental wine will be provided.

Please bring a Kosher-for-Passover Desserts to share.

Feel free to bring your own Kosher for Passover Wine to accompany dinner.



OUR COMMUNITY

NOTES FROM THE BOARD

February 10, 2010

Upcoming Events

- **Movie Night - March 27**
- **Passover Community Seder – March 30**
- **Havdalah and Teacher Appreciation Day – May 8**
- **Movie Night – May 15**
- **Men's Weekend – May 23**
- **Shabbat morning Service – May 29**

Outreach and Community Events

- We and the Muslim congregation are discussing an interfaith event to benefit GRIP. The proposed theme is “Let's Get to Know Each Other Better”.

Programs [and Events]

- We are working on arranging another dinner dance.

Operations

- This year and next will be difficult financially. We urge every member to pay their financial commitment as soon as possible.
- In preparation for proposing a budget for next year, the Board is discussing possible ways to increase income and reduce expenditures.

Purim Carnival

- Great appreciation to **Jane Durango** for chairing the Purim carnival.
- Several people are selling large numbers of raffle tickets. **Arlene Lisby** will arrange to print more if necessary.

Buildings and Grounds

- The roof and the fence will be repaired.
- **Norm Goldwyn** and **Larry Fox** are continuing to work on signage.
- **David Van Hoy** is consulting on replacing the audio system.

Membership

- Several new families have attended services recently.

Communication

- Postings are welcome for the Community Bulletin Board in the Shofar. Businesses may post once every four months.
- **Arlene Lisby** will update the roster.



OUR COMMUNITY

Yahrzeits



Vanita Blum, Mother of Dana Meyer	3/4
Herman Levy, Friend & Teacher of Mark & Jan Taksa	3/4
Dorothy Cohen, Mother of Howard Cohen	3/5
Mildred Gold, Grandmother of David & Cheryl Brown	3/5
Jacob Javits, Father of Carla Javits	3/6
Dora Kessler, Mother of Joyce Kessler	3/6
Vernon Stroud, Brother of Eve Linker	3/6
Tanya Manheim, Grandmother of Howard Cohen	3/7
Bernard Cohen, Father of Jane Durango	3/8
Murray Goldstein, Father of Phyllis Sagle	3/8
Doris Pick, Mother of Pat Trumbull	3/8
Ethel Benjamin, Mother of Jane Kaasa, Grandmother of Maurice & Eric	3/9
Julius Rosenwach, Father of Janet Neiderbach	3/10
Herman Fire, Grandfather of Larry Fox	3/11
Gershon Caplan, Father of Judy Windrix	3/14
Bess Henner, Mother of Bobbi Nadler	3/14
Ruth Lesch, Mother of Beverly Lesch	3/15
Rose Refkin, Mother-in-Law of Deanna Brown Refkin	3/15
Paul Bleicher, Father of Betty Bleicher	3/16
Edna Taub, Stepmother of Laura Taub	3/16
Eileen Altholz, Mother of Suzanne Nelson	3/18
Lorraine Koenig, Mother of James Koenig	3/18
Nathan Silverstein, Grandfather of Joel Chernoff	3/18
Nettie Lauri, Mother of Debra Lurie	3/19
David Cohen, Father of Lynda Cohen Curtis	3/24
Hymie Guss, Brother in law of Joe Nusbaum	3/25
Sylvia Meisel, Mother of Helene Wichner	3/25
Herbert Jacobs, Father of Maggie Jacobs	3/26
Morris Manheim, Grandfather of Howard Cohen	3/26
Abe Pupkin, Father of Irene Morgan	3/27
Betty Schlocker, Aunt of Zelda Holland	3/29
Sam Herrod	3/30
Helen Trumbull, Mother of Roy Trumbull	3/31

Bagel Brunch Sunday, March 14 10:15a.m.

We are pleased to announce our next Bagel Brunch, on Sunday, March 14 at 10:15 AM. Our guest speaker will be Paul Osborne Ed.M., who goes by Paul the Tutor professionally. Paul works with students whose needs were not being met by traditional educators. This means students with learning disabilities/differences, trouble focusing, accelerated/advanced placement. He also prepares children with learning disabilities for the SAT. Important information for anyone with children, grandchildren or who cares about kids.

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OUR COMMUNITY

Tzedakah

*"If I am not for myself, who will be for me?
And if only for myself, what am I?
And if not now, when?"*

General Contributions

Henry & Eva Linker in memory of Aaron Linker
Marc & Naura Teitelbaum from Terry & Lynn Teitelbaum in honor of
Julia's Bat Mitzvah
Marc & Naura Teitelbaum with thanks to Jane Durango & in honor of
Julia's Bat Mitzvah
Jay & Barbara Weidenfeld in memory of Minnie Press
Sanford & Helene Wichner in memory of Sam Meisel

Religious School Enrichment

Sinai Memorial Chapel
Dana Meyer & June Kamerling in memory of Vanita Blum

Dues Relief Fund

Jane & Pablo Durango in honor of Rachel & Daniel Durango Cohen
Sheri Tattenham & Stan Hazlak in memory of Donald Tattenham
Sheri Tattenham & Stan Hazlak in memory of Rita Dubow
Jay & Barbara Weidenfeld in memory of Anna Weidenfeld
Beverly Zell in memory of Daniel Zell

Tzedakah-Tikkun Olam

Clara-Rae Genser in memory of Sidney J. Goldberg
Ken & Evelyn Hooker to help with GRIP Dinners
David Katzenellenbogen GRIP Dinners
David & Renee Van Hoy in memory of Liesel Van Hoy
Judy Windrix & Bill Hartman to help with Souper Kitchen

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

Marc & Naura Teitelbaum in honor of Julia's Bat Mitzvah
Jay & Barbara Weidenfeld in memory of Ira Leben

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Stefan Lipson & Jane Breyer in memory of William Lipson
Marc & Naura Teitelbaum in honor of Julia's Bat Mitzvah
Jay & Barbara Weidenfeld in memory of Linda Eidelberg
Pearl Wolffs in memory of Bessie Sweet

Mitzvah Access Fund

Allan & Phyllis Sagle in memory of Theodora Goldstein

Torah Cover Fund

Beverly Zell in memory of Benjamin Zenkel



The Lost Laundry List

By Roberta Alexander

I have lost a pillowcase.
 Well, maybe not lost. Let's say, misplaced.
 It is part of my favorite set of sheets, and I cannot understand how it disappeared.
 My method of changing and laundering the sheets is simplicity itself. First, I strip all the linens from the bed, roll them up into a kind of ball and drop them over the balcony to the living room below. When I get downstairs, I unroll the ball, put the sheets in the washing machine and go about my business.
 In time, I move the wet sheets to the dryer. Later on, I shake out and fold the sheets and pillowcases, leaving them at the bottom of the steps for my next trip upstairs.
 I am describing this in detail because this has been my exact procedure for the 16 or so years I have lived in my present home.
 At no point does the bedding go outside or even near an outside door.
 So the pillowcase must be somewhere in the house.
 I know that socks sometimes attach themselves to other items, and more than once I have found a missing sock when I unfolded the sheets to make the bed.
 But a pillowcase is quite a bit bigger than a sock and besides, I have already shaken out the sheets—just in case.
 I have a couple of nice extra pillowcases, so it's not as if the pillow is left naked.
 But it annoys me.
 It offends my sense of order and it makes me feel unfairly treated. After all, haven't I taken good care of the pillowcase, washed it regularly, folded it nice and smooth? I deserve better.
 I suppose I can't help but wonder if the pillowcase has gone missing as a punishment for my frequently inadequate housekeeping.
 I know there are people who find cleaning restorative; their answer to a crisis is to go scrub something.
 Mine is not.
 Things have a tendency to pile up in my house before eventually reaching critical mass, at which point I deal with it. When I can't stand something anymore, I clean it.
 It works for me, but it is not the way I was brought up, and not something I admit to on a regular basis. I was thrilled to discover, after a few careful comments to a couple of friends, that I am not alone in my approach. But we all know that the members of the scrubbie patrol look down on us, so we tend to keep quiet.
 My more rational analysis is that my approach to

housework and the missing pillowcase are not related, since I am much less lackadaisical about doing laundry than some other chores. The only time laundry ever piles up in my house is when my houseguests go home, and I have a bunch of sheets and towels to take care of. And the first batch is in the washer before my guests have been gone 10 minutes.
 I am, in other words, a model of efficiency, and even neatness, when it comes to laundry.
 I'm not too bad, either, when it comes to dirty dishes. Stuff doesn't sit long in the sink, and I regularly use and empty my dishwasher.
 I've also been known to wash a floor or two without complaining too much.
 My real enemy in the housework wars is the vacuum cleaner.
 I have never liked them. They are noisy and they are ungainly. What's more, in these post-accident years when I struggle with low-back issues, they are rather painful to use. I go to great lengths to avoid them. But I didn't like them even when pain was not an issue.
 It was a bone of contention in my first marriage. Don't ask me what planet I'd been living on, but I was horrified to discover when we moved into our first studio apartment that it was up to me to clean it. There was no discussion about allocating chores, since it seemed vacuuming was gender-related.
 I nursed a rebellious core that said, if vacuuming was so important to my husband, why didn't he do it? After all, I had taken on all the kitchen chores (also gender-related, I noticed) and provided him with three meals a day, seven days a week.
 I don't mean to make him out as a bad guy. It was the prevailing assumption of the time—and in some places still is—that lots of things are assigned by gender. My pointing out how unfair that was never did the trick.
 These days, I sometimes have someone come in to do some of the cleaning (and all the vacuuming!).
 I suppose the pillowcase may turn up someday when my children are cleaning out my stuff.
 "What on earth is a pillowcase doing here?" they'll say.
 "Mom must really have been losing it."
 Well, yes, but not in the way they mean.
 For now I'm open to a trade or two with the universe. I'd be willing to vacuum the downstairs if the missing pillowcase would just reveal its hiding place and take its turn again on the bed.

From Midrasha in Berkeley

by Diane Birnbaum

I don't know how many of you know this, but I have a son (a Midrasha graduate, no less) who is a professional juggler. He trained for this by attending a really rigorous three year course at the National Circus School of Canada in Montreal, the only full time circus school in North America. I used to think that David and I were in really different professions. But some Sundays, I'm not so sure. It seems that no Sunday is "normal." There is always a special speaker, a special program, internet that goes down, parents on the phone, students who need me to sign off on their community service forms, teachers who can't find a working DVD player, egos to be soothed, teachers who forgot to photocopy something essential, ingredients that didn't get bought for the cooking class, a parent, teacher or student that needs to share something about their week or their life and just needs to talk, classrooms that need more chairs, a substitute that doesn't know where their rooms are, a last minute call from a sick teacher. And sometimes all those things are happening at once. I feel just like my son David with his five balls hurtling in the air.

So besides regular classes at Midrasha in the past few weeks, what are some of the extra things that have been going on which take a little more juggling? Within the last month here are a few of the extras that kept me hopping. We had our annual presentation by Rikki Sudikoff of Jewish Family and Children's Service for 8th grade parents and students on "Parent/ Teen Communication." Participants came away with a new appreciation of how to talk to one another and really get heard. Several classes were enthralled by Holocaust survivor Dora Sorell as she spun the story of her heart wrenching story. Some classes got to see the Topsy Turvey bus from the Teva Learning Center. These students made solar ovens and learned about worm composting, all with a Jewish lens.

Zephira Derblich-Milea from Shalom Bayit comes in each year to present the "Love Shouldn't Hurt" curriculum about building healthy relationships to 9th graders and their parents. This year we asked her to come back a second time to address recent attacks witnessed by by-standers, in light of the Biblical verse to "not stand idly by." Another guest speaker who will be at Midrasha a second time this year is our Catholic educator, Marcy Fox. The American Jewish Committee has a wonderful program which sends rabbis into Catholic schools. In exchange, we get Marcy as a guest teacher. This fall she spoke to the "Comparative Religion" class and this month she came back to speak to the Keshet Bet classes, studying "The American Jewish Experience" about the relationship of Catholics and Jews in America. She also talked to the 8th and 9th grade's "Jews and Muslims" class about how Catholics relate to those two religions. The 8th grade had a lesson on Homelessness which featured a board member from YEAH, the homeless shelter for teens on University and one of YEAH's former clients and also a speaker from Alameda County's EveryOne Home program. Sundays at Midrasha are truly never a dull moment. And I shouldn't forget to tell you that one of our 9th grade classes held a fundraiser for American Jewish World Service's Haiti campaign and raised \$748.

There's probably been more. But this will give you an idea.

Flayers. Such a deal.

March 2010

Adar-Nissan 5770

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 15 Adar OFFICE CLOSED Shushan Purim	2 16 Adar Hebrew School OFFICE CLOSED	3 17 Adar	4 18 Adar	5 19 Adar Shabbat Potluck Dinner 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Shabbat Family Service 7:30 PM - 8:45 PM	6 20 Adar 10am Torah Study
7 21 Adar Adult Education 10:15am <i>NO Religious School</i> Rakkasah Rental	8 22 Adar OFFICE CLOSED Rakkasah Rental	9 23 Adar Hebrew School OFFICE CLOSED Rakkasah Rental	10 24 Adar Board Meeting Rakkasah Rental Shofar Deadline	11 25 Adar Rakkasah Rental	12 26 Adar Rakkasah Rental	13 27 Adar 10am Torah Study
14 28 Adar Bagel Brunch 10:15AM <i>NO Religious School</i>	15 29 Adar OFFICE CLOSED	16 1 Nissan Hebrew School OFFICE CLOSED	17 2 Nissan <i>St. Patrick's Day</i>	18 3 Nissan	19 4 Nissan Shabbat Service 7:30 PM	20 5 Nissan 10am Torah Study
21 6 Nissan Adult Education 10:15am Model Seder <i>NO Religious School</i>	22 7 Nissan OFFICE CLOSED	23 8 Nissan Hebrew School OFFICE CLOSED	24 9 Nissan OFFICE CLOSED Souper Center	25 10 Nissan	26 11 Nissan	27 12 Nissan TBH Movie Night 7PM 10am Torah Study
28 13 Nissan <i>NO Religious School</i>	29 14 Nissan OFFICE CLOSED Pesach	30 15 Nissan Hebrew School OFFICE CLOSED Pesach Temple Second Night Seder	31 16 Nissan			

TBH Congregational Seder Tuesday, March 30, 2010 at 5:30PM See Page 5 For Reservation Form



April 2010

Nissan-Iyar 5770

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 17 Nissan <i>April Fool's Day</i>	2 18 Nissan Shabbat Potluck Dinner 6:30 PM 7:30 PM Shabbat Family Service	3 19 Nissan 10am Torah Study
4 20 Nissan Adult Education 10:15am <i>Daylight Savings Time Begins</i> EASTER Spring Break	5 21 Nissan OFFICE CLOSED	6 22 Nissan OFFICE CLOSED	7 23 Nissan	8 24 Nissan	9 25 Nissan	10 26 Nissan Shofar Deadline Yom Hashoah Service 7:30pm 10am Torah Study
11 27 Nissan Spring Break Yom Hashoah	12 28 Nissan OFFICE CLOSED	13 29 Nissan Hebrew School OFFICE CLOSED	14 30 Nissan Board Meeting	15 1 Iyar	16 7:30 PM Shabbat Evening Service 2 Iyar	17 3 Iyar 10am Torah Study
18 4 Iyar Mamunah & Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration 6:00-9:00PM Religious School Yom Hazikaron	19 5 Iyar OFFICE CLOSED Yom Ha'Atzma'ut	20 6 Iyar Hebrew School OFFICE CLOSED	21 7 Iyar	22 8 Iyar	23 9 Iyar	24 10 Iyar 10am Torah Study
25 11 Iyar Religious School	26 12 Iyar OFFICE CLOSED	27 13 Iyar Hebrew School OFFICE CLOSED	28 14 Iyar OFFICE CLOSED Pesach Sheini Souper Center	29 15 Iyar	30 16 Iyar	



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January 2009
Tevet-Shevat 5769

COLD WAR, HOT COMEDY AT OUR NEXT MOVIE NIGHT

Tough guy Cagney excels as a man with a plan in Wilder's 1961 gem of a family friendly farce.

March 27, 7:00 PM in the TBH Screening Room

ONE, TWO, THREE is a 1961 movie directed by Billy Wilder from a script by I.A.L. Diamond. It stars James Cagney, Horst Buchholtz, Pamela Tiffen, and Arlene Francis. The setting is Berlin during the Cold War. The Berlin wall will be erected later that same year.

C.R. MacNamara (Cagney) is the manager of the Coca Cola bottling plant and hopes to impress his superiors and become the head of European operations in London. He is informed by his boss in Atlanta that daughter Scarlett is coming for a visit and he's to look out for her welfare. Scarlett Hazeltine (Pamela Tiffen) proves to be a headstrong southern belle. In short order she slips free of her handlers and goes to East Berlin where she meets and marries Otto Piffel (Buchholtz), a card carrying communist. When she drops this bomb on MacNamara he plants enough pro U.S. evidence on Otto to ensure the Stasi will put him away for good when he goes back to East Berlin. Then he arranges for an annulment of the marriage. This handy work done, Scarlett shows signs of morning sickness and is indeed pregnant. As if that weren't bad enough, her father calls to say he and his wife will arrive the next day.

MacNamara must somehow free Otto from the Stasi, give him a phoney aristocratic origin and put all in place before Scarlett's parents arrive. The title comes from Cagney barking orders to his staff (1 – do this, 2 – do do that, etc.).

If you have an oxygen tank please bring it with you. The laughs come so quickly that finding time to breathe may prove troublesome.